



The

Oregon

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2005 NSPE Winter Meeting: New Governance Model Proposed

A Report on the San Diego NSPE Winter Meeting, Submitted by Michael Hardy

One of PEO's significant goals each year is to maintain an active presence within the NSPE organization. In order to encourage full participation in the Winter Meeting, NSPE offered to reimburse most expenses for our representatives. President-Elect Bill Tye, Executive Director Belinda Holcombe-Rasmussen and I were able to participate in various sessions throughout the weekend.

The NSPE Winter Meeting is primarily a business meeting for the national organization. The schedule is compressed, with overlapping meetings taking place the entire weekend. The Winter Meeting also incorporates training sessions for new society leaders, and the Consensus Congress which is updating NSPE's strategic plan.

Many ideas and questions were shared; the successful ideas will be posted on the NSPE website as part of the "Leadership Resources" section. Members can log on and browse the ideas in case they want to implement them in their chapter or state.

Another development at the Winter Meeting was the replacement of the Consensus Congress with an interactive presentation of the Future Directions Task Force (FDTF) report. The FDTF's charge is to "...reinvent or reaffirm the mission and vision [of NSPE] to ensure that they provide a basis for a relevant, marketable organization for current and future members."



Bill Tye, Michael Hardy, and John Featherly

The task force is proposing a governance model that is similar to the structure that existed a few years ago, before the Regions were created. The new model will be much more streamlined from what members may

remember from earlier national meetings. This model was developed in order to coincide with the direct focus of the individual state societies. Each state society will have one representative attending one annual national meeting. This "House of Delegates" then elects the board of directors and the national officers, and makes major policy decisions. The board of directors, which will

be smaller than the current board, will continue to meet quarterly to conduct the majority of NSPE's business. I will be showing the FDTF presentations at a few chapter meetings over the next couple of months. That in a nutshell is the proposed plan. There is more information available on the NSPE website at www.nspe.org.

"... the new model will be much more streamlined from what many of you remember from earlier national meetings."

Legislative Watch *Submitted by David Taylor, PE*

Fire Protection Board Mullied

The Oregon legislature is in session again. As always there are bills submitted that affect the practice of engineering. One bill already submitted is the Fire Protection Sprinkler Contractor Bill (HB2369). This bill goes with a sister bill, the Fire Protection Sprinkler Fitter Bill (HB2428). Both bills were submitted by the Sprinkler Contractors, and Plumbers Unions

with no input from the engineering societies practicing fire protection engineering.

HB2369 is the primary bill of interest to PE's. The essence of HB2369 is that it would establish a Fire Sprinkler Contractor Board within the Building Codes Division. It would require sprinkler system contractors to

Continues on page 4

President's Message by Michael Hardy, PE



Hello. The last few months have been very busy for many PEO members. In addition to organizing our chapter activities, we have also completed most of the planning for our major annual activities.

By the time you receive this issue, most of the regional MATHCOUNTS® competitions will

be over, and teams will be getting ready for the State competition in Corvallis. Engineers Week activities will have just wrapped up, and chapters will be moving planning for their spring activities including the PEO Annual Conference hosted by the Umpqua Valley Chapter taking place May 19-21, 2005.

It takes a lot of time and energy from a few of our members to organize and run these activities. Most Oregonians wouldn't know PEO

existed if it were not for these public outreach activities. At every MATHCOUNTS competition and Engineers Week program that I've attended, there have been parents, teachers and other volunteers who came up and expressed their appreciation for what PEO is doing in their community.

This brings up the topic: "What does PEO do?" or more specifically, "What does PEO do for you?" One of the lessons that I've learned in the time that I've been involved with the organization is that the PEO means something different to each member. I cannot assume that the things that are important to me are as important to the rest of the PEO membership. I have to make myself stop and ask questions before rushing ahead with something that makes a lot of sense from my perspective. Toward this end, over the next few months, we will be asking as many members as we can find, "What does PEO mean to you?" and "What should PEO be?" We will be asking these questions at our chapter and state meetings, via e-mail, and through our newsletters. Please respond as often as possible. Otherwise, PEO will become the organization that someone else wants, not what you want.



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No matter what your specialty, networking is one of the most valuable NSPE benefits. With NSPE, you can network in the ways that suit you best. Attend our annual convention, go to local chapter or state meetings, or use our online forums to talk with colleagues from your office or home.

Career Advancement

Whether you're looking for your first job or seeking a new opportunity, membership in NSPE can give you a career edge. In the employment section of our web site, you'll find job boards, a resume posting service, and salary survey information. Members receive the added benefit of having links to their resumes sent to potential employers.

NSPE also offers an online mentoring program for students and professionals new to the field. Here they can get advice, find out about internships and new jobs,

and ask questions of experienced licensed engineers. Experienced engineers can seek advice on career changes and discuss new opportunities with peers from around the country in our online career transitioning forum.

Education

As our professions become more specialized, continuing education becomes not only important but critical to career success. NSPE members can choose the offerings that fit their needs and their schedules: licensure programs, online courses, self-study videos, local programs and courses

Professional Growth

NSPE members benefit from a number of ways to set themselves apart in a tight job market and ever-more competitive field. Our practice divisions allow you to learn more about your industry and network with others working in the same field. Take on leadership positions by working with your local and state chapters, or volunteer with MATHCOUNTS, the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS), or National Engineers Week.

Advocacy and Public Relations

Through NSPE, you are represented on Capitol Hill, in local legislatures,

and to the public. NSPE speaks for the engineering profession and we give our members the tools and information they need to communicate with legislators and government officials. Through campaigns like National Engineers Week, Put the Brakes on Fatalities, and our public relations outreach, NSPE tells the public how engineers add value to their lives by making them safer, easier, and more fun.

Information

With your NSPE membership, you know the latest developments and news in engineering. Our e-newsletters *NSPE Update* and *U.S. Engineering Press Review* get you the news you need right now. You can talk to engineers from around the country in our online forums. You can also stay on top of trends and innovations with publications like *Engineering Times* available online and in print.

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Oregon MATHCOUNTS® 2005 Update

Submitted by Roger Kuhlman, PE



2005 is another banner year for the Oregon MATHCOUNTS. We have 391 students from 59 schools registered for the regional competitions that will be held

during the month of February. The top scoring team and two top students from each region and the next two top scoring teams in the state will be invited to attend the state competition at Oregon State University on Saturday, March 5, 2005. From here, the top four students (Mathletes) and the coach from the top scoring team will advance to the National competition which will be held in Detroit on May 6, 2005.

Oregon MATHCOUNTS owes its success to the volunteers and sponsors that help in the various areas

including: regional competition coordinators and volunteers, foundation board members, treasurer, fund raisers, and support staff at regional competitions and at OSU. Oregon MATHCOUNTS is run by all volunteers so all of the funds we receive from our sponsors go to the operation of this program. *No funds are used for administration.* Thank you to everyone for your support. If you are interested in helping or want more information, please contact Roger Kuhlman at kuhlman@salemelectric.com or 503-362-3601.

Legislative Watch: Fire Protection Board

Continued from page 1

register with the newly created board. It would allow sprinkler contractors and their technicians to plan and design building fire protection systems along, with their other work, in contracting the installation of such systems. The bill does not state specifically what the design of sprinkler systems entails, but the planning and design of sprinkler systems is the practice of engineering when it comes to specification, placement and hydraulic calculations require to meet NFPA codes. It appears that the current practice among sprinkler contractors is to use NICET Level 3 technicians to develop shop drawings for submission as permit drawings. In most cases, the contractors are using commercially available computer programs to perform the hydraulic calculations.

Furthermore, OSBEELS has determined that the design of sprinkler systems and the associated hydraulic calculations as required by NFPA 13 constitutes the prac-

tice of engineering as covered in ORS 672.090, which defines the practice of engineering. (Note that ORS 672.090 refers to the board issuing certificates and to examinations; this should probably refer to ORS 672.007 for the definitions of engineering) At the August annual meeting of NCEES, a policy was adopted concerning fire protection systems. The policy states the need for qualified fire protection professionals to perform the engineering and design on fire protection systems, and encourages the Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to assure (a) that the design is supervised by engineers having experience in fire protection and (b) that the appropriate documents submitted for permit purposes are sealed by the engineer.

The practice of engineering by registered professional engineers assures that the designs are created by individuals competent in the application of the governing codes for the safety and welfare of the public. This bill has no limitations as to the size

or extent of contractor-designed systems. Design may range from prescriptive design, as specified by NFPA codes for small buildings, to very complex designs for multi-story high occupancy or industrial buildings. Engineering professionals should be prepared to provide input to the legislature to rework the bill in accordance with existing professional and the public requirements.

An excellent 'white paper' entitled "The Engineer and the Technician: Designing Fire Protection Systems" is available on the web site of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. This white paper has been updated to reflect the most recent NCEES Policy Statement.

For further information, you can view the entire text of the bill before the legislature at <http://www.leg.state.or.us:8765/>. Please read the bill and contact me at davidptaylor@worldnet.att.net with comments. If you are available to provide testimony before the legislative committees handling the bill please contact me.

Columbia Chapter January 6 Meeting Report

Our last Chapter meeting was very lightly attended, so you missed a great opportunity to learn more about the history of NSPE and how they operate. So we want to hear from you.

Mike Hardy, our PEO president, has recently recommended that all Oregon chapters use a modified e-mail-transmitted questionnaire to aid in determining the needs of chapter members. I want to utilize the questionnaire in this manner for Columbia Chapter members.

It will take time to round up the current e-mail addresses, so it will be later this spring before you folks will hear from me. Please do me the favor of filling the questionnaire out, and getting it back to me (hard copy return would be best). We need your input to determine how to serve you as a member of NSPE/PEO, and the Columbia Chapter. Thank you.

— Submitted by
Bob Gantenbein, PE
Columbia Chapter
Treasurer

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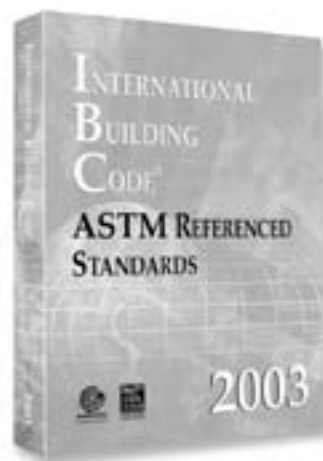


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Central Oregon Chapter Notes

Submitted by Charlie Rowles, PE

The Central Oregon Chapter is sponsoring a refresher course for the upcoming PE exam. The chapter is excited to have 10 participants signed up. We are privileged to have five (5) motivated PE volunteers from our local chapter instructing the various courses. The participants are appreciative of the local chapter's efforts.

In order to promote the PEO organization, each course participant will automatically join the organization when they enroll in the class and pay the \$100 registration fee. We have done this in the past, and have found that it is an excellent way to obtain new members while also demonstrating that we have an active and dedicated chapter that is proud to represent the engineering profession.

Being a relatively new chapter in Oregon, we are fortunate to have had very good success in building our membership and

continuing to obtain new members. However, we are finding that our retention rate is lower than what we would like it to be, and we will be working on ways to remedy this problem and to keep members involved. For example, we are going to try a new approach to increase monthly meeting attendance by having a program on ethics via a DVD presentation at our upcoming February meeting, which will be worth 1.5 PDH units. This will provide more variety in addition to our already well-received speaker programs during our brown-bag lunch meetings. Also our esteemed President, Michael Hardy, will be at our February meeting to recount the events from the recent NSPE winter meeting.

At the February meeting, our chapter will request a \$10 contribution from each of the attendees for the PDH units, which we

will put toward the state contributions to the tsunami victims. We already have \$200 pledged by just two (2) local engineering companies. The Central Oregon Chapter alone will meet the Oregon ASCE challenge to our state PEO to raise \$500 for this important cause. In fact, our chapter expects to exceed the \$500 amount and challenges other chapters to do the same. We also send the challenge back to ASCE and "raise them" \$100!

We have continued our Job Shadow program this year for high school students interested in getting an on-site exposure to the business of engineering and design. We have about 15 students signed up to participate from three different high schools. Currently, 11 local engineering firms are participating as hosts to these students for about one hour each week in their offices.

National Engineers Week

A Ring-Side View

On February 23, Portland volunteers coordinated a fantastic day of tours, exhibits and networking for over 350 local high school students. Coinciding with National Engineers Week 2005, the day provided a venue for engineers to connect with students and inspire them to pursue careers in engineering.

Students chose from two enlightening tours: the Portland West Side Big Pipe Project or the OHSU-OGI School of Science and Engineering. The Big Pipe project consists of a 14-foot diameter, four-mile long pipe with depths reaching 120 feet, built to intercept sewage that currently flows into the Willamette River during rainstorms. The OHSU-OGI tour included the Environmental Biomolecular Systems and Biomedical Engineering departments. PEO extends a big thank you to the Portland Water Bureau and to OHSU for providing these tour venues.

Following the tours, the students and their teachers assembled at the DoubleTree Hotel Lloyd Center to view exhibits and meet with engineers before the evening banquet.

At the banquet, each student was partnered with a host engineer, scientist, technician or designer. These volunteer hosts answered questions and shared their

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Wayne Lincoln, PE
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Please join PEO in applauding the efforts of these members.

Western & Pacific Region Meeting

The meeting was called to order on January 16, by the region vice president, Eric Yamashige. Attendance was excellent with 31 attendees representing every state in the region. Representatives from Guam and Japan were unable to attend. The WPR List Serve roster was circulated for the members to check their names and verify their e-mail address. Minutes from the summer meeting in Honolulu were presented and approved.

Finance: The balance in the checking account is \$10,170.58. Due to the change in the Secretary/Treasurer position, the 2004/2005 WPR state dues assessment statements were not distributed in July. The treasurer will send out these dues notices by the end of the month. The dues statements for 2005/2006 will be distributed in the normal cycle.

Everyone participated in the state and practice division reports. Canadian registration is an important issue in the NW and Alaska. MATHCOUNTS is the main reason why many PEs support and belong to NSPE in CA, OR, ID, MT, HI, & UT. Arizona and Utah are reviving their state societies. The Future Cities Program is a big hit in Idaho and Arizona.

MATHCOUNTS is still an open issue. The national MATH-

COUNTS board does not understand that the local NSPE state chapters organize and run the program. They think the school math teachers are the driving force and NSPE is not required. The jury is still out on which direction this program will go. CNA Insurance Company, which was the major sponsor for MATHCOUNTS, has dropped the program.

NSPE leaders Bobby Price, Kathryn Gray, Al Gray, and Heather Anderson came in for a pep talk and to thank everyone for their support and dedication. John Mick and Bob Stanley challenged the region to attend the annual meeting in Chicago, scheduled for July 8-11. They asked for volunteers and monetary contributions to support their cause.

Sam Grossman, complete with

a tie, gave a warmup speech for the Future Directions Task Force presentation. Bottom line? NSPE will focus on the PE only, not the engineering professional.

Forrest Braun of Alaska led a discussion on the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Workforce Resolution. This program by five NW states would offer comity with the Canadian Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. The national board has endorsed the idea — WPR did not support the idea. It is up to the state registration board to develop the guidelines for this procedure.

The Western & Pacific Annual Meeting will be in Helena, Mont., Nov. 3-5. The annual business meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 5.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by John Featherly, PE



Mark D. Grenz, P.E., IC.
President

Tel: 503-363-9227

Fax: 503-364-1260

email: office@multitech.ws

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New Oregon Electric Group President Builds on Company Strengths to Maximize Customer Value



Jeff Thiede

One of Portland's oldest and largest electrical contractors, Oregon Electric Group, has welcomed a new president, Jeff Thiede, who steps into the role Glenn Patterson filled for 18 years.

"I truly feel honored to be a part of a high-quality company with

such a long, successful history in the electrical industry," said Thiede. "Oregon Electric Group has provided its Portland and Vancouver customers with exceptional service for more than 56 years. Our commitment to customer satisfaction will continue to be a cornerstone in Oregon Electric Group's daily operations."

A 24-year veteran of the construction industry, Thiede, age 42, most recently served as vice president of EC Company, a Portland-area electrical contractor. He holds a bachelors degree in construction engineering from Arizona State University and worked as a journeyman in the electrical trades for 24 years. Thiede is a third generation electrician.

"Jeff brings considerable know-

ledge and experience to the OEG team," said John Harp, president and CEO of Utility Services, Inc, parent company of Oregon Electric Group. "He takes an astute approach to the construction business and is exceptionally customer focused."

Since its founding in 1947, during the post-war building boom, Oregon Electric Group has continued to be a leader in the rapidly changing marketplace by providing high-quality, cost-effective electrical systems customized to match customers specific needs. The company boasts strong segments that serve a variety of markets, including high tech, commercial, industrial, healthcare, voice/data and residential construction.

"Oregon Electric Group's competitive advantage lies in its employees and their dedication to exceeding customer expectation," said Thiede. "As we look to expand market share as the preferred electrical contractor in the industry, Oregon Electric Group will continue to build upon its ability to deliver superior electrical craftsmanship through agility, responsiveness and innovation."

The people of Oregon Electric Group have prided themselves on quality, on-time completion, and constant customer satisfaction for more than 50 years. The company's team of more than 500 professionals share an enthusiasm for excellence and cost effective, creative problem solving.

San Diego NSPE Meeting Submitted by Bill Tye, PE



John Featherly, Bill Tye, and Belinda Rasmussen

This was my first major opportunity as president-elect to represent Oregon at a national NSPE meeting. This winter meeting was well attended, with more than 300 members representing all 50 states. As you can imagine, there

were plenty of meetings and classes on a variety of topics.

NSPE did an excellent job with the conference arrangements and agenda. The meeting emphasized training for Presidents-elect, like me, and for Executive Directors,

which we found to be extremely worthwhile. The contacts and interactions we had with other members throughout the country were invaluable.

The culmination of the meeting was the Summit presentation by the Future Direction Task Force (FDTF) describing a proposed plan to completely revamp the infrastructure of the NSPE into an organization that is more "state-friendly" in order to improve internal working relationships. The intent is to turn the corner

to reduce frustrations that many members and chapters have been feeling and reverse the trend of declining membership.

The entire conference was a valuable experience, and I learned a great deal about how our NSPE operates. I am also more enthusiastic about our PEO organization, and I am hopeful that I will be able to present several new programs and ideas to the board and other chapters that are interested in obtaining more participation from their members.

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Belinda Holcombe-Rasmussen, Exec. Director
 19363 Willamette Dr, #243 • West Linn, OR 97068
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Engineers Week Features NASA Scientist

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career experiences with the students. Jim Stohr, PE and local Engineers Week committee chair, welcomed attendees and introduced the head table. A delicious meal was served and attendees

had a chance to sit back and enjoy the main presentation.

The program opened with remarks from Dr. Zia Yamayee, Dean, Multnomah School of Engineering at the University of Portland. He then introduced

keynote speaker, Dr. Kevin Grazier an engineer and scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Dr. Grazier's presentation on the Cassini/Huygens mission to Saturn and Titan was both informative and thrilling. (Look for a full

story on Dr. Grazier's presentation in the spring issue of *The Oregon Professional Engineer*).

Overall, the day was a great success and an enlightening event for all participants.

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Evergreen Engineering, LLC
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fax 503-439-8767
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Bill Tye, PE
Tye Engineering &
Surveying, Inc.
541-389-6959
fax 541-385-1341
tyeengr@bendcable.com

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Medford Fabrication
541-245-8718
fax 541-608-2681
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Stuntzner Engineering
541-267-2872
fax 541-267-0588
ralphdunham@stuntzner.com

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Ralph Drewfs, PE
ODOT
503-731-3359
fax 503-731-8259
ralph_drewfs@msn.com

Area Vice President

Bill Ryan, PE
CH2M Hill
541-826-8171
fax 541-734-4942
wryan@medford.net

Area Vice President

Robb Paul, PE
Douglas County
541-440-4481
fax 541-440-6264
rgpaul@co.douglas.or.us.

Area Vice President

David Boyd, PE
ODOT
541-585-8364
fax 541-388-6231
david.w.boyd@odot.state.or.us

Practice Division, PEC

Ron Polvi, PE
NW Natural
503-585-6611 x8140
fax 503-362-2622
rdp@nwnatural.com

Practice Division, PEI

Steve Dyrnes, PE
Dyrnes Engineering
503-246-8952
fax 503-245-6055
sdyrnes@aol.com

Practice Division, PEPP

Bill Pease, PE
BMGP Engineers
503-399-1399
fax 503-399-8259
BMGP@Qwest.net

Practice Division, PEG

Marty Stipe, PE
503-763-1915

Central Oregon Chapter President

Charlie Rowles, PE
CA Rowles Engineering
541-585-2207
fax 541-585-2209
crowles@bendbroadband.com

Columbia Chapter President

Bob Gantenbein, PE
503-256-3852 x114
fax 503-252-7806
rgante@comcast.net

Klamath Basin Chapter President

Hugh Currin
OIT
541-884-3023
hcurrin@oit.edu

Mid-Willamette Chapter President

Roger Kuhlman, PE
Salem Electric
503-362-3601
fax 503-361-2570
kuhlman@salemelectric.com

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Roger Thom, PE
City of Medford
541-774-2129
fax 541-774-2552
Roger.Thom@ci.medford.or.us

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Tom Wilczek, PE
Bureau of Land
Management
541-756-1910
Wilczek@or.blm.gov

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Gary Underhill, PE
Camas Associates, Inc.
541-440-0070
fax 541-440-0070
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Belinda Holcombe-Rasmussen
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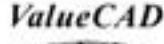



Diane M. Warner, PE
Regional Manager—Project Development

Phone: 503-240-3529
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