



Valley Engineer Newsletter

November, 2019

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

11/21/2019 Just Born Candies Tour, 6:00 PM,
 1300 Stefko Boulevard, Bethlehem, PA

12/11/2019 Combined LVPSPE-LVASCE Holiday
 Banquet, Renaissance Allentown Hotel, 5:00 PM
 12 North Seventh Street, Allentown, PA



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
 OF
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
 (ORGANIZED 1935)**

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

President's Message

Alex Dezubay, PE

How many of our LV PSPE member have asked themselves, "What is PSPE doing?" At the September PSPE State conference, John Wanner gave a presentation titled *PSPE Legislative Program*. I wish every one of our LV PSPE members could have heard his presentation. This month I would like to summarize John's talk and I hope to do it justice. For anyone who does not know, John Wanner, of Wanner Associates has been PSPE's lobbyist in Harrisburg for many years.

These are excerpts from John's PowerPoint presentation.

- **VISION**
 PSPE is the recognized voice and advocate of all Professional Engineers licensed in Pennsylvania.
- **MISSION**
 Promote and defend the interests of Pennsylvania's Professional Engineers.
- **Legislation**
 Protect the Professional Engineer's license and title through careful monitoring of legislation and proactive efforts.
- **Legislation**
 Scan all upcoming legislation for potential infringement and devaluation of the PE license and proactively work to eliminate existing or pending infringements.
 - How to monitor bills and regulations reporting services
 - Reading the bills and proposed regulations
 - Attending meetings
 - Participating in coalitions
 - Heads-up from friends on the Hill
 - Alerts from members

There are consistent efforts to have people other than licensed professional engineers do what have traditionally been Professional Engineering tasks. John Wanner's example was Registration Act Amendments: [Southeastern Reprographics v. Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs](#). In 2016, the PA Commonwealth Court reversed the decision of the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists thus ruling that Reprographics had not violated the licensing law by using GIS technology in locating utility assets for a rural electric cooperative. In short using GPS data instead of a licensed surveyor, because the court decided no designs were being done so no licensed professional surveyor was needed. PSPE efforts through Wanner Associates is to offer legislation to clarify adding language that includes these surveying tasks as engineering and so requiring a professional license regardless of the tools used to locate buildings and other features.

As a regular part of their activities Wanner Associates has to communicate the impact on engineering licenses and professional engineering activities with legislators and other state officials who are not engineers and do not have the knowledge of how engineers protect public health and safety with their education, experiences, and ethical code. Not an easy task.

PSPE, through Wanner Associates, actively looks for attempts to transfer activities from the ranks of Professional Engineers to other professions including:

- Home Inspectors
- Certified Erosion and Sedimentation Control Professionals
- Geographic Information Systems Professionals
- Fire Protection Consultants
- Contractors
- Architects, etc....

Visit <https://www.pspe.org/legislative-activity/> to get updates and send communications to your legislators and senators.

I have a copy of John's PowerPoint presentation; please contact me if you are interested in it.

Thanks

Atlas Machining and Welding Tour

Jeff Kutz, PE

The Atlas Cement Company has been part of Lehigh Valley's history since 1889 and at one time was the largest cement producing facility in the world. With that kind of history there is no doubt that it will have left an influence that is still felt today. Part of the infrastructure that was developed for that historic cement plant is still in use today in the form of Atlas Machining and Welding. The building that is used for their shop is one of the former Atlas Cement buildings, and is down the street from the Atlas Cement Museum.

However, don't let the façade of a 100+ year old history fool you. This is a thoroughly modern and state of the art manufacturing facility. The shop is recognized as a world class manufacturing facility and distributes parts and equipment to customers around the globe. It is not often recognized that we have such extensive manufacturing capabilities in the Lehigh Valley in the form of shops such as this, but Atlas is testament to our roots in the past with a firm foot in the techno-logy of the future.

Approximately 10 members and friends of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers were hosted by Lisa Keeney-Ziegenfus, President/COO of Atlas Machining & Welding and her production management team. We were invited into the 60,000 square foot production floor to see the wide variety of manufacturing capabilities that are utilized to meet the far-reaching needs of their customers. Atlas has a staff in excess of 60 persons working three shifts to allow for component production 24 hours a day. This gives them the opportunity to provide customers quick turnaround parts to support aggressive timelines and the always demanding shut-down work. The Lehigh Valley to this day is a hot bed of cement production and Atlas has not forgotten the industry for which it carries its name, and is the preferred vendor of many of the cement plants and engineering firms in the area.

The list of services that are provided by Atlas are quite extensive and including CNC machining in

Continued on page 3

the form of turning centers, horizontal machining, vertical milling, multi-axis, and the list goes on. In addition to the machining capabilities, Atlas displayed their metal working capabilities for laser cutting of production run components, heavy wear liners, and innovative methods to manufacture traditionally cast parts using more conventional means. It was very obvious that ingenuity is ingrained in their structure in providing customers what they need, when they need it.



Lisa Keeney-Ziegenfus, President/COO (center) of Atlas Machining & Welding on the shop floor.

The tour ended in the assembly area to show off the large mechanical assemblies being refurbished side by side with ASME pressure vessels, which the shop is certified to manufacture. The tour group left not only impressed, but with a newfound appreciation of manufacturing processes for equipment large and small.

Atlas proudly displays on its website the videos from past years about "What's So Cool About Manufacturing?" which is a program that engages local students in the different processes required to manufacture the parts and equipment we see around us every day. They have worked with students year after year to promote a rewarding career in the manufacturing industry. As an organization that promotes STEM and all associated fields, we applaud the efforts of local companies that engage students for the same.

As a parting gift, Atlas showed off their skills in metal working by providing keepsakes in the form of business card holders with a unique design including a detachable bicycle as well as some components that will probably not improve your golf game but allow you to at least play in style.



Golfing in Style!

We thank Lisa Keeney-Ziegenfus and her staff for an insight into a local company with local history, with word-wide impact.



LVPSPE members at Atlas Machining & Welding, Northampton, PA

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:

LVPSPE
P.O. Box 3441
Allentown, PA 18106

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

PSPE SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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- \$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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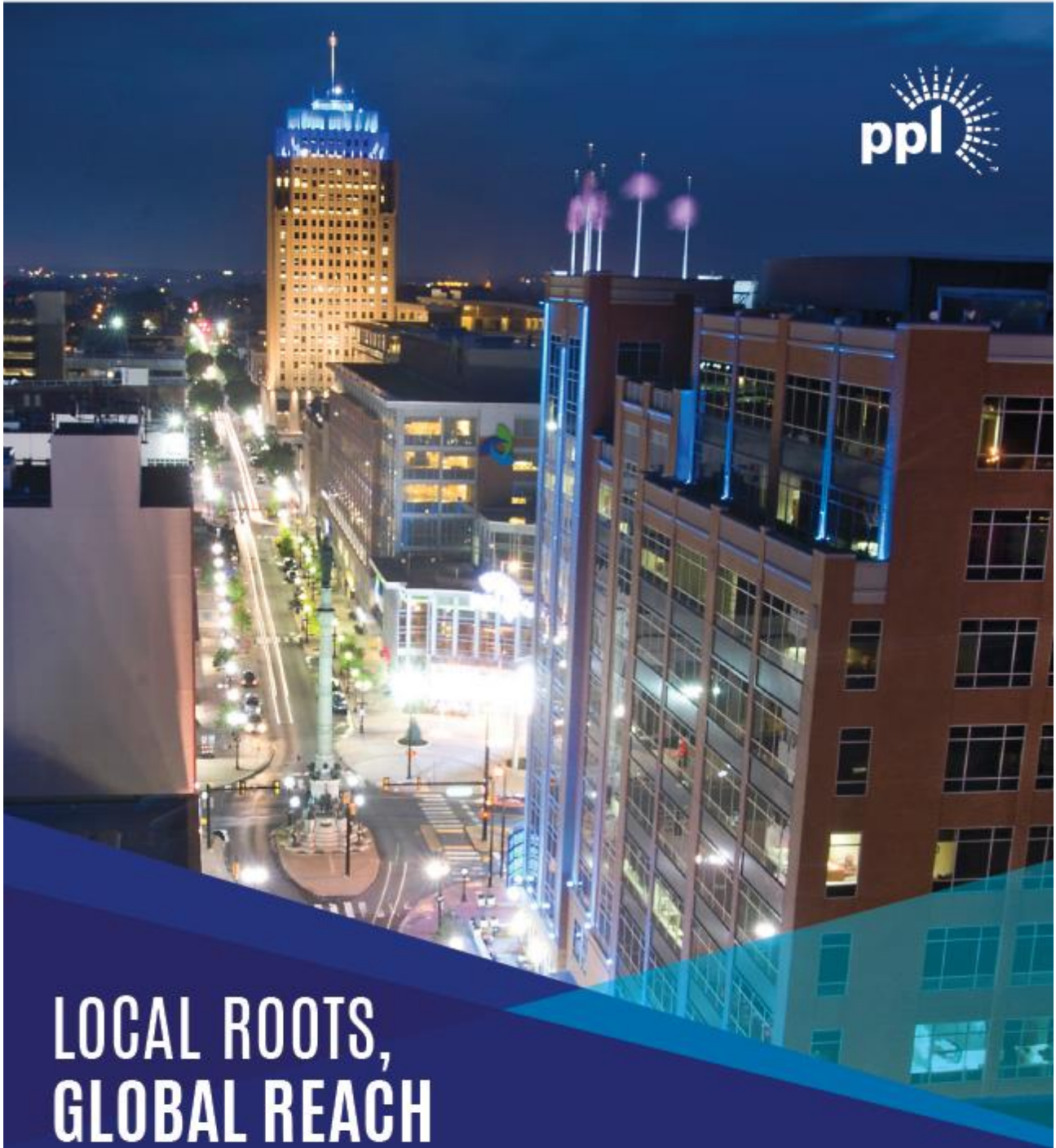
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 570-408-4615

Board of Direction Meetings

The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2nd) 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

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President@LVPSPE.org 610-997-6659

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Jeff Kutz, PE
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National Academy of Forensic Engineers

Robert O. Peruzzi, PhD, PD

About ten years ago in the HR office:

“Bob. Pack up your things. Your job is moving to Germany.”

“Cool. It’s going to be fun living and working in Germany. I can’t wait to tell my wife!”

“No, no, no. Your **job** is moving to Germany. We don’t care where **you** go. Just pack up your things and get out!”

From there I followed a twisted path, obtaining my PE license, incorporating as a consulting business, finding clients, working for them, getting paid. Saw my business grow, then shrink. Took specialized training to be an expert witness. Marketed my would-be services, and finally landed some forensic cases with law firms. Joined NAFE, spoke at meetings, and got drafted to be in their public

relations committee and be liaison to PSPE and LVSPE.

The National Academy of Forensic Engineers (NAFE) has appointed me liaison to the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), and Lehigh Valley Society of Professional Engineers (LVSPE).

The National Academy of Forensic Engineers is an organization of Professional Engineers who are qualified to give expert testimony in a court of law. Membership must be members of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), and be members in an acceptable grade of a recognized major technical engineering society.

<https://definitions.uslegal.com/e/expert-witness/>

“An expert witness is a witness who has knowledge beyond that of the ordinary lay

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person enabling him/her to give testimony regarding an issue that requires expertise to understand. Experts are allowed to give opinion testimony which a non-expert witness may be prohibited from testifying to."

In addition to engineering, expert witness practices include medical, business/financial, human resources, family/custody, insurance, police/penal, real estate and more. There is no defined requirement for declaring oneself an expert. However, the expert and his/her retaining attorney must convince the court of their expertise.

The National Academy of Forensic Engineers and its members are committed to:

- Serving the public by advancing the ethical and professional practice of forensic engineering;
- Serving the jurisprudential system by certifying individuals having achieved expertise in forensic engineering;
- Serving Academy members and furthering the development of forensic engineers through education and the publication of peer-reviewed technical literature.

NAFE is formally affiliated with NSPE, but is an independent organization incorporated in the State of Virginia.

Why should a forensic engineer/expert witness join NAFE?

- Exchange information and ideas
- Refer and get referrals
- Continuing education
- Support group
- Promote yourself

I thank you for your interest and ask for your assistance in any future endeavors.

Diplomacy is the art of telling people to go to hell in such a way that they ask for directions.

-Winston Churchill

THANKSGIVING AWAY FROM HOME

Alfred Gruenke, PE

The modern American Thanksgiving celebration has three features: family, food, and football. Other cultures have holidays similar to Thanksgiving, such as harvest celebrations but the essence of this holiday, the eating of a New World bird, the turkey, is uniquely American.

Thanksgiving is always a major event among Americans overseas. We are separated from our families, so it is celebrated with our families away from home, our fellow ex-patriots.

Planning may require months. Considerable creativity and bending of the rules is required, since the ingredients for the Thanksgiving meal are not always readily available. The turkey, however, is essential.

It is fortunate for the proper celebration of Thanksgiving that the turkey is fairly common in many parts of the world, though some searching may be necessary. In Egypt, a turkey could be purchased by going to the market and ordering "dechrumie." The price was by weight, on the wing. Butchering was extra. Fortunately, our guest house cook knew how to prepare it tastefully. We invited the cook's wife, our drivers, and their wives.

Trimmings such as pumpkin pie are impossible in Egypt. To obtain pie filling, plus a few other items, everyone going home on R&R was "required" to bring something back. In this way, plus local purchases, the meal was a success.

The Thanksgiving meal in Indonesia was organized and prepared by the wives of our colleagues who had accompanied their husbands. I don't know how they managed to find all the goodies, but they did. The meal was fabulous! This was a real

Continued on page 16

international event, with representatives from fourteen countries.

One of my Thanksgiving dinners was at the American Embassy in Islamabad. Many American Embassies have Thanksgiving dinner for US citizens and guests, or they at least will advise as to where Thanksgiving is served in the area. In Korea, we were told to try the nearest US Army base. We opted for our own dinner.

The customer in Korea managed to purchase a rather small specimen for us from a farm close to an American military base. Our guest house cook butchered it, all the while expressing his opinion of such bird with various expletives deleted, in various languages. The meal was fine, however.

Because the turkey was rather small, we supplemented it with a nice beef roast purchased in a nearby town. An associate and I had an interesting time buying the required spices. Since our combined Korean vocabulary was less than ten words, we resorted to wandering from shop to shop, opening spice containers, pinching, sniffing, and tasting, until we found what we needed. We were not charged for the spices, because I suspect that the shopkeepers were not sure we were in full possession of all of our marbles.

Once in Egypt, and twice in Ecuador, we had Thanksgiving dinner at a hotel restaurant. Most major hotels worldwide are aware of the significance of Thanksgiving, and are able to serve a decent turkey dinner. It may not be on the menu, but ask the manager at least a week ahead of time. The trimmings may not be the same as a "home cooked" meal, but something is better than nothing. A major difference with these dinners is the inability to "pig out." The portions are considerably less than at home, and there are no leftovers.

Depending on the time, and if one is lucky, it may be possible to participate in

the third F of Thanksgiving, watching football on television. With the establishment of global television this is becoming easier every year. A colleague managed to get himself invited to the Marine House at the Embassy in Ankara, Turkey for dinner, plus the Lions-Eagles football game afterwards. It never hurts to ask.

One year, when staying at the Hotel Oberoi in Katmandu, Nepal, I completely forgot about Thanksgiving. My "Thanksgiving Dinner" consisted of wild boar, rice, and asparagus. A couple of American tourists, who had gone to the Embassy for their dinner, reminded me of my transgression the next day. So much for being travel-wise.

Thanksgiving away from home can be depressing. But with one's associates, and some creativity, it can become tolerable, and sometimes even enjoyable.

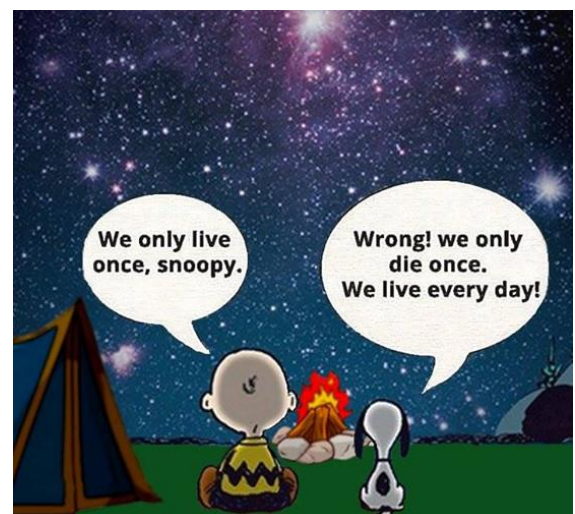
Bon appetite.

When something needs to be said, it doesn't mean that it needs to be heard as well.

-Valantis Gaoutis

The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it.

-Oscar Wilde





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

Minutes for the November 11, 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6:00 pm at the Office of Barry Isett & Associates 85 Pennsylvania 100, Allentown, PA 18106

Attendees: Angelika Forndran, Mary Rooney, Jeff Kutz, Frank Walsh, Chris Williams, Al Dezubay, Ray Szczucki, Mike Basta (phone)

- I. **Call to Order:** Alex Dezubay called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

- II. **Programs:**
 - Activities – Jeff Kutz
 - November: Just Born tour of facility on 11/21, details to be confirmed.
 - December: No update on joint event. May be able to join ASCE's holiday event on 12/11. Mary will reach out to Steve Ressler.
 - Newsletter – Al Gruenke requested write-up on the October tour and a message from the President.
 - Membership – Current and dropped members lists were reviewed. All are encouraged to review and reach out to any members who you think may want to renew their membership.

- III. **MATHCOUNTS:**
 - Scheduled for 2/8 (snow date 2/9) at Trexler Middle School in Allentown SD.

- IV. **Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships**
 - Fundraising – Frank Walsh
 - 2019 received to date: \$2,450 pledged, received \$1,000. Feel free to reach out to contacts on the Google sheet and update accordingly.

 - Scholarships – Al Dezubay
 - Coordination deferred to January. Al would appreciate some administrative help in coordinating with contacts at schools. Applications due early March. Probably still have banquet in early May.

- V. **Treasurer**
 - Ray reviewed summary budget. Based on prior year, 'actual' is based on current year spending.
 - Current PayPal balance over \$6K.

- Mary mentioned LVEC has funds which LVPSPE could apply for towards the Scholarship fund. She'll let us know how to apply.
- All discussed prior years' expenses, and ways to reduce expenditures.
 - Cash bar at future holiday parties
 - BYOB option at DeSales? In past we have paid flat rate per person, when many are not drinking alcohol.
 - Raise signup fees
 - Let's take a closer look when planning future holiday parties and scholarship banquets.

VI. State Director (via Mike Basta)

- September conference will gross 13K. State appreciates the participation by the LV Chapter.
- PSPE is supporting legislation at state level. Architects organization is also supporting this legislation.
- Temple & PSU Harrisburg may start PSPE student chapter.
- State is working on a strategic plan.
- We have the 3rd largest state membership in the country, approx. 1,010 PSPE members.
- Next executive committee meeting is 11/20/20.
- NSPE conference will be combined with PA state conference August 12-16, 2020 in Philadelphia.

VII. Past President

- Past President Report – Brian Kutz, no report

VIII. Old Business/New Business

- Jeff discussed that the Chapter has a 'group' in LinkedIn. Can't invite individuals from a group. Jeff took current member list and sent personal invite to everyone and will then connect them to the group.
- Jeff will start posting activities in the group.
- All discussed a new website
 - Do we want registered users on the website? Probably not necessary. Seems to be a feature from Wild Apricot that we didn't need.
 - Plan to set up a call with Mary's web designer to discuss options.
 - Frank will prepare a list of features we should have incorporate into the new website.
- Board of Directors meetings for the 2019-2020 year:
 - December N/A – Holiday Break
 - January 13th
 - February 10th
 - March 9th
 - April 13th
 - May TBD – LVPSPE Scholarships and Installation of Officers Banquet

IX. Adjournment motion by Ray, Seconded by Mary, 7:26