

# FLASHPOINT

## Special points of interest:

- \* Pay your 2020-2021 dues!
- \* Jeff LaSalle, Fellow SFPE
- \* Gold — 2020 Award for Chapter Excellence!
- \* Volunteers Needed: Future Cities Competition

## NEW YEAR! NEW PROGRAMMING! NEW PLACE!

**Date:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020

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

**5:00 PM:** Program Begins

**Program:** Passive Fire Protection in New Zealand; Presented by Justin McEntyre - Chairperson for the Fire Protection Association of New Zealand (FPANZ) Passive Fire Special Interest Group (SIG).

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

## **RSVP ONLINE AT:**

<https://forms.gle/YfMgvoaJYM95Aqu88>

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**\*\*New!!\*\* SFPE Philadelphia Delaware-Valley Pay your Dues Online!** Thanks to Lokesh Nigam, we are now set up for easy online payment of dues and monthly meetings. Check it out at our website, [www.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org), and in the lower right-hand corner of the page there is a heading "Payment Options". Pick from the drop-down menu whether you are paying for annual dues, a virtual meeting, or an in-person meeting, click "Buy Now" and you will be directed to PayPal for processing.

## **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, Lokesh Nigam

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

### Monthly Presentations

In November we had the opportunity to be connected (via the internet) with Nigel Ward, who discussed "Beams", or Beam Detectors and their use and applications. It was 10pm in the United Kingdom where Nigel lives and works, which didn't phase Nigel in showing his passion for the product. Expect another 'overseas' presentation for December, thanks to Jack Fairchild and his networking in the world-wide fire protection industry.

**The SFPE national 2020 Virtual Annual Conference & Expo** took place November 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. Our local Philadelphia Delaware Valley chapter was recognized for receiving the GOLD ACE award for 2020, and for our donation of \$500 to the SFPE Foundation. It was nice to see many other chapters donating to the Foundation as well, some as high as \$2,500. PDH credits were offered from the presentations attended. Our own Jeff LaSalle received recognition for achieving the SFPE Fellow designation, and even had a pre-recorded thank you video that was broadcast globally.

The holidays are here! Christmas lights have started to go up, and surely there will be some bigger and better displays this year with the additional time folks have been spending at home. Please help to preach fire safety when it comes to decorations, whether it be a mass of electrical cords, candles to set the holiday spirit, or use of indoor fire places. Along with the holiday season comes business planning for 2021. Last year (2019), fire sprinkler shipments for the year were the highest ever recorded, according to the NFSA. And, of the total in 2019, 25% of these was for residential uses. This is great news as it shows that code adoption and awareness are leading to more residential occupancies to be protected with suppression. Since 2019, the economic landscape has changed. Fire Protection is just as important, but consumer confidence (outside of the residential real estate market) has slowed. The NFSA projected a 20% reduction in revenue for 2021. I imagine this projection was based on expected new sprinkler head sales and labor hours to be worked. Hopefully the change won't be as significant as expected. Regardless of the projection for next year, we know that demand for fire protection engineering will continue. We are fortunate to be in an industry that has a greater purpose of protecting lives and saving property. See you at the next virtual meeting!

-Steve

#### 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. ❖

# Future Cities Competition Request for Volunteers:

## Hello from Future City Philadelphia!

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!

Even with these unprecedented times, the Future City Competition is going strong! As of today, there were 42 schools registered!

**This year's Future City Theme is Living on the Moon.**

## The Competition Challenge:

Design a future lunar city and provide examples of how your city uses two Moon resources to keep your citizens safe and healthy.

**This year's competition will be virtual. The competition Date is January 30, 2021.** Details on how the virtual sessions are going to work are being developed.

**In the meantime, we need Volunteers!** Volunteers for mentoring, judging, and support. Descriptions are as follows:

**Mentor:** Work with a student team to build their model and prepare for the competition. Teams are meeting virtually this year so you may be asked to work with a team outside your geographic area.

**City Essay Judge:** Evaluate a 1,500-word essay describing each team's city and response to the engineering challenge. The instructions for accessing and judging the essays will be emailed to you. Essays will be available for judging in mid-December and judging will be completed by mid-January. We anticipate 30-35 essays will be submitted; all judges will evaluate all essays, which could take about 20 minutes per essay. Rubrics will be provided.

**Model/Presentation/Q&A Judge:** All judging will be done virtually this year using Zoom and judges will input their scores into the Competition Management System (CMS). There will be three deliverables for each team that the judges will need to evaluate. The Model Slideshow (a pdf file) and a seven-minute Video Presentation will be available shortly after January 16; both will need to be judged and scores inputted into the CMS by January 26. The live ten-minute Q&A Session will be the morning of January 30. We anticipate that each judge will evaluate five to six teams and will need to evaluate all three elements for these teams. Rubrics will be provided for each deliverable. Training before the competition will be provided.

**Special Awards Evaluator:** Select which teams meet the criteria for a Special Award. Evaluators will be able to review team model slideshows and video presentations (available shortly after January 16) before the competition. These will also be available on the day of the competition. Evaluators will need to be available on the morning of January 30 to meet with teams virtually for Q&A. Scores will be recorded online which can be done using a mobile device while the a computer is used for Q&A via Zoom with the students. Training and detailed instructions will be provided.

**Competition Support and Zoom Hosts:** If you have been a "Competition Support" person in previous years, this is the equivalent role in the virtual world and we still need you regardless of Zoom experience. Zoom is our virtual platform and we need assistance both before and on the day of the competition to keep everything running smoothly. Individuals of all experience levels, including none, are needed. Duties will range from being virtual escorts for teams to helping to set up our virtual convention center. Instead of photographers we need people who can do screen captures. Training will be provided at all levels as needed.

**Zoom Experts and Tech Gurus:** The 2021 Philadelphia Future City Competition will be held in a virtual convention center and have about 50 simultaneous Zoom meeting throughout the morning. If you are already a Zoom expert or are an experienced tech person and know Zoom really well or want an excuse to learn more about it, we need you to help us pull this off. HTML and CSS skills would also be helpful but not required.

**The following schools still need mentors:**

Abram Hebrew Academy - Yardley, PA  
Carver Engineering and Science - Philadelphia, PA  
Congreso De Latinos Unidos - Philadelphia, PA  
Dayspring Christian Academy - Mountville, PA  
Great Valley Middle School - Malvern, PA  
Pottsgrove Middle School - Pottstown, PA  
Springfield Township Middle School - Oreland, PA  
St Anastasia School - Newtown Square, PA  
St Elizabeth Parish - Uwchlan, PA  
St Hilary Poitiers School - Rydal, PA  
St Jane De Frances De Chantal - Easton, PA  
St Peter's School - Philadelphia, PA

For more information on mentoring, please contact: Mike McAtee at [mjmcatee@urbanengineers.com](mailto:mjmcatee@urbanengineers.com).

## Jeff LaSalle, SFPE Fellow

The 2020 SFPE Annual Conference took place virtually this year. Our very own **Jeff LaSalle** was recognized for his appointment to **SFPE Fellow**. Congratulations, Jeff!



## 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 was 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. Annual dues are now \$35 and can be paid by mailing a check or by visiting our website at [www.sfpephiladelphia.org](http://www.sfpephiladelphia.org) and following the instructions on the front page of this Flashpoint.

UPCOMING PHILADELPHIA-DELAWARE VALLEY SFPE MEETINGS AND EVENTS:				
Date	Meeting Type	Event	Location	Time
11/10/2020	Monthly Meeting	Passive Fire Protection	Microsoft Teams	5:00 PM
12/8/2020	Monthly Meeting	TBD	Microsoft Teams	5:00 PM
1/12/2021	Monthly Meeting	TBD	Microsoft Teams	5:00 PM
2/9/2021	Monthly Meeting	TBD	TBD	5:00 PM
3/9/2021	Monthly Meeting	TBD	TBD	5:00 PM
4/15/2021	Annual Seminar & Tradeshow	Annual Seminar & Tradeshow	Sheraton - Valley Forge	All Day
5/11/2021	Annual Business Meeting	Annual Business Meeting	TBD	TBD



Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE

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We're on the web:  
[www.sfp Philadelphia.org](http://www.sfp Philadelphia.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.**

## Flashpoint Job Announcements

The SFPE Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter Board of Directors has decided that fire protection engineering related job announcements will be welcomed in the Flashpoint newsletters. Job Announcements will be \$50 per month for a 1/3 page advertisement. Submittal of artwork / text to be included in the advertisement is required. If you are interested, please reach out to the DVSFPE Secretary, Tim Murray, at [dvsfpe@gmail.com](mailto:dvsfpe@gmail.com).

**Society of Fire Protection Engineers  
Philadelphia – Delaware Valley Chapter  
2020-2021 Dues Notice Form**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate **by an arrow** where you prefer to receive your meeting notices. It is to our advantage to use Email, if possible. **If you want your meeting notices sent to your work email, please give us your home email as a back up.** Thank you.

Business Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of experience/expertise in the Industry** \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which Committees you would be interested in participating:

\_\_\_ Program      \_\_\_ Membership      \_\_\_ Coop. with other Societies  
\_\_\_ Scholarship      \_\_\_ Education      \_\_\_ Awards      \_\_\_ Historian  
\_\_\_ Liaison with Fire Service      \_\_\_ Constitution & By Laws  
\_\_\_ Nominations      \_\_\_ Newsletter/Publicity      \_\_\_ Finance & Budget

**SFPE National Member:** Yes or No IF yes, Membership Number & level \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues: \$35.00 \$30.00, if paid by October 14, 2020**  
(Please make your check payable to SFPE Philadelphia-Delaware Valley)

Return this form and check to:

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c/o Oliver Sprinkler Co.  
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King of Prussia, PA 19406  
jspitz@oliversprinkler.com