

Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
Detroit Section

1952-Present
(Predominantly 1952-1980)

4.5 linear feet

Accession # 1467

The historical records of the Society of Women Engineers, Detroit Section, were placed in the Walter P. Reuther Library by SWE-Detroit Past President Ann O. Fletcher on June 11, 1991, and were open for research in May 1992.

Efforts to organize a Society of Women Engineers were encouraged in the early decades of the twentieth century, by pioneering women engineers such as Alice Goff and Hazel Quick, both engineering graduates of the University of Michigan. Yet the origins of SWE lie in student groups organized at Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia and Cooper Union and City College of New York in New York City in the late 1940s. Increased defense spending and a shortage of men during World War II had provided unprecedented educational and employment opportunities for women engineers. On May 27, 1950, about fifty women representing the four original districts or sections—metropolitan New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, and Boston—attended the first SWE “national convention” at Green Engineering Camp of the Cooper Union in New Jersey and elected Dr. Beatrice A. Hicks president. Over the next three years, the Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles sections were chartered.

The SWE Detroit Section held its first meeting on June 30, 1952. The Charter Members of the Detroit Section were

Esther A. Allen
Patricia L. Brown
Mildred F. Denecke
Margaret Eller
Sally Ann Farquhar
Rosella Katz Fenton
Kay Foltusz
Margaret B. Frank
Helma Fuhrman
Geneva Van Horn
E. Elise Hosten

Dorothy E. Howarth
Maxine R. Janczarec
Helen T. Kremski
M. Ann Lawrence
Doris Nordstrom
Hazel I. Quick
Maxine V. Regnier
M. Virginia Sink
Marion R. Sylvestrzak
Therese Tierney
Julia A. Woodcock
Irma M. Wyman

The specific objectives of the Society are to:

- Inform young women, their parents, counselors, and the general public, of the qualifications and achievements of women engineers and the opportunities open to them
- Assist women in readying themselves for a return to active work after their temporary retirement
- Serve as a center of information on women in engineering
- Encourage women engineers to attain high levels of education and professional achievement

The Society of Women Engineers Detroit Section continues as an active organization in the Southeastern Michigan area. The collection includes administrative records, such as correspondence, meeting minutes, treasurer's reports, newsletters, publications, and membership files. Other items include scrapbooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous brochures.

Series 1
Office Files, 1952-1991
Boxes 1-4

Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Box 1

1. Achievement Awards
2. Announcements
3. Bylaws, 1953, & 1977
4. Bylaws, Students, 1976
5. Career Guidance, 1956-57
6. Career Guidance, 1977
7. Convention, 1970, Hartford, CT
8. Convention, 1975, Pittsburgh, PA
9. Convention, 1976, New Orleans, LA
10. Convention, 1977, Cincinnati, OH
11. Convention Programs, 1957-1972
12. Convention Programs, 1979-1981

Box 2

- 1-7. Correspondence, 1952-1958
8. Correspondence, 1960
9. Correspondence, 1963
- 10-12. Correspondence, 1965-1967
- 13-20. Correspondence, 1971-1978

Box 3

- 1-3. Correspondence, 1979-1981
4. Dues Rebate, 1975
5. History of SWE, 1950-1990
6. Letterhead & Logo
7. Membership Files, 1954-1972
8. Membership Files, A-L, 1976-78
9. Membership Files, M-Z, 1976-78

Box 4

1. Membership Rosters, 1953-57
2. Membership Rosters, 1969-78
3. Membership Rosters, 1980-83
4. Organization Chart, Detroit Section, 1961
5. Scholarship Winners, 1958-71
6. Scholarship Winners, 1989
7. Scholarship Winners, 1990
8. Scholarship Winners, 1991
9. Science Fair, 1960-67
10. Science Fair, 1968-73
11. Treasurer's Reports, 1977-78

Series 2
Published Materials, 1952-1988
Boxes 5-7

Magazines, newspaper clippings, newsletters from Detroit Section and National Headquarters, and miscellaneous brochures. The magazines and brochures are arranged by subject or type of material. The newspaper clippings and newsletters are arranged chronologically.

Box 5

1. *Automation*, 1974
2. *Boeing*, 1955
3. *Colorado Engineer*, 1958
4. *D & H Machinery*, 1977
5. *Detroit Engineer*, 1977 and 1978
6. *Educational Affairs* (Ford Motor Company), 1962
7. *Engineer*, 1968
8. *Foundation*, 1953 & 1957
9. Brochures and Pamphlets
10. *National Business Woman*, 1958-59
11. *Pittsburgh*, 1955
12. *Product Engineer*, 1980-81
13. *U.S. Woman Engineer*, 1980-81
14. *Ward's Auto World*, 1980
15. *Women in Engineering*, 1958 & 1973
16. Women in Engineering brochures and pamphlets

Box 6

- 1-30. Newspaper Clippings, 1952-1981
31. Newspaper Clippings, 1983
- 32-34. Newspaper Clippings, 1986-1988

Box 7

1. Newsletters, Detroit, 1953, 1954, 1961
- 2-11. Newsletters, Detroit, 1965-1974
- 12-17. Newsletters, Detroit, 1976-1981
18. Newsletters, National, 1962-1972
- 19-23. Newsletters, National, 1976-80

Series 3
Scrapbooks, 1961-1968
Boxes 8-9

Box 8

- 1-5. Scrapbook, 1961-1965
6. Scrapbook, January 1966-May 1966

Box 9

1. Scrapbook, Jun 1966- Dec 1966
2. Scrapbook, Jan 1967- May 1967
3. Scrapbook, Jun 1967- Dec 1967
- 4-6. Scrapbook, 1968-1970

**Series 4
Office Files
1991-1994**

*These files were transferred to the Archives in 1994. Please note: these files are unprocessed and the following is a list of headings by which the records were originally filed.

1991-92

- Directories
- Agendas
- Minutes
- Monthly Reports
- Correspondence
- Awards Brunch
- Miscellaneous flyers, notes

1992-93

- Directories
- Agendas
- Minutes
- Monthly Reports
- Correspondence
- Section Reports
- Miscellaneous flyers, notes

1993-94

- Directories
- Agendas
- Minutes
- Monthly Reports
- Correspondence
- Section Reports
- Miscellaneous flyers, notes

40th Anniversary Reception Program and Announcement

**Series 5
Office Files
1994-2000**

Records were transferred to the Archives in July 2001. The following is a loose inventory of records and the SWE-D Newsletter.

Box 10 (1 SB) 4W-E-9(6)

Contents:

Folder:

Contents:

1

1993 Section Manual

2-6

President's Office, Diana Cernis, 93-94

- Nomination packets
- Awards
- Continuing Development
- Family Issues
- Fundraising
- Membership
- Mentor Program
- Org Charts
- Resume Database
- Section Reports
- Speakers Bureau
- Survey, Questionnaire
- Treasurers reports
- Industry Roundtable
- National Day Care Study
- Chrysler Contacts
- Membership Directory

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President's Office, Marie Demos, 94-95

- President's Timeline
- Bylaws
- 1994 Membership List
- 94-95 SWE-D Calendar
- SWE-D Archives
- SWE Life Membership
- Meeting Minutes Aug 94-May95
- Section Reports
- Mentorship Program: Cass Tech
- Region H Reports
- Department of Labor, "Workforce 2000"
- Treasurers Reports

- Fundraising and Ford Fund
- NASA Science Fair
- ESD Awards
- Continuing Development
- Family Issues
- Awards Banquet
- Industry Roundtable
- SWE Section Manual
- Officer Transition
- UAW-Chrysler Child/Elder Care Survey
- ESD Gold Award: Susan Cischke

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President's Office, Jennifer Darnell, 95-96

- FAMS (Ford Academy of Manufacturing Sciences)
- Linda Lewis Scholarship
- Org Charts
- SWE FY96 goals
- FY 96 Member Directory
- Meeting Notices
- Meeting Minutes
- Treasurers Reports, FY 95, FY 96
- Multicultural Committee
- SWE Membership
- Publicity
- Awards Program
- Fundraising
- ESD (Engineering Society of Detroit)
- Career Guidance
- SWE Convention

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President's Office, Sarah Kirkish, 96-97

- SWE-D Power Point Presentation
- Events Calendar
- Treasurers Reports
- Continuing Development
- Voice and Choice Gender Equity Conference
- ESD-25th Annual Gold Awards
- Region H

18-20

President's Office, Birgit Sorgenfrei, 97-98

- SWE-HP Space Campership
- Engineering Exploration Day
- Exploration 98
- FMC/Neighborhood Schools Program

- MDSTA (Metro Detroit Science Teachers Association)
- WEST-21 (Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology for the 21st Century)
- Engineering Education Scheme (EES)
- ESD
- Continuing Development
- Affiliate Societies
- "Making Diversity More than a Buzzword"
- Officers Meeting
- Women's Economic Club
- SWE-D Membership Strategy
- Treasurers Reports
- SWE National Correspondence
- Region H Conference '97

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President's Office, June Thompson, 98-99

- Agendas
- Bylaws
- Correspondence
- Strategic Plan
- Procedures Manual 1998
- Treasurers Report
- Continuing Development
- Membership Reports & Directory
- Student Services

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President's Office, Silvia Karlsson, 99-00

- Meeting Minutes

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Other Programs

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SWE EE photos

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SWE-D Presentation Transparencies

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FY01 Ballots

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SWE-D Flyers, 1996-98

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Strategic Plan, 1997-00

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Brochures

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Minutes, 1996-97

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Minutes, 1998-99

Box 10-P (Newsletters) 4W-E-9(6)

SWE-D Newsletter, 1991-99