

**North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 23, 2004 – Teleconference Call**

1. **Call to Order** – The Board of Directors of NDSPE met via teleconference on January 23, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. President Don Andersen called the meeting to order. Present by city were:

Fargo: Don Andersen and Eric Jones (proxy for Dain Miller)  
Bismarck: Gary Doerr, Kevin Nelson, Bruce Nelson, Chris Wentz, Thomas Little, Cliff Keller and Mary Nelson  
Grand Forks: Jay Kleven

The Secretary declared that a quorum was present.

2. **Introductions**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda** – Item 7a. Newsletter, item 7b. Mathcounts request and item 7c. State projects and Young Engineer Awards were added to the agenda.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – the minutes from the previous teleconference meeting held September 11, 2003 were distributed via mail and reviewed.

**Kevin Nelson moved that the minutes be approved as distributed. Motion was seconded by Bruce Nelson and carried.**

5. **Old Business-**
  - a. **NSPE Winter Meeting Recap-** Gary Doerr commented that the Saturday sessions focused on membership and leadership The Consensus Congress was held on Sunday which included voting on items from a survey ranked by SSEC and state officers. NSPE will decrease the existing 30 programs by 25% based on the results of the voting at the Consensus Congress. Gary expressed he enjoyed the opportunity to meet others from various states and discuss the membership challenges that most states share.

Kevin Nelson added SSEC, which is made up of Executive Directors and Executive Secretaries from each state, held a summit in Texas this summer and their report has been circulated. SSEC brainstormed to boost membership in order to keep some of the states operating. Kevin added if anyone wants to see the report, he would be happy to forward it to them and would welcome any comments about it.

Jay Kleven inquired about what is causing states to not be able to continue to operate. The reason for most is that they have a large amount of paid staff. Minnesota and Florida have shown growth.

Kevin Nelson suggested that the SSEC report be reviewed by all the Board of Directors and plan to discuss it at the next Board of Directors meeting. Plan to discuss Membership and recruitment at the Annual meeting.

Don Andersen wondered how much of the membership is student membership. Kevin Nelson will get that information.

- b. North Central Regional Meeting Recap-** The North Central region held a meeting at the NSPE winter meeting in Washington DC and voted to change the governance so the nominations committee member selection rotation for the states back to the original rotation. ND will host the fall regional meeting in five years. The 2004 meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 9-10 in Minneapolis. The roundtable breakouts were done at the National meeting similar to what was done at the North Central regional meeting that was held in Bismarck.

**6. New Business-**

- a. Annual Meeting Update- Jay** Kleven reported that the meeting is scheduled for March 25-27<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Grand Forks. The Board of Directors meeting will be on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Jay has reservations for dinner at the King Lots Golf Course for Thursday evening for those who are interested.

Terry Foster, is the NSPE officer that will speak at the noon luncheon on Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Friday afternoon educational session topic is the ASCE Body of Knowledge report and Raise the Bar, focusing on raising education requirements for PDHs.

Cliff Keller commented that until a program is approved for ND, PDHs could be used for other state requirements. Board course providers will be approved not courses.

Bruce Nelson recommended that a letter be submitted to the Board of Registration for NDSPE to be approved as a course provider.

Jay will check with MN, MT, IA, and SD if the PDHs that are scheduled for the Annual meeting will qualify in these states.

The registration cost for the meeting will be \$65-\$75, and a late fee will be added for those not meeting the deadline requirement.

The Grand Forks chapter will invite the Canadians.

Kevin Nelson requested an agenda from Jay to put on the website.

- b. Life Member Status/Consideration of propose Constitution/Amendments-** Walter Abott, P.E., Chapter 3, Harley Swenson, P.E./L.S., Chapter 3, and

Kent Horton, P.E., Chapter 4 are eligible for Life Membership status according to Constitution & Bylaws. The criteria is as follows:

1. Shall have retired from the active practice of professional engineering; and
2. Shall be at least 60 years of age; and
3. Shall have been a Member of the Society, above student grade, in good standing for a continuous period of at least 40 years.
4. A majority of the Board of Directors approval of the application is required.

NSPE notified those individuals that according to NSPE Constitution qualify for life membership. NDSPE and NSPE Constitution differ slightly in the criteria. There have been a few other members that have inquired about life membership that qualify under NSPE Constitution and not under NDSPE's. It was suggested to National to waive the NSPE dues for those individuals and charge them our state dues. That was not an option. NSPE recommended that NDSPE change our Constitution to match NSPE's.

**Kevin Nelson moved to accept Walter Abbott, Harley Swenson, and Kent Horton as Licensed Life Members under NDSPE Constitution. Motion was seconded by Thomas Little and carried.**

Don Andersen added that there was one member that met the age and retirement criteria but did not have 40 years of membership; he did meet the criteria of NSPE but not of NDSPE.

**Bruce Nelson moved to amend our Constitution to consistent with National for the Licensed Life Membership and Retired Membership criteria. Motion was seconded by Gary Doerr and carried.**

Discussion followed whether or not there is enough time to publish the proposed amendments in the Newsletter before the Annual meeting. The Newsletter must be out 2 weeks before the Annual Meeting.

Kevin Nelson will notify the Constitution and Bylaws committee about these issues.

- c. **Enterprise Member Campaign-** Kevin Nelson suggested tabling the item at this time. There is a strong possibility that this program will be suspended by NSPE.
7. **Other Business-**
- a. **Newsletter-** Don Andersen requested articles for the Newsletter by February 15. The Newsletter must be mailed out by March 1, 2004. The agenda for the Annual meeting will be included in the Newsletter. Grand Forks will do a separate mailing for the Annual meeting registration.
  - b. **Mathcounts-** Michael Gunsch and Linda Oster are asking permission to hire an assistant and requesting financial support from NDSPE of \$5000-\$7000 to

bankroll them until they can raise the money themselves to support the position. NDSPE has \$1300 budgeted for Mathcounts. The \$5000-70000 would cover for that individual to travel. The Board of Directors has reviewed the request and would like a written proposal ready for the Annual meeting to explain what they are thinking

**Gary Doerr moved to request a proposal from Mathcounts. Motion seconded by Kevin Nelson and carried.**

- c. **State project Award and Young Engineer Award-** A set of criteria for these awards has been requested by the chapters. The chairman of the committee will be contacted to inform the chapters of the deadline and the criteria for the awards.

**8. Announcements**

NSPE Task Force nominations are due by Jan 30 and the nomination form can be found on the NSPE website.

Any member that recruits 6 members by March 15, 2004 will get their NSPE membership free for a year.

Cliff Keller announced that the Board of Registration would be holding an official hearing on March 24, 2004 at 7pm at the Holiday Inn in Grand Forks.

Cliff Keller noted that the idea of having a box lunch for those taking the P.E. exam would be well received. The Board of registration would be willing to discuss this. NDSPE is moving in the right direction with this. Bruce Nelson suggested putting an application inside the box lunch. Chris Wentz recommended hosting a study session.

**9. Adjourn-**

**Bruce Nelson moved the NDSPE Board of Directors meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Gary Doerr and carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary B. Nelson  
Executive Secretary

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Er. Kevin G. Nelson, P.E.  
Secretary-Treasurer

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