



# Valley Engineer Newsletter

November, 2012

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- November 27, 2012 tour of Sands Casino building facilities.
- December 13, 2012 Annual Holiday Party, Allentown Brew Works
- February 23, 2013. Mathcounts



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY  
OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER  
(ORGANIZED 1935)**

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

## Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

Peter Staffeld, PhD, PE  
President, LVPSPE

Has anyone ever nominated you for something special? Well now is your opportunity to “pay it forward” by nominating a colleague for the Lehigh Valley “Engineer of the Year” or “Young Engineer of the Year” award. The LVPSPE is currently accepting nominations for both awards, to be presented in February during the Engineer’s Week banquet. A nomination form is available on the LVPSPE website at [www.LVPSPE.org/Awards](http://www.LVPSPE.org/Awards). Please nominate (or self-nominate) a deserving engineer!

Candidates will be evaluated based on:

- 10% Education & Collegiate Achievements
- 10% Chapter, PSPE, and NSPE Activities
- 10% Technical Society Activities
- 10% Publications, Presentations, Papers, Patents
- 10% Professional & Personal References
- 20% Additional Activities (civic, fraternal, religious, humanitarian)
- 30% Engineering Experience

For consideration a candidate must be: an American Citizen, work in or be a resident of the Lehigh Valley, and be a Registered Professional Engineer (or Engineer-in-Training for the Young Engineer of the Year award). PSPE membership is preferred, but not required. Candidates for Young Engineer of the Year must be age 35 or under as of January 1, 2012. All nomination forms must

be sent to [Awards@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Awards@LVPSPE.org) by January 1, 2013.

Kevin Campbell has organized excellent tours for LVPSPE members and guests this year. In September we toured the Chrin "landfill gas to energy" facility outside Easton (and some of us earned 1.5 PDHs!). In October we toured the PBS Channel 39 Studios and ArtsQuest Facility at Steelstacks in Bethlehem (1.5 PDHs). In a few days (on Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>) we will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the mechanical systems at the Sands Casino (1 PDH). Please join us if you can – you can sign up on the website at [www.LVPSPE.org/Events](http://www.LVPSPE.org/Events).

The perfect way to celebrate the holiday season is to join us for our Annual LVPSPE Holiday Dinner. This year it will be at the Allentown Brew Works on December 13<sup>th</sup>. This year we will have an open bar, starting at 6pm. We have a special guest speaker for the occasion. Since Allentown is celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, Mayor Ed Pawlowski will join us and give a brief update on the activity in the downtown area. Brew Works has prepared a special menu for us, and you can choose your entrée when you register for the event on the website. I urge all members to make their reservations early, since this will be a most interesting get-together.

Happy holidays, and I hope to see you at the Sands Casino and at Allentown Brew Works.

Most of us miss out on life's big prizes. The Pulitzer. The Nobel. Oscars. Tonys. Emmys.

But we're all eligible for life's small pleasures. A pat on the back. A kiss behind the ear. A four-pound bass. A full moon. An empty parking space. A crackling fire. A great meal. A glorious sunset. Hot soup. Cold beer.

-- Anonymous

## October Plant Tour Alfred Gruenke PE



About two dozen members and guests toured the Bethlehem studios of WLVT, Channel 39, Lehigh Valley's Public Broadcasting Service television station, and ArtsQuest, an entertainment facility next door. Both buildings are part of Steel Stacks, located in the shadows of five still-standing Bethlehem Steel blast furnaces in Bethlehem's South Side. The concept is patterned after the Ruhr Valley in Germany, utilizing closed, out of date industrial facilities for arts, entertainment and cultural centers.

Our very capable tour guides for WLVT were Tabitha Giovanni and CEO Timothy Fallon, who guided the ensemble. The building has been in use only one year. It replaced a facility located on top of South Mountain, which had been in service since the inception of WLVT in 1965. The cost was \$23 million. It is LEED certified, with 44 points. Alvin A Butz was the prime contractor. The architect for the complete facility was URS, from Columbus, Ohio. Brinjac Engineering, located in Fogelsville, was the design firm for the building. The video system was designed by The Systems Group (TSG) of Hoboken NJ. The building is a high-tech marvel, with enough eye-popping wizardry to bedazzle the most ardent videophobe. The Master Control room has more television screens than one can count, with uplinks, downlinks, and mere monitoring all going on simultan-

ously. WLVT is more than Big Bird and Nova. Besides the main channel in normal mode and High Definition it also broadcasts two other channels.

It has a high-tech conference room, with audio and visual capabilities. Its use is free to any non-profit group. Commercial videos can originate from the two studios, from which local programs such as "Scholastic Scrimmage" originate. There is a fully functioning kitchen for the cooking shows. One of the studios is an auditorium, from which various political debates originate. Big, sophisticated video cameras are present everywhere.

The main transmitter is still located on top of South Mountain. Communications both ways is via fiber optic cable.

The WLVT facility was appealing to both Engineers and non-Engineers. It was a fascinating glimpse into the high-tech world of television.

Ross Sotak of Barry Isett & Associates was the tour guide for ArtsQuest. The structural engineering for the building was by Barry Isett & Associates. It was build by Alvin A. Butz Inc. The cost of the building was \$21 million.

The building houses a performing arts center, a café, a modern night club, and two cinemas. The Musikfest Café can accommodate 1,000 people. The North side of the center features a floor to ceiling glass wall overlooking the spectacular former Bethlehem Steel blast furnaces.

The building is, in fact, two buildings, isolated from each other for acoustical separation. Ross explained that this was a primary requirement, so that simultaneous events would not interfere acoustically with each other.

The outstanding feature of the building is the exposed steelwork. Whereas most buildings hide their structural steel, ArtsQuest features it. The effect replicates the exposed steel of Bethlehem Steel's industrial shops. Along with the I-beams and columns are work platforms so common in industrial environments.

All the steelwork is painted Golden Gate Orange, a paint developed for the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. It is a variation of International Orange, a particularly visible color. The choice of color is significant, because Bethlehem Steel was the supplier of the fabricated steel for this world-famous bridge.

The Steel Stacks setting and the ArtsQuest building brings the memorable and proud history of Bethlehem Steel South Side shops to both nostalgia buffs and casual visitors. All in all, an excellent example of recycled glory.

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This issue of the Valley Engineer has two new entries for our membership. First is the letter Roger Miller PE has sent to area businesses soliciting contributions to our Scholarship Fund. If your organization has not received this request, please take the time to read the letter, and use your influence to obtain a contribution. Contributions from individuals and businesses are the main source of funds for this very worthwhile enterprise.

Second, the minutes of the November Board meeting are also included in this Newsletter, to better inform the members as to the activities of the Chapter. This will be a standard feature of the Valley Engineer. Chris Williams does an excellent job recording the events. We hope it is of interest.

Cont'd P. 9



**Lehigh Valley Chapter**  
**Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers**  
 Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe and Carbon Counties  
 (Organized 1935)



## SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Please Contact the Valley Engineer Editor to sponsor scholarships for the remainder of the calendar year.

## THE GIFT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME – SCHOLARSHIP

A great way to be involved in the LV Chapter is to contribute to the **SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND**. The Scholarship Committee is continually seeking contributions to the Fund. If you would like to contribute in any amount –please see the attached form and on the LVPSPE website – [www.LVPSPE.org/scholarships](http://www.LVPSPE.org/scholarships)

PLEASE WRITE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO: **PENNSYLVANIA ENGINEERING FUND**. Donations should still be mailed to:

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Please note “Scholarship Endowment Fund” on the comment line.



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The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation currently administers the following scholarships for engineering students:

### Undergraduate

- \$2,000 PEF Grant
- \$1,000 Harrisburg Chapter PSPE Grant
- \$1,000 Professional Engineers in Private Practice Grant

### Upperclassmen

- \$2,000 Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation Grant

Applications and guidelines are on-line now at <http://www.LVPSPE.org/scholarships>

Any questions regarding the Scholarship Endowment Fund and Opportunities can be directed to

Roger A. Miller, P. E.  
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## Board of Direction Meetings

The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2nd) Monday of each month. Open to all members they are held at DeSales University Hurd Science Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

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### **Closing Thoughts**

#### **9/11/2001, A Personal Account**

Alfred Gruenke, PE

On the way to the State of Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers Conference in Pittsburgh, my wife Joan and I stopped in Shenksville to view the Flight 93 Memorial. We had been there before, when the memorial was a mere collection of make-shift contributions. A week later we went to Ground Zero to see the progress with the construction. Seeing both sites brought back memories of that tragic event.

We all remember where we were at times of a national catastrophe; Kennedy assassination, the Challenger disaster, the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

On that fateful day when America was attacked, I was on assignment in Egypt, at a cement plant about 80 kilometers South of Cairo. We lived in a guest house in the little nondescript town of El Quibabat, 60 kilometers South of Cairo. There were two

Americans, one Canadian, one Indian, and one Dane from New Jersey. Three men were with their wives. I had been in Egypt twenty years before, but the world had changed in that time. Religiosity was much more prevalent than in the 1980's.

Shortly after 3:00 in the afternoon of 9/11, Site Manager Paul Bouchard received a cell phone call from his wife, Julie, who lived in Montreal. The message was short. A plane had flown into one of the World Trade Towers. We assumed this was a little Cessna, or something similar. Not that big a deal. While he was talking to her, she told Paul a second plane had flown into the second tower, and that these were commercial airliners, not single engine puddle jumpers! We called our Bethlehem office, but they could not offer more information beyond what Julie told us. One of our vendors, Siemens, had three people on site for a short visit. They immediately announced that they were leaving Egypt on the first flight to Germany. We found out later that they caught a flight around midnight. We stayed.

Paul, Mechanical Engineer John Gulentz, and I traveled home in the same car. We sadly agreed that this meant war. But against whom?

We watched the news on CNN, becoming more fearful as the evening progressed. We learned that the Pentagon had also been attacked, and that all air traffic was grounded in the US. There was continual speculation that there was a missing airliner somewhere out there. We may have been made aware of Flight 93 but the attack on the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon overshadowed it.

At some point we learned that Arab Moslems had hijacked the planes and had flown them into the buildings. What to make of this? We were, after all, in the middle of Egypt. Few people even knew exactly where we were.

Was this part of a general campaign against Americans? Were we targeted? There was a police checkpoint up the street from us, but I was more apprehensive than comforted by their presence. If the house was attacked, what could I do? The only "weapon" I had was a Buck-style folding knife. There was no back door, and the windows were inaccessible.

We all would like to think that we will act bravely when in danger. I know all the sayings about cowards and heroes, but when confronted with stark reality this was small comfort. I've been in physical danger before, but never against me personally. I was afraid and didn't know what to do. I'm not a physical person. I'm an Engineer, not a soldier. So I cooked and ate my dinner, blocked the door with a chair, and went to sleep.

Fortunately, nothing happened and we went to work the next day. The Egyptians had no idea what had happened. When I told them, they said that this was impossible, an Arab could never do such a thing!

Obviously, they soon found out that it was possible, but our life, and the site, changed. We never received threats of any kind, but were still uneasy. We received a military escort to and from work. The guards were armed and wore bullet proof vests. We were offered guards on the site, but decided that this would be too restrictive. After all, we had a job to do!

Every other weekend we drove to Maadi, a Southern suburb of Cairo, to buy our groceries. Maadi is the center of the expat community in Cairo. Among other things, it's the home of Cairo American College, really a K-12 school system serving mostly the expat community. The streets used to be bustling with people, the restaurants crowded. After 9/11, the atmosphere changed. People

stayed inside. There was an eerie quiet, almost spooky. One had the urge to whisper.

We were in the habit of going to the city of Beni Sueff every weekend for our vegetables and baked goods. We had noticed an undercurrent of anti-Americanism there, so we didn't go there any more.

Slowly, after a couple of weeks, life returned to Maadi. Not as before, but better. Then, we attacked Afghanistan, and everything reverted. Again the streets became empty and quiet.

Other local businesses suffered. I went to Khan el Khalili, the tourist zook, (zook is Arabic; bazaar is Persian) to buy Christmas presents for my grandchildren. The number of tourists was only a fraction of what it was before 9/11. The tourist mix had also changed. More Italians and French, who spend very little, and very few Americans, who tend to spend much more. One shop keeper told me that his gross for one week is less than what it used to be for one day.

One day we went for a drive to the Red Sea and to the city of Suez. The shore was littered with dozens of unfinished condos, resorts, and villas built for rich Egyptians and Europeans. But financing had dried up. No foreigners were going to spend their holidays in Egypt after 9/11!

I spent Christmas in Egypt that year. We all knew how to behave in a potential hostile environment; keep a low profile, don't draw attention to yourself. But it was Christmas, and consequences be damned! I decided to buy a Santa Claus hat. I scoured the shops in Maadi until I found one, and wore it walking around and driving home. I'm sure that there were individuals who gladly would have slit my throat for displaying that hat, but the overall reaction from the locals was as I had hoped; in good humor.



Christmas in Egypt, 2001

I left Egypt at the end of January, 2002. The project continued for a couple more years, with no security concerns. I'm glad for that, but the days immediately after 9/11 were scary.

We never know how we will react when faced with dangerous situations, until such situations become realities. Maybe General Patton had it right when he said "Courage is fear holding on a minute longer".

-----  
Leadership is defined differently by many people. Some confuse authority with leadership. It isn't about directing others to perform tasks. Leadership is the ability to get others to do the right things, or things they might not do without the influence of the leader; and ultimately, leaders want people to feel good or confident about the actions they take.

-Clyde K. Hornberger, Ed.D

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**5 PEARLS OF WISDOM.**

1. Money cannot buy happiness but...somehow, its more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes Benz than it is on a bicycle.

2. Forgive your enemy, but remember the bastard's name.
  3. Help a man when he is in trouble & he will remember you when he is in trouble again.
  4. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.
  5. Alcohol does not solve a problem, but then neither does milk.
- 

**AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES**

1. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop.

2. For high blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure in your veins. Remember to use a timer.

3. A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.

4. You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape.

-----  
I profoundly believe it takes a lot of practice to become a moral slob.  
William F. Buckley, Jr.

-----  
"I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day."  
-Lyndon B. Johnson

-----  
A piece of spaghetti or a military unit can only be led from the front end.  
George S. Patton



Dear Fellow Engineer:

On behalf of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (LVPSPE), I am asking for your support for our 2012 – 2013 scholarship program to assist graduating high school students interested in pursuing a career in engineering. Every year, we select a number of promising young high school students from the Lehigh Valley area who will be going to college in pursuit of a degree in Engineering. We honor them by presenting them with a scholarship to assist with their tuition. Contributions from firms and individuals is the main source of funds for this program.

Our economy continues a slow recovery. It is often during these times of uncertainty that investment in the future pays the greatest dividends. This is an opportunity to invest in the future of our youth, who, with your support and encouragement, could become leaders in the effort to maintain our nation's technological leadership. Your donations could lead to a future hire of one of these bright and promising young engineers, providing talent and enthusiasm to your firm. All this can happen only as a result of your support.

In 2011, our local Chapter awarded four students scholarships totaling \$6,000.00. With your help, we hope to be able to increase our support to this year's applicants.

The Lehigh Valley chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (LVPSPE) has a unique opportunity for you. This year the Chapter is not selling advertising, per se. Instead, we are asking for donations to our scholarship program, and in return thanking our contributors with "space" in the **Valley Engineer** newsletter. AND, there is a significant benefit for you – since ALL of your donation will go to academic scholarships, your donation will be **100% tax-deductible!** Your donation will be acknowledged in the **Valley Engineer** newsletter, on the [www.LVPSPE.org](http://www.LVPSPE.org) website, and also at our scholarship awards banquet.

Please review the Donation Levels on the attached Scholarship Donation Worksheet. Please send the worksheet, your donation (made out to "**Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation**"), and your artwork to me. Thank you for supporting Lehigh Valley's engineering scholars!

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about our program.

Sincerely,



Roger Miller, PE  
Scholarship Committee, LVPSPE  
[rmiller@borton-lawson.com](mailto:rmiller@borton-lawson.com)

**Scholarship Donation Worksheet**

**1) Choose Your Donation Level:**

Choose One	Donation Level	Donation Amount	Valley Engineer Space	Dimensions (WxH)
	Freshman	\$1 - \$124	One Line of Text	--
	Sophomore	\$125 - \$249	Business Card	3½"×2"
	Junior	\$250 - \$499	Quarter Page	3½"×4½"
	Senior	\$500 - \$999	Half Page	3½"×9½" or 7½"×4½"
	Graduate	\$1,000+	Full Page	7½"×9½"

**2) One Line of Text (for ALL Donation Levels):**

All contributors will have "one line of text" (up to 50 characters) which will appear in the **Valley Engineer**, the [www.LVPSPE.org](http://www.LVPSPE.org) website, and also in the Annual Scholarship Banquet program.

**3) Artwork (for Donations of \$125 or More):**

- Artwork is attached
- Artwork will be emailed to [Newsletter@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Newsletter@LVPSPE.org)
- Please reuse artwork from previous year
- Please contact me regarding artwork

**4) Hyperlink:**

Your artwork will be prominently displayed on the Scholarships page of the [www.LVPSPE.org](http://www.LVPSPE.org) website. You have the option of including a hyperlink to your website or email address:

**5) Contact Information:**

Name	
Firm	
Address	
C/S/Z	
Phone	
Email	

**6) Payment:**

Please make your check out to "Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation" or "PEF". PEF is a 501(c)3 charity, and all contributions are 100% tax-deductible. Send the check, along with this form, to:

Roger A. Miller, P.E.  
 Borton Lawson  
 3897 Adler Place  
 Bethlehem, PA 18017

**MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 12, 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
At 230 Hurd Science Center, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA**

Attendees: Peter Staffeld, Al Gruenke, Al Dezubay, Roger Miller, Ray Szczucki, Harry Garman and Chris Williams

Call to Order: Peter Staffeld called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

President – Peter Staffeld

- Student Chapters at Lehigh & Lafayette
  - Peter has had discussions with Chris Blechschmidt – Lafayette chapter is in the works.
  - Deadline for April FE Exam is fast approaching.
- EOY/YEOY Call for Nominations
  - Peter reviewed the Delaware Valley Chapter's application and felt that it was more straightforward than ours. He made some revisions to ours in order to simplify the application process.
  - Jan 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for nominations.

Program Committee – Kevin Campbell

- November: Sands Casino (Nov 27th)
- December: Annual Holiday Party @ Allentown Brew Works (Dec 13th)
  - Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski expected to be in attendance.
- January: PDH?
- February: Eweek
- March: PDH?
- April: PDH?
- May: Annual Meeting & Installment of Officers

Valley Engineer – Al Gruenke

New issue out soon – will include report on recent event at Artsquest/PBS. Approximately 2 dozen attendees.

Treasurer – Ray Szczucki.

- Recently filed IRS form 990-N
- Never received bill from State for ad. Ray will follow up with State.
- Has received typical income from dues and tours/PDHs.
- Checking balance: \$4,190.46 (10/31)
- Savings balance: \$29,155.30 (10/31)
- Annual audit is coming up. Ray hopes that Mike Basta and Mike Barron will again serve on the audit committee.

State Director – Angelika Forndran

No report

Past President – Alan Fornwalt

No report



## Old Business

- Scholarship Letter (Roger) - Donor letter has been sent. Scholarship letter is being handled by Al Dezubay.
- Search for new Membership Chair (Peter) – With Mike Barron stepping down shortly, we will be in need of a new Membership Chair.
- Committee to Investigate Revising the Chapter Bylaws – Harry Garman volunteered to work on revisions to Chapter Bylaws.
- According to our current Constitution, the Board Vice President becomes President-Elect and President-Elect becomes the President. Last year, Peter was willing to serve as President for a second consecutive term, which technically didn't follow the Constitution. The major changes to the Bylaws are intended to provide for more flexibility in filling Board positions.
- Can use State Constitution with our own Bylaws OR write our own version of both.
- Harry recommends using the State Constitution and the Chapter's custom bylaws.
- The existing Constitution allows for 13 Officers and up to 20 members of the Board of Directors. Harry's proposal would change the composition of the Chapter's Officers and Board of Directors as follows:
  - Position of President-Elect is eliminated.
  - Chapter Directors from 6 to 3. No longer Officers, but still members of Board.
  - Alternate State Director is no longer an Officer, but still member of Board.
  - Immediate Past President would now become an Officer.
  - Other members of the Board would include up to three Practice Division Representatives and a Young Engineer Advisory Council (YEAC) rep (if such council is formed).
  - It was recommended at the Board meeting that an additional Board position be added for a representative from each of our Student Chapters.
  - Term limits would be eliminated for all, except the President who would be limited to two consecutive terms.
  - A President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 1 Chapter Director and Alternate State Director would be elected every year.
  - Harry is coordinating with other members of the Bylaws Committee and expects to have a final version for distribution and vote to general membership in December.
  - Several Board members also provided recommendations to Harry for various minor revisions.
    - One change would be to allow voting by electronic communication rather than mail. Peter indicated that there is a website which can act as a ballot box, keeping votes secret, if desired.
    - Ray recommended changing the fiscal year from June 1<sup>st</sup> - July 31<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>. This would allow for most May accounting items to clear prior to the end of the fiscal year.

## New Business

Adjournment at 7:03 PM on a motion by Ray Szczuki and seconded by Al Gruenke, all were in favor.