

My Dear Members of the Rocky Mountain Section of AIChE

I am reaching out to each of you to discuss a matter of grave importance. Several Section officers have been in their roles for many years. These folks have given and continue to give their free time to arrange programming for monthly meetings, judge state science fair projects, interface with student sections and perform all the other functions required to keep our section vibrant and serve the local membership.

Before getting into addressing the above, I want to discuss what our Section does and briefly identify the lives we touch.

Our monthly meetings enable members to meet each other and discuss short and tall tales. At the meeting, introverts find their hidden voices while extroverts find out the fun in listening. Think of the value of that alone.

Speakers provide a wide range of informative topics. One speaker that comes to mind told how pipelines are the railroad cars of industries. Plugs of product (does that bring back memories of some class in college) are sent through the pipelines. Kramer of "Street Talk" once used that phrase when he talked about the financial importance of pipelines on his television show.

Judges are sent to the State Science Fair at CSU in April. They choose 4 deserving students or a team who have a project with Chemical Engineering principals. Four cash prizes are awarded; the winners are given certificates and invited to a meeting to display their project. This is a very exciting time for them. Further, it gives them energy and purpose to pursue technical careers.

Through our involvement in Young Professionals, we energize those who are in or are pursuing technical careers. We can expand our role by providing mentoring. You are needed to accomplish this.

As an organization we supply needed support to the state-wide Future Cities effort of providing counsel, guidance, support and energy to students in grade school through high school. This state-wide competition involves teams developing solutions to technical problems and explaining their project to a team of judges. An effort like this feeds the fire of getting excited about technical careers.

This is a small sampling of the lives we touch. Take a moment to think about what our Section has done for you. More importantly, think about what you can do within our Section so that we grow, thrive and continue our fine work.

John F. Kennedy in his 1961 inaugural speech spoke these immortal words; "Ask not what your Country can do for you, ask what you can do for your Country".

Giving back to our Section is for the good of the profession that we've chosen, and even for our personal benefit. Involvement in the Section is a small action that may set you on a rewarding journey with your fellow Chemical Engineers at all points in their career.

The AIChE Rocky Mountain Section is in critical need of officers to replace the 3 that are standing down. Without members stepping up and performing those duties, our Section cannot continue contributing to the life our communities.

If this sounds like a PBS appeal, it is. Your continued support is all that is needed. Your dues supply the money, your time supplies energy that feeds the engine.

Our Section has election of officers in May. There is an urgent needed for members to fill the roles of people who are stepping down. Specifically, Dawn Keeler (Program Chair), Cindy Fischer (Chair) and Brian Olson

(Treasurer) will be stepping down from their respective roles because of pressures from their jobs. Each has done a tremendous job carrying out their duties.

The good news is that because of the current officers hard work, their successors will be able to step in and execute the plans already put in place, easing the transition to the benefit of all. Additionally the new officers will have the benefit of being able to draw on past officers' support and guidance as they get up to speed.

Each current officer finds that being part of the Section Leadership is rewarding both personally, and professionally. They have worked with some fun and tremendously capable people.

This open letter is a request to all of our membership to consider stepping into one of the roles that will be vacated.

A specific plea is going out to our younger members to get involved. The Section is not averse to having a team fill the roles. The more members who can provide ancillary support are always welcome.

If someone wants to help, but is unable to commit to a position, chipping in with one or more areas would go a long way. Plus, if some people are interested in taking a Leadership position, they may be more willing if they know they have several members to serve as committees for various things. This way, the involvement of members would not have to be "all or nothing".

The role of Treasurer may be on the only position that requires a single person to handle finances. This does not rule out a few members who could collect and deposit dinner fees on behalf of the Treasurer. Further discussions are needed for this role.

I have told you the "why" from the above. You need to provide the "Yes" from yourself.

Contact any of the current officers regarding your intention to step into action. Those names and contact information are found at the Section web-site [aiche.org/communities/sites/local-sections/rocky-mountain].

I thank you all.

Cordially,

Your Rocky Mountain AICHE Section

PS

A potential benefit is the Professional Development Hours that one could earn by holding office. Although Colorado does not currently require continuing education for Professional Engineers, some of you may be licensed in other states. Eligibility of PDHs varies by state.

Like our program for this year. Help put together next years'.