



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

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

# Valley Engineer Newsletter

May 2023

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 25, 2023

2023 Annual Awards Dinner,  
 Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar  
 Bethlehem, PA



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY  
 OF  
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER  
 (ORGANIZED 1935)**

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

## **Annual Awards and Installation of Officers**

On Thursday, May 25, 2023, the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers will hold its annual scholarship awards and installation of officers at the Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar in Bethlehem, PA.

This is always an exciting time for the Chapter, as we support the next generation of engineers. We again had some great scholarship candidates and had a great time reviewing the applications! We are always amazed at the quality of candidates we attract! This year we are presenting four \$2,000.00 scholarships to high school graduates who are going for a degree in engineering.

Please consider attending the event to network with our local community of engineers and meet the scholarship winners!

Also, at this event we are going to install the new slate of Chapter officers for the coming year. The swearing-in will be by Nicole Wilson, PSPE President-Elect from Bucks County.

Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar is located just minutes from the intersection of Route 33 and Freemansburg Avenue in Bethlehem Township.

## Uline on the Boulevard

Alfred Gruenke, PE

The Lehigh Valley in the last dozen years or so has seen an influx of huge, two-story or so megastructures near major highways, with hundreds of truck bays. These buildings tend to be rather attractive, surrounded by well-maintained lawns and trees, and present an aura of technological efficiency and awe.

On a warm April evening sixteen members and friends of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers had the opportunity to tour Uline, located adjacent to Hamilton Boulevard, Trexlertown, and remove some of the mystery. We were greeted by Sean Tomlinson, Chadd Bertsch, and Elrige Shelton, who guided us and explained the features of this facility.



Our hosts, Sean Tomlinson, Chadd Bertsch, and Elrige Shelton

Uline is a distributor of over 41,000 products including over 1,700 box sizes and other shipping supplies; janitorial and facility maintenance items; material handling; warehouse and retail operations equipment; PPE; safety items; and more. Tissues, packing peanuts, pallet trucks, toolboxes, trash cans, and everything in between. Most of their customers are industrial, but they also serve individuals. Any item purchased

before 6:00 PM is guaranteed same day shipment, which results in over 99% next day delivery. Uline utilizes UPS, FedEx, USPS, Pitt Ohio, A. Duie Pyle, and JP Express among others for deliveries. Their website is [www.uline.com](http://www.uline.com).

Uline occupies two identical sized buildings on this campus. The dimensions are mind-boggling. Approximately 1800' x 600' x 38' high, around 1,200,000 square feet. Internally, the bay extends to the roof. There are 240 dock doors at each building. There are 1,000 people are employed locally.

The buildings are filled with rows and rows and rows of shelves filled with Uline products. It was not stated, but one can imagine the complex inventory control system to keep track of everything!



Miles of shelves!



Center aisle. Note battery powered Reach Trucks and Stock Pickers, for transporting products. Internally, the hallway appears to be a half mile long!

Continued on page 3



Safety is of primary concern. Each operator wears a safety harness.

Keeping such a large area clean is a priority. Uline management insists on very strict house-keeping standards, both inside and the surrounding grounds. It was noted that the floor was spotless. The criteria used to be, if you dropped a sandwich, would you pick it up and eat it without hesitation? At a Uline facility, the answer is yes!

The operation as we saw it was a quiet picture of efficiency. Everyone seemed to know what they were doing and did it with purpose. No litter in corners, no yelling, no wasted motion. Chadd said that their hiring standards are high, and it shows.

I must admit that I had no idea who Uline was and what they did. To see what was in the building was a revelation to us all. I thank Uline and its representatives for giving us a glimpse into a world of material handling and distribution. And it's being done with little fanfare or neighborhood disruption. Well done!



240 dock doors



Members and friends of LVPSPE



Loading-unloading trailers

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The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.

-Hubert H. Humphrey

-----  
Indecision and ambiguity are the keys to flexibility.

-August Polinske

-----  
If you want a pat on the back, you're on the wrong project.

-Anonymous

Buildings of this size present unique environmental challenges. The building is heated, but there is no general air conditioning. There are fans, but it gets a bit warm in the summertime.

## **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 any amount – please send your TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation to PA ENGINEERING FUND. Donations should be mailed to:

**PA Engineering Foundation % LVPSPE  
P.O. Box 195  
Northampton, PA 18067**

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)

## **PEF SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation oversees the Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS program and PEF Scholarships. The purpose is to help nurture future engineers.

## **2022 – 2023 LVPSPE SCHOLARSHIP DONORS**

### **Graduate**

American Society of Civil Engineers  
Lehigh Valley ASCE, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.  
Victaulic Company  
Easton, PA

### **Senior**

FLSmith, Inc.  
Allentown, PA

### **Junior**

Barry Isett & Associates  
Allentown, Phoenixville, Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre,  
Mechanicsburg, Wyomissing, Furlong,  
Stroudsburg, PA  
The Pidcock Company  
Allentown, PA  
Alfred Gruenke, PE  
Wescosville, PA  
H.T. Lyons  
Allentown, PA  
ZAP Engineering  
Bethlehem, PA

### **Sophomore**

Jeffrey Johnson, P.E., FLSmith Inc  
Allentown, PA  
Hanover Engineering Associates  
Bethlehem, PA  
Boyle Construction  
Allentown, PA  
Dreyer Consulting  
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Macungie, PA

### **Freshmen**

Deilen Development  
Dezubay Engineering Services  
Colliers Engineering & Design  
Allentown, PA  
Robert Peruzzi  
Bethlehem, PA  
Nermin Ferhadbegovic  
Mass Mutual, Center Valley, PA  
Patricia Peoples  
Morgan Stanley, Allentown, PA

### **Contributors**

William Erdman, PE  
Ray Szczuzucki, PE  
Kohn Engineering  
Angelika Fordran, PE

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**Jeffrey Johnson, PE,  
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**Ray Szczuzucki, PE**

**William Erdman, PE**

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**Congratulations to all the Scholarship Award recipients.**

**You are about to enter a most noble profession,  
Engineering.**

**We are the past and the present, you are the future.**

**Thank you, for being you.**

**Alfred Gruenke, PE, MBA**

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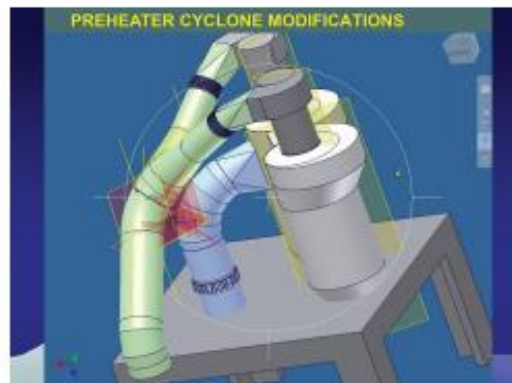


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## Internet Addresses

### National Society of Professional Engineers

[www.NSPE.org](http://www.NSPE.org)

### Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

[www.PSPE.org](http://www.PSPE.org)

### Lehigh Valley Chapter – PSPE

[www.LVPSPE.org](http://www.LVPSPE.org)

## 2022 – 2023 State Officers

### State officers

State Director – Michael Basta PE. F-NSPE

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

Alt State Director – Angelika Forndran, PE

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

### 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 via Zoom meetings in 2022 until further notice.

## 2022 – 2023 Chapter Officers

### Chapter officers

President – Jeff Kutz, EIT

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

215-325-1303

Vice President – Alexa Rooney, EIT

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

610-774-6011

Treasurer – Ray Szczucki, PE

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

610-614-1245

Secretary – Chris Williams, PE, LEED AP

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

610-398-0904

Past President – Al Dezubay, PE

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

610-597-2007

### Chapter Directors

Director – Mary Rooney, PE

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

Director – Frank Walsh, PE

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

## CELEBRATING EASTER IN JERUSALEM

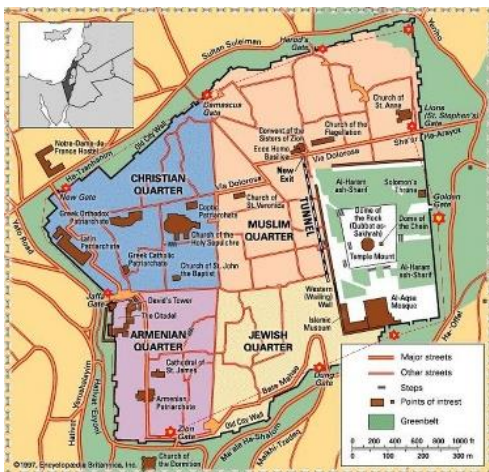
Alfred Gruenke, PE

Attending a church when in a foreign land is always a challenge. I'm not overly religious, but I (almost) always attend church on Easter. What better place to celebrate the holiest of Christian holidays than in the place sacred to three religions?

A couple of years ago I was on assignment in Israel during the Easter season. I politely told the customer that I don't work on Easter Sunday, that I would be going to church. He told me to go ahead, that I would have many options. In Israel, every Christian denomination is represented.

Most countries in the world have adapted the Christian week, with Saturday-Sunday as the weekend. Most Moslem countries celebrate Thursday-Friday, and Israel celebrates Friday-Saturday. Imagine making a weekly work schedule with these considerations!

The Jerusalem to which we have been accustomed is presently referred to as the Old City. It is divided into four sections: the Christian Quarter, the Armenian Quarter, the Moslem Quarter, and the Jewish Quarter.



On Good Friday I went to the Christian Quarter to observe a re-enactment of

Jesus carrying a cross along the Via Delatorosa to Golgotha, the present site of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the place of the crucifixion. A bit melodramatic, but pretty good.



Reenactment of Jesus carrying the cross

I wanted to go to church on Easter but did not want to enter the sure-to-be hustle and bustle of Jerusalem on Easter. So, I went to the Trappist Monastery Winery, located near the biblical town of Emaus, between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. I bought some wine and inquired about Easter Sunday church services. He responded in the affirmative, so my Easter Sunday activities were set.



Trappist Monastery

On Sunday morning I went to the monastery and again asked about church services. I received a gruff answer which I (politely) translated to "Go away and don't

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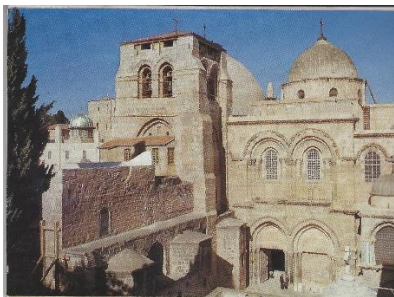
bother me." I found out later that the monks take vows of silence and only talk if absolutely necessary! I guess something was lost in translation.

So, off to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Surely, they must have a church service there!

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher under normal circumstances is a bit of a zoo. It's "run" by three competitive groups, the Armenians, the Franciscans, and the Greek Orthodox churches, and they don't like each other. People running around, shoving, yelling, acting very un-Christian-like. Easter Sunday was all the above, but worse.



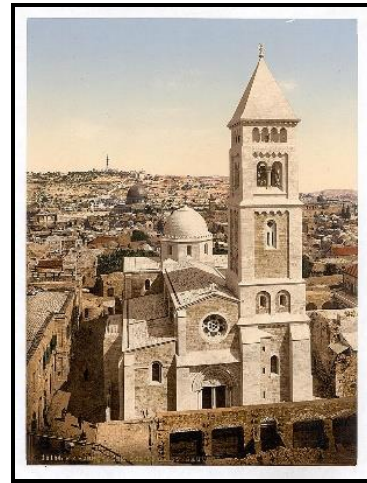
My photo, Church of the Holy Sepulcher



Postcard photo, Church of the Holy Sepulcher

It was obvious that there was not going to be any official church service that day, so I left.

Then, I heard *posaunenmusik*, brass music, the traditional music of the Lutheran Church. Only 100 yards away was *Kaiser Wilhelm's Erlöserkirche*, Kaiser Wilhelm Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. The church was built in 1892-1898 and was inaugurated on Reformation Day of 1898 by Kaiser Wilhelm II. I made my way there, but the doors were closed.



*Kaiser Wilhelm's Erlöserkirche*

Well, I thought, this year just being in Jerusalem will have to count.

Just then the doors opened, people flooded out, and prepared for another service. I entered.

Services at this church are in Arabic, German, Danish, and English This service was in German. That suited me fine.

The most memorable thing about this service was the communion bread was local pita bread! And of course, a sip of real wine. My religiosity was satisfied.

I've had other memorable Easter services including a two-hour Easter vigil in Java, Catholic mass in Provo, Utah in Spanish, and a Maronite church service in Egypt. But *Kaiser Wilhelm's Erlöserkirche* stands out.



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

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Minutes for the April 10, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting  
6:00pm on Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Jeff Kutz, Al Dezubay, Al Gruenke, Chris Williams, Mike Basta and Ray Szczucki.

**A. Call to Order: 6:08**

**B. President – Jeff Kutz**

- April tour at Uline on 4/11/2023. Hopefully Al can attend and prepare newsletter article. If not, Chris will get pictures and put article together.
- May banquet – Possibly 5/23 or 5/25, Jeff will check availability and confirm with the Board.
- Al working on newsletter, updating donor list for May issue.

**B. Fundraising – Frank Walsh**

- No update.

**C. Scholarships – Jeff Kutz**

- Last year gave four scholarships at \$2,500.
- Will have to re-visit fundraising totals.
- Going to meet next week to review scholarships. Jeff will compile rankings in advance.

**D. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki**

- As of 3/31
  - i. Checking \$1,808.94
  - ii. Savings \$12,013.83
- Discussed recent transactions including checks to PEF Mathcounts for \$480 and \$160 to cover MATHCOUNTS state expenses.
- Discussed Engineers week award expenses.
- Discussed Wild Apricot fees. If we can get down to the 'group level', we will see monthly savings. Need to trim down from +480 to 250 or less.

**E. State Director – Mike Basta**

- Next state meeting in April or May.
- Mike provided executive summary to Al for inclusion in next newsletter.

**F. Past President – Al Dezubay**

- Slate of officers:
  - i. President – Alexa Rooney
  - ii. Vice President –
  - iii. Secretary – Cody Callahan
  - iv. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki
  - v. Past Pres – Jeff Kutz
  - vi. State Director – Mike Basta
  - vii. Alt. State Director – Angelika Forndran
  - viii. Director – Mary Rooney
  - ix. Director – Frank Walsh
  - x. Director – Al Dezubay

**G. New Business**

- none

**H. Old Business**

- Jeff working on website, will follow up with grant opportunity.
- Future meeting – May banquet, date TBD

**I. Adjournment on motion by Mike, seconded by Al D at 6:48.**