

# FLASHPOINT

## Special points of interest:

- \* SFPE Webinar Series
- \* Seminar & Tradeshow—  
postponed to Oct 2021
- \* Nomination of Officers

## NEW YEAR! NEW PROGRAMMING! NEW PLACE!

**Date:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021

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

**5:00 PM:** Program Begins

**Program:** Interfacing Elevators with Fire Alarm Systems,  
presented by Jason Lupa, P.E., Mid-Atlantic Business Development Engineer at Siemens.

**Cost:** \$15.00 for the program and CEUs.

**Reservations:** Please RSVP online prior to the meeting.

## **RSVP ONLINE AT:**

<https://forms.gle/VP9urjR6bBiDPtJF7>

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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 officers elected at the May 2020 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

Last month we hosted Rebecca Bowman, Esq., PE, Senior Director, Ethic and Professional Practice for the National Society of Professional Engineers. Rebecca did a great job of choosing some real world example engineering ethical challenges, and allowing the group to provide input on the 'right' way to handle situations where business decisions (by others) would have affected public safety, and what role the design professional would play.

### SFPE ACE Application and Chapter Assessment

Our Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter's ACE Award application was submitted on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to members who assisted by providing their involvement with the fire protection engineering industry outside of SFPE. Also thank you to our SFPE Board members who were involved in completing the application. We used the opportunity to review the application to discuss the strengths and areas of improvement for the chapter. A few important items we discussed, that as a chapter we need to continue to improve upon, are:

- Community involvement that promotes fire protection engineering
- Growth of our chapter; please encourage others to join and share the benefits
- Technical presentations; monthly presentations that further the education of our members
- Involvement with engineering licensing or registration
- Promotion of members for national SFPE awards on an annual basis
- Getting your company to join SFPE as a SFPE Corporate 100 partner
- Promotion of fire protection engineering in the media

### SFPE Philadelphia Scholarship/ Annual Business Meeting

The Board of our chapter met on Monday March 29<sup>th</sup> and approved \$6,000 to be given away to three scholarship award winners. Please read further in the Flashpoint for details on each award winner. It is important to note that the association works very hard to be able to provide this scholarship. Our goal is to provide financial income, on an annual basis, that is in excess of the scholarship awards. Ultimately we want to have a large enough scholarship fund that we can support the annual awards using the interest from the fund. This would then be a true "endowment." As the endowment grows, so will our ability to provide larger scholarship amounts. The chapter income has been limited over the last year because of the delayed Trade Show and Seminar, but we are confident that the October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 event will be held, and looking forward to it as the premier fire protection engineering trade show in the Northeast.

The Chapter's annual business meeting for this year will be held virtually on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. At this meeting, we will honor our new scholarship winners, any SFPE award recipients, and vote on new directors. Please see further on in this Flashpoint for nomination committee chair Jeff LaSalle's report on what is a strong slate of proposed candidates.

### SFPE National Education

If you are a national SFPE member, you know of the many additional education opportunities they email about (almost weekly). There is one coming up on April 14<sup>th</sup> that you may be interested in;

Fire Service Considerations with Lithium-Ion Battery ESS; An Investigation of the Surprise, AZ Incident; April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-2:30pm, Presented by Steve Kerber and Mark McKinnon, Sponsored by the Fire Service Subcommittee (our own Frank Ellis is an active member!!) *On April 19, 2019 an incident that resulted in severe line-of-duty injuries to four firefighters occurred in a lithium-ion battery energy storage system in Surprise, AZ. UL FSRI conducted an investigation into the incident, which identified several factors that contributed to the severity of the incident. Mark McKinnon and Steve Kerber of UL FSRI will present an overview of the incident, the contributing factors determined through the investigation, and recommendations for the fire service, code officials, utility companies, and manufacturers to prevent similar incidents.*

-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**

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. ❖

## **Congratulations!**

**Congratulations are extended to Dick Oliver of Oliver Fire Protection & Security. He is being inducted into the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) 2021 Hall of Fame!** The NFSA introduced the Fire Sprinkler Hall of Fame in 1989 as a way of remembering those who have contributed substantially to the fire sprinkler industry or to the efforts of the Association on behalf of the industry.

**Congratulations are also extended to Ray Fremont, Sr., of General Air Products. He is receiving this year's Golden Sprinkler Award from NFSA!** The Golden Sprinkler Award is NFSA's highest honor, and is presented each year to an individual who has dedicated his or her career to promoting the fire sprinkler concept and advancing the fire sprinkler industry.

## **SFPE Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter 2021-2022 Nomination of Officers**

**Nominations for the SFPE Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter 2021-2022 officers will be announced next month. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact: Jeff LaSalle at [jeff.lasalle@tlc-eng.com](mailto:jeff.lasalle@tlc-eng.com). Elections are held at the annual meeting on May 11, 2021. The Chairman of the nominating committee is Jeff LaSalle. Additional Nominations can be made in accordance with Article VIII, Section VIII-5 of the By-laws and must be received by the Secretary by April 11, 2021. Nominations should be sent to Tim Murray, Secretary, at [dvsfpe@gmail.com](mailto:dvsfpe@gmail.com).**

# SFPE WEBINAR SERIES

Sign up online at: <https://www.sfpe.org/events-education/sfpewebinarseries>

## **Fire Service Considerations with Lithium-Ion Battery ESS — An Investigation**

### **FIRE SERVICE**

Apr 14, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Presented by: Stephen Kerber, P.E. and Mark McKinnon, Ph.D. Join the Fire Service Subcommittee for this webinar on the April 19, 2019 lithium-ion battery energy storage system incident in Surprise, AZ. Steve Kerber and Mark McKinnon will provide an overview of the incident, the contributing factors determined through the investigation, and recommendations for the fire service, code officials, utility companies, and manufacturers to prevent similar incidents.

## **SOS: Write for Action and Results**

### **CONVERSATION CIRCLE**

Apr 20, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Sponsored by FM Global Join SFPE Women in Fire Protection Engineering for this fast-moving virtual talk lead by international keynote speaker and Mindset Digital CEO, Debra Jasper, Ph.D. In this session, Debra will cover how to save hours every week with SOS (short, organized and skimmable) content, get faster responses with clear calls to action, and design for attention by breaking it down (not dumbing it down).

## **Women in Fire Protection Engineering Conversation Circle**

### **CONVERSATION CIRCLE**

May 11, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Open to All Female Members of SFPE Sponsored by FM Global Women today in fire protection engineering are paving the way for future generations in a predominantly male industry. One of the best ways to pave this path is to ensure that women today have alignment with one another to increase awareness, diversity, and opportunities for all. If your company is interested in sponsoring more activities and webinar supporting women and DEI initiatives contact, Julie Gordon, SFPE Director of Membership and Communities.



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



To protect the health and safety of everyone, the Seminar & Tradeshow Committee and Board have decided to postpone the 2021 Spring Seminar & Trade Show scheduled for April 15, 2021 in King of Prussia, PA. We have made this decision by following the trends in Corona virus cases, vaccine schedule and our concern for the health and safety of all those who would attend the event.

**The event has been rescheduled for October 14, 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 October.

***October 14, 2021  
8 am—4:30 pm  
Sheraton – Valley Forge  
480 North Gulph Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406***



# Nominating Committee Report

The SFPE Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Chapter bylaws require a Nominating Committee to submit a list of officers and other Board members to the Chapter at least 30 days in advance of the annual meeting, held in May. The Nominating Committee includes the following members: Jim Davidson, John Kampmeyer, Jeff LaSalle, Bob Moser, Phil Sconyo, Jay Stough, and Mike Venneri. The committee identified potential candidates, solicited volunteers, spoke with candidates, and has developed the following nominations for the Board of Directors for the Chapter year 2021-2022:

Nominations for the 2021-2022 SFPE Philadelphia-Delaware Valley Board of Directors:

President:	Jack Fairchild, PE, CFPS, CET
1st Vice-President:	Ryan Schartel, CFPS
2nd Vice-President:	Tim Murray
Treasurer:	John Spitz, Jr.
Secretary:	Frank Ellis
Assistant Secretary:	Phil Kerschner, PE
Director 2020-2022:	Joseph Chew, Lokesh Nigam
Director 2021-2023:	Dan DeDominic, William Wheeler, PE

All candidates are current members of the Board, with the exception of Dan DeDominic and William Wheeler. Dan is with Reliable Sprinkler. He is an active member, and provides technical and educational support to our membership. He is a 2020 recipient of the Chapter's William C. Tamburro, Sr. Vendor Award in recognition of his significant support in this regard. Bill has over 40 years of experience in fire protection engineering and process safety. He has worked with Jensen Hughes, Mobil Research & Development, Factory Mutual Engineering, and he now serves as a private consultant. Bill is a fire protection engineering graduate from University of Maryland and has an MBA from Rider University. He is also a member of Salamander, the Honorary Fire Protection Engineering Society.

In accordance with our bylaws, other nominations, signed by at least five voting members, and received by the Secretary not less than 30 days before the annual meeting, shall also be submitted to all members before the meeting. Other nominations not so received by the Secretary shall not be considered. At this time we are unaware of other nominations having been submitted.

# 2020/2021 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
4/13/2021	Monthly Meeting	Interfacing Elevators With Fire Alarm Systems	Microsoft Teams	5:00 PM
5/11/2021	Annual Business Meeting	Annual Business Meeting	Microsoft Teams	5:00 PM
POSTPONED to OCT 14, 2021	Seminar and Tradeshow	Seminar and Tradeshow	POSTPONED to OCT 14, 2021	POST-PONED

## Scholarship Committee Report

The executive board of the chapter has approved granting scholarships to three applicants at our May business meeting. **Andrew Bartkowski**, of Stewartstown Pennsylvania, is a sophomore at Eastern Kentucky University majoring in Fire Protection & Safety Technology in addition to Fire Administration. **Trevor Holmes**, of Seaford Delaware, is also a sophomore at University of New Haven. Trevor is majoring in Fire/Arson Investigation. **Courtney LeMasney**, of Sicklersville New Jersey, is a senior at Rowan University, majoring in Chemical Engineering. Courtney has interned at Haines Fire and has shown an interest in Fire Protection Engineering. Courtney received a scholarship from us last year.

**Each of these students will receive \$2000.**



Philadelphia-Delaware Valley SFPE

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[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).