

Montana Society of Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers



Founded 1887

President's Message: MSE Happenings

Brian Schultz, PE, President

The end of the 1st Quarter of 2015 is quickly approaching and so I hope this finds all of you who would like to be, running at full speed and looking forward to the start of another Montana construction season. This also means that we are over half way through this year's State Legislative Session. It seems this year has been full of the typical political banter, to put it nicely, that we have come to expect. I hope you have been able to stay updated on our weekly Legislative Updates from Jennifer James. We have seen House Bill 63 successfully move through Congress and across the Governor's desk in the first half of the session, and MSE would like to congratulate and thank David Elias and his team for the work they have done to clean up Montana's regulations for PE and PLS licensure. As usual, we will continue to wait on the outcome of the bills affecting the funding for infrastructure improvement and development.

As you should all be aware from Connie's email sent out back in February, about the time HB63 was moving towards the Governor's desk, we received a visit from our neighbors to the north. A couple of engineering representatives from Canada visited Helena to meet with the Governor, Legislative Leaders, and MSE to begin a discussion on Comity Licensure of Canadian Professional Engineers. Connie's email went out as a request for volunteers who would be interested in joining a small fact-finding committee and working with David Elias to look into this issue further. There are some significant differences in the licensing process in Canada compared to our own as many of you may be aware. I believe there are some things we can learn from and improve on in our own process and there will also be important differences

we need to make sure are protected as well. If you are interested in helping out on this committee please contact Connie or a member of your MSE Board.

Spring is now upon us, and that means that MSE's financial year is nearing its end which should remind all of you that we will be looking for volunteers for our next new board member. MSE's membership votes in each of its board members every year and we like to rotate everyone through each of the positions, so we will be looking for a new Secretary/Treasurer for the 2015-2016 year. MSE's main responsibilities are to support the Joint Engineer's Conference, MATHCOUNTS, and most of all to monitor and protect the rights and welfare of Montana's Professional Engineers. There are additional opportunities to network and volunteer at regional and national levels as well. Becoming a Board Member offers great leadership and networking opportunities and I am proof that you don't need any prior political experience before volunteering. I would like to strongly encourage all of our membership to consider volunteering for the board. I believe it is an experience that is well worth the small sacrifice you have to pay.

In closing, you will see later in the newsletter the results of this year's State MATHCOUNTS Competition. It was another great event this year, and I would like to send out a special thanks to Montana Tech for doing a terrific job hosting the competition this year. I would also like to wish good luck to the four Mathletes that will be traveling to compete in Boston in May at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition, Go Team Montana!

March, 2015

"I would like to strongly encourage all of our membership to consider volunteering for the board. ... Becoming a Board Member offers great leadership and networking opportunities..."

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Montana MATHCOUNTS Update!

Dan Munson, PE, MathCounts State & Billings Chapter Coordinator



Teams of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student Mathletes® from Montana middle schools competed in the State MATHCOUNTS Competition on Wednesday, March 20th at MT Tech in Butte. The top 88 math students in Montana from 27 middle schools participated. The highest four individual scorers, and the coach of the winning team, won an all-expense paid trip to the National MATHCOUNTS Competition to be held in Boston on May 8th.

Evan Kohler from Kalispell Middle School, Peter Hall from Lewis & Clark Middle School (Billings), Oliver Chinn from Missoula Washington School, along with Lucas Gibb from Will James Middle School (Billings) won the top honors at the State Competition this year. These four students, along with Missoula Washington math coach Jon Graham, will represent Montana as our official state team at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Boston on May 8th. Evan Kohler was the CountDown Round winner.

The top teams this year were Missoula Washington, Billings Will James, Billings Castle Rock, Great Falls North, and Billings Lewis & Clark Middle Schools.

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 1000 student Mathletes® competed within their school to become a member of the "school team". From there, 513 students from 64 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 Boston on May 8th 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.

In addition, David Patterson was honored with the Montana MATHCOUNTS Champion of the Year Award. Dave is a

Mathematics Professor at the University of Montana who has not only volunteered his help to run Chapter and State competitions, but he has also coached MATHCOUNTS at Rattlesnake and Washington Middle Schools in Missoula, hosted Saturday MATHCOUNTS Workshops for local Missoula Schools, and introduced a 2-credit course "Coaching MATHCOUNTS" at the University of Montana aimed at equipping future math teachers with skills to help middle school students excel at mathematics. He will be sent to the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Boston for recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Montana MATHCOUNTS program.



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 32nd Anniversary.

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.

Additional information on MATHCOUNTS is

available at

www.mathcounts.org.

Just how hard is this math?

Try the Problem of the

Week on the

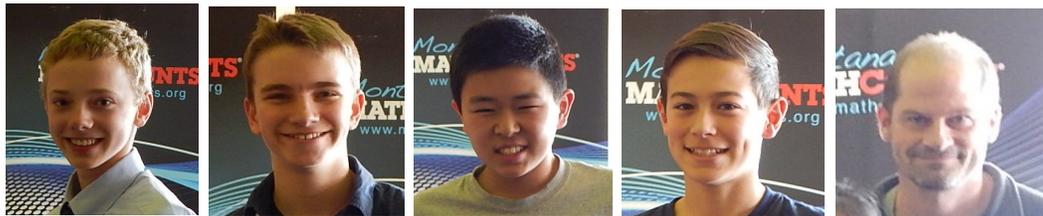
MATHCOUNTS Web site,

www.MATHCOUNTS.org,

and click on the site's "Go

Figure!" math challenge to

really push your skills.



2015 State MATHCOUNTS Winners: Evan Kohler from Kalispell Middle School, Peter Hall from Lewis & Clark Middle School (Billings), Oliver Chinn from Missoula Washington School, along with Lucas Gibb from Will James Middle School (Billings) Coach: Jon Graham from Missoula Washington School.

Legislative Report—March 17

Jennifer James, MSE/ASCE/ASHRAE
Lobbyist

Work continues on the 4 billion dollar budget. The bill will spend the next two days on the House Floor before being transferred to the Senate. Among the major disagreements between Republicans and Democrats is the \$350 million discrepancy between the revenue projections provided by the Governor’s office and the Legislative Fiscal Division. That’s a significant gap and one not likely to be resolved without a battle.

Controversy continues to swirl around the unique contracting/leasing methods employed by the DNRC for a building project on 11th Avenue in Helena. While the DNRC was operating within the letter of the law, Republican legislators remain agitated that the Department proceeded with a project that they felt should fall under the purview of the Legislature. Funding has been stripped for the project (at least at the moment), but the status of contracts awarded for construction will remain a point of concern. We will continue to monitor this situation.

SB 353 and SB 354 will have hearings next week. These are Senator Rick Ripley’s bills to modify the allocation of the Coal Trust and allow for some of those dollars to be used for infrastructure projects. There has been a desire to come up with a more creative and compromise solution rather than bonding for all of the infrastructure needs included in HB 5. The following links will get you to the full bill text.

<http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2015/billpdf/SB0353.pdf>

<http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2015/billpdf/SB0354.pdf>

The following link is an opinion piece by Senator Ripley that provides good background information:

http://helenair.com/news/opinion/invest-in-montana-not-wall-street/article_1b82ec79-f38e-5e77-bce8-4ae32b25cf5a.html

If you would like to e-mail the committee in support of the bill, I have included their contact information:

- White, Kerry (R) – Chair
winwithwhite@gmail.com
- Fitzpatrick, Steve (R) – Vice Chair
Rep.Steve.Fitzpatrick@mt.gov
- Lieser, Ed (D) – Vice Chair
liesered@yahoo.com
- Bennett, Jerry (R)
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- Brown, Bob (R)
Rep.Bob.Brown@mt.gov
- Brown, Zach (D)
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- Dunwell, Mary Ann (D)
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- Flynn, Kelly (R)
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- Manzella, Theresa (R)
Rep.Theresa.Manzella@mt.gov
- McConnell, Nate (D)
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- Mortensen, Dale (R)
Rep.Dale.Mortensen@mt.gov
- Noland, Mark (R)
marknolandhd10@gmail.com
- Olsen, Andrea (D)
Rep.Andrea.Olsen@mt.gov
- Regier, Keith (R)
Rep.Keith.Regier@mt.gov
- Shaw, Ray (R)
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- Staffanson, Scott (R)
scottstaffanson@gmail.com
- Williams, Kathleen (D)
KathleenHD61@bresnan.net

“Among the major disagreements between Republicans and Democrats is the \$350 million discrepancy between the revenue projections provided by the Governor’s office and the Legislative Fiscal Division.”

MSE/ASCE/ASHRAE 2015 Bill List:

HB 5	Rep Jeff Wellborn	Provide for infrastructure development	Re-referred to comm
HB 63	Rep Kathy Swanson	Revise licensing/regs of engineers & land surveyors	Signed by Governor
HB97	Rep Edith McClafferty	Revise alternative contracting process	Pass 2nd Reading House
SB 145	Sen Bradley Hamlett	Revise allocation of oil & gas revenue for oil & gas impact projects	Re-referred to comm
HB 244	Rep Zac Perry	Generally revise building code program laws	Tabled in comm
HB 312	Rep Nancy Wilson	Require MDT to consider growth policies and neighborhood plans	Tabled in comm
SB 205	Sen Robyn Driscoll	Provide for the Hire Montana First Act	Tabled in comm
SB 353	Sen Rick Ripley	Constitutional referendum to divert Montana Coal Trust Funds; and create Build Montana program	Hearing Mar 25
SB 354	Sen Rick Ripley	Create infrastructure funding program	Hearing Mar 25

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 4, 2015.

Deadline

Nominations must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2015 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, 2015 will not be considered.

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

From NSPE

The National Society of Professional Engineers applauds CBS's *60 Minutes*' news story ("The Storm After the Storm," March 1, 2015) about altered professional engineering reports on homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

The *60 Minutes* segment brought to the public's attention the important health and safety role that ethical and licensed professional engineers play in investigating structural failures caused by hurricanes and other natural disasters. Importantly, the *60 Minutes* story also highlighted the serious ramifications and consequences associated with the unlicensed practice of engineering. NSPE acknowledges that the issues reported in the *60 Minutes* story are under active investigation by federal and state authorities.

NSPE, which has a more than 80-year history of dedication to the public safety, health, and welfare, eagerly awaits the results of those investigations.

Watch "The Storm After the Storm" at <http://www.cbsnews.com/60-minutes>.

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



2015 JEC Update!

YES! You read that correctly. The plans for the 2015 JEC are well underway. Some Societies have already filled their tracks.

The JEC site will open on January 1, 2015 for speakers to submit presentations for consideration at the 2015 JEC! Vendor opportunities for exhibitors will be NOW 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 April 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

2014-2015 MSE Board

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Deadline for the Next
Issue of this Newsletter is
June 10, 2015

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

mailed in July. Anyone that presents at the JEC will receive a free registration to the conference, travel expenses — including motel room nights. Strapped for cash— present at the JEC and receive your registration and travel expenses!

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.