



Society of **W**omen **E**ngineers
Sacramento Valley Section



Valley Views

A Bi-Monthly Publication for the
SWE Sacramento Valley Section

November - December 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
1	Calendar of Events
2	President's Column
2	Regional SWE News
3	New Member Profiles
4	Upcoming Events
5	Past Events
7	Announcements
8	Officer Roster
9	Fiscal Year Calendar

SWE SVS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

- 15 Scholarship Fundraiser
Planning Meeting
Sacramento
- 17 Rubicon Brewery Tour
Sacramento

December

- 8 Holiday Meeting
Sacramento

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Vyomini Pandya

As we near the festive season and the end of the year, we look at our past accomplishments. And this year we had many of those! I am very pleased to share that our section has been recognized for its growth in membership. I'd like to thank all of our members for their dedication and continued support. The SWE National has also acknowledged our efforts to maintain the website. Keep up the good work Ally!

We have had many successful events, and details on those can be found in the Past Events section of the newsletter. We have a technical tour of Rubicon Brewery scheduled for our members who are interested in the brewery operations and tasting the local product on November 17. Please respond to me if you'd like to attend. Our annual Holiday meeting at Ettore's is planned for December 8, 2011. Please RSVP to Sue Bianchi if you would like to attend.

We have a new addition to our section, SWEStar. At our events a yellow star will accompany us to document our various activities. Any names or decorations for the star are welcome.

I am very pleased to announce that Latasha Perreault has volunteered to be the chair for Speaker's Bureau. She will be developing lists of speakers for various outreach activities. If you are interested in being a speaker, please contact her. Many thanks to Elizabeth Obon, Wendy Cohen and Sue Bianchi for volunteering to be the Scholarship Fundraiser Committee's Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator, Benefactor Coordinator, and Communication & Media Coordinator, respectively. A few positions remain open, please see "Announcements" for more information or contact me if you would like to attend Scholarship Fundraiser Committee meetings.

Your continued support is much appreciated!
Thank you,

Vyomini

REGIONAL SWE NEWS

National SWE

Our Section Representative Paula McDonald has some great highlights to share with us about the National SWE Conference held in Chicago on October 13 – 15. Please see "Past Events" to read about the event and other National and Regional SWE news.

More information about National SWE is available at <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/>

Region A

San Joaquin Valley

The San Joaquin Valley Professional Section is active. If you live near Stockton, Fresno, or Merced, please visit: <http://swe-goldenwest.org/sjvs/> to learn more.

Sierra Foothills

Sierra Foothills is our neighboring SWE section. Members of both sections are welcome at many of the other section's events. For more information about the Sierra Foothills Section, please see their new website at <http://swe-goldenwest.org/sfs/>

Regions A, B and J

Conference in Hawaii

Mark your calendars for February 29 – March 3! The SWE University of Hawaii at Manoa Collegiate section and the SWE-Hawaiian Islands Proposed Professional section will be co-hosting the 2012 SWE Regional ABJ Conference at the Sheraton Waikiki. More information is available at <http://www.swewestern2012.org/>

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

interviewed by Wendy Cohen

Crystal Tjhia received her BS in Bioengineering from UC Berkeley in 2005, and in December 2011 will be receiving her PhD in Biomedical Engineering from UC Davis. For her PhD research, she works in the Orthopedics Lab at the UC Davis Medical Center. Her dissertation work involves characterizing the mechanical properties of bones in patients with bone fracture. Specifically, Crystal is studying a small group of patients who suffered from atypical fractures while on long-term osteoporotic drug treatment. She measured the micro-scale mechanical properties and mineralization patterns of bone biopsies to see whether those patients have abnormal bone tissue compared to normal subjects. The eventual goal for this work is work to help us better understand the potential causes for such bone fractures. After completing her PhD, Crystal would love to work in research and development at a medical device company. She is currently searching for opportunities and would welcome any and all advice!

Crystal has very fond memories of SWE as a student at Berkeley. As a freshman in the college of engineering, she was paired up with an upperclassman "buddy" to ease the transition into college life. Her buddy was not only a wonderful friend and resource, but an active SWE member who encouraged her to attend meetings to learn what the Society was all about. She was hooked from the beginning, and some of her best friends from college were her SWE friends. Being a part of SWE, Crystal learned about career development and had many opportunities to network with other students and professional women. She ended up being a SWE Officer for 3 of her undergraduate years, and she helped start the alumni directory there. Thus, SWE has already played an important role in helping her develop leadership skills. She said she's looking forward to participating in SWE at the professional level and meeting the other Section members.

In her spare time, Crystal loves arts and crafts, and recently picked up sewing as a hobby. She enjoys sewing everything from tote bags to dresses. Now that the weather is cooling down, she's getting excited about starting knitting and crochet projects, as well. Crystal also enjoys photography, although she doesn't spend as much time with her camera as she'd like.

Welcome to SWE Sac Valley, Crystal!

Latasha Perreault received her BS in Computer Science in 1997 and MS in Systems Engineering in 2001, both from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She also earned a Master's degree in 2008 in Psychology from Capella University in Minneapolis and has earned two occupational designations: Project Management Professional (PMP) issued by the Project Management Institute, and Certified Systems Engineering Professional (CSEP) issued by the International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE).

From 1995 to early 1999, Tasha worked for Rockwell Collins in Richardson, Texas and then worked for the rest of 1999 at FemmeComp out of Sterling, Virginia. From 2000 until 2010, she worked at various locations with Northrop Grumman, and she currently works with Composite Engineering in Roseville. Between all these companies, Tasha's career has spanned software development, database design, project management and systems engineering work in the fields of military satellite communications, missile defense, unmanned surveillance aircraft, and target drones. She also has assisted human resources efforts to recruit, screen, and interview candidates, and helped plan and lead team building activities and morale improvement events. Tasha has managed engineering teams, being responsible for their career development, performance appraisals, and general well-being in the workplace.

In April 2009, Tasha started as an adjunct faculty member with DeVry University in Elk Grove, teaching undergraduate psychology courses. DeVry University is based in Chicago, and the Elk Grove campus is a satellite center that extends from Fremont. DeVry is comparable to University of Phoenix and offers traditional programs, but it is mainly oriented towards working professionals and so offers a wide variety of online courses.

Tasha is a professional member of SWE and INCOSE and a life member of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, plus she sits on the Engineering Industry Advisory Board of DeVry University. She is married to an Army Reservist, and together they have two boys ages 8 and 10. Tasha is very involved in their school and extracurricular activities, and she is active in her church as a Eucharistic Minister and member of the choir. As a busy professional, wife, and mother, when there are moments of spare time, Tasha escapes to scrapbooking and reading spy novels. She also has jumped right into SWE Sac Valley activities by volunteering to be the Speakers Bureau Chair. Thank you very much, Tasha, and welcome to SWE Sac Valley!

Erin Marquis received her BS in Civil Engineering in May 2010 from California State University Sacramento. In April 2010, she also received her Engineer-in-Training (EIT) certificate. After graduation, Erin applied for a number of jobs, including out-of-state and out-of-country, but nothing panned out. She decided to go to graduate school at Sac State and started in Fall 2010 to pursue an MS in Environmental Engineering. For the masters, Erin must choose amongst a thesis, a test, or a project. She's leaning towards a project since this usually entails more practical research and working closely with the advisor. Her initial project topic is creating a practical tool for field use at construction sites, in order to better predict erosion turbidity based on site-specific parameters.

Since all her classes can be taken at night, Erin got started on her engineering career while completing the masters program. She works full-time for CH2M Hill as an environmental engineer on various projects from report writing about the remediation of an Air Force Base, to field sampling of groundwater wells in order to characterize groundwater for analysis.

Erin has been a SWE member since October 2004, when she enrolled at Sac State as an architecture student. After awhile, her Mom suggested engineering, and once Erin looked into it, she agreed that was the way to go. She was SWE President for 3 semesters as well as other officer positions for a couple of years. During 2010-2011, Erin was Secretary of the Sierra Foothills Section, and this year, she has volunteered to lead Sac Valley Section's Scholarship Committee.

In her spare time, which is sparse, Erin enjoys running and she ran in the California International Marathon in Sacramento in December 2010. She also babysits her two toddler nephews, enjoys movies, and is learning French from CDs with an eye towards later helping people in Africa with water issues. Thank you for your participation, Erin, and welcome to the Sac Valley Section!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting

When: Tuesday, November 15
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Where: Sacramento Area Sanitation District
Office
10060 Goethe Road
Sacramento
Contact: Vyomini Pandya, vyomini21@gmail.com
Conference Line: 916-875-0000 , Code: 235614

Help organize and share your ideas for our annual Scholarship Fundraiser. If you can't attend in person, a conference line is available above. For more information about planning progress, please see the "Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting" article under "Past Events".

Rubicon Brewery Tour

When: Thursday, November 17
Time: 6:00pm
Where: Rubicon Brewery
2004 Capitol Ave
Sacramento
Contact: Vyomini Pandya at vyomini21@gmail.com

December

Holiday Meeting

When: Thursday, December 8
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Where: Ettore's European Bakery & Restaurant
2376 Fair Oaks Blvd
Sacramento, CA
Contact: Sue Bianchi , bianchis@sacsewer.com

Join fellow section members and friends for some holiday cheer. With great food and good company, this is an event you won't want to miss.

PAST EVENTS



left to right: Maria Alvarado, Nicole Lu, Wendy Cohen with Coso, Kiki Okeke, and Ally Jahn

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, October 16

by Wendy Cohen

For more than 10 years, SWE Sac Valley and Sierra Foothills have teamed up and participated in this walk to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research. This year, 19,000 people walked the 5 kilometers (3 miles) starting at the west steps of the Capitol building, down Capitol Mall, through Old Sacramento, up the K Street Mall, around Capitol Park and back to the start. It was a gorgeous morning with sunshine and thin clouds, making for perfect walking weather. This year's team was smaller than usual since many members were at the SWE National Conference in Chicago. We had 7 team members representing both professional sections and the UCD student section, including Wendy Cohen (and her dog Coso), Ally Jahn, Kiki Okeke, Maria Alvarado, Nicole Lu, Laurin Johnson, and Jing Chen. The students showed particular perseverance by taking the bus from Davis at 8:15 on a Sunday morning! We had congenial conversations as we spent about an hour covering the distance. Collectively, we raised nearly \$1,500 for the American Cancer Society. Many thanks to the team leader Jing Chen of Sierra Foothills Section, who unfortunately was called away at the last minute so wasn't able to participate in the walk.

Business Meeting

by Vyomini Pandya

Our leadership team met on September 21, 2011. We discussed the status of various Section activities. We have some funds that were allocated for scholarships which we are looking to invest. We have a financial adviser to aid in decision making. Our section had a request to sponsor a robotics team. We are donating \$250 to the Folsom Robotics team. The Robotics team will be placing our logos on the t-shirts in acknowledgement.

Quarterly Luncheon

by Vyomini Pandya

We had a good turnout at the quarterly lunch. We caught up with members and discussed possible ideas for outreach. We are planning on making polo shirts for our section. If you have any ideas and like to share please contact me at vyomini21@gmail.com.

Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting

by Vyomini Pandya

We had our second planning meeting for the annual fundraiser on October 4, 2011. The event is scheduled for Thursday May 3, 2012 at the SASD Building. At this event, we will honor the scholarship recipients. Currently, we are discussing the theme for the event and any ideas for decorations, logos, programs are welcome. We also need volunteers to contact various businesses to request items needed for the event. Donations for raffle and silent auctions are encouraged. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 15. Please RSVP to Vyomini at vyomini21@gmail.com if you like to participate in the planning activities.

National Conference in Chicago

by Paula McDonald

The annual National SWE conference was held in Chicago, Illinois October 12-15 and was themed, "Raising the Heights of Innovation." Over 5,000 women engineers (known as "SWEsters") attended. The format of the conference included many things for everyone: technical tours, professional development workshops w/ 5 tracks, SWE business and leadership meetings, and an outstanding career fair with at least a hundred companies represented. The city of Chicago was a lovely and friendly venue, and I left feeling the usual "SWE glow" of being re-energized, enlightened, inspired and enchanted by all the events and people around me. If you have never attended a regional or national SWE conference, you simply MUST!

I attended many enlightening workshops. One was about Project Engineering with a panel of women from Honeywell. Others covered the topic of going from a technical role to management, including the aspect of how to lead and influence those you are working with even when you are not “the boss.” Eight Flaws in Strategic Thinking was intriguing, as it applied the research from behavioral economics to common bad decisions made by executives that are caused by certain erroneous beliefs, behavioral tendencies, and the limited sphere of influence that is common to executive positions.

But by far, the session I always look forward to each year that is “worth the cost of admission” by itself is the workshop lead by Rachel Hutter, Engineering Vice President at Walt Disney World’s Animal Kingdom. In addition to her technical expertise, Ms. Hutter inspires me in the way she is both open and candid, yet at the same time, perfectly polished when she speaks. I always leave with copious notes of succinct quotes from her. This year’s session was called, “Reconnecting with Your Femininity,” which addressed aspects of how to be an authentic leader with your natural feminine characteristics without getting stuck in stereotypical perceptions of being “too soft,” “too harsh,” or “too weak.” Probably completely out of context, but here’s a list of the pearls of wisdom I got this year: WDW has a “No Tyrants” policy in management; no one/thing is going to change until the people feel good about themselves and the change, so meet them where they are; Exercise Situational Leadership; Flexibility is a strength, not a barrier; Error on the Side of Optimism; To be comfortable in your own skin, you probably need to tailor it.

Aimed at collegiates but open to all, the Hospitality Suites put on by the companies in the Corporate Partnership Council (CPC) are a lot of fun, with great food and beverages, and thrilling drawings for big ticket door prizes. You should have seen the one from 3M! They turned a standard convention center conference room into a Monte Carlo-style lounge, with white leather couches, chandeliers, pink carpets and other fantastic decorations. Swanky!

The national conference is perfect for networking and making new friends. I roomed with two ladies from Nebraska and Iowa that I only get to see at the National conference and we had such a great time catching up and reconnecting. We were able to carve out some time to visit the Field Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry. How incredible! Dinosaurs, rockets, the U-505 submarine, even an exhibit on the history of chocolate!

On the SWE business side, I attended the session for Region & Section Treasurers. As your third-year Region Treasurer, I just now learned that we actually have a Finance Manual from National SWE that can be obtained

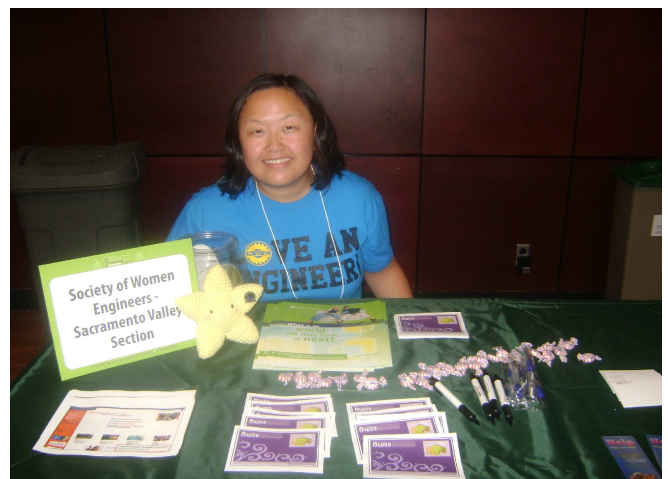
from the share.swe.org site in the Finance area, or by Google search of “SWE Finance Manual,” and clicking on the link dated “June 30, 2011....Appendix E...” to automatically open the Word file.

I also supported the Region A fundraising effort selling embroidered SWE hoodies, running pullovers and graduation stoles. This is the first merchandise our Region has sold and it was an overwhelming success! Our Region secretary, Kara Bymers, had the very high quality goods made and packed up 2 huge suitcases to bring to Chicago. The hoodies are super soft cotton and look flattering in every size, but they do run small in “junior fit” (XXL available). I have worn mine several times and LOVE LOVE LOVE it! And GOOD NEWS, you can order online at <http://swe-goldenwest.org/Region/merchandiseshop.html>

Expanding Your Horizons Conference

by Sue Bianchi

On Saturday, October 8th, over 300 6th-8th grade girls attended the 5th Annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference at Sac State. Each girl experienced a day of exciting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities. The conference opened with an inspiring keynote speaker, followed by two exciting hands-on workshops and career/demonstration booths featuring 22 area STEM businesses, organizations, and educational institutions. This year, for the first time, our section had a new addition to our membership. Given to us by Region A Leadership, we have our own SWEstar. Our SWEstar caught quite an attention at the career/demonstration booths. They were curious as to why she was there. She met so many future engineers. We had a blast and we’re looking forward to next year’s conference.



Sue Bianchi and the SWEstar at the 2011 Engineering Your Horizons Conference

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young Engineer Sessions (Y.E.S!) Needs Volunteers

Y.E.S! Is a hands-on engineering event for 6th to 8th grade Girl Scouts. SWE Members guide girls through labs on math, science and engineering skills. The event will take place on March 10, 2012. We need additional volunteers to proceed with hosting the event. Open roles are below. All supplies and training are provided. Please contact Heather Sheridan at sheridanhm@bv.com for more information or to volunteer.

Energy Module Assistant

In the Energy Module, we will teach the girls about energy demand of various cooling devices and matching demand to supply. They will measure for themselves the power use of several devices and enter the data in a table. We'll then identify how much power and energy we can get from solar panels and figure out how many panels would be needed to operate the different cooling systems. At the end, the group will discuss ways to reduce energy use in our households.

Assistant will help module leader with the following:

- Set-up
- Hand out worksheets
- Assist girls with power measurements
- Alternate with leader in presenting the module (script is available)
- Help with discussion of reducing energy use
- Clean-up

Chemistry Module Assistant

In the Chemistry Module, we will teach the girls about the difference between an acid and a base. We also will be making litmus pH test paper from red cabbage and testing pre-made litmus paper with numerous household liquids. We will end the module by using unit graduation pH test strips to accurately test the household liquids and water samples (ocean, lake, river, rain, tap, bottled and fish tank).

Assistant will help module leader with the following:

- Set-up
- Pass out supplies during the module (filter paper, test liquids, etc.)
- Prepare hot water for the red cabbage solution
- Help scouts with module
- Clean-up
- Possibly run portions of the modules

Scholarship Fundraising Committee Call for Volunteers

With tuition rates on the rise and high unemployment, it is a crucial time for us to support women pursuing engineering degrees. The Scholarship Fundraising Committee is now being formed to raise money for local collegiate women in engineering and to organize the Section's Annual Fundraiser. More detailed descriptions are available at the end of the newsletter. Position duties begin this month and run through May. Please consider joining the committee to support efforts to raise funds and offer scholarships to more recipients than last year.

Committee Chair - Manage the committee and the event. Update President with progress.

Sales Executive - Assist the committee in advertising and promoting the event. Update Chair with progress.

Event Manager - Assist the committee in selling admission and raffle tickets for the event. Update Chair with progress.

If interested in a position, or volunteering in any capacity, please contact Vyomini Pandya at vyomini21@gmail.com

Officer Positions Open Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Please consider volunteering for one of the following unfilled officer positions.

Vice President - Assist Section President in coordinating and planning events, meetings, and outreach efforts.

Collegiate Coordination Committee Chair - Remain current with the status of the Section's collegiate chapters and coordinate any outreach efforts requested by the collegiate chapters.

For detailed information about the duties of any of the officer positions, please contact Vyomini Pandya at vyomini21@gmail.com.

MEMBER CORNER

If you have an article, poem, technical paper, book, tool or Sacramento Valley hot spot you would like to share with everyone, please send it to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next bi-monthly issue!

OFFICER ROSTER

President ***Vyomini Pandya***
(916) 876-6677
vyomini21@gmail.com

Vice President ***OPEN***
Contact Vyomini Pandya

Treasurer ***Liz Raley***
(916) 638-3058
elizabethgraley@att.net

Section Rep ***Paula McDonald***
(916) 832-0019
paulalmcdonald@sbcglobal.net

CSUS Counselor ***Sue Bianchi***
(916) 876-6383
bianchis@sacsewer.com

UCD Counselor ***Linda N. Finley***
(916) 557-7411
Linda.N.finley@usace.army.mil

Collegiate Coordination Committee Chair ***OPEN***
Contact Vyomini Pandya

Scholarship Fundraising Chair ***OPEN***
Contact Vyomini Pandya

Scholarship Committee Chair ***Erin Marquis***
engineeringerin@gmail.com

Speaker's Bureau ***Latasha Perreault***
tasha.perreault@gmail.com

Membership Chair ***Wendy Cohen***
(530) 756-7518
wcohen@dcn.org

Newsletter Editor ***Andrea Bergamini***
andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com

Web Site Administrator ***Alice Ames Jahn***
alicejahn@alumni.ucdavis.edu

Y.E.S! Chair ***Heather Sheridan***
(209) 986-5656
sheridanhm@bv.com

Annual Business & Calendar Events

Fiscal Year 2011 – 2012

Date	Event	Time/Location	Coordinator
November 15, 2011	Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting	SASD Office 10060 Goethe Road Sacramento 12:00 – 1:00 pm	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com
November 17, 2011	Rubicon Brewery	Rubicon Brewery 2004 Capital Ave Sacramento 6 pm	Vyomini Pandya Vyomini21@gmail.com
December 8, 2011	Holiday Meeting	Ettore's European Bakery & Restaurant 2376 Fair Oaks Blvd Sacramento, CA 6 pm – 8 pm	Sue Bianchi bianchis@sacsewer.com
December 9, 2011	Newsletter Articles DUE	Send week of December 21, 2011	Andrea Bergamini andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com
January 2012	Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting	SASD Office 10060 Goethe Road Sacramento	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com
January 26, 2012	Joint Meeting w/Sierra Foothills Section	The Old Spaghetti Factory, Hazel Ave Sacramento	Wendy Cohen wcohen@dcn.org
January 2012	Y.E.S! Planning Meeting	Black & Veatch Office 10995 Gold Center Dr, Suite 100, Rancho Cordova, 6 pm	Heather Sheridan sheridanhm@bv.com
February 10, 2012	Quarterly Friday Lunch	Davis	Wendy Cohen wcohen@dcn.org
February 10, 2012	Newsletter Articles DUE	Send week of February 22, 2011	Andrea Bergamini andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com
February 2012	ABJ Spring Senate Meeting	TBD	TBD
February 19-25, 2012	Engineers Week	Nationwide	Please visit http://eweek.org
February 29 - March 3, 2012	Region ABJ Conference	Sheraton Waikiki Oahu, Hawaii	Please visit http://www.swewestern2012.org/
March 2012	Scholarship Fundraiser Planning Meeting	SASD Office 10060 Goethe Road Sacramento CA 95827	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com
March 2012	2011 Scholarship Application DUE	SWE SVS Scholarship P.O. Box 924 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741	Erin Marquis engineeringerin@gmail.com

March 10, 2012	Y.E.S! with the Girl Scouts	Sacramento 8 am – 3 pm	Heather Sheridan sheridanhm@bv.com
April 2012	Send out Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Officer Ballots	SWE SVS P.O. Box 924 Rancho Cordova, CA 95741	Wendy Cohen wcohen@dcn.org
April 13, 2012	Member Bring a Member Luncheon	Downtown 6 pm – 8 pm	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com
April 13, 2012	Newsletter Articles DUE	Send week of April 19, 2011	Andrea Bergamini andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com
April 2012	Business Meeting	SASD Office 10060 Goethe Rd Sacramento, CA	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com
April 28, 2012	Girl Scouts 100 th Celebration	Cal Expo	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com
May 3, 2012	Scholarship Fundraiser	SASD Office 10060 Goethe Rd Sacramento, CA	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com
May 11, 2012	Quarterly Friday Lunch	Dos Coyotes 8519 Bond Road #100 Elk Grove 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Sue Bianchi bianchis@sacsewer.com
May - June 2012	Region A Awards Banquet	TBA	TBA
June 8, 2012	Newsletter Articles DUE	Send week of June 21, 2011	Andrea Bergamini andrea.g.bergamini@gmail.com
June 2012	Vineyard Water Treatment Plant or FRWA intake structure	Sacramento, CA	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com
June 2012	Planning Meeting	TBA	Vyomini Pandya vyomini21@gmail.com

Note: TBA/TBD – To be Announced / To be Determined