

The V-letter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRTUAL LOCAL SECTION OF AIChE

MARCH 2018 - VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3



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Meeting Begins

9:00 pm EDST/ 8:00 pm CDST/ 7:00 pm MDST/ 6:00 pm PDST

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Waste to Energy

By

Michael E. Van Brunt, P.E.
Sr. Director, Sustainability
Covanta Hempstead Company



Covanta is a leading international developer, owner, and operator of waste to energy facilities. Michael will provide an introduction to waste-to-energy, including an overview of facility operation. He will discuss the environmental performance and greenhouse gas benefits of Energy-from-Waste as well as how Energy-from-Waste fits in with overall goals to advance more sustainable waste management, including the circular economy.

Michael Van Brunt is currently Senior Director of Sustainability at Covanta and is a licensed professional engineer with over fifteen years of experience in industry and consulting. He earned a B.S. and Masters in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University

WebEx meeting invitation has been sent to all VLS members, or anyone can click the link below:

[Join WebEx meeting](#)

Meeting number (access code): 639 038 693

If you cannot login, please use one of the following phone numbers:

1-866-469-3239 (Toll free in United States and Canada)

1-650-429-3300 (Toll number in United States and Canada)

MEET OUR NEW LEADERSHIP MEMBERS

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Arian Aghajanzadeh was elected by the Executive Council to serve as the 2018 Vice Chair.

Mr. Aghajanzadeh is a researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) who is fascinated by the complex food, water, and energy systems. Arian splits his time between conducting energy and water research at LBNL, and evaluating and advising early stage agricultural, water, and energy startups at Blue Tech Valley innovation cluster in Fresno, California.

As part of his research, Arian develops methodologies and software tools for demand response potential and energy efficiency impact estimation. Those software tools are helping California farmers and utilities in estimating the demand response potential of their irrigation pumps and global policy makers in estimating the impacts (energy, greenhouse gas emission, and cost savings) of energy efficiency adoption.

Arian's goal is to help the World transition to sustainable energy, water, and food sources.

Arian is a Chemical Engineer by training and prior to joining Berkeley Lab, worked as a process engineer at Applied Materials, one of the world's largest semiconductor equipment manufacturing companies.

As the Vice Chair, Arian plans to promote collaboration between AIChE VLS and Chemical Engineering students at University of California at **Berkeley** and Cornell University (his Alma Maters).

Joining the 2018 Leadership Team as a Director is Louis Mielke.

Louis is semi retired from formal engineering work but likes to stay busy within the field. He splits his time between being active in the Virtual Local Section and accrediting technical universities on behalf of the Engineering Council of South Africa, the South African equivalent of the ABET.

On the professional side, Louis is developing low cost gray water systems and researching how to reduce the costs of producing water from seawater.

Louis has spent 36 years in process operations, new unit startups and project engineering in various fields. During his first eight years out of college, Louis worked in the plant operations field.

Prior to joining our section, Louis was an active member of the South African Institution of Chemical Engineers.

Volunteers are needed to help run the section. You can exercise your current skills or learn new skills. Our most critical need is for help in preparing the monthly newsletter or managing one of our social media platforms. If you are interested in volunteering in one of these areas or one of your design, please contact the VLS Volunteer Recruiter at lg_environmental@bellsouth.net.

FROM THE EDITOR

Most of the events planned to introduce precollege students to engineering and possible careers during the U.S. National Engineers Week (Eweek) were held. A few were canceled due to the flu and weather.

Besides speaking to students, judging at Science Fairs, Robotics or Model Airplane competitions and holding awards banquets, many local engineering societies hosted a screening of the IMAX[®] film titled “Dream Big”.

The film introduces the audience to three non-traditional young engineers. The first engineer did not express interest in technical fields until she survived an earthquake when she was 10.

The second engineer chose to work with Engineers without Borders and other organizations to bring footbridges to rural areas in Latin America and Africa to improve the lives of the local residents.

The third engineer discusses how a favorite teacher convinced her to join the local robotics team to build an underwater robot and how this experience convinced her that college was possible.

If you get a chance, see “Dream Big” and take a group of children to see it with you. After the viewing, spend time answering questions raised by the film and discussing why you went into engineering.

For more ideas on how to make engineering interesting to future engineers, visit www.discoverE.org. There are sections on enhancing the viewing of “Dream Big”, Future City Competition, and an online forum to help celebrate “Global Day of Engineering” on April 4, 2018.

NATIONAL NEWS

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

Dates	Host School & Contacts
March 20-23	Offshore Technology Conference, Asia Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
April 22-26	AIChE Spring National Conference Orlando, Florida
Apr 30 – May 3	Offshore Technology Conference Houston, Texas
June 5-7	2018 Process Development Symposium Oak Brook, Illinois
June 24-28	Metabolic Engineering 12 (SBE) Munich, Germany
Sep 16-20	63th Ammonia Plant Safety Symposium Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Oct 26-29	Annual AIChE Student Conference Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Oct 28 – Nov 2	2018 AIChE Annual Meeting Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Future Meetings

Thursday, April 19, 2018:

John Bewsey, “Ion Exchange with RO”

Thursday, May 24, 2018:

Using Big Data to Improve Plant Operations



SECTION OFFICERS

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Attendance at a Virtual Section Meeting is open to AIChE Virtual Local Section Members, AIChE members and interested persons. Attendees are required to log into

<http://virtual.aiche.org/content/join>

to receive the login link and password.

Visit <http://virtual.aiche.org> for more information on AIChE Virtual Section missions, activities and membership.

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