



The Engineering Informer

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WebEx: this month's presentation 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 6 of this newsletter.

IMPORTANT NEWS

NEXT MEETING:

January 12, 11:30 AM @ Piz-za Ranch on 41st Street
- Ben Pierson from Sioux Valley Energy will discuss solar energy research out of their Brandon office.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN BY RAY PIERSON—PE

Welcome to winter? This may not be winter weather as we go through the first couple weeks in December but we all know that will change eventually. I hope that everyone enjoys the unusual weather and all is going well as we end the year.

I would also like to thank our presenters from the November meeting that discussed a variety of our organizations that we support. It is satisfying to hear how our donations are being used to help these students and hopefully they will become engineers in the future. Last week the winter social was very well attended and I would like to thank Gabe Laber for setting everything up. It was nice to see many new members as well as other members that I have not been in contact with over the past year.

Our planning for the Annual Conference in April is under-

way. We have a good team of 8 to 10 volunteers that will be working together to make the event a success. The team is going to be led by Chad Huwe. Thank you Chad for stepping up to be the chairman for this event. We will begin meeting in January to discuss more details of the event and beginning our search for speakers for the conference. If you have a presentation that you think would be of interest to the attendees, please let Chad or myself know.

Our next monthly meeting will be January 12, 2016. The presenter has will be Ben Pierson from Sioux Valley Energy who will be discussing their solar power study

From the SDES Eastern Chapter and myself, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

SDES Eastern Chapter President,
Ray Pierson

**TREASURER'S REPORT
BY LANCE WEATHERLY, PE**

	Balance as of	12/8/2015	
Previous General Fund Balance	11/7/2015		\$ 17,215.12
Expenses:			
WebEx (November)	\$	(51.94)	
Winter Social	\$	(505.87)	
Total	\$	(557.81)	
Deposits:			
Fall Conference Revenue	\$	5,801.29	
Interest (November)	\$	2.01	
Informer Ads	\$	150.00	
Total	\$	5,953.30	
Total General Fund			\$ 22,610.61
Previous Scholarship Fund Balance	11/7/2015		\$ 6,640.53
Expenses:			
Total	\$	-	
Deposits:			
Golf Deposit 6	\$	225.00	
Total	\$	225.00	
Total Scholarship Fund			\$ 6,865.53
Total Account Balance			\$ 29,476.14

**WINTER SOCIAL A BIG SUCCESS BY
GABE LABER—PE**

The annual Eastern Chapter Winter Social was held at Cherry Creek Grill on Thursday December 3rd. The turnout was great again this year with 40-50 people attending. This time of year is always busy with various family and work commitments but it is good to see that our attendance remains strong. This event is a great opportunity to enjoy good food, a cold beverage and to visit with your colleagues. Thanks to everyone that was able to attend. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Gabe Laber, SDES Eastern Chapter Event Coordinator.

**IMPORTANT
CALENDAR
ITEMS**



EASTERN CHAPTER MEETINGS:

- January 12, 11:30 @ Pizza Ranch on 41st Street
- February 9, 11:30 @ Pizza Ranch on 41st Street
- March 8, 11:30 @ Pizza Ranch on 41st Street
- No April Chapter Meeting
- May 10, 11:30 @ Pizza Ranch on 41st Street

SDS Annual Conference

- April 6-8 @ Downtown Holiday Inn, Sioux Falls

To add a calendar item, please contact Josh Peterson at JPeterson@siouxfalls.org

SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU LETTER

Caldwell Hall 337 SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007
August 29, 2015


Dear Mr. Schwebach,

Thank you so much for the donation. I am honored and extremely grateful to receive this scholarship. I grew up in a small town on a farm in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. Here at South Dakota State University, I am studying Electronics Engineering Technology. I am a part of the SEET (Society of Electronics Engineering Technology) Club and also participate in intramural basketball and softball when I have the time. I currently have a student position at Daktronics awaiting me this coming week. I hope you know this donation really means a lot to me. With this scholarship, I can focus on my schooling more and not have to worry as much about my financial situation.

In the future, I plan on graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electronics Engineering Technology and a Minor in Management.

I then plan on working for some sort of electronics company (not quite sure yet) while trying to start up my own business. I just can't thank you enough. I am truly privileged to be receiving this donation and I appreciate it greatly.


Thank you again,


Nathan Lax

SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU LETTER

Hello Mr. Schwebach,

My name is Elliot Reiner. I am writing this letter in regards to thank you for your donation to South Dakota State University's College of Engineering. Because of your generous donation, I was able to receive a \$1000 scholarship from the school for academic purposes. I am currently a senior in the Construction Management major program here in Brookings, and I am expected to graduate later this school year. After college, I plan on taking my bachelors degree and use it to get myself a career in the construction industry either here in the Midwest, or in the Southwest United States. Hopefully, I will be able to land a job as a project manager or superintendent. Anyways, thank you again for your donation. Scholarships like the one I am receiving greatly help a student like me out to be able to afford college and to receive a valuable higher education to assist me later in life.

Thanks again,
Elliot Reiner


GETTING TO KNOW YOU Member Bio

CRAIG LAURITZEN

HR Green, Inc
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Suite 400
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
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Fax: 605-338-6125

Degree:
SDSU—BS in Civil Engineering
Colorado Tech—MBA

Favorite Quote:
"*It is better to be silent and
thought a fool than to open one's
mouth and remove all doubt*"

A brief history... I was born in Centerville, SD and attended school through graduation there. I went to SDSU for my degree in Civil Engineering and went back about 10 years later to get my MBA. I worked on the farm growing up until when I got married and still helped until my dad semi-retired in 2003. My wife Christi grew up in Beaver Creek, MN and works as an RN for Sanford and we just moved to Sioux Falls after living in Dell Rapids for 17 years. Our daughters Megan and Allison go to school in Brandon at the middle and intermediate schools. My step-son Jadin is the nursing home administrator in Dell Rapids. My sister Michelle is an ag engineer (SDSU) and works for the NRCS in Brookings. I went back to school while working and raising kids to get my MBA. I grew up with guns and enjoy shooting and hunting a through guys at worked developed an affinity for bow hunting. I also enjoy muscle cars, tractors and Harleys.



A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBER OF THE MONTH:

Family: Wife Christi, daughters Megan (14) and Allison (11) and step-son Jadin (23)

Hometown: Centerville, SD

Job Title and Years With Firm: Project Manager, 12

Favorite Room in My House and Why: the family room in the new house as that is where the pool table and bar are located!

My Normal Breakfast: Dr. Pepper and possibly a granola bar or doughnut.

Last CD Purchased:

Last DVD (movie or game) Purchased:

Hobbies: Shooting, bow hunting, cars, tractors, Harleys to name a few.

What do you collect? My wife would definitely say tools but I would say guns. She may also say tractors....

My Best Personality Trait:

Pets: Our house dog a border collie named Oreo

Pet peeves: People that never use turn signals and those lacking a great deal of common sense.

Favorite beverage: Dr. Pepper or Pendleton or the combination of both!

Favorite TV Show: The Blacklist

Favorite Season: Fall as hunting begins and construction goes into overdrive

People may not know about me... I have taken a black bear with a bow and still have the 1978 Trans Am that I got in high school.

What made you want to be an engineer? I grew up wanting to see how things work and enjoyed construction and seeing things get built.

What do you like best about being an engineer? I really enjoy the

challenge of figuring out how we can fix or improve a situation to improve the quality of life for the community. There is something great about seeing a project completed and all of the positive things that come from it.

Describe a significant event in your career. The birth of my first daughter as she was born with Down syndrome and our life has been a whirlwind ever since.

Describe a significant event in your personal life. I have two. The first was my wife being diagnosed with cancer and her fight through surgery and treatment to being cancer free for 5 years now. The second was when my dad passed away in 2014 as he was overseeing the farm operation. That instantly became my second job to learn crop shares and keeping track of and maintaining the farm and coordinating with our renter as well as looking out for my mom who resides in a nursing home.

Describe an achievement from the past year you are proud of. Being involved and making it to nearly all of Megan's Special Olympic activities.

What are you looking forward to in the next year? I tracked down the first John Deere that my dad owned (a 530) this past year and am looking forward to getting it running to use for parades or poker runs etc. Also looking forward to showing my daughter Allison how to run a hand clutch and see her drive it.

I hate it when... I don't sync up my work and family schedules and double book my time.

Favorite Place to Visit and Why: The farm. There is nobody watching or bothering you. You can work, wrench on equipment or shoot guns without a second thought. Of course being able to play with real tractors is cool.....

2015-2016 OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

Officers

President	Ray Pierson, PE
President Elect	Kurt Peppel, PE
Vice President	Jonathan Wiegand, PE
Secretary/Treasurer	Lance Weatherly, PE
Chapter Director(2nd term)	Craig Lauritzen, PE
Chapter Director(1st term)	Joshua VandenBos, EIT
State Director	Ben Scholtz, PE
Past President	Ryan Johnson, PE

Committees

Nominating Committee	Lee Kaffar, PE
Mathcounts	Phil Gundvaldson, PE
Scholarship	Lance Mayer, PE
Events Coordinators	
eWeek	Erin Steever, PE
STEMS Girls	Erin Steever, PE
Free First Fridays	Erin Steever, PE
Winter Social	Gabe Laber, PE
Golf Outing	Gabe Laber, PE
Awards	Wes Philips, PE
Audio/Visual IT	Chad Stensland, PE
Newsletter	Joshua Peterson, PE
Membership List	Myron Adam, PE

Webex Login Instructions

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.

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.

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

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jpeterson@siouxfalls.org

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

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

SDS MISSION STATEMENT

SDS 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.

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