



# Kansas Professional Engineer

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## Deadline Nears for NSPE Committee and Task-Force Volunteers

Those interested in serving on a NSPE committee or task force in the upcoming 2004-05 administrative year, beginning in July, may complete and submit a nomination form online by going to <http://www.nspe.org/aboutnspe/ab1-nominations.asp>.

A description of each committee and task force is available at this address. You will be asked to indicate your top three choices in order of preference when completing the form. **The deadline for submitting your nomination is February 6, 2004.**

Committees, groups, and boards are divided online by the goal they wish to achieve. The goal of the Board of Ethical Review and Licensure & Qualifications for Practice Committee is to: promote the competent, ethical, and professional practice of engineering. The Communications Task Force, Honor Awards Task Force and the Public Relations Task Force's goal is to: enhance the image and stature of engineering professionals.

To provide education, career development, networking opportunities and other benefits to engineering professionals and students is the goal set forth above the Council of NSPE Fellows Executive Committee, Membership Committee, Convention & Meetings

Development Task Force, Continuing Education Task Force, Diversity Task Force, Membership Recruitment Task Force, Mentoring Task Force, Products and Services Task Force and the Sponsorship Development Task Force.

The Legislative & Government Affairs Committee and the Critical Infrastructure/Homeland Security Task Force advocate the interests of engineering professionals and protect the public through an effective government relations program.

The Audit Review Task Force, Constitution & Bylaws Task Force, Policy Review Task Force, Resource Management Task Force, and Strategic Planning Task Force's goal is to align the structure, activities and governance of the society to optimize support and resources for all programs.

With such a variety of ways to be involved, please consider serving as a NSPE committee or task force member in the upcoming administrative year. Questions about the committee and task force nomination process for 2004-2005 may be directed to Nancy Oswald at NSPE headquarters at: [noswald@nspe.org](mailto:noswald@nspe.org) or 888/285-6773. You may also contact her to receive a hard copy of the form.

## President's Message: New Years Resolutions – How are you doing?

By: Rick Ensz, P.E.

Whenever a New Year rolls around there are always the traditional New Year's resolutions that we inevitably make. Hopefully your New Year's resolutions included KSPE, but I suspect they didn't. Here are the resolutions for 2004 we should all strive to keep. I will:

### 1. **Maintain my membership in NSPE/KSPE.**

In our last newsletter I shared with everyone our financial situation. While the situation has not changed there are many more reasons to maintain your membership to NSPE/KSPE. Maybe the most important reason is that we are the only organization looking out for you to practice your profession. Spend a couple of hundred dollars to insure your license and your job – so that you have several thousand dollars to insure your health, life, car, and home.

### 2. **Invite a new member to join NSPE/KSPE.**

The discussion under number one above is valid for new members as well. Share with fellow non-members the benefits of joining our professional society.

### 3. **Attend my chapter meetings each month.**

Chapter meetings are supposed to be fun. If the meetings are not fun then I doubt you will attend them. Tell your Chapter officers you want to have fun. Tell them you want meetings that provide opportunities to network with other engineers. Tell them you want breakfast meetings, or lunch meetings, or the traditional evening meetings. Tell them you want field trips to look at projects. Tell them you want exciting guest speakers. These are your meetings and should reflect your preferences.

### 4. **Attend the annual conference this summer in Topeka.**

Bottom line – this is the best deal around for helping you meeting your continuing educational requirements. Plus you don't want to miss the ethics sessions. Jim Haines, President of Westar, and Art Schwartz, general counsel of NSPE and the nation's leading expert on engineering legal/ethics issues will both be speakers. The conference committee has many other exciting programs planned as our conference continues to get better and better each year.

### 5. **Contact my legislators.**

We live in a dynamic world. Whether you live in Liberal, Goodland, Baxter Springs, Atchison, or Lyons, your world is changing and will continue to change. Do you have any say in what happens? You bet you do. During the current legislative session lawmakers will be discussing a number of issues. One will be the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The Governor, in her State of the State address, identified a possible shift in funding for the program. Your society will be evaluating the impacts of suggested changes and may call on you to share KSPE's response. If you haven't already developed a dialogue with you legislator please do so now. Whether it is a transportation issue or some other issue, your legislator wants your input on the subject.

So there you have it. Five simple resolutions we can all keep. No resolutions dealing with vices, just professional activities. How tough can that be?

## Winter Conference Marks NSPE Turning Point

By Ron Gaches, Executive Director

The recent NSPE Winter Conference in Washington D.C. may well become an important turning point in the history of the National Society of Professional Engineers. At this meeting was presented the recommendations from a November 2003 meeting of a group of 17 members of the State Society Executives Council (I was one of those participants). Those recommendations had three major points:

1. Several State Societies are in dire financial shape as a result of the slow downward spiral in membership over the past several years.
2. NSPE has an urgent need to better focus its resources on the essential activities need for survival and growth of the organization.
3. NSPE should focus its activities on meeting the specific needs of licensed "Professional Engineers" rather than the broader "professional interests of all engineering professionals" embodied in the current NSPE Vision Statement.

As you can image, these recommendations were closely scrutinized and passionately debated by the nearly 200 NSPE and state society leaders and members who met in D.C. The current Vision Statement was adopted in 1999 in an effort to broaden the appeal of NSPE to non-licensed engineers.

Although there was not a vote taken straight up or down on the SSEC proposal, there was a straw vote that

indicated significant support for something resembling this approach. This past fall, NSPE President Elect David Waugh, PE asked NSPE leaders to think outside of the box and recommend "Radical Tracks" for NSPE to consider to grow its membership. Those ideas were reviewed and voted on during the Consensus Congress portion of the D.C. meeting, and 77% of participants indicated that they believed promoting the brand identity of Professional Engineers was a viable option for NSPE.

In addition to the SSEC proposal, there was also presented by Waugh a draft proposal recommending creation of an Engineering Institute or Academy, which would provide all ABET degreed engineers with a national professional registration or certification organization. Both PEs and non-PEs could participate. This idea was the outgrowth of discussions originally conducted by the NSPE Professional Engineers in Industry, and it appears there may be strong support among some industrial employers for creation of such an Engineering Institute.

The Institute proposal could provide NSPE with two major benefits. First, it could be a way of providing non-licensed engineers with exposure and services from NSPE; and second, it could generate non-dues revenue to support other NSPE programs and services.

In addition to these discussions, Consensus Congress participants were also asked to prioritize spend-

ing on NSPE programs and services. Much to the delight of any member who has struggled to get their contact information or membership status right with NSPE, replacing the membership database was the number one priority of those voting. Unfortunately, many worthwhile programs received relatively modest support from the attendees, including the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Program created by NSPE NC Region Vice President and KSPE leader Larry Emig.

The great weakness of this prioritization effort is that participants have no idea how effective the programs are they are evaluating nor how many resources are needed in order for them to be successful. It would be a great loss if PTBOFD were to fall short of its potential because NSPE reduced funding at this early stage in its development.

NSPE President Terri Helmlinger, PE and Waugh are assembling a "Blue Ribbon Task Force" to consider recommendations from the Radical Tracks, SSEC Report, Engineer Institute and other ideas to stabilize and grow the Society. In the meantime, KSPE leaders are interested in your input about the future of the Society. What do you want KSPE and NSPE to do for you?

The full SSEC Report and the excellent PowerPoint presentation from David Waugh on the Engineering Institute will be available on the KSPE website in the next few days.

## Westar Energy Foundation Contributes to EFK

By Jay Freund, PE

The Engineers Foundation of Kansas was the recipient of \$850 from the Westar Energy Foundation, due to the efforts of KSPE Professional Engineers in Industry Chairman Don Taylor, PE.

Westar Energy, through its Westar Energy Foundation, administers a program where community organizations receive monetary contributions based upon the volunteer hours of work provided by the corporation's employees. The program is called the Community Partners program. In 2003, more than 360 Westar Energy employees and retirees volunteered more than 72,600 hours of service to community organizations across the Westar Energy service area.

On Wednesday, January 21, 2004, Westar Energy's Community Partners program donated \$15,000 to 22

nonprofit organizations on behalf of active and retired employees and their spouses who have volunteered 100 hours or more in 2003. Participants and organizations were honored at the sixth annual awards luncheon at the Kansas Expocentre. Approximately 250 people attended.

KSPE Past President Jay Freund, PE was present when Don Taylor received the cash award on behalf of the Engineers Foundation of Kansas. Don was one of six employees to receive an award of \$750 for the organization of their choice. The EFK was also the recipient of a separate \$100 award from the Westar Energy Foundation through the Community Partners program. Don chose a program that is near and dear to his heart, the Engineers Foundation of Kansas and the MATHCOUNTS program.

President and CEO Jim Haines spoke at the luncheon awards program, attended by the Westar volunteers and representatives of the recipient organizations. Haines thanked the audience for supporting volunteerism, encouraged increased participation by his employees in the Community Partners program and praised the employees and retirees for their commitment to making our communities better places to live and work.

Congratulations to Don for the award recognizing his tireless efforts. On behalf of MATHCOUNTS and the EFK, I wish to thank Don Taylor for all his efforts and for electing the Engineers Foundation of Kansas as the recipient of the Westar Energy Foundation's Community Partners cash award. Good work, Don!

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## Give Back, Get Back

The NSPE Board of Directors has approved a new "Give Back: Get Back" incentive program as part of the P.E. Invitational—NSPE's "Member Get A Member" campaign. Any NSPE member who sponsors two or more new or reclaimed, full-paying *Licensed Members* and/or *Members* between October 3, 2003, and March 31, 2004, will receive their 2004-05 NSPE national membership for FREE!

The rules are:

1. Incentive recipients must be current NSPE members in good standing as of March 31, 2004.
2. Life members, Retired members, and Student members—or, members who have joined through the enterprise program—are eligible to

be sponsors, but are not eligible to be sponsorees, for the purposes of this incentive program.

3. In order for the sponsor to receive credit in this program, the initial application of the sponsoree must contain the sponsor's name and/or member ID number.
4. Starting in November, all sponsors will receive a monthly e-mail update (with a copy sent to the state societies) on their status toward the two or more-sponsoree goal. This notification will include confirmation-as applicable-that they have qualified to earn their incentive reward during the 2004-05 fiscal year.
5. Starting in November (and after the closing of each month's membership books from now through March), NSPE will post the names

of the qualified members (the winners!) here, on a new and special Web page.

6. Starting in the 2004-05 fiscal year, renewing members who have qualified for the reward will note that fact on their renewal form and then receive their national dues for free. [Recipients must pay all of their 2004-05 state and chapter dues, as applicable.]
7. NSPE will review the results of this pilot program at its conclusion (3/31/04) to determine whether it will be revised and/or extended.

Questions? Comments? Please contact us at [membership@nspe.org](mailto:membership@nspe.org) or at 703-684-2800.

(information from [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org))

## It's Time for MATHCOUNTS Competitions

By Alice Karakas

We are quickly approaching another exciting season of MATHCOUNTS. MATHCOUNTS, as you may know, is a local and national math coaching and competition program promoting middle school mathematics. The mission of MATHCOUNTS is, "to increase enthusiasm for and enhance achievement in middle school mathematics throughout the United States."

With over 20 years in existence, MATHCOUNTS is one of the country's largest and most successful education programs involving students, educators, volunteers, and industry sponsors. The MATHCOUNTS program has received two White House citations as an outstanding private sector initiative. ESPN even broadcast last year's National Competition.

Students practice throughout the school year preparing for competi-

tions. Each school may enter one team comprised of four students and one coach. Local contests all over Kansas begin in February and the state competition will be held March 13, 2004 at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. The top four "Mathletes" and top coach then go on to represent Kansas at the national competition.

Ben Jackson, KSPE member and MATHCOUNTS coordinator for the state of Kansas, commented, "I am very pleased MATHCOUNTS registration in Kansas has increased this year, approximately 10% over last year. A total of 470 students will be competing in the chapter contests in February. The MATHCOUNTS program allows all KSPE members the opportunity to participate in education, recognition, and encouragement of math students in Kansas."

### Chapter MATHCOUNTS contests:

#### **Eastern Chapter: February 4**

Jewish Community Center, Overland Park

#### **Hutchinson: February 14**

Hutchinson Middle School Facility #7

#### **Smoky Valley: February 14**

Kansas State University in Salina

#### **Southeast: February 7**

Pittsburg State University

#### **Topeka: February 21**

Washburn University - Henderson Learning Center

#### **Wichita: February 7**

Wichita State University - Wallace Hall

For more information, please contact your local chapter MATHCOUNTS chairman; state chairman Ben Jackson; or the KSPE office at 785.233.2121.



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## Register Now for NSPE/ASCE Engineers Day on the Hill

Join NSPE and the American Society of Civil Engineers in Washington, D.C., March 9-10, 2004, for *Engineers Day on the Hill*. *Engineers Day on the Hill* will allow you to meet your Representative, Senators, and staff in their Washington offices and discuss issues critical to the engineering profession. 2004 will be a

crucial year in Congress for engineering professionals, and your legislators want to hear from you.

For the 2004 *Engineers Day on the Hill*, participants will be updated on the status of transportation, water infrastructure, and other legislation. NSPE staff will arrange visits for you

with your home state Senators and your House Member. Information and sign-up forms are available on the NSPE Web site, <http://www.nspe.org/govrel/gr-home.asp>. You may also contact the NSPE Government Relations department at 703-684-2841 for more information.