

# Kansas Professional Engineer News

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

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## KANSAS PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NEWS

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Kansas Professional Engineer Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Kansas Society of Engineers, 825 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 500, Topeka, KS 66612. Opinions expressed by authors herein are not necessarily those of the Society. As a matter of policy, KSPE does not endorse any item, product or advertisement.

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# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR KSPE PRESIDENT

by Kiel Johnson, P.E., F.NSPE



It's fall and we're in the thick of football season. I love this time of year with all the activities and sports! My Oklahoma State Cowboys Football team is struggling here at the finish line but that's the life of a college football fan, lots of ups and downs. This time of year is also hot and heavy with projects wrapping up before winter and the holiday season fast approaching. It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I've been very thankful for the recent rain, the dry and hot weather has played havoc with lots of folks.

Speaking of lots of activities, KSPE has been on fire with all the activities going on. I've had a chance to visit two of the Chapters now, Wichita and Eastern, with plans to visit the others in the coming weeks. I truly enjoy getting the opportunity to meet the chapters and their members at these meetings. I've been asking lots of questions because I want to know what opportunities chapters have identified that we can collaborate on, what's important to their members and how we can improve on what we are already doing. A large part of the strategic plan is to discuss the core values of KSPE and which ones we need to set goals for and expand upon.

We only have so much time, energy and money, so where should be focus it?

I'm also excited to say that I had a chance to meet with lots of legislators during the recent Easter chapter legislative meeting this past month. It's a great opportunity to discuss local and state topics with the folks who are trying to get to the heart of important issues affecting the state. We saw a presentation by Olsson regarding ground water depletion and opportunities to recharge them at the meeting and the legislators had some great questions. I was particularly engaged because water topics are at the forefront of many of the conversations and how the state will handle future iterations of the mega water bill from this past legislative session.

The elections have finally taken place and I'm thankful that the election adds are finally gone. Laura Kelly will be our governor for another 4 years and I wish her the best of luck in leading our great state. When KSPE members had the opportunity to speak with her a couple months ago, she reaffirmed the intention to keep KDOT's funding intact and to fully fund the state water plan. She had

many social issues that she planned to address for the coming 4 years, but I'm interested to see what the change in the state legislature plus her in the governor's chair will bring for Kansas. Time will tell and KSPE will remain vigilant in monitoring any new bills that seek to undermine the profession or licensure.

Finally, I'm glad to say that I had a chance to speak at the KSPE PEG (Professional Engineers in Government) workshop that was held in Wichita this past week. We had almost 50 folks there and we saw a lot of great presentations that impacted engineers in government. It's always a great opportunity to meet with peers and see how they are addressing issues and sharing their experiences in order to help others that maybe experiencing similar situations. I look forward to the Kansas City Metro PEG meeting in February next year! Thanks to Gary Janzen for putting on a great event.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and I wish you and your family all the best!

# 2023 MATHCOUNTS

by David Johnson, P.E., LS  
Kansas MATHCOUNTS Coordinator

Hard to believe, but the 2023 MATHCOUNTS competition year has already started. Registration is now open for schools with the reduced registration until October 31 and full registration latest possible deadline of December 15. If you know of schools/teachers/kids that may be interested in participating this year, please let me or your local Coordinators know.

This year should proceed the same as pre-covid years with local in-person competitions followed by the state competition. Following is a list that includes the dates and locations for each of the chapter and the state events, along with the name of the respective MATHCOUNTS coordinators.

Tuesday, February 7  
Jewish Community Center  
**Eastern Chapter**  
Rachel Henkhaus

Saturday, February 4  
Pittsburg State University  
**Southeast Chapter**  
Robin Philipp

Saturday, February 4  
Washburn University  
**Topeka Chapter**  
Kevin Holland

Saturday, February 4  
Wichita Collegiate School  
**Wichita Chapter**  
Jessica Rhein

Saturday, February 11  
Manhattan, Location TBD  
**Smoky & Tri-Valley Chapters**  
Jarred Green & Greg Fief

Saturday, March 4  
Washburn University  
**State Contest**  
David Johnson

Note that some of the above locations are tentative and can't be finalized until we get closer to the contest dates, so keep in touch with your local coordinators and make sure your "volunteer hat" still fits!

Thanks to all for your past involvement and I am looking forward to another great year.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### EASTERN CHAPTER

Kevin Sterrett, P.E.  
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# MATHCOUNTS®

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Since 1910, the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers has represented all engineering disciplines and practices for the state's licensed professional engineers. We represent licensed professional engineers who practice in industry, construction, private practice, education, and government. The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers membership provides professional engineers with the resources and services needed to be better informed and better connected within the professional engineers in your community.

## 2022-2023 CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

**Eastern Chapter**  
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[email](#)

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**Wichita Chapter**  
Alex Lane, P.E. .  
[email](#)



# 2022 ELECTION REPORT

## ***Super Majorities Hold, Dozens of New Faces Head to Topeka***

by Travis Lowe  
KSPE Executive Director/Lead Lobbyist

After several months of hard campaigning in state and national elections, the suspense is finally over. In a razor thin gubernatorial race, Governor Kelly will be returning to Topeka with the win over challenger Derek Schmidt. All other Kansas races, for statewide office, state legislature and federal seats are settled. The Kansas House held on to its Republican super majority though it will look very different with 27% turnover. The top GOP House leadership posts will all change, along with many of the committee leaders.

The election results bring Kansas closer to a complete view of what can be expected in the 2023 and 2024 Legislative sessions. The coming weeks will continue to provide more insight with the election of House leaders and finalization of House committee rosters.

### **Kansas' Federal Delegation Will Look the Same**

At the top of the ticket, Senator Jerry Moran (R-Manhattan) will be returning for his third term after defeating challengers with 60% of the vote. Below Moran on the ballot, all four incumbents in the U.S. House of Representatives won their elections. Congressman Tracy Mann (R-Salina) defended his seat in the First Congressional District known as "The Big First," which encompasses all or part of 60 plus counties in western and northern Kansas. Second Congressional District Representative Jake LaTurner (R-Galena) won his chance to return to Washington after defeating Topeka Democrat Patrick Schmidt. Congresswoman Sharice Davids (D-Kansas City) representing, the Third Congressional District (Kansas City area), defeated Republican challenger Amanda Adkins for the second time. Congressman Ron Estes (R-Wichita) in the Fourth Congressional District (encompasses mostly the Wichita metro area) will return for his fourth term.

### **Preparing for Second Term**

The morning after the election, Governor Laura Kelly declared victory, affording her a second term. She will be able to hit the ground running with her staff and cabinet already in place to resume work that began during the first term. The Governor will also be able to roll out new priorities for the next four years in January during the State of the State address.

### **New Statewide Officials**

The announcement of Attorney General Derek Schmidt (R-Independence) to run for Governor opened the door to a hotly contested Attorney General race. After winning the Republican primary, former two-term Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R-Lecompton) narrowly defeated Chris Mann (D-Wyandotte).

The close races of the Governor and Attorney General was the exception for the balance of the statewide races. Incumbents for both the Insurance Commissioner and Secretary of the State handily won their elections. Vicki Schmidt (R-Topeka)



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*contributions as of 11/15/22*

# 2022 ELECTION REPORT CONTINUED

defeated challenger Kiel Corkran (D-Olathe) to retain her place for Insurance Commissioner and Scott Schwab (R-Olathe) beat Jenna Repass (D-Overland Park) to remain Secretary of State, by 26% and 21% margins, respectively. The Kansas Treasurers office will have a new commander after Steven Johnson (R-Assaria) defeated appointed Incumbent Treasurer Lynn Rogers (D-Wichita).

## 34 New House Reps Head to Topeka

The Kansas House elections did not offer any major shocks. Going into the election, the high turnover was already assured after two dozen representatives did not file for re-election and a handful more lost their August primary race. After the November election, the total shows 34 of the 125 member House will be brand new, thus a 27% turnover. This is a common trend showing a state without term limits has a revolving door in Topeka.

## Super GOP House

Of the 125 House seats, Republicans won the majority 85 to 40, holding a 68% super majority. This, matched by the Senate's super majority, gives the Republican's the ability to override bills vetoed by the Governor, if the party is unified on the issue.

## New House Leadership at the Top and Committee Level

Along with the 27% turnover, the House leadership will look different, along with many of the committees. The retirements of House Speaker Ron Ryckman and Speaker Pro-Tem Blaine Finch creates two vacancies with Majority leader Dan Hawkins (R-Wichita) seeking the speakership. Minority Leader Tom Sawyer (D-Wichita) has announced his run to retain his position. Leadership elections are held on December 5 where the new members will elect their leaders of the top GOP and Democrat posts.

Once the leadership elections are resolved, the next question turns to committee assignments. Leadership of both parties will have to determine new committee assignments including committee chairs, vice chairs, and ranking minority members. The committee appointments are announced in mid-December, generally a few days before Christmas.

## Kansas Senate Remains the Same After Special Election

Though the Kansas Senate is not on the ballot until 2024, Senator Ron Ryckman Sr. (R-Meade) won his special election to retain his Senate seat. Kansas requires Senate members to stand for election after being appointed before year two of the four-year term. The Republicans hold a super majority in the Senate.

## The 2023 Legislative Session

The Governor will prepare to present their legislative agenda and vision for the state in January's State of the State address. All previously introduced legislation from the 2022 session is dead so new proposals must be introduced, leaving the Legislature with many policy areas to tackle, including the yearly constitutional requirement of passing a balanced budget. The 2023 Legislative Session will begin January 9.

## Looking Ahead for KSPE Issues

Governor Kelly's re-election means no transition will have to occur the cabinet level agencies. This includes the Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, among others. For transportation policy in the House, there will be a new chair of the Committee on Transportation, after Rep. Rich Proehl (R-Parsons) did not seek re-election. Though there are rumored hopefuls, the new chair will not be named until mid-December. This could also mean changes for the vice-chair role.

2023 expects to see the continuation of water policy discussion. This sponsor of the 2022 Mega Water Bill, Rep. Ron Highland (R-Manhattan) did not seek re-election. This also means a new chair is coming House Committee on Water, other whichever committee is assigned to consider water policy.

The coming weeks will provide glimpses of emerging legislative issues that could be on the KSPE radar.



# 59TH ANNUAL NSPE PRESIDENT VISIT TO KANSAS CITY

The tradition continues after another successful visit from the National Society of Professional Engineers president. Every year, the KSPE Eastern Chapter teams up with the MSPE Western Chapter to host the annual visit that encompasses two days of an action filled schedule.

2022's visit featured NSPE President Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, a resident of Jefferson City, a past president of the Missouri society.

The visit kicked off with a dinner featuring Britt Smith, KSPE President Kiel Johnson, P.E., F.NSPE, KSPE Eastern Chapter President Chad Hall, P.E., Executive Director Travis Lowe, MSPE President Rachel Goeke, P.E., MSPE Western Chapter President Tim Scott, P.E. and several officers of the two local chapters. Dinner saw robust discussion on the value the society provides members and building the professional engineer community.

The following day saw Smith visit with local engineering firm leaders as well as meeting with leaders of Kansas City Global Design and aSTEAM, which is a high school based program introducing technical professions to underserved areas of Kansas City.

The final evening ended with a joint dinner with members of the Eastern Chapter and MSPE Western Chapter and remarks from Smith, Johnson, Lowe, Goeke and Scott.

KSPE thanks all the sponsors that helped make the event a success.



*Please plan to attend the 60th meeting on September 28, 2023. Kansas City is the only metroplex to receive this honor that dates back 59 years. The streak is unbroken, including in 2020 when the chapter hosted then-NSPE president Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE at a social distanced picnic outside at a park.*





## STATE EVENTS

### KSPE/MSPE KANSAS CITY PEG SEMINAR

FEB 8, 2023 | KANSAS CITY, MO  
BURNS & MCDONNELL, 9450 WARD PARKWAY

### 2023 WATER QUALITY SEMINAR

MAR 7, 2023 | TOPEKA  
BARTLETT & WEST, 1200 SW EXECUTIVE DRIVE

## CHAPTER EVENTS

### SMOKY VALLEY CHAPTER

KSPE PRESIDENT VISIT  
DEC 1, 2022 | 12:00 PM | SALINA, KS

### TRI-VALLEY CHAPTER

KSPE PRESIDENT VISIT  
DEC 1, 2022 | 5:30 PM

### TOPEKA CHAPTER

Annual Legislative Dinner  
Dec 8, 2022 | 5:30 PM | Topeka TBD

### EASTERN CHAPTER

December Happy Hour  
Dec 15, 2022 | 4 PM | Overland Park, KS  
Coach's Bar & Grill, 6700 College Blvd.

### BENEDICTINE STUDENT CHAPTER

February Meeting  
Feb 1, 2023 | Benedictine Campus

### SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition  
Feb 4, 2023 | Pittsburg State University

### TOPEKA CHAPTER

MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition  
Feb 4, 2023 | Washburn University

### WICHITA CHAPTER

MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition  
Feb 4, 2023 | Wichita Collegiate School

### EASTERN CHAPTER

MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition  
Feb 7, 2023 | Jewish Community Center



KSPE Eastern Chapter hosts its annual legislative breakfast in October

# FOUNDATION REPORT

by Wayne Nelson, P.E., F.NSPE



The Engineer's Foundation of Kansas Board of Directors met October 21, 2022, at Wichita State University. The business conducted was mostly routine items. However, there are a couple of items of note.

A review of the golf tournament that was held October 7 at Colbert Hills in Manhattan. We had 19 teams playing and 14 sponsors supporting the tournament. Although the day was chilly, and at times wet, everyone had a great time. We look forward to seeing everyone back again next year.

The board also discussed fund raising efforts. One of these new opportunities is Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving held on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. This year Giving Tuesday is November 29th. I encourage everyone to give something to help further the work of EFK.

In addition, we received news of a Kansas licensed engineer/donor who is going to match donations to EFK through December 15th. Help our foundation earn up to an additional \$10,000 in matching funds. An email blast announcing this generous offer was sent to members November 4th.

The board of directors will meet February 10, 2023, at Kansas State University in Manhattan. The annual meeting will be held June 21, 2023, in conjunction with the KSPE Annual Conference at the Embassy Suites in Olathe.

## 2023 Water Quality Seminar

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

BARTLETT & WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

1200 SW EXECUTIVE DR, TOPEKA, KS 66615



**NSPE-KS**™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF  
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# A KANSAS LICENSED ENGINEER CHALLENGES YOU TO AN END-OF-THE-YEAR EFK \$10,000 CHALLENGE MATCH

by Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE

We have an End-of-the-Year Opportunity! Thanks to a generous Kansas Licensed Engineer donor, the Engineers' Foundation of Kansas (EFK) can secure \$10,000 in matching funds AND help you take advantage of year-end federal tax breaks if you take-action by Thursday, December 15, 2022.



Your donation of cash, securities, real estate, grain, life insurance, retirement plans, bequests, or transfer from an existing private foundation will allow the Engineers' Foundation of Kansas (EFK) to support STEM, licensure, and workforce development programs. Your donation will be used by EFK for our immediate needs, or we may add it to our endowment to build for the future.

## Here's how it works:

Date: Make your donation by Thursday, December 15, 2022

How: Online, snail mail, email, or call 785-587-8995

Type: Cash, securities, real estate, grain, life insurance, retirement plans, bequests, or transfer from an existing private foundation (<https://www.mcfks.org/ways-to-give.cfm>)

## To make a donation online:

Visit <https://www.mcfks.org/make-a-donation.cfm?fid=1661#top-of-form>

## To make a donation by mail:

Mail a check to our EFK Partner: GMCF, P.O. Box 1127, Manhattan, KS 66505-1127

Mailing must be postmarked on or before 12/15/22. Please include a completed giving form with your mailed check. The form is available for download at: <https://www.mcfks.org/make-a-donation.cfm?fid=1661#top-of-form>

Donations made to EFK through our Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) partner should use the GMCF EIN # 48-1215574.

**Questions?** Contact Marla Brandon at [marlab@mcfks.org](mailto:marlab@mcfks.org) or Sally Braun [sallyb@mcfks.org](mailto:sallyb@mcfks.org).

We are so thankful to our Anonymous Donor / Kansas Licensed Engineer for making this Match Challenge possible.

# Annual CONFERENCE

JUNE 21-23,  
2023



*Embassy Suites*  
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For questions, contact us at  
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