



The Pittsburgh Professional Engineer
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The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of
Professional Engineers
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October 2007

PSPE – Pittsburgh Chapters Upcoming Year

The Pittsburgh Chapter has begun the 2007 – 2008 year with an educational event integrated into the State Board of Directors meeting this past weekend here in the metropolitan Pittsburgh area. The kick-off was a sponsored luncheon reviewing the status of the current legislation for mandatory Continuing Education to maintain licensure in Pennsylvania. Hiram Ribblett, P.E., a member of the State Registration Board, presented the latest information on Senate Bill 655 and Annex A with some explanation of the procedural timeline that the bill must take before becoming law.

As most of us are aware, the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists drafted regulations requiring continuing education for renewal of the engineer's license in Pennsylvania. The verbiage that was the beginnings of this legislation was provided in large part by members of PSPE. The final bill, now in the legislative pipeline, has been modified from this original verbiage.

The earliest renewal period for which engineers would need the continuing education would be 2009.

The number of hours required and types of qualifying education for license renewal will be included in the regulations.

The PA Society of Professional Engineers will be able to view the draft regulations during the upcoming public comment period. Please access the PSPE web site (www.pspe.org) on a regular basis to see when this comment period is so that you can provide feedback to your legislators.

There are other issues of interest to us both as Professional Engineers and as citizens of the State. One is the continued efforts to toll I-80. During the upcoming year, we will be organizing a meeting to have a presentation made on this topic, the pros and cons of the idea and why the State needs to find funding for its transportation issues. On page four of this newsletter is some recent information that Tom Weber, P.E. heard at the most recent CLC meeting.

Our kick-off meeting this year will be in keeping with some traditions from the past. We will be celebrating "Oktoberfest" at one of our local micro-brewery locations. We hope existing and new members will come out and enjoy some comraderie and get a feeling for the activities of the year.

Please take a look at the calendar for the year on the back page of the newsletter and mark yours to include these Chapter activities. We look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year.

Virginia Dailey, P.E., President

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Apprenticeship Program Kicks Off

The Apprenticeship program has begun another year for the Pittsburgh Chapter. Again, there was an overwhelming response from the GATE program students to participate. 41 students have been chosen to participate in the sponsor site visitations throughout the year. A list of some of the sponsoring companies can be found on the Pittsburgh Chapter web site (www.pittsburghpe.org). These companies donate their employee’s time to help the students understand a little more about engineering and more. The students are required to provide a “report” to the program after each site visit. At least one of these is published in each newsletter. Look for these reports from these future engineers.

Several visits are already scheduled. The program can always use additional Pittsburgh Chapter members as volunteers for help in scheduling and coordinating site visits. This is a great time to step forward to become involved with future engineers. Get involved! Please contact Dave Briskey (412-475-2190, djbriskey@dickcorp.com) or Reyman Branting (412-486-0530) (bernardi11@comcast.net).

MATHCOUNTS 2008

MATHCOUNTS competitions, in Pennsylvania, are organized and administered by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) state and local chapters. This year’s competition will be held on February 2, 2008 at Robert Morris University. This is our first year at Robert Morris and we are sure to need new and additional volunteers to aid us in this new venue. The first meeting of the Mathcounts Committee is Thursday, October 18, 2007 at the North Allegheny Administrative Offices. This first meeting is to get time lines and deadlines established and to have volunteers begin their work for the upcoming competition. The committee is in need of several new volunteers to help in getting the competition organized. If you have about 2 – 4 hours per month you can help this committee. Please consider volunteering this minimal amount of time for a wonderful activity supporting math and science in our 7th and 8th grade students. Contact Virginia Dailey via email at ddengr@city-net.com to find out what you can do.

We’re proud to be involved with such a worthwhile program that encourages mathematics and engineering. If you may be interested in volunteering for the February 2, 2008 Competition, please contact Tom Schwartzmier via e-mail toms@nauticom.net.

2007-2008 Chapter Officers

President – Virginia Dailey, P.E.	Executive Secretary - Kevin Wiley, P.E.
President Elect – Tom Weber, P.E.	Treasurer - John A. Broscius, P.E.
Vice President – Dave Samek, P.E.	Financial Secretary - Reyman Branting, P.E.
State Director - David Briskey, P.E. 2005-2008	Immediate Past President – Darryl Brogan, P.E.

2007-2008 Chapter Directors

Jeff Mazza, P.E. 2005-2008	Brian Schull, P.E. 2006 - 2009
Moe Rayan, E.I.T. 2005-2008	Kirk Thompson, P.E. 2007 – 2010
Vacant Position 2006 - 2009	Joe Garlicki, P.E. 2007 - 2010

HAVE YOU VISITED THE CHAPTER’S WEBSITE? COME VISIT US @ [HTTP://WWW.PITTSBURGHPE.ORG](http://www.pittsburghpe.org)

In case you have not ventured out onto the PSPE website, here is a piece of information that is very important to all members. Our Pittsburgh Chapter should be looking at this Strategic Plan and be trying to support and enhance this from the grass roots level.

PSPE Strategic Plan 2006 - 2008

Vision

PSPE is the recognized voice and advocate of all Professional Engineers who are licensed in Pennsylvania.

Mission

Promote and defend the interests of Pennsylvania's Professional Engineers

Values

Live and work in concert with The Engineer's Creed and The Professional Engineer's Code of Ethics

Objectives

- I Increase the stature of the Professional Engineer's license as it is viewed by the general public, owners and operators of businesses, educators, and non-licensed engineers.
- II Demonstrate and continually improve the value of membership in PSPE.
- III Protect the Professional Engineer's license and title through careful monitoring of legislation and proactive efforts.
- IV Sustain or improve membership level through each year of PSPE operations.

Strategies

- I Value of the Professional Engineer's License and Engineering Services: Increase the understanding of what Professional Engineers do and work to ensure that compensation received by Professional Engineers is truly commensurate to the services delivered.
- II Value of PSPE Membership: Deliver value in services to members that elevate their competence and abilities to practice as Professional Engineers.
- III Protect the Professional Engineer's License: Routinely scan all upcoming legislation for potential infringement and devaluation of the PE license and proactively work to eliminate existing or pending infringements.
- IV Membership: Increase membership base to better serve and represent the interests of Professional Engineers in Pennsylvania.

Priorities

- I Establish a Public Relations Committee within one (1) month of approval of the September Board of Directors Meeting. Actively publicize PSPE's involvement in Mathcounts beginning no later than October 31, 2006. (Continued on Page 5)

**THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,
PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**

Invites all current and prospective members to

**OKTOBERFEST BUFFET
AND MEET-THE-BOARD SOCIAL**

On Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at The Church Brew Works, 3525 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Please take some time to join us to socialize with the Board of Directors and your fellow Pittsburgh Chapter members.

Cocktails: 6:00 PM Social (Cash Bar)
Introductions
Dinner/Bufferet: 6:30 PM

Buffet/Dinner will include: fresh vegetables/dipping sauces, salad, chicken and salmon medallions, rice pilaf and seasonal vegetables.

You may make your reservation by filling in the form below and mailing or faxing it to Ryan Bock, ESWP. You may also phone in all of this information to us. If you opt to make your reservation via e-mail, do not e-mail your credit card info. Payment may be made by calling in your credit card info, faxing this filled in form, or mailing this form with credit card info or enclosing a check.

Phone: (412) 391-0615 Fax (412-261-0616) e-mail: ddengr@city-net.com
U.S. Mail; PSPE Pittsburgh Chapter, 337 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Name : _____ Contact Info: _____

Name : _____ Contact Info: _____

Reservations including payment must be received by October 19, 2007. Cost per attendee \$ 25.00

Payment Options:

Credit Card: MASTERCARD VISA, Card Number: _____

Name (as it appears on the credit card): _____

Billing Zip Code : _____ Expiration Date: _____

Check enclosed payable to PSPE Pittsburgh Chapter and mailed to 337 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: (412) 391-0615 Fax (412-261-0616) e-mail: ddengr@city-net.com

**Directions: On Mapquest.com, enter this address:
Church Brew Works, 3525 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15201**

Construction Legislative Council Meeting

TOLLING OF I-80

On Friday, September 21, 2007, Chapter Vice President Tom Weber and Past CLC Chairman Michel Sadaka attended the September meeting of the Construction Legislative Council. For any of you who have never attended one of these meetings, they are much more interesting than one might imagine. They are loosely conducted so that everyone has an opportunity to speak their minds about Federal, State and local legislation that affects the lives and livelihoods of Professional Engineers. Some of the topics that were touched on include Job Training money for programs like "State Helmets to Hardhats", Design-Build Proposals for state funded projects, Transportation Funding enactments and initiatives, the Motor License Fund for highway maintenance and construction, selection of design-build firms for prison projects on a "competitive proposal system" (meaning not awarded on the basis of low bid), and other pending legislation dealing with unlawful uses of the term "engineer" (like a crane operator), prevailing wage acts and building code amendments.

The biggest issue discussed at this month's meeting by far was the possible tolling of the interstate I-80 highway. This author must confess that he went into the meeting feeling that making I-80 a toll road was just another way of letting the governor raise taxes. But this author came away with a much different attitude. Much of the interstate highway system was built 30 to 50 years ago, and has simply outlived its normal useful life span as all highways do. So those interstate highways are due for some serious maintenance/reconstruction. The trouble is, the federal government is not providing the necessary funds for this reconstruction. So funding must be sought elsewhere. The general feeling is that the User should pay for what they use in the form of a user tax. Well, who or what comprises 60% of the traffic on I-80? Trucks, that's who, and they are using our I-80 for free. As tolls rise on existing toll roads, it is predicted that truck traffic on I-80 will increase to 80% before long. To our north, New York has had no problem making I-90 a toll highway for many years now, and to the south, we Pennsylvanians have lived with the Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76 being a toll road for 50 years. Leaving I-80 without tolls is like a football team protecting their sidelines, and leaving the middle of the field wide open. The theory is that the user-trucks should be paying for what they destroy, and pass those costs on to the recipients of the goods they transport. The lack of federal funding for maintenance/reconstruction, and the high percentage of truck traffic are the issues that made this author reconsider the wisdom of making I-80 a toll highway.

PSPE Strategic Plan (continued from page 3)

- II Build membership committees in each PSPE Chapter by December 31, 2006.
- III Re-organize the Title Pursuit Task Force by October 31, 2006.
- IV Re-organize the Legislative Committee by October 31, 2006 to address all issues regarding legislation related to licensure and to proactively push for qualifications based selection (QBS) for private, municipal and state engineering contracts.
- V Meet with owners and managers of engineering firms, industries and government to determine what types of programs within PSPE can specifically aid in their employees' development. Complete six (6) such meetings by November 30, 2006.
- VI Resume awards programs in all practice divisions and maximize the number of PSPE

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2007-2008 CALENDAR

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS & MEETINGS

Date	Time	Description	Location
October 11, 2007	5:30pm	Chapter Board Meeting	Engineers Building
October 18, 2007	6:00pm	Mathcounts Committee Meeting	North Allegheny Admin.
October 30, 2007	6:00pm	Oktoberfest Chapter Meeting	Church Brew Works
November 8, 2007	5:30pm	Chapter Board Meeting	Engineers Building
November TBD	6:30 pm	November Chapter Meeting	TBD
December 1, 2007	6:30pm	Holiday Party	Engineers Building
December 14, 2007	5:30pm	Chapter Board Meeting	Engineers Building
January TBD	6:00pm	January Chapter Meeting	TBD
February 2, 2008	8:00am	MATHCOUNTS Competition	Robert Morris Univ.
February 23, 2008	TBD	Engineer's Week Banquet	TBD

BOARD OF DIRECTION MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON: Sept. 13, 2007, Oct. 11, 2007, Nov. 8, 2007, Dec. 13, 2007, Jan. 10, 2008, Feb. 14, 2008, Mar. 13, 2008, Apr. 10, 2008, May 8, 2008 and June 12, 2008

All BOD meeting are to held @ 5:30PM @ the ESWP Building pending further notice.

✓ - Indicates meeting already held.