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SDS EASTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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 NSPE-SD EASTERN CHAPTER  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
ENGINEERING SOCIETY
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**WebEx:** In addition to our monthly in-person presentation, the meetings will also be broadcast on WebEx. See pages 4 and 10 of this newsletter for the WebEx log-in information.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER**

Elizabeth Sobania  
Mitchell Sforzini  
Heath VonEye

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

BY GABE LABER, PE

Wow, September flew by and we are already almost halfway into October. Seems like it was just yesterday that I sent out my first president's column to Abby. It's officially fall and you can tell the weather is starting to change with the cooler nights and the leaves starting to change colors. The biggest indication of fall for me is seeing the farmers progressively combine the crops from the fields. In addition, the pheasant season opener is less than a week away, which is exciting.

Thanks to the Central Chapter for hosting another great fall conference. They had a great lineup of speakers. It's now our Chapter's turn to prepare for hosting the annual and fall conferences next year.

This month we welcome Matt Gregg with Wheeler as our speaker to talk about timber and recreational bridges at **our monthly meeting tomorrow, October 12, 2021**. Matt became sick last month and unfortunately was unable make it. Glad he recovered and was able to reschedule for this month's meeting. Thanks to Shannon Schultz for filling in last month at the last minute and discussing clear zones.

I would like to welcome our new members in the last month: Elizabeth Sobania, Mitchell Sforzini, and Heath VonEye. As always, please consider bringing a non-member to our monthly meetings so they can see the value in our society and hopefully become a new member.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY SCOTT LAVOY, PE

**Previous General Fund Balance 9/10/2021** \$ 21,708.53

**Deposits:**

Interest Payment \$ 0.18

**Total:** \$ 21,708.71

**Expenses:**

SDES Meeting Expenses \$ (30.00)

**Total:** \$ (30.00)

**Total General Fund Balance:** \$ 21,678.71

**Previous Scholarship Fund Balance 9/10/2021** \$ (139.81)

**Deposits:**

Golf Outing Hole Sponsorship \$ 80.00

**Total:** \$ (59.81)

**Expenses:**

None -

**Total:** \$ -

**Total Scholarship Fund Balance:** \$ (59.81)

**Total Account Balance 10/6/2021** \$ 21,618.90



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Eastern Chapter September Monthly Meeting IN PERSON Tuesday, October 12th at Pizza Ranch (41st Street Location)**

- Matt Gregg with Wheeler will be presenting on timber & recreational bridges
- Lunch at 11:30; Meeting starts at noon
- WebEx option available; information found in newsletter

**SAVE THE DATE—SDES Annual Conference, April 5-7 in Sioux Falls**

- More details to come!
- Planning committee meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, October 27 at Josiah’s Coffeehouse & Cafe
- If you are interested in joining the planning committee, feel free to join us at the meeting and/or reach out to Krista May at [kris-tam@infrastructuredg.com](mailto:kris-tam@infrastructuredg.com).

**October 2021**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## MONTHLY MEETING

We're back in person at our old stompin' grounds!

Please join us in-person for the monthly Eastern Chapter SDES Meeting back at the Pizza Ranch Meeting Room on 41<sup>st</sup> Street.

Lunch starts at 11:30 am and the meeting begins at Noon.

*Tuesday, October 12th*

Matt Gregg with Wheeler will be presenting on timber and recreational bridges.

We can't wait to see you all in person, but if you'd like to join us virtually via WebEx, please see the information below.

Join from the meeting link: [Click Here](#)

Join by meeting number:

Meeting number (access code): 2450 873 2779

Meeting password: Zf3YrM5U2T9

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-650-479-3208,,24508732779## Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Join by phone

1-650-479-3208 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

## FALL CONFERENCE RECAP

Congratulations to the Central Chapter on another very successful SDES Fall PDH Conference on September 30<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>! Over 120 members, exhibitors, speakers and industry partners attended the conference in Fort Pierre.

Pre-conference activities included a SDES Board Meeting and very productive Committee Work Sessions, where Committee Chairs and members from across the state gathered to tackle a variety of topics including Strategic Planning, Chapter Bylaws, MATHCOUNTS, Awards, and Scholarship/Endowments. The Works Sessions provided an excellent opportunity for Chapter and State Committee members to get to know each other and share ideas. Look for more Work Sessions in conjunction with future Board Meetings. For members interested in becoming more engaged in SDES, this is a unique way to learn more about various SDES activities and get to know your fellow members.

The conference itself kicked off with an on-site tour of the new Pierre Water Treatment Plant followed by the opportunity to catch up with fellow members during the Thursday evening Social. Rumor has it that folks carried their socialization into the evening at the local Pierre and Fort Pierre restaurants and establishments! It has been a long time since we've all been together.

Starting with an inspiring welcome by Fort Pierre Mayor Gloria Hanson, the conference agenda covered a wide array of topics and an amazing pallet of local Fort Pierre/Pierre projects – including the Pierre Water Plant, Fort Pierre Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Fort Pierre-Pierre Missouri River Bridge Project. A number of other interesting and educational sessions filled the day, plus the chance for attendees to visit with several exhibitors. Great food and a nice setting rounded out a great event!

Thank you to the Central Chapter Planning Committee and our exceptional partners, sponsors and exhibitors for making this year's SDES Fall PDH Conference a great success! We look forward to seeing you all in Sioux Falls for the Annual Conference on April 5-7, 2022!

## SDSU FOUNDATION, SD ES EASTERN CHAPTER'S ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT

The SDSU Foundation uses our chapter's endowment contributions to give out scholarships to engineering students. Our chapter's goal is to donate enough money to the SDSU foundation so that our endowed scholarship becomes self-sustaining and can disperse annual scholarships totaling \$2,000 or more. Based on the SDSU foundation's currently approved spending formula, a \$50,000 endowment is the value needed to reach this goal. Our chapter has gifted two installments of \$17,100 to the Foundation to date and our expectation is that we will be able reach the goal of obtaining \$50,000 this fiscal year.

### SD Engineering Society Eastern Chapter Endowed Scholarship Endowment Activity Report | July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

	Cash	Principal	Total
Beginning account balance (7/01/2020)	\$2,550.00	\$15,169.74	\$17,719.74
Investment earnings (net of fees)	(\$100.00)	\$3,527.61	\$3,427.61
New contributions	\$2,100.00	\$15,000.00	\$17,100.00
Transfers in / (out)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash made available for spending	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disbursements	(\$2,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$2,000.00)
<b>Ending account balance (6/30/2021)</b>	<b>\$2,550.00</b>	<b>\$33,697.35</b>	<b>\$36,247.35</b>
Historical gift value	\$30,000.00		
Outstanding pledge balance	\$0.00		



## MCGOUGH OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

McGough, an ENR Top 200 builder, invites SDES members to an open house at their new office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The company's Sioux Falls office will expand its operations in the upper Midwest. McGough is headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, with six offices throughout Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota. McGough also operates an office in Dallas, Texas.

Founded in St. Paul in the 1950s, McGough made a name for itself as a pioneer in the development of collaborative delivery methods and the execution of complex projects. For more than six decades, the family-owned company has continued to build on that legacy, amassing an extensive portfolio of experience, including many highly innovative and complex healthcare, corporate office, higher education, performing arts, hospitality, research/laboratory, and industrial projects around the country.

The new Sioux Falls office builds on McGough's strong history of successfully managing a wide variety of projects throughout the Dakotas. The recently completed Terex Manufacturing project located in Watertown, South Dakota, won a 2020 ENR Best Project Award. The soon to be completed Block-9 project is transforming the skyline of downtown Fargo. McGough also has completed successful projects for many of the most well-established organizations in the Dakotas, including Sanford Health, the North Dakota University System, Prairie Lakes Healthcare and Concordia University.

McGough's Sioux Falls office continues the company's geographic growth trajectory. Since 2013, the company has opened offices in Des Moines, Iowa; Fargo, North Dakota; Duluth, Minnesota and Dallas Texas.

Those of you who attended the SDES Fall PDH Conference, will recognize the team at McGough from their presentation on Construction Management at Risk. McGough is also an SDES Platinum Partner.

Find out more about McGough at <https://www.mcgough.com>

## MCGOUGH OPEN HOUSE



**McGOUGH**

**McGough cordially invites you to our  
Sioux Falls Office Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!**

**DATE AND TIME**

Thursday, October 14, 2021

3:30 - 6:30 PM

Ribbon Cutting at 4:30 PM

**LOCATION**

114 South Main Avenue

Sioux Falls, SD 57104





**Elizabeth Sobania**

**HDR**

HDR: Water/Wastewater EIT, 7 months;  
Water/Wastewater Intern 1.5 years

[elizabeth.sobania@hdrinc.com](mailto:elizabeth.sobania@hdrinc.com)

College and Major:  
**South Dakota State  
Civil Engineering**



**Hometown:** Baxter, MN

**Favorite Quote:** “I knew exactly what to do. But in a much more real sense, I had no idea what to do.”  
– Michael Scott.

**Favorite Room in My House and Why:** The kitchen because I love to cook! I make a different pasta at least once a week and am always trying new things.

**My Normal Breakfast:** Granola Bar with a cup of tea because I am usually rushing out of my house every morning.

**Hobbies:** I'm pretty open to activities outdoors but some of my favorites are going on hikes, watching/playing sports and 5-stand trap shooting!

**Pets:** I personally don't have any pets, but my boyfriend is getting a puppy soon! He is a yellow lab, and his name is Ghost (reference to Game of Thrones for those who have watched it). He comes from a hunter bloodline so we are hoping he will pick up on the duck hunting training with ease! Any tips are appreciated

**Pet peeves:** When people don't have the TV volume on an even or 5 number. I don't know why but something about odd numbers for volume grind my gears.

**People may not know about me...** I have been to 4 different countries, out of the country about 10 times, and have studied abroad! I love to travel and experience new cultures!

**What made you want to be an engineer?** I originally went to SDSU to go into pharmacy, but after my second semester of chemistry....you get the picture. I have always been really good at math and problem solving so I decided to talk to an advisor about engineering and decided on Civil.

I was born in Little Falls, Minnesota but I spent my entire childhood in Baxter, Minnesota. I graduated from Brainerd High School in 2017 and graduated from SDSU with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a minor in Spanish this past May.

My mom is a pharmacist, my dad is a civil engineer and my brother is a civil engineering student; all three of them attended NDSU so I am the odd one out in my family which makes for fun rivalries during the football season!

I interned at HDR in the Sioux Falls office from March 2020 -April 2021 and transitioned into a Water/Wastewater EIT in May 2021.

In my free time I enjoy watching sports, going on hikes, hunting and fishing! I grew up in the Brainerd Lakes Area and spent my childhood out on the lake so anything outside has always peaked my interest.

**Favorite TV Show:** The Office, hands down. I have watched the Office all the way through more than 15 times! Once it was taken off Netflix, my parents surprised me with the series on DVD so I can keep watching it.

**What do you like best about being an engineer?** I love to learn new things, so as a new engineering I am learning a lot. They teach you a lot in school but there is SO much more to learn once you are in the “real-world”. I learn new things every day and really enjoy learning different ways of how to solve the same problem.

**What are you looking forward to in the next year?** I have lived in Minnesota my whole life, so now that I am a South Dakota resident, I am excited to explore the state a little more. I am familiar with Brookings and Sioux Falls but I would like to explore the hills and state parks a little more!

**Favorite Place to Visit and Why:** For the Midwest, my family friends have a shack up in Orr, Minnesota. There is no running water, no cell service and we have to heat the cabin by chopping wood. I enjoy going up there to reconnect with nature and go four-wheeling through the woods. For a vacation, I would have to go with Fort Myers, Florida. My family visits Florida usually once a year and my favorite has been Fort Myers because of the beaches, spring training for baseball and the fishing! I wouldn't be surprised if my parents buy a winter home down there and I would not complain about it! There's a lot to do and if you stay on the island, everything is walking distance or a short drive over to the next island.

## 2021-2022 OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

### Officers

President	Gabe Laber, PE
President Elect	Josh Peterson, PE
Vice President	Devin Clay, PE
Secretary/Treasurer	Scott LaVoy, PE
Chapter Director(1st term)	Kent Ode, PE
Chapter Director(2nd term)	Kari Johnson PE
State Director	Riley Rinehart, PE
Past President	Ben Scholtz, PE

### Committees

Nominating Committee	Lee Kaffar, BA
Mathcounts	Krista May, PE
Scholarship	Lance Mayer, PE
Events Coordinators	
E-Week	Erin Steever, PE
Winter Social	Kent Ode, PE
Golf Outing	Kent Ode, PE
Awards Banquet	Jedidiah Reimnitz, PE
Awards	Wes Philips, PE
Audio/Visual IT	Chad Stensland, PE
Newsletter	Abby Nelson, PE
Membership List	Myron Adam, PE

### Eastern Chapter of SDES Goals

*To promote the licensed practice of engineering and to provide learning opportunities that enable licensed engineers to maintain practice competency;*

*To maintain high ethical standards for the practice of engineering and lead the profession in adhering to these principles:*

*To protect the public health, safety, and welfare; while being good stewards of the environment;*

*To incorporate engineering principles and perspectives in government decisions that protect the public; and*

*To consider community service a professional obligation.*

### SDES Mission Statement

SDES is the state society of engineers from all disciplines that promotes the ethical and competent practice of engineering, advocates licensure, enhances the image of its members, and advocates legislation and public policy for the betterment of human welfare and the profession.

### Webex Login Instructions

#### SDES October Monthly Meeting

**Meeting available on Webex on Tuesday, October 12th at Noon (CST)**

Meeting number (access code):

2450 873 2779

Meeting password:

Zf3YrM5U2T9

**Join from the meeting link:**

[Click Here](#)

For any and all newsletter articles, additions, edits, corrections, and important dates contact:

Abby Nelson, PE  
HDR  
101 S. Phillips Avenue, Suite 401  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
605-977-7753  
Abby.Nelson@hdrinc.com

For all *State Society* membership information and other business, contact:

Nancy Hoines  
SDES Executive Director  
PO Box 1076  
Pierre, SD 57501  
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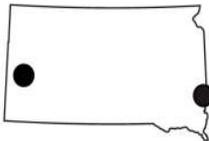
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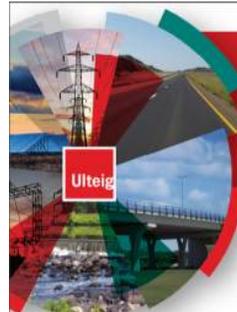
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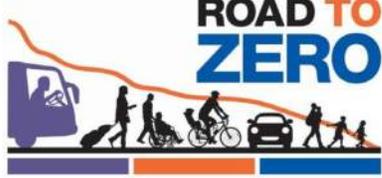


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