



# The Missouri Engineer

The official publication of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers  
whose mission is to promote the ethical and competent practice of engineering

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## On Air



NSPE President Michael Hardy, P.E., MSPE Western Chapter President Barb Friedman, P.E. and MSPE President Kurt Higgins, P.E. (pictured from left to right) were guests for "Building Kansas City" talk radio show airing on Sunday mornings on KCMO Talk Radio 710 during the NSPE President's visit to MSPE Western Chapter. The talk-show, hosted by Deb O'Bannon, a University of Missouri-Kansas City civil engineering professor, explores the how's and why's structures are built and how the built environment affects economy, health, roads, homes and environment. (See additional pictures of the NSPE President's Visit on Page 6)

### Presidents Message:

## Stopping MSPE's Membership Decline

By Kurt Higgins, P.E.  
MSPE President



Over the last decade, our membership numbers have been in a continual decline. We must reverse this trend! And, more importantly, I need YOUR

HELP and COMMITMENT to make it happen. To begin with, ask yourself, why did I join MSPE? For me it was because a co-worker invited me to a chapter meeting and asked me to join. Sounds simple, but I think this is all it will take to make a major impact on growing our membership.

**THE PLAN FOR GROWTH**  
Over the next four months I'm

asking every chapter to take the following four steps:

1. Each month, contact every new member to thank him or her for joining and to invite him or her to a chapter meeting.
2. Each month, contact every delinquent or dropped member, and encourage continuation of his or her membership in MSPE.
3. Twice a year, contact every newly registered PE to invite him or her to a chapter meeting and to join MSPE, and
4. Contact every licensed PE in the state of Missouri who is not a member of MSPE and explain our mission, goals, and accomplishments.

There are currently over 7,000 professional engineers who live in the state of Missouri -

however, ONLY 20% are members of MSPE.

See President's Message, Page 2



MSPE President Kurt Higgins, P.E., unveils his plans to reverse MSPE's declining membership to Central Chapter members.

# Four-Step Plan Introduced To Invigorate Membership

## President's Message (continued from Page 1)

Take a look at the table to the right that shows the number of potential members in each Chapter. As you can see, some of our chapters have great representation among the profession. We must increase this representation statewide. We can do this if every one of us asks non-member professional engineers to join.

Over the next month, I will be sending each chapter president a list of names and addresses of those professional engineers living in their chapter who are not members of MSPE. It will be up to each chapter to encourage membership. My goal is to increase membership by a minimum of 5 percent - or 70 new members - for the year. To do this we will not only need to add new members - we must also maintain our current roster.

### MARKETING MSPE

Let's examine why MSPE membership

***"We must increase ... We can do this if every one of us asks non-member professional engineers to join," Kurt Higgins, P.E.***

Chapter	Total MSPE Members	Total Missouri Engineers	MSPE Membership %
D1-Central	52	303	24%
D2-Jefferson City	135	429	31%
D5-Northeast	25	77	32%
D6-Northwest	31	121	26%
D7-Czark	241	529	46%
D8-Rolla	35	181	19%
D9-St. Louis	373	3212	12%
10-Southeast	29	173	17%
11-Southwest	54	187	50%
12-Western	318	1754	18%
50-At Large	13	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1386</b>	<b>7846</b>	<b>20%</b>

is important? The value of membership in MSPE can mean different things to different people. In its simplest form, membership represents a commitment to the society's mission of promoting the ethical and competent practice of engineering. MSPE membership impacts not only the well-being of the engineering profession at the local, state and national levels, but how the public perceives engineers and engineering. And, membership allows you, your fellow members, and yes, even non-members to benefit from MSPE's mission and goals. The following is a look at some of the values provided by and received as a result of your membership.

#### State Level

Membership offers individual engineers an ability to accomplish objectives they could not fulfill alone. MSPE focuses its efforts on five goals that:

- make sure the ethical, proficient, and professional practice of engineering is protected by strong licensure laws;
- continuing education, career development, and networking opportunities are available;
- advocate effective government relations and licensure programs to protect the public and the engineering professional;
- promote professional engineering through involvement in community service programs, and
- enhancing the image and well-being of the professional engineer.

As the recognized voice of professional engineering in Missouri, MSPE maintains direct contact with the state legislature

to guard against unethical practitioners, promote adherence to proper professional procurement for design services and defending against professional practice infringements while keeping its members informed on the latest legislative activity that affects their profession.

MSPE is the only organization that has the privilege of making recommendations for the gubernatorial appointment to the state licensing board. Society representatives meet regularly with board officials to discuss important issues facing the professional as well as the appointment process.

Over the past year, MSPE's dedicated efforts to achieving its mission of promoting and defending the ethical and competent practice of engineering have successfully:

- Challenged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District to review their procurement policies for sub-consulting professional services to follow the Brooks Act (Public Law 92-582), which requires federal agencies to hire based on qualifications;
- Persuaded Missouri's state auditor to properly advise local governmental agencies in audit reports to hire professional engineering and surveying services based on QBS State Law;
- Urged the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects board to file an emergency rule reducing PE licensure renewal fees by half to

help spend down reserves so they were not confiscated by the legislature for general revenue needs;

- Encouraged MODOT to change their engineering research policy to require all engineering-related research, funded by the state, be supervised, signed, and sealed by a licensed professional engineer;
- Conducted outreach efforts with universities to work toward the goal of obtaining PE licensure for all engineering professors at ABET, accredited schools of engineering in the state of Missouri.

#### Chapter Level

In my opinion, our chapters provide immediate hands-on gratification for individual members by engaging them in the society's community service endeavors. MSPE members have the thrill of encouraging today's youth to excel at math by hosting MATHCOUNTS competitions; challenging them to build a bridge through the Model Bridge Program; inviting them to job shadow for a day; raising scholarship funds; and speaking at career days to encourage them to seek a profession in engineering.

Monthly chapter meetings provide an opportunity to network with other professional engineers in the same geographic area. When I joined MSPE 15 years ago, I really didn't have an appreciation for the importance of networking. I am now aware that my local network of colleagues has helped advance my career, increased my clientele, provided contacts to assist me in solving problems, and been a reminder of the importance of the Code of Ethics to our profession.

Members that serve MSPE in a leadership capacity are given opportunities to develop interpersonal skills in a great practice arena that puts them in front of colleagues who understand it takes time and experience to develop these skills. Attempting to acquire these skills in front of clients while competing for their business can be detrimental to one's career.

#### YOUR PART

I urge your participation in recruiting and retaining members within your chapter. It just takes a few minutes to relate your personal membership story and explain how membership in MSPE is a very inexpensive way to protect our profession and pave the way for the next generation of professional engineers by using the examples provided throughout this message.

I look forward to reporting to you at the MSPE Annual Convention in June 2011 that we have exceeded our goals!

## The Missouri Engineer

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## MoDOT Revises Policy For Research Reports On Engineering Projects

Missouri's Department of Transportation (MoDOT) changed its policy on research reports for engineering projects to be supervised by a Missouri-licensed professional engineer, following inquiries by MSPE and the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects (MoAPELSLA),

Requests for proposals from private consultants, universities, and research organizations, through its Organizational Results Division, to provide research reports on engineering projects.

While reviewing this practice, MSPE discovered individuals without Missouri P.E. licenses were performing some of the research. In other cases, licensed individuals and firms were not signing and sealing the research reports or using the correct title block information required by state law.

As part of its mission to defend the practice of professional engineering, MSPE made inquiries to both MoAPELSLA and MoDOT concerning the lack of supervision by a Missouri professional engineer and the absence of a P.E.'s seal and signature on the final engineering research reports. MoAPELSLA responded by sending a letter recommending MoDOT only accept reports for engineering projects that are signed and sealed by a Missouri licensed P.E. as required in Board Rule 20 CSR 2030-3.060 and which have the appropriate title block information as required in board Rule 20 CSR 2030-2.050.

In early September, MoDOT's Organizational Results Division Director Mara Campbell announced the policy revision in a press release which read:

*Effective September 15, 2010, research projects for the Missouri Department of Transportation that rise to the level of "professional engineering services" will be required to be led and sealed by a professional engineer that is licensed in the state of Missouri, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 327 RSMo.*

More information about MoDOT's research program and project contracting in general can be found at [www.modot.mo.gov/services/OR/orRFP.htm](http://www.modot.mo.gov/services/OR/orRFP.htm).

"It is very good to know that MoDOT has responded to the Board's concerns in a positive manner and revised its Research Policy," MoAPELSLA Executive Director Judy Kempker wrote in an email circulated to MSPE.

MSPE is hopeful this action will lead to more university professors becoming licensed and fostering a greater appreciation of the value of PE licensure.



R. Gary Finley, P.E. (fourth from left in bright blue polo) explains revisions to the RSF Scholarship that he, J. Derald Morgan, Ph.D., P.E. and Doug Carroll, P.E. are recommending to insure there are annual candidates for the scholarship award.

## Executive Committee To Meet October 14

MSPE's Executive Committee will be Meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at the society's headquarters building. Agenda items will focus on reversing MSPE's declining membership. President Kurt Higgins, P.E. has set a goal to increase membership by 5 percent, which is equal to 70 new members. To reach this goal, MSPE's President, with assistance from the members of the Executive Committee, are meeting at the chapter level to initiate a grassroots membership drive that focuses not only on new member recruitment, but also on retention. In preparation for the membership drive, MSPE's staff has already developed a new membership brochure, developed a Facebook social media page, and redesigned the website.

At their August 5, 2010 meeting in Springfield, the Executive Committee:

- Agreed to ask Executive Committee Board of Director representative Scott Becker, P.E. to work with

Tony Gott in researching issues that would change Missouri's PE registration law to eliminate the industrial exemption. The Kimel Endowment would allow funding for this effort.

- Learned J. Derald Morgan, P.E. has started an outreach initiative encouraging PE licensure and MSPE membership. Morgan has also agreed to work with Saint Louis University Dean Dr. John Wooschlager on his plans for he and his faculty to become licensed.
- Set the tentative date for Professional Engineers Day at the Capitol on March 2, 2011.
- Approved the June 30, 2010 Year-End Financial Reports for both MSPE and the Educational Foundation. The committee also entered into an executive session to consider bonuses for the staff.
- Will encourage NSPE and COFPAES to make sure the QBS process is

extended to subconsultants.

- Discussed Fall PDH Days with Vice President David Howe, P.E. who reported he has appointed a committee and will be focusing on the themes of design-build and disaster recovery for the two-day event.
- Proposed agenda items for next Design Alliance Meeting on September 23, 2010 include: QBS flow down to sub-consultants, Texas QBS law, tort reform, industrial exemption, inter-professional QBS, and SAVE Coalition representation be considered as agenda items for the next Professional Design Alliance meeting on September 23, 2010.
- Opted against instituting a "convenience fee" for credit card usage after reviewing bank regulations.
- Met with Gary Finley, P.E. on revisions being considered for the RSF Scholarship.

7th Annual

# Fall PDH Days

## Save The Date

**Tuesday and Wednesday, December 7 and 8, 2010**  
**Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 West McCarty St., Jefferson City, Missouri**

- 15 PDH Credits in 2 days
- Member rates: \$400 for both days; \$225 for single day
- Lunch and breaks included in registration fee
- Lodging \$79 plus tax until November 22, 2010
- For room reservations call 573-635-1234 or 1-800-338-8088

**Tuesday, December 7 (9 am -6 pm): Disaster Recovery: Emergency Planning, Minnesota I-35W Bridge Collapse, Missouri I-470 Slope Failure, Crisis Communication and more. Wednesday, December 8 (8 am- 4 pm): Design Build: Contractual Differences, Ethics, Leadership Skills and more.**

Look for the registration form online at [www.mspe.org](http://www.mspe.org) by October 15, 2010

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### NSPE President Makes 47th Consecutive Visit to Western Chapter

On September 16, Michael Hardy, P.E., conducted the 47th consecutive annual visit by NSPE's President to MSPE's Western Chapter. At the traditional breakfast held at Jardine's, which only opens at breakfast for this one event, Hardy enjoyed meeting current and past chapter and state officers from MSPE Western Chapter and Kansas' Eastern Chapter. The day included a trip to the Linda Hall Library that houses the largest collection of engineering books, the 8th annual visit to the UMKC School of Computing and Engineering to meet with campus leadership, faculty/professors and members of the student chapter, and an interview on KCMO Talk Radio. Hardy was accompanied by Western Chapter President Barb Friedman, P.E., MSPE President Kurt Higgins, P.E., MSPE Executive Director Bruce Wylie, Jim Guthrie, P.E., Western Chapter's Liaison to the Student Chapter, and organizer Merrill Watt, P.E. The day-long event concluded with a joint MSPE & KSPE chapter meeting at The Prime Rib Grill.



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All positions offer a competitive benefits package. Please send cover letter and resume to [personnel@kdgin.com](mailto:personnel@kdgin.com) with reference to the specific position and *The Missouri Engineer*.

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Classified advertisements are charged by the word: up to 40 words is \$25.00.; each additional 20 words or less is \$15.00.

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**Walter P. Moore and Associates**  
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## New Members

MSPE welcomes these new members:

### CENTRAL CHAPTER

*Chris Martin, P.E.*  
Marcel Partners  
2101 West Broadway, Suite 103  
Columbia, MO 65203

### JEFFERSON CITY CHAPTER

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## The Missouri Engineer

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## In Memoriam

MSPE received word on the passing of the following members; including a past society president:

**Thomas A. Herrmann, P.E.**, was president of MSPE in 1979-80. He joined MSPE in 1953 and was affiliated with the St. Louis Chapter where he served as chapter president and was named the chapter's Young Engineer of the



Year in 1963, Outstanding Engineer in Private Practice in 1980 and Engineer of the Year in 1981. Past president Herrmann received life member status in 1994 and was a partner in Zurheide-Herrmann, Inc. Consulting Engineers. He was a Retired Army Colonel who served for many years on the Clean Water Commission for the State of Missouri and received many other prestigious honors.

**Patrick "Pat" Sullivan, P.E.**, the Director of Community Development for the City of Jefferson, was a member of MSPE since June 1, 1974. He was a member of the Jefferson City Chapter.

**Harold Theerman, P.E.** of St. Louis Chapter was a member of MSPE since August 1, 1967. He was granted Life Membership by the Board of Directors on January 15, 2000.

## Life Members Continue To Give Voluntary Dues

Two more life members provided generous contributions in response to MSPE's annual voluntary dues appeal. On behalf of a grateful society, we thank:

**James T. Odom, P.E.**  
Hallsville, MO  
**Walter Vandelight, P.E.**  
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