



The

Oregon

Professional

Engineer

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# PEO President's Message 2001-2002

The Professional Engineers of Oregon (PEO) and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) are at a crossroads in the lives of our organizations. Our number one problem has been, and continues to be, how to attract and keep new members. NSPE has re-engineered itself in the past three years. In a major change in direction, NSPE is now welcoming non-registered engineers into the organization. This is a step in the right direction, but we need more ideas.

There are roughly 1.2 million practicing engineers in the United States. Our ABET-accredited universities currently graduate 60,000 new engineers each year. Every engineer has his/ her choice of which technical or professional organizations to join. Every engineer will join at least one technical society. Most will join more than one. Membership in the technical societies continues to grow. IEEE has 320 thousand (K) members. ASME has 125K and ASCE has 123K members. NSPE is one of the smaller organizations, with 55K members. NSPE

membership has been gradually declining for the past 10 years. PEO is one of the smaller state societies, with 526 members. All of the various organizations provide their members with the same basic benefits package.

If your work requires you to sign and seal drawings, you are required to be a licensed Professional Engineer. When you eliminate the multiple registrants, there are approximately 170,000 registered engineers in the US. By definition, NSPE represents all licensed engineers.

So how do we attract and keep new members?

- #1 We can start by having student chapters in the top 100 engineering universities. OSU does not have a student chapter. When the faculty rated the various organizations, NSPE fell below the ZBB line. As an aside, I joined NSPE as a student member at UMR.
- #2 The state societies and regional groups must be free to concentrate on regional issues. Most of us are less concerned with



PEO President John Featherly, PE

esoteric issues that are debated inside the beltway by the societies' lobbyists. The Western Regional should be free to concentrate on any Pacific Rim or West Coast issues.

- #3 We can combine the registration arm (OSBEELS for us) and NSPE into one organization. Yes, this is the Canadian model. British Columbia has 18,500 members because every practicing engineer must be registered and belong to the society. It is not that difficult to organize and control. Every student must pass the fundamentals exam to graduate. After working four years, you sit for the PE exam.
- #4 NSPE now offers full memberships to the non-registered engineers. NSPE will

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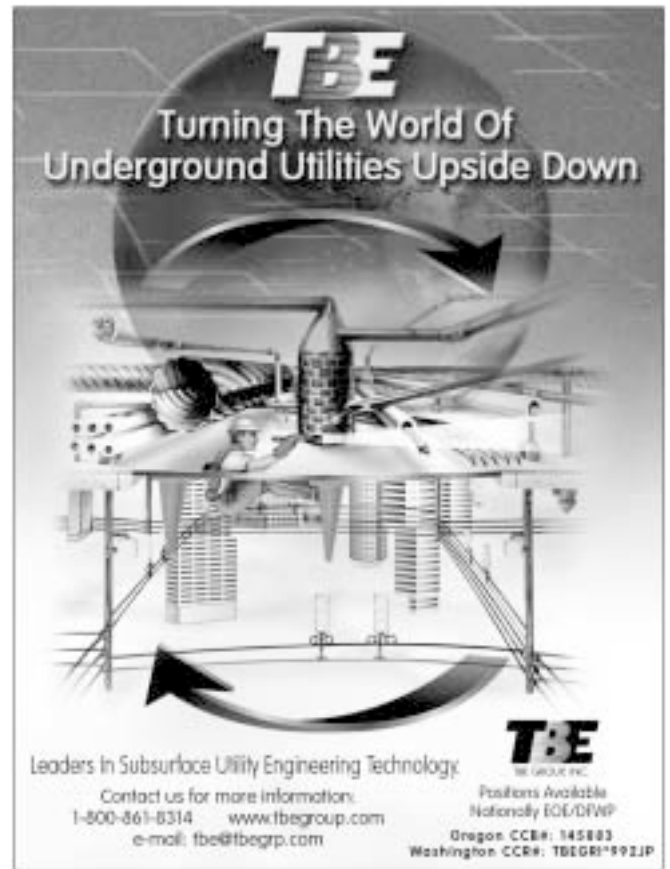
**President's Message, cont.**

never eliminate the industry exemption. Non-registered engineers are now welcome in our society.

**#5** We should offer state-only memberships to anyone in the US. Currently, Oregon is one of five states that can offer state-only memberships. It is a provision in our affiliation with NSPE. All states should be free to offer state-only memberships.

Why should we promote and preserve our organization? Because engineers are a vital resource to our nation,

especially in these challenging times. We are an important part of the nation's infrastructure. Through NSPE, we create a unique network through which we share common interests though varied disciplines. We must keep our organization alive so that we may continue to exchange views, experiences, and resources. Let us work together toward preserving NSPE for the common good of our profession. Please invite someone you know to join our organization. ■



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NSPE offers a comprehensive library of online continuing education courses for engineering professionals. All courses offer professional development hours and cover a broad range of engineering-related topics.

Online education links to NSPE business partners RedVector.com, SmartPros

Ltd. and NetGenUSC who offer discounts to NSPE members can be accessed at <http://www.nspe.org/education/ed-home.asp>.

An electronic "coupon" deducts 15% from RedVector course fees for NSPE members. Enter RVNSPE at the electronic checkout to deduct fees.

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## Mentors & Students Wanted for Apprenticeships in Science & Engineering Program

Was there a significant teacher, advisor, or mentor in your past who helped you pursue your career? You can return that special favor and benefit to a new generation of prospective engineers and scientists by volunteering to participate as a mentor in the Saturday Academy's High School Apprenticeships in Science and Engineering program (ASE).

The ASE program is a joint effort of Portland State University and Oregon Health and Sciences University which provides the infrastructure, contacts, program content, and monitoring to facilitate mentoring contributions to the education of the next generation of engineering and science professionals.

Many students with the potential to excel in science or engineering have only a general idea of what a career in those fields entails. They often have little or no contact with practitioners until they are well into college or beyond. ASE helps high school freshman, sophomores, and juniors explore, test, and refine their interests in order to make better-informed educational choices and career decisions.

Eight-week, summer apprenticeships provide students with excellent insights into the profession and invaluable hands-on experience, while mentoring individuals and companies benefit from the energy and talents of the students assigned to them.

The ASE program provides job application, selection, performance evaluation and results-reporting services. Employers provide training and mentoring resources. Mentors have traditionally found their apprentices to be very creative and productive — which has led, in many cases, to employers hiring their ASE students back the following summer, and often resulted in internships for the students during their college years.

ASE efforts to address a growing concern over the quantity, quality, and cultural/gender diversity of our nation's and region's future technical workforce have grown steadily over the years. In 1990 — the first year of the program — 36 student apprentices participated. The Summer 2001 program hosted 150 students. Over the course of the past 12 years, the program has provided 1,943 students with hands-on, eight-week apprenticeships — drawing from a pool of over 9,000 applicants from throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington.

ASE student participants receive a comprehensive, eight-week science or engineering summer experience, high school credit, and a \$1,400 summer stipend. Current freshman, sophomore, or junior students are eligible to apply for the

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## Membership Is Everybody's Business

The PEO board of directors spent the bulk of their October 6, 2001, board session meeting with Annette Petrick, NSPE's Membership Initiative Consultant, exploring ways in which the Oregon chapter can more effectively recruit and retain members.

As many members are aware, NSPE has — for a number of years — experienced a steady decline in membership.

PEO's Oregon-only membership levels have not suffered as dramatically as the national organization's has, but there is still cause for concern when membership levels remain stagnant.

In response, NSPE has engaged Petrick and her firm

to meet and consult with all NSPE state chapters that are interested in working on this challenge. To date, she has conducted strategic planning sessions with nearly half the state societies across the country, in an effort to develop individualized membership marketing plans tailored to the unique challenges, opportunities, and goals of each chapter.

Her work with the PEO board has generated a draft plan that will be subject to further review and refinement by the PEO board, and implemented as feasible and appropriate in the coming months.

One of the strategies that

NSPE is advocating as part of this effort to build membership is to encourage current members to personally invite other engineers to join the organization. NSPE offers several pointers to use when talking to prospective members:

- Engineers who are not licensed, or who intend to become licensed but have not yet done so, are welcome in the "new member" category.
- Recent graduates (i.e. within their first five years) pay half-price dues, and can also receive assistance preparing for their licensing exam.
- Engineering interns (EITs) are eligible to join.
- NSPE is actively promoting the engineering profession, and elevating the visibility and status of the profession, through the American Engineering Campaign.
- NSPE offers a broad range of products and services to help engineers sharpen their skills and practice their profession more effectively and capably.
- NSPE serves as an advocate for the engineering profession before Congress and relevant federal agencies.
- NSPE offers career transition services, assisting members looking for employment, sampling the employment marketplace, or contemplating pursuing other disciplines with mentoring, resources, referrals, and sessions that help engineers advance their careers. (See NSPE website — [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) — click on "career transition.")
- Members now have several options for accessing services — attending state and regional chapter meetings and educational sessions, accessing web-based training through NSPE and its sponsored programs, and purchasing reference and training materials from NSPE's comprehensive catalog of services.
- Regional chapters are becoming revitalized, and are getting more members involved with shorter, simpler projects and tasks — in recognition of the increasing demands being placed upon people's time and energies.

Engineers interested in additional information regarding the range of services and benefits of membership in NSPE are encouraged to contact NSPE directly at 703-684-2800 or via their website: [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org); or to contact the PEO office in Salem, 503-763-2777, 800-919-9552, or [peo@hevanet.com](mailto:peo@hevanet.com), for membership materials. ■



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## Mathcounts 2002 Approaches

Work is well underway in preparation for the 2002 Mathcounts competitions at the regional, state, and national levels. Program materials have been distributed to middle-school math teachers throughout Oregon, and PEO members are lining up in the various regions of the state to assist with the coming competitions.

Regions 1 and 2 will conduct their competition on February 9, 2002. Competitions in the other regions of the state will also take place during February, on dates yet to be determined.

The state competition will be held on Saturday, March 9, at Oregon State University in Corvallis. The 2002 National Competition will be hosted by the University of Chicago in Illinois on June 13-16, 2002.

PEO members interested in assisting with their regional competition, or at the state level, are encouraged to contact this year's Mathcounts state chairman, Allen Pierce with PGE in Portland. Allen can be reached by phone at 503-672-5568 or via email at Allen\_Pierce@pgn.com. ■

## PEO Plans Annual Conference for 2002

Plans are underway to hold PEO's 2002 Annual Conference in Bend, Oregon, from May 30 to June 1, 2002.

The conference will be hosted by the Central Oregon chapter, PEO's newest chapter. The conference program is currently under development; it will begin with a welcoming reception on Thursday evening, May 30, and continue with general and breakout sessions through the day on Friday, May 31. PEO's Annual Banquet, Installation Ceremony, and Awards Program will be held Friday evening. Additional sessions and/

or tours are being planned for Saturday morning, June 1.

Attendees will be encouraged to bring families and guests and spend the weekend enjoying the scenic beauty and many recreational opportunities available in Central Oregon.

Watch your mailbox for detailed program information, registration materials, and lodging information. In the meantime, please mark your calendars and plan to join your fellow PEO members for a "world-class" professional development and networking program in Bend from May 31-June 1! ■

## Mentors & Students Wanted, cont.

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Summer 2002 program. Application materials can be obtained by contacting ASE at 503-748-1215.

Science and engineering professionals interested in serving as mentors for the Summer 2002 ASE Program can visit the ASE website ([www.ogi.edu/satacad/ase](http://www.ogi.edu/satacad/ase))

for additional program information. Interested individuals are also encouraged to contact ASE Director Molly Schmitz by telephone (503-748-1395) or email ([Schmitz@pdx.edu](mailto:Schmitz@pdx.edu)) for more information, or assistance in developing a customized apprenticeship program in their organizations for next summer. **Please note that the mentor registration deadline is January 11, 2002.** ■



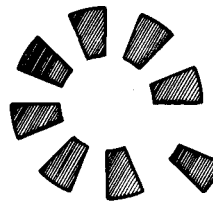
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## PEO 2001 Annual Conference Highlights

Participants in the 2001 PEO annual conference, held May 31-June 2 at the Coos Bay Red Lion Hotel, were treated to two days of valuable networking, an excellent technical program full of opportunities to earn PDH credits, and the chance to get up-to-date on developments in a variety of areas of interest to professional engineers. Attendees also experienced a most interesting tour of an ambitious project to expand the storage capacity of the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board's Pony Creek Dam and improve pumping systems with the construction of the Joe Ney Pump Station.

Over 40 delegates attended general session briefings on the dam and pump station project, power co-generation, and environmental response and remediation. Concurrent breakout sessions were held on asbestos and other air quality issues, emergency event recovery, power quality considerations and solutions, on-site wastewater treatment alternatives, environmental issues relative to shipyard operations, and Title 5 CERCLA Rules updates.

The annual banquet featured guest speaker, George Zinckgraf of San Carlos, California, the NSPE Western Region Vice President, who briefed the group on recent activities and emerging issues and programs at NSPE. During his remarks, he touched on the new "American Engineering Campaign," developed by NSPE to expand public understanding and enhance the prestige of the engineering profession among national and regional opinion leaders and the general public. George further described NSPE's efforts to assist affiliated state societies throughout the country in the development of their own tailored, strategic plans for membership development and retention.

George also administered the oath of office to the incoming members of the PEO Board of Directors.

Roger Kuhlman, completing his term as PEO President, announced the recipient of the 2000-2001 PEO President's Award, Allen Pierce, PE, of Warren, Oregon. Allen is a longtime member of PEO, having joined the organization in 1986. In addition to serving on the PEO board of directors as an area vice president, Allen has been active for many years in the Mathcounts program at the regional and state level. He serves this year as the state Mathcounts chairman. Allen is a mechanical engineer and works for Portland General Electric.

Incoming PEO President John Featherly presented PEO's 2000-2001 Engineer of the Year Award to Jim Stohr, PE. Jim has been a member of NSPE since 1976, and has been active in several state societies, as his career has taken him to various locations throughout the country. Jim has been very

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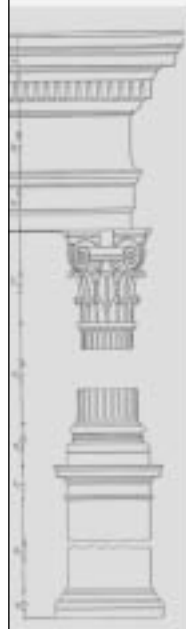
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## The Executive Director's Corner

We here at the PEO Office in Salem hope that you are all enjoying the holiday season—including our recent inclement weather, which should at least guarantee that the water sport enthusiasts among us have an opportunity to cruise Detroit Lake this summer!

There are a couple of quick items that I'd like to bring to your attention. As noted in the "Calendar of Events" section of this newsletter, our National Engineers Week Dinner will be held this year on February 20, 2002 in Portland. This event provides an annual opportunity for the engineering profession in Oregon to connect with and encourage high school students from throughout the region who are interested in pursuing careers in the field of engineering.

PEO members are encouraged to host students and attend the banquet with them, or to otherwise assist by financially sponsoring one or more students to attend the banquet. If you are interested in helping with this most worthwhile of projects, please contact Jim Stohr or Wayne Lincoln at the URS Corporation Office in Portland at 503-222-7200. The National Engineers Week Committee does an outstanding job with this program each year, but they need our support and assistance to ensure the success of the event.

I would like to also take a moment to thank the members of the Central Oregon Chapter for their willingness to host and produce this year's PEO Annual Conference. The event will be held May 30-June 1, 2002 at The Riverhouse Hotel in Bend.

A special note of thanks is due to Charlie Rowles of Sun Country Engineering & Surveying and Michelle French of Tye Engineering & Surveying for their assistance with facility arrangements, Chapter President Bill Tye of Tye Engineering & Surveying for his leadership in this effort, and to the members of the conference planning committee for their ongoing efforts to create a "world-class" educational program.

Please mark your calendars now for this important professional development and networking event, and plan to join your PEO colleagues from throughout Oregon in Bend the end of May. Watch your mail for program and registration information in the next few months.

Best wishes from your PEO staff to you and yours for a safe, fun and festive holiday season! ■

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## NSPE Past-President Al Miller Passes Away

By Nancy Oswald, Executive Assistant, NSPE

Former NSPE President Albert H. Miller, PE, F.NSPE, PLS, passed away on Sunday evening, November 25, 2001. Our hearts are heavy at the loss of our exceptional colleague and mentor, our devoted and beloved friend, and a man who was an inspiration to us all. Al passed away from a severe respiratory infection which apparently developed as a result of chemotherapy treatments he had undergone over the last year. He had not been feeling well for about two months.

Al's phenomenal achievements and service throughout his life would constitute a short volume. But to highlight only a few, before his election to NSPE's presidency, he served on nearly all the society's standing committees and task forces. In addition, he held numerous leadership positions in PEPP, including PEPP Chairman. He provided longtime leadership to the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers and was honored by ASPE and his local chapter when he was named Engineer of the Year. In 2000, he was named a Fellow Member of NSPE. He served NSPE for over 41 years.

Al was also a member of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers & Surveyors, the Arkansas Society of Registered Land Surveyors, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, the American Consulting Engineers Council, the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers, and the U.S. Council for International Engineering Practice.

One of his many legacies to NSPE will surely be his campaign to ensure that NSPE "GIVES YOU THE EDGE." His personal vision became a highly-focused and successful campaign to promote and expand the work of the society, and to ensure that each and every member received value from his/her membership. He was dedicated to NSPE and the engineering profession to which he devoted nearly his entire life.

Al is survived by his wife, Lynette, one son, one daughter, and three grandchildren.

Cards and letters of condolence can be sent to :

Mrs. Albert H. Miller  
1001 Walnut Street  
Newport, AR 72112

At the family's request, memorial donations can be made to:

NSPE Educational Foundation/  
Auxiliaries Scholarship Fund  
c/o Nancy Oswald  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
1420 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## 2001 Conference Highlights, cont.

*continued from page 8*

active in both NSPE and PEO over the years, and has served as an NSPE National Director for Oregon for a number of years. One of Jim's greatest claims to fame is his active participation in National Engineers Week at the local level here in Oregon. Jim has chaired that annual event for PEO for many years, and is responsible — with the capable assistance of his dedicated committee members, his wife, and his daughter — for planning and presenting the student tours and Annual Student Invitational Banquet events. Jim is an electrical engineer and works for URS Corporation out of their Portland office.

The evening concluded with dancing and music, provided by the Bill Bartels Quartet of Coos Bay.

The conference ended the following morning with a fascinating, and very comprehensive, four-hour tour of Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board's Dam Expansion and Pump Station Projects — hosted by representatives of the Water Board and the engineering firm working on the project, URS Corporation.

A nod of thanks and recognition for a superb program is due the members of the Southwest Chapter of PEO, who planned and hosted the annual conference. A special note of appreciation goes to members of the conference committee: Chair Ralph Dunham; Ron Hoffine, J.R. Johnson, Bret Miller, Tom Wilczek, and Will Wright.

Plans are currently underway for PEO's 2002 Annual Conference, to be hosted by the Central Oregon chapter from May 30-June 1, 2002, in Bend, Oregon. Please watch your mailbox (and your email) in the coming months for information regarding the conference program and activities. ■

## Continuing Ed Advisory Group Planned

In an effort to help identify the continuing education needs and interests of PEO members, and to begin to develop specific professional development programs and training seminars for our members; an advisory group is being formed to help us respond more effectively to our members' training needs.

If you are interested in volunteering several hours of your time to help with this project, please contact Pat Lynch, Executive Director, at the PEO Office in Salem at 503-763-2777 or 800-919-9552 or via email at peo@hevanet.com. We are planning one or two meetings — each a couple of hours in length — after the first of the year in Portland or Salem. ■



*Professional Engineers of Oregon*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### PEO BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2002

OSU Corvallis –10:00 am – Apperson Hall Library

### NSPE WINTER MEETING & PE DAY ON THE HILL

January 17-22, 2002

Marriott Hotel – Washington, DC

### NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK STUDENT BANQUET

February 20, 2002 – Portland – Location TBA

### MATHCOUNTS STATE COMPETITION

March 9, 2002

OSU – Corvallis

### PEO BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2002

OSU Corvallis –10:00 am – Apperson Hall Library

### PEO BOARD MEETING

May 11, 2002

OSU – Corvallis 10:00 am – Apperson Hall Library

### PEO 2001 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 30-June 1, 2002

Bend – The Riverhouse Hotel



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