



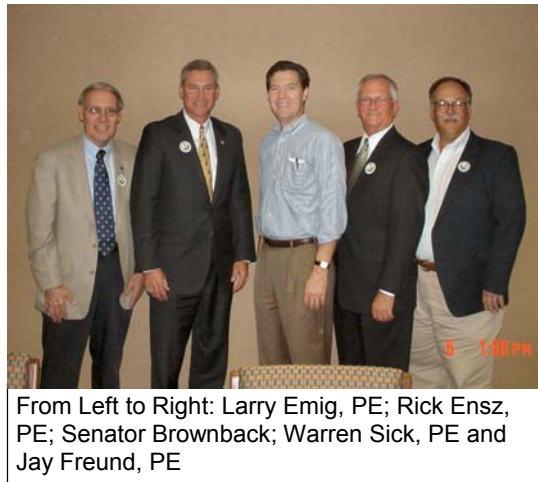
Kansas Professional Engineer

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KSPE Leaders Welcome Senator Brownback

Back in Kansas on a short break from his duties in Washington D.C., U.S. Senator Sam Brownback arrived at the KSPE office on Monday, October 13th with his shirtsleeves rolled up and without any staff. Having served in the U.S. Senate since 1996, Brownback is obviously comfortable with himself and his district.



From Left to Right: Larry Emig, PE; Rick Ensz, PE; Senator Brownback; Warren Sick, PE and Jay Freund, PE

Brownback met with KSPE leadership at the request of President Rick Ensz, PE. They presented Brownback with a \$1,000 check from the NSPE Political Action Committee in support of his current reelection campaign. KSPE leaders also wanted to visit with the senator about several current federal issues.

During the discussion, it was clear that Brownback has stayed current with key federal transportation funding issues and their impact on Kansas. According to Brownback, his number one transportation priority is to protect the distribution formula for sending federal transportation aid back to the states. Brownback and other members of the Kansas Congressional delegation developed a coalition with other states to

amend the formula a few years ago thus benefiting Kansas and those states receiving less than an appropriate share of federal dollars. It also blocked attempts by other states to reverse the gains made by reform of the formula is a priority shared by KSPE members.

Brownback also described his deep commitment for Kansas’ interests on a broader level. Among other priorities he mentioned were: federal funding for the Topeka Blvd. Bridge; major interchange enhancements in the Overland Park and Lenexa areas; new research and development facilities at our universities and a number of other projects around the state.

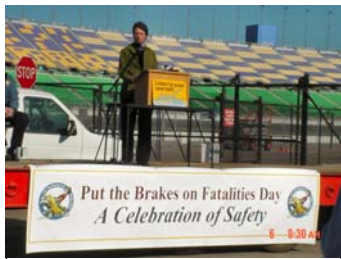
Nationally recognized as a fiscal conservative, Brownback believes investments in critical infrastructure is one of the most important roles of the federal government. He emphasized the economic development importance of the many federally funded projects he supports and urged KSPE and NSPE to do the same when supporting similar initiatives.

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2003 “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” – Events Occur in Many Locations

In 2003, Kansans joined over half the states on October 10th for “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” by calling attention to the national tragedy of the 42,815 fatalities that occurred in calendar year 2002. This message was presented at many locations hosting events on other dates.

The Kansas statewide event was kicked off at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas on October 6th. Deb Miller, Secretary of Transportation, served



Deb Miller, Kansas Secretary of Transportation, addresses attendees at the Kansas Speedway event.

as the keynote speaker. Sally Moore, morning news anchor for the NBC Action News introduced speakers Jennifer Jo Cobb, N A S C A R and ARCA Re/Max Series Driver, Col. William Seck, Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) and Beth Haislet, wife of Jack Haislet who was killed by a drunk driver. Statewide “Put the Brakes on Fatalities” poster coloring contest winners won a weekend stay at the Great Wolf Lodge.



Jennifer Jo Cobb, NASCAR and ARCA Re/Max Series Driver and Larry Emig, KDOT

The student winners and the other approximately 100 in attendance at the Speedway saw safety demonstrations featuring the KHP’s roll-over display, the Kansas Motor Carriers No Zone semi, the Safe Kids

Van, the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCA) trailer, the Johnson County Transportation Department Truck, the Yellow Freight Buckle Up Trailer and several safety booths.

On October 10th, six regional “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” events were held at Wal-Marts in Topeka, Salina, Hays, Chanute, Wichita, and Garden City. KDOT public information liaisons arranged these events. Eighteen region poster winners were awarded bicycles and helmets donated by Wal-Mart and Kansas SAFE KIDS Coalition. The attendees were able to see several demonstrations which were present at the

statewide event and to participate in a safety seat check lane demonstration. Participants experienced the importance of always being alert, wearing safety belts, using child safety restraints and following the speed limit.

The 18 winners were selected from 644 statewide entries in the poster coloring contest. This contest was created to help make people of all ages aware of the need to reduce fatalities on our nation’s highways. One winning entry for each region was selected from each of the three age groups: ages 1-4, ages 5-9 and ages 10-14.

On September 29, 2003, Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed a proclamation naming October 10th, “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” in Kansas. Attending the signing

ceremony were representatives from the KDOT, KHP, Kansas Turnpike Association (KTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), FMCA and the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (Jay Freund, Nathan Bergman and Larry Emig).

Several local governments signed proclamations including the City of Lawrence, Kansas. The KTA handed out brochures and posters were displayed at all booths.

Participating sponsors included: AAA of Kansas, FHA, FMCA, Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas Contractors Association, KDOT, KHP, KMCA, Kansas Safe Kids Coalition, Kansas Speedway, KSPE, KTA, NHTSA, Operation Lifesaver and Wal-Mart.



Left to Right: Jay Freund (KSPE), Nathan Bergman (KSPE), Robert Alva (FHWA), Teri Graham (FMCSA), Lt. John Eichkorn (KHP), Lt. Col. Terry Maple (KHP), Larry Emig (KDOT/KSPE), Steve Rust (KTA), Krista Roberts (KDOT), Kimberly Stich (KDOT)



“Put the Brakes on Fatalities” poster coloring contest winners

President's Message: The Week After Halloween

By: Rick Ensz, P.E.

I hope this first week in November, the first week after Halloween, does not bring any unpleasant surprises, but with kids around, there is always potential for surprises. This past football season my son Christian had an MRI performed on a suspected ACL injury – but that injury turned out to be only a deep knee bruise.

Christian, my budding 7th-grade football and basketball star, decided to surprise his mother and I and take us to the emergency room late this past Halloween weekend. At five-feet eight inches tall and weighing in at 145 pounds, my star was attending a weekly basketball conditioning camp. Of course, basketball is a non-contact sport. When one of the other players tried to run through Christian's screen, the result was a big pileup on the floor and a broken hand as Christian crashed to the floor.

Fortunately, we were prepared. We knew where the emergency care hospital was, we had insurance to cover the majority of the treatment and we have a youngster who heals quickly.

What if something unexpected happened to you and your career? Would you be prepared to respond to a sudden change in your employment or work status? Do you have a plan prepared to respond to change? Have you developed your network of clients, colleges and competitors to get their input or ask for their help?

If you are like most of us, you have taken some steps to prepare yourself for life's inevitable changes, but there is always a little more you could do. KSPE has developed a program to help you prepare for change in your life, workplace and career. It's the

KSPE Fall Professional Development Workshop in Wichita.

As of last count, we have about 40 participants attending the conference later this week. There is still time and still room for more, particularly those of you in the Wichita area, I would invite you to take advantage of this valuable but inexpensive way to help you to enhance your career. It will also help you meet the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions continuing educational requirements.

See you in Wichita later this week and thanks for your support of KSPE activities!

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Finally, the Senator spoke at length supporting President Bush's comprehensive energy bill, which is endorsed by NSPE. Increasing domestic energy production is a major concern for the Senator. He forecasted that the President's energy bill would be passed later this year, but proba-

bly without the controversial authority for further drilling in environmentally sensitive areas of Alaska, which Brownback supports, but believes will be removed to ensure sufficient votes for passage.

KSPE members in attendance at the Brownback meeting included: KSPE

President Rick Ensz, PE; KSPE Past President Jay Freund, PE; NSPE North Central Region Vice Chairman Larry Emig, PE; Kansas Department of Transportation Assistant Secretary and Chief Engineer Warren Sick; and KSPE Executive Director Ron Gaches.

EFK Golf Tournament a Success

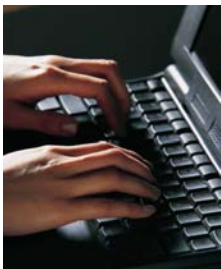
Final accounting of the Engineers Foundation of Kansas Golf Tournament conducted September 19 at Colbert Hills shows net revenue of \$7,181. Proceeds from the tournament are used to support the Foundation's grants to Engineering

School Deans and the State MATH-COUNTS competition.

Tournament sponsors are to be thanked for the success of the EFK tournament. With per golfer expenses totaling about \$100 (greens

fees, food, beverages and prizes) approximately \$600 of each \$1,000 hole sponsorship flows to the Foundation. For a complete list of all sponsors see the September issue of the KPE or visit the KSPE website at www.kansasengineer.org.

KSPE Website Access Information



Electronic communications has become the primary tool for communicating with our members. In addition to emailing the link to the monthly *Kansas*

Professional Engineer newsletter, we are also encouraging all mem-

bers to use the KSPE Website at www.kansasengineer.org to stay up-to-date about Society activities and to register for Society meetings.

The "Members Only" section contains contact information for ALL KSPE members, either by chapter or an entire state list, and our Strategic Plan. To access the "Members Only" section, the username is **great** and password **engineer**.

Please help us keep the website information current by emailing Brandy your chapter meeting news.

To update your member contact information (address, phone number, email address, etc.) please use the "Update Your Contact Information Here" section on the KSPE or NSPE websites.

KSPE Participating in Enterprise Membership Program

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers board of directors has agreed to be part of the National Society of Professional Engineers Enterprise Membership Program. This program approaches membership and recruitment at the NSPE level and at the state societies and local chapters in a new way. The Enterprise Program provides firms with an annual 10% savings on NSPE, state society and local chapter dues when they sign up their employees for NSPE membership provided that they meet the minimum membership criteria.

Eligible enterprises include: private practice firms, industrial firms, con-

struction firms, governmental agencies, educational institutions and others employing engineers. Participating enterprises', both for-profit and not-for-profit, employees are then eligible for the rosters of the society at all levels in which the employee would qualify for membership.

Enterprises wishing to enroll a group of its eligible employees in NSPE and an affiliated state society enter into an agreement between the Enterprise and NSPE, on behalf of itself and its state society and local chapter. NSPE maintains the records for members enrolled in the program.

Eligibility requirements vary by the size of the enterprise. Employers with 10–50 eligible employees must enroll at least 10 eligible engineering employees, while those with 51–250 employees must enroll 20% of their employees to qualify for the program. At least 50 employees must be enrolled by any enterprise with more than 250 eligible employees.

For more information on how to become part of this program, or for questions and comments, contact KSPE Executive Director Ron Gaches at: (785) 233-2121.

Executive Director's Message:

By: Ron Gaches, J.D.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with KSPE President Rick Ensz and Past President Jay Freund for an annual review of our association management contract. The purpose of the meeting is to assess our performance against the Scope of Services agreement signed by KSPE and my firm, Gaches, Braden, Barbee & Associates. In advance of the recent review, Ensz sought input from all KSPE Board members. Several emailed comments to Rick showing appreciation for our work or pointing out areas where improvement is needed, sometimes both.

From our discussion, we identified three major areas to target improvements for next year: public relations support, sponsorships and advertising and electronic communications.

To provide focus and direction to the public relations function, we identified five KSPE activities where we will improve our PR efforts: 1) Governor's New Product Award 2) State MATHCOUNTS competition 3) E-Week Recognition 4) NSPE President's visit to Kansas City and 5) New Officer Announcements.

In the sponsorships and advertising area, we are evolving our emphasis. Even during the recent economic

doldrums, the consulting engineer community has maintained generous financial support for KSPE activities. Sponsorships for the Annual Conference remained roughly constant the past three years, while financial support for the Engineers Foundation tapered off, but not dramatically. There are still firms whose financial support we hope to garner in the future, but it is a fair statement to say many consulting firms recognize the value of KSPE activities and generously support their employees' participation in the Society.

In the advertising area, we are looking at a major change of direction. Over the past year, we have eliminated the "business card" listings in the KPE newsletter to make the newsletter easier to send electronically and easier to read. We attempted to generate alternative income by offering advertising space on the KSPE website, but without running distracting banner ads. Response to the website advertising was weak. We mostly targeted those same consulting firms who had been advertising in the newsletter. For the most part, these firms already have listings on the KCE website, which is linked to the KSPE site. It was hard to see the value added.

The new advertising effort will be directed at vendors, service providers and trade associations who wish to do business with the engineering community or desire higher professional identification with Society members. It will be a more targeted effort than in the past with more specific benefits for those participating. We have already prepared a short list of prospects and have opened the channels of communication with some of them. Our twin goals are to provide the Society with a non-dues revenue source and offer advertisers and members a valuable communications opportunity.

We have taken all of the comments to heart, both positive and negative. In the review process, we learned a great deal about the needs of the society and ourselves.

Myself, and the rest of the GBBA team who support KSPE activities, greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve your Society and will work to continually improve our efforts. Please don't hesitate to offer your comments or suggestions to your Chapter State Director, any of your State Board members or directly to me.

Fall Professional Development Conference this Friday

Concerned about your career? Needing help with workday stress? Looking for tips to recruiting and keeping your top employees? Wondering how networking can work for you? These issues and others will be discussed at the KSPE Fall Professional Development Conference Friday, November 7th in Wichita. Go to the KSPE website at www.kansasengineer.org or call Pam Lower at 785-233-2121 for details and registration form.