



# KSPE TOPEKA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

January 2019

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



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ▶ February Meeting
- ▶ President's Note
- ▶ Announcements
- ▶ KSPE Legislative Dinner
- ▶ Future Cities
- ▶ Calendar
- ▶ NSPE Board Update

## 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

## FEBRUARY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

### ***KSPE Update & Award Presentations***

Presented by  
**Dennis Kuhlman**  
2018-2019 KSPE President

Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

***Bartlett & West***  
1200 SW Executive Dr.  
Topeka, Kansas  
(Huntoon is OPEN!!)

11:30 am to 1:00 pm

**Cost: \$15 per person (Catered Lunch)**

Please make your reservation with Jeff Lolley via  
e-mail at [jeff.lolley@bartwest.com](mailto:jeff.lolley@bartwest.com) no later than  
**noon on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Has your e-mail address changed? Please visit the NSPE or KSPE website, [www.nspe.org/membership/join-now](http://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](mailto:jeff.lolley@bartwest.com).



## DAN'S DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSION

I hope everyone had a great holiday season, I still find it hard to believe we are in 2019 already. If you look at the schedule of upcoming events in this newsletter, we have a pretty active calendar coming up. Starting with Future Cities in January, there are a total of 8 events with the final event being the KSPE annual meeting held June 12 - 14 in Wichita. Hence my message, there is ample opportunity to get involved. Yes, it seems like we all have extremely busy schedules, and making all these events is surely a stretch. Yet with 8 opportunities between now and June, please make an effort to attend whatever event you can. Even making it to one or two gives you the opportunity to network with peers in your profession. A good example was our last meeting which was the annual legislative dinner. It was a successful meeting with a great opportunity to enjoy a nice meal in a casual environment, a chance to network with your peers with the plus of having local legislators in attendance. With that said, may you have a successful 2019 and hope to see many of you during one of our upcoming events.

Dan

### **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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### KSPE STATE BY-LAW REVISIONS

The Bylaws Committee endorses a cohesive and integrated approach for the administrative and governing language encompassing the activities of KSPE. KSPE is currently governed by a Constitution and Bylaws. Updates or amendments to these documents have not been made since 2003 (Constitution) and 2008 (Bylaws). NSPE recently provided suggested language for State Society Bylaws, which includes modifications to the membership model, policies, and procedures that were adopted by NSPE in July 2018.

KSPE and the KSPE Bylaws Committee has been actively working toward the adoption of the suggested language. In August 2018, the Committee determined that the following course of action was deemed necessary to fully adopt the NSPE Model Bylaws:

- 1) Combine the KSPE Constitution and Bylaws language such that the governing language is retained in only one document
- 2) Transfer all applicable KSPE Constitution language into the KSPE Bylaws document
- 3) Remove the KSPE Constitution as a governing document
- 4) Revise the KSPE Bylaws language such that it aligns with the minimum practices of KSPE
- 5) Revise the applicable KSPE Bylaws language with the suggested NSPE organization, format, and language
- 6) Create a separate KSPE “Operating Manual” to outline the operating procedures for KSPE

The Bylaws Committee presented the documents to the Board for a 30-day review and requested a vote at the December meeting. Subsequently, the Board has requested a full [electronic] vote from eligible members to approve the new language. If all is successful, the new Bylaws will be in place before the fiscal year commences! Please click on the link [HERE](#) to vote now or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Please be aware, if you do not know your member ID, you can leave that portion blank and still submit a ballot.

## KSPE LEGISLATIVE DINNER

### DECEMBER LEGISLATIVE DINNER

On Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Topeka Country Club, the Topeka Chapter of KSPE successfully hosted their annual dinner hosting several legislative representatives from local districts. Each representative in attendance was introduced and the discussions ranged from topics such as their political history, goals for the upcoming session, political challenges, transportation and licensing-related issues, etc. The consensus from my own experience and the unofficial survey I accomplished after the dinner was that all three dinner options were fantastic and all who were in attendance had a wonderful time at the event.



We typically attempt to schedule the annual legislative dinner on a date when legislators are all in Topeka to try and minimize the conflicts with other events on their busy schedules. However, please feel free to contact any Topeka KSPE Chapter officers if you have any comments or suggestions that would help with attendance at this event.





# fuTuRe City

## COMPETITION



[Become a judge now](#) and have a positive impact in the life of a future engineer!

For the last three months, kids all around the world have been hard at work designing cities of the future. Don't miss seeing the innovators of tomorrow in action! The [Great Plains Future City Competition](#) will be held on **January 19th, 2019** in Manhattan, Kansas!

[Register today](#) to become a Future City judge. There are opportunities to participate remotely (judging from a home or work computer), and/or in-person on the day of the competition. Either way, your involvement has a great impact on the lives of middle schoolers.

[Click here to register today!](#)



*"... We were treated with respect by adults in the engineering industry. They took our ideas seriously and it felt like they were looking at us as peers, which is so rare when you are a kid. It really helped to build our confidence."*

– Adam Patinkin, Alumnus, on his Future City experience.

 [Forward this message to friends or colleagues!](#)

The Great Plains Regional is being held on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019 at the Engineering Complex on the Kansas State University campus and judges are needed for the competition. Our regional team count is way up this year, so we'll need **more day-of-event judges this year than ever before.**

Our day of event judging coordinator Ben Ware will lead the judges training after the free judges breakfast before we get the competition rolling!

If there are folks that want to help judge, but cannot make it on the day of competition, we are also in need of several judges for the Virtual City Slideshow/PDF deliverable

(<https://futurecity.org/about-the-competition/competition-deliverables/virtual-city-design>)

Our email address is [greatplains@futurecity.org](mailto:greatplains@futurecity.org) and we'd love to hear from interested prospective judges.

Thank you for any help you can provide us!

**Kevin P. Koester, P.E. | Regional Coordinator, Great Plains Region (KS/MO)**  
National Future City Competition | [+1 785-296-3221](tel:+17852963221) p | [greatplains@futurecity.org](mailto:greatplains@futurecity.org).

## KSPE TOPEKA CHAPTER CALENDAR

Date	Speaker/Topic	Member Host	Time	Location
Jan. 2019	<b>Future Cities Great Plains Regional</b>	Kevin Koester	8:00 am	Engineering Complex Kansas State University
Jan. 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2019	<b>KSPE Bylaw Ballot Submittal Due Date</b>			
Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019	<b>Chapter MATHCOUNTS</b>	Kevin Holland	8:00 am	Washburn University Learning Resource Center Room 100
Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	<b>PE Licensure Ceremony</b>		2:00 pm	Kansas Capital Building First Floor Rotunda
Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	<b>State KSPE UPDATE</b>	Dennis Kuhlman	11:30 pm	Bartlett & West (Topeka)
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2019	<b>State MATHCOUNTS</b>		TBD	Washburn University
March/April 2019	<b>Joint Meeting with Tri-Valley Chapter</b>		TBD	TBD
May 2019	<b>Joint Meeting with Kansas Section of ASCE</b>		TBD	TBD
June 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	<b>Topeka Chapter BBQ</b>		TBD	Lake Shawnee
June 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> 2019	<b>KSPE Annual Conference</b>			Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview Wichita

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

## Championing the PE License

**Efforts to Eliminate Licensure Exemptions Gain Momentum:** As noted in my last report, in a significant and positive development in NSPE's ongoing efforts to limit and close licensure exemptions, the National Transportation Safety Board [report](#) on September's deadly pipeline explosion in Massachusetts recommended that the state "eliminate the professional engineer licensure exemption for public utility work and require a professional engineer's seal on public utility engineering drawings." In addition, NTSB recommended that, moving forward, NiSource, the parent company of Columbia Gas, have a PE sign and seal all construction documents. NiSource owns and operates the gas distribution system in which the explosions occurred.

Governor Charlie Baker immediately introduced emergency [legislation](#) that would implement the NTSB requirements. During a Massachusetts Senate oversight hearing on December 11, top executives from all five of the state's natural gas utilities were asked if they supported this legislation, Stephen Bryant, president and CEO of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts (the company responsible for the facilities involved in the gas explosions) stated, "We support that bill and do hope that bill moves forward." The other four executives appeared to nod in agreement, and none spoke out against the bill.

Representing National Grid at the hearing, senior vice

president Ross Turrini testified that "professional engineers are an important piece of a pipeline safety management system."

In this [brief clip](#) from local news coverage, the Columbia Gas executive asserts that his company is not unique and that utility companies across the country do not rely on PEs. But later in the hearing, according to coverage by the news and information resource MassLive, under questioning from Massachusetts senate minority leader Bruce Tarr, *none of the utility executives were able to provide a reason for why public utilities are currently exempt from laws requiring PEs* to sign off on construction plans.

The Massachusetts incident (and NSTB report) has prompted the Department of Public Service in neighboring Vermont to launch an investigation into whether a PE had been used in the plans to build a natural gas pipeline in that state.

**NSPE Warns: Autonomous Vehicle Risks Remain Too Great to Ignore:** NSPE is once again urging the Department of Transportation to give greater attention to public safety as the push for automated vehicles continues. In public comments to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, NSPE criticized the DOT's latest version of its policy statement on automation, "Preparing for the Future of Transportation: Automated Vehicles 3.0." NSPE President Michael Aitken, P.E., F.NSPE, emphasized that rather than strengthening public safety and confidence, the latest guidelines create more uncertainty, and potentially put the public at greater risk.

NSPE's criticism falls into four areas: (1) the insufficiency of self-certification to ensure public safety and the need for PE involvement, (2) the need to assure consumers that adequate and verified testing is in place, (3) the need for autonomous vehicles to be able to operate safely and correctly within existing infrastructure environments, and (4) the DOT's failure to sufficiently address matters of ethics, such as methods for addressing life-and-death decisions.