



The Engineering Informer

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY PHIL GUNDBALDSON-PE

Happy spring Eastern Chapter members! It has to be here, to stay this time. It is promising to see all the orange barrels again, the sign of the fifth season we all know as construction season. Spring also signifies the end of the year is approaching for our chapter's activities. Following the Annual Conference next week, we will have one more chapter meeting in May before we take a break over the summer.

State Society President Myron Adam sent out an email last week to all chapter members with the proposed slate of officers for the upcoming year. The Vice President position is currently vacant. If you are interested in this position and serving on the Chapter Board, please let me know and if you have any questions regarding the position, contact me and we can discuss. I encourage all members to consider this position, along with our many other volunteer positions which are not a part of the Chapter Board. The goal is to have a Vice President candidate prior to next week's induction of officers at the Annual Conference.

Thanks to City of Sioux Falls Street Superintendent Galynn Huber for his presentation last month on snow removal and the future of snow gates. Galynn predicted this measure would break a record for the largest landslide ever in a municipal election. We'll find out on Tuesday. Don't forget to get out and vote on this issue

and several others that impact our great City.

There is no official monthly meeting this April but are instead touring the Marmen Energy plant in Corson, South Dakota. Marmen Energy is one of North America's largest wind tower manufacturer's. If you plan to attend, please email a RSVP to Lance Weatherly at lweatherly@siouxfalls.org. If you forget to RSVP, you can still show up for the tour as I believe there is still room. Several chapter members will be meeting at the Brandon Pizza Ranch for lunch at 11:30 before beginning the tour at approximately 12:15pm.

The 2014 Annual Conference will be held April 16th - 18th at the Downtown Holiday Inn City Centre. In addition to having the conference at a new venue, we have also lined up very interesting and exciting topics. The registration forms have been sent out and you can register online at www.sdes.org. We are excited to see we have already had over 150 registrations. This is a testament to the quality speakers and topics and the hard work of the planning committee.

Thanks everyone and I look forward to seeing you at the Marmen Energy tour and the Annual Conference!

Phil Gundvaldson

IMPORTANT NEWS

NEXT MEETING:

April 11th, 12:15 PM @ Tour of Marmen Energy Plant in Corson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

BY LANCE WEATHERLY, PE



Balances as of 4/3/2014

Previous General Fund Balance		
2/28/2014	\$	18,358.45

Expenses:

	\$	(235.32)
WebEx (February)	\$	(51.94)
Banquet expenses	\$	(1,873.32)
speaker lunch - February	\$	(10.25)
WebEx (March)	\$	(51.94)
Total	\$	(2,222.77)

Deposits:

Interest (February)	\$	2.26
Banquet revenue	\$	50.00
Informer Ads	\$	75.00
Interest (March)	\$	2.27
Total	\$	129.53

Total General Fund	\$	16,265.21
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Previous Scholarship Fund Balance		
2/28/2014	\$	9,799.23

Expenses:

Scholarship expenses - postage	\$	(67.89)
Total	\$	(67.89)

Deposits:

Total	\$	-
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Total Scholarship Fund	\$	9,731.34
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\$	25,996.55
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**IMPORTANT
CALENDAR ITEMS****EASTERN CHAPTER MEETINGS:**

- April 8, 12:15, Tour of Marmen Energy Plant in Corson. Informal lunch at the Brandon Pizza Ranch @ 11:30

SDES Annual Conference

April 16–18, 2014
Downtown Holiday Inn
City Centre, Sioux Falls

BEYOND TROPHIES, TESTS AND T-SHIRTS: MATHCOUNTS—SHANNON SCHULTZ, PE, CFM



Five years ago, when Jason Kjenstad (then President of SDES) asked if I would be interested in taking over for Steve Rhames as the State Coordinator, I had no idea what I was getting into – on several levels. “Yeah, sure. I can do that”, was my prideful if not somewhat ego-filled response to Jason. Performing complex designs and managing contracts over one-hundred thousand dollars and overseeing construction projects in excess of two million dollars was par for the course as a project manager, so how hard could it be, right? What is the budget for MathCOUNTS? Ten-thousand dollars. No problem. How hard can it be to register 16 coaches and 50 kids on top of ordering some trophies, tests, and t-shirts?

Turns out true. Not that hard. It just takes time. Organization. And some extra patience. A person comes to appreciate how efficient we, as engineers, are in communicating with each other. Compared to “regular” project management and leadership for which a salary is earned, dealing with teachers is a little different. Denouements take longer. They do not want to talk over the phone. Communication is through texting or email. OMG! The amount of emails... So many quick and short communiqués. Why do they not read the materials provided to answer their own questions and share that information with the parents so *their* questions get answered before they are asked? And why the heck are there so many changes in room assignments three days before going to Pierre?

So those are the challenges. (Jesse, are you getting this?)

However, the rewards by far outweigh the investment. The urge to attempt to convey the elated sense of joy from the students combined with the overwhelming sense of love and pride radiating from the parents and coaches cannot be assuaged. Serving as State Coordinator for five years has provided the opportunity to get to know several coaches, families with consecutive mathletes, and students. I did not appreciate it during the first two or three years because I was too busy being busy and making sure everything was as it should be – thus missing the forest for the trees. Also, my children were younger and so I was less in-tune to what is important in the life of a 6th, 7th, or 8th graders.

One of Helen Keller’s famous inspirational quotes is, “*The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.*” And that is really the message here. There are few priceless moments in life and even fewer in engineering. Inasmuch as I am able to share my own experience and perhaps vaingloriously, the power of sharing such a moment with another person, a student, a parent, or a coach is beyond description. Such words are not enough.

For those who have had children, do you remember the first time you saw them? Do you remember looking at your spouse thinking, “You did this”, “I did this”, “WE DID THIS!”? If so, then you know exactly what it is to feel something that exists beyond words. This is what happens sometimes with the kids and their coaches or parents. They realize, perhaps for the first time, that their



First Place: Patrick Henry Middle School

(Continued on page 4)

kids are wonderfully talented and capable of so much. Let me share with you this story.

In 2013, as I handed the results to Coach Jill of Temple Builders Academy from Bath, SD which showed that Judah (her 7th grade son) placed third and earned an all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C – she blinked incredulously. His achievement in math was her achievement as his coach and as his mother. Then slowly, the realization that her student and son had done so well washed over her. It was empowering. We locked eyes. The strength of her pride and love for her son began washing over me too. It made me feel weak. She began to cry tears of joy and happiness. I will never forget the tenderness of sharing that moment with Jill... and by extension for Judah, her student and more importantly, her son. The look in her tear filled eyes at that moment warmly engulfs my soul whenever I think about it.



Second Place: Edison Middle School



Third Place: Mickelson Middle School

This year, in 2014, Judah (a full head taller and slightly taller than his mom and looking more of a man than a boy), won the State competition. I had the pleasure again of handing Jill the results which I joyfully did. The same look of pride and love was there in her eyes. Only this time, the tears were mine. We exchanged pleasant smiles of recognition and appreciation in knowing how touched one was by the other. In mutual concordance and grace, we got to share that beautiful moment again only this time in a more generous and fuller, less guarded way. Her husband was there too. He was tall and lanky (obviously, the source of Judah's stature and quiet but confident countenance) and he instantly understood and respected the levity and sincerity of that moment. They hugged as he sniffed back tears, lifted his glasses and

pinched the bridge of his nose to prevent the tears from running down his cheek and onto his wife's hair. There it was again... "You did this"... "JUDAH did this"... "WE DID THIS!" Priceless.

And so, if you, my fellow SDES members, who - whether knowingly or not contribute to the success of the MathCOUNTS program by extension through your NSPE membership... if you get what is being shared with you here, I mean really get it that MathCOUNTS is truly one of the best things we do as an engineering society, you too (along with the MathCOUNTS volunteers and regional coordinators) can be proud and share my delight at the realization that, "I did this"... "YOU did this"... "WE DID THIS!"



Fourth Place: Southwest Middle School

GETTING TO KNOW YOU Member Bio

Infrastructure Design Group, Inc.
100 S Spring Ave., Suite 150
Sioux Falls SD 57104
Phone: 605-271-5527
Fax: 605-2712753

CHAD HANISCH, PE

Degree:
SDSU—Civil Engineering

Favorite Quote:

During sports, my dad always said "Do something out there." As a kid, I never really gave it much thought but later figured out he didn't care if I was the star or not. What was important was you at least tried and gave it 110% for the entire competition. If you won - great. If you screwed up - you at least did it trying. "Do something out there!" Those are words to live by.

A brief history... I was born in Sioux Falls and grew up on a farm between Hartford and Humboldt. I graduated in 1991 from West Central High School. I then attended college at SDSU and graduated from the Civil Engineering program in 1996.

I am child number 5 of 6 within my family which consisted of 3 boys and 3 girls.

My work history has given me the opportunity to be part of numerous different projects. Out of college, I worked for Stockwell Engineers for a year. I had also worked for Stockwell for most summers while attending SDSU. My soon to be wife, Rachel, who also graduated from SDSU was offered a job at Ft. Carson in Colorado. She had also applied for Law School at USD but since nothing was guaranteed, we made the decision to leave life as we knew it in South Dakota and moved to Colorado Springs, Co. I landed with JR Engineering which was a large land development and municipal engineering firm. The firm, the scenery, and the experience with JR Engineering was excellent and we were enjoying our time in Colorado Springs. After about 6 months in Colorado Springs, Rachel was informed she was accepted to Law School and she moved back to Hartford, lived with my parents, and attended law school. I continued to work for JR Engineering while looking for work back in the Sioux Falls area. Rachel and I actually postponed our wedding date while we were trying to settle down in at least the same state together. After a year in Colorado Springs, I began work with DGR Engineering in Rock Rapids, IA. Rachel and I finally got married and she continued law school. When Rachel graduated from Law School we moved to Sioux Falls where I was offered an opportunity to work for a brand new firm in Sioux Falls - Ulteig Engineers. I continued to work at Ulteig for 6 years until taking a position with HR Green. After a short time at HR Green, I was fortunate to become the Transportation Group Leader and Office Manager for the Sioux Falls office.

Throughout my career, I had a strong desire to start my own company. After much deliberation and encouragement from my wonderful wife, on September 1, 2012 Phil Gundvaldson and I started Infrastructure Design Group, Inc. InfrastructureDG now has six full-time employees and we feel extremely grateful for all who have supported us along the way. What has amazed me along the journey of establishing our company is the support from not only our family and clients but even our fellow engineers. We compete for work but at the end of the day have received so much encouragement and support from our peers that we feel very fortunate to be part of such a great engineering community. I have been fortunate to be part of various engineering groups such as SDES, NSPE, ACEC, APWA, and AWWA. I have held state and national positions within these groups which have all given me a deeper appreciation for the engineering profession.

However, the greatest accomplishment has to be having a family of three wonderful healthy kids, and a beautiful wife that has been my best friend for almost 16 years.



A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Family: Wife - Rachel; Kids: Adair - 8, Michael - 5, Harper - 3

Hometown: Hartford

Job title and years with firm: President, 2 years.

Favorite Room in Your House: In the winter: The family room is my favorite room. We have a wood fireplace which we love to hangout by watching TV or playing games with the kids. Outside of winter: I don't like being in the house at all.

Normal Breakfast: Coffee

Last CD Purchased: Bryan Adams - Bare Bones Tour

Last DVD Purchased: Probably something like Shrek or Cinderella...

Hobbies: We have an acreage and enjoy doing anything outside. Also enjoy hunting and "trying" to golf.

What do you collect? Nothing...Firewood for the fireplace??

Best Personality Trait: Work Hard - Play Hard

Pets: 2 dogs - 1 Yellow Lab and 1 Lab Mix Mutt that is free to anyone who wants her!

Pet Peeves: Excuses

Favorite beverage: I enjoy trying different craft beers. The worst beer I ever had was delicious!

Favorite TV Show: Sports Center

Favorite season: Fall

People may not know... Our first two kids were conceived through the aid of Invitro Fertilization (IVF). After that, we said we were done and of course the third one came about naturally!

What would you like to be an engineer? Enjoyed being part of the construction industry during high school and seeing a project constructed from the ground up.

What do you like best about being an engineer? Everyday and every project

is different. I also enjoy the interaction with clients and stakeholders throughout the design and construction of a project.

Describe a significant event in your professional life. I am not sure I can single out one event. My career has been full of numerous events that have all added to the whole of my career in various significant ways. I am grateful for all the experiences and relationships encountered over the course of my career.

Describe a significant event in your personal life. The death of my brother at age 12 while I was 11 definitely shaped me into the person I am today. It's made me live a life of no regrets while at the same time appreciating all the little things along the way.

What accomplishment from the last year are you most proud of? Starting Infrastructure Design Group, Inc. in September of 2012 has definitely been momentous.

What are you looking forward to in the next year? Keeping the doors open! Although we have almost two years under our belt, our goal is to take it a year at a time. Learn from the year before and take the needed steps to continue and improve.

I hate it when... people get excited or upset about things that can't be anticipated. Let's acknowledge it, learn from it, solve it, and move on.

Where is your favorite place and why? Rachel sent me to Alaska to visit my sister for my 30th birthday. Over the course of about 7 days, we were flown into a remote area where we backpacked for about 4 days. We actually celebrated my birthday on a mountain clearing overlooking the breathtaking scenery and eating dried Neapolitan ice cream! We were then flown to a separate location where we white water rafted, and fished for King Salmon. It was exhausting and exhilarating at the same time. We had multiple near death experiences including; nearly falling from vertical cliffs, almost sliding into a never ending glacier crevasse, and my sister falling out of the raft while white water rafting.

We are on the web

<http://www.sdes.org/>

2013-2014 OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

President	Phil Gundvaldson, PE
President Elect	Ryan Johnson, PE
Vice President	Ray Pierson, PE
Secretary/Treasurer	Lance Weatherly, PE
Chapter Director(2nd term)	Travis Clark, PE
Chapter Director(1st term)	Brett Runge, PE
State Director	Kristen Gundvaldson, PE
Past President	Jeffery Hines, PE
Chapter Nominations	Jeffery Hines, PE
Membership	Jason Kjenstad, PE
Mathcounts	Phil Gundvaldson, PE
Scholarship	Chris Jibben, PE
Public Relations	Chad Hanisch, PE
E-Week	Erin Steever, PE
Events Coordinators	Gabe Laber, PE Erin Steever, PE
Awards	Brad Ludens, PE
Audio/Visual IT	Chad Stensland, PE
Newsletter	Joshua Peterson, PE
Membership List	Myron Adam, PE

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

CONTACT:

JOSHUA PETERSON, PE
CITY OF SIOUX FALLS, PUBLIC WORKS
224 W NINTH STREET
PO BOX 7402
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57117-7402
605-367-8616
jpeterson@siouxfalls.org

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1. Navigate your internet browser to:
2. <https://sdes-eastern.webex.com>
3. Select the meeting date from the calendar in the "Browse Meetings" Window.
4. Click the "Register" link by the monthly meeting.
5. Fill in your first name, last name, email address and hit the "Register Now" button at the bottom.
6. A registration email will be sent with all the information to log into the meeting.



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.

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

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Rapid City, SD 57709
605-394-6674
Gail.Boddicker@sdsmt.edu

PDH Documentation

Sign-in sheets for Eastern Chapter meetings are posted on the SDES website for members to use for PDH documentation. Go to www.sdes.org to download sign-in sheets.

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