



The WV STEM Club is a social organization which meets monthly for lunch with a speaker on a topic of interest. Short field trips are occasionally scheduled. Membership is open to anyone who has worked in or has an interest in Engineering, Science or Technology. Meetings are held at 11:30am on the first Friday of each month (unless otherwise noted), October through June, at Grandview Terrace, in the fourth-floor ballroom, at 14515 W. Granite Valley Drive, Sun City West, AZ. **Guests and visitors are always welcome.** Contact Phil Main: maintwin3@gmail.com, 623-826-0101 (cell).

FEBRUARY 6 PROGRAM

Modern AI: What Should Surprise Engineers and What Shouldn't

**Gautam Dasarathy,
ASU Electrical Engineering**



Gautam Dasarathy is an assistant professor in the [School of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering](#) at the [Arizona State University](#). Before this, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at [Rice University](#) where he worked with [Rich Baraniuk](#).

And prior to that, Dasarathy was at the Machine Learning Department at [Carnegie Mellon University](#) where he worked with [Aarti Singh](#).

Dasarathy received his master's degree and doctorate in electrical engineering in 2010 and 2014, respectively, from the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#), where he was advised by [Rob Nowak](#) and [Stark Draper](#). Before that, he received his bachelor's degree in electronics and communication engineering in 2008 from [VIT University](#).

Presentation

- Modern AI: What Should Surprise Engineers and What Shouldn't

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gary Graunke

This is the time of year when we raise money to be able to offer several scholarships to students completing their associate degree and are enrolling in a math, science, or engineering program at Arizona State University. It is our honor and privilege to be able to contribute to those that will continue the legacy of improving our understanding of the world we live in and apply that knowledge to improve our quality of life. Soon our scholarship committee will be interviewing candidates, and we will invite the recipients to our May meeting.

Please remember to renew your membership for 2026 if you have not already done so. Half of our dues go to the scholarship fund.

The National Society of Professional Engineers is looking for volunteers to proctor or grade test questions at their annual MATHCOUNTS competition the morning of Saturday, February 14, from 9 AM to 1 PM. If interested, contact Steven Nowaczyk (snowaczyk@socotec.us or 602-819-0749). The event is held at the Ninyo and Moore offices at 3202 East Harbour Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85034.

Our schedule at Grandview has been confirmed through June. One change of note is that due to the Easter weekend, we will be meeting Wednesday, April 1 (no fooling) instead of the first Friday.

Our next board meeting will be Monday, February 16, at 9:30 at the Grandview Terrace Café meeting room. All members are welcome to volunteer for the board—your diverse skills and experience help us be a better organization!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 6, April 1 (Wednesday), May 1, June 5

SPEAKERS NEEDED

If you or someone you know will provide a STEM presentation for a future meeting, please contact

Jim at js3820@msn.com.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The West Valley STEM Club is continuing our Annual Scholarship Fund Donation Event at our meetings. Please consider contributing!

WEST VALLEY STEM February 2026

2026 OFFICERS

President	Gary Graunke
Vice President	Bob Parizek
Secretary	Marilyn Dumond
Treasurer	Carol Mungus
Asst. Treas.	Dave Campbell

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs	Jim Schlenvogt/ Peter Rauen/ Rick Cecil
Membership	Steve Sumner
Reservations	Philip Main/ Maggie Williamson
Luncheons	Jim Schlenvogt
Scholarship	Jim Schlenvogt
Member at Large	Betty Goldberg
Newsletter	Dave and Karen Campbell
Website	Gary Graunke
Event Audio/Computer	Paul Scherer
Publicity	Lance Berglund
Field Trips	Bob Parizek
Past President	Jim Schlenvogt

Email the Board at: js3820@msn.com

MARCH 6 PROGRAM

The Semiconductor Industry in Metro Phoenix

Thomas Maynard, GPEC Senior Vice President of Business Development, Greater Phoenix Economic Council



Thomas Maynard, the GPEC Senior Vice President of Business Development, has been with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council since August 2013. Thomas co-manages the Business Development team and oversees GPEC's international business attraction efforts. Over the years, Thomas has worked with hundreds of companies evaluating Greater Phoenix, ranging from Fortune 500 companies to startups.

Thomas is served as an Honorary Commander from 2022-2024, a unique program that pairs community members with leaders from Luke AFB. He also serves on NAIOP's Developing Leader Steering Committee.

Thomas was named to the 2020 list of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers and was recognized a 40 under 40 Economic Developers Class of 2021. Thomas is an Arizona native, grew up in Tucson and graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in journalism with a focus in public relations.

Tom will speak on the history of the semiconductor industry in Metro Phoenix and what is happening now and into the future.

TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 2026

Gross General Fund Balance	\$9,747
Net Fund Balance (after payment of obligations)	\$8,902
Membership	106

The 50/50 was won by Wayne Walker who donated it to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you for your support!

JANUARY 2 PROGRAM

Secure Communication Applying Lessons from Cryptography to Everyday Life Gary Graunke , Retired



2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for 2026 are \$25.00 of which half goes to the Scholarship Fund. **Please consider making an additional donation to the Scholarship Fund** (put scholarship in the memo line). Please mail your check(s), made out to West Valley STEM to:

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Sun City West, AZ 85375-5148
maintwin3@gmail.com ,
623-748-8222 (Home)