



Kansas Professional Engineer

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Bylaws Change Creates New Foundation

Re-energizing the Engineers Foundation of Kansas has been a major goal of the EFK Board this year. A new Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board in June, setting the stage for updating the By-Laws to make the Foundation better able to fulfill its new, broader purpose.

Following several months of review and editing work by Jay Freund, PE and Don Taylor, PE the EFK Board adopted new By-Laws on December 3rd.

The biggest change is to create a Board for the Foundation that is separate from the KSPE Board. Prior to the change, the KSPE Board members also served on the EFK Board. Following the adoption of the new Strategic Plan, Board members were concerned serving on both Boards simultaneously would be too great of a burden to assume by most Board members.

The KSPE Board will retain control over the Foundation by appointing all EFK Board members. In an effort to bring additional expertise to the Foundation Board, the new By-Laws provide that not all members of the Board must be KSPE members. However, a majority of the Foundation Board members must be KSPE members. The By-Laws also provide that the Foundation Board shall be made up of no fewer than seven members.

KSPE Board member Tim Austin has agreed to serve as chairperson of the nominating committee to identify future Foundation Board members. Candidates should have an interest in programs that encourage the pursuit of engineering education, promote licensure and professionalism, and have the time to make a difference in the future of the Foundation. Prospective candidates should contact Tim Austin at 316-685-4114.

The KSPE Offices Have Moved!

Effective December 1st, 2004, the KSPE offices are now located at the following address:

825 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 500
Topeka, Kansas 66612

The telephone, fax and website will remain the same:

Telephone: (785) 233-2121

Fax: (785) 233-2206

Website: www.kansasengineer.org

President's Message:

By: Tim Austin, P.E.

To date, I have been able to attend chapter meetings for Smoky Valley, Eastern, Topeka, Southeast, and Wichita. Attendance at these meetings has been great; especially when you consider who was on the program! The discussions at the meetings have been lively, engaging, and appreciated. I am encouraged by the continued dedication of my peers to support their profession and the Society.

As we approach the upcoming legislative session, you should be aware that, as always, there are many issues being discussed that may affect your livelihood as a "Professional Engineer." How important is your license to you? Like one's faith, I believe that

our license to practice engineering is a very personal issue. Your license is portable in that you take it with you wherever you go. Your career, income earning potential, job, etc., may depend upon your license. Having "PE" behind your name opens many doors of opportunity, but also burdens the licensed engineer with great responsibility.

Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has the moral right to withhold support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere." If you haven't already done so, I recommend that you become engaged with

the political process by being informed of the issues, provide feedback to the KSPE board and Ron Gaches, and to your elected officials. Municipal elections are upcoming at the beginning of the year and provide an excellent opportunity for Professional Engineers to be involved in the community.

Additionally, we should all strive to contribute to KSPE in some manner no matter the level of effort. Do what you can. KSPE exists to serve you, the *Professional Engineer*; but the continued success of your Society and your license depends on you.

Happy Holidays to all.

Universities Plan Order of the Engineer Ceremonies

The Order of the Engineer is the roster of engineers in the United States who have participated in the Engineer's Ring Ceremony and who have publicly accepted the "Obligation of the Engineer."

The "Purpose of the Order" is to stimulate formal public recognition by engineers of two basic principles: (1) the primary purpose of engineering is service to the public, and (2) all members of the engineering profession share a common bond.

The "Obligation of an Engineer" is the formal statement of an engineer's responsibilities to the public and to the

profession. The Obligation is publicly accepted by an engineer during induction at the Ring Ceremony.

Kansas State University, University of Kansas, and Wichita State University Engineering Schools are planning Order of the Engineer ceremonies in 2005. All KSPE members are encouraged to participate.

The University of Kansas Steel Ring ceremony will be conducted on February 23 at 4:00 p.m. during Engineers Week. For information contact Dr. Tom Mulinazzi at 785-864-2928 or at tomm@ku.edu.

The Kansas State University Steel Ring ceremony will be conducted on May 14 at 2:30 p.m. For information contact Dr. Tom Roberts at 785-532-5455 or at tcr@ksu.edu.

The Wichita State University Steel Ring ceremony will be conducted on May 13 at 5:00 p.m. For information contact Brenda Gile-Lafin at 316-978-6301 or at brenda.gile-lafin@wichita.edu.

All engineers interested in participating in the Order of the Engineer ceremonies should contact the respective schools by the first of February.

Executive Director's Message:

By: Ron Gaches

These are challenging and exciting times. Challenging because so few Kansans understand the vital role that professional engineers play in their lives. Exciting because of the important new contributions Professional Engineers are making to the lives of all Kansans.

In recent months I've had several members express their growing concern that many public sector employers don't understand the importance of employing a licensed Professional Engineer in key positions. Some members have even been told to expect that they will be replaced by a non-PE when they retire. In other in-

stances, state agencies are unclassifying jobs that have previously been "classified" and required technical credentials.

There's no doubt that a non-engineer might be able to perform some of the functions that are currently being performed by Professional Engineers. But it is absolutely certain that a non-PE will not have the technical expertise essential to protect the public health, welfare and safety and ensure public investment in long-term, cost-efficient solutions.

During the upcoming year, your Society will begin a comprehensive educa-

tion campaign with local and state officials to better inform them about the core competencies of licensed Professional Engineers, and reinforce the need to bring technical excellence and professional accountability to the many functions performed by licensed engineers. From time to time we'll call on many of you to assist with the effort. Look for those opportunities in 2005.

All of us at the KSPE office in Topeka wish you a safe and joyous holiday season.

National Engineer's Week Future City Competition Volunteers Needed

Are you an engineer or work in an engineering related field? Are you willing to donate **one** morning to help promote engineering in anxious junior high school students? Then we need you to help judge the Great Plains Regional Future City Competition on January 29, 2005 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Kansas State Student Union in Manhattan.

The Engineers Foundation of Kansas is sponsoring the event at \$500. In addition to needing volunteers to help at the Great Plains Competition, Future City is also looking for mentors in the Kansas City area to assist students with their projects.

The National Engineer's Week Future City Competition is a way to introduce engineering to 7th and 8th grade students. At the regional competition, students present their scale model before a panel of engineering judges and answer questions from the judges. For more information visit www.futurecity.org.



7th and 8th grade groups have been working on their projects all semester and they need to have quality engineers like YOU judge their work! Free food provided for all volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact C.W. Harper at 785.393.9139 or email harper@ksdot.org.

What People are saying about Future City:

"I didn't know anything about engineering before but I learned that I really like it, and it's cool because you get to work with your hands and your mind." - Student

"This project taught me to take pride in my work." -Student

"I can see in their eyes and their voices that I help them... These students have opened my eyes -- they know how to dream. The kids have allowed me to dream, which I forgot how to do. It's incredible, their talents -- very refreshing. It's helped me in my business and it's gone over into my life. I'm sure it's the same for every mentor -- it's OK to dream."- Volunteer Engineer Mentor

"This competition not only provides an exciting hands-on way to learn engineering, math, and science, but also a personal real world connection. The time these volunteer engineers spend with kids is only one or two hours a week, yet the impact continues for a lifetime."-Future City Competition Regional Coordinator

Vicki Dressler and Dale Walden join KSPE Staff

In recent months KSPE has added two new staff members. Vicki Dressler serves as our Office Administrator, she is the first voice you hear on calls to our office, provides much of our general office administration, and assists with projects large and small. Vicki and her husband, Dennis, are building a new home in Southwest Topeka. Her hobby is pug rescue. Can you imagine caring for 15 pug

dogs at one time? See Vicki's website at www.prairiepugs.com to learn more.

Dale Walden is our new Meetings Manager and assists with the annual conference, professional development conference, EFK golf fundraiser and other projects. After a 20-year career in association management in Washington D.C., Dale married Ken Johan-

nes, who works at Hills, and moved to Topeka. When not working, Dale and Ken love to travel.

Vicki and Dale join Brandy Becker (communications and member services), Mary McCollum (bookkeeping), and myself as your KSPE team. Please join me in welcoming Vicki and Dale to KSPE.



Mike Hafing, PE of CAS Construction; Chris Price, PE of HNTB; Shawn O'Leary, PE of City of Salina; and Keith Beatty, PE of City of Emporia at the KSPE Fall Professional Development Seminar in Emporia



KSPE Executive Director, Ron Gaches, speaks to attendees of the Fall Professional Development Seminar regarding chapter leadership and public speaking

Recognition of New Members

Please welcome the following new members who have joined KSPE since October 1, 2004:

Tawny Albrecht-Tri Valley
Tyler Bridgeman-Topeka
Peter Clark-Tri Valley
Brent Cross-Tri Valley
Matthew Dickson-Eastern

Mason Gemar-Eastern
Clarence Harper-Topeka
Chris Hauser-Smoky Valley
Travis Heier-Eastern
Deborah Hemphill-Tri Valley
Mike Laubhan-Tri Valley
Nick Long-Tri Valley
Nathan Mentzer-Tri Valley
Steven Otte-Tri Valley

Albert Pearce-Tri Valley
Jacob Porter-Wichita
Rob Prentiss-Eastern
Lauren Rosenthal-Tri Valley
Dustin Sanborn-Tri Valley
Brian Sandon-Tri Valley
Jim Schwartz-Tri Valley
Shawn Sherraden-Smoky Valley
Drew Thompson-Tri Valley