

The Philadelphia Engineer

Founding Chapter 1934 – August 2025 issue

SECOND SUMMER ISSUE for Planning YOUR Society 2025-6 Chapter Year

Congratulations to our recent graduates! Your hard work leading to your degree in Engineering is to be applauded. Your choice to be Student Members of **NSPE/PSPE** is to be commended. But now, as graduates, you are invited to take on new roles in the leadership of engineering and of society. When I was first elected to become President of the Philadelphia Chapter for CY 1989-90, I felt such was a great honor.

Now, as I again lead CY 2025-26, it is a sobering reminder that I (and perhaps others - but one does not say "Yours" when playing baseball) have not done enough to draw in new leaders, such as YOU!!

While **NSPE/PSPE** is providing much for you (see page 2) even if you were not a member, **NSPE/PSPE** has so much to offer when you become involved. At the "high level" end, helping craft legislation and persuade judges on our law, setting standards for building codes and academic accreditation, leading societal debate on topics from self-driving automobiles to issues of sustainability. At the closer "neighborhood" level, helping light the spark of respect in our youngest for mathematics and science. Become known amongst the engineers and other professional with whom you work as a **Member of NSPE/PSPE**; become known amongst your neighbors with whom you live as an **ENGINEER**. **Keeping the Enterprise running.**

Come join us, at our [National](#) or [State](#) Conferences or [Chapter Events](#). Join us to continue our PLEDGE "To place service before profit, the honor and standing of my profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations."

Fredric L Plotnick, PhD, Esq, PE, PLS

Feel free to reach out to Chris Fell, PE, membership committee chair for the Chapter, fell1@aol.com 484-431-1499 to learn more..

2025-26 Chapter Program

State PSPE Awards Received by Our Chapter
PSPE Chapter Special Projects Award for 2024-25

PSPE Chapter Special Projects Award for 2023-24

PSPE Chapter Outstanding Communications Award for 2022-23

PSPE Chapter Outstanding Program Award for 2021-22

We are now building our 2025-26 Program and look to Members for suggestions and to volunteer to share knowledge with your peers. Please contact our leadership at President@PSPE-Philly.org.

Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers Philadelphia Chapter Proposed 2025-2026 Program

Date	Event - Click Event for Details
Aug 6-8	NSPECon25
Sep 4, 2025	TOUR at Navy Yard
Sep 18-20	PSPE State Conference Allentown
Sep 25-27	BootCamp to get up to 24PDH
Oct. 9	Let's plan for a LIVE lecture, sitdown and Zoom
Nov. 6	Let's plan for a LIVE lecture, sitdown and Zoom
Dec. 4	Delaware Valley Region Outstanding Engineering Achievement Program
SE Region	Let's plan for a TOUR
Jan. 8 2026	David Fleisher on SAFETY: LIVE + Zoom
Feb. 6	Phila Chapter MathCounts
Feb. TBD	Live at Temple
MathCounts	Greater Philadelphia and Delaware Valley Regional National Engineers' Week Banquet
Feb. 28	Let's plan for a LIVE lecture, sitdown and Zoom
NSPE PA/NJ	Let's plan for a LIVE lecture, sitdown and Zoom
Engr's Week	Annual Meeting & Officers Installed
Mar. 5	
Apr. 2	
May 7	



Schuylkill River Park "Secrets of the Schuylkill" Boat Tour Thursday, August 7, 2025



The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia will once again sponsor a tour highlighting projects and recent improvements on the Schuylkill Banks park and trail network along its namesake river through Center City. We will have a knowledgeable guide on the tour who will provide background on points of interest and current projects along the riverfront.



Our tour will highlight the Schuylkill River and cover the engineering challenges faced in the development, design and construction of various elements of Schuylkill River Park.

The cost of the tour is \$30 for ECP Members and \$40 for Non-ECP Members. Attendees will meet at the Walnut Street dock at 5:15 PM. The boat will depart promptly at 5:30. The tour will last for approximately one hour and will be conducted rain or shine. The tour will be limited to twenty (25) participants.

One professional development hour (PDH) will be available to attendees upon successful completion of a quiz covering items and topics discussed on the tour.

Please visit www.engclub.org for tour reservations and payment or specifically at this link: [Schuylkill River Park "Secrets of the Schuylkill" Boat Tour - Events - The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia](#)
Reservations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis and are due by Friday, August 1.



September 2022 Tour of SEPTA WAWA Line & Station

Save the Dates
BootCamp 2025
YOUR LICENSE RENEWAL IS 9/30/2025
BootCamp is THU FRI SAT
September 25-26-27 2025
LIVE at Temple U Center City - Simulcast via Zoom
8 PDH \$100 16 PDH \$160 24 PDH \$200
Contact BootCamp@pspe-philly.org

from our PSPE State Lobbyist, John Wanner

State Courts and Legislature Examining Statute of Repose

The Pennsylvania Statute of Repose law protecting engineers, architects and contractors has been in place since 1976. If you're not familiar with the difference between a statute of limitations and a statute of repose, don't feel bad, most people aren't. The difference is that a statute of limitation's clock begins upon the discovery of the error or defect while the repose statute is a hard stop after a certain number of years. In Pennsylvania, contractors, architects and engineers have a 12-year time limit starting upon substantial completion after which a legal action cannot be filed against them. At least, that is the current law. **Presently, there are two cases pending before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court challenging the long-standing interpretation of the law.**

In *Aloia v. Diament Building Corp.*, an action was brought against a homebuilder alleging that the building was not constructed in compliance with the applicable building code of the time. The law reads that the service must be "lawfully" offered. The plaintiff's argument is that non-compliance with the building code violates the "lawfully" provision of the law and therefore the protection of the statute of repose is nullified for the contractor. None of the lower courts, including the Commonwealth Court, agreed with that argument but the plaintiff has appealed to the state's top court.

In a separate case, *Clearfield County v. TranSystems Corporation successor for Rober Kimball and Associates and Leonard S. Fiore, Inc.*, the County is arguing that the statute of repose law is in conflict with *nullum tempus*, a legal doctrine that translates as "time does not run against the king", a special protection that applies to government entities. The case involves a 43-year-old project in which the county claims there was a missing beam. This case is also on appeal to the state supreme court after the Commonwealth Court upheld the statute of repose law to the benefit of the contractor. If the county is successful in its case, the result would be perpetual liability on public construction projects, including to engineers involved in any aspect.

The state General Assembly is aware of the disputes and legislation has been introduced to address the issue. Senate Bill 399 amends the statute of repose law by providing a definition for the term "lawfully". It simply requires that the person (or firm) offering the service be licensed or otherwise authorized to perform the service. The bill also reduces the time for legal actions to be filed from 12 years to 6 years. The legislation was introduced by Senator Dan Laughlin of Erie County and is presently in the Senate committee on Judiciary.

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) has filed a friend of the court brief, along with a number of other design professional organizations, defending the statute of repose law. PSPE is also advocating for passage of Senate Bill 399.

Take Action with our PSPE PAC

Your personal donation to PSPE PAC is vital in ensuring that public policymakers hear our voice. Download the [PAC contribution form](#) to support the PSPE Political Action Committee

*Political Action Committees cannot accept corporate checks.
PAC contributions are not tax deductible.
The PSPE PAC fund cannot accept credit card payments at this time.

Short Just a Few PDH for Sept. 30th?

Check out PSPE-Philly's Online Library at \$5/PDH
Dozens of Programs Presented Live at Our Meetings and Elsewhere
[Click HERE to Buy Now](#)



How can PSPE help you today?

How can PSPE help you tomorrow?

Become involved - start today!

Attend a Chapter Meeting or Tour.

Begin career friendships as you network, and habit of lifelong learning. PSPE Chapter courses are for your use of knowledge, not just to check the box for license renewals. The people you meet may be a future client, employer, or **personal mentor**. Lifelong friends.

Attend our PSPE State Conference

to be held at Radisson Allentown **SEP 17-18-19**

Meet our PSPE State Legislation Lobbyist, State Officers, Directors from across Pennsylvania, Courses, Tours, More

Attend our #NSPECon25 National Conference

to be held in Kansas City MO **AUG 6-8**

Celebrating PE Day August 6th with six keynote speakers, forging connections with multi-disciplinary professionals, expanding expertise with new skills, and fostering a diverse network through sponsor and exhibitor interactions

Take a course from our online library

learning skills beyond that found in a YouTube video. Check our PSPE Philadelphia learning library found at <http://pspe-philly.org/MCECourses/BuyNow-1.htm>.

Become a mentor of a MathCounts Team

Once a month or once a week, meet with the brightest of 6th 7th 8th grade students of your community to practice math skills and perhaps inspire a career in engineering. Contact Chair Abe El at AEI@Pennoni.com

Don't be worried - Check the NSPE Ethics Line

Joining the real world beyond academia can bring questions of ethics: www.nspe.org/career-growth/ethics

Join our Summer Board Meetings to plan our

2025-26 Chapter Year. Contact our Secretary Chris Fell at <mailto:fell1@aol.com> or 484-431-1499 to learn more.



Save the Dates

PSPE State Conference 2025

September 17-18-19 2025

Renaissance Allentown

Classes, Tours, Officer Installations, Awards

Classes and Tours PDH accredited for Renewal of Licenses
Join your PSPE colleagues from across the State
visit PSPE.org for more information