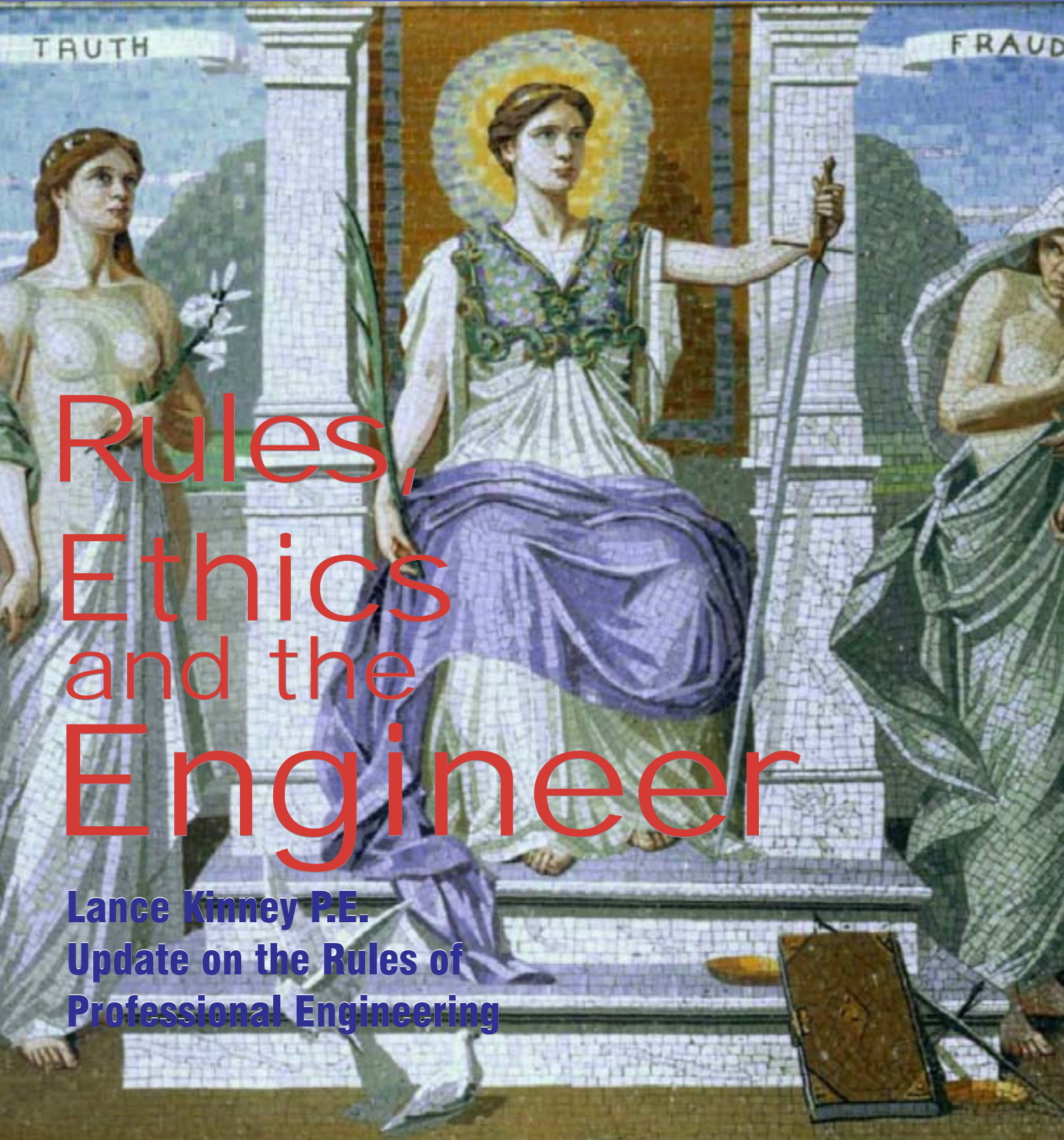




Travis Engineer

Newsletter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers Travis Chapter

March 2007 Vol. 57, No. 3



Rules, Ethics and the Engineer

Lance Kinney P.E.
**Update on the Rules of
Professional Engineering**

Know the rules

Lance Kinney, P.E., Deputy Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, will update Travis Chapter members on rules changes and possible outcomes of the upcoming Texas Legislative session. Lance had originally been scheduled to give this presentation in January, but had to reschedule to this month.

Participation in this session qualifies for one PDH toward your Ethics requirement



Lance Kinney, P.E., Deputy Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers

Still looking for your Professional Development Hour (PDH) in Ethics? Come join us at the next TSPE Travis Chapter luncheon where **Lance S. Kinney, P.E.**, Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers (TBPE), will give us an Engineering Practice Update. This update will include activities at TBPE, rule changes, reminders, ethics, and the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Kinney will also be available to answer any questions you may have about the TBPE.

Mr. Kinney is the Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers. He provides assistance to the executive director, oversees various agency programs and activities, and represents the Board at statewide and national functions. In his previous position as the Director of Licensing, he was responsible for the examination, application review, licensure, and renewal processes for over 50,000 individuals and 7,000 engineering firms as well as the development of the Continuing Education Program.

Prior to working at the Board, he worked in the semiconductor industry for 11 years. He has a Bachelors Degree in Physics from the University of Texas, a Masters Degree in Industrial Technology from Texas State University, and is working on a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology at the University of Texas. He has lectured as an adjunct professor in the Engineering and Technology Department at Texas State University and Electronics and Advanced Technologies Department at Austin Community College. His hobbies include ice hockey, music, and computers. He resides in Austin with his wife Tanya and son Rigen.

March Luncheon Program

Special Guest:
Lance Kinney
Deputy Director, Texas Board of Professional Engineering

Wednesday, March 14, 2007
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
The Green Pastures Restaurant
811 W. Live Oak Street

Cost: \$20 per person with advance reservation;
\$5 for students and government employees

Reservations can be made by visiting www.tspe-travis.org

New Meeting Location and Date

Our monthly meetings are now on the second Wednesday of the month at the Green Pastures Restaurant located at 811 W. Live Oak Street in South Austin

Travis Chapter



www.tspe-travis.org

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Upcoming Events

March 14, 2007

Travis Chapter Meeting

The Green Pastures Restaurant

811 W. Live Oak Street

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



April 5, 2007

Happy Hour

at Opal Divines - Penn Field
(3601 Congress Ave.)

5:30 p.m.

May 4, 2007

2007-08 Officers Installation

See You There!

New Meeting Location

Our monthly meetings are now on the second Wednesday
of the month at the Green Pastures Restaurant located at
811 W. Live Oak Street in South Austin





Engineers were busy this month

By Julie Hastings, P.E. - President, Travis Chapter TSPE

February was a busy month and I wanted to take the opportunity to recap on all the activities and let you know what TSPE did for the Professional Engineer last month.

First of all, on February 6 we hosted PE Day at the Capitol. We had over 100 engineers from across the State of Texas join us in Austin to meet with the legislature. We split up into groups of 3 and 4 engineers and visited every single Representative's and Senator's office in the State of Texas. Our agenda was to inform our government of our issues and concerns and let them know that we are here to help them understand our issues better. Our list of issues included the ever-present threat on our QBS system as well as Design-Build, Education, and Water issues. The day was capped off with a reception at the Hilton where we were joined by many of our Senators and Representatives with Lieutenant-Governor David Dewhurst as our Keynote Speaker.

The Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee is still hard at work tracking all of the legislation that has a potential impact on the Engineering profession. The good news is – Anti-QBS has not yet been introduced so keep your fingers crossed!

To kick off e-Week, TSPE Travis Chapter hosted our annual

MathCounts event. **Garrett Bonn** pulled it all together with the help of volunteers from the professional and student chapter for a very successful event. Once again, Mathletes came from all over to show off their superb math and analytical skills in this intense competition. See Garrett's article for more details. Education is a huge issue for the future of engineering as there continues to be more work in the State of Texas then we have engineers to get it accomplished. And, in the Central Texas area, the growth is not slowing down, so we need to get these kids interested and engaged in math and science at an early age so we have future engineers.

Which leads me to my next topic – e-Week volunteering at local schools. This effort is being spearheaded by **Larissa Prince**. This is an opportunity to go to area schools to speak to students about engineers. In addition, you get the opportunity to lead the students in an engineering-related activity to pique their curiosity and skills. It is truly amazing to see these students blossom when given the opportunity and direction to draw on their abilities to think in a different way. If you are interested, please contact Larissa Prince at ldprince@lan-inc.com. In addition, **Julia Harrod** has volunteered to be a Team Leader for a school in north Austin so if you

are interested in volunteering in that area of town, please e-mail Julia at juliah@mwmnc.com.

Wrapping up this year's activities we have **Lance Kinney** with TBPE speaking at our March meeting (good for a 1-hour ethics credit for PDHs), another great speaker at our meeting in April and our officer installation banquet in May. Speaking of our officer installation banquet, this is another opportunity to get involved with TSPE and help lead the way for the success of our profession. Positions up for election include President Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, State Director, Associate Member Director, Banquet Director, Communications Director, Professional Practice Director, Education Director, and Awards Director. In addition to these elected positions, we will be looking to fill our committee chair and member positions so if you want to start getting involved but aren't ready to jump in to a Board position, don't hesitate to get in touch with us as well. SO – e-mail any of your current Board members or grab one of us at the next meeting and let us know of your interest.

About the Cover:

Law 1896, by Frederick Dielman (1847-1935)
Mosaic panel over north fireplace mantel in the The Members Room of the Thomas Jefferson Building in Washington D.C.
Photo credit: Architect of the Capitol

Elections on the Horizon

Leaders needed

Elections for the 2007-2008 TSPE Travis Chapter Board and Directors are right around the corner. We need nominations for the following board and directorship positions:

Board Positions

- President -Elect
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Director Positions

- State Director
- Alternate State Director
- Associate Member Director
- Banquet Director
- Communications Director
- Professional Practice Director
- Education Director
- Awards Director
- Finance Director

If you are interested in being a leader, but not in a Board or Director position, the following committees are also very important and in need of a chair or active members:

- PEs in Private Practice
- MATHCOUNTS
- Student Chapter Liaison
- Banquet Committee
- e-Week
- Christmas Party
- Summer Party

To nominate yourself or another chapter member, contact any of the Board members listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Local MATHCOUNTS contest attracts 300 mathletes

By Garret Bonn, P.E.

Travis Chapter MathCounts Coordinator

On Saturday, February 17, over 300 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from 30 local middle schools gathered to compete at the Travis Chapter's MATHCOUNTS competition. Thanks go out to over 30 volunteers from the Travis Chapter and U.T. Student Chapter who helped make this year's event a resounding success. Thanks to a generous donation from *Miller Blueprint*, our local sponsor, we were able to provide lunch for everyone in attendance. Six teams and five

individuals will be advancing to the state competition on March 24 in the Austin Hilton Hotel, where they will compete against the top students from other Chapter Competitions all over the state of Texas. If you are interested in helping out at the state level event, please contact **Joel Harrington** at joel@tspe.org.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success; we look forward to seeing you at next year's competition.

Chapter forms committee for PEs in Private Practice

A new initiative that TSPE – Travis Chapter is taking on is the formation of a new Professional Engineers in Private Practice (PEPP) Committee. This committee is being formed to represent engineers in the Travis Chapter area with local engineering issues. Our State level L&GA and PEPP committee are working hard to protect our interests at the State level. However, there are many local issues that will miss their radar but are still very impor-

tant to us. The committee is in its infancy stage right now and is very important for our profession. If you have any ideas or want to be involved, please let us know. **Graham Moore** has volunteered to chair this committee and get it running. You can contact **Julie Hastings** at jdastings@lan-inc.com if you are interested in helping with the committee or if you have an issue that needs attention.

**Not receiving
Chapter e-mail notices?
Changed your address or title?
You may have to update your
membership information.**

To update your information, have your membership ID number in hand and log on to www.nspe.org and click on "membership."

Or call (888) 285-6773.



TSPE State Happenings

“What is TSPE doing for me?”

By **Julia Harrod, P.E.** -
State Director, Travis Chapter TSPE

PE Day at the Capitol . . . A Success!

Nearly 100 TSPE members represented YOU at the state capitol on February 6. Every two years, while the legislature is in session, TSPE schedules a day at the Capitol when members visit elected representatives to discuss engineering-related issues. This year, we delivered position statements and discussed these issues with the offices of all 182 members of the Texas House and Senate. Teams of TSPE engineers were briefed on this year's hot button issues relating to qualifications based selection (QBS), alternate delivery methods (including design-build), education, water resources, and the pending good samaritan bill. During the morning session, Representative Bill Calligari gave some pointers on working with the legislators before the group was treated to a luncheon keynote address by House Speaker Tom Craddick, who updated us on pending issues of concern to engineers. Ninety-seven engineers descended on the capitol for the afternoon, pounding the pavement (or in this case, tile) to get our message out. From all accounts, the groups were generally well-received and many were able to speak with chiefs of staff or with representatives themselves.

The event concluded in the evening with a legislative reception and dinner with Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst as the keynote speaker. Eleven legislators joined 115 engineers and guests for dinner with an additional eight legislators attending the reception – a fabulous turnout during a busy legislative session!

As a personal note, I can attest to the effectiveness of our efforts. Two weeks after PE Day at the Capitol, I was meeting with my representative, Mark Strama. He still had a few of the TSPE-labeled chocolates we distributed for PE Day his desk. Although he was not able to meet with us himself on February 6, he recalled the briefing that he received from his chief of staff on our issues and he was able to ask me informed follow-up questions during our subsequent meeting. Our message is getting through!

Bill Fendley, P.E., chair of the State Legislative and Government Affairs Committee (L&GA), led the charge for this year's PE Day at the Capitol with help from members of the L&GA committee. We have **Gerhardt Schulle's** yeoman efforts to thank for lining up Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst and Speaker Craddick for the luncheon and dinner keynotes. TSPE's ability to obtain such high level speakers is a

reflection of the visibility and standing of our organization.

If you would like more information on the issues we presented to the legislators on February 6 or an update on the current bills being tracked by the L&GA committee, please feel free to contact me at juliah@mwm-inc.com or 453-0767.

MATHCOUNTS

The 2007 TSPE State MATHCOUNTS competition will be held on March 24 at the Hilton Austin, 500 East 4th Street. For more information on this event, or to volunteer, please contact Trish Smith by email at trish@tspe.org or by phone at the TSPE state office at (512) 472-9286.



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Engineers Banquet caps busy month

Engineers from three Austin engineering societies gathered at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin on March 3 to celebrate Engineers Week with a banquet and award presentation.

The engineers honored each chapter's outstanding engineers.

The Travis Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers named **John Wooley, P.E.** as its Engineer of the Year; and **Dale Murphy, P.E.** as Young Engineer of the Year.

The Austin branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers honored **Bob Gilbert, Phd, P.E.** as their Engineer of the Year.

Hank Wiederhold, P.E. was named Engineer of the Year by the Texas section of the American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers and **Dean Santistevan** was named their Young Engineer of the Year.

After the awards presentation, guests joined the honorees for an evening of casino gaming and dancing to the live music of *Kat Edmonson* and her band.

The banquet capped a busy month for the Engineering community which included PE Day at the Capitol and the annual MATHCOUNTS competition at U.T. Austin.



Banquet guests enjoyed casino gaming, dinner and dancing.



John Wooley, P.E. was presented the award for TSPE Engineer of the Year by Austin Mayor Pro-Tem Betty Dunkerley.



Dale Murphy, P.E. was presented TSPE Young Engineer of the Year by Susan Roth, P.E., who won the award last year.



ASABE awarded Hank Wiederhold, P.E. (left) Engineer of the Year and Dean Santistevan (right) was named their Young Engineer of the Year. Anna Rodriguez presented the awards for ASABE.



Singer Kat Edmonson and her band provided live music for the evening.



Dale Murphy, P.E. (right), presented ASCE Engineer of the Year award to Bob Gilbert, P.E.



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