

PE MATTERS

STATE
NEWS
NSPE-WI™ WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

>>>> DECEMBER 2019

State News for NSPE Members

President's Message

By: John Kustka, P.E.



From all of us at NSPE-WI:

We wish you and your family

a Merry Christmas &

a Happy Holiday season!

Safe travels wherever this
holiday season takes you.

Just a quick disclaimer regarding my new photo. One might think that serving as the President of NSPE-WI has caused to me to age considerably, not entirely. It was just time to update my LinkedIn photo, obviously overdue.

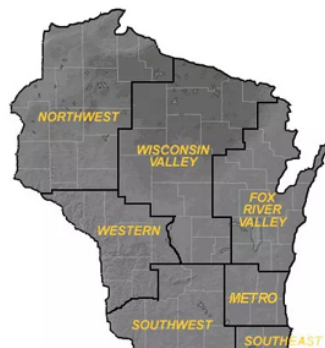
As we approach another Christmas season, it seems natural to reflect on the many blessings that we enjoy here in the Badger state. I know that our family is truly thankful and hopeful for the future. It is this future that, we as engineers, have the responsibility to shape and guide. From the infrastructure that we depend on daily, our utility services and the products we purchase to make our lives easier, the Professional Engineer touches the lives of the public each and every day.

This responsibility has been shouldered quite successfully by our profession over the years and we must continue to carry on this tradition of the pursuit of excellence. NSPE-WI has been the driving force behind the voice of the PE in Wisconsin and together with our neighboring states, we transform this effort into a nationwide force to assist the PE in the betterment of society.

The State of the State

NSPE-WI is in need of your help. 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**

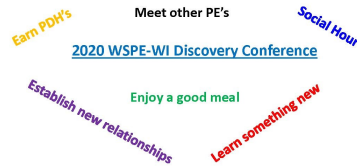
Please contact either ExecDir@wspe.org or jkustka@kustka.com for more information about how you can help.

We have developed a new policy to aid those who choose to step up and serve as a Chapter Officer. NSPE-WI is planning to offer Chapter Officers reimbursement (up to 100%) of their annual dues for actively serving. Details of this plan are being finalized and will be announced very soon.

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 or jkustka@kustka.com.

2020 NSPE-WI Discovery Conference

One of the most visible programs that WSPE delivers is our annual Discovery Conference. It not only provides a good portion of the professional development hours required to maintain your license, but it also provides us with the opportunity to meet each other and establish relationships that would never otherwise come to be.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Last year's Discovery Conference received rave reviews including the conference content, venue and value regarding PDH opportunities. This year's conference promises to be even better as we strive to deliver what our members are asking for.

The 2020 conference will be held in **Madison, WI** at the **Crown Plaza Hotel- 4402 East Washington Ave.** Dates for the conference are **Tuesday, April 21** and **Wednesday, April 22, 2020**. The annual State Board meeting will be held at the same location on **Monday, April 20**. This meeting is open to all NSPE-WI members and all are encouraged to attend. The time of this meeting has not yet been established as we wish to choose a time as convenient as possible for all who plan to attend.

We are currently arranging speakers for the 2020 Discovery Conference. If you have a suggestion for a topic and/or speaker, please contact the committee chairs below. Please include the speaker's contact information if you have it. The Conference Planning Committee will evaluate the topic/speaker and make a recommendation.

We also need the assistance of *Program Sponsors* and welcome *Exhibitors* at our Discovery Conference. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or wish to reserve a booth, please contact the Committee Chairman below.

2020 Discovery Conference Committee Chairman:

Mr. Fred Groth, P.E. fred.groth@graef-usa.com

Mr. John Brome, P.E. preselec@wspe.org

STAY TUNED.....More news as it develops!

Mathcounts Update

By: Todd Kinney, P.E.

The 37th annual MATHCOUNTS season is upon us.

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 for further information regarding the MATHCOUNTS program.

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, 2020. Approximately 140 students advance to this competition. We are always looking for volunteers the day of the event so please mark your calendars. Nothing is difficult to do and many hands make light work for everyone. It is a fun way to support the youth in our State and you'll also find it rewarding for yourself. Spouses, family members, friends, and individuals who want to support this program are all welcome as volunteers.

The regional (Chapter) events are targeted for the first Saturday in February (Feb. 1 in 2020). However, logistics may require it to be moved to the following Saturday for some Chapters. Please check with your Chapter coordinator for the specific date of the Chapter competition. As with the State competition, the Chapter competitions need volunteers as well 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.

If you have any questions about the State competition, please contact me at tjkinney@charter.net or 920-207-3924. If you have questions regarding your Chapter competition, please contact your Chapter coordinator.

Supporting Organizations

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

Gold Sponsor - Foth



Silver Sponsor - GRAEF



Bronze Sponsors - DAAR Engineering, Davy Engineering, GSC, and raSmith.





CREATIVITY BEYOND ENGINEERING

You can visit the websites of these companies by clicking on their logos on the WSPE website at 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 for details on how you can support NSPE-WI.

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

Help Wanted: Share Your Stories and Expertise

By: Andy Myers, P.E.

NSPE-WI (formerly WSPE) is seeking content from all our NSPE-WI chapters' members (both PEs and EITs) for our statewide distributed quarterly newsletter, PE Matters. Qualifying content includes articles and interesting news targeted for the Wisconsin or national professional engineering community. Articles are not meant for advertising or promoting, and pieces should be relatively nonbiased. If you would like some examples of the writing style and topics used please see past PE Matters publications.

Past NSPE-WI PE Matters publications (which can be used to stimulate thought) can be found [here](#).

Example Topics

- Emerging technologies (that don't break any nondisclosure agreements or the like)
- Legislation affecting professional engineers
- STEM initiatives
- Ethics in your workplace or community
- Diversity and inclusion in *your* workplace or community
- Climate change and its impact on design choices
- Your leadership stories
- How *you* are getting students involved in engineering
- Mentorship examples
- Engineering challenges you overcame in the workplace
- Job opportunities
- *NSPE-WI leadership solicitation*
- General community involvement and events
- *Share your successes as a PE*
- Learning opportunities: are you an expert? Share a brief example calculation or give some advice. (Not to be used for advertising a company.)

Articles, or just simply an idea, can be submitted for consideration to David Siegel <dsiegel@nspe.org>

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.

Honor Your Fellow PEs

NSPE is filled with members who exhibit the best of the profession. Take the time to recognize the contributions and achievements of a fellow PE with an NSPE Honor Award.

Submit applications by **January 31** so all deserving candidates can be considered for the



- **NSPE Award**—the highest award given by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind;
- **Distinguished Service Award**—recognizes a licensed member for exceptional contributions to the profession, to one's community, and specifically to NSPE;
- **Young Engineer of the Year Award**—recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the profession and the community.

[Learn more about NSPE Awards.](#)

Now Available: Commentary on Construction Documents

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee—a joint venture of NSPE, the American Council of Engineering Companies, and the American Society of Civil Engineers—recently released [commentary on its 2018 construction documents](#). EJCDC documents are the first choice, and most user-friendly, among standard documents for infrastructure and public works construction in the United States.

EJCDC documents are available to NSPE members at a 50% discount.

C-001 Commentary on the 2018 EJCDC Construction Documents, at 184 pages, contains in-depth descriptions of each of the 25 documents in the EJCDC construction series and explains their use. The commentary includes definitions of terms, cross-references and abbreviations, and a detailed discussion of terms and conditions.

The EJCDC construction series of documents assumes the design engineer is involved during construction. C-001 explains how to use each document in the series during the process. There is also a discussion of the *Contractor for Construction of a Small Project* document and its use.

[Access the Commentary.](#)

15 Free—Get Them Before They're Gone!

Earn PDHs with this year's roundup of **15 free courses** available to NSPE members, before they expire at the end of the year.

Develop and hone your professional skills without leaving your own workstation! Check out all of the 2019 free courses before the new year, including the four-part engineering ethics series and career development webinars.



[Access the courses.](#)

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