



**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER**  
**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF**  
**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, and Carbon Counties**  
**(Organized 1935)**

# Valley Engineer Newsletter

January 2025-February 2025

## President's Message!

Alexa Rooney, EIT, JD, President

### Activities:

Tour of Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment (WWTP) Plant – March 20, 2025, 1053 Spruce Road, Allentown, PA 18106

City Center Tour – April 2025 (TBD), Easton, PA.

Scholarship Awards Dinner – May 8, 2025, Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar, Bethlehem, PA.

2025 Annual State Conference – September 17 through 19, 2025, Allentown, PA



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY**  
**OF**  
**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER**  
**(ORGANIZED 1935)**

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

This year has already been off to a busy start with MATHCOUNTS and awarding our Engineer of the Year (EOY) and Young Engineer (YEOY) awards.

The MATHCOUNTS event took place on Saturday, February 8, at Eyer Middle School. We wish the students good luck who advanced to the state competition. The state competition is scheduled to be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on March 22, 2025.

At the Lehigh Engineering Council Annual Banquet, held during Engineers' Week, the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) awarded our Engineer of the Year (EOY) and Young Engineer of the Year (YEOY) awards. Congratulations to Alfred Gruenke, P.E. as our Engineer of the Year and Danielle Pritz, E.I.T. as our Young Engineer of the Year. You can find the EOY and YEOY Bios and pictures from the event, later in this newsletter.

In the coming months, we will have a tour of Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), Allentown, PA, scheduled on March 20, 2025, and a tour with the City Center Group of The Marquis, Easton, PA, to be scheduled soon. An email with more details will be sent out soon about both events. Also, mark your calendars for our Annual Scholarship Dinner on May 8, 2025, at Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar, 3833 Freemansburg Ave, Bethlehem, PA. This event recognizes outstanding high school seniors pursuing the study of engineering with an annual scholarship award.

Continued page 2

For 2025-2026 fiscal year, we have openings on our board including Scholarship Chair and Vice President positions. If you are interested in either of these positions or any other position (even if already occupied for this year), please contact a member of the board for more information or to nominate someone for the position. We are always excited to provide an opportunity for new members to gain experience serving on the board.

Applications are due March 16, 2025. Winners will be in April. I hope we can celebrate our winners with all of you at our Scholarship Dinner in May.

I look forward to our upcoming tours and awarding our scholarship to future engineering students.

**Mathcounts 2025**

MATHCOUNTS was established in 1983 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and CNA Insurance. Today it is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that promotes math enrichment, coaching, and a competition program. The program is available to every U.S. state and territory with the objective of providing today’s students with the foundation for success in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics careers.

The forty-second (42<sup>nd</sup>) annual Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS competition was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Eyer Middle School, Macungie, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. There was a total of twenty (20) schools participating plus two non-school competitors. Including alternates, there were one hundred fifty-eight (158) total participants. We had thirty-six (36) volunteers that assisted with the set-up (February 7<sup>th</sup>), and the competition (February 8<sup>th</sup>).

Prizes at the competition include scholarships for math and/or science courses at Cedar Crest College, Moravian University, Lafayette College, Lehigh Carbon Community College, and Northampton Community College.

Top Six Schools:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place school - Springhouse Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place school – Eyer Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place school – Southern Lehigh Middle School
- 4<sup>th</sup> place school – Easton Area Middle School
- 5<sup>th</sup> place school – Lehigh Valley Academy Regional
- 6<sup>th</sup> place school – Saucon Valley Middle School



1<sup>st</sup> Place School – Springhouse Middle School



2<sup>nd</sup> Place School – Eyer Middle School



3<sup>rd</sup> Place School – Southern Lehigh Middle School

Continued page 3



4<sup>th</sup> Place School – Easton Area Middle School



5<sup>th</sup> Place School – Lehigh Valley Academy Regional



6<sup>th</sup> Place School – Saucon Valley Middle School

### Top Ten Individuals:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Wesley Luo - Springhouse Middle School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Max Yang – Springhouse Middle School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Helen Si – Springhouse Middle School
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Aanya Agrawal – Springhouse Middle School
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Jackson Andrioli – East Hills Middle School
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Vihaan Rao - Springhouse Middle School
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Caleb Yu – Eyer Middle School
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Andy Xie – Southern Lehigh Middle School
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Silas Decamp – Easton Area Middle School
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Aryash Shyam – Lehigh Valley Academy Regional



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Wesley Luo – Springhouse Middle School

The team from Springhouse Middle School (Wesley Luo, Max Yang, Evan Chen, and Vihaan Rao) as well as individuals Helen Si (Springhouse Middle School), Aanya Agrawal (Southern Lehigh Middle School), and Jacson Andrioli (East Hills Middle School) will be going to the state competition in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on March 22, 2025.

The National MATHCOUNTS Competition will take place in Washington, D.C., from May 11 through 12, 2025.



# Engineer's Week Banquet 2025.

Jonathan Kiechel, PE

Every year the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council sponsors a banquet to commemorate Engineering Week. The forty-fourth (44<sup>th</sup>) Annual Engineer's Banquet was held on February 21, 2025, at the Iacocca Conference Center, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.



Lehigh Valley Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (LV PSPE) Table with Both the Engineer of The Year (Alfred Gruenke, P.E., M.B.A) and Young Engineer of the Year (Danielle Pritz, E.I.T.)

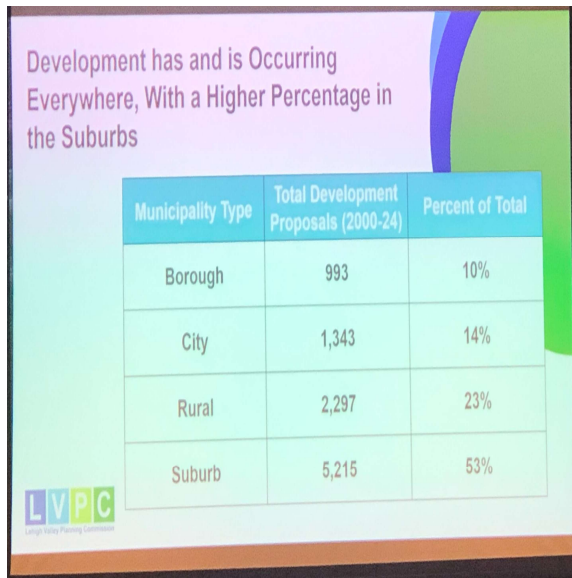


Current and Future Engineers Attending the Forty-Fourth (44<sup>th</sup>) Annual Engineer's Banquet at Iacocca Conference Center, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

## Keynote Speaker – Becky Bradley

Becky Bradley (Becky), Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), was the keynote speaker at the event in which she presented on "How the Region Is Changing".

In summary, while the Lehigh Valley is experiencing significant growth in both residential and industrial sectors, challenges such as housing shortages and the need for balanced development remain the focal points for future planning and policy decisions.



Becky is also leading the update of the region's \$4.4 billion regional transportation planning program, as well as balancing the needs of the Lehigh Valley's rapidly growing population, through the LVPC's county planning responsibilities.

Becky is the recipient of the Walter Scheiber Leadership Award by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) for her innovative leadership in regional planning, and of NARC's Tom Bradley Award for Leadership and excellence of an elected or appointed official in advocating for regional concepts.

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 "The greater the challenge, the greater the opportunity for advancement in engineering." – Unknown  
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Continued page 5

## Awards (2024 Engineer of The Year and 2024 Young Engineer of The Year)

Our Chapter awards Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year awards, which are presented at this event.

### **2024 Engineer of The Year**



Alfred Gruenke, P.E., M.B.A.

Alfred Gruenke, P.E., was born on February 27, 1943. When he was eight years old his family emigrated from Germany to the United States of America, to a chicken farm near Tallahassee, Florida. Two years later they moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Al attended public schools, graduating from Dieruff High School in 1960. He aspired to be an Electrical Engineer but had no prospects of college. He was involved with amateur radio and electronics for years, so he attended a "Thirteenth Year of High School," a one-year course in Electronics Technology offered by the Allentown School District. This was a predecessor to community colleges.

In 1961, at the age of 18, Al and his father, Emil Gruenke, became citizens of the United States of America. Their photo was featured in The Morning Call.

Upon graduation, Al was hired by Air Products as an Electronic Technician. He was accepted and

attended one semester at Lafayette College Evening School in its Electrical Engineering program.

Shortly thereafter, Al obtained employment with IBM Corporation, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as a Customer Engineer. He repaired IBM Unit Record (punched cards) equipment, teleprocessing equipment, and computers for various businesses in the Lehigh Valley area for eight years.

Al married Joan Padus in 1963, who convinced him to return to Lafayette College and obtain a full engineering degree, going to school in the evening while working full-time for IBM. He graduated in 1972 with a BSEE. He was inducted into Eta Kappa Nu, the Honor Society of the IEEE.

In 1970 Al changed careers, joining Keystone Portland Cement in Bath, PA, as the Plant Electrical Engineer. Keystone was challenging since the equipment covered a period from the 1920's to the 1970's. This was the beginning of his life-long involvement with the cement industry.

In 1981 Al joined Fuller Company, Bethlehem, as a Senior Field Engineer. Shortly thereafter Fuller was acquired by FL Smidth, a Danish company. His assignments were to check out electrical equipment at customers' cement plants around the world to ensure that they were wired and working correctly. His responsibilities were anything with electrical wires, from thermocouples to control wiring to variable speed drives to 4,000 kW motors with wound rotor liquid secondaries to 5,000 hp synchronous motors to 10,000 kW 230,000 VAC substations, and everything in between. Cultural differences were sometimes more challenging than the equipment!

Living conditions were often in remote Third World locations. These assignments sometimes were years in duration. The most memorable was being in Egypt on 9/11/2001.

Al sometimes went on short "troubleshooting" assignments, as needed. For a couple of years, he was the "Ball Mill Doctor," troubleshooting and correcting ball mill grinding issues. He was Site Manager and Commissioning Manager at times. Subsequent assignments for FL Smidth included Manager of Field Services for a subsidiary, FFE Minerals, and General Manager of Field Installations for FL Smidth Cement Division. Al is

Continued page 6

a certified MSHA safety instructor, an activity he occasionally still does for FL Smidth.

In the 1990's Al decided to become a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania. This involved going back to school one evening a week for six months at Penn State Extension, Fogelsville, to prepare for the EIT test. He passed the EIT in 1994, and the PE test in 1995.

FL Smidth had offices in Bethlehem, Salt Lake City, Toronto, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Santiago, Chile. Al wrote/edited a periodic newsletter with input from the Field Service Departments of these entities, establishing a feeling of unity among such diverse groups.

Shortly after joining FFE Minerals at the age of 61 Al enrolled in DeSales University, Center Valley, Pennsylvania, Evening Sessions, for an MBA. He obtained this degree when he was 66. The degree gave Al a better understanding of corporate finance and made him a better manager to the Field Engineers reporting to him.

During his 31 years of employment with Fuller/FL Smidth Al's "Claim to Fame" was having been to fifty countries, around the world, three times, being able to say "Thank you" in ten languages, order beer in seven, and cuss respectfully in four!

Since his retirement at age 69 Al has spent a lot of time and effort serving the engineering community and the community at large, both present and future. He served as Director of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, four years as Vice President and two years as President. He was a fundraiser for Math Counts and the Chapter Scholarship Fund for many years and wrote/edited the "Valley Engineer Newsletter" for twelve years. He also wrote articles on chapter tours. Al added interest by adding stories of his many assignments, from India to Indiana to Indonesia, and points in between. During the Covid crisis Al wrote a series of articles on 19<sup>th</sup>-century Lehigh Valley industries including grist mills, lime kilns, and iron mills.

Of particular interest to Al are future engineers. In that vein he has given a presentation, "Who Wants to Be an Engineer," to middle school students in Allentown and Wissahickon school districts. Al explains the beauties of engineering, its contribution to society, and how to become an engineer. It was well received.

The Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers recognized him with two Truman Yeager awards. The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers presented him with two awards: the Communications Award for his newsletter and a Chapter Special Projects Award for his "Who Wants to Be an Engineer" presentations. Al has also given presentations entitled "Engineering for Safety" at several PSPE Annual Conferences, for PDH's.

Recently Al became vice president of the Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation, which gives numerous scholarships to Pennsylvania legal residents attending a Pennsylvania engineering college.

Al's long-time hobby is amateur radio. He has an FCC Extra Class license, call KB3JPP. Certificates include DXCC, WAC, DXCC-QRP, WAC-QRP, and multiple Thousand Miles per Watt awards. His best QRP (low power) QSO (contact) is a 650-mile contact using a 400-mW transceiver he built into an Altoid container.

Al lives in Wescosville with his wife of 61 years, Joan. They have four children, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandson. He enjoys his family, amateur radio, gardening, and golf. To Alfred, engineering is not merely a profession; it is life.



Al Receiving His Award from Jonathan Kiechel, P.E., Vice President of LV PSPE

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## 2024 YOUNG Engineer of The Year



Al's Speech Upon Receiving His Award



Danielle Pritz, E.I.T., founder of Keystone Product Validation



Al and Wife

Danielle Pritz graduated from Penn State University with a B.S. degree in Biological Engineering. She began her career validating software and electrical systems on combine harvesters. Her passion for validation engineering led her to manage a testing laboratory, refining her expertise in quality and reliability. Motivated by her desire to innovate, Danielle founded Keystone Product Validation, an ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accredited mechanical testing laboratory that specializes in furniture testing. She also serves as a member of the BIFMA standards review committees, refining and advancing the safety and durability testing protocols utilized across the furniture industry.



Al and Family

Danielle actively participates in the Lehigh Valley chapter of Society of Women Engineers, where she serves as the outreach coordinator, fostering community involvement through STEM-related volunteer initiatives. In addition, she works as the collegiate outreach coordinator, building connections with Penn State Berks, Penn State Lehigh Valley, and Alvernia University. As a volunteer math tutor for the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks, Danielle provides math tutoring to community members who are preparing for their GED tests, fostering confidence and academic success. She also supports high school students who are studying for college entrance exams, helping them achieve their educational goals. Her

Continued page 8

commitment to empowering others through education reflects her passion for making a meaningful impact in her community. In her down time, she enjoys spending time outside with her two young daughters and her husband.



Danielle Receiving Her Award from Mary Rooney, P.E., Chapter Director of LV PSPE



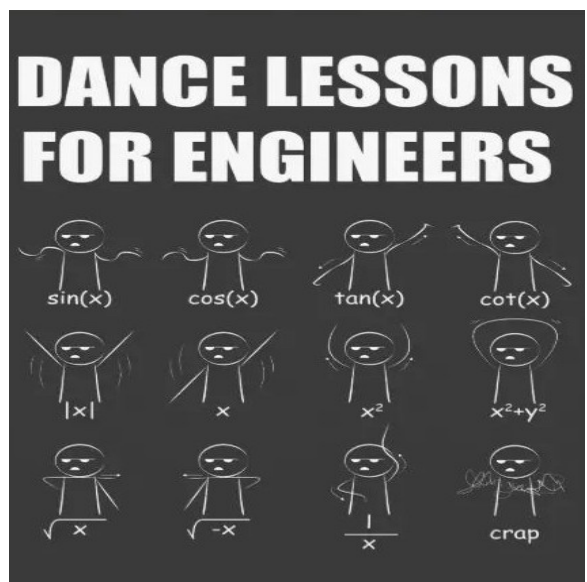
Danielle's Speech Upon Receiving Her Award



Young Engineer of the Year (Danielle) and Engineer of the Year (AI)



Young Engineer of the Year (Danielle) and Engineer of the Year (AI) with LV PSPE, Chapter Director (Mary Rooney, P.E.) and LV PSPE, Vice President (Jonathan Kiechel, P.E.)



"Why did the engineer bring a ladder to the meeting?" – Unknown – (Answer will be provided with the March-April 2025 Newsletter Edition)

"The road to success is always under construction." – Lily Tomlin

## Remembering Johann Franz Szautner – A Life Well Lived.

Connell Funeral Home, Inc. (Edited by Jonathan Kiechel, P.E.)



In Memory of Johann Franz Szautner

Johann Franz Szautner, 80, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania passed away Saturday, January 18, 2025, at Holy Family Manor, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He was the husband of Kathleen A. (Marshang) Szautner. Born in Vienna, Austria, he was the son of the late Johann Szautner IV and Anna Maria (Schneck). Johann, or Hans, as his family and friends called him, grew up in Austria. He met his wife Kathleen in France when both were students, and after they married, they lived in Austria until Johann received his Advanced Engineering degree from the Technical University of Vienna in his native Austria.

Johann and his wife moved to the United States in 1972. Johann had a long career as a civil engineer, first working several years in Austria, including the design of the Autobahn link between Austria and Italy. After coming to the U.S., he worked for Cowan Associates, a Quakertown Civil & Structural Engineering firm. He earned his professional engineering licenses in eight states, where he worked on commercial and industrial projects. He also worked as a municipal engineer, on infrastructure projects. He became Partner and Shareholder of the Cowan firm in 1982, the Vice President for Business Development, Executive Vice President, and President in 2004.

Johann had a keen interest not only in his professional development, but also of fellow engineers, promoting continuing education by serving as State Director of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), Vice Chairman of the Pennsylvania Engineers in Private Practice organization, and President of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the PSPE. He was awarded the 2006 Engineer of the Year (E.O.Y.) Honors, in recognition of his long-standing commitment to excellence in Professional Engineering, and the Truman Yeager Award for outstanding service. Johann was also a member of the Lehigh Valley Toastmasters for ten years. Johann retired from Cowan Associates in 2008. Johann provided forensic engineering services to the insurance industry and legal profession until 2020. Johann had many hobbies and travelling with his wife, especially on photography safaris in Africa, were his favorites.

The Lehigh Valley Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (LV PSPE) are deeply sorry to hear of Johann Franz Szautner's passing. His life and contributions were truly remarkable, and his legacy as a dedicated engineer and mentor to others in his field is a testament to his commitment and passion for excellence. His impact extended beyond his professional accomplishments, through his support of continuing education and his leadership in various engineering organizations.



## **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](mailto: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.

## **2023 – 2024 LVPSPE SCHOLARSHIP DONORS**

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Victaulic Company  
Easton, PA

John Sommer Memorial

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Victaulic (Special Advertisement)

### **Junior**

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Alfred Gruenke, PE  
Wescosville, PA  
H.T. Lyons  
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ZAP Engineering  
Bethlehem, PA  
Patricia Peoples  
Morgan Stanley, Allentown, PA  
TRC Worldwide Engineering, Inc.  
Allentown, PA

### **Sophomore**

Jeffrey Johnson, P.E., FLSmidth Inc  
Allentown, PA  
Hanover Engineering Associates  
Bethlehem, PA  
Boyle Construction  
Allentown, PA  
Dreyer Consulting  
Allentown, PA  
Kohn Engineering  
Macungie, PA

### **Freshmen**

Deilen Development  
Robert Peruzzi  
Bethlehem, PA  
Nermin Ferhadbegovic  
Mass Mutual, Center Valley, PA  
Ray Szcuzucki, PE

### **Contributors**

William Erdman, PE

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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.  
Thank you, for being you.**

**Alfred Gruenke, PE, MBA**

**H.T. LYONS**

contractors | engineers

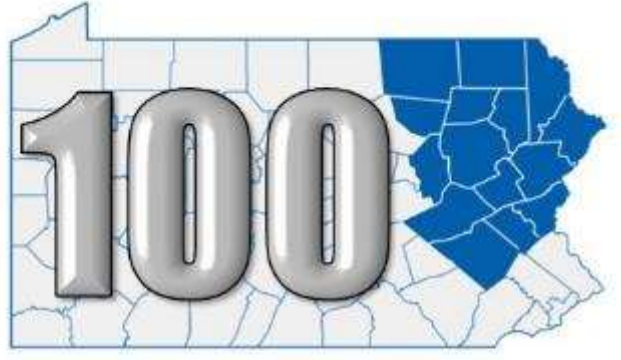
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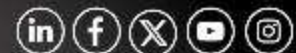


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**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Joe Sommer Memorial Golf Tournament is almost upon us.**

Joe was a valued employee of H.T. Lyons who touched the hearts of everyone he encountered. He loved to give back to the youth in the Lehigh Valley, the community and those interested in the trades. Each year, thousands of dollars are donated to various community organizations; Northampton Police Department, Friends of Bethlehem Mounted Police, Northampton Area Food Bank, Northampton Police Equipment Fund, The Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem, PA Canine Search and Rescue, Beat the Streets/Concrete Barbell and Blue Star Mothers LVPA 20, just to name a few.

**Please consider donating gift cards, money, or donations in kind to this great event!**

**If you require any other information, please contact Lee Millward at:**

**MILLWALC@airproducts.com**

**484-515-6609**

## Internet Addresses

### National Society of Professional Engineers

[www.NSPE.org](http://www.NSPE.org)

### Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

[www.PSPE.org](http://www.PSPE.org)

### Lehigh Valley Chapter – PSPE

[www.LVPSPE.org](http://www.LVPSPE.org)

## 2024– 2025 State Officers

### PSPE President

Nicole Wilson PE  
215-766-1211 ext 127

### State Director –

Michael Basta PE, F-NSPE  
[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

### Alt State Director –,

Al Dezube PE  
[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

### VP Northeast

Dan Cook PE  
570-624-4287.

## Board of Direction Meetings

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.

## 2024 – 2025 Chapter Officers

### Chapter Officers

President-Alexa Rooney, EIT, JD  
[ARooney@pplweb.com](mailto:ARooney@pplweb.com)  
610-774-6011

Vice President – Jonathan Kiechel, PE  
[jkiechel@kceinc.com](mailto:jkiechel@kceinc.com)  
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Past President – Jeff Kutz  
[kutzj@zapecs.com](mailto:kutzj@zapecs.com)

### Chapter Directors

Director – Mary Rooney, PE  
[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

Director – Frank Walsh, PE  
[Directors@LVPSPE.org](mailto:Directors@LVPSPE.org)

Director – Angelika Forndran, PE  
[abf@cowanassociates.com](mailto:abf@cowanassociates.com)

Director – Robert Peruzzi  
[peruzzi@rperuzzi.com](mailto:peruzzi@rperuzzi.com)

Director – Aaron Cali  
[aaron.cali@htlyons.com](mailto:aaron.cali@htlyons.com)

**Lehigh Valley Chapter**  
***Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers***  
***Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe and Carbon Counties***

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Minutes for the January 13, 2025, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
6:00 pm virtual via zoom

Attendees: Alexa Rooney, Jeff Kutz, Cody Callahan, Frank Walsh, Mary Rooney, Al Dezubay, Ray Szczucki, Jonathan Kiechel, Angelika Forndran, Robert Peruzzi, Al Gruenke

**Call to Order:**

**Programs:**

- Activities – Jon Kiechel
  - January –
  - February – Engineer’s week Banquet Feb 21, 2025
    - Jonathan will coordinate ordering the awards based on the awards template
  - March – Tour of KISS Project (Klines Island Wastewater Treatment Plant)
    - Coordinate setting up tour for PSPE state conference as well
  - April – Alexa to coordinate second tour of complete Marquis (as long as the project is completed)
  - May – Scholarship Award Dinner – Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> @ Kingfish. Buffet style dinner with cash bar.
- Newsletter – Jon Kiechel
  - Send articles to Jon ASAP.
- Contact Mary Rooney if you would like to post an article about a project that you are working on to be published in the Lehigh Valley Business Journal, Engineers Week Edition. Articles due January 30<sup>th</sup>, 500-750 words and pictures welcome (pictures need to be your property).

**Mathcounts:**

- Mathcounts coordination – February 8, 2025 – snow date February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- If you would like to volunteer, contact Cody Callahan (ccallahan@barryisett.com)

**Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships**

- **Fundraising – Frank Walsh**
  - Received to date: \$3,400.00 in pledges and \$1,900.00 in received
- Scholarships – recipients have been notified. Jonathan will work on preparing the awards.

**Treasurer**

- **Treasurer Report – Ray Szczucki**
- **Balance as of December 31, 2024**
  - Checking: \$ 2,418.01
  - Savings: \$ 5,875.02

- Alexa to send a list of people who owe for scholarship dinner. Ray will work on sending invoices out through Paypal.
- Ray working on dues disbursement forms which are due middle of the year.

#### **State Director**

- State Director Report – Mike Basta
- Alt State Director – Al Dezubay
  - September state conference @ Renaissance hotel in Allentown.
  - Ray has volunteered to be the new Alt State Director.
  - An effort has been made to revise PSPE by-laws. This effort is coming to its conclusion and members will receive the revisions and opportunity to vote on them.

#### **Past President**

- Past President Report – Jeff Kutz
  - Social Media – will become more active with upcoming Mathcounts and banquet

#### **Old Business/New Business**

- Website update
  - Ray made motion to pay ~\$350.00 fee for member emails to be manually entered to website. Motion passed.
  - Add pictures - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/oQwuuDygGM4Kf8iRA>
  - [Change Nov. – Dec. newsletter to a .PDF](#)
  - [Ray to send Paypal login information to Alexa, so that Paypal can be added to the website.](#)
- LVEC – Engineer Week Banquet – February 21, 2025 @ Lehigh
  - EOY and YEOY Congratulations!
- Board of Directors meetings for the 2024-2025 year:
  - January 13, 2025
  - February 10, 2025
  - March 10, 2025 – In Person Meeting
  - April 14, 2025
- ASCE is looking for engineer type volunteers for the screening of “Cities of the Future” for local elementary, middle, and high schools @ Steel Stacks on February 18-21. Reach out to Steve Ressler if you would like to volunteer (sjressler@gmail.com).

**Adjournment on motion by Jonathan, seconded by Ray at 7:17.**

**Lehigh Valley Chapter**  
***Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers***  
***Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe and Carbon Counties***

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Minutes for the February 10, 2025, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
6:00 pm virtual via zoom

Attendees: Mike Basta, Alexa Rooney, Jeff Kutz, Cody Callahan, Frank Walsh, Al Dezubay, Ray Szczucki, Jonathan Kiechel, Robert Peruzzi, Al Gruenke, Mary Rooney

**Call to Order:**

**Programs:**

- Activities – Jon Kiechel
  - February – Engineer’s week Banquet Feb 21, 2025
  - March – Tour of KISS Project (Klines Island Wastewater Treatment Plant) March 20, 2025 @ 4:30 pm
  - April – Alexa to coordinate second tour of complete Marquis (as long as the project is completed)
  - May – Scholarship Award Dinner – Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> @ Kingfish. Buffet style dinner with cash bar.
- Newsletter – Jon Kiechel
  - Send any articles to Jon

**Mathcounts:**

- Kevin Campbell (BIA) Looking for PSPE to take a bigger role in planning it in the future.
- Cody to check if other BIA members plan on continuing to be involved.

**Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships**

- **Fundraising – Frank Walsh**
  - Received to date: \$4,500.00 in pledges and \$2,650.00 in received. No contribution from Victaulic this year.
  - It appears that it’s going to be a small number of total contributions this year.
  - Need to update sponsors listed on the newsletter starting with the newsletter which lists scholarship award winners.
  - If anybody has a Lutron contact, please share with Frank. They used to be a large donor, but our previous contacts have left.
- Scholarships – the scholarship application on the website needs to be updated to list Jeff’s email address and remove Al’s address as a location to mail the applications to.
  - Jonathan to send applicant bios to Alexa.

## Treasurer

- **Treasurer Report – Ray Szczucki**
- **Balance as of January 31, 2025**
  - Checking: \$ 1,970.67
  - Savings: \$ 5,875.02
  - Alexa to send a list of people who owe for scholarship dinner. Ray will work on sending invoices through Paypal.
  - Mathcounts expenses to come out of savings account.
  - Ray created a new paypal account. Cody will try to troubleshoot accepting payments on this new account.

## State Director

### State Director Report – Mike Basta

- Legislative Committee Report
  - DEP Streamlining permits for Economic Expansion and Development (Speed) program. The following training or certification will be required by DEP. PSPE is communicating with DEP regarding the PE's role in the program.
    - 1. Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Program
    - 2. Certified Construction Stormwater Inspector.
    - 3. Certified E & S Professional.
  - ANTI-indemnification legislation prohibits one company from shifting its own liability to another company in a construction contract. Not yet introduced, but various PSPE supported bills have been offered in past sessions
  - Regulations to update the PA Elevator Code is expected to be published for public comment in February or March. PA has the oldest elevator code in the country. The anticipated change will update the code from the 2002 ASME code to the 2016 ASME code.
  - PSPE expects legislation to be introduced to amend our Registration Act to exempt Broadband companies. This Committee is a continuation of the long running dispute relating to the Davy Resources case.
  - Transportation funding (both public transportation and road) is being tied to the possibility of the Commonwealth regulating and taxing games of skill.
- 2025 Conference Committee
  - Annual Conference will held Sept. 17-19 2025 in Allentown (Renaissance Hotel)
    - **We will be looking for Lehigh Valley Chapter members to help out with the event.**
- Committee and Task Force Activities
  - Amend by substitution the PSPE constitution and Bylaws
- Financial Report
  - 50% of the year has elapsed most revenue and expense items as expected

## Past President

- Past President Report – Jeff Kutz
  - Social Media – Jeff to make LinkedIn posts regarding engineer's week and about LVPSPE looking for donations towards the scholarship fund.

## Old Business/New Business

- Website update
  - Cody to talk to Peter about email forwarding addresses and transferring the login credentials so that PSPE can manage the domain going forward.
  - Add pictures - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/oQwuuDygGM4Kf8iRA>
  - Change Nov. – Dec. newsletter to a .PDF

- Ray/Cody to coordinate sending Paypal login information to Alexa, so that Paypal can be added to the website.
- LVEC – Engineer Week Banquet – February 21, 2025 @ Lehigh
  - EOY and YEOY Congratulations!
- Board of Directors meetings for the 2024-2025 year:
  - February 10, 2025
  - March 10, 2025 – **In Person Meeting**
  - April 14, 2025
- ASCE is looking for engineer type volunteers for the screening of “Cities of the Future” for local elementary, middle, and high schools @ Steel Stacks on February 19 @ 9 AM and 11 AM & February 20 @ 9 AM. Reach out to Steve Ressler if you would like to volunteer (sjressler@gmail.com).

**Adjournment on motion by Jonathan, seconded by Mary at 7:08.**