



President's Message

By James Buggs, P.E., F.NSPE

Hello everyone, and welcome to the roller coaster ride that is spring in Wisconsin! While you have been hunkered down against the brutal arctic weather, the Discovery Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work putting together a great program. The conference will be held April 30-May 1 in the Milwaukee area, with the WSPE Annual Meeting on April 29. By the time you read this, registration should be open. Visit www.wspe.org for details and share the news with your colleagues.

As the pace of life and the advance of technology quickens, it becomes critically important for engineers to step back, take a breath, and consider the ethical implications of their work and what they are being asked to do by others. The pressures of tight deadlines and budgets can cloud judgment and lead to decisions that could jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of the public that engineers are obligated to protect. That's where the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and its state societies come in. We are here to help with ethical dilemmas. You can start a conversation with an email to execdir@wspe.org. Please consider inviting your colleagues to join NSPE/WSPE so they can also experience the support of this great organization. And don't forget other benefits, including access to 15 free online seminars per year and a 50% discount on courses through the PE Institute. Go to <https://www.nspe.org/join> or hit the Join button on the [WSPE website](http://www.wspe.org).

Remember that WSPE has volunteer opportunities to suit every need:

Are you looking to hone or refresh your leadership skills? Officer openings are available in all chapters. Do you enjoy the Discovery Conference? Come help with the planning and make it even better. Do you like meeting new people, but need time-specific tasks? We could use you for membership and/or member involvement projects. Do you miss math and middle school? Local and/or state MATHCOUNTS have a spot for you. Are you fired up about protecting professional licensure? Join our WSPE Legislative Affairs team. Are you a webmaster in disguise? The WSPE website is waiting for your ideas. Are you forward thinking? Help create a strategic plan aligned with NSPE goals specific to WSPE. Are you good at fine-tuning documents? Assist in updating WSPE programs, constitution, and bylaws.

These are just some of the opportunities available. Involvement with WSPE is a great way to meet and network with interesting people dedicated to upholding the values of our profession while serving their community. We've got a great group of officers on the Executive Committee and look forward to working with you to make WSPE the vibrant and vital organization that we all know it can be. Contact me at president@wspe.org to let me know how you want to help and I'll work to make it happen. Come and join us!

Supporting Organizations

WSPE would like to thank the companies that have already signed on as 2019 Supporting Organizations, including DAAR Engineering, Davy Engineering, GRAEF, GSC, and RA Smith. We once again thank our 2018 Supporting Organizations (Silver Sponsor - Foth; Bronze Sponsors - DAAR, Davy Engineering, Flygt [a Xylem brand], GRAEF, Hy-Brid Lifts, UW-Platteville, and We Energies). We remind others to renew or sign up today. You can do this online at <http://www.wspe.org/sponsor.php>. If you are not currently a Supporting Organization, what are you waiting for?!? Please visit <http://www.wspe.org/sponsors.shtml> to learn more and to sign up. Your support helps fund activities and programs at the state and chapter level. In addition, sponsoring companies 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.

News and Events

Wisconsin State MATHCOUNTS Update

The Wisconsin State MATHCOUNTS Competition was held on March 2, 2019 at Acuity in Sheboygan. WSPE thanks Acuity for their continued support and for the use of their beautiful facility. We are also very grateful for the efforts of MATHCOUNTS Chairperson Todd Kinney, PE, assistance from Kerry Hardin, PE, and Paul Feller, PE, and for all the volunteers and Acuity staff who helped out with the event. We had 32 volunteers including WSPE members, friends, and family, and two MATHCOUNTS alumni. Thank you all for volunteering. Having a great volunteer force to work with makes the day go smoothly and enjoyable for everyone.

This year's competition included 139 students from 47 schools throughout the state. The top three teams were:

Velma Hamilton Middle (Madison): Coach Loi Nguyen
Glacier Creek Middle (Cross Plains): Coach Monica Gupta
West De Pere Middle (De Pere): Coach Sean Gibbons

The top four individuals and the coach representing Wisconsin at the National MATHCOUNTS competition are:

Jake Rottier (West De Pere Middle, De Pere)
Kevin Song (Velma Hamilton Middle, Madison)
Kartik Ramachandrule (Wisconsin Hills Middle, Brookfield)
Alexis Hu (Shorewood Intermediate, Shorewood)
Coach: Loi Nguyen (Velma Hamilton Middle, Madison)

The National competition will take place on May 12 & 13, 2019 in Orlando, FL. The countdown round on May 13th is televised. Please see www.mathcounts.org for more information.

Discovery Conference Update

WSPE's 2019 Discovery Conference is slated for April 30 – May 1 at the Milwaukee Marriott West. Earn up to 14 professional development hours (PDHs), including two in ethics, by attending both days of the conference. Topics include ethics, UW campus construction projects, Wisconsin water quality issues, transportation projects, mechanical systems & commissioning, biomedical, depositions, patent law, and others. Topics of interest to many engineering disciplines will be presented.

WSPE's Annual Meeting will precede the conference, at the same location on the afternoon of April 29, 2019. All members are welcome to attend. New this year is the option to register for a single day of the event if your schedule doesn't allow you to attend the full conference. There are also reduced rates for government

employees, students, and WSPE Life Members. Note that members rates apply to all NSPE members, not just those in Wisconsin. If you're not yet a member of NSPE, join now and save on conference registration!

Registration information and conference details can be found at <https://www.wspe.org/discovery-conference>. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending!

In Memory: Longtime Member Ron Fiedler, P.E.

Ron Fiedler, P.E., who joined WSPE and NSPE in 1962, "took the highway to Heaven on Friday, Feb. 15, 2019, at the age of 86, with his family by his side," according to his obituary on Madison.com. Fiedler joined the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in 1958, and he served as the department's secretary of the transportation from 1987-1992, under Governor Tommy Thompson. He was named WSPE's Engineer of the Year in 1990. [Read more.](#)

Partnership Aims to Develop Engineering Talent in Northeast

UW-Platteville and UW Oshkosh have formed a degree-program partnership to help increase the number of engineers in the region.

According to UW Oshkosh, "students can live and study on the Oshkosh campus, with additional classroom opportunities on the Fox Valley campus. At the end of the program, students will earn a UW-Platteville electrical or mechanical engineering degree. The program can be completed in four years by traditional undergraduate students in residence or by nontraditional students in the region already working in comparable fields."

"There's huge demand," UWO Engineering Technology Department Chairman Gregory Kleinheinz told the [Advance-Titan](#). "We're not graduating enough engineers in any discipline nationwide and Wisconsin isn't immune to that. We have multitudes of positions unfilled. We just hear loud and clear that there's a need for it." [Read more.](#)

Thank You to Our Sponsoring Supporting Organizations!





Take the 2019 Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest Challenge!

All current NSPE members through their state societies and chapters (including student chapters) are invited to participate in the 2019 NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest.

The winning entry will receive an award of \$2,000, a certificate, and recognition in *PE* magazine.

How to Participate

NSPE's Board of Ethical Review is furnishing you with two different fact situations to choose from regarding the ethics of engineers, or you can submit your own case! Please choose either of the two situations (or use your own case) and develop an essay, video, photo essay, poster, or PowerPoint presentation, which could include embedded videos/sound, etc., to demonstrate your understanding of the facts and the [NSPE Code of Ethics](#).

Contestants are asked to read the facts of the case, then develop a discussion and conclusion to respond to the included question(s). Contestants should also provide references, citing specific sections of the Code of Ethics. Contestants may also want to check the NSPE Board of Ethical Review's [website](#) for additional cases decided by the BER.

All entries must be received by **Monday, April 15**.

[Access all the contest rules and download the flyer.](#)

The contest is named for NSPE's former general counsel, who played a key role in the founding of the NSPE Board of Ethical Review.

As Heard on Communities

NSPE's [Communities](#) is the place for members to connect online with colleagues. Log in for knowledge exchange, content curation, collaboration, and professional networking.



No matter what your interest, you can find great content in the Open Forum. Check out these recent discussions:

[Driver's License Approach](#)

"We need to point to the way driver's licenses work nationally as a model for national respect of a professional engineer. A driver has a license in one state and it is recognized in every other state. Are driving laws different state to state, and is safety involved in driving a vehicle? Clearly the answer is yes."

[Role of Safety Through Engineering in the Natural Gas Pipeline Industry](#)

"I would like to take a moment to expand on the role of the engineering profession in the natural gas pipeline industry. This statement is intended to be an informative piece on how this role aligns with the fundamental canons of NSPE's Code of Ethics. My statement will explain the fundamentals of pipeline safety regulations to my fellow members—regulations that are rooted in sound engineering principles." Also see: "[Emergency Response](#)"

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