

Frequently Asked Questions and Comments From the 2024 LSPA Member Survey

The LSPA received numerous comments and questions as part of the 2024 Member Survey. We have organized the most common ones into four categories:

- Continuing Education Credits
- In-Person and Remote Events
- Membership Rates
- Influence and Advocacy

LSPA responses to these Frequently Asked Questions and Comments (FAQs) are below. We offer them in an effort to provide clarification and additional resources that might be of interest to our membership.

As always, we value your suggestions and invite you to connect with Joe Roman, LSPA President at jroman@geiconsultants.com, Wendy Rundle, LSPA Executive Director at wrundle@lspa.org, or anyone else on the [LSPA Board](#) if you have additional suggestions, wish to volunteer to work on particular issues, or otherwise become more involved.

Continuing Education Credits

1. **Overall, I love the LSPA, but some costs per credit for continuing education are too high for emeritus and sole practitioners. Can the LSPA lower costs per credit for these member categories?** [We appreciate the concern and do our best to keep costs low. Until September 2024, we had not increased our course or member meeting pricing for 15 years. The LSPA tries to balance the needs of our members with the costs of maintaining the association. Courses and meetings for credit are a significant source of revenue. Our credit costs are comparable to those of the NJ LSRP Association and slightly more expensive than those of the CT EPOC.](#)
2. **Can the LSPA provide tips for keeping track of education credits?** [All credits earned through the LSPA come with an electronic CEU certificate. Once you have downloaded your CEU certificate in the Learning Management System \(LMS\), a PDF copy is saved in your account for future reference. Consider the LMS to be an archive of your certificates.](#)
3. **Could recordings of meetings and courses be made available for future viewing? Once the course/meeting is paid for by those attending for credit, a sort of reference library could be created for others to access, with the understanding that credit would not be given.** [A link to all LSPA member meetings is posted on the LSPA website, a few days after the meeting, for LSPA members to view as many times as they wish for free. These are posted on the YouTube platform. This is a member benefit that one can take advantage of by signing onto the LSPA website Member pages. \[Here's how.\]\(#\)](#)

- At this time, LSPA on-demand courses are not available for future viewing but the LSPA Board is exploring options for offering this benefit at some future date.
4. **Can the LSPA simplify the CEU process? I get at least two, if not three, separate emails with different ways to obtain my CEU certificate.** The LSPA does send two emails when a CEU is ready to download from the LSPA's Learning Management System (LMS). One is direct from the LMS and the second from LSPA staff directly. The reason we do this is because some spam/junk filters will trap or block the emails coming from the LMS. Sometimes technology can seem burdensome but it is actually less burdensome for LSPA staff than having to distribute 200+ CEU forms individually by email or snail mail.
 5. **Could the LSPA be less stringent with hitting the hours for CEUs precisely (a little give & take on the over/under hours)?** The LSPA must follow the rules of the LSP Board of Registration for awarding CEU credits as written in 309 CMR 3.09 (7).
 6. **Could the LSPA allow for partial credit for people to be active in the LSPA committees?** This would be a decision for the LSP Board of Registration and would need to be included in their regulations.
 7. **Can the LSPA continue its efforts to coordinate CEU events with EPOC so I can more efficiently fulfill my LSP/LEP training obligations?** We always try to apply for LEP credit for courses we think will meet the CT criteria. Unfortunately, the CT LEP Board doesn't award LEP credits for courses under 2 hours. So, most LSPA member meetings do not qualify for LEP credit.

In-Person and Remote Events

8. **Can the LSPA hold more in-person courses and meetings, especially courses at 4 and 8 hours?** Generally the LSPA hears from members that they prefer the cost, time, and energy savings of webinars and on-demand courses as compared to in-person events. But we agree that there are significant advantages to being together in person. One way the LSPA has tried to address that, for practitioners as well as vendors, is by holding the day-long Environmental Symposium in person. This allows for plenty of networking time as well as the opportunity to earn up to 9 LSP (and other) credits in one day.
9. **Could the LSPA offer a vendor trade show in conjunction with another LSPA event?** The LSPA provides vendor in-person visibility and sponsor opportunities at all of our in-person events. The upcoming [Environmental Symposium](#) provides a full day of vendor networking with space to accommodate 10 vendors. Vendors are also encouraged to attend our in-person events typically held in September and October.
10. **I very much enjoyed the annual dinners. I was also disappointed the welcome back September meeting was no longer in Newton.** We were also disappointed to forego the Newton Marriott for our September meeting.

However, that venue cost \$19,000 for the evening and it was simply too expensive. The Westborough venue, where we held the event, was significantly less expensive.

11. **Since monthly meetings are for the most part remote, in-person events at least quarterly are a great way for LSPA members to maintain connection and benefits the technical practice, hiring managers, job seekers, etc.** We agree and try to take this into account when planning meetings and courses over the year. In FY 25 we have held in-person events in the following months: September (meeting), October (social event), November (course), and have the Environmental Symposium planned for April.

Membership Rates

12. **Could the LSPA allow government employees to take courses for no fee?** Government employees get a discounted rate for LSPA annual membership (\$30) and LSPA courses. Read our terms here: [Continuing Education FAQs](#)
13. **With many of us entering retirement, could the LSPA have a retirement member rate, maybe similar to the government rate or student rate?** We do! We encourage you to check out the \$30 annual LSPA Emeritus membership option on [this page](#). It is a reduced-fee membership for retired practitioners or those working less than half time who don't need LSP credits.

Influence and Advocacy

14. **It does not appear, to me that the LSPA has any influence with regulators or governmental agencies.** While we could obviously have more influence and wish that more decisions went "our way," we think the LSPA, as a key stakeholder in the semi-privatized program, plays a significant role in influencing MassDEP's Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup and the LSP Board of Registration. [Click here](#) to read a bit more about a few recent examples of successful LSPA advocacy.