

WSPE eNews

A monthly publication from the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

February 2013 Edition

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1. 2013 Discovery Conference



2013 Discovery Conference

Olympia Resort - Oconomowoc, WI
Thursday May 2, 2013

The Discovery Conference will consist of two general sessions and three breakout sessions. Twelve speakers in all are confirmed to speak at this conference. They will cover a variety of topics relevant to civil, electrical, mechanical, and other engineering professionals.

Our Keynote Speaker is Dan Wittliff, PE, DEE, F. NSPE, NSPE President. This conference will qualify for 6 Professional Development Hours (PDHs) including 5 that will count towards the "classroom" requirement and 1 that will count towards the "ethics" requirement.

Lunchtime awards to be given out include: Engineering or the Year, Young Engineer of the Year, MATHCOUNTS teams advancing to Nationals, Fellow, and others.

We are currently seeking **corporate sponsors** for this conference to help us offset the costs.

Three different sponsor participation levels are available:

1) Bronze - \$150.00

Includes logo on brochure an announcement at conference.

2) Silver - \$250.00

Includes logo on brochure, announcement at conference, 1 person paid for conference & booth.

3) Gold - \$335.00

Includes logo on brochure, announcement at conference, 2 person paid for

conference & booth.

If interested in a sponsorship, please contact Ed Rodden, our Executive Director at execdir@wspe.org or (414) 531-1129.

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.

***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.

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.

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2. President's Message

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

I hope everyone is having a great beginning to 2013. Winter is half over and spring is around the corner. The UW Badgers went to the Rose Bowl and came up short again, but certainly made a great showing that we were proud of. The Packers also came up short, but there is always next year.



Last December, both Ed Rodden and I met with Dave Easton and Patrick J. Fiedler with Axley (Fiedler is a retired Dane County Judge), and Dennis Skogen with Skogen Engineering Group. We discussed the issue of people practicing engineering without being qualified or licensed.

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

After further discussion, we quickly learned that this issue is more widespread than first believed, with people working in areas such as accident investigation, demolition of high rise buildings, and government engineering positions with no engineering license.

WSPE will form a subcommittee to first investigate how widespread the issue is and then to look at how to implement legislation to fix this problem. I would like to keep the subcommittee to 5 or 6 maximum. **We still need one more volunteer to work on the committee.** If you want to work on this committee, contact me at fred.groth@graef-usa.com or Ed Rodden at ExecDir@wspe.org.

Please forward any questions you have about continuing education to Ed Rodden (Executive Director of WSPE) and we will get answers back to you and post them (and other frequently asked continuing education questions) to our website soon.

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.

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3. ASCE Webinar: Your Path to Professional Licensure

Submitted by James A. Buggs, PE

Your Path to Professional Licensure

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 5:30 – 6:30 pm CST

What better time to learn about professional engineering licensure than during **National Engineers Week 2013!** This Webinar is designed for engineering students to convey the importance, value and benefits that licensure can bring to one's engineering career. The presentation will describe the step-by-step process to professional licensure and cover the basics of the FE and PE examinations relevant to engineering students and graduates. To register, visit [here](#) and click on "Attend a Webinar." The registration link will be under

the "Your Path to Professional Licensure" event description. If you are not an ASCE member, please type the word "LICENSURE" in the membership number section to complete your registration.

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4. 15 FREE Personal Development Hours from NSPE

NSPE membership now includes 15 free professional development hours that you can conveniently earn through online seminars. At the end of each seminar, a quiz will be available for those who need it to meet their state's continuing education requirements.

These courses are available for free to NSPE members. Please log in, if you haven't already, then complete the check-out process. You will not be charged.

The 15 courses for 2013 are:

- [Conflicts of Interest: Will Proposed Federal Rules Impact Engineering Practice?](#)
- [EJCDC Construction Contract Documents: Key Clauses and New Approaches](#)
- [Got BIM? It's Not Just About 3D Models](#)
- [Harnessing the Power of Change](#)
- [How to Conduct Effective Meetings](#)
- [IT Solutions for AEC Professionals](#)
- [Key Federal Contracting Laws that Everyone Must Know](#)
- [Legal Realities of Project Scheduling](#)
- [Ethics Forum: Maintaining Objectivity, Truthfulness, Non-Deception, & Preserving Confidentiality](#)
- [Pending & Current Legislation, Rules, and Programs that will Change How We Manage Storm Water](#)
- [Project Management and Ethics](#)
- [Ethics Forum: Protecting the Public Health, Safety, and Welfare & Demonstrating Professional Competence](#)
- [Strategic Planning](#)
- [Ethics Forum: What is the Impact of the Ongoing Economic Crisis on Engineering Ethics](#)
- [Ethics Forum: Whistleblowing: What Are the PEs Obligations to Report Misconduct?](#)

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5. Collecting Interest in Wisconsin

By Attorney Randall J. Andersen

We are frequently asked by clients whether they can collect interest on past due balances from their customers. The answer depends on a number of factors.

Is a contract rate specified? The best way to qualify to collect interest is to specify for the payment of interest in your contract. The contract should state the rate of interest and when interest starts to accrue. Including a clause in your contract requiring the payment of interest on past due balances is a good way to encourage prompt payment. Note that special rules for charging interest may apply if you are dealing with a "consumer" who is securing goods or services for personal, household or family purposes, under the Wisconsin Consumer Act. If you want to charge interest when dealing with consumers, it would be best to consult with an attorney to make sure that you do not run afoul of the Wisconsin Consumer Act.

What if the contract does not specify a rate of interest? If the contract does not specify a rate of interest, the creditor may still be entitled to collect interest on past due sums which are "liquidable," meaning that the amount due is measurable or computable and there is not a genuine dispute about the amount due. The rate of interest on "liquidable" sums, when the parties do not otherwise specify a rate of interest in their contract, is 5% per year, pursuant to §138.04, Wisconsin Statutes.

Interest on judgments. If a lawsuit is brought to collect a delinquent balance, and the court issues judgment in favor of the plaintiff, the plaintiff is entitled to collect interest on the judgment at the "judgment rate." For many years, the judgment rate in Wisconsin was 12% per year. However, the Wisconsin legislature adopted new legislation, which was signed into law by Governor Walker on November 16, 2011, reducing the judgment interest rate to the prime rate, as reported by the Federal Reserve Board, adjusted on January 1 and June 30 of each year. Under this rule, the current rate of interest on judgments in Wisconsin is 4.25% (3.25% prime rate plus 1%).





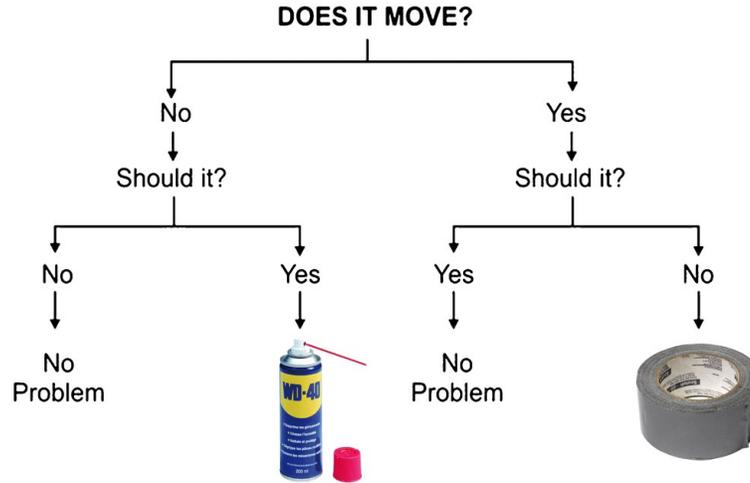
Attorney Randall J. Andersen represents professional engineers, architects, contractors, materials suppliers and owners of construction projects, and is with the law firm of Kay & Andersen, LLC. Please feel free to contact him at (608) 833-0077 or visit www.kayandandersen.com.

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6. Engineering Flowchart

Submitted by Brad Volker, PE

Engineering Flowchart



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7. NWTC Engineering Open House for Engineers Week

Submitted by Pam Mazur

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay will be hosting an Engineers Week Open House. Please join us as we highlight careers in engineering and showcase our engineering-related degree programs:

Electrical Engineering Technology	Electronics Technology (with optional Biomedical Specialty)	Energy Management Technology
Civil Engineering Technology	Prototype & Design	Solar Energy Technology
Automation Engineering Technology	Fire Protection Engineering Technology	Nuclear Technology
Electro-Mechanical Technology	Architectural Technology	Marine Engineering Technology
Electronics Technology (with optional Biomedical Specialty)	Manufacturing Engineering Technology	Environmental Engineering-Waste & Water Technology
	Utilities Engineering Technology	

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. You're invited! No need to register. WSPE members are encouraged to stop in, and certainly bring along anyone who might be interested in engineering or engineering technology! Bring your friends and family.

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

Click the following link for more information about NWTC's Manufacturing Tech Center: www.NWTC.edu/TechCenter

Click this link to download a pdf of the NWTC Engineering Open House Flyer: <http://www.wspe.org/enews/2013/Flyer-NWTCEngineersWeekOpenHouse.pdf>

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8. Job Openings

Here's a brief summary of the Job Openings listed on WSPE's job board:

Click on the WSPE Job Board link above or the individual link below to read more about each opportunity:

- **Manager, Mechanical and Structural Engineering:** Joy Global, Milwaukee, WI
- **[Director of Public Infrastructure:](#)** City of Manitowoc, WI
- **[Engineering Consultant-Fire Suppression Systems - Advanced:](#)** WI Dept. of Safety and Professional Services

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9. 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:

South East

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

Metro East

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

Western

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

NorthWest

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

State Competition

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

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10. DSPS Architectural Board's Position on Digital Seals

WHAT IS THE SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT FOR DOCUMENTS SIGNED AND SEALED BY ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS AND LAND SURVEYORS?

Ch A-E 2.02(7)(b), Wisc Admin Code states that all seals and stamps must be signed and dated by the registered licensee. Signature methods include 1) permanent ink contrasting with the seal, 2) electronic signatures that meet the requirements of s. 137.06 if permitted by the governmental unit that receives the documents, and 3) other standards for signatures or seals prescribed by the statute. The signature must reflect the surname of the licensee; therefore, an illegible mark, letter, or character does not constitute an acceptable signature.

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11. Website Highlights

By Ed Rodden II, E.I.T.

WSPE Website Highlights

Effective last week, WSPE has made some updates to our website, summarized

as follows:

1)Continuing Professional Competency Page

WSPE has launched a new continuing professional competence web page. Within Fred Groth's president message on the WSPE.org homepage, we included a notice to help identify this page to our members, non-members, P.E.'s and E.I.T.'s.

This page lists relevant information about how this new law came about, hyperlinks to relevant legislative and licensure information, renewing and applying for your PE in WI, a DSPS section, Exam resources, course record template, and a PDH opportunities section.

We encourage you to help us keep this page more useful by sending us PDH opportunities you are aware of so we can make them available to everyone. View the Continuing Professional Competency page here:

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

This link is also available from our home page.

2)Calendar of Events Page

The new Calendar of Events page will have relevant dates and events. This page will be updated as information is available.

We have listed operational meetings held by the executive committee, conferences, PDH events sponsored or not by WSPE, and chapter events.

If you have something you would like to post please let us know. View the Calendar of Events page here: <http://www.wspe.org/calendar.shtml>

This link is also available from our home page.

3)Chapter Web Page

The websites for each chapter have been removed and combined onto one consistent page integrated within WSPE website. This page has a click-able view of the state. Click on any chapter and you will be directed to the contact information of the officers in that chapter.

New information will be made available on this page, including newsletters sent out by the chapter and facebook page announcements, if applicable. View Chapter Page here: <http://www.wspe.org/chapters.shtml>

4)New Members & Membership Renewal

We recently revised our membership page to include three links 1) New member sign up, including continuing our 6-month free application form, 2) NSPE benefits, and 3) Renewing on-line. All these links are available on the right hand side of our Membership section of our website.

View this New Members and Membership Renewal page using the url:

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

A special thanks to Marty Hanson, PE and his team at Ayres Associates for helping WSPE make these updates a seamless success.

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12. WSPE-Staffing for FE & PE Exam Sites

WSPE has been working closely with the testing agency who handles the FE & PE exam sites around Wisconsin. After a few discussions with them they have agreed to allow WSPE to have a booth just outside the testing areas for all locations around Wisconsin.

We will need one person at each of these testing sites to make this a success. Some criteria for this individuals: 1) Current WSPE member, 2) Be a currently registered Professional Engineer in Wisconsin. Everything you need will be provided to you.

Testing Sites/Times are as follows:

FE Exam (EIT Certification)

April 13, 2013
October 26, 2013
4pm - 5pm

PE Exam (PE Certification)

April 12, 2013
October 25, 2013
4pm - 5pm

Testing Sites (both exams):
Madison | Milwaukee | Platteville

For additional information please contact Ed Rodden our executive director at execdir@wspe.org or at (414) 531-1129.

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FREE 6-Month Trial Membership!

Interested in WSPE but not sure if you want to join? Try a 6-month FREE trial membership, courtesy of WSPE. Contact Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director,

at ExecDir@wspe.org for details.

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!

You can help us offset the costs of producing this eNews by placing an advertisement here! If you are interested in advertising your company here, 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?

You can update your information yourself on the NSPE website!
[Click this link to update your membership information.](#)

Alternatively, you can 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.

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WSPE Mission Statement

WSPE is an organization of licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) and Engineering Interns/Engineers in Training (EIs/EITs).

Through education, licensure advocacy, leadership training, multi-disciplinary networking, and outreach, WSPE enhances the image of its members and their ability to ethically and professionally practice engineering.