



The Philadelphia Engineer

Founding Chapter 1934 – September 2014 issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last May, I was honored to accept the president position of Philadelphia chapter, PSPE. The member volunteers and elected board are dedicated people to our profession and inspiring engineers. The chapter works hard to make our organization stronger and more effective to meet our members' needs. For 2014-2015 chapter year we are setting important goals and are planning to achieve them through varieties of programs and activities.

It is very important to get more young professionals to become active in our chapter. Young engineers are the future and we need to get them involved in the chapter events. The programs location has been moved to the area near the universities and city engineering firms. The content for each presentation will be focused on new technology, understandings of legal requirements and other important factors in our profession.

The chapter programs have been formatted to be accepted by the PA and NJ Boards, as well as by NY via our own pre-approval accreditation process. Our chapter's courses are also pre-approved for the technical PDH requirement for Florida.

We are establishing further contacts with other engineering societies and clubs. Our participation in the multi-society meetings and committee organizing events is extremely important for promotions of our chapter. Participation in conferences will deliver new ideas important for our work and will provide additional business contacts to our members.

The reputation of Philadelphia chapter is impeccable and known in the support of MATHCOUNTS and STEM awards events. The names of students, teachers and coaches are well publicized and awarded. The scholarship programs are very important and as always, will be strongly endorsed and supported. I am sure that the members of our chapter will be well recognized again by the state and national organization for outstanding performance in all aspects of advancing the engineering profession.

Our budget is in the approval process. We modestly increased the membership fee but responsible financial austerity continues to be a concern. This year we will introduce remote board meetings and pre-board meeting discussions by means of utilization communication technology.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Philadelphia Chapter Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Tours at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard

Tour of Rhodes Construction
Fabrication Building
Presentation by Phillip DiSciullo

Followed by a
Tour of Anthropologie Building 18
Presentation by Theresa Maida

4:30PM to 6:30 PM
Hoagie and Soda Provided
\$25

PSPE Philadelphia believes that this tour will be accepted for 1.0 Professional Development Hour credit in PA, NJ and other National Model states where Ethics Courses are acceptable and courses do not require pre-approval.

Reservations:
on-line at www.pspe-philly.org

If you must use a company check, or for more information, please [email](mailto:rich.horenburger@pspe.org) treasurer Rich Horenburger.

PSPE 2014 State Conference
September 17 - 20, 2014

Holiday Inn Allentown I-78
[Click for more information via our website](http://www.pspe.org)
or go to www.pspe.org

Engineers' Club of Philadelphia
14th Annual Golf FUNdraiser

Monday, October 6, 2014

Mark your calendar and hold the date for the
14th Annual Golf FUNdraiser
returning to the Blue Bell Country Club.
Enjoy a FUN day with great golf and friendly competition as
your peers and clients compete for the most out-of-the-box
hole sponsorship idea!

[Contact the Engineers' Club for more information.](http://www.ecp.org)

We will use conference calls, e-mails and instant messages. The challenge is to keep such in a responsible format without long chains of e-mails and texting. Where necessary on matters requiring discussion, debate and perhaps compromise, we will have our face to face meetings before or after some of the programs.

Our website is well constructed and managed; therefore, I would like to refer to the link: <http://www.pspe-philly.org/> for the specific data included membership fee, program and event information, board meeting minutes, etc. I hope to see everyone at the Navy Ship Yard.

Yefim Gudesblat, PE

YOUR OFFICERS

Yefim S. Gudesblat, PE	President
Tom Friese, PE	President-Elect
Bob Cargill, PE	Vice President
Abraham EI, EIT	Secretary
Richard Horenburger, PE	Treasurer
Leslie (Les) D. Johnson, PE	Membership Secretary
Soheila Rahbari, PE	State Director
Fredric Plotnick, PE	Alt State Director
Eric Hoet, PE	Chapter Director, 2015
Myreon Smallwood, EIT	Chapter Director, 2015
Vacant	Chapter Director, 2016
Mark Kucirka	Chapter Director, 2016
Philip Udo-Inyang, PE	Chapter Director, 2017
Ed Pluciennik, PE	Chapter Director, 2017
Justin Alexander, PE	Past President

Letter from the Editor

I believe we may look forward to educational, entertaining and enjoyable 2014-15 chapter year. This is the second year in our biennial cycle leading to our license renewal by 30SEP15. Therefore we all need to be certain to obtain the necessary continuing education credits required for renewal.

Many of us are also registered in other states which may require up to 36 PDH or more. While some permit on-line or "practice building" courses, conservatively you may appreciate our provision of face-to-face technical content instruction. PSPE-Philadelphia programs are all expected to be accepted by the PA and NJ Boards (pre-approval of courses not provided by the Boards), as well as by NY via our own pre-approval accreditation process. Our chapter's courses are also pre-approved for the technical PDH requirement for Florida. (Note that for the renewal period ending February 2015, Florida PE's do require 4 hours of FL PE Law instruction; this to be dropped for the 2017 renewal.)

But hopefully as *Professional* Engineers, we have been aspiring to maintain our continuing education long before the mandate from our Legislature and State Board. I maintain a proper course of lifelong continuing education requires courses in one's technical specialty, and in enlarging circles of increasing breath and decreasing depth to one's general discipline and to all fields of engineering. Thus for me, I need to attend courses in CPM planning, scheduling, risk assessment, then to other cost engineering such as estimating, statistical controls, other construction related such as geotech and perhaps structural or masonry, and then extend to electrical, mechanical, chemical as refreshers and updates on the latest technologies.

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2015 NATIONAL ENGINEERS' WEEK BANQUET

Hosted by PSPE Philadelphia Chapter

Saturday - February 28, 2015, 5:00-10:00 PM
Springfield Country Club
400 West Sproul Road - Springfield, PA 19064

SAVE THE DATE

MATHCOUNTS

MathCounts will be held on Saturday, February 7th at the Temple University Main Campus Student Center, on 13th St between Cecil B. Moore Ave. and Montgomery Ave. Volunteers are needed to assist in this great program for middle school students. Please contact Abraham EI at ael@pennoni.com for more information.

CLICK for CBS3 Photo Op for Engineers' Week

(look for this app on our website)

2014-15 PROGRAM

Sep. 12, 2014	Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Tour
Oct. 2, 2014	HVAC Control I Law for Engineers I
Nov. 6, 2014	HVAC Control II Green City/Clean Water
Dec. 4, 2014	SE Regional Event Delaware Valley Region Outstanding Engineering Achievement Presentations
Dec. 8, 2014	Annual Multi-Society Dinner Meeting (Organized by the Engineers' Club)
Jan. 8, 2015	Tour of TBD
Feb 5, 2015	Energy Course TBD Law for Engineers II
Feb 7, 2015	Phila Chapter MathCounts Competition at Temple University
Feb 20, 2015	Engineers' Club of Philadelphia Engineers' Week Luncheon
Feb 28, 2015	NSPE Engineers' Week Banquet Greater Philadelphia and Delaware Valley Regional National Engineers' Week Banquet
Mar 5, 2015	Rail Vehicle Propulsion Systems Variable Frequency Drives
Apr 2, 2015	Energy Course TBD Waste Water Course
Apr 12-14	PSPE Continuing Education Boot Camp East
May 7, 2015	Annual Meeting & Officers Installed
May 27, 2015	STEM Awards at CBS3
Jun 7-9	PSPE Continuing Education Boot Camp West
Sep 10-12	PSPE Philadelphia Continuing Education

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And so our chapter has a [vibrant program](#) for this year with course selections from HVAC control, clean water, energy, variable frequency drives, rail propulsion systems, law (taught by yours truly,) and others. We provide traditional lectures, narrated site tours, competitions (our [Outstanding Engineering Awards](#) competition,) and other formats. We have moved the majority of our meetings back to the center city area (at the University City Sheraton) to provide easy public transit access to our increasing number of center city (working or living) members, while arranging for easily accessed and discounted (to \$5) parking. We are trying a new “modified from the sitdown chicken dinner” menu, also further reducing the time and cost for maximizing networking and an enjoyable meeting.

More to the point of the need for educational depth but also breadth, we are teaming with the technical societies to provide additional joint meetings targeted to their individual specialty contents. Here, our members will be invited at member rates; their memberships are invited to our presentations at member rates.

Our chapter is also at the education forefront in the state with our leadership of the PA State Continuing Education Boot Camps. These will be held in the King of Prussia in April, near Pittsburgh in June, and a “last chance” one conducted by our chapter in September 2015. (Normally we defer to the State Conference but such will be too distant for our target audience in 2015.) We have found our audience is comprised of 85% non-PSPE licensed engineers – and this is perhaps the most easily seen service YOUR local chapter provides to all licensed engineers of the region.

We also are continuing our support for STEM activities, starting with the 6th-7th-8th graders learning a love for math and some competing in [MathCounts](#), [High School Scholarships](#) (to students living or attending in Philadelphia County,) [Outstanding Math and Teacher Awards](#), and general support for other programs, such as Future City and Sea Perch, honored at our Awards program conducted at CBS3 in late May.

Entertainment, networking and camaraderie are enhanced by our support and sponsorship of our [State Conference](#) this coming September 18-20 in Allentown, year round programs of the [Engineers' Club of Philadelphia](#) and our own [Greater Philadelphia Region Engineers' Week banquet](#). As our economy improves, the value of these events for interpersonal contacts will become more and more important to our professional practices and employment.

So please join us as we embark upon an educational, entertaining and enjoyable 2014-15 chapter year.

Fredric L Plotnick, PhD, Esq, PE – Editor