

PE MATTERS

STATE
NEWSNSPE-WY™ WYOMING SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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State News for NSPE Members

WySPE Constitution Update

As we have shared in recent newsletters and at the annual meeting in February, WySPE is working to update the organization's Constitution.

The governing documents for the Wyoming Society of Professional Engineers were last updated in 1981. WySPE is governed by a Constitution that provides the broad structure for the organization, and Bylaws that provide more operational details.

To amend the Constitution, a minimum of 20 percent of our membership must vote, and amendments must pass by a 2/3 or greater majority. The board is responsible for updating the Bylaws and will complete that when the Constitutional amendments are completed.

Recently, NSPE nationally changed the membership model and that impacts our Constitution. The ballot provides brief explanations on these issues. Also, over time there have been changes that need to be reflected in the governing documents (the ability to vote electronically, for instance). If you would rather have a ballot mailed to you or wish to object to our conducting electronic voting prior to that officially being recognized in an amended constitution, please let us know.

See the existing Constitution as amended in 1981.

([Attachment](#))

You are asked to vote on five questions, which group proposed amendments by topic. If you favor all of the amendments grouped on a question, vote yes. If you oppose any of the items in the grouping, vote no. You can only vote once.

If you have any problems voting, or have any questions, please contact Steve Conklin, our executive director, by email at steveconklin@q.com or at (303) 909-0479.

[Access the ballot.](#)

Wyoming Tech Community Comes Together to Confront Coronavirus



Tyler Kerr, Makerspace coordinator in the Engineering Education and Research Building Student Innovation Center, holds a finished 3D-printed hospital mask. Photo provided by the University of Wyoming.

The Wyoming Technology Coronavirus Coalition (WTCC) was formed on March 17th to bring together and coordinate technological efforts assisting the state in fighting Covid-19.

In Laramie, students and staff of the University of Wyoming are using 3D printers in the Engineering Education and Research Building Student Innovation Center to make surgical masks and face shields for hospitals in the state. All materials must meet health standards.

[Read more.](#)

Conference Call and Video Conferencing Etiquette

According to Zoom, 200 million people are now using its platform every day. This is an increase of more than 10 million people since before the pandemic. Before “zooming,” consider— is it necessary, or can a good old-fashioned phone call/conference do? First and foremost, be sure to try to schedule video conferences in advance, as video chats are as intrusive, or more so, than “just stopping by” an office in the old normal.

Make sure you are in a quiet location where you will not be disturbed.

Mute yourself when not speaking.

Use appropriate equipment. And ensure it works correctly.

- If possible, always use a phone with a handset that is hard-wired into the phone lines. Be sure to TEST the working condition of your equipment before

an important meeting!

- Cellular or cordless phones are more likely to cause static or other distracting noise that they pick up on the airwaves
- Speakerphones pick up lots of background noise, and sometimes cause "clipping" because of the limitations of the equipment. If you are using a speakerphone, try to find one that is "full digital duplex"—this will allow all parties to speak at the same time with no clipping. And if no one in your room needs to speak, use the "Mute" button on the phone to prevent background noise from disrupting the meeting. When someone needs to speak, simply release the "Mute."

Turn off your call waiting. Some of our conferences are set to play a tone as an announcement of a new person entering the conference. If your line starts beeping with call waiting, it can be very confusing and disrupting to the meeting! Check with your local phone service provider if you are unsure how to deactivate this function on your phone.

Be on time or early! It is especially helpful for the host or chairperson of the call to arrive a few minutes early to greet each of the participants and let them know whether everyone is ready to start yet. Your presence in these opening minutes will also help you head off any premature discussions the participants might begin before you're ready!

Introduce yourself when you begin speaking. Others may not know your voice!

Don't put your phone on HOLD to do something else. Your hold music will play into the conference call and make it impossible for the other participants to continue the meeting in your absence. (Remember to un-mute yourself when you come back!)

Try to stay on schedule. Stick to the minutes per topic laid out in your agenda and be respectful of others' time!

Video Conference? Frame the camera correctly. Have the right light. Look into the camera. Pay attention.

[Download these etiquette tips in PDF.](#)

Working Remotely? Update Your Mailing Address and Phone Number

If you're working from home or elsewhere out of the office, [log into your NSPE account](#) to ensure we have the most up-to-date information to continue to serve you. Please make sure to update both your phone number and mailing address.

If you haven't yet managed your e-subscription options, please make sure to do so as well.

During Outbreak, NSPE's in Your Corner

The world finds itself today in a crisis unlike any in recent memory. While members of the engineering profession are facing the same uncertainties as everyone else, NSPE's volunteer leaders and staff are firmly committed to doing the very best we can to help you through this very difficult time.



As you strive to stay on top of your professional and personal life, remember that NSPE is a resource for you.

First, watch this video message from NSPE Executive Director Mark Golden, "[Dark Days Shine New Light on Profession, Community.](#)" It is an early look at his column for the May/June *PE* magazine. ([Read it on the NSPE Blog and leave a comment](#) !)

And access [NSPE's dedicated pages of resources](#) , including public documents from NSPE's Government Relations team that aggregate state-level legislation on support for [small businesses](#) , and [changes to licensure renewals and requirements](#) . The documents update in real time.

Also:

- Read [NSPE's](#) and [NICET's](#) statements on COVID-19.
- Stay in touch with fellow members of the profession and share your

experiences through the [Open Forum](#) in NSPE's Communities. Recent topics include [remote work](#) , [Coronavirus and engineering companies - best practices](#) , and [Coronavirus and engineers](#) .

- Plan to remotely attend our upcoming webinars on topics like [engineering ethics](#), [strategies for navigating unconscious bias](#), [the 2020 EJCDC engineering contract agreements](#), and others .
- Tap into the [15 free webinars that are included in your membership](#) .
- Connect with NSPE and your colleagues on [Twitter](#) , [Facebook](#) , and [LinkedIn](#) .
- Don't forget to check out what your state society is doing for you. Visit your [state society's website](#) so you can learn more about the local resources available to you.
- Look for coverage of how the pandemic is affecting NSPE members and affiliated organizations in the May/June issue of [PE magazine](#) .

NSPE members are truly unique. They share a deep commitment to the ethical practice of engineering in service to the public, they strive to make the most of their professional lives, and they aim to build a better profession. Your Society is here to help you meet those commitments.

If you would like to reach us directly, please visit our ["Contact Us" page](#) .

Webinar Covers Pandemic and the Profession

With the coronavirus spreading across the country, PEs are finding their professional lives filled with ambiguity, uncertainty, and improvisation. In a webinar on April 2, NSPE provided an overview of the quickly changing situation, including federal and state responses affecting professional engineers and their businesses.

"It's a very difficult situation we're all facing, and we're seeing a cascading impact in so many different areas," said Arthur Schwartz, NSPE's deputy chief executive officer and general counsel. Schwartz presented the webinar with Stephanie Hamilton, NSPE's government relations and advocacy manager.

Schwartz noted that state licensing boards are struggling. As state agencies, some are closing, and others are reducing staff. PEs are likely to find spotty phone and email service, Schwartz said. In addition, the timeliness of application approval for licensure by comity and reciprocity has "really been strangled in many ways."

The pandemic has also forced [cancellation](#) of all paper-and-pencil licensing exams

scheduled for April 2020. Computer-based licensing exams, such as the FE exam and the PE exams in chemical and environmental engineering, have also been halted. So, too, have [NICET technician certification exams](#) .

The most significant action on the federal front is the CARES Act. The law expands [Small Business Administration](#) loans; creates grants that can be put toward education, training, and advising of small businesses and their employees; and sets refundable payroll tax credits of up to \$5,000 for each employee.

States are also responding with legislation and executive orders. As of April 2, the District of Columbia and nine states had taken action specifically related to licensure: Alaska, Arizona, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas. A [current and detailed list of legislative action](#) (not executive orders) is publicly available. Some states have also [enacted legislation or executive orders](#) aimed at helping small businesses.

The webinar, “ [Federal and State Covid-19 Response: Effects on Licensure and Small Businesses](#) ,” is available free to NSPE members and for \$25 for nonmembers.

Tell other NSPE members how you're adapting to the coronavirus pandemic or share your thoughts on other professional issues in NSPE's [Open Forum](#) .

Learn and Engage With NSPE's Upcoming Webinars



Professional development is crucial to maintaining a license, moving up the career ranks, and maintaining a sense of engagement during these challenging times. NSPE provides access to a variety of topics, including the Ethics Forum, from the comfort of your home or office. All webinars are held 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Eastern.

April 15

[Engineering Ethics – Conflicts of Interest, Licensure, Confidentiality, and Public Criticism](#)

April 29

[Navigating Unconscious Bias: Strategies for Success](#)

May 6

[2020 EJCDC Engineering Agreements](#)

May 13

[Engineering Ethics – Objectivity and Truthfulness, Public Health and Safety, Signing and Sealing of Engineering Drawings, and Misrepresentation](#)

[See the full list.](#)

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