


**TO:** NSPE Board of Directors

**cc:** NSPE House of Delegates  
NSPE Committee, Task Force, Council and Interest Group Chairs  
State Society Presidents and Presidents-elect  
State Society Executives Council  
NSPE Past Presidents

**FROM:** Mark J. Golden, FASAE, CAE   
Executive Director

**DATE:** November 16, 2016

**RE:** Board Update: November 1-15, 2016

### Championing the PE License

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, NSPE and the Wyoming Society of Professional Engineers submitted a joint [public comment](#) urging the Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors to rescind draft language that would waive the requirement for taking the Fundamentals of Engineering examination (FE exam) for individuals who have engaged in the practice of engineering for at least twenty years. In the joint comment letter, NSPE President Kodi Jean Verhalen and WySPE President Kelly Hafner stated that “NSPE and WySPE recognize that, in certain instances, where academic competence has already been clearly established, whether by earning a Ph.D. or serving as an engineering faculty member, the FE exam may be waived. However, to waive the FE exam for an applicant who has not met the critical academic competence standards, weakens requirements and lowers standards, potentially endangering the public health, safety and welfare. The passage of the proposed legislation would seriously undermine a critical foundation of professional engineering practice. These standards have served as the backbone of the profession and public safety for decades.”

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, WySPE President Kelly Hafner and NSPE Senior Manager of Government Relations Arielle Eiser spoke with the executive director of the Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and the Wyoming State Engineer to discuss the proposed legislation and the work that the state Board is doing to strengthen licensure of engineers. The conversation was very productive and the state Board expressed its support of the FE exam. NSPE and WySPE will continue to work together on this issue and will provide any updates as they become available.

The cover story of the [November/December PE](#) magazine offers a compelling summary of the case for licensed engineers and some of the achievements NSPE has realized in the last year to ensure that PEs are included in Federal projects. The cover photo of the aftermath of the accidental spill of more than three million gallons of untreated wastewater and toxins into the Animas River is a pretty powerful statement of what is at stake on such projects. Other feature articles address the impact of autonomous vehicles on roads and highways and the increasing importance of engineering teams and teamwork in tackling 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.

*NSPE encourages states to use the information in this report in newsletters or other updates to their membership to inform members on the activities of NSPE. As a suggestion, it may be most useful to take the bullets of most interest from the transmittal email. The full report (and past reports) can always be found [online](#).*

Looking back over all the cover stories from 2016 you also get a good picture of how NSPE has addressed the Communications Committee charge to ensure consistency with the NSPE Strategic Plan and core messages in the magazine's editorial content:

- January/February: [Driving the Future](#). "As autonomous vehicle development races ahead, NSPE advocates for the public health, safety, and welfare—building awareness of the licensed professional engineer."
- March/April: [The Ultimate Test](#). "Professional engineers play a critical role in designing PE exams that can determine who has the right experience to protect the public."
- May/June: [Tragic Reminders](#). "Recent events such as tainted drinking water, a safety scare in the nation's capital, and a toxic waste release reiterate the irreplaceable role that professional engineers play in ensuring the public health, safety, and welfare."
- July/ August: [What's In a Name?](#) "There's no question public health, safety, and welfare has been better served by preventing unqualified persons from calling themselves engineers, and the good name of the profession has ensured public trust and the continuation of licensure. Recently, though, the question of how far the engineering community should go to protect the profession's good name, and by extension the public, has been raised in the press and in the courts."
- September/October: [End of an Era?](#) "A new book says technology is fundamentally changing the professions. NSPE members will be investigating how PEs can adapt."
- November/December: [Making It a Federal Case](#). The aforementioned article on "how the Animas River accident drew attention to the PE's role in the federal government and NSPE is making sure that attention doesn't wane."

### **Ethical Guide to the Profession**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, NSPE submitted [public comment](#) to the California Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the department's revised draft regulations for the deployment of autonomous vehicles. In the draft regulations, the CDMV allows manufacturers and suppliers to self-certify, thereby eliminating a critical third-party safety check. NSPE urged the CDMV to include a requirement for a vehicle demonstration test to be conducted by a professional engineer, internal to the development company. "The design, development and deployment of autonomous vehicles should not be treated any differently and should require the involvement of professional engineers to give the highest level of assurance to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare," wrote NSPE President Kodi Jean Verhalen, "The risk posed by failing to adequately address public safety protections are too great to ignore."

### **Powering Professional Advancement**

This year the NSPE Candidate Screening Committee will be screening nominations for the position of 2017-18 NSPE Vice President (to serve as NSPE president in 2019-20) and 2017-19 NSPE Treasurer (who will serve a two-year term). A notice to this effect, including the qualifications for the two offices, information on the time and financial commitments required to serve, and the process for submitting a name for consideration were posted to the [State and National Leaders Community](#).

The deadline for receipt of nominations is January 1, 2017. State societies are encouraged to seek out qualified NSPE members for these positions.

State societies are also reminded that 2017 NSPE Fellow member nominations are due by February 1, 2017. All state societies are encouraged to submit applications for qualified<sup>1</sup> NSPE members. Instructions and guidance for completing the Fellow nomination form and the nomination form itself can be found on the [website](#).

## Uniting the PE Community

The latest edition of *NSPE Speaks* kicks off the holiday season this month with a special giving-themed episode of the podcast. In this episode, the podcast crew highlights engineering charities and service organizations, interviews DiscoverE Executive Director Leslie Collins about the work our National Engineers Week Foundation is doing, and discusses a number of great gift ideas for engineers and kids. As always, the podcast also includes a roundup of engineering and Society news. You can [access the episodes on the NSPE's website](#) or [listen on iTunes](#).



As of this writing, seventeen<sup>2</sup> state societies have adopted the new logo. Each state society has been provided graphics files suitable for print, web and social media use, and a design manual, providing technical specs that printers and graphic designers might need in order to use the material. Any state society interested in having logos prepared for them should contact [Dave Siegel](#).

This week the [third email in national's fall membership recruitment campaign](#) will be going out. This one focuses on NSPE's role and value in the area of professional ethics. The current campaign, which will run through December 15<sup>th</sup>, includes direct mailing brochures and emails as well as 16 member-benefit videos on a [dedicated webpage](#). The videos are also available on [NSPE's YouTube channel](#). State societies are encouraged to embed these videos or links to them in any of their own marketing and communications vehicles.

NSPE's online Communities have grown to 2,700 users. Given the high volume (albeit, from a limited number of members) in the "Engineering and Climate Change" thread, that discussion has been moved from the Open Forum to its own dedicated section. (Members may choose whether they wish to subscribe to this thread or not.) Communications and marketing staff has been getting extensive training this week from Higher Logic (the community platform provider), and I look forward to them coming back to the office with loads of new ideas on how to stimulate use and make the community experience better for all our members.

The [Future City Competition](#) was the 2016 recipient of the Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction, given in association with the National Building Museum. The

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<sup>1</sup> To be considered for Fellow membership, all nominees must be current dues paying NSPE national and state members or Life members. Nominees must have held at least one elected office at the chapter, state or national level. It is recommended that the nominee have ten (10) years or more of active service and involvement at all levels, i.e., national, state, chapter/local.

<sup>2</sup> Alaska Society of Professional Engineers; Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers; Arizona Society of Professional Engineers; California Society of Professional Engineers; Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers; Georgia Society of Professional Engineers; Idaho Society of Professional Engineers; Illinois Society of Professional Engineers; Michigan Society of Professional Engineers; Montana Society of Engineers; Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers; Nevada Society of Professional Engineers; New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers; New Mexico Society of Professional Engineers; Texas Society of Professional Engineers; Vermont Society of Professional Engineers; and Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers.

prize, which comes with a \$25,000 honorarium, recognizes an advancement or high achievement in the process of construction, including an invention, an innovative methodology, and/or exemplary leadership. Future City was selected for the prize due to its leadership in engaging students in learning about and solving complex engineering and building challenges, commitment to diversity, and innovation. The honorarium will help the EWeek Foundation (doing business as DiscoverE) further its commitment to diversity and gender equality. For example, the funds will enable EWeek to provide stipends for Future City participation by educators in underserved schools and communities. (About a third of the schools participating in Future City competitions have 50% or more of their students enrolled in reduced or free lunch programs, and about half of program participants are female.)

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And remember, you always have access to NSPE leadership resources in the [Leadership Toolbox](#). This includes [talking point](#) scripts and presentations for use by NSPE officers, board members, and other leaders during state visits, chapter meetings, or other venues to promote NSPE and its activities, updated on an at-least quarterly basis. Current board members can access an online library of board meeting materials (past, current and future) through the online board book site, ([BoardBookIt](#)).

If you want to review NSPE's history and how that has been translated into current plans with a future-focus, NSPE's purpose, mission, vision and a history of the *Race for Relevance* and the resulting Strategic Plan is summarized in a section called "[Who We Are and What We Do](#)."