



# The Philadelphia Engineer

Founding Chapter 1934 – May 2020 issue

Chapter Annual Meeting  
May 21, 2020

Will be via Skype and teleconference

for details go to [www.pspe-philly.org](http://www.pspe-philly.org)

Letter from the President – and Editor  
This is our **Last** Newsletter for 2019-20. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, our Annual Meeting will be held virtually via Skype and teleconference. We had previously moved from first Thursday May 7th to May 21st (to be again held at Chart House) and so our virtual Meeting will be Thursday May 21st at 5:15pm.

Our Annual Meeting is open to all Chapter Members. Watch our webpage [www.pspe-philly.org](http://www.pspe-philly.org) for instructions to join us for Annual Reports, Discussion of Road Ahead, and Inauguration of new Officers and Directors.

Engineers must deal with conditions that occur without warning – and WOW Covid-19 has required adjustments in all of our lives. Many are dealing with working from home for the first time on a full time basis. (We all have had to in the past work from home on occasion.) And many now also have kids at home and thus mixed with work is day care and provision of primary education. Does your Classroom@Home include the MathCounts Question of the week? Activities by DiscoverE?

▶ See <https://www.mathcounts.org/resources/problem-of-the-week>.

▶ See <https://www.discovere.org/our-activities>.

For many money is not coming in as regularly, but bills still need to be paid. The BIG QUESTION is how long?

Our Chapter is also facing the possibility of lower dues (as some Members defer renewal) and dividends, and our leadership will be meeting to discuss how to provide for Members, ALL Professional Engineers, ALL of those who provide engineering services, and the General Public whom we all serve. Even after the cloud of the pandemic lifts, we all will need to watch our dollars a little more carefully for many months. How can the Chapter help?

We have already recorded presentations to provide on-line education at \$5/PDH. We are working to get these approved also for NY to the extent possible. We have already reduced the charge for our live classes to perhaps break even at \$15 for pizza wings and two PDH. Your Board is considering converting our remaining “sit down dinner” meetings to this format, such as Outstanding Engineering Achievements and our Legislation Night. Will we have the same or scaled back Engineers’ Week Banquet? Can we continue to provide TWO \$500 scholarships or scale back to the one provided years ago? We will continue to provide a vibrant Program to serve our Community.

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## Our New Board 2020-21

As Elected at our Chapter Meeting of April 30th held by Skype and Teleconference

<b>Chris Fell, PE</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>vacant</b>	<b>President-Elect</b>
<b>vacant</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Fredric L Plotnick, PE</b>	<b>Past President</b>
<b>Linda Douthwaite, PE</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Abraham EI</b>	<b>Membership Secretary</b>
<b>Linda Douthwaite, PE</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Abraham EI</b>	<b>State Director</b>
this is a three year position completing in May 2023	
<b>Thomas Friese, PE</b>	<b>Alt State Director</b>
<b>Rick Parisi, PE</b>	<b>Chapter Director, 2021</b>
<b>Robert Cargill, PE</b>	<b>Chapter Director, 2021</b>
<b>Yefim Gudesblat, PE</b>	<b>Chapter Director, 2022</b>
<b>Justin Alexander, PE</b>	<b>Chapter Director, 2022</b>
<b>Ed Pluciennik, PE</b>	<b>Chapter Director, 2023</b>
<b>vacant</b>	<b>Chapter Director, 2023</b>
directors serve three years completing year noted	

### BYLAW 12 – NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SECTION 9. A vacancy in the office of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, State Director, Alternate State Director, or of a Chapter Director shall be filled by elective appointment of the Board. Officers or Directors so appointed shall hold office only for the unexpired term of the office vacated. Such tenure shall not preclude nomination for this office at the next election.

SECTION 10. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President-Elect, other than by filling the unexpired term of the President, the office shall remain vacant until the next regular election, at which time both a President and a President-Elect will be elected.

Interested individuals may contact [president@pspe-philly.org](mailto:president@pspe-philly.org)



Join us for #PECON20 in



Philadelphia August 12–16, 2020

## Planning for 2020-2021

Both at and in the months following our Annual Meeting we will be building our Chapter Committees to plan and execute our chapter programs.

MathCounts competition is February, but Abraham El needs volunteers now to help build the MathCounts teams in 6th, 7th and 8th grade schools starting now for re-launch in September.

Contact at [MathCounts@pspe-philly.org](mailto:MathCounts@pspe-philly.org)

Our Chair of Programs Joseph Maida, PE, State PSPE 2018 Engineer of the Year, desires advice, input and assistance. We expect similar to our 2019-20 Program as printed to the right but still needs building.

Contact at [programs@pspe-philly.org](mailto:programs@pspe-philly.org)

Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awards seek help to publicize and encourage nominations (due NOV 23rd)

Contact [OEA@pspe-philly.org](mailto:OEA@pspe-philly.org)

Our High School Scholarship Committee needs help to publicize our program to the high schools in Philadelphia. The reductions in counseling staff at many schools has in many cases led to students not being advised of this opportunity.

Contact [scholarships@pspe-philly.org](mailto:scholarships@pspe-philly.org)

Our Teacher Awards program needs a Chair who can reach down to schools ranging from K-12 to find teachers who promote math, science and the spark to encourage our next generation to consider engineering as a profession.

Contact [teachers@pspe-philly.org](mailto:teachers@pspe-philly.org)



Our committee to run our Engineers' Week Banquet is also seeking assistance, both related to the program and in inviting Members and non-Member Engineers and those who work with Engineers to improve our world

Contact [eweek@pspe-philly.org](mailto:eweek@pspe-philly.org)

From time to time, our PA Board of Engineers reaches down to our Chapter to investigate Complaints relating to Engineers and the practice of engineering. These are fielded by our Chair Leonard Bernstein, PE, F.NSPE, former President of our Chapter and the State PSPE, but he also looks for help from other Members of PSPE and other Professional Engineers

Contact [ethics@pspe-philly.org](mailto:ethics@pspe-philly.org)

Philadelphia Chapter also needs some young talent to assist with our [website](#) and [social media](#). Our webmaster also edits this newsletter, *The Philadelphia Engineer*.

Contact [webmaster@pspe-philly.org](mailto:webmaster@pspe-philly.org)

And for those who believe our Chapter may do more for Members, other Professional Engineers, others in the fields of engineering, or for the Public Health Safety and Welfare,

Please Contact [president@pspe-philly.org](mailto:president@pspe-philly.org)

which forwards to current, -Elect, and several past presidents

## Philadelphia Chapter Program 2019-2020-2021

Our program for 2019-20 is provided below. We continue to look to our Members for suggestions and to volunteer to share knowledge with your peers. Please contact our leadership at

[President@PSPE-Philly.org](mailto:President@PSPE-Philly.org).

Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers Philadelphia Chapter 2019-2020 Program	
Date	Event – Click Event for Details
Sep. 5, 2019	<a href="#">The Rail Park</a>
Sep 19-20, 2019	<a href="#">PSPE State Conference Bethlehem</a>
Sep 26-27, 2019	<a href="#">PhillyChapter Education BootCamp</a>
Oct. 3, 2019	<a href="#">Power Plants 101</a> <a href="#">Sky Diving Wind Tunnel</a>
<b>Nov. 7, 2019</b>	<a href="#">Smart Cities</a> <a href="#">Amusement Rides</a>
Dec. 5, 2019 SE Regional	<a href="#">DV Region Outstanding Engineering Achievement Program</a>
Dec. 10, 2019 ECP Multi-Society	<a href="#">Annual Multi-Society Meeting</a> DoubleTree 237 Broad â€” 5:30pm
Jan. 9, 2020	<a href="#">Electrical Safety in the Workplace</a> <a href="#">Ethics, Fairness and PE License</a>
Jan. 23 2020	<a href="#">Tour Philadelphia Airport</a>
Feb 1, 2020 MathCounts	<a href="#">Phila Chapter MathCounts at Temple University</a>
Feb. 6, 2020	<a href="#">Legislative Round Table at Chart House Restaurant</a>
Feb 13, 2020 ECP eWeek	<a href="#">Dinner Event by Engineers' Club</a> Doubletree Hotel
Feb 22, 2020 NSPE PA/NJ Engineers' Week Banquet	<a href="#">Greater Philadelphia and Delaware Valley Regional National Engineers' Week Banquet</a> at Chart House Restaurant
Mar 5, 2020	<a href="#">Fracking</a> <a href="#">ASTM Walkway Safety Standards</a>
Apr 30, 2020 Cancelled by Covid	<a href="#">Helical Piles and Geotech at Phila Navy Yard</a>
May 21, 2020	Annual Meeting & Officers Installed

Chapter planning for #PECON20 is on hold as National and State determine impact from Covid-19. At press time we understand much of the Conference will be converted to an online format – but that talks will lead to holding #PECON21 in Philadelphia next year. Your Chapter is giving \$1000 from dues and operations to support this National event



## State Director's Report

It has been my pleasure to support the Chapter and State as a member of the PSPE Board of Directors. Involvement at the State level has provided me with a much better understanding of the organization and how the Philadelphia Chapter can help promote the Engineer's agenda. As I have been serving as Treasurer of the State Society while acting as State Director, I have had to wear two hats while only getting one vote; one organization or the other is getting short changed! So I am thrilled that Abraham El has offered to fill the position of State Director upon my tenure completion in May 2020. I look forward to working with Abe at the State level.

Some highlights of the current and ongoing activities of PSPE and NSPE include:

- PECon20 which was to be the Joint Annual Conference of PSPE and NSPE remains on the calendar and in the books for August, however we are actively exploring opportunities to convert both its educational and governance / engagement components to a high-impact and accessible online suite of events. Expect a final decision in the very near future.
- Efforts continue to protect and show the value of licensure. NSPE is a leading partner in the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL.). Plans for the summer and fall include a whitepaper on increasing interstate license mobility the right way, and a major research study on how licensure serves as • an on-ramp for ensuring a skilled workforce that's competent and prepared to address society's many and growing needs, • a public benefit that not only protects health, safety, and welfare and establishes accountability, but also improves the quality of life for citizens and strengthens the economy; and • a proven way to ensure qualifications that positions states as attractive places to work as well as places where business and industry will want to locate.

In short, the arguments of antilicensure forces—that licensure raises barriers to entry into the profession and increases costs to consumers—are wrong. Licensure for professions like engineering is rigorous for a reason, and good for those seeking meaningful and rewarding careers in fields where they can make a difference, both for the economy and the public.

### Our Chapter Phone Number

**484-222-01PE (-0173)**

Philadelphia Chapter maintains a phone number for members of PSPE, other engineers and the general public.

Callers are directed to a Google-Voice mailbox which records the call, transcribes the voice to text, and sends the text to several members of the Chapter Executive Board. Inquirers may be directed to the appropriate source at the State Society, State Registration Board, local university or local firm which has indicated a willingness to respond further. PSPE Philadelphia does not recommend nor endorse specific firms.

## Letter from the President – continued

We are Engineers and we shall engineer a solution to this black swan event. Some suggest we will not be able to return to how we were. Perhaps this is good – we should strive to move from this point where we now are to even better approach our past goals or perhaps even enhanced goals.

Forcing ourselves to reexamine resources and supply chains shall lead to better utilization of resources. Not to aim for the “same old way” but to ask “what is the best new way forward” is an attribute of engineering. The old joke from school days is that the scientist develops a procedure from A to B to C, then the engineer reviews and creates a new procedure directly from A to C. In our journey of life we have been detoured. Shall we strive to return to the old path or hit the GPS reset button and find the best path from here?

Shall we return to rote memorization in “live” classrooms or continue to explore new means to teach our young people? Shall we return to the daily commute, just to cluster in an office, or schedule our F2F meetings for when needed?

I look forward to this end of my year of “the same old” Chapter meetings, and to our incoming leadership building a new means for our Chapter to assist our Members, all professional engineers, all who practice engineering, and the public we all protect and serve.

Fredric L Plotnick, PhD, Esq, PE

## MATHCOUNTS 2020 Winners

Top Teams:

**First Place:** Julia Reynolds Masterman

- Coach: Chris Taranta

**Second Place:** Germantown Friends School

- Coach: Catherine Jones

**Third Place:** Springside Chestnut Hill Academy Boys

- Coach: Andrew Wolf

Top Individuals:

1st: Sivan Frankel, Julia Reynolds Masterman

2nd: Michael Huang, Julia Reynolds Masterman

3rd: Chris Ji, Julia Reynolds Masterman

4th: Alvin Pan, Julia Reynolds Masterman

5th: Tomas Falleti-Moore, Julia Reynolds Masterman

6th: Yehuda Mahlab, Julia Reynolds Masterman

7th: Cathy Liu, Germantown Friends School

8th: August Russell, Julia Reynolds Masterman

9th: Arjun Goswani, Springside Chestnut Hill Academy

10th: Sasha Manovski, Germantown Friends School

**Thank you to our Chapter MathCounts Team**

**Alex Sopin - Pedro Pinto - Abraham El**

**and all volunteers and coaches**

To volunteer or for more information contact Abraham El

O: 215-254-7778 | M: 215-796-5261 | [AEI@Pennoni.com](mailto:AEI@Pennoni.com)

To Donate to Mathcounts:

Donate



To Donate to STEM Scholarships:

Donate

