



The Pittsburgh Professional Engineer
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The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of
Professional Engineers
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October 2010

WHERE AND HOW DO I GET MY PDHS? CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS for Engineers Licensed in Pennsylvania

Many questions are being raised about the specifics of Pennsylvania's recently passed Continuing Education requirements for professional engineers, land surveyors and geologists. To provide some one-on-one guidance on the issues within the new legislation, what the time frame requirements are and MOST IMPORTANTLY, where and how you can get professional development hours (PDHs), Michel Sadaka, P.E., Southwest Region Vice President will be making a presentation on all these areas.

The Pittsburgh Chapter of PSPE has made a commitment to it's membership, and to the engineering community in the Pittsburgh area, to offer four seminars per year to help licensed engineers achieve the required PDHs each year.

The first seminar will include background information on the Engineers Registration Law, the history of the Continuing Education Legislation in Pennsylvania, Review of the requirements of Act 25, the pending Continuing Education regulations with its potential additional "impact" to the continuing education requirements and deadlines.

Act 25, was enacted by the Pennsylvania legislature and signed by the Governor on May 12, 2010. This Act amended Act 170 of 2006. Act 170 was the original legislation which mandated Continuing Education for Professional Engineers in Pennsylvania.

Some of the basic highlights of ACT 25 are;

1. Effective for 2009-2011 license renewal period
2. 24 PDHs are needed by September 30, 2011
3. Credits earned from October 1, 2009 are acceptable.

In this seminar we will cover the following topics;

1. Authorizing law and language
2. Comparison to Neighboring States
3. Definitions of the various terms
4. Continuing Education Requirements
5. Potential additional changes to the requirements
6. Determination of Credit
7. Record keeping requirements
8. Exemptions
9. Reinstatement
10. Dual Licensee

See the flyer insert in this newsletter for seminar registration.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Greetings! Thank you Pittsburgh Chapter for allowing me to serve as President for the 2010-2011 term. I look forward to working with you and the Board of Directors throughout the coming term. One thing that I enjoy about the PSPE organization is it includes professionals from all engineering backgrounds. At the Chapter Meetings, one always has opportunities to learn about what is going on with engineers in other disciplines. My particular background is civil/structural engineering. As engineers, we all work towards the good of society as a whole.

The State of Pennsylvania has passed the long-awaited legislation for continuing education requirements for Professional Engineers in PA. Pennsylvania's continuing education requirements are now similar to those present in most states in the U.S. PSPE was instrumental in forming PA's legislation and getting it passed. One of our Pittsburgh Chapter members, Michel Sadaka, was very much involved with the legislation process. Our first Chapter Meeting for this term will take place on Thursday, October 14. At that meeting Michel will be giving a seminar about the continuing education requirements for PE's. Still have questions about the requirements? Need to find good places where you can get PDH's? Then please join us on October 14. Attending the seminar on October 14 qualifies as 1 PDH towards your goal of meeting the continuing education requirements.

Did you know that being a member of NSPE/PSPE qualifies you for four free PDH courses? Please see the following web site: <http://www.nspe.org/MemberBenefits/fourfreepdhs.html>

As with any organization, I cannot effectively lead the PSPE Pittsburgh Chapter without help from its members. The Board of Directors and I are working on varied programs for future Chapter Meetings. Two meetings being planned are an Army Corps of Engineers presentation about the dredging of the lake at North Park and a Coast Guard presentation about the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. If you have ideas/contacts for future meetings and site tours, please contact me or the Board. I can be reached at 412-880-5322. We look forward to seeing you at a future meeting!

Joseph Garlicki, P.E., President

MATHCOUNTS

MATHCOUNTS 2011 – February 19

This year is the 28th year of the Pittsburgh Chapter sponsoring the local competition portion of the National Mathcounts Competition. For the third consecutive year, the competition will be held at Robert Morris University, Sewall Center. We are looking forward to another successful competition.

One thing that does not change is the Chapter's need for volunteers and companies who are willing to donate time and financial support for the competition.. We would like to send out a request for individuals and engineering firms in the Pittsburgh area to consider financial support for this wonderful opportunity. There are many needs for this support. If you or your company would like to make a donation to MATHCOUNTS, please contact Virginia Dailey at dailey@ddengr.com.

2010-2011 Chapter Officers

President – Joe Garlicki , P.E.	Executive Secretary – Jon Drosendahl, P.E.
President Elect – Brian Schull, P.E.	Treasurer - John Broschious, P.E.
Vice President – Kirk Thompson, P.E.	Financial Secretary - Reyman Branting, P.E.
State Director - David Briskey, P.E. 2008-2011	Immediate Past President – Dave Samek, P.E.

2010-2011 Chapter Directors

Virginia Dailey, P.E. 2009 - 2011	Tom Weber, P.E. 2011 - 2013
Doug Beitko, P.E., 2010 - 2012	



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**

Invites all current and prospective members to the

Thursday, October 14, 2010 Meeting

***Continuing Education Requirements
Where Can I Get My PDHs?
(Seminar attendance qualifies as 1.0 PDH)***

***At the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania Building
337 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222***

On Thursday, October 14, 2010, the Pittsburgh Chapter is proudly sponsoring a seminar on the topic of the Pennsylvania state law requirements for Continuing Professional Competency Requirements. The seminar leader will be Michel J. Sadaka, P.E., a member of our Pittsburgh Chapter and our PSPE Southwest Region Vice President. Mr. Sadaka was instrumental in getting the legislation started and passed in the Pennsylvania Legislature.

Cocktails: 6:30 PM Social (Cash Bar)

Dinner: 6:45 PM

Presentation by Mr. Sadaka: 7:45pm

Dinner Choice: Choose one of the following (if more than one attendee, indicate the number of each choice):

___ **Virginia Spots**, English Style, with Lemon Butter Cream Sauce

___ **Chicken Baradi**, Tomato Basil Vinaigrette, Peppered Bacon and Boursin Cheese Sauce

___ **Tournadoes of Filet Mignon**, with Boursin Cheese and Port Wine Reduction

You may make your reservation by filling in the form below and mailing or faxing it to Tracy Devlin, ESWP. You may also phone in all of this information to ESWP. If you choose 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 (412-261-1606) e-mail: t.devlin@eswp.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 11, 2010. Cost per attendee \$35.00

Payment Options:

Credit Card: ___ MASTERCARD ___ VISA, Card Number: _____

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

Billing Zip Code : _____ Expiration Date: _____ CV Code _____

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

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER MEMBER RECEIVES STATE ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

PSPE State Conference A Success Record Attendance



Our annual state conference was held right here in Pittsburgh, starting Thursday, September 23rd with a golf outing and ending Saturday, September 25th with the state PSPE Board of Directors meeting. It was an event filled three days, with a wonderful cruise on the rivers for dinner on Thursday night, and the annual Awards Banquet on Friday evening.

During the course of the conference, the over 200 attendees had the opportunity to acquire as many as 11 PDHs toward their required hours. There was a variety of courses to take, something to stimulate the thought process and provide interesting technologies for all who attended.

Our new State President, Dave McCullough, P.E. from the Beaver Chapter was installed during the ceremonies. Now Immediate Past President Walter Poplawski, P.E. passed the gavel to Dave during the banquet.



Of note to our Pittsburgh Chapter members was when **Ruthann L. Omer, P.E.**, former Chapter President, received the State Engineer of the Year Award. This award recognizes a PSPE member who has made significant achievements in the area of: professional society activities; civic, fraternal, religious or humanitarian activities; professional and/or technical publications, papers, or patents; and the field of engineering during their professional career. Dan Greico, P.E., past Pittsburgh Chapter President, State President, made the introductions for Ruthann. What he related provided us all with insight into the many activities in which Ruthann is involved. In addition to her many clients who came to support her at the banquet, there were many of her co-workers, her family, and particularly her mother, Joan Omer.

The State Young Engineer of the Year Award was given to **Richard M. Schoedel, P.E.** of Michael Baker, Jr. Inc. The Young Engineer of the Year Award is presented to an individual (no more than 35 years-old) based on his/her scholastic achievements, technical and professional society activities, technical papers and/or patents, engineering experience and accomplishments, and civic/humanitarian activities. It is awarded to a young candidate who is a licensed Professional Engineer or Engineer-In-Training, and is nominated by his/her PSPE Chapter.



CHALLENGES FACING ENGINEERS AROUND THE WORLD

News from NSPE “Daily Designs”

Engineers Explore Risks Of Encasing Chilean Mine Shaft.

The [AP](#) (10/6) reported, "It's the nightmare scenario: The earth shifts just as a miner is being pulled to safety, jamming his escape capsule somewhere between the surface and the underground cavern where 33 men have waited for two months to be rescued. A partial collapse in the shaft carved through nearly a half-mile of rock could trap the man in a spot where even the most powerful drills couldn't free him. With the rescue drill likely to reach the men by Friday, Chile's government is planning to guard against such a disaster by inserting steel pipe that can withstand tons of pressure into the shaft, and giving the miners a smooth, ride up to safety." Chilean engineers "must determine whether they can push the 40-foot (12-meter) sections of pipe through curves in the shaft without having the welds crack. An accident could send tons of steel hurtling downwards...blocking an exit route that has taken more than a month to drill."

Shortcomings, Theories Emerge at Public Oil Spill Hearing

The [AP](#) (9/27) reports Mark Bly, head of safety and operations for BP, "acknowledged that the company's inquiry had limitations," as BP was questioned by a National Academy of Engineering committee Sunday "for the first time in public about its findings." The company's "internal team looked only at the immediate cause of the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in April." Bly, "who said the investigation was geared toward discovering things that BP could address in the short term," acknowledged, "It is clear that you could go further into the analysis." The committee pointed out "that the study avoided organizational flaws that could have contributed to the explosion."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/27, Hughes) reports a new theory about the cause of the blowout came out of Sunday's hearing as Mark Zoback, a Stanford University geophysicist who serves on the National Academy of Engineering panel investigating the spill, suggested, "I'd like to just maintain the possibility that one reason that the cement job may have failed was because of fracking at the time of cementing." While BP has said that the disaster began with flaws in Halliburton Co.'s cementing job, Zoback pointed to evidence in BP's report that circulated through the well leaked out which suggests cracks in a well.

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/27, Snyder) reports, Thomas Roth, vice president of cementing for Halliburton, who also testified at Sunday's hearing, said BP's "well design was to blame for the explosion," disputing "BP's contention that his company's cement job let oil and gas flow up to the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, contributing to the blowout in the Gulf of Mexico." The article also explains that "the National Academies, which provide research on science and technology, are studying the BP spill at the request of Interior Secretary Kenneth Salazar."

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(Return Service Requested)



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2010-2011 CALENDAR

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS & MEETINGS

Date	Time	Description	Location
October 14, 2010	5:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting	ESWP
October 14, 2010	6:30pm	Monthly Meeting – Continuing Education	ESWP
November 11, 2010	5:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting	ESWP
November 11, 2010	6:30pm	Army Corps of Engineers	ESWP
December 4, 2010	6:30pm	Christmas Party	ESWP
December 9, 2010	5:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting	ESWP
January 13, 2011	5:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting	ESWP
January 13, 2011	6:30pm	Monthly Meeting/TBD	ESWP
February 10, 2011	5:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting	ESWP
February 19, 2011	8:00am	MATHCOUNTS	RMU/Sewall Center
February 26, 2011	7:00pm	National Engineers' Week Banquet	TBD
March 10, 2011	5:30pm	Board of Directors Meeting	ESWP

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