

KENTUCKY ENGINEER



**Reflecting on the early years
of the Northern KY Chapter**

page 16

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Magazine design by Hayley Robb
Cover photo courtesy of Jim Viox

President's Statement

Wes Sydnor, PE

"We find ourselves still in the clutches of a worldwide pandemic with numbers again on the rise."

This is how Lora began the President's Statement one year ago, and I'm hoping that this is the last year that it is a valid opening.

The reality is that we are not the same as we were three years ago. As after some of the seminal events of our lifetimes, we wake up and realize we will never be the same. Change is good. Whether it is how we work, how we learn, how we perform our daily lives - it will be different, and it will never go back to the way it was. As an organization that serves members like NSPE-KY, we have to adapt as well.

It is our jobs as leaders to set the stage for this change to occur and for the organization to come out stronger than it was before COVID-19. To do that, we will need all of you all to engage, participate, and continue to care about the organization and the profession.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In March 2020, the Leadership PE Class was enjoying the session in Bowling Green. As one of the deans of the session, I remember spending an evening in a packed restaurant discussing the close-out of the program and things that could be adjusted based on the reactions and engagement of the participants. Little did we know how long it would be before we saw each other face to face and were able to collaborate and learn in that kind of forum.

Of all of our program offerings, I would have argued that Leadership PE would have been impossible to hold in a hybrid or virtual setting.

I was wrong.

As much as we enjoy seeing each other, we have to be prepared to learn in a new way - when it makes sense. Change is good.



COVID-19 has presented us with a technological opportunity that would have taken years to manifest otherwise. We are able to connect the Engineering Center from Pikeville to Paducah with the click of a button or the touch of a screen. With the price of gas - that is a good thing (more on that in a second).

NSPE-KY needs to embrace these changes to be competitive going forward. We have to understand that 2019 is gone, and we are in a race with other programming to meet the needs of our members in the learning space. I'm really excited about the opportunities here over the next year.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The great news is that after several years of discussion, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill was signed into law as the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act in 2021!

The work now begins to educate Congress on the infrastructure needs in Kentucky, and how vital the role of an engineer is with regard to the health and safety of the Commonwealth.

Unfortunately, the dollars allocated in November 2021 don't exactly translate the same in summer 2022.

As an association, NSPE-KY needs to be the go-to resource for assisting members to navigate the challenges we are facing with the economy, fuel prices (and the first line of defense is suspending the gas tax that actually helps fund infrastructure investments, but that is another soap box for another day), the cost of materials, finding contractors to build things, and a workforce gap that many of us have never experienced in our careers. We can either run and hide from these challenges, or see them as opportunities.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

During the Leadership retreat that drew our officers and representatives from across the state, a large topic of conversation was about the future of our profession, both in terms of educational level and licensure requirements and the financial sustainability of the organization.

If you have tried to make an engineering hire in the last two years, you understand how the paradigm has changed. Not only are the financial needs ever present, but flexibility, remote capabilities, and the purpose in their work. On top of that, based on my experience with a local alumni board, fewer high school students are entering engineering schools. Combine that with a diminishing birth rate, and we will have a problem that will get exponentially more pronounced unless we tell our story. No one will do it for us.

The question of importance of MATHCOUNTS and other programs that allow us to interface with middle and high school students can be answered when looking at the future of our talent pool. We need you all to stay engaged. We also need to be intentional on our opportunities to attract a diverse pool of candidates to the profession. There needs to be an emphasis on being inclusive in telling the story of NSPE-KY

CONNECT WITH US



professionals and that we need to be representatives of our communities that we serve and that all voices have a platform within NSPE-KY.

On the financial front, we have been making strategic changes to shift some of our resources to the efforts of fundraising. This is a shift in mindset, but one that will pay dividends in the future. To be able to provide the service needed and to weather the ups and downs of the economy, we need to continually be financially viable.

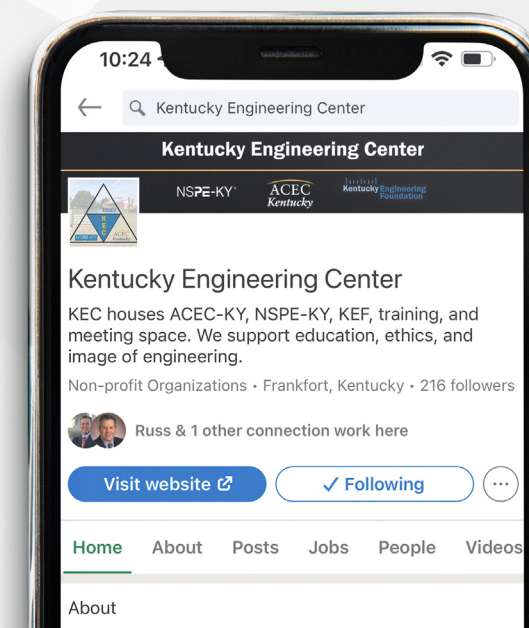
THANK YOU

I am so honored to serve you all in the coming year as your president. We will work as hard as we can to live up to your expectations, and we welcome feedback and information as we continue to navigate this fantastic voyage that we have been on over the last few years.

Thank you to Darin Hensley and Lora Boller for providing the leadership that has weathered the storm of the past two years! It was an unexpected challenge, and I tip my hat to both of you for a job well done.

Thanks also to the many others in leadership and committees as well as the Kentucky Engineering Center staff for making my transition a smooth one and continuing to support NSPE-KY.

Mostly, thank you all for your support of NSPE-KY. We cannot do this without you all and your dedication to the profession and the organization. As we continue this journey together, I will be looking to you all for guidance and support.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Q&A

SIX QUESTIONS WITH MATTHEW

1 Why did you decide to become a PE?

Honestly, I was unsure the career route I wanted to take while I was in college and took the “long path.” I began as a construction management major and was two semesters from graduation when my plans changed. I was enrolled in a summer surveying course and taught by one of the civil engineering staff members, Shane Palmquist. Near the end of the term, we discussed my plans and personal goals, among other things, and he bluntly told me that I was in the wrong major. That summer, I decided to make the switch to civil engineering even though it added additional semesters to my college career, and I am grateful that I did. Shane’s guidance and belief in me was the initial stepping stone to where I am today, and I probably wouldn’t be a licensed engineer if he didn’t have that conversation with me.

2 Why did you join NSPE-KY?

I attended a seminar presented by NSPE-KY and it was a perfect opportunity to join. I looked into joining early in my career and never took the step to do so. Getting more involved has always been an interest of mine, and becoming a member is something I felt was beneficial to do that.

NSPE-KY is dedicated to promoting the ethical, competent and licensed practice of engineering while enhancing the professional, social and economic well-being of both returning and new members of the organization. Please welcome Matthew Groves, PE to NSPE-KY.



MATTHEW “MATT” GROVES
SE Engineering & Design, P.S.C.
Vice President of
Structural Services
Bowling Green, KY

3 How did you get to the position you’re in now?

I would like to attribute my current position to hard work and dedication to the engineering industry and to my employer. I began with the firm while I was still in college as an intern. I was able to learn by being in the field as an assistant project manager and working on new multi-story apartments for students at WKU that our firm also designed. Upon graduation, I passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and the firm offered me a position as an Engineer-In-Training, which transitioned to a staffed engineer in 2018 when I passed the Professional Engineering exam. My PE is in civil engineering with a structural focus. I became a partner at the firm at the beginning of 2021.

4 What do you hope to gain from your involvement in NSPE-KY?

I hope to give as much, if not more, than I gain from NSPE-KY. I believe in promoting ethical engineering practices and the development of today’s and tomorrow’s engineers. Being involved with the community and fellow professionals are important ways to ensure the well-being of our daily lives, while hopefully making a positive and influential impact on future generations.



FAVORITE MOVIE

I wanted to lie on this question and just tell you Tombstone, The Shawshank Redemption or Forrest Gump because they are all in my top 5. However, I admit that I am a sucker for some good chick-flicks and my wife knows the true answer: How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days.



FAVORITE RESTAURANT

I prefer the local, small-town, restaurants but never turn down a good meal and am not picky (although, if I am a guest at your dinner table, I will gladly allow you to have my portion of brussel sprouts).



FAVORITE QUOTE

My dad once explained the difference between the preference of spending quality time vs a quantity of time. He said, “A lot of people will choose to only spend quality time with those they love, but we need to focus on the quantity of time we spend with one another because we never know when the quality will show up – or no longer can.”



“A lot of people will choose to only spend **quality time** with those they love, but we need to focus on the **quantity of time** we spend with one another because we never know when the quality will show up – or **no longer can.**”

5 What do you like to do outside of work?

I am big on quantity and quality family time, so a lot of my hobbies and interests revolve around them. We enjoy being outside as much as possible, playing, swimming and building fires to sit by.

I have always enjoyed working with my hands, so I am usually involved with projects inside and outside of the house. I feel it is important to mix the mental work with the physical. Aside from work and family, I enjoy watching and playing sports, hunting, fishing, smoking meats, visiting with friends, and usually always have music playing.



#PROUDPE SPOTLIGHT

Michael Harris, PE
Jacobi, Toombs & Lanz, President
NSPE Director of Memberships-at-Large

Michael (“Mike”) Harris was elected to serve as NSPE’s Director of Memberships-at-Large in July 2022. He was nominated by his peers in Kentucky and elected by a national committee.

However, Harris is no stranger to the engineering profession, he’s been involved in NSPE nationally since 2014 and participated in local chapter activities since 1996.

Harris’ stepmom will tell you he was the only kid who knew exactly what he wanted to be when he was 10 years old – an engineer.

From the beginning, Harris always loved problem-solving.

“I mean really at the end of the day, that’s what we do,” Harris said. “It’s not math. That’s just a tool. We solve problems and I think that’s what I was drawn to and that’s what I enjoy to this day.”

Harris attended the University of Louisville and earned his civil engineering degree in 1996.

He landed at Jacobi, Toombs and Lanz just by happenstance when he provided his college resume to one of his friend’s neighbors. He didn’t have much experience but the company knew he was in school so he started part-time. A few years later, he graduated and just kept on going.

“20 years later, and here we are,” Harris said.

Like many people, Harris was introduced to NSPE-KY by a mentor. Jorge Lanz told Harris he was going to a meeting, and before he knew it, he was attending them every month. From every position on the local level, Harris worked his way up to serving as the Southeast Regional Director in 2020.

Now as the Memberships-at-Large Director, Harris will serve as a conduit for any member in any of the six regions throughout the country. He will serve as their singular voice to the board.

Beyond attending board meetings and participating in activities, Harris said he is most excited about a campaign he got the chance to start as a regional director – the “value proposition” campaign.

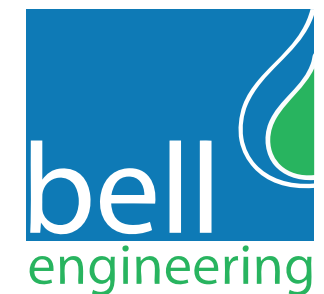
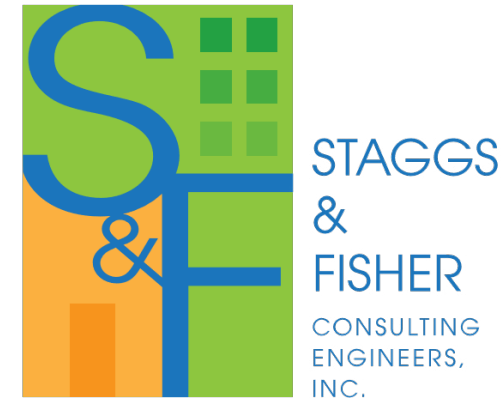


Harris said the campaign is about asking people who are members, why they chose to be members, and going to those who are not engaged or who left the organization and asking “why?”

“We’re trying to really fine tune what our message is and who our message is going to,” Harris said. “It’s asking things like, ‘Are we doing the right things? Are we doing too many things? Are we not doing enough things?’ Which all relates back to the long-term sustainability of the organization, which is to keep increasing membership.”

The relationship between the national organization and local chapters is another area Harris has been committed to strengthening. Harris said it’s an honor to be elected for a position that’s nationally selected and to be trusted to carry the local sentiments to the national board.

“It’s scary. It’s nerve-racking to go through the voting process,” Harris said. “But it’s very gratifying that people are responding to the message that you’re trying to put out and what you’re passionate about, because that means that they feel the same way.”



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Board of Licensure Report

Kyle Elliott, Executive Director

INDIVIDUAL LICENSE RENEWALS

The renewal deadline for all individuals whose last name begins with a letter in the range of L – Z, was June 30, 2022. If you fall into this range and have not yet renewed, your license expired at the end of the day on June 30. The offering or providing of professional services on an expired license is a violation of KRS 322. Unfortunately, even with two email renewal reminders and one mailed paper renewal notice sent at least 30 days prior to the expiration, there are still more than eleven hundred individuals who have not renewed. Make sure you are not one of them.

If you are unsure of your license/renewal status, please check our online searchable roster for your license status. That roster is updated continually and can be found on the Board’s website, or [here](#). If you have any questions about your license status, contact the Board offices for assistance.

Any person that missed the renewal deadline may still renew their license online for up to one year from the date of their license expiration, but will have to pay a late renewal penalty of 10% per month, or any part of a month they are late. The Online Renewal takes only a few minutes and you can pay the renewal fee with a credit card. Please read all of the renewal questions carefully, and answer them honestly.

Anyone who renews after September 1 of their renewal cycle year will automatically be audited for compliance with the continuing professional development regulations. Renew by September 1 and your chances of a continuing professional development audit is only 5%. After September 1 and those odds increase to 100%.

Access the online renewal system at: secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/KBOELS/LicenseRenewal.

FIRM RENEWALS

All Firm Permits expire on December 31, 2022. The online firm renewal system will open later this calendar year. Please set yourself a reminder to renew your permit(s) prior to December 31.

EMAIL REMINDERS

Beginning in early August of last year, the Board began using an email broadcast service (GovDelivery), through the General Government Cabinet of Kentucky, of which the Board is a part. We are using this service for both individual and permit renewal reminders, along with providing links to the publications of NSPE-KY and KAPS which contain the Board of Licensure Report.

RANDOM CPD AUDITS

By regulation, 5% of our licensees are randomly selected annually for a compliance audit of their continuing professional development (CPD) hours. This occurs every year on September 1. If you are selected, you will be notified at the mailing address you have provided to the Board. If this address has changed for you recently, please update your contact information with us by using the Board’s “Address Change” feature on our website, [here](#). You should also make sure we have the best email address for you.

The CPD Audit reporting period is for the two calendar years prior to your renewal year. In other words, if your renewal was in 2022 (last name beginning with L – Z), your audit will cover the CPD reporting period of calendar years 2020 and 2021 (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021). Once an audit notice is mailed, the licensee has thirty days to provide evidence of compliance with the CPD regulations. Late responses may be subject to a disciplinary action.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 28: Frankfort, KY

BOARD OF LICENSURE MEETING

July 29: Frankfort, KY

NCEES ANNUAL MEETING

August 23-26: Carlsbad, CA

NCEES EXAM ADMINISTRATION (STRUCTURAL)

October 21-22: Regional locations only

BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

October 27: Frankfort, KY

BOARD OF LICENSURE MEETING

October 28: Frankfort, KY

2022

For up-to-date information on the NCEES schedule:

[visit ncees.org/exams/schedule/](https://www.ncees.org/exams/schedule/)

Enforcement Actions Summary

April 1 – June 30, 2022

Heather L. Baldwin, PE, PLS, Director of Enforcement

UNLICENSED PRACTICE

LEONARD T. RUDICK | MCCLELLAN RUDICK & AFFILIATES, INC.

Leonard T. Rudick was licensed as a Kentucky Professional Engineer (PE), #21404, on May 31, 2000. His PE license expired on June 30, 2018 and has not been renewed since that time. McClellan Rudick & Associates, Inc. was issued a Kentucky engineering business entity permit, #1761, on October 16, 2001. That permit expired on four separate occasions and was reinstated on three occasions, with gaps in licensure totaling three years over a sixteen-year time period. The permit last expired on December 31, 2017 and has not been renewed or reinstated since that time. After the firm's permit expired on December 31, 2017, McClellan Rudick & Associates, Inc. engaged in the unlicensed practice of engineering by completing at least one engineering project while not holding the required engineering business entity permit. Additionally, Leonard T. Rudick completed, stamped, and certified at least one engineering project on behalf of McClellan Rudick & Associates, Inc. after his Kentucky PE license expired on June 30, 2018. To resolve the Board's investigation, Rudick, both individually and as President of McClellan Rudick & Associates, Inc., entered into an Agreed Order of Settlement and Injunction with the Board in which he is enjoined from offering or engaging in the practice of engineering in Kentucky, until or unless he becomes licensed by the Board to practice engineering. Furthermore, he is enjoined from offering or engaging in the practice of engineering through any business entity or advertising that any such business entity is authorized to offer engineering services in Kentucky, unless or until that business entity obtains a valid business entity permit from the Board. McClellan Rudick & Associates, Inc. is enjoined from engaging or offering to practice engineering or advertising that the company is authorized to offer engineering services in Kentucky unless or until the business entity obtains a valid business entity permit from the Board. Future violations may be subject to fines and/or periods of incarceration as provided in KRS 322.990. The Agreed Injunction was entered by the Franklin Circuit Court on July 12, 2022.

BALIS POFF, III

After receiving a copy of a plat that was recorded in the Whitley County Clerk's office but was not certified by a licensed land surveyor, the Board opened an investigation into the unlicensed practice of land surveying. Through that investigation, the Board discovered that an unlicensed individual, Balis Poff, III, provided land surveying services to the public, in violation of KRS 322.020, by preparing a plat for a new division of a tract of land. The plat appears to precisely locate and show detailed boundaries of the tract and contains numerous and significant elements that are required by 201 KAR 18:150 to be included on a plat of survey. The plat was also stamped with a square mechanical drafter's stamp, making the work appear as if it were prepared by a licensed professional land surveyor. The plat was recorded in the Whitley County Clerk's Office, and a description based upon the calls shown on the plat was used in a Deed of Conveyance, which was also recorded in the Whitley County Clerk's Office. To resolve the Board's investigation, Poff entered into an Agreed Order of Settlement and Injunction with the Board in which he is enjoined from practicing or offering to practice land surveying in Kentucky, or advertising or using any title or descriptive term that would convey the impression that he is qualified to offer or perform land surveying services in Kentucky unless and until he becomes licensed as a professional land surveyor by the Board. Furthermore, he is enjoined from offering or engaging in the practice of land surveying in Kentucky by or through any business entity or advertising that any such business entity is authorized to offer land surveying services in Kentucky, unless or until that business entity obtains a valid business entity permit from the Board. Future violations may be subject to fines and/or periods of incarceration as provided in KRS 322.990. The Agreed Injunction was entered by Franklin Circuit Court on July 27, 2022.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

TIMOTHY ERNEST ANHEUSER, PE #32656

On January 26, 2022, Timothy Ernest Anheuser renewed his Professional Engineering (PE) license seven months late, subjecting him to a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) audit due to late renewal. Anheuser failed to respond to numerous attempts to contact him regarding the audit and failed to provide evidence that he had completed 30 professional development hours (pdh) of CPD activities during the 2019/2020 reporting period. To resolve the investigation, Anheuser entered into a Consent Decree with the Board wherein he acknowledged the violations of the CPD regulations and agreed to: (1) receive a Letter of Reprimand from the Board; (2) pay an administrative fine of \$1,000 within 60 days; (3) submit proof of 30 pdh of CPD for calendar years 2019 and 2020 by October 1, 2022; (4) submit proof of 30 pdh of CPD for calendar years 2021 and 2022 by January 10, 2023; and (5) submit proof of 30 pdh of CPD for calendar years 2023 and 2024 by January 10, 2025. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on July 29, 2022.

POTESTA & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Potesta & Associates, Inc. was issued a Kentucky engineering business entity permit, #2657, on October 24, 2007. The permit lapsed on December 31, 2011 and was renewed late on May 21, 2012; lapsed again on December 13, 2013 and was reinstated on June 22, 2016; and lapsed a third time on December 31, 2019. It has not been reinstated since that time. On January 30, 2020, a judgment was entered for a civil action filed in the Circuit Court of Randolph County, WV, in which the jury found that Potesta & Associates, Inc., the defendant, was negligent, committed fraud, and was a proximate cause of harm to the plaintiff. The jury awarded the plaintiff \$1,719,143.53 in compensatory damages and \$300,000 in punitive damages. The West Virginia Board of Registration for Professional Engineers sought disciplinary action against Potesta as a result of the judgment. On March 3, 2021, Potesta & Associates, Inc. entered into a Consent Order with the West Virginia Board to resolve the investigation and agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$20,000. On May 23, 2022, Potesta & Associates, Inc. submitted a reinstatement application to the Kentucky Board for a business entity permit to practice engineering in Kentucky and failed to disclose the West Virginia disciplinary action on that application. Potesta & Associates, Inc., through its President, Ronald R. Potesta, acknowledged the violations and agreed to: (1) pay an administrative fine of \$1,000 each for violations of KRS 322.180 (1), KRS 322.180 (2), and KRS 322.180 (12), for a total of \$3,000; (2) receive a Letter of Reprimand; and (3) maintain a current and valid Kentucky engineering business entity permit during any time in which it is engaged in providing engineering services in Kentucky. The Board of Licensure approved this Consent Decree on July 29, 2022.

NON-DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Cases Closed with a Written Admonishment – 7

PE - Admonishments for CPD violations – 5 (3 late renewal audits, 2 follow-up audits)
 PLS - Admonishments for CPD violations – 1 (1 late renewal audit)
 PE - Admonishment for other violations - 1

Cases Closed with No Action – 1

PE - Passed CPD audit – 1 (random audit)

In Memoriam

Robert “Wally” Walsberger, PE

Robert Anthony “Wally” Walsburger, 86, passed away peacefully on May 21, 2022. He is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Rosemary (Zimmerman); his daughters, Kim Iseley (fiance, Brian Grade), Beth Sartori (Paul), Anne Kelly (David); son, Anthony Walsburger (Denise); and twin sister, Joan Doughten. He cherished and was deeply loved by his 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Robert graduated from St. X High School in 1953 and received his civil engineering degree from the University of Kentucky in 1957. He served in the United States National Guard 138th artillery.

He worked his entire career as a civil engineer, employed by the Kentucky Department of Transportation, H.E. Rudy Consulting Engineers, and HDR Engineers.

He played a key role in the design and construction of many Kentucky interstate highways, including the design of both I-64 and I-71 in Jefferson County and the planning and design supervision for the extension of I-65 from the Hart-Barren County line to the Tennessee state line. He also oversaw the reconstruction of sections of I-84, I-264, I-75, I-471, I-275, the Green River Parkway and the Cumberland Parkway. From 1982 to 1988, he was the Assistant Kentucky State Highway Engineer for construction in Frankfort.



Robert was a member of NSPE-KY and served as President from 1980 to 1981. He was also a member of the Kentucky Association of Transportation Engineers (KATE), the Kentucky Personnel Board, and the Kentuckians for Better Transportation (KBT). In 2010, he was an inductee into the Kentucky Transportation Hall of Fame and received the University of Kentucky College of Civil Engineering Achievement Award.

Although his accomplishments were many, he most loved spending time with family and friends, and was an avid golfer, enjoying his membership at Midland Trail Golf Club.

Expressions of sympathy may be made through a memorial contribution to [Hosparus of Louisville](#) or [Dare to Care](#).

I met Wally for the first time in 1975. I was a **young engineer**, doing his first set of maintenance plans. I'll never forget the respect that he treated me with during that meeting. It was **one of the many reasons I looked up to him** since that time. I'm so thankful I got to see him a few weeks ago for lunch. He's a great guy and will be **sorely missed**.

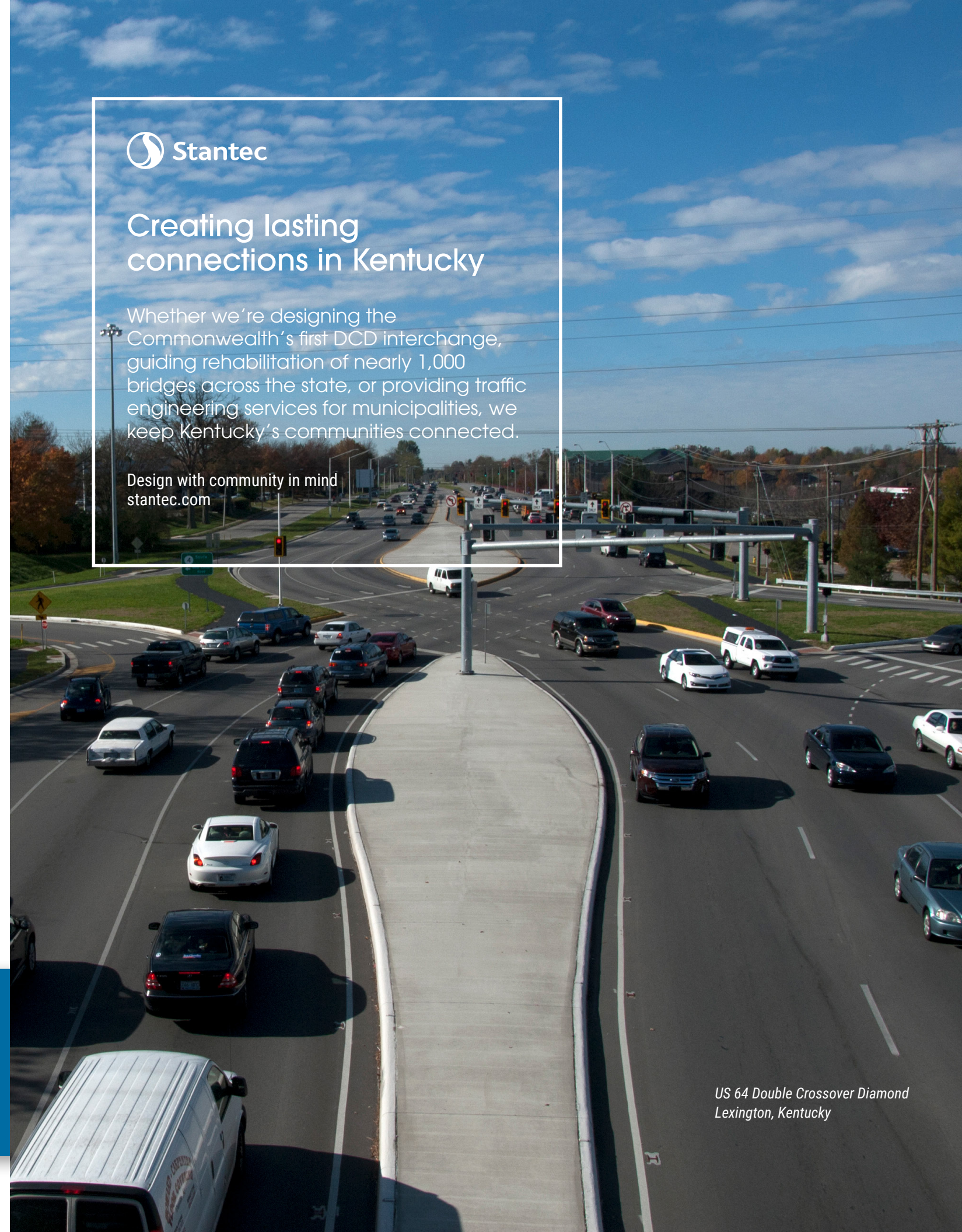
– RICHARD SUTHERLAND, PE
STANTEC, VICE PRESIDENT, TRANSPORTATION



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Standing the test of time

The history of NSPE-KY's Northern Kentucky Chapter

By Hayley Robb

Pictured above are the Charter members of the Northern Kentucky Chapter (1953).

In January 1947, the first flight from Cleveland, Ohio landed at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, marking the start to a new era of connectivity and progress for the region.

From air transportation to water quality to sewage control, northern Kentucky has played a major role in many of the state's most transformative projects.

However, much of the success would not have been possible were it not for the professional organizations and partnerships that flourished across the Commonwealth, one being northern Kentucky's professional engineers.

THE EARLY YEARS OF NKSPE

The Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE), which is now known as "NSPE-KY," is a statewide organization that was formed in 1938, consisting of several Chapters, one of which is the Northern Kentucky Chapter (NKSPE).

Several meetings were held by northern Kentucky engineers prior to the 1950s, but it wasn't until March 6, 1953, that 28 engineers accepted a constitution and a set of Bylaws, signing on as formal members and electing officers and the first board of directors.

The Chapter's first president was Orval Granville ("O.G.") Loomis, a native of Boone County and

distinguished engineer, known for his service to the profession. Alongside Loomis, George Rassenfoss, Jr. was elected vice president and M. D. Thomas named the secretary-treasurer. James Caldwell, Victor Fender, Al Holman and David Sussin were the elected board of directors.

For the first seven years, KSPE considered joining the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). However, members never felt strongly enough to require licensure or national affiliation.

Until 1960, when membership classification changed.

The change required all members to be registered professional engineers. In addition, all new KSPE members were required to also join NSPE.

The changes caused considerable discussion among KSPE members, but the move toward NSPE affiliation remained and membership strengthened, encouraging more professional licensing amongst Kentucky's engineers.

The ability to problem-solve and converse with like-minded peers kept membership intact and strong. Yet, with a diverse group of professional perspectives, came contentious debates at times.

When Richard ("Dick") Crist joined the group in the

early 60s, he said the meetings were certainly lively.

"I said to myself, if I'm going to listen to this, I'm either going to quit or I'm going to run this outfit," Crist said with a laugh.

He held his word and became NKSPE president in 1965 and was later inducted into the Kentucky Transportation Hall of Fame in 2001.

THE CONNECTORS

Although KSPE had several Chapters throughout the state, there wasn't a lot of interaction between the various groups.

"I tried to create interest by going to the convention and encouraging the engineers to bring their wives to these meetings," Crist said. "And that got this thing into a real organization, you know, fellowship."

This resulted in the creation of the Women's Auxiliary Chapter, the glue and reason for much of NKSPE's success.

In February 1967, the Auxiliary of the Northern Kentucky Chapter, KSPE was formed. The group elected Martha Rassenfoss as president, Sue Brown as vice president, Kay Crist as second vice president, Diane Saladin as third vice president, Patty Capito as secretary, Judy Berling as treasurer and Loraine Clark and Iva Mae Ransom as its board of directors.

The Auxiliary became a vital part of Chapter activities, helping plan and coordinate the annual conventions, student scholarships and promoting the work of the Chapter. The Auxiliary also tried to sprinkle in activities for entire families to enjoy. The summer family picnic and annual Christmas party were mainstays.

It later became Judy Berling's unspoken rule to host the annual Christmas party at the Triple Crown Country Club, an 18-hole golf course and residential community developed by her husband, James ("Jim") Berling, a core NKSPE member and former Chapter president.



Dick Crist, PE
DMC



Jim Berling, PE,
Triple Crown
Country Club

The annual conventions were another opportunity for NKSPE members and the Auxiliary Chapter to reconnect.

"I think we threw some of the best conventions KSPE ever saw," Jim Berling said.

NKSPE held its first annual convention in April 1968 at the White House Motor Inn in Fort Mitchell. The convention returned to northern Kentucky seven years later at the Drawbridge Inn in 1975.

During the weekend of the convention, the Cincinnati Reds were in town playing the Los Angeles Dodgers. This was the same season the Reds won the World Series and Pete Rose was awarded the World Series MVP. Everybody wanted tickets to see the "Big Red Machine."

"Y'all were known statewide," said Ron Lovan, president and CEO of the Northern Kentucky Water District, former NKSPE board member and a former president of KSPE's Bluegrass Chapter. "It was not only a good time, but it was a good professional networking experience."

It's as if it was meant to be. Around 350 people attended the annual convention that year – a record for NKSPE.

The Auxiliary Chapter defined the organization's culture and set a standard of excellence that transcended to other female leaders in the organization decades after.

Culminating in 1996, when Charlene Palmer of the Northern Kentucky Chapter became the first woman elected KSPE president, serving as a trailblazer for other women in the field. She received the Distinguished Service Award from KSPE in 2000.

FOUNDED ON FAMILY

James ("Jim") Viox, III decided early on he was not going to attend the University of Kentucky. At the time, Viox's father was managing his engineering firm out of the basement with about five employees. The intention was for Viox to go to college, become an engineer and continue the



Jim Viox, PE
Viox & Viox

business his father had started.

“My dad said Kentucky was only putting out highway engineers at the time and he wanted me to be involved in something other than highway engineering,” Viox said.

Viox decided to attend Virginia Tech University due to its strong engineering program and military academy.

Shortly after graduating from Virginia Tech with a civil engineering degree and Engineer-in-Training (EIT) license and certification, Viox joined the 34th Engineer Battalion and served in the Vietnam War for seven months. He was one of 45 members in the unit, using his engineering degree to start and lead a first-of-its-kind division with new and unfamiliar equipment.

Upon his return stateside, Viox found out his father was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was admitted to the hospital in January 1968. He passed five months later in May 1968.

After the diagnosis, many of NKSPE’s founding members and friends of Viox’s father encouraged Viox to get involved with the Chapter and pursue his professional license, one of whom was George Rassenfoss, Jr., his father’s former business partner and the first vice president of NKSPE.

However, with his father’s sudden passing, Viox wasn’t out of school long enough to file for registration and take the PE exam.

“I thought for sure we would lose our business,” Viox said.

McCartt, a Charter member, who was also on the Board of Licensure, called Viox one day and insisted he file for registration. Viox listened and traveled to the University of Kentucky, sitting for the PE exam in July 1968.

“So, I see you didn’t go to UK,” one of the examiners said. “I also see that you got a D in thermodynamics.”

Why the hell would you pick that class? Viox thought in his head but replied: “Yes sir.”

“Well, that’s pretty common for a civil student,” the examiner said. The rest of the room laughed.

The examination board continued to ask questions about Viox’s career in the military and beyond, and then asked him to leave the room so they could discuss his chance at licensure.

They invited him back in the room for one final question: “If you got into something you were uncomfortable with, what would you do?”

“I would call one of these other engineers,” Viox replied, looking around.

Following his response, Viox received his PE license, allowing him to formally take over his father’s business and build on the family’s legacy.

Viox often turned to Rassenfoss and Vic Fender, another friend of his father’s and Charter board member, for advice during those early years, holding his word to the Board of Licensure.

Viox’s brother, Bill Viox, joined the firm in 1970, which was the same year they changed the firm’s name from James H. Viox, Jr. & Son to Viox & Viox.

“We wouldn’t be sitting here today if it hadn’t been for NKSPE,” Viox said.



NKSPE’s early members are still connected and involved in the Chapter today. Pictured above from left to right: (Back row) Paul Brown, Dick Crist, Jim Viox, Ted Vogelpohl, Ron Lovan, Christopher Pavese. (Front row) Anthony Berling and Jim Berling.

CARRYING IT FORWARD

From the early years of the Chapter when Viox got involved to nearly 70 years later, one facet has remained the same – the importance of mentorship.

Giving back to the next generation is a vital part of NKSPE. In fact, much – if not all – of the group’s founding members were encouraged to join by a colleague, friend or supporter.

Jim Berling, like Viox, was introduced to NKSPE by Rassenfoss and joined the organization in 1961. Viox joined shortly after in 1968.

For Viox, the organization changed the course of his career – a deed he continues to repay by introducing young professionals to the Chapter and providing them with diverse experiences.

“Jim Viox is a legend in the northern Kentucky engineering community as a consultant, colleague, friend, boss, mentor, advisor and resource,” said Justin Verst, who was hired at Viox and Viox as a young engineer. “His encouragement to get involved in the Chapter led me to hold various board positions as well as president of the Chapter.”



Justin Verst, PE
Viox & Viox

Verst still works at Viox & Viox today as vice president of quality assurance.

Viox’s mentorship and story went a long way for several board members, pushing some to recommit their service to the profession and organization.

“Jim, 15 or more years ago, got me involved as a young engineer in serving on the board of NKSPE,” said Ted Vogelpohl, vice president and corporate quality manager at Geotechnology Inc. “Ever since then, I have recommitted to stay involved.”



Ted Vogelpohl, PE
Geotechnology, Inc.

Ron Lovan had a similar experience after attending one annual meeting at the Drawbridge Inn and visiting monthly meetings at the Town and Country, a former restaurant in Park Hills.



Ron Lovan, PE
Northern KY
Water District

“I was just an old farm boy from western Kentucky,” Lovan said. “But I always felt at home up here.”

AN ERA OF EXCELLENCE

Despite its early success, the Northern Kentucky Chapter lacked one fundamental element – a physical meeting space to do business.

Until 1993, when members advocated for their own building to serve as a central location for meetings and events. The president at the time, Greg Brown, said a building wouldn’t be possible without fundraising, which resulted in the annual golf tournament.

The Chapter raised \$4,000 in its initial year, but proceeds didn’t go toward a building. Instead, it went to a college scholarship fund for high school graduates. Due to increased success and popularity amongst members, the scholarship program is now a \$2,000 award renewable for four years, so long as the student remains at an accredited engineering program and maintains a 3.0 GPA, totaling \$8,000.

To date, NKSPE has awarded 22 scholarships.

The scholarship was a natural fit for the organization. It turned into a symbol, supporting northern Kentucky’s future engineers, while serving to repay what others had gained from the professional society.

NKSPE continues to drive positive change across the Commonwealth with nearly 100 active members and more joining every year. Five members actively serve on one or more of NSPE-KY’s committees, which inform public policy and promote the highest standards of the state’s engineering profession.

The Chapter has also received 37 state-level awards over the last 47 years and had four NKSPE members serve as NSPE-KY president.

For nearly 70 years and counting, the Northern Kentucky Chapter has remained focused on championing connection and community. And, as a new generation of members assume leadership, there is no doubt that NKSPE’s deep roots will continue to stand the test of time – built on the rich tradition, hard work and dedication of members past and present.

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2022 George M. Binder Scholarship

Victoria “Tori” Cambron

By Hayley Robb

Each year, NSPE-KY awards the George M. Binder college scholarship to a full-time engineering student, who has made significant contributions to the engineering profession, while maintaining a high-grade point average and active extracurricular involvement.

This year, the scholarship was awarded to University of Kentucky (UK) student Victoria (“Tori”) Cambron. The Georgetown, Kentucky, native graduated with her bachelor’s degree in civil engineering in May 2022 and is pursuing a master’s degree in civil engineering at UK this fall.

Cambron said she never thought she’d be interested in highway engineering, but she was fortunate enough to get an internship early in her career that introduced her to the field. Being able to improve the roadways and major arteries that connect communities intrigued her the most.

“Basically everyone has to drive on the roads to get to where they need to be,” Cambron said. “My parents, my family, my closest friends, they all travel on the roads every single day and so, if I can play a part in making sure their commute is as safe as it can be, at least from the roadway standpoint, that definitely means something to me.”

During her freshman year of college, Cambron got involved in another organization that had a major influence on her engineering career – the Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

SWE has been a champion for women engineers over the past 70 years, focusing on professional development and strengthening leadership skills of its Chapter members. At UK, SWE holds monthly



meetings, typically with an industry speaker, Chapter outings and networking opportunities throughout the year.

Cambron joined the organization and immediately jumped into a leadership role as freshman sleepover chair.

“Whenever I talk to freshmen in college I’m like, it doesn’t matter what you do or what you’re interested in, you just need to find a group that you connect with,” Cambron said. “And so, for me, that’s what the Society of Women Engineers was.”

Cambron held an office each year from sleepover chair to public relations chair to secretary and then president her final year.



“I never thought I would want such a front-facing position, but I was just like, you know, I really care about this organization,” Cambron said. “I’ve definitely learned that people like someone who can listen. So that’s just the role that I’ve taken on – really encouraged people to just come to the meetings and make them feel comfortable.”

When Cambron attended her first SWE sleepover the summer before her freshman year, SWE adviser Kim Sayre said she noticed right away that Cambron would be a leader.

“What makes her so special is that she always comes early and stays late to help other SWE officers with their programs,” Sayre said. “She is a quiet but strong leader – always listening and giving everyone a voice while driving results by facilitating consensus building. My takeaway is never underestimate the quiet one in the room!”

Cambron will continue her college career at UK while working at EA Partners, LLC as a highway design intern next year. She hopes to continue her career after college in highway transportation, improving roadways and offering solutions to improve efficiency and congestion for all.

With the recent announcement from Ford Motor Company, Cambron said she also hopes she can use her talents to be a part of the transformative change electric vehicles will bring to the Commonwealth.

“We cannot just continue to add lanes to existing roads and expect the problem of congestion to be solved,” Cambron said. “As a young engineer entering the engineering field, I can provide a fresh perspective on designing roads while keeping in mind the community around it.”

“Basically **everyone has to drive on the roads** to get to where they need to be... If I can play a part in making sure their commute is **as safe as it can be**, at least from the roadway standpoint, that definitely **means something to me**.”

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