



## MINUTES OF PEO WINDSOR-ESSEX CHAPTER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and TOWN HALL

Ciociaro Club, 3745 North Talbot Rd. Oldcastle, ON N0R 1A0  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 6:00 PM

### PRESENT:

Aaron Blata, P.Eng.	Khaled Chekiri, P.Eng.
Abdul Choudhry, EIT	Labib Labib, P.Eng.
Ahmed Basharat, P.Eng.	Liam Simone, P.Eng.
Anna Godo, P.Eng.	Libardo Sepulveda, P.Eng.
Anthony Maria, P.Eng.	Maha Elia, EIT
Bahir Haj-Khalil, EIT	Manuel Lolarga, P.Eng.
Bennett McLaughlin, P.Eng.	Matthew Riediger, P.Eng.
Cody Gillis, P.Eng.	Michael Todd, P.Eng.
Dennis Pupulin, P.Eng.	Pokane Thoahlane, P.Eng.
Dinesh Sutar, EIT	Quentin Mbunkah, P.Eng.
Erica Tilley, P.Eng.	Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.
Fadi Saflo, P.Eng.	Robert Mackay, P.Eng.
Fouzia Baki Siddiq, P.Eng.	Robert Ryan, P.Eng.
Gordon Henry, P.Eng.	Saad Jasim, P.Eng.
Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.	Sean McCann, P.Eng.
Hernando Ivan Rodriguez, P.Eng.	Teagan Grinwis, EIT
Jeff Duic, P.Eng.	Tiffany Pocock, P.Eng.
Juliana Otero, P.Eng.	Varun Sharma, EIT
Kevin Girard, P.Eng.	Wanda Juricic, P.Eng.
Kolja Nikac, EIT	

In total, there were 39 attendees including 32 Licensed Engineers and 7 EITs.

### INTRODUCTION

**Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** commenced the Windsor-Essex Chapter Annual General Meeting at 6:05PM by extending a warm welcome and thanking members for their attendance.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** began the proceedings by acknowledging that the land on which the chapter gathered is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa and the Potawatomie. PEO honours all First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, and their valuable past and present contributions to this land.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** presented the agenda for the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Motion: *Moved by Aaron Blata, P.Eng. and seconded by Sean McCann, P.Eng. that the agenda of the 2024 Annual General Meeting for Professional Engineers Ontario Windsor-Essex Chapter be accepted.*

**Carried**

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** encouraged the members to review the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting, that were accessible on the chapter website. Additionally, paper copies were made available on each table during the meeting.

Motion: *Moved by Dennis Pupulin, P.Eng. and seconded by Kevin Girard, P.Eng. that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated March 1st, 2023 be accepted.*

**Carried.**

### **2023 CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS**

On behalf of the Board, **Hanan El-Sayed P.Eng.** presented the following highlights of the 2023 Chapter activities, that were detailed in the newsletter:

#### **Education Committee**

1. A talk entitled "Shape Your Professional Career" was organized for graduate engineering students during National Engineering Month on March 29th, 2023, at the University of Windsor.
2. Sponsored the FIRST Lego League Challenge Robotics competition that was held on December 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at St. Clair College. The award, valued at \$750, recognizes teams that excel in engineering.
3. Two sessions for PEO's New License Application Process Presentation were held on July 27th, 2023 at the University of Windsor with participation from PEO headquarters and OSPE.
  - Approximately 150 undergraduate students attended the first session and over 370 graduate students and EITs attended the evening session.

### **Government Liaison Program Committee (GLP)**

1. PEO Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Chair **Asif Khan, P.Eng.** attended an event with Premier Doug Ford, MPP (Etobicoke North) at the Water's Edge Event Centre in Windsor on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. **Asif Khan, P.Eng.** had a chance to discuss, PEO's mandate and the important role of engineers in society. The meeting included Transportation Minister Caroline Mulroney, MPP (York Simcoe) and Andrew Dowie, P.Eng., MPP (Windsor-Tecumseh).
2. Take Your MPP to Workday was hosted on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with Anthony Leardi, MPP (Essex) who toured the Essex-Windsor Regional Landfill Site.

### **Nominating Committee**

1. On March 1st, 2023 the chapter AGM and elections took place at the Hellenic Cultural Centre in Windsor. There were 12 members elected for a two-year term.
2. The nominating committee held two licence ceremony events to celebrate the new P.Eng. licence recipients. The first was hosted in the spring on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Ciociaro Club in the presence of 60 attendees. Dr. N. Kar, P.Eng. presented his research on electric vehicles during the event. The second was hosted during the fall on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at Hellenic Cultural Centre of Windsor. A well received talk on the exceptional life of Cornelius L. Henderson, who was instrumental as a Canadian engineer in connecting Windsor and Detroit by designing components of the Ambassador Bridge, was provided by four members of the Detroit Historical Society's Black Historic Sites Committee. The chapter was honored to have PEO President Dr. Roydon Fraser, P.Eng. present certificates to the new P.Engs at the event.
3. 2023 High School Scholarship was awarded to Cole Herdman. The award winner received a \$1,500 in scholarship towards attending an engineering program at the University of Windsor.

### **Social Programs Committee**

1. The social programs committee organized the following events:
  - 2023 Annual Golf Day was held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at Kingsville Golf and Country Club. 65 members attended the event.
  - WTFC Soccer Game attracted members on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at the new St. Clair College Acumen Stadium.

- Empowering Women in Engineering (EWiE) members participated in the International Day of the Girl Breakfast that was hosted by Build a Dream on October 11, 2023 at St. Clair Centre for the Arts.
  - On July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Action Plan Virtual Meeting for the 30 by 30 attended by a chapter member from EWiE subcommittee.
  - Innovation Station – Engineering Your Life (ISEYL) was hosted by the chapter on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at Devonshire Mall. 120 students from JK to Grade 12 registered to participate in the annual popsicle stick bridge building competition.
  - Chapter members participated in Run for Fun from October 2<sup>nd</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup>.
2. PEO/OACETT Curling Bonspiel took place on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Beach Grove Golf & Curling Club.
  3. Chapter holiday gathering was held on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Ciociaro Club, attracting approximately 90 members and spouses.

#### **Technical Programs Committee**

1. Annually, the chapter sponsors engineering awards and actively participates in judging student projects at the Windsor Regional Science, Technology and Engineering Fair on March 25<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.
2. Family Skate was hosted by the chapter on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at WFCU Bowl Arena in partnership with OACETT. A 9-foot tall LED robot greeted attendees at the event and helped to energize the participating kids. A total of 90 members, family and friends attended the event.
3. Two extremely popular Gordie Howe International Bridge Construction Site tours were organised by the committee on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 without issue. The third tour date of March 5<sup>th</sup> tour was postponed due to site safety concerns related to bridge deck temporary supports removal. The tours were arranged through the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and Bridging North America (BNA).

#### **Public Relations Committee**

This committee is responsible for compiling the chapter newsletter which captures all the activities and events organized by the chapter. The Fall 2023 newsletter is available on the

chapter's website. The committee is also responsible for sending regular email blasts, so the members are notified of the upcoming chapter events.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Members are requested to contact **Sean McCann, P.Eng.** if they are interested to become judges in the upcoming Windsor Regional Science, Technology and Engineering Fair.
- Next application for high school scholarship will be published soon.
- Spring license ceremony will be held on May 2nd.
- The "Getting Closer to the Stars" event is planned for later this spring. It will be an opportunity to visit the Hallam Observatory in Comber that is managed by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.
- A tour of multiple greenhouses is planned for the summer.
- A tour of multiple wastewater treatment plants is planned for the summer.

### **2023 FINANCIAL REPORT**

- Chapter Chair, **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.**, invited the Chapter Treasurer, **Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.** to present the 2023 financial report. **Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.** reminded the members that chapter finances are now following the PEO centralized banking system. As a result, there is no longer an approval process for the financial report by the membership.
- Just to notify the members, **Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.** mentioned that PEO has approved the annual chapter budget of \$44,440 for 2024.
- **Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.** explained that PEO has a "use it or lose it" policy for the budgeted amount. That is the reason the board decided to purchase swag items for distributing among the members during events with the surplus money from the 2023 budget.

### **TOWN HALL – OPEN FORUM**

- **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** opened the floor to members who wished to express their thoughts on any PEO chapter related issues.
- **Anna Godo, P.Eng.** joined **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** to answer questions.
- **Wanda Juricic, P.Eng.** asked about the future of the EIT program. **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** responded that there was no consultation with the chapters when PEO decided to make changes to the EIT program. **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** mentioned that the PEO used the term

“suspended” and not canceled, when it came to make changes to the EIT program. She added that PEO is working on developing an alternative program that suits the new licensure changes.

- **Sean McCann, P.Eng.** highlighted the board's commitment to ongoing communication with students at the university regarding the significance of the licensing process. **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.**, further emphasized that the education committee has been constant in organizing events aimed at educating engineering students and graduates about the licensure application process, with support from PEO HQ.
- **Aaron Blata, P.Eng.** asked whether the chapter gives any certificates for attending chapter arranged events, to satisfy their mandatory CPD hours. **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** advised that the chapter was instructed to avoid giving those certificates and rather call them certificate of participation based on attendance. It is then up to each member to consider them towards his/her own mandatory CPD hours. **Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.** asked members to be diligent when logging hours related to any potential CPD activities.
- **Julianna Otero, P.Eng.** mentioned that after calling the PEO PEAK program hotline, she understood that PEO is going to add new components like project management in the list of qualified activities as part of PEAK program.
- **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** reminded the members that by the end of January, all members needed to complete their questionnaire for the PEAK program and encouraged them to follow up, even if the deadline has passed.
- **Wanda Juricic, P.Eng.** identified the lack of participation of members in the PEO election. **Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.** gave the statistics for this year’s election participation. **Asif Khan, P.Eng.** lost the election by only 2% of the total votes. **Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.** requested everyone to vote in future elections.
- **Sean McCann, P.Eng.** requested members to participate as judges in the science fair this year.
- **Sean McCann, P.Eng.** asked everyone to supply suggestions for future technical tours and technical talks.

### Concluding Remarks

- **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** acknowledged that **Asif Khan, P.Eng.** received the prestigious 2023 Engineer of the Year Award. **Radwan Tamr, P.Eng.** received recognition for his ten years of volunteering service with PEO.

- **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** extended appreciation to the board, acknowledging their dedication and hard work. The Windsor-Essex chapter has been one the most active chapters in the western region of PEO for years, and over the past two years has received the highest approved budgets. She asked board members who were present to stand up for recognition.
- **Hanan El-Sayed, P.Eng.** encouraged members to reach out to her directly by email for questions, concerns or comments.
- **Hanan El-Sayed P.Eng.** asked the members to keep in touch by following the chapter's activities on Facebook and LinkedIn, by checking emails on a regular basis for chapter email blasts and by participating in chapter organized events.
- **Hanan El-Sayed P.Eng.** thanked all for attending the AGM and participation in the townhall before calling for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AT 7:54 PM**

Motion: *Moved by **Anthony Maria, P.Eng.** seconded by **Robert MacKay, P.Eng.** that the 2024 Windsor-Essex Chapter AGM be adjourned.*

**Carried**

The meeting minutes were recorded by **Fouzia Baki, P.Eng.** who should be contacted regarding any errors or omissions.