



# Valley Engineer Newsletter

February, 2016

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- February 26, 2016, Lehigh Valley Engineering Council Banquet, Holiday Inn, Breinigsville, PA
- March 17, 2016, Micro Boot Camp, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA
- April 7, 2016, Hoover Mason Trestle Tour, Bethlehem, PA
- September 21-24, 2016, PSPE Conference, DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia – Valley Forge. 301 W. Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA



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PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER  
(ORGANIZED 1935)

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## EYER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT & NITSCHMANN STUDENT PLACE 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> AT MATHCOUNTS

Francee Fuller

For the second time in two years, Ishaan Lal, a student at Eyer Middle School and Daniel Li, a student at Nitschmann Middle School took first and second place honors at the Annual Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS® competition, held this year on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at Northeast Middle School in Bethlehem. It was the 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of the competition organized by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. More than 60 volunteers came out to help run the event organized by a core committee comprised of Chris Blechschmidt, Kevin Campbell, Germaine Lenz, Andrea Martin, Charles Myers, Cheryl Riscoff, Tracy Torres and Chris Williams.



In a gripping Jeopardy-style countdown round held before an audience of 500 on-lookers, ten Mathletes who earned top scores during a morning of written tests took to the stage to verbally answer questions. Ishaan and Daniel were among

200-plus students from 26 schools from Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, and Carbon Counties who participated in the regional "Olympics of Math" to win individual and team honors.

Ishaan and Daniel will be joined at the Harrisburg state competition on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> by all members of the first place team from Moravian Academy, coached by Alison Overdorf. Alex Adams, a member of the Moravian Academy team, placed third in the countdown round. Will Corvino, a seventh grade student at Southern Lehigh, placed fourth and also earned the right to participate in the state competition.

The four top state winners will move on to the 2016 National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Washington, D.C. May 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>, with Raytheon Corporation as the title sponsor. The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) in partnership with state engineering societies is the founding sponsor of the event, geared to promote math proficiency among middle school students.

The team from Nitschmann Middle School, coached by Nadine Novatnak placed second and the Springhouse Middle School team, coached by Kevin Hallman, placed third. Saucon Valley Middle School had the most improved team, rising from 16<sup>th</sup> place in 2015 to 8<sup>th</sup> place this year.

The students spent the morning taking written tests with questions like:

*A set of distinct positive integers has a total of 11 digits, and all the digits are 1s. What is the smallest possible sum of the integers in the set? (Answer 11,234)*

Tests were sent immediately to a scoring room for grading and ranking. The afternoon session featured the top ten ranking individuals paired in a lightning-round stage competition to determine final ranking. The top 10 individuals were:

1. Ishaan Lal, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Eyer Middle School
2. Daniel Li, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Nitschmann Middle School
3. Alex Adams, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Moravian Academy
4. Will Corvino, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Southern Lehigh Middle School

5. Gayoung Lee, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Springhouse Middle School
6. Alex Tan, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Springhouse Middle School
7. Joshua Ye, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Orefield Middle School
8. Victor Cai, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Springhouse Middle School
9. Neil Deshmukh, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Moravian Academy
10. Ruiqi Wang, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Nitschmann Middle School



Will Corvino (4<sup>th</sup> place) Southern Lehigh Middle School; Ishaan Lal (1<sup>st</sup> place) Eyer Middle School; Alex Adams (3<sup>rd</sup> place) Moravian Academy; President, LVPSE Alfred Gruenke PE; Daniel Li (2<sup>nd</sup> place) Nitschmann Middle School

The three top-scoring young women (Gayoung Lee/Springhouse Middle School, Neha Skandan/Moravian Academy and Rhea Malhotra/Moravian Academy) will receive a course in math or science at Cedar Crest College.

Moravian College, Lafayette College, Lehigh Carbon Community College and Northampton Community College also provided top winners with scholarships for mathematics courses.

Nationwide approximately 40,000 students, representing more than 5,500 schools will participate in the 2016 Mathcounts competition.

**MATHCOUNTS 2016**

Alfred Gruenke PE

I love MATHCOUNTS.

Lately there have been numerous reports of area middle school and high school students involved in all kinds of bad behavior. Fighting, stabbings, attacks on teachers, even shootings within schools and in the neighborhood. Based on these reports it's easy to come to the conclusion that all young people, or at least the majority, are nothing but a bunch of hooligans who will wind up as useless bums or worse.

The students who participate in MATHCOUNTS belie this premise. All those bright, polite, young people! It never ceases to amaze me. When given the most difficult math test of their young lives they look up, smile, and say "Thank you!" It's difficult for me to hold back my emotions.

Moravian Academy was the winner. They had been knocking on the door for the past couple of years, and finally broke past the Parkland School District monopoly for the first time since 2007. I love their enthusiasm, with everyone wearing matching sweatshirts with the school colors, school logo and "Moravian Academy" proudly embossed on the front. Congratulations to the team, and their coach, Alison Overdorf.

My sentimental favorite team was from my alma mater, Harrison-Morton Junior High School. During the Team Round, only four team members can participate. A fifth member of the team wanted to take the test also, but could not because there were no more copies of the test. He was sorely disappointed and expressed his sentiments to me. Consider this...someone was upset that he could not take a math test! We managed to find extra copies and everyone who wanted to participate was able to do so. How's that for enthusiasm that flies in the face of stereotypes?

My association with MATHCOUNTS only goes back a few years, but it's such a great event! It gives me confidence that there is a future.

**HOW TO EAT CHICKEN WINGS**

August Polinske, PE

Professional Engineer and Etiquette Expert

Manners guru Amy Vanderbilt was once asked, "Should pig's knuckles be eaten with the fingers?"

To which she famously replied, "No, they should be eaten separately."

How we present certain foods, and how we consume them, is important in our culture and our civilization.

A fine example of this is that great American tradition, chicken wings on Super Bowl Sunday, where almost a hundred grown men earning millions of dollars each put on costumes to enhance their masculinity, then run around and into each other. Eating wings properly will let everyone know that you are an elegant, cultured individual, a true aficionado. Eating them improperly will relegate you to the realm of the unlearned, ignorant masses, forcing you to become a social outcast, to wander the earth in disgrace and lie with dogs.

As engineers, we're used to being on the fringes of social couthness, so this tutorial. The procedures described here can be used with almost all chicken wings one encounters.

First things first. Wings may be consumed almost anywhere, even in a home, but the preferred location is a bar. It is a setting where your wing eating skills and social graces are on full display, and sure to be commented upon!

You will immediately note that there is a wide variety of sauces and seasonings, depending on taste preferences. Unless you wish to be stigmatized as an uncultured peasant, never order a sauce which contains the word "honey", or any sauce that includes the name of a fruit. Your reputation may never recover.

Now, onto the wings themselves.

Continued on page 17

## **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 PA ENGINEERING FUND. Donations should be mailed to:

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Or, you may 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  
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Continued on page 15



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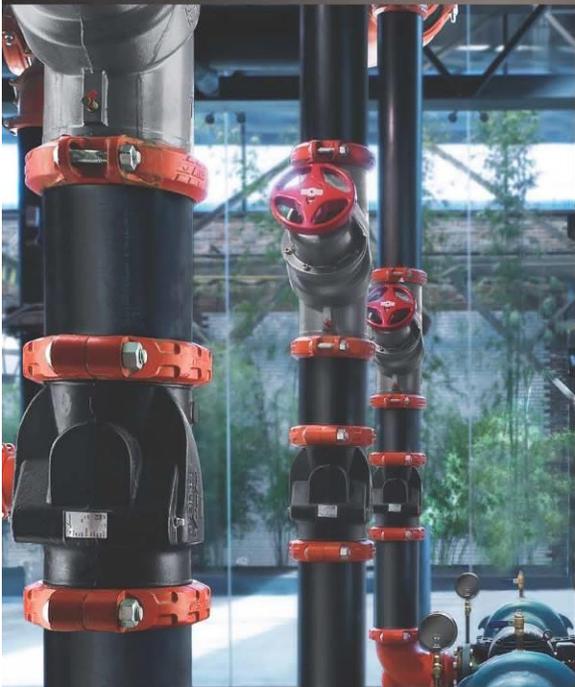
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The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Monday of each month. Open to all members; they are held at the office of Barry Isett & Associates, 85 South Route 100, Allentown, PA.

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When in trouble, when in doubt,  
Don't just stand there, wave and  
shout.  
Calm yourself, and have no fear,  
Your savior has arrived, an  
Engineer

Burma Shave

The first thing you will notice about chicken wings is, there are two different types. This is because one actual wing yields two pieces of chicken wing! One chicken has two wings, thus four pieces of chicken wing from every chicken. God made chickens this way to show us he loves us, and wants us to be happy.

One type looks similar to a small drumstick, and should require minimal instruction. Pick it up by the smaller end, the end with the bone exposed, using the thumb and first finger of either hand. If the piece is large you may wish to lightly touch the piece with the fingers of the other hand to avoid the cantilever effect, whereby the piece slips away from you as you attempt to bite down on it. As the meat is consumed and more of the bone is exposed it may be necessary to grip the bone firmly with both hands to ensure that all the consumables are removed.

It is the second type of wing that separates the true professional from the chicken wing eating amateur, the pitfall into which so many have fallen.

Pick up the piece and hold it in both hands. There is no rule as to where to start eating. Either end, or the middle, is acceptable. You will soon be surprised that there are two bones in that piece! And, dear reader, it is essential for proper chicken wing eating etiquette that the two bones be separated, and all the meat in-between be eaten. To leave any amount of meat on the bones as it is relegated to the disposal plate is pure heresy, never truly forgotten or forgiven by one's peers.

Skill, honed to a razor-sharp edge, will now take over. The keen professional will notice that the piece is not entirely symmetrical. i.e., one end is slightly bigger than the other. By holding the slightly thicker bone at the slightly bigger end in one hand and the slightly thinner bone in the other hand and deftly pulling them apart, the excellent meat in between is now available for consumption. It may be necessary to bite the joint of the two bones to expedite this.

Notice that the word "slightly" was used three times in the previous paragraph. This is a clear indication of the skill level required to perform this task. It is strongly advised that the neophyte

be placed under the tutelage of a Family Elder so that these skills be learned and practiced in the privacy on one's home, with curtains drawn, and thus avoid the humility of a public faux pas.

When you order wings you will be asked whether you want celery with your wings. It is considered polite to say yes. To accept them will let everyone know that you "care" about obesity, the lack of roughage in your diet and a bunch of other progressive liberal nonsense. But don't make a fuss. Accept them, and throw them away when no one is looking.

The ideal libation when eating chicken wings is beer. This has been the tradition for over 10,000 years, as recently discovered paintings in the Pyrenees Mountains of Europe and on the shores of Lake Balkhash in Kazakhstan have shown. On certain occasions some individuals may also imbibe white (actually clear, to the uncultured) wine, or even strong drink made from grains. If in public and someone decides to drink something such as a red wine, nudge them to the center of the group to hide their shame. However, never, under any circumstances, under fear of scorn and derision and possible ostracism from the human race, may one eat chicken wings with any libation that has an umbrella floating in it!

When eating wings during the game one must also display some decorum. For example, every ten minutes or so it is quite proper to address the football game on television and ask, "What's the score?" It is not considered good form to ignore these goings on and be devoted entirely to stuffing yourself. But take heart! It is not necessary to impress any of the details into your long-term memory. The half-life of Super Bowl interest is about two days, so in a fortnight or less all memory of the Super Bowl will be erased from the vast majority of the populace.

I'm hoping, dear reader, that this short treatise will explain the intricacies and pitfalls of eating chicken wings. By studying the details and considerable practice you will soon be able to confidently eat wings at (almost) any bar of your choosing. Bon appetit!

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The object of golf is not just to win. It is to play like a gentleman and win.  
-Phil Mickelson

Minutes for the February 9, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting  
6:00 pm at the office of Barry Isett & Associates, 85 S. Route 100, Allentown, PA

Attendees: Al Gruenke, Brian Kutz, Chris Williams, Don Kohn, Kevin Campbell and Angelika Forndran

- A. Call to Order – Chris Williams called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
- B. Programs – Al Gruenke
- March 17<sup>th</sup> – ‘Micro-Boot Camp’ 2 PDH event at DeSales. Two speakers – Jeff Barner from the NCC Fab Lab and EJ Kleintop speaking on fire suppression. Dinner to be provided.
  - April 7<sup>th</sup> – Hoover-Mason Trestle Tour at Bethlehem Steel. Requires \$100 deposit, charges \$15 per person, we would charge \$25.
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> (tentative) – Annual LVPSPE banquet and officer installation.
- C. MATHCOUNTS – Kevin Campbell
- Event went well. Had about 205 students in attendance and about 60 volunteers. Scheduled for 2/6/2016 at Northeast Middle School (1170 Fernwood Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018) in Bethlehem Area School District
  - Kevin Campbell will serve as assistant coordinator for the state competition.
  - On a motion by Don, seconded by Angelika, all were in favor of donating \$500 to PEF for the state competition.
- D. Engineers’ Week Banquet
- Engineer of the Year award to be presented to Kevin Campbell, P.E.
  - Young Engineer of the Year award to be presented to Matthew Kawczenski, P.E.
- E. President – Al Gruenke
- Valley Engineer issue going out soon.
  - Still has a few outstanding donations to collect.
  - LVPSPE will receive a plaque in recognition of recent donation made to Cetronia Ambulance Corps.
- F. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki (Ray provided the following summary via email)
- Status of money owed to LVEC for 2015 Banquet > Invoice was received from LVEC, payment sent 2/4/2016 to LVEC c/o Rich Wagner as noted below for \$1,680.
  - Wells Fargo Account Balances (as of 2/5/2016):
    - i. Chapter Business Checking > \$1,772.22
    - ii. Chapter Business Market Rate > \$30,289.39
  - Payments/Deposits
    - i. Payment > 1/29/2016 Donation to Cetronia Ambulance = \$250.00
    - ii. Payment > 2/1/2016 UPS Logistics MATHCOUNTS Shipping = \$18.00
    - iii. Payment > 2/4/2016 LVEC 2015 Banquet Revenue = \$1,680.00

- iv. Deposit > 2/4/2016 PDH Funds January 2016 = \$20.00
  - v. Deposit > 2/4/2016 PSPE Dues Dec 2015 = \$233.25
  - Pending Payments
    - i. Pikewood MATHCOUNTS USB drives > \$1,606.63 (invoice received 2/8/2016, waiting for mailing address to send payment)
- G. Scholarships – Al Dezubay
- Initial scholarship email has been sent to schools.
- H. State Director – Angelika Forndran
- Most recent meeting was held remotely via gotomeeting.com to cut travel expenses.
  - State conference to be held in King of Prussia from 9/21 to 9/24.
- I. Adjournment at 6:48 pm on a motion by Kevin, seconded by Chris, all were in favor.
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## PE License Plates



<http://pspe.org/store/pe-license-plates/>

PSPE members can order a vanity plate (five characters + PE) for a one-time cost of \$200, or you can receive the “next plate off the line” for \$100.

These plates feature PSPE’s official logo on the left and stacked PE letters on the right. You must be an active or retired Pennsylvania PE to order a plate.

Download an official PennDOT application here and order your PE license plate today!  
<http://pspe.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/PSPE-License-Plate-Application-Form.pdf>