



The Pittsburgh Professional Engineer
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The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of
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November/December 2009

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS for Engineers Licensed in Pennsylvania **Frequently Asked Questions** *Revised November 19, 2009*

Many questions are being raised about the specifics of Pennsylvania's impending continuing education requirements for professional engineers, land surveyors and geologists. Following is a list of frequently asked questions with answers that attempt to frame the issue.

Unfortunately, NO DEFINITIVE ANSWER can be given to these questions as neither the pending regulations nor legislative changes have been finalized.

Q. When will Professional Development Hours be required to renew my license?

A. As of the end of October 2009, this question cannot be answered. Draft regulations proposed by the Pennsylvania State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists are not yet final. Legislation clarifying the requirements (House Bill 975) has passed the House but not the Senate.

No continuing education is required for engineers licensed in PA until such time as a final regulatory or legislative action is taken. Both the legislation and regulations indicate that the CE requirement be effective during this current licensing period (October 1, 2009-September 30, 2011) but that could change prior to adoption of either the final regulations or legislation.

Q. When can I start taking courses and collecting PDH?

A. This is another question that is contingent upon the final version of regulations or legislation (see response to above question).

Q. What courses will qualify?

A. It is relatively safe to say that any course that relates to a licensee's "professional" practice will qualify. Courses on marketing, office management or practice building are specifically excluded and will not qualify.

Q. Will membership or holding an office in my technical society count?

A. While this provision could be reinserted into the House Bill 975 it seems unlikely that participation in professional societies will qualify for credit.

Q. Will I get credit for teaching a course?

A. According to both the draft regulations and HB 975, credit for teaching a course would be earned on a one-time basis for that particular course.

(continued on page 7 – top)

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Mathcounts and E-Week | 2 |
| Officers & Directors | 2 |
| Christmas Party | 3 |
| Hoover Dam Bypass | 4 |
| Apprenticeship Visit Report | 5 |
| 2009 – 2010 Calendar | 6 |



MATHCOUNTS 2010 – February 13 PLEASE VOLUNTEER

This year is the 27th year of the Pittsburgh Chapter sponsoring the local competition portion of the National Mathcounts Competition. For the third consecutive year, the competition will be held at Robert Morris University, Sewall Center. We are looking forward to another successful competition.

One thing that does not change is the Chapter's need for volunteers and companies who are willing to donate time and financial support for the competition.. We would like to extend a special thanks to the corporations and individuals for their historical support. We recognize these donations in the Mathcounts Competition Booklet and in the program during the presentations at the National Engineer's Week Banquet.

We would like to send out a request for individuals and engineering firms in the Pittsburgh area to consider financial support for this wonderful opportunity. There are many needs for this support. If you or your company would like to make a donation to MATHCOUNTS, please contact Virginia Dailey at ddengr@city-net.com.

If you may be interested in volunteering for the February 13, 2010 Competition at Robert Morris University, please contact Tom Schwartzmier via e-mail toms@nauticom.net.

Celebrate - National Engineers' Week and Pittsburgh Chapter Banquet

[National Engineers Week](#), founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, is a formal coalition of more than 70 engineering, education, and cultural societies, and more than 50 corporations and government agencies. Dedicated to raising public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to quality of life, EWeek promotes recognition among parents, teachers, and students of the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science, and technology literacy, and motivates youth, to pursue engineering careers in order to provide a diverse and vigorous engineering workforce. Each year, EWeek reaches thousands of schools, businesses, and community groups across the U.S.

This year, our celebration of National Engineers' Week will take place at the Club at Nevillewood, on **Saturday, February 27, 2010**. Some of you may ask, "why then?" In order to be able to hold our Mathcounts competition at RMU, the competition needs to take place on February 13, 2010. As one of our special recognitions during our banquet is of the wonderful Mathletes who are the top team and individuals at our Chapter competition, we needed to be flexible and make our banquet on February 27th.

Mark your calendar for that Saturday evening. It is always a wonderful event and one of the times when we can recognize those within our profession who have excelled.

2009-2010 Chapter Officers

| | |
|--|---|
| President – Dave Samek, P.E. | Executive Secretary – Jon Drosendahl, P.E. |
| President Elect – Joe Garlicki, P.E. | Treasurer - John Broschious, P.E. |
| Vice President – Brian Schull, P.E. | Financial Secretary - Reyman Branting, P.E. |
| State Director - David Briskey, P.E. 2008-2011 | Immediate Past President – Tom Weber, P.E. |

2009-2010 Chapter Directors

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kirk Thompson, P.E. 2007 – 2010 | Virginia Dailey, P.E. 2009 - 2011 |
| | Doug Beitko, P.E., 2009 - 2011 |

**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
PITTSBURGH CHAPTER**



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY



Date: **Friday** Evening, **December 4**, 2009

Place: ESWP Building, 337 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15222

Time: 6:30 p.m. Cash bar

7:00 p.m. Dinner

You may make your reservation by filling in the form below and mailing or faxing it to the Chapter office. You may also phone in all of this information to us. If you opt to make your reservation via e-mail, do not e-mail your credit card info. Payment may be made by calling in your credit card info, faxing this filled in form, or mailing this form with credit card info or enclosing a check. **Cost of Dinner is \$35.00/person if reservations are made by November 23, 2009.** After that, the cost is \$40.00/person.

Office Phone number (412) 391-0615 e-mail: t.devlin@eswp.com.

Office fax (412-261-1606) Mailing Address: PSPE, 337 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15222

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Payment Options:

Check made Payable to PSPE MASTERCARD VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV# _____

Name (as it appears on the credit card): _____

Dinner Choice: Choose one of the following (if more than one attendee, indicate the number of each choice):

___ **Virginia Spots**, English Style with Lemon Butter Cream Sauce

___ **Cajun Spice Crusted Sirloin**, with Peppered Bacon, Red Onion and Horseradish Cream

The dinner entrees are served with tossed salad, assorted rolls & butter, coffee, decaf, tea & iced tea and Chef's choice of starch, vegetable and dessert.

Please bring your favorite Christmas CD with you to the party for your listening pleasure during the evening!

Please Note: The ESWP requires a minimum of 40 attendees in order to have a Dinner like this on a Friday Evening. The Pittsburgh Chapter greatly wishes to keep this tradition alive. Please do come, and make your reservations early. Thank you!

Hoover Dam Bypass . . .

THE WIDER VIEW:

Taking shape, the new bridge at the Hoover Dam is creeping closer inch by inch, 900 feet above the mighty Colorado River, the two sides of a \$160 million bridge at the Hoover Dam slowly taking shape.

The bridge will carry a new section of US Route 93 past the bottleneck of the old road which can be seen twisting and winding around and across the dam itself. When complete, it will provide a new link between the states of Nevada and Arizona. In an incredible feat of engineering, the road will be supported on the two massive concrete arches which jut out of the rock face.

The arches are made up of 53 individual sections each 24 feet long which have been cast on-site and are being lifted into place using an improvised high-wire crane strung between temporary steel pylons. The arches will eventually measure more than 1,000 feet across. At the moment, the structure looks like a traditional suspension bridge. But once the arches are complete, the suspending cables on each side will be removed. Extra vertical columns will then be installed on the arches to carry the road.

The bridge has become known as the Hoover Dam bypass, although it is officially called the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, after a former governor of Nevada and a NFL football player from Arizona who joined the US Army and was killed in Afghanistan. Work on the bridge started in 2005 and should finish next year. An estimated 17,000 cars and trucks will cross it every day.

The dam was started in 1931 and used enough concrete to build a road from New York to San Francisco. The stretch of water it created, Lake Mead, is 110 miles long and took six years to fill. The original road was opened at the same time as the famous dam in 1936.

An extra note: The top of the white band of rock in Lake Mead is the old waterline prior to the drought and development in the Las Vegas area. It is over 100 feet above the current water level.



Apprenticeship Visit Report

By Elizabeth Stadterman Visit to the Allegheny River Bridge Project



On September 24th I visited the Michael Baker Turnpike office in the UPARC. Craig White who is the project manager on the Allegheny River Bridge project spoke to us about the project and did a presentation about the building of this bridge. The presentation covered a lot of details about this bridge from when they first sent on bids on April 2007 to its proposed completion date of October 2010. He said that the original bridge was structurally fine, but it needed to be expanded because it wasn't big enough. This project will add an extra lane in each direction, for a total of three, plus shoulders. This will make it possible for more people to travel on the bridge and the shoulders will make it safer if someone has to pull over. Once this bridge is completed, it will carry people driving on the PA Turnpike over the Allegheny River.

Craig White explained that the old bridge was constructed on a grid deck which made the bridge lighter but in the long run this made the concrete expand and contract in different weather situations and this caused potholes. The new bridge will be designed differently with several layers of different products to allow for weather conditions while maintaining safe driving situations. This bridge will be constructed of six-million pounds of reinforcing steel and three-million-two hundred pounds of post-tensioning strands. Post tensioning strands are an alternative to conventional bond reinforcements because it puts concrete in a compressed state to minimize cracks. This should make the bridge safer to drive on.

This project is mostly about the bridge, but encompasses the surrounding areas like the on and off ramps, the footbridge going across to the Oakmont Country Club, the interchange ramp bridges and the noise barrier walls. This project has the largest single contract for the turnpike handled by Walsh Construction and McTish Engineering. The noise barrier wall was interesting because it's really a simulated stone wall. The wall looks like it is different layers of rocks in different colors, but really it is a cement wall sprayed with shotcrete and then while it is still wet it is carved to look like bricks and painted to look esthetically pleasing. Instead of painting the wall they change the chemical make-up of the shotcrete so it comes out in different colors and won't peel or fade over time.

Once the presentation was over we got to visit the actual bridge. Anton Krysa, Reggie Walden, and Rich Hill gave us tours of the bridge and explained the same things that Craig White said but this time we got to see it in real life. All of the engineers who worked with us had lots of information to share. Some of what they talked about was very detailed and technical so I can't say I understood everything about this project, but I know when I drive over this particular bridge that I will enjoy knowing that at one point I was inside this bridge. I will know more how it was constructed and the thought process, planning and the many details that go into completing a project like this.





PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Invites all current and prospective members to the

Saturday, January 16, 2010 Meeting at 10:00 AM

Site Tour of the New Penguins' Consol Energy Arena

On Saturday morning, January 16, 2010, at 10:00 AM, the Pittsburgh Chapter of PSPE will be taking a tour of the new Penguins' Consol Energy Arena under construction in the uptown section of Pittsburgh.



For this tour, **hard hats**, **boots** (or sturdy shoes) and **vests** are necessary. Try to bring your own gear, but vests and hard hats will be available at the construction manager's office. Currently, there is no limit to the number of attendees. The tour should take approximately 90 minutes.

Meet at the Construction Manager's office (P.J. Dick Inc./Hunt Construction) on the west end of Colwell Street (corner of Colwell Street and Elm Street) at 10:00 A.M.. Colwell Street runs parallel to Center Avenue and Fifth Avenue between Washington Place and Crawford Street. Enter Colwell Street from Crawford Street. Hopefully, free parking will be available on Crawford and Colwell Avenues. If not, there is \$5.00 parking available at a surface lot at the corner of Crawford and Colwell. Tom Weber will be coordinating the tour. If you need any help or directions on the day of the tour, call him on his cell (412) 812-3967.

You may make your reservation by filling in the form below and mailing or faxing it to Tracy Devlin, ESWP. You may also phone in all of this information to us.

Phone: (412) 391-0615 Fax **(412-261-1606)** e-mail: t.devlin@eswp.com.

U.S. Mail: PSPE Pittsburgh Chapter, 337 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Name: _____ **Guest:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Continuing Education Requirements for Engineers Licensed in Pennsylvania

(continued from page 1)

Q. I work in a very advanced, technical field. The sessions I have seen promoted to date are simplistic. Where can I find courses that will be valuable to me?

A. In addition to course offered by engineering professional and technical societies, colleges and universities also offer excellent courses in a wide variety of fields. Courses in ethics are also acceptable for continuing education and can be found at www.nspe.org.

Q. Can I take courses online?

A. Yes.

Q. Do the courses have to be college level?

A. No

Q. If I hold more than one type of license issued by the Registration Board, must I take separate courses for each (e.g. 24 PDHs for engineering and an additional 24 PDHs for land surveying)?

A. No, as long as a course relates to your professional practice in both fields, the PDH may apply to both license renewals.

Q. What issues in the legislation are still unresolved?

A. Presently, House Bill 975 would require any licensee to either meet the continuing education requirements or place their license in inactive status. PSPE is lobbying to insert a provision that would allow a retired engineer to use the title Professional Engineer (retired) if they attest that they are no longer practicing.

Reference:

Current law:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2005&ind=0&body=S&type=B&BN=0655>

Proposed regulations:

<http://www.irrc.state.pa.us/Regulations/RegInfo.cfm?IRRCNo=2762>

Continuing Education Requirements for Engineers Licensed in Pennsylvania

Frequently Asked Questions

Revised November 19, 2009

Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

908 N. Second St. | Harrisburg, PA 17102 | www.pspe.org

Proposed legislation:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2009&ind=0&body>

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PSPE, Pittsburgh chapter – <http://www.PittsburghPE.Org>

2009-2010 CALENDAR

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS & MEETINGS

| Date | Time | Description | Location |
|-------------------------|---------------|---|-------------|
| December 4, 2009 | 6:30pm | Annual Christmas Party | ESWP |
| January 14, 2010 | 5:30pm | Board of Directors Meeting | ESWP |
| January 16, 2010 | 10:00am | Site Tour of New Penguins Arena | Arena Site |
| February 11, 2010 | 5:30pm | Board of Directors Meeting | ESWP |
| February 13, 2010 | 8:00am | MATHCOUNTS | RMU |
| February 27, 2010 | 6:30pm | Engineers Week Banquet | Nevillewood |
| March 11, 2010 | 5:30pm | Board Of Directors Meeting | ESWP |
| March, 2010 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD |
| April 8, 2010 | 5:30pm | Board of Directors Meeting | ESWP |
| April, 2010 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD |
| May 13, 2010 | 5:30pm | Board of Directors Meeting | ESWP |
| May, 2010 | TBD | Monthly Meeting | TBD |
| June 10, 2010 | 6:00pm | Installation of Chapter Officers, & Recognition of Apprenticeship Participants | ESWP |