



The Engineering and Technical Center of the Delaware Valley

Since 1877, the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia has been a rallying point for engineers. It is one of the oldest professional clubs in the nation, and has developed a prestigious reputation as a place for professionals to be recognized and to expand their contacts. Over the years, the Club has had prominent engineers as members including Thomas A. Edison, Herbert Hoover and David Sarnoff. Nine presidents of the Franklin Institute have also been presidents of the Engineers' Club.

Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** To be the Engineering and Technical Center of the Delaware Valley
- **Mission:** The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia is dedicated to the advancement of the engineering field including its various disciplines, the professional development of its members, and networking among technical professionals.

Strategic Plan Goals

- Leverage the unique advantage of the Club as the network of engineering professionals in the region
- Promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education in the K-20 system
- Be a source of professional development information and provide programs for the engineering community
- Increase and broaden membership base by providing increased membership options and enhanced benefits

Engineering has become a very fragmented profession as there is no national overarching organization, such as the American Medical

Association, to provide a coordinated face for engineering. Two key aspects of our Vision and Mission are to provide coordination among the various engineering and technical societies and outreach to the general public and various student populations.

We strive to be a resource for parents, educators, counselors, students, the public, and the media to help answer the question "What does an engineer do?" and related questions such as the education required. At the post-secondary level, we work with the local colleges and universities in supporting engineering students.

There are many discipline and practice-specific technical and professional societies. They and the local universities and engineering organizations have various programs for encouraging students' interest in engineering. Many of these programs have been developed using significant volunteer effort. However, there is no one location that provides access to the extensive information to connect program-providers with those who would benefit from access.

Our goal is not to create new programs. Rather, we are working with the various societies, universities, and companies to provide a "one-stop shop" that can:

- match program-providers with volunteers and with potential program participants
- be a resource about engineering for K-12 stakeholders
- be a resource to provide information on engineering programs and support members of the Club's chapters at local colleges/universities



History

The Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia drew engineers from around the world to view the technical advances of that century. It was apparent to engineers residing in Philadelphia that engineers did not know each other. Charles E. Billin invited twenty or so engineers to his home the following winter, and this started a series of gatherings at the homes of various engineers. The Club formally organized in December 1877 and Professor L. M. Haupt was its first President.

In 1913, the Club began a program for affiliation with the various, and growing, technical societies. The Affiliated Organizations obtained meeting privileges and could use the clubhouse as a mailing address. The clubhouse provided a common ground for engineers of every discipline and others associated with engineering to meet.

The Engineers' Club had its own programs, both technical and social. The Education Course program was begun in 1922 and has been a continuous contribution of the Club to the engineering community, not restricted to Club members.

At the end of 1989, the Club closed the clubhouse operations at 1317 Spruce Street. Its present office location is a suite in the Racquet Club at 215 South 16th Street. Between 1989 and August 2007, the Club was managed by a trio of retired engineers, with an emphasis to regroup the efforts of the Club within the framework of its Charter as a service organization for engineers. The educational program and meetings with technical tours and presentations continued. The annual Directory of Engineering and Technical Societies was an invaluable resource to the technical societies.

In August 2007, a sufficient financial reserve had been developed to allow the Club to invest in hiring a paid Executive Director. As a result of this move, the Club has:

- Developed a Strategic Plan
- Debuted a new website
- Expanded the involvement of affiliated technical and professional societies
- Implemented association management software
- Expanded the Continuing Professional Development Program, including different course titles and increased number of sessions

- Developed corporate memberships, which now includes 11 corporate members and over 450 Club members
- Developed student chapters at local universities
- Created a Student Outreach Committee to work with local universities and primary and secondary schools interested in furthering STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

Organization

The Club has two paid staff members: an Executive Director and an Administrative Assistant. They are supported by a volunteer staff member, primarily handling the financial affairs of the Club. The Club's Board of Directors is composed of five officers (President, President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), nine Directors, the Immediate Past President, and the Executive Director (non-voting). There is a six-member Executive Committee.

The Club's operations and programs are managed by a number of committees, each with a chair and multiple committee members, and supported by the staff.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • <i>Club Operations</i> | • <i>Club Programs</i> |
| - Administration | - Affiliate Society Relations |
| - Finance | - Delaware Valley Engineers Week |
| - Membership | - Professional Development |
| - Nominations | - Public Relations |
| - Strategic Planning | - Student Outreach |

The Club is the focal point for the engineering community in the Delaware Valley and provides a unified voice for the profession. It stimulates interest in the field and helps build future leaders in the engineering profession to ensure excellence in engineering continues in the Philadelphia region for generations to come.

It is an exciting and energized time for the Club – full of many new initiatives and opportunities for both the Club and its members. The Club offers individual and corporate memberships and affiliate membership packages. For further details about the Club, its activities, and membership packages please visit our website at www.engrclub.org or contact Susan Best, PE, Executive Director, at sbest@engrclub.org or (215) 985-5701.