



The Drawingboard

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

January 2007

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President's Message

*By Brian Flynn, P.E.
President*

Like every year, 2007 promises to be a great year and a year of great adversity. On December 12th of 2006, Mayor Bloomberg came to Queens to speak about his program "New York City 2030: Accepting the Challenge". As the Mayor pointed out "By 2030, virtually every major infrastructure system in our city will be more than a century old, and pushed to its limits ..."

Achieving sustainability for our growing city means protecting its foundation, our infrastructure." The infrastructure of our city relies on every branch of engineering to be designed, to be built, to work and to be improved.

Engineering firms will be responsible to oversee the design and improvement of these systems. Engineers will also work on smaller projects to connect with the existing infrastructure as well. All of this work is done so that the infrastructure is almost transparent to the public, working without problem. Unfortunately that also means that our most important task of protecting the public health, safety and welfare will also largely be transparent to the general public.

However, achieving the Mayor's goals of sustainability will require leadership at levels of city government, public officials and private enterprise.

In many instances, it will be engineers who must lead to develop solutions to achieve the Mayor's goals for sustainability. Professional Engineering is not just about being technically correct. It is leading for the advancement and betterment of human welfare with each project, each task, each undertaking that we are involved with.

Leadership requires that we use our engineering training and experience as one tool of many in our repertoire and not as the only tool.

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I am proud to say that many of our members in the Queen's Chapter exemplify this leadership for the advancement and betterment of human welfare in our community to help society grow. They do this through not only their positions, but through their volunteer efforts as well.

New York will surely benefit from these individual's efforts.

Upcoming Meeting Information

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Thursday November 16, 2006 – 6:30 PM

Directors 2006-2008

Gregory Georges, P.E.	(718) 707-0416
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James Manoussoff, P.E.	(718) 746-7122
Jude Cozzolino, P.E.	(718) 539-2649

This month's sponsor is **Brian L. Fitzsimmons** of Lightscares Automation, Inc. The lecture is titled "A Better Understanding of Smart Centralized Lighting Control System" Smart systems will help us in the following ways.

- Provide the control that we need.
- Reduce Wall Pollution
- Helps us to Save Energy
- Provide the control that we need.

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Bernie Haber, P.E.	(718) 224-2146

Location:

[*422 Weaver Ave., Fort Totten, New York*](#)

Continuing Education certificates will be issued for attending the lecture.

Nominating Committee

John Zurita, P.E.	Chair (212) 788-8199
Sal Galletta, P.E.	(212) 788-8199
Gregory Georges, P.E.	(718) 274-4800
Michael Karantinidis, P.E.	(718) 726-2226

Chapter Seeks Donations to PDC Library

The Queens Chapter is still seeking donations of books for the Professional Design Center Library

Queens Chapter President Brian Flynn would like all to know that the Professional Design Center Library is still in need of Books, Magazines and other materials. The Queens Chapter is asking all members to donate any reference material, such as textbooks, catalogs and product literature that they can.

Please Note:

Members are advised that the Queens Chapter meeting on Thursday, January 25th will be held at our Fort Totten office. At the Fort Totten gate tell the guard you are a member of the P.E. Society and that your name is on the list that they keep there. Any non-members and guests not placed on the list will be denied entrance-If this happens the guest should ask the guard to call the phone number on the membership list. A board member will then come down to bring the guest in

Useful websites for Engineers:

National Society of Professional Engineers	www.nspe.org
New York State Society of Professional Engineers	www.nysspe.org
American Institute of Architects	www.AIA.org
American Engineering Alliance	www.aeaworld.org
American Institute of Chemical Engineers	www.aiche.org
American Society of Automotive Engineers	www.sae.org
American Petroleum Institute	www.api.org
American Society of Civil Engineers	www.asce.org
American Society of Engineering Education	www.asee.org
American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	www.ashrae.org
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	www.asme.org
American Society of Plumbing Engineers	www.aspe.org
American Welding Society	www.aws.org
Society of Petroleum Engineers	www.spe.org
Society of Fire Protection Engineers	www.sfpe.org
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.	www.ieee.org
City of New York	www.nyc.gov
NY State Senate	senate.state.ny.us
NY State Assembly	assembly.state.ny.us
NY City Council	nyccouncil.info
The White House	whitehouse.gov
Ed Turner Responsible Charge	www.responsiblecharge.com

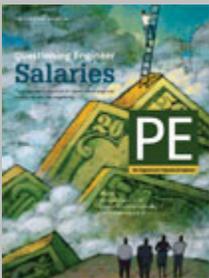
Computer and Office Donations Needed

Is your firm or company updating its computer or other office equipment and planning to get rid of the older systems? If so, please consider donating such equipment to the Queens Chapter of the NYSSPE.

The Queens Chapter is seeking donations of computer and office equipment. For more information contact Brian Flynn, Queens Chapter President at 718-539-2649

Hotline for Members

Are you an NSPE member with a question about engineering ethics, licensure, or law? If so, call 888-285-NSPE (6773) or e-mail legal@nspe.org. Please provide your 9-digit NSPE member number.



2007 Chapter Meeting Schedule

Mark Your Calendar

For your convenience the Queens County Chapter NYSSPE meeting schedule is provided below.

Directors' meetings and general meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month except November and December meetings which will be held on the first and third Thursday of the month due to holidays. So mark your calendar. The schedule is as follows:

<u>Directors' Meeting</u> <u>(6:30 PM)</u>	<u>Membership Meeting</u> <u>(6:30PM)</u>
January 11, 2007	January 25, 2007
February 8, 2007	February 22, 2007
March 8, 2007	March 8, 2007

Profile of an Engineer

by George L. Tavoulares, P.E.

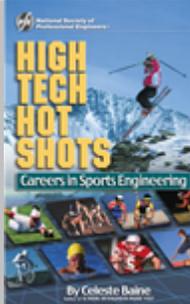
Commodore Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E.

Joel A. Miele Sr., PE has a long and distinguished career as an engineer in both the government and private sectors. Joel is married, has two daughters, seven grandchildren and is from my old neighborhood of Howard Beach, NY. Joel graduated from Polytechnic Institute of NY with a Bachelor's in civil engineering in 1955 and is currently licensed as a PE in NY, NJ, FL and the United Kingdom and as a licensed professional planner in New Jersey. Joel is a past president of the Queens Chapter (1983-1985) and is a fellow to the National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers.



In 1957 Joel enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was commissioned in the Civil Engineer Corps in the same year and served over three years on active duty and twenty-nine years on inactive duty.

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[\(Profile of an Engineer – cont'd\)](#)

Presently retired with the rank of Captain in the Reserve of the Corps, Joel served two years as Commander and Commodore of the SEVENTH Naval Construction Regiment which comprises over 2600 officers and men located throughout the Northeastern United States. In 1960 Joel was commissioned Lieutenant in the New York Naval Militia and he was serving concurrently with the Naval Reserve service until retirement in 1986. Yes, NY State has a naval militia.

As a Professional Engineer and Professional Planner in private practice between 1960 and 1994, Joel engaged in design, consulting and forensic engineering of all types of structures and sanitary engineering facilities including commercial and industrial structures, dwellings, highways, sewers, sewage treatment facilities and waterfront structures (1955-1994). Joel has served several NYC mayors as the Commissioner of the NYC Coastal Commission and the NYC Planning Commission from 1990-1994, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Buildings from 1994 through 1996, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Environmental Protection from 1996 through 2002 and Commissioner of the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals from 2002 through 2005. He is also the past Chairman of Community Board #10, in Queens from 1978 through 1990.

Joel is also the recipient of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc.'s Outstanding PE Manager of the Year Award (1997) and the American Society of Civil Engineer's Engineer of Year Award - Met. Section ASCE (1996). Joel is currently enjoying "semi-retirement".

Mathcounts 2007

by Robert A. Lo Pinto, P.E.

The Queens Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition will be held on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, at 9:00 AM, at Beard JHS 189 in Flushing, NY. This year, fifteen (15) schools in Queens have registered with NSPE to participate in MATHCOUNTS. This is more than the number registered last year. The schools are practicing and preparing for our competition.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. It will take at least 10 Chapter members to run the Feb. 10th Competition. All members are invited to help this endeavor. Please arrive at JHS 189 at 8:30 AM to help with the setup and school registration process. If there are any questions, call Bob LoPinto, PE at (516) 791-2300.

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Please Note

The November General Membership Meeting will be held on January 25th, 2007

Directions to JHS 189: Main entrance located on 147th Street, between Sanford Avenue and Barclay Avenue, in Flushing.

This is north of the LIE, south of Northern Blvd, and east of Main Street. (147th is one way from Sanford to Barclay). There is a school yard on Sanford Ave, but there is no curb cut at the entrance gate. You may have to drive on the sidewalk to get into the lot. There is an entrance from the lot to the school.

Legislative Update

by Chris Petallides, P.E.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO CONTROL PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Pending Local Law legislation by the City Council is aimed at sanctioning PE's and RA's who knowingly or negligently professionally certify a false or noncompliant building permit application or plans. Proposed Int. No. 309-A, together with proposed Int. No. 308-A, were supposed to have been voted on by the City Council on Monday, January 8, 2007 but the vote was postponed to a new tentative date, namely, Tuesday, January 30, 2007, reportedly to give time for more input.

Under 309-A, the Department of Buildings (DOB) Commissioner will have the authority to suspend, revoke or otherwise condition the professional certification privileges of each PE or RA who has been found, after a hearing to have 1) knowingly or negligently professionally certified (ProCert) an application and/or plans that contained false information or were not in compliance with all applicable provisions of law, or 2) submitted three professionally certified applications within any 12-month period that either led to revocation of a permit or otherwise demonstrated incompetence or lack of knowledge of applicable laws. After a year or more of suspension the DOB may restore the ProCert privileges but place the offender on probation for an additional period of time and if he/she falters again during the probation period the Commissioner will permanently revoke the offender's ProCert privileges without opportunity of restoration. Furthermore, the DOB will create and maintain a database of PE's and RA's with revoked/suspended ProCert privileges and post their names on the DOB website.

Int. No. 308-A, on the other hand, will require the DOB to examine ProCert applications submitted by PE's or RA's who were already on probation by the State Board of Regents.

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The Queens Chapters of both NSPE and AIA are already on record in favor of some kind of monitoring and the imposition of sanctions to weed out the “bad” apples among us (every discipline invariably has some) so that the majority of PE’s and RA’s will regain their professional credibility in society. After all, that was our intent when we set up the PE and RA peer review sub-committees back in the mid 90’s, when the ProCert method of filing was first put into affect. Since the peer review subcommittees never received the necessary support from the DOB, the seed for abuse of the ProCert system was allowed to show its ugly head. The danger now, however, is going overboard with the cure, i.e., suggestions are already being made by the overzealous to 1) impose additional time frames to capture potential misdeeds, for example 4 revocations in an 18-month period, 5 revocations in a 24-month period, etc. 2) treat infractions as “misdemeanors” if “intentional” and “hazardous conditions” are present, and 3) consider imposing mandatory training on the offender during the probationary period.

The full text of the draft legislations can be found on the appropriate City web sites.

Engineers Week Request for Speakers

The Queens Chapter will be celebrating e-week by having engineers discuss engineering, projects achievements etc. on February 14, 2007. The program is not been finalized. This will be an all day affair. Please contact **George Tavoulares** at 917 299-2954 if you would like to participate. Speakers/topics needed.

Engineers Week 2007

by Tony DiRuggiero



Engineers Week 2007 (February 18 – 24):

Engineers Week, a formal coalition of more than 75 engineering, professional, and technical societies and more than 50 corporations and government agencies, was founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. The program is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among young students and by promoting pre-college literacy in math and science.

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Engineers Week also raises public understanding and appreciation of engineers' contributions to society.

The Queens Chapter will be celebrating e-week by having engineers discuss engineering, projects achievements etc. on February 14, 2007. The program is not been finalized. This will be an all day affair. Please contact George Tavoulareas at 917 299-2954 if you would like to participate. Speakers/topics needed.

Visit www.eweek.org for complete information on Engineers Week programs including:

- **Local Events** – visit http://www.eweek.org/ny_forums for events in New York State
- **Design Squad** – A new PBS program that uses television to introduce kids and families to the engineering design process premieres the first of its 13 episodes on PBS stations nationwide during Engineers Week 2007. *Design Squad* features two teams of real high school kids who use their problem-solving skills to design, construct and test engineering projects such as a machine that automatically makes pancakes, or a motorized red wagon that can reach speeds up to 20 mph. More information on *Design Squad* and its educational outreach program can be found online at www.pbskids.org/designsquad.
- **Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day** (Thursday, February 22) – Thousands of women engineers, with support from their male counterparts, directly mentor more than one million girls and young women in K-12 with firsthand experiences in engineering. Girl Day events nationwide are listed at http://www.eweek.org/site/News/Eweek/2007_nationalpledgeroster.shtml.
- **Global Marathon For, By and About Women in Engineering** – A live webcast and teleconference running continuously from Noon Thursday, March 22 through Noon Friday, March 23 (EST) at www.eweek.org. Dozens of presentations and Q&A sessions originating from points worldwide heighten awareness of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics issues among pre-college, college, and young career women, and examine issues such as retaining women in college engineering programs and the workplace.

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- **New Faces of Engineering** – Highlighting young engineers and their contributions provides stimulation and incentive for college-level students and encourages younger students to consider engineering careers. Fifteen New Faces, age 30 and younger, who have worked on projects that impact public welfare or further professional development and growth, will be announced during Engineers Week and recognized for their accomplishments in *USA Today* and at www.eweek.org/site/Engineers/newfaces2007/index.shtml.
- **National Engineers Week Future City Competition™**– Celebrating its 15th Anniversary, 30,000 middle-school students in 1,100 schools from 38 regions across America work with teachers and volunteer engineers to envision the future in large, tabletop models of cities of tomorrow. The teams present their Future Cities before engineer judges at regional competitions in January. First place teams from qualifying regional competitions win a trip to Washington for the Future City National Finals, February 19-21. Visit www.futurecity.org.
- **Cyberchase** – A new multi-media activity guide is based on the fifth season of *Cyberchase*, the popular PBS television program and web site. Season Five focuses on inventions and how inventive design relies on mathematical skills such as logic, measurement, experimentation, data analysis and visual thinking. "My Big Idea: Cyberchase Inventions" includes activities, a CD-ROM with handouts and graphics, and a DVD with *Cyberchase* episodes. *Cyberchase* is broadcast on more than 350 PBS stations nationwide, reaching five million viewers, including three million children age two to eleven each week. Visit <http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/>.

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- **DiscoverE** – More than 45,000 engineers work with five and a half million students and teachers in elementary through secondary school each year through classroom visits and extracurricular programs, using educational materials provided by Engineers Week. DiscoverE's 2007 program materials include multi-media activity guides developed from the PBS television programs *Design Squad* and *Cyberchase*. Translations of hands-on activity materials in French, German, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish are at www.eweek.org/site/international/index.shtml.
- **Drive Time Radio Tour** – Engineers Week Chair Rick Peters from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers will be interviewed on radio stations nationwide on Tuesday, February 20.
- **Family Day** is set for Saturday, February 17 at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. Family Day 2007 features activities from the PBS television programs *Cyberchase* and *Design Squad*, and cast members including *Design Squad* co-host, mechanical engineer Deanne Bell, one of the show's high-school contestants, Krishana, and "Digit" from *Cyberchase*. For more information, go to <http://eweekdcfamilyday.org>.
- **National Engineering Design Challenge** – High school students apply creativity, science, and engineering problem-solving and teamwork to help people with disabilities enter or advance in the workplace by overcoming barriers to employment. After competitions across the country, the top five teams go to national finals in Washington, D.C. on Friday, February 16. More information on NEDC, sponsored by JETS, can be found at www.jets.org.
- **Awards** – The National Academy of Engineering (www.nae.edu) presents its annual awards, including the \$500,000 Draper Prize, on Tuesday evening, February 20 at a gala banquet in Washington, D.C. The Chinese Institute of Engineers (www.cie-usa.org) presents the **Asian American Engineer of the Year Awards**, recognizing outstanding Asian American professionals in academe, public service and corporations, in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, March 31.

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- **Visioneering 2007: Designing the Future** – This annual event for middle school students in the Dallas – Fort Worth area is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 on the campus of Southern Methodist University, and taped for a later television broadcast to schools nationwide on Channel One. More information is available at www.theinstitute.smu.edu/visioneering/.
- **Sightseer's Guide to Engineering** (www.engineeringsights.org) celebrates engineering marvels from the subtle to the spectacular in all 50 states. The public can also join in the recognition and appreciation of the achievements of America's engineers by submitting their own favorites.
- **Discover Engineering** (www.discoverengineering.org) – Middle school students can discover the how and why of becoming an engineer at this informational web site, featuring links to hundreds of related educational, professional, and corporate sites.

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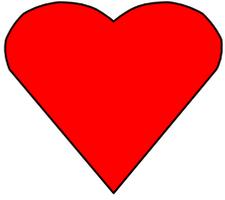
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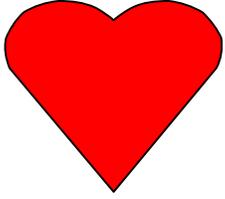
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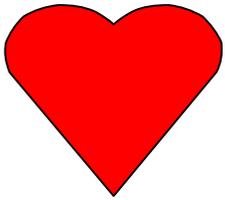
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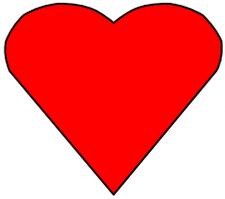
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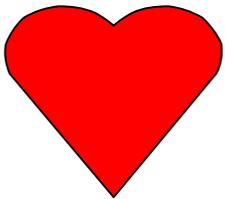


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