

# The Engineering Informer

February 19, 2021

MEMBERS OF THE

**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

SDES EASTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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**NSPE-SD** EASTERN CHAPTER  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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**WebEx:** Our upcoming monthly presentations will be broadcast on WebEx so please plan on tuning in on the web to stay socially distance. See the instructions for how to use WebEx on pages 4 and 11 of this newsletter.

## IMPORTANT NEWS

**Upcoming meetings will be held virtually on WebEx**

**Welcome to our new member:**

Cody Woessner

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY BEN SCHOLTZ, PE

I hope you have all survived the frigid cold during the last week – with your furnaces, fireplaces, and space heaters working diligently. With the widespread effects of the cold snap reaching so far south to Texas, it was surprising to learn about the nation's power grids getting stressed and re-routing power as they did. (Might be a good presentation topic for a future meeting!) And good 'ole Punxsutawney Phil, that waggish groundhog seemed to be correct with his shadow finding and extended winter prediction this year...hopefully mother nature can surmount the power of the meteorological woodchuck and grace us with warmer weather soon!

Our first virtual meeting in January was a great success! We had a great turn out with over 85 individuals on the call. Thank you to Shannon Ausen and Steve Hoff for presenting – and Thanks to everyone that attended!

Next week is Engineering Week, and as we are all getting used to, E-Week will be different this year. To celebrate, please join us (virtually) next week for our chapter meeting and Engineering Awards Ceremony! It will be held virtually on **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at noon**. We typically have many community events to celebrate E-Week that we will not have this year. Although the Mathcounts competition will be held virtually, they are still looking for virtual proctors for the State Competition on March 25 (see details later in the newsletter). Instead of an awards banquet, we will be holding a virtual Engineering Awards Celebration at the beginning of our next Chapter meeting to recognize the individual and project winners. For our regular meeting content, Shannon Ausen with the City of Sioux Falls and Harry Johnston with the SDDOT will be presenting on Upcoming Area Construction Projects, which has traditionally been a February fan favorite. Look forward to seeing you all there!

Looking ahead... The Annual Conference will be held virtually on April 14-16, 2021. The conference will be hosted by the Black Hills Chapter. Registration will be opening soon, so watch for more information.

Finally, welcome to our newest member, Cody Woessner!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

BY SCOTT LAVOY, PE

Previous General Fund Balance	1/4/2021	\$ 22,126.13
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**Deposits:**

Interest Payment	\$ 0.25	
Ad Revenue	\$ 75.00	
<b>Total:</b>		\$ 75.25

**Expenses:**

<b>Total:</b>		\$ -
<b>Total General Fund Balance:</b>		\$ 22,201.38

Previous Scholarship Fund Balance	1/4/2021	\$ 5,066.62
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**Deposits:**

Donations	\$ 900.00	
<b>Total:</b>		\$ 900.00

**Expenses:**

Scholarship Committee Expenses	\$ (106.43)	
<b>Total:</b>		\$ (106.43)
<b>Total Scholarship Fund Balance:</b>		\$ 5,860.19

<b>Total Account Balance</b>	<b>2/11/2021</b>	<b>\$ 28,061.57</b>
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*Celebrate*



# ENGINEERS WEEK

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Celebrate Engineers Week next week! February 22-26th
- Friday, February 26th — **Virtual** Monthly Meeting & Awards celebration at noon on WebEx. Shannon Ausen with the City of Sioux Falls and Harry Johnston with the SDDOT will be presenting on Upcoming Area Construction Projects.
- **SAVE THE DATE:**  
The 2021 Annual Conference will be held virtually on April 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The conference will be hosted by the Black Hills Chapter.

# February 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						

Thank you for renewing your newsletter sponsorships. **Newsletter advertisements** are available throughout the entire year, so if you don't see your company listed, Contact Nancy Hoines for more information. Phone: 605-951-1004,

## FEBRUARY VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING

### February Virtual Monthly Meeting via WebEx

Shannon Ausen (City of Sioux Falls) and Harry Johnston (SDDOT) will be presenting this month on **Upcoming Area Construction Projects next Friday during the lunch hour.**

The meeting will take place on **Friday, February 26th at noon via WebEx.**

The meeting will begin with our Awards Celebration. We have a lot to pack in the meeting, so it is scheduled for noon to 1:30, as we will likely go longer than our normal hour.

**Login Information for SDES Eastern Chapter Meeting: Virtual via Webex on Friday, February 26th at Noon (CST)**

Meeting number (access code): 133 372 3732

Meeting password: c8mJXskCc28

Join from the meeting link:

[WebEx Meeting Link](#)

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-650-479-3208,,1333723732## Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Join by phone

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

Join from a video system or application

Dial [1333723732@sdes.webex.com](mailto:1333723732@sdes.webex.com)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.



## **ENGINEERING AWARDS WES PHILIPS, PE**

**The Engineering Awards for the SDES Eastern Chapter will be announced at our February Virtual Meeting on Friday, February 26th at noon.**

**Our annual awards include:**

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

Thank you to all who nominated our engineers and projects in the Eastern Chapter that deserve recognition for a job well done.

Stay tuned for the winners!



## MATHCOUNTS UPDATE

### KRISTA MAY, PE

# MATHCOUNTS®

Mathcounts has certainly been a little different this year! Nationals has been communicating, coordinating, and scoring the chapter competitions, so there have been no opportunities for us to volunteer at the chapter level. Next year, we plan to be back at it in our normal routine!

The State Competition will be held at 6pm on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The top 5 students from the Chapter level and the next 10 highest scoring students state-wide will advance to the State Competition. The Southeast Chapter needs to provide at least 5 proctors for the State Competition. As a proctor, you will monitor a student taking the virtual competition and electronically sign a proctor statement. The time commitment is expected to be 2 hours on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 30 minutes sometime prior to March 25<sup>th</sup> to set up proctoring arrangements with the student's family. Nationals will be providing guidance on proctoring options and will produce a short video outlining the responsibilities of proctors. I will send this information to anyone who is interested in proctoring.

Please let me know by March 18<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in proctoring for the State Competition.

Krista May

MATHCOUNTS Southeast SD Chapter Coordinator

[kristam@infrastructuredg.com](mailto:kristam@infrastructuredg.com)



## THANK YOU NOTES

SOUTH DAKOTA  
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FOUNDATION

IMPACT *Greatness*

Lance D. Weatherly  
Eastern Chapter South Dakota Engineering Society  
PO Box 1512  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1512

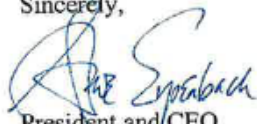
Dear Lance:

Thanks for your generous gift to South Dakota State University.

In a year of near-constant change, the spirit of the Jackrabbit family remains unwavering. Together as one, we can make a difference for our students and our university when it's needed most.

Thanks again for your investment.

Sincerely,



President and CEO  
SDSU Foundation

### Gift Receipt

Date of Gift:	12/31/2020	
Donor:	Eastern Chapter South Dakota Engineering Society	
Method of Payment:	Personal Check 153	
Designation(s):	Eastern Chapter SD Engineering Society Endowed Scholarship	\$15,000.00
	Eastern Chapter SD Engineering Society Endowed Scholarship-	\$2,100.00
	Current Use	
	<b>Total Received:</b>	<b>\$17,100.00</b>

*\*No goods or services were received in relation to your gift.  
Please save this receipt for your tax records*

## THANK YOU NOTES



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering*

February 4, 2021

Eastern Chapter South Dakota Engineering Society  
PO Box 1512  
Sioux Falls, SD, 57101-1512

Dear Eastern Chapter South Dakota Engineering Society:

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$17100 given in December for the Eastern Chapter SD Engineering Society Endowed Scholarship in the Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering. Scholarships are a tremendous way to help us recruit and retain the very best students, and they are only made possible by the generosity of donors like you.

Thank you for your support of our engineering students at South Dakota State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce W. Berdanier".

Bruce W. Berdanier, PE, LS, FASCE  
Dean, Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering



**THANK YOU NOTES**

Josh & Board Members,

Thank you very much for the recent gift to support the annual scholarship and continue building the endowment for the "Eastern Chapter SDES Scholarship" at SDSU.

Scholarship support makes an impact in more than just the student's financial situation. Thank you and let me know if I can be of any support to your organization. Sincerely, Tom Becker

Dear Eastern Chapter South Dakota Engineering Society,  
On behalf of the SDSU Foundation, I want to thank you for supporting our university. Thanks to your gift, we're empowered to create a bold impact on campus and an even bolder future. Your generosity means everything. With loyal hearts so true, it all comes from you. Thank you!  
Sincerely,

Cassie N. Kogotzke - SDSU Graduate Student



## Dane Ekdome

**Stockwell Engineers, Inc.**

**801 N Phillips Ave, Ste #100**

**Sioux Falls**

**DEkdome@stockwellengineers.com**

College and Major:

**North Dakota State**

**B.S. Civil Engineering**



I was born in Fargo, ND and attended a smaller private elementary/high school in Moorhead MN. In high school I played basketball and baseball. I received my Civil Engineering degree from North Dakota State University. During college I played on the club baseball team and was also involved with Greek Life on campus. During my summers in college, I worked internships in North Dakota and in St. Paul, MN and received a full time offer to work for the firm out of St. Paul after college. I worked there for 4 years as a municipal engineer, working with several metro Cities while gaining experience in design, construction administration, City Engineering, and specification writing. During my time in St. Paul, I met my wife while she was completing Grad School at St. Kate's University. After we got married, we lived in Woodbury, MN where we enjoyed going out with friends and trying new breweries. My wife is originally from Sioux Falls and most of my family relocated to Sioux Falls when I was in college. So, when the opportunity came for us to move to Sioux Falls, we took it right away. After moving to Sioux Falls, I passed the PE exam and became a licensed Civil Engineer in SD. We have now been in Sioux Falls for just over 1.5 years, we have an 8-month old daughter, and just moved into our first house on the south side of Sioux Falls.

**Family:** Ashton (wife), Emerson (daughter)

**Hometown:** Fargo, ND

**Job Title and Years With Firm:** Project Engineer; 1.5 years

**Favorite Room in My House and Why:** Living room because of our fire place, and large space for our daughter to play.

**My Normal Breakfast:** A lot of eggs and either toast or oatmeal

**Hobbies:** Working out and playing with our daughter

**My Best Personality Trait:** I would say my work ethic

**Favorite Season:** Summer

**Favorite beverage:** Diet Coke for soft drink; Old Fashioned for an adult bev.

**What made you want to be an engineer?** I love problem solving and being able to apply that interest to infrastructure projects seemed right.

**What do you like best about being an engineer?** I love seeing a road get reconstructed and improved from deteriorating conditions.

**Describe a significant event in your career.** Moving to Sioux Falls

**Describe an achievement from the past year you are proud of.** The birth of our daughter

**I hate ...** Snow & cold. That's it.

**Favorite Place to Visit and Why:** Any Caribbean Island to escape the cold.

## 2020-2021 OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

### Officers

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

### Committees

Nominating Committee	Lee Kaffar, BA
Mathcounts	Krista May, PE
Scholarship	Lance Mayer, PE
Events Coordinators	
E-Week	Erin Steever, PE
Winter Social	Gabe Laber, PE
Golf Outing	Gabe Laber, 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

#### Login Information for SDES Eastern Chapter

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133 372 3732

Meeting password: c8mJXskCc28

**Join from the meeting link:**

[WebEx Meeting Link](#)

**Join by phone**

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

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  
605-951-1004  
sdengineeringsociety@gmail.com





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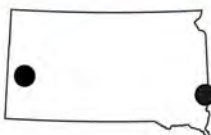
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