PE MATTERS STATE NEWS

NSPE-WI™ WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

>>>> DECEMBER 2024

State News for NSPE Members

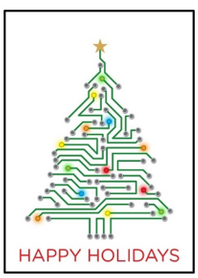
President's Message

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

We are halfway through the 2024 – 2025 NSPE-WI professional season. Hope everyone enjoyed the fall colors which Wisconsin is noted for. Julie and I just finished getting leaves picked up and getting everything put away for the winter. We are looking forward to Christmas with time for family.

So, what has happened during this fall quarter? We finished our in-person Discovery Conference at Epic Systems and celebrated our 80th anniversary by giving out very nice 80th anniversary shirts at the conference. Hope each of you enjoyed the anniversary shirts. Please read more on the in-person conference later in this newsletter.

NSPE-WI is actively looking at what we need to do to monitor legislation and get more involved in meeting with legislators. The rules around legislative engagement have changed, and NSPE-WI needs to register as a lobbyist. The cost is $20/yr for organizations that spend less than $500 on lobby in any one year. We are registering beginning January 2025. We really need to start educating our legislators on the importance of having licensed professional engineers overseeing building projects. We want to be an asset to legislators and a resource for when they have questions about engineering issues.



We are also actively working with the Engineers Foundation of Wisconsin (EFW) and Local Chapters in getting memos out to area schools for scholarships. These scholarships are very important to high school seniors. We really need to thank all the people that donate time to this program.

Keith Nikolay has finalized the five-year strategic plan. We plan on getting this out to members for your final review and the board's approval shortly. Keith and John Brome, thank you for your hard work on this! This is important to get updated.

We are also restarting our committee to review ways to get more younger professionals interested in becoming members of NSPE-WI and attracting and retaining new members in general. If you want to participate, please send me an email and I would be happy to have you participate. My email is fred.groth@graef-usa.com.

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.

Sneak Peek at Our 2025 Discovery Conference

Now that our 2024 Discovery Conference is in the "rear view mirror," we can sit back and relax. Well, not so fast! It's only a few more months and our 2025 Discovery Conference will be at hand!

In fact, our committee members have already held our DC 2025 "kick-off" meeting in early November and our theme for next year's conference is "How Legislation is Changing Our Engineering Landscape." Of course, we will have a diversity of engineering disciplines represented in our presentations and again, we plan on conducting our virtual conference over a period of 6 weeks beginning on Tuesday, March 18, and concluding on Wednesday, April 23. All presentations will begin at 12:00 pm noon CST and most will be 60 minutes, but some will be 90 minutes in duration, totaling 12 or 13 PDHs.

Both John Brome and Fred Groth are serving as conference chairs. We are presently looking for topics and speakers so please contact either John Brome (bromej@yahoo.com) or Fred Groth (fred.groth@graef-usa.com).

Our in-person conference is tentatively planned for Tuesday, September 9, to be held in the Green Bay area. We plan on providing a sit-down lunch, some 90-minute presentations and a tour followed by a social function.

Our planned cost for the virtual conference is $85 and the same for our in-person conference. It's all shaping up to be another very interesting conference. We certainly hope that you will be able to join us this coming year. Have a great holiday season!

2025 NSPE Fellows Program

It's that time of year again — the 2025 NSPE Fellows Program is seeking nominations for engineers who have demonstrated long-term service at the chapter, state and national levels of NSPE. The program honors licensed members who have shown exemplary service to the profession and to the community at large. Eligible candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a registered professional engineer in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia.
- Have been an NSPE member for at least 10 years.
- Have made significant contributions to the engineering profession and to society as a whole.

Nominations are due by **February 1, 2025**, to the NSPE Council of Fellows Executive Committee to allow enough time for review and submission to the NSPE Board. The application process involves a number of steps. If you have any candidates who are eligible for a nomination into Fellows Status, we encourage you to begin the process as early as possible to ensure sufficient time for gathering the required materials.

We Need Your News!

Is your Chapter hosting an event? Did your Chapter get 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 website and in PE Matters. We look forward to including your news in our monthly updates!

In-Person Discovery Conference & Celebrating our 80th Anniversary

Our in-person conference was held at Epic Systems Campus on September 10, 2024. All registered people received a nice looking shirt to celebrate our 80th anniversary. The half day in-person conference featured a lunch followed by a 90-minute presentation by GRAEF and Findorff on "challenges with building an underground 2,000 car parking garage with two large four-story buildings on top of a parking garage." Derek Schnabel also provided a talk about the geo-thermal system at Epic Systems campus. We followed up with a tour of the new parking garage under construction and also toured UB14 New Energy Plant for Campus 6.

SE Chapter Seeks Volunteers

Several years ago, I contacted Robert Latta and Mark Madsen and asked if they would please volunteer as an officer of the SE Chapter. They agreed to my request and have both done a great job and service not only to their Chapter but to our State Society!

But nothing lasts forever. They have indicated their wish to move on to retirement, now making all officer positions for our SE Chapter available for new volunteers. As an incentive for new volunteers, our State Society is offering to compensate new Chapter officer volunteers up to 100% of their annual NSPE dues (Chapter President) and 50% compensation of annual NSPE dues for other officer positions (Secretary, Treasurer or Vice President position) up to a maximum of five officers. Officers must hold a minimum of four Chapter meetings (and follow a few other rules that apply).

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity (any NSPE-WI member can volunteer) please contact me at bromej@yahoo.com. It's not hard work, can be very rewarding, and you can receive a check for up to 100% of your annual NSPE dues! I look forward to hearing from members that want to volunteer! Robert and Mark, thank you again for your years of dedicated service to our State Society, best wishes for your retirement!

Membership Director Update

By Norm Arendt, Ph.D.

There is not much change in our membership numbers. We have a total of 322 members, of which 300 are full members. Of those 300 full members, 54 are life members and six are retired members. There are also 22 student members. We have 284 who are registered PEs and four EITs. Numbers do change slightly daily, but we have been sort of constant at these numbers for a few months. New members and dropped members seem to balance out monthly. Recent drops are generally due to age although there are a couple that were younger that I will be contacting to survey the reason. Last month, we had four drop and four new and two rejoins that were still on our membership list.

Summary of FY 2024-2025 NSPE National News

By John Brome, P.E. (NSPE-WI State Delegate to HoD)

In late June of this year, elections were held in NSPE's House of Delegates for NSPE VP and Director of Members at Large. Breck Washburn beat Martin Gordon (45 to 34) and Andrew Yarmus overcame Phil Gunderson (42 to 35). Both Breck and Andrew, in my opinion, seem to be more conservative than their opponents promising to continue with current practices as opposed to considering making changes to existing policy.

Treasurer Bob Price provided some interesting financial details about NSPE's profitability ($681,170 for FY23-24) and pointed out that the largest portion of NSPE revenue comes from NICET. Bob also mentioned that NSPE's membership stands at some 20,000 including new, rejoins and student members which seems to be up from previous years, but no membership trend details were provided.

Monika Shulz, NSPE's executive director, outlined some of the activities going on with the many organizations within NSPE, some updates are shown below:

- **Workability Wednesdays Webinar Series**, *free to NSPE members*.
- **The Women's Leadership Program**
- **ARPL (alliance for responsible professional licensing) – ARPL**: ..." *licensed professions such as PEs are well-positioned to support lawmakers in developing governance frameworks for AI adoption in their respective industries*".
- **Engineering excellence awards** – "*Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award. Nominations for FEYA closed 11/22", award ceremony 2-21-2025. Current FEYA given to Capt. Stephen Martin Jr., Ph.D., P.E., of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as the Federal Engineer of the Year Award for 2024*.
- **MATHCOUNTS** – 2024 National winner was Ben Jiang (FL) and Bryant Yu (WI) placed 50th nationally.
- **DiscoverE** – "DiscoverE is the definitive voice on engineering and STEM, the go-to resource for the messaging that anyone can use, and the place where the engineering community collaborates to help inform and educate the public on the value and essential nature of engineering." – *Jane Howell, Chief Communications Officer, ASCE*.
- **NICET (National Institute for Certification of Engineering Technologies)** – Certification programs for civil, fire, electrical and systems software integration (new program).
- **Ethics Review Board** – "The purpose of the BER is to render impartial opinions pertaining to the interpretation of the NSPE Code of Ethics, develop materials, and conduct studies relating to ethics of the engineering profession." Rebecca Bowman, former BER chair is succeeded by Hugh Veit.
- **EJCDC Contract Documents** – Available to NSPE members at 50% reduction, updates made to 2024 version, see NSPE.org for update specifics.
- **NSPECon and PE Day** – NSPECon25 will take place August 6-8 in Kansas City, Missouri. PE Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, August 6.
- **Emerging Leadership program** - "This national program features an intensive five-month program with guided instruction and mentorship to engineers seeking to expand their skills through examining personal strengths/vulnerabilities, defining leadership & applications, building personal ownership/ motivation developing cohesive/high-functioning teams, communicating successfully with colleagues/ clients, giving/receiving feedback, delivering effective presentations." More information on this program is available on the NSPE.org website.

NSPECon24 was held on August 7-9 in Raleigh, North Carolina, and the leadership meeting was held all day on the first day of the conference. The primary discussion topic was state society membership growth. While I did not attend, Fred Groth indicated that he proposed to NSPE that NSPE-WI plans to approach new membership growth by appealing to engineering and manufacturing firms as opposed to focusing on appealing primarily to individual engineers and students. NSPE mentioned that there is currently an Enterprise Membership program in place offering discounted membership fees to companies willing to purchase NSPE memberships of 5 or more. Fred also pointed out to NSPE that NSPE-WI plans to become a registered lobbyist in Wisconsin to further membership goals where legislation lobbying is consistent with NSPE goals and ethics.

The NSPE central region (WI, IL, IN, MI, OH, WV) meetings have also been productive by focusing on issues that most or all Central Region states are experiencing. Membership decline has certainly been a topic of discussion and states such as IL, IN and MI are about to begin their annual membership drives. One of the primary goals for FY2024-2025 is to grow our state membership. Based on Membership VP Norm Arendt's research, NSPE-WI has enjoyed a 2% growth for the first portion of this fiscal year. Fred's stated goal is at least 4% new growth to particularly include younger members.

The format of our monthly Central Regional meetings has changed somewhat over the past year or two and has become more informative and problem-solving oriented. Missy Sutton, NSPE director of state relations, has met individually with each state society to discuss how their business is conducted and what successes/failures they have experienced. Phil Giles, NSPE senior manager-government relations and advocacy, has provided insights to professional engineering related legislation pending or passed in our national congressional sessions. And Amy Barret, our Central Region Director, has kept our monthly meetings on point, efficient and helpful in addressing current issues that are affecting regional state societies, such as declining membership, declining scholarship applications and dealing with inactive chapters.

After being the NSPE-WI state delegate for the past 3 ½ years, this year our National and Central leaders seem to be more focused, better organized and more consistent in their communication and goals than in years past. Hopefully they will continue on this path, and I look forward to continuing to work with them in addressing tasks that lie before us.

Calendar of Events

NSPE-WI Executive Committee Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 Zoom Meeting
December 18, 2024

NSPE-WI Executive Committee Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 Zoom Meeting
January 22, 2025

NSPE Fellows Program Application Due
February 1, 2025

Engineers Week
#Design Your Future
February 16-22, 2025

NSPE-WI Executive Committee Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 Zoom Meeting
February 26, 2025

Virtual NSPE-WI Discovery Conference
How Legislation is Changing Our Engineering Landscape
March-April 2025

NSPE-WI Executive Committee Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 Zoom Meeting
March 19, 2025

NSPECon 2025
Kansas City, MO
August 6-8, 2025

Northwest Chapter President
Justin Musser

Wisconsin Valley Chapter President
Archie Becher

Fox River Valley Chapter President
Glen Schwalbach

Western Chapter President
Alex Jaromin

Southwest Chapter President
Angela Hanz

Metro Chapter President
James Bugg

Southeast Chapter President
Robert Latta

Southwest Region Chapter

By Angela Hanz, P.E.

Tour of Camp Randall Stadium – October 23, 2024

It was a great fall day for a facilities tour of Camp Randall Stadium. Camp Randall Stadium is the oldest and fifth largest stadium in the Big Ten Conference. The stadium lies on the grounds of Camp Randall, a Union Army training camp during the Civil War. The camp was named after then Governor Alexander Randall, who later became Postmaster General of the United States.

Our first stop on the tour was the Bud Selig Hall of Champions to see Badger sports championship trophies and memorabilia. We then toured Camp Randall's luxury suites and the Buckingham Club Seats with a panoramic view of the field. We learned about Badger football history, stopped by the Forward Center Football Weight Room, and spent some time on the field that is home to the Wisconsin Badgers. Go Badgers!

Fox River Valley Chapter

By Keith Nikolay, P.E.

The conference planning committee met to brainstorm and gather ideas for possible tours during the 2024– 2025 professional season. Some great ideas were discussed and were narrowed down to the following:

- Wisconsin Public Service training facility in Green Bay.
- Tri-County Recycling Facility located in Appleton.
- South Bridge Connector, which includes a new south bridge across the Fox River in De Pere.

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Call for Nominations: NSPE Vice President and Treasurer

NSPE is seeking nominees for two key positions on the Board of Directors - Vice President and Treasurer. The Vice President serves four consecutive years as 2025-26 Vice President, 2026-27 President-Elect, 2027-28 President, and 2028-29 Immediate Past President. The Treasurer serves a two-year term, 2025-2027, with eligibility to run for a consecutive two-year term.

To learn more about qualifications, time and financial commitments, and the nominations process, view the call for nominations packet in the leadership toolbox. **Nominations are due to the NSPE Secretary at executive@nspe.org by January 6, 2025**.

NSPECon25 - Call for Presentations Now Open

NSPECon25 is being held in Kansas City, Missouri, August 6-8, and NSPE needs your help to get the momentum started with a roundup of can't-miss sessions. This is your opportunity to share your expertise, innovative ideas, and research with a diverse audience of professional engineers.

We welcome presentation proposals in the areas of career development, leadership, and industry issues and trends. **The deadline to submit a presentation is January 6.**

Submit a Proposal

2025 Engineers Week—Design Your Future

Founded by NSPE in 1951, Engineers Week (February 16–22, 2025) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. This year's Engineers Week theme "**Design Your Future**" is about celebrating engineers and engaging students! As we celebrate the accomplishments of engineers, past and present, who have designed the future we currently live in, we also look to the next generation and how we can inspire kids to pursue engineering careers that will be focused on designing our future! Access more information and promotional resources.

Register for Upcoming Engineers Week Webinars

Are you looking for inspiration, ideas or advice for Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day 2025 activities? DiscoverE will host two webinars in January to help you to increase engagement and plan successful events - Engaging Kids in Engineering (January 22) and Celebrating Engineers & Promotion Tips (January 29).

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