

State News for NSPE Members

Letter to the Editor Argues Against Threat to Licensure

ARPL, the licensing coalition co-founded by NSPE, collaborated with a Florida state member of ASCE, to successfully publish a Letter-to-the-Editor in the Tallahassee Democrat. The letter is in response to an article titled “Deregulate it? Florida Lawmakers aim to boost employment by cutting licensing requirements.”

In the LTE, ARPL and Christopher Sharek made a strong argument for maintaining current rigorous licensing requirements for highly-technical professions. “While lowering barriers to entry for occupations is a worthy goal,” Christopher writes, “lawmakers must be careful not to sweep up professions with high public impact in the name of ‘reform.’”

You can read the full [Letter-to-the-Editor here](#). This is just one of the many ways that NSPE is actively working to promote and defend licensure in the state of Florida.

NSPE-FL Member Recognized for Engineering Excellence

NSPE member Lt. Cmdr. Christopher McDowell, P.E. was honored last month at a luncheon at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. McDowell was named as one of the [10 top finalists for the Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#).

As public works officer for Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida, McDowell recently guided 90 personnel in the quality execution of \$35 million in new construction and \$41 million of maintenance activities. Following Hurricane Michael’s devastation in October 2018, he developed a plan that allowed essential personnel to remain on base, while securing temporary utilities and life support.

New Tools Available for PE Advocates

As “occupational reform” bills spring up across the country and put professional licensing at risk, an NSPE-

formed coalition has prepared a useful resource kit that can be used by PE advocates to set the record straight.

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing is working to remind lawmakers that highly complex and technical professions, like engineering, rely on a rigorous system to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It's this rigor that clearly sets these professions apart from the vocational occupations that lawmakers often cite in defense of their efforts to weaken licensing requirements.

You can learn more about the threat in an ARPL-produced webinar covering the organization's background, its work on behalf of highly technical licensed professions, and the state advocacy tools it's created.

You'll also find advocacy and messaging resources on the main page of the public Drop Box, titled "State Partner Tools and Resources (ARPL)." On this page, you'll see folders for Key Messages and Talking Points, Lawmaker Outreach Handouts, Public Opinion Research, Sample Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds, Social Media, State Specific Folders, Video Files, and a folder for the webinar.

In addition to NSPE, alliance members include the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

If you have questions, please contact Margaret Edwards at medwards@nspe.org.

PE Licensing Renewals suspended for 30 days

On Saturday, March 14, during a press conference at the state emergency operations center concerning COVID-19, Governor Ron DeSantis directed the EOC to move their operations to level one and also instructed the Florida Department of Health to hire additional epidemiologists and public health staff. In addition to the suspending of driver's license renewals for 30 days, Gov. DeSantis announced that professional licensing renewals will also be suspended for 30 days.

[Read more about this issue.](#)

Florida Lawmakers Consider PE Role In Amusement Ride Safety

The Florida House of Representatives has added amusement ride safety to its agenda, including a potential PE role in the permitting process.

A bill (H.B. 1275) introduced in January would require permit applications for temporary amusement rides. To ensure a ride has been inspected and meets state requirements, a professional engineer or qualified person would have to submit an affidavit.

The legislation specifies that a "qualified inspector" must have the following qualifications:

- At least five years of experience in the amusement ride field with at least two years in actual amusement

- ride inspection with a manufacturer, government agency, park, carnival, or insurance underwriter;
- 32 hours per year of continuing education at a school approved by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

[Read more about this in PE Magazine.](#)

Climate Change Special Issue

As climate change effects proliferate, professional engineers are taking on the crisis. They're working to provide solutions as part of their responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The [March/April issue of PE magazine](#) includes three articles highlighting PEs' work in this area:

- ["Climate Changers"](#) –Young engineers feel a responsibility to take action on climate with their work—and they're increasingly choosing to work for companies that share this perspective.
- ["Harsh Realities Drive Adaptation"](#) – Cities are targeting climate-change impacts with comprehensive policies. Professional engineers and AEC firms are showing that their expertise can help bring these plans to fruition.
- ["A Grand Challenge Needs to Inspire Grand Solutions"](#) – Professional engineers have an abundance of opportunities to invent creative, innovative solutions to issues surrounding environmental sustainability and resilience.



Share Your Views on the Engineering Profession

Do you support the elimination of state licensure exemptions? Should states align their licensing requirements to help PEs easily practice in multiple jurisdictions? Does your place of employment welcome diverse perspectives?

These are just some of the issues facing the professional engineering community. NSPE encourages you to provide your perspectives on these topics and more by participating in the [2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey](#).

The 15-minute survey is open to NSPE members, engineering students, and engineering professionals. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of four \$50 Amazon gift cards.

The results of the survey will be made available to participants and will also be shared in *PE* magazine and other NSPE publications.

[Access the 2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey.](#)

Communication on Your Terms: Update Your Preferences

The screenshot shows the 'My Account' page for Mrs Rhoda Chari. The page is divided into three main sections:

- Profile Information:** Displays the member's name, MemberID (300182816), Membership Expiration Date (12/31/2019), and contact details (1420 King St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2794, email: zzrchari@nspe.org). Below this are buttons for 'EDIT CONTACT INFO', 'EDIT DEMOGRAPHICS', 'RENEW NOW', 'CHANGE PASSWORD', 'NSPE COMMUNITIES', 'STATE HOME', and 'ENTERPRISE ADMIN'.
- Account Links:** A blue sidebar menu containing links for 'My Degrees', 'My Donations', 'My Downloads', 'My Expertise', 'My Committees', 'Manage my Subscriptions', 'My Interest Groups', 'My Social Media', and 'My Payment Info'.
- Annotations:** Red text and arrows indicate 'Step 1: Update your profile' pointing to the 'EDIT CONTACT INFO' button, and 'Step 2: Select your email preferences' pointing to the 'Manage my Subscriptions' link.

NSPE is committed to providing the best service possible. To that end, we need to verify that member profile information is accurate. This includes preferred names and titles, and employer and contact information. NSPE asks all members to [review their member profile and update their information](#).

Thanks to updates to the NSPE database, members can now also choose exactly what emails they want to receive. With new subscription management options, members can unsubscribe from some mailing lists without missing out on information of interest to them. In order to make this possible, all members' email settings have been reset to the default. Everyone will need to log into their account to manage their preferences, even if they have previously unsubscribed from a mailing list.

[Update information and preferences.](#)

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

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#).

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**

[Unsubscribe](#) from these messages.

