

Chapter website link: [SME Minnesota 11 Website](http://www.smechapter11.org)

January Networking Events



We're still trying to work around Mother Nature to offer some type of January event. Our latest plan is to host multiple networking social hours and hope that the weather and location are good for at least some members on one of the dates.

These networking socials are meant to enable members to meet one another and learn about their employers and manufacturing interests. They are informal events. There will be a host at each event with some kind of SME sign; look for them at a table near the door and introduce yourself. No RSVP necessary.

Tuesday, January 14

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Tim Lange

Omni Brewing Company

9462 Deerwood Lane, Maple Grove, MN

763-424-6664

<https://www.omnibrewing.com/>

Wednesday, January 15

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Gregg Robinson

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*In the event of inclement weather, call the establishment.
If they are open, a host will be there, and networking is ON!*

January 2020

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Chapter Leadership

Chapter Officers

Chairperson:	Naomi Brill*
Chair-elect:	open
Secretary:	David Vetter
Treasurer:	James Stertz *

Activity Leaders

Program Chair:	Lee Rensberger
Assistants:	Anish Shah Tim Lange Richard Cole
Webmaster:	Lee Taylor *
Auditor:	John Pietruszewski

The Tool Bits Team

Editor:	Naomi Brill *
Reporter:	Lee Rensberger
Advertising:	Rob Manthey *
Distribution:	Naomi Brill *

* available through email as
FirstInitialLastname@smechapter11.org



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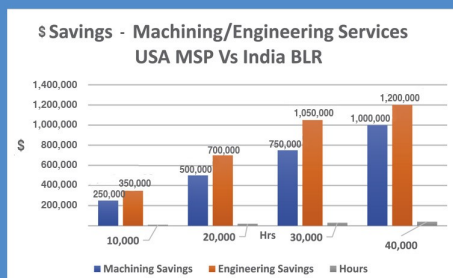
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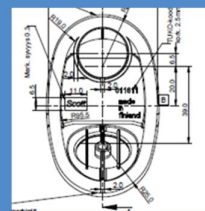
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Chair's Message

Happy New Year, SME members, friends and prospective members!

It's a new year and I'm really looking forward to all the cool new stuff our SME chapter can do this year. I'll be using my chair's message to highlight what's going on within our chapter and what activities are coming up. So, without further ado...

We have two networking events scheduled for January, one in the northwest metro and one in the central metro, on two different days. Our intent is that you attend whichever event is convenient in terms of date or location. If mother nature appears uncooperative on either of these dates, please call the establishment—if they are open, the networking is on!

Our executive committee meets the **FIRST TUESDAY** of each month (excepting June and December) and we've moved the meeting to Brooklyn Center, hoping that's a more convenient location that will allow more members to attend. Email me if you'd like to join us.

Elsewhere in this issue, past chair Gregg Robinson recognizes those who contributed to the chapter in 2019. And best of all (since this project was my baby) we are thrilled to announce our new scholarship for students of manufacturing engineering technology at St. Cloud State University!

Any concerns or comments, send them my way!

Naomi

chair@smechapter11.org

Minnesota Chapter 11 Chair

2020 Meeting Schedule

January 7	- Next Leadership Committee Meeting, Brooklyn Center
January 14	- Networking at Omni Brewing, Maple Grove
January 15	- Networking at Urban Growler, St. Paul Midway
February 4	- Leadership Committee Meeting, Brooklyn Center
February	- Teamvantage, Forest Lake
March 3	- Leadership Committee Meeting, Brooklyn Center
March	- Air Automation Engineering, Fridley
April	- Networking or Tour
May	- Networking or Tour

*Leadership committee planning meetings are the **FIRST TUESDAY** of each month at 5:30 p.m. Contact Naomi Brill for location and agenda.*

Proposals for future programming are always welcome. If you have a program suggestion, contact any member of the leadership team (contact information on page 1).

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Recap of December Holiday Meeting

Submitted by Naomi Brill, photos by Lee Rensberger and Ron Bennett

Ron Bennett, founding dean of the University of St. Thomas School of Engineering was our featured speaker at our December officer installation.

Ron provided highlights and lessons learned from his career that spans both industry and academia. One anecdote Ron told us illustrates that being an expert in design and creation of new products is not enough to make you a good engineer—you have to be able to explain and SELL your ideas to others. Another piece of advice is to always believe something CAN be done—if you don't know it hasn't been done before or shouldn't be possible, then there is nothing to stop you from achieving your objective. (And thus, Ron and his associates managed to establish one of only two new engineering programs in the United States in the 1990's.) Ron also spent time talking about the power of positive self-talk. We engineers are sometimes “nay-sayers”, so it's important that we put forth the effort to think positively and reinforce our ability to achieve desired results with positive self-talk and thoughts.



Long-time SME member Bob Johnson swears in 2020 Chair Naomi Brill, Treasurer Jim Stertz and Secretary David Vetter while outgoing Chair Gregg Robinson watches from the background.

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2019 Recognition and Thanks

Submitted by Gregg Robinson

Taking the podium one final time at our December gathering, 2018-19 chair Gregg Robinson had these final words for us.

In October, our chapter recognized **Lee Taylor** for his years of service as our chapter webmaster. Lee worked hard to keep our website relevant and current, through difficult changes created by SME headquarters. He has worked tirelessly to ensure HQ changes do not affect our ability to do business in the manner our members expect. He has worked through many challenges with Quality Host Online to maintain our chapter email addresses and keep our web technology up to date. He has done this for at least the last 10 years. We wish him well as he moves forward.

Another 2019 accomplishment is the establishment of the **SME Minnesota Chapter Scholarship** at St. Cloud State University for a student studying Manufacturing Engineering Technology. For each of the next 5 years, we will be giving out a \$1,000 scholarship to a student in that program.

I also want to recognize some of the other folks who have kept the chapter running this year:

- ◆ **Tim Lange**, who is our liaison with the Minnesota Federation of Engineering Societies.
- ◆ **Rob Manthey**, who works with our bulletin advertisers.
- ◆ **Lee Rensberger**, our meeting guru—he arranges meetings, takes reservations, gets our pizza to us on time, and many other things.
- ◆ **Naomi Brill**, who has gotten our bulletin out this year, and spearheaded establishment of our new scholarship.
- ◆ **David Vetter**, who has been unofficially taking minutes for the last few months.
- ◆ **Richard Cole** and **Tom Connors**, who have worked to arrange tours.

It was a pleasure serving as your chapter chair for the past two years. Thanks for the opportunity.



Volunteer Opportunities for Professional Development

If interested in any of these opportunities, contact chair Naomi Brill.

Help Wanted: SME Minnesota needs someone to **manage our membership roster**. Contact (via email) and welcome new and renewing members, send them the most recent chapter bulletin. What better way to expand your contacts and learn about manufacturing and operations at other companies? Time commitment ~ 2 hours per month.

Help Wanted: SME Minnesota needs an **assistant webmaster**, to provide coverage while our webmaster reconstructs his house. Post the most recent bulletin and meeting announcement to our website. Approximately 1-year position, training available. Time commitment ~1 hour per month.

Help wanted: SME Minnesota needs a **social media guru** to help us have a presence and publicize meetings via Facebook or Twitter or whatever else is popular. If you know and use these platforms, announce our monthly programs and events. Another great opportunity to expand your manufacturing network. Time commitment ~ 1 hour per month.

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Leadership

Our chapter has a number of volunteer leadership and team member positions currently available. We're always looking for hard working folks who like to have fun.

These opportunities offer members an opportunity to contribute as part of the chapter management team, learn new skills, meet a broader swath of our membership, and perhaps enhance their resume.

For any position you undertake:

- Training will be provided
- You'll be paired with a mentor

Interested?

Want to explore ideas?

Contact an officer!

Membership

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1. www.sme.org
2. Members tab
3. Member Quick Links
4. Update Your Membership Information
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6. Make changes (if needed)
7. Sign Out

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Announcing the SME Minnesota Chapter Scholarship

Everyone on the executive committee is proud to announce that we've **established a scholarship** with St. Cloud State University that will benefit a student in their manufacturing engineering technology program. For each of the next five years, **one student per year will get a \$1,000 scholarship** to be applied toward tuition. We *think* the scholarship may actually be awarded for the first time this spring semester, so we're anxiously awaiting news on our first recipient. St. Cloud State offers degrees in manufacturing engineering technology and manufacturing engineering. Their manufacturing engineering degree is the only one in Minnesota that is ABET accredited. Thank you to Ali, Casey, Noah and all the other really great manufacturing engineering technology students at SCSU who inspired us to do this! And thanks to their faculty leader, Nancy Sondheim, for showing us how to get this done!

Public Service Announcement Advocating for Manufacturing Education

It's not hard to establish a scholarship for a student in your favorite manufacturing program at your favorite educational institution. All Minnesota state colleges and universities have Foundations that administer scholarships. Contact someone in the school's Development Office (that's the function that works with donors to intake money for scholarships and other sponsorships) and tell them what you have in mind. A contact from the development office will work with you to explain what's possible and what the requirements are, and will guide you through the paperwork. For an individual tax-payer, donations to educational institutions are normally tax deductible. Your ability to direct your donation to a specific program or put a specific name on your donation usually varies with the amount you are willing to give. For the "more experienced" among our membership, consider a legacy gift to your alma mater as part of your estate planning.



Minnesota Chapter 11
Passionate about Local Manufacturing

***We're SME Minnesota Chapter 11, and we're passionate about local manufacturing!
For 80+ years, we've shared our knowledge and resources to develop and strengthen the
Minnesota manufacturing community.***

Vision: Share our manufacturing knowledge and resources

Mission/Purpose: To develop and strengthen the Minnesota manufacturing community

Strategies:

- ***Network to make manufacturing connections***
- ***Benchmark to compare leading edge processes and technologies***
- ***Advance professional development to sustain our manufacturing workforce***
- ***Promote education to ensure a future workforce***
- ***Advocate for the benefits of manufacturing and manufacturing careers***