

The Packed Column

American Institute of Chemical Engineers - Upper Midwest Section

May 2008

CHAIR'S CORNER

by Matthew P. Atkins

During the past few weeks, some of my friends have lost their son, Scott. There were an astonishing number of people present at the funeral and the level of outreach from around the world for this very special person was amazing!

At the service, the father talked about the 10 things that he has learned or was being taught from his son of 39 years:

- 1) The beauty of imperfection – most of us have a picture of what makes a person ideal, but it is really the little imperfections in all of us that make us unique and beautiful all the same.
- 2) Empathy for others – having an outward focus to care and get involved in other people's lives versus being self-centered.
- 3) Appreciation of "Real People" – I don't think he meant Jesse Ventura, but he was referring to people who are real to themselves and to other people.
- 4) The joy of simple things – enjoying the basic items in life like going to the mall or listening to the birds in the back yard.
- 5) Keeping in touch with reality – Every day can be a struggle and it is important to stay focused and achieve small day-to-day goals.
- 6) How small our problems are – No matter how big your problems seem, others have most likely had similar problems and overcome them. Other people yet have had much worse problems and pulled through.
- 7) Power through powerlessness – It is amazing the impact that one powerless person can have on so many people's lives without realizing it. Scott started a program called "the great coupon caper" and sent coupons to troops in Iraq. This program has gotten a number of people excited and sending in coupons that are now valued at over \$1 million dollars!
- 8) Total trust in innocence – Scott was very much like an infant in that he was reliant on others to survive for his entire life and he gave his trust freely to all until a person did something to revoke his trust.
- 9) How one person can change so many lives – the example above about the great coupon caper is an example of how one person was able to do a little to help out so many people who could appreciate it. Giving a little to many can be far more beneficial than giving a lot to a few.
- 10) And...even though I may never get to do a lot of things I think I want to...IT'S OKAY!

Something you do not know about Scott is that he is a quadriplegic and mentally handicapped. Scott was not supposed to live past age 6 and he survived through his 39th birthday. Even with his disabilities, Scott touched the lives of many and was able to teach many people great lessons.

Now, how many of you have thought that you could not make a difference or overcome something difficult?

Matt Atkins – In memory of Scott Niles

MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT:

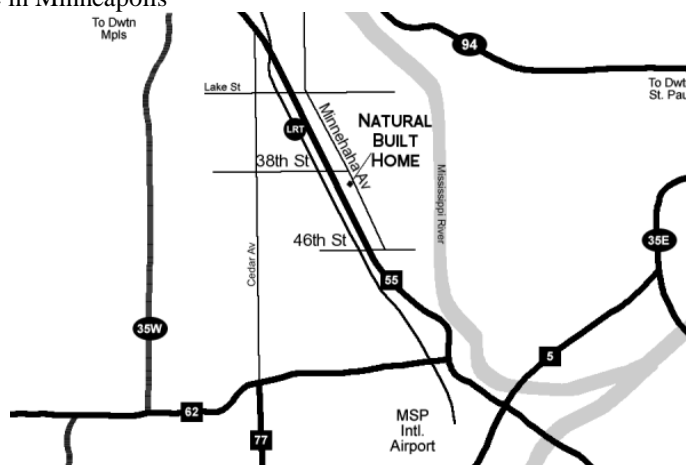
<http://www.aichelocal.org/tc>

MAY MEETING

Tour of Natural Built Home Showroom



When: Tuesday, May 6 at 5:45 PM
RSPV: eggwillkom@mmm.com by May 1st
Where: Natural Built Home Showroom
 4020 Minnehaha Avenue in Minneapolis



Tour: (website: www.naturalbulthome.com)

Natural Built Home is the Twin Cities' one-stop-shop for eco-friendly building supplies. We carry everything from healthy paint to dual-flush toilets and insulation made from recycled denim. Come take a tour of the store and learn what attributes make our products safer for you and the environment. We will discuss which products contain petroleum-free cashew nut resins and why we care whether our paint has ethylene glycol or propylene glycol as one of its ingredients. This tour will take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour based on the questions received from the audience.

COATING PROCESS FUNDAMENTALS SHORT COURSE
 June 3-5, 2008, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

This course provides coating engineers and their colleagues with an understanding of the principles of the many processes by which liquid coatings are applied and solidified. The course is designed for engineers who are engaged in coating and who seek a deeper understanding of processes and processing problems. It is also relevant to physical scientists concerned with the formulation of coating liquids for processability and microstructure development. For more information, please see website: www.cce.umn.edu/coatingprocess.

LOCAL OFFICERS' DUTIES

Chair

1. Grow the executive committee, and delegate necessary tasks.
2. Run monthly general meetings.
3. Write column for each month's newsletter.
4. Help with other committee members' activities.
5. Make suggestions for meeting ideas and help with contact names.
6. Plan executive committee meetings.
7. Stay in close contact with National. Forward any information that would be helpful to other committee members.

Vice Chair

1. Plan monthly meeting events.
2. Attend annual Officers Meeting held by National (other officers also invited to attend, required for Vice Chair).
3. Run monthly meetings if Chair is not in attendance.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Recording Secretary

1. Assist Vice Chair in planning monthly meeting. (Suggest ideas, get contact name, and assist in planning of meeting).
2. Record meeting minutes of all executive meetings and regular meetings when necessary (should work out a substitute to take minutes if unable to attend.)
3. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Membership Secretary

1. Maintain list of members' names and addresses, and keep mailing list up to date.
2. Collect and edit and write articles for each edition of the newsletter.
3. Send newsletter out to membership.

4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Publicity

1. Contact new graduates in section area and personally invite them to a meeting. (List of new graduates available from National).
2. Contact other local societies in an effort to do joint meetings, advertisement in their newsletter, etc.
3. Work on possible advertising for monthly newsletter.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Treasurer

1. Attend all general meetings to collect money, give out receipts, and pay the bill (should have a backup prepared for each meeting if unable to attend).
2. Prepare a budget for the year and regularly update the executive committee on expenses.
3. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Past Chair

1. Offer suggestions and advice on activities.
2. Continue to look for possible meeting ideas.
3. Try to recruit members for leadership positions.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Symposium Chair

1. List required symposium committee positions and what each person is responsible for doing.
2. Work with executive committee to find volunteers for symposium committee.
3. Prepare and organize symposium.
4. Attend executive committee meetings and general monthly meetings.

Volunteer or send your nominations by **May 16, 2008** to Elizabeth Willkom (egwillkom@mmm.com).

Place an ad here and get results! Reach over 700 chemical engineers!

**Nathan Johnson, doc_curtis@rocketmail.com
651-737-0144**

YPAB ANNOUNCEMENT

by Steven Head

The Young Professionals Advisory Board (YPAB) is dedicated to gaining and maintaining the participation of young professional members. YPAB will foster relationships with young members and employers to promote increased participation. They will also advise AIChE on how to reach this target group and offer products and services that meet their needs. Activities of

the YPAB include seeking and inviting potentials, planning social events and local industrial tours, and arranging technical presentations by local organizations.

If you are interested in an exciting opportunity to network, help young professionals, and promote AIChE, please contact Steve Head shhead@sebesta.com to join YPAB. Young professionals are welcome.

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| Publicity Chair | OPEN | | | |
| Boston Scientific Chair | OPEN | | | |
| Your Company Chair | OPEN | | | |



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