

[To View this newsletter as a pdf, click here.](#)



- Home
- Join WSPE
- About WSPE
- Member Service
- Programs
- News & Pubs

WSPE eNews

A monthly publication from the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

January 2013 Edition

1. [New Members for a New Year!](#)
2. [2013 Discovery Conference](#)
3. [President's Message](#)
By Frederick W. Groth, P.E., S.E.
4. [National Engineers Week - Feb 17-23](#)
Submitted by Pam Mazur
5. [VEX Volunteer Judges Needed](#)
Submitted by John B. Winkler
6. [Lee Shelby Safety Meeting](#)
Submitted by Norm Arendt
7. [Glen Schwalbach Appointed to Wind Siting Council \(WSC\)](#)
8. [The Significance of Legal Releases](#)
By Attorney Robert A. Mich
9. [Leonardo Da Vinci: "Machines in Motion" Exhibit Extended](#)
Submitted by Kathy Voigt, The History Museum at the Castle
10. [Officer Openings](#)
11. [MATHCOUNTS Update](#)
Submitted by Ed Rodden

1. New Members for a New Year!

Please join us in welcoming our new WSPE members!

Metro Chapter

Craig Donze, PE	Licensed Member	One Source Consulting
Nathan Blaz, PE	Licensed Member	Materion

Fox River Valley Chapter

Richard Patzlaff, PE	Licensed Member	Foth Production Solutions, LLC
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Southeast Chapter

Kevin Wagner, EIT	Member	Ruekert Mielke
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Wisconsin Valley Chapter

Evelyn Fisher, PE	Licensed Member	Becher Hoppe Associates Inc
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Interested in becoming a member?

Check out the member benefits at the following links:

<http://www.wspe.org/joinwspe.shtml>

<http://www.nspe.org/Membership/index.html>

Contact Ed Rodden at ExecDir@wspe.org with any questions regarding membership.

[TOP](#)

2. 2013 Discovery Conference

WSPE & The Metro Chapter are proud to present:

Discovery Conference 2013



Thursday May 2, 2013 - Milwaukee, WI
7:30am - 5:00 pm

Joint Membership, Board & Executive Meeting
<Wednesday May 1, 2012 3pm - 5pm>
All Invited to Attend

Hotel accommodations:

The Resort agrees to hold **30 sleeping rooms** on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at a Group rate of \$89.00* until Monday, April 1, 2013.

Reservations Procedure

Individuals calling to make reservations must identify themselves with the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers to receive the Group Rate.

All individual reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card or advanced deposit. Reservations that are not guaranteed will be released. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-558-9573.

Check In – Check Out Time:

Check-in time is 3:00 PM.

Check-out time is 11:00 AM.

Conference Highlights include:

1. Format will consist of a general session in the morning and the afternoon. Between these sessions attendees will be given the opportunity of sitting in on 4 different breakout sessions with opportunities to browse the sponsor tables during break times, before and after the conference.
2. A sample of presentations to be offered:
New Licensure Laws including Continuing Education, Grandfather Clause, WSPE Update and President-Elect Goals & Objectives for 2013 –2014 term, Website updates, Social Media updates, etc.
3. By attending the conference we will be provided 1 PDH for each session you attend including 1 ethics course.

We currently are seeking speakers, sponsor, and vendors at this time for this event. E-mail our Executive Director, Ed Rodden II, at ExecDir@wspe.org to find out how to support WSPE.

Remember by **presenting a topic** at the conference you will receive **double the PDHs** allotted for your presentation.

***Group rate does not include 11.1% tax. Tax rate is subject to change without notice.** Cancellation of guestroom reservations are required 48 hours in advance of your arrival date. Any reservations cancelled with less than 48 hours notice will be charged a cancellation penalty equal to One Night Room and Tax.

[TOP](#)

3. President's Message

By Frederick W. Groth, P.E., S.E.

Hope all of you had a warm and Happy Holiday Season this year. I know I did.

Our first winter storm came. I got my Christmas wish for enough snow to go cross country skiing. UW Badgers had a good showing, but come up a little short at the Rose Bowl again. Packers are closer to another Super Bowl bid again this year. What a great year.



*Frederick W. Groth, P.E., S.E.
WSPE President for 2012 –
2013*

In my October President's Message, I outlined our brainstorming sessions and recommendations for **trying to increase membership.**

Based on your input, the Executive Board of Directors has adopted the following six recommendations:

1. Concentrate on **broader base**, (i.e., mechanical, civil, electrical, industrial, chemical, manufacturer, IEE).
2. **Combine with other groups** such as ASCE's Younger Member Group to plan activities to get more exposure.

3. Get access to full **PE and EIT list**.
4. Appeal to **younger members**.
5. **Staff the FE/PE exam sites** and hand out information to potential engineers.
6. Get **speakers into engineering colleges** to talk about professional licensure and membership in professional associations.

We are moving ahead with these top six recommendations. We are currently working on Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. We need your help in making item 5 a reality. We would appreciate your help in volunteering to help staff FE/PE exam sites this spring. Please email Ed Rodden at ExecDir@wspe.org if you are interested. **We need your help!**

Ed Rodden and I met in December 2012 with Dave Easton w/ Axley, Patrick J. Fiedler w/ Axley (Retired Dane County Judge), and Dennis Skogen with Skogen Engineering Group, Inc. The topic of discussion was persons practicing engineering without being qualified or licensed. We quickly learned that this is more widespread than first believed, including the areas of accident investigation, demolition of high rise buildings, and government engineering positions with no licensed engineers heading the positions.

WSPE has decided to form a subcommittee to first investigate how widespread the issue is and research how to implement legislation to fix this problem. I would like to keep the subcommittee to 5 or 6 maximum. I need two more volunteers to work on the committee. Anyone willing to work on this committee should contact me or Ed Rodden.

Please forward any questions you have about continuing education to Ed Rodden (Executive Director of WSPE) and we will try to get answers back to you.

Please help by becoming involved in WSPE so we can become your valued organization again. If you have questions about how you can become involved, please email me at fred.groth@graef-usa.com or give me a call at (608) 335-2978. You can also email our WSPE executive director Ed Rodden at ExecDir@wspe.org

[TOP](#)

4. National Engineers Week, Feb 17-23, 2013

Submitted by Ed Rodden and Pam Mazur

February 17-23, 2013, is National Engineers Week!

The seven chapters of WSPE are committed to promoting and celebrating the engineering profession nationwide during National Engineers Week. We have volunteer kits to help you establish activities to help elementary school students learn more and get excited about the engineering profession. If you are interested in organizing some of these activities in your community or would like to volunteer with other activities that WSPE is participating in, please contact Ed Rodden at ExecDir@wspe.org.

Find additional National Engineers Week information here:

<http://www.eweek.org/Home.aspx>

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay will be hosting an **Engineers Week Open House**. This Open House will showcase engineering, engineering technology, and related careers to potential students, parents and the general public. There will be an educational program and employer representatives at the Open House to explain the many opportunities available in the engineering fields, the need for people to go into these fields, and the education requirements needed for these careers.

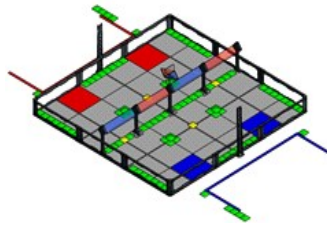
The Open House will be **Thursday, February 21, from 5-7pm**, at the Manufacturing Tech Center at NWTC's Green Bay campus at 2740 West Mason Street. WSPE members are encouraged to stop in, and certainly bring along anyone who might be interested in engineering or engineering technology!

For more information, contact Pam Mazur in the Trades & Engineering Technologies Department at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College: pam.mazur@nwtc.edu, 920-498-6317.

[TOP](#)

5. VEX Volunteer Judges Needed

Submitted by John B. Winkler



VEX is a robot design and building program for Middle and High School students. The robots are designed and built by the students using materials that resemble erector sets with sensors and remote controls. These robots spend most of their time being driven by remote control and competing with 3 other robots on a playing field.

The challenge changes every year. This year's challenge is Sack Attack and you can find more information at the Sack Attack website here:

http://www.vexforum.com/wiki/index.php/Sack_Attack

I am recruiting judges for this year's Regional Tournament, which will be Saturday February 16, at Xavier High School, in Appleton, Wisconsin. Over 70 teams have registered to date and we are expecting as many as 84 teams to participate.

Judges will spend the day interviewing teams in a short formal setting and throughout the day in the pits. They will also watch how the robots perform in the competition. This will determine the winners of a number of awards for the design, construction and strategy that the teams have incorporated in creating their machines to play this year's challenge.

We have historically had 2 judge panels, but VEX is growing rapidly throughout the state. We would like to develop as many judges as possible. To that end, we will welcome everyone of your members who is interested in judging.

Can we interest some of you in judging VEX?

John B. Winkler
wiwink516@yahoo.com
920.725.1978 (H)
920.585.1980 (C)

[TOP](#)

6. Lee Shelby Safety Meeting

Submitted by Norm Arendt

Inspirational Speaker: Double Amputee Lineman	
	Lee Shelby of Jackson, TN, is willing to come to your workplace or organization to speak on the dangers of shortcuts, complacency, and risk management. He is a double amputee as a result of a serious electrical workplace accident while being employed as a lineman.
Lee Shelby Enterprises, Inc. Jackson, TN lee@leeshelby.com	

On January 17, 2013, there will be a joint meeting with many organizations to hear **Lee Shelby** discuss how a short cut cost him physically, mentally, and socially.

The social begins at 5:30pm, dinner buffet at 6pm, and the presentation will be at 7pm at the Cannery Grill in Sun Prairie. Advance registration required.

We need a firm count for dinner. To reserve a spot, email Steve Strebel at steve.strebel@slh.wisc.edu and mail a check for \$30 to Steve Strebel, Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene, Occupational Health Lab, 2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53716.

[TOP](#)

7. Glen Schwalbach Appointed to Wind Siting Council (WSC)

Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., who serves as WSPE's vice-president for legislative affairs, has been appointed by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to the Wind Siting Council (WSC) for a three-year term. The WSC was established by state statute in 2009 to advise the Commission as to appropriate safety and health restrictions for wind energy systems under 100 megawatts.

The rules have been promulgated in the Wisconsin Administrative Code as PSC 128 in 2010 but implementation was delayed until March 2012. These rules

actually restrict the restrictions that political subdivisions can put upon wind turbine siting.

The next job of the WSC is to review the numerous studies and research papers which have been published since PSC 128 was promulgated and then develop a report to the state legislature as to whether changes in legislation are necessary to address any health and safety concerns.

Glen has been active in wind energy issues for five years, during which he testified at six hearings, consulted for four towns, made presentations on safety and health impacts of large wind turbines and investigated the causes of **negative impacts upon residents near wind turbines**. He also works with numerous legislators, both state and federal, to provide more awareness of the negative impacts and to suggest adequate legislation.

[TOP](#)

8. The Significance of Legal Releases

By Attorney Robert A. Mich

In spite of their best efforts, design professionals sometimes make mistakes which result in claims being asserted against them. When a claim arises, it will typically be resolved either in a settlement prior to bringing a legal action, or through a judgment or award issued in litigation or arbitration. Under the legal doctrine of "claim preclusion," a party is typically barred from bringing additional claims on the same legal matter once it has been tried in court or arbitration. Thus, in those cases a release is typically not necessary because the court judgment or arbitration award produces the same result.

However, when parties agree to settle their claims, a release should be carefully tailored to address the particular needs of the design professional's situation. The release should be drafted as clearly and unambiguously as possible to ensure that it will be enforceable against claims filed in the future. The release should clearly identify all parties who have the potential to bring a claim in the future against the design professional, which may include individuals, corporate entities, and insurance carriers with whom the design professional did not contract directly. Full legal names should be expressly identified. If a release relates to a particular project, the project should be identified as detailed as possible, including references to contracts on the project, where appropriate. The release should also identify the "consideration," i.e., the payment or other thing of value, being exchanged for the release of liability.

Releases vary in scope. Wherever possible, the releasing party should provide a general waiver of all claims of any kind between the parties to ensure that all disputes between the parties are resolved. Such a release may include not only known but unknown claims, as well. However, where a party is unwilling to grant a general release because of a concern of latent defects on a project, a release may be limited to the particular damages incurred to that point or some other known measurable estimate. The precise language used in the release is critical in light of the general presumption that ambiguities will be interpreted against the person who drafted the document.

While lien waivers are customarily provided over the course of a project, the legal significance of a lien waiver differs from that of a release. A lien waiver precludes a contractor from filing a lien claim against the property subject to the lien for the amount identified in the waiver. However, a contractor issuing a lien waiver may not be barred from pursuing a separate claim for delay damages or other damages which they may attribute to an error or omission by a design professional. This critical distinction is why a release should be sought in all cases where there is a concern about a potential claim.

Because of the many legal issues which may arise from releases, design professionals are encouraged to consult with their attorney in the drafting and negotiating of releases.



Attorney Robert A. Mich, Jr. represents professional engineers, architects, contractors, materials suppliers and owners of construction projects, and is with the law firm of Kay & Andersen, LLC.

Please feel free to contact him at (608) 833-0077 or visit www.kayandandersen.com.

[TOP](#)

9. Leonardo Da Vinci: "Machines in Motion" Exhibit Extended

Submitted by Kathy Voigt, The History Museum at the Castle



The History Museum at the Castle in Appleton, WI is excited to announce that its exclusive exhibit, "Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion" has been extended through Feb. 3, 2013. This exhibit brings together the largest collection of full-size, working replicas of 40 of da Vinci's inventions.

Visitors may set them into motion, creating a fascinating combination of hands-on education and entertainment. Included are flying machines, a printing press, inventions for warfare, and machines that use water to relay energy.

Open Tues. – Sun., 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: Adults (17-64) \$15; Children (5-17) \$10; Seniors (65+) \$13.50; 4 and under Free.

PH 920-735-9370 www.myhistorymuseum.org

[TOP](#)

10. Open Officer Positions

We are still seeking a few key positions on the WSPE Executive Board. We meet once a month via teleconference for about 1 hour.

Brief descriptions of the responsibilities of these positions are listed below.

Only those members who are current members of NSPE and their State Society are eligible to serve in the position of President, President-Elect and Vice President of either NSPE or their State Society. Duties and responsibilities for each Officer are defined as follows:

President-Elect

The President-Elect shall act as president in the president's absence, and shall undertake assignments at the request of the president, the Executive Committee, or the Board. The principle activity of the president-elect shall be an examination of the Society and the development of plans for the following year.

Vice President – Membership Portfolio

In the absence of, or in the case of the inability of the president and president-elect, it shall be the duty of one of the three vice presidents, in order of precedence, to perform all the duties of president. Each vice president shall serve as chair of a portfolio and liaison to a group of chapters as determined by the president.

The President Elect positions will consist of a brief interview with the current President and the Executive Board. The commitment for this position is a 3 year term, where the open Vice President position is for part of a fiscal year.

If you are interested in any of these officer openings, please email Ed Rodden II at ExecDir@wspe.org or Fred Groth at Pres@wspe.org.

[TOP](#)

11. MATHCOUNTS Update

In advance of Engineering Week (Feb. 17 - Feb 23, 2013) WSPE and our seven chapters are looking forward to our upcoming regional and state MATHCOUNTS competitions.

These competitions require extensive coordination and collaboration among WSPE, chapters, participating schools, sponsors, directors, coordinators and volunteers.

Without any of these MATHCOUNTS would not be possible!

To help prepare for another successful year, we are calling for volunteers!
Duties may include graders, speakers, proctors.

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please contact the coordinators listed below. Refer to the following link to see which chapter you are in: <http://www.wspe.org/chapters.shtml>

Remember: we are serving and preparing our Mathletes to become part of a greater good. As they continue to prosper and grow, we hope they come back

to volunteer with us.

Regional Competitions:

Fox River Valley
February 2, 2013
Coordinator: Todd Kinney, PE
tkinney@charter.net

Metro East
February 9, 2013
Coordinator: Kevin Keast, PE
kevin.keast@daarcorp.com

Metro West
February 2, 2013
Coordinator: Kerry Hardin, PE
kerry.hardin@gmail.com

NorthWest
February 7, 2013
Coordinator: Brad Volker, PE
bvolker@cooperengineering.net

South East
February 9, 2013
Coordinator: Darwin Behlke, PE
Behlke.Darwin@twindisc.com

South West
February 2, 2013
Coordinator: Norm Arendt, CHS III,
CMAS, PhD, CFEII
njarendt@tds.net

Western
February 8, 2013
Coordinator: Jarrod Holter, PE
jholter@cityofalaska.com

WI Valley
February 2, 2013
Coordinator: Archie Becher, PE
abecher@becherhoppe.com

State Competition

March 2, 2013
Coordinator: Norm Arendt, CHS III, CMAS, PhD, CFEII
njarendt@tds.net

[TOP](#)

We Need Your News!

- Is your chapter hosting an event?
- Did your chapter get some new members?
- Have you started your own business?
- Is your company taking on a really challenging project?

If you said "yes" to any one of these questions, or would like to share anything even remotely newsworthy with the rest of WSPE, please send your articles to Clayton Grow, WSPE eNews Editor, clayton@thewritingengineer.com.

We look forward to including your news in our monthly updates!



Join the discussion at [WSPE's LinkedIn Group](#) or



["Like" us on Facebook.](#)

We Need Your Email Address!

If you are reading a paper copy of the WSPE eNews, you're missing out! Send your email address to Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at ExecDir@wspe.org or call him at (414) 531-1129 to receive electronic eNews.

Advertisers Wanted!

If you are interested in advertising in the WSPE eNews, please contact Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at ExecDir@wspe.org or (414) 531-1129.

Update Your Information with WSPE

Did you...
...get a new job?
...get promoted?
...get a new phone number or email address?
...get your PE license?

Tell us about it! Send your new information to Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at ExecDir@wspe.org or call him at (414) 531-1129 and he'll make sure your information is updated in both the WSPE and NSPE databases. We'd also

like to include an article in the next eNews summarizing your recent change or accomplishment to inform your fellow WSPE members.

[TOP](#)

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