

## Sciencetech Club History 1918-2018

### The Beginning

On the evening of December 30, 1918, the Engineers Club of Indianapolis sponsored a meeting from a variety of Indianapolis' technical and scientific organizations. Those present planned to re-organize the Engineers Club and expand its activities. With a membership representing a variety of professions they planned to coordinate the interests and activities of those invited to join the new club.

The 104 charter members represented mechanical, civil, electrical, and automotive societies and associations and the Architects Association of Indianapolis, the Indiana Society of Architects, the American Chemical Society, the Rose Technical Club and other groups. Early board members were selected to represent the above societies. They included Harry Garman, American Society of Engineers; H.W. Rodenhamel, American Chemical Society; Herbert Foltz, Architects Association of Indianapolis; and Daniel Lutten, the American Association of Engineers. Chemist and Gemologist Frank B. Wade was a Director at Large.

An article in the Indianapolis *News* indicated that the newly organized Sciencetech Club intended that the public should benefit from the specialized knowledge of its members. Committees reflecting a wide range of interest and expertise were soon appointed. After study of a particular issue, the committee presented a resolution to the club for discussion. If the vote was favorable, the club sent the resolution to the politician involved. Committees studied not only conditions of particular significance at the local level, such as smoke abatement, daylight savings, and city planning, but issues of national concern such as patent laws, railroad labor organizations, a topographic survey of the Mississippi Valley and the establishment of a National Hydraulic Laboratory. As a 1922 article in the *Indianapolis Star* noted: "When it is possible for the Sciencetech Club to get behind any movement or interest to Indianapolis, it usually does after investigating the matter from every single angle possible for a chemist,

engineer, architect, biologist or botanist.”

The club produced two booklets during the 1920s, both originating from committee work. The Committee on Research produced and distributed “Problems for research training” during the summer of 1921 to educational institutions. The other, produced in 1924, was titled “Some Reasons Why the Proposed So-Called Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution of the United States Should not be Adopted.”

This first decade of meetings developed traditions such as the weekly luncheon meeting, the monthly evening meeting of the board of directors, a lively roll call and the alarm clock used to time speakers. While the earliest weekly luncheon meetings were primarily concerned with the business of running a new organization, they soon began the routine of speaker and discussion. Early programs included Dr. Frank B. Wade on “Gems” (1920), Dr. J.E. Burns of E.F. Houghton & Co. on “Heat Treating of Steels in Automotive Construction (1921) and Dr. John N. Hurty on a “Plan for a New State of Board of Health” (1923). Later speakers included Roy J. Wensley of Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company on his invention the “Televox (1928) with 100 members in attendance., L.M. Hellman of Esterline-Angus with a movie travelogue of his auto trip to the west coast (1928), and Indiana Congressman Louis Ludlow on his years as a newspaper reporter (1929). Another popular type of meeting was the open discussion meeting, where topics ranged from the engineer’s registration law held throughout the 1920s to the city manager plan in 1927.

The first issue of the newsletter appeared August 6, 1920. It established the format of announcements followed by a summary of the week’s topic and discussion sprinkled with humor and good natured jibes at fellow Scienceteachers. This newsletter included a large notice for the first annual picnic that reported: “The Horseshoe Director asks each member having a horseshoe pitching outfit to bring it along....[Charley] Brossman has asked to be all to pitch Ford tires if horseshoes are lacking. The

baseball game will be a surprise. The Public Health Committee will be responsible for medical attendance except for chiggers. A special Chigger Clinic will be open all afternoon and evening directed by H.W. Rodenhamel.”

Early elections of officers were contested with “red-herring’ slates of nominees. In 1920 there were three parties: regular, independent, and communist with some candidates on all three tickets. The communist party included such candidates s “comrade lloydski wayneovitch” for president and MIT director (J. Lloyd Wayne III was also nominated by the other parties as MIT director) and “comrade georgevitch schleyski (George Schley) as vice president. The party then took control of the newsletter and produced the “Bolshevike Edition” with the platform “Things as they ain’t” and continued with “REMEMBER, When you Vote, VOTE RIGHT. Don’t be REGULAR, Don’t be INDEPENDENT or OUTDEPENDENT, Be for a NEW ORDER OF THINGS. The Communist Ticket with SKIS, OFFS, and ITCHES.” They also offered the following interpretations of the candidates’ names: for president “Wayneovitch – from weighin weight, i.e. heaviness, etc.. “ for vice president: “Schleyski – from sly, cunning, under cover, etc.,” for secretary “Rossoff [Otto C. Ross] – a modern form of the old Rotstuff” and for treasurer “Scalesenoff [W.H. Scales] – from Scales, a treasurer, or money counter, etc.”

### **The Depression and World War II**

As would be expected, the Great Depression had a profound effect on the Sciencetech Club and its members, dominating the meetings and the newsletter. The newsletter, club correspondence and board minutes shed light on the personal circumstances of the members as well as the state of the club. Membership dropped to a low of 50, luncheon attendance declined dramatically and the bank balance reached an all-time low at \$10.00. But the club continued its weekly meetings with speakers, open discussions, films and inspection trips. The board met monthly, group auto trips were organized and

members remained publicly active in a variety of professional and political groups.

During this time the club, unlike in its earliest years, did not seek to become publicly involved in issues. The newsletter announcing the 1932 board members and officers quoted one man's favorite reasons for involvement in the club as: "It doesn't get behind anything. Fine brand of good fellowship. razzing each other, heckling speakers, all in the best spirit." A fall, 1931 issue of the newsletter stated the club's policy as not to "sponsor any movement or cause." It described the club as "firmly committed" to the principle that Scientechers "should be good-natured all the time, serious in purpose much of the time, given to fun part of the time and utterly devoid of bitterness at any time." The issue noted that while programs were never purely for entertainment they were not "dryly technical" and a visitor of the "business-man type" will find himself "gasping at the fast and furious flow of impromptu fun. "

This "fast and furious" fun is apparent from the newsletter and board meeting minutes. Board members and officers rotated the monthly meetings at their homes and commemorated these occasions with poems. The minutes recorded the poems and the numerous and extensive discussions held before the group turned their attention to club business. The secretary reported on one occasion that "Discussion started during dinner, continues unabated, illuminated with stories by [Harry] Garman, [Daniel] Luten, [D.J.] Angus, [Joseph W.] Stickney, and touching management of interurbans, other utilities, taxation, insurance, traffic thru Soo Canal before it finally steered to Scientech channels. "

The secretaries, who also served as newsletter editors, during the Depression were Orange E. Means (1930-1932) , Herbert A. Minturn (1932-1944) and Daniel Luten who routinely functioned as acting secretary under the board's condition that he sign his name to his comments. Frequent targets of the editors included "alphabetically inclined" government officials and their New Deal programs, by=ut the favorite targets seemed to be their fellow Scientechers. Dan Luten's hair or lack thereof and D.J.

Angus' frugal "Scotch" approach to life were remarked upon many times. Comments ranged from: "Lost – One hair, by owner, Luten. At least Dan [Luten] admitted having a hair cut, just which one not plainly evident," to "The NRA eagle still looks pretty blue – why wouldn't he when he is framed in red?" to "AAA + TVA – NRA = IOU." The "Depressed Dictionary," an irregular feature, defined recovery as "The process of individual sacrificing to meet obligations to self and fellow man and fostering individual initiative in creating new opportunities without government dole. (Obsolete); ignoring obligations created in past and taking now that which you want without paying the price if you can get by. (Modern)."

Naturally, lunch meeting topics focused on the economic crises in America, but members were also made aware of the conditions in Europe and Asia with talks on the "Significance of Hitler" and "The Situation in Manchuria." Examples of other topics during these years include Russia, the TVA, "The Technical Side of Telephone Transmissions," Strikes, "Public Utilities and Government," and "How the Talkies Talk."

One meeting in particular impressed the club. For an October 1936 meeting Walter C. Weis of Eastman Kodak brought the only film available to him to highlight Kodachrome, the new color film. Mr. Weis hesitated to show the film which featured a mid-thigh amputation. Then president, Robert J. Kryter, later remembered he told Mr. Weis that this is a group of "hard boiled engineers, not the ladies sewing circle." The newsletter reported "the motion picture in color...came too soon after lunch. One member started to leave, but he passed out." Kryter recalled that others stared out the window of left the room.

By the late 1930s, the club had recovered from its depression low. Membership gradually grew to substantially over 100 and beginning in the 1940s the group maintained a healthy bank balance.

The club, like the United States in general and Indiana in particular, was strongly isolationist

during the late 1930s. Even the January 2, 1940 issue of the newsletter hoped for “a year of good healthy business with no war intervention.” However, by June of that year the newsletter probably reflected the changing outlook of many members when it stressed the need for a “comprehensive plan for preparedness.” The topic for the September 8, 1941 meeting was “Training within Industry to Aid in National Defense” and the December 29, 1941 issue listed members in service. That issue also noted that the average lunch meeting attendance was 41.4 with a total of 136 members. Dues were suspended for members in the armed forces and meeting topics began to focus on the war. Speakers included the Chairman of the Civil Protection Section of the Marion County Defense Council, the Commander of Fort Benjamin Harrison, the Area Director of the war Manpower Commission and many returned wounded soldiers.

During the war years the club continued its interest in many topics and heard a wide variety of talks including “Building a telephone line along the Alaska Highway,” “The Future of Radio,” “Indianapolis Suburban Growth”, and “Collective Bargaining for Engineers,” an issue presented from the pro side, the con side and as an open forum.

The newsletter and the board meeting minutes do not record member contributions and the club had no direct involvement in the war effort. However, members as individuals were very involved through service in the armed forces and through government and civil employment. Members who made significant technical contributions included D.J. Angus, Bob Annis, John Goldthwaite, Bob Kryter, Him Skinner, Ralph Stahl, and John Storer.

Bob Annis received a call one morning from Washington. What could be done to encourage U-boats from making Liberty Ships a ready target? The answer, from a Sciencetech expert in magnetics, was large-scale degaussing, which saved many ships and lives. Bob Kryter recalled a Sunday morning phone call ordering four meters that were needed immediately. Upon learning that it would be a week

before shipment the caller responded with "Let me put the Admiral on!" Kryter promptly prepared the meters for the armed guard who would pick them up at the airport ASAP.

Comments on rationing such as "Sugar rationing cards – and the sugar beet growers right in Indiana under restricted quotas" began to appear in the newsletters. Dan Luten, acting secretary during Herbert Minturn's annual retreat from the Indiana hay fever season, commented on "scrapped" rubber heels as "Everything for Victory, nothing for de feet." He had to defend this as well as other puns with the comment in the next issue that it is the "listeners that grow old rather than the jokes."

Herbert Minturn served as secretary and newsletter editor until 1945 when he became vice president. He accepted the position of president in 1946 with a word of warning to his vice president regarding hay fever season. Egbert S. Hildreth replaced Minturn secretary and served until 1967. As editor Hildreth, unlike Minturn, generally refrained from comments not related to the meeting topic. Arthur Hood, also a long-term officer, retired as treasurer in 1946 after 22 years of service. His son, H.B. Hood served as treasurer until 1949.

Although many charter members remained active in the club throughout the 1930s, only a few, such as Dan Luten and D.J. Angus, participated during the 1940s. The club recognized the achievements of its older members when it created a member's emeritus category in 1939. Charter member Harry Garman, who could not attend his member emeritus ceremony, received a bound volume containing congratulatory letters from club members. He was also included in a few of the annual meetings, from his home, through the use of telephones and intercoms. The club preserved a part of its history when it deposited a complete file of newsletters in the Indiana State Library.

**1950 – 1988**

Six charter members, three of whom served as presidents and one who served as a vice-president, were present at the 1958 banquet to celebrate the club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. William Insley, the club's first president (1918), and Earl L. Carter, also a past president (1924), as well as other charter members spoke regarding the history of the club. Herbert Minturn, long-time secretary/newsletter editor (1934-1944), and president (1946) spoke on the history of the club. A total of seventeen former presidents attended this banquet held in the Crystal Ballroom at the Hotel Continental. Master of Ceremonies for the evening Robert J. Kryter (past president and future member emeritus) observed that the leadership of the past presidents and the exceptional and accurate work of the past secretaries clearly represented the virtues of the club.

Bob Kryter again served as Master of Ceremonies at the club's 1968 celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sixteen past presidents attended this celebration during which Herbert Minturn again shared his reminiscences of the club. Scientech continues to commemorate its milestones and in 1998 will observe the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In order to commemorate the achievements of charter member D.J. Angus, who died in 1966, a group of Scientech club members, including Bob Annis, Jerry Carrier, and Lewis S. Finch founded the D.J. Angus-Scientech Educational Foundation. Their intent was to "foster and promote education of deserving students...to foster the understanding and appreciation of the American system of private, free enterprise...to promote good citizenship through appropriate educational activities...[and] select students for incentive awards for furthering their education.

Over the years, the Foundation, while maintaining minimal administration costs, has provided financial support to Indiana science fairs, Junior Achievement, the Learn About Business program at Wabash, the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts among many other programs. Currently, "The Most



Improved Student Award” of \$1000 is presented to students at 23 Indiana educational institutions including IUPUI, Marian, Wabash, and DePauw. The Foundation has also provided ongoing substantial support to the R.B. Annis Water Resources Institute at Grand Valley State University and the research vessel D.J. Angus. From its original modest beginnings, the assets of the Foundation have grown to approximately two million dollars.

The Indiana Scientific and Engineering Foundation was incorporated in 1961 by Sciencetech Club President Thomas G. Harvey, and past presidents Lewis S. Finch and Stanley S. Green, among others. The group hoped to establish a headquarters for the scientific and engineering societies of Indianapolis, and work for the advancement and improvement of scientific and engineering education and research in Indianapolis.

Although ISEF did not realize its goal of a headquarters building, it did coordinate and promote activities and interests of its members with a newsletter, special events during National Engineers Week and a community service award. Additional activities ranged from an annual Future Scientists and Engineers Day for high school students, with awards furnished by the D.J. Angus-Sciencetech Educational Foundation, to a Pro-Am Golf Tournament. The group remained active for many years but eventually dissolved in the mid-1990s.

In response to a request to judge the national Science fair – Indianapolis, the club began its active participation in science fairs in the early 1960s by acting as judges. The club and later the Foundation presented certificates, ribbons, books and other awards to students. The March 28, 1966 newsletter noted that all who judge “were rewarded by experiencing the heartwarming efforts of tomorrow’s engineers and scientists.” It recorded that 25 members judged for a total of 155 hours followed by the presentation of 55 personalized certificates, 22 ribbons, 36 books, and 12 slide rules to winners and placers. Although slide rules were replaced with calculators, and then with laptop

computers, the students still receive books and personalized certificates.

The club and the Foundation have sponsored many trips for Science Fair participants to various sites including Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, the Argonne National Laboratory and the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Museum. They present monetary awards to students and teachers and to invite students and teachers to demonstrate their projects at a Monday luncheon.

Challenges since the 1950s include maintaining luncheon attendance, an aging membership and lack of long-term newsletter editor. Board minutes routinely recorded discussions regarding these three issues, their causes and possible remedies. The board attributed the declining luncheon attendance mainly to the lunch hour restrictions of potential members employed and a failure to form the habit attending. Also of concern to the board was the fact that the majority of club members were retired. Board members regularly stressed the need for younger members.

The club also dealt with the issue of women as members and eventually changed the wording of the constitution to admit their first woman member, Mrs. Virginia Wenning, in 1980. Within a few years, another woman member, Barbara Franz, served as secretary (1984-1986) and later as vice-president (1994) and president (1995).

Over the years, the Monday luncheons have been held at many locations including the Chamber of Commerce Building, the Architects and Builders Building, the Columbia Club, the Murat and the Knights of Columbus, Council 437. The luncheons over the years have featured such speakers as Bill Crawford, WFBM-TV's personality known as Omar the Weatherman (1951) and Col. Roscoe Turner on "Developments in Aeronautics (1959)." Topics have included the proposed city-county building (1956), Computers – What They are and What They Do (1961), The Allison Model 250 Gas Turbine Helicopters (1967), and Mini Computer Application (1975). Programs in the 1980s and the 1990s include Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Booster Redesign, the Indiana Transportation Museum, Nikola Tesla, and a joint

meeting with the Service Club in connection with the dedication of the U.S.S. Indianapolis Memorial. Many fine programs have been presented by club members including Bob Kryter, Bob Annis, Mark Pangborn and John Goldthwaite.

### **1988-2008**

The decade of the 1980s saw many firsts for the Club: first woman member, Virginia Wenning (1980); first roster printed by computer in 1984; and the first woman officer in 1984 when Barbara Frantz was elected secretary. (She was elected president in 1995.) Sciencetech met at the Murat Shrine for lunch for 25 years until 2000 when the Club moved to the Children's Museum.

In 1988, a History Committee was formed. Information was gathered from past newsletters and other sources. In addition, audiotapes of certain members were recorded. The booklet was researched and written by Joan Cunningham, the daughter of member George Cunningham. It makes up most of the booklet.

Sciencetech continued its dedicated service to the Central Indiana Science fair; nearly 50 members volunteer to judge the science projects. Certain students among the award winners are selected to participate in the trip to Michigan to ride on the boat *Angus* and study water quality at Grand Valley State University.

Meetings continued each week during the 1980s as they had since 1920, when the meeting day was changed from Thursday to Monday. Topics heard included: Engineering the VCR; Climate Change Impacts; I Remember Pearl Harbor; Plagues; Epidemics and History; Lunar Phases and their Effect; and World War II Through the Eyes of *Look Magazine*. Tours in the 1980s and 1990s consisted of day trips in various locations, such as: Indiana Medical History museum, Grissom Air Force Base, Subaru Auto Plant, Eli Lilly Research Lab, Lost River, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Museum.

In 1987, Bob Annis was named a "Sagamore of the Wabash" by Governor Bob Orr. At the time of

his death in 1999, Mr. Annis had been a member for 69 years and knew 28 of the original 104 charter members. He was responsible for the original involvement in the Science Fair and helped start the D.J. Angus-Sciencetech Educational Foundation in 1967. Mr. Annis left a Foundation in his own name which has made contributions to the Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis Zoo, a Reading Room at the Central Indiana Library, Jameson Camp, the Eiteljorg Museum and the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Barbara Frantz was the first woman officer and the first woman to hold the president's position, having been elected in 1995. She had a hand in starting the Club's web site, which is a very important part of Sciencetech Club today. In the last fifteen years, physicians began to join the Club. Today they make up about one-fourth of those in attendance at the weekly programs. Physicians are attracted to not only the scientific talks but also to the wide array of intellectual ideas traded among members. Dr. Robert Breuckmann was the first physician president. He was co-founder of Orthopaedics Indianapolis and was the first Indiana Pacers team physician, a post he held for about 25 years.

Interesting noon-time programs in the last ten years have featured: the Y2K bug; NASA, An Early History; History of the Indiana Canal; History of HD TV; Lewis and Clark; Teaching Science in Indiana Schools; Digital Photography; the Anatomy of the Violin; Identity Theft; Building the Lucas Oil Stadium; History of Union Station, and Why People Get Kidney Stones. Tours remain a very popular outing for members. In the last decade, members have visited the Scottish Rite Cathedral; the Athenaeum Club; Haynes Museum. Kokomo; Studebaker Museum, South Bend; Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH; Chateau Thomas Winery, and the Paleontologist's Lab at the Indiana State Museum.

Though the travelogue talk as a topic in modern history has declined, they are still provided to the Club by those wandering souls who visit interesting places. Member Darrell Bakken has spoken about African Safaris, Antarctica, Egypt, and China; while the team of Bill and Lou Stanley have spoken

about Egypt and Jordan, Cambodia and Vietnam, backpacking in Australia and New Zealand, and Holland by Barge.

Sciencetech has added many new members in the last five years. Membership in 2009 was over 225 people from all professions. In that year, the Club moved to a new facility, the Northside K of C, which has a large meeting room and double wall screens for viewing slides and DVDs.

The Club newsletter has been mailed weekly to member from August 1920 to 2006, when for the first time, it was sent electronically. It took Doug Wagner and a team of people to replace the late Lew Marshall, who single-handedly took each program's notes and sent out the newsletter for fifteen years. In addition, Club secretary Bill Stanley doubled as web site manager and he made significant upgrades to the site. The program schedule, list of past talks, Club Honors sections and the puzzle page are all included.

The activities of the D.J. Angus-Sciencetech Educational Foundation remain an important part of the Club's mission. It gives scholarships to students who have improved their grades from year to year. Some teachers of Science Fair winners also received financial prizes. The Foundation exists to foster and promote the education of deserving students oriented toward studies in engineering, science, technology, medicine and related fields.

Current president [2009] Hank Wolfla knew D.J. Angus when he was a high school student and Bob Annis while he was in college at Purdue. Both men were mentors to him and to countless young students over the years. Together Angus and Annis attended Sciencetech Club meetings for a combined total of 80 years.

When Bob Annis was asked in a 1996 interview what kept the Sciencetech Club going all these years, he answered, "the newsletter and the fellowship." Sciencetech Club men and women look forward to the weekly program and the sharing of ideas – and to the great fellowship.

**2008-2018**

During the past ten years, the Club has experienced robust growth. It now has over 275 members, 50 more than 2012. The new members come from all walks of life, with physicians well represented. Those ever-curious people need something to do. Amidst all this growth, the second woman president, Bonnie Carter, was elected. She had previously served as secretary and newsletter editor, an increasingly important task. The Club continues to meet at the Northside K of C; it moved there in 2009.

Bigger growth meant that more volunteers were needed for the various committees. Therefore, more people got to know the Club's history and organization; and they met more people. The Cashier Committee, to cite just one, needed more help. More accurate accounting of meals and drinks was required by the K of C. Eventually, Doug Sherow took over this position. The cost of food has increased at the K of C, as elsewhere. Therefore, an admission charge was placed on each person so that the Club would not lose money on members and guests. Between 100-120 people are in attendance each week.

The Scribe Committee retained its important position, long chaired by Jerry Kurlander. Each scribe takes notes at the Monday meeting about once per quarter. The speaker usually makes the lecture slides available to the scribe. That insures for completeness and accuracy of the presentation.

The weekly Monday meetings continue as they have for decades. The ringing of the ship's bell at 12N, a custom begun at the very first meeting continues, as does another ancient custom, the introduction of members and guests. The weekly presentations maintain their keen interest, with about 60% of them of a scientific nature. The yearly presidents have done well to limit the speaker to 45 minutes of discussion. Most speakers very kindly lend themselves for further inquiry after the 1 p.m. bell rings.

The newsletter has been an important part of Sciencetech Club since 1920. The electronic version

made its debut in 2006, and the newsletter has been delivered by email. In addition to cost savings, by receiving the newsletter in that fashion, the Club now transmits the information faster. Now with smartphones and gmail, the newsletter can be accessed easier. How is that for progress? What was once sent by postal mail for 86 years is now delivered to a hand-held electronic device in 2018. The newsletter has an editorial committee, chaired by Ed Nitka. The weekly publication involves quite a bit of diligent work. The presentation summary is viewed by the editors and corrections are made. Then announcements and future programs are placed on the first page and the newsletter is sent to all members.

The wonders of technology have blessed society with man gifts over the decades: desk-top computers, portable computers, elaborate software, email, document scanning and lastly, smartphones. The most significant item for most companies and clubs has been the World Wide Web. Every business or club has a web site, as do many families. The Club had a web site before 2006 but it was little used. (It began in 1995, headed by Barbara Frantz Storer, the first woman president.) Then Bill Stanley expanded and improved the Club's web site. Presentations have been placed on the site weekly since 2006, where they remain. Tom Nicholls chairs a sophisticated Information Technology Committee.

The program calendar is located on the web site. It allows members to view programs well into the future. The Club has had two talks delivered by Skype, the long-distance phone application. Tours have always been an important part of the Club's activities. Thanks to Jim Bettner, Tour Chairman, we now have quarterly tours to remote spots. The bus has taken us to: Fair Oaks Farms, Wright-Patterson AFB, Link Observatory, Beck's Hybrids and Harger Farms, Heartland Growers, Vice-Presidential Museum, Lew Wallace Museum and Rotary Jail, French Lick and West Baden Hotels, NUCOR Steel Plant, and a Columbus, IN Architectural Tour.

The Roster has grown over the past decades. It was once just a listing of members. Then

addresses, as well as professions, were listed. Next education and hobbies were added and later photos were included. Now, it is a very professional and useful document. Next stop – you guessed it – the web. Alison Brown keeps the Members List current on the web site on a weekly basis. New members are approved at nearly every monthly board meeting and some members move or resign their membership. Frequent changes in email addresses and phone numbers make it an important task to maintain the roster.

The web site includes a history article; a section on community contributions; one on professional honors; one of Key to the City recipients another on Sagamores of the Wabash; and a section on Emeritus Members. Most of the articles have been written by Bill Dick, who also serves as Club Historian.

A singular honor was bestowed on Sciencetech Club with a Mayor's Proclamation in 2009. An article was printed in the Indianapolis *Star* about the Club's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Mayor Greg Ballard read the article and told his staff to issue the Proclamation. In researching that honor, it was found that Mayor's Proclamations are quite unusual. So, it was a great surprise, when the honor was announced by President Hank Wolfla at the Annual Dinner in October 2009. Bill Dick, who was interviewed for that newspaper column, had picked up the Proclamation and presented it to President Wolfla.

The City of Indianapolis began a Community Digitalization program about ten years ago. The mission, spearheaded by the Indianapolis Public Library, was to digitally copy all the documents of the early clubs and organizations in Indianapolis. The project included many high schools, service clubs and city institutions. The process took many years and finally Sciencetech Club was added. Early Club documents and every newsletter dating back to the first one in August 1920 were digitally copied. The Club's newsletters had been stored in paper form at the Indiana State Library. Sciencetech Club now has more digitally stored documents than any organization in the City except for the Indianapolis Fire



Department. An index of all the talks was produced and that index and the link to the old newsletters exists on the Club's web site. Meghan Fukanaga, who managed the copying of over 4,000 Sciencetech Club newsletters for the Library, said that her favorite newsletter was the one in 1937 that had a talk on air conditioning.

It is very difficult to even list a few of the excellent presentations over the past ten years. However, one that truly stands out was Greg McCauley's talk about the Great American Solar Eclipse of 2017. Mr. McCauley works at the Link Observatory and his presentations are always stellar. He did not disappoint when he spoke on 7 August 2017. The eclipse followed on 21 August 2017 and it mesmerized the nation. Some members rode from the Link Observatory by bus to the middle of Kentucky where maximum darkness occurred.

With over 45 presentations and tours each year, it is difficult to single out the most interesting ones over ten years. But, here goes: The History of the Coroner System in England and U.S.; Eleanor of Aquitaine, like the talk in the early 1980's; Stem Cells; Monsters of the Midway; The Space Program; Unique Design/Construction of the Bridge over the Ohio River; Dr. John Brinkley: First Transplant Surgeon and Founder of the Border Blaster Radio in Del Rio, TX; and the Indiana Central Canal. In the following years, there were: Peregrine Falcons in Indy; Forensic DNA; Beekeeping; the Story of Buddy L; and the Life of Gen. Lew Wallace.

In 2014 and 2015 were these presentations: Novum Organum II; Revolutionary War Heroes Sam Adams and John Hancock; DNA; Moving Wishard Hospital into the Future; and Hosting the Super Bowl 2012. Next there were: Plague – the Black Death; Indiana in the 1920's – Ku Klux Klan; Eagle Creek Park; and the History of Aspirin. In the last few years we have heard: The Discovery of Antibiotics; The Influenza of 1918; Identity Theft and Fraud; Nobel Prizes; Heroin Epidemic; Opioid Abuse; Oak Ridge, TN; Return to Iwo Jima (given by Jim Baize, who was there); and Centuries of Change, which highlighted

the major events of each century. The discovery of DNA was thought to be the most important discovery of the millennium.

In addition to its own Foundation, Sciencetech contributed to ICFAR (Indianapolis Center for Advanced Research) in the 1970s and 1980s. That effort consisted of some Sciencetech members serving as officers and they also added their scientific knowledge. A database was created to access the NASA files and studies. Some technology advancements at Indiana University were moved to private industry. Research into ultrasound and fluid dynamics was performed. At one time, ICFAR had nearly 100 employees but it was later downsized and was disbanded in the mid-1990s. In 2016, the D.J. Angus-Sciencetech Educational Foundation was renamed the Sciencetech Club Foundation. In the past few years, the 40-year association with the Central Indiana Science Fair ended, as did the 30+ years of travel with the Science Fair winners to Grand Valley State University near Lake Michigan. New scholarships were given to students to attend a three-month program at the Herman Wells Center at Riley Hospital. Other scholarships have been given to women in engineering; "Learn About Business," a program held at Wabash College; most improved students at 16 colleges, and scholarships to high school students who go into science fields. Currently, approximately \$150,000 is awarded yearly to high school and college students for work in the sciences. One dynamic new program is the Summer Teachers Institute, at which teachers' study for a week under a professor in his or her teaching discipline.

Annual dinners are nearly as old as the club. In some years, two dinners were held. In the past decade, speakers from many city institutions have been our guests: Indiana Historical Society- John Herbst, Ray Boomhower, and Angela Giacomelli; Connor Prairie; Indianapolis Zoo; Eli Lilly – CEO John Lichliter; Mayor Brainard, Carmel; Eagle Creek Park Ornithology and Prof. James Glass of Historic Preservation. In 2011, in conjunction with the dinner, Hank Wolfla, started a silent auction for the benefit of the Sciencetech Club Foundation. The auction has been quite a success. It has been a source for

some very interesting purchases for members. In addition, \$3,000 to \$5,000 has been raised for the Foundation each year.

All in all, Sciencetech Club at its weekly meeting, promotes science and other timely subjects. With an index of over 95 years of presentations and all newsletters posted on the web site, the curious member can spend many an hour perusing this treasure trove. The newsletter, the web site and especially, the camaraderie, continue to inspire all members.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of Sciencetech Club was held on 20 October 2018 at Woodstock Club. President Jeff Rasley thanked Chairwoman Bonnie Carter and her committee for organizing a fine Dinner Celebration. Ray Boomhower of the Indiana Historical Society was the featured speaker. His topic was "1918: Over There and Back Home."

**Written by:**

**1918-1988 – Joan Cunningham**

**1988-2018 – William Dick**



