

CHARTER

PREAMBLE

Members of the Florida Engineering Society, Inc., recognize the efficacy of concerted action properly channeled through unity of purpose.

Therefore recognizing that service to the Society, to the State, and to the Profession can best be accomplished through a united group imbued with the spirit of service, the Florida Engineering Society, Inc., pledges itself to the promotion and to the protection of the profession of engineering as a social and an economic influence in the affairs of mankind.

ARTICLE I-NAME

The name of this association shall be the Florida Engineering Society, Inc., hereinafter called the Society.

ARTICLE II-PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Florida Engineering Society shall be the advancement of the public welfare and the promotion of the professional, educational, social, and economic interests of the engineering profession; to stimulate and develop professional concepts among all engineers; and to strive throughout the profession to make registration more meaningful in terms of individual achievement in engineering as reflected by education and practice.

2. The Society shall be a professional organization, not a collective bargaining unit for compensation and working conditions of its members.

ARTICLE III-NATIONAL AFFILIATION

The Society, through its Corporate Division, shall be the member State Society of the National Society of Professional Engineers, hereinafter referred to as NSPE.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of the Society shall consist of a Corporate and Non-corporate Division.

2. The Corporate Division shall consist of the following membership classifications: Life Member, Fellow, Professional Engineer Member, Engineer Intern Member, Associate Member, Land Surveyor Member, RESPECT Member, and Retired Member. All members of the Corporate Division must maintain membership in good standing with NSPE.

a. A Fellow Member shall be a Professional Engineer Member of recognized high character with distinguished engineering achievements and who shall be elected FELLOW only by unanimous vote of the Board, except that automatic Fellow membership status be granted to the individual who is not already a Fellow serving as State Society President upon completion of the term, and will be formalized at the awards ceremony following or immediately preceding the individual's last Board meeting as President."

b. A Professional Engineer Member shall be a Professional Engineer as defined by the holding of a valid license or certificate of engineering registration issued under the laws of any state, territory, possession, or district of the United States or Canada.

c. An Engineer Intern Member shall be an Engineer Intern, or equivalent, holding a valid certificate issued under the laws of any state, territory, possession, or district of the United States or Canada.

d. An Associate Member shall be a graduate engineer qualified to be admitted to examination as an Engineer Intern as defined in Chapter 471.21 of the Florida Statutes but who does not hold a valid certificate as an Engineer Intern or Engineer-in-Training in any state, territory, or possession or district of the United States or Canada.

e. A Surveyor Member shall be a person holding a valid license or registration as a Land Surveyor issued under the laws of any state, territory, possession or district of the United States or Canada.

f. A Surveyor-in-Training Member shall be a Surveyor-in-Training or equivalent, holding a valid certificate issued under the laws of any state, territory, possession or district of the United States or Canada.

g. A Life Member shall be any Fellow, Professional Engineer Member, Engineer Intern Member, Associate Member, or Surveyor Member or Surveyor-in-Training Member who shall have met all of the following qualifications:

(1)The member shall have retired from the active practices of professional engineering.

(2)The member shall be at least 65 years of age.

(3)The member shall have been a member of the Florida Engineering Society in good standing for a continuous period of years in accordance with the following escalated scale.

Year of joining FES	Year FES Life Membership Begins	No. Years Continuous FES Dues Payment
1951	1971	20
1952	1973	21
1953	1975	22
1954	1977	23
1955	1979	24
1956	1981	25
1957	1983	26
1958	1985	27
1959	1987	28
1960	1989	29
1961	1991	30
		Thereafter 30 years

(4) The Member shall file formal application by letter, certifying compliance with all requirements for eligibility, through the local chapter (if any).

(5) Members of the Corporate Division meeting these requirements and current NSPE requirements for Life Membership will be certified by the Society to NSPE on such application.

(6) At such time as a RESPECT member (Retired Special-Transfer) shall have paid Florida Engineering Society dues for the required number of years the RESPECT Member may apply for Life Membership.

h. A RESPECT Member (Retired-Special-Transfer):

(1) Shall be at least 65 years of age.

(2) Shall have retired from the active practice of professional engineering.

(3) Shall have been made a Life Member of the National Society of Professional Engineers through membership in a State Society other than the Florida Engineering Society.

i. A Retired Member:

(1) Shall be retired from full-time employment and/or active practice of engineering; and

(2) Shall be at least 62 years of age and have paid dues for 5 preceding years, or shall be at least 58 years of age and have met the requirements for continuous membership as set forth in the Life Member requirements; and

(3) Shall file formal application by letter, certifying compliance with all requirements for eligibility.

(4) Shall be a resident of the State of Florida.

3. The Non-Corporate Division shall consist of the following membership classifications: Affiliate and Student Member.

a. An Affiliate shall be any member of the Society at the time of adoption of this amendment who does not qualify for the membership grade of Fellow, Professional Engineer, Engineer Intern, Associate, or Student Member. Additionally, members who are Associates at the time of adoption of this amendment and who indicate they do not wish to become an Associate Member in good standing with NSPE shall be reclassified as Affiliate. Membership as Affiliate shall be closed except to members of the Society at the time of adoption of this amendment and shall not be available to new applicants.

b. A Student Member shall be an undergraduate or graduate engineering student enrolled full time at a Florida college or junior college. At schools with an approved FES Student Chapter all members of the Student Chapter shall be Student Members of the Society. At schools with an approved NSPE Student Chapter all members of the Student Chapter shall be Student Members of the FES and NSPE. At schools which do not have an approved FES Student Chapter engineering students may become Student Members (At Large) of the Society.

4. All Society members in good standing, except Student Members, shall be entitled to membership in a chapter and may be eligible for membership in a Practice Section subject to the Bylaws or standing rules of such Practice Sections.

5. Privileges and rights accorded to members in good standing:

- a. Members of the Society's Corporate Division shall have the right to vote on amendments to the Charter and Bylaws.
- b. Members of the Society's Corporate Division shall have the right to vote on Society officers.
- c. Only Fellow and Professional Engineer Members of the Corporate Division are entitled to hold the office of President, President-Elect, and NSPE Director.
- d. All members holding office in the Society shall reside within the State of Florida.
- e. Except for limitations provided in 5(c) and 5(d) members of the Corporate Division are entitled to hold Society office.

ARTICLE V

The Society shall exist perpetually unless sooner dissolved by law.

ARTICLE VI

The names and residences of subscribers hereto, are as follows: L.D. Smoot, W.P. Darwin, and H.D. Mendenhall, all of Jacksonville, Florida, and R.E. Chandler and J.R. Benton, both of Gainesville, Florida.

ARTICLE VII-ADMINISTRATION

1. The government and the management of the funds, properties, and affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Board of Directors, consisting of the President, President-Elect, Vice Presidents, NSPE Directors, the latest living Past President, the FBPE Liaison, a Director elected by each Local Chapter, a student member representative, and the chairman or president of each of the approved Practice Sections. The Board shall adopt administrative and professional policies to implement the principles and provisions of the Charter and Bylaws. The Board shall have the power to interpret the intent of the Charter and Bylaws. Practice Sections shall receive thirty (30) days notification prior to the adoption of any policies affecting the Practice Sections.
2. Each member of the Board shall have one vote. Chapter Directors and practice section presidents or chairmen may designate an FES member in their Chapter or practice section, respectively, as Proxy and shall so advise the Board in writing.
3. The terms of all elective officers and state directors shall begin at the close of the administrative year during which they were elected and shall be as follows:
State Officers - 1 year
NSPE Directors - 2 year staggered terms.
FBPE Liaison-3 years
State Directors - 3 years
The President shall not serve consecutive terms.
4. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board, consisting of the President, President-Elect, Vice Presidents, the latest living Past President, the chairmen or president of each of the approved Practice Sections, the FBPE Liaison, and the most senior NSPE Director. Within the provisions of the Charter and Bylaws, the Executive Committee shall act for the Board between Board meetings. All acts of the Executive Committee shall be subject to approval by the Board.
5. The membership shall adopt Bylaws of the corporation to further implement the intent of this Charter.
6. The Board may employ an Executive Director and such other employees as may be needed to conduct the affairs of the Society.
7. Regular meetings of the Society shall be held annually at such time and place as the Board shall designate.

ARTICLE VIII-CHAPTERS

The Board may authorize and charter Chapters as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX-PRACTICE SECTIONS

1. To further the objectives of the Society the Board of Directors is authorized to establish Practice Sections comprising groups in similar fields of employment having common professional problems and interests. Practice Sections shall operate with general autonomy under the Society's Charter and Bylaws and Policies.

2. Each Practice Section shall establish rules for operations of the management, administration, and operation of the Practice Section. All operating rules and amendments thereto shall be subject to the approval of the Society's Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors may create or dissolve Practice Sections. Failure to comply with the Charter and Bylaws or the policies of the Society may be considered a basis for the dissolution of a Practice Section.
4. The Board may delegate the government and management of the funds, properties and affairs of a Practice Section to such Practice Section.
5. Each chapter-appointed liaison representative to the Practice Sections shall be appointed by the chapter. The appointed liaison representative shall conform to the operating rules of the practice section.

ARTICLE X-INDEBTEDNESS

The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the Society may subject itself shall be \$1,500,000.

ARTICLE XI-CODE OF ETHICS

1. The Board of Directors of the Society shall adopt a Code of Ethics. Membership in the Florida Engineering Society shall be contingent upon agreement to conform with the Society's Code of Ethics, and failure to conform to the Code of Ethics shall be grounds for appropriate disciplinary action against any member.

ARTICLE XII-AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to the Charter and/or Bylaws may be proposed by a majority vote of the Board, a majority of the membership of three or more Chapters, or by a petition signed by not less than five percent of those Society members eligible to vote.
2. An Amendment to the Charter shall be adopted only by a majority vote of the membership voting by letter ballot, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to each Chapter at least 45 days prior to balloting.
3. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be adopted by:
 - a. a majority vote of the eligible voters present at any regular or special constituted membership meeting, provided that the text of the proposed Bylaws or amendment shall have been submitted to each Chapter or published in the JOURNAL at least forty-five days prior to voting, or
 - b. a majority vote of the membership voting by letter ballot, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to each Chapter at least 45 days prior to balloting.
4. The Board of Directors shall have extraordinary powers necessary to facilitate putting into effect the meaning and intent of amendments and revisions to the Charter and Bylaws, during periods of transition, after such revisions and amendments are duly approved.

Amended August 6, 1987, by letter ballot

Amended November 15, 1990, by letter ballot

Amended October 14, 1992, by letter ballot

Amended January 12, 2001, by letter ballot

Amended December 10, 2002, by letter ballot

Amended November 7, 2003, by letter ballot

Amended July 28, 2006, by letter ballot

Amended December 3, 2007, by letter ballot