

Montana Society of Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers



Founded 1887

President's Message:

Michael J. Cech, PE, President

It's been said that nothing is safe while the legislature is in session, thank goodness that we have Jennifer James, our dedicated and studious lobbyist, on the watch for us. Many bills that have garnered the interest of the Montana Society of Engineers and the ASCE who partners with us in retaining Jennifer, have been researched and presented to us for either opinion or for potential testimony.

Of recent interest was HB 0558 which essentially provides a procedure for stabilization of aggregate surface roads. Since this is generally up to the design of the engineer and considering a multitude of design factors, we feel that it was in our best interest to oppose this bill. It makes it difficult to adhere to design standards when they may not be applicable for all conditions or locations. As engineers we rely on various design manuals and standards and don't feel it appropriate for the government, either federal or state, to tell us how to make our designs. It is more or less the principal of the issue that we oppose and would not want to see engineering standards put into Montana code.

HB 14 Bonding Program was supported by both MSE and ASCE and provides for various capital projects within several university campuses in Montana. We feel that support of this bill and if passed, will help provide jobs in particular for the design and building industries of which many of us can benefit.

These are but a few of the bills being watched and your board and I strongly encourage you to stay informed and provide feedback if the mood strikes you. It's easy; simply use the following link to check the status of existing and upcoming bills:

http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd_pref/law_pref_list.main?i_enty_id_seq=15608&i_pflt_appl_seq=1&P_SESS=20131

Our user name is: **MSEBills**, and the password is: **Engineer**.

Jennifer will continue to monitor and report activity on bills of interest throughout the rest of the legislative session this year. We see the benefit of having Jennifer on board and plan to keep her watching our interests in the next legislative session. During the off-year, she will continue to keep her "ear to the ground" preparing for the next session. We are happy the ASCE has decided to partner with us in this endeavor and look forward to other societies following suit. As a group we can be much more effective in helping to drive legislation that is important to our profession and industry than we can be by ourselves.

Legislation both on the state and federal level is constantly changing; our professions are also changing as well. More and more legal responsibility is being placed on engineers and it is extremely important that we stay informed and involved in order to stay current on what is being asked of us. The Professional Engineer is a person who is seen as the expert in his or her field and we owe it to ourselves to either roll with the changes or find ways to use those changes to our advantage.

These are very interesting times that we live in and I for one am looking forward to the future and what it can bring. Our economy is rebounding, jobless rates are down, housing is up and the stock markets have hit record levels in recent weeks. All good news for our profession, hold on!

March, 2013

"More and more legal responsibility is being placed on engineers and it is extremely important that we stay informed and involved in order to stay current on what is being asked of us."

Inside This Issue

<i>Montana MATHCOUNTS Update! ...</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>MATHCOUNTS Sponsors</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>2013 JEC.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>New Role for House of Delegates.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Licensure & Ethics.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Call for Nominations for</i>	
<i>MT PE Hall of Fame</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>From the MSE Office.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>2012-2013 State Officers.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Education & Professional</i>	
<i>Developmetn.....</i>	<i>6</i>

Montana MATHCOUNTS Update!

Dan Munson, PE, MathCounts State & Billings Chapter Coordinator

Teams of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student Mathletes^o from middle schools all across Montana competed in the State MATHCOUNTS contest on Monday, March 18th at MSU in Bozeman. A total of 25 middle schools across the state comprised of 84 students participated. The top four individual Mathletes^o, and the coach of the winning team, won an all-expense paid trip to the

MATHCOUNTS National Competition to be held in Washington D.C.

Stellan Bechtold from Missoula Sussex School, Jackson Hall from Billings Hall Academy, along with Caleb Noble and Jack Murphy from Helena CR Anderson Middle School won the top honors at the State Competition this year. These four students, along with Missoula Washington math coach Kari Boucher, will represent Montana as our official state

team at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Washington D.C. on May 10th. Caleb Noble will be making his second trip to the National Competiton. Stellan Bechtold was the CountDown Round winner.

The top teams this year were Missoula Washington, Helena CR Anderson, Missoula Sussex, Billings Lewis & Clark, and Bozeman Anderson Schools. Bill Burkland from Clancy and Bente Winston from Missoula were nominated as the Montana MATHCOUNTS Champions of the year for their innovative and exemplary work with middle school students in the state, encouraging and motivating many to enjoy math problems and teambuilding exercises.

According to Dan Munson, State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator, "This competition undoubtedly featured some of the brightest middle school students in our state!" Teachers and students had been preparing for the competition since last September. The students trained within their schools before starting the formal competition. The first level of the competition began in January and early February when over 750 student Mathletes^o competed within their school to become a member of the "school team". From there, 490 students from 61 middle schools competed at the regional level in February. Winners at the regional level received prizes and advanced to the State competition. The

winners of this State Competition advance to Washington D.C. on May 10th to represent Montana in the National MATHCOUNTS Competition and compete for individual and team national titles against other top middle school math students representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and schools from the Department of Defense and State Department.

MATHCOUNTS is a combination math coaching and competition program. Students are tested on such topics as probability, statistics, linear algebra, and polynomials. The competition consists of written tests and a fast-paced oral match.

The purpose of the MATHCOUNTS program is to motivate junior high school students in mathematics and interest them in technology related careers. It is designed to create interest and enthusiasm in mathematics by creating an environment similar to athletic programs, including intensive training, competition, teamwork and recognition. Widely recognized as an effective middle school mathematics coaching and competition program, MATHCOUNTS is celebrating its 30th Anniversary.

The MATHCOUNTS program is organized by the National Society of Professional Engineers on a national level. Locally, MATHCOUNTS is organized by the Montana Society of Engineers, with local volunteer effort being provided by area engineers, students, and professionals.

Nationally since September, over 500,000 Mathletes have been using materials provided by the MATHCOUNTS Foundation to sharpen their math skills, with the help of their "coaches."

More than six million students have participated in the MATHCOUNTS program since its inception in 1983. Over 17,000 MATHCOUNTS volunteers from the business and education communities annually organize and conduct the program in communities nationwide.

A special thank you to all the corporate sponsors and volunteers who make it possible for this program each year! Your efforts and contributions are deeply appreciated.



2013 State MATHCOUNTS Winners: Jack Murphy, Caleb Noble, Jackson Hall, and Stellan Bechtold. Coach: Kari Boucher

Additional information on MATHCOUNTS is available at www.mathcounts.org.

Just how hard is this math? Try the Problem of the Week on the MATHCOUNTS Web site, www.MATHCOUNTS.org, and click on the site's "Go Figure!" math challenge to really push your skills.

Montana MATHCOUNTS Sponsors: Thank You for Continued Support!

2012-2013 Montana MathCounts

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Thank you!!

And to all the members of Montana Society of Engineers and other volunteers for keeping this program growing and expanding each and every year. Happy 30th Anniversary to MATHCOUNTS! Montana has been participating in this program for 29 years. Way to go!

*“Happy 30th Anniversary
to MATHCOUNTS!”*



2013 JEC!

The 2013 Joint Engineers Conference will be held November 6-8 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn.

MSE JEC Committee members are Stephen Smith and Georgia Brensdal. They are very busy gathering up possible speakers to present at the 2013 JEC. If you know of someone that would make an excellent presenter—please share this information with Steve or Georgia or have them visit the website and log-on as a new presenter/speaker. Once their information is in the system, give the JEC Committee members a heads up and they can be sure that they are properly tied to MSE and consider for the next conference.

Currently 9 of the 25 possible vendor booths have been SOLD. Since the JEC normally sells out of exhibitor space by mid summer, it would be a good idea for anyone considering showing, to get their spot registered SOON!

Speaker approvals and assignments will begin during the month of April. Maybe you have a project or subject that you would like to present. All presenters receive a complimentary JEC registration, and are reimbursed for the cost of travel within Montana and a complimentary motel room. This is a very affordable way to earn CEUs if you like to speak.

*“Registration for speaker
presentations for sessions
at the 2013 JEC is now
OPEN!”*

New Role for House of Delegates?

Georgia Brensda PE, President Elect

“The governance of the organization is the most important of the 5 Radical Changes for Associations according to the Race for Relevance by Coerver/Byers.”

First some background from the NSPE Bylaws. The role of the HOD is to adopt the vision, mission and goals for NSPE. It establishes strategic plan, code of ethics and professional policies. The HOD has sole authority to elect officers and directors, and amend Bylaws. The Bylaws are specific on procedures for elections and voting, and then somewhat silent on how HOD will accomplish other tasks. Each state affiliate delegates one representative. Ken Phillips is the current representative, and I have been designated as the incoming representative starting in July. I will also be the alternate for Ken in the July meeting.

Last month Harvey Hnatiuk, NSPE Vice President, requested email discussions on the necessity of holding the HOD the Assembly, the annual meeting. I discovered this discussion when I logged onto the Internet and found 45 emails on this topic on the first day. After sampling some of the responses, I was impressed and surprised at the thoughtfulness and importance that the authors put into their responses. This was not some lethargic group waiting for a death sentence. This was a group taking the time to put forth constructive ideas for the health of their organization. Apparently Harvey was also so moved when he summarized the findings after canvassing the volumes of responses:

- A consistent message that face-to-face meetings of HOD is vital.
- Governance should be a role
- A cost effective method with a combination of an annual meeting and electronic discussion is needed

- HOD could be used more effectively for strategic initiatives.

Ken’s response appropriately represented MSE issues on HOD and the meeting. The expense of the annual meeting to MSE is substantial for our small group. The time and effort of the delegate for this event requires that a consistently well-organized and meaning full agenda be prepared to make it worthwhile for MSE to continue participation.

I understand the timing for this discussion. The NSPE has embarked on examining many of its operations according the Race for Relevance roadmap. The governance of the organization is the most important of the 5 Radical Changes for Associations according to the Race for Relevance by Coerver/Byers. With NSPE at a 17 directors and the 50-member HOD, governance could get unwieldy. The HOD is sited often in various roles with committees. I can see where replications, duplications, and complications occur there also.

I was only able to ready through some of the discussion, and I hope other MSE members had an opportunity to input. I see that to utilize this resource established in the HOD, we need to ask the questions 1) Are we asking too little or too much of this group, and 2) are we asking them to perform the best duties for the organization? Just a reminder that the Assembly and the Directors meeting are open to members. The annual meeting is scheduled for July in Minneapolis.

Licensure and Ethics

NSPE Announces . . .

Three new ethics Web seminars will be hosted this spring by NSPE General Counsel Arthur Schwartz. March 13 features a course on marketing issues; April 17 has a course on professional practice issues, and May 15 sees the two topics brought together in a final seminar.

The **2013 Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest** has opened! All current NSPE members are invited to participate through their NSPE state societies and NSPE chapters (including student chapters). The topic this year concerns payment for online advice. For all the details on how to participate, visit www.nspe.org/Ethics/EthicsResources/MiltonLunch/index.html.

Together with the Council of Engineering &

Scientific Specialty Boards, NSPE has finalized and published a **six-page document highlighting the advantages of licensure and certifications**. Go to www.nspe.org/Licensure and click on “Resources.”

This April, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying will begin offering a **PE exam in software engineering**. NCEES partnered with IEEE-USA and was assisted by NSPE, the IEEE Computer Society, and the Texas Board of Professional Engineers—a group known as the Software Engineering Consortium—to develop the exam. Registration for the first exam opened in December, and exam specifications are available on the NCEES Web site.

Call for Nominations

Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame

The Montana Society of Engineers (MSE) requests nominations for induction into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame. Plaques honoring the inductees will have a permanent home at the Montana State University College of Engineering.

The award was established in 2002 to recognize Montana professional engineers who have made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and public welfare of Montana. This award is open to all professional engineers licensed in Montana.

Qualifications/Method of Selection

The MSE Executive Board will consider nominees for induction into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame. Professional engineers licensed in the State of Montana and working on projects in the State of Montana are eligible. Retired and deceased professional engineers are eligible. Current Officers and directors of MSE are *ineligible*.

MSE Executive Board members will consider these aspects of the nominee's career: The candidate's professional integrity is beyond question; the professional reputation is more than local in character; the undertaking of services upon which the award is based are of high order; and there is more than an ordinary relationship between the undertaking of services and the public welfare. Preference is given to candidates who have consistently promoted the social and professional interests of the engineer. This criterion for the award is suggested by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Nomination Format

Please provide the following biographical information on each nominee:

- Personal information including current address and phone number. If nominee is deceased, so note and provide information of surviving family members.
- 500-word or less statement describing the nominee's education, professional achievements, professional and technical society membership, humanitarian and civic contributions, unusual consulting assignments, and family information.

Presentation

The award(s) will be presented at the Joint Engineers Conference Annual Engineering Honors Banquet on Wednesday - November 6, 2013.

Deadline

Nominations must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2013 and sent to this address:

Montana Society of Engineers
Nomination for the MT PE Hall of Fame
PO Box 20996
Billings, MT 59104-0996

Entries postmarked after June 1, 2013 will not be considered.

Past recipients and this form are posted at www.mtengineers.org!

The MSE Board is looking for a new incoming Board member to consider serving on the 2013/2014 Executive Board.

When you find yourself short a few CEUs, remember NSPE is an excellent source for affordable units that can be fit into your schedule!

From the MSE Office

If you know of a great presenter for a session at the 2013 JEC, now is the time to encourage that person to log in as ‘New Presenter’ at the JEC website. The JEC site can be accessed at www.mtengineers.org. The committee members will begin to make their selections in April—time is getting short. Once a presenter has been selected, they will be assigned a presentation time. This year the JEC will be offering 7 tracks—you will have over 70 sessions to consider — there should be something for everyone.

The 2012/2013 MATHCOUNTS season for Montana is drawing to a close. The State Competition on March 18 determined Montana’s top 4 individuals. They will be on their way to compete at the National level in Washington, DC in May. GOOD LUCK! And congratulations to all those the participated in the program—our future looks bright!

The MSE Board is looking for a new incoming Board member to consider serving on the 2013/2014 Executive Board. If you are interested in making a difference, please contact any of the current Board members or the Office. We need those that truly care and want to share.

2012-2013 MSE Board

Michael J. Cech, President

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Georgia Brensda, President Elect

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Brian Schultz, Vice President

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Stephen T. Smith, Past President

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Connie Dempster, *Executive Secretary*

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Deadline for the Next

Issue of this Newsletter is

June 10, 2013

Submit articles and advertising to

mse@assoc-mgt.com

Education & Professional Development

More NSPE Offerings . . .

Fifteen new online courses are available from NSPE, at no cost to members. The following seminars have been prerecorded and will be available throughout 2013:

- Conflicts of Interest: Will Proposed Federal Rules Impact Engineering Practice?
- EJCDC Construction Contract Documents: Key Clauses and New Approaches
- Got BIM? It’s Not Just About 3D Models
- Harnessing the Power of Change
- How to Conduct Effective Meetings
- IT Solutions for AEC Professionals
- Key Federal Contracting Laws that Everyone Must Know
- Legal Realities of Project Scheduling
- Engineering Ethics: What Is the Impact of the Ongoing Economic Crisis on Engineering Ethics?
- Ethics Forum: Maintaining Objectivity, Truthfulness, Nondeception, & Preserving Confidentiality
- Ethics Forum: Protecting the Public Health, Safety, Welfare, & Demonstrating Professional Competence

- Ethics Forum: Whistleblowing, What Are the PEs Obligations to Report Misconduct?
- Pending and Current Legislation, Rules, and Programs that Will Change How We Manage Stormwater
- Strategic Planning
- Project Management and Ethics

The **PEPP Guides to the Professional Practice of Engineering: The Engineering Organization** has been newly edited and will be available for purchase in early 2013. With information on budgeting and business development, it’s of particular interest to entry-level professionals.

NSPE, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and others have long argued that the bachelor’s degree is not satisfactory as the minimum education requirement for licensure as a PE. Now, a new eight-minute video tells why additional education is necessary. **“Raise the Bar for Engineering”** can be found at www.raisethebarforengineering.org and on YouTube. It explains that education beyond a bachelor’s degree has become the requirement for licensure in every learned profession except engineering.