



# Valley Engineer Newsletter

September, 2013

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- October 23 – Victaulic factory tour
- November – Majestic Licensed Apparel in Tatamy
- December – Holiday dinner, possibly at America on Wheels Museum in Allentown
- January – Just Born? Blommer Chocolate?
- February – Engineer's Week
- March – Dorney Park
- April – Lehigh Valley Health Network, joint event w/GBC
- May – Banquet
- June – IronPigs tour followed by game



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY  
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PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER  
(ORGANIZED 1935)**

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## LVPSPPE AT THE PSPE CONFERENCE

Alfred Gruenke, PE

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers held its 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Grantsville Holiday Inn on September 18 – 21, 2013. The Lehigh Valley Chapter was well represented.

The conference offered two full days of PDH sessions, four sessions running concurrently. There were a total of 48 sessions. Engineers could earn up to 6 PDHs per day, giving them half the credits required for their license renewal in Pennsylvania. Over 160 Professional Engineers and guests attended the sessions, and almost a thousand PDH Certificates were awarded.

LVPSPPE members Eric Tappert, PE, Peter Staffeld, PhD, PE, and Alfred Gruenke, PE gave two presentations each.

Alfred Gruenke PE was inducted into the Order of the Engineer by Engineers Ernest Gingrich, PE, F.NSPE and Harve Hnatiuk PE, F.NSPE.

The highlight of the convention was the Friday banquet. After a social hour and a fine meal, Master of Ceremonies Ruth Leubecker led the attendees to the core functions of the conference: awards, and the installation of new officers.

Cont'd on Page 2

Previous PSPE President Frank J. Stanton, PE, F.NSPE received the Pennsylvania Engineer of the Year award. Frank is well-known to all of us; he spoke at our Annual Scholarship Awards and Installation of Officers Banquet in May. Frank also was a PDH presenter, with a fine talk on the cooling tower collapse and re-placement at the Yucca Power Station of Arizona Electric. The Pennsylvania Young Engineer of the Year award was presented to Anthony Fitzpatrick of the Pittsburgh Chapter.

The Lehigh Valley Chapter was awarded this year's PSPE Chapter Communications Award. This is the second year in a row our Chapter has been honored for its achievements.



**PSPE 2013 Executive Committee** pictured L-R: Peter O. Staffeld, PhD, PE; Timothy Shawn Ormiston, PE; Eric W. Tappert, PE; John A. Nawn, PE, F.NSPE; Susan K. Sprague, PE (PSPE President 2013-14); Keith A. Miller, PE; Steven J. Novotny, PE; Joseph B. McCarthy, PE; Michel Sadaka, PE, F.NSPE; David L. McCullough, PE, F.NSPE



David K. Williams, PE (PSPE Awards Committee Chair) presents Al Gruenke, PE (R) with the PSPE **Chapter Communications Award**.

The highlight of the evening was the installation of officers for the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. The Lehigh Valley Chapter was well represented, with three of our members on the Executive Committee: Eric W. Tappert, PE, President Elect; Peter Staffeld, PhD, PE, Treasurer; and Joseph B. McCarthy, PE, Northeast Region Vice President. The new President, Susan K. Sprague, PE, gave a good presentation of issues confronting our profession.

Next year the annual Conference will be in the Lehigh Valley, and we will be the host chapter. We hope all of you will participate in welcoming our colleagues to the area.

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

– Anonymous

-----  
 When you get to be President, there are all those things, the honors, the twenty one salutes, all those things. You have to remember it isn't for you. It's for the Presidency.

– Harry S. Truman

-----  
 If a little is great, and a lot is better, then way too much is just about right!

– Mae West

## SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Please Contact the Valley Engineer Editor to sponsor scholarships for the remainder of the calendar year.

### SCHOLARSHIP – THE GIFT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

A great way to be involved in the LVPSPE Chapter is to contribute to the

#### SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

The Scholarship Committee is continually seeking contributions to the Fund. If you would like to contribute in any amount – please see the PSPE website at the Lehigh Valley Chapter link –

**<http://www.pspe.org/scholarships>**

Please write your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to "Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation" or "PEF".

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Please note "LVPSPE Scholarship Fund" on the comment line.

### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

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- \$2,000 PEF Grant
- \$1,000 Harrisburg Chapter PSPE Grant
- \$1,000 Professional Engineers in Private Practice Grant

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

Any questions regarding scholarships can be directed to:

Alex Dezubay, PE  
 609-577-0714  
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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 Barry Isett & Associates, 85 South Route 100, Allentown, PA.

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### Vice President:

Alfred Gruenke, PE  
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### Secretary:

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### Immediate Past President:

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### Chapter Directors:

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Engineering on the Road: India  
Eric Glover, PE, CEM, LEED AP

As I travel the world enjoying beauty and culture I find myself looking at things from an engineering perspective. On a fun filled trip to several exotic destinations throughout India, I could not help but notice some unique things that add to India's charm.

It all began after a sixteen hour flight, arriving in Mumbai very late at night. As I walked out from the airport my senses were suddenly overwhelmed by the rock star type of welcome in the greeting area, the smell of burning petrol, and the orchestra of horns echoing through the humid night air.

As we left the city I was amazed at the traffic and congestion even at this early hour of the morning. I was informed that such an influx of truck traffic at night is normal since they cannot come in and out of the city during the day.



Notice no tail lights and headlights on the truck.

These trucks were not the well-equipped ones you may be familiar with; they tended to be overloaded, under powered, ill-equipped, cross-your-fingers-till-we-get-there type of trucks.

As we drove the divided highway to our destination one quickly learned to focus into the darkness in expectation of the unexpected. This turned out to be the frequently broken down trucks. Behind these trucks one could faintly make out large rocks guarding them. This was either to warn you, or to

protect the people that were working on the truck in the night. Oddly we never observed any police vehicles with lights flashing, or even a tow truck. All this never fazed our driver; to him this was all routine.

On another leg of the trip we had to travel in the daytime. However, this did not make it any easier on my nerves, since I could now actually see the things that I was shielded from at night. The repairs were often major, things that one would normally see performed in a repair shop; an amazing testament to the resiliency and skill of the drivers.

In that short time I had come to appreciate our laws and requirements for the safety of vehicles and the roads. In the meantime you are left with a truck that is transporting more weight than what it can safely transport while having no blind spot mirrors, tail-lights, DOT reflective tape, proper braking, or seat belts. I suppose the 'Please Horn' or 'Blow Horn' on the back is a temporary fix for now. Of course with so many horns blowing it might as well sound like the wind.



Remember, you are only as fast as the slowest person.  
You cannot pass.

Amongst the hustle and bustle you learn that everyone there has something that they are determined to do and they are going to use

Cont'd on Page 14

whatever they have to make it work for whatever they need it to do. The creativity knows no bounds. It was no surprise to find a family of five all on a Honda Hero motor bike, or seeing how much could be loaded on a three wheeled vehicle, or your standard oxcart.



Trust me there is a cart under there.

While the biggest concern in the U.S. is the aging infrastructure, in India it may be the lack thereof. India has very few divided highways, so going from one city to another consists of a simple two lane road with 'life in your hands' passing as you try to get back over as you watch that bus driving towards you! When you're stuck behind sub 30 mph trucks, buses, motorized rickshaws, push-carts and the like, driving time is considerably more than back home. Don't forget, you are competing with the other cars and buses trying to get around these obstacles from the other direction.

In addition you are then faced with traffic lights that are not working or ignored; storm water management that must contend with the monsoons; pollution from the millions of vehicles; city water supply reliability; and unenforced building codes, methods, and inspections. It all mounts up to a pretty overwhelming number of tasks. Of course we also see this in the U.S., just in a slight variation.

Finally, sitting back and sipping a cup of chai (tea) while enjoying the beauty of India you

can quickly see how fast the country is growing, and how everything from infrastructure to the system of regulations cannot seem to keep up with the fast pace of progress. You also realize not to take for granted every bit of quality engineering, planning, and construction involved to get you from A to B safely.



Where does an elephant go? Wherever it wants to.

-----  
I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says "Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again."

— Lewis Carroll

-----  
A man should keep his friendship in constant repair.

— Samuel Johnson (1755)

-----  
If a wise man has an argument with a fool, the fool only rages and laughs, and there is no quiet.

— Proverbs 29:9



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



**MINUTES FOR THE September 17, 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**At the office of Barry Isett & Associates, 85 S. Route 100, Allentown, PA**

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

**I. Call to Order:** Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:55 PM

**II. President – Kevin Campbell**

- Roles & Responsibilities:
  - Programs – Kevin Campbell
  - Valley Engineer – Al Gruenke
  - Scholarship Committee – Al Dezubay to chair. Don volunteered to assist. Last year's other members are encouraged to participate again.
  - Student Chapters – Peter will lead effort.
  - MathCounts – Kevin again; Trexler MS again.
  - Membership – Al Gruenke to chair. Al would like to recruit local companies and encourage existing members to become more active. Kevin to recruit through counterparts at other firms.

**III. Programs**

- Several options fell through for September. Will compensate with two events in October.
- October – OneBeacon Seminars (10/2 or 10/3) – '*Maintaining the Industry Standard of Care*' and '*Ethics in Engineering and Construction*'. Event to be held at AFC First in Wescosville.
- October – Tour of Victaulic facility near Stockertown (10/23). Meal to follow at The Widow's Tavern and Grill. Event will be open to ASHREA.
- November – Majestic Licensed Apparel in Tatamy
- December – Holiday dinner, possibly at America on Wheels Museum in Allentown. Will try for 12/10 or 12/12.
- January – Just Born? Blommer Chocolate?
- February – Engineer's Week
- March – ?
- April – Lehigh Valley Health Network, joint event w/GBC
- May – Banquet
- June – IronPigs tour followed by game

**IV. Valley Engineer – Al Gruenke**

- Next issue out shortly and will include President’s message from Kevin.
- Advertising season runs Jan - Dec. Will pursue at a later date.

**V. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki**

- No report

**VI. State Director – Angelika Forndran**

- Board of Directors meeting this weekend. Will be voting on a proposal to raise dues from \$110 to \$120 to help close deficit in budget. All agreed a \$10 raise in dues would be reasonable.

**VII. Past President – Peter Staffeld**

- No report

**VIII. Old Business**

**IX. New Business**

**X. Adjournment at 6:43 PM on a motion by Don, seconded by Chris. All in favor.**