



# Plant Engineering & Maintenance Division

Winter 2010 Newsletter

<http://divisions.asme.org/PEMD>

## Executive Committee

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Vice Chair/Treasurer  
*Sam Black*

Secretary  
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*David Christiansen, PE*

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*Lee Hawkins*  
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## Dear Members of ASME Plant Engineering and Maintenance Division,

It has been some time since we last published a newsletter. Please pardon our interruption. As one of the core revitalization activities for the Plant Engineering and Maintenance Division (PEMD), we intend to make this newsletter a more frequent and regular vehicle of communications moving forward.

An important aspect of our mission is to hear the "voice of the customer" from you - our membership. To that end, we appreciate your participation in our 2010 Division survey. The results of this survey have now been compiled.

As the key focus of this newsletter, we would like to share these results with you. We might even, with some good humor, suggest the timing is safe given the recent voting and government elections here in the United States!

The 2010 Division survey was launched on April 8, and was available for 20 days. A total number of 6,454 members (primary + secondary) were invited to participate. We were pleased to receive a favorable response from 1,165 members (18%). In addition, 391 members (33.5% of 1165) provided contact information to volunteer their support. We also received 272 additional free-form comments, question and suggestions.

The survey contained 13 questions, as follows:

### 1. How familiar are you with PEMD's visions and Goals?

Very familiar	26	2%
Somewhat familiar	203	17%
Neither familiar nor unfamiliar	203	17%
Somewhat unfamiliar	213	18%
Very unfamiliar	517	44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>100%</b>

Reflecting on your feedback, we need to do a better job moving forward to communicate the Division's visions and goals. The Executive Committee has started efforts to prepare a long-term strategic plan and associated annual operating plan, with the support of our parent Manufacturing Technical Group. We welcome your input and involvement in this activity. Please contact any member of the PEMD executive committee ([http://divisions.asme.org/PEMD/Executive\\_Committee.cfm](http://divisions.asme.org/PEMD/Executive_Committee.cfm)) to discuss further.

**2. Are you familiar with the PEMD web page?**

Yes	56	5%
No	1028	89%
Somewhat familiar	73	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>100%</b>

The ASME Plant Engineering and Maintenance Division web page is available at: <http://divisions.asme.org/pemd/>

We welcome your feedback for improvement on our website. We are looking for a volunteer webmaster to join our leadership team. If you have an interest, please contact any member of the PEMD executive committee to discuss further.

**3. What is your general area of professional interest?**

Fluid Mechanics	15	1%
Heat Transfer	13	1%
Design	77	7%
Plant Engineering and Maintenance	523	45%
Pressure Vessels and Piping	142	12%
Power	162	14%
Manufacturing	68	6%
Material Handling	24	2%
Other, please specify	138	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>100%</b>

It was good to see that the largest response came from "Plant Engineering and Maintenance"! ...otherwise we might have had to consider changing the name of our division.

All kidding aside, this input is quite valuable in our future outreach activity to other technical divisions within ASME as well as any future efforts to restart technical committees within our division.

The top five demographics from this question, are as follows:

1. Plant engineering and maintenance (45%, 523 responses)
2. Power (14%, 162 responses)
3. Pressure vessels and piping (12%, 142 responses)
4. Design (7%, 77 responses)
5. Manufacturing (6%, 68 responses)

4. Are you a:		
Student	26	2%
Professor	26	2%
Researcher	16	1%
Plant/Manufacturing employee	529	45%
Vendor/Consultant	289	25%
Other, please specify	279	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>100%</b>

Another affirmation of our division name? It is good to validate that our primary membership input for this survey came from plant / manufacturing employees (45%, 529 responses) and the secondary level of input came from vendors/consultants (25%, 289) who often play a key support role in the plant engineering and maintenance eco-system.

5. Is PEMD your:		
Primary Division	253	22%
Secondary Division	237	21%
Third Division	103	9%
Don't know	554	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1147</b>	<b>100%</b>

To be quite honest, we were a bit surprised on this response! Almost half (48%) of the survey respondents voted that they don't know if PEMD is one of their top 3 technical divisions.

As such, it might be useful as a reminder to explain that each member of ASME can select up to 5 member interests which then determine the technical divisions they are considered a member of. Please reflect on your member interest selections when you renew your ASME membership for the coming year.

**6. How can The Plant Engineering & Maintenance Division better serve you as a member?**

By offering training courses	508	46%
By organizing conferences	233	21%
By offering job recruitment services	190	17%
By improving communication with its members via email	466	42%
By organizing local events or participation by local sections and student sections.	280	25%
Other, please specify	140	13%

Training courses topped the priority (46%, 508 responses), followed closely by communications via e-mail (42%, 466 responses). Local events (25%), conferences (21%) and job recruitment services (17%) make up the rest.

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If you're looking for employment opportunities, you may also want to check out the job board at ASME, which is catered specifically to ME's:

<http://jobboard.asme.org/search/>

You can also peruse the posts under the JOBS tab. (Please note ASME is not directly affiliated with any job listings posted, although many recruiters are ASME members or a part of the ASME Career Center.)

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The PEMD executive committee is investigating options on each of these with our parent Manufacturing Technology Group operating board as well as ASME staff. Again we welcome your continued input and involvement as a member volunteer society, on any of these activities.

Stay tuned for additional updates in future communications.

**7. Would you be interested in taking on a more active role in PEMD?**

Yes	227	20%
No	423	37%
Maybe	487	43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1137</b>	<b>100%</b>

We appreciate those of you who voted "yes"! Now we need your help to re-connect.

....And for those of you who voted "maybe" - How can we swing you to a "yes"?!

Please feel free to contact any member of the PEMD executive committee to discuss how you can help with our division revitalization efforts.

**8. Would you be interested in serving on a PEMD Technical or Executive committee**

Yes	207	18%
No	526	46%
Maybe	421	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1154</b>	<b>100%</b>

Much like question 7, we need more volunteers and would love to hear from you.

**9. Would you be interested in contributing to or working on a PEMD Newsletter?**

Yes	230	20%
No	911	80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>100%</b>

We invite you to submit short articles of interest for the Plant Engineering and Maintenance community to be published in future editions of this newsletter. Please feel free to contact any member of the PEMD executive committee to share your knowledge.

**10. If you answered yes to any of the last three questions, would you please provide us with your current email address so that someone from the PEMD Executive committee may contact you?**

391 Responses

Many thanks again to the 391 members (33.5% of the 1165 survey respondents) who provided your contact information for a more active role in PEMD.

I am pleased to announce that through this activity, we have successfully recruited 2 new volunteers to the PEMD executive committee. Please join me in welcoming Lou Roussinos (Secretary) and David Christiansen (Member-at-large).

Our work on revitalization of PEMD is just beginning. We look forward to continued communications with anyone who is interested to contribute as volunteers in a variety of means to this effort.

**11. Have you ever used or currently use an online social network site (Peerlink, Facebook, Linked In, Myspace, etc) for professional networking?**

Yes, currently using an existing site	409	35%
Yes, tried it in the past but was not successful	60	5%
No but have considered using a social networking site	233	20%
No, have never thought about it	451	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1153</b>	<b>100%</b>

Social networking is proliferating and becoming more and more a way of communication, particularly amongst the generation of our future leaders. We appreciate your input on this survey question and will continue to explore associated opportunities with ASME staff to better serve our membership

In the meantime, we also wanted to inform/remind our members of ASME established groups, and even sub-groups, on LinkedIn and Facebook. For more information, please go to: ASME Knowledge & Community Sector <http://www.asme.org/Governance/KnowledgeCommunity/>

ASME group on LinkedIn:  
<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=36972>

ASME group on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/ASME-American-Society-of-Mechanical-Engineers/121032319833>

In addition, you may also want to check out ASME PeerLink:  
<http://peerlink.asme.org>

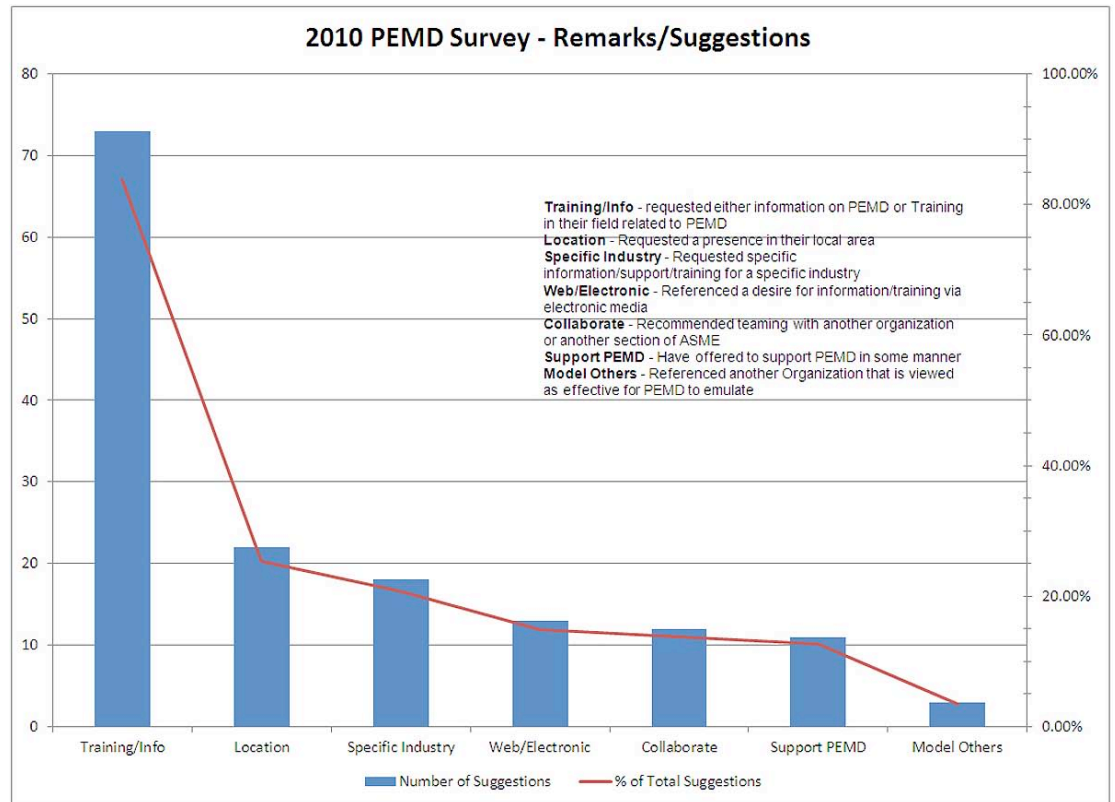
ASME's PeerLink is an online interaction tool designed with engineers' needs in mind with links to helpful resources, solutions and ideas from peers. Access to the ASME PeerLink site is open to both members and non-members of ASME -- you just need to sign up for an account.

**12. How many Conferences or meetings have you attended in the last 3 years?**

1084 Responses

Based upon the number of responses related to conference attendance, it appears that many of our membership do use this medium as a means to stay involved in their technical activities and that conferences could be a way for connecting and fostering our Division activities. This is something we will investigate as to what makes sense for a Division involvement.

Our survey question #13 was an open-ended opportunity for you as our members to provide additional feedback to help steer the direction of the Plant Engineering and Maintenance Division.



We received 272 additional free-form comments, question and suggestions; which we have processed as follows. Similar to the results from question 6, the topic of training, the related topic of knowledge transfer, represented the majority of these responses.

In summary, thank you again for your participation in our 2010 Division survey. If you have any questions regarding the survey or its results, feel free to contact any member of the PEMD Executive Committee. We welcome your feedback and offer to volunteer for our revitalization effort of the ASME Plant Engineering and Maintenance Division.

Sincerely,

Eric Huston  
 Chair, ASME Plant Engineering and Maintenance Division (2010-2011)

Reference Links:

PEMD website: <http://divisions.asme.org/PEMD/PEMD>

Executive Committee:

[http://divisions.asme.org/PEMD/Executive\\_Committee.cfm](http://divisions.asme.org/PEMD/Executive_Committee.cfm)