



The Drawingboard

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

June 2009

Volume 9, Number 6

In This Issue

- President's Message
- Meeting Information
- International Masonry Institute
- Professional Services Directory
- Sponsors
- Legal Fund

Board of Directors

Chris Petallides, P.E.	President (718) 961-4342
George L. Tavoulares, P.E.	1ST Vice Pres. (718) 894-7822
John Sgouros, P.E.	2ND Vice Pres. (718-) 956-3488
Jose Valasquez, P.E.	Treasurer (718) 323-0754

Secretary
[Tony Paolo](#)

Editor/Publisher
[Tony DiRuggiero](#)



President's Message

*By Chris Petallides, P.E.
President*

The State Society installed Dr. **James J. Yarmus**, PE, PhD, as the incoming NYSSPE president 2009-2010, during its annual convention in Pearl River, NY, June 4-6, 2009. Dr. Yarmus, a long time friend of ours, expressed his readiness to work closely with us on issues of common interest as well as issues unique to New York City and we look forward to working with him as well. The Queens Chapter was well represented with **Joel Miele, Sr.**, PE, **Elliot Shapiro**, PE, **Brian Flynn**, PE, **Sal Galletta**, PE, **Robert Weiner**, PE and yours truly.

NYSSPE's Practicing Institute of Engineering, Inc. (PIE) has been busy since 2004 accrediting lectures, seminars and courses for credits toward the continuing education requirements of PE's. It has been confirmed at its annual membership meeting in Pearl River, NY June 5th, '09 that PIE is now gearing toward getting involved with the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) and the Special Inspections accreditation process. We will keep you posted on developments.

Our ongoing lawsuit against NYC for violating State Education Law by appointing a non-professional as Buildings' Commissioner is now in the hands of the judge. Our attorneys feel confident for a final adjudication in our favor; however, we should be prepared for any eventuality. To this end, former chapter president Sal Galletta, PE is now working with NYSSPE, NYC vice president **Tom Szekely**, PE to revive (resurrect) the MCPC (Metropolitan Chapter Presidents' Council), which was first established around 1970 under the auspices of NYSSPE, to "represent the five county chapters of Greater NYC in all professional matters of mutual interest". We see the present lawsuit as a perfect example of "mutual interest" for the five NYC chapters and, indeed all PE's & RA's of NY State and the Country. We applaud the efforts of Sal &



Immediate Past Presidents

Brian Flynn P.E.	2006/2008 (718) 707-0416
Chris Petallides, P.E.	2004/2005 (718) 961-4342
John Zurita, P.E.	2002/2003 (718) 756-0320
Sal Galletta, P.E.	2000/2002 (212) 788-8199
Joel Miele, Jr., P.E.	1996/1998 (718) 894-2222
Chris Sideris, P.E.	1994/1996 (718) 224-9091
Robert Lo Pinto, P.E.	1990/1992 (718) 746-7122

Tom and we look forward to working with the other NYC chapters to promote our common cause and restore professionalism to the office of DOB commissioner.

Then there's the problem of the so called DOB "expeditors", who often pose as engineers and architects and offer professional services illegally, with the help of rubber-stampers. This issue was dealt with further at a lecture/meeting held at the Professional Design Center, Inc. (PDC), Fort Totten, Queens. The lecture was arranged by PDC chair **Robert LoPinto**, PE and movers and shakers Chapter 1st VP **George Tavoulareas**, PE and former PDC chair **Paul DiNatale**, RA, AIA, last Wednesday, June 17th. The meeting started with a presentation by DOB's Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) representatives and developed into an open discussion where illegal practice and rubber stamping was identified as a major component of the overall problem. The SEU is presently busy developing statistics and building cases against design professionals (rubber-stampers?) who repeatedly circumvent the law. Insomuch as the severity of the problem did not diminish, we feel that we all need to find a more effective way to combat the problem. In the meantime, it may be prudent for all legitimate design professionals to refrain from filing "Directive 14" or "Professional Certified" applications.

Directors 2008-2010

Tom Campagna, PE	(718) 423-7924
Gregory Georges, PE	(718) 274-4800
Mike Karantinidis, P.E.	(718) 482-0800
John Kepertis, P.E.	(718) 343-6989
Saeed Ainechi, P.E.	(718) 544-7878
Issam Aburafteh, P.E.	(718) 276-9200

We look forward to seeing all of you Thurs., June 25th, 2009, 6:30PM at Fort Totten for the last general meeting of the season. For those of you who can't make it on Thurs., we wish you and yours a pleasant summer.

Upcoming Meeting Information

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Date: **Thursday June 25th, 2009 - 6:30 PM**

Sponsor: [International Masonry Institute](#)

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

Directors 2008-2009

James Manoussoff, P.E.	
Bernard Haber, P.E.	(718) 224 2146
Eliot Shapiro, P.E.	(516) 791-2300
Xenophon Cavaris, P.E.	(516) 752-1687
Peter Boudouvas, P.E.	(212) 594-4340
Robert Weiner, P.E.	

Happy Summer Recess - Next scheduled meeting will be in September. "Stay Tuned" for email updates as they are warranted.

Professional Services Directory

The Queens Chapter of the NYSSPE recommends the advertisers listed below for their respective products or services. However, the Queens Chapter does not take responsibility for these advertisers products or services.



Miles Fisher, P.E.

Fire and Building Code Services, Inc.
10 East Merrick Road, Suite 308
Valley Stream, New York 11580

Tel: 516-256-7780, Ext. 201
Fax: 516-256-7783
Cell: 516-779-7295

E-mail: miles@firecodeservices.com

SHAPIRO ENGINEERING, P.C.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING • ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

ELLIOT J. SHAPIRO, P.E.

Chairman, Board of Directors

ROBERT A. LO PINTO, P.E.

President

181 SOUTH FRANKLIN AVE., SUITE 305
VALLEY STREAM, NEW YORK 11581-1101

516 791-2300 (FAX) 516 791-0782

Email: shapiroengineers@worldnet.att.net

(718) 274-4800
FAX (718) 274-4849

VALUE ENGINEERING
Consulting, P.C.
Engineers and Designers

GREGORY G. GEORGES, P.E. 30-05 30th AVENUE
PRESIDENT LONG ISLAND CITY, NY 11102

ISSAM M. ABOURAFEH, P.E.
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER



ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS PLANNERS

CROSS ISLAND PLAZA
133-33 BROOKVILLE BLVD., SUITE 208
ROSEDALE, NY 11422

EMAIL: ISSAM@IMAA-ARCHITECTS.COM TEL (718) 276-9200
FAX (718) 276-0722

Instant Microfilm Associates Inc

*Microfilming*Copies of Plans*
*PC Filing*DOB Forms*Typing
*Notary*Facsimiles*St Obstruction Bonds*
Engineering & Architectural Services


123-23 82 Avenue Kew Gardens NY 11415
Tel: 718 268 8600 Fax: 718 793-5247

SIDERIS ENGINEERS P.C. *Consulting Engineers*

217-22 Northern Boulevard
Bayside, New York 11361
Tel 718-224-9091 Fax 718-224-9143

Chris M. Sideris, P.E. Filolaos T. Kefalas, P.E.
T.C. Sideris, P.E. (1923-2005)

The Queens Chapter of the NYSSPE recommends the advertisers listed below for their respective products or services. However, the Queens Chapter does not take responsibility for these advertisers products or services.

<p>Tel: 718-544-5105 Fax: 718-544-0031</p> <p>JOSEPH HOROWITZ <i>Professional Engineer</i></p> <hr/> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT</p> <p>76-06 137TH Street Flushing, NY 11367</p>	<p> A&A Consulting Engineers, P.C.</p> <p>SAM S. AINECHI, M.S., P.E. Licensed Professional Engineer</p> <p>125-10 Queens Blvd. Suite 318, Silver Towers Kew Gardens, NY 11415</p> <p>Tel: 718-544-7878 Fax: 718-544-7884</p>
<p>Chris Petalides, P.E., N.S.P.E. CONSULTING ENGINEER</p> <p>TEL: 718 961 4342 FAX: 718 321 3929 EMAIL: PetalidesPE@aol.com</p> <p>47-15 Marathon Pkwy. Little Neck Hills, N.Y. 11362</p>	<p>Tel/Fax: (718) 323-0754 Cell: (917) <u>860-6957</u> E-Mail: JAVBINTGRO@AOL.COM</p> <p>130-08 122nd, Street 2nd Fl. South Ozone Park, NY 11420</p> <p>Jose R. Velasquez, P.E. Master of Civil Engineering Master of Economics New York State Licensed Professional Engineer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant • Building Inspections • Certificates of Occupancy • Engineering Reports • Permits & Alterations • Structural Design • Legalizations • Removal of Violations
<p> N.Y.S. P.E. License # 069956 Cell (347) 528-6038</p> <p>Brian E. Flynn <i>Professional Engineer</i> <i>Home & Building Inspections</i></p> <p>78-66 79th Place Glendale, NY 11385</p> <p>Phone (718) 894-7822 Fax (718) 894-7833 BEFlynnPE@aol.com</p>	<p> HERMES/Hephaistos</p> <p><i>Manufacturer of c-joists, metal studs & accessories</i></p> <p><i>A Division of Hephaistos Building Supplies</i></p> <p>Warehouse: 24-02 37th Avenue Astoria, NY 11101 Tel: (718) 482-0800 Fax: (718) 482-0581</p> <p>Office: 34-01 Broadway Astoria, NY 11106 Michael Karantinidis P.E. President</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL GEOTECHNICAL/STRUCTURAL LABORATORIES INC.</p> <p> www.internationalgeo.com GEOTECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING</p> <p>MICHAEL KARANTINIDIS, P.E. STRUCTURAL ENGINEER</p> <p>OFFICE: 31-87 34TH STREET, ASTORIA, NY 11106 TEL: (718) 726-1527 FAX: (718) 956-0274 info@internationalgeo.com</p>	<p>SIDDIQUE ENGINEERING, P.C. <i>Professional Engineering Services</i></p> <p>MAHATAB ALAM SIDDIQUE, P.E., N.S.P.E.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering Reports • MEP Consulting Services • Engineering Cost Estimate • Steam Piping Stress Analysis • Shop Drawings/Piping & Sheet Metal • Legalizations • Removal of Violations • Permits & Alterations • Certificate of Occupancy <p>Tel: (718) 737-4501, Fax: (718) 657-2447 140-23 Queens Boulevard MSIDD43390@AOL.COM Jamaica, New York 11435</p> <p> National Society of Professional Engineers®</p>

The Queens Chapter of the NYSSPE recommends the advertisers listed below for their respective products or services. However, the Queens Chapter does not take responsibility for these advertisers products or services.

 <p>Building Asbestos Inspections</p> <p>RAO PMP Asbestos Investigator</p> <p>80-50, 252nd Street Bellerose, NY 11426</p> <p>917-282-9223 718-343-2758 raoinspections@hotmail.com</p> 	 <p>Z. S. ENGINEERING, P.C.</p> <p>99 TULIP AVENUE FLORAL PARK, NY 11001 PHONE: (516) 328-3200 FAX: (516) 328-6195 E-MAIL: staszewski@zengineering.com</p> <p>ZYGMLUNT STASZEWSKI, PE, PSFFE PRESIDENT NY LICENSE #63367 CT LICENSE #17587 NICET III</p>
 <p>barry j. bank, p.e. consulting engineer</p> <p>123-40 83rd avenue • suite 1L kew gardens, n.y. 11415 tel. no. (718) 577-9066 fax no. (718) 577-9067 bbankpc@optonline.net</p>	<p>Office of Richard Berkenfeld consulting engineers</p> <p>richard g. berkenfeld, p.e. principal</p> <p>175 great neck road great neck, n. y. 11021</p> <p>(516) 487-0414 fax (516) 487-0417</p> <hr/> <p>Building Department ASBESTOS INSPECTIONS</p> <p>53-31 210th Street Bayside, NY 11364</p> <p>John Zurita, PE Asbestos Investigator (917) 292-7263 (718) 428-2467 jzurita@verizon.net</p> 

Sponsors

The Queens Chapter of the NYSSPE recommends the advertisers listed below for their respective products or services. However, the Queens Chapter does not take responsibility for these advertisers products or services.

Material Engineering and Services
Please Patronize Our Sponsors

 <p>LB&C when it really matters</p> <p>Attorneys at Law</p> <p>L'Abbate, Balkan, Colavita & Contini, L.L.P.</p> <p>Martin A. Schwartzberg Partner</p> <p>1001 Franklin Avenue Garden City New York 11530</p> <p>T. 516.294.8844 F. 516.294.8202 mschwartzberg@lbcclaw.com www.lbcclaw.com</p>	 <p>540 Ulster Landing Road, Kingston New York 12401</p> <p>Adam Baker Sales</p> <p>Telephone (845) 336-8880 Facsimile (845) 336-8962</p> <p>LHV PRECAST INCORPORATED</p> <p>PURVEYORS of QUALITY PRECAST CONCRETE Custom & Standard Fabrication</p> <p>lhvprecast@worldnet.att.net</p>
--	--

Attention Sponsors/ Advertisers: If you would like your card updated please contact the editor. Cards can be dropped off at the next meeting, mailed, faxed, scanned and emailed or text can be substituted in lieu of a card.

QUEENS COUNTY CHAPTER

OF

THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

(Member: National Society of Professional Engineers - NSPE)

47-15 Marathon Pkwy, Little Neck Hills, NY 11362-1255

Tel. No. (718) 961 4342

Fax: (718) 321 3929

e-mail: PetallidesPE@aol.com

website: www.nspequeens.org

OFFICERS:

CHRIS PETALLIDES, PE
President

GEORGE TAVOULAREAS, PE
1st Vice President

JOHN SGOUROS, PE
2nd Vice President

JOSE VELASQUEZ, PE
Secretary/Treasurer

November 20, 2008

Dear Colleague,

The Queens Chapter – NYSSPE is soliciting contributions from Engineers and Architects in the NY area to help fund a lawsuit by the NY State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE) against the City of New York. As you probably already know, the NY City Council recently passed a law changing the City Charter, at the insistence of Mayor Bloomberg, which removed the licensure requirement from the Commissioner of the Department of Buildings. The new law now states that the Buildings Commissioner need not be licensed. Presently, an unlicensed lay person is Buildings Commissioner.

The Queens Chapter is leading the fight in the NY Metropolitan area AGAINST the Mayor's irresponsible actions which endanger the public's health, safety and welfare while undermining and diminishing both the Engineering and Architectural professions.

The Queens Chapter leadership is asking all Engineers and Architects to contribute to a legal fund which will support the NYSSPE legal suit against the City of New York. Please make whatever contribution is within your means.

It's about time we stand up for our Profession and the people of New York!

Suggested contributions:

\$1,000 _____ \$ 750 _____ \$ 500 _____ \$ 250 _____ \$ 100 _____ Other _____

Please make checks payable to: "Queens Chapter – NYSSPE" Memo: "Legal Fund"

Mail to:

Jose A. Velasquez, P.E. - Treasurer
Queens Chapter – NYSSPE
130-08 122 Street (2nd Fl.)
South Ozone Park, NY 11420