

Montana Society of Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers



Founded 1887

President's Message:

A New Year, A New Term, & MSE Marches On

Jeff Ruffner, PE, President

Hello Folks,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jeff Ruffner and I am the 07/08 president of the Montana Society of Engineers. I have been around the society at both the chapter and national level for quite some time but only for the past couple years have I been involved with the society at the state level. I am also the state representative to the House of Delegates.

I was giving some thought to my first newsletter article and of course thought it would focus on all of those things that occurred at the House of Delegates meeting in Denver. However, given recent events I have decided to focus on issues closer to home.

When Dan Munson first approached me a couple years back about taking on some responsibility at the state level, I gave it serious thought. I did not want to say "yes" unless I felt I could spend sufficient time at the task. My day job as President of MSE, Inc. in Butte keeps me pretty busy. We find ourselves in the midst of changing markets and we are adapting our culture, employees, and company to meet those changing markets and change takes time. Before I said "yes" to Dan, I thought to myself we have an anchor with Connie Dempster, she really runs the organization on a day-to-day basis, she will make sure that we all do what needs to be done, it should not be too bad, so I agreed.

Things went as I had thought they would for the first couple years. I worked through the ranks and became President in June. In August we were presented with a challenge that forced the entire board to focus on self-examination and survival. The challenge was that our anchor, Connie was offered a better opportunity. I will cut to the happy ending that Connie is still with the society but the reality of losing Connie brought many issues to the forefront that we had not addressed previously and that we must address if we are to survive as an organization.

One thing we learned very quickly is that we have been very fortunate for many years.

We were not even close to the competitive range for what we were paying for our staff support. We all face the issue of compensation and competitiveness in our daily businesses. If you want to get and retain good people you must provide fair compensation. Good employees will make your business. Losing good people hurts your business.

This brought up the issue of can we afford staff support or can we operate this society on a totally voluntary basis. It was certainly my opinion and that of many others that if we did not have staff support to provide the "anchor" for the organization and the continuity to support volunteer board members, the organization would slowly wither away and die. Based on that premise, we went to work as engineers do, solving the problem. We looked hard at the scope to determine the required minimum level of services and looked at what changes we can make to the budget to help afford those services.

As an outcome of that review, your board has decided to take immediate actions to address the issue. The first is to unify the dues under the state organization. Unification of dues will send all dues to the state where they are then distributed to the local chapters. This way inactive chapters will not have dues monies sitting in bank accounts and not supporting activities. Also, active chapters can request from the state even more money for activities then they would get just from dues. This would appear to be a wise use of the limited dollars available.

The second action is to increase state dues by \$15 per year. Montana has one of the lowest state dues of all engineering societies across the nation. While we all dislike dues increases, dues in Montana have not been raised for quite a while and your board felt that \$15 per year would not put undue hardship on members.

The third action is to move to "virtual office" and electronic communications. Your board felt that as changes have occurred in technology we should be able to take advantage of them. Have board meetings via conference call as much as possible. Discontinue

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September, 2007

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Jeff Ruffner and I am the 07/08 president of the Montana Society of Engineers.

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A New Year, A New Term, & MSE Marches On

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mailings. Use e-mail, the internet, and our web page to communicate issues and updates.

We are also talking with National about other ways of utilizing their resources to help offset costs to the state organization. I don't know if there is anything specific that they can help with but we will continue discussions.

In addition to the business review conducted by the board, we also reviewed what we do as an organization. This revealed that perhaps we were trying to do too much with limited hours and limited resources and not delivering the highest quality in all areas. Based on the review, we identified activities that we can perform well and provide value for our members. The outcome is that your board has decided to focus the organization on MathCounts, the Joint Engineers Conference, newsletter and website communication of issues, continuing education course review and approval, and state board interaction.

None of these decisions were made without due thought and discussion. These actions were determined by your board to be necessary to match the changing times. Sometimes we all get to comfortable with the status quo. However, if one is to survive and thrive, one must continue to adapt. We would certainly like to hear your thoughts on other ways to help with these issues and re-invigorate the organization.

On a related note, I have been involved with the Butte chapter since I returned to Montana in 1989. In my early years in the organization there was a very structured system. Everyone stepped up to take their turn through the ranks. All felt it was an obligation.

Somewhere along the way something changed. It changed not only for us but for all organizations.

About five years ago I was approached again to help with our local chapter. It was either step up or figure out how to dissolve the chapter. I chose to re-engage for a very personal reason. The Montana Society of Engineers is one of the oldest societies in the nation and the Butte organization is one of the oldest in the nation and what a shame if that were to just disappear.

When I chose to re-engage I realized that I had limited time and chose to focus on just a few activities. It certainly is not as active as it should be, but we manage to do a few things. We leverage other organizations in the community. We join with IEEE and focus on the gold medal award (ongoing since 1929), Engineers week banquet, and MathCounts.

Why I bring this up is the relevance to the current situation with the state society. Your board has made decisions to keep this society alive and active in "high value" areas that can bring value to members. I would hope that you would all support these changes.

Included in this newsletter are some remarks from NSPE current President which he made to the House of Delegates in Denver on July 29, 2007. I think they are very telling — particularly like the poem, "The Bridge Builder", at the conclusion of his remarks. I had not read that poem before and it struck me that most of us are involved in our business and volunteer organizations for the very reasons described in the poem, those that will come after us.

Please feel free to contact me at Jeff.Ruffner@mse-ta.com.

The Montana Society of Engineers is one of the oldest societies in the nation and the Butte organization is one of the oldest in the nation and what a shame if that were to just disappear..

Continued progress toward improving state/national partnerships leading to expanded member services, benefits and incentives; leadership development; legislative, and licensure initiatives; and ethics promotion.

Remarks for NSPE House of Delegate in Denver—July 29, 2007

Bernard R. Berson, P.E., L.S., NSPE President

I have a couple of stories to tell that apply to this change of watch. The first is based upon the realization that Bob Miller will be hard act to follow. I had similar thoughts about following the great presidents who preceded me in NJ. Luckily, I found a passage in the meditations section of a prayer book.

"Every person born into this world represents something new, something that never existed before, something original and unique. Every man's foremost task is the actualization of his unique, unprecedented and never recurring potentialities, and not the repetition of something that another, and be it even the greatest, has already achieved. Rabbi Susya said, a short while before his death, 'In the world to come I shall not be asked

'Why were you not Moses?' I shall be asked 'Why were you not Susya?'"

That short passage told me all I had to know. Be all that you can be. And be yourself.

There is another story that will clarify my attitude about being president to NSPE. I joined NSPE about 40 years ago. At my first chapter meeting I watched the chapter president conduct a meeting, and observed:

- Knowledgeable about the profession
- Articulate
- Controlled meeting very well
- Members seemed to follow his lead
- **He had to be REALLY SPECIAL**
- Could I ever be special like that?

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Remarks for NSPE House of Delegates—Continued from Page 2

Then started to attend state meetings and conventions. Saw state president in action.

- He was very much in command of the meetings.
- He was very much informed about legislative issues
- He was very much informed about professional needs of members
- He was very much informed about NSPE (Whatever that was)
- He cared tons about our profession.
- This had to be even **MORE SPECIAL** person.
- Could I ever special like that?

Then, when I got on the NJSPE Executive Committee, I went to some national meetings. I got to see the president and executive officers of NSPE in action. And I was even more in awe.

- There were between 150 and 200 directors at that time. And yet the president managed the meeting effectively.
- The issues discussed were major. Budgets, membership levels (over 80,000 and panicked), interaction with other national societies, and even other nations.
- He had to manage conflicting desires from states all over the nation.
- He had to manage a myriad of committees and programs.
- He had to deal with matters of legislation affecting engineers in many ways.
- He had to speak to crowds numbering in the hundreds, maybe larger.
- With all of this on his plate, he seemed in complete control of the job of president.
- He had to be **REALLY, REALLY SPECIAL**.
- Could I ever be special like that?

I went on to become the state president of NJ, had the opportunity to serve as chair of NJ PEPP and of NSPE PEPP, and now I am beginning a term as President of NSPE. You know what? I realize that **I am not special**. Bob Miller, as excellent as he was as president, is not special, and all of our predecessors were not special. Who is special to NSPE? **YOU ARE!!** – **Every member of NSPE is special**. That's why all those folks I thought were so special agreed to serve in the positions they held. Because the members of NSPE are special folks, and we, the elected leaders, have a duty to serve them well. They – **YOU** – are our reason for taking on these leadership roles.

They are time consuming, sometimes stressful and not very high paying. All of you here know that, because you are all leaders, and you all do what you do for love of the profession.

I am trying to give you a theme that you can bring home with you. Tell your members they are **SPECIAL**, and that you are

here to serve them--- to help them develop professionally--- to watch out for their welfare in the legislatures of the region--- to provide them with products and services that will enhance their careers --- and, should they choose, to allow them to participate in leadership roles that will most certainly aid them to enhance their leadership skill where they work.

In closing, I want to emphasize three initiatives within NSPE that are near and dear to my heart.

- Continued progress toward improving state/national partnerships leading to expanded member services, benefits and incentives; leadership development; legislative, and licensure initiatives; and ethics promotion.
- Continued and increased efforts in building enterprise/company-wide memberships
- One of our actions in the Strategic Plan in Goal 3.6 is to develop strategies to attract young engineers and improve outreach to engineering colleges and universities. I will ask every operational unit within the NSPE family, State Societies and Chapters, all NSPE Committees and Task Forces, and every NSPE member who is in a position to do it, to nurture the Young Engineer movement within our organization. Where there is no YE program in place, I will urge creation of one. We have an obligation to help YES to develop professionally, and that is one way to help them do so.

The poem that follows was written by a woman named Will Allen Dromgoole. She lived from October 26, 1860, to September 1, 1934. Coincidentally, NSPE was officially formed two days after her death, on September 3, 1934.

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

By Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going (traveling) a lone highway
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and wide and steep,
With waters rolling cold and deep.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him:
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man", said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here."
"Your journey will end with the ending day,
"You never again will pass this way.

"You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
"Why build you this bridge at eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head.

"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,

"There followeth after me today
"A youth whose feet must pass this way.
"The chasm that was as naught to me
"To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;

"He, too, must cross in the twilight dim -
"Good friend, I am building this bridge
for him"

I will ask every operational unit within the NSPE family, State Societies and Chapters, all NSPE Committees and Task Forces, and every NSPE member who is in a position to do it, to nurture the Young Engineer movement within our organization.

Stray Thoughts

By Tom Abel, PE, Vice President



*Right in front of our eyes
we saw the 16' Hobie Cat
lifted by the wind up over
the roof of our dinghy
storage shed, taking some
of the metal roofing with it,
and ending upside down in
the marsh behind the shed.*

According to the weather reports the winds in Polson were clocked at 100+ mph. My wife and I were at the yacht club taking people sailing on our boat. We saw some nearby lightning strikes, and pointed out to our guests that sitting next to a 40 foot tall aluminum mast in the middle of Flathead Lake during a lightning storm is not a good idea. They agreed. We were putting the boat away when two guys in a Hobie Cat were calling to us. There was no wind and they were stranded near our docks. We threw them a rope and pulled them to our launch site. Then in the matter of a few minutes events began to develop quickly.

As we pulled the Hobie Cat onto the launch ramp the wind changed from absolute calm to a strong blow. We decided we should tie down the Hobie so it would not blow away. Sherry and I went towards the clubhouse to look for some rope. We barely made it. We were suddenly being pelted with leaves and small branches from the cottonwood trees lining our waterfront, and could hardly stand against the wind. We walked backwards into the wind towards the clubhouse with our jackets over our heads to protect us from the leaves traveling at 60 mph. Right in front of our eyes we saw the 16' Hobie Cat lifted by the wind up over the roof of our dinghy storage shed, taking some of the metal roofing with it, and ending upside down in the marsh behind the shed. We finally made it to the club house and had to stand behind upper deck columns to keep from being blown over in the wind. We didn't want to go inside and miss this storm. By now the wind was blowing harder than I had ever seen anywhere. We watched and took photographs from behind our column. I was particularly interested in seeing how the wave wall would handle the wind. The waves were not particularly large due to the fast build-up of the wind. The water did not have much time to respond. The wind was shearing the tops of the waves and blowing spray over the top of the water surface. We were in a position to observe the length of the wave wall from behind the column. What we saw was the wave wall undulating in the waves. It seemed to handle it well. There were some large timbers from a neighboring deteriorating dock in the water. The dock was used around the early 1900's for rail passenger and freight. The locomotive would pull the train right out on the dock, and unload onto boats for the trip to Polson. These large 18" square section timbers may have been pounding our dock, but it was difficult to tell. The reflected wave from the wave wall seemed to keep them a distance from the wall. The visibility was so poor, we could not see, and I was not about to venture out onto the dock to take a closer look. As the storm progressed, roller furling jibs on some of the boats began to unravel and flag in the high winds. The violent flagging soon ripped the \$5000 sails to shreds in a matter of minutes.

Then as I watched the undulating wave wall, a 15 foot section about 70% of the way to the end deflected more than normal. The wall deflected to where the opposite side of the dock used to be. It came back in place, and then deflected several more times. The wall had failed! Next the underside of the wall broke loose and the 15 foot section of wall was floating

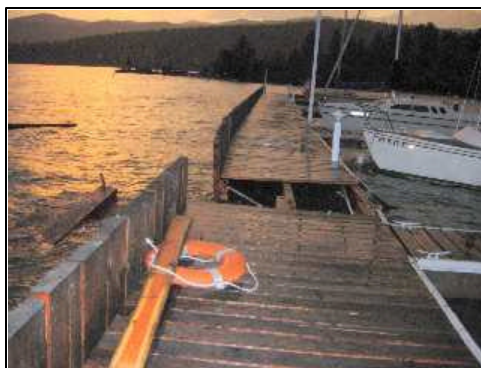
horizontally on the surface, and then broke free on one side. It was only attached by one side of the top stringer, and that was in shreds.

As fast as the storm came up, it passed. Soon it was calm enough to walk out onto the dock to observe the wave wall damage. It was pretty ugly. The planking had been torn off, the only way to get to the end of the dock was to walk across the remaining unbroken 4x8 wood stringers.



Miraculously the boats tied to the broken dock were not damaged. They did not even come untied from their mooring lines. The remainder of the evening was spent moving boats, and picking up the pieces. The Hobie Cat was retrieved from the swamp with only a broken tiller connection. No other damage was observed. Those guys with the Hobie had just bought the boat and were sailing it for the first time. They will probably never sail again.

The "we" in the following paragraphs refers to our informal dock committee of North Flathead Yacht club, consisting of an architect, an investment counselor, a software engineer, a land developer, a building contractor, and yours truly. The dock contractor is a good-old-boy type who has been working on the lake for many years. His home and office is a barge with a crane mounted on it. The barge is the last of the sternwheeler boats that used to ply the waters of Flathead Lake carrying passengers and freight from Somers to Polson. He cut the front house off and uses it for a work platform. He is very knowledgeable about dock building from years of experience. We respected his years of experience and chose him to do our project.



I swam in the water next to the wave wall to closely examine the damage. The club hired a diver to look at the damage below water. Here is what we found:

1. The dock contractor used 20' wood stringers to span 15' piling spacing. Instead of wasting 5' of stringer, he used a lap splice and continued on. At this location all 3 stringers and wave wall stringers had a splice in them. He had not staggered the splices. We did perform a cantilever beam calculation on the stringers, and found the 5' cantilever beam would support itself and the 10' from the other side. This was a vertical live and dead load calculation. We assumed the 8" steel pipe pilings would take the horizontal loads. The steel pilings were X braced, with a large angle on the top and bottom of the X, making a braced frame. The bracing connections were metal flags welded onto the side of the pipe with 3/4" bolts thru the flag and angle iron. The bolts were supposed

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NSPE Memorandum

This is a product capsule provided by NSPE to all members. For more product information, members should visit www.nspe.org

Feature #1: Announcing updated EJCDC Contract Documents!

Newly released 2007 Construction Contract Documents are widely recognized as the most fair and objective contract documents in the construction, engineering and design-build industries. Save 10% on ALL EJCDC documents when you order by **October 31, 2007:**
<http://nspe.org/ejcdc/home.asp>

Feature #2: NSPE Product Catalog Sale!

The NSPE Product Catalog sale continues, now featuring three newly listed items on sale each month:
http://nspe.org/product_search.asp?cntProductSection=14

Feature#3: New Online Courses Available form the NSPE Product Catalog!

NSPE is offering new on-demand courses! Did you miss a web seminar because of your busy schedule? Take the course now and earn your PDHs from the comfort of your home or office. Choose from a variety of topics presented by leading experts in the field. Special NSPE member pricing available:

www.nspe.org/product_search.asp?cntProductSection=32

Feature #4: We Need YOUR Input!

Your contribution is necessary for the validity of the survey! Participation in the NSPE Engineering Income and Salary Survey and access a FREE individualized report with data relevant to your engineering level and geographic area:
<http://nspe.enetrix.com>

For more product information, members

should visit www.nspe.org

Stray Thoughts

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to have upset threads or weld tack on the ends to prevent them from coming loose. Bolts were chosen over welds to allow for some movement without failure.

2. One of the X bracing bolts was missing, right in the 15' interval where the wall failed. The missing bolt probably allowed excessive deflection of the wall at that point.
3. The contractor used 60" steel pipe sections for pilings 45' long. He welded together 3 of the 15' cut-offs to make 45 foot pilings rather than waste the steel. The diver reported that the piling welds failed and the pilings were free to move laterally.

What did we learn from this?

The contractor's welds were bad. We knew this from the welds above water. A weld inspector looked at each weld and told us that only 10% of them were acceptable. When confronted with this information, the contractor said the welds were good enough and he would warranty the dock for 5 years. The yacht club building committee accepted that.

Even with poor welds, the sliced pilings should have been used in low stress parts of the dock such as the ends of fingers not on the wave wall. Then if they failed, they could have been easily repaired.

The splices should not have occurred all in the same place. I had always objected to having the splices occur at mid span. It would have been safer to have them on the cross tie locations. I was over-ruled by the financial people and architect on the committee. It would cost more to waste the 5' of stringer, and the splices would be "good enough".

We had a thorough inspection of all the bolts last spring. Several were missing, and were replaced, and the ones that did not have ends knurled were fixed so they were. Apparently one was missed or, the broken weld on the piling allowed enough displacement that the ¾" bolt sheared off in the storm. We do not know.

Our inspections were performed mainly by the architect, the building contractor, and myself. We were volunteers and inspected as we had spare time. There were no daily or weekly inspections of the work. This turned out to be a big problem. None of us caught the multiple splices in the same span. None of us even knew the dock contractor was welding sections of pipe together to make pilings for the wave wall. If we had known, we would probably have suggested not using them on the wave wall.

The biggest lesson is "INSPECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT". They must be done by qualified people and at regular intervals during the project.

The wave wall is repaired. The dock contractor drove 7" pipe inside of the 8" pipe to repair the broken pilings. What is left is to determine how much of the \$26,000 repair bill is due to

contractor error and how much is due to the "act of God". A 100 mph wind is pretty unusual.

Another benefit from this incident is it will shut up all of those whining contractors who complain about designing for a 90 mph wind in the Flathead. Now we know it can happen. The docks were not the only failures in the valley. Carpenter arena lost it's roof during a rodeo. (No one was hurt.) Numerous signs, roofs, power lines, and trees were damaged or blown away.



What is left is to determine how much of the \$26,000 repair bill is due to contractor error and how much is due to the "act of God".

MATHCOUNTS Update

By Dan Munson, State MathCounts Coordinator

Welcome back to the new MATHCOUNTS season! We are in the process of sending out registration packets to 410 Montana middle schools. Last season we had 407 Mathletes[®] from 61 middle schools participate, and we are looking for more participation this year. That's where you come in.

Do you have a child in middle school that may be interested in healthy math fun? How about a niece, nephew, or friend in middle school? Sad to say, some middle schools have not shown interest in this exciting and worthwhile program. Ask your local middle school if they have an active MATHCOUNTS program, you may be surprised by the answer. If they don't have an active program, press further and ask them why. Some schools are willing, but really need help from parents or friends to help coach a team. How's your coaching ability these days? These middle school kids will give you a run for your money when it comes to solving practical math problems.

I've personally helped coach teams for a number of years, and it is truly a rewarding experience to turn kids on to math and analytical problem solving. That's what we engineers are all about anyway! Consider volunteering as a MATHCOUNTS coach this year. It's a perfect way to give back to the young academia world, and nurture kids along the way. Some of these kids will be shaping our next generation of engineers, solving the world's latest problems.

If coaching is not your bag, stay tuned. We will be asking for your help with our local chapter competitions in February, where you can experience in person the power of middle school analytical determination and team building skills. Either way, I challenge all of you to make a difference with a young student, share your knowledge and expertise, and help make Montana MATHCOUNTS the best program around! The small time investment is worth the satisfaction of seeing some of our best and brightest young math stars shine!

About MATHCOUNTS

MATHCOUNTS is a combination math coaching and competition program. Students are tested on such topics as probability, statistics, linear algebra, and polynomials. The competition consists of written tests and a fast-paced oral match. The purpose of the MATHCOUNTS program is to motivate middle school students in mathematics and interest them in technology related careers. It is designed to create interest and enthusiasm in mathematics by creating an environment similar to athletic programs, including intensive training, competition, teamwork and recognition. Widely recognized as an effective middle school mathematics coaching and competition program, MATHCOUNTS is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Additional information on MATHCOUNTS is available at www.mathcounts.org.

The National Society of Professional Engineers on a national level organizes the

MATHCOUNTS program. Locally, the Montana Society of Engineers organizes MATHCOUNTS, with local volunteer effort being provided by area engineers, students, and professionals.

Every year, a free copy of the annual *MATHCOUNTS School Handbook* is provided to all U.S. middle schools. Containing creative math problems that meet National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards for 7th and 8th grades, teachers utilize these problems as part of in-class instruction or as an extracurricular activity. After months of coaching by a teacher or other volunteer, participating schools select 6th, 7th and/or 8th grade students to compete individually or as part of a team in their local MATHCOUNTS chapter competition held in February of each year. There are seven MATHCOUNTS Chapters in Montana. The winners of the local competition advance to the Montana State competition held in Bozeman in March of each year. The four student winners of that competition advance to an all expense paid National competition. ESPN even broadcasts the MATHCOUNTS National Competition!

Problem of the week – Making The Grade

In math class, Jordan had an average score of 89 points on the first 4 quizzes. When the lowest quiz score is dropped the average of his remaining three test scores goes up to a 94 points. What was the score of the dropped test?

Solution

First we need to find the sum of the 4 quiz scores. To do this, use the average equation. $x \div 4 = 89$ points, or $x = 356$ points.

Now find the sum of the three remaining quiz scores. $x \div 3 = 94$ points, or $x = 282$ points

The difference between the two sums is the score that was dropped. $356 - 282 = 74$ points

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*I've personally helped
coach teams for a number
of years, and it is truly a
rewarding experience to
turn kids on to math and
analytical problem solving.
That's what we engineers
are all about anyway!*

News from the Capitol City

By Ken Phillips, PE, Vice President

It's been quiet here in Helena; the special session came and went very quickly. The most recent event worth mentioning is that the State Architecture & Engineering Division was given the Governor's Award on behalf of the Department of Administration. This is the first time in my memory that these folks have received acknowledgement. Of course this does go against the traditional belief that the last phase of every construction project is "praise and recognition for the non-participants", its good to see them receiving this award. These folks manage the Long Range Building Program for the State. They handle all issues including, planning, overseeing the design, coordinating with the end users, helping resolve problems that creep up during construction and work well in claims avoidance. It's a tough job with lots of windshield time and a very diverse project load. So cheers to the A&E Division, its good to see you get some well deserved acknowledgment.

The State Building Energy Program at DEQ is going to sponsor a webcast here in

Helena. It's the NSPE webcast *Climate Change and Implications for Infrastructure Decisions*. It will be held October 25th, from 11:30 to 1:00, in room 35 in the lower level of the Lee Metcalf Building, 1520 East Sixth Avenue. For those consultants who work with the State it's directly across the hall from the State A&E office. All MSE members as well as interested non-members are invited to attend. This will be a brown bag event so bring a lunch and join us in this presentation which states that it "will stimulate thinking and discussion by acknowledging the conflicting drivers presented by the future climate change economy and the traditional approach to meeting compliance standards in the water and waste industry". It's my hope that after the webcast, MSE members that are interested in recharging the Helena Chapter can have a small get together. If you are interested in attending and to ensure we have enough room, please RSVP to me at my non-work email address kennethphillips@bresnan.net.

I hope to see you there.

The State Building Energy Program at DEQ is going to sponsor a webcast here in Helena. It's the NSPE webcast Climate Change and Implications for Infrastructure Decisions.

For Things Engineering, Visit: www.mtengineers.org TODAY!

HEY, YOU!

I DARE YA!!!

By Sandra Anderson, PE, Immediate Past President

Help MSE continue to expand its support of MATHCOUNTS, the Joint Engineers Conference, and all things engineering. MSE is a 501(c)3 corporation, so your contribution is tax deductible. And here's the thing: I've ALREADY donated \$50 this year. BUT since I've dared ya...I'll donate another dollar for every MSE member who sends in their own donation. Even if your donation is \$5. So open your wallet, give up the price of one frou-frou coffee drink, and see if you can figure out how to make me give until it hurts! Not enough incentive?

I DOUBLE-DOG DARE YA!!!!

WANTED: Kalispell Area

The Montana MathCounts Program will need a Chapter Coordinator for the 2007/08 MathCounts Season. The Chapter will have 5 to 7 schools competing. All the handbooks have been mailed to the schools within the area by National. The schools will register directly with National. The Coordinator needs to select a competition date between February 1-24, select an afternoon and arrange a location to hold the competition. Dan Munson, the State Coordinator, would be happy to help fill in the blanks and help with volunteers. This is a very rewarding experience. Give Dan a call at 406-655-2540. It will be the best time you have ever invested in Montana's YOUTH!



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**Joint Engineers
Conference
November 1-2
Helena, Montana**

All conference information and registration is available at www.mtengineers.org. It could not be easier — make your plans today! Continuing education credits will be available in all engineering disciplines — more details are available on-line. Vendors will be available with the latest products and information on both Thursday and Friday — with great door prizes!

The PE Hall of Fame Banquet will be Friday evening—this year's inductee will be Fred Videon, Ph.D, P.E.

See you in November!

More questions,

Contact Doug Brekke at
dlb@5400.tv

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Deadline for the Next
Issue of this Newsletter is
December 10, 2007

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

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