



Valley Engineer Newsletter

September 2016

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- December 8, 2016, ASCE Holiday Banquet, Renaissance Hotel



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OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
(ORGANIZED 1935)**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alfred Gruenke, PE
September, 2016

The summer hiatus is over, and the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers is in full swing.

Last year was a good year by any measure, which presents us with a problem: how can we do even better? We had a record number of Middle School students participate in MATHCOUNTS®, Moravian Academy came in third in the state competition, and we presented six worthy high school graduates with \$2,000.00 scholarships. An embarrassment of riches!

Our first Chapter Board meeting established the various duties of the chapter. Al Dezubay is phasing out of the scholarship selection process, and is passing his lists and procedures onto Brian Kutz. I'm going to continue with the newsletter and the scholarship fund solicitation, and Kevin also will remain to head up MATHCOUNTS. This year MATHCOUNTS will be held in the Southern Lehigh School District.

First and foremost, we are honored to have one of our own, Kevin T. Campbell, PE, LEED AP, selected as the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers Engineer of the Year! That's quite an achievement, and comes on the heels of being the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council Engineer of the Year at the Engineer's Week banquet in February. It's always nice to see quality recognized.

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Kevin received his award at the 2016 Pennsylvania Professional Engineers Conference banquet on Friday evening, September 23, at the Double Tree at Valley Forge. A number of LVPSPE members, family, and friends attended this banquet to honor Kevin.

Our Chapter continues to have a considerable footprint in the PSPE. The past Treasurer is Peter Staffeld, Eric Tappert is Past President, Mike Basta is Vice President of PSPE Northeast Region, and now one of our Chapter members is the Engineer of the Year.

LVPSPE member Al Dezubay is a third generation Professional Engineer! Al's grandfather, Alexander Dezubay, receives his PE license on January 6, 1931. Al honored his grandfather and brought his original license to the Board meeting and displayed it with pride. Al's father, Egon Alexander Dezubay was licensed April 11, 1947, and Al received his license on August 26, 1988.



Something to be proud of!

One of the features of the State PSPE conference is the Thursday evening trivia contest. This is a competition between teams from all the chapters.

Last year our fantastic team of Purveyors of Useless Knowledge took first place, but we didn't do as well this year. We were in a tie for first, but lost in the MATHCOUNTS style tie-breaker and wound up in second place. Maybe I shouldn't take this thing personally, but I do. The critical question was, who had the female lead in "Father of the Bride", "Annie Hall", and "Reds"? I knew she also had the role of Kay in "The Godfather", but just couldn't think of her name! The answer, of course, was Dianne Keaton. This name will haunt me for a long time, along with the Panama Canal and the logo for Stella Artois, mental lapses I've had in the past. It's heck getting old!



"We're number - - - two." Mike Basta, Cindy Basta, Al Gruenke, Joan Gruenke, Eric Tappert, Angelika Forndran, Dan Humes of the Valley Forge Chapter, and Peter Staffeld. Dan was awarded 2016 Young Engineer of Year at the Conference

Kevin T. Campbell, PE, LEED AP – PSPE 2016 Engineer of the Year

The PSPE State Engineer of the Year Award publicly recognizes outstanding engineers based on criteria including professional achievements, civic, political, engineering and educational contributions. The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers is proud to award Kevin T. Campbell PSPE 2016 Engineer of the Year.

Kevin T. Campbell, PE, LEED AP, is president and chief operating officer of Barry Isett & Associates,

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a multi-discipline engineering firm headquartered in Allentown, PA. The immediate Past President of the LVPSPE, he has coordinated the Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS competition since 2010 and was the co-coordinator of the 2016 statewide competition. He will be the coordinator for the 2017 and 2018 events.

He was elected to the Lehigh Valley board of directors in 2008 and quickly rose through the offices of Vice President, President, and Past President. He also chaired the program committee; during that time the chapter received PSPE's Outstanding Program Award. Named the chapter's Engineer of the Year in 2016, Kevin earlier received the Truman Yeager Award in recognition of his service to the chapter.

Kevin joined Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. in September, 2005 as a staff management analyst – bringing with him 20 years of leadership knowledge and technical experience that would serve to improve the company's work efficiency and resource coordination in the decade to come. He was named Vice President within his first year at the company and President/Chief Operating Officer in 2011.

Kevin's executive management, attained from his previous employment with Agere Systems/Lucent/AT&T and Tri-Quint Optoelectronics, is backed by degrees in Metallurgical Engineering (B.S.), Electrical Engineering (M.S.), and Business Administration (MBA). This experience has provided the ideal framework for him to accelerate the company's productivity by providing operational, fiscal, and strategical oversight – delivered with a transparent respect for the company's most valuable resource – its people.

Kevin frequently interacts directly with the clients to ensure that projects meet expectations and quality standards. Under his guidance, the company has expanded its services and geographical reach, but always with commitment to repeat clientele.

Kevin is most proud of the fact that the company has been named one of the Best Places to Work in the Lehigh Valley four years in a row. The honor is based solely on employee feedback through a survey conducted by the Morning Call Media Group and WorkplaceDynamics, LLP. The

firm received special recognition for Work/Life Flexibility.

In 2015, Barry Isett and Associates was accorded the Societas Award for Responsible Corporate Conduct, presented by the Forum for Ethics in the Workplace. The annual award celebrates a company in Eastern Pennsylvania that demonstrates responsible corporate conduct in terms of legal compliance, corporate and individual accountability, commitment to stakeholders and social responsibility.

The former chair of the Lehigh Valley Steering committee of the Delaware Lehigh Valley Green Building Council, Kevin has served on the board of Lehigh Economic Assistance Program, and on the Musikfest talent selection committee and is the current treasurer of the American Wine Society – Lehigh Valley Chapter.

Kevin is the father of three children, Matthew, Lindsay and Shannon and the proud grandfather of Riley, who arrived this summer. Kevin and his wife, Michele, live in Zionsville, PA.



Kevin receiving his award from Immediate Past President Timothy S. Ormiston PE

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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P.O. Box 3441
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Please note “LVPSPE Scholarship Fund” on the comment line.

Or, you may 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)

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- \$2,000 Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation Grant

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

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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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Pakistan, and Points West

Alfred Gruenke, PE

Pakistan is probably the most interesting country I've visited. It has a lot of history, is off the beaten path, and has a certain degree of "exoticness." I was there in 1988 when the Russians were the bad guys and Americans were the good guys. Things are different now.

We were in Pakistan doing technical support for the construction of a cement plant. Our guest house was in Rawalpindi (Pindi, to those of us "in the know"), just a few miles from the capital, Islamabad. This was the center of British influence in the region, and once housed a contingent of British soldiers during the time of the Raj.

The plant site was about 30 miles West of Pindi, along the Grand Trunk Highway.

A word about the Grand Trunk Highway. It starts in Kabul, Afghanistan, passes through the Kyber Pass, then Peshawar, Pindi, Lahore, Delhi, and onto Bangladesh. It was the traditional invasion route from Central Asia to the sub-continent of India, an event that apparently occurred every few years. Northwest of Pindi the road passes through the Margalla Hills, the dividing line between the Indian sub-continent and Central Asia.

The Eastern-most capital of Alexander the Great was Taxilla, located about 50 miles West of Islamabad. I visited the ruins of a Greek temple, and bought some faux Greek and Buddhist artifacts from local vendors. Some of the building stones had carvings of a two-headed eagle, which also graces the manhole covers in Cologne, Germany. One wonders how the same symbol could exist so far apart, in time and distance.

We went to a cattle market in Taxilla, which probably existed even before Alexander's short visit. The things one does when away from home! The fast-food stand was interesting, in that the dishes were washed in a pool of water that looked dirtier than the dishes. We passed on the privilege to dine there.

A hundred miles West of Pindi is Peshawar, the capital of the North West Frontier region. The

central Pakistani government has only limited control of this area.

One of our weekend trips was to Kohat, a few miles south of Peshawar in the Pakistani tribal territories. The town was surrounded by a 10-foot high, three-foot thick earthen/mud wall. Earth/mud is the building material of choice because it is cheap, available, and bullet holes are easily repaired.

Every handheld weapon conceivable was for sale, from a Beretta to bazookas and anti-aircraft guns. Many of the weapons were of local manufacture using locally available materials. They had a nasty habit of sometimes blowing up when fired. This was during the Afghan-Russian war so there was a lot of Russian military gear for sale. An AK-47 cost \$1,000.00, bullets \$1.00 a piece. Hashish was for sale in four-inch diameter blocks. I bought a bayonet for an AK-47 for \$10.00. In those days, this was easily transported home.



"Just looking."

Continued on page 16

One of the things one learns when traveling is the necessity to negotiate every transaction. Not to do so is considered insulting, and a sign of weakness. Besides, you could ruin the vendors day, depriving him of the pleasure of trying to cheat you!



Peshawar street scene

Before starting on our return journey, I stopped at a vegetable dealer to buy some turnips. His price was over five times the going rate so I started to haggle (negotiate). Soon, we attracted an audience. Big, burly men armed to the teeth with rifles over their shoulders, double bandoliers across their chests, knives, pistols, and whatnots. This made me more than a little nervous. I realized that it was important that I not show weakness by paying his price. If I did, we would have a welcoming committee waiting for us down the road asking us for a "donation." So, I carried on for 45 minutes, finally settling on the price I knew was fair. Everyone smiled, I paid the man, and carried my trophies back to the van.

I've had some experience with such things. When I was southern Pakistan a few years before a couple of similar scary men came into my office and asked for a donation to the Afghan Refugee Relief Fund. They asked for \$100.00. I gave them \$50.00, and they gave me a receipt written in Pashto. I later asked an Afghan friend to translate the receipt. He told me my laundry had been washed, and ready to be picked up!

We were able to leave the area and go to a Peshawar restaurant for dinner with no incidents.

I'm glad I didn't find out what would have happened had I paid the asking price.

As you approach the autumn of your years . . .

1. It's time to use the money you saved. Use it and enjoy it. Don't just keep it for those who may have no notion of the sacrifices you made to get it. Enjoy the present moment. The sand in the clock may run out at any moment.
2. Stop worrying about the financial situation of your children and grandchildren. You've taken care of them for many years, and you've taught them what you could. You gave them an education, food, shelter and support. The responsibility is now theirs to earn their way.
3. Keep a healthy life with moderate exercise (like walking every day), eat well, and get your sleep.
4. Always buy the best, most beautiful items for your significant other. The key goal is to enjoy your money with your partner.
5. Don't stress over the little things. You've already overcome so much in your life.
6. Regardless of age, always keep love alive. Love your partner, love life, love your family, love your neighbor, your surroundings, your country. We are never old as long as we have intelligence and affection.
7. Be proud, both inside and out. Don't stop going to your hair salon or barber. When you are well-maintained on the outside, it seeps in, making you feel proud and strong on the inside.
8. Read newspapers, watch the news. Go online and read what people are saying. Keeping in touch with what is going on and with the people you know is important at any age.
9. Never use the phrase: "In my time." Your time is now. As long as you're alive, you are part of this time. You have been younger, but you are still you now, having fun and enjoying life.
10. Don't abandon your hobbies. If you don't have any, make new ones. Find something you like and spend some real time having fun with it.
11. If you've been offended by others - forgive them. If you've offended someone - apologize. Don't drag resentment around with you. Someone once said, "Holding a grudge is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die."
12. If you have a strong belief, savor it.
13. Laugh. Laugh A LOT. Laugh at everything.
14. Take no notice of what others say about you and even less of what they might be thinking.Amen!

Minutes for the September 6, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 pm at the office of Barry Isett & Associates, 85 S. Route 100, Allentown, PA

Attendees: Al Gruenke, Brian Kutz, Al Dezubay, Kevin Campbell, Frank Walsh, Ray Szczucki

- A. Call to Order – Al Gruenke called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- B. President – Al Gruenke
- Al Gruenke to continue with the newsletter.
 - Frank Walsh will review and update the membership lists.
 - Brian Kutz and Frank Walsh to contact Peter Staffeld for access to website.
 - Al Gruenke will attend the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council meetings to represent LVPSPE. Lehigh Valley Engineering Council’s function is to organize the Engineer’s week banquet.
 - IronPigs game was not well attended; consider a family picnic or golf tournament for this year.
 - PSPE conference September 21st – 24th. Thursday evening trivia contest. Friday evening awards banquet and installation of officers. Kevin Campbell to receive Engineer of the Year award. Congratulations to Kevin!
 - Al Gruenke to contact Da Vinci Science Center to offer support.
- C. MATHCOUNTS – Kevin Campbell
- Southern Lehigh School District will host MATHCOUNTS.
 - Check-in with Southern Lehigh School District in mid-September to start planning. MATHCOUNTS will be sometime in February.
 - Kevin Campbell is coordinating with the Southern Lehigh School District Superintendent and will have an update by next meeting.
- D. Activities – Brian Kutz
- Brian Kutz will organize activities
 - i. September: Lutron (tentative)
 - ii. October: National Museum of Industrial History or Franklin Hill Winery
 - iii. November: Da Vinci Science Center
 - iv. December: Holiday Banquet
 - Holiday Banquet
 - i. Date: TBD, either a Tuesday or Thursday.
 - ii. Location: Morgan’s Restaurant, Bell Hall, other suggestions welcome. Will get prices from three places and evaluate.
 - iii. Speaker: Kevin Campbell suggested Becky Bradley from LVPC. Al Gruenke suggested a presentation on the RT 22 widening project.
- E. Scholarships – Al Dezubay
- Brian Kutz will provide administrative support.
 - Al Gruenke will provide fundraising support.
 - Chris Williams will help Al Dezubay with applicant evaluation and selection.

F. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki

- Accounts:
 - i. Checking: \$781.82
 - ii. Business Market Rate Account: \$13,710.41
 - iii. PayPal: need to transfer funds to Business Market Rate Account, Engineer's week funds remain in PayPal account.
- Chapter audit: Ray Szczucki compiled the audit information and handed to Kevin Campbell for delivery to Harry Garman et al to perform audit.
- Ray Szczucki will obtain a summary of transactions for the PayPal account and provide a monthly report.
- IRS form 90 needs to be submitted, due September 30, 2016.
- Ray Szczucki to prepare a yearly budget. Board will review cash flow requirements on a monthly basis.
- Consider a fundraising event to raise money for the general fund and drive membership engagement.

G. Misc.

- Al Dezubay was recognized as a third generation professional engineer. Al brought in his grandfather's profession engineer license issued to Alexander Dezubay January 6th 1931.

H. Adjournment at 7:20 pm.

PE License Plates



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