

State News for NSPE Members

NSPE-WI President's Message

- **2020 Discovery Conference BIG Success!**
- **2020-2021 New State and Chapter Officers Installed**
- **Metro Chapter is BACK!**
- **MATHCOUNTS goes Virtual for 2021**
- **New Goals for NSPE-WI**



Hello and welcome to a new NSPE-WI year (Jul 1 – June 30). Hard to believe that Labor Day is in our rear view mirror but here we are, facing a new year with a new set of challenges.

First, please allow me to introduce myself to you just in case you have never met me. My name is John Brome and I'm your new NSPE-WI President through June 30, 2021. I'm the former SW Chapter President and you can read about my BIO at our State website, wspe.org, if you so choose.

There are many issues that I'd like to share with you but before I tell you what lies before us, let's first look at where we were just 6 months ago: 1) we weren't sure if we should delay or even hold a discovery conference, 2) our Metro Chapter had been inactive for over a year (along with other chapters) and 3) we hadn't even held State officer nominations at that time. Thanks to the hard work of our 2019-2020 State board and 2020 Discovery Conference committees, I'm glad to be able to say that we've had some success.

Please take a few minutes to read about each of the articles below. It took the hard work of many NSPE-WI members to make these successes happen. I'm sure that they would all greatly appreciate a few words from you expressing your appreciation by emailing me at bromej@yahoo.org and I, in turn, will email them to our board and committee members.

Thanks for your support and I hope you enjoy the newsletter.

NSPE-WI 2020 Discovery Conference & Survey Results

First Virtual Discovery Conference

After having our venue changed twice, Fred Groth suggested on a lark that we offer a virtual conference in conjunction with the in-person conference. Then the Corona virus hit and we quickly decided that our ONLY option was a virtual conference which was completely new to us.

Proposed Conference Outline

Our intentions were simple:

1. Limit the number of PDHs and presentations to 16
2. Offer a virtual conference to our members at an affordable price
3. Complete all presentations by July 31, the biennium deadline

We wanted to make the conference easy and convenient to attend, provide a live conference and preclude the possibility of anyone being exposed to the corona virus. Of course, we wanted to offer presentations for a diverse engineering audience.

Our Strategy

During a Discovery Conference Committee meeting in March, we decided that postponing an in-person conference until October might give us enough time to wait-out the corona virus but we would miss the July 31 biennium deadline and jeopardize the success of our conference for lack of attendees. Additionally, we could also jeopardize the 2021 conference if we held one only 6 months later.

So we decided on a virtual conference but still had many questions about its implementation. We conducted a survey and based on those results, decided to hold it over an 8 week period, offering 2 presentations per week, for a total of 16 PDHs. The sessions would be completed on July 30, just before the deadline.

Conference details were decided, a schedule was produced, a ZOOM platform was selected and registration software was prepared. Our conference began on June 10 and successfully concluded on July 30; people expressed their gratitude and appreciation by way of a post conference survey. All of our hard work and planning paid off!

Survey Summary

We sent out a survey of some 18 questions to all of the Discovery Conference 2020 attendees and 31 people responded. Here are the responses to our survey:

1. Almost everyone agreed that 2 sessions per week, for 8 weeks or less, worked well for them.
2. Everyone agreed that weekdays and time of day was fine; some did and did not like Saturday, noon time seemed most popular.
3. Most did not mind the alternating weekdays, some thought it was a nice variation.
4. Everyone liked the variation of presentation material, some asked for more mechanical and electrical presentations.
5. Among the most popular presentations were "raising the roof", "moving the wall", "rebuilding Anchor Bank", "Cyber Security" and of course the two Ethics presentations which everyone enjoyed. Some indicated that a couple presentations seemed to be more about a sales pitch but the topics were interesting.
6. Everyone appreciated the virtual conference offered and especially liked the fact that it was completed before the biennium deadline of July 31. No complaints about the conference price even though not everyone attended all of the sessions.
7. Almost everyone thought that the presentations were done in a professional manner although 1 person thought that the presentations should have started exactly at 12:00 noon.
8. Everyone agreed that the presenters spoke clearly and were very knowledgeable about their topic. Everyone liked the opportunity to ask questions and thought that their questions were answered completely.
9. Most liked the convenience of the virtual conference but some expressed the preference for an in-person conference after COVID is gone.
10. Everyone agreed that the Host did a great job and were very appreciative of the committee's efforts.
11. About half of respondents indicated that they might purchase pre-recorded PDH presentations depending on cost.
12. A few people had technical issues but most indicated that the problem was at their end. Only one time was there a technical problem caused by the presenter's WIFI equipment.
13. There was a mix of preferences pertaining to future virtual conferences; some want an in-person conference offering networking while others like the convenience and lower cost of a virtual conference.
14. Many compliments to the committee members for conducting a virtual conference in 2020!

I think that it's fair to say that people were very pleased and complimentary that we offered a conference that was relatively convenient to attend, affordable and was timed to allow them conformance to the July 31 biennium deadline. They also liked the diverse subject matter. In general, it looks like we had a very successful conference!

Many Thanks!

Thank you to everyone that participated on the 2020 Discovery Conference

Committee, thank you to all of our sponsors, thank you to all attendees and a special thank you to all of our presenters; well done!

NSPE-WI Annul EC Meeting, July 23 2020

The Venue

Perhaps the one thing that made this annual meeting most different than previous annual Executive Council (EC) meetings was the virtual venue that we now all likely feel is the new normal. Yes, we could see and speak to one another via the ZOOM meeting platform that so many of us are using today and yes, this meeting concept helps reduce our chances of being exposed to the COVID virus, but somehow it's just not quite the same as meeting in person.

Meeting Objectives

Of course the primary objective of our annual meeting is to review the current status of our State Society as well as the status of each of our constituent chapters; the word "status" meaning how sound we are financially and how well we are meeting the stated objectives and very purpose of our organization.

NSPE-WI Status as a Whole

John Kustka, now our Past President who opened the meeting, reported that our Professional Organization is sound and financially strong. As reported by each of the EC members through the course of the annual meeting, we have fully recovered from financial difficulties two years ago and are active in the MATHCOUNTS program statewide, the scholarship program through the Engineering Foundation of Wisconsin (EFW), a participant in NSPE Central Region and NSPE National meetings and are in conformance to the goals and objectives of NSPE.

Our statewide membership is currently at about 450 members, consistent with recent years although admittedly our membership has not increased for some time and has actually been gradually diminishing since the State of Wisconsin no longer supported the membership of our society. This data is consistent with almost every other state in the USA which supports the NSPE organization.

Installation of New Officers

Susan Sprague, Treasurer of the NSPE National Office, kindly accepted our request to oversee the installation of our new EC and Chapter officers. The new officers' names and positions are cited below:

EC President	John Brome, P.E.
EC Past President	John Kustka, P.E.
EC President Elect	Andy Meyers, P.E.
EC Treasurer	Marty Hanson, P.E.
EC Secretary	Eric Schlevenski, P.E.
EC VP Membership	Mike Stoffel, P.E.
EC VP Education	Norm Arendt, PhD.
EC VP Government	Glen Schwalbach, P.E.
EC NSPE National Delegate	Angela Hanz, P.E.
EC Young Engineer	John Mika, P.E.

Metro Chapter President	Michael Bach, P.E.
Metro Chapter President Elect	Mike Mitchell, P.E.
Metro Chapter Secretary	Melinda Dejewski, P.E.
Metro Chapter Treasurer	Randy Johanning, P.E.

FRV Chapter President	Glen Schwalbach, P.E.
FRV Chapter Past President	Glen Schwalbach, P.E.
FRV Chapter President Elect	Vacant
FRV Chapter Secretary	Mike Gigl, P.E.
FRV Chapter Treasurer	Mike Gigl, P.E.
FRV Chapter VP Membership	John Davel, P.E.

FRV Chapter VP Mathcounts	Todd Kinney, P.E.
FRV Chapter VP Scholarships	James Crawford, P.E.

SW Chapter President	Angela Hanz, P.E.
SW Chapter Past President	John Brome, P.E.
SW Chapter President Elect	Vacant
SW Chapter Secretary	Andy Graham, P.E.
SW Chapter Treasurer	Ron Voss, P.E.
SW Chapter VP General Membership & Education	Norm Arendt, PhD.
SW Chapter Student Membership - Madison	Phil O'Leary, P.E.
SW Chapter Program Arrangements	Dave Shore, P.E.
SW Chapter State Director	Dave McDermid, P.E.

Our Metro Chapter is BACK!



After being dormant for over a year, our Metro Chapter has returned to "active" status thanks to a lot of hard work from our Executive Committee members and the dedication of 4 individuals from our Metro Chapter (refer Metro installed members, above) that have volunteered to become the new Metro Chapter board members. During the Summer and Fall of 2019, the EC developed the idea of offering a Chapter Volunteer reimbursement program for anyone volunteering as a chapter officer to include not just new officers but standing officers as well, for up to 5 officers for each chapter.

The total dollar commitment from the NSPE-WI State Treasury came to about \$3000 and, it appears, is starting to pay off as we now have a new Metro Chapter board.

Other Chapters in need of revitalization are the Southeast, Western, Northwest and Wisconsin Valley Chapters as they are all relatively inactive except for the MATHCOUNTS program. The Southwest, Fox River Valley and Metro Chapters are active chapters. If you are interested in becoming an officer of your chapter, please contact Mike Stoffel, StoffelM@AyresAssociates.com or John Brome, bromej@yahoo.com.

MATHCOUNTS goes Virtual for 2021

Based on information from a MATHCOUNTS webinar, held in early July, the National MATHCOUNTS office decided to make all regional and State competitions for 2021 virtual ONLY.

Anyone that has in some way volunteered to help during a MATHCOUNTS competition knows that there is a lot of preparation that goes into planning for a MATHCOUNTS competition be it regional, State or National. After coordinating the Madison regional competition for the last 4 years, it would appear that conducting a virtual competition should be much less work for the coordinator but more work for coaches and the National office.

For example, the coordinator typically solicits for the event trying to raise sufficient funds for trophies, hand-outs and refreshments as well as venue rental expenses. Additionally, the coordinator makes arrangements for all of the documentation necessary to keep coaches, mathletes and parents aware of the event time and date, location, floor plan and basic competition rules. Then there are the name tags,

seating arrangement, ordering the quizzes and other competition materials as well as arranging for all of the volunteers to help the day of the event. Most of these obligations will disappear in 2021 and the coordinators need to determine just how they "fit in".

The National Office has indicated that everything will be online but it would seem that unless we plan carefully, considerable cheating could take place without our awareness. That's where the regional and State coordinators come in: making sure that the competitions are conducted in a fair manner for everyone's enjoyment.

One online practice session will be held each month from October through January. Then there will be 2 regional online competitions in February and the State online competition in March.

So if you're a MATHCOUNTS coordinator, please work with your school coaches to make sure everyone is on the same page and that the competitions will be fair and honest.

NSPE-WI Goals for 2020–2021

Primary Objectives

Just a few days ago, the EC (Executive Committee) had our first board meeting for the 2020–2021 year. While each attendee had their own issues that they wished to present, among the first items discussed was what our focus for the coming year should and would be.

After consideration and discussion, the EC board unanimously agreed on three primary goals for the coming year:

1. Chapter Revitalization - Return ALL Inactive Chapters to Active Status by 6/2021
2. Increase membership - by getting Young Engineers and Members More Involved
3. Provide Much Stronger – Increased presence in State Legislature

Three teams of EC members will be established, each team working on their respective goal simultaneous to the efforts of the other two teams. Each team will have a leader and monthly progress will be reported and reviewed during the monthly board meetings. S-M-A-R-T milestones for each goal will be identified to help ensure the success of each team.

Subordinate Activities

We still intend to devote sufficient time and energy to the following activities:

1. MATHCOUNTS both Chapter and State competitions
2. Discovery Conference 2021
3. Scholarship Awards
4. PE Matters Article Publications

MATHCOUNTS coordinators' duties will be somewhat different and will have to work more closely with the coaches from each of their Chapter's participating schools.

The Discovery Conference for 2021 will also likely be somewhat different than it was for 2020 as larger groups gatherings are supported by State and local governments. COVID rules, however, will likely apply should an in-person conference be held. If the conference is a hybrid of in-person and virtual, many of the "lessons learned" from 2020 will be helpful in making for a successful conference. An all virtual conference for 2021 is a possibility but not necessarily an absolute, especially if a vaccine becomes available for the general public.

Scholarship Awards for 2021 is currently being reviewed and a decision of the extent of NSPE-WI participation for 2021 will be determined. More about this and other issues will be disseminated through future issues of the PE Matters publication.

What You Can Do to Help

Perhaps the simplest thing that you can do to help our organization is to pay attention to what is going on both from a State and National level.

Our profession, Licensed Professional Engineers, is under attack by state and national politicians that just don't seem to understand the importance of protecting the welfare of the public through engineering licensure.

As you may suspect, our profession is not alone. Nearly ALL licensed professionals are being scrutinized in the name of making higher paying jobs more available to everyone by eliminating licensure and instead replacing it with a certification title.

The certification requirements would of course be far less rigorous than obtaining a PE license.

Two websites that you can visit to keep up with the latest news: www.wspe.org and www.nspe.org. And we will continue to send you regular issues of [PE Matters](#) to keep you up to date on our goals and activities.

Supporting Organizations

WSPE would like to thank our current **Supporting Organizations**:

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



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 and your support is vital in funding 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.

Please contact ExecDir@wspe.org for details on how you can support NSPE-WI.

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.

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

Society Releases Policy Guide on Emerging Tech, Public Safety

A new NSPE policy guide has added the professional engineer's voice to the growing conversation around the safe development and deployment of emerging technologies. The guide's safety recommendations begin with the premise that the public's interests are best served when licensed professional engineers oversee the design, development, and/or deployment of emerging technologies.

NSPE's Emerging Technologies Task Force crafted the recommendations as a starting point for adopting standards that protect public safety and to provide guidelines to measure the safety readiness of technologies before they are deployed. The guide is intended for public policy decisionmakers, regulators, manufacturers, and others.

The Society strongly encourages the adoption of these recommendations and is available as a resource for information and drafting of regulations.

[Access the guide.](#)

Nominations Open for Federal Engineer of the Year Award

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#). Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until **October 31**.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 18, 2021, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Tickets will be available for sale in January and [sponsorship opportunities](#) are available.

Timothy Sullivan, P.E., who has brought mechanical, civil, and environmental engineering expertise to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center in San Antonio, Texas, was named the 2020 FEYA winner. Sullivan developed the first-ever comprehensive execution guidebook to support \$604 million in nationwide construction, and as part of that three-year project, he crafted a project risk management process to identify vulnerabilities of construction projects greater than \$5 million.

[Apply or nominate a worthy engineer today.](#)

Upcoming Webinars: Traffic Signals, Forensic Engineering, Communications Skills, Vintage Trolley Cars, Design Safety



NSPE's **PE Institute** helps members stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance in their careers through webinars on important topics. The webinars are held at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST at a member price of \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers).

September 23

[The Physics of the Yellow Traffic Signal: ITE's First Recommended Practice](#)

The webinar will focus on the Institute of Transportation Engineers' first recommended practice for calculating the duration of the yellow traffic signal.

Presenter: Brian Ceccarelli, P.E.

September 30

[So, You Want to Launch a Forensic Engineering Consulting Practice](#)

Forensic engineers can operate as sole proprietorship, partnerships, professional corporations or be part of a multifaceted forensic engineering company or one of the many national forensic engineering investigation firms. This session addresses the opportunities for engineers interested in performing forensic engineering services as well as the issues they will need to address.

Presenters: John Certuse, P.E., Michael Leshner, P.E., James Petersen, P.E., and Samuel Sudler P.E., F.NSPE

October 7

[The Four Languages of Influence](#)

Improve your influence by customizing your interactions to four distinct

communication styles that will help make better connections.

Presenter: Roger Grannis

October 14

[Vintage/Heritage Trolley Cars in Transit Use: Past, Present, and Future](#)

The presentation will help attendees better understand the unique nature, challenges, and opportunities of vintage and heritage trolley cars in actual public transit use in the modern age, including vehicle engineering support and technical assistance, for these vehicles.

Presenter: Matthew Nawn, P.E., PMP

October 21

[Too Many Crashes at Your Roundabout? Learn Design Techniques to Optimize Safety](#)

This presentation will discuss how design safety principles affect how drivers receive and process information. For optimal safety and operations, the roundabout design must simplify decision-making and provide clear, concise information as to the correct way to drive the roundabout.

Presenter: Mark T. Johnson, P.E.

[Visit NSPE's PE Institute.](#)

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