President’s Message

Dear PSPE Chapter Members,

A NASA engineer and a consulting engineer both apply for the same job. On paper, the NASA engineer is more qualified for the position, but both candidates are asked to come in for an interview. The NASA engineer comes into the interview with posters and a full presentation. The consulting engineer comes in with a notebook and smile. After a full day of interviews, the consulting engineer was offered the position. Why? Because of their soft skills – the personal attributes that enable someone to interact effectively and harmoniously with other people.

I am that consulting engineer, and I am very proud to have beaten out a NASA engineer for my dream job with The Walt Disney Company in Orlando. I believe PSPE is a large reason for it. My time serving on the Board has taught me so many things. It’s given me a lot of great opportunities to speak in front of people and sharpen those soft skills. It’s improved my time management and leadership skills and overall made me a better engineer.

If that inspires you, please consider getting more involved with our Chapter. See page 4 for the open positions of Financial Secretary, Vice President, and MATHCounts Coordinator. We are all over-scheduled with personal and professional obligations, but if you commit to things that are important to you, you’ll find ways to balance everything and make it work. I am very thankful that I did. I only hope that I gave back half as much as PSPE has given me. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions!

Sincerely,

Keenan D. Sukits, PE
President 2018-2019
Pittsburgh Chapter – PSPE
The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

Invites all current and prospective members as well as guests to the
Thursday, May 16, 2019, Meeting

Presentation on the I-579 CAP Project—Connecting Downtown to the Lower Hill
Speakers: Nick Burdette, PE (HDR) and Dan McDowell, RLA (LaQuatra Bonci Associates)
And Recognition of Apprenticeship Sponsors

At the Engineers’ Society of Western Pennsylvania Building, 337 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

On Thursday, May 16, 2019, the Pittsburgh Chapter of PSPE will be recognizing the sponsors of the Apprenticeship Program. Without the generosity in time and talent from our Apprenticeship sponsors and their personnel, the Chapter would not be able to achieve its goals.

Menu (choose selection for each attendee):

_____ Scrod Riviera topped with shrimp and garlic-herbed butter, paired with rice pilaf and fresh, seasonal vegetables.

_____ Grilled NY Strip Steak served with Yukon gold mashed potatoes and fresh, seasonal vegetables.

_____ Vegetarian Meatloaf with Yukon gold mashed potatoes and green bean casserole.

All meals will be accompanied by garden salad, rolls/butter, and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

6:00 p.m. Cocktails (Cash Bar)  6:45 p.m. Dinner Followed by the I-579 Presentation

ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT AVAILABLE AT
https://events.eventzilla.net/e/may-16th-chapter-meeting-2138747272

OR you can make your reservation by completing the form below and mailing or faxing it to the Chapter office. Do not email your credit card info; FAX it. Payment may be made by calling in your credit card info, faxing this completed form, or mailing this form with credit card info or enclosing a check. See “Payment Options” below.

Name: _________________________________ Phone/Email: ________________________________

Name: _________________________________ Phone/Email: ________________________________

Reservations, including payment, must be received by Noon on Tuesday, May 14, 2019.
Cost per attendee is $44.00 for PSPE members and non-members and $30.00 for government employees

Payment Options:

Credit Card: ___ MASTERCARD ___ VISA ____ AMEX

Card Number: _______________________________ Expiration Date: ___________ CVV Code_________

Name (as it appears on credit card): ________________________________

Billing Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

____ Check enclosed payable to “Pittsburgh Chapter PSPE” & mailed to: Pittsburgh Chapter, PSPE
337 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412.261.4300    Fax 412.261.1606    Email: d.teorsky@eswp.com

Cancellations must be received three (3) days prior to the event.

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The planning for the PSPE 2019 Conference is well underway. We are excited to be in Bethlehem this year and will be headquartered at The Sands [https://www.pasands.com/](https://www.pasands.com/).

The Sands offers the Outlets at Sands Bethlehem, Steel Magnolia Spa and Salon, and easy accessibility to the shops and restaurants of beautiful, historic, downtown Bethlehem. In addition to a wonderful location, the planning committee has filled two days with workshops, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the facility.

We look forward to the PSPE Installation and Awards Banquet on Friday, September 20, where we will recognize outstanding engineers. (The Awards Committee is accepting applications. Please visit [www.pspe.org](http://www.pspe.org) to apply for Engineer and Young Engineer of the Year.)

We look forward to seeing engineers and their families on September 19 and 20. Conference registration will open in August.

Fall 2019 Refresher Courses

**Civil PE Mini-Refresher Course** – to be held at LLI Engineering on three (3) consecutive Thursday evenings – July 25, August 1, and August 8, 2019. Each class session is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**EIT Review Course** – to be held at LLI Engineering on ten (10) Monday evenings beginning August 12 and ending October 21, 2019. Each class session is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. NO class will be held on Labor Day, September 2.

**Civil PE Review Course** – to be held at Baker Engineering on ten (10) consecutive Thursday evenings beginning August 15 and ending October 17, 2019. Each class session is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The induction of new officers is being postponed until June.

ATTENTION!
Call for Volunteers

Are you interested in becoming more involved in the PSPE Pittsburgh Chapter? We are currently seeking volunteers for the following positions:

- **Financial Secretary (2019-2020)**
  - The Financial Secretary, acting under the direction of the Executive Secretary, shall make sure that members are billed, that a record of dues payment is maintained, and that delinquent members are suitably notified of their suspensions. The Financial Secretary shall serve on the Finance Committee.

- **Vice President (2019-2020)**
  - In the absence of, or in the case of the inability of the President and President-Elect, it shall be the duty of the Vice President to perform all the duties of the President. The Vice President shall assist the Chairman of the Finance Committee and be responsible for formulating any desirable changes in the financial procedures of the Chapter. The Vice President shall also serve as Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee.

- **MATHCOUNTS Coordinator**
  - The Pittsburgh Chapter Coordinator is responsible for organizing our Chapter competition in February each year. Duties include communicating with coaches of participating schools, recruiting sponsors, organizing competition day details (location, volunteers, lunch), ordering tests and trophies, and coordinating with the State directors. Keenan Sukits has a binder that details everything you would need and will work with you from Florida to ensure it is a seamless transition.

Getting involved at the board level is a great way to build your resume, enhance your professional network, and sharpen your leadership skills. It is also a development opportunity for young professionals in your office. There are typically six board meetings that last about an hour, usually prior to a dinner meeting.

Awards Banquet Committee Forming

Intrigued by event planning? The Awards Banquet Committee, co-chaired by Melissa Fontanese and Angela Mayer, is forming in order to plan next year’s Awards Banquet.

The first meeting of the committee will be held at Allegheny City Brewing (507 Foreland Street) on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 6 pm. Anyone interested is welcome to attend – fresh faces and innovative ideas are encouraged.

If you are interested in joining, contact Melissa at mfontanese@equitransmidstream.com. Even better, join us at the meeting.
$4.2 billion in gas tax diverted to state police

HARRISBURG — Auditor General Eugene DePasquale reported on April 25, 2019, the State has been diverting billions of gas tax money away from road and bridge work to cover the cost of state police patrols.

DePasquale said his new audit of PennDOT shows the agency could be further along in repairing rough highways and fixing 2,829 structurally deficient bridges with the billions of dollars it has used instead to pay to the State Police.

Transfers from the Motor License Fund to State Police have totaled more than $4.25 billion since the 2012-13 fiscal year; money that PennDOT could otherwise have used to address a growing list of needed repairs across the state. This year’s budget calls for spending $2.85 billion from the Motor License Fund, including $1.327 million on roads and bridges and $738 million on state police.

“That $4.25 billion could have cut that list in half and if PennDOT could use all of the gas tax money for roads and bridges, we could get that number to zero in about 5 years,” he said.

Three Pennsylvania bills seek local speed radar use

Multiple efforts underway at the Pennsylvania State House would authorize speed radar use by local police. In 2017, Senators voted in favor of nearly identical legislation. The bill, however, failed to win support in the House. Pennsylvania is the only state in the country that prohibits municipal police from enforcing speed limits with radar. Since 1961, only state troopers are allowed to use radar.

One Senate bill would change the state’s distinction. Sponsored by Sen. Steven Santarsiero (D-Bucks), SB406 would allow local police officers to use radar to nab speeders. A similar effort in the House, HB1275, would limit use of radar to full-time officers of a full-service police department.

One more House bill, HB352, would authorize local police to use radar as part of a six-year pilot program. There is no distinction included in the bill to limit use of radar to full-time officers of a full-service agency.

Lawmaker proposes adjusting PA’s construction procurement process with change to Separations Act

To those outside of the construction business, the ins-and-outs of Pennsylvania’s construction procurement process are not commonly-held knowledge. So, most might not be familiar with the state’s Separations Act of 1913, which requires that public entities solicit separate bids and award separate contracts for electrical, heating, ventilating and plumbing work undertaken as part of public construction projects if a project exceeds a specific total cost threshold (those who regularly read the Capitolwire Procurement Beat will be familiar with the practice). In 1913, when the law was first enacted, that threshold was $1,000; in 1981 the threshold was revised upwards to $4,000, where it has remained. The requirement is referred to as the multiple prime project delivery system. In prior sessions, lawmakers have simply proposed to repeal the 1913 act or allow local governments to exempt themselves from it, arguing the multiple prime project delivery system isn’t consumer-friendly or cost-effective in situations involving small construction projects. None of these proposals have found enough traction in the General Assembly to become law. This session, the first bill to be proposed to deal with the Separations Act takes a slightly different approach. Rep. Mark Keller (R-Perry) recently began circulating a co-sponsorship memo indicating his intention to soon introduce legislation that would alter the project cost threshold from $4,000 to $250,000. Additionally, the legislation
would require the Department of Labor and Industry annually adjust the threshold upwards for inflation. “I believe that the current threshold amount is far too low and causes public bodies to have to spend taxpayer money on meeting requirements that are archaic,” writes Keller in his memo. “After all, the original purpose of the law was not to apply to relatively small projects, which it now does.” Noting the current system might be appropriate for larger public construction projects, Keller maintains, “it is sound public policy to establish a reasonable threshold that allows a public body to complete a small project (storage shed, etc.) without having to go through the bureaucracy of following Separations Act requirements.”

House Transportation Committee

The committee met to consider legislation and discuss a co-sponsor memo. Chairman Tim Hennessey (R-Chester) stated a co-sponsor memo circulated regarding upcoming legislation intended to restore bridges in the commonwealth. Republican Executive Director Eric Bugaile stated the legislation provided capital for bridges larger than 20 feet in length that needed improvements over $100,000 in construction costs, Bugaile said. He added this legislation is drafted every other session year, and that bridge codes and estimated costs are needed to be provided by engineers. The chairman indicated that members should ask municipalities and county officials for bridges that require improvement. Minority Chairman Mike Carroll (D-Luzerne) indicated he would provide an amendment to restore all bridges in Lackawanna and Luzerne County, and that the Department of Transportation approved the amendment, but the Legislative Reference Bureau would be contacted about the amendment. He said others may offer a similar amendment.

House Speaker Turzai wants more State influence on Airport Authority Board

Pennsylvania House Speaker Mike Turzai is pitching a bill to expand the Allegheny County Airport Authority board to 13 members, with five of those appointed by the State.

Under the proposed legislation, four of the appointments would be made by the State General Assembly and one by the governor. Each legislative caucus would have one appointment.

The authority board now consists of nine members, all appointed by County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald, a Democrat, would lose one appointment if Mr. Turzai’s bill becomes reality.

In a memoranda seeking co-sponsors for the change, Mr. Turzai, a Bradford Woods Republican, said the state government “provides substantial funding to airports, but has little say in how the funding is spent in return.”

Engineering Apprenticeship Update

The Engineering Apprenticeship program continued in March with a visit to PPG Paints Development Center at their R&D Building in Springdale. Students learned about PPG’s history in the paint development process. They saw how the lab tested various coatings and walked through the multi-level plant to see the manufacturing process. During lunch, they heard several engineers discuss their career paths that led them to working in the research and development field.

The US Army Corp of Engineers will be hosting a visit to their Braddock Lock & Dam facility on May 7, and a final field visit is being arranged for one of the current highway projects in late May or early June.

The Round-up Meeting is set for Thursday, May 30 at the ESWP on 4th Avenue. Students will review what they learned about engineering during their group visits. They will participate in group exercise solving an engineering problem and will hear from a young engineer about her college experience and what to expect when joining the engineering work force.

The committee is always looking for companies and individuals to participate. Making an impression on high school students and possibly setting them on a path to engineering is well worth the time and effort. Contact DavidBriskey@hillintl.com if interested.
The next meeting of the PSPE Board is scheduled for May 18, 2019, at 10:00 AM in Camp Hill, PA. Among the subjects to be discussed is the state budget. The PSPE 2018-19 budget included dues revenue based on 1,143 members. However, a recent analysis found that this member number mistakenly included both life and student members, neither of whom pay any dues. Thus, the estimated dues revenue was erroneously calculated at $190,000. While the math was accurate, the initial data was flawed.

A more accurate projection for dues revenue based on 887 dues-paying members would be $149,000, which is a difference of $41,000 from the original budget estimate. While this is disappointing in that we are not likely to see a windfall in revenue, the projected end-of-year revenue and expense will more likely result in breaking even.

The 2019 Nominating Committee is pleased to confirm the following slate of officer nominees for the PSPE 2019-2020 term of office.

- **Michael F. Basta, PE** (Lehigh Valley Chapter) will become President according to the PSPE Constitution and Bylaws.
- **Nominees:**
  - President Elect: **Susan L. Best, PE** (Delaware County Chapter)
  - Secretary: **David J. Briskey, PE** (Pittsburgh Chapter)
  - Treasurer: **Thomas J. Friese, PE** (Philadelphia Chapter)
  - Vice President Central Region: **James M. DiLouie, PE** (Lincoln Chapter)
  - Vice President Southwest Region: **Jennifer Nolan-Kremm, PE** (Pittsburgh Chapter)
  - Vice President Northeast Region: **Marleen A. Troy, Ph.D., PE, BCEE** (Keystone Northeast)
  - Vice President Southeast Region: **Nicole C. Wilson, PE** (Bucks County Chapter)

For members wishing to add their name to the ballot, nominations by petition of at least 25 eligible members must be delivered (along with the candidate’s bio and photo) to the Chair of the Nomination Committee by May 6, 2019. In the event of two (2) nominees for an office, an official ballot shall be prepared and delivered to each voting member in the region of the office. The Tellers Committee will tally the votes and determine the final outcome. In the event of a single nominee in each position and with no petition candidates submitted, the Secretary shall be directed by the President to cast a single ballot for all nominees upon acceptance of the Nominating Committee’s report by the Board at the meeting on May 18, 2019. The elected officers will be installed at the annual conference on September 19-20, 2019.
REQUEST FOR SUSTAINING ASSOCIATES
Pay your 2019 Dues and
Become a Sustaining Associate Now

Becoming a Sustaining Associate in the Pittsburgh Chapter of PSPE provides tools to accomplish corporate objectives and more. Through the financial support of our Chapter Sustaining Associates, the Chapter is able to continue to provide many services to the Pittsburgh engineering community as well as sponsor excellent outreach programs to the students in our area. It is imperative in today's world to get and keep students interested in the science- and engineering-related fields in middle and high schools. Our outreach programs include the Engineering Apprenticeship Program, the MATHCOUNTS Program, and participation in several activities at the Carnegie Science Center during National Engineers' week.

The Pittsburgh Chapter is proud to offer the following advantages and benefits of becoming a Sustaining Associate in the Pittsburgh Chapter.

SUSTAINING ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGES

- Member firms may provide an article for the newsletter highlighting their firm’s projects, individual accomplishments, services, products, or technical capabilities. The newsletter circulation reaches 300+ engineers, managers, and company officials and is published on the Chapter website.

- Member firms may advertise positions available within their firm in the newsletter and on the website free-of-charge.

- Member firms may be listed on the Pittsburgh Chapter, PSPE’s Internet Website, free-of-charge. A link to the company’s website can be included.

- Member firms that employ personnel preparing for the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) and Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examinations are entitled to a 20% discount on the Chapter’s review courses for the exams.

- Representative(s) of member firms are permitted to attend regular Chapter Business Meetings and are invited to the Chapter Meetings. Our Chapter presently offers a minimum of four (4) meetings with one (1) qualified PDH for continuing education requirements to maintain a Pennsylvania PE license.

- Member firms are recognized as Sustaining Associates in our PSPE Newsletters and at the Annual Engineers’ Week Banquet held each February.

The following are the current Sustaining Associates:

SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. (paid through December 2020)
Stantec Architecture and Engineering LLC (paid through December 2019)

To become a Sustaining Associate, please complete and return the “Application for Sustaining Associate Membership” on the next page.

TO PAY YOUR 2019 DUES, please mail a check for $350 payable to “PSPE Pittsburgh Chapter” to PSPE, Pittsburgh Chapter, 337 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.
Application for Sustaining Associate Membership in
The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers - Pittsburgh Chapter

Firm Name

Address

City ________________________ State ________ Zip __________

Phone Number (____) ___________ Fax Number (____) ___________

Contact Person #1

Name ______________________ ________________

Phone # ______________________ ________________

Position or Title ______________________ ________________

Email Address ______________________ ________________

Firm Website ______________________ ________________

Firm Description ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Signature ______________________ Date ______________________

THANK YOU!

Please enclose check for $350, payable to “PSPE, Pittsburgh Chapter.”

Please print, complete, and return form and check to:
Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, Pittsburgh Chapter
337 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Questions: Call 412.261.4300 or email us at PSPE@PittsburghPE.Org
### 2019 CALENDAR

#### MEMBERSHIP EVENTS & MEETINGS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 16, 2019</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Dinner Meeting and Presentation of I-579 CAP Project</td>
<td>ESWP</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16-18, 2019</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>PSPE 24 PDH Boot Camp West</td>
<td>DoubleTree by Hilton Cranberry, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19-20, 2019</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>PSPE 2019 Conference</td>
<td>Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem, PA</td>
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#### 2019-2020 Chapter Officers

- **President** – Keenan Sukits, PE
- **Treasurer** – Justin Kramm, PE
- **President-Elect** – Ed Telega, PE
- **Financial Secretary** – Vacant
- **Vice President** – Melissa M. Fontanese, PE
- **Immediate Past President** – Scott P. Sukits, PE
- **Executive Secretary** – Brian Schull, PE

#### 2016–2020 Chapter Directors

- **Angela Mayer**, EIT – 2019-2021
- **Brian Krul**, PE – 2018-2020

#### Chapter Committee Chairs

- **Refresher Course** – Matthew Kusic, PE
- **Sustaining Associates** – Scott P. Sukits, PE
- **Young Members** – Jason Esser, PE
- **Website Coordinator** – Keenan Sukits, PE
- **Newsletter** – James Lombardi, PE
- **Future Website Coordinator** – to be assigned
- **MATHCOUNTS Coordinator** – position available
- **Apprenticeship** – Dave Briskey, PE

#### State Officers

- **State Secretary** – David Briskey, PE
- **State Director** – Kirk Thompson, PE
- **Vice President-Southwest Region** – Jennifer Nolan-Kremm, PE
- **Immediate Past President** – Joseph Boward, PE

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**Find us on Facebook**

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