

**DETROIT METRO CHAPTER**  
**Michigan Society of Professional Engineers**  
**CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1999-2000**

**Submitted by: Fritz J. Klingler, P.E.**  
**President**  
**Date: March 24, 2000**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1999-2000 was a very active and successful season for the Detroit Metro Chapter of MSPE. During this year, we continued with a regular schedule of board meetings, newsletters, and strong programs for the general membership. In particular, we were very successful in joining with other professional and technical societies to organize programs that were heavily attended and well received by the membership. In addition, Detroit Metro developed a chapter web page ([www.mspe-detroit.org](http://www.mspe-detroit.org)), and assisted in the organization and successful completion of the October Midwestern regional meeting of NSPE.

This Annual Report for 1999-2000 will present a summary of our activities and efforts this year, including our current office holders, board meetings, budget for 1999-2000, committee activities, programs for the year, our newsletter, and other activities. This information is provided in the following sections.

## **2.0 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS IN 1999-2000**

The Detroit Metro Chapter of MSPE had a full slate of officers and directors in 1999-2000, almost all of whom were dedicated and active at board meetings and/or committee activities. Our officers and directors, and their term expiration dates (where applicable) are summarized:

Fritz J. Klingler, P.E.	President
Philip P. Johnson, P.E.	Past President
Carey Suhan, P.E.	President Elect
John Raad, E.I.T.	Secretary and Director (2001)
Steven J. Kaercher, E.I.T.	Treasurer and Director (2000)
Garabed M. Hoplamazian, P.E.	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President and Director (2002)
Steen N. Christensen, Ph.D., P.E.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Director (2000)
Mumtaz A. Usmen, Ph.D., P.E.	Director (2002)
Donald C. Bramlett, P.E.	Director (2001)
Richard Scheck, E.I.T.	Director (2002)
Patricia A. Dirasian, E.I.T.	Director (2002)

Pari Nayak, Ph.D., P.E.	Director (2001)
Morris Hsi, Ph.D., P.E.	Director (2002)
Nancy McClain, P.E.	Director (2002)
Larry Moloney, P.E.	Director (2002)

A roster for the 1999-2000 year including all officers and directors is included as Appendix A

### **3.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

The Chapter continued to hold monthly board of directors' meetings at the offices of board members on a rotating basis. Board meetings were (or will be) held on the following dates:

- July 14, 1999 (planning meeting for officers only)
- September 13, 1999
- October 11, 1999
- November 8, 1999
- December 13, 1999
- January 10, 2000
- February 15, 2000
- March 13, 2000
- April 10, 2000
- May 15, 2000
- June 12, 2000

The normal board meeting agenda includes: approval of previous meeting minutes, Treasurer's report, communications, State Directors' report, Committee Chairs' reports, old business and new business. The State regional Vice President is invited to each board meeting. The board meetings last no longer than 1½ hours and the previous meeting minutes and proposed agenda are distributed in advance to save time. The meeting minutes and agenda for each of our meetings to date are attached for reference as Appendix B.

### **4.0 BUDGET AND TREASURERS REPORTS**

The Detroit Metro Chapter Budget for 1999-2000 includes a total of \$\_\_\_ of expenditures and \$\_\_\_ of receipts. This corresponds to a deficit for the year of \$\_\_\_, which is considered acceptable, considering our current net worth of \$\_\_\_. Our budget for 1999-2000 is summarized as follows:

**Receipts**

- Programs
- Dues
- Interest
- PEN Sponsorships

**Expenditures**

- Programs
- Donations
- Committee Activities
- Total Surplus (Deficit)

Copies of the Budget and Monthly Treasurers Reports to date are attached for reference as Appendix C.

### **5.0 CHAPTER PROGRAMS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP EVENTS**

The Detroit Metro Chapter of MSPE hosted or co-hosted at least one program for the general membership for every month of the 1999-2000 season (excluding July and August), for a total of 17 meetings/events offered to the general membership. The Chairperson of the Programs Committee was Kathy Banicki, who provided strong leadership and initiative for the second straight year. We believe that our strategy of teaming with other MSPE chapters as well as other professional and technical societies has allowed us to offer a greater number and variety of events, and increased our presence in the local professional engineering community. During this year, we co-hosted and/or participated in events with the BlueWater, Oakland, Fairlane, and Southeastern Chapters of MSPE; as well as the Southeastern Michigan Branch of ASCE; the Detroit Post of the American Society of Military Engineers (SAME); AIA Detroit, ESD The Engineering Society; and ACEC Michigan. Our programs and other general membership activities for the season are summarized as follows:

June 25, 1999	Chapter Annual Meeting at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club
September 9, 1999	Metropolitan Detroit (Inter-Chapter) Golf Outing at Copper Creek Golf Course
September 15, 1999	Breakfast Fundraiser for State Senator Thaddeus McCotter (Organized by AIA, publicized through Detroit Metro MSPE)
October 8-9, 1999	NSPE Central Region Fall Meeting in Courtyard Hotel in Downtown Detroit (Friday evening event was organized and sponsored by Detroit Metro Chapter)
November 16, 1999	Tour of the SW Oakland County Recycling Facility and dinner program at Merriweather's Restaurant
December 3, 1999	Holiday Party at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford Mansion in Grosse Pointe (organized by Detroit Metro, co-sponsored by Oakland and Fairlane Chapters)
February 9, 2000	Presentation and panel discussion of Construction Dispute Review Boards at the Livonia Embassy Suites (co-sponsored by Detroit Metro and SE Mich ASCE)
February 23, 2000	Design Build for Dummies; A half-day course held at the Detroit Opera House (coordinated by MSPE, publicized by Detroit Metro)
February 23, 2000	ESD Gold Awards at the Dearborn Inn (sponsored by ESD, publicized by Detroit Metro)
February 25, 2000	Breakfast Fundraiser for State Senator Gary Peters (Organized by ACEC, MSPE and ASCE, publicized through Detroit Metro MSPE)
March 22, 2000	Young Engineers in the Work Place - A Panel Discussion, held at Wayne State University in Detroit (sponsored by Detroit Metro)
March 25, 2000	Breakfast Fundraiser for State Chris Dingell (Organized by ACEC, MSPE and ASCE, publicized through Detroit Metro MSPE)
April 11, 2000	Legislative Briefing and Blitz at Rum Runners in Lansing (Organized by ACEC, MSPE and ASCE, publicized through Detroit Metro MSPE).
April 14-15, 2000	NSPE Central Region Spring Meeting in Kalamazoo (sponsored by MSPE, publicized through Detroit Metro MSPE).
April 26, 2000	Tour of New Water Works Park Plant followed by a presentation and discussion at Sinbad's in Detroit (co-sponsored by Detroit Metro, ASCE and SAME)
May 12, 2000	Social Event - Detroit Tigers vs. Yankees at Comerica Park (Organized by Detroit Metro, co-sponsored by BlueWater, Oakland, Fairlane, and SE Chapters)
June 23, 2000	Chapter Annual Meeting at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club

In addition, the Chapter Membership has and/or will participate in:

- MSPE State Chapter Boards of Directors and Executive Committee meetings throughout the year
- MSPE Spring Annual Meeting at Grand Traverse Resort
- ESD Affiliate Council Meetings
- MSPE Legislative Action Committee Meetings and Events
- MSPE hosting committee for the 2001 NSPE annual meeting to be held in Detroit
- Judging at the International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in Detroit in May, 2000

## 6.0 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The various committees that are organized within the Detroit Metro Chapter have been very active in 1999-2000. The current committees, their chairperson, and their activities this year are summarized as follows:

Membership (A. Aziz Khandker, Ph.D., P.E., Chairman)

The Detroit Metro Chapter Membership Committee completed its survey of selected members at the end of the 1998-1999 year, and the results of this survey were used to help retain and recruit members during this year. The original survey was conducted to assess why existing members of MSPE do not get involved in MSPE and to develop an action plan for consideration by the board. A copy of the Membership Task Force report is attached for reference in Appendix D. The three main findings of the survey were:

1. Programs are key to getting members involved in the chapter. Each year a strong program committee should be established to develop relevant meetings that will interest a wide cross section of the membership. As a result, Detroit Metro has concentrated this year on offering a variety of diverse programs to the general membership.

2. We need more personal interaction and contact from the chapter leadership to the membership at large. The survey indicates that approximately 60 percent of our membership have never been personally contacted. In an effort to meet more of our membership personally, we have offered social events, such as the golf outing and the April Tiger Game.

3. Promotion of the profession is an important issue for our membership. In addition to internal communication efforts to improve participation, we need to develop concepts to promote the profession of engineering to the outside. We have partially addressed this issue this year by development of our new Detroit Metro Chapter web page, as well as increasing our number of chapter newsletters that we have sent out from 5 to 9.

In addition, our membership committee has worked hard to contact delinquent members and determine if they can be brought back into the dues-paying membership, and in recruiting new members. In particular, the membership committee has contacted approximately 300 newly licensed P.E.s, to invite them to participate in their local Detroit Metro Chapter. A Copy of the membership drive letter is included in Appendix D for reference.

Legislative (Donald Giffles, P.E., Chairman)

The Detroit Metro Chapter continues to be deeply involved in the support of state initiatives for reform of the licensure enforcement activities. Don Giffles led our southeastern task force and participated in the statewide training programs. Additionally, Mumtaz Usemen and Phil Johnson participated with him at the state level legislative action committee, and the general membership was invited to participate in four separate legislative events.

Education (Mumtaz A. Usmen, Ph. D., P.E., Chairman)

In addition to assisting in the Wayne County Mathcounts Competition, the Detroit Metro Chapter supported the Detroit Science Fair financially and by providing judges. In addition, Dr. Usmen has acted as a liaison to the Wayne State University Student Chapter of MSPE. Further efforts with respect to Education have included efforts of the scholarship committee in receiving and recommending 47 students to the state scholarship program.

Publicity/Publications (Fritz Klingler, P.E. and Richard Scheck, E.I.T., co-chairmen)

The Chapter continued to publish its newsletter, the Detroit Metro P.E.N. This year however, we have and/or will publish a total of 9 newsletters as opposed to previous years, where the P.E.N. was typically published 4 to 5 times. The newsletter is typically 8 to 12 pages long and proves to be an effective means of communicating ongoing activities and announcing upcoming activities, while conveying current and

important information to membership. Each issue has an industrial sponsor, making the publication self supporting. A commercial contractor accomplishes the layout work and printing with the assistance of the newsletter editor.

All six of the newsletters published to date are attached for reference as Appendix E

#### Nominations and Awards (Philip P. Johnson, P.E., Chairman)

The Detroit Metro Chapter Nominations and Awards Committee worked hard this year to recognize our members at the local and state level.

The Detroit Metro Chapter nominated Gerry Belian, P.E. and Marlin Sumner, P.E. for the grade of Fellow of MSPE. Mr. Belian was approved by the State Committee. In addition, we nominated Mr. David Ashland for Life Membership, which was approved by State.

The Detroit Metro Chapter also nominated the following individuals for Outstanding Engineer awards:

PEPP-James Hanson, Ph.D., P.E.  
PEC –Bernard White, P.E.

The Detroit Metro Chapter recognized the following individuals at the chapter level and nominated them for the same awards at state level:

Engineer of the Year: Mumtaz A. Usmen, Ph.D., P.E.  
Young Engineer: Eric Tucker, E.I.T.

Dr. Usmen and Mr. Tucker were recognized at the ESD Gold Banquet in Feb 1999 as the MSPE Detroit Metro Chapter Engineer and Young Engineer of the year.

#### Mathcounts (Steen Christensen, Ph.D., P.E. and Pari Nayak, P.E., Co-chairmen)

Dr. Steen Christensen and Pari Nayak continued to do an outstanding job on the mathcounts program this year. On February 19, the Detroit Metro Chapter conducted its mathcounts competition at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus, advancing a number of mathletes on to the State level.

#### Web Page (Michael J. Vinarcik, P.E., Chairman)

The MSPE Detroit Metro Chapter made a major advance into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the launching of the Detroit Metro Web Page. The page carries information on all of our upcoming events, our newsletters, officers and other contacts within the chapter, as well as links to the State and National Societies; and other professional societies in the area.

Our web page address is [www.mspe-detroit.org](http://www.mspe-detroit.org).

#### Young Engineers (Lou Contini, P.E., Chairman)

The Young Engineers Committee was active this year, organizing and hosting the “Young Engineers in the Workplace” program, held on March 22, 2000. The program consisted of a panel discussion among current practitioners, with an emphasis on career planning, meshing goals with today’s work environment, and getting the most out of a young engineers career.

The program was held at Wayne State University, and was well attended.

#### Scholarships (Morris Hsi, Ph.D., P.E., Chairman)

The Scholarship Committee was directed for the second year in a row, under the motivated leadership of Morris Hsi, Ph.D., P.E. Dr. Hsi solicited approximately 25 High Schools in the Detroit area, and received applications from 49 students. Each of these students was evaluated and graded, and 47 student applications were sent to the State Committee for review.

## **7.0 OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Members of the Detroit Metro Chapter are active within the MSPE Board and MSPE State Committees:  
Tito Marzotto, P.E. is a Past President of MSPE and was active on the 1999 Midwest Regional conference as well as the NSPE Annual conference in 2001.  
Gerald Belian, P.E. is a Past President of MSPE.  
Mumtaz Usman, Ph.D., P.E. is President Elect of MSPE  
Keith Swaffar, P.E. is Vice President for Southeast Michigan.  
Don Bramlett, P.E. is Chair of the Engineers Week Committee.  
Don Giffels, P.E. is active on the MSPE Legislative Action Committee.

The Detroit Metro Chapter represents MSPE on the Affiliate Council of ESD-The Engineering Society. Jerry Neyer, P.E. a chapter member is currently the Past-President of ESD. The Affiliate Council is a local, mini-AAES, composed of the representatives from the local sections and chapters of over 40 engineering, scientific and professional societies in the metropolitan Detroit area. Three Chapter members are past presidents of the Affiliate Council.