

PE MATTERS

STATE
NEWS

NSPE-WI™ WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

>>>> DECEMBER 2018

President's Message

By James Buggs, P.E.

Hello and Happy Holidays! As we send out the old and ring in the new, please consider inviting your colleagues to join NSPE/WSPE (www.NSPE.org/join). The reason most people join an organization is because someone they know asked them, so if you believe in the mission of NSPE/WSPE (promoting and protecting professional licensure and the ethical practice of engineering), offering an invitation is one of the easiest gifts you can give. Remember, membership is a three-for-one deal (national, state, and local memberships for one low price) and includes access to 15 free online seminars per year, a 50% discount on courses through the PE Institute, and a wide variety of other benefits.

As you consider resolutions for the New Year, don't forget that WSPE has volunteer opportunities to suit every need:

- **Looking to hone or refresh your leadership skills?** Officer openings are available in all chapters
- **Enjoy the Discovery Conference?** Come help with the planning and make it even better
- **Like meeting new people**, but need time-specific tasks? We could use you for membership and/or member involvement projects
- **Miss math and middle school?** Local and/or state MATHCOUNTS have a spot for you
- **Fired up about protecting professional licensure?** Join our WSPE Legislative Affairs team
- **Webmaster in disguise?** The WSPE website is waiting for your ideas
- **Forward thinking?** Help create a strategic plan aligned with NSPE goals specific to WSPE
- **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 james.buggs@daarcop.com to let me know how you want to help and I'll work to make it happen.

As always, WSPE is working to:

- **Champion** the P.E. by defining, promoting, and protecting professional licensure;
- **Guide** engineers in the ethical practice of engineering;
- **Advance** engineering careers through professional development and leadership opportunities; and
- **Unite** fellow PEs through online social platforms, Interest Groups, state and chapter activities, and involvement in programs like MATHCOUNTS, Engineers Week, and Professional Engineers Day. Come and join us!

Supporting Organizations

WSPE thanks 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) and reminds you it is time to renew for 2019. 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

Discovery Conference Update

We are still looking for help for the 2019 Discovery Conference. All that's needed is a desire to help with the details and getting speakers lined up. Members have said how much they look forward to this conference every year, with its varied content and opportunities to meet engineers from around the state. This is your opportunity to help design the program and have an impact on your profession. Please contact

Larry Steingraber at steingraberl@gmail.com to get on the 2019 Discovery Conference planning committee.

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services Occupational Licensure Survey

As you may know, the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) sent out an email survey to license holders as part of a budget directive by the state legislature. DSPS has been directed to evaluate occupational licenses based on a variety of factors and determine which, if any, can be eliminated.

WSPE strongly supports professional engineering licensure as a means to help protect public health, safety, and welfare and vigorously opposes any attempts to eliminate it. Engineering licensure continues to be [under attack around the country](#) from those who value profit over safety, so we must all continue to be vigilant. Please contact WSPE Vice President of Legislative Affairs Glen Schwalbach at glenschwalbach@netzero.com to get involved with monitoring and responding to this effort.

Update Your Info

Go to <https://www.nspe.org/membership/membership-communities> to access information about all your member benefits, renew your membership, and more.

And if you want to update your member information, you can do that at <https://www.nspe.org/membership/managing-your-nspe-account>.

If you have problems logging in, just contact Member Services at memberserv@nspe.org and someone will gladly help you.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for NSPE's [2019 Professional Engineers Conference](#), July 17-21, 2019 Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Kansas City, Missouri. The conference is an opportunity for PEs and those on the path to licensure to connect with like-minded professionals, earn continuing education credits, and learn about the profession's top issues.

WSPE Mission Statement

WSPE is an organization of licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) and Engineering Interns/Engineers in Training (EIs/EITs). WSPE 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.

Thank You to Our Sponsoring Supporting Organizations!





New Dues Structure

Just a reminder that the new NSPE membership model went into effect on July 1, 2018. Dues now include membership at the local, state, and national levels. Membership continues to include 15 free online seminars per year as well as a 50% discount on courses through the PE Institute. These are in addition to a wide variety of other benefits.

Visit www.nspe.org/membership/member-benefits for more information.

NSPE Plays Key Role in NTSB Report

After September's deadly gas pipeline explosion in Massachusetts, attention turned to the role of professional licensure exemptions. During its investigative process, the National Transportation Safety Board consulted NSPE. The board's [report](#), released November 15, calls for elimination of professional engineer licensure exemptions, a significant legislative change that the Society has strongly advocated for years.



IN SEPTEMBER, A SERIES OF NATURAL GAS EXPLOSIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS KILLED ONE PERSON, DESTROYED FIVE HOMES, AND TEMPORARILY FORCED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES. CREDIT: NTSB

The report recommends that Massachusetts "eliminate the professional engineer licensure exemption for public utility work and require a professional engineer's seal on public utility engineering drawings." It also recommends that the parent company that owns and operates the gas distribution system involved have a PE sign and seal all construction documents.

NSPE and NTSB staff spent several weeks discussing the engineering licensing process, its standards, and the Society's opposition to licensing law exemptions. NSPE shared documents with the board, including its [industrial exemptions position statement](#) , fact sheet, and public testimony from professional engineers. The report quotes and references NSPE.

[Read more about this issue.](#)

Additional Resources

- Read NSPE's [Exemptions to Engineering Licensure Laws: A State-by-State Summary](#) .
- Listen to the [NSPE Speaks podcast episode](#) discussing the investigation and report and what the Society is doing to improve public safety.
- Access [NSPE's new Action on Issues page](#) on this issue, where you can read the report, NSPE's position statement, and recent news articles.
- Join the [the conversation on this topic](#) on NSPE's Communities Open Forum.

New Reports: Structural Engineering Practice and Disciplinary Self-Reporting Requirements

In its continuous effort to provide resources on how laws affect engineering practice, NSPE has released two new reports on the regulation of structural engineering practice and disciplinary self-reporting requirements.

Due to the perceived risk involved and the increased complexity of structural design requirements, many states have begun to recognize structural engineers separately from professional



engineers and increase their licensing requirements. The ["Which States Regulate Structural Engineering Practice and Titles?"](#) report compiles the state laws that relate to the practice of structural engineering.

Though no one wants to face disciplinary actions, it's important to know what your professional responsibilities are if it ever happens. The ["Disciplinary Self-Reporting Requirements for Professional Engineers"](#) report compiles information on self-reporting requirements of each state, including the types of information that must be shared, and thresholds that trigger them.

NSPE members can access these reports for free. They are available to non-members for \$9.95 each.

[Access these reports and learn more about other resources on state PE laws and rules.](#)

Deadline Approaching for Honor Awards

Now is the time to nominate any and all candidates for NSPE's Honor Awards. Submit applications by **January 31** so all deserving candidates can be considered for the

- [NSPE Award](#);
- [NSPE Distinguished Service Award](#);
- [NSPE Young Engineer of the Year Award](#).

[Learn more about all of NSPE's awards and find their deadlines.](#)

Seeking 2019 Fellows

Nominations are open for NSPE's next class of Fellows, a membership grade that honors professional engineers who have demonstrated exemplary service to the profession, the Society, and the community.

Requirements for the designation include holding at least one elected office at the chapter, state, or national level and active involvement at the national level.

Nominations should be submitted through a state society of NSPE, an NSPE interest group, an NSPE Chartered Affinity Group, or through a member of the NSPE Board of Directors with NSPE Board endorsement.

The deadline for nominations is **February 1**.

[Learn more about the Fellow membership grade and nomination.](#)

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