

Valley Engineer Newsletter

JANUARY 2022



PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
(ORGANIZED 1935)

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

The State PSPE Column

Angelika Forndran, PE

Lehigh Valley Chapter State Director's Report

Updates on activities and resources available at the state PSPE level from the PSPE Board meeting held January 22, 2022, via Zoom meeting:

Mark your calendars 2022!

The National NSPE PECON 2022 will be in person August 1-3 at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia. This is great opportunity to mingle with engineers from other states, understand the diversity of engineering issues across states, and cross-state licensure issues for engineers working for companies and traveling across states. There will be numerous technical presentations for PDHs. Watch for registration information on the NSPE and PSPE websites. Support Philadelphia for hosting this national conference.

The PSPE annual conference will be at Wilkes University September 23-24, 2022, with both in-person events for one day and PDH webinars held virtually similar to last year. The virtual webinars accommodate all engineers in an easy to access way – from office, from home, live with chats, or within a week off-hours. Wide spectrum of topics offer technical subjects, forensic engineering, and ethics case studies affecting how engineers stay current on projects and protect a level of quality for public health, safety and welfare.

THE MATHCOUNTS® State-wide Competition will be in-person event March 18-19 in the Harrisburg area. While chapter MATHCOUNTS are

Continued on page 2

being held virtual, the chapter winners will be invited to the in-person state level competition with numerous adjustments so that this event will be safe for all and following protocols. The PSPE Committee will reach out to request chapter volunteers and will provide detailed information explaining their effort to encourage students and working engineers' engagement for this fun event!

Other updates:

Check this newsletter for high school scholarship opportunities for both LV Chapter scholarship and remember separate application to PEF State scholarship.

This Chapters will submit their EOY and YEOY candidates to the PSPE for state award consideration.

Legislative updates include \$1.6 billion to PA for funding transportation Improvements out of the Federal Infrastructure bill. PA legislature to work on distribution of these funds. John Wanner is available to any chapter to hold a virtual meeting to present information and engage in Q&A.

Updated Engineers' Creed:

This updated creed was based on the surveys to all members to vote on the options.

"As a Professional Engineer, I dedicate my professional knowledge to the advancement and betterment of public health, safety, and welfare. I pledge:

- To give the utmost of performance;
- To participate in none but honest enterprise;
- To live and work according to the highest standards of professional conduct;
- To place service before profit, the honor and standing of my profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations. In humility, I make this pledge."

Adopted by the National Society of Professional Engineers, 2021.

A flower cannot blossom without sunshine, and man cannot live without love.
– Max Muller

Our Chapter is part of a larger organization, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation was incorporated in 1970 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation funds the Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS program and awards scholarships to high school seniors in the Commonwealth. The purpose is to help nurture future engineers.

The PEF gives \$1,000.00 scholarships to Pennsylvania high school graduates who are enrolled in a Pennsylvania ABET-accredited engineering program.

With your support, both MATHCOUNTS and scholarships will continue to lay the groundwork for up and coming engineers. We appreciate all who have supported and contributed to Pennsylvania Engineering.

www.pspe.org/about-pspe/pennsylvania-engineering-foundation/
www.pspe.org/pef-scholarship/;

This Chapter is well represented in the PEF. Peter Staffeld, PE, FNSPE, PhD is President, and Alfred Grunke, PE, is Vice President.

Please support this very worthwhile endeavor.

"Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision."
~Unknown~

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I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire.
Actually, I'm a billionaire.
-Howard Hughes

FOR THE LOVE OF STELLA

Alfred Gruenke, PE

Say the name Stella, and what comes to most people's mind is Kim Hunter, Vivian Leigh, and Marlon Brando in the classic movie "A Streetcar Named Desire."

The first problem with the movie is, someone named Stanley Kowalski living in New Orleans just doesn't seem right. A Stanley Kowalski should be living in Cleveland, or Chicago, or Shamokin. But getting past that incongruity, it was a great movie; a classic by anyone's standards. Stanley yelling "Stella!" up the steps as Stella was hiding at her friend Eunice's from Stanley's drunken rage has become part of the American story.

But I'm not really talking about movies. I'm talking about beer. Yes, Stella is probably my favorite beer.

One would normally not associate Egypt with any libation, but when in Egypt in the 1980s on the Suez Cement project Stella was the national beer of Egypt. Imports were not readily available, so it was Stella or nothing.

I drank Stella and considered it very good beer. There were a number of nationalities at this site, but nobody complained about the quality of beer. There was another brand available, Saqqara, but it was not readily available. I tried it once, but it wasn't very good. I preferred Stella. Anywhere in Egypt (at least in the metropolitan areas) ask for a beer and you were served a bottle of Stella, 22-ounce size. That's a lotta beer! No cans, no tap, just large bottles. According to the Internet the beer is now available in Egypt in international standard 500 ml bottles, 500 ml cans, and 330 ml cans, but in the 1980s it was 22-ounce bottles only.

Stella has been Egypt's beer for almost 120 years. It was made by Al Ahram Beverage Company on license from Brouwerij Artois, Belgium. The brewery was located in Giza, better known for the pyramids.

Our guest house in Heliopolis "owned" three cases of empties, which moved to site when we moved there. A case of empty bottles was worth

its weight in gold. One could not buy a new case of beer without a case of empties, so empty beer bottles were handled with care. How does one go about getting a new case of beer, you ask? Don't know. By the time I arrived the pattern had been established, though I strongly surmise that with the proper amount of *baksheesh* (bribe, tip) one could purchase a case of empties. Our drivers made sure that we never ran out. I also suspected that they surreptitiously charged a "handling fee."



For I while I was the "keeper of the beer." Anyone drinking a bottle was required to put the bottle cap into a glass. Periodically, I collected from all who partook to buy more beer.

Some time during my stay the brewery was subject to intense social pressure by Islamic fundamentalists and shut down. The expat community immediately panicked! Prices doubled, then tripled. Naturally, any establishment that made, transported, stored, or sold beer suffered from loss of revenue. Finally, after ten days, sanity returned and somebody figured out that the city of Giza and other municipalities were losing considerable amounts of money. Calm returned.

After I left Egypt I forgot about Stella. One remembers the pyramids, the traffic jams, the camels in the desert, but a bottle of beer is hardly something noteworthy.

Continued on page 13

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

PEF SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation oversees the Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS program and PEF Scholarships. The purpose is to help nurture future engineers.

The PEF gives \$1,000.00 scholarships to Pennsylvania high school graduates who are enrolled in a Pennsylvania ABET-accredited engineering program.

www.pspe.org/about-pspe/pennsylvania-engineering-foundation/
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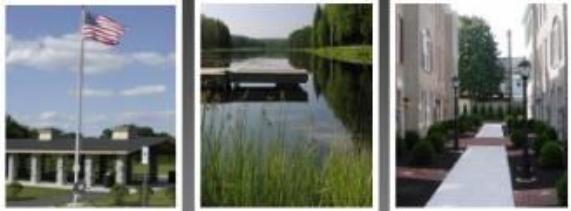
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Jamie McMahon (Electrical Engineering Major)
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Internet Addresses

National Society of Professional Engineers

www.NSPE.org

Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

www.PSPE.org

Lehigh Valley Chapter – PSPE

www.LVPSPE.org

2021 – 2022 State Officers

State officers

State Director – Mike Basta, PE

Directors@LVPSPE.org

Alt State Director – Angelika Forndran, PE

Directors@LVPSPE.org

VP Northeast:

Marleen Troy, PE, PhD

570-408-4615

Board of Directors Meetings

The monthly Board of Directors meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2nd) Monday of each month. Open to all members; they are held at the office of Bridge Gap Engineering, 1717 Main Street, Northampton, PA and also via Zoom until further notice

2021 – 2022 Chapter Officers

Chapter officers

President – Jeff Kutz, EIT

President@LVPSPE.org 215-325-1303

Vice President – Alexa Rooney, EIT

VicePresident@LVPSPE.org 610-774-6011

Treasurer – Ray Szczucki, PE

Treasurer@LVPSE.org 610-614-1245

Secretary – Chris Williams, PE, LEED AP

Secretary@LVPSEP.org 610-398-0904

Past President – Al Dezubay, PE

PastPresident@LVPSPE.org 610-597-2007

Chapter Directors

Director – Mary Rooney, PE

Directors@LVPSPE.org

Director – Frank Walsh, PE

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Congratulations to all of the LVPSPE scholarship recipients!

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Congratulations to all the Scholarship Award recipients.

You are about to enter a most noble profession, Engineering.

We are the past and the present, you are the future.

Alfred Gruenke, PE

A few years later I happened to be at the Hilton Hotel in Antwerp, Belgium. In the dining room I asked for a Stella. It was not available! I was shocked! How could Stella not be available in its country of origin? However, I've since found that this is not that unusual, that brands of beer we associate with a country is not that popular in-country but are made for export only. Foster beer from Australia, for example, was not available in Perth. The bartender at the hotel bar knew of it but did not have any.

Fast forward a few years and I'm walking in the St. Denis section of Paris with my wife and daughter. We stopped at a rather attractive sidewalk café and asked for a menu. Stella beer on tap! I couldn't believe it. That mug of beer cost \$6.50, but worth it.

Since then, I've had a penchant for Belgian beer. When Stella Artois became widely available in the Lehigh Valley I partook with vigor and enthusiasm. I also like Kölsch from Germany, but Stella is still my first choice. It is also available in bottles, but I've lost my taste for bottled beer. I believe that God intended for beer to be from a tap, or from aluminum cans. It was why He allowed aluminum to be invented.



My prized posession!

Continued on page 14

A short note on the etiquette on drinking Stella Artois here in the USA. Stella may only be drunk from a Stella glass, pictured above. Any other glass is considered sacrilege and is frowned upon in the sternest terms! I have been to establishments that served Stella, but did not have a Stella glass available, and have turned it down. I have my standards!



Stella beer was not the only surprise in Egypt. The Al Ahram Beverage Company markets Omar Khayyam Red, a really good red wine. I'm hardly a wine expert, but it was world class as far as I'm concerned. I assume that the grapes are from Egypt but I never saw any vineyards. Egypt used to have a substantial Armenian community. I suspect that any wine-

ries are vestiges of their influence. I never drank much wine when I was there in the 1980s but I partook more when at another Egyptian site in 2001. I tried to purchase it stateside, but an internet search turned up nothing.

Gin and vodka were also produced in Egypt. The main difference between the two seemed to have been the label on the bottle. They weren't just bad, they were Godawful bad! I can't imagine anyone in such depths of depravity as to actually drink such rotgut. I have been told that they were very effective for cleaning carbonized burner nozzles, but I can't personally attest to that.

Stella was a pleasant surprise, in a rather unexpected place. The duty in Egypt had more downs than ups, but Stella lifted the downs a bit. And I still enjoy it when I go out and it is available.

Returning to the movie, I think it's rather sad and depressing, but has many memorable quotations. My favorite by Blanche Dubois fits the holiday season. "Whoever you are—I have always depended on the kindness of strangers."

God must have loved dumb people. He made so many of them.

-August Polinske

"Money doesn't make you happy. I now have \$50 million but I was just as happy when I had \$48 million."

-Arnold Schwarzenegger

After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box.

-Old Italian proverb

Insults are the arguments employed by those who are in the wrong.

-Jean-Jacques Rousseau



**MINUTES with Agenda for the November 8, 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
6:00 pm at Bridge Gap Engineering Office**

Call to Order: 6:10 as remote, via GoToMeeting and phone connections
Programs

- Activities – Alexa Rooney
 - September
 - September PSPE conference
 - October
 - October LVASCE Golf Outing
 - November – no meeting discussed with Thanksgiving for families
 - December – focus on Christmas dinner – possibly at a restaurant, discussed Morgan's, Kingfish, and Bethlehem Hotel; Al Dezubay to review affordable options with Alexa; discussed if John Wanner could be speaker from PSPE
- Newsletter – Al Gruenke
 - The Sept/Oct newsletter distributed and available on LVPSPE.Org website; Board agreed that bi-monthly newsletters are to continue and thanks to Al Gruenke

MATHCOUNTS

- MATHCOUNTS coordination – Online Competition: no local LV event in person this year; the State MATHCOUNTS will be an in-person competition; Chris Williams will update progress.
- Volunteer coordination – No volunteers required for online competition

Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships

- Fundraising – Frank Walsh
 - 2021 received to date: Frank reported letter fundraising has started - members to spread the letters to any sources that he may not have on his list
- Social Media – LinkedIn
 - Jeff Kutz sharing fundraising letter on LinkedIn and others
- Scholarships – Jeff Kutz
 - Deferred to January. Discussed need to update school list and contacts; check if the chapter has the schools within its region; the Freedom HS contact is retiring; the success of obtaining applications is related to the support and initiative of the contact receiving the letter.
- EOY/YEOY
 - Start the search; EOY/YEOY nominees are needed; Angelika reported on one YEOY application in progress for submission in December.

Treasurer

- Treasurer Report – Ray Szcucki
 - Made one payment to Wild Apricot for the website service; reported account balances

State Director

- State Director Report – Angelika reported that she will submit items from the last PSPE Board meeting for the newsletter; first submission is the updated Engineer's Creed; The NSPE national conference reported to be in Philadelphia in 2022 Mike Basta reported dates and in-person conference not yet confirmed

Past President

- Past President Report – Al Dezubay and Mike Basta discussed updating the LVPSPE Bylaws; first step to locate the current Bylaws and distribute to Board; then review modeling updates based on review of PSPE updates

Old Business/New Business

- Website update- no action at this meeting
- Social media Jeff Kutz
- Insurance requirements for in-person events: Mary Rooney had sent email for feedback on insurance requirements; LVEC is planning an in-person Banquet in February; restaurant asking for insurance coverage; Board members could not recall any experience with this.
- Board of Directors meetings for the 2020-2021 year:
 - ~~Recommend meeting second Monday of each month.~~
 - ~~September 13, 2021~~
 - ~~October 11, 2021~~
 - November 8, 2021
 - December Bd mtg would be a brief mtg at the Holiday Banquet – as needed

Adjournment 6:40 pm; motion by Mike Basta, seconded and approved



Agenda for the January 10, 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
6:00 pm at Bridge Gap Engineering Office

Attendees: JK, AD, RS, FW, AR, AF, AG

Call to Order: 6:07

Programs

- Activities – Alexa Rooney
 - December – Christmas banquet was held. Smaller than past, but a good time was had by those who attended.
 - Future – Based on COVID resurgence, should we proceed with activities? Maybe try to organize something for Engineer's week, even an online event.
 - February – Engineer's Week banquet is postponed. Possibly April or May. Mary Rooney not on call so any rescheduled dates are unknown.
- Newsletter – Al Gruenke – Jeff owes Al a report to issue the next newsletter.
- Angelika confirmed that Al received report from the state

MATHCOUNTS

- MATHCOUNTS coordination – Online Competition – No update
- Volunteer coordination – None

Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships

- Fundraising – Frank Walsh
 - 2021/2022 received to date: \$2,000 pledged and received. Frank is behind due to personal issues in December.
 - First batch of checks sent to PEF
 - Social Media – LinkedIn – JK to follow-up and make a post
- Scholarships – JK will send out requests to schools in January
- EOY/YEOY – Angelika received one nomination for YEOY, supported by SWE. Al Gruenke received an application for YEOY and forwarded it. Angelika has an idea for EOY that she has yet to pursue.
- We have some time since the banquet is postponed, but for publication in the Engineers Week newsletter we still need to do something by February.

Treasurer

- Treasurer Report – Ray Szczucki – current balance: Monthly transactions: Reimbursement for holiday party, party registration fees, Wild Apricot monthly fee. RS transferred \$1,000 from savings to checking to avoid fees.
- Current Balance: Checking \$2,402.92, Savings \$10,266.54; 12/13 PayPal \$3,433.78

State Director

- State Director Report – Board meeting Jan 22 – Angelika to prepare activities report. She will inquire about a legislative report as a potential online event for a February activity
- Still planned PSPE conference in August in Philadelphia – expecting an update at the board meeting

Past President

- Past President Report – Al Dezubay – No report

Old Business/New Business

- Website update – to continue to be kicked down the road. Will re-evaluate after fundraising.
- Social media Jeff Kutz – Possible new member acquired so Jeff will continue his efforts
- Board of Directors meetings for the 2021-2022 year:
 - Recommend meeting second Monday of each month.
 - September 13, 2021
 - October 11, 2021
 - November 8, 2021
 - January 10, 2022
 - February 7, 2022 (date change)

Adjournment