



# Lead Lines



Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter  
International Society of Explosives Engineers  
[www.easternpaisee.com](http://www.easternpaisee.com)

Volume 31 Number 1

Winter 2024

The Eastern PA ISEE welcomes requests for topics, and invites readers' letters and other contributions that relate to drilling, blasting, seismology and explosives engineering.

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## Joint Chapter Meeting with the Penn State Student Chapter

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Penn State University Campus  
Hosler Building Room 156

Or

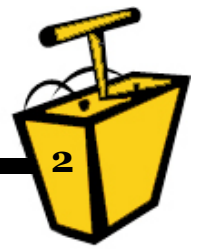
via Zoom at <https://psu.zoom.us/j/8593339892?omn=95316074825>

6:00 - 8:00pm

### Guest Speaker

Christopher D Catalano  
Chief, Explosives and Safety Section  
Department of Environmental Protection

Please RSVP to Dan Leach  
717.574.4024 or [danleach58@gmail.com](mailto:danleach58@gmail.com)



## Our Chapter Mission Statement

Maintain and promote the highest competency standards, safety, and education for drilling, blasting, seismology and explosives engineer professionals.

## Letter from The President

Dear Members,

Happy 2024! We are off to a great start following the annual ISEE conference in Savannah, GA and we have a number of upcoming educational and fun events for our membership so please save the date for:

- \* Wednesday, April 10: Joint Chapter Meeting at Penn State University & via Zoom
- \* TBD: Blasters Training Event at the Blair County Convention Center
- \* Thursday, August 8: Baseball Game Meeting at the Iron Pigs - bring the family!
- \* Friday, November 8: Clay Shoot & BBQ at the Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays

In addition to these exciting events our Board of Directors is growing with the addition of two new board members. Michael Hoover of East West Drill and Kirk Whitaker from Dimension Supply. Longtime board member Don Haney will be stepping off the board and we want to thank him for his tremendous support and years of service!

The Board of Directors also developed a mission for our Chapter and that can now be found on our website and in this newsletter. It is our goal to maintain and promote the highest competency standards, safety, and education for drilling, blasting, seismology and explosives engineers professionals.

Finally, membership renewals will be sent out in late spring/early summer for the 2024 year. We ask all members to renew when your invoice is received so we can stay on track with our new renewal time line. We appreciate your continued support!

Best regards,

Danny Ray Leach



## ISEE Conference in Savannah, GA

The ISEE Conference was held in January in Savannah, GA. According to the ISEE, 1683 people attended this year's conference.

During the Chapter Management Workshop DT Froedge, a founding member of the ISEE Board of Directors spoke about how the ISEE formed 50 years ago. Larry Gilmore, a member of the Peach State Chapter – the first ISEE Chapter to form spoke about the early days as well. These presentations were part of a 50th Annual Celebration.

Our Chapter received the Service Award for the 2023 PA Blaster Refresher Training & PA Drilling and Blasting Conference, the Chapter Communication Award, and the Chapter Quality Operations Award.



In addition, several of our Chapter members were recognized for their excellence in the industry. Doug Rudenko of Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc. was awarded the ISEE Industry Service Award and Rick Henry of Wampum Hardware Co. received the ISEE Driller of the Year award.

Congratulations to both Doug Rudenko and Rick Henry on their awards!





# Clay Shoot & BBQ

On November 3, 2023, the Eastern PA Chapter ISEE hosted the 7th Annual Clay Shoot and BBQ at the Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays (LVSC) facility in Allentown, PA. This is a perfect venue for our event as it is built on an old quarry site that utilizes the ponds and the old limestone structures for the challenging course. There were 51 attendees and 48 shooters that participated in the event.

First place winner was Tony Paolino from New Enterprise Stone & Lime, Co., Inc.; second place winner was Jonathan Ferdinand from Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc.; and third place winner was Phil Gosnell from New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.



The Class A Lewis class winner was Mark Johnson from EPIROC, the Class B Lewis class winner was Ron Ruby from Maurer & Scott, and the Class C Lewis class winner was Kristin Klemish from Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc.



The shotgun raffle winner was Randy Van Scyoc from OPPC Farms.



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BBQ lunch by Austin Powder Co. & Maurer & Scott;  
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# Clay Shoot & BBQ



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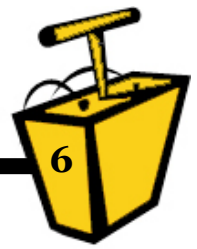


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## SEE Education Foundation Scholarship Now Open

The Society of Explosives Engineers Education Foundation (SEE Foundation) has opened the 2024-2025 scholastic year application process. In 2024, the SEE will award up to \$90,000 USD in scholarships to students pursuing degrees related to the explosives industry.

The SEE Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization created in 1996 to serve the long-term education interests of the explosives industry through the development of education and training materials, championing the inclusion of explosives instruction in engineering curricula and awarding scholarships to eligible students.

**The scholarship acceptance period closes on May 6, 2024.** We encourage you to forward this information to students interested in applying for the scholarship.

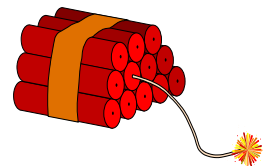
To be eligible, students must be, or plan to be, pursuing a technical, undergraduate, graduate, or doctorate in a field related to the commercial explosives industries. Students will be assessed on academic and professional achievements, industry goals, a personal challenges narrative, and a brief statement of financial need.

The SEE Foundation Scholarship Committee awards scholarships based on information contained in the applications received. In past years, the minimum scholarship awarded was \$500 USD, and top awards have exceeded \$5,000 USD to well-qualified students. Scholarships are open to students from any country and attending any university, provided it has a degree program in a field related to the commercial explosives industries. Interested students can find more information at <https://isee.org/students>.

Completed applications must be emailed to [scholarship@isee.org](mailto:scholarship@isee.org). **The deadline to submit your completed application is 11:59 p.m. May 6, 2024, US Eastern Time.** Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

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## Rachel Bauer Awarded SEE Education Foundation Scholarship

Rachel Bauer of St. Marys, Pennsylvania was awarded the SEE Education Foundation Scholarship in the amount of \$3,200 for the 2023-2024 academic year. Of that amount, the Eastern PA Chapter funded \$2,000. She was also the recipient of this award for the 2022-2023 academic year. Rachel is a 3rd year PhD student studying Explosives Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology.

“This past year I had the opportunity to present research at the Military Aspects of Blast and Shock Conference in Australia, as well as the ISEE Conference in Savannah, Georgia,” said Rachel. “I’m looking forward to delving deeper into both of these research projects (as well as a few others) and continuing to share my work and findings at conferences around the world.”



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## Michael Wise Awarded the Pennsylvania College of Technology Scholarship

Michael Wise of Montoursville, PA was awarded the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter ISEE Scholarship through the Pennsylvania College of Technology for the 2023-2024 academic year. Michael is a junior in the Civil Engineering Technology program. He was awarded \$800 for the academic year.

“The scholarship helps me to afford college and fund my journey to make a better community around me,” said Michael.



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## The Twentieth Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference Held

On November 16 and 17, 2023, the Twentieth Pennsylvania Drilling and Blasting Conference was held at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania.

The conference is directed to underground and surface blasters, engineers, suppliers, and other professionals associated with drilling, blasting, and explosives. This year's conference involved over 400 people, 43 exhibit booths, and two outdoor large drill exhibits.

The conference program committee, which is comprised of university faculty, staff, and industry leaders, developed a program that highlighted a varied and impressive list of 31 speakers and range of useful subject matter. The conference also included two breakout sessions, which focused on relevant real-world practices and concepts in drilling and blasting.

This conference is sponsored by Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and the John and Willie Leone Family Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of ISEE, the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of ISEE, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, this conference had fifteen company sponsors.

The conference program committee is listed below:

- Jerry Brumbaugh, Wampum Hardware Company
- Christopher Catalano, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Aaron Christ, New Enterprise Stone & Lime
- Rachel Conaway, Penn State
- Mark DiFonzo, Orica
- John Farris, Penn State
- Dave Harrison, Terra-Mechanics
- Tom Hairhoger, Austin Powder Company
- Kristin Klemish, Vibra-Tech Engineers
- Daniel Ray Leach, Sales and Operations Consultant
- Dale Marker, Hanson Aggregates
- Scott Mueller, Blue Stone Drilling
- Mohammad Rezaee, Penn State
- Ron Ruby, Maurer-Scott
- Jeff Skovira, Keystone Drill Services
- Matthew Tomlin, American Rock Mechanics
- Kirk Whitaker, Dimension Supply
- Christopher Yackmack, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection





An aerial photograph of a city, likely San Francisco, with a large, deep crater in the foreground. The crater is filled with debris and dust, suggesting a recent explosion or collapse. The city is visible in the background, with buildings and streets. The text "YOU CAN'T MANAGE WHAT YOU DON'T MEASURE." is overlaid on the image in a white, distressed font.

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# PA Drilling and Blasting Conference Photos



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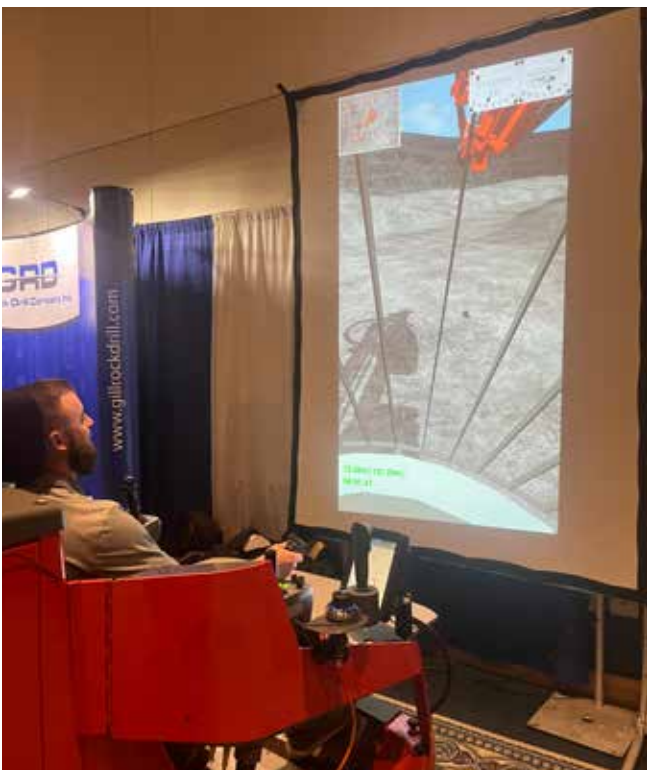


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# PA Drilling and Blasting Conference Photos



**Save the Date!**

**Thursday, August 8, 2024**

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Allentown, PA 18109**

**PPL Picnic Patio**





## Pennsylvania One Call: The Keystone of Damage Prevention

January 5, 2024

Online Ticket Management has been updated to accept attachments while posting a response. Facility Owners are now able to upload pictures or documents while posting a response to a ticket. Excavators will be able to see these attachments when viewing the responses from Facility Owners inside Online Ticket Management. Additional search options have also been added.

For more information on how to attach a document or view response attachments, please go to [www.pa1call.org](http://www.pa1call.org), log into your online account, select Online Ticket Management from your Applications list, and click Help.

Effective January 11, 2024, Design Drawing Exchange will no longer allow facility owners to upload documents. Please use Online Ticket Management moving forward.



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## Spring is Membership Renewal Time

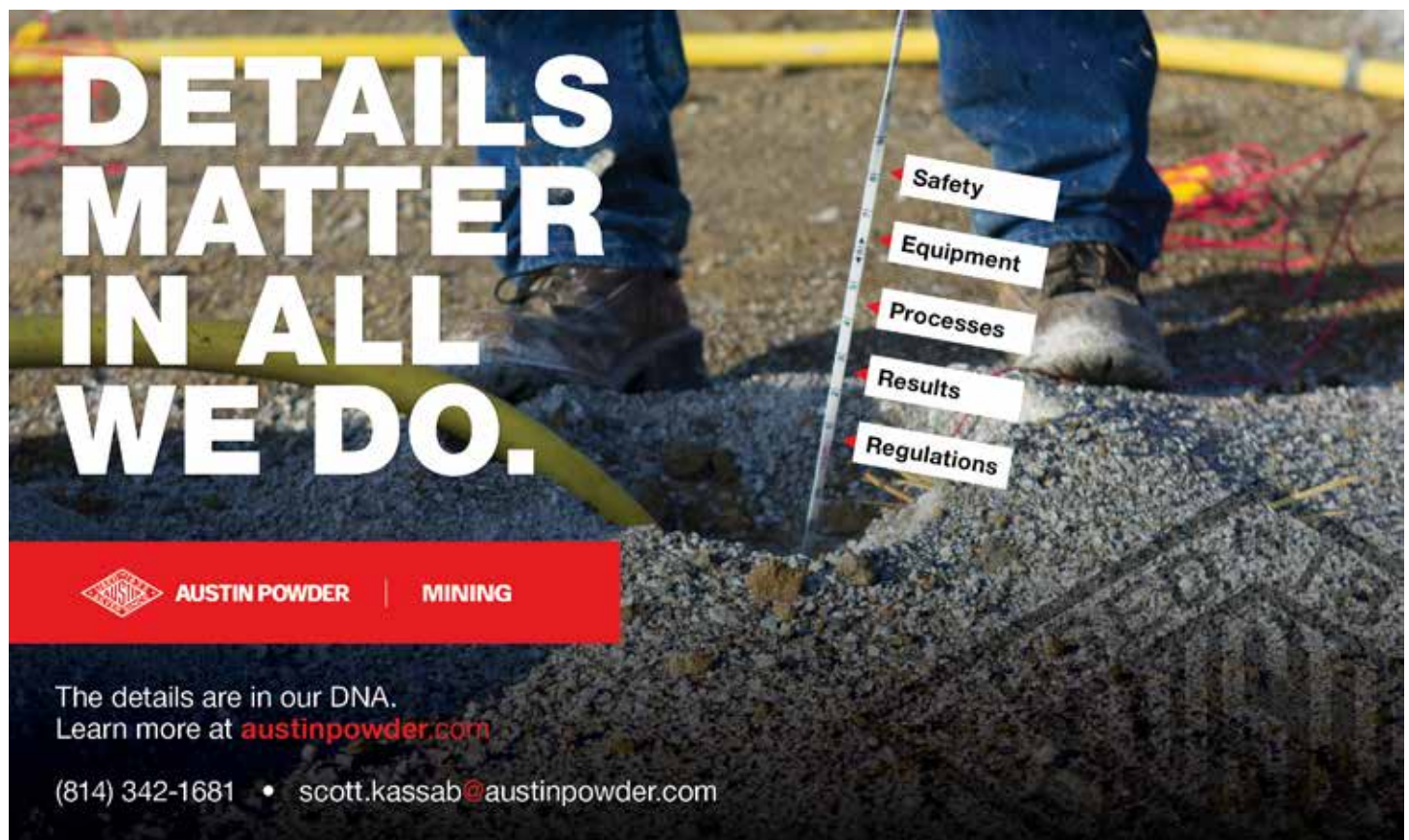
Last year we kicked off our new Springtime Membership Renewal Plan. Our membership renewal traditionally occurred in January, but was adjusted to late spring in 2023.

Members will begin receiving their membership renewal invoices in late May/early June. Our advertising renewal will also follow this timeline. Any new ads placed during the year will be prorated.


Membership in the Eastern PA Chapter of the ISEE keeps you connected to news and events in the drilling, blasting and seismic fields. Members receive benefits such as quarterly newsletters, training opportunities, regulatory and safety updates as well as informational and social events. A yearly membership only costs \$30. And you can save with a Corporate Membership! A corporate membership includes up to 5 members and a free business card advertisement in the quarterly newsletter (\$60 value)- all for \$150. A deluxe corporate membership includes up to 10 members and a 1/2 page advertisement in the quarterly newsletter (\$180 value)- all for \$250.

You have 3 renewal options:

1. Visit the membership renewal form on our website at <https://www.easternpaisee.com/membership/>
2. Complete the membership form on page 22
3. Wait for your membership renewal invoice to come via email



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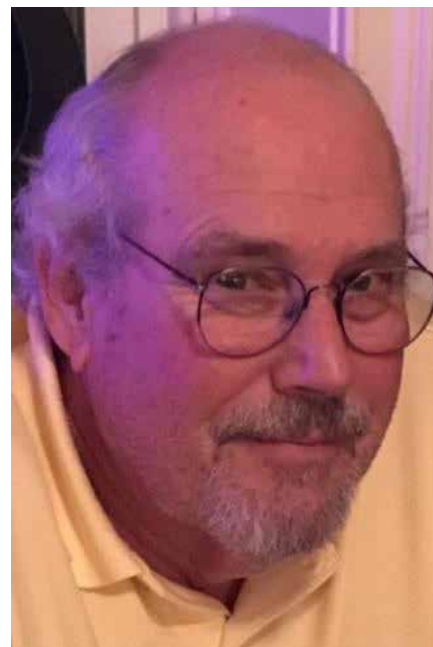
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## In Memory: Judd Wagner

Judd Ambrose Wagner, 73, of Perry Township, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 15, 2023 in his residence with his loving wife by his side. He was the husband of Sarah E. (Miller) Wagner, whom he married on July 11, 1981, but was a companion to since 1972.

Born in Palmerton, Judd was a son of the late Henry and Mildred (Horn) Wagner. He was a 1968 graduate of Palmerton High School and later attended Kutztown University. Since 1973, Judd worked in the explosives industry for his entire career. He retired in 2016 working as a Safety and Compliance Officer for Maurer & Scott, Inc., Northampton.

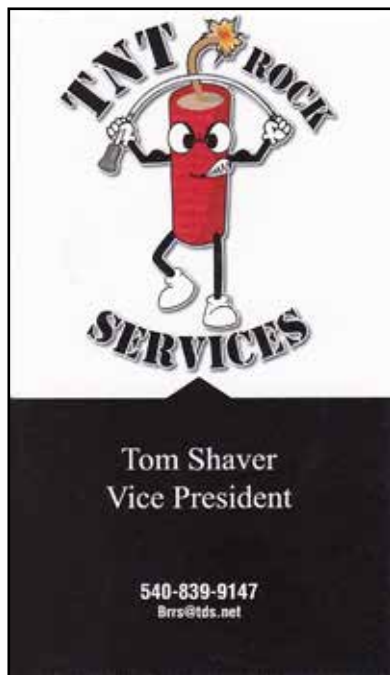


Judd enjoyed the great outdoors, hunting, and fishing. He was a member of Ducks Unlimited and The Ruffed Grouse Society and loved his bird dogs.

Along with his wife Sarah, Judd is survived by his brother and good friend, Todd P., husband of Dianne C. (Alexander) Wagner, Kutztown; and sister, Trudy (Wagner), wife of Dr. Joseph Green, Davidsville, PA; and several nieces and nephews and their families.

A Celebration of Life for Judd was held on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Contributions can be made in Judd's Memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or online at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org).



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## In Memory: James Stephen Bertiaux

James Stephen Bertiaux, passed away on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Born in Quincy, Illinois, on March 15, 1954, to Guy and Evelyn Bertiaux, he lived his childhood years across several states as the family relocated nine times throughout his youth. From an early age, Jim took on the role of peacemaker amidst the chaos that often occurs in a large family and so befitting his position as the middle child. The family eventually settled in DuBois, Pennsylvania, where Jim completed his high school education and went on to Penn State, earning his degree in business.



While living in DuBois, Jim met the love of his life, Patti Walters, and they were married on June 26, 1982. Together they built their life in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and in 1990 welcomed their son, Scott, into the world.

Following his father into the explosives business, Jim forged a successful career in sales. His hard work and dedication allowed him to provide a comfortable life for his family. Along the way, he made life-long friendships with his colleagues and customers.

Continued on page 19



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## Bertiaux Continued

Outside of work, Jim was a true fan of Penn State football as a long-time member of the Nittany Lion Club and a season ticket holder for over 40 years. In his reserved parking spot outside Beaver Stadium, he hosted epic tailgate parties. Family and friends would gather around to enjoy food, drink and music. Affectionately known as “Boom Daddy”, Jim loved classic rock music: Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Doors, The Eagles, Creedence Clearwater Revival and many others. He would sing along, often out of tune, but with gusto nonetheless.

In matters of the heart, few are fortunate enough to experience a love like the one shared by Patti and Jim. His roles as husband and father were the most important in his life. Jim had the innate ability to know what his family needed before they knew it themselves. He made every day special simply by providing loving compliments to Patti or by assisting Scott in making culinary delights as sous chef. We can all agree that every moment spent with Jim was to be treasured. He was a kind, thoughtful, loving man.

Jim’s life touched so many. He leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter, as well as a trove of memories. While he left us far too soon, we know that the goodness of his spirit will live on in the lives of those who loved him. He is survived by his wife, Patti; his son, Scott; his siblings, David, Linda, Mark and Deanne; and his nieces and nephews, Jennifer, Melissa, Alex and Zachary.

A celebration of life will be held in The Villages, Florida, on March 3rd, 2024, at Bradenton Recreational Center, 1300 Pinellas Place, The Villages, FL 32162 from 12-3. Another celebration of life will be held this summer in Cranberry Twp., Pennsylvania.

Jim and Patti have been involved in a local charity called the Cranberry CUP for over two decades which benefits local families in need. In lieu of flowers, donations can be mailed to Cranberry CUP, PO Box 1614, Cranberry Twp., PA, or submitted on-line at [CranberryCUP.ORG](http://CranberryCUP.ORG) with the “Donate Now” button. Every dollar will go to helping others in need and in remembrance of Jim.



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## Mine Safety and Health Administration

### Fatality Alert

On December 14, 2023, a contractor died while delivering parts to the mine when an all-terrain telehandler pulling cable, tipped over, striking him.

#### Best Practices:

- \* Do not exceed the load radius and load limits of lifting equipment.
- \* Ensure miners position themselves in a safe manner while working around equipment.
- \* Barricade and sign affected areas in case equipment fail or tip.
- \* Ensure visitors entering the mine receive site specific hazard awareness training.
- \* Maintain good communication between co-workers.

Robert McClure  
President



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eric.crosson@gillrockdrill.com

903-905 Cornwall Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
717-272-3861  
800-334-3117  
Fax: 717-272-4140





## Mine Safety & Health Seminar for Supervisors Planned

Steptoe & Johnson, Eagle Mine Safety, and Flick Safety Services have partnered to host a Mine Safety & Health Seminar for Supervisors on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at the Delta Hotels Allentown/Lehigh Valley in Breinigsville, PA.

The seminar is an opportunity for supervisors and safety professionals to learn new ideas and approaches to improve safety and health performance in the workplace, through effective training and hazard assessments. Special focus will be given to the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) proposed respirable crystalline silica rule and the surface mobile equipment final rule.

Check in begins at 7am with the seminar running from 8am-3:30pm. The cost to attend is \$115/ticket and pre-registration is required. To register visit the conference website.

Proceeds from the seminar after expenses will benefit the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Scholarship Fund.



**For Safe Excavation and Complex Projects many people believe that by notifying the One Call System of intended excavation they have completed all of their responsibilities with respect to the locating process. This is not the case. Notifying is only the first step, and there are several other important considerations.**

**Online Ticket Management is a web service application developed by Pennsylvania 811 to provide excavators and designers a way to view their notifications and facility owners responses.**

- View current tickets or five years worth of tickets
- Access to tickets entered online or through the call center
- Search for a specific ticket with an assigned serial number or a series of notifications within a specific date range
- See real time responses from facility owners who were notified on a current ticket or search the system for stored responses (maximum of 5 years)

**Start today by requesting the application from your account**





## 2024 NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR MEMBER RENEWAL FORM

Name (Please Print)\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

Company Name\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_

List Blaster Licenses Held\_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member of the I.S.E.E.?\_\_\_\_\_

### Please select your membership type:

- ☐ **Individual** - Chapter dues are \$35.00 per year.
- ☐ **Deluxe Corporate Membership** - Dues are \$250.00 for up to 10 members plus a 1/2 page ad in the quarterly newsletter (\$180 value). Please list name, email address and ISEE status for all members.
- ☐ **Corporate Membership** - Dues are \$150.00 for up to 5 members plus a business card ad in the quarterly newsletter (\$60 value). Please list name, email address and ISEE status for all members.

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I agree to comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the Chapter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

### Payment can be made by credit card or check. Please select your payment option.

- ☐ Credit Card - Visit the Chapter website to pay online (<http://www.easternpaisee.com/membership/>) or contact Scott Mueller to pay over the phone.
- ☐ Check - Please make checks payable to **Eastern PA Chapter I.S.E.E.**

Send to: **Scott Mueller**  
**PO Box 94, Souderton, PA 18964**  
**[smueller@bluestonedrilling.com](mailto:smueller@bluestonedrilling.com)**



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