

PE MATTERS

STATE
NEWSNSPE-WI™ WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

>>>> JUNE 2019

President's Message

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

Hello everyone! As my term as 2018-2019 WSPE President comes to a close at the end of June, I want to thank the Executive Committee for all their help managing the society this past fiscal year. I also want to thank all the chapter officers and volunteers who helped run the Chapters and various events around the state. WSPE continues to improve its financial position and once again had a successful State MATHCOUNTS competition and Discovery Conference (more on those later).

Elections are underway for the WSPE Executive Committee. We still have openings for President Elect and Young Engineer Representative (under 35). Ideally, the President Elect would be someone who has had some experience at the Chapter or State level. Any younger engineer is welcome to join the board. It is a non-voting position but offers good opportunities to develop leadership skills. If interested, please write in your name on the ballot or email me at president@wspe.org.

There is also an opening for a trustee on the Engineers Foundation of Wisconsin board. One of the primary duties of the board is to review scholarship applications and interview top scholarship candidates. This is an appointed position, so please email president@wspe.org if you are interested in being considered.

Despite the successes we have had this past year, we are still in desperate need of more active involvement from our members and for them to recruit new members. A little help from a lot of members across the state can make a *HUGE* difference in the impact of WSPE. For example, we want to do outreach on campuses with engineering and engineering technology programs to introduce students to NSPE and explain the value and importance of engineering licensure and the ethical practice of engineering (planting the seed, as it were). We want to get into schools at all levels to let students know what engineering is and the wide variety of engineering careers that are available. We want to hold a licensure ceremony to recognize new PEs and EITs each year. We want to get to the state Capitol to touch base with legislators and discuss issues that matter to engineers. But before we can do these and so many other things that we want to do, we need to fully staff our Chapters so they can run effectively and we need members to help in some capacity, either as an officer, committee chairperson, or committee member. My biggest hope during my upcoming term as Past President is that I am overwhelmed trying to help organize all the volunteers that step forward!

When you're deciding whether to renew your membership or whether to recruit new members, please remember that NSPE is the only organization that represents all types of engineers. More importantly, it focuses on professional licensure, ethics, and continuing professional competency with the primary goal of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare. These are high ideals and worthy of your support.

I encourage everyone to visit the NSPE advocacy page on "[Threats to Professional Licensure](#)" for current information on active and recent threats. A strong NSPE,

along with its state societies, can help defend licensure and, by extension, public safety, so please get involved and ask a colleague to join today. There is truly strength in numbers. In addition to things like advocacy, benefits include access to 15 free online seminars per year, a 50% discount on courses through the PE Institute, discounts on insurance and other services, and the knowledge that through your membership in NSPE, you are helping to protect public safety. Prospective members can go to www.NSPE.org/join or hit the "Join" button on the WSPE website.

President Elect's Message

By John Kustka, P.E.



First of all, thanks for taking the time to read this message. After all the email and work-related documents that you must read in a day, we appreciate the fact that you choose to read this newsletter. We are now nearing the end of our 2018-19 year and I will be stepping in as President for the 2019-20 year. I'd like to thank Jim Buggs, P.E., for assisting me in my role this past year and I look forward to his continued support. I'm very excited to see what this next year will bring as there couldn't be a more exciting time to be an engineer.

A little about myself. I am originally from Kewaunee, a small town in NE Wisconsin. I received my engineering degree from UW-Platteville in 1984. My experience includes working for some Fortune 500 companies and completing projects around the globe. I also worked for some larger engineering firms before my wife and I founded our own firm in Janesville, WI, where we make our home. My wife, Sheri, and I have two daughters and six grandchildren (which are way more fun than the children, by the way). I am active in my church, enjoy serving as a scouting leader (cubs), and coach a summer youth softball team.

Regarding the future of WSPE:

We have many talented folks that work very hard to keep WSPE moving forward, but we also need your help to get involved and contribute. These dedicated folks have spent many years in critical support roles and are looking for that "next man/woman up" to whom the torch can be passed. There is a world of knowledge that needs to be transferred, so we are actively looking to our P.E. membership for the individuals who hear this calling to step up and contribute. These opportunities are extremely valuable for the P.E. who is looking for leadership experience opportunities which will aid them in advancing their professional careers. It can be difficult to get this experience anywhere else, especially in such a supportive group. In addition, you will develop valuable relationships, learn some new things, and have some fun. These opportunities exist at the state level as well as within the seven geographic chapters (see WSPE website for more info). WSPE exists to serve its members, who in turn have the responsibility to contribute so that future generations can continue to benefit from the support and guidance provided by WSPE. It is my hope that this message will resonate with those of you who support

these views and that you will decide to get involved.

As we say in the scouts:

The Cub Scout helps the pack go.
The pack helps the Cub Scout grow.

So it is with WSPE:

The P.E. makes WSPE go.
WSPE helps the P.E. grow.

One of the most visible programs that WSPE provides is our annual Discovery Conference. We just held our 2019 WSPE Discovery Conference in Waukesha, where we had the opportunity to learn about a vast cross section of engineering fields and emerging technologies that will shape our future. We had interactive discussions about issues that concern us all, most of which need to be addressed and resolved, primarily by Professional Engineers. In addition, over 15 PDHs were available during this two-day event, the food was incredible, and the social hour was very enjoyable. The conference was well-attended and the reviews were fantastic. Our aim is to continue to prepare and deliver this conference, but we can't do it without the help of many volunteers. Planning for the 2020 conference is set to begin soon.

As we begin this next year, our main goal continues to be membership: maintaining our current members and growing our base by engaging the younger generations of PEs. We will be working toward activities throughout the year to help us reach this goal. I will be writing more about how the demographics of our society are changing and why we need to develop a strategy to address these changes. Please stay tuned for more information on strategy and tactics of how we can achieve our goals if we all work together.

WSPE has many valuable programs designed to support and enrich the practice of engineering in our state and beyond. I won't list the details of these important programs, but please check them out on our WSPE website.

Save the Date!

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

Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions you may have about WSPE or how you can learn more about getting involved. I also welcome your comments, ideas, and suggestions about how you believe we can improve WSPE. You can reach me at JKustka@kustka.com.

Again, thanks for your valuable time in review of this newsletter and I look forward to hearing from you!

WSPE Need You

Remember that WSPE is primarily a volunteer-run organization. We can only be as good and as active as the people who step up to help. WSPE has volunteer opportunities to suit every need:

- **Looking to hone or refresh your leadership skills?** Officer openings are available in all chapters and at the state level

- **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
- **Communications guru?** Come help us better connect with our members, outreach organizations, public officials, the general public...
- **Forward thinking?** Help create and maintain a strategic plan aligned with NSPE goals specific to WSPE
- **Good at fine-tuning documents?** Assist in updating WSPE programs, annual schedule of activities, bylaws, etc.

Email execdir@wspe.org for information or to express interest. Don't delay, do it today!

Upcoming WSPE Leadership Training

WSPE is planning to hold some leadership training over the course of the next year (hopefully sooner rather than later) and we are looking for input and expressions of interest in attending. The idea is to educate members about how NSPE, WSPE, and the chapters work, including learning about administrative tasks for various officer positions and how to help organize and run various state and chapter activities and outreach efforts. We also plan to work on charting a course for WSPE so it delivers what members want while staying focused on its primary mission. This will be a chance to share your ideas and help shape the future of WSPE. We expect this to be a one-day training (with PDHs) and we would consider offering it at multiple locations if there is enough interest throughout the state (hence the need for your input on interest).

For the most part, the work done by WSPE officers and committee members is not as complicated as an engineering project, but it offers opportunities to learn or hone skills in areas such as management, administration, organization, communications, coordination, technology, and outreach, all in a low risk, supportive environment. It also has tangible benefits in terms of providing educational opportunities (e.g. MATHCOUNTS, Discovery Conference, Chapter meeting tours and presentations); providing scholarships (e.g. through Chapters and Engineers Foundation of Wisconsin (EFW)); affecting legislation (e.g. Legislative Affairs committee, special task forces); evaluating potential ethics violations (e.g. Board of Ethics Professional Review, aka BEPR); and providing networking opportunities (e.g. Chapter, State, and National boards, committees, and task forces, conferences, Chapter meetings).

Getting involved with WSPE is a great way to meet and network with interesting people dedicated to upholding the values of our profession while serving their profession and communities. 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 our current **Supporting Organizations**, including **Gold** Sponsor Foth, **Silver** Sponsor GRAEF, and **Bronze** Sponsors DAAR Engineering, Davy Engineering, GSC, and raSmith. 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. Just visit <https://www.wspe.org/sponsorship> or click on the green "Become a Sponsor" box that shows up with the Supporting Organizations logos on most of the wspe.org website pages. Your support helps fund 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.

News and Events

MATHCOUNTS Update

The Wisconsin MATHCOUNTS team was in Orlando, FL May 11-14, 2019 to participate in the National competition, chaperoned by WSPE MATHCOUNTS Chairperson Todd Kinney, PE. While Wisconsin did not have a top team or top individual, the WI Mathletes had a wonderful experience and were able to connect with students throughout the country. A total of 224 students participated in the competition. Special thanks to the team coach, Loi Nguyen (Velma Hamilton Middle School, Madison), for assisting Todd at the national competition and helping everything run smoothly. This year's Wisconsin team members were:

Jake Rottier (West De Pere Middle, De Pere)

Kevin Song (Velma Hamilton Middle, Madison)

Kartik Ramachandrula (Wisconsin Hills Middle, Brookfield)

Alexis Hu (Shorewood Intermediate, Shorewood)

Congratulations on a great MATHCOUNTS season! Please see www.mathcounts.org for more information. If you are interested in becoming a chaperone for the National competition, please contact WSPE at execdir@wspe.org. Expenses are covered by NSPE and WSPE.

Discovery Conference Update

WSPE's 2019 Discovery Conference was held April 30 – May 1 at the Milwaukee Marriott West. Attendees were able to earn over 15 professional development hours (PDHs), including two in ethics, by attending both days of the conference. Topics included ethics, UW campus construction projects, Wisconsin water quality issues, transportation projects, mechanical systems & commissioning, biomedical, depositions, patent law, and others. We had just over 100 attendees and speakers and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We sincerely thank our speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees for helping to make it such a success!

Congratulations to 11 of the newest members of the Order of the Engineer who were inducted during a ceremony at the Discovery Conference: David Broberg, Moufid Dardas, Robert Hebel, Thomas Henning, John Koetz, Michael Koss, Duane Krahn, Michael Mitchell, Dennis Pantti, Isaac Pantti, and Scott Sprader. Thank you for your commitment to the engineering profession! For information on the Order of the Engineer, visit <http://www.order-of-the-engineer.org/>.

Thank you to our Supporting Organizations whose sponsorship helps fund programs like the Discovery Conference (Gold sponsor **Foth**, Silver sponsor **GRAEF**, and Bronze sponsors **DAAR Engineering**, **Davy Engineering**, **GSC**, and **raSmith**) and to our exhibitors (Chiro One Wellness Centers, GSC, UW-Platteville, and NSPE-WI Engineers Foundation of Wisconsin). Special thanks to our conference committee (all PEs), co-chaired by Fred Groth and Larry Steingraber, for all their efforts: Nancy Schultz, John Brome, Jim Makosky, Glen Schwalbach,

Angie Hanz, Marty Hanson, Jim Buggs, John Kustka, and Andy Meyers. Thank you also to GRAEF for all the logistical support; to the Waukesha Pewaukee Visitor Bureau for furnishing name tags; to Sheri Kustka (John's wife) for staffing the registration table; and to Marty Hanson, our Treasurer and Webmaster, for managing the online registration, website updates, and conference technical details. Well done, everyone!

** NOTE: Fred has graciously volunteered to be a co-chair for next year's committee and is looking for a co-chair and new committee members to assist. Please email execdir@wspe.org to volunteer and get in on the ground floor of planning the event (in other words, you get to be part of the fun of making some of the biggest decisions!!). Thanks!

NICET Reminder

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) is a division of NSPE and offers a wide variety of certifications to help engineering technicians and technologists advance their knowledge and skills in support of the engineering profession. Visit <https://www.nicet.org/about-us/> to learn about NICET and its programs. NICET certifications are highly regarded around the country, so check them out to see how they can make your engineering teams stronger.

Managing Your NSPE Membership Account

Please don't forget to visit the NSPE website and login to manage your account. The "Manage My Account" section of the website is your place for [managing your account and membership](#), including selecting your *PE* magazine delivery preferences, on-demand webinar access, designations, university affiliations, certifications, state licenses, company information, and viewing your invoices. You'll see a "Renew Now" green button on your account page when it's time for you to renew your membership.

Thank You to Our Sponsoring Supporting Organizations!



Complete the Engineering Team With NICET Certification

In the late 1950s, as the US came to rely more heavily on machines and automation, technically skilled workers who could support the work of engineers were in high demand. In 1961, NSPE rose to the challenge by forming an organization to certify technicians and technologists.



But even though technicians have been an integral part of the engineering team and NSPE since then, that organization—the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies—is not always understood by PEs. A well-attended, NSPE-sponsored webinar on May 29 provided the full picture.

During the webinar, “[Quality and Safety Through a Qualified Engineering Team](#),” NICET Communications Director Chip Hollis detailed the institute’s operations and the technician’s role on the team. NICET was founded to recognize the qualifications of technicians. Its focus, Hollis explained, helps ensure a qualified engineering workforce, certifying both engineering technicians and technologists in areas such as construction materials testing, transportation construction inspection, electrical power, fire protection, and security systems.

Don't Miss This Upcoming Webinar



Stay current with essential professional development opportunities through NSPE webinars. Members receive a special rate on the upcoming live webinar:

On **June 26** at 2 p.m., the webinar [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis – Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) will focus on a water crisis in Saint Joseph, Louisiana, which lends many lessons related to the difficulties faced by small and large water systems in rural environments. In this session, David A. Martin, P.E., will present an overview of the state of the town’s water system prior to and after construction, as well as an overview of the new treatment process and applicability to other aquifer systems. Additionally, participants will be presented with the lessons learned during the crisis, including regulatory involvement, use of multiple funding sources, early owner procurement of long lead time equipment, and alternate project delivery.

Don't Miss...

- [Exemptions to Engineering Licensure Laws](#). NSPE has updated this report, with information current as of May 2019. It is free for members.

- [Take Action on Licensure Exemption Bills](#). It's imperative that lawmakers hear from their professional engineering constituents who [support bills](#) in the US House and Senate targeting licensure exemptions in public utility pipeline work.
- [PECON at a Glance](#). Take a look at the lineup of activities and educational sessions taking place at the 2019 Professional Engineers Conference in Kansas City.

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