

SPARKS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Harrisburg Chapter of PSPE

March 2009

VOLUME LXXIII, No. 6



**Harrisburg
Chapter of
Pennsylvania
Society of
Professional
Engineers**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Richard S. Poplaski, P.E.

The previous month of February was a month of great achievement by our Chapter. On February 7, 2009, the Chapter led by Director Yves Pollart, P.E. with assistance by Director Ron Young, P.E. and Director Sara Frailey, P.E. coordinated another very successful MATHCOUNTS competition. Student Mathletes from 20 schools participated in the event that promotes careers in engineering, math, and the sciences. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this fine event. Also, thank you to the Chapter Auxiliary and the various companies and individuals who donated to the program. You are the ones who provided the principal means of financial support for the MATHCOUNTS Competition.

Another highlight of February was Engineers Week. Vice President Tom Terry, P.E. set up the Chapter display at the Colonial Park Mall. Thank you to our Engineers Week Council representatives Past President Matt Carnish, P.E., President Elect Richard Miller, P.E. and Director Tom Terry, P.E. for contributing to a fine week including the February 19th banquet at the West Shore County Club. *The Patriot-News* supplement included a highlighted article on the mission of the Chapter. Congratulations to Russell E. Horn, Sr., P.E., recognized as the Engineer of the Year; Jason E. Piatt recognized as the Young Engineer of the Year; Dr. Aldo W. Morales recognized with the Technical Achievement Award; and Louis A. Felice, P.E. recognized with the Educational Outreach Award. We also had an interesting presentation from Chief Meteorologist Tom Russell of CBS 21 who discussed Engineering the Weather.

Looking ahead to March, the Science and Engineering Fair will be held March 4th through March 7th. It will again be held at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. The Whitaker Center has become a new lead

sponsor for the event. Director Jeff Chubb, P.E. has done a commendable job assisting with this event on behalf of the Chapter including coordinating the judging and preparing the award certificates. The Chapter will award two \$150 cash prizes to the Junior and Senior Division winners. Director Chubb is looking for one additional judge so if you are interested in helping out, please contact him.

Tuesday March 31st is a joint transportation society event featuring Senator Rob Wunderling. The event will be held at the Appalachian Brewing Company (ABC) from 6-8 PM that evening. The Chapter is proud to help sponsor this event and I hope many of you will be in attendance.

Chapter members will soon be receiving your copy of the 2008-2009 Harrisburg Chapter Directory. We can thank Director Susan Bruns, P.E. (Chairwoman of Advertising) and Director Ronald Morris, P.E. (Chairman of the Directory) for their efforts in preparing a directory that provides a useful service to our membership while raising funds to keep our Chapter programs solvent.

As a reminder, please inform any local engineering students that our Chapter's scholarship program offers two \$1,000 scholarships which are available to students attending their first semester in the fall of 2009. Guidelines and applications can be downloaded from PSPE's website (www.pspe.org) under the Scholarship link. Applications must be post-marked on or before April 15, 2009, and sent to the Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation at the address provided on the website.

Immediate Past President William Cameron, P.E. is hard at work with the nominating committee looking to fill vacancies for the upcoming 2009-2010 Chapter Board. If you have an interest in serving on the Chapter Board please contact him.

SPARKS

UPCOMING EVENTS & IMPORTANT DATES

Science & Engineering Fair

- 03/4-7/09
- Whitaker Center

Board Meeting

- 03/18/09

Joint Transportation Society Event

- 03/31/09
- Appalachian Brewing Company

Graduate Engineering Program Night

- 03/31/09
- Campus Library

Scholarship Deadline

- 04/15/09

Board Meeting

- 04/15/09

Auxiliary Spring Tea

- 04/18/09
- Residence of Gloria Minnich

Board Meeting

- 05/20/09



CODE OF ETHICS

NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers: Preamble

Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

Life and Retired Membership Information

It is the policy of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) that members be recognized for years of service to NSPE and the profession, by the granting of a reduced amount for national dues, as set forth in Bylaw 11 and further described below.

1. A member shall become eligible for life-member dues status if the person has been a continuous member of NSPE for a period of 40 years and is at least 65 years of age.
2. A member shall be eligible for retired-member status if the person has been a continuous member of NSPE for a period of 25 years, is at least 65 years of age and has retired from active practice. For these purposes, active practice shall mean providing engineering consultation totaling more than 300 hours in a given calendar year.
3. A member must request status as a life or retired member by written request to the Executive Director of NSPE, or their designee. Age and years of service will be confirmed by NSPE prior to granting life or retired dues status. Members who wish to be granted retired member status are entrusted to honor the provision concerning active service as stated above.
4. The granting of life or retired member status shall affect the member's national dues only. State Societies and chapters may choose to provide reduced dues programs at their discretion, but are not required to conform to the national program. Conversely, NSPE is not required to conform to any reduced dues program provided by a State Society of chapter.
5. A member granted life-member status shall receive a waiver of national dues. Life members will be encouraged to make a voluntary tax-deductible contribution to the NSPE Educational Foundation.
6. A member granted retired-member status shall receive a waiver of one-half national dues annually.
7. Those members who were within five (5) years of eligibility for either life or retired member prior to the adoption of the amendment of Bylaw 11 adopted in June 2008, shall be "grandfathered", and shall be granted life or retired member status as set in the bylaw prior to amendment.

Membership Directory - Going Electronic

As Professional Engineers we are often looked upon by our communities to be stewards of the environment. These communities rely on us to provide engineering products that provide for a sustainable design, thereby minimizing the overall footprint our generation will place on this earth.

Therefore, bearing this in mind, this Chapter has resolved to move away from providing hard copies of the Directory starting next year. We will only issue hard copy Membership Directories to those members who do not have an email account on file with NSPE. It is imperative that you routinely review and update your contact information and email address on-line in your NSPE Account, as after next year, this information will only be made available electronically.

Each and every one of us can make a difference, not only in considering sustainability in our designs, but also in our everyday lives helping to teach our children and our communities that no matter how small a change may seem individually, collectively as a world of over six billion people it can make a big difference for our future generations.

Thank you for your understanding.

PSPE Harrisburg Chapter

Board of Directors

Certificate of Appreciation

The Harrisburg PSPE Chapter is one of five Engineers Week Council (EWC) member organizations who received a Certificate of Appreciation at the Engineers Week banquet for time and support given in the past year with EWC's Education Outreach Program. Congratulations and thank you to all volunteers from the membership for making the Education Outreach Program a success.

Matthew Carnish

Interested in a Graduate Engineering Degree

Penn State Harrisburg is hosting an MBA and Graduate Engineering Programs Information Night on Tuesday, March 31 at 6 p.m. in the campus Library. Penn State Harrisburg offers the following graduate degrees in engineering:

- Electrical Engineering (M.Eng.)**
- Engineering Management (M.P.S.)**
- Engineering Science (M.Eng.)**
- Environmental Engineering (M.Eng.)**
- Environmental Pollution Control (M.S., M.E.P.C.)**

For information, please call 717-948-6258 or e-mail arw1@psu.edu.

RSVP's are appreciated, but not required.

Education Outreach Activity

Ken Jones, Dave Folk and Steve Talian served as judges for Region 3 Technology Student Association (TSA) competition that was held Saturday, February 21st at Cedar Cliff High School. Approximately 10 schools participated in an interesting and wide ranging technology competition involving engineering related categories testing structural, auto-shape, flight, and other student models. TSA is a national non-profit organization devoted to technology education of young people; its website is (<http://www.tsaweb.org>).

One of the competitions showed how innovative some high school students are. The competition was 2-person teams that had to build a new crush resistant cereal box out of a 28 " x 22" sheet of cardboard. The dimension of the box was to be between 10 to 14" height, 6 to 9.5" in width, and 2 to 4 " in thickness. The box needed to have a functional top. The kids were to design, sketch, construct, and test their boxes within the 2 hours time limit. Amazingly more than 3 teams came up with a design that could hold the maximum crushing load of 25 pounds without having any internal struts or bracing and meet the requirement not to have any exposed tape or glue. This speaks well of the creativity demonstrated by high school students today.

Steve Talian/Ken Jones

MATHCOUNTS Update

MATHCOUNTS was held on February 7, 2009 at Penn State . There were 130 Matheletes who represented 20 schools. It was a great event with volunteers from Penn State and from our chapter. The PSPE members who assisted were Susan Bruns, Sara Frailey, Steve Talian, Matt Carnish, Ken Jones, Larry Brown, Tom Terry, Ron Young and Mark Rzcudlo. The top two schools were Lower Dauphin Middle School and Hershey middle School. The top two finishers going to the State Competition in March are Thomas Meador of Lower Dauphin Middle School and Corey Smithmyer of Mechanicsburg Middle School.

Yves Pollart

2009 MathCounts Competition Individual and Team Rankings - Top Ten

Team Results	Individual Results
1-Lower Dauphin Middle School	1-Thomas Meador (Lower Dauphin Middle School)
2-Hershey Middle School	2-Corey Smithmyer (Mechanicsburg Middle School)
3-Mechanicsburg Middle School	3-Andrea Lin (Hershey Middle School)
4-Middletown Area Middle School	4-Nate Hamilton (Hershey Middle School)
5-Susquehanna Middle School	5-Matt Johnson (Hershey Middle School)
6-Allen Middle School	6-Ryan Li (Hershey Middle School)
7-Crossroads Middle School	7-Dominic Santoleri (Crossroads Middle School)
8-Central Dauphin Middle School	8-Aria Dougherty (Lower Dauphin Middle School)
9-Harrisburg Academy	9-Chris Spicer (Mechanicsburg Middle School)
10-Camp Hill Middle School	10-Patrick Young (Camp Hill Middle School)

HARRISBURG CHAPTER OF PSPE

2008-2009 Officers & Directors

- Richard S. Poplaski, P.E. - President
- Richard E. Miller, P.E. - President Elect, *Programs*
- Thomas R. Terry, P.E. - Vice President, *Public Relations/website, Programs (alt), Engineers Week Council (alt)*
- Stephen F. Talian, P.E. - Treasurer
- Eric L. Martz, P.E. - Secretary
- William D. Cameron, P.E. - Immediate Past President, *Nominating*
- Matthew J. Carnish, P.E. - Past President, *Parliament and By-Laws, Engineers Week Council Representative*
- Kenneth S. Jones, P.E. - State Director, *Legislative*
- Larry M. Brown, P.E. - Alternate State Director
- Jeffrey D. Chubb, P.E. - Director '09, *Auditing, Science & Engineering Fair*
- Sara F. Frailey, P.E. - Director '09, *Pre-College & Career Guidance, MATHCOUNTS (committee)*
- Ronald W. Young, P.E. - Director '09, *MATHCOUNTS (committee)*
- John J. Baldassari, Jr., P.E. - Director '10, *Publications (Sparks)*
- Susan Bruns, P.E. - Director '10, *Advertising*
- Mark Rzucidlo, P.E. - Director '10, *Awards*
- Yves E. Pollart, P.E., BCEE - Director '11, *MATHCOUNTS (Chair)*
- Vacant - Director '11, *Member Services*
- Ronald N. Morris, P.E., C.M. - Director '11, *Directory*

BOOSTERS

CMX Engineering

Gannett Fleming, Inc.

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To become a SPARKS Booster, please contact Susan Bruns, P.E. at sbruns@gfnet.com. View additional Boosters on-line at www.pspehbg.org.

Newsletter Production Donated by Michael Baker Jr., Inc., Harrisburg, PA.

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