

**New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 19, 2004
Holiday Inn – Center of New Hampshire
Frost Banquet Room**

Meeting attendees

John Alger P.E.	Dan Hudson P.E.	Bill Straub P.E.
Robert Couture P.E.	Roch Larochelle P.E.	
Holly Clark E.I.T.	Ben Pratt P.E.	Gene O'Brien P.E. (Regional VP)
Joe Ducharme P.E.	Paul Schmidt P.E.	Jim Barrett (Guest/Observer)

Joe Ducharme called the meeting to order at approximately 4:47 pm. A summary of the items discussed is presented below.

Review of the January 2004 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Paul Schmidt motioned to accept the minutes as submitted and Bill Straub seconded the motion. The January 2004 Board of Director's meeting minutes were accepted as submitted. It should be noted that later in the meeting, Ben Pratt identified an error in the January meeting minutes in that the number of NH schools registered for MATHCOUNTS this season should be fifty-five (not the number of five as shown in the meeting minutes).

Membership Update

Joe Ducharme invited Gene O'Brien, NSPE Northeast Regional Vice President, to share any insights about NSPE membership with the board. Gene mentioned the following topics:

- Using December 2003 data, approximately 25% of the NHSPE membership does not pay dues (due to valid reasons such as being classified as a retired member or a life member). He offered that NHSPE may want to consider a letter to these members asking them to consider a voluntary dues contribution.
- If an NSPE member brings in 2 new members, the NSPE member will have his next year's national dues waived. This is the Give Back, Get Back program and will be in effect through June 30, 2004.
- In support of the Enterprise program, NSPE has promotional material that could be used as part of the information sent to potential participants. As a reminder, under the Enterprise program, if an employer enrolls at least 10 engineers, it can receive a 10% discount on dues (if the employer sends in a single check for membership for the engineers).

Observer Report

Dan Hudson reported that the deadline for articles for the next OBSERVER issue is March 31. At the next board meeting in early March, specific assignments for articles will be finalized. Joe Ducharme asked Dan to update the board, at the next meeting, on the status of Observer advertiser contracts. Specifically, are they contracted for 4 Observer issues, or for a year time frame (such as January to January regardless of the number of issues)?

ACTION: Dan Hudson will provide a status of Observer advertiser contracts at the March board of director's meeting.

March 2004 NHSPE Membership Dinner Meeting

Joe Ducharme stated that the meeting announcement will get posted on the NHSPE website shortly. The mailing of the meeting announcement should go out next week. The meeting will be at Fratellos on the March 18. No tour will be organized prior to the meeting.

Nominating Committee

Joe Ducharme placed this item on the February agenda as a reminder that this was an item that needed attention in the near future. Bill Straub, past NHSPE president, has the lead for this item.

National and Regional Updates

Taking advantage of the fact that Gene O'Brien was in attendance, Joe Ducharme again asked Gene to discuss any national/regional items of interest with the board members. Gene discussed the following:

- Gene held up the meeting minutes from the recent national meeting in Washington, DC. He asked for 1) input from NHSPE board members on any items of interest, and 2) recommendation on any actions or voting positions that should be considered. Gene pointed out that the NSPE regional Vice Presidents need to interface with and represent the state societies to NSPE. Gene passed out his NSPE business card and encouraged the board members to keep in contact with him.
- The national board has passed a resolution to oppose increasing the number of H-1B visas allowed to be issued above the current level of 65,000.
- National supports the outsourcing of engineering services overseas only when it can be shown that the required engineering talent is not available in the United States.

- National has approved a policy that supports the use of the term “engineer” only for 1) licensed individuals, 2) graduates of an approved ABET curriculum, or 3) personnel in a job category where federal law allows the use of the term engineer.
- National will keep the format of 2 national meetings per year.
- Gene reported discussion that he had initiated with applicable NSPE national personnel concerning a flier being used for the upcoming NSPE meeting in Hawaii. Gene had also contacted the NHSPE member that had raised a question about the promotional material to pass along the actions that he had taken.
- Howard Blitman has sent notices out to state presidents inviting nominations for NSPE president elect and treasurer. These would be for people who, if elected, would assume office in July 2005.
- NSPE is holding discussions with internet domain naming companies about the potential for engineering related domain names/extension.
- Personnel interested in serving on national committees are encouraged make their interest known. The commitment is for 1 year, from July to June. Gene pointed out that he first became active in national by participating on a committee.
- In order to more effectively reach out to younger members, Young Engineer Advisory Councils (YEAC) have been created. Gene encouraged the board to see if any young engineer in NH was interested in participating on the regional YEAC. Currently, only one other regional state has any participation so this is an area which could use the help and support of younger members.

Legislative Update

John Alger reported no specific legislative activity currently needing NHSPE board member action. He then provided his input as to the current status of the NH school funding situation in the legislature.

April New PE Dinner

Joe Ducharme reported that a letter sent to Senator John Sununu requesting his participation as a speaker has not yet been answered. Joe will follow-up with a phone call. If unsuccessful, Joe will need the help of the board at the March meeting to finalize on a speaker for this meeting. The April dinner is tentatively planned for April 13.

ACTION: Joe Ducharme will phone Senator John Sununu’s office to inquire about his ability to be the speaker at the April New PE dinner.

QBS Coalition

Paul Schmidt reported that a meeting of the QBS coalition is planned for March.

Engineer's Week Mall Display

Roch Larochelle reported volunteers have been finalized and that the mall display is ready to go. It was discussed that for next year, another activity or event may be appropriate since it was felt that the mall display needed the participation of many people and their efforts might be bettered focused to a different activity next year.

MATHCOUNTS

Ben Pratt reported that the NH state MATHCOUNTS meet is set for March 6 at Plymouth State in Hyde Hall. Ben asked for any NHSPE volunteers able to help with the scoring to be at the school no later than 9:30 am.

NHSPE Scholarship Report

Roch Larochelle reported that approximately 400 mailing have gone out to local schools and guidance councilors. The deadline for submitting applications is April 1 and Roch noted that he has already started to receive applications.

Update on Math and Science Teachers Award Program

Dan Hudson reported that the transition of responsibility from Craig Musselman is complete. A brochure has been drafted that could be used as a promotional tool. Dan is working with Bob Henry at UNH to explore the possibility of having UNH help to produce the brochure.

NHSPE Promotional Materials

Mike Delloiaccono has e-mailed quote information to Joe Ducharme. Joe will forward information to the board and ask for input.

ACTION: Joe Ducharme to forward promotional material information to board members and ask for their input.

NHSPE Annual Meeting

It has been confirmed that NSPE president Teresa Helmlinger will be the speaker for the NHSPE Annual meeting in May. The meeting is planned to be held in Portsmouth and will be a joint meeting with the Maine Society of Professional Engineers.

Request from Craig Musselman

Joe Ducharme advised the board that he had received a request from Craig Musselman to ask the board to consider endorsing Craig for a second term on the NH State PE Board. Joe made the board aware of Craig's request but pointed out that no specific action was required by at this time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the NHSPE Board of Directors is planned for March 10 at 6:00 pm. The meeting location will be the H. L. Turner Group offices in Concord.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Couture P.E.
NHSPE State Director