

Women's Action Committee

Lindsay Melvin (Chair)
Neemee Aquino (Vice Chair)
Kristina Anderson
Rafiqua Bari
Vanea Dominguez
Yasmine El-Sayed
Heather King
Doina Priscu

The Women's Action Committee (WAC) had an exciting 2007/08 year. We hosted three well attended events, developed a webpage summarizing our committee, attended Engineers Canada's Women in Engineering Advisory Group, and attended the 2008 CCWESTT (Canadian Coalition on Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology) Conference and Annual General Meeting.

On November 22, 2007, WAC was pleased to welcome guests to hear Barbara Bowes give a special presentation "Turning Challenges into Successes." Barbara shared her personal life experiences, which demonstrated how we can all meet our personal challenges, and encouraged us to make the best career for ourselves. On February 7, 2008, WAC hosted APEGM members and guests to a unique social evening, "Wine, Cheese, and Friends." A private room at La Boutique Del Vino was the elegant setting for an evening of discussing and tasting wine. On April 10, 2008, WAC was pleased to present "From Reservoir Routing to Retirement Planning: The Application of Engineering Principles to Financial Planning" with Pat Karras Spangelo. With a background in water resources engineering, Pat used similarities in engineering and financial planning to share her excellent knowledge and important advice.

We sent three representatives to the 2008 CCWESTT Conference, entitled "Building on Success". Since WAC is a member of the CCWESTT organization, our WAC representative, Kristina Anderson, also attended the organization's Annual General Meeting in May, and was nominated to the organization's executive to provide representation from the Prairie Provinces. For more information, see: www.cwestt.org.

Engineers Canada's Women in Engineering Advisory Group has one face-to-face meeting per year, to which APEGM's representative is from WAC. Lindsay Melvin attended meetings in November 2007, and June 2008. The group provides a forum for discussing women in engineering issues and sharing activities in order to foster understanding and growth across Canada. Now that a network has been established, the group is developing an action plan, with specific goals. Background information for the group can be found at: www.engineerscanada.ca/e/prog_women_1.cfm

This year, WAC also created a webpage, which describes the committee, the committee's purpose and events organized by the committee. The webpage can be viewed at: www.apegm.mb.ca/practice/infomem/wac.html. Together with APEGM, WAC sponsored the 2008 WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) Tech Raffle at the University of Manitoba.

Special thanks to Doina Priscu, for serving as WAC chair from 2004 to May 2007. Her dedicated service is most valued, and we look forward to her continued input and advice. We welcome new volunteers to the committee, Vanea Dominguez and Heather King. The efforts of all our volunteers are significant to helping us reach our goals. Each committee member deserves a big thank you. All committee members have committed to continue volunteering with WAC for the 2008/09 year. Thank you to Grant Koropatnick, Sharon Sankar, William Boyce, Angela Moore, Chantelle Camara, and APEGM for their continued support and administrative efforts. WAC is always appreciative of new ideas and members, so if you are interested in joining WAC, please contact APEGM.