



*virtu*AIChE®

This month's meeting:

*Primary (with live discussion/live chat) Wednesday, Dec 15 at 9 pm ET (US) / 1 am GMT
Alternate 1 (with live discussion/live chat) Thursday, Dec 16 at 7 am ET (US) / 11 am GMT
Alternate 2 (with live discussion/live chat) Thursday, Dec 16 at 1 pm ET (US) / 5 pm GMT*

Holiday Social! Featuring Don McMillan: Technically Funny



We are pleased to announce that comedian Don McMillan will perform at our holiday social this year. There will also be a JEOPARDY! contest with a chemical engineering theme, Zoom Bingo, an ugly sweater contest, an oldest slide rule contest, and more. Please join us!

Don McMillan is an electrical engineer turned professional comedian. He has performed on The Tonight Show, HBO, and Comedy Central and was named No. 1 Corporate Comedian by CBS Business Network. Before he became a comedian, he worked for AT&T Bell Laboratories (as part of the team that designed the world's first 32-bit Microprocessor) and then as a computer chip designer at VLSI Technology, where he designed more than 20 Standard and ASIC Designs (many of which are still out there today). He got his electrical engineering degrees at Lehigh University (B.S.) and Stanford University (M.S.).



**Note that registration for VLS meetings is required.
Our meetings are still free to attend and open to all.**

December Meeting Registration Information

Primary	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
(Live Presentation/Live Chat)	(Recorded Presentation/Live Chat)	(Recorded Presentation/Live Chat)
Dec 15 at 9 PM EST / 1 AM GMT	Dec 16 at 7 AM EST / 10 AM GMT	Dec 16 at 1 PM EST / 5 PM GMT
Register in advance for the Primary Meeting	Register in advance for the Alternate 1 Meeting	Register in advance for the Alternate 2 Meeting

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions for joining the meeting, along with add-to-calendar links.

Introducing Our September Meeting Raffle Winner!

Every month, a dues-paying member who signed in for the duration of the monthly webinar is selected at random to win a free year of VLS membership (Executive Committee members and previous winners during the current year are ineligible). We are pleased to introduce our September winner – Jacob K. Matthews.



Q: What made you want to be a chemical engineer

A: I was always interested in science and technology and in high school I really enjoyed both chemistry and physics. My after-school job was in an architect's office, so I encountered many different engineers there and elsewhere and decided that I was more interested in being an engineer than a scientist. I felt that chemical engineering let me combine my interests in physics and chemistry with my desire for practical problem solving.

Q: What school(s) you went to?

A: I received both my B.S. ChE and my M.S. ChE from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Q: What kind of jobs have you held?

A: I started my career working in the semiconductor industry, then spent two years as a civilian contractor with the United States Air Force Research Lab. Since then, I have spent over 10 years working with multiple specialty chemical/food ingredients manufacturers using reaction chemistry to process agricultural feedstocks to more value-added food ingredients. For the last five-and-half years, I have been a consultant within the process engineering group at Foth Production Solutions where I have had the opportunity to lead major projects with several Fortune 100 food companies.

Q: Where do you live?

A: I live in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Q: Why did you join the Virtual Local Section?

A: I used to live and work in the greater Chicago area and was an active member of the Chicago local section. When I moved to the Madison, Wisconsin area there was no physical local section so I joined the VLS.

Q: Any hobbies that are connected to chemical engineering

A: Nothing related to chemical engineering directly, but I am a Cub Scout Den Leader and have been able to run several STEM adventures for the kids in my den.

Introducing Our October Meeting Raffle Winner!

Every month, a dues-paying member who signed in for the duration of the monthly webinar is selected at random to win a free year of VLS membership (Executive Committee members and previous winners during the current year are ineligible). We are pleased to introduce our October winner – Sarah Eck.



Q: What made you want to be a chemical engineer

A: I grew up in a one-stoplight-town with few options. We had an amazing chemistry teacher at the local high school that sparked my interest in science. I received a flyer in the mail about a chemical engineering program and was curious enough to ask, “What is that?” My parents helped me attend an event at Purdue University that introduced me to the field and I decided to pursue Chemical Engineering as my career. I am grateful for the many volunteers, mentors, and teachers that helped me pursue this rewarding career.

Q: What school(s) you went to?

A: Purdue University located in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA

Q: What kind of jobs have you held?

A: I started my career at Eli Lilly as a production engineer, helping to scale-up processes to be manufactured in 40-year-old equipment. That is where I developed an interest in process safety and learned to ask advice (and respect the skills) from our maintenance staff (especially our electricians, pipe fitters, welders, and mechanics). I then took a process safety position at Stepan Company where I learned about EHS&S, building code, emergency response, and RMP topics. The next chapter of my life included supporting, improving, and building process safety programs during the merger, acquisition and divesture period of Dow Corning, Hemlock Semiconductor, Dow DuPont and Corteva. Now I work at DEKRA Process Safety helping improve process safety programs, manage risk, and train people on hazards related to reactive chemistry, hazardous materials, and combustible dust.

Q: Where do you live?

A: I split my time between Indianapolis and Mishawaka, Indiana, USA.



Q: Why did you join the Virtual Local Section?

A: I met the group in 2020 when they asked Jena Dorrin and I to speak. I was impressed with how generous and engaging everyone was, so I joined. Everyone is kind and we like to have fun!

Q: Any hobbies that are connected to chemical engineering

A: Besides supporting NFPA 401 Technical Committee (Hazardous Waste) and CCPS project 276 (Safe Work Practices), I am the volunteer webmaster and Facebook

administrator of a fire truck museum. I also own a 1948 Crosley Sedan outfitted to look like a fire truck. (“Bucky” is small but mighty – he even has a siren!)

U. S. National Engineers Week – February 20-26, 2022

Each year more than 70 United States engineering, education, and cultural societies, and more than 50 corporations and government agencies celebrate being an engineer during week of George Washington’s birthday. In 2020, the week of February 20 – 26 had been declared “National Engineers Week” (Eweek) in the United States. Ireland (<http://www.engineersweek.ie/>) will celebrate Eweek the week of March 5 – March 11, 2022. Canada will honor engineers and engineering during the entire month of March (<https://nem-mng.ca/>). The website, <http://www.wfeo.org/engineersdays/>, tracks Eweek celebrations around world.

The goal of National Engineers Week (Eweek) is to promote engineering and the positive contributions engineers make to our lives especially at local schools and to the public. Depending on your location, events range from hosting competitions such Mathcounts, Future City, Robotics, Odyssey of the Mid, and Science and Engineering Fairs to honoring the top engineers, agencies and employers at banquets and dinners.

During my 40 plus years in the engineering field, I have judged science fair projects, introduced elementary, junior high and high schools students to environmental and chemical engineering, and organized award banquets to honor outstanding engineers and engineering projects.

My favorite event has been the “Introduce a Girl to Engineering” day. Using the process of baking cookies, I explain how engineers create the process, equipment and instructions to make millions of cookies each year. Even the safety department joins in by conducting a safety briefing on how to prevent burns, spills and fires when baking cookies at home. At the end of the day, most of the attendees including the chaperones and teachers understand engineering is more than building roads or power plants.

Another program that fits with being a virtual section is the Future City Completion. Even though I live about 250 miles (400 kilometers) from the nearest competition site, I can be a remote judge of the

written presentations. For the 2021 Future City Competition, I reviewed 10 entries from the 6th -8th Grade level online using the guidance documents and scoring rubrics to record my scores. Some of the entries showed a true appreciation of the technical challenges to solving the problems a future city would face. Visit <http://discovere.org/our-programs/future-city> for more information on how to become a judge for the Future City Competition.

For information on the events in your location, check some of the websites listed below or contact your local engineering societies, school districts and private schools and governmental agencies for more information.

www.aiche-metrony.org/Engineers/Week.html

www.facebook.com/EngineersWeek

www.futurecity.org

www.discovere.org/ur-programs/girl-day

<https://msachieves.mdek12.org/2020-national-engineers-week-nasa>

www.carnegiesciencecenter.org/calendar/event-details/?eventID=2187

<https://www.ashrae.org/government-affairs/grassroots-advocacy/national-engineers-week-eweek>

www.engineeringfamilyday.org

www.dvewc.org/about

www.new-sandiego.org/awards/outstandingengineer.html

<https://www.army.mil/article/120306>

www.wfeo.org/engineersdays (International Dates and host organizations)

Australia: <https://www.facebook.com/EngineersAustralia>

Canada: <http://www.nem-mng.ca/>

India: <https://www.ieindia.org/en>

Ireland: www.engineersweek.ie

AIChE News

The AIChE hosts technical conferences around the world. Check www.aiche.org/conferences for registration and presentation information for this year's events.

Dates	Event
Dec 5 – 7	2 nd Optogenetic Technologies and Applications Conference
Dec 6	AIChE eLibrary – Knovel – Circular Economy Focus
Dec 6 – 7	4 th Food Innovation and Engineering (FOODIE) Conference
Dec 7	AIChE eLibrary – Knovel – Additive Manufacturing Focus
Dec 7	Ventilation Considerations for Hydrogen Safety
Dec 7	Support the Acceleration of Virtual Education for K-12
Dec 9 – 10	Process Safety for all Engineers
Dec 9	Digital Innovation for Improving Safety in Chemical Plants
Dec 9 – 10	3 rd Bioenergy Sustainability Conference
Dec 13 – 14	3 rd Renewable Natural Gas Summit
Dec 14 – 16	6 th Global Summit on Process Safety
Dec 15 – 17	3 rd Engineering Sustainable Development Conference
Dec 16	3 rd CCPS Latin America Regional TSC Meeting

Upcoming VLS Meetings

The VLS has monthly meetings. The following meetings have firm dates and speakers.

Dates	Topic
Dec 2021	Holiday Social, headlining Don McMillan, who's Technically Funny
Jan 2022	Biomimicry: Green Chemistry Innovations Inspired by Nature
Feb 2022	Student Intern Competition
Mar 2022	Reality Checking Processes using chemical engineering fundamentals

Past VLS Meetings

The VLS records its monthly meetings and archives them on the AICHE Academy website in case you missed a meeting or are looking for a particular topic. See below for current recordings.

Date	Event
Jun 2021	Chemical Fuels in Carbon Neutral Energy system
Apr 2021	Impactful Online Meetings
Feb 2021	Overcoming the Challenge of Applying Chemical Engineering Principles to the Art of Winemaking
Jan 2021	DIERS Technology Fundamentals II: VLS January 2021 Webinar
Nov 2020	Protecting Lives and Livelihood: Hazardous Materials Classification and its Impact to the Supply Chain
Oct 2020	Chemical Safety Board (CSB) Accidental Release Reporting Rule
Sep 2020	Internships and Undergraduate Education
Aug 2020	Physical Property Models to Design Better Chemical Products
Jul 2020	Julia - A Fresh Approach to Technical Computing
Jun 2020	The Next Digital Leap to AI (An Interactive Webinar)
May 2020	Challenges and Benefits of Remote Operator Training using Cloud-Deployed High-Fidelity, First-Principles Based Standard Operator Training Simulators (SOTS)
Apr 2020	NASEM Chemical Engineering in the 21st Century Study: Give your input!
Mar 2020	Is Your Focus Your Magic!
Feb 2020	DIERS data/standards in HAZOPS of two phase flow
Jan 2020	A Brief History of Measurement
Nov 2019	Using Thermal Imaging to Guard Industrial Facilities
Oct 2019	Python for chemical engineers: Getting started
Aug 2019	Reactive Chemical Hazards
Jul 2019	Should I Py or Should I Fortran?
Jun 2019	Design Considerations for Organic Electronic Materials and Devices
May 2019	Why Can't You Compete Without Virtual/Augmented Reality in Your Plant
Apr 2019	The Chemistry of Bourbon: The "spirit" of molecules
Mar 2019	Demystifying Professional Engineering Licensure and How to Put it to Work for you
Feb 2019	Municipal Wastewater and Sludge Are a Resource, Not a Waste: Coping with Tightening Water Supplies and Limited Landfill Availability

We're in this Together

The ongoing COVID-19 situation has provided us with a reminder that even in uncertain times, AIChE is a diverse community of people who lead, create, inspire and learn—together. AIChE is here to help. Knowing that many of our members are working virtually, AIChE has created this page to act as a hub for online content, access to communities, and communication updates. [Learn more.](#)

The Virtual Local Section's Executive Committee

Officers

Chair:	Paul Adamson
Senior Vice Chair:	Steve Treese
Vice Chair:	Vacant
Immediate Past Chair:	Dan Lambert
Secretary:	Laura Gimpelson
Treasurer:	Jennifer Brand

Directors

Member Care	Fred Fischl
Publicity	Paul Wissmann
Newsletter	Mario Arredondo
Programming	Scott Clarke
	Kirsten Rosselot
Member Feedback	Richard Evans

Did You Know?

You can visit [the VLS website](#) for more information on the Virtual Local Section's mission, activities, and membership. Also at this website, AIChE student members and VLS members can watch previous webinars for free.

Subscription Information

Current fully paid members of the Virtual Local Section receive this newsletter. If you wish to update your email address, contact the AIChE's New York Office for Permanent Address Corrections at xpress@aiche.org or 1-800-242-4363.

Continuing Education Credits

Members of AIChE can receive 1 hour of continuing education/professional development credit for attending Virtual Local Section webinars. Send your name, the certificate number on your professional engineer's license, and the licensing entity (state or country) in which you are licensed to our Secretary, [Laura Gimpelson](#), to receive one hour of continuing education credit for attending this meeting.