Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Saturday, January 24, 2009
Four Points Sheraton North, Mars, PA

Minutes

PSPE VISION
PSPE is the recognized voice and advocate of all Professional Engineers who are licensed in Pennsylvania.

PSPE MISSION
Promote and defend the interests of Pennsylvania’s Professional Engineers.

Call to order – John F. Bradshaw, PE, PLS. President Bradshaw called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Roll call –
A. Invocation.
B. Pledge of Allegiance/Engineers Creed by Walter Poplawski.
C. Roll Call by Richard Auelnbach. The attached roll call sheet indicates attendance; a quorum was present. Also present, PSPE Executive Director John Wanner, CAE; PSPE Deputy Executive Director, Jennifer Summers.

Additional Agenda Items and/or Revisions - No additional agenda items or revisions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes
D. June 7, 2008 – Motion to approve was made and seconded, and unanimously approved.

Financial Reports

E. Treasurer’s Report – John Nawn, P.E.
F. Page 6 is current statement of financial position. Page 7 2009 calendar year along with assessment of 2008 calendar year. Take a look at it and discuss. Our biggest item as always is membership dues how we fund the organization primarily. The 2009 budget show the dues increase to $120 from $104.
G. At the last meeting, the topic of indexing dues or having a cost of living adjustment arose, which is currently not recommended.
H. Page 10 shows a budget comparison graph. There is not much that can be done on the expense side. The revenue side is all over the map. It would be in our best interest to not index the dues.
I. With the $120 dues increase, we could have a balance budget for this year. A budget increase for next year is uncertain.
J. As per bylaws, a budget must be passed. Also, a motion must be approved to set the dues at $120.
K. A motion to increase the dues to $120 was made and seconded, and unanimously approved.
L. A motion to approve the budget and present it on page 7 was also made and seconded, and unanimously approved.
M. To avoid future dues increases, new members must be recruited and current members must be retained. This will improve the organization.
N. 2008 was not a good year for us, losing over $68,000.
O. We will be looking into moving some funds into a guaranteed interest account. A discussion of different funds and interest-bearing accounts is presented.
Old Business

A. Page 15 is reviewed: a summary of survey findings, paragraph on membership value, resources to partner with, thoughts about new programs, and the path forward (5 items). Formulating a strategic plan to implement this so that PSPE is the preferred provider of professional development hours and professional engineers was mistakenly left out of this list.

B. Eric thanks those who participated in the survey. He announces that it is important to come up with a strategic plan and find a way to implement it, which may require partners to help. We have been approached by Penn State so far. We will bring our understanding of the market: this survey, which is confidential.

C. The education committee has been waiting for the survey results. We want to get this group fired up. Eric directs the attention to page 20, and the top five preferred methods to obtain continuing education. The survey was successful with a 19% response rate.

D. It is pointed out that a listing of distribution according to age is on page 17.

E. Looking for volunteers for the committee in the central western part.

F. In New York, when new continuing education requirements were implemented their membership jumped tremendously, according to an engineer. An idea was thrown out to implement requirements quickly in order to draw membership.

G. Membership numbers are discussed.

H. A free Webinar is offered by PSPE on January 27th for anyone who is interested – “Changing the Conversation: Messages for Improving Public Understanding of Engineering.”

I. We need to get faculties of engineering schools to see things from an engineer’s point of view.

J. Wilke’s has invited us back to conduct another order of engineer ceremony in March at their awards ceremony for the engineering graduates.

K. Ways to get people to get engaged and interested and want to participate.

L. Started on 2010 Annual Conference - following same format as what was proposed for 2009: late spring, early summer; conference in the fall – looking for locations: Pittsburgh area? Looking to get committee together to continue planning.

M. Phone call between Bret & Jen Summers about plans for PSPE

N. Highlights & Planning

1. Bret reassures that PSPE is in good financial shape

2. Try to cut expenses by engaging in more conference calls, try to do more on the web, more on the phone, and spend less money traveling all around; cut out unnecessary travel.

3. There has been a decline in membership.

4. The National Conference will still be held in St. Louis on June 15th through 18th, with the delegate meeting on the 19th. We are trying to get president elects together over the summer to strategize, network, etc.

5. In the 2010 Conference we will be focusing on education opportunities. We will try to expand our three track to a fourth track. We may take an extra few hours or so for a course.

O. Dave Williams briefly reviews the awards on pages 26 and 27. Awards are due by March 14th, not March 1st.

P. Page 28 shows the Nominations. Jen announces that letters of recommendations are needed.

Q. A reflection of a former president of PSPE in the 60s, Don Smith, is presented. Please keep in mind that there are people not in our daily deliberations who have paved the way before us in PSPE.

R. We need an official notion for the nominations. Submit the following candidates for nominations: Donald D. Smith, PE; John F. Bradshaw, PE; and Walter J. Poplawski, PE. All in favor, none opposed. Motion is unanimously approved.


A. Goals of Communications and Marketing Committee

1. Our first, most fundamental goal is to come up with a sentence or two that can communicate to the public what a professional engineer really is. Once we can clearly
define who we are and what we do, we can reach out to our communities and let them
know what we do in a way that the general public can understand.

2. Turn PE Reporter magazine around to a positive cash flow position. Zeyn will be
leading this effort.

3. Mike will help spread a model that has worked in the Lehigh chapter. This would be to
establish good relationships with the local media in the areas in which we work. When
an event occurs that relates to engineering, hopefully they will come to us. We would
like to set up someone for each chapter who is responsible for media focus and
attention. In June we hope to put together a class to develop that media talent in your
chapter.

A challenge was put out to come away from this meeting and provide new names from chapter
members to assist the various committees.

MathCounts
A. 384 schools statewide registered for the competitions: this is roughly the same as previous years.
Most competitions have been scheduled for weekends. Local coordinators are making final
arrangements for the competitions.
B. March 21st is the state competition. Dave Stone and Jen have everything under control. All are
couraged to volunteer to help with all competitions.
C. A letter was received from the Department of Education that our $75,000 grant was reduced to
$69,000. We will look further into this to determine the impact on the chapters and any cuts.

Young Engineers Report
A. We need more people for the committee. Any names would be appreciated.
B. There are few young engineers in the chapters to begin with, which makes it challenging to get a
young engineers program started.
C. Young engineers have different priorities, such as family and the commitment to the profession
at this time in their career.
D. A young engineers event is planned for the conference on Thursday evening, which will be
similar to a happy hour.
E. It was recommended to create a young engineer position on each board and try to get a program
started through that person.

Legislative/Governmental Task Force
A. We would like to try and make this into a full committee at some point. We have an action plan
that we hope to move ahead with soon. We are currently short in a few areas (see page 14); hopefully we can find some representatives for these positions.
B. Our strategic plan in 2008 and 2009 wanted to focus on strengthening the committee structure;
L&GA is a good way to build that value.
C. Our PAC fund is critically under funded, so we must do something as a group to get that fund
back up. We need to get the legislature to think our way.
D. Members are encouraged to contribute to the PAC fund at anytime.

Virtual Chapter Task Force
A. There are three members; the only confirmed active member is Eric Gripper.
B. We are looking to recruit new members.

PSPE Nominating Committee
A. The final list of people running for next year’s office are as follows:
   President-Elect: Dave McCullough, PE (Beaver County Chapter)
   Secretary: Richard P. Aulenbach, PE (Reading Chapter)
   Treasurer: John A. Nawn, PE (Delaware County Chapter)
   Vice President, Southwest Region: Michel Sadaka, PE (Pittsburgh Chapter)
   Vice President, Southeast Region: Francis J. Stanton, Jr., PE (Bucks County Chapter)
   Vice President, Central Region: Susan K. Sprague, PE (Lincoln Chapter)
   Vice President, Northeast Region: Eric W. Tappert, PE (Lehigh Valley Chapter)
B. Motion to accept the nominees is approved unanimously.
C. The secretary is to cast one single ballot for the nominees in accordance with the bylaws. The secretary will also make the formal report of the election at the annual general membership meeting, which is to be held after the board meeting.
D. Rick casts his vote for the above candidates.

The Constitution of Bylaws Report
A. Page 32, prepared by Leonard Bernstein, PE.
B. Proposed changes to the PSPE constitution were submitted to the PSPE membership in the Fall 2008 PE Reporter. A majority of the ballots received by the deadline of December 15, 2008 approved the proposed amendments and in accordance with Article XVI, Section 2, of the PSPE Constitution, the Amendments became effective on January 14, 2009.

Resolution to Pass the Exam
A. Attended the Bachelor Plus Thirty Presentation by Craig Mussel.
B. Idea to require the exam to be taken to graduate. They do not necessarily have to pass it, just so long as they take the test. Consensus that this may be a good idea.
C. 80% of practicing engineers are not registered in the country. Taking the test would be a good stepping stone to getting registered.
D. Could start out as a requirement for PSPE, maybe switch to a requirement for ISPE, and eventually be a general requirement for graduating through ABET.
E. Emphasis on sciences & the lack thereof of mandatory classes nowadays.
F. Write an article for NSPE.
G. Motion approved to submit this as a proposal at a commission meeting and allow the commission to discuss it.

Transportation Society Event
A. A joint society event in Harrisburg has been requested by David Snively of Orth-Rodgers. ASCE-E, ACEC of PA, and other societies involved in transportation will be included.
B. Rob Wonderling, the newly appointed Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee would be the speaker. More details are to follow.

DEP News Release – Page 34
1. The Department of Environmental Protection and the Natural Gas Drilling Industry have launched a partnership.
   a. To explore new and innovative methods to treat wastewater generated from oil and gas well drilling operations in the commonwealth.
   b. The department will develop a technology based standard for total dissolved solids in oil and gas wastewater to protect rivers and streams.
   c. To qualify for permit by rule, applicants must have a certified professional engineer or professional geologist develop and seal the Erosion Control Plan and Post Construction Stormwater Control Plans.
   d. John Ackerman, former president of PSPE, is on the task force and notified us right away to let us know that having a professional geologist develop these plans is incorrect, they shouldn’t be involved in sealing the plans. He will be contacting DEP about this matter.

House of Delegate Report with Harve
A. June 15th-18th meeting in St. Louis. On the 19th, the House of Delegates meet.

Executive Director’s Report – John Wanner
A. Points out the lists on Pages 36 & 37
B. For liability reasons, NSPE does not feel comfortable with direct deposit of dues to chapters. The new process will involve them sending state and local dues to the state society. From there,
it is our responsibility to forward them to the chapters. This may be a surprise to some of the chapters. We are not sure when this will begin.

C. The Awards Banquet will be held in February at the Hershey Hotel.
D. Engineer’s Week is coming up. The governor’s office has agreed to create proclamations, recognizing engineer’s week. They gave us enough copies for every chapter.

**Legislative Update**

A. The first voting day is next Monday; they had their swearing in the beginning of this month. We don’t have committee lists for the house and which members are on which committees. This should soon be available.
B. We will be reintroducing the legislation to clean up the Continuing Education Language Administration Act and make it more like the national model. It will be introduced early in the session and move it as quickly as possible.

**Adjournment**

A. Gala to celebrate 75th Anniversary of PSPE or NSPE of Drexel Brook and Drexel Hill. They expect about 300 people at this event.
B. John Bradshaw announces that this will be his last meeting as president. He cannot attend the June meeting, due to his grandson’s high school graduation in Texas. A big “thanks” for being involved is proclaimed by John.
C. Motion to adjourn meeting is made and seconded by all. Meeting adjourned unanimously.
Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Four Points Sheraton North  
Saturday, January 24, 2009

**Roll Call**

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**Also in attendance:**  
Tom Weber  
Fred Plotnick