



July 2009



## Georgia Society of Professional Engineers

**IMPORTANT SURVEY INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER. YOUR INPUT IS REQUESTED.**

### Quick Links

[www.gspe.org](http://www.gspe.org)

[GSPE Chapters](#)

[Georgia Board of  
Professional Engineers &  
Land Surveyors](#)

### GSPE Board of Directors

**John Wackerman, P.E.**  
President

**Luther Cox, P.E.**  
President-Elect

**Scott Godefroy, P.E.**  
Past President

**Jason Cooper, P.E.**  
Treasurer

**Trey Wingate, P.E.**  
Secretary

**Douglas Benner, P.E., F.NSPE**  
Vice President Region I

**Steve Strong, P.E.**  
Vice President Region II

**Tim Baumgartner, P.E.**  
Vice President Region III

**Francis Fiegler, P.E.**  
Vice President  
At-Large

**Jerry Kahn, P.E., F.NSPE**



## Georgia Society of Professional Engineers

### Interview with 2009-2010 GSPE President, John Wackerman

**Q.** What is your first project you are tackling as the 2009-10 President of GSPE?

**A.** The first "Project" more suitably "Endeavor" is Membership- 1st priority servicing and keeping our existing members and second priority: attracting new members and associates. We are going to accomplish this with a rather large team spread into as many areas as we can support. Some of the key strategies include having several folks keep up with our NSPE rosters so we have a better handle on the pulse of our membership, becoming acquainted with the the new PE candidates early in the EIT process, campaigning for registration of engineers, encouraging PEs to join GSPE, and a host of other activities covered at the Planning Session limited only by our ability to support these activities.

**Q.** What do you think will make GSPE more attractive to students and new professional engineers?

**A.** First we have to ascertain what these groups want. Our existing student members and younger engineers are key to making this happen, but we have to engage them - to engage their peers. Fortunately, we now have more younger members in leadership roles at GSPE. They know what they want, and what their peers desire. Things will change as we move forward.

**Q.** Are there any new programs that GSPE members can look forward to this

State Delegate

**GSPE Committee Chairs and Representatives**

**VACANT**

Awards Committee

**Bill Jorden, P.E.**

Board of Registration Coalition

**Sam Flemming, P.E.**

Communications Committee

**VACANT**

Engineers Week Committee

**Jimmy Crowder, P.E.**

Georgia Engineering Foundation

**Patrick Rhodes, P.E**

**&**

**Francis Fiegle, P.E.**

Georgia Engineering Alliance  
Board of Directors

**Doug Weaver, P.E.**

Georgia Engineers Legislative  
Coalition

**Gale Sights, P.E., F.NSPE**

Georgia Engineers Summer  
Conference

**VACANT**

MATHCOUNTS

**Stuart McRae, P.E.**

Membership Committee

**Luther Cox, P.E.**

New P.E. Recognition Reception

**Patrick Rhodes, P.E.**

PDH Day

**Scott Godefroy, P.E.**

QBSGeorgia

**Francis Fiegle, P.E.**

Sustaining Firms Committee

**Sam Flemming, P.E.**

The Georgia Engineer Magazine

**Jerry Kahn, P.E., F.NSPE**

Past Presidents Council

**GSPE**

year?

**A.** We probably need to get more into the social arena (Have some fun things). This is what enhanced GSPE many years ago. Presently, our most "Fun things" are Mathcounts Competitions including the fundraising activities such as the Golf Outings, the New PE Recognition Banquets with the Order of the Engineer Ceremonies, and the social time at the Summer Meetings. I don't mean to downplay all our serious endeavors, but more varied activities can breed enthusiasm, camaraderie, and interest in all GSPE activities.

**Q.** Why is GSPE an important organization for professional engineers?

**A.** It is our common voice as engineers and a place for us to meet with engineers from other disciplines, companies, and organizations. Engineers are typically scattered in many places and lack a unified presence.

**Q.** Where are member volunteers needed most in GSPE?

**A.** 1st answer is everywhere! Priorities at the present time include participating on the Membership Team and supporting all our committees and activities such as Mathcounts, Legislative Coalition, Board of Registration Coalition, Fundraising, etc. We need everybody to grab a piece of the action!

**Q.** How long have you been a member of NSPE/GSPE? And what have been the benefits of being a member?

**A.** I have been a member since 1986. I have to admit I wasn't active until 1997 when Continuing Ed came into effect, and I had to go to meetings and training sessions! I can say that I've met some very interesting and dedicated people through this organization!



**The Professional Engineers  
&  
Land Surveyors  
Board Of Registration Coalition**

GSPE plays an active roll in the PE/LS Board of Registration Coalition. The PE/LS Board of Registration Coalition has been meeting on a regular basis for over 4-1/2 years. The coalition of engineering and surveying organizations was formed with the purpose of making our registration board "higher performing", i.e., more effective. General concepts of the solution were agreed upon during the first year of meetings: 1) There is a need to become an independent budget unit within state government, so there can be lobbying for more

233 Peachtree St  
Harris Tower  
Suite 700

Atlanta, GA  
30303

Phone  
404-521-2324

Fax  
404-521-0283

E-Mail  
[info@gspe.org](mailto:info@gspe.org)

### GSPE Staff

**Carolyn Jones**  
Executive Director

**Kathy Belcher**  
Programs Manager

**Graham Gardner**  
Communications Manager

**Tom Leslie**  
External Affairs Director

**Erin Ray**  
Administrative Assistant/  
Registrar

**Alicia Sosebee**  
Accounting Manager

**Gwen Brandon**  
GEA President

funding from the General Assembly and 2) There is a need to outsource the support services.

So what is the next step? The Coalition has recommended that legislation be drafted and introduced in the next session of the General Assembly. A sponsor for the bill is being identified, and a strategy is being mapped out for getting the bill passed. Passing legislation is a non-linear process, however, and cannot be laid out in a nice, neat flow diagram like a PERT chart.

You can help by [clicking here](#) to review the white paper the Coalition has prepared. Then go meet with your local state representative and senator to let them know that this legislation will be introduced and that it is important to you and the public; that you receive their support!

**Please take a few minutes to complete a brief survey.**  
[Click Here](#) for the Board of Registration Coalition Survey.

## Are You Interested In Attending The PE/LS Board of Registration Meetings?

The PE/LS Board of Registration holds eight meetings a year in Macon, Georgia. GSPE is looking for a dedicated member to attend these meetings as the GSPE Representative.

If you are interested in attending the meetings and willing to prepare a report on each meeting to submit to the GSPE Board of Directors, please contact Carolyn Jones at 404-521-2324.

Schedule for 2009 PE/LS Board of Registration meetings:

**September 15, 2009**  
**October 6, 2009**  
**November 10, 2009**  
**December 8, 2009**  
*(Meetings begin at 9:30 AM)*



### It Is Your Year To Get Involved In GSPE

GSPE members can volunteer for several committees. It is a rewarding experience working on one or more of the various groups. This opportunity provides a chance to be more involved in the planning and shaping of the society established to be an advocate for the professional engineers. Volunteers meet, interact and plan programs, events and activities that connect them with other engineering leaders and influential people that impact the engineering community.

### GSPE Committees

**Awards Committee:** To recognize engineers in Georgia who have made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and to the community.

**GSPE Budget & Finance Committee:** Prepare and monitor GSPE annual budget throughout the fiscal year.

**Communications Committee:** Effectively disseminate information about the society to its members and the general public.

**Constitution & Bylaws Committee:** Consider and provide recommendations on amendments to the GSPE Constitution and Bylaws in light of state and national bylaws, policies, procedures and priorities of the profession.

**MATHCOUNTS Fundraising Committee:** Raise finances through contributions from companies, organizations, grants and individuals to fund the state MATHCOUNTS program.

**MATHCOUNTS Program Committee:** Plan and oversee the state MATHCOUNTS Competition for middle school mathletes ranging from the 6th to the 8th grade.

**Membership Committee:** *This committee is the most important committee to GSPE.* The committee maintains the growth and viability of the society by encouraging engineers throughout the state of Georgia to join and participate in GSPE, as well as, focus on member retention.

**Nominating Committee:** Makes the nominations for GSPE state level elective offices.

**President's Council:** Past GSPE presidents that provide advice to the society based upon their experience from their term on the board.

**PE Recognition Committee:** Plans and coordinates the annual PE Recognition Reception that honors individuals that have recently become Professional Engineers by passing Georgia licensing exam for professional engineers.

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Annually update the GSPE Strategic Plan to ensure a viable long-term set of goals and action steps for the Society.

**Sustaining Firms Committee:** Promote and coordinate an effort that will raise funds through companies joining as a sustaining firm member at the state and chapter level.

Members can also volunteer to be a GSPE representative on various committees made up of representatives from a variety of engineering associations that GSPE is in collaboration with to achieve goals that impact the Engineering Community.

**Georgia Engineering Foundation**

**The Georgia Engineer Magazine Editorial Board**

**Georgia Engineers Week Committee**

**Georgia Engineers Summer Conference Program Committee**

**Georgia Engineers Legislative Coalition**

## QBSGeorgia Steering Committee

### Board of Registration Coalition

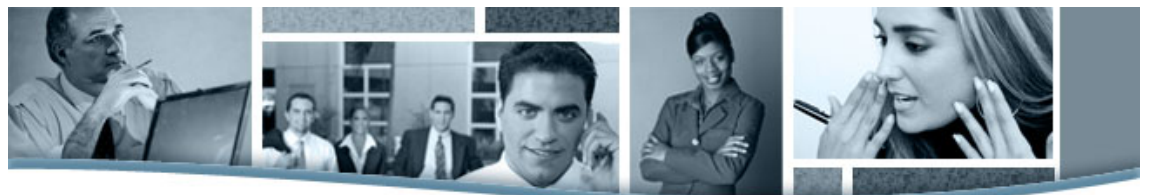
#### PDH Day

Contact Carolyn Jones at 404-521-2324 or via e-mail [carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org](mailto:carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org) if you are interested in being active on a committee.



#### GSPE Networking Group On Facebook

Connect with fellow professional engineers and students preparing to become engineers by joining the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers Group on Facebook. Sign up today at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)



#### GSPE Programs

GSPE is launching new and growing existing programs that are of value to the engineering community in Georgia. The changing dynamics of society will increase the need for engineers of all disciplines in the very near future. GSPE is determined to assist the professional engineers in Georgia to meet the challenges ahead.

In the Fall 2009 and Winter 2010, GSPE will introduce programs that target engineering ethics, host engineering leadership forums, and create a platform to address the concerns Georgia engineers experience with the PE/LS Registration Board. As well as, GSPE will continue to recognize new professional engineers at the PE Recognition Reception, and encourage younger generations to be enthusiastic about math and science through the MATHCOUNTS Competition.

There is a decline in college students majoring in engineering and individuals

becoming Professional Engineers. GSPE is preparing a process of phases that begin with middle school aged youth through adulthood with aspirations to become an engineer. In the first phase, GSPE is dedicated to the MATHCOUNTS program with hopes of promoting engineering to middle school students, referred to as mathletes, before they enter high school. As the mathletes advance to high school and then college, GSPE is hopeful that the students will have a desire to major in engineering. The next phase is to prepare engineering students for the FE Exam. GSPE is working diligently to host FE Exam training sessions for students this Fall. The final phase is preparing to partner with other state societies to present PE Exam training.

If you have additional suggestions for programs GSPE should review and consider, please forward your recommendations via e-mail to Carolyn Jones, [carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org](mailto:carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org) or Kathy Belcher, [kathy.belcher@gaengineers.org](mailto:kathy.belcher@gaengineers.org).

### 2009 GSPE Annual Meeting Wrap-Up



#### 2009-2010 GSPE Officers

Trey Wingate (Secretary), Douglas Benner (VP Region I), Francis Fiegler (VP At Large Region), Jason Cooper (Treasurer), Jerry Kahn (State Director), Scott Godefroy (Past-President), Luther Cox (President-Elect), and John Wackerman (President)  
Not Shown: Steve Strong (VP Region II)

The GSPE Annual Meeting was held June 12, at Callaway Gardens. During the annual meeting GSPE honored several engineers by presenting them with an award for various categories of Engineer of the Year:

**Engineer of the Year - Francis Fiegler, P.E.**

**Private Practice - Scott Godefroy, P.E.**

**Construction - Drew Howard, P.E.**

**Education - Dr. Leroy Emkin, P.E.**

**Industry - Augustus Bolen, P.E.**

**2009 GSPE President's Award**

**John Wackerman, P.E.**

Outgoing President Scott Godefroy recapped the 2008-2009 year for GSPE. Godefroy highlighted the impact of the downturn in the economy and its affect

on engineering and GSPE. Following the swearing in of the 2009-2010 GSPE Officers, new President, John Wackerman, addressed the audience to present his vision for the society for the new year.

The Order of the Engineer Ceremony was held during the meeting. Two new inductees participated in the ceremony.



### **GSPE Membership Phone-A-Thon**

The Georgia Society of Professional Engineers will host a GSPE Membership Phone-A-Thon in the Fall of 2009. GSPE is looking for members that would like to participate in this event at the local chapter level.

The purpose of the event is to contact past and potential GSPE members regarding renewing their membership or joining GSPE.

Contact your local GSPE Chapter representative to find out if your chapter is participating in the 2009 GSPE Membership Phone-A-Thon or contact Carolyn Jones at the GSPE headquarters at 404-521-2324 or via e-mail at [carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org](mailto:carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org).

#### **Atlanta Metro**

Robert Kurz  
[robertkurz@bellsouth.net](mailto:robertkurz@bellsouth.net)

-or-

Steve Strong  
PH: (404) 978-8051  
[s.strong@ieee.org](mailto:s.strong@ieee.org)

#### **Augusta**

William "Trey" Wingate  
PH: (706) 722-3479  
[twingate@wkdickson.com](mailto:twingate@wkdickson.com)

#### **Cobb**

Earl Ferguson  
PH: (404) 667-1065  
[EA Ferguson@aol.com](mailto:EA Ferguson@aol.com)

#### **Columbus**

Jason Cooper  
[jcooper@geconsultants.com](mailto:jcooper@geconsultants.com)

**Middle Georgia**  
Patrick Rhodes  
PH: 770-376-3000  
[pat@pacegeotech.com](mailto:pat@pacegeotech.com)

**Northeast**  
John Oliaro  
PH: (706) 549-3300 x141  
[joliaro@fowlerproducts.com](mailto:joliaro@fowlerproducts.com)

**Northwest**  
John Pillsbury  
PH: (706) 295-2201

**Savannah**  
Tim Baumgartner  
[tim\\_baumgartner@emc-eng.com](mailto:tim_baumgartner@emc-eng.com)

**South Georgia**  
Jason Cooper  
[jcooper@geconsultants.com](mailto:jcooper@geconsultants.com)

**West Georgia**  
Ed Fiegle  
[ed\\_fiegle@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:ed_fiegle@dnr.state.ga.us)



### UPS Discounted Rates

UPS understands your need for consistent and reliable delivery service. They value the relationship with GSPE and our members, so please take advantage of the discounted rates UPS provides.

Dependable service is key to meeting business goals and having personal packages delivered. UPS ranked above all competitors when it comes to reliability. In fact, UPS ranked first in the 2007 Morgan Stanley parcel industry customer survey on reliability.

UPS has more express delivery options than any other carrier, giving you more ways to meet your budget and customer service needs. Plus, their international service includes three time definite express options to more than 215 countries and territories - more than any other major carrier.

#### **GSPE Discounted UPS Rates:**

\$1.50 OFF Daily Rate for Next Day Air Letters

10% OFF Next Day Air Packages, 2 Day Air Early AM Letters and

## Packages

### 20% OFF the Worldwide Express Services

When using the GSPE Discount Program with UPS remember to use the GSPE Bid# CP450001778. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact the GSPE UPS Representative Bill Jacobs at 404-699-6489 or via e-mail at [wjacobs@ups.com](mailto:wjacobs@ups.com).



## GSPE Chapters

### Middle Georgia Chapter Meeting

**Location**

Shane's Rib Shack  
3267 Vineville Ave  
Macon, GA 31204-2343

**Date**

July 23, 2009

**Time**

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**Presentation**

Dams 101: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

**Guest Speaker**

Francis Fiegle, PE  
Project Manager  
Safe Dams Program  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

### The following local GSPE Chapters

**will resume meetings in September 2009**

Atlanta Metro

Augusta

Cobb  
Columbus  
Northeast  
Northwest  
Savannah  
South Georgia  
West Georgia

If you would like to start a GSPE local chapter in your area, please contact Carolyn Jones at 404-521-2324 or via e-mail at [carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org](mailto:carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org).

Please take advantage of the programs, events and chapter meetings GSPE presents. As you meet Professional Engineers that are not members of NSPE/ GSPE, encourage them to become members of the society that supports your profession.

**Sincerely,**

Carolyn Jones  
Georgia Society of Professional Engineers  
Executive Director

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to [carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org](mailto:carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org) by [carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org](mailto:carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Georgia Engineering Alliance | 233 Peachtree Street | Harris Tower, Suite 700 | Atlanta | GA | 30303