

MEMBERS OF THE

**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

SDES EASTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 1512 SIOUX FALLS, SD 57101 | WWW.SDES.ORG


**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.

**WebEx Information will now remain the same from November to May.**

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER:**

Matt Sutton

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

BY GABE LABER, PE

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and was able to get some Black Friday deals for you and your family. Hard to imagine Christmas is a little over a week away and shortly thereafter the calendar flips to 2022. It's even harder to believe because of the warm weather that we don't normally have this time of year.

Thanks to Chuck Cox with GCC for presenting last month on Portland Limestone Cement. I thought it was interesting to see where the industry is going and how SD compares to our neighboring states.

Welcome to our newest member Matt Sutton.

As you all know we traditionally don't have a December meeting because of our Winter Social that Kent Ode has planned for Thursday December 16<sup>th</sup> at Remedy Brewing. Early that day is another tradition of the Annual Sioux Falls Consultant meeting. I like that we started to combine the two events on the same day a couple years ago. We get to spend a couple hours learning about changes the City is making and seeing all the great project examples about what to do or maybe what not to do. Then we can go and celebrate all the success over a cold beverage with our colleagues. Please make an attempt to attend the social and as always bring a new member.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

BY SCOTT LAVOY, PE

<b>Previous General Fund Balance</b>	<b>11/3/2021</b>	<b>\$ 21,678.89</b>
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**Deposits:**

Newsletter Advertisements	\$ 75.00
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Interest Payment	\$ 0.18
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<b>Total Deposits:</b>	<b>\$ 75.18</b>
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**Expenses:**

Winter Social Event Booking	\$ (159.75)
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<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ (159.75)</b>
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<b>Total General Fund Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 21,594.32</b>
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<b>Previous Scholarship Fund Balance</b>	<b>11/3/2021</b>	<b>\$ (141.01)</b>
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**Deposits:**

SDES Golf Outing	\$ 7,255.74
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<b>Total Deposits:</b>	<b>\$ 7,255.74</b>
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**Expenses:**

None	\$ -
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<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
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<b>Total Scholarship Fund Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 7,114.73</b>
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<b>Total Account Balance</b>	<b>12/10/2021</b>	<b>\$ 28,709.05</b>
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Eastern Chapter September Monthly Meeting IN PERSON Tuesday, January 11th at Pizza Ranch (41st Street Location)**
  - Lunch at 11:30; Meeting starts at noon
- **Winter Social— Thursday, December 16th at Remedy**
- **SAVE THE DATE—SDES Annual Conference, April 5-7 in Sioux Falls**

**December 2021**

**Su Mo Tue We Th Fri Sat**

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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	

**January 2022**

**Sun Mo Tue We Thu Fri Sat**

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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					

*Please join us for the*

# *SDES Winter Social*

*Thursday, December 16, 2021  
Beginning at 4:30 PM*

Remedy Brewing Company  
East Tap Room  
401 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD

*Complimentary appetizers served at 5:00 PM*

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## ENGINEERING AWARDS—SDES EASTERN CHAPTER WES PHILIPS, PE

As you complete as-builts and pay applications for the year, please take some time to reflect on your accomplishments and those of your peers. **Nominate a worthy engineer or project for one of our annual awards:**

- Outstanding Engineering Achievement (Project)
- Engineer of the Year
- Young Engineer of the Year

We have many engineers and projects in the Eastern Chapter that deserve recognition for a job well done. Forms for each award category are attached. **Nominations are due January 28, 2022.**

Nomination forms will be emailed out soon.

Contact Wes Philips at [wphilips@siouxfalls.org](mailto:wphilips@siouxfalls.org) or 605-367-8657 with questions.





## MATHCOUNTS KRISTA MAY, PE

# MATHCOUNTS®

## Save the Date

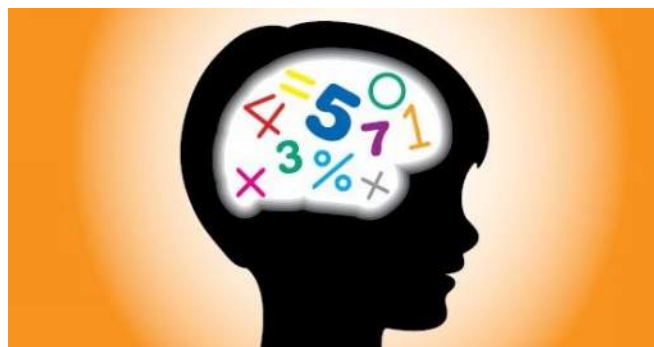
**When:** Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 1:00pm – 6:00pm

**Where:** Southeast Technical Institute, Sullivan  
Health/Science Center, Room HC 257

**Who:** Middle Schoolers from SE South Dakota

Volunteers are needed to help with the registration table, hand out tests, watch for cheating, grade tests, and keep time. Volunteer Sign-up sheet will be available at January's and February's lunch meetings.

Contact Krista May at  
[kristam@infrastructuredg.com](mailto:kristam@infrastructuredg.com) or 605.929.0267  
with questions.





### Matt Corcoran

KLJ  
matt.corcoran@kljeng.com  
605-444-1867

College and Major:  
**University of Iowa**  
**Civil Engineering**



Favorite Quote:

***Try not. Do, or do not. There is no try - Yoda***

I was born and raised in a small town in northeast Iowa. I was first generation in my family to attend college, and I graduated from the University of Iowa in fall of 2010. My first job offer after graduating was with KLJ (then Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson) with their municipal group in Billings, MT. I met my wife, who had also moved to Billings from North Dakota for work. After having our 2<sup>nd</sup> son, we decided to locate our family more centrally between both sets of grandparents, which brought us to Sioux Falls in the spring of 2020. Following our move, we decided to grow our family further, and had our daughter in June of 2021.

During my 10 years with KLJ, I have worked on many multidisciplinary teams in almost every market sector KLJ serves, including land development, cities & counties, power, Tribal & state governments, telecom, railroads, aviation and oil & gas. I've worked on projects in Montana, Wyoming, North & South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa and Texas, and I'm licensed in Montana, North & South Dakota and Iowa. Since 2018, I've been the Department Manager for KLJ's Civil Site department, which covers land development, utilities, and low volume or local roadways. My personal specialty is in commercial and industrial planning and development and well as general municipal engineering and project management. Some of my career highlights include receiving two ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards in Montana in 2018. One in the Industrial Category for a mega fertilizer plant develop for a local ag coop and the other in the studies category for master planning a 1,400-acre rail-served industrial park for the county economic development authority.

**Family:** Wife – Paige; 3 Children – Connor (6), Carson (5) & Amelia (5 mos.)

**Hometown:** Fairbank, Iowa

**Job Title and Years With Firm:** Department Manager – 10 Years

**Favorite Room in My House and Why:** Family room – our open floorplan means right off the kitchen, and its where we have the most fun playing with the kids and our pups.

**My Normal Breakfast:** Coffee

**Hobbies:** I like to practice woodworking and fishing. I'll let you know if I'm ever ready to do the real thing.

**What do you collect?** Tools and fishing tackle (see hobbies above)

**My Best Personality Trait:** I would say my sense of humor, but my kids might disagree...

**Pets:** 2 dogs – Broadus (toy poodle) & Jax (mini-Aussie/poodle)

**Favorite Season:** Fall

**Matt Corcoran**

**KLJ**



*Continued...*

**Pet peeves:** Group think/"That's the way we've always done it" – Nothing has ever been improved and no event of positive historical significance has ever happened as a result of this. Anytime I hear/see it, I want to say, "what you've just said is one of the most insanely idiotic things I have ever heard. At no point in your rambling, incoherent response were you even close to anything that could be considered a rational thought. Everyone in this room is now dumber for having listened to it. I award you no points, and may God have mercy on your soul."

**Favorite beverage:** Diet Mountain Dew

**Favorite TV Show:** The Office or Psych – I've seen both complete series at least 5 times straight through, and I still laugh out loud.

**People may not know about me...** I was in both choir and band in high school.

**What made you want to be an engineer?** I wanted to leave my mark on my community. Something I could point at and tell my kids/grandkids some day that I made that happen.

**What do you like best about being an engineer?** For my position, I love solving problems for my clients. Coming up with creative ideas to address complex issues or increase the efficiency of project delivery is exciting.

**Describe a significant event in your career.** During the planning phase of a mega fertilizer plant development, I brokered an agreement for access between 2 railroads and the county commission. After 2 years, I was able to get all 3 entities to sign easement documents. The county engineer described it as "an act of God".

**Describe a significant event in your personal life.** Other than my wife and kids, being able to attend and graduate from college was a big event for my family. It was only the result multiple generations of hard work to ensure the next one had a better life. Seeing how proud it made my grandparents and parents were a highlight. I owe everything I've accomplished to them.

**Describe an achievement from the past year you are proud of.** The birth of my daughter has been the obvious highlight.

**What are you looking forward to in the next year?** My parents are both retiring at the end of 2021, so we're looking forward to some family vacations

**I hate it when...** you have beautiful weather all week and the weekend is awful.

**Favorite Place to Visit and Why:** Any National Park really. I didn't have much chance to do those types of trips growing up, so experiencing them with my kids firsthand is really exciting.



## 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

No meeting this month.

Hope to see you at the Winter Social!



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

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 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  
 605-951-1004  
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Executive Director

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