



Engineering Minnesota's Future

MGEC Officer/Board of Directors Candidate Information

January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2028 Term

Office you are running for							
Director			Secretary			President	X

Name: Joe Nietfeld

Job Classification: Principal Engineer

Current Agency/Office you work in: MnDOT

Work Address: 1400 Gervais Ave, Maplewood, MN 55109

Work Phone: 651-245-8421

Email: joe.nietfeld@state.mn.us



Professional Licenses: Professional Engineer

Previous/Current offices held with MGEC (<i>list years</i>)	<i>Board Member</i>			<i>Officer</i>		
	<i>Negotiations</i>			<i>Committee Member</i>		
	<i>Representative</i>	X				

Number of years working for the State	17	Number of years a full MGEC member	17
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Why are you running for an MGEC office?

As a 17-year member of MGEC, I'm running for MGEC president to give back to the organization that has supported my career, to represent members across all classifications—from ES to AEP—and to help lead a successful contract bargaining cycle.

Throughout my work in MnDOT's Bridge, Materials, Metro District, and Government Affairs offices, I've seen firsthand how the exceptional expertise and professionalism of MGEC

members literally keep Minnesota moving. Your work enhances the safety, economy, and quality of life for every Minnesotan, and it deserves strong advocacy and recognition.

I firmly believe that MGEC members should be adequately compensated for the tremendous value we provide to the state. In the next bargaining cycle, I will fight to maintain our health coverage and advance wages—issues that are more critical than ever given double-digit health insurance premium increases, high inflation, and rising cost-of-living pressures. I am committed to ensuring meaningful gains in both wages and insurance because this is what best serves MGEC members and the people of Minnesota.

If elected, I will work to be a strong champion for Minnesota government engineers—telling our story, elevating our impact, and strengthening our voice. I will focus on building constructive relationships with the administration, agency leadership, AFSCME and MAPE so we can find common ground, leverage shared opportunities, and succeed together. For example, our wage negotiations are influenced by the patterns set by AFSCME and MAPE, making these partnerships critical to advancing our goals.

Above all, I will listen to the needs of members, lead with empathy, and work every day to represent you with integrity and dedication.

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Additional information you want to share with members:

My wife Molly and I live in St. Paul with our three children, ages 10, 8, and 6. I volunteer as a youth coach in baseball, basketball, and flag football, and this summer I had the privilege of coaching my son's team to a 2026 MN MBT 10UA State Championship. Outside of coaching, I enjoy running, hiking, fishing, and spending time up north. I will bring the same empathy, organization, teamwork, and commitment that led our team to a state championship to my work representing MGEC members.