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President's Message

George Hamilton PE

2nd Annual Ethics Day held 6 October, statewide!

We had 8 sites on-line, and thanks are due to many people including Harold Hite & the BE&K company for providing the collaboration service to the sites. The sites were Huntsville, Muscle Shoals, 3 sites in Birmingham, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, and Mobile.

Speakers were Mike "Rudi" Rudolphi from NASA Marshall in Huntsville, Steve Feaga JD, US Dept. of Justice (DOJ), Dr Charles Haynes PE, Board of Licensure member, and our own Harold Hite PE.

Rudi (Engineering Director at the Marshall Space Flight Center) spoke from Huntsville about Shuttle successes over the years and failures such as the Columbia disaster, and reminded us to "test what you fly, and fly what you test, mind the interfaces and do your systems engineering, and to work within your area of expertise, make sure design changes are rigorously reviewed before proceeding". He reminded us that we are accountable for our engineering, and that we should "build it like you are building it for Grandma."

Steve Feaga, an assistant US Attorney, prosecuted Don Siegelman & Richard Scrushy (plus Guy Hunt earlier) spoke from Montgomery about influence peddling in the Governor's office, how positions on influential state boards were bought and sold (six figure checks!), and how the DOJ puts their sights on the politicians who solicit or accept quid pro quo.

Charles Haynes spoke from Huntsville and gave us a snapshot of current Board activity as well as a review of the Board's stance on ethics and professional practice. He reminded us of our Professional Engineer's Canon of Ethics; related selected board actions against engineers and land surveyors; and the Board's Advisory opinion following the Hunter decision by the Alabama Supreme Court. He noted that of some 100 current complaints 36 were for unethical conduct, 25 were for incompetency, 25 were for unlicensed practice, and 14 were for fraud and plan stamping.

Harold Hite spoke from Birmingham about current BOL law and recommended changes including the gentlemen's agreement that only a given discipline will nominate for that designated board seat, a recent Alabama diversity law stating that the all board's members should reflect "racial, gender, geographic, ...and economic diversity of the state." He noted that an advisory committee which he served on recommended that the BOL membership be increase from 5 to 9 members. Harold reminded us that "we are involved in politics whether we like it or not, that politics is not unethical---it's required."

Mobile Chapter joined in for the Steve Feaga talk, and then continued their own BOL law/ethics talk (off-line) with Nelson Russell PE and David Webber PE

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leading the seminar.

In case you wanted to know, Birmingham/Tuscaloosa had 84 attendees (58 of whom were nonmembers), Huntsville had 21 attendees, Muscle Shoals had 13 attendees (4 of whom were nonmembers), Mobile had 90 attendees and Montgomery had 30 attendees. This is a total of 238 engineers participating! Again, many thanks to BE&K, Harold Hite, our speakers, and chapter coordinators for your hard work and effort to ensure a successful event in 2006.

Dates to Remember

October

27 PE Exam

28 FE Exam

December

1 ASPE Board of Directors conference call 11:30 am

7 - 8 AL State Board of Licensure for PE and PLS

MATHCOUNTS Update

The Huntsville Chapter is planning to host the State MathCounts competition in March 2007 (date TBA). If you can assist, please contact **Dr Walter Hammond: whammond@comcast.net 256-426-4142.**

Chapter Updates

Auburn

26 members

Birmingham

160 members

Huntsville-Decatur Chapter News

71 members

The Huntsville Chapter is just getting started after an extended hiatus. Many thanks go out to all who kept our chapter alive during this time with special thanks to Ms. Connie Gipson for her tireless efforts.

Regional Mathcounts:

We are anticipating 7 or 8 schools participating in the regional Mathcounts this year. Thanks again to Dr. Walter Hammond for coordinating this effort.

Student Scholarships:

The Chapter scholarship accounts remain under the direction of Mr. Al Orillion. We are planning to reinstate the scholarship awards and can use any help securing new corporate contributions.

Meetings:

Mr. James Drake, our vice-president, is working hard on a variety of options to "change up" our regular meetings so that **you** can participate too. Be looking for details in your email box for special events such as breakfast meetings followed by an early morning tour at local facilities and industry.

Chapter Officers:

Birmingham

President Alicia Rudoph PE
V-President Dr Fouad Fouad PE
Secretary Timothy Bryant PE
Treasurer Greg Mullinax PE
Mathcounts Buzz Vance PE

Huntsville-Decatur

Contact David Bledsoe PE
or Connie Gipson PE
Mathcounts Walter Hammond PE

Mobile

President John Sumrall PE
V-President Steve Stewart PE
Secretary John Crawford PE
Treasurer Kim Sanderson PE
Mathcounts

Montgomery

President Kevin Blake PE
V-President Greg Gillian PE, PLS
Sec/Treas Ray Womack PE
Mathcounts

Muscle Shoals

President "Denny" Sockwell PE
V-President Steve Merry PE
Sec/Treas "Don" Lokey PE
Mathcounts "Don" Lokey PE

Contact Info:

If you are not receiving Chapter information by email, please send your current email address and contact info to dbledsoe@key-eng.com. You are encouraged to offer suggestions on any topic to help us improve, and also let us know what areas of special interest you may have. With your help, we can make our Chapter better!

Reporting for Chapter: [David Bledsoe, P.E.](#) 256-351-1350

Mobile

115 members

Muscle Shoals

35 members

The Muscle Shoals chapter plans to host the NSPE webcast seminar "Changing the PE Paradigm: Additional Education for Professional Practice." This free seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24 from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m Central Time. We will meet at Conference Room T110 in the Environmental Research Center (ERC) at Complex E on Reservation Road in the Muscle Shoals TVA Reservation. Local directions to the building follow:

Visible at the NE corner of the intersection of US 43/72 with Reservation Road is a large sign identifying "TVA Muscle Shoals" Reservation. Proceed on Reservation Road about 1 mile to a large blue sign identifying Complex E. Turn right just past that sign, go down the hill, and turn left at the "Environmental Research Center" sign to reach the parking lot. Attendees will need to enter through the main "Rotunda" entrance on the South side of the building. **Those not employed by TVA will need to check with the receptionist in this lobby and obtain a visitor's badge before proceeding to the conference room.**

Call/e-mail if questions arise: Don Lokey 256-386-2035 jdlokey@tva.gov

Northeast

11 members

Southeast

20 members

Tuscaloosa

35 members

Has Your Contact Information Changed?

If so, send your corrections to memserv@nspe.org

It's the quickest and easiest way to let us know what's new with you!

NSPE Updates

- **Notice: Continuing Education Schedule of Web Seminars this fall!**
Small Company Big Opportunity in Federal Contracting
Presented collaboratively by NSPE and the Contract Services Association (CSA)
November 9, 2006 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern
registration info at: <http://www.nspe.org/education/ed-home.asp>

For a full schedule visit: <http://www.nspe.org/education/ed-home.asp>
and <http://www.nspe.org/pec/home.asp>

- **Attention: State and Chapter Leaders!**

Accessing State/Chapter Membership Information

Questions concerning State and Chapter Officers gaining access to the NSPE database should be directed to Sara Clark at 703/684-2804 or at sclark@nspe.org. Once access is approved by the State Society Executive Director, access will be given and an e-mail with log-in information, a link to the database and detailed instructions will be sent.

National Contacts:

Member Services email
<mailto:memserv@nspe.org>

State and Chapter
Outreach Manager
Felicia Battle
<mailto:fbattle@nspe.org>

- Reminder: Deadline for Continuing Education proposals is approaching!
The deadline for submitting proposals for continuing education seminars at the NSPE 2007 annual convention in Denver is November 1. Have you had a great speaker/presenter at your meeting? Please suggest they send a proposal in for the annual convention. The link to the online submission form is at <http://www.nspe.org/education/ed-home.asp>.

- Notice: NSPE Launches University Outreach Initiative

"NSPE and the interest groups have recently launched a University Outreach Initiative to increase their presence at ABET-accredited schools across the country. The goal is to help existing NSPE student chapters provide valuable networking and support to students on the path to licensure as professional engineers and to bring an NSPE presence to schools that do not currently have NSPE student chapters.

As members of NSPE and the engineering workforce, the interest groups are encouraging you to support this University Outreach Initiative through grassroots activities. One such activity includes contacting your local ABET-accredited schools or alma mater in an effort to further NSPE's mission of guiding students toward licensure and helping them prepare for their future careers as professional engineers. Download a template for a letter to your university."

The template can be accessed at
http://www.nspe.org/pee/Ltr-Alumni_to_Deans.doc
Please contact Marcia Prichard at mprichard@nspe.org or (703) 684-2885 with questions.

- **NSPE Staff Contacts**

- > Sara Clark: State & Chapter Relations and Meetings sclark@nspe.org 703/684-2804
- > Annette Jones: enterprise membership billing ajones@nspe.org 703/684-2813
- > Felicia Battle: state membership outreach funding, enterprise membership recruitment, recruitment mailings fbattle@nspe.org 703/684-2861
- > Linda Ross: state-specific membership brochures, membership promo materials lross@nspe.org 703/684-2867

END OF NEWSLETTER