

State News for NSPE Members

Changes for License Renewal

State of Alaska license renewals are coming up in December 2019. As such, the AELS board has been diligently looking for ways to improve the continuing education process and create a better system for Alaskan engineers to renew their licenses.

The AELS board conducts audits each renewal cycle to see that people are keeping adequate records to support their continuing education at the time of license renewal. They have found that some individuals “check the box” assuming they will complete the credits, but then fall short on credits when audited. When it is discovered that they are short, the matter is then referred to the attorney general’s office as making a false statement. As one can imagine, it gets a little ugly from there.

To reduce this shortfall, the AELS board is putting in an “extension fee,” which would allow you to say, I have not completed, but I will complete in the next month. This would give you a chance to complete until the end of January. Your license will not renew until you complete, but it should help people avoid that last minute crunch at the end of the year.

They are also implementing a “late fee” if you renew after the end of the period. This is in an attempt to get people to do their CEUs and turn in renewals on time, which would reduce the administrative burden on the department and board members.

Another change is the review process of what is applicable education for renewal. They agree the language is not as clear as it could be as to the content of the education. Health, safety, welfare, ethics, managerial content, and professional skills are subjective. They are going to try and improve the language to make it easier for everyone to comply and make sure it supports the goals of licensures in Alaska.

Your NSPE membership provides you with access to [FREE PDH courses](#). There are courses on ethics and managerial content that may be relevant to every discipline. Please review the course content to ensure that the courses meet the current definitions for Continuing Education for discipline-specific license renewal. I took a free ethics course from NSPE recently and thought the cases discussed were applicable to my professional work.

If you have any thoughts about continuing education, please feel free to pass them on to the board of Alaska Society of Professional Engineers at alaskaspe@gmail.com.

Chris Miller
Statewide President

Volunteers Needed

ASPE is looking for volunteers for statewide treasurer. ASPE is comprised of a statewide board that helps with the Alaska Engineering and Education Foundation (AEEF) and has representatives from each of the three chapters (Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Juneau).

The statewide board meets in person twice a year (March and October), and monthly by telephone. The statewide group would love to find a volunteer to help us get our internal bookkeeping system in simple repeatable working order. If you have some time available to contribute to the professional society, please reach out to me, Chrism@designalaska.com, current statewide president, and I will discuss with you our needs.

The statewide treasurer would also get some exposure to the AEEF, which puts on MATHCOUNTS each year, provides scholarships to university students, and manages a growing investment portfolio to provide an endowment for years to come.

If treasurer is not your thing, but you have other energy to contribute, please let me know. We would love to have more participation from our members, and especially those who do not have easy access to the three chapters.

Input Requested on Engineering Degree Programs

The University of Alaska is developing a plan to combine the engineering colleges from UAF and UAA into one combined program. The degrees below are provided at the undergraduate and graduate level at UAA and UAF. The university would love some input from the engineering societies about eliminating/combining

programs to improve student outcomes and cost efficiency. From your perspective, which of these degrees should UA focus on maintaining in the foreseeable future with a combination of classroom, real-time distance delivery, and self-directed e-learning?

- Civil Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Geological Engineering
- Geomatics / Survey (Associates and B.S.)
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mining Engineering
- Petroleum Engineering
- Project Management/Construction Management (Graduate Only)
- Water and Environmental Science (Graduate Only)


Email me back with your thoughts at Chrism@designalaska.com or talk directly to the deans of engineering at UAA and UAF to provide your opinion. More information on the current offerings can be found at the UAA and UAF engineering websites.

If you have experience with engineering degree work delivered through a combination of teaching format, please provide any suggestions that you may have to shape the programs for future Alaska engineering students.

Advocacy Campaign a Success—But More Action Needed





 **Trish Hatley** @triciahatley - Aug 7. Met with Senator Inhofe's field rep @BrysonPanas this morning in our @FreeseNichols office to talk about the need to reduce licensure exemptions and how PE's help protect the public health, safety and welfare. #LicensedPEday #PEDayAdvocate

More than 100 NSPE members either met with or called their legislators and staffers on August 7 as part of the Society's Professional Engineers Day advocacy campaign. It was the largest such campaign in remembered NSPE history. PEs joined together to speak up for the importance of licensure and passage of a federal bill that would require PE oversight of utility pipelines, following the 2018 Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts, gas line explosion.

NSPE's Manager of Government Relations and Advocacy Stephanie Hamilton called the day "a strong success" as enthusiastic NSPE members worked to build lasting relationships that will help them be seen as experts on licensure and technical matters now and in the future.

However, the week before the campaign, the Senate version of the bill was added as an amendment to a larger pipeline safety bill and watered down to remove the PE requirement. According to Hamilton, the Society was "disappointed" and "dismayed" about this change to the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act, named after the teenager killed.

It's not too late to make a difference, however. NSPE members are urged to contact their legislators.

Read More

- [PE article on the advocacy campaign](#);
- [Hamilton's column on the changes to the bill and how members can take action](#);
- [Popular Mechanics article highlighting the personal impacts of the deadly explosion](#).

2019 Fall Webinar Series Open for Registration



Register now for the [2019 Fall Webinar Series](#) ! Develop your skills and earn continuing education credits this fall. Stay current on a variety of topics from the comfort of your home or office. Don't miss NSPE Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Arthur Schwartz's Ethics Forum each month—register for individual webinars or [get a special bundle price](#) until **September 17**.

Sign up now for these webinars:

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Employers and Clients](#)
September 18
- [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#)
September 25
- [Mindfulness in Action](#)
October 2
- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Vendors and Colleagues](#)
October 16
- [Clients are from Venus, Consultants from Mars: A Guide to Effective Management of Consultants](#)

November 6

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#)

November 13

And don't forget that, as part of your NSPE membership, you also receive access to [15 free online seminars](#) .

Find Quality Candidates or a Great New Job



NSPE's online event for employers and job seekers will take place again on **October 2** from 11 am – 3 pm Eastern.

Whether you're an engineer just starting out or an experienced professional looking for a new opportunity, you can connect with employers from the comfort of your home, office, smartphone, or tablet. The event is free for job seekers.

Companies in search of top talent will be able to access professionals representing all engineering sectors around the country.

[Employers: Learn more and register.](#)

[Job seekers: Learn more and register.](#)

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