



VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER
PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 585 WORCESTER, PA 19490-0585



THE COMPASS

Volume 51. Number 1. September/October 2016
(Read the COMPASS online at www.pspe.org/valleyforge)



President's Message

By: *Michael Fischer, P.E.*

We kicked off the 2016-17 Chapter year with a bang as the PSPE Annual State Conference took place right in our backyard in King of Prussia. The State Conference is always great opportunity for engineers to pick up PDHs (albeit not in a license renewal year for PA this time around). It is also a great setting for networking with engineers of all disciplines from various companies throughout the region. We hope that our members took advantage of the conference and once again thank all those who helped organize the event. Congratulations are also in order for fellow VFC board member Dan Humes who accepted the award for PSPE Young Engineer of the Year at the conference. Way to go Dan!

The Valley Forge Chapter itself held its summer planning meeting in late August where the board of directors finalized member roles and discussed plans for the year. We recently jointly hosted a general membership meeting the first week of October with the Delco, Bucks and Philly Chapters at Penn State Great Valley with an interesting presentation on Licensure for Software Engineers. We will be hosting our own membership dinner meeting in early November with a very interesting presentation on the Lafayette Street Extension project currently underway in Norristown (see attached flyer for details).

I'd like to welcome our new members and hope to meet you all at our upcoming events. If anyone has any questions about upcoming events or Chapter operations, don't hesitate to reach out.

Upcoming Events

(visit www.pspe.org/valleyforge for more details)

Nov 2: General Membership Dinner Meeting – *Lafayette Street Extension*; Crowne Plaza Valley Forge
(<http://pspe.org/valleyforge/documents/2016-11-02%20Meeting%20Announcement.pdf>)

Dec 4: Day at the Races @ PARX Casino & Racetrack, Bensalem, PA. Annual Event hosted by Harve Hnatiuk. Details to follow!



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PSPE Legislative Activity

Governor's Office Publishes Regulatory Agenda

Executive Order 1996-1 requires all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor to submit for publication an agenda of regulations under development or consideration. These agendas represent the agencies' current intentions regarding future regulations. The agendas are generally published on the first Saturdays in February and July. The agendas are compiled to provide members of the regulated community advanced notice of regulatory activity. The following agency agendas were published in the July 9, 2016, issue of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. When they actually are published we will report on that publication, with instructions on how and when to comment.

Regulation Being Considered	Proposed Date of Promulgation	Need and Legal Basis for Action	Agency Contact
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State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists

Electronic Seals and Signatures 49 Pa. Code Chapter 37 (#16A-4712)	Fall 2016, as Proposed	In addition to updating their current regulations on seals, the three boards that regulate design professionals in this Commonwealth (including the State Architects Licensure Board, the State Registration Board for Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists, and the State Board of Landscape Architects) are proposing new regulations setting forth standard requirements for electronic seals and electronic signing of design documents. The goal of these proposals is to provide all design professionals with regulations that are as consistent as possible with respect to both traditional seals and electronic seals to benefit both the design professionals and their clients.	Robin Shearer (717) 783- 7049
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Renewal Fees 49 Pa. Code § 37.17 (#16A-4713)	Fall 2016, as Final	Under section 9(a) of the Professional Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law (63 P.S. § 156(a)) (act), the Board is required by law to support its operations from the revenue it generates from fees, fines and civil penalties. In addition, the act provides that the Board shall increase fees if the revenue raised by fees, fines and civil penalties is not sufficient to meet expenditures over a 2-year period. The current fee structure is inadequate to support the operations of the Board. This proposed rulemaking seeks to increase the biennial renewal fee for licensees from \$50 to \$100 so that revenues are sufficient to cover projected expenditures as required by the act.	Robin Shearer (717) 783- 7049
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For further PSPE legislative updates, visit: <http://pspe.org/about-pspe/legislative-activity/>



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Thoughts On “E-ZING” Into Retirement

By: Kurt V. Leininger, P.E.

I’ve been thinking that most of the “pre-geezer” members of our profession might be interested in someone’s thoughts on the semi-retirement phase of an engineering career. People who know engineers often say they never retire, which must be true for many of us. I know I’ve found it hard to completely “pull the plug” from my 45 year career, although more free time is definitely welcome.

Those already fully retired may find this sounding familiar. For the rest of you, pondering future retirement may be somewhat intimidating or, for most millennials, a distant mirage. But planning for retirement is a necessary task that an engineer should be able to successfully tackle like any other planning, design or construction project. And those who never want to retire also need to be aware of the many tasks awaiting their “golden years.”

I’ve enjoyed my career in analysis and design of municipal wastewater systems, along with a few water supply and landfill projects for variety. I suppose my first couple years weren’t quite as “enjoyable” when I was learning about the real world of facility design (“the devil is in the details”). I’ve worked for five different consulting engineering firms, two of them for more than 15 years, and each was a successively smaller company. That didn’t always result in my projects becoming smaller over time, and I was fortunate to have had interesting work for both large and small municipal clients.

In mid-2011, I started working 30 hours per week to have more time for visiting my parents (in their mid-90s) every month for a 3 or 4-day weekend trip to northwestern Missouri. By mid-2013 after both parents had passed, I decided to become a “flex-time” employee and began to work at most 15 hours per week. I’m very grateful that my employer has allowed me to contribute to their continued design production, respond to our major client needs in a timely manner, and keep me on their payroll.

My recent tasks have been either something I could complete quickly - often for one of my prior projects that came back to life in some form - or to “kick-start” a new project with a more relaxed deadline. My quicker tasks typically involve digging up old design calculations and correspondence, reviewing prior design criteria and applying them to new requirements, and documenting the results for our client manager in corresponding with the client and with the permitting agencies when necessary. The more relaxed tasks involve various combinations of:

- understanding the client’s project objectives,
- sketching revised facility or site plans (usually starting with prior plans),
- analyzing site and facility survey data and establishing control elevations,
- calculating hydraulic requirements for sizing pipes, pumps, and other equipment,
- corresponding with equipment manufacturers for proposed equipment sizing and pricing,
- sketching more detailed equipment layouts and integrating them with existing facilities,
- coordinating with the other design disciplines (site work, electrical, process control, etc.),
- checking and marking CAD-drafted layout drawings,
- estimating costs for constructing the recommended facility, and
- summarizing the design task in an internal memorandum or letter to the client.



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Those of you who've worked in a design position might recognize the above as the typical design sequence (with a few major exceptions). Of course, the sequence never flows cleanly from one step to the next, but these tasks almost always need to be completed in the above order.

The major exceptions from the above (which you've probably guessed by now), are:

- 1) intermittent review of design progress with the client, along with internal "value engineering" reviews;
- 2) assembling and editing the technical specifications, contract documents, and bidding documents for public bid documents; and
- 3) internal quality control reviews and final revisions to the drawings, specs and bid documents.

These last two aren't completed until after all necessary permits are obtained and final design drawings completed, although nearly-complete technical specifications often need to be submitted with the permit applications.

When no tasks are on my plate, rather than wait for a call or email I'm glad to visit the office at least one day per week to at least purge my corporate emails. This also lets my colleagues know that I'm still interested in being there and contributing to the business, avoiding the "out of sight, out of mind" syndrome.

Now you must be asking, "what am I doing when I'm not needed at the office? Well, I find it fairly easy to keep busy around home by:

- scheduling home improvements and documenting their costs (for our home's cost basis);
- planning future trips and upcoming local events;
- volunteering for local organizations (not running for public office, although it can be a noble pursuit);
- corresponding with account managers and tracking investments along with the other financial events to document the current year's taxable events (quarterly estimated payments, capital gains, donations, medical expenses, etc.);
- searching the internet for news and analysis of current events (perhaps our most flagrant time-consumer), as well as reading newspapers and magazines at our local library;
- riding my bicycle on the Chester Valley Train (from King of Prussia to Exton), followed by frequent craft ale sampling (including home-brewed);
- writing occasional articles such as this one; and
- the ever-present yardwork!!

I've been surprised to realize that, during full employment, the regularity of my daily routine (and for my occasional trips) was why I never needed to keep an active calendar when I worked full-time. When I began to retire, my scope of daily interests and activities began to expand, as well as the frequency of doctor appointments, and now I often check my calendar every day.

I often think of a reminder my dad liked to say once he was in his 80s: "*When you're older you find that you still have much to do, you do it slower, and you have less time to do it!*" I call this our inevitable "individual compression of time syndrome" (ICOTS). Perhaps that has something to do with the law of entropy, since the entire world seems to be expanding and stuffing more information and events into one's available time. (Or, is it simply that "tasks expand to fill the time available?") Time for a nap.



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PSPE Valley Forge Chapter
November Membership Meeting

Topic: Lafayette Street Extension

November 2, 2016

5:30 PM Networking / 6:15 PM Dinner & Presentation

Crowne Plaza - King of Prussia

260 Mall Blvd.

King of Prussia, PA 19406

\$35 PSPE member / \$40 non PSPE member

Please RSVP to Gwen Himes

(ghimes@trafficpd.com)

by Wednesday, October 26, 2016



Speaker: Matthew Edmond, AICP, Transportation Section Chief of the Montgomery County Planning Commission, will be providing an explanation of the Lafayette Street Extension Project currently under construction. In addition to the project's status, Mr. Edmond will also discuss the importance of this project to the region since it will provide access to, and economic development opportunities for, Norristown's waterfront.

Mr. Edmond will also provide brief updates of other important Montgomery County Transportation Projects such as the Ridge Pike Improvement Project and the extension of SEPTA's Norristown High Speed Line.



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Picture of the Month: Infinity Bridge



The Infinity Bridge is a public pedestrian and cycle footbridge across the River Tees in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees in the north-east of England. The bridge is a dual, tied arch bridge or bowstring bridge. It has a pair of continuous, differently-sized structural steel arches with suspended precast concrete decking and one asymmetrically placed river pier. The tapering arches with a trapezoidal box section are fabricated from weathering steel plate. The arches both bifurcate within the spans to form a double rib over the river pier. A reflex piece between the two arches holds them together making the two arches one continuous curve. No other bridge is known to have quite the same design.

At night the bridge handrail and footway are lit with custom-made blue-and-white LED lighting built into the handrail that changes colour as pedestrians cross the bridge; sensors trigger a change from blue to white, leaving a 'comet's trail' in the person's wake. Attached to the steel cable ties are white metal-halide up-lighters to illuminate the white painted bridge arches, and blue LED down-lighters to illuminate the water and ground surfaces immediately below the deck. At night from certain viewing angles when the river surface is flat calm, the twin arches together with their reflection in the river appear as an infinity symbol ∞ , and it is this effect that inspired its name.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinity_Bridge)



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ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Account Balances (Wells Fargo):

	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Mcounts/Scholarship</u>	<u>Total</u>
July 1, 2015	\$ 6,465.26	\$ 5,798.16	\$3,001.77	\$ 15,265.19
June 30, 2016	\$ 6,750.04	\$ 5,799.91	\$3,002.67	\$ 15,552.62

Comments

The year-end balance was slightly higher than when the year started by \$287.78. Most of the expenses were in line with the amount budgeted. About 60% of our total expenses were for MathCounts and Scholarships. Our meetings were close to break even and our other costs were in line with the budget.

In other news, the VFC scholarship program continued successfully with three selected students each receiving the chapter \$200 award. The proceeds for the 2015 Golf outing were received; the 2016 golf outing was held in June but the financial results were not part of this program year.

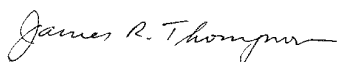
The IRS accepted the 2014 e-postcard filing on 11/23/2015. The 2015 3-postcard filing will be done soon.

Items for consideration by the board for the new program year:

- Should we continue the P.O. box in Worcester? If not what official address should we use for the VFC?
- Continuation of the present savings account for MathCounts. All disbursements have been made from the checking account thus far.
- Should we consider seeking a higher interest rate for the saving account. Wells Fargo has alternatives as a starting point.
- We should review the chapter dues (presently \$20/year) in light of the fact that we no longer need to carry a separate D&O policy. That was the reason for the last increase.

Date: August 1, 2016

Respectfully submitted,



James R. Thompson, P.E., VFC Treasurer



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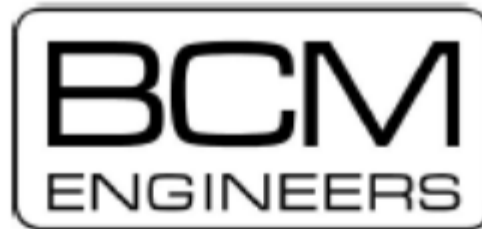
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