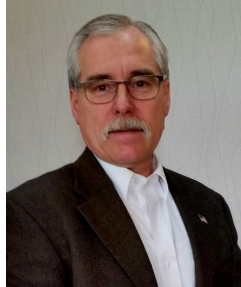


*State News for NSPE Members*

## President's Message

By: John Kustka, P.E.



NSPE-WI 2020 Discovery Conference

POSTPONED

Details Below.

Conference: April 21-22, 2020

**Hello**, and thank you for taking the time to read this email. I want to thank those of you who read our last edition and reached out to assist us. Your involvement is critical to the success of our organization and we appreciate all the help we can get.

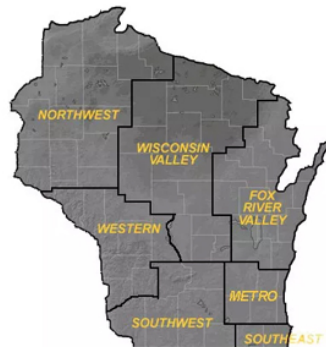
Due to the extenuating circumstances regarding the COVID-19 virus, NSPE-WI has made the difficult decision to postpone our Discovery Conference which was scheduled for April 21-22. Due to the popularity of this conference, we are not cancelling the event but are in the process of rescheduling it for October 2020. We will provide more detailed information when it becomes available as our Conference Committee is working hard to do to make all the necessary changes.

### ***The State of the State***

NSPE-WI is also continuing our search for individuals who can volunteer some of the time and talent to the betterment of NSPE-WI.

To each member who reads this and shares our belief that the Professional Engineer is vital to the well-being of our society, we are asking for your help. The effectiveness of our organization does not lie with a few individuals, but all of us collectively. That is why we need to have representation and leadership in all of our (7) chapters.

Currently, only the **Southwest** and **Fox River Valley** chapters are staffed, functional and active.



**Chapter Officers needed in these areas:**

- **Northwest**
- **Wisconsin Valley**
- **Western**

- **Metro**
- **Southeast**

Please contact either [ExecDir@wspe.org](mailto:ExecDir@wspe.org)  
or [jkustka@kustka.com](mailto:jkustka@kustka.com) for more  
information about how you can help.

If you would like to learn more about what is involved in serving as an officer or if you have held office at the Chapter level and wish to assist NSPE-WI in this most important goal, please contact either [ExecDir@wspe.org](mailto:ExecDir@wspe.org) or [jkustka@kustka.com](mailto:jkustka@kustka.com).

### **We want to hear from you!**

We are seeking input from all members or perspective members.

- What would you like to see from your local Chapter or State Board?
- Do you have an idea for an event or gathering for a Chapter event?
- How can we become more connected here in the State of Wisconsin?
- What efforts would help us to grow our membership?

Please contact me with your input, ideas or feedback at [jkustka@kustka.com](mailto:jkustka@kustka.com) or 608-756-2910. I look forward to hearing from you!

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## **Why We All Need to Volunteer**

By: John Brome, P.E.  
President Elect- NSPE-WI

In 2009 I retired from a 37 year long career in engineering as an electrical engineer. Having worked for several companies over that length of time, it became very clear to me just how much employers depend on their employees to develop new products, manufacture them, market and service them.

The same is true of being a member of a professional organization such as NSPE (and WSPE). Competent engineers are needed to hold officer positions in each chapter and State board, to run the MATHCOUNTS competitions, to hold an annual conference, to solicit new members while informing current members of activities within their chapter and maintain chapter/State solvency.

Currently, our State (WI) board is challenged by receding member activity within some of our Chapters and we have responded by drafting a plan to address that circumstance. To that end, we have personally been calling all of the members of one affected chapter. Some of the members have responded positively but sadly, most have not, saying that they're too busy. Many of the people contacted never bothered to return our calls having left a voicemail asking them to call back. We even offered to reimburse volunteers up to a maximum of 100% if they volunteered as chapter officer! Some did comment, though, that they liked the "professional affiliation and PDHs".

While many have volunteered sometime in the past, the fact is that if we don't keep our chapter and State boards active, at some point they will "go away" and may never return. We can't all "let someone else" do the work while the rest take advantage of the member benefits without volunteering.

So if you're able to volunteer even if for only 1 year for your local chapter or State board, please consider helping out. Yes, it takes a little time and yes, it might take a little work but literally a couple of hours a month isn't going to take over your life. So please, do yourself and all of us a favor and please volunteer. We would ALL greatly appreciate your assistance!

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## **2020 NSPE-WI Discovery Conference – POSTPONED**

Due to the extenuating circumstances regarding the COVID-19 virus, NSPE-WI has made the difficult decision to postpone our Discovery Conference which was scheduled for April 21-22. Due to the popularity of this conference, we are not cancelling the event but are in the process of rescheduling it for October 2020. We will provide more detailed information when it becomes available as our Conference Committee is working hard to do to make all the necessary changes.

To those of you who were looking to round out your PDH's this spring, I can share with you that we have been in contact with Wisconsin DSPS requesting an

extension of this year's deadline for continuing education requirements and DSPS is currently working on a solution. We will provide you with an update as soon as we can. Feel free to contact us with any questions at [ExecDir@wspe.org](mailto:ExecDir@wspe.org) or [jkustka@kustka.com](mailto:jkustka@kustka.com).

John Kustka, P.E  
President – NSPE-WI



## POSTPONED

### 2020 Discovery Conference

#### Radisson Hotel

517 Grand Canyon Drive  
Madison, WI  
October, 2020  
Dates to be confirmed.

## MATHCOUNTS Update

By: Todd Kinney, P.E.  
MATHCOUNTS Coordinator

The 37th Annual MATHCOUNTS Competition is underway!

### Help Wanted

- We need a MATHCOUNTS coordinator for our SE Chapter.
- We are looking for a volunteer to chaperone the National Tournament.

Each year, the State and Chapter competitions need volunteers to have the program run successfully. If you can, please volunteer at your Chapter event. It only takes a half a day of your time on a Saturday. This promotes math among our middle school students which is a key foundation for any STEM curriculum.

MATHCOUNTS is a national mathematics competition for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Winners at the regional event advance on to the State competition. Winners at the State level advance on to the National competition. The program is designed to enhance the math skills of our students and promote excellence in mathematics. The goal is to draw attention to math skills at the pre-college preparation level. This will hopefully encourage students to take all the math courses they can through high school. Please visit [mathcounts.org](http://mathcounts.org) for further information regarding the MATHCOUNTS program.

The regional (Chapter) events were held on February 8, 2020. A gracious "Thank you" to all the volunteers who assisted in making these local chapter competitions successful.

Below are some photos of the SW Chapter competition held at Kromrey Middle School in Middleton, WI. John Brome, P.E. is the SW Chapter Coordinator and did a fantastic job in organizing and facilitating the competition.....and the donuts were fantastic!





Acuity has graciously committed to sponsoring the State competition for another 3 years. Their support and facility make this a top notch event that positively impacts the middle school youth across the entire State of Wisconsin. Over 700 students participate in the program annually.

The State competition will be held at Acuity in Sheboygan on March 7 and approximately 140 students advance to this competition.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact me at [tjkinney@charter.net](mailto:tjkinney@charter.net) or 920-207-3924. If you have questions regarding your Chapter competition, please contact your Chapter coordinator.

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### Take advantage of the 15 Free courses

Included with your NSPE membership are 15 FREE on-demand webinars that you can access from the comfort of your home or office. Take advantage of these courses (a \$2,235 value) to further your professional development and meet your continuing education requirements.



The new 2020 courses are now online, and include

- The engineering ethics series;
- Drones: The Sky's the Limit;
- How Engineers Create Added Value;
- How Not to Fail as a Leader;
- Managing Risk Through Arbitration and Dispute Resolution;
- And more!

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### NSPE-WI Legislative Update

By Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E.  
 NSPE-WI VP Government Affairs Portfolio  
 email: [glenschwalbach@netzero.com](mailto:glenschwalbach@netzero.com)

Wisconsin now has a new "retired" status for engineers and architects. 2019 Act 94 was signed on February 5, 2020. The legislation was amended as WSPE requested. A Professional Engineer who is 65 years old or has maintained their credential for twenty years, which do not have to be consecutive, can apply for a "P.E.-Ret." status from the Department of Safety and Professional Safety (DSPS). This status waives the requirement for continuing education. There will be no requirement for an affidavit as the DSPS required before. And, if the P.E. credential was not renewed and dropped, a request can still be made to get a "P.E.-Ret."

status if the above criteria is met. The biennial fee will be one-half of the normal registration fee. So, for retired status, the fee will be \$34 for two years.

WSPE also testified on bills AB 770/SB 820, companion bills, requiring the DOT to do six design-build highway projects over the next six years. The bills state that at least one project is to be a low bid, one to be a best value, and one to be fixed price/variable scope. We testified to the fact that the design portion of any proposal should be decided by Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) and not by such criteria as a low bid. In fact, any federally-funded project requires QBS, according to the U.S. Brooks Act of 1972.

Also, we finally got a draft bill to eliminate the statutory language which now allows a two-year associate degree in engineering technology to be considered for sitting for the P.E. exams. The DSPS no longer vets applicants for taking the exams but tells applicants to sign up for the exams directly at the website for the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Then, if the applicant passes the exams, they apply for P.E. registration. The problem is that applicants without a four-year engineering or certain four-year engineering technology education will waste their time and money to take exams that they will fail. We have found students who wanted to be engineers ending up in two-year engineering programs through misinformation. We will have to wait until fall, when the legislature goes back into session to get that bill introduced. In the meantime, we will be lining up legislators to sponsor the bill.

For more updates on legislation in Wisconsin affecting the Engineering community, visit our NSPE-WI Facebook page.

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## Engineers Week

The week of February 16-20, 2020 was declared as Engineers Week. In recognition of the dedication and contributions of engineers across the State of Wisconsin, a proclamation was issued by Governor Tony Evers.

Each year, this week is used to bring a focus on the engineering profession in order to engage our young people in hopes of fostering the next generation of engineers.....a critical investment necessary to secure our future.



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## Supporting Organizations

WSPE would like to thank our current **Supporting Organizations**, including:

### Gold Sponsor



**Silver Sponsor****Bronze Sponsors**

You can visit the websites of these companies by clicking on their logos on the WSPE website at [wspe.org](http://wspe.org). Becoming a **Supporting Organization** at any time is easy and your support is vital in funding activities and programs at the state and chapter level. Sponsoring organizations get a variety of benefits based on sponsorship level, including recognition at events and in publications, free or reduced-rate job board postings, free conference registrations, and more.

Please contact [ExecDir@wspe.org](mailto:ExecDir@wspe.org) for details on how you can support NSPE-WI.

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**WSPE Executive Committee Officers for 2019–2020**

President - John Kustka, P.E.

President Elect - John Brome, P.E.

Past President - James Buggs, P.E., F.NSPE

Vice President (Legislative) - Glen Schwalbach, P.E.

Vice President (Membership) - Nancy Schultz, P.E.

Vice President (Education) - Andy Myers, P.E.

Treasurer - Martin Hanson, P.E.

Secretary - Eric Schlevensky, P.E.

Young Engineer Representative - Open

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**NSPE-WI Mission Statement**

NSPE-WI is an organization of licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) and Engineering Interns/Engineers in Training (EIs/EITs). NSPE-WI enhances the image of its members and their ability to ethically and professionally practice engineering through education, licensure advocacy, leadership training, multi-disciplinary networking, and outreach.

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**Climate Change Special Issue**

As climate change effects proliferate, professional engineers are taking on the crisis. They're working to provide solutions as part of their responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The [March/April issue of PE magazine](#) includes three articles highlighting PEs' work in this area:

- ["Climate Changers"](#) –Young engineers feel a responsibility to take action on climate with their work—and they're increasingly choosing to work for companies that share this perspective.
- ["Harsh Realities Drive Adaptation"](#) – Cities are targeting climate-change impacts with comprehensive policies. Professional engineers and AEC firms are showing that their expertise can help bring these plans to fruition.
- ["A Grand Challenge Needs to Inspire Grand Solutions"](#) – Professional engineers have an abundance of opportunities to invent creative, innovative solutions to issues surrounding environmental sustainability and resilience.



## Share Your Views on the Engineering Profession

Do you support the elimination of state licensure exemptions? Should states align their licensing requirements to help PEs easily practice in multiple jurisdictions? Does your place of employment welcome diverse perspectives?

These are just some of the issues facing the professional engineering community. NSPE encourages you to provide your perspectives on these topics and more by participating in the [2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey](#).

The 15-minute survey is open to NSPE members, engineering students, and engineering professionals. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of four \$50 Amazon gift cards.

The results of the survey will be made available to participants and will also be shared in *PE* magazine and other NSPE publications.

[Access the 2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey.](#)

## Communication on Your Terms: Update Your Preferences

NSPE is committed to providing the best service possible. To that end, we need to verify that member profile information is accurate. This includes preferred names and titles, and employer and contact information. NSPE asks all members to [review their member profile and update their information](#).

Thanks to updates to the NSPE database, members can now also choose exactly what emails they want to receive. With new subscription management options, members can unsubscribe from some mailing lists without missing out on information of interest to them. In order to make this possible, all members' email settings have been reset to the default. Everyone will need to log into their account to manage their preferences, even if they have previously unsubscribed from a mailing list.

[Update information and preferences.](#)

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