

MWEA New Professionals Committee Meeting
August 18, 2009 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

The meeting began with some comments from Larry Woodard, the new President of MWEA. He noted that he is supportive of the New Professionals and thinks that one of the best ways to recruit for us will be to reach out the employers to have them encourage their younger employees to get involved. He had said that was how he got started and many others as well.

Jerry also gave comments. He said that we do need to have active young professionals since they truly are the future of the organization. He also mentioned that the scholarships do not have any set protocols and so at this time there is nothing identified regarding making changes to the scholarship program.

Jeremy Guest from the University of Michigan called in to the meeting to offer his thoughts on what students would be interested in. He thought that they would prefer things that are going to improve their resumes, such as presentations and attending events versus social networking. He said that type of event is hard to get them to attend because everyone is so busy and distance is also an issue. He thinks some kind of presentation contest at Joint Expo would be a great idea, with a free trip to WEF as the potential prize.

We discussed the idea of the scholarships, student activities and golf outing all being part of the duties of the New Professionals. The goals of all three things are intertwined. But do we have enough time or members for our committee to take on additional responsibilities at this time?

Elaine brought up the idea that at this time we do not have a clear goals or tasks that we are trying to accomplish. What is the future of the New Professionals group and many of us agreed that we do need to make an plan of action. This will be the main topic of discussion at our next meeting.

The Wolf Lake State Hatchery Tour was very nice but the turnout was very poor. How do we get people to attend our events? We will also discuss at our next meeting ideas to get people involved and attending our events.

Next event will be at PARCC Side in October, details to follow. A tentative date for the Holiday Party is November 12 and we will look into Beggar's Banquet as a location.

The Facebook page seems to be going well with the exception of Jennifer has to add everyone as her friend. Perhaps this is a good reason to switch it to a fan page. Everyone still agrees that this will be a good way to get the word out about events, etc.

Next meeting will be September 22 at 11:00 with the main objective to discuss goals and plan of action for the future of the New Professionals.