From the President

By Steven Collins, PhD, PE
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With summer approaching, the month of May brings many important events and rites of passage. WSPE has its spring Board of Trustees meeting, about which I'll say more in the June newsletter. The national MathCounts Competition takes place; Order of the Engineer induction ceremonies are held around the country; students graduate from university; and those who took PE Exams in April learn whether they have passed.

The MathCounts national competition wrapped up on May 13 in Orlando. Washington’s team performed splendidly, taking fourth place overall: Gene Yang, Joy An, Wilson Liu, and Albert Weng finished in 13th, 18th, 19th, and 44th place, respectively. Congratulations! And kudos to the many members of WSPE and the WSPE Educational Foundation who over many years have made MathCounts in our state the success it is today.

The Order of the Engineer continues to expand its presence in our state. Established as Link #16 in 1973, WSPE was among the first organizations to offer opportunities for engineers to accept the Obligation and receive the ceremonial ring that symbolizes their commitment to the highest ethical standards. Since then, Washington State University (Link #60), Saint Martin’s University (#71), American Society of Civil Engineers Seattle (#203), Seattle University (#249), Gonzaga University (#279), Washington State University Greater Tri-Cities (#291), Eastern Washington University (#296), and University of Washington Bothell (#314) have added to Washington’s representation in the Order. Founded in 1970 by members of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers, the Order of the Engineer will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. See the Order’s April 2019 newsletter for more details.
Graduation is a time of both celebration and reflection. Thirty-six years ago today, I joined in the grand procession down The Lawn at University of Virginia, the first in my family to have earned a degree. A complex mixture of emotions propelled me through that rainy day—joy and pride, for sure, but mostly relief that the agony of seemingly endless study was coming to an end. This time each year I count my blessings for the privilege of attending a university and for the excellent mentoring I received. If you know someone graduating with an engineering degree, tell them about the importance of licensure. Invite them to a WSPE meeting. Remind them that they are the future of our profession!

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WSPE News is edited by Steven Collins, Ken McGowan, and Alan Werner. Opinions expressed by the authors herein are not necessarily those of the Society.

WSPE will begin a new fiscal year July 1, at which time several new members will assume leadership positions on the Board of Trustees. Look for more details in the June newsletter.

WSPE has a presence on several social media sites:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/washingtonengineers/
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4797273/

Washington Society of Professional Engineers
A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers
1011 N. Cedar Street, Spokane, WA 99201 - www.washingtonengineer.org
Legislative Update

By Ken McGowan, PE, F.NSPE
WSPE Representative on the Architects and Engineers Legislative Council (AELC)
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The 2019 Regular Session of the Washington State Legislature adjourned April 28, 2019. After 105 days, this year’s legislative session is finally over! Below is the status of bills AELC has been tracking.

DOL / BORPELS (HB 1176) – After passing the House on a concurrence vote of 196 – 0, the bill was delivered to the Governor on April 26. Van Collins (ACEC), Kate Schalt (LSAW) and Ken McGowan (WSPE) met on May 2nd in Olympia with Sheri Sawyer, Senior Policy Advisor of the Governor’s Policy Office, and a representative of the State Budget Office to discuss final details of the bill and why our organizations so strongly support it. Our efforts bore fruit when the Governor signed the bill into law on May 21.

CPARB Design-Build and JOC Recommendations (HB 1295 / SB 5656) – Given a +M priority (moderate support) by AELC, this bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 30; it takes effect July 28.

Budget Bills – Together, the budget bills that passed create over $860M in new taxes!

Model Toxics Control Act (MCTA) Tax (SB 5993) – passed.
Business & Occupation Tax Surcharge Bill (HB 2158) – passed, unfortunately increasing B&O taxes from 1.5% to 1.8% for small firms, 2.0% for tech companies, and 2.5% for large companies. These tax increases will go into effect January, 2020.
Capital Gains Tax Bill (HB 2156) – did not pass.
2019 – 2021 General Fund/Operating Budget (HB 1109) – passed.
2019 – 2021 Transportation Funding (HB 1160) – passed.
2019 – 2021 Capital Budget (HB 1102) – passed.
Additional Transportation Funding (SB 5971) – did not pass.
**Architect Licensing Act Proposal** *(SHB 1148)* – Given +M by AELC, this bill passed the legislature and was signed into law by the Governor on April 19.

**Governor’s Clean Building Proposal** *(2SHB 1257)* – Given +M by AELC, this bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor on May 7.

**Wrongful Death Lawsuit Expansion** *(SSB 5163)* – Opposed by the Liability Reform Coalition (LRC), and given –M (moderate oppose) by AELC, this bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor on April 26; it takes effect July 28.

**Environmental Justice Bill** *(SB 5489)* – After passing the Senate on a near-party line vote, this bill stalled in the House.

**Transportation Projects of Statewide Significance** *(ESHB 1994)* – Given –M by AELC, this bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor on April 24.

An AELC Legislative Wrap-Up Luncheon will be held sometime during the next 2 weeks. The date and location will be announced via email by Van Collins of ACEC. We will send out this notice to those who might be interested in attending Cliff Webster’s Wrap-Up Presentation.

If any WSPE member has an issue or legislative bill that they would like addressed by AELC, please contact Ken McGowan, P.E., F.NSPE at Kenneth.mcgowan@hdrinc.com or cell phone: (206) 465-9509.
News from NSPE

- NSPE President Michael Aitken, in a response to a request from the US Department of Transportation for public comments, calls for General Motors and Neuro, Inc., to “utilize the subject matter expertise of Professional Engineers in the design, construction and deployment” of their respective autonomous vehicles.

- Nearly 400 NSPE members contact 800 members of Congress concerning HR 2139/S 1097, which would end the PE license exemption on gas pipeline work nationwide.

- NSPE and Engineers Canada issue a joint statement on reducing obstacles to licensure mobility between Canada and the US.

- Daniel Mai from Massachusetts wins the 2019 Raytheon MathCounts Competition Finals in Orlando; Suyash Pandit from Oregon places second. The Finals were live-streamed and can be viewed here.

- NSPE’s PE Institute to host NICET: Developing a Qualified Workforce, a one-hour live webinar, May 29, 11 am PST.

Events

1. Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors Regular Board Meeting—June 20, 8 am, Radisson Hotel Seattle Tacoma Airport (link)
2. 6th Annual CleanTech Innovation Showcase—June 24, Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle (link)
3. NSPE Professional Engineers Conference—July 17–21, Kansas City Marriott Downtown (link)
HELP WANTED

By V. Alan Werner, PE, F.NSPE
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WSPE’s Autonomous Vehicle Task Force (AVTF) seeks members to represent WSPE on the five subcommittees of the Washington State Transportation Commission’s Autonomous Vehicle Work Group. We seek members at any grade who 1) want to ensure that the recommendations put forth by the AV Work Group properly take into account public health, safety, and welfare; and 2) are able to commit several hours a month to attend subcommittee meetings, either in person or by phone, to gather information to bring back to the AVTF and to represent the AVTF in meetings or documents.

The five subcommittees are the following (the number of WSPE members currently serving is in parenthesis):

Licensing (1)
Infrastructure & Data Security (open)
Liability (1)
Safety (1)
System Technology and Data Security (2)

It would be desirable to have more than one WSPE member on each subcommittee.

To accept an assignment, contact the AVTF Chair, Alan Werner, P.E., at aawerner@comcast.net or 425-765-3538.

Links

1. NSPE Board of Directors Update, May 1–15, 2019 (link).
2. NSPE Update, May 2019 (link).
3. PE Scope, April 2019 (link)