



The NorthCoast Interfacier



President's Corner

This has been an unusual year for everyone, our chapter included. After a pause to adjust to COVID and an all-virtual chapter approach, we finished the year with an outstanding series of chapter event speakers / presentations. A special thank you to Marian Cronin, who has become our scheduler of great things! We have some very special speakers coming up in the first quarter of 2021 that I'm sure you will enjoy, no matter your industry background.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, we recently concluded our 2021 elections, and are pleased to have Mr. Brian Hallett join our board this year as our second At-Large Director. Brian works at ReliabilityFirst as a Senior Reliability Consultant, with a focus on the reliability of the bulk electric system and continuous improvement of internal controls and management practices. Welcome Brian!

Our annual holiday party was virtual this past week and a LOT of fun. Thank you to everyone that attended. It's a blessing to have such a talented, fun, genuinely good group of individuals to interact with on a regular basis. I believe this year will be a transitional year for us, as we venture past our past artificial boundaries. We will continue to seek opportunities to expand the chapter's reach and collaborate with some of the other regional INCOSE chapters. Expanding our reach further diversifies our member industry base and introduces new networking possibilities.

As a suggested New Year's resolution, I encourage you to join us for an upcoming chapter meeting. The topics are terrific, and you will find yourself surrounded by a group of like-minded, fun-loving systems engineers. I guarantee it! It's an honor to again serve as President of the C-NO Chapter, and I look forward to working together with our members to continue to improve our chapter.

Have a healthy, safe, and happy holiday season!

- Tim Schuler

C-NO President

Chapter Survey

Earlier this year we conducted our annual Chapter member survey, with a 28% participation rate. For member surveys, 20-25% is typical and can provide a reasonable indication of organization feedback. As you may recall, the survey was very much Chapter meeting and communication focused, due to the COVID virtual situation that we all found ourselves in this year. Below is a list of our takeaways from the survey results:

- Chapter meetings generally helpful
- Variety of meeting formats preferred (technical lectures, tool demos, site visits, etc.)
- SE certification would be a helpful topic at a Chapter meeting
- A more frequent, regular schedule is preferred
- Mix up the Chapter meeting topics, keep them interactive
- Site visits good
- Topics for non-traditional industry applications of SE are welcome

As a result of the above feedback assessment, the Board will be taking the following actions:

- We will be posting our 2021 Chapter meeting schedule on our website. Generally, we hold our meetings on the third Tuesday of every month.
- We will continue to present a brief SE Certification slide set at each of our Chapter meetings; we will hold a dedicated SE Certification Chapter meeting annually.
- We will continue to seek a variety of Chapter meeting topics from a variety of industries.
- Chapter meetings will continue to be interactive and informal.
- Public health situation permitting, we are targeting two site visits per year, with a minimum of one (e.g., Cedar Point Behind the Scenes)
- We will conduct our 2021 member survey mid-year.
- In addition, this year we will be holding a non-member (past members, regional chapters, etc.) survey during the first quarter.

The 2020 survey reinforced our thoughts in many areas, and provided valuable feedback for us to better meet your needs as Chapter members. Thank you to those that participated in our survey, and please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of us if you wish to further discuss any of these topics. We look forward to hearing from everyone with our next survey!

Upcoming Chapter Meetings – 2021

Very soon, we will ring in a new year, 2021! Although we will be in the middle of a cold Cleveland winter, the C-NO chapter will continue to host warm chapter meetings that we can all enjoy and participate in from the comfort of our kitchens, dining rooms, dens, basements, or other spaces.

January brings two important meetings, beginning with our Annual General Meeting (AGM), slated for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm. This meeting has been specifically designated to present chapter membership with a look back on the chapter from the past year and plans for the upcoming year. It is a great opportunity for the membership to provide feedback to the Board

of Directors and to ask questions. We will also introduce the 2021 Board of Directors to the chapter membership.

Our second January meeting will be a special presentation on the INCOSE Systems Engineering Professional Certification Program, presented by Courtney Wright, the INCOSE Certification Program Manager. In addition to Courtney's presentation, we hope to have a couple of our own chapter members offer some personal insight into their experiences assembling and submitting their certification packages and identifying references. We will wrap up the evening with a Q&A session, so be thinking of what you would like to know about SE certification. You can send questions ahead of time to Marian Cronin at marian.f.cronin@nasa.gov, or to the BOD at northohioincose@gmail.com and we will compile them to send to Courtney prior to her talk. We will also use the chat window during the presentation to assist with selecting questions for the Q&A session. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

Looking forward to February, we are pleased to bring in Erika Esala from the Crossroads of Americas Chapter presenting, "**Finding the STEM: An Analysis of Children's Activities for Systems Engineering Principles,**" a unique and interesting perspective on how one finds the qualities and characteristics that make for good systems engineers very early on in a child's life. Save the date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 5:30 pm.

Welcome to New Chapter Members

Welcome to our new members from September, October and November! The Board of Directors hopes the Chapter can aid you in your professional development, and looks forward to getting to know you.

- Aashish Watave, Director Corporate Strategy at Ansys
- Sam Ciccone from ReliabilityFirst
- Sai Geetha Koganti, Transportation Engineer at HNTB Corporation
- Jesse Fout from the Northrop Grumman Corporation
- Andrew Brown from the Naval Postgraduate School

-Dennis Rohn

Cleveland-Northern Ohio Chapter Membership Chair

C-NO Chapter 2021 Election Results

Following the October 26 through November 26, 2020 Balloting Period, I am pleased to announce the new cohort of C-NO Chapter Officers:

- **President:** Tim Schuler
- **Secretary:** Dennis Rohn
- **Treasurer:** Marian Cronin

- **At-Large Director:** Brian Hallett
- **At-Large Director:** Sastry Kasibhatla.

Their term will run until the end of the first Chapter Meeting in 2022.

Many thanks to everyone who voted!

Bill Klinger

Nominations & Elections Committee Chair (2020)

A Reflection on 2020 Speakers and Topics

A colleague of mine once told me, “It’s all in the recovery.” This is true not just for project and test planning and execution; it is true for life in general. Little did I know when I hit on the theme of “resiliency” for this year’s speakers that it was such a meaningful subject. Earlier this year, once the BOD officers were installed, and had met to develop the chapter plans and complete 2019 business, it seemed like we were thrown a curveball with workplace lockdowns and travel restrictions. Getting up to speed, much less proficient, with the available video-conferencing technology and identifying what systems would allow us to connect easily, securely, and reliably with many members was a trial-and-error proposition. Then came the task of identifying topics and speakers to participate in our now-remote chapter meetings. After a few months of delay, we developed a solid lineup.

I would like say a big “Thank You” to our excellent 2020 speakers for contributing their time to share their knowledge with our chapter this past year:

Rick Hefner, PhD/Program Director, Caltech Center for Technology and Management Education for his presentation “Resiliency in Systems Engineering”

Lindsey Mannion/ReliabilityFirst, *Brian Hallett/ReliabilityFirst, *Bill Klinger/Klinger Engineering Services, *Carl Dister, CSEP/ReliabilityFirst for their presentation “Community Appraisal for Resiliency Effectiveness (CARE) Project”

Jim Armstrong, PhD, ESEP/Stevens Institute of Technology for his presentation “Famous Failures Revisited”

*LuAnn Duffus, PhD for her presentation “Exoskeleton Requirements for Firefighters: Use Cases Reveal Essential Needs

*C-NO Chapter members

Thank YOU!

Looking for a Great Ideas for Upcoming Chapter Meeting Topics

Last, but not least, our chapter membership spans multiple industries, companies, government agencies, experiences, and now, geographic locations. If **you** have an idea for a particular topic or speaker for an upcoming chapter meeting, or if **you** would like to present at an upcoming chapter meeting, please feel free to contact any of the BOD at northohioincose@gmail.com , or Marian Cronin at marian.f.cronin@nasa.gov

INCOSE International Workshop 2021

The 2021 INCOSE International Workshop 2021 is being held as an all virtual event. Details are still being defined, but it will include working group meetings, business meetings, and technical discussions. INCOSE's



2021
Annual **INCOSE**
international workshop
Virtual Event
January 29 - 31, 2021

International Workshop is the event of the year for systems engineers to contribute to the state of the art. Unlike INCOSE's annual International Symposium and other conferences, there are no paper, panel or tutorial presentations. Instead, attendees spend 4 days working alongside fellow systems engineers who are there to make a difference. Systems Engineers at all levels and from all backgrounds are encouraged to engage in working sessions, and contribute their knowledge and experience to take the discipline forward. The registration fee for attendance by INCOSE members is only \$175, and you don't have to pay for travel, which makes this very affordable. Registration is currently open and more details will be added to the website as they become available. See: <https://www.incose.org/iw2021/home>

-Dennis Rohn

14th Annual Great Lakes Regional Conference (GLRC14)



The INCOSE 14th Annual Great Lakes Regional Conference (GLRC14) has been restructured, and rescheduled for April 11-14, 2021, due to COVID-19.

A hybrid (virtual + in-person) event is being planned, with contingencies that address foreseeable pandemic scenarios. In-person activities, if permissible, will be held at the Westin Book Cadillac Conference Hotel, located in downtown Detroit, Michigan. If in-person gatherings are not feasible due to the pandemic, an all-virtual conference will be conducted.

Whether hybrid or all-virtual, all conference presenters and attendees will be able to participate virtually from the safety and convenience of their home or office.

For more information about the conference, see its website: <https://www.incose.org/GLRC>

Job Opportunity - Zin Technologies

Excerpt of Job Description

Systems Supervisor
Middleburg Heights, OH

Description

Candidate will supervise and direct systems engineers over various spaceflight projects and will provide requirements derivation and review of requirements as necessary.

Indeed link:

<https://www.indeed.com/jobs?q=zin%20technologies&l=Cleveland%2C%20OH&vjk=fc8a47cfcfa50429>

‘Twas the night before CDR (with apologies to Clement Moore)

By Dennis Rohn

‘Twas the night before CDR, when all through the Office
every member was working, with much thoroughness.

The drawings were laid on the table with care,
With hopes that the Panel soon would be there.

The requirements were set, since the previous review,
Now verification results were just coming due.

The PM in her prime and I at my best,
Had just sat down, to take a quick rest.

When out on the floor there arose such a clatter,
That immediately we knew something was the matter.

Out to the conference room we flew like a flash,
To find all the documents thrown in the trash.

The team was all worried, the design was a mess,
The structure was weak, the analysts confess.

We calmed them all down, and began a discussion
Could we update the design and still make the mission.

We looked at the interface to see what was what
In case there was mass that we had to cut.

More rapid than hoped, the analysts they came
And re-did the analysis as if it were game.

The results were astounding, the results were bizarre,
As if they were drinking beer, all out at a bar

All of a sudden there came a voice crystal clear
Never worry, it's I, your Chief Engineer is here.

A thorough review of the design she did do,
And found a solution, without changes too.

We proceeded to prepare, for the review in haste,
As we did not have any extra time to waste.

The panel showed up with their concerns in hand,
But the team pulled together like a tight little band.

The chair, he reviewed, the package with care,
In hopes that the criteria all would be there.

The presentation was given, one slide at a time
With each question asked, up the wall we would climb

The NGOs and requirements were fine, they did say,
The ConOps and concept were accepted right away.

The drawings were unrolled to show each detail,
And the model reviewed, even built subscale.

Verification analysis and results were all fine
Pending completion of test showing all was in line.

The panel they look at the data, were in awe,
As the design held together and met all the law.

They asked more questions and wrote a few comments
They caucused together and spent many moments.

At the end of the day after calling us back,
We were told that the design, nothing did lack.

As the panel they finished, 'ere they walked out the door,
A few suggestions were offered, but nothing more.

The team, we did breathe, a sigh of relief,
All criteria were green, the panel's belief.

The morrow would bring new challenges for sure,
But tonight we could relax and the results savour.

The project manager arose to talk with the team
The smile on her face, cheek to cheek it did beam.

We all heard her exclaim, 'ere she walked out of sight,
"Congratulations to all, and to all a good night!"

Upcoming INCOSE Related Events

The list below provides a sampling of upcoming webinars and events that may be of interest to INCOSE members. Now that most chapters are holding virtual events, it is easy to join if a topic is of interest. Many are listed on the INCOSE Events Page: <https://www.incose.org/events-and-news/events>, in addition to the Systems Exchange Cafés.

- December 5, 2020 – 2020 INCOSE San Diego Mini-Conference (Virtual)
<https://sdincose.org/rsvpmaker/2020-incose-san-diego-mini-conference-2020-12-05/>
- January 29-31, 2021 – INCOSE International Workshop (IW 2021) (Virtual)
<https://www.incose.org/iw2021>
- April 11-14, 2021 – 14th Annual INCOSE Great Lakes Regional Conference (GLRC14) (Detroit, MI)
<https://www.incose.org/glrc>
- July 17-22, 2021 – Annual INCOSE International Symposium (IS 2021) (Honolulu, HI)
<https://www.incose.org/symp2021>

-Dennis Rohn

Like us on Facebook

If you are on Facebook, search for Cleveland-Northern Ohio INCOSE Chapter and “like” us.



2020 Chapter Officers:

President:

Tim Schuler

Vice-President:

Secretary:

Dennis Rohn

Treasurer:

Marian Cronin

At-Large Director:

Sastry Kasibhatla.