Western South Carolina Local Section

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

The Western Palmetto Informer

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Contact Information

Visit our website: www.aiche.org/wsc

E-Mail us at: sec@wscaiche.org

chair@wscaiche.org

Message from the Chair

Greeting and felicitations as we start the 2025-2026 year for the Western SC Section of the AIChE. It is my privilege to serve another year as your chairman alongside my colleagues of the local section leadership. New beginnings are always something to look forward to in life. I recently reached another milestone, as of August 11th, I've been a degreed ChE for 46 years. Interesting enough, 50 years ago I'd never even heard of chemical engineering. It was a respected teacher that directed me to give it a look, and I've never looked back. I wonder just how much of the public knows what we do and how we impact their daily lives.

We will be meeting on Monday evenings this year with the fall meetings being September 8th, October 13th, November 10th, and December 8th. The October meeting will be a joint meeting with the Clemson students. The November meeting will be a joint meeting with the local ACS section. The December meeting will be our annual Christmas social. Which reminds me, if you want to know if the engineer you are talking to is an introvert or extrovert, if he/she is looking at your shoes, then he's an introvert.

We are also adding a safety section to the newsletter to allow members to share their experience with one another. Since I've worked with pyrophorics, flammable solvents, and toxic materials so much in my career, I've spent a great deal of time on safety issues. I've also managed to survive some near misses that could have turned out much worse.

The September meeting with be at Jacobs on Butler Road with Jegan Mohan speaking on "Overview of Lithium Processing Technology, Technical Readiness and Engineering Challenges." As more and more technology depends on rechargeable batteries, lithium has become to the world economy what oil was in the 20th century, and coal in the 19th. Like most natural resources, it takes enormous effort to get it out of the earth and into a form we can use to produce batteries. In fact, I doubt very much that the average person has the slightest idea where the lithium in their cell phone or laptop batteries comes from and how it was made into a battery. Come out, enjoy a good meal, hear a great presentation, and support your local section on September 8th.

Bill Thompson, Chair, WSC AIChE

September Meeting Information

Our September meeting topic will be "Overview of Lithium Processing Technology, Technical Readiness and Engineering Challenges," given by Jegan Mohan.

TITLE:	**Overview of Lithium Processing Technology, Technical Readiness and Engineering Challenges by Jegan Mohan**
DATE:	**Monday, September 8th, 2025**
Event timing:	Social Starts at 6:00pm Dinner Starts at 6:30pm Presentation starts at 7:00pm
LOCATION (in-person event):	Jacobs Engineering 1041 E Butler Rd, Greenville, SC 29607
LOCATION (virtual event):	Virtual event Link on Website Meeting will open at 6:45pm
COST	No Charge for Dinner
RSVP by 1/12/24	RSVP HERE if you plan to attend

RSVP [HERE] - by Saturday, September 6th.

Safety Bulletin - Deflagration

Deflagration is a type of combustion where the flame front propagates through a reactive mixture at a speed less than the speed of sound. Did you know that a deflagration in a pressure vessel can be expected to reach a peak pressure 8 times the starting pressure in the vessel? That means that if the vessel is operating at atmospheric pressure (14.7 psia), a deflagration in the vessel can reach a peak pressure of 103 psig. The pressure rise will be so fast

that the relief system on the vessel cannot react fast enough to prevent reaching peak pressure. For that reason, properly inerting a vessel with nitrogen or another inert gas before introducing flammable materials is vital. This is especially true when handling solvents or powders that are prone to generating static build-up. Most solvent vapors have a limiting oxygen concentration (LOC) of 9-11% by volume; so, reducing oxygen to 2.5% or less with a proper inerting procedure is generally acceptable. However, know your materials, there are flammable chemicals with lower LOC. For example, hydrogen is only 5%.

Stay Safe!

Opportunities to Assist

We welcome your participation on any level in this organization. Please reach out to Devon Clymer, sec@wscaiche.org, if you have any feedback on any of the following:

- You or someone you know would like to give a technical presentation at an upcoming meeting.
- Provide meeting topic or location recommendations to the leadership team.
- Provide recommendation or access for a plant tour (usually in the spring).
- You have interest in joining our Officers or Executive Committee.
- Any general question or comments on meeting times, locations, and topics

2025 Officers and Executive Committee

POSITION	NAME	COMPANY	E-MAIL
Chair	Bill Thompson	Ortec	bthompson@ortecinc.com chair@wscaiche.org
Vice-Chair	James Young	Fluor	James.H.Young@fluor.com vchair@wscaiche.org
Secretary	Devon Clymer	Jacobs	Devon.clymer@jacobs.com sec@wscaiche.org
Treasurer	Kevin Pait		kipait100@gmail.com treasurer@wscaiche.org
Webmaster	Dylan Nanney	Fluor	dylan.nanney@fluor.com
Scholarship Coordinator	David Hine		dpkjhine@gmail.com
Newsletter	Dane McBee	Fluor	dane.mcbee@fluor.com
Historian	(open)		

POSITION	NAME	COMPANY	E-MAIL
Executive Committee	Karl McCaleb		kmccaleb2@bellsouth.net
	Anil Wagle	Retired	Anilwagle123@gmail.com
	Anastase (Tasso) Ghionis	Omega Chemicals	

2025-2026 Calendar of Events

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
September 8, 2025	Jacobs Engineering	Overview of Lithium Processing Technology, Technical Readiness and Engineering Challenges
October 13, 2025	Clemson	TBD
November 10, 2025	TBD	TBD (Joint meeting with the local ACS section)
December 8, 2025	TBD	WSCAIChE Christmas Social