



# Valley Engineer Newsletter

March, 2014

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- April 7 – LEED related tour of Giant Food Store Tour in Trexlertown, PA 4:00 PM, joint event with DVGBC
- May 8 – Banquet, Desales University
- May 22 – Lehigh Valley Health Network, joint event with DVGBC
- June 5 – IronPigs tour followed by game



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## ENGINEERS WEEK in the LEHIGH VALLEY

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, 120 members of the Lehigh Valley engineering community celebrated Engineers Week at the Holiday Inn, Fogelsville. This event is a gathering of various engineering groups, with awards and recognition to members who epitomize the Engineering profession.

Besides the engineers and guests, the event was attended by seven students and their professors from Lehigh University, fourteen from Lafayette College and seven from Lehigh County Community College. For the first time this year, guests included some aspiring young engineers from Lincoln Charter School in Allentown. The latter were particularly inspiring since they represent the future of our profession.

After an hour of socializing and a fine dinner, we turned to the ultimate purpose of this function, to celebrate and honor our own, recognized individuals who epitomize the engineering ideal. These are persons who are entrepreneurial and role models, not just to students and young engineers, but to all of us.

Chairman of the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council Chris Blechschmidt welcomed the group and gave the Invocation.

The American Society of Civil Engineers recognized two engineers for their accomp-

ishments. Greg Kuklinski as Engineer of the Year and Tim Kramer is the Young Engineer of the Year.

The President of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, Kevin Campbell PE introduced the two engineers for Engineer of the Year Awards, Don Kohn, PE, and David F. Toler, PE. Kevin’s theme was, “We stand on the shoulders of giants. We contribute to society, we make a difference.”

Don Kohn, PE, is president of Kohn Engineering, a firm that specializes in fire protection. Fire protection has been the focus of Don’s career for forty years. Prior to starting his own firm, he worked for PPL as a Fire Protection Engineer in the Nuclear Division. Besides engineering activities, Don is active in various area historical and civil rights organizations. He received the Truman Yeager Award for his participation in various Chapter activities, including MATHCOUNTS.

David F. Toler, PE, is president and founder of Forensic Engineering Science Inc. of Easton. His firm provides engineering consulting services to industrial clients involved in claims and litigation matters, as well as advice on product design, safety evaluation, and failure analysis. David is active in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Safety Engineers, and the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council. He has taught courses at Lafayette College and Lehigh University.

Bob Peruzzi, PE, introduced the Keynote Speaker, Clinton J. Andrews, PhD, PE, AICP. Professor Andrews is Professor of Urban Planning and Policy Development, Associate Dean for Planning and New Initiatives, and Director of the Center for Green Building at Rutgers University. He raised the question, “Do engineers contribute to global warming or alleviate it?” Professor Andrews outlined recent trends in global warming, and its

causes. The oceans are getting warmer, the rate of rise in sea level is increasing, and tropical diseases are moving into the temperate zones. The solution to counter this is to become more efficient in all aspects of our existence, reducing the impact of humans on the environment. This means fewer automobiles, more dense populations, more efficient buildings and appliances, and alternate power sources such as renewables and hydrogen.

There was a lively discussion after the presentation.

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**NOTE:** One of our members was recently audited by the PSPE to verify PDHs. Please be forewarned, and maintain good records of your PDHs.  
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A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It's jolted by every pebble on the road.  
-Henry Ward Beecher  
-----

Nothing is more beautiful than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise.  
-George Washington Carver  
-----

It is easier to lie to someone, than to convince them that they have been lied to"  
- Mark Twain  
-----

The real reason that we can’t have the Ten Commandments in a courthouse: You cannot post “Thou shalt not steal,” “Thou shalt not commit adultery,” and “Thou shalt not lie” in a building full of lawyers, judges, and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment.  
-George Carlin  
-----

I don’t make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.  
-Will Rogers

## PSPE STATE MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

Alfred Gruenke, PE

On March 7-8 of this year I had the honor to represent the Lehigh Valley Chapter at the 2014 MATHCOUNTS PSPE competition in Harrisburg. My wife Joan and I drove out Friday, received our instructions, and prepared for an exciting day.



The Lehigh Valley Chapter Contingent. Alison Fang (Springhouse), Bruce Wu (Eyer), Ishaan Lal (Eyer), Matthew Liu (Springhouse), Aryaman Khandelwal (Springhouse), James Kim (Springhouse), and coach Kevin Hallman (Springhouse)

151 participants from 61 schools from the 22 State Chapters areas met at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey on March 8, using math skills they've practiced since school started in the fall.

I was assigned by organizer Jennifer Summers to the grading room. Fortunately, my partner was experienced and willing to coach me on the finer points of grading. It was intense, and a bit nerve racking. I couldn't dispel the thought that an error could be devastating to these fine young people! But the system was set up to minimize grading and counting errors. Obviously, someone had studied error correction techniques.

The afternoon Countdown Round was as spirited as the one we had at the Lehigh Valley Chapter, with somewhat more difficult questions. But again, the best of the best rose to the top. The winner was Christopher Lee (7) of the Carson Middle School, Pittsburgh Chapter, followed by Joseph Feffer (8) Mt. Nittany Middle School, Kiran Rebholz (7) The Shipley School, and Wanlin Li (8) Ingomar Middle School. They will represent Pennsylvania in the Ratheon National MATHCOUNTS Competition, May 9, 2014, in Orlando, Florida.

The winning team was Park Forest Middle School from the Central Chapter.

Thank you, members of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers and sponsors - Shell, Pennoni, Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation, Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association, PPG Industries Foundation - for bringing this premier event to our budding scholars.

Again, the spirit and intelligence of the participants impressed me. One t-shirt caught my eye "IRRATIONAL BUT WELL ROUNDED." You gotta love these kids.

### Helen of Troy, in Rajasthan

Most of us know of the story of Helen of Troy and the aftermath. It has given rise to numerous romantic legends; there was an abduction, war, heroism on both sides, and final defeat. The Illiad by Homer has fascinated the Western World for centuries, and rightly so.

However, other cultures have similar stories with all the glory of the Trojan Wars, and then some.

Continued of 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.

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

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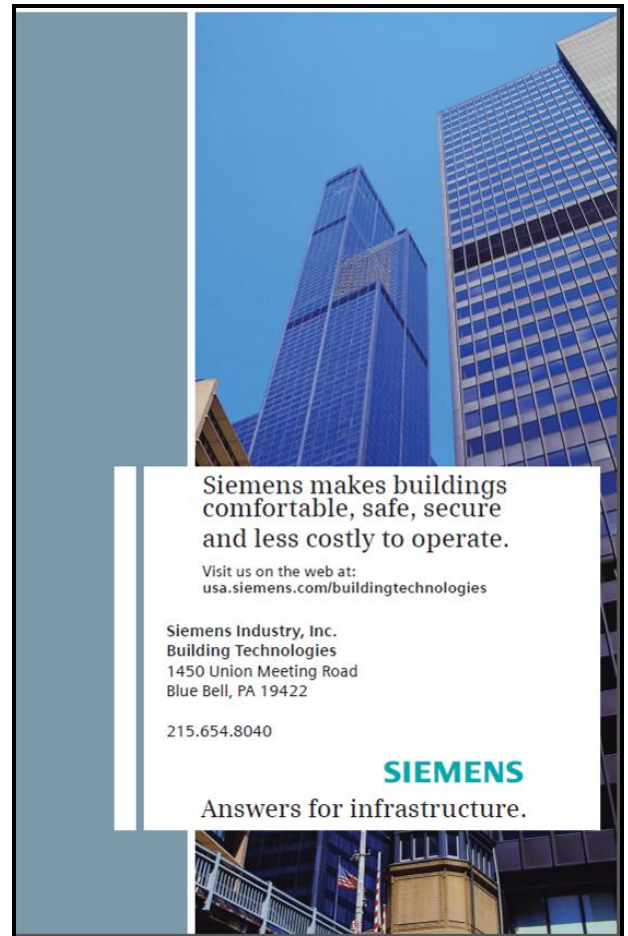
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During an assignment in India I had the opportunity to visit Chittorgarh Fort, in the Northern state of Rajasthan. Rajasthan means Land of Kings in Hindi. Much of the fort is still intact. The fort was prominent in the history of the Indian Subcontinent from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, and was considered impenetrable. The reason for its existence, and its downfall, was its location, along the traditional invasion route from Central Asia into India proper. It is over 600 acres in area and is located on a hilltop overlooking a lush river valley. Chittorgarh Fort is a symbol of all that was brave, true, and noble in the glorious Rajput (warrior class) tradition. The majestic grandeur and opulence were what one would expect from what we know about this period of history in this part of the world.



The Plant Manager of Chittorgarh Cement told me the history of the fort and one of the tales of its storied past.

The fort was sacked three times. The defenders fought bravely until defeat was imminent. By tradition, the men dressed in the saffron robes of martyrdom and left the fort in a suicide charge. The women and children stayed behind and willed themselves to die. The women, royalty, and commoners considered death better than dishonor by surrendering to a foreign invading army. The last conqueror was the Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great, who went on to conquer almost all of the Indian Subcontinent. Akbar had the surviving defenders massacred and their

heads displayed on towers erected throughout the region in order to demonstrate his authority.

One of the invaders in its long history had another reason for attacking the fort. The queen of Chittorgarh was reputed to be the most beautiful woman in the world and the object of infatuation by many. The leader of an invading army had such a longing for her that he attacked the fort and laid siege to it. This went on for some time until both sides became exhausted and the conflict degenerated into a stalemate.

The protagonists then started to negotiate. This is the stuff from which legends are made. The leader of the invaders wanted the queen; the defenders said no. The leader lowered his demands to merely meet her and again was rebuffed. This continued on a downward spiral until the he was allowed to see her but under very rigid conditions. The queen would sit in a gazebo on an island in a small lake. The leader of the attacking army was allowed to gaze upon her with his back to the queen looking into a mirror, standing on the third step of a landing on the shore of the lake, a hundred feet from the island, and then for a only a few minutes.

As I was on these steps and gazed at the island, I imagined the way the negotiations must have progressed. I suppose they could have been amusing, if they weren't so serious. They lasted for months.

The deal was made, peace was restored, and everyone was better for it. A lot more civilized than a long war. I've been to Troy, and it had to be the girl. The place was memorable, but not worth fighting for ten long years!

-----  
Nothing in the world is more dangerous than a sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

-Martin Luther King Jr.



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*Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe and Carbon Counties*



**Minutes for the March 24, 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**At the Office of Barry Isett & Associates, 85 S. Route 100, Allentown, PA**

Attendees: Kevin Campbell, Angelika Forndran, Al Gruenke, Peter Staffeld, Don Kohn, Al Dezubay and Chris Williams.

**I Call to Order:** Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM

**II President – Kevin Campbell**  
**Programs**

- March 22<sup>nd</sup>– Dorney Park tour had about 30 attendees. Tour included presentation followed by tour of roller coaster 'Possessed'.
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – LEED related tour of Giant in Trexlertown beginning at 4:00 pm.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – LVPSPE Banquet. Reception starts at 6:00 pm at DeSales University.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> – LVHN LEED tour beginning at 6:00 pm.
- June 5<sup>th</sup> – IronPigs tour followed by game. Starts at 4:30 pm.
- Might tour Martin Guitar next year.

**PSPE Award Nominations**

- Nominations are due June 1<sup>st</sup>. Chapter won special award two years ago and communications award last year. Will submit for program award this year. Kevin and Francee Fuller will coordinate application submission.

**PSPE Golf Tournament**

- Aiming for Wednesday September 17<sup>th</sup> at Berkleigh Golf Club, west of Kutztown. Kevin and Chris will coordinate.

**Scholarship Committee**

- 15-16 applications have been received. Most have been verified and have transcripts. All committee members will receive an email with submission documents. Committee meeting will be scheduled soon. Must meet before April 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
- Committee members – Al Dezubay, Joe McCarthy, Nicole Gasda, Angelika Forndran and Don Kohn.

**III Valley Engineer – Al Gruenke**

- Newsletter going out later this week.



**IV Treasurer – Ray Szuzcki**

- Checking account balance: \$4,111.17
- Savings account balance: \$28,345.79
- Need final compilation of scholarship donations and deposits. As of today \$3,850 deposited on 1/14/14, \$60 on 2/6/14 and \$1,475 on 3/21/14.
- Kevin waiting on check from Pennoni. Will compile all outstanding checks and deposit shortly.
- Al G. is expecting a scholarship check from Lutron.

**V State Director – Angelika Forndran**

- Next meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Angelika is unable to attend so maybe Mike Basta or Joe McCarthy can attend.
- Info related to NSPE meeting in D.C. should be included in a future Chapter newsletter.

**VI Past President – Peter Staffeld**

- Nominating committee is set for May 8<sup>th</sup> banquet.
- Need someone to swear in nominees. Kevin will ask Joe McCarthy to help with this.

**VII Adjournment** at 6:38 PM on a motion by Don, seconded by Angelika. All were in favor.