

MEMBERS OF THE

**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

SDES EASTERN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN	1
TREASURER'S REPORT	2
NEWS	3
FALL PDH RECAP	4
NEW MEMBERSHIP OP- TIONS	5
NEW MEMBER	6
SIGNS OF THE TIMES	7
WEBEX LOGIN	8
ADVERTISEMENTS	9-11

**WebEx:** Our monthly presentations will be broadcast on WebEx so please plan on tuning in on the web if you can't be here in person! See the instructions on how to use WebEx on page 8 of this newsletter.

**IMPORTANT NEWS****NEW MEMBERS:**

**Mark Joffer**  
**Gregg Jorgenson**

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

BY BEN SCHOLTZ, PE

Well, with October nearly behind us and Halloween possibly looking a lot like Christmas, I suspect the remainder of this year will continue to keep us on our toes! I'm sure some of you may be wondering what's up with our (no so regular) monthly meetings...With COVID numbers in our state continuing to increase over the last few months, our Chapter board has been discussing how to best offer our members regular updates on the goings-on of our society and industry.

In the very near future, members should be receiving an invitation to fill out a very short poll/survey through the SDES website that includes a few questions about our member's comfort level and preference for in-person meetings, virtual events, and social items. Please take 2 minutes to add your thoughts to this survey so we can develop and share content with everyone that works for the ongoing COVID situation. If you don't receive an invitation to the survey, please check out the SDES website (<http://sdes.org/>) for information, or feel free to contact me directly at [ben.scholtz@hdrinc.com](mailto:ben.scholtz@hdrinc.com).

Welcome to our new members: Mark Joffer and Gregg Jorgenson.

I hope everyone continues to keep busy, stay healthy, and have a Happy Halloween! And don't forget to VOTE by or before Election Day!



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY SCOTT LAVOY, PE

**Previous General Fund Balance 7/8/2020** \$ 11,278.66

**Deposits:**

Interest Payment \$ 0.49

Newspaper Ads \$ 235.00

Interest Payment

**Total:** \$ 235.49

**Expenses:**

\$ (148.00)

**Total:** \$ (148.00)

**Total General Fund Balance:** \$ 11,366.15

**Previous Scholarship Fund Balance 7/8/2020** \$ 5,397.06

**Deposits:**

**Total:** \$ -

**Expenses:**

Eastern Chapter High School Scholarships \$ (6,000.00)

**Total:** \$ (6,000.00)

**Total Scholarship Fund Balance:** \$ (602.94)

**Total Account Balance 10/16/2020** \$ 10,763.21



## NEWS

Watch your email for a quick survey to get the membership's opinion on upcoming events including:

- Monthly meetings (in-person/virtual)
  - Winter Social
- Annual Banquet (February)



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, Email: [sdengineeringsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sdengineeringsociety@gmail.com)

## SDES 2020 VIRTUAL FALL PDH CONFERENCE RECAP

BY NANCY HOINES

### SDES 2020 Virtual Fall PDH Conference – By the Numbers:



- 209 Full Registrations eager to expand their knowledge
  - 191 Attendees joining the conference all at once at its peak
    - AKA: The 59<sup>th</sup> and a Half Annual Conference
  - 32 Sponsors, Partners and Supporters whom we couldn't have done this conference without
    - 28 Registrants watching missed sessions via the conference recordings
      - 20 Excellent Speakers coming to us from 11 states
        - 15 Cutting Edge PDH Sessions
      - 10.5 PDHs Eligible throughout the conference
        - 4 Lucky Door Prize Winners
  - 3 Very Worthy Award Winners: SDES Young Engineer of the Year -- Brett Belzer, SDES Engineer of the Year -- Jason Hinds, and SDES – ACEC/SD Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award -- The Arc of Dreams
    - 2 Excellent Keynote Presentations
    - 1 Intriguing Welcome by Gabe Laber
    - 1 Extremely Qualified Moderator - Krista May
  - 1 On the Edge of Your Chair Awards Ceremony hosted by Brad Ludens
- And 1 Outstanding Conference Committee led by Phil Gundvaldson and Gabe Laber along with Kari Johnson, Lee Kaffar, Krista May, Ben Scholtz, Shannon Schultz and Chad Stensland

## NEW MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

BY NANCY HOINES

At the June Annual Membership Meeting the SDES membership voted to add to new membership options for Two Tier Membership (State and Chapter), typically referred to as State Only Memberships. The purpose is to recognize years of service by State Only members by offering Two-Tier (State Only) Retired Memberships and Two Tier (State Only) Life Memberships. Hopefully, this encourages more of our state/chapter only members to maintain their memberships after retirement allowing them to still be part of the organization and encouraging them to share their knowledge and wisdom with younger members.

The Two-Tier (State Only) Retired Membership is available to members if the person has been a continuous member of SDES for a period of 25 years, is at least 65 years of age and has retired from active practice. For these purposes 'active practice' shall mean providing engineering consultation totaling more than 300 hours in a given year. Dues for retired status will be one-half the dues of normal membership, which will currently be \$70.

The Two-Tier (State Only) Life Membership is available if the person has been a continuous member of SDES for a period of 40 years and is at least 65 years of age. Life membership is free.

SDES currently has 104 State Only members, with over 40 members in the Eastern Chapter. Under the new membership model all new members must be three tier members (NSPE/SDES/Chapter). Both Retired and Life Membership status is also available for Three Tier members.

If anyone believes they are eligible for either Retired or Life member status, they should contact Nancy Hoines.





## Vani Jain

HDR

Water/Wastewater Coordinator  
Vani.Jain@hdrinc.com

Graduated from South Dakota  
State in Civil Engineering

**Hometown:** Ludhiana, Punjab,  
India



**Family:** Being an Indian, I come from a big family. Half of my family including my mom and my two guinea pigs named Chocolate and Caramel live in India and I stay here with my uncle and his family for now. I have a brother and 5 cousins. I lost my dad in 2017 due to Colon Cancer.

**Favorite Room in My House and Why:** Back in India, I loved my own room, just because I got to decorate it however I wanted it and I have a lot of memories. I am super attached to my home in India, just because I grew up there and have so many memories!

**My Best Personality Trait:** I am never late. (even though I hate waking up early)

**Been with company:** 5 months

**Favorite beverage:** Chai

**Favorite TV Show:** F.R.I.E.N.D.S

**My Normal Breakfast:** I wish I could ever get up early to have breakfast, but whenever I can, I love having some Coffee and traditional Punjabi breakfast (Which is more like a big lunch).

**Hobbies:** I paint and draw. I have made a lot of paintings and sketches. I am a self-taught artist and I am still learning new things.

**Pets:** I have 2 guinea pigs named Chocolate and Caramel, I named them after food because food is always on my mind and to differentiate between them because of their color.

**People may not know about me...** I am sports car and Marvel enthusiast. I love fast cars!!!

**What made you want to be an engineer?** My dad. He was an engineer and I always looked up to him. And also to earn money to get sports cars!

**What do you like best about being an engineer?** As a female Engineer, it feels like an achievement for being able to just wear a hard hat and safety vest and be an in-charge at a construction site. It feels like an achievement being able to do big things and inspire others.

**Describe a significant event in your personal life.** I think my Dad's death filled me with a lot of motivation to do big things and fulfill my parents' dreams in my life. It was a sad event but a life changing event. I believe that we all have those moments when we finally realize the purpose of their life.

**Describe an achievement from the past year you are proud of.** I was proud that I was able to complete my Degree in 4 years. I was able to buy a Dodge Challenger in July and I have fallen in love with it.

**What are you looking forward to in the next year?** I am looking forward to learning and grow as a person. I want to be a resource to HDR. I am really hoping the Pandemic to end so, I can go home to see my family!

**I hate it when...** Someone leans on my car or talks to me before I have had my coffee haha. I think the thing I hate the most is when people don't admit their mistake or use an opportunity learn and play a blame game. Everybody makes mistakes and its always good to accept them. I also hate when people say that they like Captain America more than Ironman!!!!

**Favorite Place to Visit and Why:** My favorite place to visit is definitely India! Just because I have so many friends, family and memories there. I love being able to spend time with my family and friends and just unwind!

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Time traveler: What year is it?

Me: 2020

Time traveler:



## 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, EI
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

1. Navigate your internet browser to: <https://sdes.webex.com>
2. Select "Classic View" from the left column.
3. Select "Attend a Meeting"
4. Find the meeting in the "Search Meetings" Section.
5. Click the "Register" link by the Monthly Meeting.
6. Fill in your first name, last name, email address and hit the "Register Now" button at the bottom.
7. A registration email will be sent with all the information to log into the meeting.

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

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 HDR  
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 605-977-7753  
 Abby.Nelson@hdrinc.com

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

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 SDES Executive Director  
 PO Box 1076  
 Pierre, SD 57501  
 605-951-1004  
 sdengineeringsociety@gmail.com



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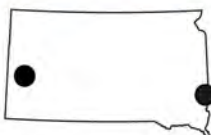
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