

The Philadelphia Engineer

Founding Chapter 1934 – September 2026 issue

State PSPE Annual Conference 2026

Come Join our State Representatives and other Members from across Pennsylvania at PSPE State Conference, to be held “in” Philadelphia, on **September 24-25, 2026**, USA 250, as we celebrate our Independence from Limitations of Nature by our Engineering.

Join fellow Professional Engineers to discuss perspectives on practice from all corners of our Commonwealth, obtain up to 9 PDH towards our next year renewal requirements, and welcome our new State Officers, including incoming President FRED Plotnick, Secretary ABE El, and Chapter State Director TOM Frieze.

SHORT DRIVE to [Inn at Swarthmore](#), convenient to our four Chapters of SERegion, and with complimentary parking. [Blockbuster education](#), both lectures including ETHICS, and tours to our Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awarded [Pennsylvania Convention Center](#), followed by [Fine Dining in Downtown Philadelphia](#), and [Swarthmore Dining Facility and Geoexchange Plant](#), followed by a [Phillies Game](#). STAY with some for Saturday and Sunday to [Visit Philadelphia As A Tourist](#)™.

OPTIONS

Full Conference THU + FRI sessions meals tours evening events	\$350
One Day THU or FRI sessions meals tours evening events	\$200
FRI Installation and Awards Lunch and Swarthmore tour	\$50

“Every time I come to the PSPE conference, I expand my connections, find new solutions, and learn what I don't know.”

Consultants and specialists use the statewide conference to build teams and expand networks. This professional, problem-solving focused conference features a lineup of peer-reviewed case studies, unique tours of the Philadelphia Convention Center and Swarthmore geo-exchange plant, vendors, and roundtable discussions with hard-to-reach professionals. Come to inaugurate President FRED.

Watch [PSPE's page on LinkedIn](#) for session highlights!

2026-27 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 2026-27 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.

Our 2026-27 First Chapter Meeting and Tour is September 17th

Join fellow Chapter and SouthEast Region Members for a TOUR of [Vicinity Energy District Steam Plant](#)

Best Alternate Energy Provider to Philadelphia Region 2021&2023 Grays Ferry, Philadelphia, Meet at 6pm, Tour 630 to 730pm, 1 PDH Philadelphia's oldest power plant (1903) is undergoing a massive transformation Join us behind the scenes at the historic Schuylkill Station to explore evolution from coal fired boilers in a mission to go carbon neutral by 2030. Visit [HERE](#) for more info.

Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers Philadelphia Chapter Proposed 2026-2027 Program

Date	Event - Click Event for Details
Aug 5-7	NSPECon26 in NYC
Sep. 17	Tour of Vicinity Energy District Steam Plant
Sep 23-25	PSPE State Conference Philadelphia
Oct. 1	How to Market Engineering Services in Era of AI
Oct. 13	Tour of Lower Merion Trail Extension
Nov. 5	LIVE & Simulcast Meeting TBA
Dec. 3	Delaware Valley Region Outstanding Engineering Achievement Program
SE Region	
Jan. 7 2027	Tour of ... TBA
Feb. 4	LIVE & Simulcast Meeting TBA
Feb. TBA	Phila Chapter MathCounts
MathCounts	Live at Temple
Feb. 27	Greater Philadelphia and Delaware Valley Regional
NSPE PA/NJ	National Engineers' Week Banquet
Engr's Week	
Mar. 4	LIVE & Simulcast Meeting TBA
Apr. 8	LIVE & Simulcast Meeting TBA
May 6	Annual Meeting & Officers Installed
Jul 27-30	NSPECon27 in Reno NV
Sep TBA	PSPE State Conference
Sep 23-24-25	PSPE-Philly Continuing Education BootCamp

**NSPE-PA**[®] PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

2026 Annual Conference

Join the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers 2026 Conference, to connect with colleagues and engage in peer-reviewed sessions, networking, awards, and celebrations that strengthen your professional community.

• September 24 & 25 •

Swarthmore, PA

The Inn at Swarthmore



Registration open now!

www.pspe.org



September 2022 Tour of SEPTA WAWA Line & Station

PSPE lobbies to protect your license
So that WE can protect the Public Health Safety and Welfare
Please [DONATE](#) to our PAC

CALL for Nominations Outstanding Engineering Achievement Program

Top regional projects judged by
Presidents of regional chapters

The Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awards Program strives to recognize projects, regardless of engineering discipline, that demonstrate engineering challenges and innovative solutions, communicate the importance of the Engineering Profession to society, and provide a clear and tangible benefit to the Greater Philadelphia Area and Delaware Valley Region. This year's program will follow this same principle, in that the Outstanding Award will be presented to one project that best meets these criteria as determined by our panel of judges, typically comprised of the presidents of the four chapters in the southeast region of Pennsylvania PSPE as well as the two chapters of Delaware Valley region of NJSPE.

Winners for 2025 honored at our 2026 banquet:

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](#)

Nominations for 2026 due November 15, 2026

Some Past Winners 2024

Langan: Swarthmore College Sharples Dining Hall
[VIEW PRESENTATION HERE](#) - [VIEW Q&A HERE](#)

2023

Pennoni: PennDOT I-95 Rebuild
[VIEW PRESENTATION HERE](#) - [VIEW Q&A HERE](#)

2022

Langan: Laborer's District Council Education Center
[VIEW PRESENTATION HERE](#) - [VIEW Q&A HERE](#)

2021

ADCON Consultants HVAC Replacement at
Torresdale Filtered Water Pumping Station

No Program for 2020 due to Covid pandemic

2019

Professional Systems Engineering
Pennsylvania Capitol Police Integrated Command Center



Do you want Continuing Education to build skills and practice?

or

Do you need Continuing Education to maintain your license?

PSPE Philadelphia Chapter provides the BEST of BOTH

Current Course Offerings include:

BootCamp25 FOUR HOURS

Chemical Engineering for non-ChemEs

Prepared and Presented by Doug Kriebel P.E.,
Eric Wolfer and Jack Hillbert, P.E.

This Activity is credited for 4 PDH for \$20

BootCamp25 FOUR HOURS

Electrical Engineering for non-ElecEs

Prepared and Presented by Joseph Maida, P.E.

This Activity is credited for 4 PDH for \$20

BootCamp25 FOUR HOURS Temple

University Engineering Curriculums

Prepared and Presented by Four Professors

Pillapakkam, Moradillo, Zhu and Andaluri

This Activity is credited for 4 PDH \$20

Pneumatic Conveying

Prepared and Presented by Jack Hillbert, P.E.

This Activity is credited for 2 PDH \$10

Legal Aspects of Engineering & Construction

Prepared and Presented by Fredric L. Plotnick, Ph.D., Esq., P.E.

This Activity is credited for 2 PDH \$10

Ten Biggest Lies In Project Controls

Prepared by Chris Carson and Glen Palmer

Presented at Construction CPM Conference 2017 at DisneyWorld

This Activity is credited for 1.5 PDH \$7.50

Early Warning Signs of Claims & Disputes

Prepared by James G. Zack, Jr., CCM, CFCC, FACE, FIGPC, FRICS, PMP

Presented at Construction CPM Conference 2017 at DisneyWorld

This Activity is credited for 1.5 PDH \$7.50

ELEVATORS - Complex Machines in Today's World

Prepared by Joseph F. Maida, PE

This Activity is credited for 1.0 PDH \$5.00

Green Buildings Can Waste Energy Efficiently

Prepared by Larry Spielvogel, PE

This Activity is credited for 1.5 PDH \$7.50

Pricing Contractor Jobsite Overhead Delay

Prepared by James G. Zack, Jr., CCM, CFCC, FACE, FIGPC, FRICS, PMP

Presented at Construction CPM Conference 2017 at DisneyWorld

This Activity is credited for 1.0 PDH \$5.00

Ethics and Dispute Resolution

Prepared by Rebecca A. Bowman, Esq., P.E., D.F.E.

Fulfill ETHICS for entire renewal cycle right here

This Activity is credited for 2.0 PDH \$10.00

Patently Unobvious - Primer on Intellectual Property

Prepared by Edward Howard, Esq.

This Activity is credited for 1.0 PDH \$5.00

and many many many more

[Begin your Entertaining Education right HERE](#)

FREE FE Practice Exam

Sponsored by PSPE Philadelphia

To new or older graduates seeking the PE:

You completed your engineering degree and now must pass the FE exam on your way to the PE exam. **But how to get experience with the FE exam?** Read below. FREE both to Members, Student Members, or any reading this newsletter.

To our Professional Engineer Members:

You are a Professional Engineer which means you passed the FE exam some years ago, BUT

Do You Have What It Takes to Again Pass the FE Exam?

FREE FE Practice Exam:

Your Philadelphia Chapter has obtained permission to share the NCEES practice exams for the FE.

Our code will entitle Viewer to ONE free download to ONE discipline of the FE practice exam. (\$50 value.) Our promotional code is **NSPEPhilly** but hurry because this offer **will expire October 1st** (or after 150 downloads,) so do this NOW as first-come-first-served and time-is-of-the-essence. **Philadelphia Chapter Members have rewards.**

Click [HERE](#) to download instructions to start YOUR account.

In addition to this FREE interactive practice exam, you are invited to purchase Questions and Solutions for PE and FE exams at <https://account.ncees.org/exam-prep/PE>. You will be provided with a PDF for lifetime access. With 23 specialties for the PE, and 14 interactive FE practice exams, you can test yourself and friends on whether you still **Have What It Takes to Again Pass the FE and PE.**

Chapter Committees provide many services to Members, all Engineers and the General Public. We thank current Chairs and Volunteers and ask all Members to consider joining us assist the Chapter, all of PSPE, NSPE, all Registered Professional Engineers and others providing engineering services, and the Public whom we serve.

Resources from NSPE

Compiled for each State
free to Members of NSPE

Click to access:

[How to apply for licensure](#)
[Continuing Education Requirements](#)
[Defining the Practice of Engineering](#)
[Digital Signing and Sealing](#)
[Exemptions to Engineering Licensure](#)
[Violations and Enforcement of Laws](#)
[Disciplinary Self-Reporting Rules](#)
[More Resources](#)



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 Inn at Swarthmore **SEP 24-25**
Meet our PSPE State Legislation Lobbyist, State Officers, Directors from across Pennsylvania, Courses, Tours, More
- **[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

Engineers' Creed (2021)

As a Professional Engineer, I dedicate my professional knowledge to the advancement and betterment of public health, safety, and welfare.

I pledge:

To give the utmost of performance;

To participate in none but honest enterprise;

To live and work according to the highest standards of professional conduct; To place service before profit, the honor and standing of my profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations.

In humility, I make this pledge.



Join PSPE/NSPE Now

Become a Member With Two Easy Steps

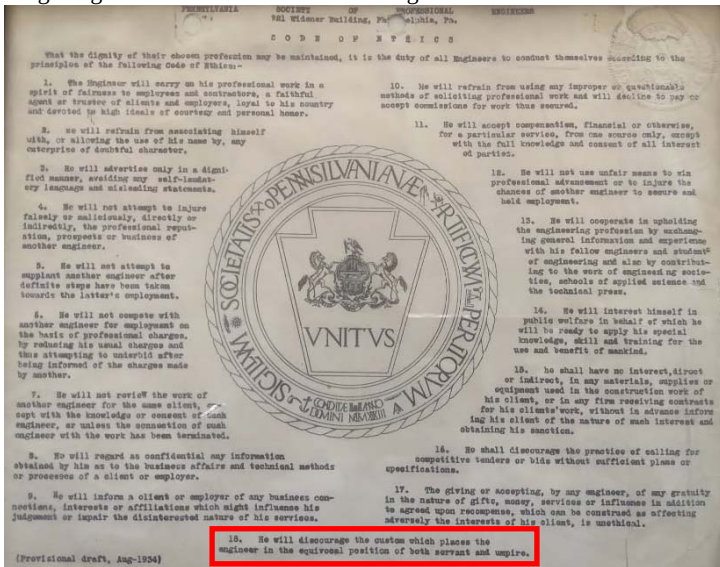
<https://www.nspe.org/membership/join-now>

PSPE or NSPE_{PA}?

The structure of our organization is tripartite. Your One Membership Application and Billing Invoice actually covers three distinct Memberships. **At the County level**, we meet for meetings and tours, camaraderie and networking, and perhaps to further efforts of requirements to acquire the 24 PDH for license renewal, or better to acquire knowledge to assist our practice of engineering to best serve the public.

At the National level, NSPE is an organization of organizations. "The goals of the National Society of Professional Engineers focuses on growth in mission impact, increased public recognition, expanded membership participation, and financial sustainability. The overarching mission is to foster professional engineers in service to society."

At the Pennsylvania State level, our goals, aspirations and mission are quite different. This goes back to our founding in 1934, almost a century ago. Our motto is "to protect the public health, safety, **property** and welfare above all other considerations." The word "**property**" does not appear in the national nor most other state core values. Perhaps the reasoning to add "**property**" may come from our society Code of Ethics [Provisional draft, Aug 1934] item 18 of 18, "He shall discourage the custom which places the engineer in the equivocal position of both servant and umpire." As you know, there is no current restriction requiring calling for an independent engineer to supervise the contractor performing to the design engineer's instruction. But the thought was there in 1934.



If the professional engineer is required to consider/protect the property of the general public, and "public" includes the contractor, then the engineer (while having a contractual duty to employing owner of project) also has a fiduciary duty to that contractor to be fair and independent of that owner's desires while enforcing its specification. We in Pennsylvania are different!

In most of the USA, there exists a judicial decision which protects engineers from tort liability for errors of design. Not in Pennsylvania. The "Economic Loss Doctrine" was rejected by our Supreme Court in *Bilt-Rite Contractors v Architectural Studios* (581 Pa. 454 2005) such decision being later adopted in other states such as Florida. Our Chapter, jointly with the Montgomery Bar Association, has provided a [PDH lecture](#) on this topic.

Pennsylvania (and seven other states) require a criminal background check as part of application for registration and licensure. Most states do not, and their license only attests to technical competency, not principles nor morals.

Most states accept instruction towards building one's practice acceptable for continuing education. Pennsylvania mandates technical topics only.

Matters for Members of PSPE to discuss include issues well above technical competency. We need to educate the public and our legislators of the dangers of "the industrial exemption." To design a sewer connection from a private home to the public line requires a Professional Engineer's seal. Why does not a high pressure fracked gas line running via easements through a housing development or grade school parking lot? Do we need people to be killed ([as in Massachusetts](#)) to call to correct? These and many other issues are the realm of what we of PSPE need to discuss.

Fredric L. Plotnick, PhD, Esq, PE, PLS, President PSPE 2026-27

Join the **MATHCOUNTS** team

Help improve the mathematical competence of our youth

2026 Philadelphia Winners

Top Teams:

1. Julia Reynolds Masterman School, Coach: Carol Patel
2. Germantown Friends School, Coach: R. Matthew Greenawalt
3. Penn Alexander School, Coach: Matthew Hunn

Top Individuals::

1. Max Su-Feng, Germantown Friends School
2. Vidur Diwakar, Julia Reynolds Masterman School
3. Ryan Lu, Germantown Friends School
4. Leela Bhoj, Penn Alexander School
5. Vihaan Kaushik, Julia Reynolds Masterman School
6. Tommy Dorn, Penn Alexander School
7. Ayla Mittica, William Penn Charter School
8. Yitong Jiang, Julia Reynolds Masterman School
9. Maron Roosevelt, Germantown Friends School
10. Jack Chenn-Kurmann, Girard Academic Music Program

2026 Pennsylvania State MathCounts Competition

Top Teams:

1. Valley Forge Middle School
2. Park Forest Middle School
3. Radnor Middle School

Top Individuals::

1. Shaun Ruan, Downingtown Middle School
2. Brian Xu, Dorseyville Middle School
3. Reyan Ghosh, Great Valley Middle School
4. Shengfeng Fei, Dorseyville Middle School

More results at <https://www.pspe.org/pspe-events/mathcounts/>

Thank you to our Chapter MathCounts Team

Alex Sopin - Pedro Pinto - Abraham El

and all volunteers and coaches

Learn what it takes to run MathCounts [HERE](#)

Beyond the Competition

The MATHCOUNTS National Math Club is a free, flexible, year-round program for grades 6-8 designed to make math collaboration fun, rather than competitive. Registered Clubs receive a free kit - including stickers, a poster, and an activity guide - along with access to over 50 math activities and games. Registration is open to schools and groups. Contact at <https://www.mathcounts.org/>.

