

Montana Society of Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers



Founded 1887

President's Message:

Kenneth Phillips, PE, President

On March 10th we had our quarterly board meeting in Bozeman in association with MathCounts. The scoring of tests was our morning task and then right after lunch we had the wonderful opportunity to watch the top 10 mathletes in the countdown round. The number eight mathlete kicked some math buttocks and made his way to finish at number 3 and a place in the Nationals with our Montana team. I am impressed as these students have 45 seconds to solve a word problem in front of what seems to be several hundred people armed with only a pencil and scratch pad. What a great event thanks to Dan Munson, Connie, and all the volunteers that make this possible.

After the competition we conducted MSE business. One item approved was that we will submit to NSPE to start collecting dues through MSE next year. Currently NSPE collects dues and sends us our portion. This seems to separate us from our membership and we want to get back to knowing when someone leaves so we might be able to work with folks especially in these rather lean times when money is tight.

Another agenda item was to offer something to the folks taking their PE test so that they are made aware of MSE & NSPE. I had thought maybe supplying pizza at test time, (I must have been hungry), but a suggestion was made to offer up some sort of exam prep courses. This is an excellent idea and doesn't lead to near the calories as pizza. We will be looking at options for next year. Any ideas from the membership are welcomed for this preparation course strategy.

A topic that is of concern to all of us is the subject of CEU approvals. The Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors, (MBELS) relies on organizations like MSE to review and approve CEUs for PEs. But a majority of CEUs claimed do not go through a screening and then it's up to the MBELS to determine applicability of the individuals CEUs. As with any firm or governmental body these days, staff time is an issue so the MBELS wanted to make a requirement that all CEUs had to be pre-approved. I know that would really impact MSE as I and Pres. Elect Crystal review dozens of commercial and organization sponsored training

applications and it does consume some time. Approving every possible CEU in advanced would be nightmare because of the fact that lots of engineers get training out of State or claim individual based learning CEUs. But still it is an issue that needs addressing so we have consistency and fairness.

Just the other day I received a call from an Engineer wanting some guidance on how many CEUs can you claim for prepping for LEED accreditation? It's a very valid question and my first thought is to poll individuals who have claimed CEUs for this accreditation training. To me fairness and consistency are very important and MSE should be a clearing house for this information. If you have gotten CEUs for preparation of LEED accreditation contact me so I can get an idea of what the consensus is for applicable CEUs.

We will continue to work with the MBELS to help them help us in CEU review and approval of courses for PEs. Licensure issues are the core of MSE and NSPE so I am glad that we can help. At next year's Joint Engineers Conference we are planning a lunchtime meeting with members of MBELS to further our discussion on this subject. The one last year had lots of folks that provided feedback to the two Board members present. The issues of pre-approval of CEUs and reducing carry over to 5 CEUs were very unpopular and these guys took a lot of negative comments in good stride and I think we had an excellent discussion. Most importantly they listened to our comments and for the time being dropped the pre-approval requirement. So join us at this lunch time meeting next November at the conference. It's an excellent way to get your opinions on licensing issues heard.

As I conclude if there is something that MSE can assist you with as far as professional licensure just let me or any of the MSE board members know. Licensure is what we all have in common. Well that and living in this great State at the start of spring. All of us are so fortunate count your blessings. And for you consulting firms out there I think I would start recruiting our State Mathcounts team they are excellent in their math skills so grab them before they get grabbed by someone else. If you have any questions or comments as always feel free to contact me at kennethphillips@bresnan.net. Thank all of you for helping make Montana the nicest place on the planet.

March, 2010

“ Approving every possible CEU in advanced would be nightmare because of the fact that lots of engineers get training out of State or claim individual based learning CEUs. But still it is an issue that needs addressing so we have consistency and fairness.”

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2010 Montana MathCounts Team

Dan Munson, P.E., State Coordinator

Teams of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student Mathletes® from middle schools all across Montana competed in the State MATHCOUNTS contest on



2010 State MATHCOUNTS Winners: Coach Doug Kraft, Paul Dalenberg, Cayley Boyd, Austin Graef, and Arthur Befumo

Wednesday, March 10th at MSU in Bozeman. A total of 26 middle schools across the state comprised of 84 students participated. The top four individual Mathletes®, and the coach of the winning team, won an all-expense paid trip to the MATHCOUNTS National Competition.

Paul Dalenberg from Missoula's Washington Middle School, Cayley Boyd from Bozeman's Sacajawea Middle School, Arthur Befumo from Five Valleys Homeschool in Missoula, and Austin Graef from Missoula's Sussex School won the top honors at the State Competition this year. These

four students, along with Bozeman's Sacajawea Math teacher Doug Kraft, will represent Montana as our official state team at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Orlando on May 6th.

The top teams this year were Bozeman's Sacajawea Middle, Billings Will James, Billings Lewis & Clark, and Great Falls North Middle Schools.

This year, MATHCOUNTS also acknowledged Sandy Birrell, the middle school math teacher from Bozeman's Headwater's Academy. Sandy has coached dozens of Mathletes® in the ten years she has taught at Headwater's Academy. She has prepared her students to compete neck-to-neck with the AA middle school students in the state with uncanny success. Sandy has had 100% success rate in bringing math proficiency scores to grade level or higher. She is a firm supporter of "no child left behind", and has developed a structured math notebook that helps her succeed. As an avid supporter of Mathematic advancement in the state, Sandy was honored in front of all her peer teachers and given an opportunity to attend the National MATHCOUNTS competition this year in Orlando.

Teachers and students had been preparing for the competition since last September. The students trained within their schools before starting the formal competition. The first level of the competition began in January and early February when over 750 student Mathletes® competed within their school to become a member of the "school team". From there, 400 students from 58 middle schools competed at the regional level in February. Winners at the regional level received prizes and advanced to the State competition. The winners

of this State Competition advance to Orlando on May 6th to represent Montana in the National MATHCOUNTS Competition and compete for individual and team national titles against other top middle school math students representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and schools from the Department of Defense and State Department.

The MATHCOUNTS program is organized by the National Society of Professional Engineers on a national level. Locally, MATHCOUNTS is organized by the Montana Society of Engineers, with local volunteer effort being provided by area engineers, students, and professionals. Over 50 engineers volunteered their time in the seven local chapter competitions, many of them MSE members. This year, MSE will send Vicki O'Neill, Coordinator for the Kalispell Chapter, as our representative at the National Competition in Orlando. Our thanks go to everyone for volunteering your time to make a difference in the academic lives of so many middle school students. And a special thank you to all of our corporate sponsors for their financial contribution — it makes the program work!

2009-2010 Montana MathCounts Corporate Sponsors

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Just how hard is this math?

Try the Problem of the

Week on the

MATHCOUNTS Web site,

www.MATHCOUNTS.org,

and click on the site's

"Problem of the Week"

math challenge to really

push your skills.

Fans of JEC!

Crystal Kuntz, PE, President Elect, JEC Chair

Well... spring is here, and with it the fast-approaching deadline for receipt of Speaker Proposals for the 2010 Joint Engineers Conference. Yes, Really!! March 31, 2010 – all speaker proposals for the upcoming JEC are due to be entered online. As of the writing of this article, various proposals are continuously arriving online and we have some great ideas in the making. We have proposals in the works on engineering ethics, roundabout design, airports, LEED, a session on the I-35 bridge collapse and even the NASA Mars mission! Things are just beginning to take shape and all is looking good.

This year, we will again perpetuate some successful elements of the past. Societies will be invited to meet during the lunch break on Friday during the conference if they so choose. Last year, it was reported that the societies saw record attendance at this time and we look forward to this continued trend. It should also be noted that active participation in your society at the officer or committee level counts as 2 PDHs toward your continuing professional competency requirements (that's per society my friends....so get involved!!). Also, the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors has again requested the opportunity to host a town hall meeting to discuss any relevant issues. We tentatively plan to schedule this for late in the lunch

hour on Thursday in 2010. Last, but not least, we will again offer an off-site technical tour as a part of the conference. Last year's tour to the Judith Gap Wind Farm was well received and many folks requested that we continue to provide this as an option. Details on this tour are forthcoming – so stay tuned!

Another item to note includes the Engineering Honors Banquet. This banquet is held each year during the JEC to honor those who have contributed greatly to the engineering society. This year's banquet will be held on Wednesday evening, November 3, 2010 during the JEC. If your group or society would like to present any awards or recognize their members during this event we encourage you to participate. Please contact Doug Brekke (dlb@5400.tv) or myself (crystal.kuntz@eciblgs.com) and we will ensure that you are added to the banquet program. This evening is a great opportunity for your small group or company to honor those that have contributed greatly without all the planning and expense of a separate event – so take advantage!

In short, things are coming along nicely for the upcoming 2010 conference – thanks to the hard work and dedication of all the committee members that are diligently pursuing presenters!

“Societies will be invited to meet during the lunch break on Friday during the conference if they so choose.”

**For 2010 Joint Engineer Conference
and other engineering news:
Visit: www.mtengineers.org**

Changes Proposed for 2012 NESC

David J. Marne, PE

Change proposals for the 2012 National Electrical Safety Code have been published to gather industry comments. Comments are due by May 1, 2010. The NESC is the industry standard for power and communication utilities. To get your voice heard, the first step is to purchase the Preprint Proposals for the 2012 Edition of the NESC (unfortunately this document is not available for free). The second step is to follow the electronic revision process to submit comments to the code

committees. To order a copy of the Preprint Proposals for the 2012 Edition of the NESC, visit www.ieee.org or www.marneassociates.com. The NESC differ from the NEC as the NESC applies to utility electrical systems and NEC applies to building wiring.

David J. Marne, PE is Montana Society of Engineers member and represent the NSPE on NESC Subcommittee 4—Overhead Lines, Clearances.

“Comments are due by May 1, 2010.”

Call for Nominations

Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame

The Montana Society of Engineers (MSE) requests nominations for induction into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame. Plaques honoring the inductees will have a permanent home at the Montana State University College of Engineering.

The award was established in 2002 to recognize Montana professional engineers who have made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and public welfare of Montana. This award is open to all professional engineers licensed in Montana.

Qualifications/Method of Selection

The MSE Executive Board will consider nominees for induction into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame. Professional engineers licensed in the State of Montana and working on projects in the State of Montana are eligible. Retired and deceased professional engineers are eligible. Current Officers and directors of MSE are *ineligible*.

MSE Executive Board members will consider these aspects of the nominee's career: The candidate's professional integrity is beyond question; the professional reputation is more than local in character; the undertaking of services upon which the award is based are of high order; and there is more than an ordinary relationship between the undertaking of services and the public welfare. Preference is given to candidates who have consistently promoted the social and professional interests of the engineer. This criterion for the award is suggested by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Nomination Format

Please provide the following biographical information on each nominee:

- Personal information including current address and phone number. If nominee is deceased, so note and provide information of surviving family members.
- 500-word or less statement describing the nominee's education, professional achievements, professional and technical society membership, humanitarian and civic contributions, unusual consulting assignments, and family information.

Presentation

The award(s) will be presented at the Joint Engineers Conference Annual Banquet on Wednesday - November 3, 2010.

Deadline

Nominations must be postmarked no later than May 1, 2010 and sent to this address:

Montana Society of Engineers
Nomination for the MT PE Hall of Fame
PO Box 20996
Billings, MT 59104-0996

Entries postmarked after May 1, 2010 will not be considered.

Fred Videon, PhD, P.E.



Fred Francis Videon, 75, died at home on Monday evening, March 22, 2010, of congestive heart failure. He was born to Marjorie Sult Videon and Fred Ashton Videon in Hayden, Colo., on Oct. 4, 1934. He grew up in Craig, Colo., and attended college at Colorado State University where he studied civil engineering. He received his bachelor's degree in 1958 and his master's degree in 1960.

He married Julie Martin of Omaha, Neb., on Dec. 22, 1957. Their daughter, Carrie Anne, was born in Fort Collins, Colo., and their first son, Fred Martin, was born in Urbana, Ill. Fred received his Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Illinois in 1963. After two years serving in the Army Corps of Engineers at Lawrence Radiation Lab in Livermore, Calif., the family moved to Bozeman where son, Michael Jon, was born.

Fred was a professor in the civil engineering department at MSU until 1988. He was selected Department Professor of the Year seven times and was awarded professor emeritus status in 1990. Following his tenure at MSU, he worked as a senior structural engineer at HKM Associates until 1995 and then Bridger Engineers, retiring in 2006. In 2007, he was inducted into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame. He was active in several American Society of Civil Engineering committees. He loved spending time with his family, learning and teaching, gardening, and travel. He loved engineering projects, be they work related or around the house. His love of history led him to the Pioneer Museum, where he was the president of the board of directors. He was also a member of St. James' Episcopal Church, where he served on the Vestry and the Memorial Foundation, and he was active in the Exchange Club. Survivors include his wife, Julie; daughter, Carrie and son-in-law Bill Ancell; sons, Fred M. and Michael; Shelly Bunde and granddaughter, Hazel; and cousins, nieces, and nephews. Preceding him in death were his parents, and sister, Joanne Videon.

A memorial service will be held at the St. James Episcopal Church at 11 am on Friday, March 26. Should friends desire, the family suggests donations to The Fred Videon Scholarship, MSU Foundation, P.O. Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717 (<http://www.montana.edu/foundation>), The Pioneer Museum at 317 W. Main, or the MSU Chapter of Engineers Without Borders c/o Otto Stein, 205 Cobleigh Hall, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717-3900. Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service:

www.dokkenelson.com

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2009-2010 MSE Board

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Deadline for the Next
Issue of this Newsletter is
June 10, 2010

Submit articles and advertising to
mse@assoc-mgt.com

As it was reported in December 2007:

Fred Videon inducted into Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame

Fred F. Videon, Ph.D., P.E. of Bozeman was inducted into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame at the 2007 Joint Engineers Conference. A plaque honoring Videon will be hosted at the Montana State University College of Engineering in Bozeman.

The Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Montana Society of Engineers to honor Montana engineers who made significant contributions to the development of Montana and the engineering profession. Previous inductees are John H. Morrison, Ben F. Hurlbut, W. Paul Schmechel, Leland J. Walker, Harold S. "Sonny" Hanson, Robert L. Sanks, Eldon R. Dodge and Joseph A. Maierle.

Dr. Videon was assistant professor, associate professor and professor at the Montana State University Department of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics from 1965 to 1988. He was selected as the Department Professor of the Year seven times. Videon was awarded professor emeritus status in 1990.

Dr. Videon developed *Snow Loads for Structural Design in Montana* in 1978 and 1988. He served as editor of the 2005 edition, used by designers and building officials as the standard for structural design in Montana.

Dr. Videon was Senior Structural Engineer at HKM Associates from 1988 to 1995 and Bridger Engineers, Inc., from 1996 to 2006. His projects included structural design of the Montana Hall cupola and seismic mitigation for Montana Hall and Hamilton Hall at Montana State University. Dr. Videon was structural engineer for the Pollard Hotel renovation in Red Lodge and the Belmont Senior Center renovation in Butte. Dr. Videon was a respected mentor to the young engineers at HKM and BEI.

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