

The V-letter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRTUAL LOCAL SECTION OF AICHE

APRIL 2018 - VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4



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Meeting Begins

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

Thursday, April 19, 2018 (3rd Thursday of the Month)

ACID ROCK DRAINAGE

Recovery and Conversion to Saleable Fertilizers and Agricultural Water

By

J. A. Bewsey Pr Eng, Pr Sci Nat, CE

The webinar will briefly discuss the causes and analyses of Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) and the effect of sodium to agriculture. Sodium is mostly ignored as a problem in ARD waters as it is not seriously toxic to humans but is a looming disaster for agriculture.

The discussion will look at recovery methods especially the KNeW ion exchange process. This process converts the dissolved solids to fertilizer and quality sodium chloride. These products generate an income stream that covers and may exceed the cost of processing the recovered water into an affordable resource for agriculture – a unique operation.

Trailblazer Technologies (Pty) Ltd has also developed the first truly continuous counter-current ion exchange process which allows large water flows to be processed at low pressure drop which standard column ion exchange technology cannot handle economically.

The KNeW process is also suitable for the recovery of saline underground waters that prove difficult to process competitively and without having a waste brine problem.

[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)

FROM THE EDITOR

April is college decision time in the United States. Graduating high school seniors are receiving letters informing them and their parents which colleges have accepted them as incoming freshmen. Once the final letter with any offers of financial assistance is received, the future engineering student has to select one to attend in the fall.

Often the final out of pocket cost to the family is the deciding factor especially if the out of pocket cost exceeds \$3,000 per month of classes.

If you are lucky, a few states such as Tennessee pay for the first two years of college at a state college or university to state residents over the age of 18. The student can attend a community college or state university and the tuition is paid by the Tennessee Promise Fund. The only requirement is to stay in good standing and make progress towards earning a degree or certificate.

If you are not so lucky, engineering societies such as AIChE, Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and many local sections award scholarships to incoming and continuing students. Listed below is only a few of the scholarships available to engineering and science-oriented students along with the website to obtain submittal requirements.

From www.AIChE.org:

John J. McKetta Undergraduate Scholarship is for incoming junior or senior students planning a career in the chemical engineering process industries (CPI). Deadline is March 1.

The **AIChE Minority Scholarship Award** is for selected incoming freshmen and AIChE undergraduate student members. Applications may still be accepted.

At www.SWE.org, the deadline for applying online for the incoming freshman scholarships is May 1.

The deadline to apply for scholarships for current engineering students is March 1. Many local sections such as Central Florida and Houston Area give scholarships to students attending one or more universities in their local area. Check their local or regional websites for application requirements and deadlines.

The scholarship page at www.NSPE.org lists several scholarships with links to the online applications. They include *the Steinman Scholarship* to a junior in an ABET-accredited program and the *NSPE Educational Foundation Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship* to a female undergraduate entering the junior year of a four-year ABET-accredited engineering program. The *Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering* is awarded annually to a high school senior from an ethnic minority who has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university. The deadline is March 1.

Student Co-op and Internship Presentation Competition

The Virtual Local Section will host its annual student presentation contest for undergraduate Chemical Engineering students graduating December 2018 or later. The paper will discuss an original project conducted by the student as an intern or co-op student this year. The writers of the top five submitted abstracts will present a 5 to 6 minute paper to the members at the September Section meeting. After section members submit their votes live, stipends will be award to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The submission form is available online at <http://virtual.aiche.org> after April 30. Submit questions to Noah Meeks at NoahChemE@icloud.com.

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
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
June 24 – 28	North American Mixing Forum Conference San Juan, Puerto Rico
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, May 24, 2018:

Using Big Data to Improve Plant
Operations

Thursday, June 28, 2018

Open

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Open

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If one understands that the mandatory continuing education (PDH) requirement for active Professional Engineering (PE) license renewal is something foisted on a defenseless community, satisfying the requirement should be done based on cost and convenience considerations even if it means getting credit for education of no real practical value.

The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) created an option that makes sense for the local section to implement. My local section of NSPE helped active PEs obtain the need PDH certificates issued even though the subject matter often did not apply to anything they did or would be doing, especially me, since I am retired with all my licenses in inactive status.

Although the PDH program is geared towards civil engineers, the subject matter was interesting and had more of general knowledge value but would have counted towards my PE renewal requirements.

For Chemical Engineers, a better option to earn PDHs is to join the Virtual Local Section (VLS) and attend our monthly online meetings. Nearly all qualify for PDH credit for most state boards including Florida, Illinois, Texas, and Virginia. In addition, many non-US registration organizations accept the VLS' certificates for their continuing education requirements.

Neil Yeoman, PE (inactive), FAIChE

Members are encouraged to submit articles, job opening, awards, and letters to the Editor to be published in the V-Letter. Deadline for submittals to lg_environmental@bellsouth.net is the 28th of the month to be included in next month's V-Letter.



SECTION OFFICERS

Chair:	Sabine Brueske sbrueske@energetics.com
Vice Chair:	Arian Aghajanzadeh AAghajanzadeh@lbl.gov
Secretary:	Laura Gimpelson, P.E. lg_envrionmental@bellsouth.net
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Director 5:	Dan Miller millerd54@comcast.net
Director 6:	Paul Adamson paul.adamson.01@gmail.com

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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