

# FLASHPOINT

## Special points of interest:

- \* Welcome Back!
- \* Pay your 2020-2021 dues!
- \* Jeff LaSalle, Fellow SFPE
- \* Gold – 2020 Award for Chapter Excellence!

## NEW YEAR! NEW PROGRAMMING! NEW PLACE!

**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020

**Place:** \*\*\* Virtually via Microsoft Teams \*\*\*

**6:00 PM:** Program Begins

**Program:** Water Flow Testing

Presented by Ryan Crotty of TLC Engineers

**Cost:** \$15.00 for the program

**Reservations:** By 12:00 Noon Friday, September 4, 2020

## **RSVP ONLINE AT:**

<https://forms.gle/YiZ4yx4AdiLFiydA>

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## Officers for 2020-2021

The new officers elected at the May business meeting are as follows:

**President:** Steve Oliver

**1st Vice President:** Jack Fairchild

**2nd Vice President:** Ryan Schartel

**Secretary:** Tim Murray

**Asst. Secretary:** Phil Kerschner

**Treasurer:** John Spitz

**Directors 2019-2021:** Frank Ellis, Josh Popek

**Directors 2020-2022:** Joe Chew, Lakesh Nigam

## President's Spark by Steve Oliver, PE, MBA

September typically marks the end of summer, and in terms of our SFPE chapter, the beginning of a new year. The last 6 months have been very different for all of us, and it appears the next 6 months will continue to be abnormal. Many offices are still closed, while schools have been wrestling with the question of whether to bring kids back, and if so, when. Your SFPE Board has been having similar discussions, and has been watching the local and national authorities to determine when it may be safe to resume in-person meetings. For the time being, we've determined we will start the year with Virtual meetings, and evaluate on a periodic basis.

Our flagship event, the SFPE Trade Show and Seminar, has been rescheduled to April 15, 2021. Our hope is that by April we will be able to safely congregate in groups again. Special thanks to Dave Windler, the chair of our seminar committee, for helping to navigate through event changes.

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, SFPE nationals sent an email notice that the November 9-11, 2020 national event will be held virtually this year, instead of in Atlanta, as had been previously planned. The first day will be complimentary (free), and is to include the Chapter Leadership Forum, Annual Business Meeting, presentation of donations to the Foundation, and the Fellow and Award presentations. Keynote presentations and technical sessions will follow on days Two and Three. It is highly recommended you attend all three days if you can, and there are two very compelling reasons to pay close attention on the first day;

### **Philadelphia Delaware Valley SFPE Chapter has won GOLD Award for Chapter Excellence in 2020!**

This is the highest level of chapter recognition on a local scale, and something we all should be proud of. The involvement and breadth of our membership helped us score very highly on the ACE evaluation.

**Jeff LaSalle, PE, named SFPE Fellow in 2020!** Our chapter's own Jeff LaSalle, current Past President, has been honored by the national SFPE community. For over 15 years, Jeff has been an active member of SFPE Philadelphia Delaware Valley, and selflessly given his time to the promotion of fire protection engineering.

With the decision to continue our monthly meetings Virtually, the Board was suddenly faced with another very real decision; how to generate income that is necessary for our annual budget. As you know, we've been able to use the proceeds from our annual trade show and seminar to add to our scholarship endowment. It should be noted that this fund now has \$124,000 in it, which is an impressive amount for our chapter. Our goal is to continue to grow that amount, and to use the interest gained on the balance annually (or close to it), as the scholarship give away.

Our annual chapter expenses have been paid for through proceeds from our monthly meetings, which we are not having for the time being. Our typical budgeted expenses include an Engineer's Week Donation, Future City Competition Donation, and SFPE National Donation. Those three items alone totaled \$1,300 last year. So, the Board thought the best solution would be to charge \$15 per person for Virtual meetings this year. The meetings will continue to have a technical presentation, and offer CEU's. We wish we could provide a way to network and chat, but we haven't yet figured that out given the Virtual format. Jack Fairchild will release further information about speaker topics, meeting format, and how we will be collecting the meeting fee.

With the start of our new year, it is time to pay chapter dues! They are \$30/ year. You can send a check to John Spitz, c/o Oliver Fire Protection, 501 Fehely Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406, or Jack is hoping to have an internet-based way to pay which will be released soon with meeting details.

Our own Tim Murray has been investigating the San Diego naval ship fire of the USS Bonhomme Richard. We hope to hear more from Tim about this experience when he returns.

The Board is looking forward to a successful 2020 for SFPE! The format may be different, but the goal has not changed. We look forward to seeing you soon (online for now)!

- Steve Oliver, PE

### FLASHPOINT

"The purpose of FLASHPOINT is to provide a forum for the transfer of information between members of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) and to give the Chapter visibility."

Newsletter/Publicity Committee:

**Tim Murray**

Information for publication can be submitted to:

**[dvsfpe@gmail.com](mailto:dvsfpe@gmail.com)**

This Newsletter is published 9 or 10 times/year (September through June) and received as part of membership of the Chapter. Membership Dues are \$30.00 collected annually in the Fall of the Year.

Visit our web site at:

**[www.sfp Philadelphia.org](http://www.sfp Philadelphia.org)**

Articles written are the views of the Author and not necessarily those of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of SFPE. ❖

## Recommended Reading:

### “Here’s What the Damage Inside the Bonhomme Richard Looks Like” - an article by Navy Times

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2020/07/17/heres-what-the-damage-inside-the-bonhomme-richard-looks-like/>



Photo Credit: US Navy

## Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) Stamp / Seal Information

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) has sent the following information to its members. It is being shared with the Chapter, as it directly affects our licensed members:

STATE REGISTRATION BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS  
[ 49 PA. CODE CH. 37 ] Digital Signature and Seal  
[ 50 Pa.B. 4245 ] [Saturday, August 22, 2020]

The State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists (Board) proposes to add §§ 37.56a and 37.60 (relating to definitions; and digital signature and seal) and amend §§ 37.57—37.59 (relating to registration number; seal; and use of seal) to read as set forth in Annex A.

### Background and Need for this Proposed Rulemaking

Subsection 7(a) of the act (63 P.S. § 154(a)) requires each licensee to obtain a seal of a design authorized by the Board and to stamp all work product issued by the licensee with that seal. The Board has promulgated §§ 37.58 and 37.59 to set standards for licensee use of the seal, including the requirement at § 37.59(2) that the licensee also sign the document. However, these regulations were developed when the seal was applied by means of a metal embosser or a rubber stamp; they did not contemplate that a seal or signature could be placed digitally through the personal use of computer technology by placing an image of the seal or signature on a document and did not contemplate that a document could be signed digitally other than by placing an image of the signature on the document. With such technology now available, the National Council of Examiners in Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), the National organization of engineering and land surveying licensing boards, has addressed its use in paragraph H of section 240.20 (relating to seals) of its Model Rules ([https://ncees.org/wp-content/uploads/Model\\_Rules\\_2019\\_web.pdf](https://ncees.org/wp-content/uploads/Model_Rules_2019_web.pdf)).

The direct link to the proposed rule is here: <http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol50/50-34/1142.html>

## 2020 SFPE VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The 2020 SFPE Annual Conference is taking place virtually this year. More information can be found at: <https://www.sfpe.org/ACVirtual2020>.

The Gold — 2020 Award for Chapter Excellence award will be presented to the Chapter during this event!

## GOLD — 2020 Award for Chapter Excellence

The Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE Chapter was notified on July 31, 2020 by SFPE National that we were selected as a recipient of the Gold — 2020 Award for Chapter Excellence! In addition to our chapter, several other chapters are also receiving this award. They are: Central Savannah River Area Chapter, Greater Atlanta Chapter, IMFSE Student Chapter, New England Chapter, New Jersey Chapter, New York Metropolitan Chapter, Rocky Mountain Chapter, Saint-Laurent Chapter, Southern California Chapter, Switzerland Chapter, and Tennessee Valley Chapter.

The award will be presented during the first day of the 2020 SFPE Annual Conference on November 9, 2020.





## ***2020 Seminar & Trade Show Update***



To protect the health and safety of everyone, the Executive Committee and Board have decided to postpone the 2020 Fall Seminar & Trade Show scheduled for September 24, 2020 in King of Prussia, PA. We have made this decision by following the recent upward trend in Corona virus cases and our concern for the health and safety of all those who would attend the event.

The event has been rescheduled for April 15, 2021 at the Sheraton in King of Prussia, PA.

Thank you for your understanding and support. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are prioritizing the health of everyone who would be attending.

We look forward to seeing everyone in April of 2021.

***April 15, 2021***

***8 am—4:30 pm***

***Sheraton – Valley Forge***

***480 North Gulph Road***

***King of Prussia, PA 19406***



# 2020 SFPE PDVC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

To enhance our distribution list and make sure that we are using the most up-to-date information to reach out to all of our membership, we ask that you please submit a new membership form with every membership renewal. Membership forms can be submitted digitally to [dvsfpe@gmail.com](mailto:dvsfpe@gmail.com) or mailed in with your annual dues.

Additionally, the proposed SFPE PDVC by-law amendments are attached to this Flashpoint Newsletter. Please review and provide any comments that you may have. The Board plans to vote on the proposed amendments at the September 2020 meeting.

UPCOMING PHILADELPHIA-DELAWARE VALLEY SFPE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:				
Date	Meeting Type	Event	Location	Time
9/10/2019	Monthly Meeting	Water Flow Testing by Ryan Crotty	Microsoft Teams	6:00 PM
10/13/2020	Monthly Meeting	TBD	TBD	6:00 PM
NOV 2020 - TBD	Monthly Meeting	TBD	TBD	6:00 PM
12/8/2020	Monthly Meeting	TBD	TBD	6:00 PM
1/12/2021	Monthly Meeting	TBD	TBD	6:00 PM
2/9/2021	Monthly Meeting	TBD	TBD	6:00 PM
3/9/2021	Monthly Meeting	TBD	TBD	6:00 PM
4/15/2021	Annual Seminar & Tradeshow	Annual Seminar & Tradeshow	Sheraton - Valley Forge	All Day



## Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE

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We're on the web:  
[www.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org)

## Mission Statement

The Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter purpose is to advance the art and science of fire protection engineering and its allied fields, for the reduction of life and property losses from fire, to maintain high ethical standards on engineering among its members and to foster fire protection education.

Recognition of fire protection engineering as a discrete engineering discipline is a prime goal. Engineering disciplines exist because there is a special body of knowledge based on the fundamentals of mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering science and economics.

The chapter strives to facilitate sharing of sound engineering experiences and knowledge between its members and the fire protection community in general with an active program of education and scholarship activities.

The 2020 Business Meeting was held virtually this past May on Microsoft Teams. It was a successful evening despite this new Business Meeting format. Three scholarships were awarded this year. Pictured below from 2019 are two of the three recipients, Justin Henry (Left) from Eastern Kentucky University and Leigh Kelly (Right) from Oklahoma State University, receiving their awards from Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE Chapter 2nd Vice President, Ryan Schartel. The third recipient is Courtney LeMasney from Rowan University. Unfortunately, we were not able to present these awards in person this year to update our photos.



## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER BY LAWS:

In accordance with the Society of Fire Protection Engineers Philadelphia – Delaware Valley Chapter Constitution and By Laws, the following amendments are presented for the Chapter members to review prior to an official vote at the September Chapter meeting. A copy of the current By Laws can be found on the Chapter website at this link:

[https://www.sfpephiladelphia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/SFPE\\_Constitution\\_Bylaws.pdf](https://www.sfpephiladelphia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/SFPE_Constitution_Bylaws.pdf)

For clarity, the current By Law language is shown with a ~~strike through~~ and proposed language is shown with underline. In summary, the proposed changes are intended to bring our By Laws into accordance with the terms of our Charter with SFPE, to align our membership levels with SFPE, to adjust By Laws based on current Chapter practices, to restructure the document by including Appendices, and editorial changes.

- Section II-1: The Chapter is organized as an Incorporated Chapter of SFPE ~~a chapter of the Society~~, a not-for-profit organization, and shall be operated under the provisions of this Chapter's Constitution and By Laws, the provisions of the *SFPE Incorporated Chapter Charter*, and the Constitution and By Laws of the Society.
- Section II-2: The location of the ~~principal~~ principle office of the Chapter shall be in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area.
- Section IV-2: Regular Chapter Membership shall be limited to individuals who have attained membership at any level in The Society of Fire Protection Engineers, are members of another fire protection society or trade organization, or those who have an interest in fire protection and support the objectives of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter of SFPE. ~~Chapter Associates shall be individuals interested in fire protection and who support the objectives of the Philadelphia-Delaware Valley of SFPE.~~ Student members shall be any student enrolled in a fire protection or fire safety curriculum who supports the objectives of the Chapter.
- Section IV-3: All applications for membership shall be submitted to the 2nd Vice President ~~Secretary~~. The Board of Directors shall verify the eligibility of the applicant and make its recommendations to the membership at a regular meeting.
- Section IV-5: Loss of membership in the Society of Fire Protection Engineers due to disciplinary action or conduct detrimental to the Society shall result in loss of membership in the Chapter.
- Section IV-7: The Chapter shall maintain a list of its members to confirm compliance with the Incorporated Chapter Charter membership levels.
- Section V-1: Officers of the Chapter shall be a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer. All Officers shall hold the grade of ~~The President shall be a Fellow, Professional Member, or Associate Member of The SFPE. The Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer shall hold any grade of membership in The SFPE.~~ Officers shall be elected by the Chapter and hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. All officers shall serve without a salary.
- Section V-2: There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, latest Past President and four Directors elected by the Chapter. The four Directors shall be elected at alternate business meetings to serve a term of two years or until their successors are elected and qualified. A majority of the Board of Directors shall hold the grade of Fellow, Honorary Member, Professional Member or Associate Member.
- Section V-3: No member of the Board of Directors shall serve for more than two consecutive terms in any one office, except for the Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. Directors may be allowed to continue past two consecutive



terms by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

- Section VI-1: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings and to perform other duties usual to the office. He shall call meetings of the Board of Directors at his discretion or by request of three or more members of the board. He may appoint special or standing committees, as occasion may require, subject to majority approval of the Board of Directors. The President shall submit reports to SFPE in accordance with the Obligations of the Chapter under the Charter.
- Section VI-4: It shall be the duty of the Secretary and of the Assistant Secretary to record all official actions of the Chapter and to perform the duties usual to the office of Secretary. This shall include notices of all meetings and a register of the members of the Chapter. Also, the office of Secretary and Assistant Secretary shall submit a membership list, minutes of the meetings, notices of the meetings, notices of meeting dates and other pertinent information to the membership and to SFPE, in accordance with the Obligations of Chapter under the Charter ~~the Executive Director of the Society.~~
- Section VII-4: The Chapter's Outreach investment accounts were developed to provide outreach through support and or funding of the educational programs and scholarships to the Delaware Valley fire protection community. These funds cannot be used for general operating or program expenses unless the Board ~~board~~ declares a specific emergency by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board.
- Section VIII-1: Chapter Meetings shall be held at least quarterly, one meeting being designated by the Board of Directors as the Annual Business Meeting. May is the normal business meeting.
- Section VIII-2: At the Annual Business Meeting, the President and the Treasurer shall present an annual report covering the past fiscal year. The President's report shall review the Chapter's activities and include recommendations for the future. The Treasurer's report shall show the receipts and disbursements for the year and a statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth at the close of the fiscal year. ~~The President shall submit a copy of both annual reports to the Executive Director of the Society within 30 days after the annual business meeting.~~
- Section IX-1: The annual dues, corresponding to July 1 - June 30 fiscal year, shall be payable upon election for a new member and on or before November ~~September~~ 1 of each fiscal year thereafter. ~~New members admitted to the Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter after March 1<sup>st</sup> shall be admitted upon payment of one half the annual dues for the remainder of the fiscal year. New members shall be assessed dues only after furnishing proof of membership in SFPE.~~ Nominal Dues shall be assessed annually to the Membership by action of the Chapter.

## APPENDICES

The following appendices are not part of the By-Laws of the Chapter. They are subject to change on an annual basis. Modification of the Appendices shall not require a vote of the Chapter membership. Changes shall be made with Board approval.

Appendices include:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

PAST PRESIDENTS

LIST OF CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS AND HONOREES  
SFPE INCORPORATED CHAPTER CHARTER