



The Philadelphia Engineer

Founding Chapter 1934

November 2008

President's Message



On October 16, 2008 our first meeting of the year was held at the Wyndham Hotel in Mt' Laurel New Jersey. It was a joint meeting with ASCE South Jersey, hosted by PSPE Philadelphia Chapter. It was a very successful meeting. Our speaker for the evening was Joe Zurawski, P.E., Vice president at Dawn Underground Engineering Inc (a WBE Company) since 2001 to present. Joe gave us a very interesting talk about Micro Tunneling Under Railroad Tracks with Shallow Cover (see photo on page 4). Joe also is currently serving on the Board of PSPE Philadelphia Chapter. I would like to thank Joe and DUE for their support and contributions to the PSPE Philadelphia Chapter.

As indicated before since the passage of Senate Bill 655, Pennsylvania Engineer's Licenses Renewal in 2009 will require 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 to our members at our monthly meetings (at no extra charge). At our October meeting there was a long line of attendees to sign and obtain their one PDH credit certificates.

We have another excellent presentation scheduled for November 18, 2008 to be held at Downtown Club, 6th and Chestnut Streets Philadelphia starting at 5:30 PM. This too will be a joint meeting with ASCE Philadelphia Section. Our speaker for the night will be Moustafa Gouda, PE a Sr. Vice President at CMX Engineering (formerly Schoor DePalma). Mr. Gouda will be presenting a talk on Dam Safety and Dam Rehabilitation, addressing PA and NJ DEP Dam regulations along with a case history of use of roller compacted concrete to rehabilitate the Great Gorge Dam in Vernon, NJ. This presentation is also evaluated and one PDH credit will be offered to the attendees. I encourage you all to attend the meeting.

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November Meeting

Our November meeting will be a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Chapter American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) on Thursday, November 18, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Downtown Club, 6th and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia. The speaker for that evening will be Mr. Moustafa Gouda, PE, Sr. V.P. at CMX Engineering (formerly Schoor DePalma). Mr. Gouda is a recognized geotechnical expert and a national officer within ASCE. The topic for that evening's presentation is: Dam Safety and Dam Rehabilitation, addressing PA and NJ DEP regulations along with a case history of the use of roller compacted concrete to rehabilitate the Great Gorge Dam in Vernon, NJ. Cocktails are from 5:30 to 6:30 followed by dinner and presentation. Please RSVP to Dick Mulford, P.E. at (215) 985-5701 or info@engrclub.org **No Later Than Monday, November 13th**. Cost is only \$40 per member or guest, and \$20 per PSPE Student Member. Make checks payable to "PSPE Philadelphia Chapter".

2008-2009 Program

November 18 - Dam Safety and Dam Rehabilitation - Joint with ASCE Philadelphia Section at the Downtown Club, 6th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia.

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 Tantara, 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!

***Congratulations to the World
Champion Philadelphia Phillies!
Great Job!***

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

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 - September

<u>Expense Accounts</u>	<u>Sept Expenses</u>	<u>4 Months Expenses</u>	<u>Revised 2008-2009 Budget</u>
Administrative	75.00	426.51	800.00
Attendance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Awards	0.00	0.00	300.00
Engineers' Week	0.00	0.00	200.00
MathCounts	0.00	60.07	1500.00
Meetings/Programs	400.00	400.00	900.00
Membership	0.00	0.00	100.00
Publications	0.00	0.00	500.00
Scholarships	0.00	0.00	1400.00
Young Engineers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contingency	0.00	0.00	300.00
Total Expenses	475.00	886.58	6000.00

Income Accounts

Advertising News	100.00	100.00	0.00
Dues	95.00	465.00	1800.00
Corp Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	1000.00
Interest	6.18	24.29	100.00
Chapter Fund	353.70	1080.70	3100.00
Total Income	554.88	1669.99	6000.00

Membership Report

Licensed & Life	155
Affiliate & Student	15

PSPE would like to welcome new members: Michael T. McClellan, PE, and Sarah B. Fick (student member)!

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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 the following:

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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November 18 will also be our Past Presidents Night where all the past presidents will be recognized and honored for their contributions to the PSPE Chapter and the Engineering Profession. I hereby invite you all to come out and recognize their contributions at this special meeting. Details of this meeting are provided in this issue. Please call Richard Mulford, P.E., at (215) 985-5701 to make your reservation.



Joe Zurawski, P.E. receiving Certificate of Appreciation from PSPE President Soheila Rahbari, P.E. at 10/16 dinner meeting after Joe's presentation on Micro Tunneling.

As indicated in my previous message 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.

Unfortunately our membership is on the decline! If you want to be in charge of your profession then I advise you to join the society and make the change. PSPE is currently offering a **FREE Six Months Membership!** It has never been this easy to sign-up new members, through the NSPE website. Please encourage your engineer-friends and colleagues to join the Society.

Last but not the least, we are also inviting candidates for the 2009 Engineer of the Year (EOY) in Delaware Valley to come and present them to their constituent, many of whom are delegates and will be voting for the EOY in the following week.

PSPE Philadelphia Chapter puts out newsletters every month from September through May. The newsletter publishes local and regional information including upcoming seminars and symposiums, field trips, academic news, outreach opportunities, Younger Member activities, and other networking events. If you have any interesting news on members or events, photos, or upcoming activities that you'd like to publish, please contact the newsletter editor above.

Philadelphia, Delaware County and New Jersey companies have an opportunity to support their local chapter through sponsorship of our newsletter. Every August, we solicit these sponsorships to help defray the associated production and distribution costs. The sponsorship cost of \$100 provides your company with a business-card size advertisement in each issue published over the Branch fiscal year ~ approximately 8 issues a year. The newsletter targets members, colleagues and clients in the Philadelphia and south jersey region. If you are

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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interested in placing an ad please contact the newsletter editor above. Please contact the newsletter editor above for further information about advertising opportunities.

Many thanks,

*Soheila Rahbari, P.E., P.G., M. PSPE
PSPE Philadelphia Chapter President*

PE Salaries: Does the License Pay?

Does the PE License pay off? What about a PE License with additional certifications? Here are the median salaries from the April 2008 Engineering Income and Salary Survey for those categories with at least 200 responses:

- PE and other professional license: \$106,675
- PE and certification in other engineering specialty: \$102,800
- Professional Engineer: \$92,100
- No Professional License or Certification: \$86,000
- Engineer Intern/EIT: \$61,485

For more information on the Engineering Income and Salary Survey, go to <http://nspe.enetrix.com>

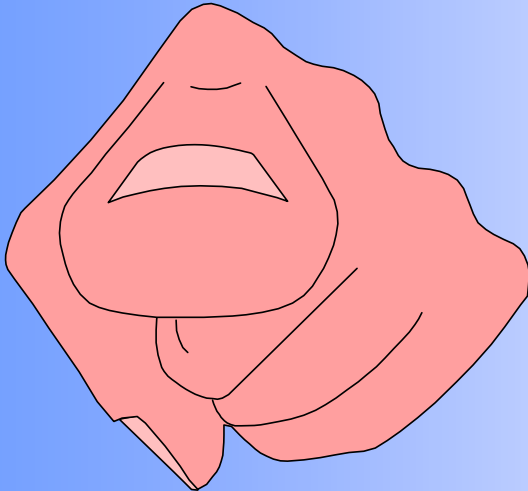
State Director's Message

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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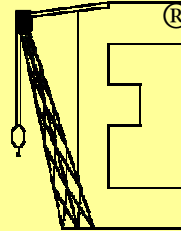
a word from our sponsors

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