



Southwest Chapter

Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

<http://www.southwest.wspe.org/meetings.html>

January 2018

*Mathcounts is February 3!
Please plan to volunteer!*

December Isthmus Engineering Tour

Kip Carpenter and Jon Purinton, of Isthmus Engineering, provided a very interesting tour of their facility on December 12. Pizza and soda were served to the 13 WSPE attendees while Kip and Jon presented the history of their company.

Isthmus Engineering both designs and manufactures custom machinery used to fabricate customer products. These custom machines require skilled mechanical, electrical, software and manufacturing engineers as well as CAD designers, machinists and assembly technicians. Experiments are initially conducted on portions of a project to provide critical design information prior to developing a comprehensive project plan. A typical project takes about 1 year of development from inception to final test and validation. A complete set of documentation is provided to the customer, including an operator's manual. State of the art technology used includes 3-D CAD, a 3-D printer, several CNC machines, a complex computer control/sensor system and on-line validation testing during the manufacturing process.

Thanks Kip and Jon, for a great tour and excellent presentation!

MATHCOUNTS 2018 is 1 Month Away!

The 2018 Madison regional MATHCOUNTS event will be held:

1. Time – registration from 7:45 AM to 8:20 AM, event runs from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
2. Date – Saturday, February 3, 2018 (State competition to be held March 3, 2018 in Sheboygan)
3. Place – UW Lowell Center, 610 Langdon Street Madison, WI

Every year, kids in grades 6-8 compete their hearts out solving math problems both individually and in teams. After several sets of problem solving, a ranking of teams and individuals is established by the scoring volunteers. This competition is a great opportunity for you as an engineer to witness our next generation of engineers in the making!

Chapter Officers

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We need volunteers.

Please help if you can.



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Please consider spending part of your Saturday helping out as a proctor or even a scorer. It's easy, fun and we'll even treat you to a free continental breakfast! Please contact John Brome (bromej@yahoo.com) ASAP. I promise you'll have a great time helping out and the kids and coaches will appreciate your help too!

February Scholarship Dinner

Please join us for this fun event: honoring the scholarship recipient(s), honoring distinguished engineering professionals followed by a technical session.

The guest speaker, Dr. Gus VanderWegen, will be speaking about "Engineers and Trees": Are they on the same side and should they be? You won't want to miss this very interesting and controversial ecological topic.

1. Time – 5:00 PM (cocktails), 6:00 – 8:30 PM Dinner/Awards (TO BE CONFIRMED BY NEXT NEWSLETTER)
2. Date – Thursday, February 22, 2018
3. Place – Imperial Garden restaurant, 2039 Allen Blvd. Middleton, WI 53562

State Board Changes

Marty Hanson and James Buggs have switched State Board positions for the current year. Marty had accepted the "acting President" position and James the Treasurer position for the 2017-2018 year but due to personal scheduling conflicts, Marty and James have switched their position and titles making James Buggs our current "acting President" and Marty Hanson the Treasurer of WSPE.

On January 2, at our last SW board meeting, Jim provided a brief review of some of the things going on at the State level:

1. President and Treasurer re-assignment (above).
2. State board all volunteer model, no paid positions (formerly the executive director was a paid position).
3. Financial obligations are being met, and State should be "back on track" within next few months.
4. State MATHCOUNTS coordinator is Todd Kinney, on track for State competition on March 3, 2018 in Sheboygan.
5. Discovery Conference planned for 2018 in Green Bay, dates to be announced when confirmed.
6. Governor's new product award will be deferred this year (no new products award planned for 2018).
7. Website redesign efforts have begun with anticipated rollout next summer.
8. WI Representative Tom Weatherston modified his assembly bill to require no state employer can be given or use the title "engineer" unless they have a P.E. license or a BS in engineering.
9. The Budget Committee came close to including a provision in the budget bill that would exclude people from those being eligible to sit for the PE exam that have only a 2 year associate degree.



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This will have to be a stand-alone bill for now. Representative Weatherstone needs a co-sponsor for this bill, current discussing with Senator Olsen. DSPS no longer vets exam applicants.

10. WSPE currently voicing opposition to statute changes that remove engineering licensure requirements. The bill being reviewed by DSPS and due on governor's desk by 12-31-18.

Webinar

On Friday, February 23 from 1-4 PM, the SW Chapter is co-sponsoring a Webinar on *Technology Options for Groundwater Monitoring Programs*. Registration is \$20 for 3 PDHs. You can also attend in person at the UW Pyle Center (702 Langdon Street, Madison, WI). Online registration and information is available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-technology-options-for-groundwater-monitoring-programs-tickets-40038969636>

Happy New Year

WSPE SW wishes you and your family a happy and prosperous New Year!