

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: Wendel Stewart
Interim Executive Director & COO

DATE: November 24, 2020

RE: Board Update: November 1–24, 2020

When you receive this update, the nation will be a couple of days away from the Thanksgiving holiday. Despite challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, unstable economic markets, high unemployment, and the need to continue addressing criminal justice reform, we have *a lot* to be thankful for.

No one could have predicted the turbulent year that 2020 has been and the changes and adjustments we would have to go through. This forced all of us to rapidly reexamine operations to determine what should be done differently. We know that disruptions impact people differently. Some are experiencing discomfort and hardship much more deeply than others. No matter how you look at it, we all have been impacted one way or another.

Nevertheless, NSPE united and responded with real solutions. For example, operational costs were lowered to maintain sustainability, in-person meetings were converted to virtual meetings, the implementation of remote proctoring has been expedited, and additional webinars were expanded, allowing members to obtain the continuing education needed for license renewals.

The above could not have been done without a team effort. I am grateful for all the hard work and dedication that staff and volunteers have exhibited throughout these uncertain times. Whether you are a long-time member, staff, or someone new to the organization, I appreciate you hanging in there as we navigate through these uncertain times. I have been so impressed with the enthusiasm, dedication, and passion that each of you have brought to your role in the organization. **Thank you!**

One of the most important priorities for the year is the search for NSPE’s new executive director and CEO. As mentioned in previous reports, the Executive Director and CEO Search Committee and Vetted Solutions have been diligently working to identify the best candidates for this important role.

NSPE has been very fortunate in the interest expressed by leaders throughout the country from various disciplines. To put this in perspective, Vetted Solutions contacted over 350 individuals, which generated 75 resumes. Through their thorough screening process, the list was narrowed down to nine. The search committee met and discussed in detail each of these resumes and then selected six individuals for an in-person (Zoom) meeting. After much deliberation, the list was narrowed down to the final four. During the week of Thanksgiving, the committee will meet once again with each of the candidates to drill down further on their respective skills and vision for NSPE. The goal is to identify someone by the end of November to early December with a *possible* start date of the second month of the new year.

In the sections below, you will learn more about the activities and accomplishments of the engineering team (PEs, NICET engineering technicians and technologists, state societies, and staff) over the last month.

Champion

Preparing for Legislative Sessions: The GR team continues to hold one-on-one meetings with premium-tier state leaders to discuss the upcoming legislative sessions, and to determine how best to collaborate with and serve the state societies and members. The conversations have been very positive and productive, providing clear guidance for the GR staff going into 2021.

WY Member Testifies on Universal Licensing Bill: A member of the Wyoming Society of Professional Engineers testified at a state committee hearing on a proposed universal licensing bill. Wyoming state leadership reports that those who expressed concerns about the bill were “running uphill and against the wind,” as the legislation has strong support from the US Department of Defense. One primary concern with the bill is that it allows military spouses to hold a temporary license for three years, despite the fact that Wyoming processes comity requests in 7–10 days.

Georgia SE Implementation Delayed: The Georgia Society of Professional Engineers notified NSPE staff that implementation of the structural engineer license [has been delayed](#). Any PE who wants to be grandfathered into the structural

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](#).

engineering license must complete an affidavit. Although the deadline for affidavit submissions has been extended, a hard deadline hasn't been set.

NJ Tracking Bill Raises Concerns: A New Jersey bill that would require state contractors to install tracking software to verify that they are working on state business continues, inexplicably, to work its way through the legislature. Though the governor has made it clear he intends to veto the bill if it gets to his desk, there is still ample concern that the bill's passage will embolden the company responsible for it to try getting it passed in other jurisdictions next year. The GR team has reached out to third parties to alert them to the significant privacy issues and is in regular communication with NJSPE leaders who are monitoring the bill's status. Read the 2019 *PE* magazine [article](#) on this issue.

MI Considers Licensing for Military Spouses: The Michigan legislature is holding a lame duck session, and companion [House/Senate bills](#) have been introduced that focus on reciprocal licensing for military spouses. As written, the drafts don't affect the reciprocal process for PE licensing, but the state society leadership will discuss them in more detail at an upcoming legislative meeting.

NSPE To Participate in NJ Amicus Brief: The Executive Committee has approved NSPE's participation in the filing of an amicus brief in a New Jersey case attacking the protection of the affidavit/certificate of merit process that cuts off frivolous claims of professional malpractice or negligence. Rebecca Bowman, senior director of ethics and professional practice, will represent NSPE in that effort.

NICET Develops In-Building Public Safety Communications Certification: NICET is looking to find uniquely qualified individuals to volunteer their time and expertise to assist in the development of the certification exams essential to the IB-PSC program. Individuals with experience in RF design, BDAs, DAS, and in-building emergency responder communication enhancement systems (ERCES) who have an interest in writing exam questions or standard setting, please send a current resume to Certification Program Development Manager Sara Clark at sclark@nicet.org.

Contributing volunteers will be assisting NICET in evaluating the competency of individuals engaged in designing and deploying ERCES systems essential to protecting first responders. If selected, you will receive written acknowledgement of your contributions. Selected individuals will write and review test questions for NICET certification exams. Writing is performed remotely in conjunction with other volunteers and expected to begin in early December.

NICET Pursues Accreditation for Personnel Certification: NICET is continuing to prepare for ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024 Accreditation for Personnel Certification. The 17024 standard is widely recognized in the certification industry. It will give NICET a competitive advantage and allow us to continue to offer services to state and federal entities that are beginning to require accreditation. NICET has worked to conform to 17024 standards for over a decade. In January 2020, NICET contracted with [SeaCrest Company](#) to conduct a gap analysis to determine the accreditation requirements NICET currently complies with, summarize the additional documentation needed to demonstrate compliance, and identify current areas of noncompliance. The analysis identified several areas in NSPE’s operating procedures that could jeopardize accreditation, and SeaCrest suggested OP changes to better comply with the accreditation standard. The requested changes are on the agenda for the board meeting on December 8.

Guide

Must-See Webinar on Strategic Plan: NSPE’s strategic plan says, “NSPE’s success in serving each of these elements [PEs, state societies, and NICET] within the NSPE ecosystem is vital to the organization’s ability to serve the *all*; a failure to effectively serve any one element is damaging to each of the others.” To ensure this message was shared with leaders throughout the country, President Tricia Hatley, together with President-Elect Rick Guerra, Vice President Britt Smith and State Society Executives Council President and Executive Director of the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers Adam Jones hosted the webinar “Moving Forward Together and Strategies for the Future” on November 16. Seventy-seven leaders participated and received important information on what was involved in the development of the [strategic plan](#), its metrics, and more importantly, how local and states societies could adapt and establish a plan of their own. If you did not have the opportunity to attend, you can [watch the recording on YouTube](#). This is something you will want to see and share with others.

Webinar Covers Fundamental Ethics Topic: A Board of Ethical Review [webinar on Canon 1](#) focused on four ethics cases that covered the PE’s obligation to “hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.” The cases were personal favorites of the BER members who presented the webinar. Topics included the impact of sea-level rise associated with climate change, confidentiality limits to the engineer’s obligation to report observed safety violations, warning officials about off-site safety concerns noticed on an unrelated project, and navigating city politics to achieve better code enforcement.

Advance

Time Running Out on Free Courses: With licensure renewal deadlines coming up in many states, state societies and members are reminded to take advantage of the PDHs included free as a membership benefit. Time is running out to access your [15 free online courses](#) for 2020. This year's list includes seminars on ethics, advancing your career and staying current on the latest in engineering technology. PDHs from the free courses are recognized by most states, including Florida. NSPE has put together a short video to show you how to access these 15 free courses. The courses will change after December 31, 2020.

Save the Date for PECON21: Mark your calendar and join us for the 2021 Professional Engineers Conference, July 7–11, in Philadelphia! This year's conference, a partnership between NSPE and Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, is an opportunity for PEs and those on the path to licensure to connect with like-minded professionals, earn continuing education credits, and learn about the profession's top issues.

Conference Call for Presentations: The Professional Engineers Conference attracts more than 300 professional engineers and industry leaders from across the US and internationally for two full days of professional development, continuing education, and networking. PECON21 will include at least 25 one-hour sessions, presentations by national leaders, and commercial exhibits. Topics will include leadership and risk management, sustainability, infrastructure, multidisciplinary innovation, volunteer leadership and association management, and others. The [PECON21 call for presentations](#) opened November 5 and closes November 30. If you have questions, contact meetings@nspe.org.

Webinar Presenters Needed—Show Your Expertise: This spring, NSPE plans to conduct over 15 webinars, and you could be the star. And in many states, you can earn a PDH for presenting. PE Institute webinars are an effective way to engage engineering professionals on crucial educational topics and emerging issues. These sessions provide participants with best practices, effective solutions, and quality resources that help them advance in their careers. For consideration, complete this [short form](#).

Unite

State Webinar: As part of the benefits of being a state society in the full-service tier, DCSPE President Dan Hanlon partnered with NSPE to begin 2nd Friday Webinars. The original live broadcast of "[Engineering Ethics: The Basics](#)," presented by Susan Sprague, chair of the Board of Ethics Review, was available free to engineers in the District, Maryland, and Virginia and is now available for

resale on the NSPE shopping cart with a revenue share for state and national. NSPE is providing the staff support, marketing, and platform for these initiatives while NSPE-DC is providing the topics and speakers. The December 11 presentation will be on the new DC energy code.

How can your state get in on a deal like this? Full-service and premium-service tier states are entitled to a certain number of presentations as part of the business model. Contact Kim Granados at kgranados@nspe.org today to learn more. Is a state already conducting webinars and recording them? Contact Kim for a copy of the reseller agreement and have NSPE promote and sell your recordings for a revenue share.

Continuing on the Road to the Summit: The Road to the Summit, the leadership development program for state society volunteers, has developed a lot of momentum. These training sessions are presented through online communities, video conferences, and monthly meetings. In the [Leadership Toolbox](#), you will find checklists, program outlines, and prerecorded videos.

On November 19, the third session, “You’re in Sales, Whether You Like It or Not–Part 2,” featured South Dakota Engineering Society Executive Director Nancy Hoines, and Kim Granados and Erik Schonher of NSPE. The speakers covered the tips, tricks, and marketing successes in membership development. The session had 51 attendees from over 25 states and territories and is available online in the [Leadership Toolbox](#) or it can be downloaded as a [PowerPoint](#). The Road to the Summit is a first and important step in the journey for NSPE and state societies to cooperatively drive growth.

The PE-Technician Team: Another great webinar in November was “Put Me in, Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion.” Leaders from NSPE and NICET collaborated on this [webinar, which focused on how PEs and NICET technicians make for a winning team](#). Within the construction industry, engineering-based decisions are made by PEs, closely engaged with NICET technicians who determine and report laboratory and field design, quality control, and construction observation data. Working as an efficient team helps a project move smoothly and leads to successful completion. As part of the webinar, available at no cost, the engineering team discussed how PEs and technicians explored engineering best practices and approaches to overcoming technical challenges.

Remember Giving Tuesday: Please consider the future of the engineering profession on Giving Tuesday, December 1, and throughout the season, by giving to the [NSPE Education Foundation](#). Giving Tuesday is the first Tuesday after

Thanksgiving and represents a global movement that demonstrates the power of people and organizations to change their communities and the world. You can also make a donation when you renew your membership. In addition, when you do your shopping during the holidays at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates to the NSPE Education Foundation at no cost to you.

The current iteration of [NSPE's Strategic Plan](#) represents *both* continuity *and* change: continuity with the Society's unchanging goal of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare; and a recognition that we needed change in order to achieve more impact, through strategies backed by resources that will deliver real-world results.

COVID-19 has impacted all of us, but the organization remains focused on adapting to the externally imposed disruptions and remains active and effective in its continued pursuit of its mission.

Please 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](#)).