

NSPE-WI Southwest Chapter

<http://www.wspe.org/southwest-chapter>

January 2021

*Plan to Attend the Virtual All-Chapter E-Week Webinar
February 12 at Noon*

President's Message

By Angela Hanz

Greetings SW Chapter –

Happy New Year! Your WSPE SW Chapter is off to a great start!

As we put 2020 behind us, I want to highlight some of the positives that came out of the challenging year.

- We learned not to operate in silos. The lack of in-person meetings caused us to be more creative in how we operate and deliver our mission. We started to interact more with other chapters throughout the state and collaborate with them. Chapters that were not active due to lack of volunteers are now being revitalized since we can partner with them for quality engineering related activities through remote meetings and events. We can share the tasks of organizing technical presentations and we can all benefit from each other's efforts.
- We opened up more opportunities for all engineers to be involved. Engineers that could not make in-person meetings due to other commitments can now easily sign-on to meetings and make valuable contributions as well as participate in the online events.

We recently drafted a Wisconsin Pathway to Licensure Document. The document is a roadmap for engineers to follow to achieve their professional registration in Wisconsin. We will distribute the document to engineering students and at promotional events and it will be available soon at wspe.org website!

Engineer's Week is in February! Founded by NSPE in 1951, Engineers Week (February 21–27, 2021) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers. We cannot hold our chapter banquet this year, but we have a virtual event planned (date/time coming soon). Please attend and show your support to our award and scholarship recipients from throughout the state and give them a virtual round of applause for all of their hard work.

Chapter Officers

President

Angela Hanz, P.E.

Past President

John Brome, P.E.

President Elect

Vacant

VP/Student Membership

Phil O'Leary, P.E.

VP/Gen. Membership/Education

Norm Arendt, Ph.D.

VP/Programs

David Shore, P.E.

VP/Secretary

Andy Graham, P.E.

Treasurer

Ron Voss, P.E.

Program Arrangements

Dave Shore, P.E.

State Director

Dave McDermid, P.E.

We need volunteers.

Please help if you can.

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I always looked forward to spending the first Saturday of February at MATHCOUNTS each year catching up with my engineering colleagues, visiting with their families, and volunteering at the MATHCOUNTS event. MATHCOUNTS chapter events will still be held in 2021 through a virtual competition. We do still need volunteers to help proctor and monitor the State Virtual MATHCOUNTS on March 25. Please contact Todd Kinney at tjkinney@charter.net for more information on the State event.

The registration for the 2021 Virtual Discovery Conference titled "Pioneers of Progress" will be opening in February with the conference beginning in March. Sign up to achieve your required ethics PDHs, hear about the Future of Engineering from NSPE President Trish Hatley, as well as presentations from Tesla, Alliant Energy, and more! Registration and conference brochures will be distributed soon.

Cheers to a great 2021!

E-Week Meeting

This year the Engineers Week meeting will be a statewide all chapter Zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 24 at 12:00 noon. A meeting invitation with the Zoom link will be sent soon!

Chapter Meeting with UW-Platteville

On Friday January 22 we met with Dr. Christina Curras, the UW-Platteville Department Chair of Civil Engineering and General Engineering Program Coordinator. The purpose of the meeting was to find out how NSPE-WI could assist in promoting participation in the FE Exam and assist students after graduation in their path to licensure. Meeting attendees included Norm Arendt, Phil O'Leary, and Angela Hanz. We discussed how students may be cutting off future opportunities if they do not prepare and plan to take the PE Exam. The SW Chapter will be sending UW-Platteville literature to distribute to Sophomore and Senior engineering students to assist them in achieving licensure. Our chapter also discussed promoting a few weeks in January as FE Exam week to encourage students to complete this task during winter break and before their last semester begins.

SW Chapter Scholarship Awards

As 2020 was fraught with frustration and difficulty, so too were the tasks of reviewing and analyzing the 2021 WSPE-WI scholarship applications.

To begin with, our Chapter's review of scholarship applications normally begins with the applicant's qualifications (GPA, SAT & ACT test scores, etc.). But schools have eliminated many of those quantitative evaluation tools, making our review and comparison process considerably more difficult. We have done our best to review all scholarship applications fairly based on the information provided and, after interviewing 5 applicants from large, medium and small schools, have decided to present a \$1,000 scholarship award to 3 of the interviewed applicants.

These are all very bright kids with tremendous ambition. One candidate wishes to pursue Environmental Engineering, another Engineering Physics and a third Mechanical Engineering. On February 25, our State

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Board will conduct an Engineers Week, "All Chapter Awards Meeting" via Zoom and each of these SW Chapter scholarship candidates will be awarded with a \$1,000 scholarship along with scholarship candidates from other NSPE-WI Chapters. Please look for your Zoom meeting invitation in your email.

We congratulate them all and wish them the very best for their careers!

NSPE Volunteer Leader Development Webinars

Please Join NSPE for the new Volunteer Leader Development Program "Road to the Summit"

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device at

<https://nspe.zoom.us/j/89889954256?pwd=bERUMGxzYjBPS3FGQ0VyUjNObVJtUT09>

Passcode: 828471

Upcoming Sessions:

- 3/18 Financial responsibilities of the Board and Treasurer
- 4/15 A Look at Program and Sponsorship Revenue Best Practices
- 5/20 Board Roles and Responsibilities

Or join by phone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 898 8995 4256

Passcode: 828471

Handouts and additional information that becomes available will be placed in the NSPE Leadership Toolbox <https://www.nspe.org/membership/leadership-toolbox/road-the-summit-nspe-volunteer-leadership-development>

Kimberly Granados, CAE

Sr. Director, Membership, Marketing, and Content

1420 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703-684-2857 | www.nspe.org

“Pioneers of Progress” to be Discovery Conference Theme

By John Brome

Just recently, the WI Discovery Conference committee held their DC2021 kick-off meeting and chose “Pioneers of Progress” for the theme. Special recognition will be made to those most responsible for technology that has given way to today’s high-tech successes.

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While the conference will again be all virtual, the number of presentations will be fewer, but the total PDHs to be gained will remain at 16, same as 2020. Registration cost will remain at \$150 for all 14 sessions which are expected to begin the second week of March and extend through April 22.

Presentations will be offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 12:00 noon although some will last 90 minutes while most will last 50 to 60 minutes. Registration will begin in February, and attendees will have the option to register for individual presentations at 2020 prices.

Diverse engineering disciplines will again be represented (civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, and bio-medical engineering) but most presentations will center around civil engineering, and two ethics presentations will be provided. All presentations will be live-streaming, and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions throughout each presentation.

As a special offer, the Discovery Conference committee has decided to offer 50% off of the \$150 registration fee for those WI engineers currently not members of NSPE, if they join NSPE for a 1-year membership between December 9, 2020 and March 10, 2021.

Please look for our annual emailing/ mailing pertaining to this exciting conference and we hope you will decide to attend!