



SPRING 2008

VOLUME XXV NUMBER 2

# REPORTER

The Magazine of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers



**2008 Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS Competition**



## Also Inside:

**2008 PSPE Annual Conference**

**Risky Business Plays the Dating Game**

**Status of Continuing Education Legislation**



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The *PE Reporter* is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) located at 908 N. Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Phone: (717)441-6051 • www.pspe.org. Opinions expressed by authors herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of PSPE.

Cover photos: Top Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS Teams pictured with (left) David Stone, PE, Pa MATHCOUNTS State Coordinator and (right) Leonard K. Bernstein, P.E., F.NSPE, PSPE President.

1. Sewickley Academy (Sewickley, PA) - First place  
2. Winchester Thurston (Pittsburgh, PA) - Second place  
3. Valley Forge Middle School (Wayne, PA) - Third place  
Photos courtesy of Lynn Libby.

PSPE members are invited to submit project photos to be featured on the front cover of the *PE Reporter*. Send your photos and supporting article to Jennifer Summers. Deadline for the Summer issue: June 15, 2008.

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*Adopted by National Society of Professional Engineers, June 1954*

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## What the Home Inspector Found

Leonard K. Bernstein, P.E., F.NSPE

You may remember some time ago that the home inspectors tried to change legislation such that a Professional Engineer would not be qualified to perform home inspections without being a member of one of the home inspector's associations. However, thanks to the efforts of PSPE's Legislative Consultant John Wanner, the home inspectors were unsuccessful in their attempt to weaken the PE license.

Their actions did make some of us wonder if the home inspectors were practicing engineering with some of what they were doing. For instance, a home inspector who issued an opinion as to the structural integrity of a building foundation would be in violation of the State Registration Act unless the home inspector was also a PE because the home inspector would be practicing engineering as defined in the Act.

I bring this up because my daughter and son-in-law recently hired a home inspector to inspect a home they wanted to buy. My daughter and son-in-law didn't ask me to recommend a home inspector (I would have naturally recommended a PE) but they hired a home inspector who my daughter's college roommate had used. The inspector was not a PE but was a member of one of the home inspector associations.

My daughter asked if I would be there when the home inspector came and I certainly agreed so I could see first hand what the home inspector would be doing. When I met the home inspector, he asked me what I did and I just replied that I was retired - after all, it is the truth since I retired in March. He didn't pursue it and I didn't offer anything else because I wanted to watch what he was going to do.

I have to admit, he was very thorough. I followed him as he did his entire inspection except when he went into the crawl space under the house (no basement). With my knee that had

been replaced last May and not being allowed to kneel, there was no way I was getting into a 32" (floor to underside of joist) crawl space.

The home inspector checked everything, made sure everything worked properly, and explained to my daughter and son-in-law how everything operated and the proper operation of the various systems. The inspector did find several deficiencies that I had noticed on my own, but I was very impressed with him.

When it came to the crawl space, he pointed out a potential structural deficiency. He took pictures and showed them to me when he came back up. Apparently, before a poured concrete patio and porch roof were added to the front of the house, water must have been getting into the foundation resulting in several floor joists being completely rotted away. The floor joists were being supported by bricks, wood, and, get this, several hydraulic auto bottle jacks. At the joist pockets,

*"Message" continued p. 20*

## Engineer's Legislative Day - May 13, 2008

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, partnering with the Pennsylvania Sections of the American Society of Civil Engineers and other allied organizations will be visiting our elected officials again in Harrisburg on May 13, 2008. We need your participation. If you are interested in attending the Engineer's Legislative Affairs Day in Harrisburg, please contact the following individuals from the ASCE Section in your area by May 2, 2008.

There is a registration form posted on [www.pspe.org](http://www.pspe.org) under Upcoming Events.

Western Pennsylvania – Joe Fecek ([joe.feczek@hdrinc.com](mailto:joe.feczek@hdrinc.com) or 412-497-6061).

Central Pennsylvania – Tom Imholte ([timholte@dawood.cc](mailto:timholte@dawood.cc) or 717-732-8576)

Southeastern Pennsylvania – Chris Menna ([Christopher.Menna@phila.gov](mailto:Christopher.Menna@phila.gov) or 215-686-5573)

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# Proposed Procurement Code Draws Fire

John D. Wanner, CAE

## House Committee Gathers Information on Authorities Procurement Bill

The House Local Government Committee held an informational meeting in March on a bill that would establish a Municipal Authorities Procurement Code. House Bill 2016, sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Mann (D-Lehigh), amends Title 62 (Procurement) establishes a procurement code for municipal authorities that is loosely based on the Commonwealth Procurement Code. It establishes selection procedures for all types of goods and services including for construction contractors, design build and design professionals. While the bill is supported by the municipal authorities association, it has drawn fire from both the construction and design community. The problem areas of the bill include:

- it allows for reverse on-line bidding for construction services
- it allows for competitive bidding for design services
- it raises public bidding and public advertising thresholds above those in current law

It is unclear if the bill will receive any further attention this session.

## Legislative Activity

### HB 816 RE: Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Appeals (by Rep. Scott Boyd, et al)

Amends the PA Construction Code Act further providing for board of appeals. The bill states that a board of appeals can consider an appeal if the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) was

incorrectly interpreted by the code administrator, the UCC does not apply, the requirements of the UCC impose an unreasonable burden on the appellant to which a variance will not cause public harm, an equivalent form of construction can be used and the UCC imposes a requirement that violates the basic tenets of a recognized religious sect.

*Reported as amended from House Labor Relations Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 3/18/2008*

### HB 1188 RE: Penalties for Violations (by Rep. Neal Goodman, et al)

Amends the act entitled "An act empowering the General Counsel or his designee to issue subpoenas for certain licensing board activities; providing for hearing examiners in the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs; providing additional powers to the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs; and further providing for civil penalties and license suspension," further providing for civil penalties by authorizing penalties of up to \$10,000 for certain violations. The bill gives the boards authority to prosecute non-licensees for violating the license requirements. The bill also makes certain related repeals. The bill was amended to address several "due process" issues raised by various groups. BPOA strongly supports this legislation. It is unclear whether the Senate shares that opinion.

*Third consideration and Final Passage, 3/10/2008 (199-0)*

*Referred to Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee, 3/13/2008*

### HB 1821 RE: New Home Construction Consumer Protection Act (by Rep. Frank Andrews Shimkus, et al)

Provides for the regulation of home construction contracts and for the registration of certain home builders; prohibits certain acts; provides for penalties; establishes the Home Builder Guaranty Fund; and provides for claims against the fund.

*Public hearing held in House Consumer Affairs Committee, 3/13/2008*

### HB 2026 RE: Mini-COBRA Small Employer Group Health Policies (by Rep. Tina Pickett, et al)

Amends The Insurance Company Law by providing for Mini-COBRA Small Employer Group Health Policies. The bill states that a group policy delivered or issued for delivery in PA by an insurer which insures employees or members and their eligible dependents for hospital, surgical or major medical insurance on an expense-incurred or service basis would provide that employees or members whose coverage under the group policy would otherwise terminate because of termination of employment or membership would be entitled to continue their coverage, including coverage for their eligible dependents. Continuation would only be available to an employee or member who has been continuously insured under the group policy during the entire three-month period ending with the termination. If employment is reinstated during the continuation period, then coverage under the group policy must be reinstated. The employee or member must request the continuation in writing within 31 days of the date coverage

*"Capitol" continued p. 16*

# Announcing A Revolutionary Concept In Insurance For Pennsylvania Engineers: A Choice.

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# PEPP Happenings

*Jennifer Summers*

## What is the Status of Continuing Education for Professional Engineers Licensed in Pennsylvania?

The short answer to this common question is that in 2006 legislation passed requiring continuing education for professional engineers to maintain licensure in the commonwealth; however, the regulations outlining the specific details of how and when and where are not yet in place. Following is a more detailed summary of the history of continuing professional development for engineers in PA:

**December 2006:** Pennsylvania joined 35 other states and enacted mandatory continuing education requirements for engineers, land surveyors and geologists.

The original bill endorsed by PSPE included language that closely matched the NCEES model rules on continuing professional competency; the bill that finally passed eliminated that language.

As a result, the details of how the process would work were left to the Registration Board for Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists to establish in regulations. The law gave the Registration Board 18 months to adopt regulations on continuing education.

**August 2007:** A preliminary draft of the regulations was circulated to professional societies. PSPE's reaction to the draft was a mixture of surprise and disappointment. The regulations established a procedure that would require the Registration Board to pre-approve every course on a case by case basis. PSPE responded in its formal written comments that "this current approach would make Pennsylvania's requirements one of the most cumbersome sets of rules in the nation."

**October 2007:** PSPE's Executive Director, along with representatives of the land surveyors and geologists, met with representatives from the Department of State to discuss the best course of action. The consensus from that meeting was to pass an amendment to the Registration Act which will bring the continuing education requirements more in line with the NCEES model rules. The three societies will work jointly to press for passage of such a bill.

**January 2008:** PSPE worked closely with legislators to introduce Senate Bill 1264 which amended the Registration Act and brought continuing education requirements back closer to the NCEES model rules.

**April 2008:** SB 1264 is currently under evaluation in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In the meantime, the Registration Board will continue to move forward with its regulations. The word from the Board is that the continuing education requirements will not be required for license renewal until 2011. The goal is that the regulations will not go into effect prior to passage of the clean-up amendment.

PSPE will continue to work to bring about reasonable continuing education rules that do not place an undue burden on licensees. ■



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# Membership

Timothy S. Ormiston, PE

We continue in this issue with the series of articles presenting information on each of the PSPE practice divisions. Walter J. Poplawski, P.E., Vice President Northeast Region, PSPE, writes the following on Professional Engineers in Private Practice:

## Why Belong to PEPP?

*In my view, belonging to and supporting PEPP is an important and vital aspect of membership in PSPE and NSPE. While PSPE's mission is essentially to protect and promote the interests of Professional Engineers in Pennsylvania, PEPP focuses on the particular issues that affect those of us in private practice that our fellow Engineers in Construction, Education, Government, and Industry would not necessarily be as concerned with.*

*We all enjoy the fruits of the guidance and standards in the areas of Professional Liability, Risk Management, Continuing Education, and Procurement of Services through Qualifications Based Selection that PEPP has been primarily instrumental in fighting for and developing, both statewide and nationally. The awards and scholarships that we as members of PEPP provide, give our profession positive exposure and satisfaction that all Engineers benefit from. We owe it to those Engineers who have preceded us and to those future Engineers who will follow us, to carry on this rich tradition and continue to protect and promote the interests of Professional Engineers in Private Practice!*

*Er. Walter J. Poplawski, P.E.*

In our next issue there will be article regarding the practice division Professional Engineers in Higher Education.

Should you, or someone you know, become interested in participating in the committee efforts, or if you have new ideas to share, please contact me via e-mail at: [tsormiston@zoominternet.net](mailto:tsormiston@zoominternet.net).

"The engineer is the key figure in the material progress of the world. It is his engineering that makes a reality of the potential value of science by translating scientific knowledge into tools, resources, energy and labor to bring them into the service of man ...

To make contributions of this kind the engineer requires the imagination to visualize the needs of society and to appreciate what is possible as well as the technological and broad social age understanding to bring his vision to reality"

- Sir Eric Ashby -

Are you licensed in Pennsylvania as a Professional Engineer? Do you perform home inspections? If your answer to both of these is yes, PSPE is compiling a directory to which we can refer home owners and buyers. Because we are the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, we get a number of requests from the public seeking a professional engineer to conduct a home inspection.

If you are interested in adding your name to the directory as a home inspector, send an e-mail to [jennifer@wannerassoc.com](mailto:jennifer@wannerassoc.com) with the subject "Home Inspector." When calls come in from your region, we'll send business your way. (Exclusive PSPE member benefit.)



# Risky Business Plays the Dating Game

Rebecca Bowman, Esq., P.E.

*Remember to get references...  
use the Better Business  
Bureau...  
conduct mortgage, lien and  
litigation searches...  
trust your smeller...*

How did you find each other? It helps to think of the relationship between owner and engineer as sort of a marital relationship. In a personal relationship, the questions might be "Did two people find each other in a bar? At a church function? On an internet dating site? Did their friends set them up?" In the engineering relationship, the questions are only slightly different: "Did the owner fill out a card at the home show? Did the engineer put a mailing in the local real estate mailer? Did the owner register at an online contractor-matching website? Did the engineer do work for a neighbor, friend, or colleague of the owner? Does the engineer have an exclusive relationship in a development?" Knowing these answers has an impact on the contracting relationship similar to the impact comparable answers have on personal relationships.

How do two people move to the next level? The same way that two parties do in the contracting relationship. Ask questions of each other. Ask questions of others who know them. Get together. Talk about what's important to the future. Prioritize the things that you are looking for. Is the owner looking for the cheapest price? Creativity? Are there obvious soil issues? Do you know enough about the area to recognize unusual potential problems? Does the owner want to serve as the general contractor and contractor with a series of subcontractors to get the work done? Are you prepared to accept that sort

of relationship, where you are supervising the work of your client?

## Data-gathering: References and Searches

Please get references. This goes for both you and the owner. Knowing that the engineer is only going to give references for projects the engineer believes were successful, expect owners to talk to the references anyway. They should ask if they can tour the project. They should be asking questions about schedule and change orders. The questions they ask will give you insights about aspects of the potential relationship that are important to you. Understand that the very-satisfied reference you named may have had a negative experience about some aspect that wasn't important to him but would be important to this owner. For example, maybe the reference really didn't care that it took two weeks for the you to get back to him, but that would drive this owner absolutely nuts.

Expect that owners should conduct both a lien search and a litigation search. Does the record show that you have a



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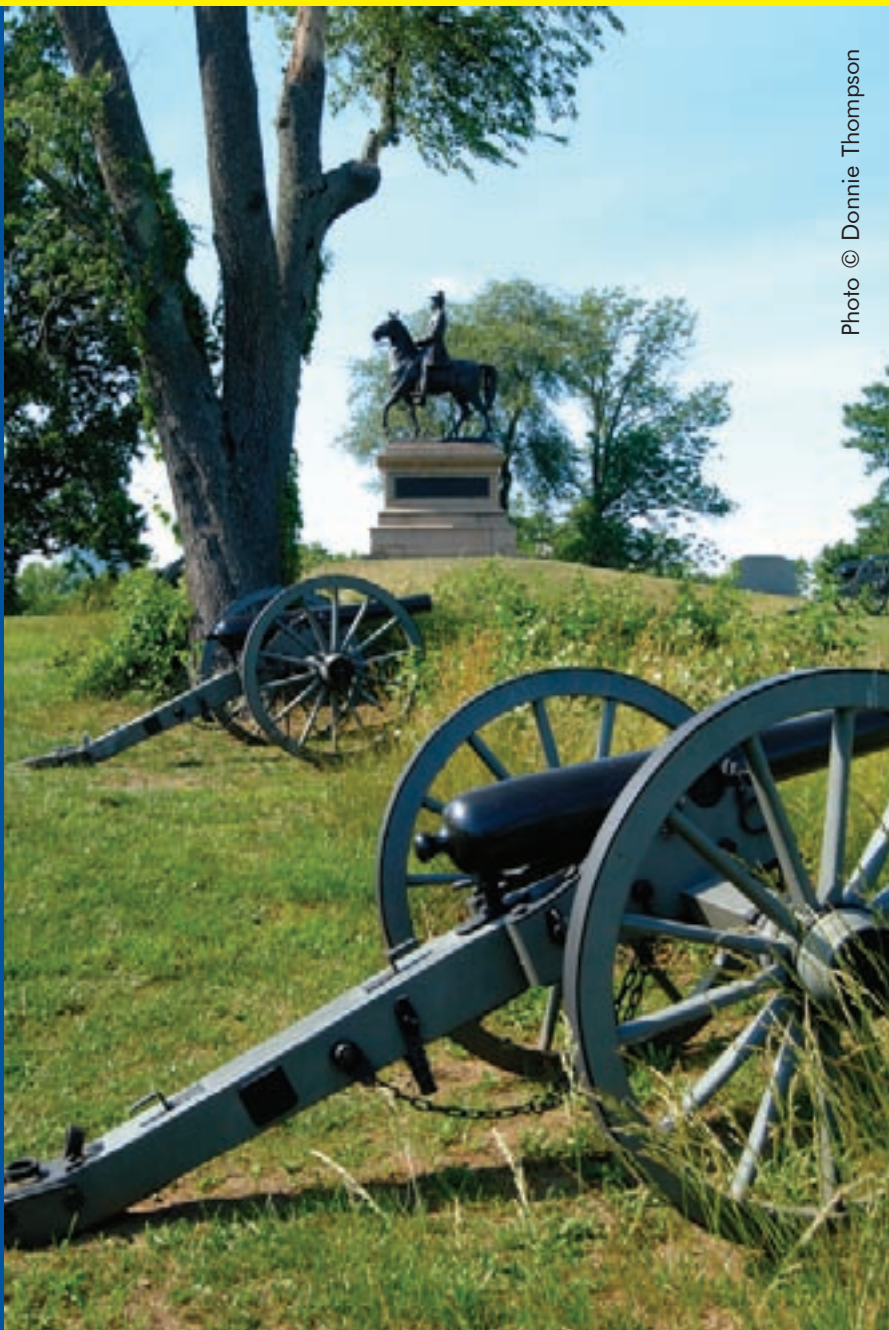


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Photo © George Bailey

# Schedule



## 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
June 5 - 7, 2008

### Thursday, June 5

8:00 – 10:00 am	PSPE Executive Committee Meeting
9:30 – 1:30 pm	Pennsylvania State Registration Board Meeting (open to the public)
10:30	Golf Registration (The Links at Gettysburg)
11:00 – 12:30 pm	Golfer's Lunch
1:00 – 6:00 pm	Golf (The Links at Gettysburg)
6:00 pm	Young Engineers Happy Hour (The Links at Gettysburg)

### Friday, June 6

7:30 – 6:00 pm	Registration open
8:00 – 10:00 am	PA Professional Engineers in Private Practice Board of Directors Meeting
9:00 – 5:30 pm	Exhibits open
8:15 – 9:45 am	Session: Using High-Definition Survey on Engineering Projects
8:15 – 9:45 am	Session: Pennsylvania Engineers Licensing Codes, Regulations, and Violations
8:30 – 11:30 am	<b>SPOUSES</b> tour Eisenhower Farm
10:00 – 12:00 pm	Session: Controlling the Budget by Defining the Scope
10:00 – 12:00 pm	Session: Designing Cost-Effective Slabs on Ground
12:00 pm	<b>SPOUSES</b> lunch at Dobbin House
12:00 – 1:15 pm	PEPP Professional Development Award Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Session: Electromagnetic Field Safety of Wireless Devices: Consumer Update
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Session: Infrastructure Challenges/Improvements of the Pennsylvania Turnpike
1:30 – 4:00 pm	<b>SPOUSES</b> visit Boyd's Bear Country
3:15 – 4:45 pm	Session: Engineering During the Civil War
3:15 – 4:45 pm	Session: Accelerated Replacement of 4500 South Bridge over I-215, Salt Lake City, Utah
5:30 – 6:00 pm	Order of the Engineer Ring Ceremony
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Gateway to Gettysburg Dinner featuring Jim Getty as Abraham Lincoln

### Saturday, June 7

8:00 – 9:00 am	PSPE Past President's Breakfast (invitation only)
9:00 – 12:00 pm	PSPE Board of Directors Meeting
12:15 – 1:30 pm	NSPE Update Lunch with Brad Aldrich, P.E., FNSPE (NSPE President 2008-09)
2:00 – 3:00 pm	President's Council Meeting
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Gettysburg Battlefield Tour
5:30 – 6:00 pm	President's Reception
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Installation and Awards Banquet
	Distinguished guest: Gov. Richard Thornburgh
	Entertainment by Chris Whitaker and Friends Jazz Trio





# Highlights

## Logistics

### Host hotel:

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**Call before May 13, 2008!!!**

### Attire:

Business casual is acceptable for most sessions and meals.

Jacket and tie is recommended for the Order of the Engineer Ceremony and Awards Banquet.

## Golfers...

PSPE is pleased to invite you to the Links at Gettysburg for a tournament on Thursday, June 5.

Following is the schedule for registered golfers - all activity will take place at the Links course.

10:30 am	Golf Registration
11:00 – 12:30	Lunch
1:00 pm	Shotgun Start
6:00 pm	Happy Hour at the Links Premier Clubhouse and \$1,000,000 shootoff

Use the enclosed form to register. (Proceeds benefit the Lincoln and Harrisburg PSPE Chapter scholarship funds.)

## Bonus!

If you are an EIT or registered engineer, and 35 years of age or younger, and not currently a PSPE member, AND you enjoy golf, join us at the Links and golf for free, compliments of RPA Engineering Inc. Send the enclosed golf registration form and note Young Engineer in the margin.

## Young Engineers...

If you are an EIT or registered engineer 35 years of age or younger, we have a deal for you...

- Join us for happy hour at the Links Premier Clubhouse on Thursday, June 5 at 6:00 pm. There is no fee.
- Come make connections with engineers from around the commonwealth.
- Check "Young Engineers Happy Hour" on the registration form.
- We'll give non-members six months free membership in PSPE.

## Order of the Engineer Ring Ceremony

**Friday, June 6  
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm**

The Order of the Engineer is a solemn obligation to oneself to uphold devotion to the standards and the dignity of the engineering profession. It is an obligation to turn to practical use the principles of science and the means of technology...to serve humanity by making the best use of earth's precious wealth.

The purpose of the Order of the Engineer Ceremony is to stimulate formal public recognition by engineers in the United States of two basic principles. These principles are that (1) the primary purpose of engineering is service to the public, and (2) all members of the engineering profession share a common bond.

The Ceremony is the public induction of candidates into the Order of the Engineer, during which the engineer candidates formally accept the Obligation of an Engineer and receive a stainless steel ring to be worn as a symbol on the fifth finger of the working hand.

Any engineer is eligible for induction if he or she has graduated from an ABET-accredited engineering program or holds a license as a Professional Engineer. Students enrolled in ABET-accredited engineering degree programs are eligible if they are within two academic terms. Other candidates may be considered eligible because of equivalent credentials, subject to the approval of the National Board of Governors.

Anyone may witness the induction ceremony. Families are invited. Because this is a formal ceremony, suit and tie attire is recommended.

# Education

**Friday, June 6**  
**8:15 am – 9:45 am**  
**(1.5 NY PDH)**

## **Get Your Project in HD! Using High-Definition Survey on Engineering Projects**

*Paul J. DiGiacobbe, PE*

This session will provide an introduction to laser scanning technology and High-Definition Survey (HDS). You will gain an understanding of how to integrate this tool into the survey and design process. You will learn about the numerous applications, deliverables and benefits that laser scanning technology offers the engineering world.

Laser Scanning Explained • The HDS Process • Applications for HDS • Example Scan Data • Example CADD Extraction • Case Studies • Deliverable Options • Suggested Software • Benefits of HDS

*Paul J. DiGiacobbe, PE is Principal and Director of Engineering Automation at Nave Newell, Inc. Mr. DiGiacobbe is responsible for directing the automation group and information technology throughout the company.*

**Friday, June 6**  
**8:15 am – 9:45 am**  
**(1.5 NY PDH\*)**

## **Pennsylvania Engineers Licensing Codes, Regulations, and Violations**

*Robert C. Grubic, PE*

This session will provide information to engineers regarding the structure, duties and operation of the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists.

The Registration Law, Regulations and processes for handling applications for licenses, violations and adjudication of cases will be examined.

Requirements for continuing education will be reviewed, discussing probable implementation for the 2009-11 license renewal cycle

*Robert C. Grubic, PE has served as President of Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) since 1989. Mr. Grubic currently serves on the Pennsylvania State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists as Vice President.*

**Friday, June 6**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**(2.0 NY PDH)**

## **New ACI 302 & 360 Guidelines – Designing Cost-Effective Slabs on Ground**

*Eric J. Gerencir*

This session will discuss changes to industry standards and their resulting impact on designers.

Escalating prices and lack of availability of steel and cement have significantly impacted construction capabilities since 2004. However, the new ACI 302.1R-04 guidelines for Concrete Floor and Slab Construction, released in June of 2004, can help you mitigate your professional liability through industry recognized construction methods that translate into the high-quality floors owners expect.

Through a “strategic reinforcement” design, load transfer is only placed at the joints; therefore, optimizing the amount of steel in the slab.

This presentation focuses on how your projects may be affected by new industry standards and design methods that accommodate slab shrinkage through proper jointing. The merits of various types of reinforcing and installation will also be discussed and reference made to various published articles from Concrete International and Concrete Construction magazines, ACI and PCA.

*Eric has worked for PNA Construction Technologies as the Mid-Atlantic Territory Manager since 2006.*

**Friday, June 6**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**(2.0 NY PDH\*)**

## **Controlling the Budget by Defining the Scope**

*Thomas J. Zagorski, PE*

One of the leading contributors to poor project performance is a poorly defined scope of work. Without a well defined scope of work, there is no mutual understanding or agreement on what is expected to be done, how to do it, or what information will be provided. Without that type of information, one is open to additional work without additional compensation.

A well developed scope of work for a project will define the work that needs to be accomplished for the delivery of a product, service or provides the specified features and functions. This session will present the benefits of a clearly defined project scope of work and identify key factors in controlling and meeting the budget with a well defined scope.

*Thomas J. Zagorski, PE, is vice president and national director of Construction Services for Baker in Moon Township, Pennsylvania.*

\*Approval pending

# Education

**Friday, June 6  
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
(1.5 NY PDH\*)**

## **Infrastructure Challenges and Improvements**

**Gary L. Graham, PE**

This session will provide insight from an owner's perspective, into the financial, technical, political and management issues related to infrastructure stewardship.

The presentation will include the history, composition, financials, current and planned projects of the PA Turnpike System. Legislative mandates - Act 61 and Act 44 - will be discussed. Transportation funding in the form of fuel-based taxes, toll or VMT assessments, and monetization of assets will be reviewed. Future directions at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission such as improvements to the existing system, tolling systems, expansion of existing system and funding will be presented.

*Gary L. Graham, P.E., was named Assistant Chief Engineer for Design of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission in November 2007. He leads the Commission's Engineering Design Department. As Assistant Chief Engineer for Design, Graham, a Harrisburg, PA resident, directs all engineering design activities across the 537-mile toll road system, overseeing a staff of 55 engineering personnel and managing a capital spending program in excess of \$400 million annually.*

**Friday, June 6  
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
(1.5 NY PDH\*)**

## **Electromagnetic Field Safety of Wireless Devices: A Consumer Update**

**Paul Dugan, PE**

Advancements in wireless technologies have enabled an explosion of new wireless devices and applications which have a profound impact on the way we live and work. Some consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about exposure to low levels of electromagnetic fields (EMF) from wireless devices such as cell phones, cordless phones, WIFI network devices, blue tooth devices, PDA's and laptops to name a few. This session will present the facts surrounding the issue of electromagnetic field safety. Discussion will center around the technical engineering aspects of EMF, define existing EMF standards which establish guidelines and exposure limits for consumer safety, explore methods of determining compliance with the standards, and discuss methods of minimizing exposure when working in close proximity to certain devices. Participants will gain an understanding of EMF based on the best available scientific evidence to date. Emphasis will be placed on offering practical advice to dispel myths surrounding EMF, understanding the basics of EMF from a consumer perspective, and practical guidelines for establishing safe environments while living and working in a modern world.

*Paul Dugan, P.E., is founder of Millennium Engineering, P.C., a consulting engineering practice which performs extensive EMF studies for wireless clients for 10 years. Mr. Dugan frequently testifies as an expert witness at municipal public meetings specifically on the subject of Electromagnetic Field Safety. Mr. Dugan holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Master of Engineering, both Electrical, and a MBA from Widener University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in nine jurisdictions and actively participates in numerous technical and professional societies.*

**Friday, June 6  
3:15 pm – 4:45 pm  
(1.5 NY PDH)**

## **Engineering During the Civil War**

**Gustov Person**

This session will provide an in-depth briefing on the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE)/Confederate States Army Engineers and their role in the American Civil War. The presentation will begin with a short history of the COE prior to the conflict; the organization and mission of each corps and their respective roles in supporting operations in all theaters. The presentation will concentrate on the vital role of the engineers and their considerable contributions.

*Gustav J. Person is a retired lieutenant colonel, New York Army National Guard. Currently, he is the installation historian at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; previously the US Army Engineer School from 1919-1989.*

**Friday, June 6  
3:15 pm – 4:45 pm  
(1.5 NY PDH\*)**

## **Accelerated Replacement of 4500 South Bridge over I-215, Salt Lake City, Utah**

**Jim Deschenes**

Replacement of the 4500 South Bridge over I-215 was necessitated due to structural deficiencies. Accelerated Bridge Construction techniques were used for construction. While the new superstructure was constructed off-site, the new substructures were constructed underneath the existing bridge. During a week end closure, the existing bridge was removed followed by the placement of the new superstructure utilizing self-propelled modular transporters.

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) selected Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) as the design consultant for the project. Baker evaluated bridge types and ABC options, developed preliminary cost estimates and design options, and perform the final design for both the bridge and roadway tie-in. Through Construction Manager/General Contractor procurement method, UDOT selected Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction Company, Inc. as the contractor to assist with the design and perform the construction.

The session will address the existing bridge condition, reasons for replacement, an explanation of the ABC process, challenges and innovations in the design and construction, and a summary on the use of self propelled modular transporter.

*Jim Deschenes is assistant vice president and office principal of Baker's Salt Lake City, Utah, office.*

\*Approval pending



# THE LINKS @ GETTYSBURG



## Golf REGISTRATION FORM

June 5, 2008

<b><u>GOLFER 1 - Team Captain</u></b>			CLUB RENTAL? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COMPANY
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
DAYTIME PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS (REQUIRED)		
<b><u>GOLFER 2</u></b>				
			CLUB RENTAL? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COMPANY
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
DAYTIME PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS		
<b><u>GOLFER 3</u></b>				
			CLUB RENTAL? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COMPANY
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
DAYTIME PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS		
<b><u>GOLFER 4</u></b>				
			CLUB RENTAL? Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		COMPANY
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
DAYTIME PHONE	CELL PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS		

**DRESS CODE:** Acceptable club attire includes collard shirts, slacks and Bermuda length shorts. Denim of any kind, t-shirts, tank tops, cut-offs, tennis, running or athletic attire are inappropriate forms of dress for both the clubhouse and the golf course. Any person not properly attired will not be allowed to play or participate in the event until her/his dress meets the club's dress codes standards. The use of non-metal spikes is required on the golf course at all times.

**REFUND POLICY:** Refund requests received in written form on or prior to May 30th will be honored; however will be subject to a \$25 administrative fee. NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 30th.

**LUNCH:** Golf Registration fee includes lunch. Lunch will be served between 11 AM - 12:45 PM.

Golf shotgun starts promptly at 1:00 PM.

POSTMARKED ON  
OR BEFORE  
5/12/08

POSTMARKED AFTER  
5/12/08

TOTAL

NUMBER OF GOLF REGISTRATIONS

X

\$100

\$120

=

\$

NUMBER OF CLUB RENTALS

X

\$60

=

\$

GOLF TEE SPONSOR

X

\$100

=

\$

Name on Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

(No more than 22 letters.)



GOLF SUBTOTAL

\$

**For questions, contact:**

Golf Committee Chairs:

**Drew Bitner**

Work: (717) 774-5260

Cell: (717) 319-0009

bitner@veengineeringinc.com

**Mark Gaines**

Work: (717) 732-8576

mgaines@dawood.cc

▼ Conference Registration is not required to register for golf. Send golf registration to: Steve Talian, 4987 Farmington Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112-2183. Make golf checks payable to "PSPE - Harrisburg Chapter".

# PSPE Engineers Conference

Wyndham Gettysburg

June 5-7, 2008

# Registration

## 1 Contact Information

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Designation \_\_\_\_\_ Nick name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/guest name: \_\_\_\_\_ Designation \_\_\_\_\_ Nick name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## 2 Registration Options

**FULL registration** (includes attendance at all events except tours; tours require additional registration.)

	Fee	Quantity	Subtotal
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineer .....	\$ 289	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse .....	\$ 179	_____	_____

### SINGLE EVENT registration:

		Quantity	Subtotal
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday seminars with Professional Devel Award lunch .....	\$ 219	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development Award Luncheon .....	\$ 30	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gateway to Gettysburg Dinner .....	\$ 70	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Order of the Engineer Ceremony (participant) .....	\$ 20	_____	_____
5th finger ring size _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> President's Reception, Installation and Awards Banquet .....	\$ 70	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse Tour Friday .....	\$ 20	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gettysburg Battlefield Tour .....	\$ 25	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Engineers Happy Hour (35 years of age or younger) .....	NC	_____	_____

## 3 Mark interests below:

- ☐ Pennsylvania State Registration Board Meeting
- ☐ Using High-Definition Survey on Engineering Projects
- ☐ Pennsylvania Engineers Licensing Codes, Regulations, and Violations
- ☐ Controlling the Budget by Defining the Scope
- ☐ Designing Cost-Effective Slabs on Ground
- ☐ Electromagnetic Field Safety of Wireless Devices
- ☐ Infrastructure Challenges/Improvements
- ☐ Engineering During the Civil War
- ☐ Accelerated Replacement of 4500 South Bridge over I-215, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Total Enclosed** (Checks payable to PSPE) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 4 Send Registration to:

908 N. Second Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
Phone: 717.441.6051; Fax: 717.236.2046  
jennifer@wannerassoc.com

# PSPE Engineers Conference

Wyndham Gettysburg

June 5-7, 2008

# Advertising

## Who is the audience?

Professional Engineers from across Pennsylvania network and gain Professional Development Hours at the PSPE conference.

## Advertising

- ☐ Full page back cover ..... \$400
- ☐ Full page inside back cover ..... \$350
- ☐ Full page inside front cover ..... \$350
- ☐ Full page (7.5" l x 4.5" w) ..... \$300
- ☐ Half page (3.25" l x 4.5" w) ..... \$200
- ☐ Quarter page (1.75" l x 4.5" w) ..... \$100

## Exhibits

Firms will have the opportunity to meet engineers on Friday, June 6, 2008. Bring your table top display and set up next to the PSPE Conference Registration Desk and Coffee Breaks. 6 x 30 skirted tables will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Power and communication services are available; contact Jennifer (717.441.6051) for details.

- ☐ (1) exhibit space ..... \$ 250

### NOTES:

Ads will print in color.

Send electronic file (.jpg, .pdf, or .tif) to  
jennifer@wannerassoc.com.

Sponsor logos displayed onsite, online and in printed material.

Deadline: May 12, 2008

## Sponsorship

### Platinum Level

- ☒ Installation and Awards Banquet ..... \$4,000  
*Sponsored by Michael Baker*
- ☐ Gateway to Gettysburg Dinner ..... \$4,000

### Gold Level

- ☐ President's Reception ..... \$3,000

### Silver Level

- ☒ Governor Richard Thornburg Honorarium ..... \$2,000  
*Sponsored by Buchart Horn*

### Bronze Level

- ☐ Young Engineers Happy Hour ..... \$1,500
- ☐ Professional Development Award Lunch ..... \$1,500
- ☐ NSPE Update Lunch ..... \$1,500

### PSPE Friend

- ☒ Chris Whitaker and Friends Jazz Trio ..... \$ 600  
*Sponsored by RPA Associates Inc.*
- ☒ Abraham Lincoln Honorarium ..... \$ 400  
*Sponsored by VE Engineering Inc.*
- ☒ Past President's Breakfast ..... \$ 300  
*Sponsored by Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE*
- ☐ Coffee Break (4) ..... \$ 200
- ☒ Gustov Person Honorarium ..... \$ 100  
*Sponsored by GAI Consultants, Inc.*
- ☐ Golf tee sponsor ..... \$ 100

## Benefits

### Platinum

- 1 Full page advertisement (\$300 value)
- 4 Engineer registrations (\$1156 value)
- 1 Display (\$250 value)
- 4 Golfers (\$400 value)
- 1 Golf Sponsorship (\$100 value)
- 4 Tour Passes (\$160 est value)

### Gold

- ½ page advertisement (\$200 value)
- 3 Engineer registrations (\$867 value)
- 1 Display (\$250 value)

### Silver

- ½ page advertisement (\$200 value)
- 2 Engineer registration (\$578 value)
- 1 Display (\$250 value)

### Bronze

- ¼ page advertisement (\$100 value)
- 1 Engineer registration (\$289 value)

## Reservation

Send reservation form to:  
Jennifer Summers  
908 N. Second Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102  
717.441.6051; Fax: 717.236.2046  
Checks payable to PSPE.

Send artwork to  
jennifer@wannerassoc.com by May 12.  
Preferred file format: .jpg, .tif, .pdf or .eps

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



history of not just filing notices of lien against projects (that's fine and reasonable), but also executing on them? It's unlikely that EVERY client you have had has failed to pay. In the litigation search, the owner is looking for both cases in which you are the defendant and cases in which you are the plaintiff. As with liens, it's unlikely that many clients have failed to pay, so suing lots of clients may indicate that the engineer likes to offer a low price, confident that he'll be able to recover profits down the road by filing change notices. Nowadays, many courts have all the documents on-line and the owner can actually read the complaints to get a feel for the kinds of problems the engineer thinks that he has encountered. Owners should talk to the defendants; they'll quickly get a feel for whether the defendant was a problem client or the engineer was a problem performer.

Remember the Better Business Bureau. In my experience, the BBB will tell a customer one of four things: there have been no complaints, there has been one complaint, there have been two complaints, or there have been more than two complaints in the past three years. If there are more, they won't tell and they won't go back more than three years. Some BBBs will tell you the nature of the complaint(s). Some BBBs will let you look at the complaint(s) if you go to their offices. Some BBBs will even let you make copies of the complaint(s), but I don't think that they're supposed to do that, so don't quote me.

What do you like in a client? Do you prefer owners who go away and don't come back until you're finished? Or do you enjoy having the owners climbing over the project, asking questions, and celebrating each milestone? Are you able to communicate easily with the owners or do their eyes glaze over then you mention details?

You would also be well-advised to conduct a mortgage search, lien searches, and a litigation search. If new names appear, you need to know who those people are and what their relationship is to the people named on the deed. If the owners needed a co-signer on their mortgage, you need to do some further checking and ask more questions to protect yourself. Many of us refinanced older mortgages to take advantage of lower rates or to cash out built-up equity. However, if the owner has refinanced more than twice or twice in the past couple of years, that may be a sign of financial problems. If the

owners have been plaintiffs in multiple suits and the defendants have been contractors or other service providers, that may be a heads-up that the owners may be either impossible to please or are free-lunchers.

## Use your smeller: recognizing signs of a problem client

Your smeller should come into play if an owner suggests that you participate in fraud. If an owner wants to pay in cash, make certain that you get an acknowledgement signature from the owner on a written receipt and that you give and keep copies. Believe it or not, good, old-fashioned carbon (or pressure-transfer; I'm not THAT old) receipt books can be best for this. Anticipate that otherwise, that payment will be forgotten and/or denied.

Another common invitation to fraud is more direct: the suggestion that you help the owner file a fraudulent insurance claim to get the work paid for. Don't go there. Insurance fraud is a crime. If it fails your smell test, don't do it. (In case you're wondering, that expression comes from Shakespeare: In Hamlet, Marcellus says "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark," referring to corruption from the highest level on down.)

In our culture, you are not expected to marry someone without meeting and getting to know him/her first. Don't treat your client relationships any differently. Otherwise, you're in a risky business. ■

*The "Risky Business" column offers articles covering liability from both the legal and engineering perspective. Mrs. Bowman's articles share general information and should not be relied upon as professional legal advice of either a general or specific nature. Rebecca Bowman is a civil engineer-attorney in solo private practice in McMurray, Pennsylvania for more than 25 years. Her practice is a certified woman-owned business. Her B.S. in Civil Engineering is from the University of North Dakota.*

# MATHCOUNTS Highlights 2008



1  
Left to right: David Stone, PE, State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator; Anderson Wang, top individual, Wissahickon Middle School; Troy Deckebach, coach; Leonard K. Bernstein, PE, PSPE President.



2  
Left to right: Junu Bae, second place individual, Winchester Thurston School; David Hallas, coach.



3  
Left to right: Jeremy Bierema, 3rd place individual, Phil-Mont Christian Academy; Julianna McDonald, coach.



4  
Left to right: David Stone, PE, State Coordinator; Bryan Cai, 4th place individual, Radnor Middle School; James Scancelli Jr., coach.

Pennsylvania held its 25th annual MATHCOUNTS competition on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey. Thanks to the countless hours of dedication of numerous volunteers, reports from parents, coaches and students indicate it was another successful event.

The following synopsis captures just a few high points of the competition. To experience the fun in person, come volunteer at the 2009 state competition on March 21. We'd love to see you there.

**University Exhibits:** Six universities and the Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation generously offer scholarships to the top students. In exchange for their support, MATHCOUNTS invited representatives from each institution to set up exhibits allowing students and parents - most likely more parents than students, but that's okay - to spend time talking with the universities. Bill Bryan, President of the Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation, focused his exhibit on why engineering is a good career choice. Based on traffic in the exhibit area, this was an effective method of promoting the universities.

## **MATHCOUNTS and Nanobots Battle Cancer:**

Drexel University students and professors guided MATHCOUNTS students in a hands-on activity, exploring targeted drug delivery and experiencing the complexity of geometric and chemical interactions in nano-medicine.

The challenge was to design and build a drug delivery agent that could differentiate between healthy and cancerous cells. Students were presented with a "stadium" that had representations of both types of cells and Lego Mindstorm NXT

programmable robots based on a wheeled robot chassis.

After interpreting cell geometry and building the Nanobots while considering different methods for wall-following using touch and distance sensors, MATHCOUNTS students either attempted to eliminate the cell or let it live. Results of the robots were collected, and students analyzed statistics and fit the curves to mathematical models to examine the robot capabilities.

Surveys indicate this was a very popular activity with the Mathletes. Our sincere thanks to Drexel University for organizing this event.

**Countdown Round Upgrade:** Special thanks this year to David Fleisher, PE, for chairing a task force charged with bringing the state countdown round to a new technological level. David along with Gary Kraft, Keith Roberts, David Stone and Charles Wray (YRC Worldwide Technologies Inc.) worked to bring the idea of an all-electronic CDR to fruition for the state competition.

PSPE gratefully acknowledges the support of ASTM International for their coordination of virtual meetings for the task force.

**Thank You:** Every person involved with MATHCOUNTS is an important piece of this fun, exciting, challenging, sometimes stressful puzzle, however, there are two groups of people in particular who need to know how much we appreciate their time and effort - coaches and chapter coordinators are critical to the continued success of MATHCOUNTS in Pennsylvania. On behalf of PSPE, parents and students, please accept our gratitude.

All photos courtesy of Lynn Libby, Photos by Lynn, 717.732.5919. ■

Good luck! Pennsylvania will be represented by four outstanding mathletes at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Denver, CO, on May 9, 2008.

Anderson Wang, Junu Bae, Jeremy Bierema and Bryan Cai coached by David Hallas, will compete against students from 56 other teams. May the odds be with you!

# Top 10 Students After the Countdown Round

Place	Student	School	Coach	Chapter
1	Anderson Wang*	Wissahickon Middle School	Troy Dekebach	Valley Forge
2	Junu Bae	Winchester Thurston School	David Hallas	Pittsburgh
3	Jeremy Bierema	Phil-Mont Christian Academy	Julianna McDonald	Valley Forge
4	Bryan Cai	Radnor Middle School	James Scancella Jr.	Delaware County
5	Kelly Mao	Garnet Valley Middle School	Adele Manno	Delaware County - Wildcard
6	Matthew Rauen	Pennwood Middle School	Jana VanBuskirk	Bucks County
7	Eric John	Germantown Friends School	Richard Hart	Philadelphia
8	Ray Li	Sewickley Academy	Tom Perdziola	Pittsburgh - Wildcard
9	Andrew Zeng	Sandy Run Middle School	Sandy Van Horn	Valley Forge
10	Isabel Arjmand**	Sewickley Academy	Tom Perdziola	Pittsburgh - Wildcard

\*\* Highest Scoring Female

\* Highest Scoring Male

## Top Teams

**1 Sewickley Academy**  
 Chapter: Pittsburgh (Wildcard)  
 Isabel Arjmand (8)  
 Aaren Barge (8)  
 Ray Li (7)  
 Jason Schuchardt (6)  
 Coach: Tom Perdziola

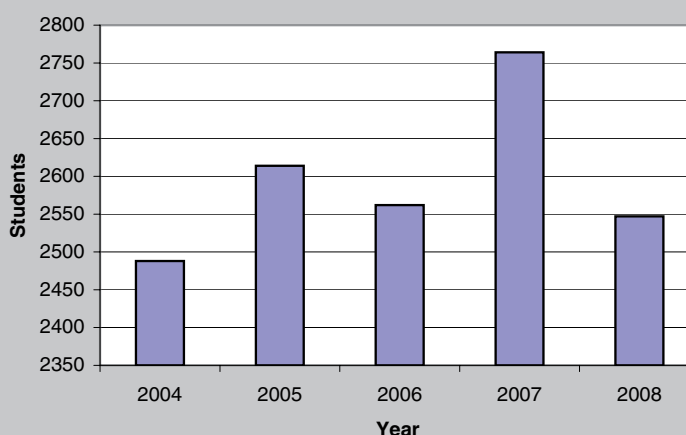
**2 Winchester Thurston School**  
 Chapter: Pittsburgh  
 Junu Bae (8)  
 Daniel Balter (6)  
 Andrew Linzer (7)  
 Samuel Schreiber (7)  
 Coach: David Hallas

**3 Valley Forge Middle School**  
 Chapter: Chester County  
 Ben Pratt (8)  
 Ary Swaminathan (7)  
 Kevin Wang (8)  
 Calvin Yen (8)  
 Coach: Allison Long

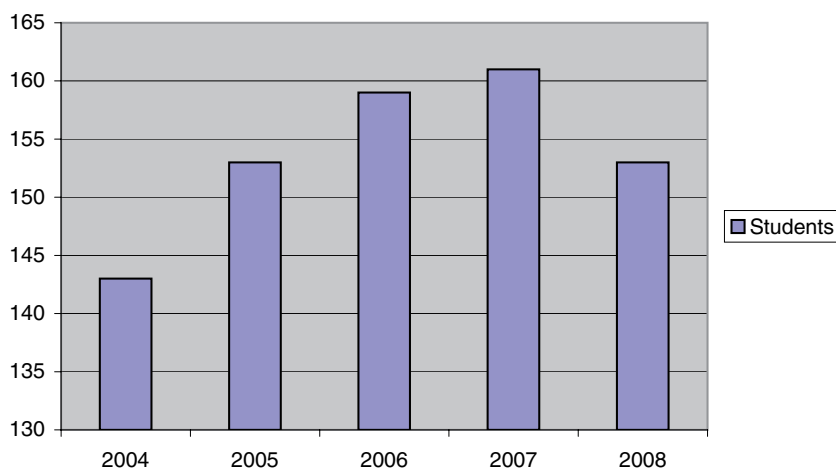
**4 Wissahickon Middle School**  
 Chapter: Valley Forge  
 Pranav Kunapuli (7)  
 Dan Park (8)  
 Allison Peng (7)  
 Anderson Wang (8)  
 Coach: Troy Dekebach

**5 Radnor Middle School**  
 Chapter: Delaware County  
 Bryan Cai (7)  
 Kai Huang (8)  
 John Li (8)  
 Kimberly Zhang (7)  
 Coach: James Scancella Jr.

Annual MATHCOUNTS Student Participation  
(Pennsylvania Regional Competitions)



Annual MATHCOUNTS Student Participation  
Pennsylvania State Competition





# Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation

## 2007 Year in Review

The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation Board of Directors would like to thank the following individuals for their financial support. The PEF is proud to sponsor both MATHCOUNTS and the scholarship program - two programs which touch students at critical points in their lives. With the support of individuals, PEF is able to continue their work.

### 2007 Scholarship Donors

Jeffrey A Anderson PE	Corinne A Mansfield PE
Robert F Arehart PE	David McIlhenny PE
John F Beadle PE	Matthew P McTish PE
Susan L Best PE	John A Nawn PE
John F Bradshaw PE,PLS	Gregory C Newell PE
Thomas H Cahill PE	Kevin B OBoyle PE
Charles J Catania Jr. PE	Louis G OBrien PE
Peter R Charrington PE	Edward W Patchell Jr. PE
Kin Y Chung PE	Matthew P Pawloski PE
Karen Z Davis PE	Michael C Poletti PE
David C Derkits PE	Walter J Poplawski PE
William T Dougherty P.E.	Robert L Seeler PE
Edmond G Dunlop PE	Kevin H Smith PE
William A Erdman PE	Joseph Stachokus PE
Belknap Freeman PE	George J Stanley PE
David E Goodling PE	Robert W Swartley PE
William R Gorman Jr. PE	Stephen F Talian PE
Lawrence G Grybosky PE	Lawrence D Taylor PE
Carl Heishman PE	Thomas M Tronzo PE
Paul L Hoback EI	Donald T Weiner PE
James R Holley PE	Willard Whitbred PE
Richard J Jarosinski PE	David K Williams PE
David M Jones PE	Christopher A Wilson PE
William J Kormos Sr. PE	David W Wolfe PE
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*"Capitol" continued from p. 5*

would otherwise terminate and must pay to the group policyholder the amount of contribution required to continue the coverage.

*Removed from the table and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 2/13/2008  
Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, 3/10/2008*

**HB 2028 RE: Health Care Cost Containment and Comparison Council (By Rep. Jerry Stern, et al)**

Amends Health Care Cost Containment Act by renaming the Council as the Health Care Cost Containment and Comparison Council. The bill states under the declaration section that the continuing escalation of health care costs is attributable to a number of interrelated causes, including the need for consumers of health care to have access to charge information from physicians for common services and treatments. The Council would compile and establish an Internet database for the general public showing physician charge comparisons for common services and treatments. The bill states the Council's data abstraction and technology work group would develop a system of data collection and analysis on physician charges for common services and treatments working with council staff and outside third-party vendors as needed and authorized by the council. The physician charge comparison would contain data on reimbursement rates for adultBasic, CHIP, Medicaid, medical assistance, Medicare and insurer reimbursement rates by insurer. The physician charge comparison would be available to consumers by

January 1, 2009. Lastly, the bill extends the expiration date of the act to June 30, 2011.  
*Removed from the table and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 2/13/2008  
Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, 3/10/2008*

**HB 2113 RE: Industrialized/Commercial Modular Building (by Rep. Marc Gergely, et al)**

Amends the Industrialized Housing Act adding a definition for "industrialized/commercial modular building". The Department of Community and Economic Development would be required to promulgate regulations for industrialized/commercial modular buildings and authorized to enter into a multi-state agreement for the purpose of regulating the buildings.

*Reported as amended from House Labor Relations Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 3/18/2008*

**HB 2380 RE: FY 2008-09 PA Budget (by Rep. Dwight Evans)**

This is the budget bill providing for expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments, the public debt, for the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009.

*Introduced and referred to House Appropriations Committee, 3/17/2008  
Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 3/17/2008*

**SB 9 RE: Proof of Citizenship for Receipt of Public Benefits Act (by Sen. Joe Scarnati, et al)**

Requires anyone who is at least 18 years of age and applies for public benefits to provide one of a specified list of identifications and execute an affidavit

stating that the person is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident or is otherwise lawfully present in the U.S. pursuant to Federal law. The agency receiving this affidavit would have to keep it on file.

Agencies that administer public benefits have to verify, through the SAVE program that each applicant who has executed an affidavit is an alien legally present in the U.S. Penalties are further provided for in the bill.

*Rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 3/12/2008*

**SB 359 RE: Home Inspectors (by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, et al)**

Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) repealing provisions relating to home inspections and adding a new chapter providing for home inspections. The bill establishes the Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in the Department of State and provides for its composition, powers and duties. Additionally, provisions for the licensure of home inspectors are added, which outline licensure requirements and provide for the content of home inspection reports. Home inspectors would be required to carry a certain amount of liability insurance. The bill provides for penalties and disciplinary proceedings and adds provisions for a home inspector intern permit. \$85,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account to the Department of State for the payment of costs associated with processing licenses and renewing licenses, for the operation of the Pennsylvania Board of Home

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Inspectors and for other costs associated with the implementation the legislation. The appropriation would be repaid by the board within three years of the beginning of issuance of licenses by the board.

*Reported as amended from Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee, and read first time, 3/11/2008*

*Rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 3/17/2008*

**SB 612 RE: LA Board CE, Experience (by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, et al)**

Amends the Landscape Architects' Registration Law by stating that beginning with the license period designated by the board, each person licensed under the act would be required to obtain 24 hours (increased from 10) of mandatory continuing education during each two-year license period. A licensed landscape architect who wishes to activate a license which has been placed on inactive status would be required to document 24 hours of continuing education. The bill also removes the ability of the board to register and license without written examination an applicant who has ten years of active experience as a landscape architect and is a graduate of an approved institution, or who has fifteen years of active experience even though not a graduate of an approved institution.

Reported as committed from House Professional Licensure Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 3/12/2008

*Removed from the table and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 3/12/2008*

**SB 1264 RE: Geologist-in-Training (by Sen. Lisa Boscola, et al)**

Amends the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law adding a definition for "geologist-in-training" and providing for the use of the terms "engineer" and "engineering"; further providing for general powers of the board by adding geologists-in-training to the scope for the board's duties and authorizing the board to become a member of the National Association of State Boards of Geology; providing for procedure for licensing as professional geologist and for certifying geologists-in-training; and deleting provisions for mandatory continuing education and replacing them with provisions for continuing professional engineering competency and education requirements.

*Rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 3/10/2008*

**New Bills Introduced**

**SB 1318 RE: Prototypical School Facility Designs (By Sen. Mike Waugh, et al)**

Amends the Public School Code providing for the establishment of a central clearinghouse of prototypical school facility designs for access by school entities. The Department of Education must review and evaluate submitted plans for inclusion in the clearinghouse using certain standards. The bill requires the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee after the fifth year of operation to conduct a study of the department's program to determine the savings incurred by school entities

that have participated in the program.  
*Referred to Senate Education Committee, 3/19/2008*

**S Res. 263 RE: LBFC Study of Construction Fees (By Sen. Mike Waugh, et al)**

Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study relating to the funds collected from the fee from construction or building permits and to report its findings to the General Assembly by June 30, 2008.

*Referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee, 3/14/2008*

**2008 House Spring Schedule**

The House has announced the following session days for Spring 2008, subject to change

April	1, 2, 7, 8, and 9
May	5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14
June	2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30

**2008 Senate Spring Schedule**

The Senate has announced the following session days for Spring 2008, subject to change

April	1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 28, 29, 30
May	5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
June	2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

Copies of all bills of interest are available from the PSPE office, or they can be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/billroom.htm>. ■



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*"Message" continued from p. 2*

someone sprayed foam insulation (you know the kind that expands as it cures) at each joist pocket and stuck steel wires into it for additional support. No, I'm not kidding - I saw the pictures.

The inspector did not offer any comments other than they needed to get a structural engineer or a contractor to evaluate the condition. My daughter and son-in-law had signed an agreement of sale for the house contingent on the home inspection. Thankfully they enacted the contingency clause and withdrew their offer after I was able to explain to them the structural problem they were facing.

All in all, I think the inspector did a very good job and did not at any time "practice engineering."

I bring this up about the home inspection because, had my daughter and son-in-law asked me, I'm not sure if I could have come up with the name of a home inspector who was a PE, much less a PSPE member. In line with this thought, I invite you to read the "Membership" article on page 9. PEPP is being highlighted as well as a new PSPE member benefit - a directory of members who do home inspections.

I will be turning the reins over to John Bradshaw at the PSPE State Engineers Conference in Gettysburg, however, before I sign off, I would like to thank the PSPE Executive Committee for the

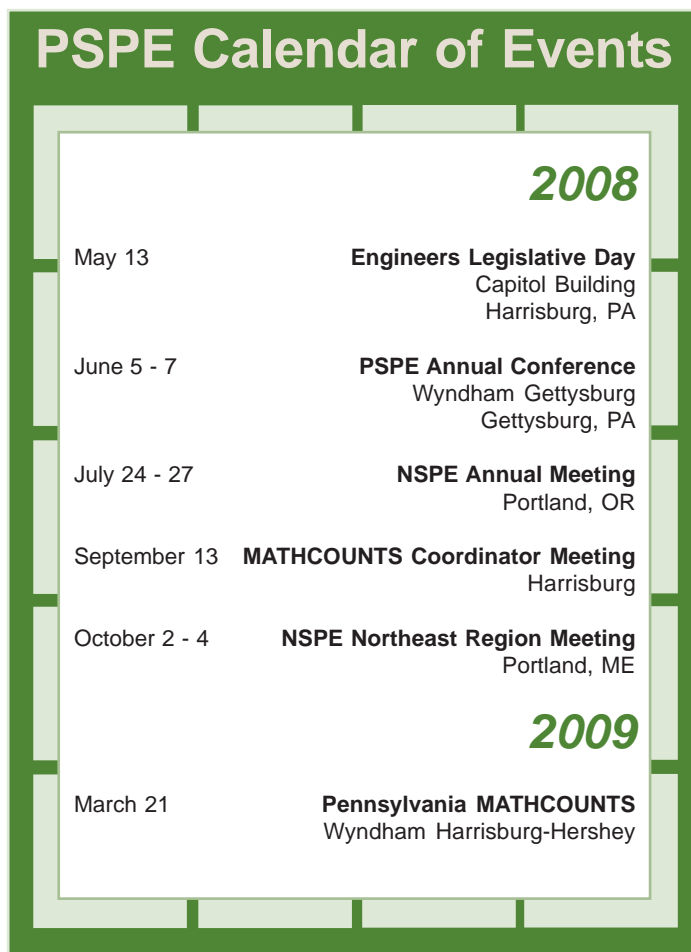
guidance and assistance they provided this past year. I would also like to thank every PSPE member who served on a committee, regardless of whether at the State or Chapter level, to help PSPE continue to be the great organization it is.

Unfortunately when I start to name names, I inevitably forget to mention someone, so I will not mention anybody specifically except for one member. Every year, the PSPE President has the opportunity to select a member to receive the President's Dedicated Service Award for outstanding service to PSPE.

This year, I selected the former long-time Chair of the PSPE Awards Committee and current PSPE Secretary Joe Boward, P.E. Joe spent this past year juggling - keeping the Executive Committee and me on track, letting us know what we had to do and when, all while running his own engineering firm, Garvin Boward Engineering. Thanks, Joe. I appreciate everything you've done and I know all of PSPE feels the same.

I hope you will all join me in thanking Joe at the Conference in Gettysburg. Also at the Conference, we will have a chance to congratulate PSPE's newest NSPE Fellow Member, Past President Harry Garman. Congratulations Harry on this well deserved honor.

And thanks to all PSPE members for giving me the opportunity to serve you as PSPE President this past year. ■

A graphic titled "PSPE Calendar of Events" with a green border. It lists events for 2008 and 2009. The 2008 events are: May 13 Engineers Legislative Day at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg, PA; June 5-7 PSPE Annual Conference at Wyndham Gettysburg; July 24-27 NSPE Annual Meeting in Portland, OR; September 13 MATHCOUNTS Coordinator Meeting in Harrisburg; and October 2-4 NSPE Northeast Region Meeting in Portland, ME. The 2009 event is: March 21 Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS at Wyndham Harrisburg-Hershey.

PSPE Calendar of Events	
<b>2008</b>	
May 13	<b>Engineers Legislative Day</b> Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA
June 5 - 7	<b>PSPE Annual Conference</b> Wyndham Gettysburg Gettysburg, PA
July 24 - 27	<b>NSPE Annual Meeting</b> Portland, OR
September 13	<b>MATHCOUNTS Coordinator Meeting</b> Harrisburg
October 2 - 4	<b>NSPE Northeast Region Meeting</b> Portland, ME
<b>2009</b>	
March 21	<b>Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS</b> Wyndham Harrisburg-Hershey

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