



# THE OBSERVER

November 2008

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Matthew J. Low, PE, SECB  
NHSPE President

Fall is here and as the leaves change and drop, we are in full swing at NHSPE. In September and October, we held a successful event touring the UNH Stormwater Center, the Northeast Regional Meeting in Portland, ME, and the second annual Joint Society Conference in Manchester - and those are just the beginning of an exciting year. There are many things happening at NHSPE, and I would like to share a few of those with you.

**Free Continuing Education?** – NSPE National is considering a proposal from President Brad Aldrich, P.E., F.NSPE, to provide up to four free PDH's of online continuing education through the NSPE website each year to each member of the

*A Word From The President  
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## Additional Education – A Look to the Future of Licensure as a Professional Engineer

Many of you have heard news about new requirements for additional education to be licensed as a Professional Engineer in the future. The topic has been the center of various presentations, meetings, and discussions within the National Society of Professional Engineers over the past year.

The fundamental premise for the need for change is that the skills required to practice engineering at the professional level in the future will require more technical depth, increased technical breadth, and increased skills of professional practice. This is supported by the increasing technical complexity of many engineered systems, increased requirements for projects to meet a wider range of goals, such as sustainability, and increased demand for engineers to provide leadership related to increased interdisciplinary requirements of projects and the impacts of projects on society.

The National Society of Professional Engineers recognized this change and adopted Professional Policy 168 in 2002, which includes the following:

“With the continuing rapid expansion of knowledge required to practice in the

basic as well as the many specialized areas of engineering, NSPE believes that additional engineering education, beyond the four year ABET/EAC degree, will be required in order to meet the formal academic preparation necessary for the practice of engineering at the professional level (licensure) in the 21st century.

Therefore, NSPE supports the concept of engineering students meeting additional academic requirements as a prerequisite for licensure and practice of engineering at the professional level. Possible additional requirements could include a master's degree or equivalent.”

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) over the past three years has passed requirements to change the NCEES Model Law to include an additional 30 credit hours of education beyond a Bachelors Degree in Engineering, or a Masters Degree in Engineering, as a prerequisite for licensure as a professional engineer, to be effective no earlier than 2020. This has been referred to as “Bachelors plus 30” and “Masters or Equivalent.” Implementation of such a

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## The Observer Distribution Notice

**NHSPE is going green! In the future, the NHSPE newsletter will be distributed electronically and hard copy mailing will be discontinued. The electronic newsletter will be available at [www.nhspe.org](http://www.nhspe.org) and will be emailed to members.**

**To make sure you don't miss out on future issues, please take a moment to update your email contact information! You may make changes by logging into the improved NSPE website [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org), or by emailing [membership@nhspe.org](mailto:membership@nhspe.org).**

**Thank you!**



## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Society. The NHSPE Board of Directors has endorsed this proposal and will await a decision at the national level to see if it is carried forward. This would mean that for all of your colleagues who have told you that they cannot afford the cost of NSPE membership or have asked "what do I get as a member," free continuing education would be one answer. The cost of four PDH's per year can easily justify the cost of \$155 to be a member of this great organization, which makes all the other outstanding benefits a bonus. Stay tuned on this important development.

Accounting for Engineers? – In what is likely a long overdue action, the NHSPE Board of Directors has authorized the hiring of a local accounting firm specializing in working with non-profit organizations to assist us with the preparation of our 2007 tax returns and a review of our accounting data, organization and practices. We owe a great deal of credit to our current Treasurer, Tom French, P.E., and those who have come before him for being so diligent in the maintenance of our finances and tracking of the several different accounts we have for MATHCOUNTS, scholarship, the Joint Society funding, and the Society. NHSPE's budgeted revenue and expenses for the 2008-2009 fiscal year are in the range of \$43,000. The accounting firm of Penchansky & Co., PLLC of Manchester will work closely with Tom and Larry Dwyer (our immediate past Treasurer) to educate us as to what we are doing well and of potential improvements we can make to our bookkeeping in order to stay in compliance with all federal and state laws pertaining to non-profit organizations.


Student Outreach – We can all agree that the children are the future of the engineering profession, so let's get involved. NSPE has numerous opportunities for interested members to interact with school students at all levels of academia. Opportunities may include career fairs at local high schools, presentations at schools to explain what the profession is all about, or potentially tutoring students. If interested in these types of opportunities to give back to the engi-

neers of the future, please contact Judy Houston at [jhouston@louisberger.com](mailto:jhouston@louisberger.com).

Teachers Awards Return – Last year NHSPE took a one year hiatus from issuing awards to deserving NH teachers of mathematics and science in order to reconfigure the award program to avoid confusion with other prominent mathematics and science teacher awards. I am pleased to inform you that we are back and better than ever. This year, the award program is not only endorsed by UNH, ASCE-NH, NHSPE, the New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics, the New Hampshire Science Teachers Association and the New Hampshire Board of Licensure of Professional Engineers, but we have been fortunate to add the support of: IEEE, the NH Public Works Association, SENH, the New Hampshire Chapter of ITE, and ACEC-NH. Adding these partners to this program will no doubt reinforce the fact that our engineering community values heavily the contributions of the excellent mathematics and science teachers throughout our state. If you know of an elementary, middle or high school mathematics or science teacher who should be considered for an award, please contact me at [mhow@hoyletanner.com](mailto:mhow@hoyletanner.com) for an award application. We will be working with local schools, school districts and our partnering organizations to get the word out there to "Nominate an Excellent Teacher Today."

National Conference in Portland, OR – In July, Matt Purcell, Paul Schmidt and I attended the NSPE National Conference in Oregon. Aside from Portland being a beautiful, walkable City, the conference was informative and painted a picture of the future directions of the Society. As can be expected there were many educational seminars on ethics, communication, NSPE benefits, and technical topics, but there were also entertaining excursions to Oregon's microbreweries, Mount St. Helens, the Columbia River Gorge and wineries of the area. The conference also happened to coincide with Portland's famous annual Beerfest - a gathering of thousands along the river enjoying microbrews, sun and music. On a state level, an impromptu Northeast Regional

Meeting was held on the afternoon of Saturday, July 26th. Considering Matt Purcell organized this meeting at the last minute, the attendance was exceptional with 11 of the 13 districts being represented (only RI and D.C. were not present).

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge that the NHSPE Board of Directors is pleased to represent the most important facet of the society – our members. Rest assured that at each Board of Directors meeting the Board members are focused on delivering benefits to our members who have entrusted us to steer the Society. At any time should you have questions, concerns or ideas which you feel would be valuable to the Society, please do your part and step forward to share them with any member of the Board. Our goal is to provide our membership with the programs and opportunities that are most important to our members. 

### Low Impact Development Conference Notice

NHSPE Vice-President Steven Lehmann, P.E. will be speaking at the upcoming Low Impact Development (LID) Conference and Vendor Fair for the Construction and Development Industry in Northern New England. The event is being held in Concord, New Hampshire on December 3 and 4.

Additional information can be found at:  
[www.fbenvironmental.com/lid.html](http://www.fbenvironmental.com/lid.html).

## THE OBSERVER

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## Governor Lynch Signs Bill to Expand NH's Pre-Engineering Programs!

On August 6, 2008, NH Governor John Lynch signed HB 1282 into law, during a Concord, NH ceremony at the State Capital Building. HB 1282 updates Chapter 188-E of Title XV - Regional Vocational Education. This update now allows the NH Department of Education to **expand matching grant funding** to eligible middle school pre-engineering programs (grades 6 through 8), not just to high school programs as allowed in the original 2002 legislation. The new law also expands the duties of the previously established "Pre-Engineering Technology Curriculum and Advisory Council (PETAC)," and directs the Department of Education to make funding available for these programs in future budgets.

The new bill was sponsored in the House by Rep. Major, Rock 8; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Rep. Kaen, Straff 7; Rep. J. Thomas, Belk 5; Rep. J. Garrity, Rock 6; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Downing, Dist 22; Sen. Odell, Dist 8; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 24 at the request of the PETAC.

"The United States used to lead the world in innovation and creativity because of its leadership in the production of math, science, technology and engineering educated students. More and more countries are outpacing us. We have changed from a country of innovators and creators to more



Governor John Lynch signs HB 1282 into law surrounded by members of the PETAC, Dept. of Education officials, Rep. Major, and NHTI and UNH representatives.

***"I cannot graduate enough engineers because I can't get enough students into the pipeline"***

UNH Associate Dean Bob Henry

of a country of users. HB1282 helps turn this around by enhancing the opportunity for younger students towards furthering their education in math, science, technology and engineering education." Rep. Norm Major (r-Plaistow)

The development of the PETAC and State pre-engineering program funding was intended to offset some of the expenses involved in introducing these programs in NH High Schools, as well as to allow more schools to participate in these programs. Currently pre-engineering programs are offered at 32 NH Schools. Over 1400 students participated in these high school and middle school programs in the last school year. Industry experts estimate that **nationally over 1 million engineering jobs are vacant**, and the demand will rise to 15 million by 2020.

"I cannot graduate enough engineers because I can't get enough students into the pipeline" UNH Associate Dean Bob Henry told Lynch and lawmakers.

For more information on NH's Pre-engineering Programs, the PETAC, and/or how you can contribute to the education of NH's future engineers, please contact Judith E. Houston, P.E., PETAC Member and NHSPE Student Outreach Coordinator at (603) 644 - 5200 ext. 5423, or [jhouston@louisberger.com](mailto:jhouston@louisberger.com); or you may contact the Department's Tech Prep Consultant for Engineering, Kevin Shyne at [kshyne@preengineeringnh.org](mailto:kshyne@preengineeringnh.org).

Please also check out the following websites: [www.preengineeringnh.org](http://www.preengineeringnh.org) and [www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doel/organization/adultlearning/Career%20Development/TechPrep/Engineering.htm](http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doel/organization/adultlearning/Career%20Development/TechPrep/Engineering.htm).

*Submitted by Judith E. Houston, PE, NH  
PETAC Member and NHSPE  
Student Outreach Coordinator*

### SENIOR STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Are you seeking a career change? Want to move to a growing firm located in the resort community of North Conway, NH? H.E. Bergeron Engineers has an opening for a candidate with the following qualifications:

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- **Design experience of architectural structures including timber and steel framing, cold form steel studs, and concrete.**
- **Design of industrial structures including plants, warehouses, transportation skids and communication towers.**
- **Proven project management including budgets, schedules, proposal preparation and maintenance marketing.**
- **Proven team player able to lead a project with in-house staff and consultants.**

Salary is competitive. Ownership and department leadership potential are available for the right candidate. HEB is an employee-owned firm with a generous benefit package including health insurance, paid leave, ESOP and 401(k) plans. Send resumes to Kathleen Bergeron, Business Manager, H.E. Bergeron Engineers, Inc., PO Box 440, North Conway, NH 03860 (email to [kbergeron@hebcivil.com](mailto:kbergeron@hebcivil.com)).

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## MATHCOUNTS

The 2008-2009 MATHCOUNTS program year is now underway. This is the 26th year for the program, and we are hopeful that we may exceed our previous record of about 60 schools registered statewide. School materials were shipped the first week in September to all public, private and parochial schools with a 7th or 8th grade and any school that participated in the 2007-2008 program.

Over the last several years, we have had difficulty raising sufficient funds at the local level to support the program. Last year we did somewhat better, but the current state of our financial condition would still be best described as "precarious." MATHCOUNTS is a fine program that is making a valuable contribution to the education of our young people. It deserves our support. Contributions from individuals, businesses and organizations are vital if the program is to continue in New Hampshire. 

*Submitted by Ben Pratt, PE*



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## Joint Societies Update

With great fanfare (and there was great rejoicing!) the second annual Joint Engineering Societies Conference was held on October 9, 2008. This event touted 6 professional development hours (PDH's) and on the tail of last year's tremendous success for the first of its kind event, the sequel proved to be no less than fantastic for 2008 with 160 attendees representing a broad range of disciplines including Civil, Structural, Electrical, Environmental and Industrial Engineers! The theme for the event was "Green Energy Applications" and was seen as timely and appropriate given today's focus on renewable energy options and the carbon credit market of the future. The conference was opened by none other than the Commissioner of the NHDES, **Mr. Thomas Burack**. Sessions included "NH State Energy Perspectives," "Solar/Geothermal Building Systems," "Mars Hill Wind Farm Project" and "Utility Perspectives on Renewable Energy." The event was capped off by a luncheon presentation

by the extraordinary **Mr. Ralph Baer**, the proclaimed "Grandfather of the Video Game" and renowned scientist who essentially invented the video game "Pong."

For any that are interested, all Power-Point presentations can be found posted on our websites at [www.nhjes.org](http://www.nhjes.org) and [www.nhspe.org](http://www.nhspe.org). I would like to thank the entire conference committee for the hard work that went into this event (7am monthly breakfast meetings!!!) and also our sponsors without whom this event would not be possible. As you might guess, planning is already underway for next year's event and our conference committee will resume meeting in November to begin discussions of a potential theme and conference date. If you are interested in participating or just want to provide some feedback or fresh ideas, feel free to contact me at [rlarochelle@cmengineers.com](mailto:rlarochelle@cmengineers.com). Have a great fall and we look forward to seeing you all there next October! 🍁

*Submitted by Roch Larochelle, PE*



*Mr. Ralph Baer, the "Grandfather of the Video Game," captivates his audience*



*Mr. Thomas Burack, Commissioner of NHDES, opens the conference to a packed room*

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## Call for Nominations

It is that time of year again to consider nominations for the Engineer of the Year (EOY) and Young Engineer of the Year (YEOY) as part of our upcoming annual National Engineers Week Celebration and the Engineers Week Banquet. Your participation in this process is important to the success of the program!

For additional details regarding the nomination process, visit [www.nhspe.org/pages/awards.html](http://www.nhspe.org/pages/awards.html). Awards will be presented at the Annual Engineers Week Banquet.

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### DRAFTING DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Are you seeking a change of scene? Want to work in a well established firm located in the resort community of North Conway, NH? H.E. Bergeron Engineers has an opening for a candidate with the following qualifications:

**HEB**

- BS or AS in Engineering Technology and 10+ yrs of exp.
- Knowledge of industry-based standards and software.
- Ability to work in fast paced environment.
- Coordination and management of scheduling.
- Expertise preparing presentation-level drawings.
- Experience in Civil 3D software.
- Experience with civil, structural & survey projects.
- Ability to oversee drafting quality control and scheduling.
- Demonstrated ability to lead and motivate staff.

Salary is competitive. HEB is an employee-owned firm with a benefit package including health insurance, paid leave, ESOP and 401(k) plans. Send resumes to Kathleen Bergeron, Business Manager, H.E. Bergeron Engineers, Inc., PO Box 440, North Conway, NH 03860 (email to [kbergeron@hebcivil.com](mailto:kbergeron@hebcivil.com)).

HEB is an equal opportunity employer.


## NSPE Northeast Regional Meeting

The Northeast Regional Meeting of the National Society of Professional Engineers was held in Portland, ME, on October 3 and 4, 2008 and was well attended by members from New Hampshire and across the region. The event included a day and a half of excellent presentations on a variety of engineering and professional topic areas that provided members an opportunity to keep abreast of their profession and gain continuing education credits. Topics included talks on alternative energy, construction quality assurance, structural composites, and project management, among others.

The event included a meeting of the state leadership within the NSPE Northeast Region, which provided an opportunity to collaborate with leaders in our neighboring states and within the National Society to improve the functioning of our society to better serve our members and improve our support of the licensed professional engineer. The NSPE National Board of Directors also held their regular quarterly meeting concurrently with the event which provided an opportunity to network with the National leadership. In attendance representing NHSPE were Matt Low, P.E., President, Larry Dwyer, P.E., President-Elect, Steven Lehmann, P.E., Vice-President, Paul Schmidt, P.E., NH representative to the NSPE House of Delegates, and Matt Purcell, P.E., NE Regional Manager.

The NSPE continues to focus on promoting and serving the licensed Professional Engineer. There was a lot of talk about what NSPE does for our members and what we can do better in the future. A primary goal discussed is to "Promote and protect your license." There was also a lot of discussion about providing quality continuing education programs. We are interested in hearing your thoughts on what NHSPE and NSPE has done well and what you'd like to see us do better.

The meeting also included a presentation on future additional education requirements for licensure in the future, which was followed by an extensive question and answer session. A separate article on this issue is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

In related news, New Hampshire's Matt Purcell, P.E. has been nominated to be the Northeast's representative on the National Board of Directors starting in 2009. Good luck Matt. 

*Submitted by Paul Schmidt, PE*

# UNH Stormwater Center Workshop

## September 24, 2008

The University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center (UNHSC) hosted NHSPE at the main campus in Durham for a day long tour and presentation of the on-going research in emerging trends of stormwater best management practices (BMPs). The center, which has been in operation since August 2004, has become nationally renowned as one of the premiere test facilities currently conducting real-time and real-world stormwater quality testing.

The workshop began at the full scale BMP gallery, located at the northern most limit of the “West Edge” parking lot. James Houle, the Outreach Coordinator and Program Manager of the UNHSC, and Dr. Alison Watts broke us into two groups and familiarized us with the facility.

The tour began at the subsurface gravel wetland, where the process of how the constructed wetland improves water quality by approximating the natural, biological processes that Mother Nature has been using for eons was described. Figure 1 shows the tour group viewing this gravel wetland. The tour then progressed to a number of commercially available structural BMPs. Situated next to the structural BMPs is the bio-retention cell, another constructed facility that improves water quality through biological processes and mechanical filtration techniques (Figure 2).

My favorite demonstration during the workshop was the pervious pavement and pervious concrete installations. To watch a 5 gallon bucket of water dumped onto the parking lot vanish before our eyes was amazing! After the field tour the workshop took a tour bus to Gregg Hall, where we dined on a fantastic buffet lunch, while Mr. Houle presented the research findings.

During the tour and presentation, the staff would describe the processes in detail, even if the answer couldn't be answered in a simple manner. All too often a professional development workshop is not geared for practicing engineers, and the instructors feel they need to speak to “laymen,” this was not the case during this workshop. The staff and faculty at the UNHSC are obviously able to speak to their audience.


This workshop has been well attended by



Figure 1. Subsurface Gravel Wetland



Figure 2. Bio-Retention Cell

NHSPE members in the past, in fact the workshop was limited to 50 people and all 50 spots were filled, and filled early. If you haven't attended a UNHSC workshop, please consider signing up early when NHSPE offers the workshop again. 

Submitted, by Craig T. Bailey, PE, CPSWQ

## “ENGINEERS OF THE FUTURE” NEED YOU!

Remember when you were in junior high? Your parents and teachers kept asking you “what do you want to be when you grow up?”, and you had NO idea! Then, in high school someone said “Hey, you do well in math, why don’t you be an Engineer?” (That’s how I remember it anyways!) As you know now, there’s a lot more to engineering than just being good at math. Many folks throughout the Country have been working hard to improve middle and high school students’ abilities to make a fully informed decision on how to spend most of their adult lives. Despite these efforts, the number of college students that graduate with a BS in Engineering is decreasing every year throughout the United States. In NH, the demand for qualified engineers surpasses the number available. However, all is not lost! Did you know that many schools in NH already have pre-engineering programs in some form? You’ll also be happy to know that the number of middle and high school pre-engineering students is increasing due

to recently approved NH State funded grants! (See related article on page 3.)

To help connect Engineers with NH students, the NHSPE Board of Directors has recently expanded their Student Outreach program to middle and high school students, as well as college students. The Board has developed a short list of NHSPE (IEEE and ASCE, too) members and associates that have expressed interest in participating in both short- and longer-term school programs, e.g. mentoring, career presentations and fairs, helping with math and FIRST teams, etc. However, we are receiving more requests from schools than we are able to provide Engineers!

We know that your time is very valuable to you, your employer, and to your family, and available time to volunteer is limited. However, your help is greatly needed and appreciated. Hearing just one 9th grade student say “I liked your presentation... I never knew what an Engineer really did... I’m going to look into engineering as a career!” just absolutely makes my day and my efforts so



worth while!

Please contact me at (603) 644 – 5200 ext. 5423, or email me at [jhouston@louisberger.com](mailto:jhouston@louisberger.com), if you would like more information about this program, and/or would like to be added to the NHSPE Student Outreach contact list. (*Your contact information will be kept strictly confidential. You make direct contact with the requesting school/student. We just send the requests out to those on our list.*)

NH’s Future Engineers are waiting for YOU!! 📧

*Submitted by Judith Houston, PE,  
NHSPE Student Outreach Coordinator*

## Additional Education – A Look to the Future of Licensure as a Professional Engineer

### Continued from Page 1

change would require modification of the licensure laws in each State and jurisdiction.

The issue was the topic of several presentations at the NSPE Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon in July 2008, including a presentation and discussion of the House of Delegates (which is the governing body of the National Society and includes representatives from each state).

In advance of the NSPE annual meeting, the New Hampshire Society Board of Directors reviewed this issue at a board meeting late this spring and there was general agreement about the need for improving educational requirements in the future and general support of PP168. The Board members also agreed that NHSPE needs to remain engaged in the discussion and to closely follow this issue in the future.

The response and attitudes expressed

by members at these meetings and presentations varied significantly, from full support to questioning whether there is a need to do anything in the future. In general, most people expressed a belief that engineering education needs to improve in the future to meet changing requirements. Some have questioned whether there is a different way to go about it, such as having ABET increase requirements, or going to a five year degree. There was also much discussion on the implementation and impact of such changes. Some question the cost of additional requirements for young engineering graduates, while others question the cost to the profession if there is no change in education in the future. Supporters of this initiative point out that while change is difficult, what is at stake is the strength of our profession to meet to the challenges of an ever changing world over the next decade.

The House of Delegates took no formal action at the NSPE annual meeting. NSPE continues to support the concept of additional education for licensure in the future, as outlined in PP168. NSPE, NCEES, and others continue to work through the details of proposed changes, and to evaluate the potential impacts of these changes.

I am sure you will continue to hear more about this in the future and NHSPE will continue to track this important issue. If you wish to provide input on this matter, please contact any of our Board members.

If you have questions or want more information regarding additional requirements please contact Paul Schmidt, P.E. at 603-627-0708 or [pschmidt@cmaengineers.com](mailto:pschmidt@cmaengineers.com). Additional information can also be found at [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org), [www.ncees.org](http://www.ncees.org), and [www.asce.org/raisethebar](http://www.asce.org/raisethebar). 📧

*Submitted by Paul Schmidt, PE*



## Membership Update

*New Members since July 1st:*

- Thomas Burns, PE
- Scott Drapeau, PE
- Stephen Milano
- Paul Mullin

*NHSPE would like to extend a warm welcome to these new members.*

*Submitted by Water Durack V, EIT*



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## NHPSE State Scholarship Program

This fall will mark the third annual John Alger Memorial Scholarship Drive and the ninth overall scholarship campaign we have organized through NHSPE. For scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2009, it will come together as follows:

- Solicitation packages will be sent to numerous professional firms throughout New Hampshire for continued support of this great program through tax-deductible donations... so keep watch for yours in the mail and thanks in advance for your generous contributions! We will also be posting an announcement on the state legislator's web site.
- In early January, local and regional high schools, guidance departments, as well as our state universities will be notified that NHSPE Scholarship applications are available on our web site.
- The first week in April 2009 will mark the deadline for all scholarship applicants.
- All applications will be reviewed and notifications are sent out a week after the deadline.

This would have been my fifth year of chairing this worthwhile event; however Mr. Steven Lehmann, P.E. has graciously stepped up and will lead the charge. It is interesting to note the number of applicants for the past 5 to 6 years has averaged about 50, up from an initial 5 to 12 applicants during the first few years. We have been steadily awarding three \$1,000 scholarships, and one year we distributed four.

The scholarships NHSPE awards mean a lot to the kids who apply. The applicants are impressive and certainly worthy. We hope once again we can count on your support. Next spring we plan to fund \$1,000 scholarships for at least three more deserving students for the 2009 season. Watch for your notice in the mail and be sure to send in your tax-deductible donation to "NHSPE, State Scholarship Program, PO Box 1343, Concord NH, 03302-1343" to help the success of our future engineers! 

*Submitted by Larry Dwyer, PE*



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