

**TO:** NSPE Board of Directors

**cc:** 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 & CEO

**DATE:** April 16, 2019

**RE:** Board Update: April 1–15, 2019

### Championing the PE License



**NSPE participates in National Academy of Engineering Convocation of Professional Engineering Societies and Hill events.** On April 8, President Michael Aitken and I represented NSPE at the annual convocation of professional engineering societies at the National Academy of Engineering in Washington, which focused on the issue of “Diversity and Inclusion in the Engineering Workforce.” The following day, we joined the presidents, presidents-elect, and CEOs from 45 national engineering societies representing more than two million engineers, in the 16th annual, multidisciplinary Engineering Public Policy Symposium on Capitol Hill.

**New federal bills aim to eliminate PE license exemption for public utility pipelines.** Over the last several weeks, NSPE’s Government Relations staff has been working with Congressional staffers on a federal bill to end licensing exemptions for work done on public utility pipelines. The bill is a response to the Merrick Valley incident in the fall of 2018, in which over-pressurized gas pipelines exploded, destroying several homes and killing one person. In its investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board noted that a professional engineer was not required to review or approve construction plans for the pipeline, and it called for the state of Massachusetts to immediately end this exemption, which it did. [HR 2139/S 1097](#) seeks to make this a national requirement. NSPE continues to work closely with congressional staff to shepherd this bill through the legislative process,

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and will be alerting NSPE members, asking them to contact their elected officials and express support for the bill's passage.

**The United States has a higher threshold than other developed nations for allowing corporations to risk the health and safety of consumers.** That's the provocative thesis of a recent [op-ed](#) from the *New York Times*. In the current environment, with powerful interests arguing that licensure is a barrier to economic growth, employment opportunity and innovation, the piece reminds us of the public health, safety, and welfare imperative that responsible licensure serves.

**As heard on the online member forums.** [NSPE's Communities](#) is the place for members to connect online with colleagues for knowledge exchange, content curation, collaboration, and professional networking. A recent thread ([Thoughts on Engineering Licensure](#)) continued a thoughtful discussion among concerned members on the importance and challenges of responsible professional licensure.

“Engineers are licensed and regulated by state boards appointed by the governors rather than a self-regulated profession. This creates some challenges, particularly when it becomes a tool of protectionism as occurs in many USA States. How can we break this and ensure there is comity for fully qualified engineers and differentiating between those who meet the full qualifications from those who obtained licensure through some form of exemption?”

You might also be interested in the ongoing discussion of [Thoughts on Qualification Exams \(FE and PE\)](#).

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

**The professional engineer's role in the application of artificial intelligence and technology:** Technology is dramatically and rapidly changing the role of the professional engineer. Not only are the tools to design, collect, analyze, operate, maintain, and decommission being transformed, but the systems themselves are changing faster with more technology embedded into our infrastructure, buildings, roads, environment, natural resources, manufacturing facilities, logistics, homes, offices, and automobiles to name a few. Dealing with the transition and future technologies while remaining mindful of the implications for the public's health, safety, security, and environment is a critical challenge for professional engineers, who face an ethical obligation to adapt and proactively lead as before.

Encourage your members to join us on April 24 for a live [webinar](#), presented by Dr. Ben Amaba, P.E. (IBM Corporation) and Dr. Phillip A. Laplante, P.E. (Penn

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State University) covering some of the primary skills that professional engineers are finding most critical in their own work in this area.

**And don't miss out on the final in our spring series of live, [ethics webinars](#)** on May 8. NSPE Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Art Schwartz will review engineering ethics principles and discuss emerging engineering ethics issues involving building codes and environmental issues; objectivity and truthfulness in the use of drones; patents and the potential infringements in a foreign country; and signing and sealing of electronic documents. Participants will receive copies of the Power Point presentations, NSPE Board of Ethical Review case studies, the NSPE Code of Ethics, and other materials. The webinar will include an online discussion and interactive polling questions to engage and guide your members through this important information.

**Recently released [2018 cases](#) from NSPEs Board of Ethical Review are now available online.** This year marks 60 years of BER cases, highlighting the board's critical role as an authority on engineering ethics.

The cases reviewed by the Board of Ethical Review have served as a benchmark for the profession as well as a guide on professional ethics for PEs and engineering students alike. Be sure to check out the upcoming May/June issue of [PE magazine](#) to see how college educators and students are putting the case summaries to use.

**And stay tuned for enhanced, searchable online access to this authoritative source of engineering ethics information.** A highly interactive, intuitive service for searching by topic to a fully cross-referenced listing of relevant code provisions, opinions, and case studies is in beta testing now.

**New York woman arrested for allegedly forging PE seal to expedite projects.** Members who regularly follow the *Daily Designs* e-newsletter provided by national to every member may have caught this story. Evelyn Dellutrie has been charged with forging a PE's stamp of approval on plan inspections for dozens of New York Department of Buildings construction plans, compromising the integrity of commercial construction projects in an attempt to circumvent a process meant to keep city construction safe. She faces up to seven years in prison if convicted of the multiple charges of forgery, perjury, offering a false instrument for filing, falsifying business records, and criminal possession of stolen property.

### **Powering Professional Advancement**

**Early registration discounts for the 2019 Professional Engineers Conference end on April 30.** PECON19, July 17–21, in Kansas City, is an opportunity for PEs and those on the path to licensure to connect with like-minded professionals, earn continuing education credits, advance your leadership skills and learn about the profession's top issues.

[Visit the conference website](#) for a full listing of educational sessions.

**PECon offers a special opportunity to learn the latest in sustainability and infrastructure.** These issues present vital challenges and opportunities for the engineering profession, and this July's conference in Kansas City provides two days of education opportunities to gain insight into problem-solving for a sustainable future.

Sessions include:

- [Ensuring Sustainability through Strategic Planning](#)
- [Making the Most Out of Infrastructure Dollars](#)
- [Earthquake Forensics](#)
- [Rainfall Runoff Modeling for Small Watersheds](#)

**The engineering team consists of more than just PEs and requires the engagement appropriately qualified technologists and technicians.** Don't miss our May 29 live webinar: [NICET: Developing a Qualified Workforce](#). Through credentialing with the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, professionals in engineering technologies can set themselves apart as the most exceptional technicians in their field. Join NICET's Chip Hollis as he discusses the ways in which credentialed technicians earn certifications to further their careers, earn the respect and confidence of employers, and continue to safeguard the public.

**Don't overlook opportunities to promote a highly source of value to your state's membership.** NSPE members can access the following courses 24/7 from the comfort of their home or office. They are free and included as part of the integrated, national and state membership<sup>1</sup> and to NSPE members in nonintegrated states.

- [Advancing Your Career: Seven Essential Principles to Set Yourself Apart](#)
- [Architects & Engineers Claims Risk: Impact of Changing Technology and Inexperience](#)
- [Engineering Career Development: How to Manage and Retain the Future Workforce](#)
- [Engineering Ethics: Marketing Communications, and Employment](#) \*
- [Engineering Ethics: The PE and Domestic and International Gifts](#) \*
- [Engineering Ethics: The PE and Sustainable Development](#) \*
- [Engineering Ethics: The PE as an Expert Witness](#) \*
- [Hurricane Engineering Response: Restoring Power to Puerto Rico](#)
- [Introduction to the 2018 EJCDC Construction Series Documents](#)
- [License to Succeed: Compliance for Architecture, Engineering and Construction Firms](#)
- [Navigating Successful Project Delivery](#)
- [Prevention through Design](#)
- [Qualifications-Based Selection \(QBS\) and its Importance to Engineering and the Public](#)
- [Staying Relevant: The Lifelong Learning Journey](#)

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<sup>1</sup> That translates to less than \$20 per PDH for a \$299 national/state integrated membership.

- [Understanding Wastewater Engineering](#) \*

Since states have varying requirements on what is accepted, NSPE has put together a chart of [state continuing education requirements for professional engineers](#). Courses marked with an asterisk (\*) have been approved through NY Practicing Institute of Engineering (PIE). All courses are accepted for Florida.

### Uniting the PE Community

**Our State Society Shout-Out, which goes to a state society for fully leveraging the integrated national/state partnership, goes to the South Dakota Engineering Society.** Check out the new [South Dakota Engineering Society newsletter](#). Note the wealth of great local content, including legislative updates, details of their upcoming conference, and engaging photos of Engineers Week, and the seamless way value that SD members are receiving from the national component of their integrated membership is blended in (information on the Professional Engineers Conference on page 5, news from NSPE on page 11, and the nationally-sourced member benefits included with membership on page 7). A special thanks to SDSPE Executive Director Nancy Hoines for all her work to help clean up data from what used to be two different membership databases and years of disconnect to ensure this information is reaching every member in the state. This is precisely the kind of partnership—designed to increase visibility and impact—that the new membership model envisioned. It couldn't have happened without the active engagement of this state society executive.

**March 2019 financial reports are now available online for our integrated state affiliates.** Each state's designated administrators can logon and click on "State Home" to review their reports. The funds were released on April 3, deposited electronically for those states signed up for this service, and physical checks have been mailed to the others.

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As NSPE continues the process of updating its strategic plan to more fully leverage the Society's strength as a unified and integrated network of national and state elements, we are pursuing an open, comprehensive and intensive effort to ensure a planning and operational framework that maximizes strategy, business and operations, branding and messaging and value propositions.

This planning effort explicitly recognizes the three core customer bases that NSPE must satisfy in order to fulfill its mission: NSPE members, and potential members; NSPE state societies; and NICET certificants, their employers, and potential certification services customers.

Today this is done through NSPE and its state partners' lines of business that include: membership; mission-driven activities; non-dues revenue generation activities including NSPE programs and NICET; and a variety of other activities. The overarching intent is to drive growth: growth through increased membership and participation (engaging more people and engaging them more fully); growth through increased profitability for national, state societies, and NICET; and growth in mission impact at all levels.

NSPE's updated strategic plan will identify and define the value the organization can provide to its customer bases that result in the greatest mission impact and growth opportunity at all levels: national, state and chapter. We are doing this through market and member intelligence gathering, analysis that reveals challenges and opportunities, assessing the capabilities of the current organization, and national and state leader discussion and decision-making.

You can check in on the planning process and history in the linked [timeline](#).

And remember, you always have access to numerous 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.

The [State and National Leaders](#) community page is not only a direct means of engaging, sharing ideas, and asking for advice from your peers in leadership across the country, it is your link to data, reports, and analysis on membership, programs and activities to better inform and support your leadership duties at the national, state and chapter level.

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](#)."