



Annual Chapter Newsletter

Winter 2023



2023-2024 Executives

First Row (Right to Left):

Sharon Chen, P.Eng., Elven Tsui, P.Eng., Annabelle Lee, P.Eng., FEC, Hannah Ehtemam, P.Eng., Marcia Lim, P.Eng., Darren Verasammy, P.Eng.

Back Row (Right to Left):

Denis Tse, P.Eng., Iris Yan, EIT., Reza Mahmoudipour, P.Eng., Ali Sanaee, P.Eng., Ph.D., Salvatore Distefano, EIT., Oliver Xiao, P.Eng., Liza Sheppard, P.Eng.

Chair's Message



As we bring the curtains down on a momentous year, it is with great pleasure that I present an overview of the noteworthy accomplishments that have defined York Chapter in 2023. The success we have enjoyed throughout the year is indebted to the steadfast commitment and support of our Board of Directors, and our dedicated volunteers, whose collective efforts have undeniably made this year a resounding success.

Throughout 2023, our chapter organized a record breaking 59 events, each providing a diverse spectrum of opportunities for learning, networking, and professional development. Moreover, we continued to host some of flagship events including Project of the Year Awards, Research Project of the Year Awards, Athletics, Licensure Assistance Program, and many more. Our events continue to evolve to help our members with their continued education as PEO moves to enforce Continued Professional Development (CPD) in 2024. For more information on PEAK please visit www.PEOPEAK.com. Amidst the professional engagements, our Annual Picnic emerged as a delightful celebration of our shared engineering ethos, providing a platform for members to connect in a relaxed and convivial setting.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the upcoming York Chapter Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for February 2024. For those keen on contributing to the board for the 2023-2024 term, we encourage you to submit your nominations promptly. Concurrently, the council election will commence in January 2024 and run through to February 16, 2024. Your active involvement is crucial, as your voice holds significant importance in shaping the future direction of our chapter. We encourage each P.Eng. license holder to participate, ensuring that our community benefits from a diverse range of perspectives and insights.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to our Board of Directors and all our volunteers for your remarkable dedication, whose unwavering dedication and diligence have been instrumental in the success of each event and initiative. Your tireless efforts have not only fostered a culture of excellence within our chapter but have also been instrumental in cultivating a sense of community that defines our collective spirit. Your contributions have significantly shaped the trajectory of our chapter, and I am genuinely privileged to lead such an accomplished and engaged community.

Fueled by the momentum of 2023, I am confident that our chapter will continue to flourish, serving as a beacon of professional excellence and collaboration. Wishing you continued success, and looking forward to another year of shared accomplishments.

Shahandeh Hannah Ehtemam, P.Eng.
Chair, PEO York Chapter
Hannah.ehtemam@peoyork.com

Vice Chair's Message

It was my pleasure and honour to serve a second year as Vice-Chair of PEO York Chapter. A year for me where I experienced and gained insight into PEO governance; had opportunities to meet and collaborate with other Chapter leaders; provided background support for committee directors and Chair; continue support of PEO's 30 by 30 action plan; and worked with volunteers and directors in supporting numerous Chapter events.

I'd like to thank all members of York Chapter Board of Directors and committee volunteers for their effort and dedication. The Chapter continues to be successful in delivering thoughtful, engaging events to P.Eng. and EITs, as well as to the broader community, because of volunteers. We continue to welcome and invite new volunteers to experience the community that is PEO York Chapter. Get involved, give back to the community, have fun, meet and network with others, it truly is a rewarding experience. All the best to everyone, and stay safe.

Marcia Lim, P.Eng.
Vice-Chair
marcia.lim@peoyork.com

Past Chair's Message

2024 Chapter Executive Elections

The Chapter's election for the 2024-2025 executive board will be held on February 10, 2024 at the AGM. The election is to provide an opportunity for registered members or EITs to serve in the Chapter's executive board for one year, if elected.

Who is eligible to run for election?

- Be a member of good standing with PEO and have no criminal record;
- Recommendations via email by two professional engineers that you are a member of good standing; and,
- A short description why you want to run for election and which position you intend to run for.

On election day at the AGM

Each candidate will provide a short speech on why they are running and if elected how they will serve the Chapter.

Deadline

Please note that the deadline is two weeks before the AGM. To be eligible to run for the election, nomination and interest needs to be submitted to nominations@peoyork.com by January 27, 2024.

Annabelle Lee, P.Eng.
Past-Chair, PEO York Chapter
annabelle.lee@peoyork.com

Business and Community Outreach News

The Business and Community Outreach Committee had a busy and successful year. With its ongoing engineering business relationship building activities and its added role in community outreach and technical presentation program, the committee goals remain to be raising engineering awareness and building strong relationships with engineering businesses, professional associations and academic institutions in the York Region and the surrounding communities.

The committee's key mandates are:

- Outreach to professional associations to promote PEO's regulatory role, and importance of licencing by helping and providing resources to their members through their licencing journey.
- Collaborate with academic institutions and universities to advocate PEO governance and licencing values to their engineering students..
- Facilitate strong and on-going relationships between PEO York Chapter and engineering businesses within the York Region and the surrounding area.
- Hosting technical presentations and seminars for chapter licencees and EITs.

The committee's major activities and successes in the year 2023 included:

- Built new relationships with professional associations within the York Region and surrounding area.
- Organized 25 technical presentations and seminars.
- Supported PEO's regulatory work through Council Election all Candidates Meeting and Meet Your Councillors events.
- Hosted the annual Chapter Open House providing opportunities for members to learn more about PEO and York chapter's latest updates.
- Maintained a strong bond with OACETT York Chapter and strengthened relationship with Ryerson University.

The Business and Community Outreach Committee always looks for new volunteers to join and participate in committee activities. If you are interested, please feel free to reach out to myself at oliver.xiao@peoyork.com!

Oliver Xiao, P.Eng.
Director, Business and Community Outreach
oliver.xiao@peoyork.com



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion News

Diversity & Inclusion Committee is focused to promote and increase the number of newly licensed engineers that identify as women to 30% by 2030. According to most recent metric, total number of newly licensed female-identifying engineers is about 20.5% in 2022. This indicates that lots of work needs to be done in the next 7 years to reach the target of 30%.

With that in mind, the committee promoted the values of D&I among our members and community through chapter events. On November 8th, 2023, D&I Committee held an event by inviting guests from diverse background to emphasize the importance of diversity in order to strengthen the engineering profession. It was a fun bowling night where members enjoyed the game and could mingle and connect with each other and learn more about the committee mission.

I would like to thank all volunteers and guests who contributed to the activities for D&I committee, and look forward to more events in the future to continue the good work.

Ali Sanaee, P.Eng., Ph.D.
Director, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
ali.sanaee@peoyork.com

Government Liaison News

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year within the Government Liaison Program (GLP), I am thrilled to share the impactful strides we've made in collaboration with key decision-makers in the Government of Ontario.

Throughout the year, we engaged in insightful meetings with influential figures such as Minister Michael Parsa, Minister Calandra, MPP Billy Pang, and Minister Mulroney. It was an honor to extend invitations to MPP Billy Pang for our license presentation ceremonies, emphasizing the importance of our program. This wouldn't be possible without the valuable contributions of our dedicated volunteers. Their commitment and hard work have been instrumental in fostering positive connections and driving our mission forward.

As we express gratitude for the exceptional efforts of our volunteers, we look forward to another year of continued collaboration and success.

Reza Mahmoudipour, P.Eng.
Government Liaison Program Director
GLP@peoyork.com



Mentorship and EIT News

Mentorship and EIT committee (MEC) had a very successful year of 2023 as we continue to provide guidelines and assistance for the EIT's with their licensure journey and engineers with their career development. This year we have continued the LAP 2023 as it is beneficial to the EIT's in their licensing journey. LAP was an independent event that assisted EITs in their licensure applications, and it was recommended for P.Eng.s to spend 2 hours/month to assist EITs. In addition to the program, we hosted two LAP sub-events which were open for York Chapter members, and the topics varied based on the demand from members. Registered LAP EITs were prioritized.

One of the LAP sub-event was "Demystifying the PEO Licensure Interview Requirements" which was held on April 1, 2023. The purpose of this event was to demonstrate the Academic Requirement Committee (ARC) and Experience Requirement Committee (ERC) interview processes for members who graduated from non-Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) engineering program or had engineering experience from overseas. The event was very successful, and we will host it again in 2024.

The other LAP sub-event was Licensing Workshop which was held on October 5, 2023. This workshop provides the details for the licensing requirements and application process, and Q&A session was held at the end. This event was fully registered, and a similar workshop will be held in 2024.

Throughout the year we have also hosted a couple of social events such as bowling, archery, table tennis, chess competition and hiking. Those events provide an opportunity for EIT's and P. Eng's to network with each other.

MEC will continue to host more in-person events in the upcoming year 2024 to build up the networking between the EIT's and P.Eng's. I would like to sincerely thanks all volunteers who contributed their time and effort to organize all the events, and we encourage more volunteers to join our team. Together, we will work towards a better future!

Elven Tsui, P. Eng.
Mentorship & EIT Director
mentorship@peoyork.com

2024 Annual General Meeting and 2024-2025 Chapter Executive Elections

The Chapter's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and election for the 2024-2025 Executive Board will be held on **Saturday, February 10, 2024 @ 9:00 AM.**

Who is eligible to run for election?

- Be a member of good standing with PEO and have no criminal record;
- Recommendations via email by two professional engineers (P. Eng.s) that you are in good standing; and,
- A short write-up on how you can contribute, including the position you are interested in, needs to be submitted to nominations@peoyork.com

On election day at the AGM: Each candidate will provide a short, 1-minute speech on why they are running and if elected how they will serve the Chapter.

Deadline: Please note that the nomination deadline is 2 weeks before the AGM. To be eligible to run for the election, nomination needs to be submitted to nominations@peoyork.com by **January 27, 2024.**

Awards and Recognition News

The Awards Committee has launched the 12th Annual PEO York Chapter Engineering Project of the Year Award (EPOTYA) and the 4th Annual Engineering Research Project of the Year Award (ERPOTYA) competition for 2023. We're looking for your project submissions! The Award recognizes outstanding technical/research projects within our community and showcases the achievements of local businesses/educational institutions, while promoting the practice of professional engineering. We look forward to celebrating your successes!

On behalf of the Awards Committee, I would like to congratulate the 2022 winners and thank all the applicants for their engineering successes and contributions toward their local communities. The 2022 winners are highlighted on the Chapter's website [here](#), and were:

2022 Engineering Project of the Year Awards:

- GO Expansion - Rutherford GO Station (EllisDon Civil Ltd.)
- Better Road Practices Using AI (City of Markham / Visual Defence)
- Demand Control Kitchen Ventilation (Laser Energy Controls)

2021 Engineering Research Project of the Year Award:

- Smith Gardens JV FluidEx Ethanol Extraction from Waste Carrots (Fluidyne Corp/Fluid Exponents Inc.)



Projects from ALL engineering disciplines are welcome! Please check www.peoyork.com/potya and www.peoyork.com/rpotya for award details and application. The deadline for the application is **January 19, 2024**.

The Awards and Recognition Committee is also accepting nominations for Distinguished Volunteers who has contributed exceptionally to York Chapter's success. The committee has submitted our 2023 Chapter Volunteer List to PEO Headquarters to recognize our volunteers for their active contributions to York Chapter. I strongly encourage more York Chapter members to participate and volunteer in York Chapter activities and serve our fellow York Chapter members. It is very rewarding.

Liza Sheppard, P.Eng., PMP
Awards & Recognition Director
awards@peoyork.com

Important Dates!

January 19, 2024 - Application deadline for Engineering Project of the Year Awards

February 10, 2024 - Annual General Meeting

Education News

PEO York Chapter received many scholarship applications from York Region students who completed Grade 12 studies with honours and are attending the first-year engineering studies at an accredited engineering school in Canada. The Chapter reviewed the applications for the scholarship, and the result was announced in October 2023. The scholarship was valued at \$1,500.

On Sunday, March 26th, 2023, PEO York Chapter Education Committee hosted over 100 students in PEO York Chapter NEM Design Challenge Event 2023 at Sir William Mulock Secondary School Cafeteria. Grade 7 and 8 York Region students worked together in teams of four to assemble a wind turbine with the materials provided and designed wind turbine blades for a wind turbine. The performance of the wind turbines was judged on the weight of the wind turbine blades, amount of electric power generated, and optimized use of material. All participants had fun, learned a lot and prizes were awarded to the top three teams. Thank you to all participants, and our fantastic team of volunteers for assisting and making this a successful event!

The annual AMD Mathletics competition was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023. This event was fun, and participants applied their math skills to solve engineering problems. The junior level is for grades 7 and 8, while the senior level is for grades 9 and 10. Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) continued to be our title sponsor in 2023. The AMD Mathletics was held at Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School in the cafeteria. PEO York Chapter would like to thank all students who applied for the award, AMD and Education volunteers for their contribution to the program, and for their time and effort.

Salvatore Distefano, EIT
Education Director
education@peoyork.com



Licensing News

As the director of the License Committee, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all new P.Engs. Your dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and it is with immense pleasure that I acknowledge your achievements.

The 2023 Licensing Ceremonies, held on April 23, 2023 and November 12, 2023 were resounding triumphs. With a combined attendance of 277, including 104 license recipients, these events marked a significant milestone in our chapter's history. My sincere gratitude goes out to the PEO York chapter board members and the organizing committee whose efforts played a crucial role in the success of these ceremonies.

I would like to express special appreciation to our distinguished guests, MPP Billy Pang, East Central Regional Councilors David Kiguel and Nanda Layos Lwin, whose presence added prestige to the occasions.



The LPC Committee is committed to surpassing our past achievements and organizing even more exceptional ceremonies in 2024. Thank you all for your contributions, and I look forward to another year of excellence and growth.

Denis Tse, P.Eng.
Licensing Director
certificate@peoyork.com