

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: 17 February 2017

RE: Board Update: February 1-15, 2017

I previously made the board aware that a 2016 “year in review” report, is now available on the web. It neatly answers the question, “what has NSPE done for me lately?” in four areas:

- [NSPE champions the PE license and promotes a constant focus on the public health, safety, and welfare.](#)
- [NSPE gives voice to the ethical practice of engineering.](#)
- [NSPE helps professional engineers advance in their careers.](#)
- [NSPE connects like-minded professionals at all career stages.](#)

If a text based, web page doesn’t capture your attention, you can also look at the year in review in animated, [cartoon form!](#)

Championing the PE License

NSPE and the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers have joined forces to oppose separate structural engineering licensure requirements included in Oklahoma House Bill 1282. In a [joint letter to the Oklahoma Speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore](#), NSPE and OSPE urged them to rescind all language pertaining to structural engineering in the bill. NSPE President Kodi Jean Verhalen, P.E., Esq., F.NSPE, and OSPE President Brian Kennell, P.E., stated, “Efforts to weaken engineering licensure by carving particular niches within the profession undermine a system of laws designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The obligation to stay current and practice in one’s own field is the bedrock of PE licensure and is not limited to or required by separate discipline-specific licensure.”

H.B. 1282 defines a professional structural engineer as “an individual who has been duly licensed as a professional engineer by the Board, and who has been further authorized by the Board to use the title Professional Structural Engineer, P.E., S.E. or S.E. and perform structural engineering analysis and design services for ‘significant structures’, as defined by Board rule.” Currently, the Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors does not define “structural engineering” or “significant structures,” which creates alarming regulatory ambiguity, both for professional engineers and for the public. This proposed legislation, wrote Verhalen and Kennell, “raises major concerns about its impact on professional engineers in Oklahoma who currently perform structural engineering (as we assume it may be defined, but given the fact that ‘structural

engineering’ and ‘significant structures’ are not defined in the State of Oklahoma, regulatory ambiguity persists), competently and successfully, but have not taken the 16-hour SE exam. It is important to note that the NCEES 16-hour Structural Engineering exam has only been offered since 2011.”

NSPE is collaborating with the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers to oppose a legislative effort that could significantly impact the professional engineer’s ability to determine what type of piping should be used in certain projects. NSPE and SCSPE are preparing a comment to the South Carolina Speaker of the House and the Senate President Pro Tempore.

Following up on the board’s actions on its last conference call meeting, updated and revised position statements that place the PE at the center of five issues of critical importance to the membership have been published on the website:

- [Position Statement 1737: Licensure and Qualifications for Practice](#) now includes expanded detail about engineering education requirements. The updated position statement also aligns with [Professional Policy 168: Engineering Education Requirements](#), which was revised by the NSPE House of Delegates in June 2016.
- A unified position statement ([No. 1776: Unified Energy Policy](#)) on domestic energy development addresses the important role professional engineers should play in balancing energy needs and environmental impacts. Lawmakers look to the professional engineer to serve as an impartial arbiter, and this statement positions NSPE to expertly address the fundamental questions about the nation’s evolving energy needs and supplies.
- Critical infrastructure decay is occurring in this country at an unsustainable rate. [Position Statement 1777: Critical Infrastructure and Homeland Security](#) highlights the PE’s integral role in the planning, engineering, design, implementation, construction, operation, and maintenance of our nation’s infrastructure systems. It also calls for reversing infrastructure decline in the next 15 years.
- [Position Statement 1779: Project Delivery Methods in the Public Sector](#) recognizes that more than one project delivery system may meet an owner’s project requirements. NSPE believes that whatever project delivery system is selected, qualifications of the professional engineer must play a significant role in the selection process.
- The updated and unified [Position Statement 1778: Professional Practice](#) addresses key principles of professional engineering practice, including licensing, discipline-specific licensure, early taking of the Principles and Practice of Engineering Exam, responsible charge, and attacks on licensure.

The five updated position statements were prepared by NSPE’s Committee on Policy and Advocacy, in concert with professional policies approved by the House of Delegates. An additional nine, existing position statements were renewed without edits:

- [Position Statement 1740—Minorities and Women in Engineering](#)
- [Position Statement 1747—Disclosure of Professional Liability Insurance](#)
- [Position Statement 1748--NSPE-NAFE Joint Position on Forensic Engineering](#)
- [Position Statement 1750—Design and Construction Contract Provisions](#)

- [Position Statement 1766—Engineering Faculty Licensure](#)
- [Position Statement 1767—Licensure of Federal Engineers](#)
- [Position Statement 1768—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education](#)
- [Position Statement 1771—FEMA Levee Certification](#)
- [Position Statement 1772—Autonomous Vehicles](#)

Ethical Guide to the Profession

Per its charges from the NSPE Board, the Board of Ethical Review (BER) is exploring ways to leverage the nearly 60 years of authoritative content and case studies it has developed more effectively. Short-term tactical opportunities under consideration include engaging with NSPE members on ethics issues using the NSPE Communities platform through such offerings as:

- “Ask the Expert” or “Office Hours”: pre-announced, scheduled timeframes where members can ask BER questions;
- “You Be the Judge:” discussions tying to the issues raised in the column in *PE* Magazine;
- Work Out Loud sessions: a scenario is posted to the Open forum, and BER along with members discuss the ethical implications.

Longer term, we are exploring the opportunity to develop certificate programs tailored to different audiences (EITs, PEs with limited experience, project managers, principals and firm leadership, etc.) on ethics, professional practice and risk management, possibly as a collaboration with NSPE’s longstanding partner, Victor O. Schinnerer & Company.

State societies and chapters are reminded that the deadline for entries in the [NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#) is April 28th. NSPE’s Board of Ethical Review has provided [four different fact situations](#) to choose from regarding the ethics of engineers. New this year, contestants can write an essay, produce a video, develop a photo essay, do a poster presentation, or create a PowerPoint presentation addressing the ethical implications of the case study they select. (This open format/multimedia approach is particularly suitable for an organized group activity at a chapter or state society event. The winning entry earns a certificate, recognition in *PE* magazine, and an award of \$1,000.

Powering Professional Advancement

Four new webinar offerings will be made in March (with three more to follow in April and May). Registration for all are now open.

Next up on the calendar:

- [10 Strategies to Motivate, Inspire and Engage Your Team for Results](#) (March 8th)
- [Closing the Soft Skills Gap in Engineering Practice](#) (March 15th)
- [Engineering Ethics: Public Health, Safety and Welfare](#) (March 22nd)
- [Critical Thinking for Engineers](#) (March 29th)

Uniting the PE Community

More than 80 state society leaders, state executives and House of Delegates members from 36 states participated in a February 2nd webinar on the proposed NSPE Business Model changes. For those of you who were unable to attend the [recorded webinar can be found here](#).

The proposed rubric for [state capacity identification and proposed national offerings to particular tiers can be found here](#). (In the state and national leaders online community's library). If you have not already done so, please forward any completed rubrics, or questions about the rubric, to [Kim](#) so she can share with Study Group 1 prior to their recommendations to the NSPE Board of Directors meeting in March.

Study Group 1 and President Verhalen encourage each of you to post questions about the current information available in the online [community forum](#) to begin a discussion prior to the House of Delegates meeting on the changes being proposed, so we can better understand concerns, information needs, and make any adjustments necessary.



Individual NSPE members can now highlight their membership on business cards, letterhead, websites, and the like with a new member logo. The logo can

be used by members who hold a national-level membership and are licensed professional engineers, engineer interns, or engineers in training to publicize their individual membership in the Society. The rules of use, examples, and downloadable logo files [can be found in the Leadership Toolbox](#) on the NSPE website (user name and password will be required).

NSPE officers and directors are beginning what will be a very busy travel season from now through the PE Conference in July. For the first half of February Vice President Michael Aitken attended the 97th Annual Wyoming Engineers Conference where he also met with members of the Wyoming Society of Professional Engineers. Julia Harrod met with leaders and members of the Arkansas Society at their annual meeting in Hot Springs, and President-elect Tom Roberts was the keynote speaker at the 2017 conference of the National Academy of Building Inspection Engineers (NABIE). As you may know, NABIE is an NSPE affinity group along with the National Academy of Forensic Engineers (NAFE).

The second half of February will be just as busy with President Verhalen and President-elect Roberts serving as judges and awards' presenters at the National Future City Competition, February 19-21 in Washington, DC while I participate in the Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day lunch and briefing sponsored by DiscoverE. Both President Verhalen and I have been invited to attend the IMAX 3D world premiere of "Dream Big - Engineering Our World" at the National Air and Space Museum.

The NSPE Past Presidents' Council met recently to begin work on one of their presidential charges – to begin developing ideas for an ongoing update to the Paul Robbins' book *Building for Professional Growth: A History of NSPE from 1934-1984*. They are currently developing an outline of suggested chapters with items to include in each.

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](#)."

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](#).