



## Westchester/Putnam Chapter - NYSSPE Newsletter

### In This Issue

[EXPO 2017](#)

[E-WEEK DINNER & DANCE](#)

[2016 SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

[MATHCOUNTS](#)

[Legislative](#)

[2017 Sponsorship](#)

### Quick Links

[Join NYSSPE](#)

[NEWS](#)

[NYSSPE 2017 Annual  
Conference](#)

### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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MAY 2017

### President's Message Michael Finan, PE

**Dear Members,**

As spring is upon us and the weather is warming up we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer season.

We held several events over the winter months including our post-holiday party at Sam's of Gedney Way. The evening was well attended and we hope that you enjoyed your time with us. It was a pleasure to see everyone and to get the chance to catch up with our supporters and members.

We also organized the annual MathCounts competition held at Pace University. MathCounts promotes middle school mathematics achievements and allows us to reach out to the students that are interested in math and potentially introduce them to becoming future engineers. This is a rewarding event and always fun to see these brilliant students minds are work. I would like to thank our committee chair, Diego Villareale, for all his efforts to make this a successful event each year.

We also had our E-Week dinner, chaired by Garry Lynch. Garry organized yet another packed event with many dignitaries and awardees. National Engineers Week is a time to call attention to the contributions that engineers make to society. This is a time for engineers to emphasize the importance of learning math, science, and technical skills. We are very proud of this year's award recipients and wish them all well and thank them for their contributions to our profession. These are:

1. Project of the Year : OLA Consulting Engineers
2. Outstanding Service to the Profession: MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive
3. Young Engineer of the Year: Brendan Smith of LynStaar Engineering
4. Outstanding Engineer in Construction: William Batzel of Tappen Zee Constructors
5. Engineer of the Year: Tom Lauro - Westchester

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County  
Commission for the Department of Environmental  
Facilities

We are also excited that our monthly 1 PDH meetings have been very well attended over the past months as well as our all day PDH events. We continue to do our best to come up with new and fresh topics for you. These events are a great opportunity to be with your peers, and we hope to see you at our future events. We have decided not to hold our April all day PDH event since the State June Conference will be held in White Plains this year. We will host our next all day PDH event in October. I would like to thank Brian Hildenbrand and Hernane DeAlmeida for their extraordinary efforts to pull off these events.

Also, please mark your calendars for our annual golf outing at Glen Arbor Golf Club scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2017. This is a great event and is always well attended. We hope to see you there!

Thank you to all our supporters and please feel free to send your feedback and input to our chapter email [westputpe@live.com](mailto:westputpe@live.com). We would love to hear from you as to what we are doing well and what we could do to better serve you.

Have a happy and enjoyable summer!

**Engineering Expo 2017**  
**James A. Caggiano, P.E.**

The Lower Hudson Valley Professional Engineering Society EXPO 2017 was once again held at the White Plains High School in Westchester County on Sunday, April 2nd. It is geared for middle & high school students to consider the wonderful world of engineering.

The Rube Goldberg Contest has expanded to both the High School & Middle School levels - this year's contest, "How to Apply a Band-Aid". Robotics throughout the HS gyms and the interaction at the Middle School exhibits were enjoyed by all.

The bridge competition was hosted by the cadets from the US Military Academy at West Point; and as always, was a big hit with the students.

NYCDEP & many other public and private organizations had representation at EXPO and discussed with students & parents how engineers work within our agency. There were several sessions available where students spoke to Young Engineers in a classroom environment on why they decided to become an engineer and what they are presently doing in their respective companies.

This year also featured "Women in Engineering".

This experience included 4,000 attendees including over 40 engineering colleges. EXPO was a tremendous success with hundreds of students leaving the event indicated that they are definitely going to consider to "Be an Engineer". In summary, it is an opportunity of a lifetime for the students to experience first-hand what engineering is all about.

Many thanks to all the firms & companies that exhibited at this great event!

### **E-Week Dinner and Dance Garry Lynch, P.E.**

The 45th Annual Engineer's Week Dinner Dance celebration was held on Friday, February 24, 2017. This event is the culmination of Engineering Achievements throughout the previous year. It was held at the majestic Westchester Manor in Hastings-on-Hudson. Over 100 attendees honored those individuals who have achieved recognition. The Welcome Address was presented by Chapter President Michael Finan, PE. Bill Prazenda, PE, provided a moving invocation for all. Our main guest speaker for the evening was Westchester County Executive, Rob Astorino. Other speakers were Westchester Deputy County Executive Kevin J. Plunkett, Esq., Michael Kaplowitz, Chairman Westchester County Board of Legislators, and Honoree MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive. Again, this year, MaryJane Shimsky, Chairperson Infrastructure, Westchester County Board of Legislators helped pay tribute to our awardees and in attendance was also past award winner Fred Pena, PE, Putnam County Commissioner.

This year's awardees are listed below:

#### **Engineer of the Year**

Thomas J. Lauro, P.E., Commissioner - Westchester County Dept  
of Environmental Facilities

#### **Outstanding Engineer in Construction**

William J. Batzel, P.E., Deputy Engineering Manager - Tappan Zee  
Constructors

#### **Young Engineer of the Year**

Brendan C. Smith, P.E. - Sr. Mechanical Engineer - Lynstaar  
Engineering

#### **Outstanding Service to the Profession**

MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive  
Project of the Year

Stone Barns Energy Use Reduction Program; Pocantico Hills - OLA  
Engineers

### **2017 Scholarships Anthony Oliveri, P.E.**

The 2017 scholarship program is open and accepting applications until June 30, 2017. The application is available thru the link

below and on our website.

<http://files.constantcontact.com/56f8e48c001/809515a6-66d0-4d13-bc37-02ce7e72b9fd.pdf?ver=1495102468000>

Once completed, you may submit to [westputpe@live.com](mailto:westputpe@live.com).

The Chapter will be awarding three (3) \$1,000 scholarships to students to help in their college engineering education. High School Seniors through College Juniors enrolled in, or in application to an ABET accredited engineering program are eligible to apply. Application must be endorsed by a current member of the NYSSPE.

## **MATHCOUNTS Diego Villereale, P.E.**

MATHCOUNTS is a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement. MATHCOUNTS challenges students' math skills, develops their self-confidence, motivates and rewards them for their achievements. Competitions are held locally, plus on the state and national levels.

Feel free to go to <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/GWrWBDH366ocJ> at your convenience for more information on the national program.

MATHCOUNTS was held on Saturday, February 4th at Pace University in Pleasantville and was a great success. Over 140 students from 16 schools competed in the event.

The following schools placed 1 through 3 in the team competition and participated in the State Mathcounts competition in March:

1. Robert E. Bell Middle School
2. Scarsdale Middle School
3. Ardsley Middle School

Two Students from the Mildred E. Strang Middle School and Edgemont Middle School also advanced to the State Championship held in Albany, New York. The top two individual competitors who are not on an advancing team advance to the State Competition.

The following schools also participated in the event:

Albert Leonard Middle School  
Briarcliff Middle School  
Edgemont Middle School  
Hackley School  
HC Crittenden Middle School  
Irvington Middle School  
John Jay Middle School  
Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School  
Mildred E. Strang Middle School  
Pleasantville Middle School

Rye Middle School  
Seven Bridges Middle School  
St. Augustine School

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the event a success.

## Legislative Garry Lynch, P.E.

### New York Water Systems Infrastructure Funding

The Clean Water Infrastructure Act, passed as part of the 2018-2019 state budget, allocated the \$2.5 Billion toward assisting local governments with addressing water emergencies, paying for infrastructure construction projects and investigating and mitigating contaminants in drinking water.

In the final budget, the Democratic governor announced the continuation of \$300 Million annually for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) which will be used to fund solid-waste programs, the state's parks and open space efforts.

The budget also includes \$150 Million for an Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant Program, which will provide aid for water projects if multiple communities submit a joint application.

## Other News

Save the Date!  
[Annual Westchester GIS User Group Meeting](#)  
[May 18th at Purchase College](#)  
[Registration](#)

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Sincerely,

Michael Finan, P.E.  
President  
Westchester/Putnam Chapter - NYSSPE  
[mfinan@langan.com](mailto:mfinan@langan.com)