

State News for NSPE Members

ASPE Statewide Fall Board Meeting Recap

The annual fall board meeting for the [Alaska Society of Professional Engineers](#) (Statewide) and the [Alaska Engineering Education Foundation](#) was held virtually on October 30. The Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau chapter directors each reported on the activities of their respective chapters. Additional discussion revolved around the need for better communication between the ASPE Statewide board and the chapter boards.

There has been a delay in getting out ballots for new officers this year, but be on the lookout for a mid-year election ballot soon. ASPE will be looking for a new statewide president-elect to join the board at the end of March 2022.

Upcoming Engineers Week Activities—February 20-26, 2022



Each of the ASPE chapters participate in activities to celebrate engineering, promote understanding and appreciation of professional engineers, and to encourage young people to pursue careers in STEM fields.

Fairbanks Chapter

The Fairbanks Chapter will hold their annual Engineers Week banquet on February

26 at the Westmark. The band will be the Headbolt Heaters and the featured speaker will be announced soon. ASPE-Fairbanks has teamed up with the local ASCE chapter to get the word out through their respective email distribution lists.

If you would like to receive notices about activities, please contact [Emily Winfield](#).

Anchorage Chapter

The Anchorage Chapter has begun their fundraising efforts for scholarships and student activities. The chapter will hold its annual banquet on February 26. The Engineer of the Year and Engineering Excellence Awards honorees, scholarship winners, and the University of Alaska-Anchorage College of Engineering Alumni Hall of Fame recipient will be recognized during the banquet.

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer to help with school presentations, student competitions, etc. Check for updates and contact information [here](#).

Juneau Chapter

The Alaska Capital Engineers (ACE) will hold a virtual meeting to highlight the Engineer of the Year and Project of the Year.

Licensing Board Continuing Education Survey 2021

The Alaska Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS) is reviewing its continuing education regulations and wants your feedback on continued professional competency.

Please take five minutes to participate in the survey by clicking [here](#). Today (**December 15**) is the last day to complete the survey.

Board Meeting

AELS will hold its next meeting **February 15-16**. Access the [board website](#) for the meeting agenda and past meeting information.

All professional registration applications are due no later than 30 days prior to the board meeting. The next deadline is January 15. For additional information and assistance with applications, please [send an email](#) to the AELS Executive Administrator and Licensing Examiner.

Public Comment Sought on Proposed Fire and Life Safety Regulations

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire and Life Safety proposes to adopt regulation changes in **Title 13 of the Alaska Administrative Code**, dealing with building code standards, fire code standards, mechanical code standards, fuel gas

code standards, non-structural plan review and fees, stop work orders, fire protection system permits, firework permits, standards of organization and services of a fire department, and oil and gas hydrocarbon processing facilities.

Draft regulation changes to Title 13 of the Alaska Administrative Code are available for public comment. The draft regulation changes and comment link can be accessed in the [Alaska Online Public Notice System](#). Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on **December 30**.

Infrastructure Law Funds Bridge and Road Repair, Transportation Upgrades

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will pay to repair and rebuild roads and bridges in Alaska with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

There are 141 bridges and over 577 miles of highway in poor condition in Alaska, according to the [US Department of Transportation](#). Since 2011, commute times have increased by 7.5% in the state, and on average, each driver pays \$402 in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. The state is expected to receive approximately \$3.7 billion over five years in federal highway formula funding for highways and bridges.

In addition, \$404 million over five years will be spent on improving public transportation in Alaska. Funding will also cover modernization of freight rail, increased EV charging options, airport improvements, and other infrastructure updates.

Governor, DOT Commissioner Announce Highway System Plan

Governor Mike Dunleavy and Department of Transportation Commissioner Ryan Anderson, P.E., announced their [plan to re-energize](#) the Alaska Marine Highway System. Among the significant capital investments is a new ocean-class vessel to replace the 57-year-old Tustumena ferry.

"The Tusty has been plying rough seas for nearly 60 years and is approaching the end of its service life. Annual repairs for the vessel now reach \$2 million," stated Governor Dunleavy in the [December 6 news release](#). "I've asked DOT to replace this key piece of infrastructure to ensure connectivity for our coastal communities for another 50 years."

The marine highway serves 35 communities in Alaska and transports goods,

vehicles, and passengers between communities. The ocean highway also links coastal communities to Alaska's highway and rail network.

The replacement vessel is estimated to cost \$200 million to \$250 million and will be competitively bid. The new ship is expected to begin service in 2027. The new ship's vehicle and passenger capacity would increase by 40% over the Tustumena, from 34 to 52 vehicles and from 160 to 250 passengers.

"The new vessel will make the fleet more resilient and responsive to the needs of coastal communities—through more passenger and vehicle space, but also more fuel efficient engines, diesel and electric propulsion systems, and an efficient design to move through the water easily," said Commissioner Anderson. "It will be built to serve coastal communities throughout our system, allowing flexibility to move our ships around during annual lay-ups."

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Share Your Story #IAMNSPE

Who is NSPE?

NSPE is its members. NSPE members—like you—bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. Learn more about your peers and [share your own story](#) with a 30-second video and the hashtag, #IAMNSPE.

I Am Innovative

Ben Amaba, P.E., LEED AP, CPIM, BD+C
CTO Digital Transformation with Technology Innovation

NSPE is “the perfect venue to learn, network, and advance your skills,” according to Ben Amaba, an innovator at IBM. It brings together a diverse set of professionals who are innovating the world, and has helped him both personally and professionally.



Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The NSPE Honor Awards promote the professional engineer's contributions to society and recognize the achievements of the profession's very best. The deadline for [award submissions](#) is **January 31, 2022**.

NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. **Steven Arndt, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE**, a world-renowned authority in the field of nuclear engineering, received the award in 2020.



New Professional Award

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career. **Stephanie Blain, P.E.**, received the award in 2021. She is employed with Palmer Engineering Company in Lexington, Kentucky.



Get Your 15 Free PDHs for 2021—While They Last

Access to the 2021 selection of 15 free courses ends in January, so claim them before it's too late. Members can conveniently view courses from the comfort of their home or office.

PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida, and are earned after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. Simply “purchase” the webinars and add them to your NSPE member account.

Webinars in your account can be accessed for up to one year.



Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#)
- [How To Be An Effective Witness](#)
- [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#)
- [Your System Now and in the Future - Ensuring Sustainability through Strategic Planning](#)

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