



Valley Engineer Newsletter

September - October 2018

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Week of November 26, 2018 – Westport Axle tour. More information to follow.
- December 13, 2018 at 6:00pm at Kingfish American Bistro – Holiday Banquet with a presentation from PA Turnpike.
- February 9, 2019 at Lower Macungie Middle School – MATHCOUNTS® competition. More information to follow.
- February 22, 2019 at 6:00pm at ArtsQuest SteelStacks – Engineer’s Week Banquet. More information to follow.
- September 19-20, 2019 at Sands Bethlehem Casino – PSPE Annual Conference (more information located on Page 2)

Upcoming NSPE NE Region Meeting Has a Lehigh Valley Connection...

Eric Tappert, PE

On November 8-10 the Northeast Region of NSPE will hold their meeting in King of Prussia. In addition to a great continuing education opportunity, Friday’s dinner will feature a historical talk about the great French military engineer General DuPortail. As you may realize, one of General Washington’s biggest problems in the Revolutionary War was the lack of local engineers. He, through Ben Franklin, recruited several French military engineers, including DuPortail. On June 9, 1778, Generals Washington and DuPortail signed an order that created America’s first engineering college.



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
(ORGANIZED 1935)**



General DuPortail,
by Charles Willson Peale, c. 1781-1784

Continued on page 2

For the Bicentennial celebration in 1976, NSPE took an active role. That's where the Lehigh Valley connection is made. One of our very active members at the time, Norm Schaffer, served on the national committee planning the celebration. The committee decided to commission a painting of Generals Washington and DuPortail signing the order that created the engineering college for the US Army. As Norm later recounted, when the painting was unveiled, it showed the generals in front of some barracks at Valley Forge in the middle of a snow storm. He immediately protested, as it doesn't snow in Valley Forge in June. As the painting was very nice, the committee decided to change the wording on the brief description below it to indicate that the depiction was BEFORE the actual order was signed. Score one for the Lehigh Valley!



United States Army Engineer School Crest, founded June 9, 1778.

The original painting is now hanging in a conference room at NSPE headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. The Valley Forge Foundation did make prints available, so don't be surprised if you see one hanging in an engineering office around town.

So, go to <https://www.pspe.org/event/nspe-northeast-region-conference/> for details of the meeting and join engineers from all over the northeast region for dinner and learn of the great military engineer DuPortail.

PSPE Annual Conference 2019

Mike Basta, PE

The planning of the PSPE annual conference for 2019 is already underway. The conference is set to occur September 19-20, 2019, at the Sands Bethlehem Casino; 77 Sands Boulevard, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

Mark your calendars now!! There will be 30 speakers, with concurrent tracks of sessions for an opportunity to earn 12 PDH credits. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a behind the scenes tour of the Sands Bethlehem Casino. Check back for more information and registration details in future newsletters.

Penn Stainless

Alfred Gruenke, PE

On a chilly but sunny October morning a dozen members and guests of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers toured Penn Stainless Products Inc. This unique industrial facility is situated in an industrial campus on the outskirts of Quakertown, PA. Penn Stainless takes stainless steel plates, piping, and other shapes and processes them into various products for to its customers.



Our tour guides, Greg Wiik and Richard Finnerty

Continued on page 14

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
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Continued on page 12



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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, 400 Boulder Drive, Suite 200, Breinigsville, PA 18031

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Continued from page 2

The red brick buildings offer a serene setting more often associated with computers or software firms, not a metal processor. Penn Stainless moved to this facility in 1994. The 200,000 ft² building employs 200 people, including our tour guides, Sales Managers Greg Wiik and Richard Finnerty. Also employed are thirty salesmen, fourteen truck drivers, MBA's, machinists, CAD operators, and other craftsmen. Any employee can "bid" for any job. If they qualify, they are trained in-house.



Floyd Charles machining a ring

Penn Stainless is a privately held company with Jim Seward as President. It boasts 13,000 customers both large and small. Customers include from fortune 500 companies to smaller mom-and-pop machine shops. It processes 300 orders per day, up from 250 only a year ago.

Penn Stainless prides itself on satisfying customer's requirements. It's not unusual for orders to arrive on a Friday afternoon for shipment by Sunday afternoon. At any given time, there are 22 million pounds of stainless steel of various grades in its inventory. 52 million pounds of processed stainless steel are shipped annually. The quality goal is less than 1% return.

The plate stainless steel comes from various domestic mills in plates or rolls. 80% comes from domestic mills. Piping and tubing, both seamless and welded, is sourced overseas.



Turning a roll of stainless into a flat sheet

As impressive as these statistics are, the heart of Penn Stainless Products is its leveling lines. Stainless up to 3/8" thick comes in rolls; hence, there are machines that unwind the rolls and straighten it into flat sheets.

Continued on page 15

There are various types of cutting machines, depending on the shapes and thickness of the steel. Bar saws are simple; hydraulic operated shears similar to a paper cutter that slice the plates. Similarly, a plate band saw can cut stainless 27" thick.



Water jet cutter, at 80,000 psi

For complex shapes there are a number of state-of-the-art machines. A water jet machine was in operation during our tour. Water at 80,000 psi, with an abrasive sand, can cut steel 8" thick! We were shown samples of the cut. They required very little machining, if any.

Also available is a plasma machine that can cut 6" thick and a 6,000W plate laser that can cut plate 1-1/8" thick. The kerf of these water jets and lasers is only .030"-.040", hence very little material is lost in the cutting process.



Water jet cut. Note the sharp edges and smooth cut



6,000 W Laser cutter. The table can handle plates 13' x 80"

One can only marvel at the complex work being done by Penn Stainless. Our hour and a half tour was insufficient to fully comprehend the capabilities of this fine company. We thank Greg Wiik and Richard Finnerty for this insight into one of our local industries that has a national and international customer base.

Gobi – The Cold Desert

Alfred Gruenke, PE

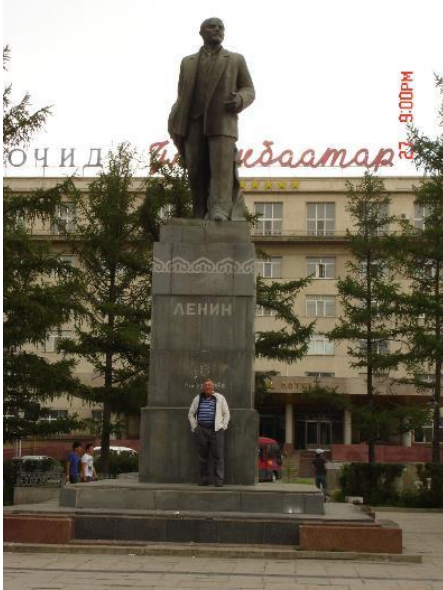
Our usual perception of deserts is that they are dry, and hot. The former is certainly true, but not necessarily the latter. Situated in Northern China and Southern Mongolia is the Gobi Desert, a cold desert. Because it is located so far from any ocean and a 5,000' elevation, temperatures range from -40° F in the winter to 120° F in the summer. Challenging conditions. Seven inches of rain annually is the norm. Southern Mongolia is part of the vast steppe, the flat, featureless landscape that covers much of Asia. I went there in late summer when weather conditions were temperate.

All international flights arrive at Genghis Khan international Airport in Ulaan Bataa, "UB" for those of us "in the know." Genghis Khan is a national hero who was responsible for 40 million deaths, 10 % of the world's population at that time. My favorite (and only) Genghis Khan quote: "The greatest joy that a man can know is to conquer his enemies and drive them before him, to ride their horses and deprive them of their possessions, to make their beloved weep, and to embrace their wives and daughters."

Continued on page 16

Approximately 16 million people in the world today claim to be his descendants. Genghis Khan is also the brand name of so-so Mongolian vodka.

My first view of Mongolia was a statue of Vladimir Ilich Lenin outside of our hotel, one of the few statues remaining. Not what I expected.



Your humble correspondent with the statue of Lenin

Not all of Mongolia is a desert. One episode of "River Monsters" on the Animal Channel featured Jeremy Wade in northern Mongolia fishing for lunkers. He didn't catch anything until the local shaman blessed his attempts. At the hotel I met a tourist from the USA who came to Mongolia for trout fishing! He said that there are some fantastic trout streams in northern Mongolia. Who knew?

Another surprise. Mongolia uses the Cyrillic alphabet. My traveling companion was fluent in Russian and Ukrainian, so he was able to read the words, but of course he couldn't understand. Mongolia has embraced Russia since the early 1900s to counteract Chinese influence.

The flight to the job site was 90 minutes south of UB via a thirty-seat puddle jumper. The scenery was barren, similar to the Rub al Khali in Saudi Arabia. The color brown predominates. Miles and miles of featureless steppes. The airport on site was a dirt strip. If the airport is closed due to weather or other reasons the alternate is a six-

hour ride in a very uncomfortable six passenger Russian armored troop carrier.



Endless nothings. The sign has the letter "P"; parking?

The jobsite was a copper and gold mine close to the Chinese border, a multi-billion-dollar project. When completed it was expected to contribute 25% to Mongolia's GDP. There were 15,000 workers, making it the third largest city in Mongolia. Most of the workers were Chinese; men for the construction work, women staffed the offices. Electric power for the plant also came from China via 220 kV lines. The Construction Manager was Fluor Engineering, and was one of the safest construction sites on which I had ever been. Every ditch had a barrier around it, every rebar had a cap.

On Sunday, we took a trip to a neighboring town whose name I can't remember. The road through the featureless landscape gave me a clue as to why Genghis Khan did what he did. I think he was bored with the scenery. Climb a tree, and you can see a hundred miles. One cannot say that we were in the middle of nowhere, but from the same tree one can clearly see nowhere in the distance. That is, if you can find a tree! There were settlements in the distance, people living in round houses made of felt called girs. I noticed that girs were also in UB and in the town, usually in the backyards of rather modern looking houses. I guess that's where the "old folks" lived, with their more modern children living in the house.

Continued on page 17

The town had a supermarket of sorts, a cell tower, solar panels, an ATM, and no paved roads. I was afraid to try the ATM, that my card would be eaten. Electricity had to be generated locally since I didn't see incoming power lines.



The bustling metropolis

We passed a flock of sheep and goats. This is the 21st Century. The shepherd was on a motorcycle and wore sunglasses. Bactrian camels roamed freely. What ugly beasts! They say a Dromedary camel is a horse designed by a committee. If that is so, a Bactrian camel was designed by the same committee having consumed vast quantities of really bad Mongolian vodka.



Life on the steppes. "Gee, Toto, this doesn't look like Kansas anymore," girls on the horizon.



A Buddhist temple. The building is built with 4" x 4" wooden beams. Note the prayer wheel on the right.



Gir sweet gir



Local urchins. The boy on the left was talking on a cell phone.

Continued on page 18



Two-humped Bactrian camels. I assume they were designed so that klutzes would not fall off. I have been told that there are still wild camels in Mongolia.



Winters are lonely in Mongolia!

I spent a week in Mongolia. Accommodations were quite nice in mobile-type housing. Some of our engineers lived in the girs. The cafeteria food was palatable. There was even a bar that served local beer and some truly atrocious wine.

Later that year the engineers on site asked for goggles and dust masks. I sent them, but questioned why they were needed since the plant was not yet in operation. They told me that the winds were so strong, blowing sand so fierce they could not walk outside without protection! I also sent some special cold weather clothing.

An interesting trip to one of the most remote corners of the world. It was definitely outside my usual sphere of experiences.

The more complicated and powerful the job, the more rudimentary the preparation for it.
-William F. Buckley, Jr.

It's a great challenge to be better than your opportunities.
-Sarah Jessica Parker

Attitude is more important than aptitude.
-William James, psychologist

Fortune knocks at every man's door once in a life, but in a good many cases the man is in a neighboring saloon and does not hear her.
-Mark Twain

True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.
-Arthur Ashe





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

Minutes for the September 17, 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6:00 pm at the Office of Liberty Property Trust 400 Boulder Drive, Suite 200, Breinigsville, PA 18031

Attendees: Brian Kutz, Al Dezubay, Ray Szczucki, Chris Williams, Al Gruenke, Alexa Rooney and Frank Walsh

I. Call to Order: Brian Kutz called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

II. Programs:

- Activities – Al Dezubay
 - October: Penn Stainless in Quakertown. Daytime tour to see facility in operation.
 - November: St. Lukes Anderson campus.
 - December: Holiday dinner with speaker - engineer from PA Turnpike Commission. December 11th may work. Al will look into new venues to host dinner.
- Newsletter – Al Gruenke
 - Al looking to ‘pass the torch’ with writing the newsletter. Alexa is willing to take on the challenge.
 - We should help with writing articles going forward.

III. MATHCOUNTS:

- MATHCOUNTS coordination – Kevin Campbell; no report

IV. Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships

- Fundraising – Al Gruenke
 - Al looking to ‘pass the torch’ with fundraising as well. Frank is willing to help.
 - Al and Alexa following up with potential fundraising contributor on status of \$1,000 check.
 - Should open new P.O. box address near Frank.
- EOY and YEOY awards – Al Dezubay
 - Nomination deadline: January 31st
 - Al will start with list of contributors and reach out to solicit for EOY/YEOY candidates.
- Scholarships – Al Dezubay
 - This year’s Scholarship Committee will be Al Dezubay, Chris Williams, Angelika Forndran and Don Kohn.

V. Treasurer

- Treasurer Report – Ray Szczucki
 - Ray would like to prepare a summary of 2017/2018 receipts and expenditures
 - \$2,111 checking balance as of 6/30/18
 - \$12,493 savings balance as of 6/30/18
 - Hopefully meeting later this week to update account signatures
 - Received donation for MATHCOUNTS expenses
 - Sent out check to reimbursed funds for gift basket expenses
 - Should consider transferring PayPal administration from Peter to Ray

VI. State Director

- State Director Report – Kevin Campbell; report from Brian via Mike Basta
 - Monthly dues distribution going to quarterly
 - 72 local paying members currently, according to PSPE. Number seems low, Brian will look into this. We should check to see that people who sign up for events as a member are actually a member.
 - State Director needs to submit quarterly report. Angelica took care of this in past years.
 - Next year's state conference to be held at the Sands Casino. Mike says LV Chapter should have two people serve on conference committee which involves monthly conference call. Ray and Alexa volunteered to be involved.

VII. Past President

- Past President Report – Al Gruenke
 - Will be responsible for preparing nominating committee report for next year.

VIII. Old Business/New Business

- Social media
 - Chapter has a LinkedIn page. Should get event notices pushed out through LinkedIn as well as email.
 - We should get admin privileges from Peter to someone on the Board.
- Board of Directors meetings for the 2018-2019 year:
 - September 17th
 - October 8th
 - November 12th
 - December TBD – Holiday Break
 - January 14th
 - February 11th
 - March 11th
 - April 8th
 - May TBD – LVPSPE Scholarships and Installation of Officers Banquet

IX. Adjournment

- Motion by Ray, seconded by Al D., all in favor to adjourn at 6:56.



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

Minutes for the October 8, 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6:00 pm at the Office of Liberty Property Trust 400 Boulder Drive, Suite 200, Breinigsville, PA 18031

Attendees: Mary Rooney, Brian Kutz, Mike Basta, Frank Walsh, Al Dezubay, Angelica Forndran, Al Gruenke, Ray Szczucki and Chris Williams

I. Call to Order: Brian Kutz called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

II. Programs:

- Activities – Al Dezubay
 - October: Penn Stainless Products
 - Date and time: October 16th at 10:30 am, lunch to follow. Safety glasses and hard hat required.
 - November: Brian looking into a warehouse tour location.
 - December: Holiday banquet
 - Presentation: PA Turnpike
 - Date and time: December 11th, tentative
 - Location: TBD
 - January: Perhaps LVPC update on Lehigh Valley traffic plan.
- Newsletter – Alexa Rooney
 - Need the President's letter. Has Al's article.

III. MATHCOUNTS:

- MATHCOUNTS coordination – Kevin Campbell
 - Date: February 9th, 2019
 - Location: Lower Macungie Middle School
- Volunteer coordination – Chris Williams
 - Will send out volunteer request in November/December.

IV. Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships

- Fundraising – Frank Walsh
 - Frank is coordinating with Al G. on transferring the fundraising list.
 - Frank will be opening a local P.O. Box.
 - Ray will send W-9 to Alexa regarding the PPL donation.

- EOY and YEOY awards – Al Dezubay
 - Let's encourage donors to submit a nomination for EOY & YEOY. Al previously solicited in emails to donors. Could be helpful to reach out to HR/Marketing at each donor company.
 - Nomination deadline: January 31st
- Scholarships – Al Dezubay
 - Send scholarship docs out in early February.
 - Scholarship Committee – Al Dezubay, Chris Williams, Angelika Forndran, and Don Kohn

V. Treasurer

- Treasurer report – Ray Szczucki
- Dues disbursement which we file every year – always been filed in September, but we should start doing in spring since IRS shows our fiscal year starting January 1. Must file within five months of end of fiscal year.
- As of last statement Sept 30th, checking \$1,213.57, savings \$12,595.32. As of today, \$5,931.83 in PayPal.
- 2017/2018 fiscal year deposits/interest and expenses relatively balanced.
- Dues income is down, our Chapter is down to only 78 members.
 - NOTE: Updated member list obtained from NSPE shows 86 members.
- We will get quarterly dues check from PSPE.
- We need to keep looking into our revenue stream.
- We have a debit card now.

VI. State Director

- State Director report – Kevin Campbell.
- Angelica will provide sample of recent report to Kevin.

VII. Past President

- Past President report – Al Gruenke
 - Harry suggested getting a new ring cut by Penn Stainless for the Order of the Engineer.
 - FL Smidth asked if they could give PDHs. All discussed that the engineer is responsible to certify that PDH meets requirements of their site.

VIII. Old Business/New Business

- Mike Basta
 - PSPE sponsored 'Post-Disaster Building Safety Assessment Training' on November 9th in King of Prussia. Meeting to follow on the 10th.
 - Mike put together a flyer for the September 19-20, 2019 PSPE conference at the Sands Casino.
 - We have two volunteers for the conference committee – Ray and Alexa. First conference call on October 24th at noon.
 - Pushing for local volunteers to speak, have 16 already.
- Mary mentioned that LVEC is looking for more involvement from member organizations.
- Social media
 - Get LinkedIn login from Peter. Follow up next month.

- Board of Directors meetings for the 2018-2019 year:
 - September 17th
 - October 8th
 - November 12th
 - December TBD – Holiday Break
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 - February 11th
 - March 11th
 - April 8th
 - May TBD – LVPSPE Scholarships and Installation of Officers Banquet

IX. Adjournment

- Motion by Al D., seconded by Mike at 7:17.