



Changes to the Louisiana Engineering Society Membership Model

The Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) Board of Direction has recently made changes that will affect membership in LES and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). You are no longer required to join both LES **and** NSPE. Under the new plan there are three membership options:

1. LES membership only – You pay \$95 for membership in LES only.
2. LES and NSPE membership – You pay \$95 to LES and \$299 to NSPE for a total of \$394 for membership in both organizations.
3. NSPE membership only – You pay \$299 to NSPE for membership in NSPE only.

LES and NSPE will invoice separately for membership dues in the respective organizations (e.g. under option 2 you will receive two separate invoices).

Background - LES is the state affiliate of NSPE, which means that as a PE or EI member of LES, you are also a member of NSPE. NSPE's House of Delegates moved and approved the implementation of a new membership business model to be effective July 1, 2018. This change in the NSPE model directly affects membership in the Louisiana Engineering Society.

The NSPE model now has two types of state affiliations, integrated and non-integrated.

What is the Integrated model? An integrated membership includes membership in both the National Organization (NSPE) and one State Society (LES) for PE and EI members, offered at a society-wide, single dues price point.

What is the Non-Integrated model? A non-integrated membership, in which a member may choose to join the State Society (LES) and/or the National Organization (NSPE) with no requirement to join both. In other words, Louisiana engineers that are eligible to become a LES member could choose to be a member of LES, LES and NSPE, or only NSPE.

LES's challenges and concerns –The main challenge and concern for LES was to protect the rights of our members. Over the years, we have worked with our members to establish trust and have worked to ensure that your rights were protected. As a sign of that trust, the LES Constitution and Bylaws were setup to strengthen member rights and require member approval before certain actions were taken. Specifically, the increase in member dues above a certain amount requires a vote of the membership. If LES were to choose the integrated model, then LES would give up all decision making to NSPE. The measures of membership protection established by the LES Constitution and Bylaws would go away and our members would fall under the direction of NSPE with LES only having a few votes with respect to membership policy.

Since the beginning of 2017, LES began voicing our concerns to NSPE leadership. Unfortunately, LES and NSPE were not able to reach an agreement addressing our concerns.

Moving Forward - NSPE required all state societies to decide which model their society would choose by December 31, 2017. During the November 2017 LES Board meeting, LES leadership discussed at length the two options, pros/cons of each, and alternative solutions. In the end, the Board agreed it was in the best interest of LES members to move forward with the Non-Integrated model due to the unresolved issues with the Integrated model. The Board made the following motion:

"While we, the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES), believe it is in the best interest of both LES and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) to continue our longstanding affiliation, and to continue discussions to resolve LES concerns regarding the new NSPE business model, we must, at this time, choose to not integrate."

Starting April 1, 2018, NSPE will start sending out separate invoices for NSPE only membership to LES members. There will be no mention of becoming a LES member, nor the ability to join LES, on these new NSPE only membership invoices. Lastly, this change with NSPE does not affect LES membership dues or organizational structure in any way.

LES leadership is dedicated and committed to you, our members. We will continue to have discussions with NSPE on these issues to find a solution that works for both LES and NSPE but only if it does not diminish the level of service that you, our members, receive and deserve.

Do you have questions or comments? Please feel free to contact Brenda at brenda@les-state.org.

*****Please make sure to watch your email, monthly newsletters and the quarterly *Engineer & Surveyor Journal* for updates regarding the Membership model and how it will affect you as a member of LES*****