

PEMATTERS

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NEWS**NSPE-WI**TM WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

>>>> DECEMBER 2025

State News for NSPE Members

President's Message

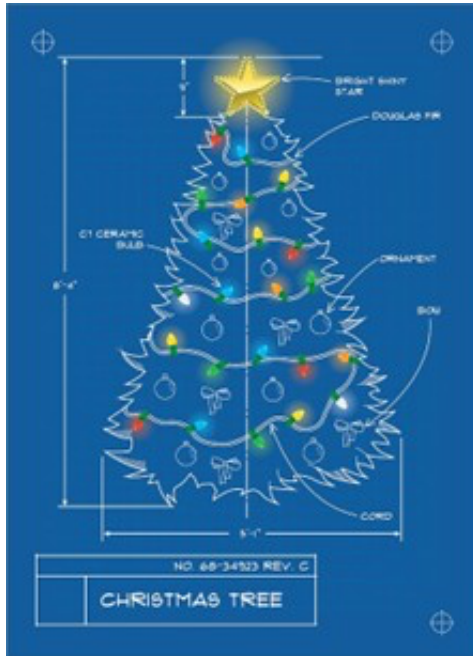
By Keith R. Nikolay, P.E.

Winter arrived in full force, and it wasn't even December yet! I am more of a warm-weather person so I hope that means spring will come early...

We are just about halfway through our professional year, and the Executive Committee has been hard at work. I encourage everyone to join us to see what we are working on. These meetings only last 60 minutes and occur over the lunch hour. We are always looking for new faces and fresh ideas to keep our organization effective and professional. Dates for these meetings can be found in the Calendar of Event section of the newsletter.

During this time of year, I like to realize how thankful we are to have family, friends, co-workers, and even professional organization colleagues to share this joyous

time with. As you go out to purchase those last-minute gifts, remember to be kind and generous to everyone you meet. You never know what they might be going through and a friendly smile can really go a long way.



We Need Your News!



Is your Chapter hosting an event? Did your Chapter gain 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 these articles to Keith Nikolay (knikolay@coleman-engineering.com) and we will post these on the website and in PE Matters. We look forward to including your news in our quarterly updates!



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.

NSPE's 2026 Awards



Each year, NSPE shines a spotlight on professional engineers (PEs) whose work exemplifies excellence, leadership, and service to the profession. Nominations are now open to recognize those making a real impact on the profession and their communities. Submit your nominations for these recognitions by **March 1, 2026**, to help us honor those shaping the future of engineering.

NSPE Award – The [NSPE Award](#) honors the profession's most exceptional engineers—those whose careers reflect technical excellence, professional integrity, and a deep commitment to serving society. Recognizing these leaders not only celebrates their achievements but also inspires others to uphold the highest standards of our profession. Do you know someone whose career reflects exceptional leadership and service? Nominate them today.

New Professional Award – The [New Professional Award](#) recognizes the next generation of engineering leaders (less than 15 years of engineering experience)—those who are already making an impact through their technical skill, professional leadership, and dedication to service. Celebrating these individuals not only honors their accomplishments but also reinforces NSPE's mission to advance the profession and inspire continued excellence among future engineers. Know

someone who fits the description?

[Submit a nomination today!](#)

NSPE Fellow 2026 Call for Nominations



Now's the chance to submit nominations for the **2026 NSPE Fellow Member Grade**—open until **February 1, 2026**. The **NSPE Fellows Program** is the highest membership recognition conferred by NSPE, honoring licensed professional engineers who have made significant contributions to both the engineering profession and society. Earning Fellow status is a lasting mark of distinction and leadership within the engineering community.

Why Fellow Recognition Matters: Fellow status not only honors the achievements of our most dedicated members—it also inspires others to lead, serve, and advance the profession.

Who's Eligible: Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Be licensed professional engineers (P.E.).
- Have at least 10 years of NSPE membership.
- Demonstrate a sustained record of professional achievement and community service.

How to Nominate: The process is simple and uses documentation you likely already have. Visit the [NSPE Fellows webpage](#) for full eligibility details, nomination guidelines, and submission instructions.

Nomination Deadline – February 1, 2026: Take this opportunity to spotlight the leaders and mentors who embody excellence in engineering and exemplify the mission of NSPE. Your nomination helps us celebrate those who elevate our profession and make a lasting impact on society.

Actions Being Taken to Return SE Chapter to Active Status

By John Brome, P.E.

It's been more than a year since the SE Chapter has become inactive due to a lack of volunteers for the chapter's treasurer office. The WSPE Executive Committee has contacted by phone the chapter members asking for volunteers to fill that office but to date, no one has stepped forward. That's truly unfortunate because the SE chapter members deserve to be represented by an active board and to participate in the annual events that make our chosen field of engineering a great career choice and model for our youth.

At our most recent state board meeting yesterday, we discussed the possibility of changing the bylaws that would allow the state board the power to nominate and elect a member from outside the SE chapter for this vacant position provided that the nominee held no other chapter office. This would significantly expand our opportunity to find someone that might be thinking of volunteering, perhaps a new graduate, that would like to become more involved in chapter activities but that currently has no vacant position in their chapter.

This proposal would only pertain to instances of inactive chapters that need assistance in finding a volunteer to fill an office vacancy, not to those chapters that are currently active and meet the requirement of having officers for President, Treasurer and Secretary.

If you wish to help out and volunteer for the office of SE Chapter treasurer, even if you may not be a member of the SE chapter, please contact me (John Brome, bromej@yahoo.com) and we can discuss the opportunity in further detail. As a chapter officer, you would receive a 50% reduction (100% for Chapter President) in your annual membership dues.

Please consider this opportunity, contact me if you would like more information and have a great Holiday Season!

Annual State Awards and Scholarships

It is at this time that NSPE-WI annually seeks nominations for various State awards. Nominations need to be submitted to the Executive Committee by **January 10, 2026**, so applications can be reviewed and voted upon at our January meeting. This will allow us to present these awards during Engineers Week in February. Several categories we have used in the past are listed below. [The nomination form can be found on the NSPE-website.](#)



- Engineer of the Year
- Young Engineer of the Year (less than 35 years of age)
- Engineer of the Year in Private Practice
- Engineer of the Year in Government
- Engineer of the Year in Industry
- Engineer of the Year in Construction
- Engineer of the Year in Education (or other fields)
- Educator of the Year for teachers that assist with the MATHCOUNTS program

We are also seeking applications from students throughout the State for scholarships that are awarded by the various chapters and as awarded by the State. If your chapter makes such awards, now is the time to inform schools in your area to forward all applications to the chapter scholarship coordinator for consideration of award. There are deadlines for applications.

A Look at Our 2026 Virtual Discovery Conference

Something that our committee struggles with each year is the selection of a theme for our upcoming virtual and in-person Discovery Conference. For 2026, we chose our theme to be “Is America Regaining Technological Dominance?” since we as a country have over the last several years seemed to have lost some ground in education (math and science), electronic component manufacturing, military weapons development and perhaps even in AI, a much sought after technology today.

We are working on finding presenters on a variety of engineering disciplines that will help to address the question our theme poses because we not only want NSPE-WI members as you to meet your PDH requirements but also want to bring to you presentations on technology that is current and relevant to today's

circumstances. Topics like math and science in our schools, data centers, AI and some of its current uses, advantages and disadvantages, the truth about Data Centers, passenger rail transportation in the US, newest biomed engineering technology, energy and of course civil engineering and ethics.

Our virtual conference will begin on March 17 and extend through April 23 (each Tuesday and Thursday for 60 or 90 minutes). So please mark your calendar and we hope to see you at our virtual conference next spring!

NSPE Enterprise Membership

Employers understand the importance of hiring and retaining high-caliber engineering talent. NSPE helps them create a supportive, growth-focused work environment through its innovative Enterprise Membership program – an easy way for an employer to provide NSPE (national, state, and chapter) membership to five or more employees. Your employees will gain access to career advancement resources, professional growth, discounts on continuing education offerings, and meaningful engagement across the profession. A gain for your employee is a gain for your organization! How it works:

- Join with five or more employees by contacting NSPE Membership.
- Add new members to your group at any time.
- Get a single consolidated bill and access to a dedicated Members Service team.

<https://www.nspe.org/resources/enterprise-membership>

NSPE-WI on LinkedIn



Are you on LinkedIn? Do you want to grow your professional audience? Then search “Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers”, and click *Follow*! We are actively trying to increase our followers so do your part and share with your co-

workers.

Calendar of Events

NSPE-WI Executive Committee Meeting
Zoom Meeting (12:00 – 1:00 CST)
January 29

Engineers Week
February 22– 28

NSPE-WI Executive Committee Meeting
Zoom Meeting (12:00 – 1:00 CST)
February 26

NSPE-WI Executive Committee Meeting
Zoom Meeting (12:00 – 1:00 CST)
March 26

Wisconsin PE Renewal Deadline
June 30

NSPECon 2026
New York, NY
August 5–7

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

Call for NSPE Vice President Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominees to serve as vice president on the Board of Directors. The vice president serves four consecutive years: 2026-27 as vice president, 2027-28 as president-elect, 2028-29 as president, and 2029-30 as immediate past president. To learn more about qualifications, time and financial commitments, and how to apply, [please view the call for nominations packet in the governance section of the leadership toolbox](#).

Nominations are due to the NSPE Secretary at executive@nspe.org by **January 12, 2026**. Additional questions can be sent to executive@nspe.org.



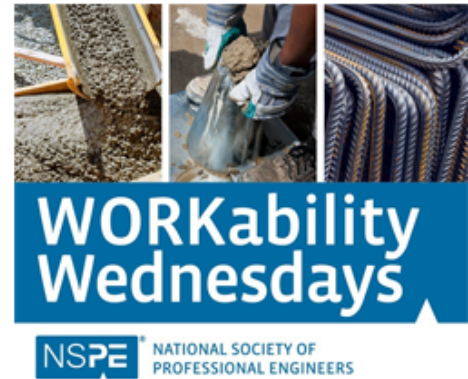
NSPECon26 is taking place in New York City, August 5-7, 2026. PEs, Engineers-in-Training (EITs), and industry leaders attend NSPECon for three days of professional development and impactful conversations. This is your BIG opportunity to take center stage and share invaluable insights as a subject matter expert and thought leader amongst your peers.

How can you secure a spot as a speaker? [Submit a proposal to present interesting, relevant and timely education](#) to leading engineers in a major center of engineering innovation. Presentation proposals can address a number of topics across [three key conference tracks](#): leadership skills, the latest trends, and career growth. **The deadline to submit proposals is midnight, PT, January 5, 2026.**

[Submit A Proposal](#)

Register for the 2025 WORKability Webinar Series Packages

NSPE's webinar series—WORKability Wednesdays—is FREE to NSPE members and covers topics impacting the industry and helps to enhance your competencies in the profession. Packages are now available for the [2025 Spring](#) and [2025 Fall](#) WORKability Webinars to get all of the 2025 webinars. *Members are advised to consult their state licensing board to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.



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