

**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  
House of Delegates

**FROM:** Monika Schulz, CAE  
Executive Director & CEO

**DATE:** September 2, 2022

**RE:** Board Update: August 1-31, 2022

As August draws to a close, NSPE continues to ramp up for our FY23 fiscal year. A few highlights from this past month:

- 1) **NSPECon 22:** Over 250 PEs from around the country gathered to build community and learn. Thank you to speakers and attendees for making this conference a success and we look forward to welcoming you next year to NSPECon23 from August 2-4, 2023. The location will be announced later this fall. Mark your calendars now.
- 2) **NSPE PE Day on August 3** showcased PEs from around the country. A big Thank You to all!
- 3) Regional directors met to kick off the new year and regional calls will begin this fall. This is an opportunity to discover what is happening at every level of the federation and learn from each other. Check your state's online private leadership community for details at [nspe.org](https://nspe.org) under NSPE Communities.
- 4) **2022-2023 National Committees are Booting Up:** The committees will begin their work over the next few weeks. If you volunteered for a national committee, be on the lookout for more information in your inbox.
- 5) **2022-2023 State Leadership Rosters are Due:** If you have not submitted your state's leadership roster to Dana Aragon at [daragon@nspe.org](mailto:daragon@nspe.org), please make sure to send asap. The rosters are the way that NSPE ensures that we are communicating with current leaders and a critical element for clear communication.

### Upcoming Deadlines

**Due Now:** [New State Leadership Information](#)

**October 31:** [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#)

### Save the Dates

**February 19-25:** 2023 EWeek

**August 2-4:** NSPECon23

**August 2:** PE Day 2023

As we begin this new fiscal year, recruiting new members to join the NSPE community continues to be a focus area. As you know, NSPE has a high retention rate for those already in our community, but we want to engage and encourage others to join. As you look at state and chapter fall activities, talk to your state leadership about how you can encourage new professionals to join. Engagement through volunteering is core to being a member and association practice shows that engagement leads to growth and retention. Challenge your members and leaders to bring a colleague to a state activity, reach out to those that participated in a past activity and ask them to join.

At the August 1 HoD Leadership Initiative workshop, conversations and ideas were shared around volunteering and developing future leaders. Here are a few ideas for you to consider:

- Long-term volunteer commitments are no longer attractive to most volunteers. There are many other organizations that are competing for your volunteer's time. **Smaller bites (micro volunteering)** in volunteer activities are attractive. Build more opportunities that are less restrictive.
- **Invite members to volunteer.** Engagement is better when the member feels their skills are needed.
- Provide examples of how volunteering enhances the professional skill set. Volunteers derive personal development through leadership roles and building a network and community they can rely on in their professional career.
- Take a block chain approach to "volunteer nodes." One project may have many volunteers performing small tasks that connect back to a larger scale initiative.
- Look at your state and local chapter pathways to volunteering. Is it easy for a member to volunteer? Is it on your website?

To see what is coming up, review the details below. Share with your leaders. If you have questions, send an email to [statehelp@nspe.org](mailto:statehelp@nspe.org) We are here to support you. Thank you for your leadership and continued support of NSPE.

## Driving Growth

**NICET's In-Building Public Safety Communication Program Wins Silver in ASAE's The Power of Association Awards Program:** NICET's [In-Building Public Safety Communication \(IBPSC\)](#) certification program has received a silver level award from the American Society of Association Executives' Power of Associations Awards program. The IBPSC certification program is designed for engineering technicians engaged in the detailing and layout, installation, and maintenance, and/or designing of in-building public safety communication systems. There is a three-level technician track and a one-level design track that may be used independently or together to establish minimum qualifications for appropriate roles.

The [Power of Associations Awards](#) program helps associations to promote awareness of their innovative, results-oriented programs and initiatives. The award can showcase to

policymakers, the media, and other outside audiences how an association helps advance not only the industry or profession represented, but also national and world conditions.

### **Impact of the IBPSC Certification Program**

NSPE entered the IBPSC certification program in the Industry/Professional Advancement category. It is critically important for emergency responders to be able to communicate. Buildings can negatively impact the signal of the communication network and inside many buildings the signal does not reach inside all areas. The events in New York on September 11, 2001, amplified the life-threatening nature of the problem. Since then, technology known-as Emergency Responder Communication Enhancement Systems (ERCES) has been developed to improve signal quality in buildings. However, this technology needs qualified individuals to design, install, and maintain or it might not work as intended and in the worst case may cause interference that impacts the usability of the entire network.

The IBPSC program provides an objective, third-party skills, and knowledge certification upon which these stakeholders may rely. Certified individuals will have demonstrated knowledge, skills, and abilities; participate in continuing professional development to maintain their credential; and agree to abide by the NICET Code of Ethics to ensure ERCES are designed, installed, and maintained properly.

ASAE, NSPE, and NICET are spreading the news through social media and other channels. Congratulations to all involved!

## **Shaping Public Policy**

### **Federal**

**Congress Back in Session:** The House and Senate will return to Washington, DC, in September. The Senate is expected to return on September 6 and the House will return on September 13.

**Inflation Reduction Act:** The US House of Representatives came back into session over the August recess to pass the Inflation Reduction Act. President Biden signed the bill into law on August 16. The new law focuses on health care, taxes, and climate change. Below are some relevant sections of the law:

#### **Climate Change**

- Provides tax credits for companies and residents transitioning to clean energy.
- The law revamps the \$7,500 tax credit provision for electric vehicles.
- Methane emissions provision: will allow the EPA to fine oil and gas companies if they exceed excess amounts of potent greenhouse gas.
- Allocates \$9 billion to help homeowners switch to renewable energy instead of natural gas (creation of a 10-year consumer tax credit program).

#### **Environmental Justice Provisions**

- \$60 billion set aside for environmental justice programs to assist those in disadvantaged communities that have been hit hard by climate change. The

provisions will help communities that are dependent on fossil fuels make the switch to clean energy and rural communities dealing with pollution or flooding.

### State

**State Advocacy Outreach:** The Government Relations team and the Director of State Relations continue to meet with state society chapters to discuss their advocacy efforts and build relationships. At this point, the team has connected with approximately 20 states.

**Montana Governor's Plans:** Earlier this year, Montana Governor Greg Gianforte announced his Red Tape Relief Initiative for the 2023 legislative session. This initiative is designed to “bring effective reform regarding the way licensing is administered and maintained in Montana, with the goal to reduce regulations and costs to licensees.”

In response to this initiative, Montana’s Department of Labor & Industry announced that they will hold four information sessions. The first was a webinar held on August 31. The next sessions will take place on September 29, October 28, and December 1, all from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Access details about the initiative and sessions [here](#).

NSPE members in Montana were informed of the upcoming hearing and encouraged to submit comments.

NSPE will continue to work with the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) to educate members of the licensed community, the public, and the Governor Gianforte’s team about the importance of licensing to ensure practitioner competence and, in the case of engineers, to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

**Maryland’s Baltimore County Public Works Referendum:** Baltimore County will have a ballot referendum this November on whether to amend the county charter to remove the requirement that the director of public works (DPW) must be a professional engineer. This topic has had much debate in Maryland. Specifically, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and Baltimore City do not require their DPW to hold a PE license. While Anne Arundel, Harford, and Howard counties do require their DPW to hold a PE license.

### Committee on Policy and Advocacy

**State Advocacy Survey:** The Committee on Policy and Advocacy (COPA) continues to encourage any states that have not responded to complete the state advocacy survey. Trends from the document will be shared this fall.

### Other Activities

**ARPL Update:** ARPL has had a busy second and third quarter. Please see the [attached document](#) to review the second quarter update. The third quarter update will be released in October. ARPL attended a sponsored panel at the American Legislative Exchange Council’s annual meeting on July 28. Currently, ARPL is working on promotional strategies to drive website traffic to an Illinois lawmaker’s [op-ed on licensing](#) and is planning state engagement strategies ahead of the 2023 legislative session. Furthermore, ARPL has been working to create a response to the licensure issue in Montana.

**PCC and Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB):** The NSPE team continues to be involved with the Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) and the CESB including discussion on legislative topics that affect the profession.

The PCC will be going into its fifth year. Recently, their FY22 accomplishments and FY23 priorities & prospectus were released. For more details, please see the [attached document](#).

**QBS Awards:** The judging process is wrapping up for the ACEC/NSPE QBS Awards program, which recognizes public and private entities that make exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process at the federal, state, and local levels. QBS Award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help ACEC and NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services.

**Defending the Engineer Title in Washington State:** NSPE has joined with the Washington Society of Professional Engineers in filing an *amicus* brief in support of a challenge to non-compliant use of the title “engineer” by the Washington Department of Transportation. Pursuant to Board approval, financial support from the Legal Defense Fund has also been provided.

## Educating for the Future

**NSPECon 2022 Photos Available:** Official photos from NSPECon 2022 are now available for viewing and downloading via [NSPE’s Flickr account](#).



Images are grouped by event on Flickr to make it easier to find specific photos. To download, please open the individual image and click on the “down arrow” icon on the far bottom right. This will pull up an option menu to download multiple file sizes (good for whether you’re planning to print or post online).

NSPE has full usage rights to the images, so you’re welcome to download and print/post them as you wish. If you plan to print/post for business use (such as in a newsletter, magazine, or online), as a courtesy we ask that you include a credit line similar to “Images courtesy of NSPE and Corpora Studios” when you use them.

## Promoting Diversity and Tomorrow’s Engineer



**WORKability  
Wednesdays**

**Access FREE WORKability Wednesday Webinars:**

The reviews of the [Engineering: Addressing Unintended Consequences as a Professional](#) webinar are excellent. “Applicable to all engineering disciplines,” says one attendee. If you were busy this summer and missed it, there is time to watch this thought-provoking webinar at NSPE’s PE Institute.

All webinars in the [spring series](#) are available free to members. Watch for more information soon about what to expect in the fall series lineup!

## Engagement and Governance

### State Societies

**Leadership Pipeline Recap:** As promised, the recent Leadership Pipeline session fostered robust discussion about leveraging information on volunteering and leadership into actionable items. Delegates participated in a meeting during NSPECon to discuss tactics and ideas around identifying the next generation of leadership. A summary document was distributed, and the conversations will continue on this important topic.

**Upcoming SSEC Meeting:** Plans are underway for the State Society Executive Council (SSEC) in-person meeting on September 23 to discuss results and ideas for a plan of action in driving value, engagement, and growth. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Aragon at [daragon@nspe.org](mailto:daragon@nspe.org)

**Leadership Toolbox Redesign:** The [Leadership Toolbox](#) is under construction. The goal is to create a user-friendly and organized resource area for state and national leaders. If you have any suggestions for content or updates to the information, please send them to Dana Aragon at [daragon@nspe.org](mailto:daragon@nspe.org).

### Important Due Dates

**Partnership Review Documents:** The Partnership Review documents were due on August 5. We are still missing a few. Please complete and return your review to Kim Granados at [kgranados@nspe.org](mailto:kgranados@nspe.org). The information collected will help inform leadership on the way forward in growing value for NSPE states.

**State Leadership Contact Info:** Please help us to update our state leadership contact lists. Please remember to fill out this form with the newly elected leaders as soon as possible. [Microsoft Forms](#)

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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.

The NSPE [Leadership Toolbox has numerous resources](#), including [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.

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