

## State News for NSPE Members

### MATHCOUNTS Update

As of last August, the SW Chapter – and I believe all Chapters nationwide – were advised by the National MATHCOUNTS office that the upcoming MATHCOUNTS competition(s) in February will again be virtual. However, the 2022 State competition will be in-person.

A year ago, the plan was to hold several practice sessions through mid-January and then hold two virtual February competitions followed by a virtual State competition and then an in-person competition in May. For 2022, the process may be somewhat different although the virtual competition in February will likely be much the same as 2021.

As of this writing, NSPE-WI MATHCOUNTS coordinators are working together to again have a solidified plan as was done in 2021. Similar awards were presented among all participating chapters for the regional and state competition and coaches will be recognized with door prizes sponsored by local and professional sports teams.

For the virtual competition, only the Sprint and Target rounds will be given and competitors are to be on their honor to obey competition rules.

Advancing rules have not yet been publicized but since the regional competition is again virtual, one might expect similar rules to apply; about 10% advanced from regional to the State competition in 2021.

Regardless, I'm sure that the 2022 MATHCOUNTS competitions will be successful and all competitors will have a great time!

### 2022 Engineers' Week Celebration



As you may recall, last year NSPE-WI held its first virtual Engineers' Week Celebration and I'm guessing that we may do the same thing for 2022 although the 2022 EW celebration has not been decided.

If in person, each chapter would likely make their own decision to hold or not hold an E-Week dinner but the State could also hold a virtual celebration as well.

Engineers Week will be celebrated from February 20-26. The exact date that a virtual celebration would be held has yet to be determined. Last year's virtual celebration included 1) reading of the Governor's proclamation of Engineers' Week, 2) recognition of all chapters making scholarship donations and the respective recipients of them, 3) recognition of Chapter and State award recipients and 4) a special update by Phil O'Leary of how many of the former scholarship recipients were doing in their engineering career.

All in all the 2021 virtual EW celebration was very successful and hopefully WSPE will again hold a virtual Engineers' Week celebration for all chapters to attend.

### Discovery Conference 2022

The WSPE Discovery Conference committee, since August, has been planning the 2022 conference and again, we have made a few changes since DC 2021 but these changes are a little larger than those of our last conference.

Perhaps the most significant change is that in 2022, we will be holding BOTH a virtual AND an in-person conference. The virtual portion will again be for 7 weeks – March 8 through April 21 – comprised of two presentations per week (Tuesday and Thursday @ 12 pm noon) each presentation will last 60 minutes (including Q&A) but a few presentations will last for 90 minutes. The total number of PDH for the virtual portion will be 16 while the in-person conference will offer 4 PDH.

The in-person portion will be held on Friday, October 14, from 11:30 am until 5:00 pm and will include a sit-down lunch, a 60-90 minute presentation, a 2 hour field trip and a social function after the conclusion of the field trip at 5:00 pm. The field trip will be at the Brown County Expo Center and the social function will also be held at the Brown County Expo Center after the field trip conclusion. Holding the event on a Friday afternoon offers the opportunity for some to drive up to Green Bay on Friday morning and also offers the opportunity for those wanting to spend more time in Green Bay but will be at their expense. Whether for 1 day or the weekend, attending this function offers a great opportunity to see the fall colors in northern Wisconsin next fall (and of course there are a lot of fun things to do in Green Bay!).

Our theme for 2022 is "Today's Technology Transforming Tomorrow's World". We will look at technologies of diverse engineering disciplines to get a glimpse of how these technologies are and will continue to shape our world of tomorrow.

Technologies such as electric cars, their batteries and charging station infrastructure requirements, new 3D printing capabilities and some of the new ways they're now being utilized, smart magnets that are used in modern manufacturing plants and other interesting applications, civil engineering projects and the technologies used to fabricate them, unique fluid dynamics applications to address the covid-19 virus and much more.

Registration prices for the virtual conference will be the same as last year (\$150 for all 14 presentations) with individual presentation options (there will be an extra charge for the in-person conference). Registration will begin on Monday, February 7, online. Just visit WSPE.org and follow the prompts.

WSPE members will be reminded of the DC 2022 registration by email, text or voicemail and social media. Come on out and join us!

### Powerline Construction Faces Legal Hurdles

Environmental groups and others are opposing the construction of a major powerline through the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, citing concerns about damage to ecosystems, farms, and the landscape. The day construction began on the line, last month, a judge granted a preliminary injunction preventing construction of the line along federal waters.

Officials with RENEW Wisconsin say the transmission line is necessary for the state to meet its goal of using 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050, [WPR reports](#). Several utilities want to build the \$492 million Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line through the refuge to connect renewable energy to the grid, but the project faces [multiple legal challenges](#) in state and federal court.

### Infrastructure Law Gives Major Funding to Water Improvements in Wisconsin

As part of President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law, Wisconsin will receive \$142.7 million to replace harmful, aging water infrastructure with technical assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency, [according to WPR](#). With the funding, lead pipes and harmful forever chemicals will be removed. Additionally, water challenges in underserved communities will receive an infusion of funds as part of the first allocation under the new law.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

### Share Your Story #IAMNSPE

#### Who is NSPE?

NSPE is its members. NSPE members—like you—bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. Learn more about your peers and [share your own story](#) with a 30-second video and the hashtag, #IAMNSPE.

#### I Am Innovative

**Ben Amaba, P.E., LEED AP, CPIM, BD+C**  
CTO Digital Transformation with Technology Innovation

NSPE is "the perfect venue to learn, network, and advance your skills," according to Ben Amaba, an innovator at IBM. It brings together a diverse set of professionals who are innovating the world, and has helped him both personally and professionally.



### Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The NSPE Honor Awards promote the professional engineer's contributions to society and recognize the achievements of the profession's very best. The deadline for [award submissions](#) is **January 31, 2022**.

#### NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. **Steven Arndt, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE**, a world-renowned authority in the field of nuclear engineering, received the award in 2020.



#### New Professional Award

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession during the early years of one's career. **Stephanie Blain, P.E.**, received the award in 2021. She is employed with Palmer Engineering Company in Lexington, Kentucky.



### Get Your 15 Free PDHs for 2021—While They Last

Access to the 2021 selection of 15 free courses ends in January, so claim them before it's too late. Members can conveniently view courses from the comfort of their home or office.



PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida, and are earned after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. Simply "purchase" the webinars and add them to your NSPE member account.

Webinars in your account can be accessed for up to one year.

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#)
- [How To Be An Effective Witness](#)
- [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#)
- [Your System Now and in the Future - Ensuring Sustainability through Strategic Planning](#)

Start earning your PDHs.

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