

# Regional News

## 1135 Michigan Section



Hosted By: Bosch, June 12, 2008.

After a lengthy bout with storms and at the tail-end of an unusually long power outage, our NCSLI member associates from DTE Energy and Consumers Energy were brave enough to join the rest of us at the Michigan section meeting on June 12, 2008. Fortunately, the meeting was not hostile as most had their power restored by then. And considering this was the largest turn-out I can recall for a Michigan section meeting (35 people), we were quite happy everyone had their showers functioning.

The meeting was hosted by Patrick Butler of Robert Bosch, LLC, at their North American automotive headquarter in Farmington Hills, Michigan. The Bosch Group constitutes products in three main types of technologies: automotive technology, industrial technology, and consumer goods and building technology. From the automotive market, this would include diesel and gasoline injection systems; passive and active safety systems; and navigation and telematic systems. From the industrial technology sector, Bosch Rexroth offers specialized and integrated solutions covering the entire range of drive and control technologies. Bosch packaging technology is the leading supplier of turnkey solutions for packaging and process technology. Bosch is the world market leader for DIY and professional tool while providing the entire range of modern household appliances. All-in-all, the Bosch Group consists of 292 manufacturing sites in 34 countries. With beneficial innovations, Bosch offers technology that is "Invented for life." It leads the way in quality, performance, and reliability – for the benefit of mankind and the environment.



Michigan Section Classroom Photo

The Michigan section coordinator, Patrick Butler of Bosch, opened the meeting stressing how NCSLI brings people together for the "greater good of the measurement industry." He went on to highlight the valuable benefits received as an NCSLI dues paying member, urging those that are not official members to ante up their dues. Preceding the national conference in Orlando, Patrick took the opportunity to promote the conference as an incredible training and networking resource. Furthermore, he promoted Detroit as an excellent venue for an upcoming conference. With a resume of hostings that include, the Superbowl, MLB All-star game, and the PGA championship, Detroit would be well prepared for an event such as the NCSLI conference.

It was an honor to have Jack Ferris of Consumers Energy provide the board of directors update. The NCSLI past-president gave us an inside track to the multitude of areas NCSLI is working on. He highlighted the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a major milestone and emphasized the learning and development initiative.



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I do not think it can be officially called an NCSLI meeting without Roxanne Robinson of A2LA in attendance. Roxanne and NCSLI are almost synonymous, so it's always a delight to have such a dedicated and respected member of NCSLI attend. She provided the audience with highlights of 30 years of accreditation. This included its roots and origins. When asked to explain the difference between accreditation versus registration, she summed it up perfectly using the analogy of manufacturing "cement life preservers." Dilip Shah of E=mc<sup>3</sup> Solutions added that registration is nothing more than a license to produce "consistent junk." It was an (un)pleasant stroll down memory lane for those of us who have endured the various types of audits over the years.

After a break, of enjoying coffee, fruit, and pastries provided by Ryan Fischer of Laboratory Accreditation Bureau, the meeting turned towards education. Pam Becker of Eastern Michigan University provided us with an overview of the Technology Management program that Eastern offers. The thought of pilfering from the ever-shrinking pool of trained metrologists is discerning; however, this program provides an excellent opportunity to retain that talent as laboratory managers and other higher ranking members of the organization. The ability to wear both the technician hat and the manager hat simultaneously is an invaluable resource to any organization. Pam continued by stating that, according to the *U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook 2006-07 Edition*, "Employment in professional, scientific, and technical services will grow by 28.4 percent and add 1.9 million new jobs by 2014 ... Management of companies and enterprises will grow by 10.6 percent and add 182,000 new jobs." This is positive news for the metrology community.

For those who are Lowry PMEL graduates, you will most likely have all the transferable credits needed to meet the program's 42 credit technical criteria. In addition, there are a lot of options to complete the general education curriculum. Pam went on to state that Eastern Michigan University's participation in the MACRAO program (see [www.macrao.org](http://www.macrao.org)), taking core courses at Michigan community colleges guarantees transferability. For those outside the Michigan area, there are other options for completing the "basic" courses. All of the Technology Management core courses are delivered online so however and wherever you choose to fulfill your general education requirements, the core courses are accessible. In this troubling economy, it is prudent we all have marketable skills. For those interested in the Technology Management program, you may contact Pam Becker at [pam.becker@emich.edu/techmgt/technology.management.htm](mailto:pam.becker@emich.edu/techmgt/technology.management.htm) or call 734-487-1161.

Let's Talk was the theme for the remainder of the day. It was an excellent presentation divided into three topics, all centering on calibration. Roxanne Robinson of A2LA, Tim Osborne of Dynamic Technology, and Marlene Moore of Advanced Systems, Inc. each provided insight into the problems that can occur due to the language differences between accrediting bodies, calibration laboratories, and testing laboratories.

The accreditation perspective came first where Roxanne provided the audience with some valuable information. First, she stated that *ISO/IEC 17025* was created for the customer. She could not over-