

# Montana Society of Engineers

*A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers*



**Founded 1887**

## **President's Message:**

*Kenneth Phillips, PE, President*

It's almost summertime and we are a month away from the NSPE annual conference. NSPE's annual conference is geared more towards leadership & governance so it's not a big draw to the average NSPE member. It is in Orlando a vacation hot spot but in my opinion Montana in the summer is such a nice place why would you want to leave here for summer vacation?

As President and House of Delegates representative, I go and fill two roles. The first two days are more for the State leadership typically they try and get the President Elects to attend so they can go over basic roles, rules and responsibilities. This year Crystal has traveled so much for work she passed but as HoD representative I will attend.

They also have events such as the Order of the Engineer induction ceremony and an awards luncheon. This year at the awards luncheon the Montana State Architecture & Engineering Division is the winner of the annual NSPE/ACEC *Qualification Based Selection* award for Governmental agencies. I took some time out with the assistance of Russ Katherman, P.E. to submit the application to get some recognition for Tom O'Connell. He has been working at A&E for 40 years this upcoming December. So hopefully Tom will get a mini vacation in Orlando to receive this award. So if you know Tom send him a congratulatory email.

On Saturday the NSPE House of Delegates meets along with the Board of Directors for NSPE governance meeting. This is where budgets are approved and rules and regulations are voted on. Again for the last few years the issue of "State Only" membership will be voted on. A task force was appointed last year to deal with this issue as the HoD was split down the middle last year with the Nay's narrow lead rejecting State only leaving NSPE to deal with several States's that already have State only members.

**Excerpt of Continuation Task Force Recommendations**

## **IV. SUMMARY – CTF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO NSPE BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

*A summary of the NSPE Continuity Task Force recommendations is as follows:*

- \_ State-Only membership should be an option that State Societies may select to utilize;*
- \_ No State is required to offer State-Only membership; No change from the current status is necessary in States that so choose;*
- \_ States that choose to permit a State-Only option may do so subject to a threshold not to exceed 25% of that State-Society's total membership;*
- \_ National-Only membership shall be permitted in those States that offer State-Only memberships and only in those States;*
- \_ State-Only members shall be referred to as "Associate Members" unless an alternate name is agreed to by the State and National Society;*
- \_ National-Only members shall be referred to as "At-large Members" unless NSPE selects an alternate name;*
- \_ Periodic reviews of State-Only and National-Only membership programs and other related topics shall be performed on a regularly scheduled basis at the commencement of a State-Only program and not less frequently than one meeting in 3 years.*

The biggest issue is that several states like our neighbor in South Dakota have and promote State only membership. In Montana we are silent on State only and promote National first but if someone wants to leave NSPE they can still be a State only member for the low price of \$50. In many States the State only membership is over \$200. So you can see it's costly to be a member in both State & National in other States. I will vote in favor of accepting the recommendations since we are without its passing in violation of NSPE rules and could get penalized for having 6 State only members. We have justified this over the years as Montana Society of Engineers was in existence before NSPE.

In the future if any of our MSE members are interested in Governance let me know. Speaking of governance, I would like to

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**June, 2010**

***"The biggest issue is that several states like our neighbor in South Dakota have and promote State only membership."***

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# Montana at National MathCounts

Dan Munson, P.E., State Coordinator

On May 6th, Montana's MATHCOUNTS Team with Coach Doug Kraft, Kalispell Chapter Coordinator Vicki O'Neill and this year's



**2010 State MATHCOUNTS Winners:** Coach Doug Kraft, Paul Dalenberg, Cayley Boyd, Austin Graef, and Arthur Befumo

MATHCOUNTS Champion Sandy Birrell traveled to Orlando to compete at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition. Paul Dalenberg from Missoula's Washington Middle School and the team included Cayley Boyd from Bozeman's Sacajawea Middle School, Arthur Befumo from Five Valleys Homeschool in Missoula, and Austin Graef from Missoula's Sussex School.

The top five teams at National in order were California, Illinois, Washington, Massachusetts and Indiana. Montana ranked 54. Sandy Birrell provided the following recap of this

year's competition:

Dear Dan,

*I want to thank you and everyone else who made this trip to Nationals possible! It was a lot of fun being surrounded by such math nerds!*

*I volunteered to help grade the tests. An interesting process and I was so glad to see the other side of the competition! I graded Oklahoma's tests. They fed us well with a light breakfast and great lunch! Watching the judges scrutinize some of the answers was eye-opening. I would have*

*declared the answers wrong if it took more than 15 seconds to decide! They were more kind! A wide variety of scorers – Raytheon employees, MATHCOUNTS coordinators of varying levels, friends of these scorers' current and previous coaches.*

*The Countdown Round was amazing to watch. Those students are*

*so fast! I want to do it again with them giving the full 45 seconds - just to prove I can answer the questions! The 12 finalists obviously practice a lot! Glad to see 1 girl in the Countdown - though there should be more! Steve and I also watched the Masters Round. Truly amazing is all I can say!*

*Friday night is for Innoventions.*

*Steve and I did design and ride our 2 roller coaster simulations - though I will admit we didn't come anywhere close to the possible score of 1280 for a maximum thrill! We stepped out for a while to watch the incredible fireworks! I could watch the display every night.*

*After the Masters Round Saturday morning, we spent the day at Epcot enjoying the various venues. "Soaring" - a simulated hang gliding flight was worth the wait. That evening all of us Montanans (plus 2 from Kansas) gathered for dinner. One mom, Laura, is missing from the pic at the table as she was volunteering then. It was strange how I ended up meeting the 2 moms of our team - we randomly sat next to each other at the Countdown Round! Then I met the coordinator from Kalispell during a break from scoring! What a small world. I wasn't expecting to see anyone until dinner! Dinner was great - and especially impressive was the dessert - calculator pencil... - all made from chocolate!*

*After I returned to school and shared some of my experiences, one of my MATHCOUNTS team members declared she was going to become a MATHCOUNTS coach and get the award I did - so she could go to Disney World!*

*THANKS SO MUCH again for such an incredible experience!*

—Sandy Birrell

## 2009-2010 Montana MathCounts

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# Fans of JEC!

Crystal Kuntz, PE, President Elect, JEC Chair

The 2010 Joint Engineers Conference is coming along very well. The conference agenda is complete—there will be a couple of revisions and updates that will need to be made over the next few months. There will be a “DAM TOUR” this year that will include a visit to both Holter and Hauser Dams operated by PPL. Details will be revealed when JEC Registration goes live on September 1st.

A new addition this year is a project management track lead by the Montana Chapter of the Project Management Institute. Attendance at these sessions will count toward the education requirement to achieve your PMP if so desired. We are also glad to have this group as a new sponsoring society to the JEC. They have already shown a very active participation by bringing forth speakers for 4 sessions at this conference! Good job!

This year, the MT PE & LS Licensing Board will again host a “town hall” style meeting during the Thursday lunch break to gather input from folks regarding various issues and the Board will resume their tradition of meeting during the JEC.

This year, we will again perpetuate some successful elements of the past. Societies will be invited to meet during the

lunch break on Friday during the conference if they so choose. Last year, it was reported that the societies saw record attendance at this time and we look forward to this continued trend. It should also be noted that active participation in your society at the officer or committee level counts as 2 PDHs toward your continuing professional competency requirements (that’s per society my friends....so get involved!!).

Another item to note includes the Engineering Honors Banquet. This banquet is held each year during the JEC to honor those who have contributed greatly to the engineering society. This year’s banquet will be held on Wednesday evening, November 3, 2010 during the JEC. If your group or society would like to present any awards or recognize their members during this event we encourage you to participate. Please contact Doug Brekke ([dib@5400.tv](mailto:dib@5400.tv)) or myself ([crystal.kuntz@eciblgs.com](mailto:crystal.kuntz@eciblgs.com)) and we will ensure that you are added to the banquet program. This evening is a great opportunity for your small group or company to honor those that have contributed greatly without all the planning and expense of a separate event – so take advantage!

There are still vendor opportunities both for a booth or to sponsor an event . For more information visit [www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org) and click on JEC Registration button. Delegate registration will go live on September 1st — **MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

## For 2010 Joint Engineer Conference and other engineering news: Visit: [www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org)

### President’s Message

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thank Bill Boger of Kalispell for volunteering to be on the Board. He is running for our secretary/treasurer position. He did share some concern about availability as future workloads are hard to predict but as board members we all have these issues and if a board member gets in a tight spot we can certainly shift things to accommodate. Thanks Bill.

Oh yea don’t forget to vote; Connie just sent out the ballots and although it looks like it’s just a rubber stamp, all of the board members

volunteer their time and by casting your ballot you show that you do care and support all of them. Also, think about being involved. This is my last year as House of Delegate and that position will be available starting next summer. It’s a very interesting position much like being the sole Representative to our National Congress. As a small state society we need folks that are willing to help promote Professional Engineering.

Have a great summer and if you have any questions or comments as always feel free to contact me at [kennethphillips@bresnan.net](mailto:kennethphillips@bresnan.net). Thank all of you for helping make Montana the nicest place on the planet.

**“Societies will be invited to meet during the lunch break on Friday during the conference if they so choose.”**

**“Oh yea don’t forget to vote . . .”**

# ***MSE Gold Medal Award***

*Stephen Smith, P.E., Vice President*

Each year for nearly 100 years, MSE has worked with the Montana State University (MSU) College of Engineering to provide the Gold Medal Award to an outstanding graduating engineering senior. Each spring the College of Engineering requests that departments submit one nomination from each engineering discipline. The criteria used to select outstanding seniors are:

- Distinguished academic record,
- Involvement in extracurricular activities,
- Leadership in extracurricular activities,
- Commitment to the practical use of the sciences in the execution of engineering work,
- Promise of service to their profession with integrity, devotion to high standards, and a sense of obligation to humanity.

A college selection committee, comprised of faculty, staff, and students, reviews all of the nominations submitted and selects three finalists. Members of the Montana Society of Engineers then interview the finalists to select the winner. The winner was announced by President Waded Cruzado at the College of Engineering's Commencement Ceremony following the Main Commencement Ceremony on May 8.

This April 14<sup>th</sup>, Mike Cech and Stephen Smith had the privilege of interviewing three outstanding candidates: Katy Hansen for Industrial Engineering, Jennifer Hane for Electrical Engineering, and Marques Jones for Chemical and Biological Engineering. We truly enjoyed meeting each individual and believe each will contribute importantly to our profession and to society throughout their careers. However, we had to select only one for the award.

We agreed that Marques Jones most exemplified the selection criteria. Marques is a great student with a 3.74 GPA. Marques pursued his education with amazing dedication while also serving in the Montana Army National Guard, including an 18 month deployment to Iraq, completing a one year engineering internship, and raising a family. His commitment to service and leadership are illustrated by his active roles with the Designing Our Communities Program, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, the Science Olympiad Junkyard Challenge, and many others. He was set to take his EIT and is planning to obtain his Professional Engineer certificate as soon as feasible. He is looking forward to starting his professional career as an engineer in the petroleum industry.

We predict a very bright future for Marques, as well as for the other candidates.

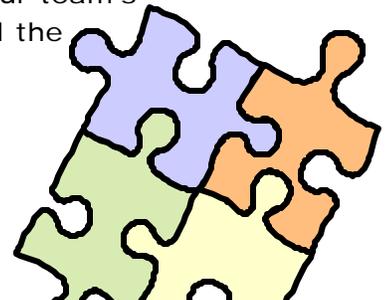
***“Marques Jones most exemplified the selection criteria. Marques is a great student with a 3.74 GPA. Marques pursued his education with amazing dedication while also serving in the Montana Army National Guard, including an 18 month deployment to Iraq, completing a one year engineering internship, and raising a family.”***

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## **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](http://www.nspe.org/ethics),  
or contact Arthur Schwart at  
[aschwartz@nspe.org](mailto:aschwartz@nspe.org).



# Indiana Student Wins MATHCOUNTS

As reported in PE—The Magazine for Professional Engineers—  
June 10

“To play the flowing game, you state with \$1. With each move, you can either double your money or add \$1 to it. What is the smallest number of moves you have to make to get to exactly \$200?”

Indiana eighth-grader Mark Sellke provided the correct answer 9, in less than 45 seconds to take top honors in the 2010 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition. The middle school math contest took place May 7 at Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando.

NSPE, CNA Foundation, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics founded MATHCOUNTS — a national math enrichment, club and competition program — in 1983. Now the MATHCOUNTS Foundation runs the program supported by volunteers.



MATHCOUNTS’ mission is to “inspire excellence, confidence, and curiosity in US middle school students through fun and challenging math problems,” to help the global competitiveness of the US. To advance to the national competition, students progressed through local, chapter, and state competitions. Sellke, who attends Klondike Middle School in West Lafayette, beat second-place finisher Shyam Narayanan of Kansas and 222 other middle school students in the national competition that pits top “mathletes” from around the country against each other. The top 12 students from the earlier written round advance to the final timed, bracketed Countdown Round, where Sellke emerged victorious.

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## 2009-2010 MSE Board

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

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

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As national champion, the middle schooler walked away with an \$8,000 scholarship and a trip to US Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. He also earned an \$8,000 scholarship as the winner of the written round.



Montana Team at National Banquet

On May 11, Sellke appeared on Live with Regis and Kelly to compete in a math challenge with the hosts. The 13-year-old beat out both Regis and Kelly 4-0 in the head-to-head times competition. “What kind of wicked sorcery is this?” cried Kelly, after Sellke answered three questions in a row almost instantaneously. After soundly beating the hosts, Sellke received a gold trophy with a calculator attached.



Sandy Birrell at National Countdown

**“Indiana eighth-grader Mark Sellke provided the correct answer 9, in less than 45 seconds to take top honors in the 2010 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition.”**