

President's Report

It has been a privilege to serve the members of SCSPE as the President this year. I express my appreciation and gratitude to Jim Justus, Michael Sheu and the rest of the members of the board for all of their support and assistance during the 2008-2009 year.

As I reflect on the past year, I would like to just highlight some of the many things that SCSPE has been doing this year and let others provide more detailed information about them. The communication with our State legislative branch continues to increase as evidence by the SC legislative reception in February which was one of the most well attended to date not only by our legislators but also by state agencies. We thank ACEC-SC and ASCE-SC for their partnership with the SC legislative reception each year. SCSPE is continuing the grass roots effort lobbying for the Tort Reform bill in the Senate.

SCSPE continues to host semi-annually the newly licensed engineers' ceremony at the State House and sponsor luncheons in October and April for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors examinees. These functions have been well received by the examinees.

The board has worked throughout the year to improve our annual convention by partnering with ACEC-SC and ASCE-SC. We expect this years "Engineering Conference" will be very successful by providing more continuing education choices, additional trade show participants, extending networking opportunities and activities for all to enjoy. Jim Justus, Michael Sheu and Ismail Ozbek have taken leadership in this process and we appreciate their dedication and hard work to make this year's annual conference a success.

Our planning retreat was held in Columbia, SC. The retreat was well attended and we set goals for the 2009-2010 board. We discussed current and future programs, increasing membership, and the engineering conference.

With our membership numbers continuing to be flat, we must become more proactive as a society in retaining members and recruiting new members to NSPE. Membership is important to communicate relevant technical and ethical information to engineers. Membership also directly affects our revenue as a State organization. A drop in membership directly impacts our budget, limits what we can do, and limits our manpower to accomplish our goals. We ask each of you to reach out to other engineers in South Carolina not only to retain our current membership but also grow it.

I also thank each member of SCSPE for the effort and dedication that you have shown to our society and profession by your participation in SCSPE and NSPE. Our organization is only as good as the people that make it up and it has been my experience that SCSPE has some truly remarkable individuals.

Steven L. Bobo, P.E.

President