
July 2018 SPED Update

1 message

SPED <mailchimp@spedweb.com>
Reply-To: SPED <mailchimp@spedweb.com>
To: paul.bowers.montreal@gmail.com

Tue, Jul 31, 2018 at 3:16 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)

Society of Piping Engineers and Designers July 2018 SPED Update Newsletter

Hello SPED member! This will be a brief SPED Update given that it's the middle of summer for most of us.

Congratulations to recent new PPDs

PPD Level 1

June 22 - Charles Turlington - L I

June 25 - Kevin Kimbrell L I

June 29 - Expedito Mangué - L I

Highlights from the Board Minutes

Meeting June 9, 2018

The Board agree to license the Video Series from its author, William Beazley and the online course content from Information Assets, Inc. (majority ownership by Dr. Beazley). The licensing arrangement and verbal contract gives SPED permanent control over registration, sales and notes over the online courses and SPED Video Series. "This agreement means that SPED will continue the

development of the videos and courses after my retirement. It also simplifies SPED's ability to create new content with other partners."

The agreement replaces the old royalty structure with a limited number of payments to Dr. Beazley and IAI. It also adds a new version of the Piper Boot Camp videos and notes. Finally, it includes a new set of Test Banks for the PBC, consisting of 800 completely new questions.

Dr. Beazley and Kerry Millen reported on a new initiative by the University of Downtown to create a 4-year degree in piping design. A meeting was held with Piping Managers from Houston engineering firms to discuss the need. Despite widespread skepticism, local hiring managers are cautiously optimistic about future hiring. Offshoring, the practice of executing large parts of jobs in foreign offices, has been disappointing as degreed engineers working as pipers frequently leave for more engineering type work. Specifically training piping designers are expected to show more commitment to the profession. The general consensus was that there will always be some local content, if only to quality assure and manager foreign resources and content. The Companies seem to be waking up to the idea that they do need an indigenous work force that's qualified.

The piping managers seemed to agree with UH/D that the degree would not be an Engineering Technology degree, which would require calculus based courses. It would probably extend an AAS degree with CAD design and some Piping content, with credit given for work experience as a Piper. The best degree model is a 4-year degree, Bachelors of Applied Arts and Science BAAS degree. It would incorporate content from SPED's Professional Piping Designer (PPD) curriculum. This has the added advantage of the credibility of SPED being associated with the program. SPED set up the meeting, and involved PSI – Pipe Stress Interest Group.

Kerry Millen confirmed that a lot of SPED sales, training and certification currently is coming from off-shore, including India. Ms. Millen wondered if this is in response to local corporations and managers who were unhappy about the off-shoring and wanted these off-shore offices properly trained.

Executive committee members were formally confirmed. An Executive Committee works out issues like Personnel, fine tuning negotiations, etc., before bringing the issue before the full Board. Kevin Noakes confirmed that the Executive Members are: Kevin Noakes, Paul Bowers, Kerry Pritchard and Catherine VD Walt.

Chapters

Louisville Chapter has had their first meeting of the year. The new Spain Chapter has had their 1st meeting. Houston Chapter is planning a meeting – details to be announced. Other Chapters, India, Western Australia are submitting committee details. The Board is preparing to make chapter disbursements per our Bylaws, SPED has approved a Travel Budget to improve chapter outreach, PPD reviews/tests and other functions.

Miscellaneous Bits:

- It was re-affirmed that SPED will post in the SPED update jobs that require PPD certification
 - Past President Ron Waldon requested that the PDU requirements for retirees needs to be waived because they simply don't have access to seminars and educational programs like they did while working full time.
 - There is interested in reviving the PPD Advisory Committee (PPDAC). The PPDAC assists SPED in reviewing PPD Certification Applications, maintaining the Recommend Practice RP-0002 and other work.
 - SPED is considering certifying and licensing training material used by colleges and other trainers.
-
-

[Plant Software - Where are we headed?](#)

[This is an article by Joel harris from 2011 on plant design software data interoperability, but the comments still apply today.](#)

["If you have gigabytes of data in PDS data, for example, do you even consider anymore whether it is state of the art enough to work for future projects? Does the inertia of existing data outweigh the new capabilities being marketed by the leading software vendors out there?"](#)

Can you top this for **Worst Isometric Ever?**



Don't forget that sped is always on the lookout for member-written piping-related articles to publish at the website

The Cadmudgeon Files

Drawing Legibility

In caveman times when people used drafting tables there were standards related to optimal text height on drawings. This seems to have changed since CAD became ubiquitous. It is not uncommon for 11"x17" size drawings to be used in the office and field that are almost illegible, since the original digital document is usually intended to be printed on 22"x34" sheets. Text smaller than 1mm high is not unusual.

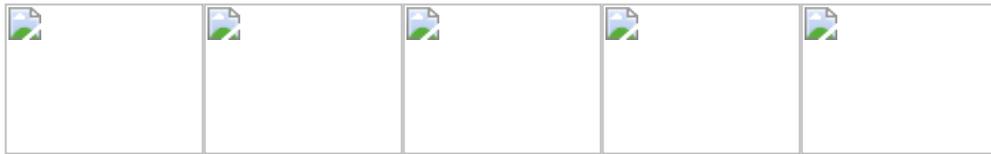
The minimum drawing text size used to be 1/8" high; this was done to maintain readability once the original hand-lettered (or Leroy) text was reduced down to

size for microfilm/microfiche archiving. This type of thinking ahead about end users seems to have been flushed down the pipes with the ammonia solution. Amb communications can be quite dangerous, leading to misunderstandings and major errors. It's not good if you can't tell an '8' from a '6' without a magnifying glass.

CAD standards are important and too many projects are executed by simply re-using configurations from previous work without reviewing the suitability of the deliverable documents. We are not yet in a world where construction teams wear VR goggles and have immediate access to the 3D model and all relevant documentation - they still need paper drawings in the field and shop!

Here are some comments from 2006 in [Cadalyt magazine](#) on the subject.

Illegible text on engineering drawings rates a 5 out of a possible 5 broken pencils. The worst!



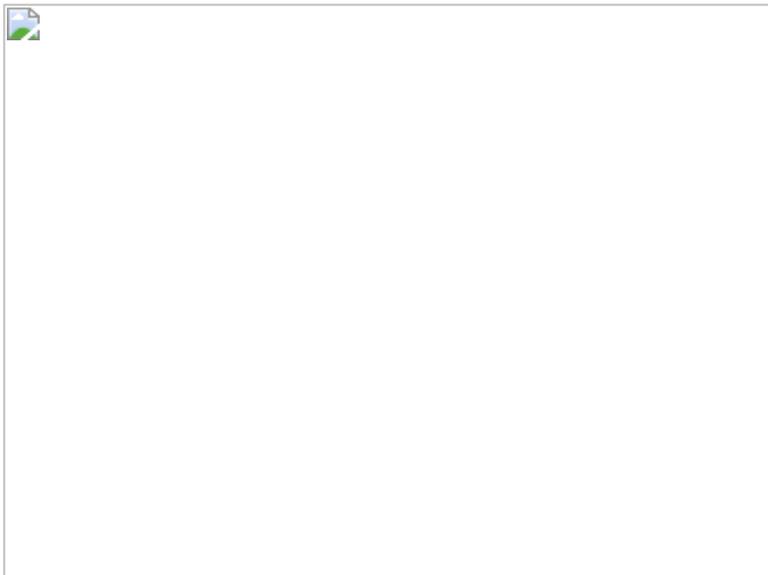
What should be next issue's Cadmudgeon topic? Let me know: cadmudgeon@spedweb.com

Second Act Jobs

It's rare to see piping design mentioned anywhere outside of our industry and specific cities; our profession is only slightly better known than one-legged chicken sexers.



"Second Act Jobs" apparently are jobs where people return to the workforce after retirement - click the graphic to read the Yahoo article. In this case, we must wonder if this is just a symptom of there being such a dearth of piping work for so long recently and many pipers "retiring" but not by their own choice. Then again, measuring things by click share doesn't sound too scientific...



SEE YOU NEXT TIME!



Copyright © 2018 SPED, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

SPED

9668 Westheimer Rd Ste 200

- 242

Houston, TX 77063-3242

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).