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## STATE NEWS

### President's Message By Dennis Kuhlman, P.E., FNSPE

The mid-term elections are over and one can expect some changes. Change always provides new opportunities for growth and development. KSPE supports progressive changes as needed to make our society stronger and safer. But KSPE will continue to be a stabilizing force protecting your interests as a Professional Engineer. Chapter visits by your President and Executive Director are now underway and offer you the opportunity to inform your leadership of issues of importance to you in enhancing your profession.

In the last year, KSPE was active in proposed and enacted changes. Funding of the Kansas infrastructure's State highway fund is important to the state and KSPE. For the present, the continued transfer of funds from the State highway fund has been stopped and some eroded funding restored. The State Water Plan has been funded in a manner that will allow real progress in the protection of an important resource. Funding of our three outstanding Engineering schools in the KanGrow Engineering Fund was protected from damaging cuts that would have reduced the progress of engineering student education. Our seven KSPE Chapters have supported and enhanced the MathCounts program that encourages youth to experience mathematics in basic engineering applications, and our State champions have represented us well at the national competition.

What opportunities will the 2019 Legislative Session bring? If only one had a crystal ball!!!! Based upon the actions of other states, it is probable that some form of legislation challenging QBS (Qualifications-Based Selection) the awarding of State contracts will again surface. Although, the fact that the reauthorization of the FAA at the Federal level actually expanded the QBS requirements for federally funded airport projects during the next five years might reduce the probability of our State Legislature introducing such provisions.

## President's Message Continued

Nationally, there is discussion in many states about Professional Engineering licensure being available to graduates of ABET accredited Engineering Technology programs. Forty states now accept graduates of ABET-ETAC degrees in some form as candidates for the PE license, including neighboring Colorado. Twenty states accept the ABET-ETAC degrees with additional education and experience including neighbors Nebraska, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Nine states do not accept ABET-ETAC degrees including Kansas and Missouri. During the completed Chapter visits, this topic has been raised as a discussion point, but I do not expect any legislation to be introduced addressing this topic, as it would require opening for change the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions state statutes.

Our Governmental Relations Committee, led by Travis Stryker, is

already active in preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session. KSPE's legislative priorities will be reviewed and updated. For example, one significant problem facing Kansas is that the budget restraints of the past ten years have resulted in a shortage of Professional Engineers within our state agencies. It is very difficult to attract replacements for retiring or departing PEs when salaries are well below those of private industry. KDOT is facing major challenges in addressing the increasing numbers of vacancies within the Professional Engineering ranks.

Now that the elections are completed, it is time for every member to get to know their local State Representative and Senator. Legislative actions (and reactions) depend upon local input and knowing your legislator on a personal basis is critical to the effectiveness of your society.

It is clear that KSPE has a long history of growing the organization and responding

to member needs. But it is also clear that there is much reminding to do! KSPE remains committed to very specific goals:

- Foster Chapter-State-National partnerships to seamlessly deliver a core level of service to every member.

- Deliver value to our members that enhance their competence and ability to practice as a Professional Engineer.

- Increase membership to serve and represent the collective interests of all licensed Professional Engineers and Engineer Interns.

If you have suggestions on how we can more effectively accomplish these goals, please let us know. Be safe during the coming holiday periods and take time to recharge your batteries for the push into the future.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

By Travis Lowe



KSPE Members,

Greetings from the KSPE World Headquarters! There are just a few more weeks until 2019, which ushers in a new legislative session and activity for our Society. We are excited about the opportunities ahead. But first, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the Association that comes in so many ways.

Your KSPE Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers are working hard to ensure KSPE remains a strong voice for your interests. Kansas just finished a very tense election cycle that produced a new Governor and many changes in the State House and Senate. The

2019 Legislative Session begins on January 14, just less than two months away. As Governor-Elect Laura Kelly and legislators prepare for a busy session, KSPE is ready to keep a close eye on anything that can impact the Licensed Professional Engineer in Kansas. Over the last few legislative sessions, the legislative arm of KSPE has been very busy. From defeating proposals to eliminate QBS for state highway projects, defeating legislation to reduce the KanGrow Engineering Initiative dollars to advocating for a fully funded State Water Plan, KSPE is an active voice in the statehouse.

We can only continue advocacy work as long as we have a strong membership base. It may be the

single most important function

of KSPE and the leading reason why other P.E.s should be members of KSPE. Please use these examples as you encourage your peers to join the Society.

Beyond the legislative work, KSPE is working to improve membership services. Hopefully you noticed this publication has a new look to it. This is just one effort to provide the membership with enhanced communication. KSPE has also added a new social media tool- Instagram, too. Please follow our Instagram and Twitter accounts as they provide instant Society news. KSPE President Dennis Kulhman and I have almost

## Executive Director Message continued

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finished the annual chapter visits. We thoroughly enjoy these opportunities to meet members and hear your ideas.

Hopefully you have heard that your membership dues have decreased! For anyone joining the Association or renewing after July 1, KSPE membership dues dropped from \$329 to \$299. We hope you help us retain and grow our membership by promoting the dues reduction. While most associations are having to increase dues to account for rising costs and inflation, KSPE is reducing

the dues.

This time of year we really need your help in becoming a sponsor for the Society or our 2019 Annual Conference. Our website has a page dedicated to our sponsorships and the different levels available. These sponsorship dollars go directly to our bottom line. Please consider having your company or employer become a sponsor. It means more to our financial health than you realize.

Thank you in advance!

Please make sure you have the following important dates on your calendar... The KSPE 2019 Annual Conference is June 12-14 and NSPE's 2019 Conference which will be in Kansas City, July 17-20.

Thank you again for your support and being part of the KSPE team,

Travis

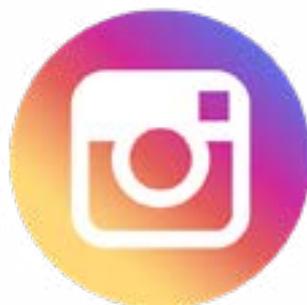
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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Chad Mazurek P.E., Eastern Chapter  
Arrin Tieben P.E., Tri-Valley Chapter  
Jim Zibert P.E., Smokey Valley Chapter

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## FOLLOW US



# SAVE THE DATE!



**NSPE-KS**™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

# 2019

Annual Conference  
**June 12-14**  
Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview  
Wichita, Kansas

# KSPE PRACTICE CHAIR UPDATES

## PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE UPDATE

By Jeffery Hancock, P.E.

NSPE-Kansas members involved in private practice are working hard to keep "Professional" in Professional Engineering. Through the American Council of Engineering Companies – Kansas (ACEC-KS) the ACEC Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) moderator, Dave Comstock, P.E., recently moderated a panel discussion involving three panelists from industry at the Kansas League of Municipalities meeting held in October in Topeka. The panelists discussed the benefits of QBS, how the QBS process works, and some of the common questions asked about QBS. The panel discussion was intended to educate and inform attendees that consultant selection through QBS ensures the most well-qualified consultants are designing public infrastructure and providing the greatest overall value to the owner and user. In addition to QBS, ACEC-KS has been actively involved with the Governor's Transportation Task Force. Kenzil Lynn, P.E. of Schwab-Eaton is representing ACEC-KS and Professional Engineers in private practice as a member of the Task Force. Task Force meetings are occurring throughout the state. Joe Drimmel, P.E. of HDR recently provided testimony at the Hays Task Force meeting regarding alternative delivery of KDOT projects. The primary message of the testimony was in support of alternative delivery methods that preserve QBS for selection of design consultants. ACEC-KS, representing Professional Engineers in private practice, is involved with several partnering committees. These committees include the KDOT Road Design Partnering Committee; the KDOT Bridge Design Partnering Committee; the AIA/OFPM/OSFM/ACEC-KS Partnering Committee, and the Corps of Engineers Partnering Committee. These committees generally meet at various times throughout the year to discuss improving the collaborative nature of relationships between Professional Engineers in private practice and the individual agencies. Through these discussions, the goal is open communication and strong professional relationships resulting in more productive delivery of infrastructure projects from Professional Engineers and consultants.



The NSPE-KS PEPP representative exists to safeguard professionalism of engineers working in private practice throughout Kansas. If you have any issues or concerns you feel are compromising this professionalism, please contact Jeffrey Hancock, P.E. of SMH Consultants at 785-776-0541 or at [jhancock@smhconsultants.com](mailto:jhancock@smhconsultants.com).

## PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN INDUSTRY UPDATE

By Amy Martens, P.E.

Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) volunteered to be superheroes for the Superhero Science Day at the Kansas Children's Discovery Center (KCDC) in Topeka on November 3 from 11am - 3pm. Female engineers facilitated several STEM activities from the NISE (National Informal STEM Education) Network for elementary age kids including: What's in the Water?, Chemistry Makes Scents, Build a Battery, and Chemistry is Colorful.



Engineers are needed for the upcoming KCDC Annual Engineering Expo on March 2, 2019. This event encourages local youth to consider engineering as a future career. Please contact Amy Martens, PEI Chair, at [amy.martens@bcbsks.com](mailto:amy.martens@bcbsks.com) if you are able to assist with this fun event!

# OTHER KSPE EVENTS

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## KANSAS MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION DATES & LOCATIONS

Eastern Chapter  
Tuesday, February 5, 2019  
Jewish Community Center of  
Kansas City  
5801 W 115th Street  
Overland Park, KS 66211

Smoky Valley / Tri-Valley Chapters  
Saturday, February 9, 2019  
Kansas State Polytechnic  
2310 Centennial Road  
Salina, KS 67401

Southeast Chapter  
Saturday, February 2, 2019  
Pittsburg State University  
Kansas Technology Center  
1701 S Broadway  
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Topeka Chapter  
Saturday, February 2, 2019  
Washburn University  
Henderson Learning Resource Center,  
Room 100  
1700 SW college Ave  
Topeka, KS 66621

Wichita Chapter  
Saturday, February 2, 2019  
Wichita Collegiate School  
9115 E 13th Street N  
Wichita, KS 67206

Kansas MATHCOUNTS Competition  
Saturday, March 2, 2019  
Washburn University  
Henderson Learning Resource Center,  
Room 100  
1700 SW college Ave  
Topeka, KS 66621



# KSPE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JACOB ALLEN, P.E.



**Chapter:** *Smoky Valley*

**Education:** *Kansas State University, Biological Systems Engineering, May 2018*

**Employment/Education History:** *I interned at KLA Environmental Services, Cargill, and Anheuser-Busch during my time at K-State. I started full time with Wilson & Company in the Municipal Services Division after graduating in May!*

**Family:** *I have one older brother who does environmental consulting work for wind farms. My dad is a retired carpenter, and my mom works for an insurance company.*

**Accomplishment:** *My greatest accomplishment so far was graduating from K-State.*

**Fun Fact:** *I like to build smokers and use them to compete in barbecue contests!*

**Free Time:** *In my free time I enjoy woodworking, hunting, fishing, and working on cars.*

**Why did I become an engineer:** *I wanted a job that would constantly keep me thinking and on my toes.*

**If I wasn't an engineer I would be:** *If I wasn't an engineer I would be a farmer.*

## **Favorites**

**Restaurant:** *Q-39 Barbecue in Kansas City*

**Vacation Spot:** *Grand Teton/Yellowstone National Park*

**Sports Team:** *Kansas City Chiefs/KSU Wildcats*

**Song or Music Artist:** *I don't really have a favorite song or artist. I enjoy all sorts of music and change genres frequently.*





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Travis Lowe

NOVEMBER 2018 STATE NEWS

After several months of hard campaigning in state and national elections, the suspense is finally over. Laura Kelly will be the next governor of Kansas, the third person to serve as Governor in a ten-month span. The Kansas House will have many new faces next session, along with a handful of changes in the Senate, in what otherwise would be considered an "off year". The election results bring Kansas closer to a complete view of what can be expected in the 2019 and 2020 Legislative Sessions.

Beginning with the national view, elections in the United States Senate resulted in the GOP maintaining control for at least two more years. Kansas Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran were not up for election, thus attention shifted toward the state's congressional seats. Two seats, in particular, were considered possible upsets over the last several months, generating national scrutiny. Sharice Davids won the Third Congressional District that is almost entirely Wyandotte and Johnson County. She replaces Congressman Kevin Yoder, who held the seat since 2011. Steve Watkins won the Second Congressional District over Paul Davis in a close race. This District encompasses the eastern third of Kansas, with the exception of Wyandotte and Johnson County. Lynn Jenkins represented this District since 2008, however, she opted to retire from politics and not seek re-election. Congressmen Roger Marshall and Ron Estes handily won their re-election campaigns in the First and Fourth Congressional Districts, respectively. Democrats now control the United States House of Representatives.

Beyond the national elections, Kansas will see many changes in the coming months. Laura Kelly was elected as the 48th Governor of Kansas, after a bitter general and primary campaign cycle that stretched over the summer and autumn months. Kelly defeated Kris Kobach by 45,991 votes out of slightly more than one million cast. Independent Governor candidate Greg Orman captured 7% of the vote.

In the coming weeks, a new cabinet will be appointed by Governor-Elect Kelly, which changes the leadership of state agencies. Some of these cabinet appointees could be state legislators.

All 125 Kansas House members stood for election, although many ran in uncontested races. After the smoke cleared, 30 new members will head to the Statehouse in January. This equates to a 24% total turnover of the House compared to the 2018 Legislative Sessions. In the election, six incumbent Democrats lost their seats and five incumbent Republicans lost their seats. Thus, Democrats had a net loss of one seat. Of the 125 seats, 86 are now Republican and 39 are Democrat. Additionally, because of the August primary election results where six GOP representatives were defeated, five of the six were moderate-leaning, giving a nudge of power back to the conservative ranks in the Kansas House.

Kansas House Speaker Ron Ryckman plans to retain his spot as the highest-ranking member of the House in the leadership elections that will take place in December. The House Speaker Pro-Tem, Majority Leader and Minority Leader positions will also be elected at this time. It is yet to be seen who will make up the slate of candidates and challengers to incumbent leaders. Once leadership elections are completed, committee leadership and rosters will be selected for the 2019 Legislative Session.

The Kansas Senate will look largely the same, as only one senator stood for election. Senator Richard Hilderbrand retained his seat in the special election in southeast Kansas, having replaced outgoing Senator Jake LaTurner, who resigned to become State Treasurer two years ago. However, other statewide elections had implications on the Senate. Senator Vicki Schmidt, who currently serves as chairwoman of the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee, was elected as the new Kansas Insurance Commissioner and will vacate her seat in the Senate. Her replacement will be decided by local

precinct committee representatives in the coming weeks and a new committee chairperson will be named by Senate President Susan Wagle. Laura Kelly's victory will prompt the vacancy of her state senate seat, along with her running mate, Lynn Rogers. Local precinct committee representatives will select their successors too. Kevin Braun will also join the Kansas Senate, taking over for former Senate Steve Fitzgerald, who resigned his seat in September. Braun and Schmidt's successors will be given committee assignments by Senate President Wagle while Kelly and Roger's successors will be given assignments by Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley.

Other statewide elections were settled last night. In addition to Vicki Schmidt's victory as the new Insurance Commissioner, outgoing House Speaker Pro Tem Scott Schwab defeated Brian "BAM" McClendon for Kansas Secretary of State. Attorney General Derek Schmidt and State Treasurer Jake LaTurner were both re-elected.

The general election finally provided clarity with a complete list of legislators but there is still much in question. Until the legislative leadership elections in Topeka, it is unclear who will hold the House's top posts. Governor Kelly will present her legislative agenda and vision for the state in January's State of the State address, where school finance can be expected to be her top priority. As Kelly is the current ranking member of the Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee, discussion on Medicaid expansion will certainly be given more attention by the new administration. Though the Governorship changed political parties, the Kansas Legislature composition between Republicans and Democrats is essentially unchanged with 68% and 75% Republican majorities in the House and Senate, respectively. Within some of the changes of the House, the House GOP became slightly more conservative.

We will share leadership news in December.

# KSPE 2018 -2019 PARTNER SPONSORS

## PLATINUM PARTNER SPONSORS



12200 NW Ambassador Drive, Suite 625, Kansas City, MO  
7301 West 129th Street, Suite 330, Overland Park, KS

## GOLD PARTNER SPONSORS



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Olsson Associates  
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HNTB  
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Bartlett & West  
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Terracon  
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# NSPE NEWS

## NSPE NORTH CENTRAL REGION DIRECTOR UPDATE

By Matthew Kruse, P.E., PTOE

Hello fellow NSPE members and colleagues,

I would like to take a minute to introduce myself as your new North Central Region Director. My name is Matthew Kruse from Omaha, NE and in August of this year I assumed the role of regional director from Gary Strack. I am the Roadway and Traffic Practice Group Leader for Lamp Rynearson and I hold professional engineering licenses in Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri. For those of you who may not be totally familiar with the regional director position, the north central region is made up of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. The director position is a two-year term and the main responsibility of the director is to serve as a conduit of information between the state societies and the executive board.

In July of this year at the annual PE Conference in Las Vegas, NSPE kicked off a new strategic planning effort. Now that the new membership model has went into effect and the completion of the Future of the Professional Engineering report, the executive board felt the time was right to look at the entire organization of NSPE as a whole and to develop an update strategic plan that will focus on how NSPE operates, the value and services provide by NSPE to it's members and public, and the relationship between NSPE, NICET, and the state societies. Since the July PE Conference, a strategic planning session took place at NSPE headquarters in Alexandria, VA in late September. From this session, the following main areas of focus were developed: Shaping of Public Policy, Educating



for the Future, Communicating Powerfully to Critical Audiences, and Diversity of Tomorrow's Engineer. As the process moves along, NSPE understands the importance of engaging and receiving input from the State Societies and the board will seek this engagement in the future when the topics and plan have been developed in more detail. If you have any questions or comments regarding NSPE, please feel free to reach out to me at 402-496-2498 or [matt.kruse@LRA-Inc.com](mailto:matt.kruse@LRA-Inc.com).

## 2019 PECON PLANNING COMMITTEE

MSPE's Gary Strack to Chair NSPE 2019 PECON Planning Committee

Gary Strack has accepted the appointment to chair next year's NSPE conference Planning Committee. The event will take place on July 17-21, 2019 at the Kansas City Marriot Downtown in Kansas City. Gary has put together together a team of local volunteers to assist the NSPE staff with ideas of seminar topics, tours and entertainment options.



# SAVE THE DATES!

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# DISCOVER



# ENGINEERS WEEK

**FEBRUARY 17–23, 2019**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

## **NSPE 2019 PE Conference**

**July 17-21, 2019**

**Kansas City Marriott Downtown**



Champion | Guide | Advance | Unite

# CHAPTER NEWS

## KSPE PRESIDENT VISITS CHAPTERS

Eastern Chapter Visit



Smokey Chapter Visit



Wichita Chapter Visit



Southeast Chapter Visit



Tri-Valley Chapter Visit



# KSPE PARTNER SPONSOR PROGRAM



## PARTNER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

- Platinum Partner ..... \$2500
- Gold Partner ..... \$2000
- Silver Partner ..... \$1500
- Bronze Partner ..... \$1000
- In Kind ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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elsie@kansasengineer.org

**Please return completed form at your earliest convenience to:**

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers  
825 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 500, Topeka, KS 66612  
785-233-2121  
[info@kansasengineer.org](mailto:info@kansasengineer.org)

# KSPE PARTNER SPONSOR PROGRAM



Dear KSPE Members,

Thank you for your continued support of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers. This is a one-time request that will facilitate effective planning of the various KSPE events throughout our fiscal year, July 1 – June 30, and allow firms to more effectively plan and track their KSPE sponsorship investments. Please note that chapter activities and sponsorships are separate.

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers’ Mission is “To promote, recognize and enhance the engineering profession by delivering professional development products and services, encouraging licensure, and advocat-

ing legislation and public policy for the betterment of human welfare and the profession.”

To that end, the KSPE Partner Sponsorship Program supports activities that deliver on this mission such as: PE Licensure Ceremony – KSPE teams with other organizations to recognize individuals who have recently passed the PE exam by sponsoring a winter and summer ceremony.

KSPE Annual Conference – The KSPE Annual Conference offers various professional development and networking opportunities over the course of the nearly three-day conference and includes a golf tournament and Ice Breaker reception. KSPE Partners will receive complimentary registrations based upon their partnership level. For as much as \$2,500 or as little as \$1,000, your firm can continue to support the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers and our efforts to promote the profession by becoming a KSPE Partner Sponsor. However, for those firms not interested in participating in the Annual KSPE Partner Sponsorship Program, KSPE would appreciate

any sponsorship investment your firm deems appropriate. To participate in this manner, please insert a dollar amount in the “Other Amount” portion of the Partner Sponsorship form.

Below you will find an outline of sponsorship levels and benefits, an enrollment form is included on the last page of this newsletter. KSPE Partner firms will also be recognized at the KSPE Annual Conference events. These benefits will begin immediately upon commitment to the KSPE Partner Sponsorship program. The funds raised by the KSPE Partner Sponsorship Program solely benefit state society funded activities. Please remember to support your local chapter. KSPE appreciates any support your firm may have provided in the past, and we look forward to building on that relationship.

Regards,

Dennis Kuhlman, P.E.

2018-2019 President, Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

Benefits	Platinum \$2,500	Gold \$2,000	Silver \$1,500	Bronze \$1,000
Recognition at PE Licensure Ceremony (two per year)	◆	◆	◆	◆
KSPE Annual Conference				
Recognition	◆	◆	◆	◆
Three Complimentary Registrations	◆			
Two Complimentary Registrations		◆		
One Complimentary Registration			◆	
Two Complimentary Golfers	◆	◆	◆	
Advertisement in bi-monthly newsletter	Business Card Ad with Link	Business Card Ad with Link	Business Name with Link	Business Name and Contact
Advertisement on KSPE website	Business Card Ad with Link	Business Card Ad with Link	Business Name with Link	Business Name and Contact
Complimentary Job Postings	◆	◆	◆	