



KSPE TOPEKA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Topeka Chapter, Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
825 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 500, Topeka, KS 66612



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2018-19 Topeka Chapter Officers

State Director:	Robert Koopman
Past President/	Lynn Berges
Membership	
President:	Dan Scherschligt
Vice President:	Jason Hoskinson
Treasurer:	Troy Bandy
Secretary:	Jeff Lolley

KSPE – TOPEKA CHAPTER & KANSAS ASCE SECTION JOINT MEETING

Thursday, May 2nd

**Lake Shawnee
Shelter House #2**

3410 SE Leisure Ln.
Topeka, KS 66605

5:30 pm Social
6:00 pm Dinner

Cost: \$15 per person (Catered BBQ)

Please make your reservation with Jeff Lolley via
e-mail at jeff.lolley@bartwest.com no later than
noon on Monday, April 29th.

Has your e-mail address changed? Please visit the NSPE or KSPE website, www.nspe.org/membership/join-now or <https://www.kansasengineer.org/join-us> and update your contact information. To login, have your e-mail address and membership number handy.

If you have any questions, contact Jeff Lolley by phone at (785) 272-2252,
or by e-mail at jeff.lolley@bartwest.com.



DAN'S DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSION

April is nearly here, what a great time of year. After a long and brutal winter, warm weather is finally upon us. With that, coming up is what I consider two of our more fun events, mainly because they are both at Lake Shawnee and provide opportunity to be outdoors! Our next event is May 2nd where we combine with our ASCE friends, and if it is a bit cool or wet, we can stay inside at the shelter house. Travis Lowe will be giving us a legislative update, which will be interesting as it has been a very active session. Hopefully it will be nice and we can hang out on the deck, grab a bench, and network. Then on June 6th it is back at Lake Shawnee, summer will be upon us whereas we can enjoy the outdoors with the smell of grilled steak!

Now that I am done looking forward to our upcoming meetings, I reflect back to the success of our last meeting. Our awards meeting was an amazing success. A special thanks to Bartlett & West for hosting and making room as the turnout kept growing, we had over 70 people attend to hear a state update and then recognize the award recipients. An extra plus was to have Governor Kelly attend the event.

With that, enough rambling by me, have a wonderful Spring and looking forward to seeing you at the Lake!

Officer Contact Information:

State Director: Bob Koopman – bob.koopman@pec1.com

Past President/Membership: Lynn Berges – Lynn.Berges@ks.gov

President: Dan Scherschligt – danskapa@gmail.com

Vice President: Jason Hoskinson – jason.hoskinson@bgcons.com

Treasurer: Troy Bandy – troy.bandy@terracon.com

Secretary: Jeff Lolley – jeff.lolley@bartwest.com

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR 2019 KSPE AWARD WINNERS



KSPE Special Recognition Award Winner
Kansas State Governor
Laura Kelly



KSPE Outstanding Teacher Award Winner
Shawnee Heights High School
Rebecca Unruh



KSPE Outstanding Teacher Award Winner
Northern Hills Elementary School
Laura Hirsch



KSPE Outstanding Citizen
Kansas Contractors Association
Michael White

2019 KSPE AWARD WINNERS CONTINUED...



KSPE Young Engineer of the Year Award Winner
Bartlett & West
Andrew Wiederholt



KSPE Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award
KTA Open Road Tolling Conversion –
East Topeka Terminal
David Jacobson – KTA
HNTB



KSPE Government Engineer of the Year
Kansas Department of Transportation
Catherine Patrick



KSPE Engineer of the Year
Kansas Turnpike Authority
David Jacobson

KSPE TOPEKA CHAPTER CALENDAR

Date	Speaker/Topic	Member Host	Time	Location
March 28 th , 2019	Joint Meeting with ASCE, Smoky Valley and Tri-Valley Chapter		5:30 PM	Brookville Hotel Restaurant 105 E. Lafayette Ave. Abilene, KS
May 2 nd , 2019	Joint Meeting with Kansas Section of ASCE		5:30 PM	Lake Shawnee Shelter House #2
June 6 th , 2019	Topeka Chapter BBQ		TBD	Lake Shawnee
June 12 th -14 th 2019	KSPE Annual Conference			Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview Wichita

KU STUDENT CHAPTER

Exciting news! A group of dedicated engineering students at KU have asked to become an NSPE Student Chapter of our local KSPE Topeka Chapter. This has been approved by both our Topeka Chapter Board and the State KSPE Board. Their Petition will shortly be forwarded to NSPE for final approval. So we're hoping to see some new (& younger) faces soon at our meetings. Bob Koopman has offered to be their Chapter Liaison. He has met with them and hopes to find ways that they can become involved in our activities and possibly ways that we can be involved with their activities as well. More details to follow in future newsletters.

A few excerpts from the most recent NSPE BOD Update. Please find the report in its entirety [here](#).

Championing the PE License

The Antilicensure Beat Goes On: As of March 1, 2019, we were tracking 29 separate pieces of legislation introduced in 25 states that open the issue of occupational licensure¹. They vary widely in their impact, from general reviews of licensing boards with an eye toward elimination whenever possible (17 bills); to so-called “consumer choice” acts, which would allow unlicensed practice anytime and anywhere the consumer is informed and agrees (4 bills); to “Right to Earn a Living” legislation, that would allow any unlicensed individual who feels they were unfairly precluded from engaging in professional practice to sue the board and recover costs if the litigation prevails (one state). And additional bills continue to crop up on a weekly basis.

NSPE continues to work with state partners on direct response and to work with coalitions of other licensing interests. We are also in the early stages of developing a multiprofession public awareness campaign to build a counternarrative to the one antilicensure forces have so effectively mounted. Stay tuned for details.

Ethical Guide to the Profession

Preventing Sexual Harassment of Women in Engineering Academia: A major consensus study report by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. says that addressing sexual harassment “is critical to avoiding further loss of talent in academic sciences, engineering, and medicine, and thus to advancing the nation’s economic and social well-being and its overall public health.” NSPE covered the issue of sexual harassment in the engineering workplace in September/October’s *PE* magazine.

One state is already addressing the issue. Beginning with license renewals after January 1, 2020, PEs in Illinois will be required to obtain one hour of sexual harassment training as part of their continuing education requirement.

The National Academies study also found that “professional societies have the potential to be a powerful driver of change through their position to help educate, train, codify, and reinforce cultural expectations for their respective scientific, engineering, and medical communities.” It cited actions taken by professional societies, including codes of conduct specifically related to conference attendance and revising codes of ethics to reflect this issue.

The NSPE Board of Ethical Review has proposed adding a new professional obligation to the NSPE Code of Ethics stating that “engineers shall treat all persons with dignity, respect, fairness and without discrimination.” The proposal will be voted on at the NSPE House of Delegates meeting this July in Kansas City.

A few excerpts from the most recent NSPE Update. Please find the report in its entirety [here](#).

NSPE Targets Contractor ‘Snooping’ Bills

A threat to AEC firms that contract with government agencies is emerging. The threat comes from model legislation to require private businesses that contract with any government body to install tracking software on the computer of every employee who works on a public project. NSPE is working with state societies to [thwart these bills](#), which have been introduced in 23 states.

TransparentBusiness—a company that sells tracking software—is behind the aggressive promotion of the model legislation aimed at reducing fraudulent charges by government contractors. The company has presented the bill to more than 40 state legislatures. Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, and Washington are included in the 23 states in which some version of this legislation has been introduced.

The Illinois Society of Professional Engineers has responded in opposition to a bill introduced in Springfield, joined by the American Council of Engineering Companies–Illinois, the American Institute of Architects–Illinois, the Illinois CPA Society, the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association, the Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association, and the Illinois Secretary of State.

In Montana, the legislature has also detailed the negative financial impact the bill would have on a state economy through a [fiscal note](#).

Air Force Major Named Top Federal Engineer

Major Justin Delorit, Ph.D., P.E., garnered NSPE’s top award for federal engineers at a ceremony at the National Press Club on February 22. One of ten worthy finalists for the 2019 Federal Engineer of the Year Award, Delorit was named for his work as the deputy base civil engineer at the Kunsan Air Base in the Republic of Korea.

A member of the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron, Delorit leads a team of 324 military and American and Korean civilian engineers. He directs the Air Force’s largest airfield construction program in the Pacific, which includes a \$160 million initiative building protected structures for arming and refueling the fleet of F-16s at Kunsan Air Base.

Delorit, having seen the accomplishments of previous award finalists and winners, considers this award one of his greatest career recognitions.

After receiving the FEYA, he discussed the potential impact that engineers can have in growing the next generation of industry and agency leaders.

“We’ve all certainly discovered something we’re good at, we have all worked really hard to find that,” Delorit said, “and I think the challenge moving forward is to learn to give that away to the next crop of engineers that are going to be involved in federal service.”



MAJOR JUSTIN DELORIT, PH.D., P.E., SPOKE ABOUT GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS AFTER RECEIVING NSPE’S FEDERAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD.