

2006-2007
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Nominating

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March Meeting

Location: Players Sports Bar and Grill
6200 W. 21st
Wichita, KS

Time: Thursday March 22, 2007
6:00 PM-10:00 PM

Topic: Engineer's Appreciation Night and
March Madness watch party

Cost: \$10.00/person for members
Free for non-members

Meal: Various hot appetizers

RSVP: Contact Michelle Winkelmann with reservations at
263-6121 or e-mail at winkelmann@pbworld.com
by Monday March 19.



Wichita Chapter

Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

President's Message

Greetings once again everyone! March is finally here and I don't know about everyone else, but, I welcome the warmer weather March brings with it! Last month's meeting was the culmination of E-Week with the E-Week banquet and presentation by Mr. Todd Barber of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. His presentation was amazing as he talked about the challenges and successes of JPL's Mars Exploration program as well as the recent successes of Spirit and Opportunity, two rovers that NASA landed 3 and a half years ago and are still running!!! A special thanks to our own Jason Mohler who emceed the event, he also did a fantastic job.

Well, as everyone knows, with March you get March Madness and it pleases me to announce that this month, WSPE is doing something a little different. We are holding our 2nd Annual Engineer's Appreciation Night at Player's Sports Bar and Grill to watch the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. The goal of this event is number one – to have fun and provide an opportunity for our members to network in a relaxed atmosphere but, number two – to recruit potential new members to our organization. There are many engineers in the Wichita and surrounding areas that for one reason or another, have not recognized the benefits WSPE can provide them. This organization's lifeblood is based in our membership so it's very important that we attract and maintain our membership. The more members we have, the more opportunities come available for this organization to better serve you! I encourage everyone to come out for 30 minutes or 3 hours, but if nothing else, please attend and pass along to a potential new member why you are a member of WSPE and KSPE and how this organization benefits you! Not to mention, you will have the opportunity to watch some fantastic basketball and eat some great food while networking!

One final note, the projects are out for Habitat for Humanity and we are hopeful to nail down a date in mid to late April to perform our community project. Hopefully we can get as many members as possible (family members are welcome to!) to help build a home for someone who could use a helping hand. Have a great March everyone and I hope to see you at Players!

Jeff Lackey, P.E.

Treasurer's Report

The current checking account balance is \$1530.87.
The current savings account balance is \$791.68.

Community Involvement Activity

Currently, we are in the planning stages to assist in the construction of a residential home with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Our goal is to have our membership spend a few hours on a Saturday in the spring of 2007 giving back to our community. As details become available, we will keep you posted. We hope you will consider volunteering your time to help someone else.

Project Lead the Way Update

The USD 259 Project Lead the Way program at West High is applying for full certification this year. They are finally offering the required five courses to be fully certified. An exciting addition for next year is a Civil Engineering/Architecture class. They will be looking for surveying equipment to be donated if there is any available. Contact Ken Lee if you have questions.

There are currently 105 students enrolled in the PLTW program with classes in "Principles of Engineering", "Introduction to Engineering Design", "Digital Electronics", "Computer Integrated Manufacturing" and "Engineering Design and Development".

We currently have a need for an additional WSPE member to serve as an advisor for the Project Lead the Way Program. The advisory committee meets twice per academic year in the evening time from about 5:30 pm to 7 pm.

KSPE Director Update

The KSPE Executive Board met for its quarterly meeting in Salina on Saturday, March 10th. The primary point of discussion was the consideration of a state only membership option for KSPE. Several states provide the option and it will be discussed in the upcoming months to determine its merit. Kansas is authoring a resolution that will provide the ability for state societies to provide state only memberships without violating the NSPE bylaws. The state conference in Topeka was reviewed and it looks like it will be a good program. Finally, despite billing problems with NSPE, the state society budget is in excellent shape.

The state executive director's staff has indicated that NSPE has updated all of their billings and that the issues associated with billing should be resolved. The billing issue will continue to be reviewed over the next three months. KSPE has considered taking over the billing for our member engineers but has decided to shelf the idea for now.

2007 Engineer for a Day Wrap-Up

The 2007 Engineer for a Day Program was held on Thursday, February 22. As in past years, the program provided the opportunity for area high school students interested in an engineering career to spend a day with an engineer to witness first hand some of the duties and responsibilities of the profession.

The 2007 program included approximately 61 student guests hosted by 7 area engineering firms and agencies. The day began at 9:00 AM with students reporting to their host's offices. A luncheon was held at 12:00 p.m. at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex near the campus of Wichita State University. The luncheon speaker was Mr. Todd Barber with the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. Mr. Barber is a propulsion engineer at the JPL and has worked on various projects including the Galileo mission to Jupiter, the headline grabbing twin Mars Rover missions and the ongoing Cassini mission to Saturn. After the luncheon, students remained with their hosts until 3:00 PM and then were dismissed.

WSPE provided the funding for the Engineer for a Day Program. Wichita State University was generous enough to secure a meeting location at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex for the luncheon and shared in the cost of the lunches.

The 2007 program marks the sixth year students from outside the Wichita area have attended and the fifth year for home school students. Included with Wichita and the surrounding community, were students from De Soto, Kingman, Zenda and others.

Contact Information Update

Please go to the NSPE Website www.nspe.org and update your membership information. Click on the membership link and then click the online change of address form. Your username is your membership ID# (found on your NSPE card) and your password is your last name.

Membership Billing Issues

There have been some problems with billing and invoicing from NSPE in the last year. WSPE and KSPE have been working with NSPE and the problems are being worked out of the system. If you have had problems with your membership, please contact one of the officers listed on the front of the newsletter or Ken Lee at 264-8008.

E-Newsletter News

The e-newsletter is being distributed every month directly to the desktops of more than three-quarters of the members in our society. This has cut our mailing and publications costs in half to date and we hope to increase our savings by getting more and more members on the e-mail list for the e-newsletter.

If you are not getting the newsletter via e-mail and would like to receive the newsletter in your e-mail instead of by postal service, please send me an e-mail at seth.niebaum@pec1.com and I will get you on the e-mail list and off the regular mailing list.

Also, if you are having problems with the e-newsletter or know someone that isn't receiving theirs, please contact me at the above e-mail address.

