2016-17 Chapter Program
The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers
Philadelphia Chapter

Thursday, April 6, 2017
Comcast Tower Tour
5:00 – 5:15 Arrive and Meet
on the 14th Floor 1717 Arch Street
5:15 – 6:00 BIM Presentation
6:00 – 7:00 Building Tour
7:15 – 8:15 Social Hour
at Pagano's Market and Bar, 2001 Market St.

Cost is $30 including
Pizza and Soda at Paganos
Tour is limited to 25 - Absolute deadline for reservations for tour is 1PM on April 4th
All are invited to walk in to Social Hour at Paganos .Click here for reservations

MATHCOUNTS
MathCounts is Saturday, February 4th
MATHCOUNTS is a program sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and its state and local Chapters, promoting excellence in mathematics. Each year, there are competitions to engage 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and recognize the best schools and students on a local, state, and national level.

For those not local to Philadelphia but interested in helping at a MATHCOUNTS competition near you, please consider volunteering with a great program.
To volunteer or for more information contact Abraham El O: 215-254-7778 | M: 215-796-5261 | AEl@Pennoni.com

To Donate to Mathcounts:

To Donate to STEM Scholarships:
Outstanding Engineering Achievement

Winners from 2016:

Outstanding: Maida Engineering
3000 HP Wind Tunnel System

Notable: Pennoni Associates
Comcast 18th Street Tunnel

Honorable: Michael Baker International
Willow Grove Avenue Bridge Over SEPTA

Also: Urban Engineers
North Delaware Avenue Extension

Click projects above for PDFs of presentations
Also from Chapter website www.pspe-philly.org

From the President

Thank you for being a member of our society and for your interest in what we do for the profession and our members. This is my final message as president. It has been a great year thanks to the tireless efforts of your officers and members.

Our meeting program and tours have been topical and of interest to all engineering disciplines. Our legislative roundtable was a great opportunity to share our thoughts on the direction of the license and profession in PA.

May will see the new president installed and then our celebration of our STEM award recipients at the CBS3 station. Leading up to that is the April tour of the Comcast building in Philly (sorry there are no more spaces left!)

Although we have had another successful year, we are in need of your help. A small percentage of the licensed engineers in the Philadelphia area are members on the PSPE and an even smaller number of those are active in the society. If you are a member, please consider using some of your professional time to participate in our activities or in actually leading the profession into the future. If you can't afford that, then convince your licensed colleagues to join and participate.

Without your time and effort, from your perspective, the future of your profession will be directed by someone else.

Sincerely,
Bob Cargill, PE

NOMINATIONS

Pursuant to Bylaw 12, Section 6, Nominees for Officers and our Board, as provided by the Nominations Committee (or by petition) are provided below:

Erik Hoet, PE     President
automatic succession from President-Elect

Robert Cargill, PE  President-Elect

Robert Cargill, PE     Vice President

Abraham El         Past President

Abraham El         Secretary

Jake Medendorp, IV, EIT Treasurer

Thomas Friese, PE    State Director
this is a three year position completing in May 2019

Soheila Rahbari, PE Alt State Director

Justin Alexander, PE Chapter Director, 2018

Rick Parisi, PE     Chapter Director, 2018

Yefim Gudesblat, PE Chapter Director, 2019

Chris Fell, PE     Chapter Director, 2019

Ed Pluciennik, PE     Chapter Director, 2020

vacant     Chapter Director, 2020

CLICK for CBS3 Photo Op for Engineers' Week
(look for this app on our website)

NSPE's Open Forum Digest for Tuesday January 31, 2017, Stuart Walesh had posted a message (presented below) on licensure and the industrial exemption. A direct link to the article by Liberty University law professor, Paul Spinden, may be accessed at http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/lusol_fac_pubs/72/

The report is 51 pages with numerous citations and footnotes and is a fascinating read.

For up to full 24 credit hour requirement
PSPE Education Boot Camps
https://www.pspe.org/events/2017-pspe-24pdh-boot-camps/
May 7-9 Harrisburg - June 25-27 Valley Forge
Letter from the Editor

When I was President in the 1989-90 Chapter year, we were comprised of 500 Members. Today our Chapter has only 163 Members. But our Chapter serves as great or even greater role in protecting the Public Health Safety Property and Welfare than in that time gone by.

Today there are 13500 licensed Professional Engineers in the state of Pennsylvania, of which 5000 reside and work in our SouthEast Region. Only a few years ago there were 22000 licensed engineers, many perhaps semi-retired and willing to drop the designation once the requirements for continuing education became effective.

Then as now, NSPE/PSPE Membership has been about 10% of those having a license. While out Chapter has 163 Members, our Region has 567 Members. In 1990 we had 80 Life Members (who are no longer required to pay dues but may still have an active practice) while today we have only 37, which also speaks to the trimming due to requirements for continuing education. We are still an active force for good.

Today, more than ever, our Society must educate our legislators and the general public they represent as to the need for our engineered works to be designed, installed, erected and supervised by a person with education, hands-on training, and an OATH to protect the public even above the dictates of an employer or client. All those reference letters and background checks and inquiries relating to even the smallest of criminal infractions. They are all only part of the underlying credential of licensure which is beyond mere competence but rather to character.

Would a Professional Engineer have assisted, signed off, or failed to whistleblow the issues we read about with major automobile companies. Perhaps that is why we are now so insistent that we be involved in the “soul” as well as the “guts” of the self driving car.

Our local Chapter of PSPE deals in far less weighty issues. We help Members and non-member professional engineers obtain continuing education. We did this long before it became mandated; now it has become a larger segment of our program. We meet with our State Society lobbyist to discuss what we engineers would suggest our legislators to do to best serve the public. In all of the discussions I have attended, not once did I hear we need to protect or enhance our livelihoods – these are secondary to how we should be better regulated to assure our livelihoods serve the public.

We work to bring an understanding of what we do – and the necessary education to support the technical underpinnings of our efforts – to the general public and especially our youngest audience – with our direct support of MathCounts and indirect support of so many other K-12 and college programs.

Our Chapter leadership, and the leaderships of our adjoining regional chapters, are now spread thin. We need YOU – our 567 regional members – to step up and join in with us, maybe even to take over our leadership. We need you also to enlist the other 4500 licensed Professional Engineers of our region to join us.

How did you get involved to join? How did I get involved to join? A few weeks into my first job, my boss’s boss – head of office – invited me out to lunch at the Engineers’ Club. This is an invitation one does not refuse. His secretary walks up to my desk a few moments later and hands me a tie – this is required to dine at the Club. [Note to self – bring a tie to the office and leave in drawer – you’re not a kid anymore.] It was made clear that advancement at work would require not just joining but being an active member in one or more technical or professional organizations. Oh – and when I would attend a meeting I did see (and was seen by) my boss’s boss.

How can YOU get that new engineer in your office to join us? One you must ask. Two you must also be there when she or he makes that first visit.

Looking forward to seeing you all in our new Chapter Year

Sincerely,
Fredric L. Plotnick, PhD, Esq, PE, PLS