

WSPE News

Serving members of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers

From the President

By Dimitrios Siaterlis, PE
dsiaterlis@elcon.com

Dear WSPE members,

So far, we are having a great 2024 year!

We all met virtually on Saturday February 17, 2024, for the WSPE Board of Trustees and we are also having our monthly online meetings.

Most WSPE Chapters have monthly meetings and presentations via MS Teams or in person. Last month Jon Mathison, president of the Seattle Chapter arranged a field trip at the Northlake Commons, the Mass Timber Building. The team after the tour had dinner at Ivars restaurant on the shores of Lake Union. A special thank you to Jon Mathison for arranging this interesting tour. Mt. Rainier Chapter meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Vince Italian Restaurant in Renton, WA.

A special thank you to Doug Hendrickson, P.E., F.NSPE, for taking care of the Washington State Mathcounts Competition on March 16th, 2024, in Seattle and for the reports on BRPELS, other NSPE and WSPE activities and the Tri-Cities' Chapter.

Also, a special thank you to Alan Werner, P.E., F.NSPE, for taking care of the Mt. Rainier Chapter Mathcounts, that were held on February 10th at the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field.

A special thank you to other WSPE members that supported other regional MathCounts competitions that were scheduled in February of this year. More information on MathCounts is included in Doug Hendrickson's article in this newsletter.



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

I would like to thank Ken McGowan, P.E., F.NSPE, and Sharon Zimmerman, P.E. for the AELC Report – 2024 Legislative Session Wrap-up after the 2024 legislative Session closed on Thursday, March 7th. More information on AELC is included in Ken McGowan’s article in this newsletter.

I also would like to thank John Schaufelberger, Ph.D., P.E., for providing the Education Foundation report. For more information on the Education Foundation report please see John’s article in this newsletter.

Our upcoming WSPE Board of Trustees meetings will be on May 18 (in-person). Our meeting will be held at the Conference Room of Elcon Associates in Tukwila, WA. More information on the exact location will be sent early next month.

Below is the upcoming calendar of events:

Date	Time	Purpose
April 19, 2024	12:00 pm	Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents
May 18, 2024	9:00 am	Triennial BOT Meeting (Tukwila) <u>Elcon</u> Conf 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

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.



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

2024 Legislative Wrap-up

By Ken McGowan, PE, F.NSPE

The 2024 legislative session closed on Thursday, March 7th. The preceding 60 days were a sprint in which nearly 1200 new bills were introduced and about 350 ultimately passed to the Governor's desk. Governor Inslee has 20 calendar days, not including Sundays, to either to sign into law or veto in whole or in part these bills. Majority Democrats achieved most but not all of their top priorities this year. Supplemental budgets were negotiated and adopted without much drama, and no new taxes were adopted.

The biggest story of the session was the introduction of 6 citizen initiatives, 3 of which ultimately passed. These 3 are [I-2081](#) – a parental rights in public education proposal; [I-2111](#) – prohibiting the state and local governments from adopting an income tax; I-2013 – regarding standards for police pursuit of suspects, which will be sent to voters this fall. Democrats took a pass on initiatives [I-2109](#), [I-2117](#), and [I-2124](#) citing their fiscal impact on existing programs.

A couple high profile tax proposals were debated before ultimately dying. [SB 5770](#) would have tripled the annual property tax growth factor for local governments from 1% to 3%. [HB 2276](#) would have created a new 1% transfer tax on the sale of real estate over \$3 million.

The supplemental operating, transportation, and capital budgets were worked out between the House and Senate without much fanfare in the final week. The final operating budget added \$2.1 billion in new spending to last year's \$69.8 billion plan. Half the new spending will go toward inflationary increases, and the other half will go toward new projects in education, behavioral health care, public safety, and human services.

[HB 1893](#) which would have provided 4 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits to striking workers was one of the most controversial proposals of the session, but ultimately died in the Senate despite a major last-minute push by organized labor.

Addressing the explosive growth of Artificial Intelligence was a “hot issue” during the session. After much deliberation, a request bill ([SB 5838](#)) from Attorney General Bob Ferguson passed that will create a statewide task force to meet over the next couple years,



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

study issues related to AI development and deployment, and make recommendations to the Legislature. Governor Inslee promulgated an [Executive Order on AI](#) use by state agencies that requires agencies to coordinate with WaTech (the state's IT and information security arm) in developing guidelines for ethical and transparent adoption of AI technology.

[HB 1889](#) which provides a path to professional licensure in many occupations (including engineering and architecture) for individuals regardless of immigration status did pass the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. [HB 1880](#) passed that will streamline the licensing of architects by making it easier to take or retake the licensing examination. Hotly contested measure [HB 1589](#) allowing Puget Sound Energy to begin transitioning away from residential and commercial natural gas service in support of its decarbonization goals passed in the middle of the night at the end of the session.

[SB 5798](#) which extends notice requirements for property and casualty insurance cancellations or non-renewals from 45 days to 60 days passed, but with an amendment leaving auto policy timeframes unchanged. [HB 1899](#) passed which sets up relief payments for victims of the Spokane wildfires. [HB 2330](#) also passed that orders an interim task force study on wildfire mitigation, grants, and underwriting transparency.

[HB 1618](#) passed which will prospectively remove the statute of limitations on tort claims for childhood sexual abuse. [HB 2088](#) also passed that creates immunity from civil lawsuits for responders dispatched from mobile rapid-response crisis teams and community-based crisis teams.

Finally, the election season has arrived where all House seats, one-third of the Senate seats, and several statewide offices are up for re-election this fall. Although some legislators are retiring from the Legislature, others are running for higher office (i.e., Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, Lands Commissioner, Congress or Governor). Some House members are seeking one of the open Senate seats.



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

Mathcounts Update

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

Chapter Competitions: All Chapters successfully completed their competitions in February, advancing 130 students to the State Competition.

State Competition: Held March 16th at an Amazon facility in Seattle, we hosted advancing students representing 15 Teams and another 70 student individuals.

National Competition: The following students are advancing to the National Competition in Washington, DC, May 12-13, 2024 (Westin Washington DC Downtown):

1. Wesley Wu, Tyee Middle School
2. Laura Wang, Lakeside Middle School
3. Alexander Yang, Odle Middle School
4. Erin Bian, Lakeside Middle School

Our advancing coach for our National competitors will be Granya O'Neill, the coach for Lakeside Middle School. She will be attending following schedule conflict of the coaches for the top two teams. However, we are happy she can go as her Team was first place last year but she was unable to attend due to conflict of her son's college graduation.

Our advancing students and coach will be provided round trip flights, hotel, meals, and entertainment options while participating.

Links

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



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

Our Top Teams (40%) were:

1. Odle Middle School
2. BASIS Independent Bellevue
3. Lakeside Middle School
4. Tyee Middle School
5. Islander Middle School
6. Timberline Middle School

The State competition this year was particularly difficult:

No student exceeded 87%.

No Team exceeded 79.2%.

One Question was not correctly answered by any student. While one question each were only answered correctly by one, two, three, and four students (4 students answering correctly = 3%).

As Chair, this year posed a special concern with potential compromise of test questions. I and Mathcounts removed a student and banned the student from future participation as a result of posting false answers upon media forums in an attempt to cause others to perform poorly by availing themselves of the false answers.

Each Coordinator has received results for their advancing schools and students.

WSPE Educational Foundation Report

By John Schaufelberger, PhD, PE, Foundation Board President

The [Educational Foundation](#) was very successful in its Fall Fundraising Campaign this year. Over \$8,000 was raised, a \$2,000 increase from Fall 2022 campaign. Thank you to all WSPE members who participated. The Foundation greatly appreciates your support. As a result of the fundraising and income earned from the scholarship endowment, the Foundation has sufficient funding available to be able to award six \$3,000 scholarships this year.



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

The Foundation offers \$3,000 scholarships to students enrolled in Washington community colleges who transfer to ABET-accredited baccalaureate engineering programs offered by universities and colleges in Washington State. The scholarship application form can be accessed on the WSPE website, <https://washingtonengineer.org/>. Scholarship applications must be submitted by May 1. Please help the Foundation by encouraging qualified individuals to apply for a scholarship.

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

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

The next meeting of BRPELS is April 24-25, 2024, at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, WA. Note the following:

Some Committee and Task force meetings are scheduled for virtual conduct in advance of the physical meeting.

Survey Committee meeting and strategic planning session will be held 10:00-2:00 on the 24th.

A Special Board Meeting will be held on the 25th.

Meeting agendas are posted to the [BRPELS website](#).

Particular note: Seeking applicants for the Board. This July, one engineer and one Surveyor will be retiring from the Board upon completion of two terms. Next July, the other Surveyor will also retire following two terms.

The next [NCEES](#) Western Zone Meeting will be held May 16-18, 2024, at the Best Western Plus Grantree in Bozeman, MT. Preparatory to the NCEES Annual meeting (Chicago August 14-17), this meeting will address policies, procedures, committee reports and funding developments.



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

Board Interaction: Mr. Hendrickson will be speaking on the topic of “Responsibilities, Ethics, & Obligation” at WSU Bremerton/Olympic College, April 27, 2024, 2:30-4:00. At that time, WSU will conduct an Order of the Engineer Induction Ceremony. Mr. Ken McGowen, P.E., has been asked to speak on “History of the Order & Significance of the Ring.”

News and Events

- In its March membership report, NSPE notes that overall membership increased by 2% between March 2023 and March 2024. During this period, Student Members grew by 29%, while Standard Members fell by 2%. While fewer new members have joined so far in 2024 (814) compared with 2023 (988), rejoins have increased significantly, from 486 in 2023 to 652 in 2024.
- The [Order of the Engineer](#) welcomed 40 new members at an induction ceremony held at University of Washington Bothell (Link 314) on March 24, 2024. The ceremony was organized by Link Coordinator and Mechanical Engineering Professor Wolf Yeigh, PhD. The Honorary Speaker was Rear Admiral Louis Carrillo, USN (Ret.), Vice President of UW Facilities.
- NSPE’s Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers will be held in conjunction with this year’s annual NSPE Conference. Six sessions are scheduled on various themes on August 7, 8, and 9. Follow [this link](#) for details.
- Nominations are sought for the 2024 Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) Award. Award winners “serve as examples of how well the QBS process works.” Nominations are due June 7. Follow [this link](#) for details.
- Looking to brush up on professional skills or obtain some PDH credits? Check out the free (for NSPE members) webinars [“Second Best Protection Against Risk”](#) (April 17) and [“Enhancing Building Safety: Mitigating Risks of Slips, Trips, and Falls”](#) (May 1.)
- NSPE issued a [statement](#) on the recent collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.



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