

WSPE News

Serving members of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers

From the President

By Dimitrios Siaterlis, PE
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Dear WSPE members,

Happy New Year 2024 everyone!

Most of us on the WSPE Board of Trustees had the honor to meet NSPE's President William (Bill) Atkinson, PE, F.NSPE when he visited our May 20th, 2023, meeting that installed the new officers. Bill provided our members with an opportunity to connect with national leadership. After the meeting, Mt. Rainier Chapter President Scot Bartkoske and I took Bill out for a late lunch and a beer, and he shared a lot of his wisdom.

First, I would like to thank Past-President (2022-2023) Beth Fifield Hodgson, PE F.NSPE, for her tremendous help on all WSPE State functions and with Spokane Chapter this past year. Thanks also to Steven Collins, PhD, PE, WSPE Representative to the NSPE House of Delegates and editor of the WSPE News.

I would also like to thank Ken McGowan, PE, F.NSPE, and Past President (2021-2022) Sharon Zimmerman, PE, for their service on the Architects and Engineers Legislative Council (AELC), and their regular reports on state legislative activities.

Special thanks to Doug Hendrickson, PE, F.NSPE, for his reports on the activities of the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors (BRPELS), and for his excellent work on MathCounts, other NSPE and WSPE activities, and Tri-Cities Chapter.

A big thank you to John Schaufelberger, PhD, PE, for chairing the Education Foundation and to Steve Short, PE. Last year the Education Foundation awarded two Engineering Scholarships



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for 2023-2024 school year (for students attending Saint Martin's University and Gonzaga University). The Education Foundation now has nine Trustees, thanks to the recent addition of WSPE President-Elect Barbara Philipp, PhD, PE.

Last, but not least, a special thank you to Roger Hutchison, PE, Vice President, West, for taking care of WSPE's website and other WSPE functions.

Seattle, Lake Washington, and Mount Rainier chapters hold meetings online or in person every month. A special thank you to Jon Mathison, PE, Seattle Chapter President for scheduling very interesting and informative online meetings/presentations on state-of-the-art engineering topics.

Our upcoming Board meetings will be on February 17 (virtual) and May 18 (in-person).

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Leonard Byrne, PE, WSPE Treasurer and Spokane Chapter member, who passed away on January 22, 2024. I asked Past-President Hodgson to extend the condolences of all WSPE members to his family. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, February 17, at 2pm at Manito Presbyterian Church, 401 E. 30th, Spokane, WA. Memorial contributions may be made to the Spokane Symphony Endowment Fund, marked "The Leonard I. Byrne Chair".

WSPE Board of Trustees, Executive Committee

The late Leonard Byrne, PE, Treasurer
Steven Collins, PhD, PE, NSPE HOD Representative
Jeffery Dagle PE, Vice President, East
Beth Fifield Hodgson, PE, F.NSPE, Past President (2022-23)
Roger Hutchison, PE, Vice President, West
Ken McGowan, PE, F.NSPE
Barbara Philipp, PhD, PE, President-Elect
Dimitri Siaterlis PE, President

WSPE Chapter Presidents

The late Leonard Byrne, PE, Spokane
Doug Hendrickson, PE, F.NSPE, Tri-Cities
Ken McGowan, PE, F.NSPE, Lake Washington
Jon P. Mathison, PE, Seattle
Dimitri Siaterlis, PE, Mt. Rainier

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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Legislative Update

By Ken McGowan, PE, F.NSPE and Steven Collins, PhD, PE

This year's fast-paced 60-day legislative session kicked off with a record number of bills, with nearly 1,200 in the system after the first week. The deadline for bills to clear the policy committees was January 31, and the deadline for passing the fiscal committees was February 5. Bills clearing the fiscal committees went to the floors of each chamber, where they have until February 13 to achieve passage. The last day for a chamber to pass a bill is March 1, and the session ends March 13.

The Architects and Engineers Legislative Council (AELC) has been monitoring 48 bills, only 20 of which were still alive after the first four weeks. Of the four bills AELC has on its "Hot List," only [SHB 6040](#) - Concerning Prompt Payment in Public Works, which AELC opposes, has continued to a second reading. The other three bills, all supported by AELC, failed to advance. These are [SHB 1026](#) - Concerning Local Government Design Review, [ESHB 1282](#) - Requiring Environmental and Labor Reporting for Public Building Construction and Renovation Material, and [SSB 5303](#) - Public Works Trust Account.

Other bills on which AELC has declared a position and that have continued into the fifth week are the following:

[2SHB 1934](#) - Establishing an Artificial Intelligence Task Force (Support)

[SHB 1880](#)/ [SSB 5794](#) - Concerning Architecture Licensing Examinations (Support)

[SHB 1893](#)/ [SB 5777](#) - Concerning Unemployment Insurance
Benefits for Striking or Lockout Workers (Oppose)

Also under consideration are six citizen initiatives: [I-2081](#) (parental rights in public education), [I-2109](#) (repealing the state capital gains tax), [I-2111](#) (prohibiting state and local governments from adopting an income tax), [I-2113](#) (regarding standards for police pursuit of suspects), [I-2117](#) (repealing the state's Climate Commitment Act), and [I-2124](#) (allowing opt-out of the state's long-term care insurance program. Although these initiatives are unlikely to be adopted, the legislature could develop alternative proposals that would appear alongside the citizen initiatives on the November ballot.



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Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (BRPELS) Update

By Doug Hendrickson, PE, F.NSPE, BRPELS Board Member

BRPELS will be meeting February 21-22 at SEATAC in the Radisson on International Blvd. Committee Meetings are being held across the day on the 21st, but the Special Board Meeting is being held on the 22nd. Every meeting of the Board is a 'Special' Board meeting if it is not the one required by law in June each year.

The Board has posted its February 22nd [Special Board Meeting agenda](#) on their website. The meeting will be attendable by [WebEx](#) or by [phone](#). The meeting agenda includes many routine committee reports and programmatic (staff) reports and is not currently known to have particularly contentious items but will address:

- Board considerations of support for numerous candidates for positions within the National Council for Examiners of Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES)
- Management of complaints and persons under discipline
- Board approval of proposed advancement of revisions of WAC 196-21 [Land Surveyors-In-Training] to promulgation
- Update of Board Policy 39 regarding complaints against Board members
- Advancements in public outreach and communication: a particular topic herein is that of stakeholder inputs upon considerations of change to [RCW 18.43](#) with regard to engineering terms and titles.

Of general information and request for input, one Engineer member and one Land Surveyor member of the Board will be completing their second five-year terms of service to the Board in July of 2024. Parties interested in service to the professional community are encouraged to reach out and to apply for [appointment by the Governor](#). Interested parties are encouraged to contact ken.Fuller@BRPELS.wa.gov to arrange discussion of duties and responsibilities as well as potential introduction to the Board.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 24th-25th, 2024, at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA.



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Mathcounts Update

By Doug Hendrickson, PE, F.NSPE, Washington State [Mathcounts](#)

The month of February is upon us, with local competitions beginning on February 3rd in the Lake Washington Chapter and the Seattle Chapter, continuing in the Mt Rainier and the Tri-Cities Chapters on February 10th, with the balance of competitions on February 24th in Vancouver, Spokane, and North Puget Sound.

Approximately 27% of our local competitors, including 15 school teams, will advance to the State competition on March 16th. The State competition facility is being hosted by Amazon in Seattle. The top four Students from our State competition will advance to the National competition May 12-13, 2024, in Washington D.C.

WSPE BOT Meeting Calendar 2023-24

CALENDAR		
Date	Time	Purpose
August 2-3, 2023		BRPELS Special Meeting - SEATAC
August 2023	No meeting	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
September 22, 2023	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
October 7, 2023	9:00 am	Triennial BOT Meeting (Ellensburg) Hotel Windrow
October 19-20, 2023		BRPELS Special Meeting - Spokane
November 17, 2023	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
December 6-7, 2023		BRPELS Special Meeting - Olympia
December 15, 2023	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
January 19, 2024	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
February 17, 2024	9:00 am	Triennial BOT Meeting (Virtual)
March 15, 2024	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
April 19, 2024	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
May 18, 2024	9:00 am	Triennial BOT Meeting (Tukwila) Elcon Conference Room
June 21, 2024	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
July 19, 2024	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents

Links

1. NSPE Board of Directors Update, January 2024 ([link](#)).
2. NSPE Update, January 2024 ([link](#)).
3. NSPE Daily Designs (Business News for PEs) ([link](#))



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In Memory of Leonard Byrne, PE

By Beth Fifield Hodgson, PE, F.NSPE, WSPE Past-President, 2022-23

Born April 24, 1953, Leonard Byrne, PE, spent his early years in Burien, WA, before moving with his family to Huntsville AL, where his father, Alfred Byrne, PE, worked for Boeing. Leonard earned a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Idaho, and practiced electrical engineering at Keytronic, then ISC/Olivetti and finally Packet Engines/Alcatel where he retired in 2001.

Leonard had no formal music education other than public school music education and several years of private lessons while at U of I. When he unexpectedly landed an engineering job in Spokane, he successfully auditioned for Principal Tuba with the Spokane Symphony and remained with the Spokane Symphony for 48 years. Leonard also performed with Clarion Brass, the Royal Band of the Royal Fireworks, and the low-brass groups Octuba and SPARC (Spokane Piston And Rotary Club). Leonard was the



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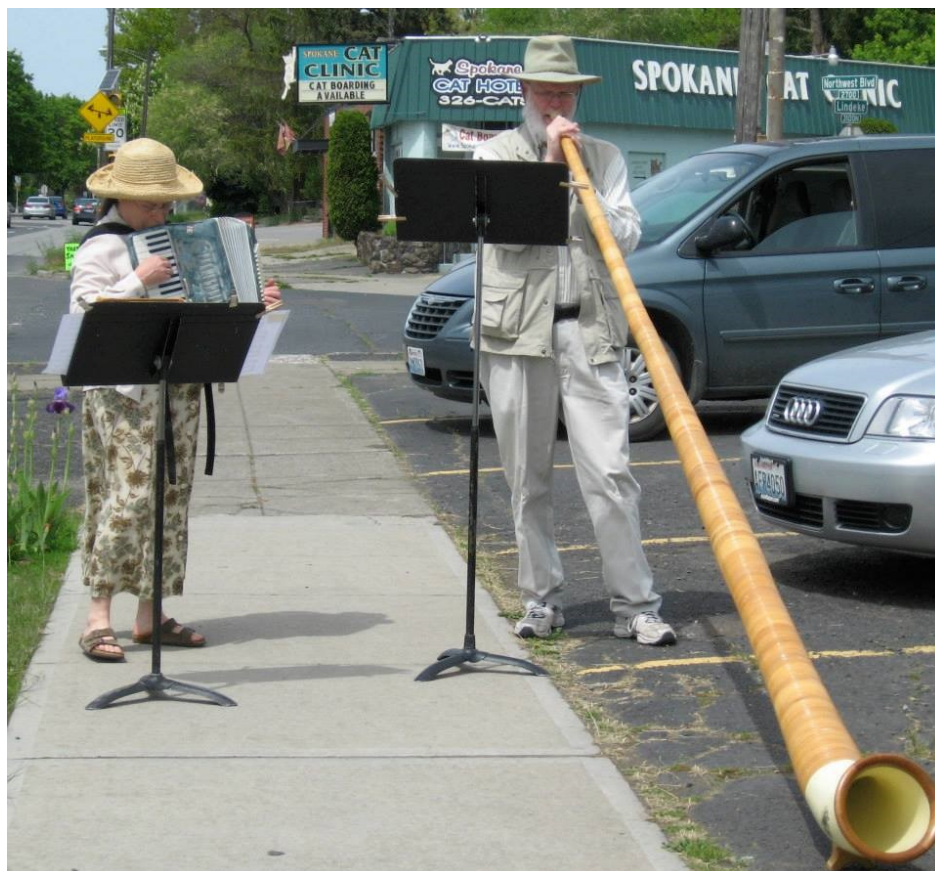
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founder of the Spokane chapter of TubaChristmas and helped start the symphony's Soiree series. In addition to the tuba, Leonard collected and enjoyed playing other low brass instruments including euphonium, helicon, cimbasso, ophicleide, serpent, and alphorn.

Leonard joined NSPE January 1, 1977, and has been active until his death at the local and state level as Spokane chapter chair, Spokane director, Carl M Hanson Scholarship chair, WSPE Education Foundation treasurer and all around volunteer.

During his life he survived non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, experimental bone marrow transplant, heart issues and lung cancer but succumbed to congestive heart failure at the age of 70 on January 22, 2024. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday February 17 at 2pm at Manito Presbyterian Church in Spokane, WA.



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News and Events

- In its January membership report, NSPE notes that overall membership declined by 1.7% between January 2023 and January 2024, driven by decreases in standard and lifetime categories. On an upbeat note, the number of positive rejoins and student memberships increased over the same period. And new members increased over the one-month period from December 2023 to January 2024.
- Nominations are open for several prestigious awards. The [NSPE Award](#) is the highest award given to an individual by NSPE. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. The nomination deadline is March 1. The [New Professional Award](#) recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. The nomination deadline is March 1. Finally, the [Engineering Education Excellence Award](#) recognizes engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. The nomination deadline is March 31.
- Looking to brush up on professional skills or obtain some PDH credits? Check out these 15 free (for NSPE members) [webinars offered by the PE Institute](#).
- Celebrate [National Engineers Week](#) (February 18-24) at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle. Contact Jon Mathison, PE, at jon@advancedia.com for details.
- Check out [NSPE's Engineering Week](#) page to learn about more activities associated with Engineers Week.
- The Puget Sound Engineering Council (PSEC) holds its annual [PSEC Engineering Fair](#), 10 am to 4 pm, March 16, at the Museum of Flight in Seattle. Contact Bill Dunbar, PE, at barbplusbill@hotmail.com or Ted Taylor, PE, at taylor26@comcast.net for details.
- The [Eastern Washington Regional Science & Engineering Fair](#) will be held 9 am to 6 pm, March 16, at the Talbott Event Center in Spokane.



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