President’s Message:

Georgia Brensdal, PE, President

The zucchini is lining the kitchen counter, and that means its time for the fall newsletter. Since taking my new office in July, I have determined it’s a great time to be part MSE and I am looking forward to the year serving as the president. I hope you are feeling the same as members. I would like to mention some of the opportunities we have coming.

Our new board has some great talent with a combination of experience and enthusiasm. First I would like to thank Mike for the great job of handing over the reins in a well organized fashion. Our new board member, Ed Weber, has joined us at a time where we can use his experience from JEC committee and from other organizations he has served. Brian and Cory are back with some fresh approaches to our member recruitment process. The board has taken up the challenge to each recruit two new members, and extend that challenge to our members also.

The upcoming activity of the Board of Professional Engineers is to align Montana licensing to the Model Licensing maintained by NCEES. David Elios PE has described this process to me as a tweak of the Model Law to fit Montana requirements. An expanded group will look at what is necessary to change current Montana law, and prepare a request to the Mt. legislature. The BPE is looking to MSE to help provide people to this group. This committee is an opportunity for MSE to directly input to this process. Eloise explains the reasons for this direction is to make sense of the current law, and to become more consistent with other states and the world licensing engineers. The NSPE supports the Model Law, and offers MSE assistance in this process. Paul Schmidt of the Legal Committee says there is currently another state in the same process and will get that information to us. He says” We are also interested in whether the effort is to adopt the additional education (master or equivalent) provisions of the Model Law.” This is a great opportunity to directly become familiar with the Law, and shape the future for licensing engineers in Montana.

I attended the July NSPE Leadership Conference and the House of Delegates Assembly. The attendees had plenty of praise for the upbeat messages and the enthusiasm of the NSPE officers and staff. I understood that this was an improvement over past meetings, and that the new executive director was given credit for efficiently bringing about a more productive meeting. A major initiative is membership recruitment. This will serve MSE well. Some great ideas were being implemented such as direct contact with newly licensed engineers. What a great idea to take the chance to also contact our Montana new licensees at the same time! The importance of serving the state chapters was repeatedly expressed. NSPE wants to approach the chapters with “state-only membership” which Montana is one, and discuss how they can get all members part of national. Although we are happy with this maintaining this option, having the chance fro MSE to dialogue with national about the importance of this option will open up discussion on how national can better serve the small rural state chapters. Meanwhile NSPE is pushing forward on its initiatives established through the “Race for Relevance” process to make this organization more efficient in serving its members. A great opportunity for Montana engineers to rediscover what they have to offer. I am happy to report that at the Assembly of House of Delegates, our Ken Phillips was elected the regional representative to the officer screening committee.

The upcoming JEC will be offering expanded tracks and a great lineup of topics. This is a premiere event, just getting better every year. This is the time and place to fulfill the CEU’s, network with professional and vendors, and “of yeah” attend your annual MSE meeting. You can tell we have some interesting things to talk about. Great time to take that challenge and bring a couple of members into MSE.

See ya there!

NOTE: Early registration fees end on September 30, 2013. Anyone paying after midnight on September 30, will pay an additional $50.
CHAPTER COMPETITIONS

North Central Chapter
Wednesday - February 5, 2014
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 11, 2014
Dawson Community College
Contacts:
Mike Hunter, Coordinator
Phone: 406-377-9433
e-mail: hunter@dawson.edu

Kalispell Chapter
Friday - February 7, 2014
Flathead Valley Community College
Contact:
Jason Williams, Coordinator
Phone: 406-751-4420
email: j.williams@flathead.coop

Billings Chapter
Friday - February 7, 2014
MSU Billings - Liberal Arts
Contact:
Dan Munson, Coordinator
Phone: 406-655-2540
Dan.Munson@northwestern.com

Western Montana Chapter
Tuesday - February 11, 2014
University of MT - North Ballroom
Contact:
Troy Monroe, Coordinator
Phone: 406-542-4829
Cell: 406-241-3667
e-mail: tmonroe@m-m.net

Bozeman Chapter
Thursday - February 6, 2014
MSU Bozeman-SUB Ballroom C
Contact:
Jerry Stephens, Coordinator
Phone: 406-994-6113
e-mail: jerrys@coe.montana.edu

Butte Chapter
Tuesday - February 11, 2014
LaQuinta Inn & Suites - Butte
Contact:
Sandra Anderson, Coordinator
Phone: 406-494-8639
Cell: 406-868-0090
sandra_andersondavid@hotmail.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.

STATE COMPETITION
Monday - March 5, 2014
MSU SUB - Bozeman, Montana
Contact:
Dan Munson, State Coordinator
Phone: 406-655-2540
Dan.Munson@northwestern.com

Montana MATHCOUNTS - P O Box 20996 - Billings, MT 59104-0996 - 406/259-7300

Founding Sponsors: National Society of Professional Engineers, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and CNA Foundation
Montana PELS Board Chair: Shares Reason for Adopting NCEES!

MSE President Georgia Brensdal asked PELS Board Chairman David Elias the following question: Could you give us an update on the process of adopting NCEES Model Law? The following response was received and clearly states the reasons and the process:

Georgia,  
Thank you for asking. First, I address your question about the process:

The Board along with Department of Labor legal staff will "tweak" the NCEES Model Law (if necessary) to fit any special Montana requirements. I'll ask for an expanded committee to evaluate this product. The expanded committee will include any person if interest who wishes to become involved in the process. Once we (the Board and expanded committee) have ironed out all issues we (via a department bill) will present our new proposed statutes to the Legislature for adoption as well as repealing the current statutes.

All of that seems simple enough, but the devil is in the details. And, one never knows what will happen during a legislative session. It will be a lengthy process and many, many hours of effort will be spent.

Second, I will explain the need for this change:

Over the past 40 years more or less, the licensing statute has been amended and modified. There are provisions therein that simply make no sense except to understand that over those 40 years special interest entities have caused very narrowly focused amendments with no consideration for the entirety of the statute. Hence, we end up with a cobbled together licensing law that puts the Board into subjective decision modes that cannot be kept consistent. That is to say, at one meeting we approve an application and then at another meeting the same qualifications are found to be deficient. This is not a healthy situation for applicants nor the Board who reviews said applications.

Additionally, our economy is global and moving the 50 States and Territories toward a model law will make both reciprocity and comity easier as well as providing seamless work transitions for licensees.

Finally, I will add that both NCEES and ABET are global with their respective programs. The US is the global leader on testing and academic standards but we individual State Boards struggle with licensing by comity due to ancient State laws.

I hope this helps and thank you again for asking.

David Elias, 9089ES  
Montana PELS Board Chair

As the process proceeds, the Montana Society of Engineers will be actively keeping track since this could have a very real and direct impact on all Professional Engineers. More news will be shared as it becomes available.

Membership!

All groups, societies and associations need membership to be effective. Members sometimes want to know “What is in it for me?” not always realizing that they are what makes the organization.

The New York State Society of Professional Engineers took a 'very' engineering approach to increasing their membership and have generously shared the process on You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToDK_k6csE The video is about 15 minutes long but makes some very good points.

The Joint Engineers Conference is coming on November 6-8, 2014 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena, Montana. This is the single largest gathering of Professional Engineers in the state. Fully 1/3 of all the engineers at this event will not belong to any engineering society. This event could not exist without the 11 engineering societies that come together each year to make this event happen.

As our President challenged in her message, if each MSE member attending the JEC was to take the time to sign up one new NSPE/MSE member, MSE could do MORE!
“Early registrations are brisk—this could be the biggest ever JEC! 7 tracks with over 70 sessions to choose from—all are listed on the registration site so that you can plan what courses best meet your needs!”

The speakers are in place. Details are being completed. Society meetings are being planned. Exhibitors are making their plans to show on Thursday—November 7! Programs are being printed. Have you registered? Early registration for the 2013 JEC ends at midnight—September 30th. You must make payment by midnight to avoid paying an additional $50.00 late payment fee.

Early registrations are brisk—this could be the biggest ever JEC! 7 tracks with over 70 sessions to choose from—all are listed on the registration site so that you can plan what courses best meet your needs!

New this year: Mr. Raymond “Paul” Giroux, M.ASCE will be the keynote speaker at the 2013 Montana Engineering Honors Banquet on Wednesday evening—November 6—reception will get underway at 5:30 pm—followed by the banquet at 6:30 pm. The length of the awards portion of the evening has been shortened to allow for the keynote “Building the Golden Gate Bridge”. Tickets to this event are an extra and can be purchased with your registration or separately. The price is $40.00. For more information see the next page of this newsletter or visit www.mtengineers.org and click on JEC Registration!

www.mtengineers.org

EVERY 16 MINUTES ANOTHER PERSON DIES ON OUR ROADS

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October 10th Drive attentively! Your life depends on it.
www.brakesonfatalities.org
Building Golden Gate Bridge: The early twentieth century was the golden age of long-span suspension bridges, yet the spanning of the Golden Gate Strait was thought to be impossible by many. Working in the shadow of the Great Depression, the builders of the bridge had to overcome daunting political, financial, and technical challenges to construct the longest bridge in the world in one of the harshest marine environments in the world. Eager to meet these challenges, extraordinary engineers and construction workers would converge on San Francisco in the early days of 1933 to span the Gate.

Utilizing a combination of historic photographs and dynamic animation techniques, Paul Giroux brings the construction of the bridge to life providing a unique learning opportunity.

Bio: Paul received his BS in Construction Engineering from Iowa State University in 1979. Since then, Paul has been with Kiewit Corporation for the past 34 years and played a key role in the construction of several heavy civil engineering mega projects throughout the United States including Fort McHenry Tunnel in Baltimore, projects on the Big Dig in Boston including the new Zakim / Bunker Hill Bridge, and most recently, the new San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge East Span. He is currently the District Quality Manager for Northern California.

He is member of the Iowa State University Civil Engineering Advisory Board, the Transportation Research Board, and is a Corresponding Member of the American Society of Civil Engineering History and Heritage Committee.

During 2012 Paul served as the ASCE Chairman for the Golden Gate Bridge 75th Anniversary. In 2008 he was the ASCE Chairman and featured speaker for Brooklyn Bridge 125th Celebration in New York, and in 2010 he presented the closing speech at the Hoover Dam 75th Anniversary Symposium in Las Vegas.

Paul is the author of several bridge design and civil engineering history papers and has presented lectures at nearly 40 engineering schools throughout the United States.

Paul is also the recipient of the ASCE’s prestigious Civil Engineering History and Heritage Award for 2013. Paul’s lectures on civil engineering’s great projects were highlighted in an article written by Henry Petroski the September 2012 issue of American Society of Engineering Education’s Prism magazine, http://www.prismmagazine.org/sept12/refractions.cfm

Other:
2008: Lanning Distinguished Lecturer: Washington State University
2012: Pitt-Des Moines Distinguished Lecturer: Iowa State University
2012: Dennis and Leslie Drag Distinguished Lecturer: Purdue University
2013: ASCE Civil Engineering History and Heritage Award

More information and tickets to this event can be found with the JEC registration at www.mtengineers.org.
NSPE's Board of Directors approved the NSPE budget during a Special Budget Teleconference in June. This included an increase of $3 for NSPE dues, from the current $145 to $148. This increase is in-line with the 2% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the latest calendar year. The increase will be put in place with the October 2013 billing. Going forward, when renewal invoices are created, they will show $148 as the standard rate, and $74 for retired members. The NEW member rate remains at $110 for NSPE. The MSE state fees remain at $55.00. State Only MSE membership rate is $50.00.

NSPE's Professional Engineers in Construction recently published An Owner's Guide to Successful Project Management. This guide is now available for download online ($50/$25 member price) at http://www.nspe.org/OwnerGuide.

The PELS Board’s revised rules 1104 and 1107 (Uniform Standards for Certificates of Survey and Final Subdivision Plats) are now online at the Secretary of State’s website—the official home of all state administrative rules. To see them, visit http://mtrules.org/. You can then search for the rules by number.

2013-2014 MSE Board

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Cory Hasiak, Vice President
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Deadline for the Next Issue of this Newsletter is December 10, 2013
Submit articles and advertising to mse@assoc-mgt.com

2014 Montana Storm Water Conference

Billings, Montana April 8 -10, 2014

Curbing the Flow: Positive Solutions for Storm Water Management

Local, regional and national perspectives for managing storm water in Montana

Come to learn: Topics include storm water design and construction, planning and implementation, education, MS4 compliance, oil and gas storm water regulations and development, regulatory update, and more.

Come to network: Attendees include public officials, city and county planners, contractors, engineers, builders, developers, consultants, water resource managers, public works and utilities directors, watershed groups, regulators, landscape architects and others.

Come to participate: Conference includes general sessions, special topic breakout sessions, hands-on discussions, evening social with poster presentations and vendor booths, tours of area storm water sites and more.

COMING SOON: CALL FOR PAPERS, REGISTRATION, AND MORE INFORMATION!
mtwatercourse@montana.edu OR 406-994-6671