



SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - NORM ARENDT

JANUARY 2008

At the beginning of my career, I remember asking my boss why, when the rest of us couldn't see daylight, he could see the light at the end of the tunnel and it was always coming from a rainbow? "The simple answer is from a lesson I learned long ago," came his response. "The more you focus on the 'positive side of life,' the more you will attract the same things. The things we focus on create a magnet for our lives."

As my years since then have taught me, this was certainly correct. Focus on forgiveness and we will find the world forgiving. Focus on the comedy life offers and our lives will be full of laughs. Focus on opportunities and doors seem to open. On the other hand, if we focus on the drama life offers – well, the kids today have a saying that fits perfectly: "Just save the drama for your mama" because nobody wants more drama than life serves up on its own.

More than occasionally I have heard (with not-so-subtle envy), "That guy really seems to get all the lucky breaks." I typically respond with a question, "Do you think he is really lucky or just focused on excellence?" The truth is that being "lucky" doesn't have much to do with luck at all. The most successful people create their own luck. They appear lucky because their focus and preparation have put them in the right place to make good things happen. The timing is never right unless you are prepared to seize the moment. Luck is preparation meeting opportunity.

The same is true of organizations. There are organizations that thrive and some that just barely get by. Are they just lucky or do they focus on excellence? WSPE focuses on excellence, and it is the members that make the organization and that make the chapters. We have plenty of opportunity for members to advance their skills with the coming Discovery Conference, Mathcounts, scholarships, and an active education program for the middle and high schools. The excellence of an organization is based on the involvement and excellence exhibited by its members. It is not luck. It is focus and skills.

Chapter Officers

President	Norm Arendt, Ph.D. 608-274-2020 narendt@sehinc.com
Past President	Dave McDermid, P.E. 608-242-7779 dmcdermid@msa-ps.com
VP	Brian Kehrl, P.E. 608-355-8887 bkehrl@msa-ps.com
VP	Tom Pinion, P.E. 608-242-7779 tpinion@msa-ps.com
VP	Charles Gervasi 608-446-1178 cgervasi@prosoft-
VP	Clayton Mehnert, P.E. 608-224-0377 claybear@chorus.net
Secretary	Andy Graham, P.E. 608-662-5151 andrew.graham@rmtinc.com
Treasurer	Ron Voss, P.E. 608-356-2771 ronv@msa-ps.com

"MATHCOUNTS is the only national program of its kind for middle school students."

JANUARY MEETING IS CANCELLED

Because of scheduling conflicts, our January meeting at St. Mary's Hospital had to be cancelled. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to schedule a replacement event.

MATHCOUNTS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to help with Mathcounts on February 2 from 8 AM until 12 noon. Please call Norm Arendt if you can help.



Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers
c/o RMT, Inc.
744 Heartland Trail
Madison, WI 53717-1934

January 2008 Newsletter

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER- WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

<i>Chapter Meeting Schedule</i>		<i>Board Meeting Schedule</i>
January 2008	Meeting Cancelled	February 5, 2008
February 20, 2008	Engineer's Week Dinner Meeting, Joint with ASCE	March 4, 2008
March 2008	Topic and date to be determined	April 8, 2008
April 2008	Topic and date to be determined	May 5, 2008 (Mon)
May 2008	Topic and date to be determined	June 3, 2008
<i>All Meetings Thursday Unless Otherwise Noted</i>		<i>7 AM Tuesdays Unless Otherwise Noted</i>
<i>Upcoming Events Schedule</i>		
February 2, 2008	Mathcounts Chapter Competition - Lowell Center, Madison	
March 1, 2008	Mathcounts State Competition - Lowell Center, Madison	
April 17, 2008	2008 Discovery Conference and Governor's New Product Awards	