



American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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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:

Hello Members and Friends of WSC AIChE,

We have faced many challenges again this year and extend our condolences to all who lost family members and friends recently. We hope that you, and those important to you, are well (or recovering) and that you are poised for a bright spring and summer.

Our April plant tour with Solvay is scheduled for April 14, 2022, at the carbon fiber facility located in Piedmont, SC. Tour size is limited. Consequently, there we will host a PAN carbon fiber presentation two days prior to the tour, on April 12, 2022. Ben Walker will provide you an overview of the PAN fiber process. Mike Berry and other recent retirees will be there to field additional questions. This will be a standard hybrid meeting with an in-person segment and a ZOOM option. Details on how to sign up and RSVP can be found on our website under our local section events: www.aiche.org/WSC

Also, our annual officer elections are underway. We are looking for executive committee leadership to step up to the task and help lead us forward! Please consider serving in an officer role!

We look forward to seeing (in person or on-line) in April and in May!
Conny Walker, Chair, 2021-2022 WSC LS AIChE

Thank-you to Dr. Ana Alba-Rubio

We thank Dr. Alba-Rubio for last month's presentation "Catalysts Can Be Good at Multi-tasking: Two Practical Examples". This provided us another look into producing fuels and materials sustainably and developing technologies to improve the human condition. Visit <https://www.albarubiogroup.com/> to see more of her groups work!

We also thank the Clemson student chapter and students for making us feel welcome and helping us make the meeting a success.

April 12 Meeting— Chemical Engineering on a String - a SC Story

Ben Walker will be presenting an overview of the production of PAN Carbon fiber in the upstate. Ben graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981, and immediately hired in as a design engineer for Union Carbide in Piedmont SC. He was part of the design of the first domestically produced PAN fibers in the United States. In his 38 years he assisted in design, production, quality, and safety control of two additional production lines to meet the continuously increasing, yet cyclical, demand in the industry. During that time, the facility changed hands four times: from Union Carbide to Amoco, to BP, to Cytec and finally to Solvay (a Belgian based company). This presentation will focus on the technical aspects of the production of PAN fiber using the wet spinning technology and the high temperature conversion/carbonization process. The Solvay plant tour will be held as a separate event.

This meeting will be held in our standard "hybrid" form with a ZOOM room link provided the day of the event.

Registration is requested for in-person attendance and the [RSVP form](#) will be opened 10 days before the event.

April Meeting Information

TITLE:	Chemical Engineering on a String - a SC Story
SPEAKER:	Mr. B. J. (Ben) Walker
DATE:	Tuesday, April 12, 2022
EVENT TIMING:	6:00 PM Social 6:30 PM Dinner/ZOOM Room opens 6:45 PM Section Business Meeting 7:00 PM Presentation (in-person or virtual)
LOCATION (in-person event):	3 rd Floor Synterra Corporation - Innovate Building 148 River Street, Greenville, SC 29601 Enter from Hammond Street for Synterra offices Phone contact will be posted on website
LOCATION (virtual event):	ZOOM Connect via website www.aiche.org/WSC (registration in advance is recommended)
COST:	No charge for persons who RSVP for this meeting.
RSVP	for dinner by 5:00 PM Sunday, April 10, 2022 click here for RSVP form

Contact Secretary (sec@wscaiche.org) if you have trouble with the RSVP form.

Nominations for 2022-2023 Officers

Officers are required to be members of both the national organization and the local section, and we are looking for persons willing to step up to the task!

Nominations for 2022-2023 officers may be submitted online on the WSC Local Section [website](#) or by emailing sec@wscaiche.org through April 11. For more information on the officer roles, please contact any of the 2021-2022 officers listed below. Nominations will close on at the close of the April 12 meeting. On-line voting ballots will be tabulated and new officers will be announced at the May meeting and social.

2021-2022 Officers and Executive Committee

POSITION	NAME	COMPANY	E-MAIL
Chair	Conny Walker	Independent	chair@wscaiche.org
Vice-Chair	Jacob Lindler	aeSolutions	vchair@wscaiche.com
Secretary	Tasso Ghionis	Omega Chemicals	sec@wscaiche.org
Treasurer (Interim)	Anil Wagle	Retired	treasurer@wscaiche.org
Former Chair	Anil Wagle	Retired	Anilwagle123@gmail.com
Newsletter	Bonnie McCourtie	Jacobs	Bonnie.mccourtie@jacobs.com
Webmaster	(open)		
Historian	(open)		
Executive Committee Officers	Karl McCaleb	Mitsubishi	kmccaleb2@bellsouth.net
	Donald P Gurney, Jr., ScD, P.E.	Consultant	degurney@charter.net
	Bill Thompson	Ortec	bthompson@ortecinc.com
	Devon Clymer	Jacobs	Devon.clymer@jacobs.com

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Finance and Outreach Committees

The WSC AIChE Section is looking for members to join two committees to better serve our membership and our community.

The **Finance Committee** oversees the section's investment and banking accounts. The committee also prepares an annual budget and makes recommendations for scholarship amounts, speaker expenses/honorariums, and the like. Austin Crooks, Anastase (Tasso) Ghionis and Anil Wagle are current members. Email treasurer@wscaiche.org for more information or to volunteer your time.

The **Outreach Committee** will explore opportunities to support local schools and to make ourselves known in the broader community. Please contact Tasso Ghionis at sec@wscaiche.org if you have suggestions on what we might become involved with or if you would be willing to serve on this committee.

2021-2022 Calendar of Events

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
April 12, 2022	Innovate Bldg Greenville, SC	PAN Carbon Fiber
April 14, 2022	Solvay Facility Piedmont, SC	Solvay Plant Tour
April 14-May 11	WSC LS website	Voting for 2022-2023 officers
May 12, 2022	TBD	WSC LS AIChE May Social and annual meeting
June-August	TBD	Officers and executive committee plan 2022-2023 program/events