

TO: NSPE Board of Directors

cc: NSPE House of Delegates
NSPE Committee, Task Force, Council and Interest Group Chairs
State Society Leadership
State Society Executives Council
NSPE Past Presidents

FROM: Mark J. Golden, FASAE, CAE
Executive Director



DATE: 6 July 2016

RE: Board Update: June 1-30, 2016

With over 500 attendees, more than 30 educational sessions, tours, networking, and highly productive governance meetings, this year's annual conference, a partnership between NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, was a huge success. A concise recap, with links to the program, PDH forms, award winners, photos, and social media feeds, has been added to the [website](#). Links to presentation materials are available to all registrants through the [NSPE Community](#) page.

And it's not too soon to start planning ahead for the 2017 Professional Engineers Conference, July 19-23, 2017 at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis.

1. Member Value

The *NSPE Year in Review* document distributed at the annual meeting -- outlining member value delivered in such areas as policy achievements, membership, engagement and content -- is available as a [download](#) from NSPE's homepage.

The NSPE Professional Liability Committee has published an updated addition of *Document Retention Guidelines – A Risk Management White Paper*, now available to members [online](#).

2. Advocacy

The weeks leading up the annual meeting showed no let-up in advocacy efforts, which we were able to report on at the meeting itself (as well as push through social media to all members).

The most significant of these came on June 13th, with the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) incorporating the professional engineering model in its final rule on emission standards in the oil and natural gas sectors. The rule articulates a strong, well-reasoned and well-supported rationale for licensure: "professional engineers, whether independent or employees of a facility, being professionals, will uphold the integrity of their profession and only certify documents that meet the prescribed regulatory requirements and that the integrity of both the professional

engineer and the professional oversight of boards licensing professional engineers are sufficient to prevent any abuses.” In addition, the rule requires that a PE be in responsible charge on all engineering projects, both in an independent third-party capacity, as well as in an in-house role. This major change in attitude toward licensure from a major Federal agency comes as a result of sustained and multi-level advocacy from NSPE.

On June 29th, NSPE filed a “[friend of the court](#)” brief before the Maryland Supreme Court in support of the “Economic Loss Doctrine” which protects professional engineers against alleged tort claims by contractors with whom they are not in privity of contract (e.g., no contract between professional engineer and contractor) for purely economic damages (lost profits, delay damages).

Shortly before the convention, NSPE also posted an [interactive](#) map displaying threats to occupational licensure in states. The simple addition of a graphic linked to information already on the site has proven to be very effective in gaining member attention to this capstone issue.

Following up NSPE’s April 13th [letter](#) to the U. S. Department of Agriculture complaining that its rules issued on water systems in rural and native Alaskan villages had grossly mischaracterized the role and value of licensed engineers, the Department has reached out to NSPE and requested a meeting. The NSPE President and government relations staff will meet with agency leaders at NSPE headquarters early next month.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Agency (NHTSA) has indicated it plans to release its guidelines for autonomous vehicles in July. In public comments released in early June, NHTSA indicated it will be releasing guidelines, not rules, aimed at speeding deployment of autonomous vehicles, and suggesting it will **not** pre-empt or interfere with states who are pursuing regulatory regimes of their own. NSPE is tracking this proceeding closely and will follow up on its earlier verbal and written [testimony](#) once the proposed rules are released.

In a June 2 [letter](#) to Congressmen Tim Ryan and Tom Reed, NSPE praised Representative Ryan’s proposed *Pre-College Engineering Act*, which would establish a grant program at the National Science Foundation to encourage states and local school districts to develop and implement sustainable engineering education programs in elementary and secondary education schools, through public-private partnerships. The legislation is expected to be introduced in July. NSPE will provide an update.

Earlier in the month, Professional Engineers of Oregon (PEO) contacted NSPE Government Relations staff for advice on a proposed state regulatory change to building codes. NSPE GR senior staff provided analysis to the state society board, supporting their decision to intervene, and providing substantive input which could be shared with the state licensing board.

NSPE Government Relations was contacted by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to provide input on proposed changes to requirements for firearms ranges. NSPE GR senior staff and WSPE President Jocelyne Gray held a call and provided input on the key role of the PE in design or structural changes, as well as relevant information regarding related liability issues.

3. Content

Photos from the 2016 Professional Engineers Conference in Dallas are now available for viewing and downloading, via [NSPE's Flickr account](#). Images are grouped by event to make it easier to find specific photos. To download, you'll need to open the individual image and click on the "down arrow" icon on the far bottom right. This will pull up an option menu to download multiple file sizes (good for whether you're planning to print or post online). NSPE has full usage rights to the images, so state societies are welcome to download and print/post them as they wish. If you do print/post for business use, such as in a newsletter, magazine, or online, as a courtesy we ask that you include a photo credit stating: "Images courtesy of NSPE and Christie's Photographic Studios." (State leaders and state executives have been made aware that this content is available to them.)

The Texas society has made its newly released [TSPE PE Licensure video](#), which made such a splash at the PE Conference in Dallas, available online. They have encouraged everyone to freely share it with anyone you think might find it useful. It will be a great tool to present to engineering students if you have the opportunity to be a guest speaker in a classroom or with a student chapter. Like TSPE, I would like to acknowledge and thank John Ho, P.E. and Robert Hart, Ph.D., P.E. for bringing this idea forward to TSPE, securing the funding and delivering the final product.

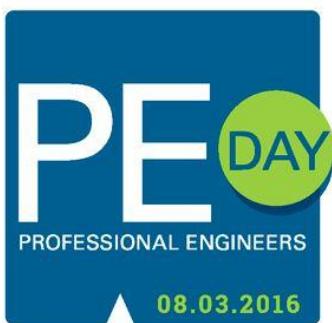
The July/August edition of *PE* magazine (print and [online](#) editions) are in members' hands now. The cover story ("What's in a Name?") addresses a flashpoint issue for members that dominated the early discussions on [NSPE's online communities](#) when it first launched. That topic is the use (and abuse) of the term "engineer." Other features discuss how individual engineers are carrying the banner for professional licensure through outreach and advocacy efforts and the potential liability design professionals face from cyber-attacks.

4. Collaboration

NSPE's new association logo was launched with balloons and fanfare at the opening reception in Dallas, our entire online presence was refreshed overnight, and the comments have been positive on the fresh, cleaner and more modern look for the society. Already 19 state societies have approached us, anxious to adapt the new look for their state society as well. We are working with our design firm to accommodate these requests.

NSPE was honored by the attendance of many liaison society leaders at this year's PE Conference. Among the organizations represented were: Engineers Canada, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Landscape Architects, American Society of Certified Engineering Technicians, MATHCOUNTS, NCEES, National Academy of Building Inspection Engineers, Order of the Engineer, Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, National Academy of Forensic Engineers, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Society of Hispanic Engineers and the Japan Society of Professional Engineers.

5. Member Engagement



As you know from the lead-in activities launched at the PE conference, Wednesday, August 3, 2016 will mark the first annual Professional Engineers Day. (August 8, 2016, will mark the 109th anniversary of the first professional engineering license issued.) In Dallas, we kicked off the festivities and captured a collection of photos from members explaining why they became a PE that have since been shared on social media using #LicensedPEDay. **Join the virtual event by sharing your own photos and reasons for becoming a PE on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram with #LicensedPEDay!** In the weeks ahead, we'll be encouraging members to do the same as we prepare to recognize the work of PEs around the world and raise awareness about the importance of the PE License. Continue to check your email and visit <https://www.nspe.org/resources/professional-engineers-day> for more ways you can be a part of this event to celebrate licensure and the profession on August 3.

Finally, please remember that access to NSPE leadership resources is always available to you in the Leadership Toolbox at www.nspe.org/toolbox. You will need to log in with your user name and password.

This includes links to current talking point scripts and presentations for use by NSPE officers, board members, and other leaders during state visits, chapter meetings, or other venues to promote NSPE and its activities. There are three versions of the presentation to suit your presentation style and skill – an animated PowerPoint with moving graphics and text, a static PowerPoint with no animation, and a Word document with an outline overview of the presentation.

You will also find other sample presentations for volunteer leaders, sample promotional and other materials for membership, advocacy, association management, meetings, governance and other areas, and the latest advocacy news.

There is also great material on NSPE's purpose, mission, vision and a history of the *Race for Relevance* and the resulting Strategic Plan in a section called "Who We Are and What We Do."

You can also review a detailed calendar of NSPE and state society events on the website at: www.nspe.org/AboutNSPE/Events/index.html.