President’s Message

Kansas PE Day Proclamation

Practice Division Updates
Britt E. Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, a Missouri engineer, has been elected Vice President of the National Society of Professional Engineers. Read more on Page 9.
September is already here, the pools are closing, and most kids are navigating a very unique school experience. Campaign signs are everywhere, and I find myself searching for news other than testing, impacts to school and sports, and the upcoming elections. This reminds me, one of the easiest ways build relationships with community leaders is interacting with them during a campaign.

Advocating for and protecting our profession and the license is one of, if not the most, critical role of NSPE-KS. Every fall our state president visits the chapters and those visits often align with local legislative events. This year is going to be a bit different and not all visits will include face to face interactions with legislators. This makes building relationships more challenging but we have to continue to move forward and adjust to a new normal.

I am almost embarrassed to mention the first time I personally reached out to my legislator was maybe ten years ago. While serving on the NSPE-KS Eastern Chapter Board, I received an email asking all licensed engineers to contact their legislators. Honestly, I was apprehensive but reminded myself that this person is serving my family and my neighbors for the betterment of our community. I made the call, left a message, and felt relieved I didn’t have to argue or defend my position. No sooner had I checked that box when the phone rang and an assistant to Senator Olson, District 23, introduced himself. I was surprised, thinking they would only call back if they disagreed or needed details. Regardless, I reiterated my message. He thanked me, stating Senator Olson agreed and I was well represented. He then attempted to close the seven degrees of separation: what do you do, where do you work, etc. In this case we were only two degrees apart as I had worked with his son. At this point my box was double checked and I had a new appreciation for elected officials and the importance they place on personal contact. Don’t be afraid to reach out, we are all connected!

The NSPE-KS Government Relations Committee led by Adam Stodola is undoubtedly our most active committee. This team works closely with our lobbyist Travis Lowe to track legislation that could positively or negatively impact the license. Recent efforts include improving a licensure reciprocity bill as well as a bill that would have doubled licensing of some P.E.s. The committee is currently reviewing proposed changes to the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions Administrative Regulations.

The new online NSPE Advocacy Center is a great resource for members interested in promoting the profession and our license. This resource has made it easy to be informed and take action. A short video walks you through five main areas of information which include: finding your legislator, core issues, advocacy training, advocacy news, and taking action. To take action you can sign in and then simply click on an issue to send an auto generated message directly to your elected official. You can visit the Action Center at: nspe.quorum.us/action_center

Did you know there is an Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL)? Their members include professional associations and organizations such as NSPE. A few other members include AIA, AICPA, and NCEES. The Alliance works to educate policy makers and the public on the importance of licensing. They also advocate for appropriate licensing practices. In addition to their website they provide member organizations with access to promotional materials including videos, policy handouts, public opinion handouts, and social media templates and graphics. Check out ARPL here: www.responsiblelicensing.org.

As a reminder you can explore all of your NSPE member benefits by visiting: www.nspe.org/membership/member-benefits.

Get involved, tell our story, and share the value of KSPE.

Sincerely,
Brian W. Scovill, P.E.
2020-2021 KSPE President
KSPE Members,

Greetings from KSPE World Headquarters! The autumn months have arrived, ushering cooler evenings and weekend football games. As the state and nation work to get back to normal, we hope all our members and their families remain safe.

In case any of you haven’t noticed, it is an election year! As our members head to the polls to cast their votes, it reminds us the legislative session is just around the corner. We know there is a host of great reasons to join and support KSPE, but the advocacy effort to protect the license has to be one of the most important. Our members spend eight years learning, testing and training to become a licensed professional engineer, and we want Kansas to be an example of a state that understands licensure and its role in protecting society.

Our KSPE members support this mission with dues revenue. Memberships, along with sponsorships and event attendance, help keep KSPE strong and able to maintain our services.

We are still here! Even though the pandemic has forced us to limit our in-person meetings, there are still ways to stay plugged in. Chapters are meeting regularly via Zoom Video and PDH sessions are available. The state’s PDH requirements still stand so please take advantage of these opportunities. KSPE President Brian Scovill and I are making the round for the annual president’s visit to the chapters. Please make plans to attend! We also just wrapped up our virtual PEG seminar, which was co-hosted with the Missouri Society. We had 70 members attend to engage in six great PDH sessions. Thanks to all our attendees, Gary Janzen and his team for making this a great event!

Our new Young Engineers Committee has kicked off with Cassie Patrick and Michael Kulesza, both of the Tri-Valley Chapter, serving as co-chairs. The Committee is hard at work determining ways for KSPE to benefit our new PEs and members on the path to licensure. The young engineers have their own programing during our conference in June and the Committee is working on the schedule. Our new Membership Committee, chaired by Tyler Robinson of the Eastern Chapter, is also meeting as we strive to improve membership retention. Thanks to all our volunteers who serve on these new committees.

We want to hear from you! If you have ideas for KSPE, please let staff or one of our leaders know. A strong society starts with our members at the ground level. Please ask yourself why you joined and how can this be spread to your colleagues. It’s our pleasure as staff to serve such a great organization that not only takes their profession seriously but also is a great group to engage with in all the KSPE events and committees. Thank you for your continued support!

See you soon,

Travis Lowe
KSPE Executive Director
New KSPE Member!

Eastern Chapter
Vu Thao, P.E.
Kansas Department of Transportation
Kansas City, KS

Welcome!

KSPE Protects Your Professional License in Topeka

“Who’s watching out for your profession while you’re at work?”

KSPE PAC Contributions

Thank you so much to the following KSPE PAC donors!

Amy Martens, P.E.
Brian Scovill, P.E.
Charles Love, P.E.
Clarence Harper, P.E.
Dana Weir, P.E.
David Brackey, P.E.
David Comstock, P.E.
David Pope, P.E.
Dennis Kuhlman, P.E., F.NSPE
Douglas Grauer, P.E.
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Mark Williams, P.E.
Michael Hoffman, P.E.
Rachel Henkhaus, P.E.
Richard Flanery, P.E.
Steven Bachenberg, P.E.
Thomas Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE
Travis Stryker, P.E.
William Heatherman, P.E.

Go to www.kansasengineer.org/KSPE-PAC to give online today!
What is KSPE PAC?
KSPE PAC is the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers’ non-partisan Political Action Committee that supports candidates committed to our profession.

Members like YOU can help us with our efforts to lawmakers in Topeka.
CONTRIBUTE TO THE KSPE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OR “KSPE PAC”.
No donation is too small to aid our efforts.

In 2019, KSPE PAC raised almost $4,000

2020 GOAL: $6,000

All 40 Senators and 125 Representatives are up for election in the 2020 elections.
KSPE PAC helps ensure champions of our industry stay in Topeka. KSPE PAC works with legislators to ensure they understand the roles Licensed Professional Engineers have in public safety and the state’s future.

Our association has more than 500 members, but only a few have participated in this initiative. We are setting an ambitious goal of raising $6,000 IN 2020

How can I support?
Visit kansasengineer.org/KSPE-PAC or contact KSPE’s Executive Director, Travis Lowe at travis@kansasengineer.org.
TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, on August 8th, 1907, the first professional engineering license was issued to Charles Bellamy in Wyoming. Since that time, licensure has expanded and professional engineers across the United States have made the commitment to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, engineers adhere to a strong code of ethics and standards of conduct that promote personal accountability, ethical decision making and quality work during the performance of their professional duties; and

WHEREAS, in 1910, the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) was established to create an organization dedicated to protect the public and engineers from unqualified practitioners, build public recognition for the profession, and stand against unethical practices; and

WHEREAS, engineers throughout Kansas’ history have made countless contributions to humanity and engineers continue to provide leadership in the ongoing quest to meet the many and varied technological challenges of the twenty-first century, and it is appropriate to recognize engineers’ countless accomplishments and contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim August 5th, 2020 as

Professional Engineers Day

in Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 5th day of August, A.D. 2020

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly
Secretary of State

Benjamin Shuck
Assistant Secretary of State
Hello fellow NSPE members:

This is Breck Washam - your new Regional Director for the North Central Region (NCR). A brief career background for starters - I am Vice President and General Manager for the St. Louis Regional Office of Burns & McDonnell. I started my engineering career as a mechanical engineer with Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City and a few years later moved to my hometown of St. Louis. I’ve held progressively responsible roles including lead engineer, project engineer, project manager, business development manager, Principal-In-Charge, and various leadership positions in my 30-year engineering career and have worked on a myriad of projects in multiple industries including energy, power, industrial facilities, chemical/process facilities, and manufacturing.

My involvement with NSPE and NSPE-MO (formerly MSPE), however, has been vital to my overall career development. Early in my career there were several individual members that personally asked me to get involved and were intentional about plugging me into activities at the local Chapter level. My involvement expanded beyond the chapter level to the State level, eventually serving as MSPE President, and now at the national level as the NCR Regional Director. Through the years my involvement and experiences have helped sharpen my leadership skills, broaden my outlook on our profession, and provided me the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with engineers around the country who are my colleagues, clients, competitors, and friends. Thank you NSPE!

For those of you who may not be familiar with the Regional Director (RD) position, the North Central Region (NCR) is made up of seven states: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The RD position is a two-year term representing the NCR on the NSPE Board of Directors. The main responsibility of the RD is to serve as a conduit for communication between the state societies and the NSPE executive board.

I recently participated in the NSPE Board of Directors Virtual Orientation where we are taking concrete steps to implement NSPE’s recently updated strategic plans. I will also be serving on this year’s NSPE Membership Committee as a Board of Director Liaison. I look forward to working with Britt Smith, NSPE Vice President and North Central Region member from NSPE-MO, and other committee members and NSPE staff on the “Road to the Summit” - which is a Volunteer Leaders Training program designed to assist leaders at all levels in their recruitment efforts.

Please reach out to me at bwasham@burnsmcd.com or 314-974-3584 if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or any thoughts/ideas on how we can make our state societies, NSPE, and our profession even better. I am excited to be serving you and other members of the North Central Region!

Breck Washam, P.E.
NSPE North Central Region Director
bwasham@burnsmcd.com
Missouri P.E. Elected NSPE Vice President

Fellow members, I am Britt Smith and I had the honor of being nominated and elected as your NSPE Vice President. I have been an engineer for 29 years, which has brought many blessings into my life. During my career, I have had the opportunity to work for a small engineering consulting firm, a state agency, and in varying roles as a staff member for the municipality that is my home, Jefferson City, Missouri. I started my career as a design engineer and project manager working mainly on roadway design and site planning. About 15 years ago I moved into the operations area of public works where I manage various service delivery functions. My current position is the operations division director for Jefferson City, (most cities would call my role deputy director of public works).

When I joined NSPE, all those years ago, I had no idea it would turn out to be one the best career decisions I had ever made. NSPE provided me with opportunities to develop my leadership skills, gave me professional development, and helped me advance my career. Additionally, through NSPE, I continue to develop a growing network of colleagues and friends across the country.

I’m excited and humbled by the opportunity to serve our profession as a member of the NSPE leadership team. As you may know, NSPE has recently adopted a new strategic plan, which has four key focus areas:

- Driving Growth
- Shaping Public Policy
- Educating for the Future
- Promoting Diversity and Tomorrow’s Engineer

All four areas are equally important, but in my opinion, Driving Growth, is the foundation. For this reason, I was particularly honored when President Hatley asked me to chair this year’s Membership Committee. We are working with staff at the national level and will soon roll out “The Road to the Summit,” a new program, which is designed to assist leaders at all levels in their recruitment efforts. Watch for more information coming soon.

Please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I hope to meet and talk with as many of you as possible, either virtually or in person, in the coming months.

Britt E. Smith, P.E., F.NSPE
Vice President
National Society of Professional Engineers
BrittESmithPE@gmail.com
PRACTICE DIVISION UPDATES

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN INDUSTRY (PEI)

AMY MARTENS, P.E.

The NSPE Professional Engineers in Industry (PEI) continues to stay connected through the NSPE Industry Community. The industrial exemption is an ongoing issue that limits the growth potential for the PEI membership. Other PEI topics of interest include PE references when working in industry, discussions on ethics and design conflicts, and advocating licensure in the industry community. This summer, a virtual PECON was held August 3–7.

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.

Please contact Amy Martens, PEI Chair, at amy.martens@bcbsks.com if you are interested in additional information about PEI and upcoming involvement opportunities.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN CONSTRUCTION (PEPP)

JEFF MCKERROW, P.E.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC-Kansas), which serves at the Professional Engineers in Private Practice, held their first meeting of the year virtually in lieu of in person meetings. This meeting was held via Zoom and included presentations from Gary Janzen on “COVID-19 Impact on the City of Wichita Infrastructure Funding” as well as Ty McGown and Ryan Saffels on “Wichita Northwest Water Treatment Facility Overview.” Our next meeting is currently scheduled for October 6 and will be held in the Kansas City metro area.
UPCOMING EVENTS

**EFK Golf Tournament**
October 16, 2020 • Colbert Hills, Manhattan

**2021 KSPE Annual Conference**
June 23-25, 2021 • Manhattan

**2022 KSPE Annual Conference**
June 15-17, 2022 • Wichita
# Upcoming Chapter Visits

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<th>Chapter Visit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1, 2020</td>
<td>High Plains Chapter KSPE President Visit</td>
<td>Noon to 1 PM</td>
<td>Garden City</td>
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<td>Oct. 15, 2020</td>
<td>Eastern Chapter Legislative Breakfast &amp; KSPE President Visit</td>
<td>7:30 AM to 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Johnson County</td>
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<td>Oct. 15, 2020</td>
<td>Wichita Chapter KSPE President Visit</td>
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<td>Salina</td>
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<td>Topeka Chapter Legislative Dinner &amp; KSPE President Visit</td>
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KSPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
June 23-25

Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan, KS
THANK YOU KSPE SPONSORS!

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Did you know that you can post your company’s career listings on our website?

Go to www.kansasengineer.org/Career-Listings for more information