



Louisiana Engineering Society New Orleans Chapter

<http://www.no-les.org>



Words from Our President Frank Gallagher, P.E., CIH

March 9, 2010

March Greetings! March certainly arrived like a lion... let's hope it leaves like a lamb. Since our last newsletter we again hosted Mathcounts at the University of New Orleans and enjoyed a briefing by LTC Mark Jernigan, USACE, NO District Deputy Director at our Engineer's Week banquet. A lot of people are responsible for the success of these two events but in brief we can thank leaders Becky Johnson, Keith Gonzales, John Lawrence, and Bodin Hugger for the success with Mathcounts and John Lawrence, Pamela Williams, and Robert Mejia for the banquet.



Frank Gallagher, P.E. CIH
President NOLES 2009 - 2010

Becky's overview covering Mathcounts is included in this newsletter and Bill Collins, our editor, has secured and placed LTC. Jernigan's briefing on our web page. If you have never participated in Mathcounts you have been missing a great experience. These elementary school "Mathaletes" are amazing both smart and courteous kids.

Our Engineers' Week banquet was very enjoyable. Having retired from the military in 1993 I enjoy every opportunity to be with a member of the Armed Forces. Mark Jernigan was particularly interesting and informative as he discussed the long term issues of our area and the myriad of projects planned or in progress. I also enjoyed meeting members of other engineering societies there, several of whom personally expressed thanks to LES for hosting the event.

Our meeting this month features Dr. Ragas, PHD, MAI, who will be speaking on professional opportunities in our community. Your LES New Orleans Chapter Board selected Dr. Ragas to assist in keeping you abreast of the professional **Engineering opportunities in our area. We will introduce our Board's nominees for our next Board year, June 2010 to May 2011 at our March meeting, Nominations will remain open until the elections in the April meeting, Please contact me if you are interested in serving under Charlie Ford, our president-elect, next year.**

Hope to see you on March 17th, at Don's Seafood Hut.

Frank Gallagher, P.E., CIH

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IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

[Don's Seafood](#), 4801 Veterans Blvd., Metairie, LA 70006

Wednesday, 17 March 10

After the deadline of Noon, 15 March, your reservation cannot be guaranteed. 1 PDH

[Don's Seafood](#) (click for map). 6:30 PM Registration, 7:00 PM Buffet dinner begins. 8:00 PM. Speaker, 9:15 PM adjourn

Menu - Cup of seafood Gumbo & Dinner Salad

AND Choice of:

- Broiled Catfish Fillet with stuffed potato
- Fried Catfish Fillet with French Fries
- Cajun Catfish (broiled catfish topped with crawfish etouffee, served over rice)
- Fried Shrimp with French Fries
- Crabmeat au Gratin with stuffed potato
- Crawfish Etouffee
- Grilled Marinated Chicken Breast with stuffed potato

Bread pudding, Iced Tea, Soft drinks, and Coffee.

Click here to Confirm Reservation and state menu Choice:

[Members](#) \$30 [Guests](#) (includes non-members) \$35 [Students](#) \$15

You can still email to [@mahlengr.com](mailto:pjwilliams), but please state: Member, Guest, or Student., in the subject line and your meal choice in the note.

FEATURED SPEAKER - Wade R. Ragas, PhD, MAI

Dr Ragas holds a doctorate from The Ohio State University in the area of Real Estate Finance and has earned the rank of both Full Professor and Research Professor at UNO before retiring from the university in October of 2005. He has been active in evaluating real estate, economic markets, and investments throughout his career including 30 years running a research center at UNO. He is the author of a residential appraisal textbook used by over 30,000 appraisal candidates and 32 national published articles plus a 27 year long series of research studies on the residential and commercial housing markets in south Louisiana and Mississippi. As an MAI appraiser he has evaluated thousands of properties in Louisiana.

His private practice today serves most of the major law firms and petrochemical companies of the region plus the needs of many owners of large amounts of real estate. His expert testimony has been cited and relied upon in decisions by the Louisiana Supreme Court, Federal District and Circuit Court of Claims and in numerous Louisiana civil court cases.

(Continued on page 4)

MATHCOUNTS information not available at press time.

February Speaker Recap-
LTC Mark Jernigan, Deputy Commander of the New Orleans District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers spoke to us about the many projects being addressed to build, rebuild, design, and strengthen levees and canals for storm protection. His presentation cannot be summarized in the space we have available in this publication. We wish to thank LTC Jernigan for providing his presentation for access through our web site. The publication is huge, so we have reduced the size in half down to 4 Meg. [The link is here for the complete presentation.](#) You may have to change the view and rotate the material.



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Wade R. Ragas, PhD, MAI

Since Katrina, as a private consultant, Dr Ragas has assisted in evaluating new construction or re-development efforts for over two billion dollars in real estate in the New Orleans area. He serves on the Board of Directors of Mutual Savings and has been active in civic organizations where as real estate committee chair he oversaw 2000 units of affordable housing being acquired or re-developed.

He and Yvette have been married for 38 years and have two sons.



Dear NSPE Member,

In January, following the tragic earthquake in Haiti, we e-mailed all NSPE members in response to your many questions about providing help. Now we are confronted with another devastating earthquake, this time in Chile.

NSPE sends its profound sympathies to all those who have been affected by this tragedy.

As we mentioned in January, monetary donations are best received by one of the charitable organizations listed on the United States Agency for International Development Web site, www.usaid.gov/helpchile, or by another reputable relief or religious organization working in the country.

We also remind engineers not to self-deploy to the region. While there will be a need for professional engineers to assist with rebuilding and reconstruction in Chile, your expertise and skills will be best used if you register with the Center for International Disaster Information at <http://dex.cidi.org/>, or send your name and specialty area to NSPE Executive Director Larry Jacobson at ljacobson@nspe.org.

Once again, we are inspired by your desire to use your talents to help others, and we will do our best to keep you informed of any new developments or opportunities to do just that.

Samuel W. Grossman, P.E., F.NSPE
President

Lawrence A. Jacobson
Executive Director