

WSPE eNews

A monthly publication from the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

August 2013 Edition

1. [President's Message](#)
By Frederick W. Groth, P.E., S.E.
2. [Wisconsin DOT Research Program Updates](#)
3. [MSOE PEAK Mini-Conference, Sat., Sept. 28](#)
Submitted by Brittney Lynn, MSOE Graduate Program Specialist
4. [Highlights of the NSPE 2013 Annual Meeting](#)
By Frederick W. Groth, P.E., S.E., Ed Rodden II, and John Parisi
5. [Display Booth for Sale \(Booth #2\)](#)
6. [Book Review: The Jackhammer Elegies by Stefan Jaeger](#)

1. President's Message

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

Well, summer is half over. Although, it feels more like fall with nighttime temps in the upper 40s and 70 degrees during the day. But don't worry... we will still be seeing 80-degree days.

I am getting anxious for the football season to begin. I really enjoy attending the Badger football games and, of course, the Packers, as well. Since I don't have any season tickets, I really enjoy the games I can find tickets to attend. Both teams are looking good and we shall see shortly how well they do.



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

We have officially started the WSPE 2013-2014 calendar year. My new WSPE President's Goals for 2013 to 2014:

- 1 Visit our local chapters. The WSPE state chapter must better understand the issues of our local chapters and work together to grow the WSPE local chapters and membership. The WSPE state chapter is here to service you. I am looking to have both our President and President-elect visit local chapters.
- 1 Conduct the 2014 WSPE Discovery Conference and increase the conference attendance.
- 1 Participate in the 2014 MATHCOUNTS.
- 1 Increase membership, specifically targeting younger members.
- 1 Increase member participation on committees and in officer roles.
- 1 Acquire a new Executive Director to replace Ed Rodden who has asked to step down.

Each of these goals can only be accomplished with participation from our WSPE members, so please volunteer and participate. You will feel and see the accomplishments you make while participating in WSPE.

We are still looking for a President-elect for the 2013 to 2014 term. If you are interested or know of a good person willing to serve, please contact Keith Nikolay, our nominating committee Chairman, at nikolayk@AyresAssociates.com. We would like the President-elect to be in place by September 2013.

Our NSPE Annual Meeting was in Minneapolis, MN on July 17 through July 20, 2013. Several WSPE members attended the meeting, including myself. The NSPE Annual Meeting had several interesting programs and talks. For more about the NSPE Annual Meeting see the article titled "Highlights of the NSPE 2013 Annual Meeting" later in this issue.

WSPE has been and will continue to monitor key legislature and budget bills being sponsored that will affect our engineering profession. As these bills move through the legislature this fall and spring, WSPE will be proactive in reviewing and providing engineering input. If you are interested in being a member of our WSPE legislative cabinet, please call me at (608) 335-2978 or email me at fred.groth@graef-usa.com.

Please help by getting involved in WSPE so we can be become your valued organization again. If you have questions about how to get 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](#)

2. Wisconsin DOT Research Program Updates

Wisconsin DOT Research Program updates:

Wisconsin Highway Research Program (WHRP) projects:

- 1 Rapid Repair and Strengthening of Bridge Substructures (0092-11-08)
[Final report](#) [Project brief](#)
- 1 Performance Study of Longitudinal Cracking on Widened Panels (0092-12-05)
[Final report](#) [Project brief](#)

National Center for Freight & Infrastructure Research & Education (CFIRE) project

- 1 Evaluating Export Container Pooling Options in MN, WI and MI's Upper Peninsula (0092-12-12)
[Final report](#)

The Wisconsin DOT Research Program sends out quarterly email updates highlighting the latest reports and briefs produced through its research and other activities. To subscribe to this email list or receive information related from the Wisconsin DOT Research Program, please contact research@dot.wi.gov.

[TOP](#)

3. MSOE PEAK Mini-Conference, Sat., Sept. 28

Submitted by Brittney Lynn, MSOE Graduate Program Specialist



Register now for MSOE's next PEAK Mini-Conference on Saturday, September 28!

A [PEAK Mini-Conference](#) is a collaborative knowledge exchange among engineering and technical professionals facilitated by MSOE, with the goal of providing a cost-effective way for engineers and technical professionals to learn about new topics. In addition, PEs can earn the professional development hours (PDHs) now required for maintaining licensure in Wisconsin by attending PEAK sessions.

Featured sessions include:

- Ethics in Engineering
- What Engineers Need to Know About Marketing
- Running Effective Meetings
- Additive Manufacturing
- Project Management for Engineers
- Moving from Engineering Management to Leadership
- Envision Infrastructure Rating System
- Hydraulic Systems
- What Non-Software Engineers Should Know About Software Engineering
- Statistical Hypothesis Testing Using Excel
- Overview of the Envision Infrastructure Rating System

One PDH is awarded for each one hour of session completion, which means participants can earn up to 8 hours for attending the PEAK Mini-Conference! [Register now!](#)

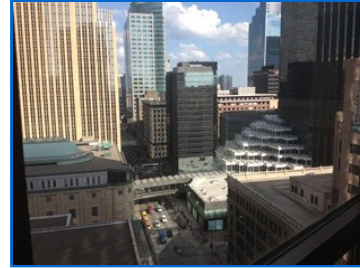
Contact Brittney Lynn at [\(414\) 277-2345](tel:414-277-2345) or lynn@msoe.edu if you have any questions.

[TOP](#)

4. WSPE 2013-2014 Executive Board Officers Elected

Submitted by Ed Rodden

The 2013 NSPE Annual Meeting held in Minneapolis, MN was a success. I believe all attendees walked away with a different vision of NSPE's future direction. I walked away with tools from the Leadership Conference portion to be taken back to use for WSPE. The following is a brief summary of topics covered at the Leadership Portion of NSPE Annual Meeting:



Beautiful downtown Minneapolis

NSPE Opening Session:

Dan Wittliff gave us a brief summary of what has been accomplished within the last year, focusing on the launch and implementation of the book *The Race for Relevance*. In this talk he discussed the importance this book has for the NSPE organization, with special focus on operation enhancements. NSPE leaders have only just begun to implement this concept and will be utilizing it more fully as the "New Boat Owner" (a.k.a. the next president) takes over. Dan also discussed how *The Road to Relevance* book (which is the sequel to *The Race for Relevance*) will help guide our organization on where to go from here. Dan gave a great summary of the progress to date as well as the future path forward that incoming NSPE President Robert Green will be navigating.

Risk Management, Legal Principles, and Ethical Standards for Association Leaders:

Arthur E. Schwartz, JD, CAE, covered issues such as:

- 1 Addressing how our State and Chapters need to manage risk, the importance of updating our Association of Governing Documents (i.e., articles of incorporation, bylaws, operating procedures and administration policies, etc.)
- 1 State reporting requirements
- 1 Federal tax applications and reporting
- 1 Ethical standards among our association leaders

Overall, it was very informative session that reminded us what WSPE State and Local Chapters need to address.

Becoming a NICET Advocate for the Engineering Team:

Michael A. Clark, CAE had a very informative talk on the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) regarding the certification programs they provide for engineering and the importance of the certification program.

Current Topics in Engineering Licensure – 2013 Update

Both Craig N. Musselman, PE, F.NSPE, and Paul D. Schmidt, PE, F.NSPE, gave an informative talk on what the NSPE Licensure and Qualifications for Practice Committee is doing. They focused on current issues in engineering licensure for 2013:

- 1 Taking the PE Exam Early
- 1 Licensure Flexibility for Returning Veterans
- 1 Continuing Professional Competency Comity
- 1 Industrial Exemptions
- 1 Professional Practice Outcomes – Accreditation Criteria
- 1 Raise the Bar – Engineering Education
- 1 Licensure of Structural Engineers
- 1 Faculty Licensure – Licensure of R&D Pi's
- 1 Licensure of Federal Engineers
- 1 L&QP Blog – NSPE Website
- 1 NSPE Engineering Body of Knowledge

[Click here to download a pdf of the handout of this presentation.](#)

"Back to the Future" – Restoring previous glories :

Mark J. Golden, FSAE, CAE, gave a very good talk on what needs to happen at NSPE national, state and local chapters in restoring and updating the way we do business to regain our prominence (i.e., "restoring previous glories").

NSPE Public Policy and Advocacy:

William F. Fendley, PE, F.NSPE, gave us some insight into L&GA & State updates. Christopher M. Stone, PE, F.NSPE, gave us updates on the Council of Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services. Dan Tanksley, JD, PE, F.NSPE, talked about the importance of legislature promoting "Good Samaritan" policies and the protection this legislature needs to give engineers and firms. John J. Martin PE, F.NSPE, talked about the PAC and the important issues the PAC is addressing and reasons we need to continue supporting the PAC financially.

"Best Practices for Measuring & Increasing Member Engagement":

This was a great discussion consisting of Raul Pena, PE, F.NSPE (acting as moderator) and a panel of NSPE Regional Directors that talked first about what best practices they are using in their regions and ended with a lively question and answer session with the panel. Topics discussed included how to get Young Members, the importance of NSPE state Legislative Groups, MATHCOUNTS and the importance of getting more firms involved.

NSPE Closing Session:

The closing session was started by Robert Green introducing himself as the incoming President of NSPE. He pledged to continue to implement the changes outlined in the *Race for Relevancy* book.

The keynote speaker for this closing session was Gerald Andrews Emison, PHD, PE, AICP, BCEE. He talked about "Professional Duty and the Public Interest" for engineers.

House of Delegates Meeting:

John Parisi provided the following summary of the House of Delegates Meeting held the following morning:

I attended my last House of Delegates meeting as the WSPE National Director in Minneapolis two weeks ago.



A view from the House of Delegates Meeting

Most of the real business before the HoD was actually performed prior to the meeting electronically, but the major duty of the HoD is to elect the future NSPE Vice President and this year we also voted on a new Treasurer. Both elections were conducted with well-qualified candidates and I am pleased to announce that Tim Austin from Kansas is the new NSPE Vice President and Julia Harrod from Texas was elected as the new NSPE Treasurer.



Signs from the House of Delegates Meeting

One item that was handled mostly electronically but briefly discussed at this year's meeting was the opportunity to celebrate July 4, 2014 in the Nation's Capital. The plan is to surround the NSPE Annual Meeting around July 4 in Washington DC, should be a great opportunity to get to an NSPE Annual Meeting while celebrating the holiday with your family in DC! All in all, a great final meeting for my second term as your WSPE National Director. Thanks for the opportunity to serve WSPE in this capacity! John Parisi, PE, F.NSPE

Jim Buggs was sworn in as John's replacement and will be our National Delegate for the next two years. Jim has been involved in transportation design and construction projects for over 23 years and is employed as a transportation engineer by CH2M Hill in Milwaukee.



Jim Buggs is sworn in at the House of Delegates Meeting

He previously had served the Metro Chapter of WSPE as the Secretary (two years), Vice-President, President-Elect, President, State Director, and Chapter Director. He has served on the State Board as Vice President, Treasurer (multiple terms), President and Past President.

He received the Waukesha Chapter Engineer of the Year award in 2002. In addition to his membership in WSPE and NSPE, Jim belongs to the American Society of Civil Engineers where he has served at the local and state levels, including three years as Secretary for the Wisconsin Section. He is also a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and Chi Epsilon. Jim is a registered professional engineer in Wisconsin and holds a BS from UW-Platteville.

[TOP](#)

5. Display Booth for Sale (Booth #2)

WSPE is doing some house cleaning. We have a display booth that we no longer need. This booth comes complete with all the necessary hardware for assembly and includes a hauling case.

The face of this booth allows Velcro to attach display information.



We would like to thank Mead & Hunt for allowing WSPE to utilize the display when we did.

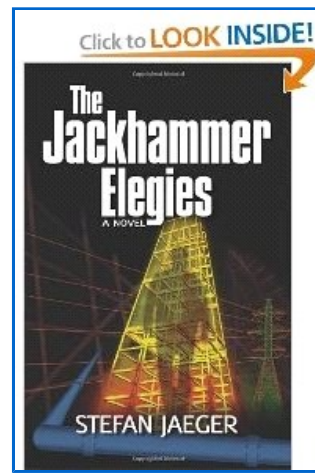
Companies or persons interested should contact our Executive Director Ed Rodden II at execdir@wspe.org or (414) 531-1129.

[TOP](#)

6. Book Review: *The Jackhammer Elegies* by Stefan Jaeger

A past NSPE Director and Editor in Chief, Stefan Jaeger has put together a book [The Jackhammer Elegies](#). Background of this novel came from nearly 20 years of experience he had with NSPE senior staff, and engineering association experience elsewhere.

He thought we might be interested in a project of his that tries to raise the stature of professional engineering through a thriller with a PE as the main character and hero—[The Jackhammer Elegies](#).



Reader reviews on [Amazon.com](#) have called the book riveting, "more than just another thriller...a thought provoking and exciting novel," and "a best seller . . . comparable to books by John Grisham." In *The Zweig Letter*, Mark Zweig wrote that the novel "pays homage to the engineering profession and is a great... read....If you like seeing a successful, smart engineer as the main character (I know I do!) this book is for you."

You can learn more at [www.TheJackhammerElegies.com](#) (available on [Amazon.com](#) and [BN.com](#)).

[TOP](#)



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.

Go to [www.wspe.org/WI%206%20months%20Free%20Membership%20Application.pdf](#) to download an application.

Contact Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at [ExecDir@wspe.org](#) for details.

We Need Your News!

- 1 Is your chapter hosting an event?
- 1 Did your chapter get some new members?
- 1 Have you started your own business?
- 1 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



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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.

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Thanks for your help.

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.

[TOP](#)

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.