



**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER**  
 PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF  
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

**Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, and Carbon Counties**  
**(Organized 1935)**

# Valley Engineer Newsletter

February-March 2024

## President's Message!

Alexa Rooney, EIT, JD, President

This was another great year at MATHCOUNTS®. The event took place on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Orefield Middle School. We had six students that qualified to move on to the state competition. This next level of competition is set to be held March 22-23, 2024. We wish the students luck at the next competition.

Lehigh Valley PSPE awarded our Engineer of the Year (EOY) and Young Engineer of the Year (YEOY) awards. Congratulations to Greg Kuklinski, PE. as our Engineer of the Year and Nicholas Giglio, EIT. as our Young Engineer of the Year. You can find the EOY and YEOY Bios later in this newsletter.

In the coming months, we will have a tour of City Center Group and a tour of Dorney Park. More information on these tours will be released soon, so keep a look out in your email. Mark your calendars for our annual Scholarship Dinner on May 23, 2024, at Madeline's in Fogelsville.

For 2024-2025 we do have our Scholarship Chair position open on the board. If you are interested, please contact a member of the board for more information or to nominate someone for the position.

I look forward to our upcoming tours and awarding our scholarship to future engineering students. Applications were due March 17, 2024. Winners will be announced next month. I hope we can celebrate our winners with all of you at our Scholarship Dinner in May.

### Activities:

Dorney Park Tour, April 24 or 25, 2024.

City Center Group, April – TBD.

Scholarship Awards Dinner, May 23, 2024,  
 Madeline's, Fogelsville, PA



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY  
 OF  
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER  
 (ORGANIZED 1935)**

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

# MATHCOUNTS 2024

The MATHCOUNTS competition was held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Orefield Middle School, Orefield, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. There was a total of 19 schools participating plus two non-school competitors. Including alternates, there were 194 total participants. We had 35 volunteers, many of whom are LVPSPE members.

The team from Springhouse Middle School (Eddy Zhang, Oscar Liu, Wesley Luo, and Lucas Yang) as well as individuals Cole Deebel (non-school competitor) and Derek Yao (Springhouse Middle School ) will be going to the state competition in Hershey on March 22-23.

## Top Six Schools:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place school - Springhouse Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place school - Nitschmann Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place school - Orefield Middle School
- 4<sup>th</sup> place school - Saucon Valley Middle School
- 5<sup>th</sup> place school - Easton Area Middle School
- 6<sup>th</sup> place school - Moravian Academy



2<sup>nd</sup> Place School – Nitschmann Middle School



3<sup>rd</sup> Place School – Orefield Middle School



1<sup>st</sup> Place School – Springhouse Middle School



4<sup>th</sup> Place School – Saucon Valley Middle School

“Positive thinking can be contagious. Being surrounded by winners helps you develop into a winner.”

-Arnold Schwarzenegger

“By the way, there is only one correct answer. The best number is 73. You’re probably wondering why? Seventy-three is the 21<sup>st</sup> prime number, its mirror 37 is the 12<sup>th</sup> prime number. It’s mirror 21 is the product of multiplying (hang on to your hats) 7 and 3. Heh heh, Did I lie?”

-Dr. Sheldon Cooper





*5<sup>th</sup> Place School – Easton Area High School*



*1<sup>st</sup> Place Eddy Zhang – Springfield Middle School*



*6<sup>th</sup> Place School – Moravian Academy*



*Most Improved School – Nitschmann Middle School*

**Top Ten Individuals:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Eddy Zhang - Springfield Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Oscar Liu - Springfield Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Wesley Luo - Springfield Middle School
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Lucas Yang - Springfield Middle School
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Derek Yao - Springfield Middle School
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Cole Deebel - Non-School Competitor
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Matthew Huang - Springfield Middle School
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Yihan Li - Springfield Middle School
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Vihaan Rao - Springfield Middle School
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Ekansh Gupta - Nitschmann Middle School

**Top 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

- Top 6<sup>th</sup> grader - Vihaan Rao
- Top 7<sup>th</sup> grader - Wesley Luo

**Top Females:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Yihan Li - Springfield Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Claire Liu - Moravian Academy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ella Chen - Springfield Middle School

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 "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.  
 -Michael Jordan

## Engineer's Week Banquet 2024

Every year the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council sponsors a banquet to commemorate Engineering Week. This year it was held on February 23, 2024, at the Iacocca Conference Center, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Terry Hart, a Lehigh University graduate and former NASA astronaut, US Air Force pilot, and telecommunications executive, was the keynote speaker at the event.



*Special Recognition (Top Private School) –  
Moravian Academy*



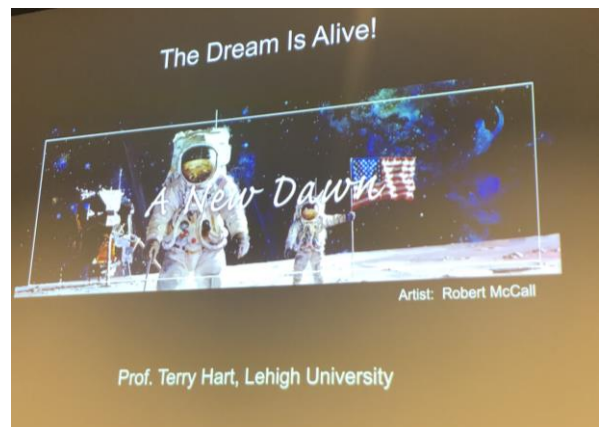
*Honorable Mention (Top Non-School Competitor) –  
Cole Deebel*

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"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead  
where there is no path and leave a trail."  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

-----  
"Always do what's right; this will gratify some and  
astonish the rest "  
-Albert Einstein  
-----



Terry was part of the STS 41-C Challenger, NASA's eleventh Space Shuttle mission operating the Remote Manipulator System (RMS) that retrieved the Solar Maximum Satellite for repairs. He also operated the IMAX camera for the feature "The Dream is Alive".



Continued on page 5



After leaving NASA, Terry was the director of engineering and operations for AT&T's satellite network. Terry is currently a professor of mechanical engineering and mechanics at Lehigh University and a FAA Certified Flight Instructor.

Our chapter recognizes two individuals annually at the banquet: Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year.

## 2024 Engineer of The Year



**Gregory Kuklinski, PE, F.ASCE, Senior Project Manager, Alfred Benesch & Company**

Gregory Kuklinski, PE, F.ASCE, is a Senior Project Manager with Alfred Benesch & Company in Allentown, PA. He is a 1998 graduate of Lehigh University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and a minor in Music. At Benesch since 2000, Greg has been responsible for managing over 100 transportation and building projects for PennDOT, local counties, townships and private clients. Greg's background in transportation includes structural bridge and building design and hydraulic design of highway bridges. Some of his most notable projects that he designed or managed include the SR222 bypass in Trexlertown, the 15<sup>th</sup> and Ward Street Bridges in Allentown over the Little Lehigh Creek, the Union Street Bridge in Allentown over the Cedar Creek, various projects at the Trexler Game Preserve, and the Haas Bridge replacement in Upper Macungie Township. He served as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Engineer for the Northampton County P3 for the replacement and rehabilitation of 25 bridges in the county. He is currently the structure lead for the \$60M Section 101 and the estimated \$90M Section 103 for the SR322 widening project in Delaware County. Greg was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, and has resided in the Lehigh Valley since graduation. He

is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), and the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE). Within ASCE, Greg currently serves as Region 2 Governor representing PA, MD, DE, and DC and is the Practitioner Advisor for the Lehigh University Civil Engineering Student Chapter of ASCE. He previously served on the Society Committee on Younger Members, Committee on Geographic Units and the Leader Training Committee helping to plan and organize the annual Eastern Multi-Regional Leadership Conferences, and the Presidents and Governors Forum in Reston, VA for all new Section and Branch Presidents.

He has served multiple positions within the Lehigh Valley Section of ASCE including most recently a photographer for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary photobook highlighting the top 100 Structures in the Lehigh Valley. In 2023, Greg was named a Fellow of ASCE at the Annual Convention in Chicago, IL. Greg has also been involved with various alumni activities at Lehigh University since graduation including the Alumni Board of Directors, Class Correspondent, University Awards Committee, Five-Year Reunion Planning Committee, starting a University Alumni Mentoring Program, Newman Foundation, and completing a three-year term on the University Board of Trustees.

In addition to Greg's involvement in Professional Societies, he is currently the Baseball Coordinator and Coach for the Schnecksville Playground Association, Committee Chair for Cub Scout Pack 57, and is the organist at his church. Greg is married to his wife Dawn and has two children.



*Greg's Speech Upon Receiving His Award*

Continued on page 6



*Greg and The Benesch Team*

## 2024 Young Engineer of The Year



**Nick Giglio, EIT, Transportation Construction Inspector, Urban Engineers**

Nick Giglio grew up with a passion for learning how things worked. He would often point out cool bridges and highways during family road trips and was fascinated by large buildings and structures. Civil Engineering became a growing passion.

Nick went to Penn State Harrisburg and graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 2019. He passed the FE exam during his senior year and earned his EIT license upon graduation.

After graduation, Nick began working for Urban Engineers in their construction management division. He has held the role of Transportation Construction Inspector on various local PennDOT projects, ranging in scope from a \$4.5 million bridge replacement project to a \$100 million interchange reconstruction project. Some projects include the Tilghman Street Bridge rehabilitation in Allentown, the PA 100 full depth reconstruction near Fogelsville, and the ongoing Interstate 80 Exit 308 reconstruction in Stroudsburg.

Nick has involved himself in many aspects of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), starting in 2016 when he joined as a student member at Penn State Harrisburg. Later he joined the section board, helping to plan events, meetings, and attend local events to represent the school. Upon graduation, Nick joined the Lehigh Valley Section and Construction Institute and transitioned to a board role as the Vice-President of the Younger Members Group.

After his term as Vice-President, Nick was elected President of the Younger Members Group, and frequently engaged with students and members within the section at various events and panels. Throughout the 2021-2022 timeframe, Nick was involved with two extensive projects - the Lehigh Valley Section's 100th Anniversary Photobook, and the 2022 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card. Nick was a researcher and contributor for both projects, which involved weekly work for much of the year.

Nick currently serves as President-Elect for the Lehigh Valley Section ASCE.



*Nick's Speech Upon Receiving His Award*



*Nick and The Urban Engineer's Team*

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Engineers make very sure in their day-to-day lives to fully understand their tasks at hand. You are just another task for him to accomplish, so he will do everything in his power to work to understand you and learn how to make you happy.

When he figures out what works, he'll store it as a "formula" in his head and remember that it makes you happy – and he will continue to repeat it while making tiny variations each time so you're still on your toes. It's a wonderful and exciting happiness!  
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## **SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS**

A great way to be involved in the LVPSPE Chapter is to contribute to the **LVPSPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. Please Contact the Valley Engineer Editor to sponsor scholarships for the remainder of the calendar year.

If you would like to contribute any amount –please send your TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation to PA ENGINEERING FUND. Donations should be mailed to:

**PA Engineering Foundation % LVPSPE  
P.O. Box 195  
Northampton, PA 18067**

Please note "LVPSPE Scholarship Fund" on the comment line.

Or, you may also contribute via the LVPSPE website <http://www.lvpspe.org/Donations>.

Scholarship application is at <http://www.lvpspe.org/Scholarships>. Any questions regarding scholarships can be directed to

Alex Dezubay, PE  
610-597-2007  
[Scholarship@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Scholarship@LVPSPE.org)

### **PEF SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation oversees the Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS program and PEF Scholarships.

The purpose is to help nurture future engineers.

## **2023 – 2024 LVPSPE SCHOLARSHIP DONORS**

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Newton Engineering  
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### **Freshmen**

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Michael Basta, PE. F-NSPE  
William Erdman, PE  
Ray Szczucki, PE  
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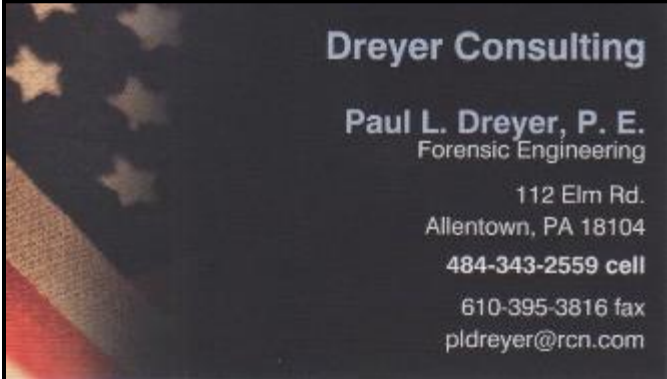
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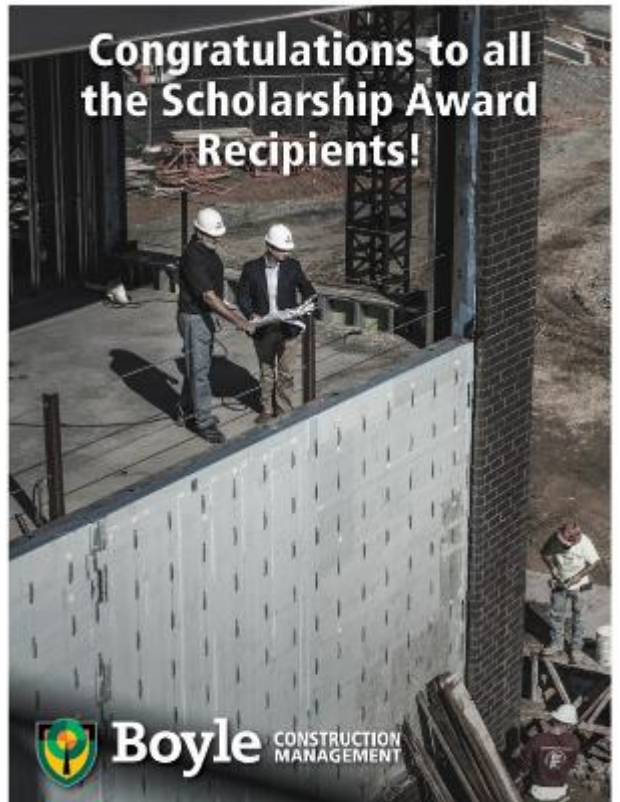
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A photograph of a large industrial facility, likely a cement or mining plant. The image shows a complex network of grey steel beams and supports. Two large, cylindrical, light-colored industrial tanks are visible, one on the left and one on the right. In the center, two workers wearing orange safety vests and white hard hats are standing on a yellow metal walkway with railings. The lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting an indoor or shaded industrial environment.

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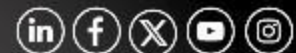


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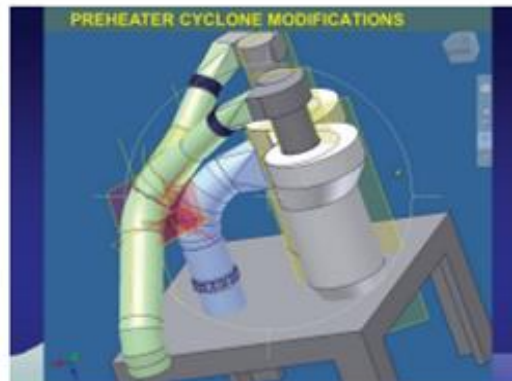


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SEPTEMBER 2024



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## The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Sommer Memorial Golf Tournament is almost upon us.

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[www.NSPE.org](http://www.NSPE.org)

### Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

[www.PSPE.org](http://www.PSPE.org)

### Lehigh Valley Chapter – PSPE

[www.LVPSPE.org](http://www.LVPSPE.org)

## 2023– 2024 State Officers

### PSPE President

Nicole Wilson, PE  
215-766-1211 ext. 127

### State Director –

Michael Basta, PE, F-NSPE  
[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

### Alt State Director –,

Al Dezubay, PE  
[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

### VP Northeast

Dan Cook, PE  
570-624-4287.

## Board of Direction Meetings

The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Monday of each month. Open to all members;

## 2023 – 2024 Chapter Officers

### Chapter Officers

President-Alexa Rooney, EIT, JD  
[ARooney@pplweb.com](mailto:ARooney@pplweb.com)  
610-774-6011

Vice President – Jonathan Kiechel, PE  
[jkiechel@kceinc.com](mailto:jkiechel@kceinc.com)  
610.395.0971

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[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

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Director – Aaron Cali  
[aaron.cali@htlyons.com](mailto:aaron.cali@htlyons.com)





**Lehigh Valley Chapter  
Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers  
Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, and Carbon Counties**

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Minutes for the February 12, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting  
6:00pm on Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Alexa Rooney, Mary Rooney, Ray Szczucki, Al Gruenke, Cody Callahan, Frank Walsh, Jeff Kutz, Jonathan Kiechel, and Mike Basta

**A. Call to Order: 6:03 PM**

**B. Programs**

- Activities:
  - February – Engineers Banquet February 23, 2024, at Iacocca Conference Center at Lehigh University.
  - March – Dorney Park/ATLSS Lab/Blue Mountain
    - Cody heard back from Dorney Park and is working on coordinating a potential tour date. No update on ATLSS Lab or Blue Mountain.
  - April – Center City
  - May – Haines Mill (end of April or early May) - \$9/person & Scholarship Dinner (middle of May)
    - Haines Mill offers open to the public tours on Saturday and Sundays from 1-4.
  - Tentative Scholarship Dinner date on Thursday, May 23. We are going to try to schedule it at Copperhead Grille (most likely the one off 378).
- Newsletter
  - Alexa will reach out to Chris and Al about potential pictures.
  - Al and Jonathan need bios for EOY and YEOY candidates.
  - Alexa will provide an article to Al and Jonathan
  - Jonathan will look into getting contributions from Keystone Engineering for sponsorship of newsletter.
  - Send banquet information to Al and Jonathan once it is determined.

**C. MATHCOUNTS**

- Based on email vote, everyone was in agreement for LVPSPE to pay the \$80 entrance fee for the students moving on to the state competition.

**D. Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships**

- Fundraising – Frank Walsh
  - Received to date: \$10,700 worth of pledges. \$9,200 collected.

- Frank will send a follow-up email to the list of donors.
- We would like to get a contact at Lutron to reach out to regarding potential donations.
- Alexa is working on getting a donation from PPL for next year.
- Social Media – LinkedIn – Jeff will post something about engineers week and scholarship dinner.
- Frank is looking for someone who is willing to take over the fundraising for the future.
- Scholarships - Jeff will send emails to the school districts regarding scholarships.

**E. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki**

- Balance as of 1-31-24
  - Checking \$1,233.79
  - Savings \$8,355.90

**F. State Director – Mike Basta**

- Mike was assigned to find new President for Northeast Region PSPE. If anyone is interested reach out to Mike.
- Alexa to add the alternate state director to the agenda.
- No report. Draft report from the meeting hasn't been generated yet.

**G. Past President – Jeff Kutz**

- Jeff will continue posting social media content.

**H. Old Business/New Business**

- Website Update
  - \$700 to redo the website. We applied for a grant to do this. Alexa will forward the proposal to Ray to update the grant application.
  - Looking into different options for collecting money/processing payments.
  - The recurring cost estimate is \$50/month.
  - We can keep the domain name.
  - Everyone voted in favor of going forward with redoing the website.
- Open positions: Scholarship Chair (Co-chair 23-24 and Chair 24-25)
  - If anyone is interested reach out to Alexa or Frank.
- Board of Directors meetings for the 2023-2024 year:
  - March 11, 2024
  - April 8, 2024

**I. Adjournment on motion by Ray, seconded by Jeff at 6:58 PM.**



**Lehigh Valley Chapter  
Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers  
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Minutes for the March 11, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting  
6:00pm on Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Alexa Rooney, Mary Rooney, Al Gruenke, Cody Callahan, Frank Walsh, Jeff Kutz, Jonathan Kiechel, Robert Peruzzi, and Mike Basta

**A. Call to Order: 6:09 PM**

**B. Programs**

- Activities:
  - March –ATLSS Lab/Blue Mountain
  - April – Center City. Cody will ask Dorney about a possible tour on April 25 from 6-7.
  - May – Scholarship Dinner on May 23 – decided to hold the dinner at Madeline’s.
  - September – Haines Mill - will try to schedule for Saturday, September 21 from 1-4 PM.
- Newsletter – Al has been coordinating the newsletter with Jonathan on putting together the newsletter.

**C. MATHCOUNTS**

- MATHCOUNTS coordination – Deferred until next year
- Volunteer coordination - Deferred until next year

**D. Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships**

- Fundraising – Frank Walsh
  - Received to date: \$10,950 (\$13,500 pledged)
  - Discussed giving out \$10,000 for scholarships and holding onto the additional funding for future fundraising years.
- Scholarships – Forward all scholarship applications to Jeff Kutz.

**E. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki**

- Balance as of 2-29-24
  - Checking \$1,089.16
  - Savings \$7,244.19



**F. State Director – Mike Basta**

- State Director Report – Mike Basta
  - Mike is going to send a letter to PSPE to recommend Al Dezubay as the Vice President of the Northeast region.
  - Mike suggested looking for an alternate speaker for the May 23 scholarship dinner if Nicole (President of PSPE) has a last-minute conflict.
    - Robert Peruzzi suggested that he could speak as a backup.

**G. Past President – Jeff Kutz**

- Social Media – posted some info from the engineer of the year presentation.
- Send final bios to Jeff so that Tracy can update the website.

**H. Old Business/New Business**

- Website Update
  - Send suggestions for new website to Alexa.
  - Cody will talk to Peter about merging contacts on the current website to lower the payment plan until the new website is functioning.
- Open positions: Scholarship Chair (Co-chair 23-24 and Chair 24-25)
  - If anyone is interested reach out to Alexa or Frank.
- Board of Directors meetings for the 2023-2024 year:
  - April 8, 2024
  - May 23, 2024 - Location TBD

**I. Adjournment on motion by Jeff, seconded by Mary at 6:51 PM.**