Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
2007 PSPE Conference
The Inn at Reading, Reading, PA
Thursday, May 31, 2007

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

I. Call to order – President Harve Hnatiuk, P.E. F.NSPE
President Hnatiuk called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

II. Roll call of the Executive Committee – Secretary Joseph F. Boward, PE
A. The attached roll call sheet indicates attendance; a quorum (minimum five members in accordance with Bylaw 9, Section 3) was present.
B. Also Present:
   PSPE Executive Director – John D. Wanner, CAE
   PSPE Deputy Executive Director – Jennifer Summers
   NSPE Director, Northeast Region – Barry Isett, P.E., F.NSPE

III. Additional Agenda Items and/or Revisions – None.

IV. Approval of Minutes
A. April 18, 2007, Meeting – Motion to approve the minutes as written by Vice President McCullough and seconded by Treasurer Nawn. Motion passed.

V. Financial Reports
A. Treasurer’s Report – John Nawn, P.E. – The treasurer’s report was provided on Pages 10 and 11 of the meeting booklet. PSPE has received approximately 55 percent of the budgeted revenue to date. Expenses are tracking as expected. PSPE is operating in a surplus as of this date. The PE Reporter Advertising Solicitation Program by D. Smith had a strong start, but has apparently experienced a recent lull. In accordance with our contract with Mr. Smith, his performance will be evaluated after six months to determine if the contract will be renewed. Mr. Smith did obtain larger advertisements from GAI Engineering and Michael Baker Jr., Inc. Report filed for audit.
B. Reserve Fund Report – Michel Sadaka, P.E. – Vice President Sadaka summarized the reserve fund report presented on Page 14 of the meeting booklet. It was indicated that the fund has been earning a two percent to five percent income, even though the market has not been performing well. Report filed for audit.
C. **Repayment of the 2006 NSPE Dues Advance – John Nawn, P.E.** – Information regarding this issue is presented on Pages H thru L of the meeting booklet. NSPE indicated to PSPE that we owe them approximately $8000. PSPE is requesting documentation from NSPE providing details of the alleged debt. Page L of the meeting booklet was generated by NSPE with the intent of providing some level of accounting for the monies. However, PSPE still does not have a reconciliation of membership dues payments from NSPE. NSPE indicated that the state societies owe them a total of about $350,000. It was decided by the Executive Committee that no reimbursement be made to NSPE at this time. President Hnatiuk asked Treasurer Nawn to draft a letter to NSPE requesting a PSPE membership dues reconciliation statement; the letter will be jointly signed by Treasurer Nawn and President Hnatiuk.

VI. **Report of the President – Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F. NSPE** – The written report was included in the meeting booklet.

A. **Committee Roster Update** – President Hnatiuk commented that the roster has filled quite nicely through the year. Committees overall are more active than they have been for a long time. President Hnatiuk asked the Executive Committee members to take the appropriate action to encourage Chapter members to become active on the state level of PSPE. President-Elect Bernstein indicated that he will contact the 2006-'07 PSPE Committee Chairs to determine the status of Chair continuation or succession.

B. **Leadership Conferences** – The written report was on Page 17 of the meeting booklet. Last year, the PSPE Leadership Conference, part of the Strategic Planning meeting, was held in Carlisle, PA. The Leadership Conference location typically alternates between the east and west halves of the state. Discussion ensued regarding venue, formality and structure of the Conference. It was indicated that June 30, 2007, was tentatively selected for the Conference at Fogelsville, PA. It was suggested that a date and location be selected for a Leadership Conference in the western area of the state. The West Conference date and location are to be determined.

VII. **Report of the NSPE House of Delegates (HoD) Representative – Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F. NSPE**

A. **NSPE Convention, July 26-30, 2007 – Denver, CO** – Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE, will be HoD Representative and Leonard Bernstein, P.E., will attend as the PSPE President. Executive Director Wanner will be attending the convention, and PA/PEPP will be represented by its Chair, Dale Englehart, P.E. It was suggested that the PSPE HoD representative be aware beforehand of the issues to be discussed at the HoD meeting; some state HoD members have been involved for years and are aware of the issues and discuss them without bringing the “novices” up to speed.

B. **HoD Issues**

1. **Unified Dues** – Page 19 in the meeting booklet summarizes the current PSPE Chapter dues structure. NSPE is proposing that each state select a single dues structure and not variable dues for each Chapter and member grade. Discussion ensued regarding: the method for selecting a single state dues structure; the logistics of administering a single dues structure, reported to NSPE, combined with maintaining some variability within the state dues; the fairness of a single dues structure with respect to the Chapters; and possibly simplifying the PSPE dues structure to three levels. It was suggested that the survey monkey be used to collect member opinions regarding this issue. Treasurer Nawn and Vice Presidents Sadaka and Stanton volunteered to participate on a Task Force to review this issue and develop options to address it. Members of the PSPE Board of Directors will also be asked to participate in this Task Force, which will provide feedback by the July 2007, teleconference of the Executive Committee.

2. **Proposed Changes to the Code of Ethics** – A summary of this issue was included on Page 20 of the meeting booklet. The concern is with the current language used in the NSPE Code of Ethics Sections III.2.a, c, and d. The primary concern voiced by some in
NSPE is regarding the wording of III.2.d, which pertains to sustainable design. The fear is that the word “shall” in these Sections is too strong and could lead to unintended legal ramifications for NSPE members. Executive Director Wanner indicated that Pennsylvania’s law includes its own Code of Ethics, but via a legal action, a member may potentially be bound by the NSPE Code, as well. NSPE proponents for changing the Ethics Code propose modifying the language of these sections to remove the potentially problematic verbiage and replacing it with similar and more “professional-licensure-friendly” alternatives. The opponents argue that softening the current Ethics Code will set a precedent resulting in softening of other Society issues. The Executive Committee consensus supports the proposed Code modifications.

3. NSPE-PSPE Cooperation – It is felt that PSPE is receiving value from NSPE services, although there is some dissatisfaction at times. PSPE is asking that any issues of potential concern to PSPE be brought to the PSPE Board via our House of Delegates representative, Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE, so that PSPE can take appropriate action. The PSPE Executive Committee expressed its thanks to Barry Isett, P.E., F.NSPE, for his service as the NSPE Northeast Region member of the Board of Directors.

VIII. Report of the Executive Director – John Wanner, CAE – Executive Director Wanner’s written report was included on Page 26 of the meeting booklet. The PSPE Committees are significantly more active than they have been for many years. Much of Deputy Executive Summers’ time has been focused on the PSPE Committees.

A. MATHCOUNTS State Competition Report – Jennifer Summers – MATHCOUNTS Participation numbers were substantially elevated this year. The grant money came through and PSPE is reimbursing chapters $7.50 per student. Senator Bob Casey spoke at PSPE State MATHCOUNTS competition.

IX. Legislative Report – John Wanner, CAE

A. Legislative Issues Update – The written report was presented on Page 30 of the meeting booklet. The Uniform Construction Code (UCC) has been discussed in the legislature. The State Senate was considering repealing it, but such action appears unlikely. The UCC has been amended several times over the years. Several UCC problems remain, leading to many complaints. The UCC will likely be modified to alleviate some of those problems.

The House finished UCC hearings yesterday; building code inspectors are required for many inspection items. In the past, codes allowed PEs to perform most inspection operations, but now building code inspectors are set at a hierarchy above engineers and architects. Thus, Executive Director Wanner has concerns regarding this issue. The legislation should be reformatted to allow PEs to certify as if they were building code inspectors. The Executive Committee agrees with this concern and directed Mr. Wanner to be proactive with respect to it. Legislator Frank Sawicki, who is a professional engineer (but not yet a PSPE member), is a PSPE ally regarding this issue with respect to industrial projects. PSPE will support him, plus expand on it beyond only industrial projects.

B. Engineers Legislative Day – May 8, 2007 – This event was a success. Seventy-two engineers attended it. Both Executive Director Wanner and President Hnatiuk spoke at the morning session that preceded meetings with representatives, senators and legislative staff members. PSPE intends to participate in, or sponsor, a similar event next year.

C. Commonwealth Budget – The PA House passed the budget bill. A few days are typically required to amend the budget; however, this year the legislators decided that they would not undertake that process. The bill currently does not have the engineering equipment or science and math (MATHCOUNTS) funding included. There is still time to have those items negotiated into the final budget, but hope of accomplishing that is waning.
D. **Continuing Education Regulations** – Reports are that the Registration Board has a draft of the continuing education regulation completed, although Executive Director Wanner has not seen anything. Movement on this front appears to be very slow.

E. **PAC Report** – Published on Page 33 of the meeting booklet. Overall, the PAC has been well funded this year. A solicitation was just sent to PSPE members, which drew more money from the account. Funds are a little low now due to this outlay and a contribution to a legislator.

X. **Old Business**

A. **Committee/Task Force/Interest Area Reports and Updates**

1. **Nominating Committee Report** – Harry Garman, P.E., P.L.S. – The written report published on Page 34 provides all of the information that Immediate Past President Garman wished to report.

2. **Membership** – John Bradshaw, P.E. – A written report was presented on Page 35 of the meeting booklet. Timothy Ormiston, P.E., will continue as the Chair of this Committee next year.

3. **Public Relations** – Frank Stanton, P.E. – Seven people participated in this Committee. The intent is to maintain the same team into next year. Committee plans include encouraging other engineer groups, such as ASCE, to participate in future engineering campaigns. It was suggested that all Executive Committee members carry PSPE business cards.

4. **Publications** – Frank Stanton, P.E. – Zeyn Uzman, P.E., F.NSPE, and Kurt Leininger, P.E., will be leading this Committee. Mr. Leininger, P.E., Eric Tappert, P.E. and Fred Waldner, P.E., have joined the Committee.

5. **Title Pursuit Task Force** – Michel Sadaka, P.E. – Executive Director Wanner and Vice President Sadaka are working on the letter to be submitted to Municipal Supervisors, which will provide guidance to municipalities with respect to their involvement with Professional Engineers.

6. **Young Engineers** – David McCullough, P.E. – Ten young engineers have signed up for the planned Young Engineers event between 5:00 and 7:00 pm this evening. The Committee is considering interfacing/consulting with other engineering organizations, such as ASCE, who have successful Young Engineer groups.

7. **Interest Area Updates** – Practice Divisions are now also designated as Interest Areas. The recent PEPP seminar had 86 attendees at the three sites. It was decided that a PSPE Committee should be created to develop CPC courses and to engage course reviewers. This item should receive further attention at the Executive Committee retreat discussed in Item XI.D of these Minutes.

8. **Awards** – John Bradshaw, P.E. – David Williams, P.E., Awards Committee Chair, will be presenting the PSPE Awards at the June 2, 2007, Banquet this year.

9. **2007 Conference Committee** – Len Bernstein, P.E., F.NSPE – Stephen Lester, P.E., with the Valley Forge Chapter, is assisting with the educational sessions, but will not be attending this Conference due to medical issues.

10. **2008 Conference Committee** – John Bradshaw, P.E. – Vice President Bradshaw was not available to provide a report.

B. **Lincoln Chapter MATHCOUNTS Concerns** – Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE – The Lincoln Chapter is pursuing a means to advance more school mathletes to state level competition. A MATHCOUNTS subcommittee was established to review this issue to determine a logistically viable and fair solution to this proposal.
XI. New Business

A. Wanner Associates Review and Recommendations – In order to appropriately discuss the Wanner evaluation, the Executive Committee asked Wanner employees to leave the meeting room. President Hnatiuk, Secretary Boward and Treasurer Nawn met during breakfast this morning to evaluate the performance of Wanner Associates, as related to the organizational management and legislative consulting services that they provide to PSPE, during this past organizational year. The results of that evaluation meeting were discussed. Immediate Past President Garman moved that the Executive Committee support rehiring Wanner Associates as the PSPE management firm; seconded by Vice President Stanton. Motion passed. Immediate Past President Garman moved that the Executive Committee support rehiring Wanner Associates as the PSPE legislative consultant; seconded by Vice President Sadaka. Motion passed. Last year, PSPE paid Wanner Associates: $50,000 for their legislative consulting services; and $114,000 ($9500/month) for providing organizational management services. It was agreed that PSPE will increase the management and legislative consulting service compensations to Wanner Associates by 4.0 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. President Hnatiuk, Secretary Boward and Treasurer Nawn will meet with Wanner Associates this evening to provide a thorough performance review. The review will be based on the morning Evaluation meeting results as well as discussions during this Executive Committee meeting.

B. By-Laws Revisions – Len Bernstein, P.E., F.NSPE

1. HoD Representative Qualifications, Selection, Executive Committee Member, etc. – The By-Laws Committee is considering formally making the PSPE HoD delegate a member of the PSPE Board and Executive Committee. The HoD delegate may become an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee – normally comprised of elected officers – and voting member of the Board of Directors.

2. Dedicated Representation of Young Engineers on Board and/or Executive Committee – Discussion ensued regarding creating a Board and/or Executive Committee position for a PSPE young engineer. The Committee discussed making a young engineer an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. PSPE Constitution modification is a lengthy process that requires two successive meetings of the Board. Making a young engineer part of the Board would reportedly require a Constitutional amendment.

C. 2009 Conference and Beyond – Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE – It is anticipated that Walter Poplawski, P.E., will be the incoming President in 2009. Planning of the 2009 Conference should be a priority during the coming year.

D. Executive Committee Retreat – Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE – Earlier this month, President Hnatiuk had a meeting with Deputy Executive Director Summers, President Elect Bernstein and Vice President Bradshaw to discuss plans for the coming year in anticipation of transitioning leadership of PSPE. During these discussions, it was agreed that an Executive Committee retreat this summer would be valuable for planning the coming PSPE year. The intent is to have a Friday/Saturday retreat to discuss the direction of PSPE and perform a review of the Strategic Plan. A date sometime in August 2007 is being considered.

E. Board Approval for 2008 Conference – Immediate Past President Garman will review the Bylaws to determine if Board approval is required for the 2008 Conference.

F. NCEES-ABET Issues – Vice President Bradshaw, who is familiar with this issue, was not available to present this topic. Apparently, there is a movement to remove ABET-accredited engineering technology degrees from the list of those accepted for EIT/PE licensure. It was suggested that this issue be assigned to a Committee in the coming year for review and to develop options to address it.
G. **PSPE Magnetic Emblem – Walter Poplawski, P.E.** – In the past, NSPE owned “branding rights” for a medallion that can be attached to automobiles. Medallions for PSPE can be purchased: window clings for $1.15 each for 1000 medallions, and metallic cling medallions for $1.50 each for 1000. Discussion ensued whether PSPE should register our logo. Discussion continued regarding purchasing medallions, or other PSPE promotional items, and selling them to members via various venues. Vice President Poplawski was asked to pursue this issue further with the Public Relations Committee. Executive Director Wanner indicated that he would investigate the costs and process associated with trademarking the PSPE logo.

XII. **Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings**

A. June Teleconference  
B. July Teleconference  
C. September meeting - TBD

XIII. **Closing Comments – Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F. NSPE** – President Hnatiuk thanked the Executive Committee for a job well done during the past year. PSPE has engaged/activated more members via the Strategic Plan. President Hnatiuk presented tri-color umbrellas with the PSPE logo and the inscription “2006-07 Executive Committee” as thank you gifts to the Executive Committee members, remarking that “PSPE is an umbrella organization.”

XIV. **Adjournment** – *Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Nawn and seconded by Vice President Stanton. Motion passed.* Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH F. BOWARD, P.E.
Secretary