

# Montana Society of Engineers

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



**Founded 1887**

## **President's Message:**

*Stephen T. Smith, PE, President*

We had a great Joint Engineers Conference on Nov. 2-4 with more participants than ever before. At about 450 people, we were running near capacity. I hope many of you took advantage of this great, home-grown opportunity to earn continuing education credits while renewing old and making new friendships.

We also had a good Montana Society of Engineers annual membership meeting on Thursday evening, Nov. 3, in conjunction with the JEC, with about 20 people attending. Robert Green, V.P. of NSPE national, provided a interesting overview of NSPE activities contributed to the rest of our conversation. Jennifer James, a lobbyist, provided great insight into the workings of the Montana legislature and some thoughts on potential legislative impacts on our profession. And, to the subject of this article, we had an active, involved discussion about how MSE and NSPE can increase involvement of other engineers in Montana, particularly the younger generation. I enjoyed the discussion and learned a bit. "Thanks" to all who participated.

*So, what can we, the current members of MSE, do to make our organization attractive and relevant to other professional engineers? How do we persuade engineers to become "professional?" Why should a "professional engineer" chose to be being a member of MSE/NSPE?*

Without offering answers, I suggest a strategy that may help to get more new engineers active in MSE; we need to both invite and welcome new engineers into

our Engineering Community. In each Montana city with a college teaching engineering, Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Helena, and Missoula, a small group of professional engineers arrange to meet with graduating Engineering seniors this spring. At the meeting, we try to address the questions above plus others, such as:

*Why do we like our engineering professions? What do engineers do in our day to day jobs? What jobs have we had that were particularly interesting? Most importantly, ask what concerns and questions these prospective engineers have and address them honestly.*

Critically, before adjourning the meeting, let them know that MSE would like to offer an informal **mentor** to each that could be in or near their hometown or town of their first job after college. For anyone so requesting, MSE will arrange a professional engineer mentor who would introduce them to the local engineering community, answer questions, and provide general **confidential** support as needed.

To start, I have already been in contact with Gary Fischer of Carroll College and we are planning such a meeting in the spring. We need at least one volunteer from each of the college communities to commit to helping make these meetings happen. If you will volunteer, please contact me or Connie and we will help.

If MSE members can provide an invitation, a welcome, and some help getting their careers started, I am confident that these new engineers will return the favor in future years, sustaining our Engineering profession.

## **December, 2011**

***"Without offering answers, I suggest a strategy that may help to get more new engineers active in MSE; we need to both invite and welcome new engineers into our Engineering Community."***

## **Inside This Issue**

Montana MATHCOUNTS Update! ...2
2012 JEC News!.....3
2011 PE Hall of Fame Inductee .....4
Why Join MSE and NSPE.....5
Features and Benefits.....6
From the MSE Office.....7
2011-2012 State Officers.....7
NSPE Achieves Repeal of Burdensome Withholding Tax .....7

# Montana MATHCOUNTS Update!

Dan Munson, PE, MathCounts State & Billings Chapter Coordinator

Planning for the 2011/2012 Montana MATHCOUNTS season is moving along. Schools that did not register at the national website by December 16, will have to pay late registration fee. National did not want to

listed here or the MSE Office:

## 2011/12 CHAPTER COORDINATORS

### North Central Chapter

Bill Burkland  
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### Eastern Montana Chapter

Mike Hunter  
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Jerry Stephens  
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### Butte Chapter

Sandra Anderson  
Sandra\_andersondavid@hotmail.com

## 2010-2011 Montana MathCounts Corporate Sponsors

Ash Grove Cement Company  
Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative  
CHS, Inc.

ConocoPhillips

Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

ECI Environmental Services

ExxonMobil

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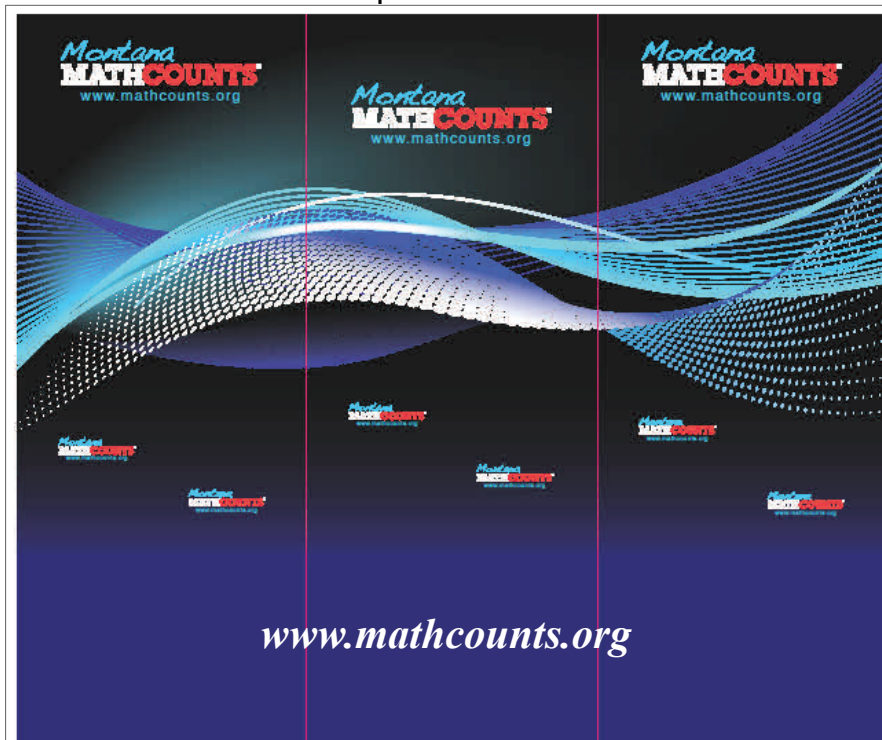
Stillwater Mining Company

Westmoreland Resources, Inc.

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Also—American Linen Division

*Thank you to ALL!*

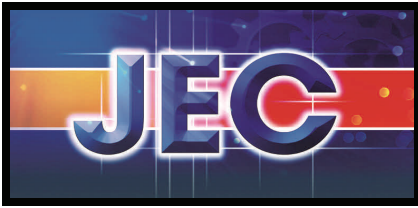


*“For this and other math news—visit [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org) and remember to thank all our wonderful sponsors!”*  
—Dan Munson, State Coordinator

implement this policy but had to as schools continued to register later and later every year. The Montana Chapter Coordinators made every effort to notify the schools — sending out many reminders. If a school near you missed, they can still register but will have to pay a small late registration fee.

Each year, Montana MATHCOUNTS conducts a contest for students to design a logo for the Chapter T-shirt. Students of those schools participating have been sending in potential logos for this year’s Chapter t-shirts. The t-shirt logo competition has proved to be fun for the students — it is always hard to choose.

Fund raising is in full swing with our many fine sponsors. Without corporate sponsors and volunteers from the engineering and math committees, the Montana MATHCOUNTS program could not exist. If you would like more information, please contact any of the 2011/2012 Coordinators



## 2012 Joint Engineers Conference News!

Wow! The 2011 JEC has just wrapped up and distributions to the societies have been made. Best year EVER!

Crystal Kuntz has stepped down as the Chair. She promises to help out if she is needed. A special THANK YOU to Crystal for taking the JEC so far in 4 short years. Chris Laity has accepted the role of Chair for the 2012 JEC. He can be reached by email at [claity@greatwesteng.com](mailto:claity@greatwesteng.com).

Chris has implemented some changes and additions to the website — his goal is to continue to improve and better the site. The site is scheduled to go live on January 4, 2012. Those that wish to present/speak should make plans to get their proposed program in by March 31, 2012. This has been the cutoff point—normally giving the Committee members 70 to 80 sessions to choose from and to begin scheduling for the 2012 JEC.

Vendor and exhibitor opportunities will open at this same time. In addition to vendor space, there will be opportunities to advertise in the program and/or to host an event. These opportunities will close as the availability diminishes. Last year the vendor booths sold out by July. Don't wait too long if you want a booth in the main Exhibition Area. All of this is programmed and available on line at [www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org)

As of this date, a technical tour has not been identified for the 2012 JEC. If you have an idea for a good tour with 90 minutes of the Helena area, please contact Chris at [claity@greatwesteng.com](mailto:claity@greatwesteng.com) or contact the MSE Office and I would be happy to share it with Chris and the Committee. The technical tours have been a hit for the past few years and a nice option to the classroom setting.

Planning is ongoing—stay tuned.

### Key 2012 JEC Dates:

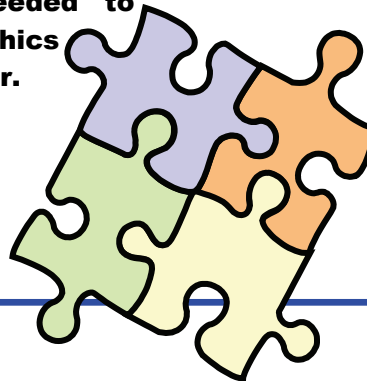
- Speaker/Presentation Opportunities—Open January 4
- Exhibitor / Vendor Opportunities - Open January 4
- 2012 JEC—November 7-9 in Helena, Montana

[www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org)

### 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 Schwartz at  
[aschwartz@nspe.org](mailto:aschwartz@nspe.org).**



# ***2011 PE Hall of Fame Inductee: Ralph L. “Roy” Prussing, P.E.***

At the 2011 Joint Engineers Conference, during the Montana Engineers Honors Banquet, it was announced that the 2011 Professional Engineers Hall of Fame inductee was Ralph L. “Roy” Prussing. The plaque will reside at Montana State University in the School of Engineering.

The Call for Nominations for 2012 will go out in March—with nominations due by May. If you know of an engineer who meets the criteria, please make a submission. For more information and to see the complete list of inductees, visit [www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org).

***“Ralph L. Prussing operated R. L. Prussing Engineers in Billings (1946-1970); Vice President and manager of the building and general engineering division of Associated P & C Engineers (1970-1983)l Mentor to mechanical engineers that formed Associated Construction Engineering (ACE).”***

## **Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame**

### **Ralph L. “Roy” Prussing, P.E.**

Montana Professional License Number 1020E

- \* Operated R. L. Prussing Engineers in Billings (1946-1970); Vice President and manager of the building and general engineering division of Associated P&C Engineers (1970-1983); Mentor to mechanical engineers that formed Associated Construction Engineering (ACE).
- \* Mechanical Engineer for numerous new and remodel projects in Billings: Parmly Library, Hart Albin, J.C. Penney, Vaughn-Ragsdale, Kasper's Photo, AT&T Dial Exchange, KGHL Radio, KULR Television, Billings Gazette, Colborn School Supply, Cushing and Terrell (CTA) Office, Midland National Bank, St. Vincent Hospital, Billings Clinic, Hotel General Custer, Northern Hotel, Esquire Motel, Dude Rancher Lodge, Eagles Lodge, Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge, Shrine Temple, American Lutheran Church, First Congregational UCC Church, Senior High School, Rocky Mountain College Library and Student Union, and MSUB Alterowitz Gymnasium.
- \* Mechanical Engineer for numerous new and remodel projects at Montana State University in Bozeman: Breeden Fieldhouse, Marsh Labs, Reid Hall, Hapner Hall, Hannon Hall, North Hedges Hall, South Hedges Hall, Roskie Hall, and the Heating Plant.
- \* Mechanical Engineer for numerous new and remodel projects in Montana: Public Schools in 47 Montana communities; Medical Facilities in 16 Montana communities; and Dial Exchange Telephone Switching Facilities in 31 Montana communities.
- \* Mechanical Engineer for numerous new and remodel projects in Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota, including: Custer National Battlefield Museum, Glasgow Air Force Base, Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility Administration Building in Miles City, University of Montana Heating Plant, Missoula County Courthouse, Montana State Capitol renovation, Montana State Hospital Heating Plant in Warm Springs, Yellowstone National Park, and Schilla's Hardware in Dickinson.
- \* Served several terms as the engineering member of the Montana Board of Plumbers.
- \* Honored by the Billings Engineers Club with the Distinguished Service Award in 1982.
- \* Member of Montana Society of Engineers (MSE) and National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

Inducted November 2, 2011

Presented by the Montana Society of Engineers  
A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers





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## Why Join MSE and NSPE?

### NSPE / MSE MEMBERSHIP

Provides professional engineers with the tools and services they need to be better informed and better connected within their professional community.

### NETWORKING

Through interest groups, online forums and live events, members can reach engineers across the country and in their local area.

### CAREER ADVANCEMENT

NSPE's online job board allows employers to post — and job seekers to search engineering employment opportunities throughout the country.

NSPE Engineering Income and Salary Survey provides members who participate unlimited report access to the latest industry earning statistics, from a large interactive survey of working engineers.



- NATIONAL—NSPE keeps its members in touch with the latest in their field through respected publications and informational resources, opportunities for mentoring and continuing education, and through a national conference and meetings, where members can meet and share ideas with colleagues.

STATE—MSE members can build leadership skills and earn professional recognition through volunteer opportunities.

- LOCAL—Chapters offer engineers the chance to network and gain professional referrals through contacts with colleagues in their communities.

“I joined NSPE shortly after gaining my PE license. I have always thought it was a privilege to be a PE and that being one also carried responsibilities. NSPE acts as the umbrella organization representing all PE in the United States, for example by supporting laws that help limit liabilities, and preserve the level playing field in which PEs complete, etc. Without active involvement and members willing to volunteer time, there will not be an organization representing the professional engineer. This is just another part of being a professional.”

— Stephen T Smith, PE, President (2011)

“NSPE / MSE is the forum where all disciplines of engineering can discuss and find solutions on issues relating to all, for those relevant concerns that cross traditional fields of engineering disciplines, and for those developing areas that have yet to be standardized into a specific discipline of engineering. I have seen NSPE / MSE be the cross roads for technical issues like climate change, energy, and information technology; for the business of engineering such as licensing, ethics and public safety.”

—Georgia Brensdaal, PE, VP MSE (2011)



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## NEWS of the PROFESSION

Available free to FULL members, PE magazine is packed with up-to-the-minute reporting and articles covering licensing, education, employment, ethics, legal and liability issues, and more.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Licensure programs offer members a range of tools to help achieve and maintain their professional licenses through online courses, self study videos and national and state conferences.

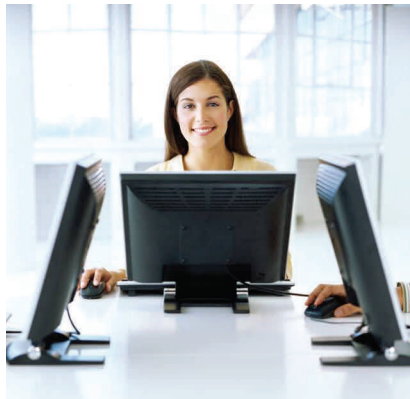
## ADVOCACY & OUTREACH

Through government relations efforts, NSPE projects a powerful voice advocating the interests of the engineering profession. Resources available in the Legislative Action Center allow NSPE members to contact legislators and track legislation of interest to engineers.

For more information, visit us on the Web at:

[www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org)  
[www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org)

## Features and Benefits



Montana Society of Engineers is an opportunity

- to make a difference
- to pursue a passion
- to develop as a professional
- to grow as a leader.

Many of our members have gone on to hold offices at the national level, on the Montana PE Licensing Board, or to hold a place on the Professional Engineers Hall of Fame wall located at Montana State University School of Engineering. Others have played key roles in developing the Montana MATHCOUNTS program, or as Chair of the Joint Engineers Conference Committee. This is an opportunity to develop the other side of your professional career. Sign up today!

## Membership Levels

- Licensed Member—Opt for Full or State Only Membership
- Member—Engineers in Training—Opt for Full or State Only Membership.
- Student—Opt for Full or State Only Membership

## MSE Activities

**Continuing Education**—Course Review

**Joint Engineers Conference**—Member Society

**Montana MATHCOUNTS**—Since 1983

**Quarterly Newsletter**—Posted to Website

**Website:** [www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org)

**State Government Networking**—Bill

Monitoring of State Legislative Session

**PE Hall of Fame**—Located at MSU

College of Engineering in Bozeman, MT

**Already a member of a discipline specific society, consider State Only membership—a society protecting the profession of engineering! State Only membership is \$50.00 per year!**

**TO JOIN:** Full NSPE / MSE—Visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org). For State Only Membership, visit [www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org) for a pdf application download or complete the attached application and mail to:

Montana Society of Engineers  
[www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org)

PO Box 20996  
Billings, MT 59104-0996  
Phone 406-259-7300  
[mse@assoc-mgt.com](mailto:mse@assoc-mgt.com)

*The MSE Office will be closed from Christmas to New Year—hopefully this will not cause any problems for you!*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to ALL!  
—Connie*

*NSPE Achieves Repeal of Burdensome Withholding Tax*

## *From the MSE Office*

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checks his dossier and, not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell. It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell. He soon begins to design and build improvements. Shortly thereafter, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say, the engineer is a pretty popular guy. One day, God calls Satan and says with a sneer: So, how are things in Hell? Satan replies: Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next. What! God exclaims: You've got an engineer? That's a mistake, he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me. Not a chance, Satan replies: I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him! God insists: Send him back or I'll sue! Satan laughs uproariously and answers: Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?

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## **2011-2012 MSE Board**

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**Stephen T. Smith**, President

*stephentsmith@earthlink.net*

**Michael J. Cech**, President Elect

*mike.cech@northwestern.com*

**Georgia Brensda**, Vice President

*mtmoosemom@aol.com*

**Brian Schultz**, Secretary/Treasurer

*brian.schultz@northwestern.com*

**Crystal Kuntz**, Immediate Past-President

*crystal.kuntz@eciblgs.com*

**Connie Dempster**, *Executive Secretary*

MSE Office

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406-259-7300

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Deadline for the Next  
Issue of this Newsletter is  
March 10, 2012

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

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**Presenter/Speaker Registration—Opens January 4, 2012**

**Vendor/Exhibitor Registration—Opens January 4, 2012**

**For 2012 JEC—November 7-9, 2012**

**[www.mtengineers.org](http://www.mtengineers.org)**

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The House last night voted in favor of final passage of [H.R. 674](#), which would repeal a requirement that federal, state, and certain local governments withhold as tax 3% of all payments made to government contractors. The bill now heads to the president's desk, where he is expected to sign it into law.

The requirement would have caused cash flow problems for engineering firms, whose profit margins are often less than 3%, and cost professional engineers the vital funds they need to conduct business.

Since the tax law's passage in 2006, NSPE has been working with the [Government Withholding Relief Coalition](#) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to repeal the withholding mandate. NSPE also sent a [letter](#) to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI-4) in support of the repeal.

In addition to NSPE's advocacy of H.R. 674, NSPE members responded to an NSPE [Legislative Action Center](#) alert asking them to contact their senators in support of the bill. Your grassroots efforts helped build a critical mass of opinion that ensured the bill passed the Senate, ultimately enabling its success.