



VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER
PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 585 WORCESTER, PA 19490-0585



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(Read the COMPASS online at www.pspe.org/valleyforge)



President's Message

By: Kevin Killoran, P.E.

Happy New Year...hopefully everyone had a wonderful holiday season and your 2019 is off to a great start!!

Building on our Fall momentum, the Chapter will be hosting several membership meetings this Winter. The first event is a joint dinner meeting set for January 31st with the Reading PSPE Chapter where VFC member Frank Stanton, PE, will talk about ethics (the ethics presentation is PIE approved!) In February there are two events scheduled—the VFC/Bucks MATHCOUNTS competition will be held on February 9th, and a dinner meeting with the student chapter of Villanova University is scheduled for February 27th. Other membership events are planned for March and April which includes the Montgomery County Science Fair, a joint dinner meeting in March with the Bucks Chapter, and the Past-President dinner meeting in April. Our annual golf outing with Reading Chapter will take place on May 17th at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Limerick. Golfers, sponsors and volunteers are always needed!

The MATHCOUNTS competition is scheduled for February 9th at Dock Mennonite Academy 9-12 Campus (1000 Forty Foot Rd, Lansdale, PA). The tentative snow date is February 23rd at the same location (hopefully we don't need to use this option though). More details to follow very soon, but as always, we will need volunteers.

In case you were not aware, the Chapter's involvement with the Montgomery County Science Fair involves serving as judges for engineering related topics. If interested in serving as a judge, please contact the Chapter at VFC.PSPE@gmail.com.

We are always looking for ways to engage Chapter members – one idea under consideration is to schedule afternoon events such as a factory tour or a 3D printing demonstration. Please share your thoughts and level of interest in weekday events.

As always, we invite all interested members, or member companies, to consider presenting a technical topic at a future meeting or suggesting a meeting topic. This is a great opportunity to be involved with the Chapter and gain exposure for yourself and your company. If you are interested in speaking at an upcoming event, please contact the Chapter at VFC.PSPE@gmail.com. The Chapter can assist with the venue and food arrangements.

Happy Engineering and hope to see you at an upcoming Chapter event!



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Editor's Notes

By: Kurt Leininger, P.E.

I hope everyone enjoyed last quarter's Compass, and that you find this issue interesting too!

In early November, NSPE held their annual Northeast Regional Conference in King of Prussia where PSPE sponsored a day-long seminar on requirements for Second Responders. A few of our Board members attended this seminar as well as the evening happy hour and dinner at Pepper's restaurant in King of Prussia.

On November 20th we hosted a dinner meeting which included a presentation on the food industry by long-time VFC member and Past-President, Brookes Britcher. This meeting was held at Bertucci's in Plymouth Meeting with close to 20 members and non-members in attendance (including many VFC Past-Presidents).

Last but not least, in early December we enjoyed the 25th annual Day at the Races at PARX Casino & Racetrack in Bensalem. NSPE & VFC Past-President Harve Hnatiuk started this event during his year as VFC President in 1993. In honor of the occasion, we presented Harve with a trophy for his steadfast hosting of this traditional event. We thank Harve and his wife Cyndee for their continued support of the Chapter!





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Note from the Scholarship Committee

By: Randy Cleaver, P.E.

The Valley Forge Chapter of PSPE is very fortunate to offer each year three excellent scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The chapter is privileged to select two seniors for the Drexel University College of Engineering and one senior for the Temple University College of Engineering. Drexel University awards two scholarships of \$5,000/year for 5 years, and Temple University awards a scholarship of \$2000/year for 4 years.

Each December the Chapter Scholarship Committee sends scholarship applications to guidance counselors in public and private high schools in Chester and Montgomery Counties. The committee receives 10 to 12 applications from seniors during the months of January and February. Each application is judged in four categories: ACT/SAT/PAA, high school transcripts, activities and a written essay. The essay is submitted by the applicant with the theme “why you chose engineering as a career”. After the judging is complete, the top scoring applicants are submitted to each university for their respective scholarships.

Should you know a 2019 high school graduating senior pursuing engineering, the committee encourages you to have the senior contact their guidance counselor or the Valley Forge scholarship committee at VFC.PSPE@gmail.com as soon as possible.

News from NSPE & PSPE

The following link is a “chat room” or conversation venue for NSPE members on various hot topics:
<https://community.nspe.org/home>.

Review of Occupational Licensure Reforms

Below is some background on the recent efforts for reforming occupational licensure. Many state licensing boards, including Pennsylvania, have been reviewing their regulations with an eye to loosening requirements for occupational licensure, which occasionally has a potential to overlap the “learned professions” such as engineering and surveying.

Generally, this “licensure-threat” issue has gained prominence as a result of various organizations willing to represent individuals who face an unreasonable financial burden to obtain a license in their particular trade. (Perhaps the most prominent advocate is Institute for Justice (www.ij.org), a non-profit organization that represents individuals at no cost when their grievance aligns with the IJ goals of economic liberty, free speech, private property, and education choice.) NSPE and PSPE are alerted to proposed reforms that may diminish the importance and credibility of the need for licensure to protect the public health, welfare and safety. Individuals PEs should also be on the lookout for such activities that may be performed by non-licensed entities, whether individuals or companies, and report them to PSPE if they occur. Governor Wolf’s efforts in this regard are explained below as reported by PSPE in June 2018.



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Governor Wolf Proposes Job Licensing Reform to Cut Red Tape, Strengthen Workforce

Plains Township, PA – Building on his commitment to make state government more responsive to Pennsylvania’s growing economy, Governor Tom Wolf is calling for reforms to several job licensing boards and the licensing requirements to remove barriers to employment so skilled workers can enter the careers of their choice, strengthen the workforce, and grow our economy.

“Pennsylvania must be a place where people can put their skills, experience and education to work,” said Governor Wolf. “Requiring a government license to work in certain jobs helps to keep all of us safe, but those requirements should be fair.

“We must cut the red tape, reduce the bureaucracy and ensure overly burdensome rules and fees do not block hardworking people – especially our military spouses – from getting a good job, supporting their families and growing our economy.”

Nationwide, the share of workers needing a license has grown five-fold since the early 1950s, with most of the increase occurring as states require more professions to be licensed. Today, one in five Pennsylvania workers needs a government license to do their job, representing more than one million workers.

Over-licensing makes it harder for skilled workers to get into a profession, reducing their career opportunities and lowering their pay, while increasing costs to consumers. After decades of expanding licensing, there is a national awareness of the need to modernize job licensing to reduce restrictions while protecting consumers and benefiting workers.

In 2017, Governor Wolf signed an Executive Order directing the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs within the Department of State to conduct a review of job licensing to compare Pennsylvania with our regional states. The governor’s proposals are noted below.

Eliminate 13 Job Licenses:

The governor called on the General Assembly to repeal 13 job licenses and replace them with less restrictive requirements that protect the public for the following:

- Auctioneers, only require registration and bonding.
- Barbers, only require certification from a licensed barber school, passage of examination, minimum hours of training, and registration with the State Board of Barber Examiners.
- Cemetery Broker/Cemetery Salesperson, only require passage of relevant examination, 60 hours of instruction and registration.
- Campground Membership Salesperson, only require registration with the State Real Estate Commission.
- Natural Hair Braiding License, eliminate this license.
- Orthotic fitter/Orthotist/Pedorthist/Prosthetist, only require credentialing, passage of an education program, training, and minimum hours of training.
- Practitioner of Oriental Medicine, maintain existing, but separate acupuncturist licensing requirement to protect public health and safety.
- Rental Listing Referral Agent, only require registration with the State Real Estate Commission.



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- Vehicle Factory Representative, only require registration with the State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers, and Salespersons.

Ease Relocation for Military Spouses:

Licensing requirements can make it harder for workers to move across state lines, particularly for military spouses who have burdens transferring their license to Pennsylvania. The governor will work with the General Assembly to streamline the process for military spouses and pass legislation allowing licensing boards to seek reciprocity agreements with other states and grant licensure through endorsement.

“Military spouses serve our country with their selfless support of their loved ones in uniform, and they face numerous challenges along the way,” said Col. Edwards S. Little, Jr., representing the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. “In Pennsylvania, one of those challenges is license portability, making it difficult for many military spouses to find employment. That is why the governor’s initiative to break down employment barriers by supporting the Military Spouse License Portability Act in our commonwealth is so important.”

Balance Education and Training Requirements:

While continuing education has benefits to workers and consumers, over-regulating through unnecessary training can create undue burdens and costs. The governor is directing each licensing board to amend its continuing education regulations to levels established in state law. Additionally, the governor will work to enact legislation reducing training hour requirements for cosmetologists from 1,250 to 1,000 as recommended by the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition, the national organization representing students, licensed stylists, salon owners, manufacturers, distributors, and cosmetology schools.

Provide Second Chance Reform:

To level the playing field compared to our regional states, the governor is calling for a repeal of the automatic 10-year ban on licensing for anyone convicted of a drug felony. Instead, the 13 boards with the statutory ban could consider criminal history, but it would not be conclusive of a person’s fitness for a job. Removing this barrier encourages people to work, which reduces crime and recidivism, making our communities safer.

Speed Up Occupational License Process:

The Governor’s Office of Performance Through Excellence will review the licensing applications process to reduce reviews to no more than 10 days, absent extenuating circumstances.

As a P.S. to the above, this website reports the status of all occupation licenses in all 50 states:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/occupational-licensing636476435.aspx>

The below website has a good summary of the overall issue, from perhaps the most recent major court case on engineering licensure (decided in Oregon): <https://www.ij.org>



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Miscellaneous Items of Interest

- Another amazing role for drone technology:
https://iconsofinfrastructure.com/subterranean-drones-revolutionize-infrastructure-maintenance/?NL=IOI-001&Issue=IOI-001_20181120_IOI-001_576&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_1
- An update on the Chernobyl nuclear reactor that blew up 32 years ago:
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-chernobyl-solar/three-decades-after-nuclear-disaster-chernobyl-goes-solar-idUSKCN1MF1UM?utm_source=applenews
- An item from the aeronautical field, which makes us hope they'll have good structural engineers:
<https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/colossal-elevator-space-could-be-going-sooner-you-ever-imagined-ncna915421>
- A Turkish company's innovative solution to pothole repairs:
https://iconsofinfrastructure.com/to-combat-a-3b-pothole-problem-cities-turn-to-high-tech-solutions/?NL=IOI-001&Issue=IOI-001_20181211_IOI-001_243&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_3

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Essay of the Month

How well do you listen?

By: Anne Weisbord

Listening is different from hearing. Hearing is a physiological function, and listening is a choice. It is a skill that needs to be developed. Too often, we choose not to listen. Why? Because good listening, active listening, takes effort. Active listening means that we are not passive, but act. We pay attention and acknowledge the speaker—confirming that what we heard is what was said. In truth, most of us are not good listeners.

There are many, many reasons why we don't listen well. Here are seven of the most common ones.

How guilty are you?

1. I anticipate what people will say next as they are speaking.
2. I'm crafting my own response while the speaker is speaking.
3. I interrupt while the speaker is talking
4. If I find the topic or the speaker boring, I tune out.
5. If I don't like what the speaker is saying or if it's too hard to understand, I tune out.
6. I am busy, so I keep working while the speaker is talking to me.
7. I listen only to the words, and not the feelings behind the words.

Think what you can learn by listening! You will hear other ideas and opinions. Are you giving people enough time to get their ideas and concerns out? By being open to listening to others, you demonstrate that you value the speaker; you care about what s/he is saying. Through active listening, you will be encouraging contributions from others (Of course, then you have to process the message and give consideration to what was said.).

Respected studies have shown that that leaders who listen have more positive interactions with their teams, and in turn, those teams are more likely to be more favorably influenced by these leaders. Additionally, since you are serving as a role model, you are setting a standard that you expect others to meet as well.

Actively listening is also an essential quality for a team player. Teams that listen to each other function more effectively. By listening and considering all points of view from other teammates, they prove to be better problem solvers. By listening and absorbing information correctly, there is less need for repetition and fewer misunderstandings, so productivity is improved and a meaningful dialogue can take place.

So, what can you do to become a better listener? First, and most importantly, you need to commit to it. Then, start practicing these techniques:

1. Concentrate on what is being said. Pretend you will have a quiz on the speaker's content and need to repeat it to someone.



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2. Paraphrase for clarity. For example, “What I think you’ve said is....”
3. Put aside distracting thoughts. If you need to jot something down so you won’t forget it, do that so that you can give full attention to the speaker.
4. Wait until the speaker has finished talking before you speak.
5. Defer judgment. The speaker might be saying something that you disagree with, but s/he still deserves the respect of being listened to.
6. Ask questions if you do not understand what is being said.
7. If you are face-to face with the speaker, look the speaker in the eye. If you are on the phone, use phrases that acknowledge you’re listening (for example, “I see,” or “uh-huh”).

To repeat, good listening isn’t easy, but it is worth it. So, start today to break your bad listening habits and start making new good ones.

Anne Weisbord, president of Career Services Unlimited, has been a communications consultant for over 20 years. She has worked with professionals in a wide range of industries helping them become more compelling, confident, and articulate speakers. www.awlearningconsultants.com.



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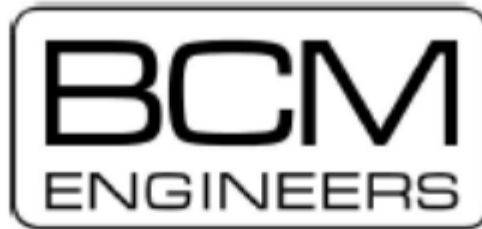
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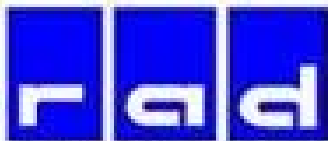
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