



Kansas Professional Engineer

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New Format Improves Communication

Beginning with this issue, your Kansas Professional Engineer newsletter is taking on a new format, designed to provide you with more news, more quickly. KPE will be published monthly, January through December, twelve issues per year. Each issue will be four pages in length. Distribution of the KPE will be primarily through email. KSPE members in our email database will receive a monthly email containing a hotlink to the KPE posted on our website. Members for whom we don't have

an email address will continue to receive the KPE through traditional mail. Hardcopies will be printed in black and white only. All advertisements will be moved to our website at www.kansasengineer.org where they can be viewed by members and non-members at all times. Where available, all advertisements will contain a hotlink to the advertiser's website. We believe these changes will both improve member communications and help us control costs. Send us your suggestions for improving KPE to kspe@gbaks.com.



KSPE Board Recommends Constitution Changes

In an effort to update and simplify KSPE governance, the KSPE Board of Directors approved recommendations from its Executive Committee to submit members for approval a substantial revision of the KSPE Constitution. The vote follows five months of review and

discussion by the KSPE Executive Committee of a proposed Constitution revision prepared by Don Taylor, PE and Wade Culwell, PE.

Details of the proposed Constitution changes will be contained in the February issue of the KPE.

The entire proposed constitution will be forwarded to KSPE members for approval or rejection in the spring of this year.

MATHCOUNTS 20th Anniversary

2003 marks the twentieth anniversary of the MATHCOUNTS program. MATHCOUNTS is a national math coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement in every United States state and territory. The program was originally

founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers, CNA Foundation and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics,

Recognized as one of the leading volunteer led educational programs in the country, MATHCOUNTS has more than 5770 participating

schools this year, including 68 Kansas schools. Plans are underway to mark the 20th anniversary of MATHCOUNTS with a special recognition program at the state competition in Salina on March 8th.

NSPE Considers Monthly Payments

Most NSPE members consider their membership a great value. But one of the lingering obstacles for many nonmembers, particularly those whose employers do not reimburse them for membership in their professional society, is the size of the check you have to write for annual membership dues. NSPE is considering addressing this issue by allowing annual membership dues to be paid over 12 months by credit card.

NSPE leaders and staff have discussed monthly credit card payments off and on for several years. Accounting and database issues have been the principal obstacles to approving monthly payments in the past. Plus, there are credit card fees that must be paid that reduce the net membership revenue.

As NSPE has addressed membership issues over the past couple of years, confronting the obstacles to monthly credit card payments has

worked its way near the top of the "to do" list. NSPE recently polled state societies about their interest in monthly payments and support was very positive. Of primary concern to state societies, including KSPE, is how monthly payments would impact cash flow of annual membership revenue. If these issues can be satisfactorily resolved, look for a monthly, credit card payment option to be available soon.

Board Nominates Lackey and Hole as NSPE Fellows

Acting on the unanimous recommendation of its candidate review committee, the KSPE Board approved advancing the nominations of Mike Lackey, PE, and Larry Hole, PE as NSPE Fellows. Based on its membership, KSPE is authorized to nominate up to two candidates to NSPE for the special Fellow Grade recognition.

"Mike Lackey and Larry Hole are outstanding leaders," noted KSPE President Jay Freund, PE. "They represent the highest levels of personal and professional integrity and have made substantial contributions to our both our Society and profession. Please join me in congratulation them on being selected as our KSPE nominees."

Larry Hole is employed at Boeing as a design engineer and project manager and is currently the lead engineer for the Shipside and Group A engineering on the KC 10 Global Air Traffic Management upgrade. A graduate of Wichita State University College of Engineering with a BSME degree, Hole has also earned an MBA from WSU and is working towards a law degree from President's College in Wichita. A founding member of the Wichita Council of Engineering Societies, Hole has been a member of KSPE/NSPE since 1985, and was recognized as the KSPE

Young Engineer of the Year in 1992. He served as President of the Wichita Chapter of KSPE in 2000-2001.

Also active in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Hole has served as Chair of the Central Kansas Section of ASME and is currently the Region VII Representative on the Board of Professional Practice and Ethics. He received the ASME Fellow Grade recognition in 2001. In addition, Hole has served as a member of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions since 1998 and is the current Vice Chair of the Board.

Williams (Mike) Lackey received his BS and MS Degrees in Civil Engineering from Kansas State University and has been a Kansas licensed Professional Engineer since 1968. Lackey began his career with the Kansas Highway Commission as an engineering aide in 1961 and continued until his retirement from Kansas Department of Transportation in 1999, taking time to complete his graduate degree in the late 60's.

Lackey served more than ten years as the State Transportation Engineer and is credited with passage of the first State Highway Plan in the late 1980's and the subsequent State Transportation Plan passed shortly before his retirement.

He has also distinguished himself as a leader of KSPE, having served in all leadership positions of the Hutchinson Chapter and KSPE. He was twice recognized as Outstanding Young Engineer of the Hutchinson Chapter, twice Outstanding Engineer of the Topeka Chapter and was KSPE Engineer of the Year in 1994.

A charter member of the KSU Engineering Hall of Fame, Lackey has also been active in ASCE, APWA and AASHTO. Since his retirement in 1999, he has maintained his professional interests by serving as a consultant to various construction and engineering firms and serving as an expert witness. Lackey also serves as the KSPE Government Affairs Committee Chairman.

Selection as a NSPE Fellow is not automatic following nomination by the State Society. NSPE has a rigorous selection process that recognizes only the most deserving of nominees from state Societies across the country. Each state is allowed one nominee for each 500 members. With nearly 900 members, KSPE is allowed two nominees.

Conference Mixes Continuing Education and Fun

Mark your calendar for June 11-13 for the 2003 KSPE Annual Conference in Overland Park. This year's conference will be conducted at the new Sheraton Hotel located just off of I-435 and Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park.

Annual Conference Committee Chairman Chris Price, PE is leading plans for a fun and education filled conference. Activities currently on the schedule include Icebreaker Reception at the Kansas City NASCAR Track, a broad selection of Professional

Development Hours, state awards, practice division meetings, a tour of the Harley Davidson plant, and golf.

EVP Column

By Ron Gaches, JD

Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas Legislature are confronted with a daunting task, prioritizing fiscal year 2004 state spending to fit available dollars. In recent weeks the media and political pundits have suggested it can't be done without sacrificing essential programs, raising taxes or both.

In her State of the State message, Sebelius seemingly pulled a rabbit out of the hat. She fulfilled campaign promises to maintain K-12 and higher education funding at current levels, and restored a portion of the social service cuts recently ordered by Governor Bill Graves, all without new dollars from a tax increase.

It was brilliant budget politics, and nimbly subdued the expected Republican response. In that regard, the first Sebelius budget proposal is a substantial success. She put a budget into play and minimized the political shelling expected from her political opponents.

But while the proposed budget is a great political finesse, it fails to adequately meet the needs of the state and is unlikely to be passed. For starters, the budget practically eliminates the state's ending balances, forecasting just \$500,000 as the FY 2004 ending balance. Just two days following introduction of her budget, Governor Sebelius herself said this is not acceptable. Budget Director Dwayne Goossen has suggested that some balance in the neighborhood of \$150 million is necessary to maintain cash flow and avoid operating all year on certificates of indebtedness.

Further, the budget postpones indefinitely funding of enhancement projects planned as part of the state's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. More than \$250 million of CTP funding is deferred indefinitely to fund other state priorities. This precedent will be hard to reverse. With each new fiscal year, the argument must be made that new dollars should be directed to funding the languishing enhancement projects rather than funding increases in education or social service programs. The

Governor also recommends that the Highway Patrol budget be absorbed by KDOT funds, reducing transportation funding by another \$26 million in FY 2004.

This is a highways-versus-education debate that transportation supporters lost in the first round. But it is smart politics for Governor Sebelius. It effectively shifts the burden for advocating new taxes to transportation proponents. Tax increases now have powerful patrons, construction firms, consulting engineers, organized labor and local units of government.

If we want to maintain funding originally scheduled for the CTP, we will have to put our collective political equity to work convincing legislators that transportation programs are among the state's best economic development investments.

Sebelius Names Talented Cabinet

Building a Cabinet with established experience and skills, new Governor Kathleen Sebelius acted quickly to name her senior team. Probably of most interest to KSPE members are the selections for the Department of Transportation and Department of Health and Environment.

KDOT veteran Debra Miller has been named Secretary of the agency she previously served as Director of Planning and Development. A graduate of Kansas State University, Miller has spent nearly her entire career working with transportation issues and is well known to the state's engineer and construction industries. A Topeka resident, Miller worked most

recently with HNTB Companies, serving as the company's liaison with KDOT, prior to being named Secretary of Transportation.

Former local government official and public health expert, Roderick Bremby has been named Secretary of Health and Environment. Bremby is a graduate of the University of Kansas with undergraduate and master's degree in Public Administration. A ten-year veteran local official as Assistant City Manager of Lawrence, Bremby most recently taught at the University of Kansas, where he expanded his role as a public health researcher, teacher and advocate.

The balance of Sebelius' cabinet is comprised of veterans and newcomers generally acknowledged as experts in the fields which they have been chosen to lead. In addition, she has been notably non-partisan in the selection of cabinet members, retaining Republican former Governor Mike Hayden as Secretary of Wildlife and Parks and Dwayne Goossen as Budget Director, and naming Topeka businessman Howard Fricke as Secretary of Administration.

State Only Memberships

NSPE has recently announced the termination of a state-only membership program that was authorized in two states, Texas and South Dakota. The purpose of the pilot was to test a lower cost membership offering that could be used to bring new members into the Society and then encourage them to participate in the full Society membership. While the program

was successful in attracting additional "state" members for the Society in the two pilot states, it was not successful in leading to higher NSPE membership.

The National Society of Professional Engineers is a federation, a combination of local chapters, practice divisions, state societies and

the national society, offering members a broad range of services and products, including policy advocacy at the federal, state and local levels. Membership in the Society entitles members to receive services from all levels of the organization.

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Special points of interest:

- To update your membership record, visit www.kspe.org.
- Mark your calendar for June 11-13 to attend the 2003 KSPE Annual Conference in Overland Park.
- The *Kansas Professional Engineer* newsletter will now be available to you on a monthly basis. Watch your inbox!

We're on the Web
www.kansasengineer.org

KSPE Leaders Attend Winter Conference

The largest delegation of KSPE members assembled in several years attended the NSPE Winter Conference January 9-13 in San Francisco. Led by KSPE President Jay Freund, PE, delegation members attended practice division meetings, leadership training sessions, overviews of new NSPE products and services and participated in the daylong Consensus Congress.

The Consensus Congress has become a major policy making tool for NSPE, creating a forum for members from all over the country to actively participate in a discussion of Society

priorities and programs. During the congress, electronic tote boards and wireless voting machines are used to instantly tabulate members' opinions on a broad range of issues confronting the national leadership of your professional society.

Leadership development is also an emphasis of the Winter Conference. Association leadership consultant Jack Schlegel was a featured presenter at the conference. A regular participant of NSPE conferences, Schlegel has been instrumental in the reorganization of the NSPE national board and offers state leaders

insight in motivating and leading volunteers to achieve organization goals.

In addition to Freund, KSPE attendees at this year's conference included Past President Charlie Stryker, PE; President Elect Rick Ensz, PE; Secretary Treasurer Shawn O'Leary, PE; North Central Region Vice President Larry Emig, PE; North Central Region PEG Vice President Dan Miller; PEPP Young Engineer Advisory Council member Randy Gorton, PE; and Ron Gaches, KSPE Executive Vice President.