President’s Message: MSE Happenings

Cory Hasaik, PE, President

I hope we have seen the last of very cold weather year. This year is a legislative year and already has been active in bills that affect our profession. Here is quick summary of bills currently moving through the process.

House Bill (HB) 141 looks to rearrange the liability of the Board due how the litigation that went to US Supreme Court from the FTC and North Carolina Dental Board. This case has set precedent for the functionality of the State Boards. Many states appear to be looking legislation to address this issue. Note: This bill did not make it out of committee. Committee stated the boards should be responsible for themselves. Individual boards might have to purchase liability insurance—the cost of this would have to be covered by licensing fees.

HB 359 looks to affect the 59 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts. It appears to significantly impact current and future funding of these TIF Districts. This will have large impacts across the State. Note: This bill was tabled in committee.

HB 131 would move the school property tax mills from the TIF funding and move the revenue to the Quality Schools Facility Program. Implication appears to be that TIF funding is capable of spending school tax revenue for non-education programs. The fuel tax bill will be in committee on 2/15. The revenue for this bill is anticipated to be used for critical infrastructure projects that are not currently funded. Note: Chapter number has been assigned.

As we are almost a 1/2 of the way into the session, there will be more bills that affect the construction industry. The farther into the session the more contentious or controversial the bills seem to be. Please be vigilant what bills are up for evaluation and voting in the legislature.

Here is link to the list of all bills for the session.

http://laws.leg.mt.gov/legprd/LAW0217WSBAIV.return_all_bills?P_SESS=20171

Additionally you can find contact information for your legislators and committees at http://leg.mt.gov/css/Default.asp

Please be involved as this is how we can help the legislature be successful this session.

HB 473 Bridge and Road Safety Accountability Act will have Executive Action sometime next week in House Transportation. This is when the Committee will vote on whether the Bill should pass out of committee. It is also expected that the committee will have some questions. It should be an interesting discussion. The Infrastructure Coalition has asked that all member organizations participate in a Call to Action regarding HB 473 the Bridge and Road Safety and Accountability Act. If you are a Facebook user there is a petition available through the Montana Infrastructure Coalition page. By signing the petition you are sending a stock e-mail to the Representatives and Senators in your area.

March, 2017

“Please be involved as this is how we can help the legislature be successful this session.”

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The purpose of the MATHCOUNTS program is to motivate junior high school students in mathematics and interest them in technology related careers.

Additional information on MATHCOUNTS is provided by Dan Munson, PE, MathCounts State & Billings Chapter Coordinator.

Six inches of new snow didn’t stop teams of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student Mathletes from Montana middle schools from competing in the State MATHCOUNTS Competition on Wednesday, March 9th at MT Tech in Butte. The top 83 math students in Montana from 25 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 Orlando on May 14th.

Ethan Wynia from Lee Riverside Middle School (Billings), Aidan Morgan from Castle Rock (Billings), Joel Demars from Will James (Billings), and Edward Guthrie from Guthrie Academy (Belgrade) won the top honors at the State Competition this year. These four students, along with Missoula Washington School math coach Kari Boucher will represent Montana as our official state team at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Orlando in May.

The top teams this year were Missoula Washington Middle School, Sussex (Missoula), Castle Rock (Billings) and Will James (Billings).

All agree that 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 62 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 Orlando on May 14th 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 34th 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.

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.
Professional Engineers Day—August 2, 2017

Save the Date! August 2, 2017 for the second annual Professional Engineers Day!

The first annual Professional Engineers Day took place on August 3, 2016.

On August 8, 1907, the first professional engineering license was issued to Charles Bellamy in Wyoming. Since that time, licensure has expanded and professional engineers across the U.S. have made the commitment to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. NSPE is celebrating licensed professional engineers with the first annual Professional Engineers Day on Wednesday, August 3, 2016. Join us as we raise awareness about what it means to be a PE, recognize licensed PEs, and show appreciation for the work they do each and every day.

Why I Became a Professional Engineer…

Be a part of the virtual event!

Use #LicensedPEDay on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram to:

• Upload a photo or video of yourself and tell us why you decided to become a PE
• Post photos or videos of your team of PEs
• Share your reasons for hiring PEs
• Give special recognition to your PEs in the workplace or on the job
• Educate your colleagues about the importance of the PE license

Ready to start your own PE story?

NSPE champions the PE license and protects its integrity to promote a constant focus on the public health, safety, and welfare.

For more information, visit https://www.nspe.org/resources/2016-professional-engineers-day

SPRING IS COMING AND SO ARE SOME GREAT ENERGY EFFICIENCY TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES—

Please register yourself and share this information with others who may be interested. Tuition is waived for qualifying NorthWestern Energy customers and trade allies. Please use Promotion Codes as listed below.

Direct questions about the tuition waivers to Pamela Hanson-Burch Pamela.Hanson@NorthWestern.com or (406) 497-3343. You may have worked with Betsy Pahut in the past. She recently retired and Pamela is NorthWestern’s primary contract for the tuition waivers.

Lighting Retrofits with Deep Savings and Improved Quality

Missoula, Thursday April 6 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Best Western Plus Grant Creek Inn

This full-day training includes breakfast and lunch, and qualifies for Continuing Education Units (CEU credits). We hope you’ll be able to attend, and will invite all staff members who might benefit from this opportunity.

Description: Learn best practices for improving operations and find out how some key activities can increase energy-efficiency. These changes will benefit your company’s bottom line. You’ll be able to learn directly from one of Lighting Wizards’ experts, whose experience and insight can help your facility save energy and money in Commercial and Industrial Facilities.

Registration Fee: $139 (waived for qualifying NorthWestern Energy Customers and Trade Allies Discount code “NWE”) To register and to see complete details, click here.

Please register by March 23.

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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—which is scheduled for the first Wednesday evening in November each year.

Deadline
Nominations must be postmarked no later than June 1 of the current year 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 will be considered in the following year.
From MSE Office

The 2017 Joint Engineers Conference will be November 1-3 in Helena. Vendor and presentation opportunities are open at www.jecregistration.com. If you have exhibited or presented in the past, please remember to login as new—new this year.

The Montana Society of Engineers is looking for someone to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the 2017/2018 term. MSE holds elections each May with the new board being seated on July 1. As you may have noticed, the newly elected officer would then progress through the chairs — so this is a 5-year commitment. If you are interested please contact any of the MSE Board members or the office for more details or information.

The 2017 Legislative Session has reached its half way point. Any bills that had not been reviewed in committee by the transition point have now died. Those that have been reviewed now move to the other side—House to Senate — Senate to House. The final few weeks of the session will be funding or revenue bills — where the rubber meets the road and the real fighting will begin. If you are interested in serving on the MSE Committee that helps monitor bills during the session, please contact the MSE Office or any of the Board Members. This process is conducted via email and requires very little effort but your input is needed and important!

Connie

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.

Montana Society of Engineers:
House of Delegate Representative

Georgia Brensdal has served two terms as Montana Society of Engineers’ representative to the NSPE House of Delegates. Georgia is not allowed to serve beyond this and MSE must appoint a new representative. Qualifications include the following:

1. Must be a licensed Professional Engineer, a member in good standing with the State Society for which they will represent and a member in good standing with NSPE.
2. Recommend that they be currently active at the state level and knowledgeable of current state activities and issues.
3. Recommend that they have served in state and/or chapter leadership at some level.
4. Recommend that they have been active at the national level in some capacity (committee, task force, board, council, practice division, etc.)
5. Must be prepared to communicate regularly with the state executive and state president/leadership.
6. Should have an amiable personality to get along with people.
7. Should be a good communicator.
8. Should exhibit strong leadership capabilities.
9. Should be a visionary.
10. Should have prior experience of leadership in volunteer organizations, which may include civic, technical or professional organizations.
11. Must be willing to spend the time, effort and financial resources required to effectively handle the duties of the position.
12. Must have an e-mail address and be proficient in handling electronic messages and social media.
13. Must be committed to the NSPE Vision and Mission statements, the NSPE Bylaws, Strategic Plan and Code of Ethics.

The cost of travel is covered. The annual meeting is usually held in July. For more information, please contact Georgia—email listed above with the MSE Board. If you would like a better understanding of the House of Delegates, please contact the MSE office at mse@assoc-mgt.com.

2016-2017 MSE Board

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Deadline for the Next Issue of this Newsletter is June 10, 2017
Submit articles and advertising to mse@assoc-mgt.com