

WSPE eNews

A monthly publication from the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

March 2013 Edition

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1. Women in Engineering Wanted

Submitted by Waukesha STEM Academy

The Waukesha STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Academy would like at least **two women** working in the engineering fields to do a presentation at the April 12th Waukesha STEM event called "M for Girls/STEM for Chicas". The presenters should also plan an activity to do with the girls.

This event is scheduled after school, on **Friday, April 12th, from 6pm-8pm at the Saratoga Campus**, to promote the STEM fields for girls. We invite female guest speakers to discuss their career, work with the girls on an activity, and answer questions.

This will be our 3rd year running this event. We are always looking for donations for the girl's gift bags (company pens, notebooks, coupons, etc.), female guest speakers in the STEM field, and volunteers for the event.

More information will be given as the date approaches. If you have any questions, please contact Genny Lambert at glambert@waukesha.k12.wi.us or Ed Rodden at ExecDir@wspe.org.

Read more about the Waukesha STEM Academy here:
<http://waukeshastemacademy.weebly.com/>

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2. President's Message

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

I hope everyone is enjoying the snow and winter in Wisconsin. I have enjoyed cross country skiing this winter. But spring is just around the corner and I am starting to feel the urge to be outside in my garden.

Engineer's Week was last week, Feb. 18 thru 23. I attended a joint ASCE Southwest Branch/WSPE Southwest Chapter in Madison where an excellent presentation was given by Finn Hubbard & Norm Arendt on the I-35 Bridge Collapse.



*Fred Groth, P.E., S.E.
WSPE President, 2012 - 2013*

At this same meeting Norm Arendt with WSPE presented four high school students scholarships. These students were tops in their high school. What

talent these students have and we all hope these will become our future engineers.

Our WSPE Discovery Conference is set for May 2, 2013. Please see WSPE Discovery Conference Highlights in this newsletter. An exciting program has been put into place and you can earn up to 6 PDH's by attending. It is still not too late to become a corporate sponsor - see information in newsletter on WSPE Discovery Conference. Please contact Ed Rodden if you are interested in being a sponsor.

In my last President's Message, I talked about needing volunteers to help staff FE/PE exam sites in April. We still need these volunteers. Please call Ed Rodden at 414-531-1129.

Lastly, WSPE is monitoring key legislature and budget bills being sponsored that will affect our engineering profession. As these bills move thru the legislature, WSPE plans to be proactive in reviewing and providing engineering input. If you are interested in being a member of our WSPE legislative cabinet please contact me at (608) 335-2978.

Please help by becoming involved in WSPE so we can become your valued organization again. If you have questions about how you can be 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. In Memory of James Ritter, PE

We pay tribute to a fallen professional engineer, James Michael Ritter, PE.

James passed away on Saturday February 16, 2013.

James was an electrical engineer for Northern States Power his entire career.

His professional associations included NSPE & WSPE, IEEE, Business Clubs, Knights of Columbus, and Lions Club, to mention a few.



*James Michael Ritter, PE
Passed away Saturday,
February 16, 2013*

James was a NSPE/WSPE member for 52 years and held a Life membership. During his membership with WSPE, he held positions as an officer of the Board of Directors, including a "three-peat" as member of the Board of Directors. He also served as the President of the Western Chapter of WSPE. James received the Professional Engineer in Industry Award in 1982.

We will miss James in the engineering committee. We sincerely appreciate his efforts and dedication to his professional career and volunteer efforts with the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers.

You can read about his long life here:

http://lacrossetribune.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/james-michael-ritter/article_68e549ec-7a2c-11e2-a3fe-0019bb2963f4.html

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4. Wisconsin Highway Research Ideas Needed

The Wisconsin Highway Research Program (WHRP) is soliciting research ideas that may be considered for funding in Federal Fiscal year 2015 and beyond. WHRP is a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the University of Wisconsin-Madison that seeks to discover better ways to design, build and reconstruct the state's highways.

WHRP is seeking research ideas from government, industry and academia in recognition of the expertise of our many partners and collaborators. To submit an idea, please [take this survey](#). WHRP will collect, review and prioritize ideas and use them to develop requests for proposals (RFPs) in future years. Submitters do not need to be from Wisconsin, but WHRP will give stronger consideration to ideas that are likely to lead to applied benefits to the Wisconsin highway system.

To see a list of research ideas that have been previously collected in open solicitations but not yet been funded by WHRP, visit

<http://wisdotresearch.wi.gov/whrp/identifying-needs>. Submitters may want to review this list to ensure that a research concept is new, or to add value or detail to previously submitted ideas.

Please note that this is not an announcement of funding availability nor is it an RFP. WisDOT will own any ideas submitted and cannot make any commitment regarding funding of any research project that may result from a submitted idea. The survey will close on March 15, 2013.

Thank you in advance for your submissions. Please visit <http://wisdotresearch.wi.gov/whrp> to find out more about WHRP or to review completed and ongoing research projects.

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5. Denial of Insurance Coverage

By Attorney Randall J. Andersen

Ordinarily, one of the first steps taken by a business facing a claim or lawsuit is to notify its insurance carrier of the claim, with the hope that the insurance carrier will respond to and settle the claim, or hire an attorney to defend against the claim, and pay any damages which may be awarded to the plaintiff.

If there is a question as to whether the business's insurance provides coverage for the claim, the insurance company may issue a "reservation of rights" letter, advising the insured that its insurance policy may not provide coverage for the claim.

Occasionally, the insurance company may hire and pay for an attorney to represent the insured in the lawsuit, even though it takes the position that it is not liable for the claim.

In the past, it was usually assumed that if the insurance company did not issue a reservation of rights letter, and proceeded with the hiring of an attorney to defend the insured in the lawsuit, that the insurance company had waived its right to claim that the policy does not provide coverage.

That assumption has now changed with the Wisconsin Supreme Court's 2012 decision issued in the case of Maxwell v. Hartford Union High School District. In Maxwell, the insurer provided an attorney to represent the Hartford Union High School District and the Hartford Union High School Board of Education in a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by an administrative employee. The insurance company provided an attorney to represent the school district and the board of education. The school district lost at trial, and a significant judgment was awarded in favor of the plaintiff.

Following the trial, the insurance carrier refused to pay the judgment, claiming that an exclusion in the policy applied, and that the insurance company was not liable for the claim.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court decided in favor of the insurance company. The Court held that the failure of the insurance company to issue a reservation of rights letter did not expand the scope of the policy, and that the insurance company had not waived its right to rely on the exclusion after the trial.

The Maxwell decision presents new challenges for Wisconsin businesses facing lawsuits which may or may not be covered by their insurance. Attorneys in some instances are now advising their clients who face a lawsuit to send what is called a "Maxwell letter" requesting that the insurance company provide its position as to whether coverage exists for the claim, and advising the insurance company that if no response is received, the policyholder will rely on the insurance policy to provide full protection for the claim.

If the insurance company takes the position that the policy does not provide coverage for all or some part of the claim, then the policy holder may have the right to control the defense of the claim at the insurer's expense, which could include the right to select defense counsel and be more involved in the making of strategy decisions regarding the lawsuit.

With any significant claim, it is advisable for a business owner to consult with its own attorney regarding its rights and responsibilities with regard to the business's insurance coverage.



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. Welcome New Members!

Please join us in welcoming our new WSPE members!

Metro Chapter

Steve Mahlok, PE	Licensed Member	Kettle Moraine Technologies, Inc.
John Hudock, PE	Licensed Member	Arnold & O'Sheridan
Shannon Schwingle	Student	

Southeast Chapter

Tim Hayes, PE	Licensed Member	Hayes Engineering, Inc.
Michael Cannon, PE	Licensed Member	

Southwest Chapter

Daniel McCormick, PE	Licensed Member	Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc.
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Wisconsin Valley Chapter

Benjamin Mattson, PE	Licensed Member	American Engineering Testing, Inc.
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State Headquarters

William Gray, PE	Licensed Member	Abbott Laboratories
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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.

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7. Job Opening

Here's a brief summary of the new Job Opening listed on WSPE's job board (http://www.wspe.org/job_board.shtml):

Civil Engineer II - Site Development - City of Waukesha

Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering required along with a minimum of five (5) years of experience required. However additional years of experience is preferred. Registration as a Professional Engineer in Wisconsin required. Registered Land Surveyors License desirable. Will exercise general supervision over field survey crews. Experience should include Civil Site Design with an emphasis in the review of site plans and building surveys submitted for proposed developments, review and prepare CSM's, plats and other documents requiring legal descriptions. Work with other city departments and public agencies. Work assigned by the administration of the Department of Public Works. Working knowledge of software such as AutoCAD, Civil 3D is required.

Competitive salary with excellent fringe benefits.

Apply by sending or faxing (262) 650-2572 an application to Human Resources, Room 205, Waukesha City Hall, 201 Delafield Street by 4 p.m., March 11, 2013

(Application form available at www.ci.waukesha.wi.us/Human_Resources/forms.html)

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
Salary Range: \$64,000 - \$74,000

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8. Discovery Conference Details



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 and 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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9. MATHCOUNTS Update

The State MATHCOUNTS Competition was held on Saturday, March 2.

We will include results and highlights from this competition in next month's issue of the WSPE eNews.

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10. 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 are still looking for at least one person at each of these testing sites to

make this a success. Some criteria for these individuals: 1) Current WSPE member, 2) 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 our Executive Director, Ed Rodden, at execdir@wspe.org or (414) 531-1129.

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11. Dave Jones, PE, WSPE Member, Appears in *The Family Handyman*

Read Dave's advice for locking up your trailer, as well as advice from other helpful handymen on locking up other awkward valuables in the February 2013 issue of *The Family Handyman*. You can read the online version of this article here:

<http://www.familyhandyman.com/DIY-Projects/Home-Safety/Home-Security/how-to-stop-thieves>

Dave is a Engineering & Design Manager at Temperature Systems, Inc. in Madison and a member of WSPE's Southwest Chapter.

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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.

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