

Society of Women Environmental Professionals
Greater Philadelphia Chapter

Newsletter

July 2020



Diversity and Inclusion

SWEP Greater Philadelphia Chapter (SWEP GP) grieves the death of George Floyd and too many others, celebrates the conclusion of PRIDE month, and acknowledges that racial and social inequities and injustices still exist. SWEP GP was founded to “encourage and promote the leadership, achievement, and professional development of women in the environmental professions.”



One of our 2020 goals was the establishment of the *Diversity and Inclusion Committee*, to reinforce **that our mission encompasses all women and those who identify as women**. Recent events have highlighted how wide the equity gap is. We stand with those who have and are continuing the fight, and we welcome those who wish to support us in this work.



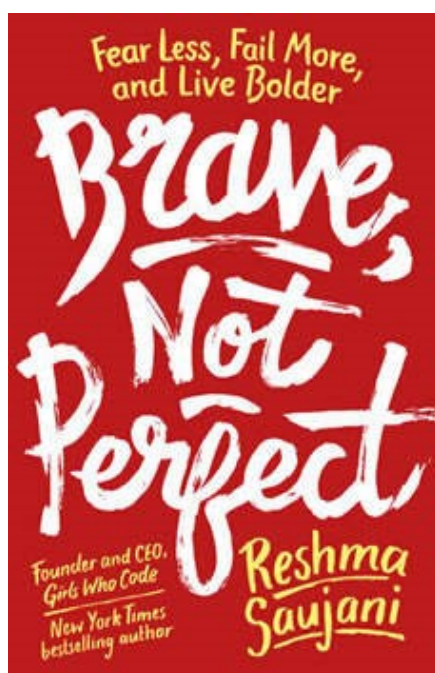
Touchstone Awards 2020 will be a Virtual Walk down Memory Lane...

In early spring, the Touchstone committee co-chairs Erin Rodgers (*SWEP GP BOD Member and Principal Chemist at Environmental Standards*) and Beth Brandt (*SWEP GP Co-Chair and Sales Manager at Suburban Testing Labs*) had begun planning for the 2020 Touchstone Awards Gala. Both were hopeful that a November event could still be a reality by the fall. Sadly though, the decision to host an in-person networking event where nearly 200 people gather to celebrate an honoree, was not realistic for this year.

SWEP GP is proceeding with planning our 2020 Touchstones as a Virtual event, with added scholarship and grant money being made available as we encourage applicants. And rather than select a 2020 honoree, we will be reaching out to as many of the past Touchstone Award recipients as possible to ask that they participate in a virtual walk down memory lane with us, and allow us to catch up with what they've been busy with since they were honored.

Thank you to the many hands that were raised and volunteered to assist. We will be sure to continue involving you in the future planning for Touchstones 2021. And we also welcome you to continue to be active SWEP GP members with our other committees and planned events.

~Beth Brandt, Board of Directors Co-Chair & Erin Rodgers, Touchstone Awards Co-Chair



New Social Events Planned!

2020 has already been a year for the history books and Covid-19 has impacted all our lives. Here at SWEP GP, Covid-19 has impacted our ability to gather for our monthly networking events, but we will not let that prevent us from finding new ways to engage with one another.

Starting in July we will be hosting a member's book club! I'm seriously excited for this as I may have a reading problem. I'm currently reading four books and will be adding this one to my list shortly. To start, we will meet virtually for a coffee chat on the morning of **July 23rd** to discuss [Brave, Not Perfect: Fear Less, Fail More and Live Bolder by Reshma Saujani](#). Reshma is the CEO of the non-profit [Girls Who Code](#), and I had the privilege of seeing her speak at the Pennsylvania Conference for Women last October. I hope that you will join me on July 23rd for an engaging discussion.

Additionally, we are planning to restart our networking lunches later this summer. Details are still being worked out, but initial thoughts are to have a BYOC (bring your own chair) lunch at a local park. Boxed lunches will be provided, and we can sit and enjoy our lunch together while maintaining social distancing. Keep on the lookout for details and dates for BYOC lunches in the suburbs and downtown Philly.

And lastly, if you have ideas for future social programs or virtual events that would you would like to see added to our agenda, please reach out to Erin Rodgers (erodgers@envstd.com). And as always, if you are interested in volunteering or would like to help to plan an event, we would love to have you!

~ Erin Rodgers, Social Events Co-Chair



Technical Programs Update

The Technical Programs Committee has been busy with the conversion to virtual events. With the success of our first Virtual Lunch and Learn, we have continued the trend by converting our Second Annual RCRA Seminar into a virtual event. We have split the Seminar into two separate 4-hour sessions. The first session will be held the afternoon of July 15th with the second session tentatively on the afternoon of September 15th. Watch your email for further information on these joint events and the second session of the RCRA Seminar in the coming weeks.

Registration is still open for the first session. The presentations for the first session include:

- What is a Hazardous Waste?
- Managing PCBs
- RCRA Subpart BB Drains and Valves and NESHAP
- Managing Aerosol Cans as Universal Waste

SWEP GP is also planning future joint events with other local organizations in the Philadelphia area. Planning is in the works for a Women in Industry panel discussion for October/November 2020, partnering with the Women's Energy Network of Philadelphia. More information will be sent once the date is selected, along with information on how to register.

The Technical Programs Committee sees this move to digital programming as an opportunity to seek your input and engagement. We would love to hear your suggestions for upcoming sessions on topics and/or speakers. We would also love to hear from those of you who might be interested in moderating an upcoming Virtual Lunch and Learn. The moderator would introduce the presentation and speaker and then run the Q&A portion of the program. Please submit your topics and speaker ideas, as well as your own interest in moderating a virtual session, by contacting the Technical Programs Committee.

~Ammie Martin, Technical Programs Co-Chair



We couldn't wait to share the good news: **NSCW is back!** BCONE's annual redevelopment conference will take place over **two half days, July 21st-22nd**, right from the comfort of your home or office. Yes folks, they've gone virtual and they want you to join them!

BCONE's NSCW Conference is the premier metropolitan workshop on identifying sustainable goals and strategies for revitalizing communities and brownfields. It has always evolved in response to new challenges and opportunities facing brownfields professionals and continually sets a new standard for the research and solutions that will shape the future of redevelopment and sustainability.

As a BCONE Industry Partner Organization, **all SWEP GP Chapter Members can register for the NSCW Conference at the same discounted rate as a BCONE Member.**

[View the NSCW Website to Learn More and Register, Qualifying PDH credits available!](#)

Scholarship & Grants Update

Our scholarship and grants application deadline ended on June 15th. We received 10 scholarship applications and 8 grant applications (more applications than in 2019). Thank you to those who participated, and we look forward to reviewing your applications! Planning is in progress for a virtual event to announce and celebrate our winners later this year.

SWEP GP is proud to be able to provide these financial resources for students and organizations in our area. Funding is made possible directly from our members' contributions and event and membership fees. We thank our members and guests for making funding possible as well!

~ Jennifer Waters, Chair and Jennifer Poole, Co-Chair, Scholarship & Grants Committee



SWEP Greater Philadelphia Chapter has a brand new look!

Introducing our new logo! Thank you to Annmarie Hafer a SWEP GP member and volunteer for creating our new look!

SWEP Greater Philadelphia Chapter Response to COVID-19

As we all navigate the new normal of the Coronavirus, SWEP GP has quickly responded to the requirements set by the CDC to modify our meeting formats, and events for the safety of our Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Volunteers (<https://www.swepweb.com/page-1680612>), and our membership.

Our organization has made changes to accommodate social distancing including; virtual monthly Board of Director meetings, extending the terms of the Executive Board until the end of 2020, and hosting all social and technical events virtually until Pennsylvania state restrictions allow such events to take place.

We appreciate the support of our membership during this unprecedented time. Stay safe and healthy! We're all in this together.

We are all in this Together Stay Safe, Stay Well!

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