

Montana Society of Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers



Founded 1887

President's Message:

Crystal Kuntz, PE, President

This month, I thought I might provide a simple update on some of the latest goings-on of the MSE Board. This year we are, yet again, dealing with some latent issues of past. State-only membership, though officially passed by SSPE National has yet to fully materialize throughout all the paperwork. The board is currently executing a memorandum of understanding with NSPE National which outlines the roles and responsibilities associated with the representation of NSPE through our local MSE. Overall, the understanding is relatively benign, outlining such items as use of the NSPE logo etc. None-the-less, the execution of this memorandum will require an addendum to accommodate for state-only membership.

Second, our board continues to pursue the concept of offering a PE study course to our Montana members. Preliminary research has indicated that there are many viable options for this including participation on well-established existing courses. There are options for online, self-study or even live instructor based courses. All of these options have varying degrees of attractiveness and associated cost. Overall, as a board, we have many avenues available to us but a limited budget with which to pursue such an action. In addition, there are many questions that still remain unanswered on this issue. We are wondering how effective some of these presentation methodologies might be (web vs self-study vs live instructor etc.) as well as what is the overall demand for this type of service in Montana and what is the general volume of folks that would pursue an option such as this. On this issue, these are but a few of

the many questions that remain unanswered on this issue.

Perhaps some peers of the general membership wish to weigh in on the subject? If MSE were to offer PE preparatory courses, what kind of need is there out there? What type of presentation would best meet the overall expectations? Our board, as always, welcomes any input, comments or suggestions on the matter as we continue to discuss the merits and issues of the various options.

On the final front, MSE's support of the Joint Engineer's Conference and the Engineering Hall of Fame Induction were both highly successful again this year and we look forward to another successful MATHCOUNTS year. We can all count ourselves privileged to work with such a cast of outstanding colleagues in the engineering profession.

In general, your MSE Board continues to work diligently on the issues associated with the A/E industry. We will continue to monitor the actions of the State Licensing Board and discuss the merits of various proposals as they come forth. As items arise that may prove of interest to the general membership, we will continue to present these items to the general membership for consideration and comment.

I look forward to the remainder of my term with the MSE Board and all of the good things to come. Here's wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2011.

December, 2010

“State-only membership, though officially passed by SSPE National has yet to fully materialize throughout all the paperwork.”

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Montana MathCounts Updates

Dan Munson, PE, MathCounts State & Billings Chapter Coordinator

Competition Time

We are less than 2 months away from our 2011 MATHCOUNTS chapter competitions. Check out the schedule below to find out when in February your local chapter competition will be held. Then call or e-mail the chapter coordinator and volunteer some time to help out with the competition. We only need a few hours of your time during that day, but it's time well spent. You will see young brainpower in action, and get to see the next generation of engineers at work. You won't regret it! We look forward to hearing from you!

MATHCOUNTS Support

If you haven't already contributed to the Montana MATHCOUNTS program with a financial donation, please consider it. Montana MATHCOUNTS is a nonprofit organization primarily supported by local engineers and engineering based companies. To keep the quality of the program high, and the middle school registration fees low, we are totally dependent on the generosity of our state sponsors. We trust that you will see the benefit in helping us out. Donations should be sent directly to:

Montana MATHCOUNTS Foundation
P.O. Box 20996
Billings, MT 59104-0996

Thanks for your help and kindness.

2009-2010 Montana MathCounts

Corporate Sponsors

American Public Works Association—

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Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

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Stillwater Mining Company

Western Energy Company

Westmoreland Resources, Inc.

WGM Group

Yellowstone Electric Company

AlSCO—American Linen Division

Interesting MATHCOUNTS Statistics

- 85% of Mathletes who compete at the state level go on to pursue a STEM field of study in college (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)
- 76% of Mathletes who compete at the state level score a 1400 or higher on the Math and Verbal sections of their SATs.
- The top five majors for Mathletes who compete at the state level are in this order: mathematics, computer science, electrical engineering, biology and chemical engineering

MATHCOUNTS Contacts/Competitions

North Central Chapter

Wednesday—February 2, 2011
MSU-Great Falls - Heritage Hall
Bill Burkland, Coordinator
bill@rpa-hln.com

Missoula Chapter

Tuesday—February 8, 2011
University of Missoula—Ballroom
Troy Monroe, Coordinator
tmonroe@m-m.met

Butte Chapter

Wednesday—February 9, 2011
War Bonnet Inn
Sandra Anderson, Coordinator
sandra_andersondavid@hotmail.com

Kalispell Chapter

Friday—February 11, 2011
Flathead Valley Community College
Vicki Neill, Coordinator
Vicki.Neill@northwestern.com

Billings Chapter

Friday—February 11, 2011
MSU Billings - Liberal Arts Building
Dan Munson, Coordinator
Dan.Munson@northwestern.com

Eastern Montana Chapter

Wednesday—February 16, 2011
Dawson County HS Auditorium
Mike Hunter, Coordinator
hunter@dawson.edu

Bozeman Chapter

Tuesday—February 8, 2011
MSU—SUB - Ballroom D
Jerry Stephens, Coordinator
jerrys@coe.montana.edu

State Competition

Wednesday—March 9, 2011
MSU—SUB - Ballroom A
Dan Munson, State Coordinator
Dan.Munson@northwestern.com

“The top five majors for Mathletes who compete at the state level are in this order: mathematics, computer science, electrical engineering, biology and chemical engineering.”



Crystal Kuntz, PE, President & Chair of JEC

This year's JEC was again a success. For 2010, the conference offered six full tracks across two and one-half days totaling up to 15 PDH's. Over 70 speakers offered their expertise to make our conference a diverse one. A highlight this year included the technical tour of Canyon Ferry and Hauser Dams. The technical tours, as offered over the last two years, have come as a result of comments received from conference registrants.

For 2011, our website continues to improve as we work the bugs out and attempt to better define the scope of our overall conference and the audience that it serves. Our JEC committee continues to

solidify and is looking forward to a great 2011. Last year we had so many speaker proposals that we were forced to turn down some offerings (a nice problem to have eh?).

This year, we hope to find ourselves in the same quandary. The JEC website will open in January to accept speaker proposals for the 2011 conference. Following the close of the proposal acceptance (March 31, 2011) the conference committee will evaluate the offerings to select the overall best proposals for inclusion in the published agenda. Remember to enter your JEC session proposal early! Thank you to all the members of the 2011 JEC Committee – I look forward to working with you.

Key JEC Dates:

January 1 – March 31, 2011 = JEC open for Session Proposals
April 1 – April 30, 2011 = JEC Committee Evaluation of Session Proposals
May 1, 2011 = 2011 JEC Agenda Published
September 1, 2011 = Registration for JEC 2011 Opens

Helena Engineering Club (HEC)

Stephen Smith, PE, President Elect

Ken Phillips and Stephen Smith, representing MSE, joined Gary Fisher and Chris Laity (members of ASCE) on December 3 to discuss reformulating a Helena Engineers Club (HEC). Club purposes include education, networking, encouraging new engineers, and fun. Membership will be open to any engineer, engineering student, or person working in or interested in engineering, whether or not affiliated with another engineering organization, within the greater Helena area. We intend to meet approximately monthly, on the third Thursday of each month.

Our first, inaugural meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20th, 11:30 to

1:30 at Chili's in Helena. That meeting will not have a guest speaker. Rather, its purpose will be to introduce ourselves to each other and decide what, as an organization, we want to be. Ideas include sponsoring one or more scholarships and developing a relationship with the Carroll College Engineers without Borders student chapter. Guest speakers will be planned for future meetings. If you would like to attend or be included on the HEC email list, please notify Stephen Smith at stephentsmith@wildblue.net or Gary Fisher at GFischer@carroll.edu or Ken Phillips at kphillips@mt.gov. Please also share this information with those that may be interested. Thank you.

“The JEC website will open in January to accept speaker proposals for the 2011 conference.”

“HEC first, inaugural meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20th, 11:30 to 1:30 at Chili's in Helena.”

Professional Engineers Hall of Fame: Wilbur J. Bennington Inducted

Doug Brekke, Chair of PE Hall of Fame

At the 2010 Montana Engineers Honors Awards Banquet held on Wednesday—November 3 at the Joint Engineers Conference, Wilbur J. Bennington was honored as this year's inductee into the Professional Engineers Hall of Fame.

Wilbur J. Bennington, A.I.A., P.E. served as structural engineer, principal and executive for CTA Architects and Engineers from 1950 to 1980. During 30 years he held many positions with CTA, including Chairman and Executive Director.

CTA began as Cushing and Terrell in 1938 and provided both architectural and engineering services. Bennington was the only staff engineer until 1967. By 1980 the firm grew to 60 design professionals. Today CTA has 350 employees working in sixteen branch offices.

Bennington was structural engineer or supervised engineering for numerous health and education facilities in several states. He worked on projects for Montana State University, Montana State University - Billings, Rocky Mountain College, and the College of Southern Idaho. He was recognized as a technical leader in double-wythe reinforced brick masonry mid-rise design, driven and injected foundation systems, structural steel design, and structural concrete systems.

Bennington initiated CTA's Peer Review Type Management, gaining insight from national firms outside the region and hiring management consultants to improve operations,

organization and quality of services. He was the catalyst for CTA's emergence as a regional service provider with a national presence.

For his career of service and leadership dedicated to the advancement of structural engineering and to the development of a premier architectural and engineering company in Montana, Wilbur J. Bennington is inducted into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame.

Each spring, MSE will announce a call for nomination for consideration for induction into the PE Hall of Fame. Inductees are honored at the JEC each November at the Montana Engineers Honors Awards Banquet. Plaques honoring the inductees are displayed in Roberts Hall at the Montana State University College of Engineering in Bozeman. The PE Hall of Fame began in 2002 and the following professional engineers have been inducted:

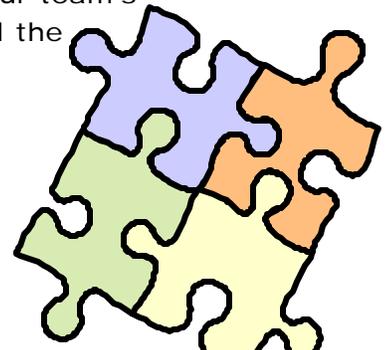
- Ben F. Hurlbut, PE (November 2002)
- John H. Morrison, PE, LS (November 2002)
- Leland J. Walker, PE (November 2003)
- W. Paul Schmechel, PE (November 2003)
- Harold S "Sonny" Hanson, PE (November 2004)
- Robert L. Sanks, PhD, PE (November 2005)
- Eldon R. Dodge, PhD, PE (November 2006)
- Joseph A. Maierle, PE, LS (November 2006)
- Fred F. Videon, PhD, PE (November 2007)
- Daniel T. Berube, PE (November 2008)
- Willis J. Wetstein, PE (November 2009)
- Wilbur J Bennington, AIA, PE (November 2010)

“Plaques honoring the inductees are displayed in Roberts Hall at the Montana State University College of Engineering in Bozeman.”

Is Something Missing From Your Ethics Training?

NSPE now offers *customized* training presentations, seminars, keynotes and Web seminars for engineering firms, government agencies, and other institutions of all sizes and areas of practice. NSPE General Counsel and engineering ethics expert Arthur Schwartz will work with you to create the optimal program needed to increase your team's engineering ethics awareness — and put all the pieces together.

Visit www.nspe.org/ethics,
or contact Arthur Schwart at
aschwartz@nspe.org.



NSPE House of Delegates: What is It?

Ken Phillips, PE, Immediate Past-President & MSE HOD Representative

Several years ago NSPE changed their governance and created the House of Delegates as a way of State's providing direction to the Board of Directors. As the Board of Director's are responsible for the day to day operations of NSPE, the House of Delegates acts much like the House of Representatives to give direction to The Board of Directors. The House of Delegates was started roughly around 5 years ago. Jeff Ruffner was Montana's first delegate for a 3 year term and now I have been the Montana delegate for two years. Delegates serve two year terms (with the exception of the three year term the first delegates had) and they term limit out after serving two terms. I was elected because I was the president – elect two years ago and NSPE was offering free governance training for the president elects. Thus it was agreed by the Board that I would represent NSPE for a term.

Once a year NSPE has its annual conference. This conference has some CEU training, young engineers meetings, practice group meetings and the main draw which is the leadership conference. On Saturday they have the House of Delegates meeting and that is a formal governance meeting that includes, budget approval, officer elections and By-law changes. They also have luncheon topics as well as evening socials.

As a delegate your involvement with the conference starts in the spring as the delegates and the State Leadership are on a listserv in which governance items are discussed and debated. The information from the listserv prepares the delegate for the upcoming conference. This gives you the background information you need and allows discussion with the State leadership so that Montana can be well represented.

The Leadership conference is held on Thursday and Friday and it is geared for the President Elects of State Chapters but many Presidents, Past Presidents and Delegates attend. One day is usually spent on some type of team building exercise and then one day is spent on open discussions of issues between the State and the National Leadership. Last year we had a presentation on nonprofit group reporting requirements and a luncheon on developing an "elevator speech" for NSPE. On Friday we had an open forum in the morning and in the afternoon we had a session of adding value

to NSPE ending with fund raiser/State only membership debate.

The Fund raiser/debate was at 3 in the afternoon. It consisted of buying \$5 tokens for beers which the proceeds went to NSPE PAC and then a very hot debate on State only versus 3 tiered memberships. This is an extremely emotional subject that has been discussed for at least three years now (see previous articles) and I feared the introduction of beer would lead to emotions running higher than ever. Luckily cooler heads prevailed and no fist flied but there were tears brought to the microphone. **The people that are delegates and State Leadership feel very strongly about Professional Engineering and the fate of NSPE.**

Being just like the House of Representatives, the NSPE House of Delegates has Caucuses. The Caucuses are not republican/democrat they are more regional specific. Montana is part of the Western/Pacific Region and on Thursday evening we meet to listen to candidates running for National office and discuss any hot button issues like the State versus 3 tiered debate.

Saturday is the day for the House of Delegates. You get up and get your fancy Sunday go to meeting clothes on and enter the hall of Delegates. The States are seated alphabetically and you find your seat by looking at the seating chart and then looking for your little flag. So I sit there proudly behind Oro Y Plata feeling proud to represent Montana. Typically after the role is called and introductions are made, folks from all across the world come and introduce themselves. This year South Korea, Japan, Canada and the Pan American engineering groups attended and gave their support to NSPE as the voice of Professional Engineers.

After introductions we get down to budget approval, elections and rule making. Each State gets one vote for every 500 members. So Montana gets 1 vote and big States like California get 6 votes. You vote by holding up your paddle for yea or nea and they then tally them up. This year we finally passed the State only option after three years. It was a very challenging vote and took up the entire session in 2009 so this year we all had met and worked out something that would pass and it did after the first vote.

“The States are seated alphabetically and you find your seat by looking at the seating chart and then looking for your little flag. So I sit there proudly behind Oro Y Plata feeling proud to represent Montana..”

“Please contact the MSE Office if you are interested in representing the Montana Society of Engineers in the NSPE HOD.”

“Often we hear “what can MSE do for me?” This is the wrong attitude when considering membership with MSE. Members of MSE are doers.”

“Please contact the MSE Office if you are interested in representing the Montana Society of Engineers in the NSPE HOD.”

From the MSE Office

The Montana Society of Engineers is made up of a small but dedicated group of professional engineers. If one of your goals for the 2011 is join a professional organization or society, MSE should be one that you consider. Often we hear “what can MSE do for me?” This is the wrong attitude when considering membership with MSE. Members of MSE are doers. Many in this group help promote and sponsor MathCOUNTS for 6th, 7th & 8th graders — the future of the engineering profession. Others oversee and move the JEC forward each year—helping create a conference that all member societies can be proud to be a part of each year. Another project that came from a MSE member was the PE Hall of Fame (thank you—Doug Brekke). Others have worked on developing the website: www.mtengineers.org. What new frontier or project would you like to see offered — developed for the future of professional engineer? How would you like to see MSE evolve in the future? If this sounds like who you are — you should consider joining MSE in 2011.

The MSE Office will be closed from December 24, 2010—January 3, 2011.
We wish all you a Merry Christmas and Happy & Prosperous New Year!

2011 Joint Engineer Conference November 2-4, 2011 Helena, Montana

NSPE House of Delegates:

What is It?

—Continued from page 5

After lunch is a special time, you are lined up in one of two rows depending on your State. The delegates march from the luncheon through the conference facilities following a bag piper into the Hall. You then stop in front of a large flag of your State on the side of the hall and stand at attention. The oath of the engineers is read and then the new National leadership is sworn in. It is a very formal procession and fairly touching. The day goes on until 5PM or so and then we ended the session with a reception for the new President.

I have enjoyed my term as Delegate for Montana but it is time for a new term for House of Delegates so if you have ever wanted to get more involved with NSPE

2010-2011 MSE Board

Crystal Kuntz, President

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Steven T. Smith, President-Elect

stephentsmith@earthlink.net

Michael J. Cech, Vice President

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Kenneth Phillips, Immediate Past President

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Connie Dempster, *Executive Secretary*

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Deadline for the Next
Issue of this Newsletter is
March 10, 2010

Submit articles and advertising to
mse@assoc-mgt.com

nationally and enjoy meeting people with a firm conviction to the practice of engineering, then please contact me and I can give you more information. You can also go online to the NSPE website www.NSPE.org and look at the past conference agendas. The upcoming conference will be in Las Vegas in July. Anyone interested should contact one of the board members before the March meeting to get on the agenda.

A travel stipend is given by NSPE and MSE which will cover most if not all of your travel expenses. This is a two year term — a great opportunity to understand issues facing engineers across the country.