



The Philadelphia Engineer

Founding Chapter 1934

September 2008



President's Message

It is a great honor to be named as the President of such a highly regarded professional organization as the PSPE, Philadelphia Chapter. As I begin my term as President, I am excited for the upcoming year. I would like to express my thanks to the outgoing

Board and Committee Members. Their contributions and many years of service are greatly appreciated, and I look forward to their continued participation in the Philadelphia Chapter. I also welcome the new members of the Board and Committees and look forward to working with you to improve our Chapter.

NSPE is an organization of great breadth and depth that touches each member differently. As we move forward, it is essential that PSPE Philadelphia Chapter be true to its core values while transforming to achieve the changes and challenges of the future.

To many of our members, PSPE Philadelphia Chapter is a local organization. Hundreds of dedicated local leaders work to provide seminars, outreach activities, service projects, and peer recognition that touch many lives. We must continue to support and encourage these crucial activities, providing resources for success at our local level, here and abroad. The Philadelphia Chapter bears a fresh responsibility for expansion of these functions.

My role within the organization will be to ensure that the entire community understands the engineering profession and the important role that we play in crafting the world around us. I plan to encourage more participation from the society with the state legislature, which could affect our profession. We plan on not only increasing membership, but increasing participation in society activities by our members; reaching out to students graduating and making the transition into the work force, and encouraging them to remain members of PSPE, become active in our local communities by participating in career fairs and other similar activities,

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October Meeting

Our October will be a joint meeting with the South Jersey Chapter of ASCE on Thursday, October 16, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey (Route 73 just off I-295). The speaker for that evening will be Mr. Jozef F. Zurawski, PE, M.S.C.E. of Dawn Underground Engineering, Inc. and his topic will be "Microtunneling Under Railroad Tracks". Mr. Zurawski is a recognized expert in the field of micro-tunneling and geotechnical engineering, and has over 30 years experience. He is a registered Professional Engineer in eleven states and the District of Columbia. In addition to being a member of NSPE, he is a member of ASCE, ACI, and the Underground Construction Association. His presentation will discuss recent tunneling under the main AMTRAK rail lines in Linden, New Jersey, an enormously difficult challenge. This will be a fascinating presentation, and we hope you will be able to make the trip across the river to join with ASCE in South Jersey!

2008-2009 Program

October 16 - Microtunneling - Mr. Jozef F. Zurawski, PE, Dawn Underground Engineering, Wyndham Hotel, Mt. Laurel, NJ (Joint meeting with South Jersey ASCE)

November 18 - Dam Safety and Dam Rehabilitation - Joint with ASCE Philadelphia Section - Downtown Club at 6th & Chestnut

December 4 - Outstanding Engineering Achievements - McCall Country Club - see announcement page 3

January - LEED Certification - Building Green - Date and Location TBD

February 20 - Young Engineer of the Year Installation - Joint with Engineers' Club (host)

March 5 - Update on Continuing Education for the P.E. - Al Tantala, PE and Len Bernstein, PE

April - Fixing our Infrastructure - Date and Location TBD

May 1 - Annual Awards Dinner

Stay tuned for additional information and details!

Chapter Directory

Officers and Directors

President	Soheila Rahbari, PE	215.514.1769
President-Elect	Fredric L. Plotnick, PE	215.885.3733
Vice President	Morton H. Lerner, PE	215.885.8289
Secretary	Todd M. Rohn, PE	215.393.6810
Treasurer	Richard A. Mulford, PE	215.985.5701
Membership	Richard A. Mulford, PE	215.985.5701
State Director	Jason S. Schmoyer, PE	484.995.1619
Alt State Dir	John G. Woods, PE	215.848.2914
Past President	Philip D. Udo-Inyang, PhD, PE	215.204.7831
Director 2009	Mark Celoni, PE	215.222.3000
Director 2009	T. James Cokonis, PE	610.431.7044
Director 2010	Casimir DeCwikiel, PE	610.525.5617
Director 2010	Edward P. Pluciennik, PE	215.222.3000
Director 2011	Abraham El	215.222.3000
Director 2011	Khaled R. Hassan, PE	215.222.3000

Committee Chairs

Bylaws	Leonard K. Bernstein, PE	215.635.6367
Nominating	Philip D. Udo-Inyang, PhD, PE	215.204.7831
Budget	Richard A. Mulford, PE	215.985.5701
Chapter Fund	Fredric L. Plotnick, PE	215.885.3733
Membership	Richard A. Mulford, PE	215.985.5701
Meetings	Soheila Rabari, PE	215.514.1769
Publications	Richard Horenburger, PE	610.459.7917
Media Relation	Casimir DeCwikiel, PE	610.525.5617
Engineer Week	T. James Cokonis, PE	610.431.7044
Website	Jason S. Schmoyer, PE	484.995.1619
Outstanding Achievement	Fredric L. Plotnick, PE Jason S. Schmoyer, PE	215.885.3733 484.995.1619
MathCounts	Abraham El	215.222.3000
Scholarships	Fredric L. Plotnick, PE	215.885.3733
Teachers	Jason S. Schmoyer, PE	484.995.1619
Continuing Ed	Shafiq I. Siddiqui, PhD, PE	610.640.7456

Click on Contact Person's name for email link

Our Ombudsman for Complaints about this newsletter is Helen Waite. Those wishing to lodge a complaint should go to her.

Treasurer's Report

Expense Accounts	Budget
Administrative	800
Attendance	0
Awards	300
Engineers' Week	200
MathCounts	1500
Meetings/Programs	900
Membership	100
Publications	500
Scholarships	1400
Young Engineers	0
Contingency	300
Total Expenses	6000

Income Accounts	Budget
Advertising News	0
Dues	1800
Corp Sponsorship	1000
Interest	100
Chapter Fund	3100
Total Income	6000

Membership Report

Licensed & Life	155
Affiliate & Student	15

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Awards for Outstanding Math / Science Teachers

Do you know of an outstanding Science or Math Teacher currently teaching in grades 5 through 12 in Philadelphia schools?

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers is currently soliciting nominations for the selection of Outstanding Science and Math Teachers for 2008 from within the City of Philadelphia. The winners will be acknowledged by the Philadelphia Chapter at its annual Awards Night in May 2009. Additionally, the Philadelphia winners will be entered into the competition to select the Outstanding Science and Math Teachers for the Delaware Valley as part of the Delaware Valley Engineers Week celebration. Teachers selected as either the Outstanding Science Teacher or the Outstanding Math Teacher for the Delaware Valley will be acknowledged at the Engineers' Week Banquet in February of 2009.

As engineers, we understand and respect the challenges facing Teachers today. We feel that that just as students respond to positive encouragement, teachers need to be recognized for the great job they do. Completed nominating forms must be received prior to December 31, 2008, to be eligible for consideration. Please note that nominated teachers must be currently teaching in their respective disciplines in any of the grades 5 through 12.

Please help us to spread the word about this award. You may download the teachers' award nomination forms at http://www.pspe.org/philly/math_teacher0708.htm. Please feel free to post the nomination forms in your Philadelphia school, or provide them to your school principals. Or contact Jason Schmoyer, PE, Chair, Outstanding Teachers Award Committee at schmoyer19128@yahoo.com or call 484-995-1619

PSPE Scholarships

The Philadelphia Chapter of PSPE (Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers) operates a scholarship program open to high school students who either (1) live in or (2) attend high school in the City of Philadelphia. Other Chapters of PSPE may also have scholarship programs geared to students in other counties. Applications for the Philadelphia Chapter program are routinely sent to and may be obtained from your high school guidance department. Inquiry for additional applications must be made by the guidance department to PSPE Philadelphia at 215-985-5701.

Applicants will be competing for:

1. Drexel University is providing two five-year scholarships of \$5000 per year to be awarded to outstanding candidates by the Philadelphia PSPE scholarship committee. Please check "DREXEL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT" on the application form to be considered for this scholarship.
2. Temple University is providing a four year scholarship of \$2000 per year to be awarded to an outstanding candidate by the Philadelphia PSPE scholarship committee. Please check "TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT" on the application form to be considered for this scholarship.

Awards for Outstanding Engineering Achievement

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) solicits your help in seeking nominations for projects for the Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awards Program held at the PSPE Philadelphia Chapter Meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2008. Award winners will receive special recognition during the observation of National Engineer's Week in the Delaware Valley from Friday, February 13 through Saturday, February 21, 2008. Nominations are due November 14, 2008.

The Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awards Program strives to recognize projects, regardless of engineering discipline, that demonstrate engineering challenges and innovative solutions, communicate the importance of the Engineering Profession to society, and provide a clear and tangible benefit to the Delaware Valley Region. This year's program will follow this same principle, in that the Outstanding Award will be presented to one project that best meets these criteria as determined by our panel of judges, typically comprised of the presidents of the five chapters in the southeast region of Pennsylvania. PSPE Philadelphia invites applications from all engineering disciplines as it is our goal to recognize the importance of all engineering disciplines in the Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awards Program.

Nominated projects will be short-listed and presentations will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2008 at the PSPE Philadelphia Chapter Meeting to be held at McCall Country Club ([directions click here.](#)) Enclosed are guidelines outlining the requirements for project nominations and presentations.

The Delaware Valley Engineer's Week Council and the *Philadelphia Business Journal* are preparing a supplement to be included in the weekly edition of the *Journal* circulated on February 2009. The Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award winner, and runner-up winners will be featured in the Supplement.

Your assistance in this search is greatly appreciated and will result in a diversified field from which the judges can make their selection. Please call OEA Chair Fredric L. Plotnick, PE at (215) 885-3733 or send email to fplotnick@fplotnick.com if you have any questions or comments.

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3. Qualifying applications will be forwarded to the State PSPE Scholarship Committee for further consideration for scholarships currently being solicited by that Committee.
 4. Up to two \$500 cash awards will be made by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, and the top applicant competes for an additional \$1000 from the Engineers Week Committee for the Delaware Valley. An application form may be downloaded from <http://www.pspe.org/philly/philly.htm>
- For further information contact Scholarship Chair Fredric L. Plotnick, PE at (215) 885-3733 or send email to fplotnick@fplotnick.com if you have any questions or comments.

President's Message

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especially encouraging minorities and women into the Engineering to help increase the diversity of ideas and opinions. I realize this is an ambitious agenda, but we have already initiated work on some of these objectives, and I am confident that we will accomplish them in the next year.

Now, more than ever, education is essential to the survival of our profession. Expanding and reforming the education of new engineers can only be done as a collective effort, led by NSPE and supported by many partners. For the rest of us, life-long learning is the only way that we will remain competitive and forward thinking.

Academic Prerequisites for Licensure and Professional Practice” being important issues in NSPE/PSPE for the next several years. The concept of “Academic Prerequisites for Licensure and Professional Practice” is a long-term goal of the Society and a controversial one. We must ensure our members meet the strictest definition of what it means to be a professional, but we also need to be very careful how we achieve this goal. We need to build a consensus amongst our membership, and develop a program that is best for the engineering community well into the 21 century. Being a leader is not always espousing the most popular ideas; it is being able to convince others that this is the way to proceed.

Shaping public policy is a role that we have often left to others, but in this changing world is a role that we must pursue more aggressively. As stewards of the infrastructure of society, we must lend our imagination, expertise and passion to the policies that will shape our well-being. This requires both a collective voice and many individual efforts.

If we, as a group of engineers, do not shape our own future, others will shape it for us. Bold steps have already been taken to envision our future, and it is imperative that we proactively identify and pursue objectives that will define the future and create an appropriate worldwide role for us.

We must join together to move PSPE and our profession into the future. We must continue to serve members where they live, push the frontiers of technical practice to new heights, adapt our education system to meet future needs, expand our efforts to shape public policy, and be proactive in determining our own future role.

Continued in Column 2

MathCounts Needs You

What is MATHCOUNTS?

MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide competition for 7th and 8th graders who excel in Math. Teams from registered schools compete locally for the chance to win top honors and even represent the Philadelphia Chapter at the State and National MATHCOUNTS Competitions.

When is the Philadelphia Chapter Competition?

The 2008 MATHCOUNTS Competition will be held Saturday, February 7, 2009. In the event of a severe weather event, it will be held Saturday, February 21, 2009.

Where will it take place?

The Competition will be held at the Student Center, which is at the intersection of 13th Street and Montgomery Avenue, on the Main Campus of Temple University.

Why should I participate?

MATHCOUNTS is a program that encourages the academic achievement of middle school students. Any time spent promoting math among youth is an investment in the future of our and every other profession.

How can I help, offer to volunteer, or make a donation?

Write to the Philadelphia Chapter Coordinator, Abraham El, at ael@pennoni.com, or call him at (215) 222-3000 extension 3541.

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Please participate in one activity for which you would ordinarily not have time. Volunteer for Engineer's Week, speak to students at a "Career Day", attend (or better yet, give) a technical seminar, serve on one of our many committees... the possibilities are endless! Let's make history by making this our most active year ever!

Since the passage of Senate Bill 655, Pennsylvania engineer's licenses renewal in 2009 will need to meet the continuing professional competency (CPC) requirements. Our Board made a unanimous decision to take charge of this action and offer PDH or CEC credits at our monthly meetings. Our first joint meeting with ASCE south Jersey on October 16, 2008 has already been evaluated and one PDH credit will be offered to the attendees. I encourage you all to attend the meeting.

I leave you with a famous quote from Herbert Hoover, Mining Engineer, author, humanitarian and 31st U.S. President. "It is a great profession. There is the fascination of watching a figment of the imagination emerge through the aid of science to plan on paper. Then it brings jobs and homes... it elevates the standard of living and adds to the comfort of life. That is the engineer's high privilege."

SOHEILA RAHBARI, P.E., P.G., M. PSPE

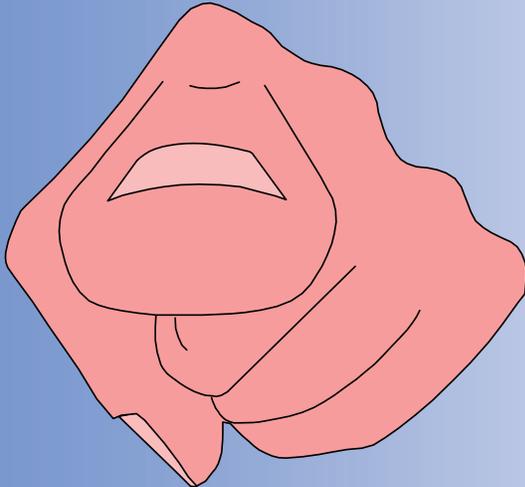
State Director's Message

As the State Director for the Philadelphia Chapter, my main job is to travel to the PSPE state board meetings and report back to you, the chapter membership, important and timely information. And, I endeavor to do just that. It's a long haul, but I made it to the state conference September 27, 2008 in Downingtown.

There are several important topics that were discussed in depth at the meeting, including, but not limited to: pending continuing education requirements for the PE license and the Unified dues initiative being proposed by National. Look for updates in upcoming newsletters.

Sincerely, Jason S. Schmoyer, PE, State Director

The Philadelphia Chapter Needs You



PSPE Philadelphia is at the forefront of mentoring the children of our community to the opportunities of engineering and what it takes to get there. Starting with the DiscoverE program at the elementary level and our MathCounts program for 7th & 8th graders, we are the front line ambassadors for Engineering. But we need volunteers to make these programs work. Please contact President SOHEILA RAHBARI, P.E., P.G., M. PSPE to see how you can help these with these programs.

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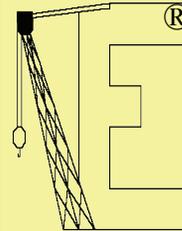
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todd m. rohn, pe
mechanical engineer/
cad manager

422 stump road
montgomeryville
pennsylvania 18936-9630
215.393.6810 ext.137
fax 215.393.6822
trohn@aesclean.com



aesclean.com



**Fredric L. Plotnick,
Ph.D., Esq., P.E.
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www.fplotnick.com
fplotnick@fplotnick.com
215-885-3733



Dawn Underground Engineering, Inc.

Tunnel & Underground Structures Consultants

10 Village Court • Hazlet, New Jersey 07730
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1055 Westlakes Drive, Suite 200
Berwyn, PA 19312
T 610.640.7456
F 610.640.7459
C 610.761.8369
s.siddiqui@gaiconsultants.com
www.gaiconsultants.com