

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: May 2, 2017

RE: Board Update: April 15-30, 2017

The schedule of House of Delegate/state leader webinars for feedback, clarifications and refinements of the proposed, new membership business model has been sent to all delegates/state leaders and has been posted to the NSPE state/national leader community.

The dates and registration links (which are now open) are as follows:

HoD Working Session Webinar I: Wednesday, **May 17, 2017**, 2:00 – 3:00 pm Eastern
Registration Link: <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1o7ljv4nd3dg4&eom>

HoD Working Session Webinar II: Tuesday, **June 20, 2017**, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern
Registration Link: <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1t4sij0vp0alv&eom>

HoD Working Session Webinar III: Tuesday, **July 11, 2017**, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern
Registration Link: <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1lcwxzso4xfm&eom>

These webinars have been set up so that participants can pre-register which will allow you to export details to your calendars and be sent an automatic reminder the day of the webinar. Reminders will be sent prior to each webinar for those who have not pre-registered. Streaming audio is available through your computer, but each webinar will be operator-assisted so there will be an 800 dial in number that participants can use to ask questions. **Please note that these will be three separate and distinct webinars.**

The board continues its marathon of outreach to state society leadership (volunteer and staff) to explain the proposed membership business model, to gather feedback and suggestions, and to work through open questions as thoroughly and promptly as possible. Study Group II, which will be addressing implementation and operational issues, should be announced shortly. Following the second of two conference call sessions (May 1), we will be posting the questions collected from individual state and regional societies on the website, so everyone can benefit and learn from these discussions.

Championing the PE License

NSPE submitted public comment to the California Department of Motor Vehicles on April 17th urging major revisions to proposed autonomous vehicle regulations in order to ensure public safety.

Recognizing the promise of autonomous vehicles, NSPE has been a leading advocate for the need to place the public health, safety, and welfare first and require a licensed professional engineer to play a key role in the development, testing, and safety certification of AVs. NSPE, therefore, expressed its disappointment and

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 e-mail. The full report (and past reports) can always be found [online](#).

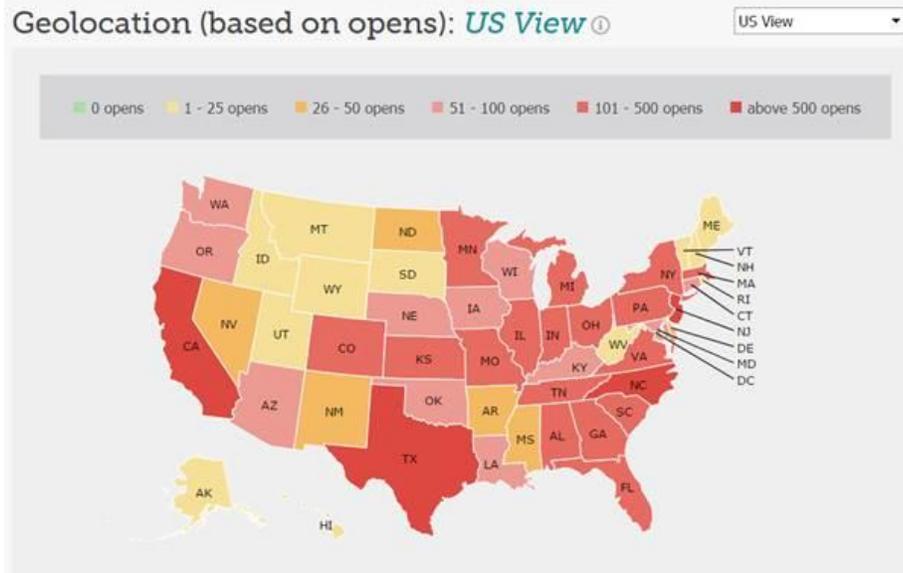
concern at the CDMV’s proposed, revised regulations issued on March 10th, which enable fully autonomous testing and deployment without requiring any third-party certification. In the [public comment](#), NSPE President Kodi Verhalen, P.E., Esq., F.NSPE stated, “The rush to deploy autonomous vehicles seems to ignore the technological, ethical, and safety challenges, as well as public sentiment. We urge the CDMV to seriously reconsider the proposed regulations; require the continued use of a human driver; reinstate third-party certification requirements; require data collection and retention for accident reconstruction and evaluation; and require a professional engineer to play a key role in the careful development of autonomous vehicle technologies before considering deployment. As more decisions related to the public health, safety, and welfare are removed from the driver and given to the car’s technology, the CDMV has a duty itself to ensure the appropriate safeguards are in place for rigorous pre-deployment testing, which NSPE recommends be verified by a licensed PE, whose own duty is to hold the public health, safety, and welfare paramount.”

NSPE submitted public comment to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on April 25th, urging them to fully fund the US Chemical Safety Board in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. In the [public comment](#), NSPE President Verhalen stated, “NSPE and the professional engineers we represent rely on the agency’s independent chemical incident reports, recommendations, and safety bulletins to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Professional engineers, as a requirement of their state-issued license, must hold these three considerations paramount above all other considerations in our designs, reports, and all other areas of the practice of engineering.” The Chemical Safety Board was created by Congress “to investigate accidents to determine the conditions and circumstances which led up to the event and to identify the cause or causes so that similar events might be prevented.” The CSB was instrumental in investigating the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as investigating over 130 other chemical incidents and providing nearly 800 safety recommendations, 78% of which have been closed. It is vital that this independent, non-regulatory agency exist to provide feedback on why chemical disasters arise and how to prevent these disasters from occurring again. Products that the CSB provides, including safety reports, recommendations, bulletins, and videos, are frequently used and cited by the industrial community, academia, and professional associations.

An e-mail was sent out to members, non-members, and lapsed members communicating the work that NSPE does to champion and protect the PE license. This included a link to the threats to the professional licensure map, and highlighted the prompt and successful efforts of NSPE and the Nevada Society of Professional Engineers at the beginning of April. The e-mail was well received by all audiences, based on the e-mail metrics below. The typical range for an NSPE e-mail open rate is 22-27% and the typical click thru rate is 1.5-2.8%.

E-mail Audience	Member	Non-Member (never has been)	Lapsed/Terminated Members
Sent	20,839	51,726	11,110
Open	37.6%	32.6%	29.4%
Unique Clicks	5.4%	4.3%	2.3%
Clicked on map	1005	1519	167
Message included	Renew your membership	Join Now (168 Clicks)	Re-Join (15 Clicks)

Geolocation (based on opens) for Non- Member E-mail



Ethical Guide to the Profession

The May/June issue of [PE magazine](#) delves into sensitive issues in the engineering workplace: [sexual harassment](#) and [bias](#). More than 550 members responded to a survey in which they were asked about their workplace experiences. The cover story addresses sexual harassment, specifically, and the second feature addresses gender/racial bias and a recent study from the Society of Women Engineers. A third feature looks at [Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its application to STEM education](#).

Powering Professional Advancement

In addition to the items noted above, the May/June issue of PE magazine features articles such as:

- [PE Judgment Under Threat](#): a summary of recent regulatory and legislative challenges to the PE license;
- [Ethics and a Good Night's Sleep](#): discussing the personal risks professional engineers often face in meeting their obligations to public health, safety and welfare;
- [Teaching Twitter to Engineers](#); and
- A profile of the [2017 Federal Engineer of the Year](#).

The magazine, available now in both print and online formats, also includes the regular departments and columns: letters, PE Report, Concept articles, Legal Beat, “On Ethics,” Communities update, and more.

NSPE has launched an [internship module](#) as part of NSPE’s Job Board. The internship module is a convenient way for students and recent graduates to connect with engineering firms, and allows firms to build an ongoing pipeline of young and developing talent for future job opportunities.

Uniting the PE Community

NSPE officers and board members were busy again this month visiting state societies and participating in events hosted by partner organizations.

- Central Region Director Chris Butler, P.E., represented NSPE at the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers Annual Conference in Milwaukee.
- Treasurer Julia Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE attended the 2017 Annual Conference of the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers in Covington, KY.
- President-elect Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE participated in the 2017 Annual Conference of the South Dakota Engineering Society where he served as a luncheon keynote speaker and presented a session on ethics.
- I attended the annual conference of the North Dakota Society of Professional Engineers in Grand Forks speaking at their lunch and installing officers.
- President Verhalen and I represented NSPE at the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) board of directors meeting, April 23rd in DC.
- President Verhalen, President-Elect Tom Roberts and I represented NSPE at the annual National Academy of Engineering (NAE)/American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) convocation. Kodi moderated the afternoon session on the ethics of autonomous vehicles, which was live streamed on the web. The video of the day-long Convocation program will be posted to the NAE website shortly, and we will be sure to share that link.
- Kodi, Tom and I also carried the NSPE flag at the 2017 Engineering Public Policy Symposium on Capitol Hill on April 25th.

The 2017 Candidate Screening Committee (CSC) has completed its screening for the positions of 2017-18 Vice President (to serve as NSPE President in 2019-2020) and 2017-19 Treasurer. There was one candidate nominated for each position; David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE was nominated for Vice President by the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers and Brian Armstrong was nominated for Treasurer by the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers. The CSC has deemed both candidates qualified to serve in the positions to which they were nominated. The CSC's final report to the House of Delegates has been distributed in accordance with Operating Procedure 7.1 and is also posted to the NSPE [website](#)

NSPE continues to make progress on the website mega menu project, which will make the vast library of information resident on the site easier to find and navigate. Actual build-out of the menu began April 17th, with completion anticipated by the second week in May. It will then be visible on a staging/development site for testing and refinement. User testing is best done after the initial build-out, since it will have an interactive component. The staff task force is a plan for extensive user testing, as quickly after internal review is completed.



I am proud to be able to report that NSPE was recently awarded Abila's Excellence Award for **Moving the Needle** as an organization that has made a significant improvement in implementation of its state-of-the-art membership database management system. NSPE was recognized for improvements to its database and operations through its recent upgrade and reimplementation, especially its innovative data integration customization to accommodate membership data for state societies that do their own billing.

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](#)."