

## CHANGES TO THE MISSISSIPPI ENGINEERING SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MODEL

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

1. MES membership only- You pay State dues and Chapter dues:  
Bogue Chitto-\$95, Delta-\$100, Gulf Coast-\$125, Jackson-\$120, Meridian-\$110, Natchez-\$91, Northern-\$100, and Southeast Area-\$170
2. MES and NSPE membership- You pay State and Chapter dues to MES and \$299 to NSPE for membership in both organizations
3. NSPE membership only- You pay \$299 to NSPE for membership in NSPE only

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

**Background-** MES is the state affiliate of NSPE, which means that as a PE or EI member of MES, you are also a member of NSPE, with \$154 of your membership dues currently sent to them. 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 Mississippi Engineering Society.

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

**What is the Integrated Model?** An integrated membership includes membership in both NSPE and MES 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 MES and/or NSPE with no requirement to join both. In other words, Mississippi engineers that are eligible to become a MES member could choose to be a member of MES, MES and NSPE, or only NSPE.

**MES's challenges and concerns-** The main challenge and concern for MES was to protect and provide value to members. Over the years, we have worked very hard with our members to establish trust and competency with regards to membership dues billing, privacy and utilization of the Enterprise Membership program. If MES were to choose the integrated model, then MES would give up all decision making to NSPE. All billing and customer service would fall under NSPE, leaving no room for autonomy for MES on the state and chapter levels. Enterprise memberships and their discounts would no longer be in effect, which is not a desirable outcome for MES as at least 40% of the membership falls under Enterprise Memberships.

Since the beginning of 2017, MES began voicing our concerns to NSPE leadership. Unfortunately, MES 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. MES leadership spent the better part of the year discussing the two options at length, pros/cons of each, and alternative solutions. In the end, the Board agreed that it was in the best interest of MES members to move forward with the non-integrated model due to the unresolved issues with the integrated model. The MES Board made the following motion:

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

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

MES 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 MES and NSPE but only if it does not diminish the level of service that you, our members, receive and deserve. If you have questions or comments, please contact Malinda Battey at [msengsoc@bellsouth.net](mailto:msengsoc@bellsouth.net).