



**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER**  
 PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF  
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

**Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, and Carbon Counties**  
**(Organized 1935)**

# Valley Engineer Newsletter

March-April 2020

## President's Message

Alex Dezubay, PE

First, I hope you are all well and safe in this strange time of sickness and stay-at-home orders.

Second, my apologies for the delay in sending these minutes so late. I included a note to reflect how much has changed since the March Board of Directors meeting a month ago. The notes are probably not as accurate as Chris' minutes, because I make some notes on my agenda and then use my faulty memory to complete the minutes. Additions and corrections are welcome if I have omitted anything. Pictures of awards to EOY and YEOY at the LVEC banquet are included.

Third, we will not have a Board of Direction meeting on April 13 in keeping with the stay at home order. Our meetings are not life sustaining. We have already cancelled our March and April activities.

Although not officially canceled, I would be surprised if we can have our May 12 banquet. De-Sales is currently closed.

Fourth, we can still award our scholarships. Don Kohn has completed his evaluation of this year's applicants and sent his ranking to me. I will reach out to Angelika and Chris for their ratings and have some recommendations for the board.

Fifth, does anyone know of people who need help?

Thanks and I welcome your comments and responses.



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 OF  
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER  
 (ORGANIZED 1935)**

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

## Engineer's Week Banquet

Every year the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council sponsors a banquet to commemorate Engineering Week. This year it was held on February 21, 2020, at the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks, Bethlehem.

Our Chapter recognizes two individuals annually at the banquet; Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year. Their bios were in the February edition of the Valley Engineer.



Sean Dooley, P.E., Ph.D., receiving the EOY Award from LVPSPE President Alex Dezubay, PE



Minal Amin receiving YEOY from LVPSPE President Alex Dezubay, PE

## What became of them?

1. President of the largest steel company?
2. President of the largest gas company?
3. President of the New York stock Exchange?
4. Greatest wheat speculator?
5. President of the Bank of International Settlement?
6. Great Bear of Wall Street?

These men were considered some of the world's most successful of their days. Now, almost 100 years later, the history book asks us, if we know what ultimately became of them.

The answers:

1. The president of the largest steel company, Charles Schwab, Died a pauper
2. The president of the largest gas company, Edward Hopson, Went insane
3. The president of the NYSE, Richard Whitney, Was released from prison to die at home
4. The greatest wheat speculator, Arthur Cooger, Died abroad, penniless
5. The president of The Bank of International Settlement, Shot himself
6. The Great Bear of Wall Street, Cosabee Livermore, Also committed suicide

However; in that same year, 1923, the PGA Champion and the winner of the most important golf tournament, The US Open, was Gene Sarazen.

What became of him?

He played golf until he was 92, Died in 1999 at the age of 95. He was financially secure at the time of his death.

The Moral:

The heck with work.  
Play golf.

-----  
 Silence is golden when you can't think of a good answer.

-Muhammad Ali  
 -----

**The Caucasus, in the Shadow of Mt. Ararat**

Alfred Gruenke, PE

In the Southeastern corner of Europe are the Caucasus Mountains and the tiny country of Armenia. This is an ancient land, the reputed "home" of the Caucasian race. It claims to be the first country to adopt Christianity, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. With less than three million people it's one of the smallest countries in the world.



The capital is Yerevan, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It's a beautiful, modern city with broad boulevards, expansive parks, and outdoors cafes. We stayed in the Golden Tulip Hotel, which at the time was owned by Muamar Khadafy, President of Libya. The air conditioning didn't work.

Our objective was an operating copper mine located in Kapan, in the exotic sounding province of Zangezour. We were installing ball mills to replace mills installed in the early 1950s. Kapan is about 20 miles north of the Iranian border and only a few miles west of Azerbaijan. When we started this project, I had assigned a young lad to go there as the Field Engineer. He was a jogger, who would go on hour-long jaunts daily. I cautioned him to only jog west or north of the town. Never ever go jogging east or south! I didn't want him straying into hostile territory.

The official language of Armenia is Armenian, an Indo-European language; however, Russian is

widely spoken. The detailed construction drawings were all in Russian and we were accompanied by a Russian interpreter.

A note on Armenian. Names that end in -ian translates to "son of", same as Johnson is son of John. Kevorkian and Kardashian are two examples.

The site is only 150 miles southeast of Yerevan but the trip by minibus was six hours of spine-jolting, up one mountain and down another. One mountain had twenty switchbacks. I hate the smell of overheated brakes in the morning! Cell phone coverage, however, was excellent.

Years ago, National Geographic had an article on the Caucasus Mountains and their early inhabitants. The article was about a cave, wherein they found ibex horns with carvings on their surface. New techniques showed details heretofore not seen. I thought of this as we were driving. I half expected to see an ibex romping up and down the mountainsides.



Vladimir Putin's wife's favorite church. Our Russian translator made a point of calling our attention to this church, located a few miles south of Yerevan.

Continued on page 15

## **SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS**

A great way to be involved in the LVPSPE Chapter is to contribute to the **LVPSPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. Please Contact the Valley Engineer Editor to sponsor scholarships for the remainder of the calendar year.

If you would like to contribute in any amount – please send your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to PA ENGINEERING FUND. Donations should be mailed to:

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Please note “LVPSPE Scholarship Fund” on the comment line.

Or, you may also contribute via the LVPSPE website <http://www.lvpspe.org/Donations>.

Scholarship application is at <http://www.lvpspe.org/Scholarships>. Any questions regarding scholarships can be directed to

Alex Dezubay, PE  
610-597-2007  
[Scholarship@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Scholarship@LVPSPE.org)

## **PSPE SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation currently administers the following scholarships for engineering students:

### **Undergraduate**

- \$1,000 PEF Grant: (2 awards)

### **Upperclassman**

- \$2,000 Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation Grant

Applications and guidelines are on-line now at <http://www.pspe.org/scholarships>

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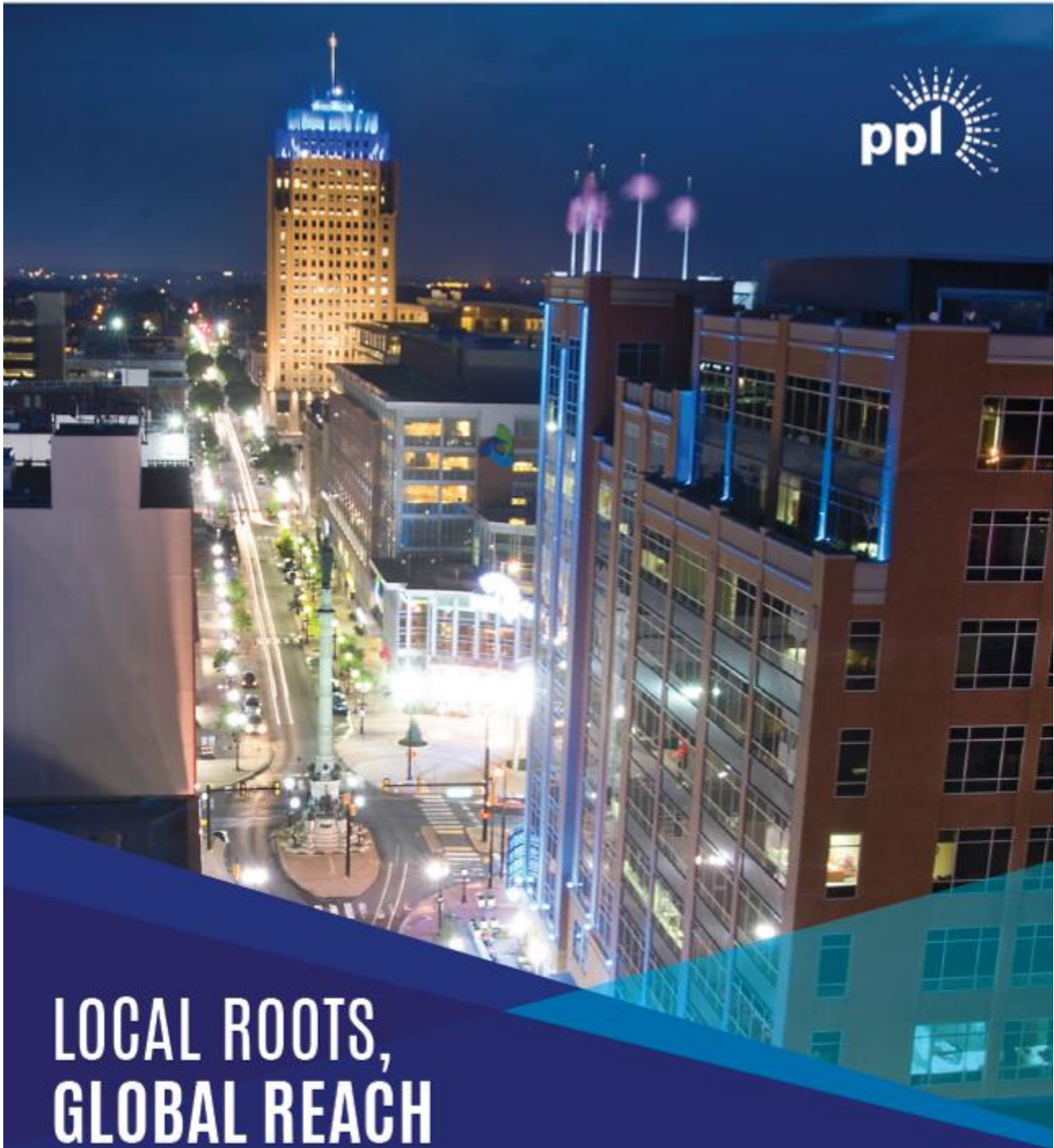
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### Lehigh Valley Chapter – PSPE

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## 2019 – 2020 State Officers

### State Director

Peter Staffeld PhD, PE, F.NSPE

[StateDirector@LVPSPE.org](mailto:StateDirector@LVPSPE.org) 215-536-7075

### Alt. State Director

Angelicaka Fordran, PE

610-997-6659

### VP Northeast:

Marleen Troy, PE, PhD

570-408-4615

## Board of Direction Meetings

The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Monday of each month. Open to all members; they are held at the office of Liberty Property Trust, 74 W. Broad Street, Suite 240, Bethlehem, PA.

## 2019 – 2020 Chapter Officers

### President:

Alex Dezubay, PE

[President@LVPSPE.org](mailto:President@LVPSPE.org) 610-597-2007

### Vice President:

Jeff Kutz, PE

[VicePresident@LVPSPE.org](mailto:VicePresident@LVPSPE.org) 215-325-1303

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Chris Williams, PE, LEED AP

[Secretary@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Secretary@LVPSPE.org) 610-398-0904

### Treasurer:

Ray Szczucki, PE

[Treasurer@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Treasurer@LVPSPE.org) 610-614-1245

### Immediate Past President:

Brian Kutz, PE

[PastPresident@LVPSPE.org](mailto:PastPresident@LVPSPE.org) 610-997-6659

### Chapter Directors:

Frank Walsh, PE

[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

Mary Rooney

[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

Alexa Rooney, EIT

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Congratulations to all of the LVPSPE scholarship recipients!

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Mt. Ararat. If you look carefully you can see Noah's Ark.

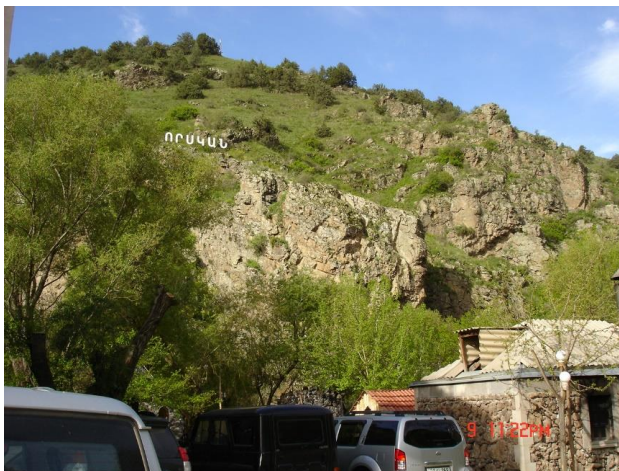
Located thirty miles south of Yerevan, twenty miles inside Turkey, is Mount Ararat. The mountain is the logo of Armenian brandy, plus, I'm sure, other products. Turkey sued the Armenian companies for trademark violations, but a court ruled that one cannot trademark a mountain as one cannot trademark images of the moon. Being this close to Mt. Ararat was a completion of a circle, of sorts. My father was in this area when he was in the Russian Army in WWI. He told numerous stories about it, many of which I'm sure were factual.



On the road to Yerevan. Sheep have the right of way



Kapan, Zangezour, Armenia



A rest stop

We spent only a day at the site, but it was enlightening. The copper mine and refinery dates back to the Stalin era, and looks it. An MSHA or OSHA inspector would have had a heart attack or shivering with excitement! Electric cables on the floor, motor starter doors open or missing, no hand railing on stairs, that kind of thing. The ring gear on one of the mills was so out of alignment the floor was vibrating. I was very careful wherever I went.

We went to a restaurant and I looked at the menu and I'm sure that I saw the word Лошадь (loshad). That's Russian for

horse. I didn't ask. Knowing what you're eating takes all the fun out of it. Our Russian translator treated us to numerous vodka toasts to celebrate the anniversary of the end of the "Great Patriotic War", World War II. Unfortunately, (or fortunately), my stamina was considerably less than our host. I shouted "Na zdravia" and left it at that.

Armenia used to be part of the Soviet Empire, and vestiges of that business structure still remain. One of the first complaints I heard was, no construction drawings. I easily found the drawings they claimed they didn't have. It's easier to cry than to try. Getting someone to make a decision to move the project forward was an almost impossible task. Their Rules for Survival appears to have been, "A decision postponed is better than no decision at all " It was so frustrating that two very experienced Field Engineers threatened to quit if I didn't reassign them. We finally had to import a crew from our South Africa office to move the project along.



The Pride of Armenia! Ararat brandy. The label on the left is in Russian and Armenian. The label on the right is in Russian, English, and Armenian.

We made it back to Yerevan and boarded an Air France Airbus home. I had bought two bottles of Ararat brandy at the airport in Yerevan but unfortunately it was confiscated in Charles de Gaul Airport in Paris. Liquids were not allowed on the

plane, and that was that! I told the agent to enjoy himself.

Fortunately, a Field Engineer was able to get a couple of bottles for me a bit later, to add to my collection of exotic booze. No idea how it tastes.

The project was finally completed, and we moved on.

Armenia was a mixed bag, but certainly interesting, and more than a little exotic. Also, I took some personal pleasure being where my father was a hundred years earlier.

-----  
The bureaucracy must be served, even if it's at the expense of progress, or profit.

-Dr. August Polinske

-----  
I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.

-Thomas Jefferson

-----  
Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people

-Eleanor Roosevelt

-----  
When choosing between two evils, I always like to try one I've never tried before.

-Mae West

-----  
Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic.

-Anonymous

-----  
If you can't convince them, confuse them.

-Harry S. Truman

-----  
If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried"

-Anonymous



**Lehigh Valley Chapter  
Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers  
Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe and Carbon Counties**

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Minutes for the March 9, 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
6:00 pm at the Office of Bridge Gap Engineering LLC, 1717 Main St, Northampton, PA 18067

Attendees: Al Dezubay, Ray Szczucki, Frank Walsh, Angelika Forndran  
by phone Mary Rooney, Peter Staffeld

Please note: I am writing this on April 10th. Much has changed since March 9th meeting.

**I. Call to Order:** Al Dezubay called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM

**II. Programs:**

- Activities – Jeff Kutz
  - March – no activities finalized
  - April – no activities finalized
  - May – banquet date May 12th 6-9PM
- Newsletter – Al Gruenke
  - Needs articles by March 17th.

**III. MATHCOUNTS:**

- February 8<sup>th</sup>. Event went very well. Big thanks to Kevin Campbell for running the event.

**IV. Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships**

- EOY/YEOY Engineer's Banquet went well
  - Start EOY and YEOY search in October
  - LVPSPE paid \$650 for a table of eight people
  - Al, Frank, and maybe Angelika paid directly to LVEC; we need to reconcile the correct costs between LVPSPE and LVEC.
- Fundraising – Frank Walsh
  - \$6,250 pledged, plus a couple of expected donations
  - \$5,150 received
- Scholarships – Al Dezubay
  - Reached out to schools
  - Extended application deadline to March 15th

## **V. Treasurer**

- Treasurer Report – Ray Szczucki
  - Checking balance: \$2,759.30
  - Savings balance: \$9,890.09
  - PayPal balance: approximately \$6,114.29
  - Ray reviewed various deposits and payments
  - We questioned the cost of the bar at our banquet; last year the cost was \$545. No decision was made. Revisit at the April meeting.

## **VI. State Director**

- State Director Report – Peter Staffeld, no report

## **VII. Past President**

- Past President Report – Brian Kutz, no report

## **VIII. Old Business/New Business**

- New website
  - Reviewed new website proposal
  - Will cost \$3,300 up front, yearly hosting fee of \$475
  - Wild Apricot costs \$108/month currently.
  - Frank offered to contact Charles to be an advertiser in exchange for a reduced up-front cost
  - We will need a new banner cloth not the stand. Someone offered to check on it , but I can't remember whom
- Quarterly report
  - Al Dezubay will follow up with Peter to determine what should be in the quarterly report, and when
- Upcoming Board of Directors meetings for the 2019-2020 year:
  - April 13th
  - May 12th – LVPSPE Scholarships and Installation of Officers Banquet

## **IX. Adjournment at 7:06 on a motion by Frank, seconded by Ray.**