



# Valley Engineer Newsletter

December 2013 - January 2014

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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- January 30<sup>th</sup> – Michelman Steel Enterprises Factory Tour
- January 30<sup>th</sup> – Villanova University for the NSPE Student Chapter's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint Chapter dinner  
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
- February 8<sup>th</sup> with a snow date of February 9<sup>th</sup> – MATHCOUNTS
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – **Engineer's Week** Banquet
- March – Dorney Park
- April – Lehigh Valley Health Network, joint event with GBC
- May – Banquet
- June – IronPigs tour followed by game



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY  
OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER  
(ORGANIZED 1935)**

## Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

Kevin T. Campbell, PE, LEED AP

First, I hope all of your holiday season was merry, and that you will have a happy and prosperous new year.

The next few months will be busy for the Lehigh Valley Chapter. Besides our monthly plant tours, MATHCOUNTS will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> (snow day 9<sup>th</sup>). Allentown School District has again graciously offered Trexler Middle School as the venue. This event is becoming more popular every year, with over 200 students from 25 area Middle Schools participating. The winning team, along with the top four individual finishers, will advance to the state competition. Our MATHCOUNTS winner the last three years was Yogeshwar Velingker, who twice went on to win the State competition. The national "Olympics of Math", is organized by the National Society of Professional Engineers in association with several other organizations. The Lehigh Valley Chapter will pay the registration and hotels costs for the competitors and their coaches.

The week of February 16 - 22 is Engineer's Week; calling attention to the achievements of Engineers to this country and the world. The week culminates at the Annual Banquet on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Fogelsville. The Lehigh Valley Chapter will again sponsor the Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the

Continued on Page 2

Year. I have sent an e-mail to all members asking for nominations. Please look around you and identify an individual who personifies the Engineering ideals.

From September 18-20 of this year the Lehigh Valley Chapter will host the PSPE State Conference, to be held at the Fogelsville Holiday Inn. I urge all members to support this function, either as PDH session participants, presenters, or in the various planned activities. On Wednesday we are planning a golf outing, with spouses' activities on other days. The banquet will feature speakers, awards, and introduction of new PSPE officers. This is a tremendous opportunity for our members to become more acquainted with our State organization.

Further in this Newsletter there is a letter soliciting funds for our Scholarship Fund, which gives four or five scholarships to outstanding high school graduates enrolled in an engineering curriculum. We have been on an upward trend the last few years, increasing our scholarships from \$750.00 to \$1,750.00 per student. Please approach your company for a contribution. If your company decides not to contribute (or even if they do), consider a personal contribution. Last year we had a couple of entities contribute \$20.00, and we welcomed it. Every dollar counts. Remember, we are the past and the present, these young people are the future!

In conclusion, I urge members to become more active and relieve those of us who have been in office for a couple of years. All levels of involvement are welcomed.

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In my many years, I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress.  
-John Adams

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I am satisfied that we are less convinced by what we hear than by what we see.  
-Herodotus

### Allentown Downtown Redevelopment

Alfred Gruenke, PE

Thirty members and guests of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers celebrated the holiday season in the Hamilton Room of the Allentown Brew Works on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Hamilton Room is on the third floor of the Brew Works, located at 812 Hamilton Street. It is the former home of Harold's Furniture Building, and features the original maple wood floors. Chandeliers from Hess's Department Store are installed in the ceiling.

The evening was dedicated to Allentown's downtown renewal. In keeping with this theme, the Brew Works served beer in old-fashioned "V" shaped beer glasses.

After socializing and libations, a team from Alvin H. Butz, Inc., led by Michael J. Butz, gave a presentation on the progress of the Allentown Downtown Redevelopment, and a picture of what it will look like when completed. Other presenters included Alvin H. Butz Inc. project managers Rob Avitabile, Kyle Collina, and John Baer.

Alvin H. Butz, Inc. is a Lehigh Valley institution, and has operated continuously since 1920. It is a family owned business. Michael Butz is a sixth generation family member to be involved in the construction industry. Alvin H. Butz Inc. is the Construction Manager of the PPL Center arena, the primary project to revitalize downtown Allentown. It is the second largest project in the company's history, after the Sands Casino. Other recent projects include Coca-Cola Park in Allentown and the DaVinci Discovery Center of Science and Technology in Dorneyville. The latter also features a 102 foot wind turbine which generates electric power for the facility.

Continued on Page 3

The Downtown Redevelopment Project consists of a multi-function hockey arena, a seven-story mixed office building and shops with direct access to the arena, and a nine-story 180 room hotel. The arena seats 8,500 hockey fans and will be ready for the 2014 hockey season. Wooden pads on top of the ice will increase the general seating to 10,000 for other events.



Current Job Cam 12/31/2013

Michael presented an update of the arena progress, with an emphasis on engineering and construction problems, beginning with the foundation. This is especially important since underground caverns and sinkholes are quiet common in the limestone bedrock of the Lehigh Valley area. The arena is built in the same area as the Commerce Plaza, a large structure that collapsed due to sinkholes in 1992. To prevent a repeat, a foundation consisting of 1,700 piles with 4,500 tons of steel was installed over the five acres.

The Dime Bank on North 7<sup>th</sup> Street presented a special case. This building is on the National Register of Historic Places due to its unique architecture, hence was left standing, but was completely restored. After area demolition and considerable digging, it was determined that the building was unstable, and the foundation had to be underpinned. This was done with close consultation with

engineering firms that specialize in underpinning operations. Due to unknown subsurface conditions, the underpinning and micro pile installation process required more time and planning than originally anticipated.

Kyle, structural project manager, went into detail describing the installation of seven trusses, with the longest spanning 236 feet. Three cranes were used for the installation of six of the seven trusses. The first one required 46 continual hours to install, the last one eight to ten hours.

There was considerable innovation by Alvin H. Butz, Inc. in the execution of this project. The brick panel walls and the arena tread and risers were prefabricated by local firms, which reduced installation time. All of the contract drawings, including a 3D model of the facility, are available to the project team on iPads.

Of considerable interest is the ice for the primary function, ice hockey. Fourteen miles of piping is required to establish the NHL caliber ice. Surprisingly, the completed ice is **only 1 1/2" thick!**

Alvin H. Butz Inc. have placed their faith in Allentown. Their offices are at 840 Hamilton Street, down the street from the Brew Works, and only a block from their latest project. They have placed their future with Allentown, and Allentown has placed their future with Alvin H. Butz, Inc.

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The government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

-Ronald Reagan

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 If everybody minded their own business, the world would go around a great deal faster than it does.

— Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

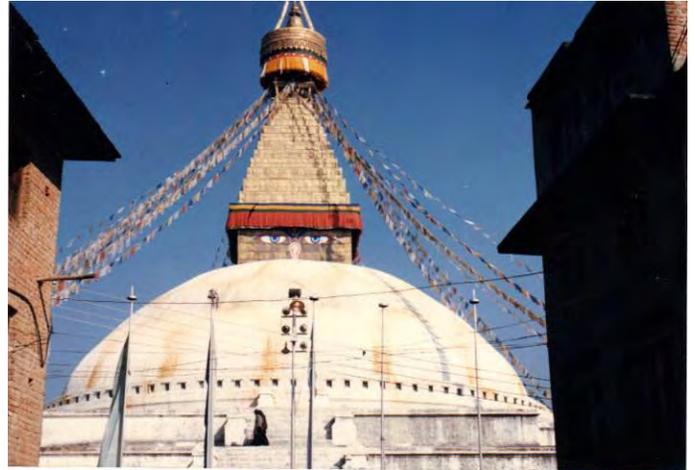
## The View from the Top of the World

Alfred Gruenke. PE

Katmandu, Nepal, is probably one of the more exotic places I have been to. A couple of years ago I was in India on an assignment. After three months I had to leave the country to renew my visa. My choices were the Indian Embassy in either Colombo, Sri Lanka, Rangoon, Burma, or Katmandu, Nepal. I chose Katmandu since there was a shooting war going on in Sri Lanka, and Rangoon didn't appear to be photogenic enough. So, I packed up a few things including my 35 mm SLR camera and headed North to the Oberoi Hotel in Katmandu.

One comment about embassies. They observe all the holidays of their country, plus their host country. **That's a lot of holidays** for Hindu and Buddhist countries! Also, they are closed on weekends. It should have required two days to obtain a visa yet it took a week.

**There isn't a lot to do in Katmandu other** than sightseeing and shopping. Fortunately, there is an Eagle Beer brewery nearby, which brewed very passable libations, and some temples with some interesting carvings from the Kama Sutra. I bought two kookries, the traditional fighting knife of the Gurkhas, for ten dollars apiece. Gurkhas have been part of the British military since the early 1800s, and have been described as the finest soldiers in the world. I met some of them; quite ordinary looking men, though I noted that they had thighs that were a cross between an NFL fullback and a race horse. I guess that comes from spending a lifetime running up and down all those mountains!



The Buddhist temple pictured here is surrounded by Tibetan nationals selling traditional handicrafts. One vendor had a beautiful carpet with a Chinese motif for \$200.00. It took me five days of negotiations to get her down to \$175.00! One is expected to negotiate. If I had merely paid the asking price I would have ruined her day.

One of the nature parks in the area offered an elephant ride. **Now that's an experience!** We had the four passenger model, plus the driver. It was surprisingly smooth, even going up and down hillsides. I can well understand why it was the transport of choice for Hannibal. A lot more comfortable than a chariot pulled by hyperactive horses.

However, none of these are reasons to go to Nepal. People go there for the mountains, to either look at them (me) or trekking. For one **who considers it "roughing it" if the television does not have remote control, I can't** imagine willfully hiking up and down mountains all day, and having to pay for the privilege to boot!

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The “thing to do” in Katmandu is to see the sun rise over Mount Everest. I got up two hours before sunrise and had my driver take me to the traditional spot. The morning sun on the scenic Annapurna Range, with many snow covered peaks over 20,000 feet, was worth the trip, but Mount Everest was a disappointment. It may be the highest spot on Earth, but it is only the highest peak among many high peaks. It’s hard to pick out the right one.

Fortunately, Nepalese Royal Airlines had a daily flight to the mountain. We flew North, then East, parallel to the Annapurna Range. The view was spectacular, especially so since the mountain range was higher than our plane! The white snow contrasted with the dull brown and green under us. But it’s difficult to have a height perspective looking down through small portholes.



Then, I was invited into the cockpit. What a view! This had to be one of Nature’s grandest spectacles. I looked at Mount Everest head-on, the majesty of the Himalayas and the Mountain before me. It was a view that was humbling; the immensity, the raw ruggedness of the landscape, the sheer size of it. I can well understand the reverence that the ancients had for high mountains. They were the homes of gods.

We flew past the South face, which was mostly snow free. Then we turned around for the benefit of passengers on the right side of the plane, and flew back to Katmandu,

A half hour later, we landed. Three days later I received my visa and headed back to India.

It was the trip of a lifetime, and forever changed my perspective. After the Himalayas, all other mountains are merely hills.

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A well-adjusted person is one who makes the same mistake twice without getting nervous.  
-Alexander Hamilton

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**You want the truth? You can’t handle the truth.**  
-Jack Nicholson in the movie “A Few Good Men”

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Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even.  
-Muhammad Ali

-----  
In just two days from now,  
Tomorrow will be yesterday  
-August Polinske

## 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 in any amount – please send your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to “Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation” or “PEF”. Donations should be mailed to:

**Peter O. Staffeld, Ph.D., P.E.**  
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Please note “LVPSPE Scholarship Fund” on the comment line.

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

Scholarship application is at <http://www.lvpspe.org/Scholarships>. The deadline for applications is Sunday, March 9th, 2014. Any questions regarding scholarships can be directed to

Alex Dezubay, PE  
 610-597-2007  
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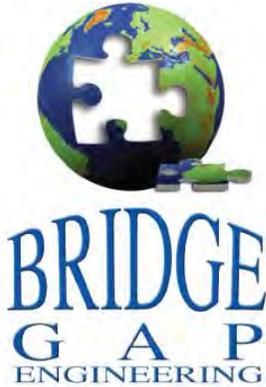
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The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Monday of each month. Open to all members; they are held at the office of Barry Isett & Associates, 85 South Route 100, Allentown, PA.

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## 2014 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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 2013 – 2014 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 are the sole source of funds for this program.

In recent years there has been much news coverage lamenting our country's lack of home-grown technical expertise. This scholarship fund is our contribution to encourage entry into the engineering field.

The fund is 100% dedicated to providing scholarship money to qualified local students. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.

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 as a result of your support.

Our local Chapter awarded four students scholarship awards totaling \$7,500.00. With your help, we hope to be able to increase our support to this year's applicants.

This year the Board has arranged through the State PSPE Organization to manage the scholarship fund through the Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation (PEF), a 501c3 charity. Contributions to the Scholarship Fund are tax deductible.

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

Peter O. Staffeld, Ph.D., P.E.  
P.O. Box 241  
Center Valley, PA 18034

Donation Level	Amount	Valley Engineer Space
Freshman	\$1 - \$124	One line of text
Sophomore	\$125 - \$249	Eighth Page (Business Card)
Junior	\$250 - \$499	Quarter Page
Senior	\$500 - \$999	Half Page
Graduate	\$1,000+	Full page

***The Board has decided to combine contributions to the Scholarship Fund and providing information space in the Valley Engineer. Donor firms will be provided the above mentioned space in our scholarship section. I hope you will give careful consideration to participating in this year in what we believe is an important program to support our future local engineers.***

I want to acknowledge and thank last year's donors for their support. These companies are:

<b>FLSmith Inc.</b>	<b>Bethlehem, PA</b>
<b>Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.</b>	<b>Coopersburg, PA</b>
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<b>Newton Engineering</b>	<b>Allentown, PA</b>
<b>J AND P Engineers, P.A.</b>	<b>Bethlehem, PA</b>
<b>Sungard Public Sector, Inc.</b>	<b>Bethlehem, PA</b>
<b>Express Business Center</b>	<b>Trexlerstown, PA</b>

Should you have questions about our program, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Alex Dezubay  
[scholarship@LVPSPE.org](mailto:scholarship@LVPSPE.org)  
or  
Alfred Gruenke  
Scholarship Committee, LVPSPE  
[agruenke@rcn.com](mailto:agruenke@rcn.com)

**Minutes for the January 13, 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**At the Office of Barry Isett & Assoc. 85 S. Route 100, Allentown, PA**

Attendees: Kevin Campbell, Al Gruenke, Peter Staffeld, Don Kohn, Nicole Gasda and Chris Williams.

**I. Call to Order:** Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

**II. President – Kevin Campbell**

- **Programs** – January program to be scheduled shortly, considering Just Born and Martin Guitar.
- **State Conference** – To be held Sep 18-20<sup>th</sup>. Kevin coordinating golf tournament. Golf likely on Wed 18<sup>th</sup>. PDH sessions on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Scholarships** – Received check from PEF for \$3,850 going towards scholarships. Kevin will deposit.
- **MATHCOUNTS** – Planning going along well. Could use a few more volunteers. Date set for 2/8/2014 with snow date of 2/9/2014. Need to focus on fundraising.

**III. Valley Engineer** – Next issue to go out shortly. Should mention the following items:

- Call for nominations regarding EOY & YEOY. Need names by end of January. Applications will be on website. Engineers Week banquet is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Chapter is hosting state conference on Sept 18-20<sup>th</sup>. Looking for volunteers to assist.

**IV. Treasurer – no report**

**V. State Director – no report**

**VI. Past President – Peter Staffeld**

- Nominating Committee – All roles filled for next year except one Director position and Alt State Director.

**VII. Adjournment** at 6:39 PM on a motion by Don, seconded by Peter. All in favor.