March 2015 Newsletter

From the President:

Hello, I am Mark Halverson and am serving as president of the San Diego Chapter of INCOSE this year. In my 43-year career as a systems engineer (mostly in the aerospace and defense industries) I have seen head-spinning advances in technology. I have seen engineering processes and tools come and go. But the one constant throughout those years has been the need for high-quality systems engineering to plan, guide, and make sense of it all. As technology, systems, their application, and our society as a whole become ever more complex, there is a greater need for good systems engineering than ever before.

These are exciting times! Join us at the San Diego Chapter of INCOSE to become actively engaged in this wild ride. Learn what your colleagues in other companies are doing; pick up on new ideas and techniques; make new friends; network for future employment possibilities. A few hours of your time invested in INCOSE will pay off handsomely for you in the future.

-Mark Halverson

Upcoming Events

Membership meetings are open to all. They are held at Giovanni's Restaurant in Kearny Mesa from 6:00-7:00pm, with an optional buffet between 5:00 and 6:00 ($5 for members, $10 for non-members). Reminder emails will be sent.

➢ **March** – No meeting this month -- enjoy spring break.

➢ **April 15th Membership Meeting** – A speaker from the INCOSE Agile Systems Working Group will discuss the WG progress and products concerning Agile SE, and also discuss the Agile Process as being implemented at Boeing.

➢ **May 20th Membership Meeting** – Our speaker and the topic is TBD.

Welcomes

INCOSE San Diego chapter is pleased to welcome two recent additions to our chapter:

➢ **Eric Olsson** was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and attended the U.S. Naval Academy for undergraduate studies. He is currently serving in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Huey helicopter pilot and as a communication systems department head. Past experience includes operational deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the south pacific. Although not a systems engineer practitioner by day, he studied systems engineering at Johns Hopkins University and earned a Master's of Science in Engineering in December of 2014. He transitions to the civilian workforce in the summer of 2015 and looks to leverage his newly found technical skills. As a principle user of developed systems, he looks forward to the development of such systems. In his spare time, he enjoys playing ice hockey, the outdoors, and software development.

➢ **Nicholas (Nic) Bergeron** is currently the Assistant Program Manager-Engineering (APM-E) for the Tactical Network Program Office, PEO C4I - PMW 160, a SPAWAR affiliated Program Office. His primary area of responsibility is systems engineering management for the US Navy's afloat Local Area Networks (LANs). Previous to moving to San Diego, Nic was a systems engineer for submarine LANs at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport (NUWCDIVNPT) in Newport, RI. Nic earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Computer Systems Engineering from the University of

Massachusetts Amherst and a Master's of Science degree in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. Nic is originally from West Springfield, MA. Outside of work, Nic enjoys riding his motorcycle and spending time with his family.

Systems Engineering Professional Certification

The International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) established a multi-level Professional SEP Certification Program to provide a formal method for recognizing the knowledge and experience of systems engineers, regardless of where they may be in their career. This professional certification is gaining significance in the industry, so that any systems engineer should give serious thought to obtaining such professional recognition. The local San Diego Chapter of INCOSE is considering the idea of hosting study groups to help our members pass the test for the SEP certification. If you might be interested in being a member of such a study group, or even a mentor to such a group, please contact either Mark Halverson (mark.halverson@ngc.com) or Dan Durkin (mr.daniel.durkin@gmail.com). The Chapter has several SEP-Certified members; among them Daniel Durkin, Aaron Nascimento (Aaron.Nascimento@gmail.com), and Abbas Rostami (abbas.rostami@gmail.com) and they have offered to serve as SEP Mentors to help guide anyone wishing to achieve SEP certification through the process.

STEM Event and Grant Process

Thank you to everyone who has helped and volunteered to make our STEM program a success! For 2014 we raised almost $16,000. Remember 100% of the money raised by our program goes directly to local teachers to fund STEM projects in their classroom.

We are asking everyone to check with their employer's community outreach programs to see if they will contribute. For many large companies it's as simple as applying online via the company website. INCOSE can provide you with more information on the program to satisfy your awards committee. Mike Patota was able to fill out a simple form for CareFusion where he worked which resulted in a $5,000 contribution. For those companies that don't have an on-line process if you can identify who in your company is the right person to make the request to, we would appreciate the opportunity to talk with them about the program.

Each of YOU also has an OPPORTUNITY to make a difference in STEM teaching in our community. You can personally contribute to the fund. Would you please consider making a $50 or $100+ contribution? Also remember that many companies make matching contributions for charitable donations so please check if your donation can be matched. The preferred method is by check made out to *"INCOSE San Diego STEM"* mailed to: The INCOSE Foundation, 7670 Opportunity Rd #220, San Diego, CA 92111. Or you can go online to: https://www.incose.org/cc_orders/donations.asp and pay with a credit card. In The Foundation Donation box type in *"INCOSE San Diego STEM."* Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

If you should have any questions about the program simply send a separate email to president@sdincose.org.

San Diego Chapter Working Towards INCOSE Gold Circle Award in 2015

Local chapters play an essential role in the achievement of INCOSE's goals and objectives. Far more than local administrative units, chapters are performing units that organize a multitude of professional and social programs, conduct membership recruitment and retention drives, support technical activities striving to advance the state and art of systems engineering, and market INCOSE as the international authoritative body on systems engineering.

To best encourage and incentivize activities at the local level, INCOSE began a Chapter Awards program to acknowledge all contributions worthy of recognition. The annual awards program includes the Gold Circle, Silver Circle, and

Bronze Circle Awards to recognize all chapters that meet and exceed INCOSE's standards for local service and contributions. In addition to the Circle Awards, INCOSE also acknowledges other exemplary efforts of local chapters with the Director's Award for Most Improved Chapter and the President's Award for Outstanding Chapter. San Diego Chapter has been very active in 2014 with its STEM fundraising/award efforts, monthly meetings, Spring tutorial, and Fall mini-conference.

As such, San Diego Chapter feels it is time to aim high for the INCOSE Gold Circle Award in 2015. This will take a lot of work, but we have a plan and definitely feel we have the ability to succeed.

Thanks to everyone who helps make San Diego Chapter one of the most active chapters in the world! If you have any ideas on how to make our chapter even greater, please email president@sdincose.org.

In The Works
The chapter is currently investigating these possibilities:

➢ **Upcoming Midway Event** – We would still like to have our yearly U.S.S. Midway event, and for affordability we are negotiating with other professional organizations for a co-hosting partner. Stay tuned for a final decision.

➢ **Joint Western Region Conference** – This year only, we are considering replacing our Mini-Conference with the Joint West Region Conference in Orange County, California. This would be a larger event, with excellent speakers, and with Disneyland nearby would offer our members the opportunity to bring their families for a diverse, action-packed weekend. Whether we go with our Mini-Conference or with the Joint Western Region Conference, calls for papers will be in the summer.