

Kansas Professional Engineer News

The official publication of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

January/February 2020

NSPE-KS

**KANSAS SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

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Above: KSPE Board Meeting in Wichita on December 13, 2019.



**KANSAS PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEER NEWSLETTER**

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Jessica Rhein, P.E.

KSPE President 2019-2020

A Message From Your 2019-2020 KSPE President

Greetings KSPE members!

I hope this finds you happy, healthy and ready for the New Year. 2020 is going to be a banner year!

As I look forward to the second half of my presidency, I'm looking at what's in store for KSPE this year. Travis and staff at KSPE World Headquarters in Topeka continue to do a great job watching out for threats to our licensure and keeping an eye on other important issues in the State house, so we can go about the business of doing what we do.

It is an election year. Not only will every seat in the state House and Senate be up for grabs, but so is the President of the United States and many national offices. Even if you are not into politics, the potential for so much change should be fascinating. We are lucky to have Travis send us his weekly emails to keep us informed with what is happening on the political front.

Personally, I think this is one of the most valuable things KSPE brings to the table. Sure, we have great networking opportunities, but many other organizations offer similar types of events. One of the things that sets KSPE apart is the value of the lobbying efforts that Travis and his team provide for us. Many of us may take our professional licensure for granted, assuming once we have passed the test and keep up with our continuing education requirements, it will always be there. But it seems like there's a constant threat from those who do not understand the importance of what we do to try and take away our licensure. Unfortunately, sometimes it takes a tragedy to strike in order to drive this home. Tragedies such as pipeline explosions, planes falling out of skies, or bridges falling down all prove the point of how important our licensure is. It is up to us to make sure we keep licensure where it needs to be, and to do that, we all need to be active in KSPE.

I hope you all have a great 2020!

Until next time,

Jessica J. Rhein, P.E.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

KSPE Members,

Greetings from KSPE World Headquarters and Happy New Year! We are excited to start a new year and decade with an association we deeply respect and enjoy serving. Thank you for your continued support of KSPE that enables KSPE to provide and operate efficiently for you.

The new year brings many opportunities for KSPE. Our 2020 Legislative Session, starting January 13, promises to be an eventful one for KSPE and the industry. Our lobby team and the Government Relations Committee are excited to keep KSPE on the front of legislative issues. During the autumn months, five of KSPE's chapters held legislative events to provide members the opportunity to meet their local state legislators and our lobby team to present KSPE's legislative platform. Over two dozen state legislators attended, giving our association great exposure. Please review our Legislative Session preview in this newsletter for more information. Remember our weekly legislative

updates will be released on Friday's during session. Strong advocacy at our state capitol is a key component of KSPE's mission. Not all state societies are able to do this and KSPE owes this function to our loyal membership base's continued support.

KSPE President Jessica Rhein has just one more chapter visit left to complete. She has enjoyed meeting members across the state and discussing mentorship getting others involved with KSPE. A lot of firms will pay for KSPE membership if he or she will be active in the association. This clears the financial hurdle and now we just need to show our colleagues why KSPE is here and why it is worth being involved. Please take a look around and invite someone to a local chapter event. This is how we grow.

As we look at our brand new 2020 calendars, please note E-Week and MATHCOUNTS is next up in February. Our Water Quality Seminar and PEG seminars are



set for March with our Annual Conference in June. Please keep a look out for more details coming soon.

With all the activity and news in this issue, you can see 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. Thank you!

See you soon,
Travis Lowe

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Eastern Chapter

Martin Ntonjira, P.E.

Unified Government of
Wyandotte and Kansas City
Kansas
Kansas City, KS

Christopher Albright, P.E.

Smith & Boucher, Inc.
Olathe, KS

Shawn Parcels, P.E.

I&A Consulting
Leawood, KS

Nicholas Kuzmyak, P.E.

Bartlett & West Inc.
Lawrence, KS

Scott Crain, P.E.

Affinis Corp
Overland Park, KS

Wichita Chapter

John Winter, Student

Kansas State University
Wichita, KS

Christina Holt, P.E.

Wood
Wichita, KS

Stephen Schmidt, P.E.

Kaw Valley Engineering
Wichita, KS

Neal Lewis, EI

Advantage Mac
Newton, KS

Sangeeta Bhattacharjee, EI

SCS Engineers
Wichita, KS

Topeka Chapter

Brian Aubert, P.E.

HME, Inc.
Topeka, KS

Carrick Finnegan, Student

Kansas State University
Lawrence, KS

Water Quality Seminar

March 13, 2020

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Ramada Downtown

420 SE 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS

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of Kansas

Kansas
Department of Health
and Environment

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NICK KUZMYAK, P.E.



KSPE Chapter: Eastern Chapter

Education: 2014 MS Environmental Engineering, University of Texas at Austin; 2010 BS Environmental Engineering, Drexel University

What is your employment/education history? I went to Drexel in Philadelphia to pursue Environmental Engineering for a number of reasons: I really liked the city, and it was the only school I knew of with a mandatory co-op program. That enabled me to try out three very different 6-month internships doing stormwater sampling, hazardous waste management, and industrial HSE work. I also got to study abroad in Singapore, which set the stage for my post-

graduation job with Schlumberger – oilfield engineering in Saudi Arabia. I went back to school (UT Austin) for a research-heavy master's, then landed in Houston to work for Chevron's R&D department.

After a few years, my wife and I moved to Kansas to start a family, and ended up at Bartlett & West, where I finally get to be a "real environmental engineer". Consulting for municipal clients is new for me, but is rewarding change since I now get to see projects I worked on actually start up and run.

Tell us about your family: My family is all on the east coast (I grew up outside of DC, on the Maryland side), but we're close. My dad was also a practicing engineer until he turned to planning, while my brother almost went the engineer route before turning to music. Though my wife isn't an engineer – she's a nurse and infection preventionist – we end up finding lots in common simply because we're both the "enforcer" in our fields. Basically, I have to tell other engineers how to not pollute, while she has to tell other medical professionals how not to infect patients or each other.

What is your greatest accomplishment to date? Probably making it to the state Geography Bee in middle school. I might have peaked too early.

One fun fact about you: My other "job" is hosting trivia nights at a brewery in Lawrence. It's a fun gig, and I've met some really interesting people since I started.

What do you like to do with your free time? Depends on how much...I love going on long trips (36 countries and counting!), but if it's just a free evening I'll probably be making cocktails at home or sampling professional-made stuff downtown.

If you weren't an engineer, you would be a _____? Municipal planner. It's kind of wonky, but the more I dig into it, the more fascinated I am with how many aspects of our lives the planning profession touches. From architecture to environmental impact, or the social fabric and public health, planning underlays it all.

WHY DID YOU BECOME AN ENGINEER?

Due to a naïve justification in high school: I liked environmental science, and figured I was good enough at math to do engineering. Hence: environmental engineering. Turns out we mostly design water/wastewater treatment plants, but I ended up enjoying that anyway.

FAVORITES

Restaurant: Lawrence Beer Co. – their beer seals the deal!

Vacation Spot: Kotor Bay (Montenegro) is a solid top choice.

Sports Team: US Men's National Team, though their World Cup performance has been...mixed.

Song or Music Artist: Bon Iver, even though my high school self would think I've gone soft.

KSPE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2020 Kansas Legislative Session officially began on Monday, January 13. The new session promises to see plenty of action, tackling several contentious issues in a year when every legislator will be up for re-election. Since 2019 was not an election year, the makeup of the House and Senate will remain the same with the exception of the resignation of Representative Brandon Whipple, who was elected mayor of Wichita last month. Democrat Stephanie Yeager is slated to fill the vacancy of Whipple's seat in January.

The 2019 interim session was the busiest in recent memory, with over two dozen interim committees meeting throughout the autumn months. Joint committees and special committees met to review issues ranging from tax policy, Medicaid expansion, medical cannabis, broadband expansion and much more. The committees paint the picture of a busy legislative session as stakeholders maneuver to continue those policy debates.

The looming 2020 elections will be felt over the course of the session months. Several policy makers are seeking higher office, which will create unique ripple effects. The news of United States Senator Pat Roberts not seeking re-election has created a vacuum felt on many levels. Several hopefuls have set their eyes on the open

seat, including Senate President Susan Wagle, Congressman Roger Marshall and former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is still rumored to be considering the seat but it is unknown at this time. In turn, several state legislators are eyeing the congressional seat held by Roger Marshall, including House Appropriations Chairman Troy Waymaster. The candidate list will not be finalized until early summer so a lot can and will change by then.

Unlike the last several legislative sessions, school finance is not expected to be the hottest topic, as the Kansas Supreme Court approved the 2019 Legislature's finance plan after years of litigation. This opens the floor for other issues, such as Medicaid expansion and transportation policy, to steal headlines. Last spring, the House passed a Medicaid expansion bill but it was not considered by the Senate. This fall, Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning announced his proposed Medicaid expansion bill, which has elements of the House bill and many parts of other bills passed by Republican states. Though the appetite to develop a solution is gaining momentum, it will be a long road before consensus is reached between the House, Senate and Governor Kelly.

Advocates across the state, from engineering and construction groups to local chambers of commerce, are pushing for the successor of T-WORKS, known as Forward Kansas. Such a plan is lauded by many but the question of how to fund a program for the next several years still lingers. Medical cannabis will be another hot issue as Kansas is in the minority of states to not approve its use. Ideas for at least five constitutional amendments have been tossed around for consideration in summer or fall elections. Proposed constitutional amendments must be approved by 2/3 in each chamber in order to appear on an August or November ballot. These amendments, guaranteed to be controversial, may drive lines between factions and political parties over the course of the session.

Session promises to be another busy one for KSPE advocacy efforts. KSPE fully supports the development and passage of Forward Kansas, but the funding piece will be the large hurdle. Appetite for a fuel tax is tough in an election year. KDOT contends the new plan can be sustained by simply protecting the dedicated funds from being swept to the State General Fund. KSPE will participate in the legislative hearings and visit with legislators.

Over the summer, KSPE has

KSPE LEGISLATIVE REPORT CONT.

2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

worked to defend its position in SB 168, known as the Home Inspector Bill. Originally introduced with a hearing, KSPE opposed the bill as it would require Licensed Professional Engineers that perform home inspections to earn additional licensing and education requirements. Over the course of meeting with stakeholders, KSPE believes it is in a strong position to amend the bill if considered next session.

State Water Plan funding remains a high priority for KSPE, given the regular fee sweeps to the State General Fund. The 2019 session did not see much legislation on water but attention is expected to increase next session in the House and Senate committees.

There may be legislation proposed relating to autonomous vehicles. Two years ago, there were several related committee meetings but discussion waned last session.

There may at least be a truck platooning bill introduced but time will tell if any other bills surface.

The University Engineering Initiative Act, which works to increase the number of engineering graduates at the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University, has been immensely successful. The program, created in 2011, expires in 2021 and KSPE and the Engineering Foundation of Kansas are working with the Board of Regents to plan to extend the program. This would require legislative action in 2021 but not this session.

As always, KSPE is on the alert for any threats to licensure. As we see discussions about the role of professional and occupational licensure, we remain watchful for any ideas or proposals that can threaten licensure for Licensed Professional Engineers.

Last month the KSPE Government Relations Committee (GRC), chaired by Travis Stryker, met to discuss legislative issues and previewed the coming session. The committee will meet monthly over the course of the session to review progress of the session and bills of interest.

Five KSPE chapters hosted legislative events intended to engage members with their local state representatives and senators. In the last two months, over two dozen legislators met KSPE members and heard the legislative advocacy presentation from KSPE's lobbyist.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Travis Lowe
KSPE Executive Director/Lobbyist



CHAPTERS MEET WITH LEGISLATORS

At each legislative meeting with KSPE chapters, KSPE President Jessica Rhein, P.E. stressed the importance of membership and KSPE Executive Director Travis Lowe spoke about KSPE legislative priorities and the 2020 legislative session. We greatly appreciate the support from these Kansas legislators!

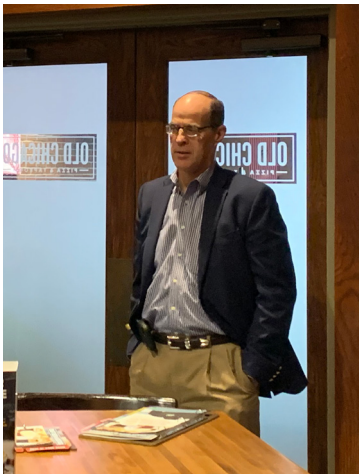
SMOKY VALLEY CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE LUNCH



KSPE President Jessica Rhein, P.E.



Senator Randall Hardy



Representative Steven Johnson

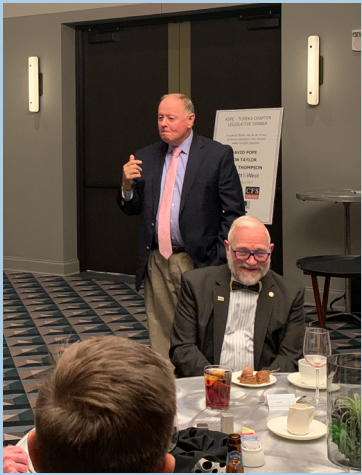


Senator Rick Wilborn

TOPEKA CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE DINNER



KSPE President Jessica Rhein, P.E.



Representative Ron Ellis



Representative Jim Gartner



Senator Tom Holland



Senator Vic Miller



Senator Eric Rucker



KSPE Executive Director Travis Lowe

CHAPTERS MEET WITH LEGISLATORS

TRI-VALLEY CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE NIGHT



Representative Francis Averkamp



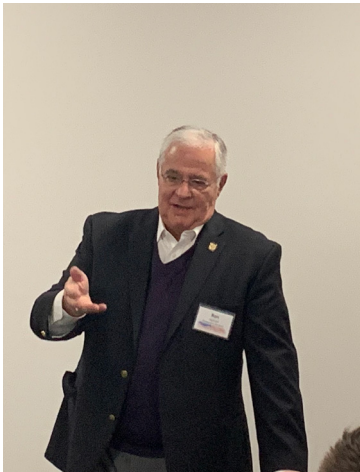
Representative Dave Baker



Representative Sydney Carlin



Representative Suzi Carlson



Representative Ron Highland



Senator Randall Hardy



Senator Tom Hawk



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KSPE Protects
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*"Who's watching out
for your profession
while you're at
work?"*



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MATHCOUNTS®

OF KANSAS

Greetings & Happy New Year KSPE members / potential MATHCOUNTS volunteers! It is already that time again to prepare for local MATHCOUNTS contests in February and the state contest in March. In fact, your local Coordinators are already hard at work making the necessary arrangements. If you have contributed time or money thus far to support these events, my sincere thanks. If you plan to volunteer to assist with one or more of these contests, your time is also appreciated. MATHCOUNTS would not be successful if we didn't have such great participation from everyone. Following is a listing of the MATHCOUNTS dates and Coordinators if you would like to volunteer, contribute or find out additional information:

Feb 1st - Southeast Chapter – Robin Philipp
Feb 1st – Topeka Chapter – Kevin Holland
Feb 1st – Wichita Chapter – Machaela Rempkowski
Feb 4th - Eastern Chapter – Rachel Henkhaus
Feb 8th - Smoky Valley & Tri Valley Chapters – Jarred Green & Greg Fief
Mar 7th – State Contest – David Johnson

Other than volunteering, I would also like to ask each of you to encourage schools that you are involved with to join in on the fun! Even though it is too late this year for schools to participate, please be thinking about how you can help identify and encourage new schools to sign up for future years. This will be the 37th year that KSPE sponsored MATHCOUNTS contests have been held in Kansas. While successful during these years, we would still like to grow our competitions. However, our goal is to not only increase participation, but more importantly hold events that encourage and inspire these 6th, 7th & 8th grade students to continue with math in school and ultimately decide to consider engineering careers.

Thanks again, and best wishes for a successful 2020!

David Johnson, Kansas MATHCOUNTS Coordinator

LOCAL MATHCOUNTS CALENDAR

Southeast Chapter MATHCOUNTS

February 1, 2020
Pittsburg State University
Kansas Technology Center
1701 S. Broadway
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Topeka Chapter MATHCOUNTS

February 1, 2020

Wichita Chapter MATHCOUNTS

February 1, 2020
Wichita Collegiate School
9115 E. 13th Street N.
Wichita, KS 67206

Eastern Chapter MATHCOUNTS

February 4, 2020
Jewish Community Center of KC
5801 W. 115th Street
Overland Park, KS 66211

Smoky Valley Chapter MATHCOUNTS

February 8, 2020
Kansas State Polytechnic
2310 Centennial Road
Salina, KS 67401

PRACTICE DIVISION: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN INDUSTRY (PEI)

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 28th 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.



PRACTICE DIVISION: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE (PEPP)

JOSEPH DRIMMEL, P.E.

ACEC is supporting KDOT in the Kansas Transportation Partnering Summit which is scheduled for January 22nd from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Intercontinental Kansas City on the Plaza. This event is critical to strengthening KDOT's working relationship with its contractor partners as they shape a new long term transportation plan. KDOT will utilize the results of the partnering survey they sent out to set the agenda for the event. The focus will be on how to improve KDOT's working relationship with its partners.

The 2020 Kan-Struct Conference – Building Tomorrow's Kansas Together - is just around the corner. The conference will be February 6th and 7th in Wichita. The Kansas chapters of AGC, ACEC, AIA Wichita, CFMA, CSI, DBIA-MAR, NAWIC, and M&SMC will hold the joint collaborative conference.

Are you interested in an entertaining and somewhat educational podcast? The QBS Express Podcasts might be the thing for you. Check it out and let us know what you think.

ACEC completed a membership survey and the survey will be reviewed at the next board meeting to better serve our members.

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

FEBRUARY

Licensure Ceremony

2 - 4 PM

February 14, 2020

Kansas State Capitol

300 W. 10th Avenue

Topeka, KS 66612

Engineer's Week

February 16 - February 22



FEBRUARY 16-22, 2020

MARCH

Kansas MATHCOUNTS Competition

March 7, 2020

Washburn University Henderson

Learning resource Center, Rm 100

1700 SW College Ave.

Topeka, KS 66621

Water Quality Seminar

9 AM - 4 PM

March 13, 2020

Ramada Downtown Topeka

A poster for the NSPE-KS Licensure Ceremony. It features the NSPE-KS logo at the top left, followed by the text "KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS". Below this is "Join KSPE for our next Licensure Ceremony" and "February 14, 2020". At the bottom, it says "At the Kansas State Capitol Rotunda Topeka, Kansas" and shows a photograph of the Kansas State Capitol building.

NSPE-KS™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Join KSPE for our next Licensure Ceremony

February 14, 2020

At the Kansas State Capitol Rotunda
Topeka, Kansas

A poster for the KSPE Spring 2020 Continuing Education Seminar. It features the NSPE-KS logo at the top left, followed by "KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS". Below this is "KSPE Spring 2020 Continuing Education Seminar" and "Current Issues in Public Sector Engineering". It also mentions "Session 6" and "Wednesday, April 1, 2020" in "Wichita, KS". A text box states: "This seminar will focus on regulatory and legislative topics. Attendance is open to everyone, attending a previous session is not a requirement to register for future sessions." The background shows a blue flag with the Kansas state seal.

NSPE-KS™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

KSPE Spring 2020 Continuing Education Seminar
Current Issues in Public Sector Engineering
Session 6

Wednesday, April 1, 2020
Wichita, KS

This seminar will focus on regulatory and legislative topics. Attendance is open to everyone, attending a previous session is not a requirement to register for future sessions.

A poster for the Water Quality Seminar. It features a large image of a water faucet with a single drop of water falling. The text "Water Quality Seminar" is at the top. Below it is "March 13, 2020" and "9:00 AM - 4:00 PM". At the bottom, it says "Ramada Downtown" and "420 SE 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS". Logos for NSPE-KS, ACEC, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are at the bottom.

Water Quality Seminar

March 13, 2020
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Ramada Downtown
420 SE 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS

NSPE-KS™ KANSAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL ON ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Kansas

Kansas
Department of Health and Environment

A poster for PECON20 in Philadelphia. It features the NSPE logo at the top left, followed by "NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS". Below this is "JOIN US FOR #PECON20 IN" and "Philadelphia" in a large script font. At the bottom, it says "AUGUST 12-16, 2020". Three small images are shown: a statue of a person, a large red "LOVE" sculpture, and a large bell.

NSPE™ NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

JOIN US FOR #PECON20 IN

Philadelphia

AUGUST 12-16, 2020

Annual Conference June 3-5

Embassy Suites Hotel, Olathe, Kansas

2020



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