

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: November 16, 2017

RE: Board Update: November 1-15, 2017

Membership Model Update: A revised draft of the national/state agreement reflecting the terms and conditions of the new membership model as adopted by the House of Delegates has been prepared; input was gathered and incorporated from state leaders on Study Group II. It was approved by the national board for circulation on November 15. Copies of the draft will be pushed out through all state and national leader communications channels and posted to the website shortly.

A working draft of implementing amendments to the NSPE bylaws is also being cleaned up for circulation and will also be pushed out no later than early next week.

Championing the PE License

A Blurry Vision for Safety: NSPE is calling for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to revise its autonomous vehicles guidance to ensure that the process incorporates an impartial third-party who places the public health, safety, and welfare above all other considerations. On November 6, NSPE President Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE, submitted a [formal comment](#) to NHTSA in response to the release of the new voluntary guidance, *Automated Driving Systems: A Vision for Safety*.

NSPE recommends a requirement for third-party certification of autonomous vehicles and technologies by someone in the decision chain who has a duty that puts public safety first and overrides competitive pressures (i.e.; a professional engineer). These third parties should be legally obligated to place the public health, safety, and welfare above all other considerations. NSPE further recommends that NHTSA develop and set performance criteria for AV technology. These performance standards can be monitored, evaluated, and/or certified through simulation testing to assist in the development of benchmarking criteria.

In the public comment, Roberts states that “the risks posed by failing to adequately address public safety protections are too great to ignore. For NHTSA to achieve its mission to ‘Save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce economic costs due to road traffic crashes, through education, research, safety standards, and enforcement activity,’ these proposed recommendations must be incorporated into the next version, slated for release in 2018.”

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](#).

FE Exam Fees Lowered: Beginning January 1, 2018, [NCEES is reducing the Fundamentals of Engineering \(FE\) registration fee](#) by \$50 to \$175. The reduced fee will apply to registrations completed on or after this date; the new price will not be honored for registrations completed before January 1, 2018.

NCEES member boards voted to lower the exam price at the organization's 95th annual meeting in August 2016.

These exams are currently taken by nearly 47,000 examinees throughout the US and 15 foreign locations annually. The computer-based exams are administered throughout the year at Pearson VUE test centers.

Ethical Guide to the Profession

Ethics Education: On November 11, NSPE Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Art Schwartz conducted an NSPE webinar entitled "Engineering Ethics: The PE and Sustainable Development."

Must-Read Articles: The November/December issue of *PE* magazine is out now and can be read [online](#). Members-only articles covering ethics issues include:

- [PEs and Disaster Planning](#)
- [Failed Nuclear Project Raises Licensing Questions](#)
- [Aiding and Abetting Unlicensed Practice](#)

Powering Professional Advancement

STEM Education Panelists Needed: The National Science Foundation is seeking recommendations for membership on the [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics \(STEM\) Education Advisory Panel](#), established in October by NSF, the Department of Education, NASA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The panel was called for in the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, the latest version of America COMPETES, which became law in early January. The panel is charged with "advising the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (CoSTEM), assessing CoSTEM's progress in carrying out responsibilities related to the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, and helping to identify need or opportunity to update the Federal STEM Education 5-Year Strategic Plan."

Submit Your Conference Presentation Ideas: And there is still time to submit your presentation ideas for consideration for the 2018 Professional Engineers Conference, July 17–23, 2018, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Individuals interested in presenting sessions on topics of interest to professional engineers should submit their information on the [NSPE website](#) by midnight on November 30 for full consideration.

Uniting the PE Community

Member Benefits Reminder: Looking for a helpful summary and reminder of some of the national benefits included in your NSPE membership as you promote membership and renewals? The [attached](#) e-mail went out earlier this month.

NSPE members receive a discount on leading specification software MasterSpec® and SpecText®: a complete and comprehensive commercial master guide specification system

for engineering and infrastructure projects. But you should be aware that the provider, Arcom is rebranding itself as Avitru. Avitru has leveraged its position in the market to launch a cloud-based platform that enables the collaborative exchange of expert knowledge to design, build, and operate a better built environment. You can learn more at avitru.com

Group Discussion: The Nov/Dec *PE* magazine feature “[Taking the Managerial Plunge](#)” has sparked a robust discussion in NSPE’s online [Open Forum](#) about leadership and management skills among engineers.

It is not too early to start planning for Engineers Week activities....

Giving Tuesday: DiscoverE (formerly the National Engineers Week Foundation) is participating in #GivingTuesday on November 28 by encouraging folks to volunteer for Engineers Week and Girl Day. You can help by sharing our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts that day. If your state society is planning #GivingTuesday posts you would like DiscoverE to share, please contact Ellen@DiscoverE.org by November 27.

Global Day: DiscoverE is also launching its 2018 pledge campaign on **International Volunteer Day (December 5, 2017)**. [Click here](#) for language you can use to promote the Global Day pledge. Interested in joining other prominent organizations as an official Global Day partner? Contact: Taryn@DiscoverE.org.

Future City Competition: Encourage your members to serve as regional judges. [Click here](#) for promotional ideas and language you can use to promote this opportunity.

Engineers Week: It’s not too late for your state society and volunteers to participate in the “Shareable Quotes” social media campaign. The deadline for a headshot and quote has been extended to Tuesday, November 21. Contact: Ellen@DiscoverE.org.

Starting Monday, November 27, you can share DiscoverE’s weekly “Countdown to Engineers Week” posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Promotional kits for the 2018 Engineers Week and Girl Day are available to your members. Kits can be ordered in bulk to distribute to members. [Click here](#) for language you can use. Contact: Karen@DiscoverE.org

Girl Day: Encourage members to sign up to be a Girl Day role model and order Girl Day kits. [Click here](#) for promotional language you can use to spread the word to your members.

Global Marathon: Registration opens on December 5. The Marathon takes a new format this year. It will feature a weekly series of lunchtime presentations and discussions, beginning March 7 (in conjunction with International Women’s Day) and ending on the Global Day of the Engineer, April 4, 2018.

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.](#)”