

## NSPE-California President's Update: The Highest Law

The Southland Mall sits within view of the highway in the San Francisco suburb of Hayward. In keeping up with the disruptions going on in the retail industry, Southland has tested everything from changing its mix of stores to a complete rebranding and modernization of its structure and interiors.

It was a weeknight evening when I parked my car underneath the Southland Mall's new sign. It had been rebranded with a new scripty typeface that looked like the signature dashed off at the end of a thank you card.

I had been in the midst of the Bay Area's infamous traffic when I saw that I had a missed call from Ken Discenza who had been serving on the board of NSPE-California. The Southland exit was the closest escape route off the highway where I could pause and return his call. He and then NSPE-California Executive Director Marti Kramer had been working with me on the Society's virtual chapter and we were in the midst of restructuring some of the state's activities so I knew it would be an important conversation. But Ken had other ideas. NSPE-California was under a serious transformation, Ken said, and they were looking for an experienced NSPE member to take over as President. They wanted me to consider taking the role.

At the time, I had already been busy on a few NSPE national task forces and had no shortage of to-do list items that I was trying to finish up. Perhaps it was a moment of weakness at the end of a long work day or maybe it was the drone of the interstate traffic, but I said yes. More likely, it was my desire to continue working alongside a passionate team that collectively advocated for the safety and well-being of the public with a direct concern over the impact of licensure to California engineers.

Today, a little more than two years later, I am so proud of what we've accomplished together. Between an ever shifting membership landscape across technical professional organizations like NSPE, a retiring Executive Director, a visual and structural transformation of California and of NSPE at the national level, it's been two years of delightful, productive work.

We've done so much and we still have so much more to do. As we head into the start of NSPE's new fiscal year, NSPE-California has committed to a new action plan centered on member value: the reason why any California Engineer joins and stays a part of NSPE-California. With initiatives such as cross-functional collaborations with sibling societies such as the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), partnering with the State of California on its technical education initiatives in primary and secondary schools, and the development of a forum centered on women in engineering in California, NSPE-California has

a very bold future ahead.

And for the 2019 – 2021 term, you have a talented leadership team serving you throughout California to make it all happen. For our new officer installation ceremony, we enhanced our traditional pass-the-gavel ceremony by gifting the incoming President with their own actual gavel. On it is inscribed their name and this quote from famed Roman Orator, Cicero: *salus populi suprema lex esto* or “The health and welfare of the people should be the supreme law.” It’s an incantation worthy of welcoming in the new California leadership. I couldn’t be prouder of this incoming leadership team with Mehdi Khalili as our President and the mark he and the team will make on California and on NSPE as a whole.

Thank you so much for the privilege of serving you these past two years as NSPE-California State President. That day I parked underneath the flashing Southland Mall sign was the best experience rush-hour traffic has ever given me.

And the lights are still glittering.

Austin

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Austin S. Lin, State President (2017–19)  
Your California State Society of NSPE  
Powered by Volunteer Leaders since 1949  
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## **Meet the New 2019–2021 Leadership Team of NSPE-California**

It is with great pride and privilege that we introduce to you your new leadership team of NSPE-California for the July 2019–June 2021 term:

President Mehdi Khalili, P.E. (San Diego)  
Vice-President Joseph Quinn, P.E. (Los Angeles)  
Treasurer Ken Discenza, P.E., F.NSPE (San Diego)  
Executive Director Jeanne Marie Tokunaga (Sacramento)

Send us a note and say hello at [admin@nspe-ca.org](mailto:admin@nspe-ca.org)!

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## **NSPE President Michael Aitken, PE, F.NSPE visits California**

This June we had the honor of welcoming 2019 NSPE President Michael Aitken and spouse Pamela to Northern California for NSPE-California’s end of year board meeting and strategic planning workshop, hosted jointly with our Education Foundation, CSPEEF.org.

We were graciously hosted by Google at one of their conference room facilities and spent our day talking linkages between California to NSPE's Strategic Plan, recognizing our leadership, and working on succession planning.

President Aitken provided input throughout our meetings and installed our incoming officers. We enjoyed locally crafted sandwiches and salads and then ended our day with a walking tour of Google's main campus in Mountain View.



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## **Celebrating Marti Kramer, Past Executive Director of NSPE-California**

It was a huge honor to have Marti Kramer, an NSPE veteran of over 28 years, join us at NSPE-California's year end meeting in June. Marti attended in person for the inaugural presentation of the leadership award named in her honor. It was also an occasion for us to celebrate Marti herself as we had surprise participants from the past boards of our Education Foundation as well as past NSPE-California President Todd Stewart and Past NSPE National President Sam Grossman who himself was also a past NSPE-California President.

We can say without hesitation that were it not for Marti's dedication and service to NSPE-California over the past three decades, there would be no California state society today. A distinguished leader in her own professional organization for association executives, Marti also served on the NSPE National Board of Directors as the President of the State Society Executive Council. Having also served on the boards of the California Society of Association Executives and the American Society of Association Executives, Marti was no stranger to leading and enacting change at a national scale.

In her tenure, Marti made a positive impact on everything from cross-state collaboration with other NSPE societies, building up and promoting MATHCOUNTS through the Education Foundation, and most recently, helped craft NSPE's own national strategy on its member model transformation.

We're proud to be carrying on the legacy Marti began almost thirty years ago. Our sails will always be full of the momentum she graced us with, no matter the conditions of the sea.

Thank you, Marti!

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## **Introducing the Inaugural Marti Kramer Award for Leadership Excellence**

In honor of our long-standing Executive Director Marti Kramer, CAE we founded a new award named in her honor. The citation of the award reads:

In honor of the NSPE member in California that best exhibits the volunteer spirit of self-directedness and initiative in serving the Society and its members, serving as a role model for promoting member value in NSPE.

The recipient of the 2019 Marti Kramer Award for Leadership Excellence was Joseph Quinn, PE. Joseph has been a role model for how an NSPE member passionate about the cause of advocating for public safety and well being can make an impact on a state as large as California. Trained as material scientist and founder of his own failure analysis firm, [Materials FACT](#), Joseph became active in NSPE through our popular virtual meeting series, the NSPE-California Lunch Breaks. He later volunteered on membership initiatives and was appointed as NSPE-California's Regional Lead for the Greater Los Angeles Area, rebooting NSPE's presence in LA for the first time in over 15 years. We are honored to have him as part of our cause and are even more excited that he will be serving as NSPE-California's Vice President for the new leadership term.

Interested in learning more about the award and future nominations? We'll have more to share later in the year.

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## **Share Your Expertise, Raise Your Visibility, Grow Your Professional Brand: Become a speaker in our 2019–2020 NSPE-California Events Program!**

Do you have a topic you would like to present to your fellow California Engineers? Submit your proposals here: <https://goo.gl/forms/kPITTZOqGGcjPwrv2>

Our continued themes:

- I. The Path to Licensure and the Future of the PE
- II. The Impact of Emerging Technologies on PE Licensure
- III. Lawyer Engineer: At the Intersection of the State Regulations, Public safety and Professional Engineering
- IV. California Projects: Success Stories and Lessons Learned from Projects Across the Golden State

If you have a topic that you would like to share in any of these areas, reach out via this form

<https://goo.gl/forms/kPITTZOqGGcjPwrv2>. We will have a rolling application process and an option to present locally in person at your home region or virtually.

We can't wait to hear about what our California Engineers have to share with the rest of the engineering profession!

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## **Up for a Leadership Challenge? Announcing New Openings for Regional Leadership Roles representing Northern California, Monterey and San Luis Obispo/ Central Coast**

Are you an NSPE-California interested in a high-visibility leadership role?

We're looking for a current NSPE volunteer member who would be up for the challenge of organizing and leading PE events in these local regions:

- Monterey Peninsula Region
- Central Coast Region (covering San Luis Obispo / Paso Robles and surrounding areas)
- San Francisco Bay Area
- Greater Sacramento Area

Up for the challenge? Introduce yourself to us here!

<https://goo.gl/forms/ionjBUqNXaUt7dMU2>

### Leadership Benefits to Participants

- The role provides the opportunity for ambitious individuals with a passion for project management, networking and technical development to broaden their professional scope, become the face of NSPE-California in the region and help energize and connect local Professional Engineers and EITs to one another.
- A great way to grow your personal brand while gaining practical leadership skills outside of your daily work commitments.

### Responsibilities

- All the exposure and volunteer experience of leading a regional technical non-profit without the excess bureaucracy.
- Manage a budget which funds local member-value driven activities
- Plan and host local speakers, ranging from mini-conferences and dinner events to informal coffee meetups in the region
- Serve as a representative of your region to the NSPE-California Board of Directors, with visibility to NSPE National.

### Minimum Qualifications

- NSPE member in good standing with membership dues up to date for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)
- Holds an EIT or PE license (in any state)

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## NSPE-California Community

As a valued member of CSPE, we invite you to participate in our new online members-only community discussion board for California Engineers. We'll be using this spot for introductions and discussion topics ranging from artificial intelligence, PEs and emerging technologies, and other local issues important to California Engineers.

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## Celebrating the Profession



NSPE is celebrating licensed professional engineers with the fourth annual Professional Engineers Day on **August 7**. PE Day participants will raise awareness about what it means to be a PE, recognize licensed PEs, and show appreciation for the work PEs do every day.

- [Learn more about how to participate and access resources.](#)
- [Read the July/August PE magazine cover feature](#) and learn about the myriad ways individuals and companies are celebrating.
- [Show off your PE pride](#) with PE Day tshirts, mugs, totebags, and more on NSPE's new store.



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**PE Day: Let's Take It Outside**

This year, for our fourth annual PE Day on **August 7**, let's take it outside. Outside the office and outside the profession. [Sign up to be a PE Day Advocate](#) and we'll schedule in-district meetings for you with your members of Congress and/or their staff. Take advantage of the opportunity to promote the value of professional licensing, build relationships with your members of Congress and their staff, and advocate for the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act (H.R. 2139/S. 1097).

PE Day is right around the corner and this is one of the many ways you can participate.

Never conducted a meeting with your representative's office before? No worries! The government relations staff is here to help you every step of the way. We'll provide all of the necessary materials, conduct a training webinar, and walk you through best practices for holding a successful meeting.

[Register now.](#)

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## **New and Improved Access to BER Cases**

The Board of Ethical Review's decades-long role as an ethical guide for the profession is like no other. As the BER's case catalog hits the 60-year mark, NSPE has released a major upgrade to its publicly available database of over 600 cases. The entirely unique reference gives full access to practicing engineers, students, educators, researchers, and anyone else who wants to learn more about the dilemmas engineers sometimes face in their work.

The database enables users to search the case catalog based on the topic—such as conflicts of interest or approval of engineering documents—by year, or by key words. The database also makes it easy for users to connect the cases to the relevant sections of NSPE's Code of Ethics for Engineers.

[Access the Board of Ethical Review Cases.](#)

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## **Call for Volunteers**

*A message from 2019–2020 NSPE President David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE:*

Dear NSPE Colleagues,

Volunteers are at the heart of NSPE's work—providing exceptional experiences and essential tools to our community.

I am excited to invite you to respond to this year's Call for Volunteers. We need your skills, passion, and perspectives to build a vibrant, inclusive, and multicultural corps of volunteer leaders throughout our committees, interest groups, and task forces.

Volunteer opportunities within NSPE exist through many different areas of interest and on varying levels of engagement, from participation in short-term projects to our highest level of engagement as an active volunteer of a chair-appointed committee.

Please review the online [2019–2020 NSPE Call for Volunteers Form](#) to learn more about volunteer opportunities. **If you are interested in serving, please fill out the form by August 1.** You are limited to one selection within each engagement group. Appointments will be confirmed by the end of September.

Please note that depending on the number of responses received and the finite number of volunteer positions to fill, there may not be a role for everyone this year. While every effort will be made to place you in your primary area of interest in your desired engagement level, we may be unable to make a match due to limited vacancies.

We welcome your expertise and enthusiasm in becoming a part of this active and talented group of volunteers. Thank you for your consideration.

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) and login to manage your account.

**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA**