COVER STORY: Abandoned Mine Sites  8

*Streams in the path of mining operations were relocated numerous times. To recover environmental resources lost during mining, the streams should be restored to a natural state.*

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NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

Engineers’ Creed

As a Professional Engineer, I dedicate my professional knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare. I pledge:

To give the utmost of performance;

To participate in none but honest enterprise;

To live and work according to the laws of man and the highest standards of professional conduct;

To place service before profit, the honor and standing of the profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations.

In humility and with need for Divine Guidance, I make this pledge.

Adopted by National Society of Professional Engineers, June 1954
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We celebrate National Engineers Week in February to recognize contributions engineers make to society, and to increase public awareness of the engineering profession. This event is held by design during the week of George Washington’s birthday. Not only was Washington America’s first president, but he is recognized as America’s first engineer.

The field of engineering expanded rapidly in America. Unqualified individuals offered “engineering” services to the public with improper designs resulting in hazards to public safety.

The sparsely populated state of Wyoming passed the first engineer’s registration act in 1907. Like-minded engineers in Philadelphia recognized that something had to be done in Pennsylvania to protect the public from unqualified persons practicing engineering after a dam failed in Pennsylvania causing considerable loss of life and property. An engineer’s registration was enacted in Pennsylvania in 1921.

Interest developed in forming a society dedicated to the promotion of qualified engineers. In 1934, the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers was chartered in Philadelphia.

As stated in the preamble of the society’s constitution, “PSPE is dedicated to the promotion and welfare of engineering as a social and economic influence vital to the affairs of men and of women and of a paramount importance to the community.”

After 75 years, PSPE continues to represent engineers in Pennsylvania.

PSPE members work in private practice, government, industry and education. PSPE has an active, highly respected lobbying program helping to strengthen the registration laws and monitor legislation that might affect the profession and impact public safety.

PSPE is active in raising ethical standards of registrants and preventing unqualified persons from offering their services to the public. PSPE is active in providing value to education by advocating instruction on engineering ethics, providing information on registration to graduating senior high classes, and encouraging the passing of a bill for engineers to develop professional skills through continuing education.

NSPE recently held a web seminar on “Changing the Conversation.” It described how population and demographic issues have changed schools in the USA. It also described how many young students look at engineers with a positive impression in a lucrative job position. However, they have a limited sense of what engineers actually do and think of them as sedentary, working on computers and having no contact with people.

Many adults do not know much about what engineers actually do other than design and build. This shows a lack of understanding of the value of engineering and the profession. There are programs available for young people to learn about the engineering profession, such as JETS, Future City, Design Squad, MATHCOUNTS and many others. We need to give young people a positive impression of engineers, teach them the value of engineering, and encourage them to pursue engineering as a career.

In the web seminar material, NSPE has a positioning statement that gives emphasis to the engineering profession. It reads, “No profession unleashes the spirit of innovation like engineering. From research to real-world applications, engineers constantly discover how to improve our lives by creating bold new solutions that connect science to life in unexpected, forward thinking ways. Few professions turn so many ideas into so many realities. Few have such a direct and positive effect on people’s everyday lives. We are counting on engineers and their imaginations to help us meet the needs of the 21st century.”

PSPE has been diligently building its committees and task forces, and setting goals to better serve our members and the engineering profession. In reflecting back to the start of engineering in our country, the development of registration act for engineers, the organization of state and national societies, and looking forward to the future, I hope you can see as a Professional Engineer the value of being a member of PSPE/NSPE and meeting the objectives of our Society.
Stability requires protection. We provide both.
I’m still hearing grumbling about the upcoming Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements. Get over it.

I suspect that what was certainly true about attorneys may also be true about engineers: good ones were already getting the training they needed to stay current and the rest are complaining.

When I teach (and I teach CPE for attorneys, for accountants, and for engineers), there are always a few who sit in the back and read the paper. When I talk with them during breaks (and yes, I seek them out), I often find that they have signed up for any old class, simply because it took place the week before they were about to fall into noncompliance.

When I teach, I always ask for a lapel mic. Not only do I hate being tied to a lectern, I also use the freedom of the lapel mic to go visit those back-sitters. Yes, that’s right, I consider it my job to make certain that they both get their money’s worth and actually get the training and updates that the law expects of them.

Practitioners in some engineering disciplines know that their fields are changing so rapidly that they must get new training to keep up. When I need to learn about a new technology or a radically new application of an existing technology, rarely will reading an article get me where I need to be. I have no one of whom to ask questions. I learn only as much as the author needs to be. I have no one of whom to ask questions. I learn only as much as the author of the article did.

Since engineers do not have the same demanding tradition of scholarly writing that some other fields have, we generally rely on articles written by people other than the engineers who developed the new technology or new application. That limits what we can learn from an article.

Training conducted by the developer, or by someone trained by the developer or the developer’s company, and watching applications unfold in a lab or sample environment will take us to the level necessary for us to deal with the technology or application competently.

The challenge we face as we implement the new regulations is to integrate the laboratory into our training. In the past (you know, back when I was in school), that would limit the class size and location. Fortunately, today’s technology can take us beyond those limits.

Just yesterday, I attended a webinar with a group. The presentation was made live at a central location. Those who were able could attend in person. However, those who could not be physically present participated remotely. We reported to a local site to attend, mandatory attendance monitoring was conducted by a local facilitator, and a central computer was provided as a vehicle to ask questions throughout the presentation.

The presentation was projected from that computer onto a screen large enough for all to see clearly. It seemed to me that those of us asking remote questions actually got better service than the live attendees.

In addition, students who could not get to the remote site could participate from their own computers; attendance was monitored by password-protected sign-in.

Integrity issues do not really change with technology: I don’t have to present ID at the live site or the remote site and someone else could both attend for me or sign on to my computer on my behalf. However, the CPE legislation was not designed to deal with those sorts of integrity issues; there are other ways to deal with a practitioner who has such a dramatic lack of integrity and ethics. Future technology will probably make it easier and more common to have closer identification monitoring, such as thumbprint validation, but, again, that’s not really the task of the CPE legislation.

I have often chuckled that machines have changed and electronics have really changed, but that dirt hasn’t changed much. I was just joking. Changes in civil technology and building codes since I graduated in 1976, or since I obtained my license in 1988 are literally earth-shaking.

A couple of years ago, I read a fascinating article about a vacuum technique for draining compressible clay to speed settling and compaction. Does reading the article make me competent to apply the technology? Not a chance. Does contacting Peter Reina, the author of the article, make me competent to apply the technology? Not a chance. I will need training to be competent.

And, worse, now that I know about it (and that it has only a 25% price premium over conventional drainage), it could be argued that failure to make my clients aware of that option would be negligent practice if not malpractice. “But,” you say, “if I tell my clients about it, they’ll go to another firm for the work.” And the remedy for that is . . . ? Continuing professional education.

Embrace it. Celebrate that it will be easier for you to get the training you want, because the licensing bureau says you must. Welcome your new skills and the myriad rewards of self-improvement. If you fail to do so, you will be running 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.
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ISO 9001:2000
WHEREAS, A primary goal of NSPE and PSPE is to promote licensure as a professional engineer of all practicing engineers in the United States.

WHEREAS, Approximately four of five (4/5) of all practicing engineers in the United States are not licensed as professional engineers.

WHEREAS, The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination administered by NCEES is a comprehensive and well-recognized test, the passing of which, is one of the requirements for licensure as a professional engineer.

WHEREAS, ABET EAC accredits engineering educational programs. Consideration of passing rates of the FE exam by engineering graduates would be a valuable, quantitative asset to ABET EAC in its evaluation of engineering education programs.

WHEREAS, Many, perhaps the overwhelming majority, of graduates from ABET EAC accredited programs do not sit for the FE exam. As the FE exam can be difficult, the passing of the FE exam tends to become more difficult as time after graduation increases.

WHEREAS, Most engineers change employment during their professional careers. For those unlicensed engineers, employment and career options are more limited than for licensed professional engineers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that PSPE encourages NSPE to adopt a Professional Practice amending the NSPE licensure model to include the mandatory sitting for the FE exam as a condition for graduation from an ABET EAC accredited program. Furthermore, it is resolved that NSPE should recommend to ABET EAC that such requirement shall be adopted by that accrediting body.

PASSED this 24th day of January, 2009 by the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.
Some streams were directed into abandoned strip pits and deep mine workings, adding to the mine pool volume and causing acid/alkaline mine drainage pollution. Other streams have been completely obliterated and encroached upon by development. These are some of the challenges the designers face in reclaiming and restoring streams.

Using a variety of effective and proven methods, engineers have been solving many of the problems associated with abandoned mine lands. Designs for backfilling of strip pits, grading of embankments, and construction of wetlands use innovative methods to restore these lands. Sealing of mine openings, rediversion of channels, construction of engineered channels, and sealing of streambeds above fractured strata have already restored a large volume of fresh water back to our waterways.

Controlling flows from an abandoned mine site have always been a significant obstacle to overcome. The solution has often been to channelize the water and get it off the site as quickly as possible while ignoring the resource the water once provided to the watershed. Naturally this water may have once meandered through the watershed forming pools and riffles that were relied on by fish, birds, and mammals of the region.

To completely recover the environmental resources that were lost during mining, the streams should be restored to a natural state. Lack of a mathematical method to calculate the forces exerted by storm flows throughout the newly constructed channel or ditch, and the lack of science to predict how the stream will react at a reclamation site may cause many to shy away from experimenting with new methods.

Fluvial Geomorphology (FGM) is a promising methodology to predict what type of natural channel was at the site before mining. FGM is the study of natural streams that are at equilibrium with their watershed. These naturally occurring streams are called reference reaches. This data is used to determine the dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream before mining.

The design data is collected at the reference reach that has been identified for the restoration site. Cross sections and profiles should be surveyed to prepare for extraction of geomorphological data. At the cross section, one will be able to determine the stage at which the channel is being formed, which is called bankfull. This stage of elevation is the single most important parameter used in classification, because bankfull is a function of the dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream.

**CHALLENGES**

The application of FGM at abandoned mine sites has many obstacles that do not exist at traditional FGM applications. The landscape is often void of any remnants of the stream that once existed there.
Floodplains, rock outcrops, and vegetation that once helped to control the channel have all been removed. Very infertile and erosive mine spoils are used as soil to regrade the floodway. High runoff and erosion rates on newly reclaimed sites compromise the integrity of the channel. Most sites have other mining features above ground and below that change the dynamic altering the expected flows. Encroachment by property owners, developers and municipalities has blocked the location of the waterway.

These factors make estimating the bankfull discharge of a mined watershed very difficult, and planning for an historic event harder. Over estimating the flows will result in a channel that will not function properly and underestimating could result in a disaster.

**DESIGN**

Determining bankfull can be accomplished by various methods. First, if a reference reach is available, measurements can be taken as described previously. Second, if a USGS gaging station for a similar channel in the watershed or adjoining watershed exists, data from that station can be analyzed to determine bankfull and other parameters to be utilized in the stream design. Last, if a reference reach or gaging station is not available (which more than likely happens in disturbed mining areas), a regional curve may be used. These curves have been developed for various hydro-physiographic provinces in the United States. The curves compare drainage areas to bankfull width, cross-sectional area, and mean depth. Ideally, a regional curve should be developed for each local region to provide a more accurate determination of the characteristics of streams in that region. In Pennsylvania, the regional curve developed by Dunne and Leopold for South Eastern Pennsylvania is being utilized. Additional curves that are more specific to the particular hydro-physiographic regions within Pennsylvania are presently being developed. Reclamation of mine sites and the construction of natural stream channels will provide sites for future regional curve development data collection. Bankfull is also being estimated by computer models. Sophisticated software that has been developed for erosion and sedimentation control purposes, and considers many site specific variables can accurately predict bankfull. This resource is an excellent tool to verify bankfull.

Once bankfull discharge is known, one can begin to determine the stream type. The results of the field work and calculations will enable values for the five (5) criteria to be determined. These criteria are entrenchment ratio, width depth ratio, sinuosity, channel materials, and slope. Then a stream type can be chosen using the Classification of Natural Rivers. This will show the range of values for which the criteria could have fallen within the same stream type. Now, knowing the range, the proper channel can be geometrically fit into the project. The criteria are interdependent. A change in sinuosity will affect the slope, which could change the bankfull dimensions, thereby changing the width/depth ratio and the entrenchment. The proper channel type will be stable at the restoration site only within the ranges of the classification criteria; and will rely on the proper installation of in-stream grade controls and placement of stabilization structures. Site-specific design decisions will be necessary to prevent any portion of the project from deviating out of range.

After the geometry of the proposed channel is laid out, structures for grade control and bank erosion protection must be designed. Pebble count data in the reference reach riffle area is used, along with bedload data from a point bar (a depositional feature on the inside bend of “C” type channel) in the stream, to calculate Manning’s “n”, shear stress, and probable scour depth for the proposed channel.

**CONCLUSION**

It took nature thousands of years carve a stream into a stable configuration while it took mankind only a few decades to undo the landscape in the mining regions. There are many abandoned mine sites that have the potential to be restored with a naturally functional stream. One only has to look at the success at few sites to see what can potentially be accomplished. The transformation will not happen over night and the first attempt might not always succeed, but that should not discourage us from recovering the resources that were lost during mining. The alternative is to collect the water and then get it off the site as quickly as possible while losing a valuable natural resource forever.
Celebrating 75 Years of Service

Charles J. Catania, PE, PLS
52 Years of Service

Charles Catania has provided beneficial engineering and municipal services to Delaware County over the past 44 years. Catania has mentored many engineers who have come to be recognized throughout the area: James C. Kelly, P.E.; P.J. Close, P.E.; Joseph Viscuso, P.E.; Nick Cirilli, P.E.; Bill Mulloy, P.E.; Robert W. Mattox, P.L.S.; Greg Lebold, and Ed Bothwell.

Today, Catania Engineering Associates, Inc. provides engineering services to 22 municipalities and authorities. CEA Inc. provides reliable engineering services to a broad private client base.

F. Clark “Sande” Walton, PE
52 Years of Service

Upon graduating from Drexel University with a BS Mechanical Engineer (1956); Sande began his career with the Gulf Research & Development Company. In 1964, Sande joined a newly created firm, Technical Engineering Design (TED). In 1983, the company became NDI Engineering Company with Sande as the principal owner. NDI is the principal design contractor of the C13-2 steam catapult and the Mk 7 Mod 3 Arresting Gear system, both of which were demonstrated in the movie “Top Gun.”

While running NDI, Sande worked every night as a Municipal Engineer for numerous Delaware County municipalities and several New Jersey communities. Since 1973, Sande has continuously served municipalities in Delaware County and several school districts.

Howard Doran, PE, PLS
51 Years of Service

In 1965, Howard was the co-founder and president of the Delaware Valley Society of Land Surveyors, formally organizing one of the first chapters of the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors. From 1955 to 1998 Howard Doran provided over 3,000 surveying & engineering projects, large and small, to Delaware County and the surrounding area. His firm serves a wide range of clients including; Government, Municipalities, commercial, private and institutions.

James Swindell, PE, PLS
51 Years of Service

If ever there was an engineer in Delaware County who did it the old fashioned way by starting at the bottom and working his way up, it is Jim Swindell.

Jim worked at Damon and Foster as a draftsman in the Sanitary Engineering Department (1957) while going to PMC (Widener University) at night. Jim graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from Widener University (1973).

In 1977, the Central Delaware County Authority named Jim their Authority Engineer. Jim retired culminating a 51 year career almost exclusively to clients in Delaware County.

Walter F. Staret, Sr., PE
50 Years of Service

Walt served the Philadelphia District Army Corps of Engineers from 1958 to 1992. In 1993 Walt joined the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority as the Landfill Manager at the Authority’s Rolling

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Charles J. Catania, PE, PLS
52 Years of Service

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51 Years of Service

James Swindell, PE, PLS
51 Years of Service

Walter F. Staret, Sr., PE
50 Years of Service
Hills Landfill. Currently, Walt serves as the Project Engineer for the Authority’s Trash Transfer Stations located in Chester Township and Marple Township.

**Joseph W. Vasturia, PE**  
*49 Years of Service*

Joe Vasturia began his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1959.

In July, 1969, Joe left his then employer, Gannett-Fleming to begin a 38 year career as Township Engineer and Director of Public Works for the Township of Upper Darby.

From 1985 through 1995, Joe was a member of the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority and was elected Chairman of the Board. In 1996, Joe also became the Authority’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO), while still serving as Upper Darby’s Township Engineer.

On September 1, 2007 Joe retired after a 38 year career with Upper Darby, but continues to serve as the chairman of the board and CEO for the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority.

**Robert W. Naef PE, PLS**  
*39 Years of Service*

Bob served as the Executive Manager and Chief Engineer of Chester Water Authority (CWA) from 1997 - 2007. Bob has contributed to the community with many commitments to public service.

Bob volunteered as President of the Chester Boy’s and Girl’s Club for 10 years. He serves on the boards for the Institute for Economic Development, the Delaware County Industrial Development Corporation and the Zoning Hearing Board of Aston Township. He is currently a Board member of the Boys’ & Girls’ Club of Chester Water Authority.

**Herbert MacCombie Consulting Engineers**  
*36 years of service*

In 1972, Herbert E. MacCombie, Jr., P.E. established Herbert E. MacCombie, Jr., P.E. Consulting Engineers. The sole proprietorship specialized in municipal government work as well as general civil engineering.

After 22 years of service, on April 12, 1994, Herbert E. MacCombie, Jr., passed away, leaving succession of the company to his wife, Teresa, and sons, Herbert E., III and James W.

Herbert E. MacCombie, Jr., P.E., Consulting Engineers and Surveyors, Inc. was created and continues today under the leadership of Teresa M. MacCombie, President, Herbert E. MacCombie, III, Secretary, and James W. MacCombie, P.E., P.L.S., Treasurer and Director of Engineering and Surveying.

**Yerkes Associates, Inc.**  
*Four Generations of Service (since 1874)*

Yerkes Associates and its predecessor firms have provided meaningful employment for thousands of people and enhanced the quality of life in this region for 135 years. Their roots go back to an extraordinary time in American History in 1874, just nine (9) years after the civil war (1865.)

Milton R. Yerkes, John B. Yerkes, and John B. Yerkes, Jr., have guided the firm for over 100 years. John B. Yerkes, Jr., has presided over Yerkes Associates for almost 45 years. His commitment to honesty and integrity has helped guide his firm through recessions and prosperous times.

Russell Yerkes joined the firm in 1990, becoming the fourth generation of the Yerkes family to be involved in the business.

**H. Gilroy Damon Associates, Inc.**  
*Four Generations of Service (since 1894)*

Albert Forster Damon, Jr. graduated from Penn State University in 1894 with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and returned home by stagecoach to the family farm in Darby, PA.

His son H. Gilroy Damon took over the firm in 1954.

In 1982, H. Gilroy Damon, Jr. succeeded his father as president of the company. Gil was a graduate of Drexel University attending evening school on the G.I. Bill. Today, Gil’s son David P. Damon, PE, PLS, represents the fourth generation of Damon leadership.

**G.D. Houtman & Sons, Inc.**  
*Three Generations of Service (since 1945)*

G. D. Houtman & Son, Inc. was founded by its name sake, Gustave D. Houtman, along with his son, Jack in 1945. The firm of G. D. Houtman & Son has been a fixture in Media ever since providing the Southeastern Pennsylvania region with Civil Engineering and Land Surveying Services.

Although Gus Houtman practiced a wide variety of civil engineering disciplines, G. D. Houtman & Son is widely recognized for its Site Engineering, Land Surveying, and Municipal Engineering Services. As Gus’s professional activity slowed, the firm was managed by Jack and Gus’s nephew Edouard (Ed) N. Houtman.

Today, the four sons of Ed Houtman (Edward, Matthew, Gustave, and John) are providing the Engineering, Surveying, and Design expertise for the firm. G. D. Houtman & Son, Inc. completed its 35,000th project during in 2007.
In 2009, the National Society of Professional Engineers will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers is honored to be part of the celebration as we host the 2009 NSPE Northeast Region Meeting in conjunction with this year’s annual state conference.

The conference is going to be held October 15-17, 2009 at the Bear Creek Mountain Resort in scenic Macungie, PA which is located about 10 miles southwest of the Lehigh Valley exit off I-476. There are a variety of regional attractions including winery and covered bridge tours, the kid-friendly Crayola Factory, and more. Check out the many options at www.lehighvalleypa.org and www.readingberkspa.org.

The conference will begin on Thursday evening with some ice breaker events, including a Young Engineers Happy Hour. Friday will be packed with programs, including educational sessions, the NSPE Northeast Region Meeting, an Order of the Engineer Ceremony and a dinner reception with a guest speaker, David Matthews, Director of the New Reactor Licensing for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The conference will culminate on Saturday with various PSPE governance meetings.

One of the most important aspects of the conference is the educational sessions. Beginning in September 2009, Pennsylvania will start requiring mandatory continuing education credits in order to renew a Professional Engineer license in 2011. The change in the registration law will require professional engineers in Pennsylvania to obtain 24 professional development hours (PDH) over a two year period. This conference will be one of the first opportunities for Pennsylvania Professional Engineers to obtain some of those credits for the next renewal cycle. We plan to offer educational sessions in four different time slots, allowing individuals to earn at least 4 PDHs. We are looking forward to an exciting conference and hope that you will be part of it! See you in October!

Bear Creek Mountain Resort & Conference Center features 330 wooded acres of hiking, biking, fishing and boating summertime activities. Guests can relax at the spa, catch up with friends at the bar and restaurant, or enjoy the indoor pool and indoor/outdoor hot tubs.

The group rates include both standard rooms and suites. Call 610.641.7101 BEFORE September 14, 2009. Don’t wait!
A bill designed to make Pennsylvania’s continuing education requirements for professional engineers more user friendly has been introduced in the House and is already scheduled for a public hearing. House Bill 975, introduced by Rep. Bill Adolph (R), would make the State’s program very similar to the model rules developed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). A public hearing on House Bill 975 is set for May 12th which, coincidentally, is Engineers Legislative Day in Harrisburg. PSPE will be testifying before the House Professional Licensure committee in support of the legislation. The identical bill is expected to be introduced in the House by Senator Lisa Boscola (D) who sponsored it last year.

**Pennsylvania’s Stimulus Program Takes Shape**

The details of “how” and “for what” are taking shape as plans for spending the Commonwealth’s share of the federal stimulus funds move forward. Pennsylvania’s share is estimated to be about $10.4 billion. More than $1 billion is directed towards highway and bridge projects. Governor Rendell signed three letters of certification confirming over $1 billion in federal stimulus money will be spent by Pennsylvania on new transportation projects in compliance with federal highway standards. He estimated that within 90 days, thousands of Pennsylvanians will begin going to work on construction projects around the state. The State is in line for more funding for mass transit, aviation and rail projects. Additional categories such as “community and economic development”, “energy investments”, “housing”, and “education and training” may also involve construction work. That is particularly the case with the education and energy dollars that are likely to be used for school or other public building construction/renovations.

The Governor has named the Secretary of the Department of General Services, Jim Creedon, to serve as the stimulus Czar. Creedon is charged with making sure that funds are spent responsibly and within the scope of their intended purpose. Various state agencies have established work groups to map out spending plans. PennDOT has posted a list of economic recovery projects on its web site. In short, the Administration is underway with its efforts to role out projects.

But battle lines are already being drawn with the Legislature. In light of the stimulus funding, Republicans in both the House and Senate are urging the Governor to redo the Commonwealth budget he proposed in February. Rendell has said he doesn’t plan on doing that. The Governor also commented on a proposal by Senator Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster) to create a state Commission on Stimulus Accountability, saying “I would veto such a bill.” Republicans will raise the question of whether or not the Administration can legally spend monies not authorized by the Pennsylvania Legislature. Expect to hear more debate on this in the coming weeks and months.

**House Bill to Increase Landscape Architect’s Continuing Ed**

Last month the Senate committee on licensure moved legislation that would increase the number of continuing education credits required of landscape architects. Senate Bill 45 is now in the Senate Appropriations committee. In the meantime, Representative Frank Burns (D) has introduced House Bill 703 which, just like SB 45, would require landscape architects to obtain 24 continuing education (CE) credits every 2 years. Both bills not only increase the CE credits required for relicensure, but also eliminate an old grandfather’s clause in the law that allows for licensure without examination. House Bill 703 is scheduled for a vote in the House Professional Licensure committee on March 31st.

**L&I: Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Review and Advisory Council Schedule of Meetings**

The Department of Labor and Industry announced the following meetings:

- April 2, 16 and 30, 2009, 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Department of Labor and Industry 651 Boas Street, Room E-100.
- April 8 and 22, 2009, 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., 651 Boas Street, Department of Labor and Industry 12 Floor Conference Room A

Additional information concerning the meetings may be found on the Department of Labor and Industry’s web site at www.dli.state.pa.us/codes scroll down and click on the link for UCC Review and Advisory Council. Questions concerning this may be directed to Edward Leister at (717) 783-6304.

**Legislative Activity**


Amends 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;”

“Capitol” continued p. 15
2009 PSPE PAC Sponsor Recognition

Many thanks to the following individuals who contribute to the PSPE Political Action Committee fund. The PAC fund allows PSPE lobbyists to influence bills on behalf of PSPE members. PSPE is very active at the Pennsylvania state capitol. Each session we monitor legislation that could impact PSPE members in their profession. Your contributions are critical as PSPE affects bills such as those found in the article “On Capitol Hill.”

Pennsylvania Circle
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Be the first this year!

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Eric Flicker, PE
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John Smyth PE
Paul Underiner, PE
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John Bradshaw, PE, F.NSPE
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Use my contribution!
Enclosed is my personal contribution to PSPE’s Political Action Committee.

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________
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Name of Employer: _________________________________________________________________
Employer’s Address: __________________________________________________________________

Amount Enclosed:
□ $500
□ $100
□ $ 50
□ Other:________

Make your personal checks payable to: PSPE PAC (CORPORATE CHECKS CANNOT BE USED BY PAC.)

Send check to: PSPE/PAC, 908 N. Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.
“Capitol” continued from p. 13

providing additional powers to the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs; and further providing for civil penalties and license suspension,” authorizing boards and commissions within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to levy certain monetary civil penalties in cases of violations of lawful disciplinary orders of the board, aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of a profession, occupation or business, or violations of any provision of the applicable licensing act or board regulation. House version of SB 142.


An Act requiring design, construction and renovation of buildings that receive a State appropriation to comply with specified energy and environmental building standards.

Referred to House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, 2/13/2009

Reported as committed from House Environmental Resources and Energy, read first time, and laid on the table, 3/17/2009

Removed from the table and re-referred to House Appropriations Committee, 3/17/2009


Amends Title 62 (Procurement), in guaranteed energy savings contracts, amending the definition of “energy conservation measure” to include technology upgrades designed to reduce water and wastewater consumption or operating costs, and inserting water and wastewater-related provisions into language relating to contract procedures and provisions.

Introduced and referred to House Urban Affairs Committee, 3/3/2009

Reported as committed from House Urban Affairs Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 3/11/2009

Removed from the table and referred to House Appropriations Committee, 3/16/2009


Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) by defining “licensing board” and “professional or occupational license.” The amendment adds a section defining the offense of impersonating the holder of a professional or occupational license when one pretends to hold a license or performs an act in furtherance of a false pretense. The bill provides for grading of the offense.

Referred to House Professional Licensure Committee, 2/9/2009

Reported as amended House Professional Licensure Committee, read first time and laid on the table, 3/10/2009

Removed from the table and Re-referred to House Appropriations Committee, 3/11/2009

Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, and read second time, 3/16/2009

Read third time, passed House, 3/17/2009 (195-0)

Referred to Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee, 3/19/2009

New Bills Introduced


Amends Title 62 (Procurement) inserting language providing every Commonwealth agency, independent Commonwealth agency, the State Treasurer, Attorney General, Auditor General, General Assembly, all legislative agencies and the Judiciary shall use competitive bidding in awarding any contract having an initial value in excess of $100,000. Further provides this shall also apply to the procurement of any legal services having an initial value in excess of $100,000.

Referred to House State Government Committee, 3/12/2009


For the purposes of the Minimum Wage Act, the Wage Payment and Collection Law, the Unemployment Compensation Law and the Workers’ Compensation Act, an individual engaging in or performing services in the commercial or residential building construction industry for remuneration is presumed to be an employee unless: (1) the individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over performance of such services both under the contract of service and in fact; and (2) as to such services, the individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession or business. The bill outlines twelve criteria for deeming an
individual to be an independent contractor in the construction industry and states improper classification of employees is subject to penalties, remedies or actions outlined in the legislation. The Department of Labor and Industry shall annually report to the General Assembly detailing data on the previous calendar year’s administration and enforcement of this act.

Referred to House Labor Relations Committee, 3/19/2009
House Labor Relations Committee Meeting set for April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing

HB 530  RE: Lawsuit Certificate of Merit (by Rep. Mike Turzai, et al)

Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) by stating that no cause of action asserting a professional liability claim may be filed with the court unless a certificate of merit is included. When filing, the plaintiff would include with the complaint a certificate of merit containing a written and signed statement from an appropriate licensed professional, identified by name and professional designation. A person must meet certain criteria to execute a certificate of merit or offer an expert opinion in a professional liability action.

Referred to House Judiciary Committee, 3/3/2009


Amends the PA Sewage Facilities Act by adding that each municipality would, at least thirty days prior to holding the required public hearing considering revisions to the municipality’s plan for sewage services to the department, notify in writing each property owner in areas where community sewage systems are planned to be available within a 10-year period. Notification would include information that describes any requirements for a property owner not part of a community sewage system to connect to such system.

Referred to House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, 3/6/2009


Amends Title 26 (Eminent Domain) increasing the amount the owner of any right, title or interest in real property acquired or injured by an acquiring agency shall be reimbursed as a payment toward reasonable expenses actually incurred for appraisal, attorney and engineering fees from $4,000 to $25,000.

Referred to House State Government Committee, 3/24/2009


Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act further providing for administration and enforcement by adding that a decision of a code administrator must contain written notification that the decision can be appealed to the municipality’s board of appeals. The written notification must state the basis for an appeal and the time frames, and must provide specific information on where and how to file the appeal in that municipality.

Referred to House Labor Relations Committee, 3/9/2009


Amends the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law deleting language providing for mandatory continuing education and adding new language for continuing professional competency requirements for the practice of professional engineering, professional land surveying and professional geology. Each licensee shall be required to obtain twenty-four PDH units during the biennial renewal period.

Referred to House Professional Licensure Committee, 3/18/2009


Amends the act to authorize & empower cities, boroughs, towns & townships, separately or jointly, to provide for protection against floods by erecting & constructing certain works & improvements further providing for competitive bidding.


Amends Title 62 (Procurement) requiring the Office of Attorney General to review and develop procedures to select the most qualified bidder for professional service contracts with a State agency within the executive branch.

Referred to Senate State Government Committee, 3/4/2009

SB 149 RE: Home Inspections (by Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, et al)

Amends Title 68 (Real & Personal Property) repealing provisions relating to home inspections; providing for home inspections; establishing the Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors in the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs; providing for licensure of home inspectors and for disciplinary proceedings by the Pennsylvania Board of Home Inspectors; and making an appropriation of $85,000 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 Inspectors and for other associated costs.

Referred to Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure Committee, 1/30/2009
Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure Committee Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., 3/31/2009 Room 8E-A East Wing


Amends the act entitled “An act to provide for and regulate the accumulation, investment, and expenditure of funds by cities, boroughs, incorporated towns and townships for preparing plans for sewage disposal systems, and for the construction, improvement or replacement of sewage
disposal systems for which plans have been approved by the Sanitary Water Board of the Commonwealth,” further providing for definitions and allowing municipalities and municipal authorities to use public funds for the improvement, extension, repair or rehabilitation of private lateral sewer lines connected to public sewer systems; providing requirements and definitions.

*Referred to Senate Environmental Resources and Energy committee, 2/19/2009*
*Reported as committed from Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and read first time, 3/17/2009*
*Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 3/23/2009*

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**Upcoming Meetings of Interest**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

**House Professional Licensure Committee**

9 AM, Room G-50 Irvis Building

Public hearing on:


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.


Amends the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law deleting language providing for mandatory continuing education and adding new language for continuing professional competency requirements for the practice of professional engineering, professional land surveying and professional geology. Each licensee shall be required to obtain twenty-four PDH units during the biennial renewal period.

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**Remaining Spring 2009 Session Schedules**

**SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE FOR MARCH – JUNE 2009**

March 30, 31
April 1, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
May 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30

**HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE FOR MARCH – JUNE 2009**

March 30, 31
April 1, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
May 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30

Copies of all bills of interest can be accessed via the Internet at: [http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/Bill/billroom.htm](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/Bill/billroom.htm).
Providing Pro Bono Services as a Firm or as an Individual

Whether or not professional services are provided for a fee or on a complimentary basis, the professional liability risks are the same. Professional liability insurance coverage is also the same, even though no premium is calculated on the value of the free services provided. The general rule is that a professional performing voluntary services must do so in accordance with the same care and diligence as other professionals providing similar services. The lack of a fee for services does not reduce the obligation to use due care.

Instituting and Enforcing Clear Policies

It is very important for professional service firms to have clear policies on pro bono service and outside professional activity of its employees. A firm’s exposure to the possibility of loss is decreased if clients for whom volunteer or pro bono service is being provided understand the risks faced by design professionals and agree to waive any claim and protect the design professional from any third-party claims. In addition, pro bono clients of individual employees should acknowledge that the services are being performed solely by the individual and not by the firm. A firm could protect itself and assist employees in understanding their responsibilities by having policies that address the two significant situation types, those which involve individual services and those which employ a firm.

A firm may want to encourage voluntary, individual, projects (pro bono activities) both from a good will perspective and to allow employees, including professional staff, to gain experience in providing services directly to a client. It could develop a special provision for authorized contributed services. The firm's professional liability insurance would cover such services regardless of whether or not they were for a fee if they are provided by the firm's employees with the recognition and permission of the firm. Claims from such projects, of course, would jeopardize professional liability coverage or rates as any other adverse experience.

Firms need to understand their risks and communicate with clients when contributing working without a fee. A client must acknowledge that in addition to providing services, the firm is risking its reputation and financial viability because of its exposure to meritless claims from the client or from third parties. No services by a firm should be provided without a written agreement. In most cases, that agreement should acknowledge the client's understanding that it is waiving possible future claims against the firm. It is also both logical and fair to have the agreement contain language protecting the pro bono firm from third-party claims.

Some firms try to protect themselves through indemnification obligations running from their employees to the firm. A firm probably would not benefit in any meaningful way from an indemnification provision that would protect the firm from any damage or expenses caused by a negligent employee. Most individuals providing any services outside the scope of their full-time employment have few assets from which to indemnify their employer. It therefore makes sense to have such protections run from the client to the employee much in the same way that a client would protect the entire firm providing voluntary services.

The Scope of Insurance Coverage for Individual Actions

The insurance coverage of any claim tracks with the law of agency. A firm's employees are covered for all activities performed within their scope of employment. If a problem occurs on a project for which employees are providing services but for which their employer is not getting a fee, any determination of coverage would be based on whether the firm or an agent of the firm is providing the services. The possibility exists that the firm could be held liable for the actions of its employees even though the firm did not know specifically of such actions or have any
factual authorization of those actions. Thus the firm could have liability for its imputed professional negligence without insurance coverage for the harm caused by the employee's negligence.

It is also clear, from a risk management perspective, that if the firm's name was not apparent on the documents, the likelihood of the initial claim being brought against the individual rather than the firm is much higher. The firm, however, could still be brought into the action. While the "invisibility" of the firm may have an immediate chilling effect on litigation, the firm cannot easily escape responsibility for the actions of its licensed design professional. In most states, if a firm condones individual service, risk to the firm exists even if the employee is providing that service for no fee. The question is whether the action of the employee can be attributed to the firm. Specifics in determining that attribution are based on state rulings within the general framework of agency law.

**Contractual Release and Indemnification Language**

Contractual provisions can limit the risk of the design professional and the firm. The negotiated consideration exchanged for a waiver of rights or an obligation to defend or pay on behalf of the firm is the firm's voluntary professional services. This bargaining of services for a release and an indemnification obligation should be part of the negotiation for the services. A provision such as the one indicated below should be considered as an addition to the standard written contract used by the design firm. In addition to risk allocation provisions, written contracts should clearly spell out the scope of services and the limits of the ability of the design firm based on time constraints and the conditions encountered. While design professionals are cautioned to seek specific recommendations from legal counsel as to the appropriate contract language to minimize risk, the following is a general provision that address the basic concerns of design firms:

**Proposed Indemnification Language for Design Professionals Providing Voluntary Services**

(NAME OF A/E FIRM) has agreed, at the specific request of (NAME OF CLIENT), to provide the above described professional services on a voluntary basis.

In exchange for (NAME OF A/E FIRM) providing services on a voluntary basis, (NAME OF CLIENT) agrees that neither (NAME OF A/E FIRM), nor its consultants, agents or employees shall be jointly, severally or individually liable to (NAME OF CLIENT). In addition, (NAME OF CLIENT) agrees to defend, indemnify and hold (NAME OF A/E FIRM), its consultants, agents or employees, harmless from and against any and all claims, defense costs, including attorneys' fees and dispute resolution costs, damages and other liabilities, actual or alleged, arising out of, or in any way be connected with, (NAME OF A/E FIRM)'s providing professional services, regardless of how or under what circumstances or by what cause such injuries or damages are sustained provided, however, that this indemnification shall not apply in the event of a willful act or omission by (NAME OF A/E FIRM) constituting gross negligence.

[Note: Some states may not allow a waiver of rights before a cause of action accrues. Some states may require separate consideration for indemnity agreements or require language to be specifically highlighted in contract text.]
PSPE Member Update

Following are members who joined PSPE in 2009. Chapter officers can access member data in realtime with a login and password from NSPE. If your chapter does not yet have a membership chair or officer who has this access, please contact Jennifer Summers, jennifer@wannerassoc.com or 717.441.6051.

Chester County
- Jesse Condon
- David R Daniels PE
- Kevin R Sech

Delaware County
- Margaret Finch Carragher
- J Earl Coffman

Erie
- Richard A. Way

Harrisburg
- John L Himes PE
- Ankit T Shah

Johnstown
- Kevin H. Fruck PE

Lehigh Valley
- L. Brian Akelaitis
- Alfred Gruenke
- James Charles Krutchen PE

Lincoln
- Mark L Homan
- Shawn L Nolt PE
- Sean T Preller PE
- Jason A Slobozien PE

Luzerne County
- William J McFarland PE
- John J Rauch PE
- Marleen A. Troy
- Michael Zablocky

Midwestern
- Joseph R Gaus PE
- Robert Stetz EIT

Philadelphia
- Bryson E Baker
- Albert Peter Borrelli III
- Stacey W Culbreath CET
- Christopher J. Holliday
- Zuqun Li
- Myreon-Michael Smallwood EIT
- Ning Xu

Pittsburgh
- Ron Benjamin Ferrie
- Robert Wayne Venturini PE
- Richard William Zollinger

Reading
- Nicole L Greenway PE
- Gary A. Klein
- Nathan D Zipay EIT

Valley Forge
- Matthew T Neiman EIT
- Sharareh Rajabi Nejad

Washington
- Cheryl L Putnam
PSPE is proud to recognize outstanding engineers in Pennsylvania.

Join colleagues, friends, and family as we honor our most accomplished engineers.

See you there!

Hotel Reservations

Call the Holiday Inn at 717.469.0661 BEFORE May 15, 2009.

The hotel is close to Hersheypark and the Hollywood Casino, thus it could easily sell out.
RESERVE YOUR ROOM TODAY!

The group rate is $109. Sales tax of 6% and occupancy tax of 5% will be added.

Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey
604 Station Road
Grantville, PA 17028
Phone 717.469.0661
www.stayholiday.com

Installation of Officers 2009-2010
Executive Committee

Friday, June 5
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

President
Walter J. Poplawski, PE, F.NSPE
The A & E Group Inc.

President-Elect
David L. McCullough, PE
The PBS & J Corporation

Secretary
Richard P. Aulenbach, Jr., PE
RPA Associates Inc.

Treasurer
John A. Nawn, PE, PTOE
Patrick Engineering Inc.

Immediate Past President
John F. Bradshaw, PE, F.NSPE
Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

Pennsylvania Representative to NSPE House of Delegates
Harvey D. Hnatiuk, PE, F.NSPE
Maida Engineering Inc.

Vice President, Southeast Region
Francis J. Stanton, Jr., PE
The ENC Group, LLC

Vice President, Southwest Region
Michel J. Sadaka, PE
Sadaka Corporation

Vice President, Central Region
Susan K. Sprague, PE
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.

Vice President, Northeast Region
Eric W. Tappert, PE
Tappert Engineering

Vice President, Northwest Region
Timothy S. Ormiston, PE
PPG Industries

Order of the Engineer Ring Ceremony

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

The Order of the Engineer is the contingent of engineers in the United States who have participated in an Engineer’s Ring Ceremony and publicly accepted the Obligation of an Engineer.

The Order of the Engineer fosters a unity of purpose and honors one’s lifelong dedication to the profession.

Members of the Order voluntarily pledge to uphold the standards and dignity of the engineering profession and to serve humanity by making the best use of Earth’s precious wealth. The symbol of the Order is a stainless steel ring worn on the fifth finger of the working hand.

As an engineer you take deep pride in your profession.

Stand with peers as you are inducted into the Order during this solemn and respectful ceremony.


Awards Ceremony

Friday, June 5
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Engineer of the Year
Harvey D. Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE
Maida Engineering Inc.

Young Engineer of the Year
Robert L. Scheib, P.E.
The PBS & J Corporation

President’s Dedicated Service Award
Delaware County Chapter

Chapter Communication Award
Valley Forge Chapter

Chapter Outstanding Program Award
Beaver County Chapter
Join the Celebration
June 5 – 6, 2009
Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey
Grantville, Pennsylvania

Event Registration

REGISTRATION FEES:
Registration fees cover the Order of the Engineer Ceremony, President’s Reception, Installation Banquet & Awards Ceremony. There is no fee to attend the governance meetings.

Fee
___ Engineer/Guest.................................$ 60
___ Engineer’s Ring.................................$ 20
5th finger ring size ......................____ (sizing charts can be found online)

Contact Information

Engineer Full Name: _________________________________
Engineer Badge Name: _______________________________
Company: _________________________________________
Preferred Address: __________________________________
__________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ____________________________________

Phone: _________________________________
E-mail: _________________________________

Guest Full Name: _________________________________
Guest Badge Name: _______________________________

Please mark the events you plan to attend on the schedule below.
E = Engineer
G = Guest

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY 06.05.2009
E  G
☐ 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Pa PEPP Board of Directors Meeting
☐ 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm PSPE Executive Committee Meeting
☐ 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm Order of the Engineer Ceremony
☐ 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm President’s Reception
☐ 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Installation Banquet & Awards Ceremony

SATURDAY 06.06.2009
E
☐ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm PSPE Board of Directors Meeting
☐ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Board of Directors Lunch

Join Us
Send your registration / advertising form and payment by May 22, 2009 (checks payable to PSPE) to:

PSPE
908 N 2nd Street
Harrisburg PA 17102
(P) 717.441.6051 | (F) 717.236.2046
jennifer@wannerassoc.com

Reservations Form

Please mark your preferred level of participation:

CORPORATE SPONSORS
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EVENT SPONSORS
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☐ President’s Reception........................$ 1,000
☐ Jazz musicians...............................$ 600
☐ Coffee break.................................$ 500
☐ Photographer...............................$ 500

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

Advertising & Sponsorship