

Westman Chapter

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The Westman APEGM Chapter has experienced another busy year. Our executive committee is holding strong at 5 members and are always looking to add a few more Engineers from different sectors to give us a broader range of presentation topics and input new and interesting ideas that could benefit our members. We had two excellent presentations this year and are seeing increased attendance from years past with expectations anywhere from 25 to 50 members. Debbie Paul, Operations Manager for Pfizer Canada presented on *Effective Problem Solving to Improve Process and Production* on November 25, 2011. Next we had Paul Wielgosz, Senior Process Control Specialist with Lakeside Process Controls present on *Control Systems of the Future, Now*. Both presentations were very well received and we certainly appreciate the time and effort these presenters put in to give our members some insight into how they could improve their own operations or to provide them with some basic understanding of topics they may not be familiar with.

Our other major function was the Spaghetti Bridge Competition held at the APEGM booth at the Westman Career Fair. We had approximately 150 students take part in the competition which was held over 3 days and evenings. We worked with the U of M Engineering booth in assisting students with questions about Engineering as a Profession and the future looks bright. We had 6 members volunteer to help this year and thank each of them for their time and support. I hope to see a better turnout in volunteers next year. We also continue to work with the Westman Science Fair Committee in recruiting members to volunteer at the annual science fair. We have some different plans for the next season which include hosting some professional development courses for our members on topics such as *Improving Your Written Communication Skills* and are always looking for input from our members on what they would like to see for presentations. We look forward to another great year.

I would also like to thank our great committee who take time out of their busy lives to plan and organize events to benefit APEGM. Scott Whaley – Secretary, Michael Maendel, David Ford, and Ashish Banerji.