

WSPE News

Serving members of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers

From the President

By Dimitrios Siaterlis, PE
dsiaterlis@elcon.com

Dear WSPE members,

Time is going by fast and summer is here. We had a great 2024 year!

We all met virtually every month, and on Saturday May 18, 2024, we met for the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting at the Elcon Associates, Inc. conference room in Seattle. Several members were on-line via Teams meeting. I would like to thank Scot Bartkoske, PE, for setting up MS Teams and for providing support during the meeting.

Most WSPE Chapters have monthly meetings and presentations via MS Teams or in person in local restaurants.

A special thank you to Steven Collins, PhD, PE, for serving as our NSPE House of Delegates (HOD) representative for the past two years.

I would like to thank Doug Hendrickson, PE, F.NSPE, for volunteering to be our new HOD representative and for the reports on BRPELS, other NSPE and WSPE activities, and the Tri-Cities' Chapter. More information on BRPELS, other NSPE and WSPE activities is included in Doug Hendrickson's article in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Ken McGowan, PE, F.NSPE, and Sharon Zimmerman, PE, for the AELC Reports on the 2024 Legislative Sessions. More information on AELC is included in Ken McGowan's article in this newsletter.



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I also would like to thank John Schaufelberger, PhD, PE, for attending the BOT meeting and for providing the Education Foundation report. For more information on the Education Foundation, please see John Schaufelberger’s article in this newsletter.

Our upcoming Joint WSPE Executive and Chapter Presidents meetings will be on Friday, June 21, 2024. This will be a virtual meeting using MS Teams.

Below is the Calendar of remaining events of 2023 – 2024:

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

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

It has been a busy Spring with [BRPELS](#).

We met February 20-21 at SEATAC and performed a variety of housekeeping duties as well as complaint management and actions. Our Agency is forecasting a state government mandate to occupy 30% smaller and State owned facilities and considering how we may respond to the mandate. Our Olympia offices, leased from the fire chiefs association, are currently very small and actually require that we ‘hot bunk’ personnel office space by defined remote work assignments. BRPELS members highlighted their support to [NCEES](#) and NSPE with one supporting NCEES Structural Exam Preparation, one supporting NCEES Survey Exam Preparation, and myself supporting the NCEES Engineering Licensure Task Force and the NSPE Committee of Policy and Advocacy. As a member of the NCEES ELTF, we are developing a new NCEES standing committee on Licensure which will develop alternate paths (not just BS plus 4 yrs) to qualification for examination. As a member of NSPE’s Committee on Policy and Advocacy (COPA), appointed by the NSPE President, I am in review of all NSPE Policies and Position Statements and actively working to bring the positions of NCEES, NSPE, and State Boards to commonality. I anticipate continuing upon the NCEES Licensure committee and upon NSPE COPA in 2024-2025.

BRPELS met April 24-25 in Vancouver. The Board held an extended Strategic Planning meeting to assess priorities of actions. Complaint and case management was under discussion with two members (one Engineer and one Surveyor) completing their two-term limits this June; pro-tem surveyors will likely be assigned to address the survey cases. State exam pass scores for March exams for surveyors and for OSW Designers and Inspectors were approved – approximately 14% of OSW candidates passed (detailed review found that basal cause was lack of preparation by candidates). Extensive discussions upon the Mutual Recognition Agreement with the UK were held with BRPELS not yet prepared to sign on. Board actions will advance rulemaking for pronoun changes within [WAC 196](#) – a CR105 filing will move forward as the changes do not alter the rule meaning or enforcement.



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The Board is considering action to advancing recommendations to begin recommendations for change to [RCW 18.43.030](#) (Legislative action) for the option of an OSW Board member.

I was asked to be a Profession representative upon the Industry Advisory Board for WSU Tri-Cities and participated in their April 26 semi-annual review of Engineering programs. That review was immediately followed by my attendance and presentation at the WSU Bremerton/Olympic College Engineering Honors ceremony and Order of the Engineer Induction on April 27; participants were recognized for their academic honors, veteran honors, FE passing honors, and induction to OE.

Many of the BRPELS members attended the NCEES Western Zone Meeting in Bozeman, MT May 16-18. The Zone meetings are conducted to provide a closer forum to discuss and debate issues in advance of the NCEES Annual meeting which will be in Chicago in August. An important take away from this meeting is that Washington Board members led delivery of election votes to establish Elizabeth Johnston of Alaska as the Western Zone nominee of President-Elect for NCEES. The nomination of President-Elect rotates by Zone each year and will not return for another six years. Washington was also recognized in its NCEES support and Zone support with the election of Aaron Blaisdell, PLS, to the position of Vice-President of the Western Zone for the period of 2024-2026. Mr. Blaisdell's BRPELS term completes in June 2025; he is the current BRPELS Vice-Chair.

The Board is holding their next meeting June 12-13 in Port Angeles as the annually mandated regular Board Meeting. This meeting will see election of next year's BRPELS Chair and Vice-Chair. The Board will consider advancing recommendations for change to [RCW 18.43.033](#) to provide for OSW pro-tem assignment. The Board will be considering the NCEES motions that will be before the NCEES Annual meeting in Chicago in August, approval of proposals for RCW 18.43.033 and minor edits in RCW 18.43 (e.g. obsolete content), and completion of the Board's Exam Policy. Two BRPELS members are outgoing with this meeting, there are candidates for the Engineer position for consideration by the Governor, but no applicants for the Surveyor position as of this writing.

I will be an NCEES-funded delegate to the NCEES annual meeting August 14-17.



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Where Have All the Engineering Jobs Gone?

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

Whether you're looking for the next job in your career path or looking for a candidate to join your engineering team, there are many platforms to utilize. Some of the most popular include CareerBuilder, GlassDoor, Indeed, LinkedIn, and Monster, but others include local chambers of commerce, college career centers, and professional society's websites. There are several considerations for which or how many platforms to post your new engineering job on including advertising costs, job posting details included, advertisements duration/frequency, work location, candidates' experience level, number of candidates desired, work visa availability.

WSPE encourages our members and members' firms to consider WSPE's job board for posting or seeking an engineering post. Our job board is a collaboration between most of the NSPE chapters as well as other professional organizations. You can access the platform at <https://washingtonengineer.org/job-board/> and easily create an account. Once you create an account and log in, you can post a job and search resumes as a recruiter or search job postings as a job seeker. Job postings start at just \$199 which includes the 30-day posting on the job board and inclusion in the Job Flash™ email to engineering professionals in Washington State. As a recruiter you also can upgrade the posting to ensure the posting remains high in search results or to highlight the posting. You can also opt to distribute the posting to qualified engineering professionals in Washington State, to a network of premier job sites and search engines, and/or to all job sites on the job board network.

Your job postings will attract highly qualified talent to Washington State while also providing passive income to WSPE as a proportion of the advertising fee. In May, 14,153 jobs were accessible on WSPE's job board and each job posting averaged 220 clicks. More than 300 Washington State employers are already registered, and thousands of professionals throughout the engineering community have access to this platform. Come and use WSPE's job board to find your next star employee!



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WSPE Educational Foundation Announces Scholarship Recipients

By John Schaufelberger, PhD, PE, Foundation Board President

During its Annual Meeting on May 18, 2024, the Foundation Board of Trustees selected six community college students to receive \$3,000 Charles A. Pearson Memorial Scholarships conditional upon being admitted to an ABET-accredited baccalaureate engineering program at a college or university in Washington. These scholarships are named in the memory of Charles A. Pearson who was a long-time trustee and past president of the Foundation.

The recipients are:

1. Anthony Little; Bremerton, WA; applying for admission to the mechanical engineering program at Washington State University
2. Danna De Anda Solois; Pasco, WA; applying for admission to the electrical engineering program at Washington State University
3. Dean Macduff; Kennewick, WA; applying for admission to the mechanical engineering program at Washington State University
4. Dylan Stecklein; Pasco, WA; applying for admission to the aeronautical engineering program at the University of Washington
5. Mason Schindler; Bremerton, WA; applying for admission to the electrical engineering program at Washington State University
6. Miguel Palomino; Pasco, WA; applying for admission to the electrical engineering program at Washington State University

The Foundation congratulates these outstanding students and wishes them the best as they continue their engineering education.



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Mathcounts Update

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

An early day in Washington D.C. on May 13th had Benjamin Jiang of Florida win the [Mathcounts National Championship](#). Laura Wang of Washington was a semifinalist (3rd/4th) winning a \$3,000 scholarship as an 8th grade student. The Texas Team won first place for the second year in a row (each earning a \$2000 scholarship). The Washington Team placed 6th of the 56 teams present with three members in 39th place or better of the 224 students competing. One of our coordinators has already negotiated a 2025 State Mathcounts competition date/location of March 22, 2025 at the Amazon facility we have competed for the last two seasons.

News and Events

- NSPE's annual conference ([NSPECon](#)) will be held August 7-9 in Raleigh. Early-bird registration ends June 27. New for this year's conference is the 3-day [Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers](#).
- The PE Civil Exam [relaunched April 1 in a new format](#). The exam previously featured breadth and discipline-specific components. The new format replaces the combined breadth and depth components in a single exam with five discipline-specific exams, making it similar to the current format for the PE Mechanical Exam.
- Mark your calendars for the ninth annual [Professional Engineers Day](#) on August 7.

Links

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



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Architects and Engineers Legislative Council (AELC) Update

By Ken McGowan, PE, F.NSPE

Our next AELC meeting is scheduled for June 13th at the Fir Crest Golf Course in Fircrest, WA. We have been meeting there occasionally as it is close to Olympia where our lobbyist Christine Brewer resides most of the year.

On May 30, Nona Snell, Director of the Budget Division of the State Office of Financial Budget (OFM) responded to a letter from AELC in regard to our recommendations (initially drafted by AIA with comments from other AELC members) for “Determining A/E Fees for Public Works Building Projects and A/E Fee Schedule.” OFM has agreed to our three recommendations to 1) Engage in a consultative process to review services and rates for the 2027-29 biennium; 2) Continue basic services as currently offered (proposed new basic services for 2025-27 have been removed); and 3) Include the current Engineering News-Record (ENR) index in the proposed 2025-27 maximum negotiated hourly billing rates and updated Building Cost index (BCI) ratio in the fee table’s logarithmic equation (8307/2418). Note that as a result of 3), the effective increase is appreciably greater than inflation. As explained in OFM’s response:

“Using the ENR adjustment, the fee percentage at \$30 million is 8.50%, or \$2,550,000. This is slightly over 50% higher than the current 2015 fee of \$1,690,000 for a \$20 million building. At the low end of the scale, using a \$1 million project in 2015, the fee percentage increases from 11.75% to 11.78% on \$1.5 million in 2025. At the higher end, a \$200 million project in 2015 increases from 5.36% to 5.40% on \$300 million in 2025. Across the range, the ENR results in offsetting the impact of inflation in line with construction inflation, and appreciably higher than the 30%.”

AELC’s success in working with OFM indicates its effectiveness at the state level and validates the hard work that each component organization puts into our ongoing legislative efforts.

AELC leadership has recently taken a hard look at its ongoing budget for retaining our lobbyist. As its Treasurer, I report status monthly on each organization’s financial



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commitment, and in the future will see to it that quarterly balance sheets (received from [ACEC WA](#)) are sent out to the Component Organizations. I have also been tasked to work with Chair and Vice Chair to ensure that sufficient monies are being generated by component group payments to ensure a one-year reserve in the bank and, when needed, suggest “recommended” increases in organization contributions.

The main issue going forward is the upcoming election(s). Stay tuned for updates on candidates running for various offices at the state level.

2024 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

The following is an edited version of the end-of-session report provided by AELC Lobbyist Christine Brewer, highlighting the initiatives and bills passed and signed by the Governor.

Initiatives: Six Republican-backed citizen initiatives were certified to the Legislature. Lawmakers ultimately adopted Initiatives [2081](#) (granting parental rights in public education); [2111](#) (prohibiting state and local governments from adopting an income tax); and [2113](#) (removing certain restrictions on police pursuits). Initiatives [2109](#) (repealing the state's tax on capital gains); [2117](#) (repealing the state's Climate Commitment Act); and [2124](#) (allowing opt-out of the state's long term care insurance program) will go directly to the voters as [State Ballot Measures](#) on the November ballot.

Taxes & Budgets: The session did not lead to any new or expanded tax increases. The final operating budget added \$2.1 billion in new spending to last year’s \$69.8 billion plan, with about half of the new spending going to inflationary increases, and half going to new projects in education, behavioral health care, public safety, and human services. Notably, the budget spends \$249 million of CCA auction revenue, a program put at issue by I-2117. The supplemental transportation budget adds \$1 billion in new spending to last year’s plan, including \$340 million in CCA dollars. The major focus here is addressing cost overruns in road maintenance, ferry preservation, and removal of culverts for fish passage. The final supplemental capital budget, meanwhile, funds \$1.3 billion in new projects around the state, clustered heavily around school construction, behavioral health facility funding, and affordable housing projects.

Labor & Employment: [HB 1905](#) expands the Washington Equal Pay and Opportunity Act by adding new protected classes for pay and career advancement protections.



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[SB 5793](#) expands reasons for covered leave under the state's paid sick leave law, including for transportation network company drivers. [SB 5778](#) bans workplace "captive audience" meetings about union organizing activities. [SB 6088](#) allows limited wage and hour exemptions for minor league baseball players covered by Major League Baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

Social Insurance: [HB 2467](#) allows out-of-state portability of the Long-Term Care premium and benefit. [SB 6069](#) creates a new "Washington Saves" auto-IRA savings program, which when established will require covered employers and employees without an existing retirement benefit to enroll and contribute to a state IRA plan or a retirement plan offered by a chamber of commerce or trade association. [HB 2382](#) expands death benefits for transportation network company drivers killed while using a platform app.

Artificial Intelligence: [SB 5838](#) creates a statewide task force to study issues related to AI development and deployment and make recommendations to the Legislature. Governor Inslee's [Executive Order on AI](#) requires that all executive and small cabinet agencies coordinate with WaTech (the state's IT and information security arm) in developing guidelines for ethical and transparent adoption of AI technology.

Business & Commerce: [HB 1889](#) provides a path to professional licensure in many occupations for individuals regardless of immigration status. [HB 1589](#) allows Puget Sound Energy to begin transitioning away from residential and commercial natural gas service in support of its decarbonization goals.

Insurance & Financial Services: [SB 5798](#) extends notice requirements for property & casualty insurance cancellations or non-renewals from 45 days to 60 days while leaving auto policy timeframes unchanged. [SB 5806](#) provides confidentiality for data provided by insurers to the Commissioner. [HB 2329](#) requires the Commissioner perform a market study for property and liability insurance for low-income housing providers. [SB 5652](#) allows registered tow truck operators access to insurance payments for clearing roadway hazards. [HB 1899](#) sets up relief payments for victims of the Spokane wildfires. [SB 6027](#) adopts the updated NAIC model for insurance holding companies. [SB 6025](#) extends the reach of the Consumer Lending Act to out-of-state operators and strengthens anti-evasion provisions.



Civil Justice & Liability: [HB 1618](#) prospectively removes the statute of limitations on tort claims for childhood sexual abuse. [HB 2088](#) creates immunity from civil lawsuits for responders dispatched from mobile rapid-response crisis teams and community-based crisis teams.

Construction: [SB 6040](#) requires a study by the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board of prompt payment to contractors and subcontractors on public works projects. [HB 2022](#) adds provisions related to the assembly, disassembly, or reconfiguration of tower cranes to the Washington Industrial Safety & Health Act. [HB 2266](#) requires the Department of Labor & Industries to adopt rules requiring reasonable jobsite accommodation for construction workers for menstruation or expressing milk. [HB 1880](#) streamlines the licensing of architects by making it easier to take or re-take the licensing examination.

Retirements: The following lawmakers are leaving the Legislature this year: In the Senate, Majority Leader Andy Billig (D-Spokane), Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines), Sam Hunt (D-Olympia), Lynda Wilson (R-Vancouver), Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah), and Kevin Van De Wege (D-Sequim). In the House, Reps. J.T. Wilcox (R-McKenna), Joel Kretz (R-Wauconda), Jacqueline Maycumber (R-Republic), and Spencer Hutchins (R-Gig Harbor). House members Marcus Riccelli (D-Spokane), Bill Ramos (D-Issaquah), Jessica Bateman (D-Olympia), and Mike Chapman (D-Port Angeles) are leaving the House to run for one of the open Senate seats. Senators who may or may not return depending on their race for higher office this fall are Manka Dhingra (D-Redmond, running for Attorney General), Patty Kuderer (D-Bellevue, running for Insurance Commissioner), Emily Randall (D-Port Orchard, running for Congress), Drew MacEwan (R-Shelton, running for Congress), and Rebecca Saldana (D-Seattle, running for Lands Commissioner).

Call to Fill a State Agency Board Position

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industry seeks to fill the position of Registered Architect or Licensed Engineer on its Elevator Safety Advisory Committee. See the announcement at <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/elevators/about-the-elevator-program/committees>. Submit letter of interest and resume to melissa.Eriksen@Lni.wa.gov.



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