

TO: NSPE Board of Directors

cc: 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: July 3, 2017

RE: Board Update: June 15-30, 2017

This is the final written update before the PE Conference, and also marks the close of the 2017 fiscal year.

The run-up to the annual meeting is in its final stages. Updates on the conference programs and events appear below, and preparations for the governance meetings, most importantly, the annual House of Delegates meeting (Saturday, July 22nd), have been intensive.

The agenda for the House of Delegates Caucus and General Assembly will be distributed this week, but I want to thank the Delegates for the time you have already been putting in to preparations for the meeting.

The major issue for this General Assembly is, of course, the proposed membership business model. At last year's House of Delegates General Assembly in Dallas, following months of open dialogue with state society and national leadership and numerous volunteer working groups, the options for a new membership business model and a general path forward were outlined, debated and discussed at length. At the conclusion of that dialogue, you charged NSPE to come back at this year's meeting with a concrete plan, ready for approval and implementation.

I won't repeat a history of all the activity and hours of effort from the working groups, SSEC, state societies, regions and one-on-one interactions it took to meet that goal. An [online resource center](#) was created, archiving all the relevant plan materials, and with a library of Frequently Asked Questions capturing the substance of individual dialogues for the benefit of all. To date, the FAQ has grown to 55 separate entries, and additions continue to be added.

Specifically, in preparation for House of Delegate action this month:

- On May 17th, the first of three online webinars with all House of Delegates representatives and other interested leaders was conducted, to go through the details of the business model and answer questions. 107 individuals participated. (The session can be viewed [here](#).)
- On June 20th, a second House of Delegates webinar was conducted, going section by section through the

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](#).

language of the motion that will be considered at the General Assembly. 86 individuals participated. (The session can be viewed [here](#).) The motion itself can be viewed [here](#), and I should note that several changes in language and substance were made to the motion as a result of your input on that call.

- A final House of Delegates webinar working session will be conducted on July 11th at 2:00 PM (Eastern) to prepare for consideration of the plan. The agenda for this meeting will be set entirely by you, the delegates, to address whatever the remaining topics and questions you wanted discussed.

Regardless of the outcome of the General Assembly vote, you have all answered the call of leadership and come to the meeting prepared. And the action you will take is just the critical next step, not an end to the demands placed on you all as leaders for successful realization of a plan to put in place a 21st century business and operational infrastructure that will support the coordinated and collaborative activities of NSPE as an interconnected system of local, state and national components with more impact, efficiency and reach.

Championing the PE License

Last June, the EPA issued a major final [rulemaking](#) emphasizing the critical role of licensed professional engineers in agency activities. Unfortunately, the new administration, as part of its broad attempt to deregulate and decrease costs, is considering clawing back some of those gains for the PE. The EPA issued a 90-day administrative stay on the new rules, that is currently in effect. On June 16th, the EPA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking calling for both an additional three-month stay¹ of parts of the rule as well as a broader two-year stay. The two-year stay, which is the main issue, would allow for a total reexamination of the full rule. Procedurally, all the EPA is requesting comments on at this time is the duration of the stay, without delving into the specifics of the rule. I will be testifying at an EPA public hearing in Washington DC on July 10th addressing both the duration and substance of the rule, opposing the stay of the rule and reiterating the necessity of the PE provisions. We will provide updates on this public comment process and its outcome as they occur. Dig in; we have a fight ahead of us.

NSPE continues to work closely with state partners to oppose legislation that would infringe on a professional engineer's judgment to determine the best type of piping material for a project. This legislation is now being considered at the federal level, due to the backing of major free enterprise organizations, such as ALEC, Americans for Prosperity, Americans for Tax Reform, and Freedom Works, under the guise of open competition. NSPE has joined with ACEC and other leading engineering and water utility organizations that design and manage the nation's water systems to ensure that only professional engineers make these decisions based on the unique needs of each system, taking into account critical factors such as structural integrity, soil compatibility, maintenance, and life cycle costs. NSPE and these other organizations will be releasing a joint letter and we are actively working to meet with strategic Members of Congress to oppose these efforts.

Ethical Guide to the Profession

The current issue of PE magazine includes a feature article on [Engineering Society Codes of Ethics: A Birds-Eye View](#).

¹ The three-month stay has been requested to ensure there isn't a gap between the current administrative stay and the two-year stay.

Other feature articles in this issue include the role of [forensic engineering and the law](#), and [learning from mistakes](#).

The dialogue continues on the hot-button issue of bias, discrimination and harassment in engineering in the magazine's [letter to the editor](#) page.

The topic of cybersecurity of critical infrastructure (featured in [March/April PE magazine](#)) also continues to draw attention. More and more is coming out on this. It will be covered in a session at PECON in Atlanta (Thursday, July 20th at 10:00 am). Your attention is also drawn to a sample of recent coverage in the general press:

- “Hackers allied with the Russian government have devised a cyberweapon that has the potential to be the most disruptive yet against electric systems that Americans depend on for daily life, according to U.S. researchers.” [The Washington Post](#).
- “For the first time in history, Lee points out, a group of hackers has shown that it’s willing and able to attack critical infrastructure. They’ve refined their techniques over multiple, evolving assaults. And they’ve already planted BlackEnergy malware on the US grid once before. ‘The people who understand the US power grid know that it can happen here,’ Lee says.” [Wired](#).
- And for a sliver of good news to end with. The Girl Scouts will be offering badges in cybersecurity. [USA Today](#).

Additional coverage in NSPE content vehicles is in the works.

Powering Professional Advancement

With three weeks to go until PECON 2017 registrations look strong with 262 advanced registrants. This compares to final numbers of 533 for the joint TSPE/NSPE annual meetings in Dallas and 365 Seattle².

An app for the conference is available for both Android and Apple iOS devices, with not only a schedule, but a roster of attendees, messaging options, the ability to set up a personal schedule that syncs with whatever calendar program you use, a PDH claimer and social media integration. If you are registered for the conference, just use the email address you registered with to log in.

I draw your particular attention to a major new addition to the program: The Georgia Society of Professional Engineers will be hosting a “speed networking” reception on Wednesday, July 19th from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Come join your peers for a cash bar, light hors d'oeuvres and speed networking with locals.

If you have not made your hotel reservation, we were able to extend the room block at the Marriott Marquis, but availability of special conference rates ends on July 3rd.

² The interim count for Atlanta includes actual registrations. Final counts also include guests.

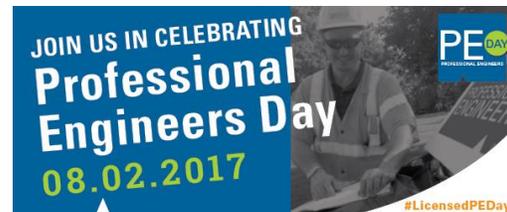
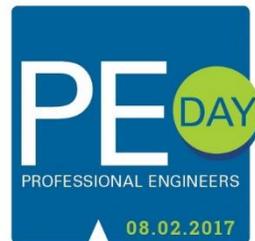
For representatives to the House of Delegates and incoming state presidents who receive financial subsidies to attend the conference, be sure to include the required seminars in your personal schedules:

- [The Future of the Professional Engineering Exam](#) (Thursday, July 20th, 10:00 – 10:50 am)
- [Engineering Education, Accreditation and Licensure: Exploring Current Developments, Trends and Pressures](#) (Friday, July 21st, 10:00 -10:50 am)
- [Future of Professional Engineering](#) (Friday, July 21st, 11:00 – 11:50 am)

Uniting the PE Community

All of the 2017 NSPE Award winners for this year, including the NSPE Award, Young Engineer of the Year Award, PEHE's Engineering Education Excellence Award, and the PEGASUS Award, have been announced and updated on our [web site](#). You can find bios and photos of these winners there. These award winners will also be recognized during our Awards Lunch in Atlanta during PECON on July 21st.

The Maine society has adopted a new logo from the NSPE brand family, making it the 27th state to do so.



A new suite of graphics including logos, website and newsletter banners, leaderboards, ads, and a Twitter header are available for download for states, chapters, members, and even the public to help promote [Professional Engineers Day](#) on August 2, 2017. NSPE has already started promotion of the day on social media using the hashtag #LicensedPEDay. If you are on social media, please be on the lookout and plan to either retweet, share, or post your own message to get the event on people's calendars and get them thinking about ways to celebrate. NSPE also has template language for securing proclamations available for download – the language can be customized to submit to your local or state officials. And this year, NSPE is soliciting videos from our members on a “day in the life” of a PE, or of projects you are working on. These can be posted to social media using #LicensedPEDay or sent to Stacey Ober at pr@nspe.org.

NSPE officers, board members, volunteers and staff ended a very busy travel year with attendance at the following events:

- President-elect Tom Roberts attended the 80th Annual Convention of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers in Camdenton, MO where he met with the MSPE Executive Committee and Board, installed officers and delivered a session on ethics.
- Vice President Michael Aiken participated in the Gulf State Engineering Conference in Destin, Florida hosted by the Louisiana Engineering Society with attendance from interested professional engineers in neighboring states. Michael met with the LES board and installed officers.

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, NSPE leadership will have made visits to a total of 44 state and territorial societies. These visits remain an important way of engaging face-to-face with state leaders and members, learning about best practices, sharing recommendations, and resolving issues of concern.

If you wish to encourage more awareness and participation in your state society's meetings and events, please remember they can be posted to the NSPE [master calendar](#) on the website. Listings are free, and a frankly underutilized tool for bringing your offerings to the attention of a national audience. Over the past year, the following state societies have listed their events on the site:

- Alabama (2)
- California (2)
- Minnesota (4)
- Nevada (1)
- New Mexico (2)
- New York (82)
- Oklahoma (1)
- North Carolina (1)
- Oregon (2)
- South Dakota (1)
- Tennessee (1)
- Wisconsin (1)

And finally, Board members are advised that the online repository for meeting book materials, minutes, etc., ([BoardBookit](#)) will be conducting routine server maintenance on Saturday morning, July 15th. During this time, the BoardBookit platform will not be available to you online. If there are materials that you would like to access during this time, you can download them to BoardBookit on a mobile device (iPad, Android tablet, or iPhone) prior to July 15th for offline use. To access the downloaded materials from your mobile device, turn off WiFi, launch BoardBookit, and log in. BoardBookit will **not** be available from a web browser during the maintenance window.

The company has scheduled the maintenance for Saturday, July 15 to minimize the impact on its customers, and will send a notification as soon as the maintenance is concluded and BoardBookit is again available to you.

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](#)."