President’s Message:
Another Legislative Session Quickly Approaching

Brian Schultz, PE, President

It seems cliché to say, but it really is amazing to think another year has come and almost gone and 2015 is quickly rushing upon us! I hope it has been a productive and fruitful year for all of our members, and your Board would like you to know how much we appreciate your loyalty to MSE. As we enter another legislative session in the great State of Montana, it should be another exciting year for MSE and its members with plenty of opportunities for all of you to step up and offer support for your profession when the calls go out!

As I hope most of you are aware, we will be partnering with ASCE and ASHRAE in 2015 to employ Jennifer and Darryl James as representatives of our associations who will keep us up to date on the happenings at the 64th Legislative Session. We had the pleasure of hearing from these two accomplished individuals at our General Membership Meeting back in November, and hopefully many of you took the opportunity at the JEC to hear the James’ sneak peak of what issues might show up in the year to come. One important bill that will be presented by request from the Department of Labor and Industry will seek to make changes to our current licensing laws for PE’s and PLS’s. A draft copy of this bill is available by contacting your MSE Board or Connie Dempster if you haven’t already been emailed a copy. Please read through this bill and be sure to pass on any thoughts and concerns to the Board, as we will be working to form our position on the support of this bill in the very near future. You can also contact David Elias with your State Licensing Board with any comments as well. David was gracious enough again this year to present on this topic at our General Membership Meeting as well.

The JEC was, again, a great success this year! Many thanks go out to the JEC Committee for continually putting on a well-organized, professional, engineering conference. The MSE track was very solid this year and had a great turnout for all of its speakers. For those of you unable to attend this year’s conference, I would strongly encourage you to participate in the future. The conference offers great opportunities not only for getting your PDH’s, but for quality educational options, great networking experiences, the chance to attend your society’s annual membership meetings, and the general encouragement of being around fellow professional engineers working together to improve the safety, health, and quality of life for those who live in our wonderful state. Please be encouraged by that last point; the JEC is not the type of conference that happens in every state in this country, it is truly one-of-a-kind!

We were also honored again by the presence of Mr. Robert A. Green at both our General Membership Meeting and for a session of the JEC. Mr. Green is now the Past President of the National Society of Professional Engineers and had first visited MSE and the JEC two years earlier as a Vice President at the time. I very much appreciated the more detailed explanations he was able to provide to our society on the issues surrounding NCEES’s Model Law and early PE test taking for licensure, changes that many states across the country are considering moving towards.

I hope you all take time to enjoy the Christmas Season, and as you return back to work in 2015 please consider how you might get involved to help support your profession through MSE. There will be opportunities to support our efforts during the coming Legislative Session, chances to volunteer at local and the State MATHCOUNTS competitions, and you would always be welcome to join and support the JEC Committee with new speaker and track ideas. We wish you all another productive and fruitful year in 2015!

December, 2014

“One important bill that will be presented by request from the Department of Labor and Industry will seek to make changes to our current licensing laws for PE’s and PLS’s. … Please read through this bill and be sure to pass on any thoughts and concerns to the Board, as we will be working to form our position on the support of this bill in the very near future.”

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The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) initiated the MATHCOUNTS program thirty-one years ago. Montana Society of Engineers (MSE) has been offering the MATHCOUNTS Competition Program to Montana middle school students for THIRTY years!

The mission of MATHCOUNTS is to secure America’s global competitiveness; MATHCOUNTS inspires excellence, confidence, and curiosity in U.S. middle school students through fun and challenging math programs.

MSE coordinates and sponsors Montana MATHCOUNTS on a very limited budget. The only paid participant is the executive secretary, and much of her time is donated for this project. It has been gratifying to see engineers and others from across the state donating their time to organize and to conduct the chapter and state competitions in order that Montana may be represented at the National Competition. However, due to the great distances in Montana and the cost of conducting 7 chapter competitions and 1 state competition, MATHCOUNTS is a relatively expensive program for MSE to fund. For this reason, MSE is requesting assistance to keep the program in place.

"Of all the math competitions available, there is no doubt that MATHCOUNTS is the premier program I get my students involved in." - a Billings Middle School Math Teacher

Without the support of our individual and corporate donors, we would not be able to offer this incredible program to hundreds of Montana middle school students each year. We need your help! Please join us as we strive to meet our fundraising goals!
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:
This past season, MATHCOUNTS materials were offered to every middle school and home school in Montana. We estimate that over 1000 middle school students indirectly benefitted from the MATHCOUNTS program. Of that number, 532 students from 72 schools around the state registered for the MATHCOUNTS competitions and were directly involved in the program in 2013-2014 season.

National statistics show:
• 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: mathematics, computer science, electrical engineering, biology and chemical engineering.

Where the $s GO!

Chapter Competitions 44%
Fund Raising 2%
National Expenses 15%
Office Expenses 7%
State Competition 32%

Each donation may be tax-deductible and each donor receives an acknowledgement of their donation.* Make your check payable to the MATHCOUNTS FOUNDATION and mail to:

MSE Montana MATHCOUNTS
Attn: Connie Dempster
PO Box 20996
Billings, MT 59104-0996

* Contributions to the MATHCOUNTS Foundation, 501 (c)(3) charitable Foundation, may be tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. Please check with your personal tax advisors regarding the deductibility of your gift.

THANK YOU for your generous support!

This is a GREAT group to JOIN:


Founding Sponsors: National Society of Professional Engineers, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and CNA Foundation

For MORE Montana MATHCOUNTS Information:  www.mtengineers.org/MATHCOUNTS.html
Montana Professional Engineers
Hall of Fame 2014 Inductee
Lewis M. Chittim, P.E., L.S.

Sponsored by the Montana Society of Engineers

Lewis M. Chittim, P.E., L.S. held numerous positions with the Montana Department of Highways (MDH). He served as Right of Way Engineer (1959-1965), Construction Engineer (1965-1967), and Chief Highway Engineer (1967-1972). Chittim first worked on an MHD survey crew when he was in high school.

Chittim was appointed by Governor Tim Babcock to oversee the start of the Montana Interstate Highway System. He worked on Interstate Highway 15, which included Wolf Creek Canyon between Great Falls and Helena. During construction of I-90 near Bozeman, he approved the use of concrete, in response to price gouging by asphalt contractors.

Chittim worked on roads and bridges in Saigon, Vietnam (1972-1975). He coordinated construction and design with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and local contractors. He finished his career by developing international business for Morrison-Maierle, Inc. (1975-1986).

For his career as an outstanding engineer, surveyor, and administrator; Lewis Chittim is inducted into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame.

Plaques honoring the inductees are displayed in Roberts Hall at the Montana State University College of Engineering in Bozeman and online at www.mtengineers.org.

Lewis M. Chittim, a construction and highway engineer who played a notable role in the development of Montana's interstate highways, will be posthumously inducted into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Helena on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014.
From the MSE Office

Lobbyists Jennifer and Darryl James will be monitoring the 2015 Legislative Session for MSE, ASCE and ASHRAE. Weekly or as needed reports will be shared via email for those that are interested. Please contact the MSE office and I would be happy to add you to the email list.

The last page of this newsletter lists all of the MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competitions scheduled in February with each Chapter’s Coordinators. These events take a number of volunteers to run smoothly — scorers for the Scoring Room are always in demand. If you can spare the time for a competition in your area, please contact the Coordinator. The couple of hours that you expend will be well rewarded—it’s fun and they give you the answers.

The MSE Office will be closed from December 22 until January 5. Hopefully this does not inconvenience anyone. It continues to be a great pleasure to serve MSE and you the members. Thank you for the opportunity.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you, your family and your firm.
Connie

2014-2015 MSE Board

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2015 JEC Update!

YES! You read that correctly. The plans for the 2015 JEC are already underway. If you had plans to download any speaker handouts from the 2014 JEC — please do so soon. These handouts will be taken down on December 15, 2014.

The JEC site will open on January 1, 2015 for speakers to submit presentations for consideration at the 2015 JEC! At this same time, vendor opportunities for exhibitors will open. There will be 25 spaces — these spaces SOLD out by June 2014 — don’t wait to long to get signed up.

JEC Committee members will be selecting presentations for their tracks in March with slots being assigned by end of April. Speakers will be notified shortly after as to whether their presentation were accepted or not. Letters confirming accommodations and travel plans will be mailed in July. Anyone that presents at the JEC will receive a free registration to the conference, travel expenses — including motel room nights.

Early registration will open to all attendees on September 1st. Early registration pricing expires on September 30th. Registration to attend the 2015 JEC will CLOSE at midnight on the Sunday evening prior to the start of the JEC — in 2015 this will be November 1.

The JEC is always the first Wednesday-Thursday-Friday of November. In 2015, that will be November 4-6 in Helena at the Red Lion Colonial Inn. For more information, you can always visit www.mtengineers.org.

The PE Magazine link is http://www.nspe.org/PEmagazine/index.html

Please bookmark and share this link with your colleagues — it is packed full of PE news.

Joint Engineers Conference:
www.mtengineers.org
CHAPTER COMPETITIONS

North Central Chapter
Wednesday - February 4, 2015
Great Falls College MSU - Heritage Hall
Contact:
Bill Burkland, Coordinator
Phone: 406-447-5054
e-mail: bill@rpa-hln.com

Eastern Montana Chapter
Tuesday - February 10, 2015
Dawson Community College
Contact:
Mike Hunter, Coordinator
Phone: 406-377-9433
e-mail: hunter@dawson.edu

Kalispell Chapter
Friday - February 13, 2015
Flathead Valley Community College
Contact:
Jason Williams, Coordinator
Phone: 406-751-4420
email: j.williams@flathead.coop

Billings Chapter
Friday - February 20, 2015
MSU Billings - Student Union
Contact:
Dan Munson, Coordinator
Phone: 406-655-2540
Dan.Munson@northwestern.com

Western Montana Chapter
Tuesday - February 10, 2015
University of MT - North Ballroom
Contact:
Janet Grove, Coordinator
Phone: 406-239-1299
e-mail: littlejanetg@gmail.com

Bozeman Chapter
Thursday - February 5, 2015
MSU Bozeman-SUB Ballroom C
Contact:
Jerry Stephens, Coordinator
Phone: 406-994-6113
e-mail: jerrys@coe.montana.edu

Butte Chapter
Tuesday - February 3, 2015
Montana Tech - Butte
Contact:
Sandra Anderson, Coordinator
Phone: 406-494-8639
Cell: 406-868-0090
sandra_andersondavid@hotmail.com

STATE COMPETITION

Friday - March 20, 2015
Montana Tech - Butte, Montana
Contact:
Dan Munson, State Coordinator
Phone: 406-655-2540
Dan.Munson@northwestern.com

Specific information about each Chapter competition will be sent to all registered schools from its’ Chapter Coordinator prior to the competition. Those schools that qualify to advance to State will be notified prior to the State competition about the specifics.

Montana MATHCOUNTS
2014/2015 Coordinators and Competitions


Founding Sponsors: National Society of Professional Engineers, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and CNA Foundation