The Philadelphia Engineer

Founding Chapter 1934 – January 2026 issue

January 8th 2026

Tour of Pennsylvania Convention Center
focusing upon
Rejuvenating Power Distribution Systems
2025 Outstanding Engineering Achievement Winner
sign-in: 5:40 PM Course and Tour 6:00 to 7:30
click to http://www.pspe-philly.org#reservations

President's Message

Welcome to 2026! Our Chapter continues a vibrant CY25-26 having completed our signature **Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award** presentations and competition. Our January Course and Tour will feature our top Award, and all to be honored at our Engineers' Week banquet on February 28th. We also have a full program February to May.▶

We are still seeking a program for April. The Pandemic is over, so let's try for a sit-down event. Share ideas with me or Chris Fell, PE.

continued on page 2

Outstanding Engineering Achievement Program

Top regional projects judged by
Presidents of regional chapters

Winners for 2025:

Outstanding

Maida: Rejuvenating Electric Power Systems
VIEW PRESENTATION HERE - VIEW Q&A HERE

We had a Tie - Two Notable Awards

Langan: Borski Park
VIEW PRESENTATION HERE - VIEW Q&A HERE

Pennoni: Longwood Gardens Reimagined
VIEW PRESENTATION HERE - VIEW Q&A HERE

VIEW Judges' Comments

Donate to PSPE PAC

Why are we PSPE?
To unite to ask our legislators to Help Us Protect the Public!

We can each visit or write our Legislators -or- have PAC funds to provide access to our Lobbyists to meet Legislators for us

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.

2025-26 Chapter Program

State PSPE Awards Received by Our Chapter

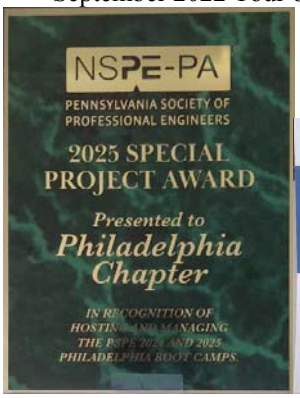
PSPE **Chapter Special Projects Award** for 2024-25
PSPE Chapter Special Projects Award for 2023-24
PSPE Chapter Outstanding Communications Award for 2022-23
PSPE Chapter Outstanding Program Award for 2021-22

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	OPEN BOARD MEETING
Sep 18-20	PSPE State Conference Allentown
Sep 25-27	BootCamp to get up to 24PDH
Oct. 9	MathCounts: Project to Program Management 101
Nov. 6	Aerix Low Density Cellular Concrete
Dec. 4 SE Region	Delaware Valley Region Outstanding Engineering Achievement Program
Jan. 8 2026	Tour of Pennsylvania Convention Center
Feb. 6	David Fleisher on SAFETY: LIVE + Zoom
Feb. TBD MathCounts	Phila Chapter MathCounts Live at Temple
Feb. 28 NSPE PA/NJ Engr's Week	Greater Philadelphia and Delaware Valley Regional National Engineers' Week Banquet
Mar. 5	Streetscape Lighting and More
Apr. 2	Let's plan for a LIVE lecture, sitdown and Zoom
May 7	Annual Meeting & Officers Installed
Aug 5-7	NSPECon26 in NYC
Sep 17-19	PSPE State Conference Philadelphia

September 2022 Tour of SEPTA WAWA Line & Station



PostCard sent to 5400 Non-Member PEs Advertising our BootCamp for 24 PDHs and encouraging to join NSPE/PSPE

President's Message ***continued from page 1***

Every year may be deemed Important. **2025** represented to me 50 years since graduation and passing the FE (then EIT) exam. Could I do it again today without a refresher? More upon this later ... .

2026 is our sesquicentennial for our USA. Our City of Philadelphia has been at the forefront of creation of our nation, and as birthplace of engineering in our New World. From our City Hall, tallest habitable structure in the world when completed in 1894 and still largest free standing masonry building in the world. Our Fairmount Water Works in advance of anything of the Old World Europe when built. U.S. Patent #1 was awarded to a Philadelphian (noting USA first nation to recognize a ***right*** to Intellectual Property.) See http://pspe-philly.org/pspe-videos/NSPECON22/NSPECON22_player.html.

Here in 2026 PSPE Philadelphia needs YOUR input and efforts to address needs of our communities. Plural. What do established Members need? We should hopefully obtain our 24 PDH required (**or even if not required**) just via our practice. But some get too into specific projects and need our Continuing Education via Chapter Monthly Meetings and Tours, or Conferences of PSPE, NSPE, or our multiple technical society offerings. Philadelphia offers a BootCamp every two years for those who really have put off this obligation, and offers recordings of Monthly Meeting and BootCamp courses at http://www.pspe-philly.org/MCECourses/BuyNow-1.htm for only $5/PDH.

For Young Engineers just entering the professional workplace, PSPE Philadelphia offers many other opportunities. Become involved in ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES, Some have became dormant during the pandemic and looking for new Champions, such as High School Scholarships, Best Math and Science Teachers, and College Outreach. Or start lightly with a **ONE DAY** commitment to help conduct our MathCounts competition on February 7th at Temple University.

Such opportunities are available beyond Members to our other communities including non-Member Engineers and even to the general public which we all serve.

Beyond Committees and local Programs is the **REAL PURPOSE** of PSPE, which is to **Act as Our Voice** to the Pennsylvania Legislature on matters involving Engineers, engineering, and to our prime duty to **PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY PROPERTY AND WELFARE**.

- **Is** the public better protected by narrow Certifications by profit focused credentialing entities with their fee charging teach-to-test formats, **or** by the holistic view of a broad engineering education, four years of working with increasing responsibility of a PE, Two sets of comprehensive examinations, and background checks of character?
- **Should** spread-the-loss insurance replace the personal responsibility of the professional seal of a specified named individual?
- **What** is the reasonable time to retain records to defend lawsuits from ancient acts? Six years? Twelve years? Forty years? Forever?

Returning to comments at top of page, the FE Exam of today is not quite the same as 50 years ago. Back then I walked about visiting past professors to create a **Day of Review** supported by my Civil Department. And passed. Many schools of Engineering today have similar programs each Spring. **Could YOU again pass the FE Exam?** Check it out at https://www.prepfe.com/fe-exams/free.

Come join me and other Officers and Members of PSPE to help enhance our careers and better serve the PUBLIC WELFARE.

Fredric L Plotnick, PhD, Esq, PE

2026 NATIONAL ENGINEERS' WEEK

BANQUET Hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday - February 28, 2026 - 6-10PM

New Venue: Lehman's Restaurant

Essington, PA 19029

Reservations at www.pspe-philly.org soon

Recognize, Promote and Celebrate the Role Engineers fill in the Greater Philadelphia Area

60 Minute Reception before dinner is served

(with Hot Butlered Hors d 'Oeuvres and Cash Bar)

then a Full Course Dinner and an after dinner Dessert Reception

- Program and Presentations are still being developed -

Presentation of Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awards

Presentation of MathCounts and STEM Awards

Philadelphia City Hall and Fairmount Water Works

Engineering Wonders of the World

PSPE Supports College Seniors with the FE Exam

PSPE manages an Industry Grant to pay for the FE Exam and Exam Study Materials for several hundred PA college seniors.

CLICK for details

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PSPE is on Linked-In at

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7019298/

Your PSPE at work in Harrisburg

See several highlights from the PA State Budget passed with PSPE support

www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=60056&SubjectID=195

NSPE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Champion Guide Advance | Unite