

# The Drawing Board

Reading Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers



**A Publication of the PSPE Reading Chapter**

**October 2010**

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## **2010 Chapter Activities**

- **November 16, 2010** -Professional Liability Seminar @ Cutillo's Restaurant, Pottstown, PA
- **February 2011** -Sovereign Center Tour  
-Mathcounts
- **March 2011** -Marcellus Shale Presentation  
-Science Fair
- **April 2011** -Science Fair / Mathcounts Awards Banquet
- **May 2011** -Evergreen Power Plant Tour
- **June 2011** -PSPE Reading Chapter Golf Outing

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You need Adobe Acrobat to be able to view the Drawing Board. Just e-mail Frank Falzone, E.I.T. at  
FFalzone@trafficmpd.com with your e-mail address to receive your e-mail copy.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*By Tuan Duong, P.E.*

Welcome to our first issue of The Drawing Board for the 2010-2011 year. I am excited to begin my term as President of the Chapter. As we get ready to kick-off this year's slate of activities, I would like to thank Michael Hartman, P.E. for serving as the President of the Chapter for the last two years.

I'm sure everyone is aware by now that earlier this year, Pennsylvania has joined the ranks of many other states with the passage of Act 25. Pennsylvania is requiring continuing education for all registered Professional Engineers for the 2011 licensure renewal. Obviously, this will certainly bring about changes to the way we practice engineering. With the help of the Board and Officers of this Chapter, one of the goals of the Chapter is to become a resource for our members to meet the continuing education requirements set forth under Act 25. Your Board and Officers have been working hard toward achieving this goal. There are many great events planned for the upcoming year and some of these events will offer PDHs to count towards your continuing education requirements. However, you will have to determine for yourself if they will apply to your profession.

The first event of this year has already taken place and was held at Chef Alan's American Bistro on September 29, 2010. The topic was "Pennsylvania Act 25 Continuing Education Requirements" presented by Mr. Frank Stanton (PSPE President-Elect).

The next event will be a joint meeting with the Valley Forge Chapter on November 16, 2010. Timothy P. Esler, CPCU of Fenner & Esler Agency, Inc. will be presenting a Professional Liability seminar. I encourage everyone to come out and join us at Cutillo's in Pottstown and earn a PDH. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas for a future presentation please feel free to contact me or a Board member, we would love to hear from you.

Aside from the monthly Chapter meetings, we are also reaching out to some of the local school districts to offer any assistance they may need from the Chapter. With that said, we are looking for volunteers to help out with mentoring of students at Wilson High School. If you would like to volunteer some of your time please feel free to contact me or a Board member.

I am looking forward to a very successful year and meeting as many chapter members as I can. If there is anything that I or any of the Board can do for you, please contact us per the information below.

Tuan Duong, P.E.

**2009-2010 PSPE, READING CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS**

Tuan Duong, PE	President 2010-2011	Traffic Planning & Design	610.326.3100 (W)	<a href="mailto:tduong@trafficpd.com">tduong@trafficpd.com</a>
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Jeff Euclide, PE	Board Member 2008-2011	Entech Engineering, Inc.	610.373.6667 (W)	<a href="mailto:jeuclide@entecheng.com">jeuclide@entecheng.com</a>
James McCarthy, PE	Past President 2010 - 2011	McCarthy Engineering Associates, Inc.	610.373.8001 (W)	<a href="mailto:jmccarthy@mccarthy-engineering.com">jmccarthy@mccarthy-engineering.com</a>
Karl Peterson, PE	Past President 2004 - 2010	---	717.445.6626 (H)	<a href="mailto:aftan@epix.net">aftan@epix.net</a>



## **SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS**

Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia Sections and National Organization

The **Lehigh Valley Section** of SWE has been awarding scholarships on an annual basis of up to \$5,000 to five to ten applicants in the spring for the academic year starting in fall. The deadline to apply is typically the second week in February. Final details including application forms should be available at the end of November on the SWE-LV website: [www.swe.org/region/sections/e002lhv/scholarship.htm](http://www.swe.org/region/sections/e002lhv/scholarship.htm).

In the past, recipients have been selected from women graduating from high schools who reside in areas with zip codes beginning 177-187 and 195-196, which includes over 20 counties in Pennsylvania, and enrolling in an engineering program in the fall.

The **Philadelphia Section** of SWE offers several \$1000 scholarships for current graduate or undergraduate students majoring in engineering, engineering technology or computer science. For scholarship information and contacts, please click on the link below: <http://www.philaswe.org/scholarship.php>

In order to be eligible, the applicants must be full-time students majoring in an engineering, engineering technology, or computer science discipline at one of fifteen colleges and universities in the Philadelphia and some outlying areas. See the web site for listing.

Applicants may be enrolled in any undergraduate or graduate level of study. Previous winners of SWE Philadelphia Scholarships, SWE National or at her SWE Scholarships are also eligible for the current year's awards.

The **National SWE organization** provides many scholarships to undergraduate as well as graduate students. Refer to [www.swe.org](http://www.swe.org) for additional information.

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## PSPE November Joint Dinner Meeting



Valley Forge & Reading Chapters

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- Topic:** Professional Liability Discussion
- When:** Tuesday, November 16, 2010  
5:30 PM—Social hour (Cash Bar)  
6:00 PM—Dinner  
7:00 PM—Presentation
- Where:** Cutillo's Restaurant  
2688 E. High St  
Sanatoga, PA
- Cost:** \$25 / Person (Made payable to PSPE Valley Forge Chapter)  
\$35 / Person for non-members  
Any proceeds from the dinner will go towards Mathcounts!

Please RSVP to Gwen Himes at [ghimes@trafficpd.com](mailto:ghimes@trafficpd.com) or 610-326-3100 by Friday, November 12, 2010.

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**Speaker: Timothy P. Esler, CPCU**  
**Principal at Fenner & Esler Agency, Inc.**

*Fenner & Esler is a full-service insurance brokerage, risk management and consulting organization that provides professional liability insurance for Architects and Engineers.*

***A CERTIFICATE FOR 1 PDH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESENTATION.***



**READING CHAPTER**  
PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

October 22, 2010

Dear Engineering Colleagues,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the Reading Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) in order to highlight a few of the benefits to becoming a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), and hopefully encourage you to join our society today. For starters, NSPE delivers three memberships for the price of one. Dollar for dollar, joining NSPE brings a great return on your investment. With a single NSPE membership, you're automatically enrolled – not only in the national organization – but in your state society and local chapter as well.

**National**

NSPE keeps its members in touch with the latest in their field through respected publications and information resources, opportunities for mentoring and continuing education, and through a national conference and meetings, where members can meet and share ideas with colleagues.

**State**

By participating in NSPE on the state level, members can build leadership skills and earn professional recognition through volunteer opportunities. In addition, members enjoy discounts and special offers unique to their state organization.

**Local**

NSPE local chapters offer engineers the chance to network and gain professional referrals through contacts with colleagues in their communities.

Furthermore, NSPE membership gives engineers the tools and services they need to be better informed and better connected within their professional community. Of particular interest, membership in NSPE can help engineers registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acquire the 24 Professional Development Hours (PDH's) required under ACT 25 during each biennial license renewal via Chapter sponsored tours and presentations with reduced rates available to NSPE members. Furthermore, current NSPE members can access 4 free PDH's online at NSPE through their secure login and password. The free online courses update annually bringing engineers **8 free PDH's** per licensing period.

Now is a great time to join NSPE and take advantage of the 6 month free introductory offer that is valid through June 2011. Please join us online at [www.NSPE.org](http://www.NSPE.org), or by mail using the attached membership application.

We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Mountz, P.E., PTOE

[emountz@trafficpd.com](mailto:emountz@trafficpd.com)

Secretary, Reading Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

### Yes, I need to join.

Join us online at nspe.org, or I can send you an application.

I prefer to have an application sent to me:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Engineers believe...

*"Professional organizations are a great way for professionals to refine skills in a non-threatening situation. The personal growth and development opportunities make it a real win-win for the individual, the employer, and the organization."*

~ Eric L. Flicker, P.E., Pennoni Associates



*"PSPE provides me with a forum in which to discuss new (and old) ideas, a way to disseminate new information, and a way to network with potential colleagues."*

~ Rebecca A. Bowman, Esq., P.E.

*"Professionally, PSPE hones valuable skills. I am more comfortable when speaking to groups. The chance to lead a project, chair a committee, or run an event always develops leadership and management skills."*

~ Harve Hnatuk, P.E., Maida Engineering



## Join the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

Member National Society of Professional Engineers

I am often asked, "What will membership in PSPE do for me?" and "What am I going to get for my dues?"

As I was driving home from a new client meeting, I thought of some priceless things I gain from involvement in PSPE, and decided to share them with you.

(I was introduced to this client through a PSPE colleague, by the way...)



### Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

908 N. Second Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
717.441.6051 | Fax: 717.236.2046  
www.pspe.org

# PSPE will help you...

## Speak in Public

Many who know me find it hard to believe that there was ever a time when I was afraid to speak to a group.

I can still remember the first time I had to address a chapter meeting. I was scared to death to stand in front of 100+ people at the Engineer's Week Banquet and give the results of the Bridge Breaking Contest. I survived and continued to speak at chapter meetings, then at State Board meetings.

After all that practice in front of both colleagues and perfect strangers, I am comfortable and speaking in public. Public speaking does not come naturally to everyone, but the fear of public speaking can be overcome with practice.

Why is this important you ask? Just think of all the presentations you will need to give in your professional career. When you are comfortable while making a presentation, your client will have confidence in you.



## Lead Projects

Training seminars are excellent, but committee work actually offers the best "on the job training." For engineers who want to demonstrate that they can handle projects, committee work is a great way to do that. Organizational skills, communication skills and confidence are greatly enhanced.

As a committee member and eventually the committee chair, a person learns the life cycle of a project. "How do I start a project? How do I develop a timeline? How do I organize and manage the process? What does it mean to delegate responsibility to others?"

Being committee chair teaches one how to manage a project from start to finish, without worrying about losing your paycheck over it. After successfully working with others to complete a project, your increased confidence is noticeable to those for whom you work.



## Cultivate Your Network

Some call it networking; I call it strengthening my safety net. Attending chapter and state meetings exposes me to new people. Friendships develop. Some of these friends are competitors, some are clients. All are fellow engineers with the same goal in mind - protecting public safety.

Additionally, these friendships help in my professional life. It is easy to call someone I know to ask advice on how to handle a specific problem. When I need a partner in a project, it is easier to work with someone I know personally. My current clients/friends are located all over the United States, and my business continues to grow.

## Access Affordable, Valuable Continuing Ed

Current members can access 4 free PDH online at NSPE through their secure login and password. The free online courses update annually bringing Engineers 8 PDH per licensing cycle.

Additional education resources are available through the state and chapter activities and communicated directly.

These are just a few of the priceless reasons I remain a member of PSPE and NSPE.

These benefits are critical to my career. I invite you to join, too.

Zcyn B. Uzman, PE  
zcynu@aol.com



908 N Second St  
 Harrisburg, PA 17102  
 Phone : (717) 441-6051 Fax: (717) 236-2046  
 Web: www.pspe.org

For quickest service, you may join NSPE online at [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org)

**PSPE/NSPE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL CHAPTER

First		MI	Last					
Date of Birth: / /		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Have you been a member of NSPE in the past? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
Please send my NSPE Correspondence and Publications to: <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Home								
<b>BUSINESS INFORMATION (please print)</b>								
Business Name :			Title:					
Business Address:		City:	State:	Zip Code:				
Business Phone:		Business Fax:	Business E-mail					
<b>PERSONAL INFORMATION</b>								
Home Address:		Home phone:	Home Fax:					
City:	State:	Zip Code:						
Personal e-mail		I am licensed in the following states:						
Professional Licensure :	<input type="checkbox"/> PE	<input type="checkbox"/> EIT	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Licensed	<input type="checkbox"/> Student				
<b>NSPE INTEREST GROUP MEMBERS AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFY TO JOIN ONE OF FIVE PRACTICE-SPECIFIC ENGINEERING INTEREST GROUPS</b>								
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Practice				
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
Undergraduate Degree:	Major:	College/University:	Graduation date: / /					
Graduate Degree:	Major:	College/University:	Graduation date: / /					
<b>SPONSORSHIP</b>								
Who may we thank for referring you to NSPE Members Name _____ ID Number _____								
<b>SIX MONTHS FREE INTRODUCTORY OFFER VALID THROUGH JUNE 2011</b>								
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I hereby certify that the information herein is complete and accurate. I further certify that I will abide by the requirements of the NSPE code of ethics. I also pledge to support the constitution, bylaws and board policies (as they are now and as they may be amended) of NSPE and my State Society.								
Applicant Signature:			Date: / /					
PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION TO: NSPE, P.O. BOX 631162, BALTIMORE, MD 21263-1162 OR FAX TO: (703) 836-4875								
NSPE USE ONLY:	No	State	Chap	Grade	N Pay	S Pay	C Pay	WEB09

New member rates cover national, state, and chapter dues for your first year only. These rates may vary depending on your state and chapter participation; please contact member services at 1-888-285-NSPE for participating states. Renewal rates vary depending on your state and chapter. Membership rates and requirements are subject to change. Contributions (or gifts), dues and fees to NSPE are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and business expenses. A portion of national and state society dues is not deductible to the extent that NSPE and your state society engage in lobbying.

New Continuing Education Requirements Legislation Enacted  
***HB 975 signed by Governor Rendell into Act 25 of 2010***

Answers to the questions surrounding exactly how mandatory continuing education will work for Pennsylvania licensed professional engineers; geologist and land surveyors got a whole lot clearer this week as new legislation (House Bill 975) was enacted to clarify most of the particulars. The Senate passed House Bill 975 unanimously on May 4th. The bill was not amended in the Senate, so it went directly to Governor Rendell for his signature.

PSPE spearheaded the effort to pass a bill which gives professional engineers more flexibility in meeting the CE requirements than was available under the previous law. The new law is modeled after the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) model rules for continuing education. As a result, the language in the law is quite specific as it is based more on model regulations rather than model legislation.

The following is a recap of the most important details of the law:

- Licensees shall comply with the CE requirements during the 2009-2011 biennial renewal cycle. That means licensees will be asked to meet the requirements during the current cycle and may have their license renewal denied in September of 2011 if they have not met the requirements.
- Each licensee needs to obtain 24 PDH units during the current and future biennial (every 2 years) licensing periods.
- A PDH (Professional Development Hour) is defined as 50 minutes of instruction or presentation relevant to professional practice.
- The CE requirements can be met by attending educational courses, participating in distance educational courses, teaching, authoring published works or obtaining patents.
- There is no requirement that courses be preapproved by the State Registration Board, but the Board will have final authority to determine if a particular course is relevant or not.
- The rule of thumb is that courses must “maintain, improve or develop the professional’s skills or knowledge”.
- Courses in ethics and the law are acceptable subject matter for CE credit.
- Courses in practice building or office management are not acceptable subjects for CE credit.
- Up to 12 PDH units may be carried forward from one licensure cycle to the next.
- The Board may grant exemptions from meeting the CE requirements for reasons such as active military duty, physical disability, illness or other extenuating circumstances.

- Newly licensed individuals are exempt from the CE requirement for the licensure period immediately following initial licensure and registration.

While the Pennsylvania State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists has ultimate authority over what is considered acceptable education or activities, the new law places most of the responsibility upon the licensee. Within the parameters established in the statute, you will determine what courses or activities relate to your professional practice.

PSPE recommends that you read the newly enacted section of the law which will be posted here shortly: [http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/CL/Public/cl\\_view\\_action2.cfm?sess\\_yr=2010&sess\\_ind=0&cl\\_typ=G&cl\\_nbr](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/CL/Public/cl_view_action2.cfm?sess_yr=2010&sess_ind=0&cl_typ=G&cl_nbr)

PSPE will continue to provide our members with updates on any new developments relative to the CE requirements, but feel free to contact us if you have questions. Remember, all PSPE members are currently eligible for 4 free PDHs from the National Society of Professional Engineers; click here to review available courses: <http://www.nspe.org/resources/newpages/fourfreePDHs.html>



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Advertising is available in the Drawing Board and on the Chapter web site for \$50.00 per year. If a company wants to advertise and also place positions available on the web site, then the cost is \$100 per year. Historically, this was done by sending out invoices to past advertisers. The process to advertise has been changed and now in order to advertise you should send a check in the appropriate amount payable to “Reading Chapter PSPE” to Reading Chapter PSPE c/o McCarthy Engineering, 1121 Snyder Road, West Lawn, PA 19609. Along with your payment a jpeg file or similar file should be included of your advertisement.

***Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers***  
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