

TO: NSPE Board of Directors

cc: NSPE House of Delegates
NSPE Committee, Task Force, Council and Interest Group Chairs
State Society Presidents/Presidents-elect
State Society Executives Council
NSPE Past Presidents

FROM: Mark J. Golden, FASAE, CAE 
Executive Director

DATE: 16 May 2016

RE: Board Update: May 1-15, 2016

1. Member Value

Just six weeks and counting to the joint NSPE/Texas society annual meetings: [Professional Engineers Conference 2016](#) in Dallas, Texas¹. In addition to the all-important governance activities (including the annual General Assembly of the NSPE House of Delegates), the conference is a unique 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. Multiple tracks of education include more than 25 sessions and tours on topics such as:

- High-speed rail and transportation technology;
- 3D printing and the future of electronics manufacturing;
- Mobility of the PE license;
- Autonomous vehicles and the Professional Engineer; and a
- VIP tour of AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

(Not to mention a stellar line up of social and networking events.)

Pre-registrations now stand at 362 and growing. Kudos to the Texas and national volunteers working on the meeting, who have secured record setting sponsorship commitments, keeping the cost to attendees as low as possible.

Our room block at the Fairmont Dallas is filling fast. It turns out that Tony Robbins will also be in Dallas during the week, and hotel rooms city-wide are filling fast. So please encourage procrastinating members to make their travel arrangements soon to take advantage of our below-market room rates at the hotel before the reservation deadline of May 31st. Staff is working on over-flow hotel availability should the Fairmont sell out (as it already has on Tuesday night): details and the most current information will be posted to the website.

And watch out for the May 31st launch of our conference app, which will give attendees a robust, mobile tool to plan for the conference before they arrive in Dallas and get the most out of

¹ For our Texas Society members, please remember this meeting includes the TSPE annual meeting for 2016.

conference events once on-site. The app will have complete program and activity details, let you build your own calendar, connect and communicate with other attendees, and share your experiences on Twitter and other social media platforms. The app has been tested, and is now being loaded with data ... and I can tell you this isn't a plain vanilla toy --- it will be a full service tool for getting the most out of your PECon experience.

Can't make it to Dallas? That's a shame. But remember, the [PE Institute](#) is always available to our members, and is your online portal to state and national continuing education program offerings, including NSPE's fifteen free PDHs.

And if you are licensed in multiple states, and need the most current and complete information on continuing education requirements in every state, you can find them in [NSPE's State-by-State Summary of Continuing Education Requirements for Professional Engineers](#).

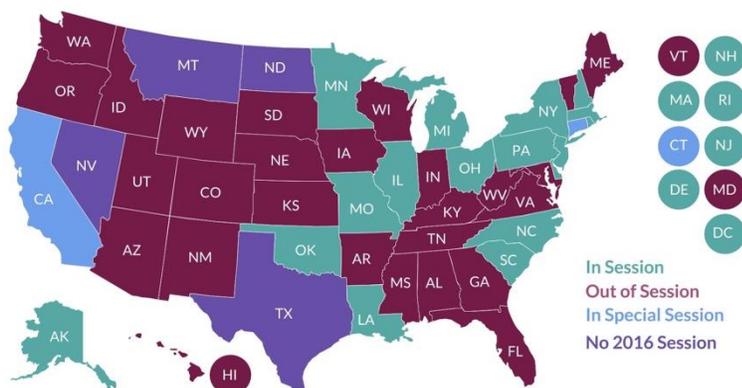
2. Advocacy

NSPE's recently-expanded government relations staff continues its work on a number of state-by-state assessments, which will be published on the web, and provide the latest information, enable states to see what other states are doing, and enhance our ability to assess national trends and opportunities to collaboratively provide value for our members. Currently, we are compiling an assessment of each state society's lobbying capacity. A spreadsheet questionnaire has been circulated to all state leaders, and 26 societies have so far responded. If your state has not already done so, please contact [Nick Cox](#) for additional information.

Congratulations to the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers for their success in securing a [proclamation](#) from Governor Michael Pence, naming June 3rd as "Professional Engineers Day" in the state.

Many of the potential opportunities and threats to the integrity and strength of the license come from state legislatures. Our experience in recent years offers ample evidence that beyond actions taken to directly change registration laws, vigilance is needed to protect from collateral damage and unintended consequences from seemingly unrelated legislative initiatives. Is your state legislature still in session? Check out this map to see. Not in session? That is a great opportunity to strengthen legislative contacts, build relationships, and strengthen the foundation for both defensive and proactive advocacy for the license. And remember, national provides state

Current State Legislative Sessions | as of 5/12/16



legislative and regulatory monitoring services to our state partners. Through the diligent, combined efforts of national and state partners, we increase the likelihood that nothing gets by us. And as a partnership of 54 national and state partners, we can all see trends and identify emerging threats and opportunities in one state, and work to address them before they spread to others.

3. Content

NSPE President Tim Austin was a special guest on the [Engineering Career Coach](#) podcast produced by NSPE member Anthony Fasano, P.E., and he was also quoted in an [article](#) on self-driving cars from the Association for Computing Machinery.

NSPE has taken a leadership role as the voice for ethical innovation in the field of autonomous vehicles, but the impacts of autonomous technology are more pervasive and far-reaching. An article in the [ABA Journal](#) reports that Baker & Hostetler is the first law firm to announce that it will use a ground-breaking artificial intelligence product to provide professional legal research services. This interactive, voice technology responds to lawyers' questions in natural language by reading through the law, gathering evidence and drawing inferences. The program learns from the lawyers who use it to refine its search results. It also monitors the law and notifies users of new, relevant court decisions.

The impact of AI on how professionals provide service, and the implications for professional engineering, has been identified as a key focus for NSPE President-Elect Kodi Verhalen, and will be the topic of the NSPE House of Delegates caucus, in advance of the General Assembly next month in Dallas.

A recent PE Magazine [article](#) on how the NSPE Code of Ethics is being used to strengthen college and university engineering education caught the attention of the National Institute for Engineering Ethics (NIEE), and has been circulated to their Board of Directors.

The latest edition of the *NSPE Speaks* podcast is here. In it, you'll get news for the professional engineer, updates on advocacy and outreach from NSPE and state societies, and stories on off-the-beaten-path topics. This episode features a chat about tragic disasters and licensure, an interview with NSPE's "New Face" of Engineering, and a MATHCOUNTS challenge for you to test yourself on. You can access Episode Two and subscribe via iTunes [here](#).



(State leaders can also check out my leadership podcast [here](#).)

4. Collaboration

Every year, NSPE and ACEC partner to administer the QBS Awards, recognizing 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 NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use or underutilize QBS to procure engineering services. NSPE is now seeking nominations for the 2016 QBS Awards. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, July 8, 2016. Nominations may come from an NSPE State Chapter, a public or private entity, or an individual in the public or private sector. Self-nomination is also permitted. Nomination forms are available [here](#). The QBS Award winner(s) will have an opportunity to receive an engraved trophy and will be recognized during the 2016 ACEC Fall Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Travel and lodging expenses will be reimbursed by ACEC subject to ACEC's policies and as permitted by law.

The National Engineers Week Foundation has shared its [DiscoverE 2015-16 Program Outcomes Report](#). Our sister organization had a very busy and successful year.

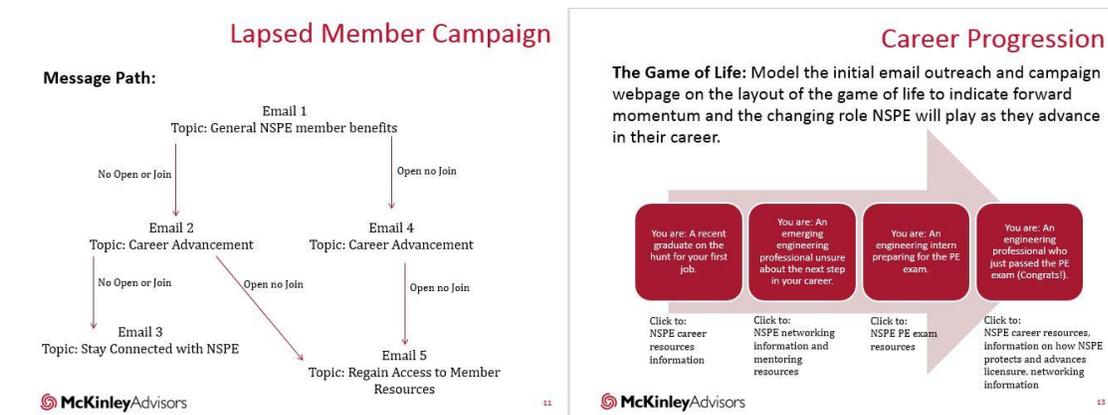
It was my honor to represent NSPE at the National Science Foundation awards dinner May 5th in Washington. The black tie event was held in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms at the U. S. Department of State. I was extremely fortunate in my table partners at the dinner, which included deans from Morgan State and Oregon, staff from the White House Office on Science and Technology and the Director of the National Science Foundation's directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). Like NSPE, CISE is extremely concerned about whether we are exercising the necessary care and attention to ethical implications of allowing software to make decisions with life, property and welfare. I had a long talk with the director about autonomous vehicles and whether there is a need for more emphasis on licensing software engineers, and we are following up with him to see that this is a connection/asset we want to develop.

During the reception, I also ran into a longtime colleague and friend, the former CEO at American Institute of Architects and current CEO of the American Geophysical Union. She is talking about the possibility of convening a symposium on energy policy in the fall or winter of next year, to try and address, in a science-based and non-ideological way, the actual science and engineering of dealing with the evolution of energy, climate change, balancing environmental and economic costs, and the need for facts-driven policy, decided upon the basis of science and engineering, not opinion or political doctrine. This is consistent with NSPE's discussions with engineering allies on the Hill, and an opportunity we will be pursuing.

5. Member Engagement

An update on the NSPE membership initiative follows:

- NSPE Unite – The NSPE member-get-a-member program ended May 13. 10 NSPE members submitted names of prospects that turned into 19 new members. The prize drawing will be held the week of May 16 and winners will be notified and announced.
- Lapsed member campaign – the Lapsed member campaign began in late May and to date 319 former members have rejoined NSPE. This campaign will now be conducted twice a year as part ongoing retention efforts.
- Career Progression campaign – The NSPE Membership committee is reviewing proposed content from McKinley Advisors on a career progression campaign to newly licensed engineers. Once the language is approved design will begin and a final round of edits by the Membership committee is expected. List acquisition has begun and a launch date of late June is proposed.



While I have been able to personally visit 30 of our state society partners (with a personal goal of at least one visit to each before my fifth anniversary at NSPE), time and budget restraints make it difficult to participate directly in our more than 400 local chapters. So the opportunity to speak and install officers at the Potomac Chapter of the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers on May 11th was a particular treat.

If you were following my live tweets of the 2016 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition finals on May 10th, you already know that seventh-grader Edward Wan from Lakeside Middle



School in Seattle, Washington, won the competition this month, beating out more than 200 other mathletes from US states, territories, and schools that serve the State and Defense departments. As national champion, Wan will receive a \$20,000 college scholarship and a trip to US Space Camp.

In the team competition, Texas took home the first place honor, with California and Washington State earning second and third place, respectively.

MATHCOUNTS engages more than 100,000 students nationwide, and is supported at the local, state and national level by a veritable army of NSPE member-volunteers, a fact that was graciously acknowledged throughout the event, which was live-streamed by ESPN and garnered extensive media coverage.

6. Professional and Leadership Development for the Licensed Professional Engineer

NSPE participated as a member of the 50K Coalition in a workshop earlier this month, convened by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) to coordinate and bring collective impact to the individual efforts of engineering societies to promote establishing a framework to lead the nation to graduate 50,000 female, Hispanic, Black and Native American engineers annually, by the year 2025. The day-and-half workshop laid the groundwork for establishing a common agenda, metrics to measure progress and aligning the independent efforts of dozens of engineering and technical societies toward this common goal.

Separately, NSPE continues to work with NSBE to finalize a new Memorandum of Understanding to translate our long-standing alliance into meaningful impact.

Finally, please remember that access to NSPE leadership resources is always available to you in the Leadership Toolbox at www.nspe.org/toolbox. You will need to log in with your user name and password.

This includes [links](#) to current 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. There are three versions of the presentation to suit your presentation style and skill – an animated PowerPoint with moving graphics and text, a static PowerPoint with no animation, and a Word document with an outline overview of the presentation.

You will also find other [sample presentations](#) for volunteer leaders, [sample](#) promotional and other materials for membership, advocacy, association management, meetings, governance and other areas, and the [latest advocacy news](#).

There is also great material on NSPE's purpose, mission, vision and a history of the *Race for Relevance* and the resulting Strategic Plan in a section called "[Who We Are and What We Do](#)."

You can also review a detailed calendar of NSPE and state society events on the website at: www.nspe.org/AboutNSPE/Events/index.html.