



# The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

Philadelphia Chapter  
c/o Temple University Civil Engineering  
1947 North Twelfth Street [084-53]  
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6018  
[www.pspe-philly.org](http://www.pspe-philly.org)  
[www.pspe.org](http://www.pspe.org)  
[www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org)

## PSPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT October 27, 2018

### OFFICERS 2016-2017

Erik Hoet, PE  
*President*

Fredrik Plotnick, PE  
*President-Elect*

Vacant  
*Vice President*

Robert Cargill, PE  
*Past President*

Andrew Pockl, PE  
*Secretary*

Chris Fell, PE  
*Treasurer*

Abraham El  
*Membership Secretary*

Thomas J. Friese, PE  
*State Director*

Soheila Rahbari, PE  
*Alternate State Director*

### CHAPTER DIRECTORS

Justin Alexander, PE  
*Chapter Director, 2018*

Rick Parisi, PE  
*Chapter Director, 2018*

Yefim Gudesblat, PE  
*Chapter Director, 2019*

Vacant  
*Chapter Director 2019*

Edward P. Pluciennik, PE  
*Chapter Director, 2020*

Vacant  
*Chapter Director 2020*

Robert Cargill, PE  
*Chapter Director, 2021*

Rick Parisi, PE  
*Chapter Director, 2021*

The PSPE 2018 annual Conference was held on September 13<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> in Johnstown, PA. As is usual, two days of continuing education on a wide variety of subjects was offered along with a tour of the Johnstown Incline which took attendees to a scenic overlook of the City for a buffet dinner. The highlight of the Conference was the Friday night Banquet at which the Society inducted the 2018-19 officers and of particular importance to our Chapter, officially recognized Joe Maida, PE as the 2018-19 Pennsylvania Society Professional Engineer of the Year.

Also, as is custom, the State Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting Saturday morning at which time the new officers were formally voted in and the new president, Steven Novotny, PE made opening remarks. The various committee chairpersons provided reports and I offer the following as a summary of the more salient points for our membership:

- Jennifer Summers, the Society's Executive Director, suggested that going to a quarterly disbursement of dues reimbursement to the Chapters will lessen the paperwork and processing burden of her office thus helping to keep down costs. The Board was generally inclined to approve the request, but it was suggested that the Directors have an opportunity to poll their members and report back at the next Board meeting. Post Meeting Note, the Phila Chapter has voiced agreement with this change.
- As previously reported, the National Society (NSPE) has gone to a new dues structure in which the Societies are reimbursed based on the extent of services they provide to their Chapters and thus how much support is required from National. In this tiered system, Pennsylvania is one of a handful of States at the highest tier as PSPE provides significant support to the Chapters. This means that PSPE will be receiving the highest level of reimbursement from the dues paid by individuals. In fact, the State is budgeting receipt of \$190,000 in dues in 2018-19 vs last year's budget of \$125,000. Discussions in the future will review whether the reimbursement to the Chapters will likewise increase. Be on the lookout for a webinar with full information.
- Our Legislative Director, John Wanner requested that legislators be contacted regarding the passage of House Bill HB1106 as there was little time left for passage. This Bill primarily redefined "Design" as it relates to professional services as a previous ruling by Commonwealth Court stated that if an entity's services did not include design, they were not considered engineering. This was brought to court in action by the Professional Surveyors where a utility company preparing survey plans of utilities (Davies) using GIS was determined to have not been practicing professional surveying. In the Bill, the Practice of Engineering definition is amended to include "analysis", "modification and alteration" and "performance of land surveys." The Practice of Land Surveying is amended to include "determining

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of the position of any structure or permanently installed equipment in relation to monuments or reference points.” A full version of the text can be found at [https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/home/Amendments/list\\_amendments.cfm?chamber=H&Session=2017&sIndex=0&bBody=H&bType=B&bNumber=1106&PrintersNumber=1316](https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/home/Amendments/list_amendments.cfm?chamber=H&Session=2017&sIndex=0&bBody=H&bType=B&bNumber=1106&PrintersNumber=1316)

- There continue to be threats to licensure in many States across the Nation where professional licensure of all types (barbers, auto dealers, nurses, real estate brokers, etc.) is being challenged by certain groups as an impediment to full employment. There is typically no differentiation for professions protecting the public health, safety and welfare. If successful in a state, there would cease to be registration of professional engineers and thus restrictions (or fewer restrictions) on who can practice engineering.
- PSPE recently chartered a new student chapter at Penn State Main Campus.
- The 2019 PSPE Annual Conference will be held September 19-20 at the Sands Casino Resort in Bethlehem, PA.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas J. Friese, PE  
Philadelphia Chapter State Director