Above: KSPE Government Relations Committee meeting at the end of February.

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A Message From Your 2019-2020 KSPE President

Greetings from Wichita!

This is my second attempt to write this message. The first message I submitted about two weeks ago was full of talk about March Madness, upcoming conferences and seminars, and other (at the time) pertinent info. It is scary to realize how much can change in a very short amount of time. Here in Sedgwick County, talk has started about working from home, and other ways to avoid contact with people. Technology will play an important role in the coming months as we utilize work from home connections, video conference calls, and online review tools.

I’ve been through some recent health issues just before all this began, and it has really made me pause and take stock in what is important in my life. Playing catch with my son or watching a movie with my daughter are no longer things I take for granted. A good work-life balance has always been important to me, but even more so now. It’s easy to get bogged down in the everyday mundane, and it’s important to stop and enjoy the small things while we can.

I know parts of the state have been dealing with this situation longer than others. I feel like this is going to affect us all, in all parts of the state, in many ways. We will be recovering from this for a long time, economically, financially, and in general health. The good thing about our state is we will make it through and come back stronger.

Until next time, stay healthy!

Jessica J. Rhein, P.E.
2019-2020 KSPE President

ADDRESSING COVID-19

KSPE recognizes the growing concern associated with the impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) as federal, state and local governments work to minimize risk and prevent its spread. We are closely following the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and our public health officials.

To that end, KSPE is postponing the 2020 PEG Seminar scheduled for April 1 in Wichita for a date to be determined. KSPE will be issuing refunds for attendees that have registered for the event. We also urge our society chapters to follow CDC recommendations regarding upcoming meetings this spring. No other changes have been determined for future KSPE state events at this time.

KSPE staff remains committed to maintain membership services without interruption. We are equipped with technology services and solutions that allow us to continue serving you from our Topeka office or in the event staff must work from home. KSPE has a dedicated conference call line available for committees and chapters to continue necessary business while avoiding in-person meetings. For assistance in this area, please contact our office at 785-233-2121 or info@kansasengineer.org.

We will keep our membership abreast of updates as soon as it becomes available. We urge our members to use caution and stay safe during the following weeks.

Stay safe,

KSPE Staff
KSPE Members,

Greetings from KSPE World Headquarters! The new decades continue to offer countless opportunities for KSPE. We have many updates to share but first we want to thank you for your continued support of KSPE that enables us to provide and operate efficiently for you.

KSPE is working on multiple fronts. The 2020 Legislative Session has reached its halfway point, known as Turnaround, with many issues of interest for the Society. Licensure issues have dominated KSPE advocacy efforts, fueled by stakeholders questioning the role of licensure and asserting the claim it provides barriers to employment. Our legislative update in this publication provides more information on the licensure, transportation and other legislative issues under the dome.

Our office is sends out weekly legislative updates on Fridays. We hope you take a few minutes to look them over. Our Government Relations Committee, led by Travis Stryker, is meeting monthly in the KSPE office to review the status of the legislative session. We usually have a legislator join us for lunch to discuss their view of our issues. Thanks to all involved for the support!

The Society has several important events on the horizon. Our 2020 Annual Conference will be in Olathe on June 3-5. Registration will open April 1. If you are not already an annual partner sponsor, please consider being a sponsor of this event. We hope to see you all there! We just finished the Water Quality Seminar, which is a combined day event with ACEC Kansas and KDHE. We had over 60 people attend with a lot of positive feedback. Thanks to all that took the time to attend!

We also just finished E-Week, which encompassed very exciting events across the state. The KSPE Eastern Chapter held its annual lunch in Kansas City with the MSPE Western Chapter, where nearly 500 people attended the event and lunch. Chapters across the state celebrated the week. It is great to see how much work and time volunteers spend to bring awareness to the profession. Thank you!

As we look ahead, KSPE is growing with well over 500 members. We urge our newer members to sign up for a committee to get involved. This helps KSPE, the local chapter and fosters new relationships for you.

Membership remains an important action item for our society. Please talk about KSPE to your fellow P.E.’s. Mentor new and/or young hires in your department, schools and firms and press the importance of KSPE. Remember, for anyone joining the association or renewing after July 1, 2018, KSPE membership dues dropped from $329 to $299. We hope
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

you help us retain and grow our membership by promoting the dues reduction and the benefits KSPE provides. While most associations are having to increase dues to account for rising costs and inflation, KSPE is reducing the dues. Please help spread this message.

With all the activity and news in this issue, check out the ways KSPE is working hard on your behalf. There are many opportunities to get involved with KSPE. We appreciate your support to help promote and protect Licensed Professional Engineers.

In the meantime, please stay safe,

Travis Lowe
KSPE Executive Director

Now Hiring: Project Engineers

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Find Out More at: www.affinis.us/career-opportunities
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Eastern Chapter
Siddharth Choudhury
University of Kansas
Shawnee, KS

Emily Guzy
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Jacob Hammil
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Fallon Herrick
University of Kansas
Prairie Village, KS

Derek Hopkins, P.E.
TranSystems
Mission, KS

Robert Krewson, P.E.
Alfred Benesch & Co.
Overland Park, KS

Shreya Kulshrestha
University of Kansas
Overland Park, KS

Zac Lenz
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Martin Ntonjira, P.E.
Unified Government of Wyandotte and Kansas City Kansas
Kansas City, KS

Steve Schultz, P.E.
Bartlett & West Inc.
Overland Park, KS

Michael Terman
University of Kansas
Overland Park, KS

Dana Weir, P.E.
Burns & McDonnell
Overland Park, KS

Smoky Valley Chapter
Brett Wilkinson, P.E.
Kaw Valley Engineering
Salina, KS

Topeka Chapter
Clair Bexten
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Alexander Chamberlin
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Aneeq Chaudhry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Matthew Drummond
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Ethan Henderson
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Kyle Kelsey
University of Kansas
Topeka, KS

Brittany Kracht
NSPE
Lawrence, KS

Anh Le, EIT
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Monty McCoy
U.S. Water Services
Lawrence, KS

Hailey Neidig
University of Kansas
Lansing, KS

Katlyn North
University of Kansas
Ankeny, IA

Ellen O’Gorman
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Kennedy Pate
University of Kansas
Bentonville, AR

Chaudhry Hassan Rasool
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Kristen Sawyer
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Ashlyn Turk
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Ryan Winkle
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Wichita Chapter
Joseph Cillessen
Cillessen & Sons
Kechi, KS

Justin Harris
Kikham Michael & Associates
Goddard, KS

Emily Orawaru
World Trade Council of Wichita
Wichita, KS

Viraphonh Soukamneuth, P.E.
ARCCA Inc.
Aventura, FL
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
DANA WEIR, P.E.

KSPE Chapter: Eastern Chapter

Education: BS in Civil Engineering, University of Iowa, 2007; MS in Civil Engineering, University of Kansas, 2012

What is your employment/education history? I've been at Burns & McDonnell since 2008 working in the municipal water/wastewater group. My primary focus has been design and construction of drinking water treatment facilities and pump stations throughout Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. My first project was the $35M rehab and expansion of a 40 MGD water treatment plant in Fort Smith, Arkansas that I managed construction just 2 years out of college. I truly enjoy working on the complicated/challenging projects, am always willing to raise my hand to help a colleague in need, and look forward to the future of the water sector.

Tell us about your family: I grew up in Rockford, Illinois, daughter of two teachers, one brother that lives in KC. Proud animal parent of one blind dog and one PITA cat.

What is your greatest accomplishment to date? Completing the design and construction of a brand new reverse osmosis water treatment plant for Arkansas City, KS to replace an aging plant. Our team provided the city with several value engineering items that saved nearly $4M from original estimates by working with KDHE to reclassify the source water as ground water (GW) rather than ground water under the direct influence (GWUDI) – the first successful reclassification in KS in over 25 years. The plant has been in service for over two years and was recently awarded the “Best Tasting Water in Kansas” by KRWA for 2019.

One fun fact about you: My first trip outside the United States was to China and I immediately left my passport at the currency exchange and left the airport...

What do you like to do with your free time? I enjoy anything that involves water, in the summer my favorite spot is reading a book with a pool nearby.

If you weren’t an engineer, you would be a ____________________? Sports analyst.

FAVORITES
Restaurant: Martin City Brewery
Vacation Spot: Salzburg, Austria
Sports Team: Iowa Hawkeyes
Song or Music Artist: Recently been listening to Maggie Rogers

WHY DID YOU BECOME AN ENGINEER?
My high school chemistry teacher turned me onto engineering. I always loved puzzles and Legos, and for the longest time I said I wanted to design roller coasters. As I started taking structural engineering courses, I quickly realized that my interest lay more on the environmental side of things and that water chemistry and treatment

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KSPE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

KSPE WORKS TO PROTECT YOUR PROFESSION WHILE YOU ARE AT WORK!

With the 2020 Legislative Session past its halfway point, KSPE’s government affairs team, is working on its members’ behalf on several legislative fronts. The 2020 Session has particularly generated considerable discussion on licensure issues in both the House and Senate, along with transportation, water policy, KPERS and others.

KSPE WORKS TO STOP BILL THAT WOULD ELIMINATE P.E. REQUIREMENT FOR CHIEF WATER ENGINEER

KSPE strongly opposes SB 329, which is the Kansas Livestock Association’s bill to remove the requirement for the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Chief Water Engineer to be a Licensed Professional Engineer or even have a degree in engineering. The proposal comes in the wake of the retirement of Chief Water Engineer David Barfield, P.E., as the Department looks for a successor. KSPE visited with Senate committee members stressing our strong opposition. A hearing was not scheduled for the bill.

KSPE ADVOCATES FOR NEW COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

KSPE testified in support of KDOT’s Forward Transportation Bill, contained in HB 2588 and SB 375, which is the comprehensive transportation plan set to succeed TWORKS, once it is completed. Forward Kansas is a new ten-year transportation plan but is considered to be a rolling plan as far as project selection. Specifically, the bill allows the KDOT Secretary to select projects for development and construction every two years, after a series of local consultation meetings.
KSPE WORKS TO STOP DOUBLE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN P.E.’S

KSPE has worked to amend SB 168, known as the Home Inspector Bill. The bill aims to create a registration act for home inspectors. KSPE opposed language that would require Licensed Professional Engineers that perform home inspections to have additional licensure, education and financial requirements. KSPE is working with the other stakeholders to amend the bill to exempt Licensed Professional Engineers from extra licensure requirements.

KSPE WORKS TO AMEND LICENSURE RECIPROCITY BILL

HB 2506 and SB 366, known as the “Reciprocity Bill”, which allows new Kansas residents or military spouses who are licensed in another state to have their license be transferred to Kansas, includes the amendments advocated by KSPE and other stakeholders to relieve concerns on unintended consequences. The amendments provide more authority to the Board of Technical Professions to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public with transfer requests.

The KSPE Government Relations Committee recently met to discuss legislative session activities and advocacy.
Engineers Week was founded by NSPE in 1951. It is “a week dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers.” (nspe.org)

Thank you to all who helped celebrate, including the hundreds of attendees at the KSPE Eastern Chapter/MSPE Western Chapter Engineers’ Week Lunch in Kansas City (below)!

P.E. LICENSURE CEREMONY

The recent licensure ceremony held on February 14 included around 30 participants who received their license. KSPE Past President Wayne Nelson, P.E. (pictured below) was the keynote speaker. Congratulations to all of the newly licensed Professional Engineers!

Engineers throughout history have changed the way we work, build, travel, and explore. With my background in engineering, I’m pleased to celebrate #EngineersWeek and encourage Kansans pursuing STEM education and careers that will change the world.
ACEC-Kansas, KSPE and KDHE’s Bureau of Water jointly sponsored the Water Quality Seminar for continuing education. The event focused on some of the water quality issues facing Kansas today. There were over 60 attendees and a vendor this year.

The seminar offered 5.5 CEUs and included topics such as integrated planning, SRF developments, BOW update, KWO projects and several different panels.
The 2020 MATHCOUNTS of Kansas competition was held in Topeka on Saturday, March 7 at Washburn University. There were 16 teams from 16 schools and one individual that participated for a total of 65 competitors. The competition started at 10:00 a.m. and finished up with awards around 3:30. This was the second year for the earlier start time to allow schools to travel during daylight hours. Coaches were not only appreciative of the earlier time, but also the give-aways for students and pizza lunch for all. In the end, 4 students from 4 different schools made up the top 4 spots that will advance to the National MATHCOUNTS Competition May 9-12 in Orlando, FL. For a listing & photos of those students, please see the MATHCOUNTS event photo pages.

MATHCOUNTS is a program that relies on volunteers at the local, state and national levels. Nationwide there were about 40,000 Mathletes that participated in 2020, with 438 from 52 different schools in Kansas. Many thanks go out to the Local Coordinators, KSPE Chapter members and others that volunteered & contributed funding to make this another successful year in Kansas. As the State Coordinator, I sincerely appreciate the support. Each year I am a bit nervous that we will have enough help & funding and each year I realize there was no need to worry! To everyone, THANK YOU, and I hope to see you again next year at the competitions.

If anyone has any questions or would like more information on how to get more involved with MATHCOUNTS next year, please let me know.

David Johnson, P.E.
Kansas MATHCOUNTS Coordinator

Kavin Li, Harmony MS, 2nd Place Individual advancing to the national contest.
William Ku, Overland Trail MS, 3rd Place Individual advancing to the national contest.
1st Place Team - Pleasant Ridge MS
State Competition
Washburn University, Topeka KS
March 7, 2020

2020 TOP 4 INDIVIDUALS ADVANCING TO THE NATIONAL CONTEST

1st Place Indiv
Rebecca Xue, Lakewood MS

2nd Place Indiv
Kevin Li, Harmony MS

3rd Place Indiv
William Ku, Overland Trail MS

4th Place Indiv
Arnesh Sharma, Pleasant Ridge MS

2020 TOP INDIVIDUALS

5th Place Indiv
Medha Goli
Lakewood MS

6th Place Indiv
Shivan Kumar
Harmony MS

7th Place Indiv
Bo Lu
Robinson MS

8th Place Indiv
Srlam Srinvasa Kalki,
Overland Trail MS

9th Place Indiv
Lillian Xia
Overland Trail MS

10th Place Indiv
Krishi Maduru
Pleasant Ridge MS

Not Pictured

Kansas Team Coach
Sharad Sharma
Pleasant Ridge MS
State Competition
Washburn University, Topeka KS
March 7, 2020

2020 TOP 4 TEAMS

1st Place Team - Pleasant Ridge MS
2nd Place Team - Lakewood MS
3rd Place Team - Overland Trail MS
4th Place Team - Robinson MS

2020 PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Harmony MS
Leawood MS
Southeast of Saline JH
Southwest MS
Altamont MS
Pittsburg MS
A BIG THANK YOU
GOES OUT TO ALL SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

**VOLUNTEERS**

**WASHBURN FACULTY**
Kevin Charlwood
Janet Sharp

**WASHBURN STUDENTS**

**KSPE MEMBERS**
Bill Hughes
Brian Armstrong
Cindy McCann
David Jacobson
David & Mack Johnson
Don Taylor
James Koelliker
Jessica Rhein
Jon Callen
Lynn & Jennifer Berges
Scott Uhl
Wayne Nelson

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Bennington State Bank
(Bottled Water)

Charlie’s Car Wash
(Pizza Lunch)
AMY MARTENS, P.E.

Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) will volunteer again during the Engineering Expo at the Kansas Children’s Discovery Center (KCDC) in Topeka. This is always a great event to encourage local youth to consider engineering as a future career. PEI will be overseeing the Balloon Build station. The kids have a great time building balloon towers and enjoy the opportunity to win prizes. The event will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 11 am to 3 pm. Please contact Amy Martens, PEI Chair, at amy.martens@bcbsks.com if you are able to assist!

PEI provides value to members in industry through the promotion of professional practices and policies, including support of the licensure process for engineers in Industry. Our mission includes offerings of educational and professional development opportunities and actions to increase the public awareness of the contribution of professional engineers in Industry.

JOSEPH DRIMMEL, P.E.

ACEC members showed up in strong numbers for the Transportation Day at the Capital on February 12. Members met with legislative and committee leadership throughout the day. The Governor held a press conference to introduce FORWARD which is the new transportation plan and is SB 375 and HB 2588. ACEC is also working with KDOT on the alternative delivery legislation and has been a critical team member in the procurement process of the on-call contracts. A small committee of members met with KDOT to review the KDOT Consultant Standard of Care Policy. The board also hosted Secretary Lorenz at the February board meeting to discuss all things transportation and FORWARD.

The ACEC board is continuing to utilize David Comstock to help educate local municipalities about Qualification Based Selection QBS. David is also working with KU Public Management Center to potentially get QBS into their curriculum. The board is also continuing to work with KDHE in regards to permitting projects through the Bureau of Water. A legislative work group has been created to work on changes to legislation related to KDHE.

Bylaws are in the process of being updated and will be presented to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting in May. Also, the membership survey results are in and most members are generally satisfied with their membership.

The ACEC Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) registration is open and registrations are due by May 22nd. This is a great program for the next group of leaders within the membership firms. Are you interested in an entertaining and somewhat educational podcast? The ACEC-KS QBS Express Podcasts might be the thing for you. Check it out and let us know what you think.

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 Joseph Drimmel, P.E. of HDR Engineering at 816-360-2701 or at joseph.drimmel@hdrinc.com
UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
June 3-5, 2020
Embassy Suites
Olathe, Kansas

Professional Engineers in Government
Kansas City Seminar
September 16, 2020
Kansas City, MO
Hosted by Burns McDonnell

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Philadelphia
August 12-16, 2020

EFK 21st Annual Golf Tournament
October 16, 2020
Colbert Hills
Manhattan, KS
8:00 am Registration
9:00 am Shotgun Start
2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 3-5, 2020
Embassy Suites
Olathe, Kansas
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Wichita Overland Park

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS DAY
08.05.2020

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GO TO https://www.kansasengineer.org/Sponsors FOR MORE INFORMATION