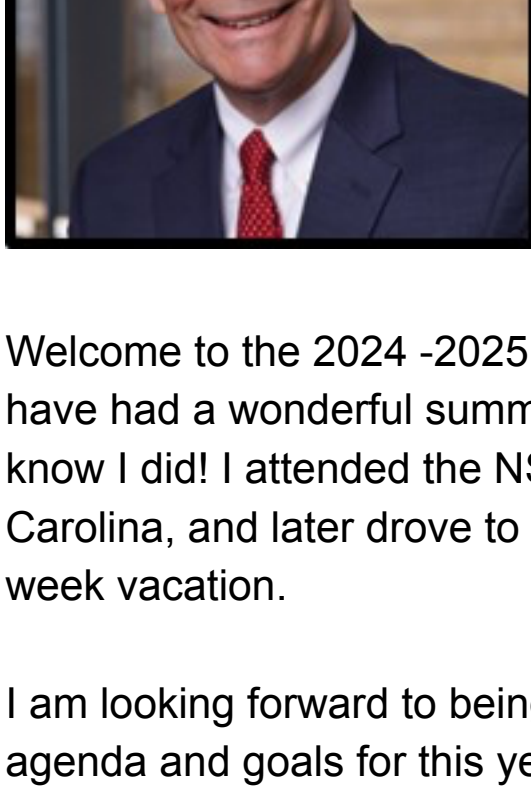


State News for NSPE Members

President's Message

By Frederick W. Groth, P.E., SE



Welcome to the 2024 -2025 NSPE-WI professional season! I hope each of you have had a wonderful summer and took some time off to enjoy time with family. I know I did! I attended the NSPE National Leadership Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, and later drove to Portland, Maine, with my wife for a wedding and two-week vacation.

I am looking forward to being your President this year, but before going over my agenda and goals for this year I would like to thank Keith Nikolay for serving as President for the last two years. Keith's accomplishments were many including finalizing our 5-Year Strategic Plan, organizing events to celebrate our 80th anniversary in 2024, ensuring the continuation of the Discovery Conference (both virtual in spring and in-person conference in the fall), holding monthly board meetings, and working effectively with other NSPE-WI members on our mission goals stated below. Thank you, Keith!

As incoming President, I have set up certain goals I would like to accomplish this year.

These goals are:

1. Work on increasing our membership by 4%.
2. Finding ways to increase membership of young members.
3. Increasing our involvement in state legislative issues pertaining to NSPE-WI.
4. Visiting each chapter (preferably in person or by virtual meeting) at least once.
5. Making sure we continue our Discovery Conference, both virtual in the spring and in-person during the fall.
6. Finish approving our 5-Year Strategic Plan.
7. Making sure we have a committee that works to see that we have future officers for 2025-2026 along with committee chairs for specific roles and assignments by the Executive Committee.

These goals cannot be accomplished without everyone's help. In the next two months, we will be setting up meetings along with monthly board meetings to review how we can accomplish these goals.

2025 NSPE-WI Virtual Discovery Conference

We are currently looking for topics and speakers!

John Brome and Fred Groth are chairing the planning committee again. The Discovery Conference will be virtual and is expected to be scheduled during the months of March and April of 2025. Please contact either [John Brome](#) or [Fred Groth](#) with your ideas. Remember, there are no bad ideas.

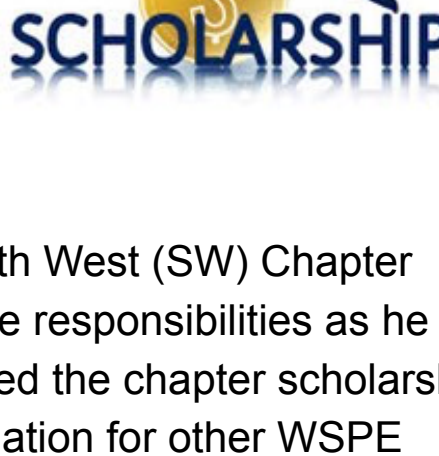
NSPE-WI

WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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.

Up Next: NSPE-WI Scholarships

Fast approaching is the time of year when college bound high school students apply for scholarships. Each of our chapters has received applications in the past and we can expect to be receiving them again.



Reviewing, analyzing, and determining which applicants are most deserving of a scholarship award takes considerable time and effort and this year will likely be no different. Very recently, Ron Voss of the South West (SW) Chapter decided that it was time to let someone else handle these responsibilities as he was chapter treasurer for some 34 years and also handled the chapter scholarship responsibilities for many years. This may well be the situation for other WSPE chapters too. If your chapter is faced with this circumstance, NOW is the time to start taking action to arrange for an alternate person(s) to handle these responsibilities.

Kim Lobdell, of the Education Foundation of Wisconsin (EFW), will be providing instruction to the SW Chapter in October about the "process of obtaining, reviewing, scoring and forwarding scholarship applications to the EFW." If your chapter would like to join the South West Chapter and Kim Lobdell on a zoom conference on Tuesday, October 8, at 7:00 am CST, please let [SW Chapter President Angela Hanz](#) know you wish to join in and she will send you the meeting credentials.

Hope to see you on October 8!


NSPE-WI 80th Anniversary Celebration Big Success

This past year, we identified eight ways to celebrate our 80th anniversary and all of them was very successful, well almost all of them. Here are the ways NSPE-WI chose to celebrate our 80th anniversary:

1. Donate eight \$1,000 scholarships to the Engineering Foundation of Wisconsin (EFW) to be awarded at the choosing of the EFW. *(Completed!)*
2. Request a "challenge" to interested WI high school students to write an essay on "What it Means to Be a Professional Engineer" and award \$800 to the winning essay submitter. The award was presented to Nathan Schoenebeck of Peshtigo. *(Completed!)*
3. Request a "challenge" to interested WI college students to create a "Why Join NSPE?" video and award \$800 to the winning video submitted. The award was presented to Adam Swedlund of Wausau. *(Completed!)*
4. Request a "challenge" to all MATHCOUNTS schools participating in the state 2024 MATHCOUNTS competition and award \$800 to the school with the most students advancing to the National 2024 competition. The award was presented to the Eagle School of Madison. *(Completed!)*
5. Request a "challenge" to all NSPE-WI Chapters and award the chapter with the highest membership growth (10% minimum) in 2024 from January through June. *(No award winner.)*
6. Post a new NSPE-WI factoid each month for 8 months about NSPE/NSPE-WI. *(Completed!)*
7. Offer free NSPE-WI monogrammed polo shirt to all in-person conference attendees. *(Completed!)*
8. Reduce attendee fee for 2024 virtual and in-person conference to \$80/each. *(Completed!)*

Thanks to the state board for choosing these ways to celebrate the establishment and success of NSPE-WI over the last 80 years and thanks to those that participated in the "challenges" to help celebrate our birthday.

We need your news!

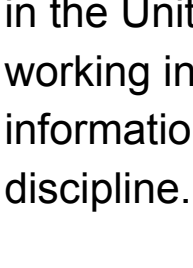


Is your chapter hosting an event? Did your chapter get some new members? Have you started your own business? Is your company taking on a really challenging project?

If you said yes to any of these questions, or would like to share extracurricular activities, please email to [Keith Nikolay](#) these articles and we will post these on website and *PE Matters*.

We look forward to including your news in our monthly updates!

NCEES Updates Specifications for PE Civil Exams



NCEES has introduced new specifications for its PE Civil exams, that became effective April 2024. Specifications have been updated for all five exams: Construction, Geotechnical, Structural, Transportation, Water Resources, and Environmental.

Exam specifications indicate knowledge areas to be tested and their relative weights of emphasis. As the developer of the exams used for engineering licensure in the United States, NCEES periodically conducts surveys of licensed engineers working in industry, government, private practice, and academia to gather information about the knowledge and skills required of professionals in a particular discipline. NCEES uses the results to update its exam specifications.

"Our licensure exams need to reflect current professional practice, and these surveys and their results help us determine what an engineer intern with four years of experience should be expected to know to protect the public." said Jason Gamble, P.E., the chief officer of exams at NCEES.

Highlights from the Leadership Summit

By Frederick W. Groth, P.E., SE

I attended the NSPE State Leadership Summit in Raleigh, North Carolina, during NSPECon24. It was an all-day conference, and it was a lot more productive than last year's half-day conference. We discussed in particular developing and delivering MEMBER VALUE. National provided an informative handout that we reviewed. I will make sure that it is uploaded to our state website. This session really sparked some interest and ideas. Another handout addressed the topic of PERSONAS, which provided an overview of the interests of the following different age groups:

- Executive 65+
- Senior Engineer / Exec 50 – 59
- Senior Engineer 40 – 49
- Mid-Career 30 – 39
- Early Career/Mid-Career 20 – 29.

We also talked about how states are creating lobbying laws, like Wisconsin, to require registration and around being a 501 (c-3) vs. 501 c-6. Yes, we can continue and will be focusing on providing value and educating our legislative members on state-level issues affecting licensing and our mission to foster licensed engineers in service to society. There will be more to come on this topic.

"All Hands" Needed to Recruit New Members

"All Hands" Needed to Recruit New Members

Over the last 80 years, NSPE-WI (and NSPE for 90 years) has enjoyed considerable success. Since its beginnings in the 1930's, NSPE has helped establish and improve engineering competence through engineering licensure and helped identify those standards that acquiring licensure mandates. This has had a profound impact on improving public safety by better, more robust designs of everything from infrastructure to transportation and communication. Since its inception, NSPE membership grew by leaps and bounds – as has membership of other professional engineering societies – at least for a while.

But over the years, while our success has continuously improved, emphasis on public safety has waned and so has our membership. If our membership rolls continue to recede, public safety will suffer and our Society, as other professional societies, will be in serious jeopardy.

A few short years ago, five of the seven NSPE-WI chapters had gone inactive. Thanks to the efforts of our state board members and the conscientious efforts of those that volunteered to lead our inactive chapters, our inactive chapters were all returned to active status and remain that way today. But the average age of our membership is about 60 years old! Clearly, we need younger members to join our ranks to infuse our state society with renewed vigor.

We are appealing to you: If public safety and the preservation of PE licensure is important to you then you should make every effort to help us find new members, especially younger engineers that are in their early to mid-career years. Ask a friend or coworker if they would like to be a part of our national society that is looking out to protect public safety and licensure of professional engineers by joining and supporting NSPE.

2024 In-Person Discovery Conference – "Epic!"

This year, in celebration of our 80th anniversary, we held our 2024 In-Person Discovery Conference at Epic Systems in Verona. What a fantastic venue!

Conference Cochair Fred Groth arranged the topics, venue, and presenters for this year's conference; attendees were served a buffet lunch. Graef and Findorff provided a presentation on the challenges of the design and fabrication of a 4-story underground parking structure facilitating some 2,000 cars and supporting a large building at surface level! A second presentation by Derek Schnabel, Epic's lead facility engineer, provided very interesting details on the design, implementation, and operation challenges he and his team face using solar energy to power the campus and geo-thermal technology to keep the buildings at just the right temperature year 'round. Afterward, a campus tour of the parking structure under construction (to be completed in 2026) and current updates to their geothermal system made for an outstanding technical conference and tour. And of course, no conference would be complete without a post conference social gathering which was held at the Verona Draft House, minutes from Epic's campus. Free appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages were offered.

The conference was attended by 39 engineers. A very big THANK YOU to Epic Systems and to all the presenters from Epic, Findorff, and Graef. And a hearty THANK YOU to Fred Groth for making all venue, presenter, and luncheon arrangements. Great job everyone, very well done!

Save the Date: NSPE-WI will hold our annual virtual conference next spring in the March-April time frame. We look forward to your participation!

Calendar of Events

Fall Discovery Conference

Epic Campus, Verona

September 10

Election Day

November 5

Engineers Week

February 16-22, 2025

Virtual NSPE-WI Discovery Conference

March/April 2025


NSPECon 2025

Kansas City, MO


August 6-8, 2025

Thank you to our corporate sponsors!



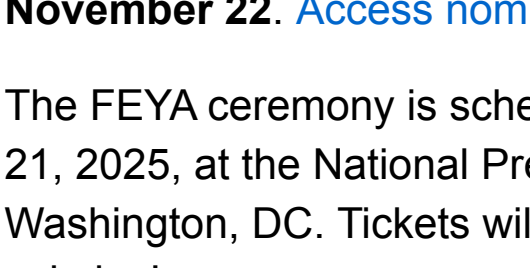
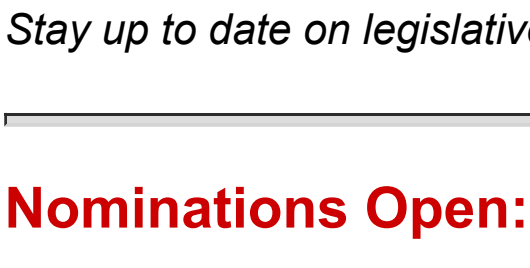

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Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year


Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award (FEYA). Nominations for the award are open until **November 22**. [Access nomination information](#) .

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 21, 2025, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January.

Capt. Stephen B. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., was named the 2024 Federal Engineer of the Year. He is a renowned expert in ventilation, engineering controls, and airborne infectious disease transmission that focused his expertise on mitigating the global COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more about Capt. Martin's contributions](#) .

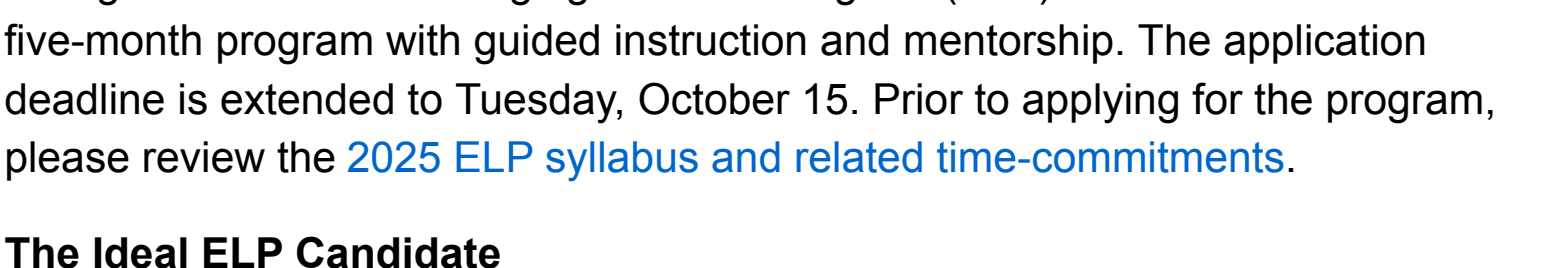


Learning and Building Community at #NSPECon24



Professional engineers nationwide converged on Raleigh, North Carolina, for NSPECon24 in August. Take a moment to look through the photos captured from this year's event on the [NSPE Flickr Account](#). Conference attendees participated in a variety of sessions and activities including tours, NSPE's Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, first-time attendee mixer, engaging keynote speakers, a new professionals trivia night, education sessions and more!

Save the Date—NSPECon25—Kansas City, Missouri—August 6–8



AUGUST 6-8 | KANSAS CITY, MO | [NSPECON.ORG](#) | [#NSPECON25](#)

Engineers Week 2025 Kickoff Webinar

It's time to start planning Engineers Week (February 16-22, 2025)! On **October 23** (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET), a webinar will provide information about the Engineers Week theme, brand new resources, and outreach grants. Attend this [free and informative webinar](#) to get ideas you can start using right away.

RSVP Today

2025 Emerging Leaders Program – Application Deadline Extended

The [NSPE Emerging Leaders Program](#) is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is an intensive national five-month program with guided instruction and mentorship. The application deadline is extended to Tuesday, October 15. Prior to applying for the program, please review the [2025 ELP syllabus](#) and [related time-commitments](#).

The Ideal ELP Candidate

Candidates for the ELP have 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field and are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are invited to apply. Selected participants come from a variety of firms with a range of engineering expertise. **There are no age restrictions on participation in the program.**


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