I'm happy to present this new format of The West Virginia Engineer. This rebranding comes with the WVSPE Board of Director’s unanimous decision to adopt the membership model proposed by NSPE and adopted by the 2017 House of Delegates, on which I served.

The decision to join 40+ states and territories in adopting the membership model comes with increased benefits and you will also see a modest increase in cost. NSPE has been posting short, “how to” videos showing members how to get full value from their membership on NSPE’s YouTube channel.

As I reflect upon these changes for the future, I looked back at the 80+ year collection of The West Virginia Engineer to study and reflect on past changes with WVSPE. For example, looking back 50 years to 1968, I see WVSPE President’s Message quotes like, “Engineering Organizations (in this fast moving scientific age) must constantly re-evaluate their programs and plans in relation to the changing needs of the profession;” “Engineers can and probably should lead the way to a better world and a better way of life” as a partner to “rebuild America;” “If the Society is to properly serve the profession, the younger engineers must become involved.” These statements are all just as true today – and were spoken before advent of the handheld calculator, the personal computer, the internet, and Twitter!

I’m excited about the ongoing changes and believe that a stronger, more integrated NSPE will reinforce WVSPE’s dedication to the protection of the engineering profession as a social and economic influence vital to the health, safety and welfare of our communities. This includes WVSPE’s focus on Discover Engineering Week, MATHCOUNTS, EXPO and other activities highlighted in this issue.

THE FUTURE LOOKS VERY BRIGHT FOR ENGINEERING IN WEST VIRGINIA!

1. David L. Weaver, P.E.
President, WV Society of Professional Engineers

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY! WVSPE.ORG
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The Annual Discover Engineering Week Scholarship Dinner was held on February 22nd at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in downtown Charleston.

Nearly 70 people attended the event including key note speaker Secretary of Transportation Tom Smith, P.E.

Overall, twelve scholarships were given out at the dinner by WVSPE, ACEC-WV, and WVASCE. WVSPE handed out six scholarships this year.

OUR WINNERS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:
Eric Gandee, WVSPE $1,000 scholarship
Jaycie Saseen, WVSPE $1,000 scholarship
Reid Hasher, WVSPE $500 scholarship
Trevor Johnson, WVSPE $500 scholarship
Natasha Napier, WVSPE $500 scholarship
Peyton Panger, WVSPE $500 scholarship

Each of the winners gave a short speech on why they chose engineering as their field of study and discussed their future plans and goals.

All winners were very appreciative of the scholarship and were very professional.

Secretary Smith gave an excellent presentation regarding the highway department’s ever expanding program thanks to the passage of the road bond and other key legislation.
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The 35th Annual MATHCOUNTS competition was held at Braxton County Middle School on March 24. Representatives from 15 schools across West Virginia assembled to contend for the opportunity to represent West Virginia in the National Competition in Washington D.C. on May 12 – May 15.

The middle school students gathered bright and early to put their math skills to the test. Those talented students took a math test that determined the top school teams and top individuals of West Virginia. The top four individual winners will represent West Virginia in the National Competition in Florida. Ryan Butler from Suncrest Middle School will coach the West Virginia National team.

MATHCOUNTS provides fun and challenging math programs for US middle school students to help them increase their academic and professional opportunities. With the generous support of all MATHCOUNTS sponsors and volunteers from registered Professional Engineers across the state, along with the leadership of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers, MATHCOUNTS is providing today’s students with the foundation for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.

“MATHCOUNTS is a great opportunity for these young middle schoolers to showcase their mathematical talent. These students are some of the best and brightest in West Virginia, and will surely be future leaders in business and industry,” Moran said. MATHCOUNTS challenges students’ critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, develops their self-confidence and rewards them for their achievements.

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Let’s look to have a breakout year!

Over the years the West Virginia Construction and Design Expo has been the biggest and best trade show in the state and this year was no different. With over 300 exhibitors and 75 seminars, the Expo was again a tremendous success. The Charleston Civic Center is going through a massive update and a large majority of the construction is completed including the new front entrance facing Clendenin Street.

David Martini, P.E. from NSPE attended the Expo and participated in the Board Meeting. He updated the Board of Directors and members of events at NSPE and fielded several questions. It was an honor to have David in West Virginia attending the show.

WVPSE Board Members helped coordinate and approve seminars at Expo and played a key role in the management of the show. Planning for an event the size of Expo starts 6 months out.

The Civic Center construction should be completed by next year’s Expo in March and we look to have a breakout year!
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THE TOP FIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS WERE:
- Suncrest Middle School
- John Adams Middle School
- Triadelphia Middle School
- Princeton Middle School
- Bridgeport Middle School

THE TOP FOUR INDIVIDUALS WERE:
- Alice Guo, Suncrest Middle School
- Amy Lu, Suncrest Middle School
- Lauren Shen, Suncrest Middle School
- Grant Kenamond, Triadelphia Middle School