

WSPE News

Serving members of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers

From the President

By Beth Fifield Hodgson, PE, F.NSPE

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Dear WSPE members.

Welcome to the reemergence of the WSPE Newsletter and thank you to UW Professor, Washington Representative to the NSPE House of Delegates, and WSPE Past-President (2018-2019) Steve Collins for his willingness to step into this role again. The Washington Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE) was originally established November 26, 1937 in Seattle and has maintained a vital role as representation for the state-wide engineering community both with local and state legislators and within NSPE for the national advocacy for engineering licensure. Today we have 162 members including 34 life members, 5 retired members and 17 students. Our members range in age from 20 to 100 years old, and are located within Washington State from Bremerton East to Otis Orchards and from Surrey BC Canada and Spokane South to Vancouver and Walla Walla. We also include members from Arizona, California, Florida, and Iowa. Thank you all for your contributions to the engineering profession and including WSPE in your professional engagement.

I want to extend a special thank you to our outgoing board member Mark Cole (WSPE President 2020-2021) and Kudos to our 2022-2023 officers – President Beth Fifield Hodgson PE FNSPE, Past-President Sharon Zimmerman PE, President-Elect Dimitri Siaterlis PE, Treasurer Leonard Byrne PE, VP West Roger Hutchison PE, and VP East Jeffery Dagle PE, and HOD Delegate Steven Collins PhD PE. The WSPE Board of Trustees includes WSPE officers as well as at least 2 representatives from each of our 5 chapters – Lake Washington, Mt. Rainier, Seattle, Spokane and Tri-Cities. The WSPE Board meets 3 times annually –



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September/October, January/February and May and the officers and chapter presidents teleconference monthly.

After several committee meetings (Education Foundation, Member Engagement, Bylaws, and Newsletter Development) which were held in person in Ellensburg at the Hotel Windrow, the WSPE Board convened at 1:00 pm PDT on September 17, 2022 via both in-person and virtual. Draft minutes of the meeting will be available on the [website](#) later this month. Reports included officer visions for 2022-2023, updates on chapter activities and concerns, special reports from organizations with which WSPE aligns including AELC, BRPELS, Education Foundation, and MathCounts, and an update on the Paul Tappel/Fisheries v. State of Washington lawsuit.

The WSPE Board is committed to meaningful engagement with our members through chapters, the [website](#) and social media ([Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)). We are working to revitalize the East-side chapters while continuing to support our West-side chapters. Upcoming Board meetings will be February 4th (virtual) and May 20th (in-person). The WSPE Board and specifically I encourage you to step up and volunteer with your chapter to grow and engage our members. Please contact me via email or telephone if you have any questions, concerns or recommendations. In the meantime, watch for electronic announcements of upcoming meetings – virtual and in-person, and social media posts of engineering accomplishments. We look forward to seeing you in the near future!

WSPE Board of Trustees, Executive Committee

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WSPE News is edited by Steven Collins with input from Board of Trustees members. Opinions expressed by the authors herein are not necessarily those of the Society. Submissions from all WSPE members are welcome. Please send articles of 250 - 500 words to stevenwcollins@gmail.com. Articles may be edited for clarity, grammar, and conciseness.



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BORPELS Update

By Doug Hendrickson, PE, F.NSPE, Chair, Washington Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors

October 2022 – The Board of Registration is meeting this month at the SEATAC Renaissance hotel on October 19 and 20. Committee and task force meetings will be on the 19th, while the Special Board meeting will be on the 20th. Specific topics for the meeting will include advancement of WAC changes to CR-102 (intent and request for comment, per [RCW 34.05.320](#)), scheduling for Board meetings through June 2023, action upon examination cut scores for Professional Land Surveyors and On-Site Wastewater examinees and status upon legislative advancement of recommended changes to [RCW 18.43](#) (Engineers and Land Surveyors) dealing with waiver of fundamentals-of-engineering examinations for ‘comity’ licensure of licensees from other jurisdictions.

Although previously established as the SEATAC airport for the Board’s December meeting, I believe our actions this month will change that to a virtual meeting only, in order to reduce flight and travel conflicts for participants in the December timeframe. I look forward to having the following meetings in Olympia, Vancouver, and the Tri-Cities – but that will certainly require Board action and will be announced in advance of the meetings.

I am pleased to have been able to drop in upon the State Auditors’ conference in Pasco in late September. This conference provided a venue for one of our Board’s Land Surveyor members and leadership of the Department of Natural Resources to speak to the Auditors upon the topics of [WAC 332-120](#) and [-130](#). In this event, each spoke to the prescriptive nature of the recording checklist of WAC 3432-130 including such simple, yet ill-understood, matters of media, digital vs electronic signatures, and the color of ink used in the recorded survey. This also provided the understanding of the open-door that BRPELS wishes to convey in opening discourse and working toward solutions between agencies and registrants.

I, as do others, are frequently asked to speak to university students. I did so a couple of weeks ago at WSU Tri-Cities for a class of civil engineers studying engineering professional



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practices and ethics. I will also be speaking the WSU Bremerton/Olympic College electrical and mechanical engineering students on November 4th.

The Board had additional considerations of revision to [RCW 18.43](#) which we have not advanced to legislative action at this time because of our desire for additional stakeholder involvement. As we move those topics forward, we look forward to the participation of stakeholder organizations and registrants.

News from NSPE

- In July, NSPE [officially welcomed](#) Britt E. Smith, PE, F.NSPE, as the 2022-23 president in a term that began July.
- Allan Yuan, a 13-year old eighth grader from Alabama won the [2022 MathCounts National Competition](#) by answering this question in 6 seconds: “From a group of 9 students, three separate teams are to be formed—one consisting of 2 students, and one consisting of 4 students. If each student must be on exactly one team, how many distinct sets of three teams are possible?” Our home team from Washington—Amy Cui, Susie Lu, Mingyue Yang, Jeffrey Zhao, and their coach Qing Ye—took second place overall. Way to go Team WA!
- In February, NSPE joined the Engineering Change Lab, Lemelson Foundation, Nature Conservancy, and others in endorsing “[The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change](#).” Signatories acknowledge, “It is our duty and purpose to contribute our skills and knowledge of human-centered technologies and of the natural world to lead humanity out of the climate crisis with a focus on sustainable, resilient, equitable, and innovative approaches.”
- NSPE is seeking to fill two positions on the Board of Directors: Treasurer and Vice President. Nominations due by January 9, 2023. Details can be found [here](#).
- NSPE’s [PE Institute](#) is offering a variety of educational conferences and webinars with PDH opportunities during the fourth quarter of the year.



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Federal Infrastructure Investment

By Jeff Dagle, PE, WSPE Vice-President, West

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, America's Infrastructure [report card](#) scores a C-. To address this need, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The law authorizes \$1.2 trillion in infrastructure spending across more than 380 federal programs. Of that, approximately \$650 billion reauthorizes existing funding, and another \$550 billion adds new funding to support the nation's [infrastructure needs](#). This will undoubtedly create significant opportunities for engineers across multiple technical disciplines.

Specifically, the [bipartisan legislation](#) appropriates \$110B for roads, bridges and major projects; \$66B for passenger and freight rail; \$11B for highway and pipeline safety repair; \$39.2B for public transit; \$65B for grants to states for broadband deployment; \$16.6B for ports and waterways; \$25B for airports; \$55B for water infrastructure; \$65B for power grid reliability and resilience; \$47.2B for cybersecurity to address critical infrastructure needs; \$7.5B for clean school buses and ferries; \$7.5B for electric vehicle charging; \$1B for reconstruction of street grids and parks; \$21B for addressing legacy pollution; and \$8.2B for western water infrastructure.

This funding is being allocated to Federal agencies and the States, and they are beginning to post funding opportunity announcements now. For any engineer seeking to improve America's infrastructure, there should be no shortage of opportunity over the next several years.

Links

1. NSPE Board of Directors Update, September 1-30, 2022 ([link](#)).
2. NSPE Update, October 2022 ([link](#)).
3. NSPE Daily Designs (Business News for PEs) ([link](#))



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Update on The State of Washington v. Fisheries Engineers, Inc., Court Case

By Sharon Zimmerman, PE, WSPE Past-President, 2021-22

The Court of Appeals, Division II hearing date has been proposed for early December for the Washington State Attorney General (AG) and the State of Washington Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BRPELS) in their request to revoke the September 29, 2021, [Superior Court Order](#).

The original September 29, 2021 Superior Court Order stated:

“Declaratory Judgement is hereby entered against Respondents Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors and the Attorney General of Washington, adjudging that; (i) the Board’s and Attorney General’s enforcement policy and de facto rule regarding the unlicensed use of the title “Engineer” is unlawful and inconsistent with the plain language text of the Act, and (ii) that the use of the title “Engineer,” or any variation thereof, is unlawful when used by someone who engages in the practice of engineering (as it is defined in under [RCW 18.43.020\(8\)\(a\)](#)) or who works for an agency, organization, or business that engages in or offers engineering services if that person is not a registered professional engineer, because under such circumstances, the title necessarily tends to convey the impression of licensure, which is prohibited under the Act.”

In the request to revoke the Superior Court ruling, the AG and BRPELS court filing states:

“The superior court’s contrary conclusion and order prohibiting the State and other organizations and businesses from allowing its employees to use the title “engineer” if they are not licensed professional engineers is a misreading of the engineering act, raising serious First Amendment concerns. The court’s order has far reaching consequences, prohibiting the use of job titles such as “environment engineer” and “transportation engineer” and it must be reversed.”



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As members of WSPE, we advocate for the practice of engineering by qualified and ethically accountable licensed engineers dedicated to the public health, safety, and welfare. WSPE partnered with American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington (ACEC-WA) and National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) to submit an amicus brief to the Appeals Court supporting the original September 29, 2021 court order based on its consistency with the language and purpose underlying the statute.

Should you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Ken McGowan, WSPE Public and Professional Affairs Chair, at kenneth.mcgowan@hdrinc.com or me at szimmerman2012@gmail.com.

Events

11/6, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm, Build a Tiny Home with Puget Sound ASHRAE ([link](#))

11/15, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, WSPE Seattle/Lake Washington Chapter Joint Meeting —“The Missing Middle: the Seattle Comprehensive Plan, and Lessons for All Jurisdictions.”

11/18, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, IEEE Seattle IT Symposium ([link](#))



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