

Local Sections Connect AIChE Members

Looking for a local professional network? AIChE local sections present members with benefits like mentoring, career development, technical information, industry links, and social events right in their own backyard.

AIChE's extensive local section network spans more than 110 local sections around the world, including sections in Canada, the Netherlands/Belgium, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.

"Sections are the basic building blocks of our organization,"

Local Sections Committee (LSC)

Chair Kent

Shepherd told *AIChEExtra*. "They offer invaluable networking and technical information to their members, helping engineers at all levels do their job better and keep their edge."

"By belonging to their local section, members get invaluable networking opportunities," added Shepherd. "It's a chance to meet with their peers and meet new peers and mentors. You can't put a price on it."

Members stay up to date on the latest advances and techniques by attending monthly technical programs or section-sponsored symposia. For example, the East Central Florida Section's Clearwater Convention on Phosphate Fertilizers draws more than 1,000 attendees each year. The 2004 NorCal Annual Symposium will explore the latest advancements of fuel cells and hydrogen economy (see page 60 for details).

Established in 1999, the Local Sections Committee is focused on supporting volunteer section leaders and sharing best practices. The committee also develops practical resource materials and selects John J. McKetta ProjectConnect grants to help leaders better serve their constituents and reach student members.

Working closely with the Volunteer and

Membership Activities staff, the LSC keeps abreast of the issues facing local sections across the country. Different regions have different needs, depending upon employment rates, population and types of industry. The LSC also promotes the benefits of being a local section member.

Shepherd, who is program manager at Smiths Aerospace and also chair of the Dayton Section, has been a member of five

engineering, Tractebel Power, Inc. "We want to let all sections know we're here to help, and we are a resource for them."

Career development is an important way sections can support their members. "One of our current projects is encouraging sections to start job databases to help members identify where jobs may be," said Shepherd.

The LSC works with section leaders to share ideas for job fairs, student nights, and coaching/mentoring programs. Other LSC goals include updating the national speakers bureau, and helping sections attract and retain young professionals.

The LSC connects section leaders

through the online discussion group, topica.com, found at aichelocalsections@topica.com. LSC also holds face-to-face meetings at the Annual and Spring Meetings. Local section members and leaders are invited to meet with the LSC at the

upcoming 2004 Spring National Meeting in New Orleans.

Though members reap immense benefits, section membership fees are low, and time-commitment is flexible—with many sections holding monthly meetings or events. To find a local section near you, visit <http://www.aiche.org/sections/secfind.htm>. To learn more about AIChE LSC, visit the Web site at: <http://www.aiche.org/mag/sections/lsccommittee/index.htm>

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local sections in the West, South, and Midwest. "Each section has its own flavor," said Shepherd. The Local Sections Committee is here to invigorate as much as we can, to help each local section play to its strong point."

"We're also here to help sections increase their networks and with issues of sustainability," added Shepherd. "Some sections go through ups and downs, especially when a large employer closes a facility in the area."

The LSC, with the help of the Volunteer Member Activities Department, has identified 22 local sections "in need," and assigned LSC members to personally reach out to those sections.

"We thought it would be good for members of the LSC to personally reach out as peers to share information, give examples of what's worked in our sections and what hasn't, and plan joint meetings with neighboring sections," said Pete Belmonte, LSC chair-elect and director, environmental

AIChEExtra Focuses on Member Groups

In the coming months, *AIChEExtra* will highlight the work of many of the Institute's member groups. These committees, boards, local sections, divisions, and forums connect members to other engineers who share the same field, goals, and interests. Thanks to their hard work, these groups extend the reach of AIChE throughout the world.

Driving Ahead: NorCal Symposium Explores Fuel Cells, Hydrogen Economy

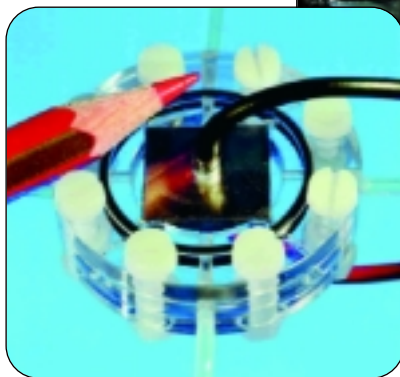
Chemical engineers and the leaders who are fueling the hydrogen economy and fuel cells will meet next month at the NorCal Section's 42nd Annual Symposium, April 20, Berkeley, California.

"This conference is a very good snapshot of state-of-the-art technology, the very active players, and the challenges and opportunities for chemical engineers in the area of fuel cells and the hydrogen economy," said Co-chair Ravi Upadhye.

The conference welcomes chemical engineers who are new to fuel cells, as well as those active in this growing field. The conference will kick off with an introductory tutorial session by Elton Cairns, UC Berkeley, which will provide an overview and put forth the pros and cons of all fuel cells.

Following session topics will focus on the hydrogen economy; hydrogen production, storage, transportation and distribution, and fuel cell technologies, and will be presented by eminent academic, industry, and government leaders, including engineers from UC Berkeley, UC Davis, ChevronTexaco, United Technologies, Ultracell, UTC Fuel Cells, and Sandia National Labs.

The commissioner of the California Energy Commission, Art Rosenfeld, will speak on California's perspective on the hydrogen economy. "The state of California is strongly advocating fuel cells, and has launched a



very aggressive program," said symposium Co-chair Diane Spencer. "I'm interested in learning about the vision of the governor's office."

Another featured speaker is Jim Larkins of Georgetown University. With funding

from the federal government to develop fuel cell mass transit, his research team developed buses that use large fuel cells and are on the road in a number of cities around the country.

"We can have a hydrogen-based transportation in 20 years, but the infrastructure — the fuel stations, distribution, manufacturing—will have to change," said Upadhye. "We need a roadmap saying 'here's what needs to be done to have a hydrogen economy by 2025.'"

In addition to the latest information, conference attendees will have the valuable opportunity to network. "As fuel cell technology grows, there are going to be more and more opportunities for chemical engineers to get involved," said Spencer. "We're bringing in a high-level group of speakers, which will attract high-level attendees."

The related exposition will feature vendors in the fuel cell industry, as well as manufacturers with a broader chemical engineering focus. Ample break time will give attendees a chance to talk with vendors and network.

For years, the NorCal Annual Symposium has provided attendees with a comprehensive introduction to emerging areas impacting chemical engineering. Past topics include biological engineering, environmental topics, new energy technologies, and computers in chemical engineering. All conference proceeds will go to the NorCal scholarship fund.

The 42nd Annual Symposium is a "can't miss" conference for all area chemical engineers. "Anybody interested in career change, finding new opportunities for their company, and who just want to meet other chemical engineers should attend," said Spencer.

For details and registration information, visit: <http://www.aiche-norcal.org/symposium.html>.

COMING SOON: ENHANCED MEMBER BENEFITS

Starting this month, AIChE members will begin to learn about a number of positive changes to the benefits of membership. The enhanced benefits include a comprehensive financial planning service and education savings plans, as well as a new provider of auto and home insurance.

"Providing AIChE members with services that help ensure their financial security is an important part of the Institute's mission," said Executive Director John Sofranko. "The changes that are being introduced will ensure that our members have access to the best providers for a wide range of products and services."

Members will receive an announcement by e-mail when the new



services are available. Update details will also be available online at <http://www.aiche.org/member/benefits/>.

Additional enhancements to current plans will be introduced throughout the year.

Short on Time? Take a Short Course at the Spring Meeting

Members who come to the Spring Meeting, April 25-29, New Orleans, have the opportunity to add a 'crash' course to their itinerary. This year 10 tutorials and short courses will cover a range of topics from Introduction to Pinch Technology to Cybersecurity for Process Control Systems. All are scheduled for Sunday April 25 to supplement the regular sessions at the meeting.

"These are designer quality products at Filene's basement prices," said Technical Programming Director Joe Cramer. He noted that for a modest fee, participants get an intense course in their

area of interest led by a recognized expert. "It's a good formula: high quality curricula within a prescribed timeframe delivering great value."

A complete listing of short courses is available at <http://www.aiche.org/conferences/spring/shortcourse/index.htm>.

All tutorials and short courses are open to the public and do not require full meeting registration. To register for a short course, use AIChE's online registration process at <http://www.aiche.org/spring> and select the "Attending Short Courses or Tutorials Only" option. Be sure to sign up early to secure your seat.

NEW ORLEANS JAZZFEST: LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

New Orleans is rich in culture, with wonderful food, music, architecture, and history. Music lovers know the Big Easy as a top destination for jazz, blues, gospel, and zydeco. Attendees of the 2004 Spring National Meeting are in for a treat, since this year's conference coincides with New Orleans' world-renowned Jazzfest, held the week-ends of April 23-25 and April 29-May 2.

Headliners at the 35th Annual Jazzfest include internationally known names in blues, jazz, and zydeco, along with Louisiana legends and roots-music stars.

Well-known acts include Smokey Robinson, Etta James, The Neville Brothers, Lenny Kravitz, Terrance Blanchard, Branford Marsalis, Harry Connick, Jr., Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Dr. John, Emmylou Harris, Bonnie Rait, and many more.

Much of the festival takes place at the Louisiana Heritage Fair, held at the Fair Grounds Race Course. Day passes are only \$20 in advance and shuttle service is available. For more information, visit: <http://www.nojazzfest.com>.

ANNUAL CALL FOR PAPERS NOW OPEN

The 2004 AIChE Annual Meeting Call for Papers – Proposal to Present (PTP) process is now live. PTPs, both oral papers and poster papers, can be submitted online by May 1 for the 2004 AIChE Annual Meeting, November 7-12, Austin, Texas. See: <http://www.aiche.org/annual>.

The Annual Call for Papers site provides information on all sessions proposed for the meeting and helps presenters determine the most appropriate session for their paper. This page is the starting point for those wishing to present papers at the Annual Meeting in Austin.

For more information on how to participate at this meeting and other AIChE meetings, please go to: <http://www.aiche.org/programming/>

IN THE RUNNING: PETITION CANDIDATES FOR 2004 ELECTIONS

Members interested in running for 2004 AIChE Board of Directors election are encouraged to sign up as a petition candidate. Members can also nominate a fellow member for a position.

To be eligible to run for president-elect, treasurer, or director, members must be a Fellow, senior member, or four-year member. Nominees for president-elect and treasurer must have previously served as an AIChE officer or director.

All petition candidates must file with the Office of the Secretary no later than May 14. All petition candidates must submit the support, in writing, of 100 or more Fellows, senior members, or members. This can be done by signing a petition or by e-mail, and must indicate membership numbers. For more information on filing as a petition candidate, please contact Fiona Brennan, assistant secretary, at (212) 591-7333 or email fiob@aiche.org.

AIChE 2004 Conference Calendar

For information on AIChE conferences, including program and registration details, visit: www.aiche.org/conferences/.

- **2004 Spring National Meeting**
April 25 - 29, Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA
- **Offshore Technology Conference**
May 3 - 6, Houston, TX
- **Process Development Symposium: Working Right on the Right Thing**
June 20 - 23, Oak Brook Hills Resort, Oakbrook, IL
- **19th Annual CCPS International Conference: Emergency Planning, Preparedness, Prevention, and Response**
June 29 - July 1, Caribe Royale, Orlando, FL
- **Safety in Ammonia Plants and Related Facilities Symposium**
September 20 - 23, Hyatt Regency Denver, Denver, CO
- **2004 Engineering & Construction Contracting Conference (ECC)**
October 28 - 29, The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, CO
- **2004 Annual Meeting**
November 7 - 12, Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX

Work Smarter, Not Harder: 2004 Process Development Symposium

AIChE's Process Development Division and the Chicago Local Section will host the second annual Process Development Symposium, "Working Right on the Right Thing," June 20-23, Oakbrook Hills Resort, Oak Brook, IL.

The conference will focus on two fundamental components of cost-effective and successful process development: the first is to determine the "right thing," or the critical issue at hand, and the second is to learn how to "work right" and apply science and technology to solve the critical issue efficiently and effectively.

"Of course, a process must evolve with changes in markets, human resources and technology," Annette Johnston, chair, told *AIChEExtra*. "What the 'right' thing is must be re-evaluated periodically as the process evolves. Participants in this year's symposium will leave with the ideas, contacts

and tools they need to make that evaluation."

The symposium will offer presentations, resources, and discussion about the tools needed to work right: knowledge management, modeling, laboratory tools, and pilot plants. The final session will focus on the evolution of any chemical process into the future, examining manufacturing science, green chemistry and knowledge capture. The symposium will conclude with a panel discussion on these topics.

The program is designed to allow am-



ple time for fostering new relationships as well as collecting process development tips. Afternoons are free, with time for recreation and sight-seeing. The

Chicago local section has planned optional outings during the afternoons, including an architectural tour of Chicago by boat and an afternoon at Navy Pier.

"This symposium is a unique opportunity to learn about process development, and to meet the people that do it," said Johnston.

Visit www.pd-aiiche.com for program and registration details.

Powerful Software Utilizes DIERS Technology

Now engineers can choose from two powerful tools for emergency relief system (ERS) design. These user-friendly programs easily calculate, document, and manage ERS design, based on DIERS methodology.

Emergency relief systems protect personnel from over-pressure within equipment and piping. But design calculations can be very complicated and time-consuming, costing well over 60 man-hours per relief valve. In addition, there are many different types of processes and the large numbers of relief devices that create an additional organizational challenge.

Mach II CDS and SuperChems for DIERS software compile raw process data into customized documentation. They generate the documents needed to manufacture the emergency relief device and meet OSHA 1910, ASME Sections I, IV and VII, and corporate requirements. They feature easy-to-use program interfaces, a choice of reporting formats, and flexible pricing for both intensive and periodic users.

Mach II CDS

Mach II Web-based software lets the user calculate, document, and store relief design

information across multiple platforms. Users can customize the program with basic system data and parameters using Mach II's PSM Report Engine Database of specific process, specification and/or maintenance data. Able to run multiple scenarios, the program generates specification sheets to order the relief devices.

Mach II integrates with existing or Access or Oracle-type databases, and allows the user to produce reports in a variety of formats, including Excel, Word, Adobe Acrobat or text delimited-types. It is ideal for engineers with periodic pressure relief device design needs. Since pricing is based on frequency of use, it is perfect for smaller firms with occasional design needs.

SuperChems for DIERS

SuperChems for DIERS helps the user design, manage, and document even the most complex pressure relief design program.

Its rigorous modeling capabilities allow the user to model multiphase, reacting, and highly non-ideal systems. With scenario/object-driven architecture, they can easily run what-if scenario or sensitivity analyses.

A database of 1200 industrial chemicals and spreadsheet-based interface makes inputting and reporting quick and easy. A dynamic simulator, SuperChems for DIERS is capable of performing ERS and effluent handling designs.

It is ideal for engineers designing relief systems for complex reaction systems, as well as multiple installations, disparate processes or large design volume. The license and annual maintenance fee structure makes it ideal for high-volume users.

For more information, visit <http://www.aiiche.org/diers> or email: diers@aiiche.org.

OBITUARIES

James W. Clark, 68, *Houston, TX*
Chester R. Fox, 67, *Huntingdon Valley, PA*
Robert C. Johnson*, 82, *Boulder, CO*
James A. O'Neill, Jr., 80, *New Orleans, LA*
Alex Frank Perge, 80, *Silver Springs, MD*
Richard J. Travers, 76, *Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*
Edwin T. Williams, 86, *Houghton, MI*

*Fellow member