

Queens Chapter New York State Society of Professional Engineers The Drawingboard

June 2014

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Presidents Message

*by George Tavoulaareas, PE
Chapter President*

Our annual conference was held in Suffolk, NY earlier this month. **Brian Flynn, PE** and **Chris Petallides, PE** attended the conference and will update us at Thursday's meeting. **Tom Petracca, PE** is the new incoming president. I wish Tom all the best and have invited him to attend one of our meetings to discuss his vision.

On Thursday evening, June 5th, at the New York State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE) annual Awards and Installation Dinner, **Brian Hegarty, PE** accepted the NYSSPE Professional Engineers in Construction Project of the Year award on behalf of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for their work on the construction of One World Trade Center. We have come a long way in completing this project. You can see a graphical timeline of the One World Trade Center construction by going to:

<http://nysspe.org/2014/06/19/skyscrapers-inspire-us-brian-hegarty-nysspe-pec-project-year-award-recipient/>

I wish everyone a safe and good summer.

Next General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday June 26, 2014 at 6:15pm. at 422 Weaver Ave in Ft. Totten, NY

The admission fee is \$20 for members and \$25 for non members.

6:15-7:00 pm buffet dinner

7:00-7:30 pm general membership meeting

7:30-8:30 pm Patent Law seminar

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Patent Law- Intellectual property and patent law will be discussed at this month's general membership meeting. Trade secrets, copyrights, trademarks, design patents, utility patents will be discussed by **Ed Baird, PE** a patent examiner for the federal government.

In 2007, Ed Baird, PE started work at the **US Patent and Trademark Office** in Alexandria Virginia. Ed is a **Patent Examiner** for Business Patent Applications, art unit 3692. Although his home "office" is in Alexandria, he telecommutes from his home in Connecticut. He is married to his lovely wife Joanne and they have a young son, Joseph.

1 PDH continuing education credit is pending approval.

NYC RULES UPDATE

Proposed Rules Governing the City of New York can be viewed at:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycrules/html/proposed/proposed.shtml>

Proposed NYC rules can be read at the above e-mail address. Please email me your comments regarding any of the rules.

NYC Intro 14 would require filings of boilers and air handling units for one and two family homes. The bill is being sponsored by Council members Constanidies, Koo, Levine, Palma, Johnson, and Mendez.

Special inspection rule has been proposed.

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Professional Engineers in Construction

by Rudi Sherbanski, PE

I attended the Board of Directors meeting as PEC's representative on June 7, 2014. I also attended the combined annual PEC and Professional Engineers in Private Practice [PEPP] Interest Group meeting which preceded it. Below are some notes that I copied from **Jack Klienfeld's**, (NYSSPE Bronx President) email that I think may be of interest to you.

Annual PEPP/PEC's Meeting Comments and Resolutions:

The major topic of discussion was the issue of illegal practice. I brought this up and spearheaded the discussion. I see it as a major issue, esp. in light of protecting both the license and the public, which are major tenets of the society's purpose. The two groups, in particular, that I focused on are:

Group 1: illegal acts by licensed engineers, such as rubber stamping drawings; and

Group 2: illegal practice by those not licensed as professionals, such as people participating in design decisions and discussion while acting as expeditors at the DOB.

A. Proposed NYSSPE's Communications Program to Educate Public on the Rules of Being/Hiring An Engineer: The majority of the people in both Groups 1 & 2 are either unaware or do not know the rules of being an engineer. For those people, Bronx Chapter President, Jack Klienfeld suggested that the law and regulations may not be so clear and not very instructive, and therefore there is a major need to communicate and educate them. Jack proposed that a body of knowledge needs to be prepared which outlines what is legal, what is not legal, and what is truly the practice of engineering. This body of knowledge would include examples of cases and decisions of proper/improper conduct. It could then be promulgated and provided as web information, a pamphlet, or other form. Jack also proposed in addition that not only the professions or "almost" professions be targeted for distribution of this information, but that the consumers of the services also be targeted. The consumers include everyone from homeowners to insurance companies. Informing consumers would address the demand side of the issue. Jack thinks it behooves us to inform consumers of what is and is not legal so that at least some of them will avoid purchasing illegal and possibly inadequate and/or dangerous services. PEPP/PEC formed a committee to move this forward, to be led by past Queens Chapter president, Brian Flynn who will put together a flyer and other informational materials to address both groups discussed above as well as the consumers and real estate related companies at large.. It was anticipated that this communications program will pull in cooperation from the other groups licensed by NYS, such as architects, nurses, etc.

B. Proposed NYSSPE's Lobbying and Legal Actions to Restore the Mandate of NYS Office of Professional Discipline [OPD] To Take Enforcement Actions against Illegal Practices:

For the above Group 2 of individuals and entities [non-engineers practicing engineering] that are aware of the rules and that continue to practice illegally knowingly and intentionally, it was acknowledged that nysspe has little or no practical means available to prevent or even monitor illegal practices by non-licensed engineers and that such absolute means are required to protect the public as well as to protect our PE license (our main directives). Currently, nysspe's Professional Compliance Committee [Laura Pellizzi, Chair] does not have the manpower and the wherewithal to investigate illegal practice and are simply limited to referring illegal practice complaints directly to the NYS Office of Professional Discipline [OPD]. In turn, OPD is mainly geared to enforce actions against licensed engineers i.e. they can suspend a PE license for any wrong doing but have no recourse against a non-licensed entity. Moreover, OPD is too inundated (busy) with cases by other professions [nurses, doctors, etc.]. NYSSPE's past president, **Andy Haimes**, commented that about 4-5 years ago, NYS Dept of Education passed a law which would increase the registration fees of all NYS professions by \$30 per person in order to establish the funds necessary for OPD to hire investigators and administrative judges in order to enforce illegal practices by non-licensed individuals and entities. No one at the subject

meeting knew what became of these funds (in the tens of millions of dollars) and why did the mandate to enhance to powers of OPD did not come to fruition. PEPP/PEC members present at the meeting resolved that nysspe's Counselor Mark Kriss Esq. be requested to follow up with inquiries, lobbying and the legal actions necessary to obtain the status quo in the matter and to take legal actions necessary to revive/restore the funding of a professional enforcement arm of OPD and to restore the mandate of OPD To Take Enforcement Actions against Illegal Practices by non-licensed individual and entities.

NYSSPE Board Meeting:

The agenda had a slot for board members to address the group, which both Jack and I did.

I presented some of the activities and accomplishments of PEC in the 2013-14 year, such as PEC's participation in the [engineering expo in White Plains, NY](#) and summarized the process and handling of the award ceremon of the 2014 Project of the year

[See: <http://nysspe.org/2014/06/19/skyscrapers-inspire-us-brian-hegarty-nysspe-pec-project-year-award-recipient/>

Also See: <http://nysspe.org/2014/05/27/new-york-state-society-professional-engineers-award-one-world-trade-center-pec-project-year/>

Other items:

The education outreach committee has been stagnant and needs to be revived. This was also a focus of discussion at the PEPP meeting, where Rudi discussed actions that he and others have taken which resulted in a significant increase in student membership and creation of several new student chapters. **Keith Lashway** has also been very active in this area.

An Engineering Expo is being planned for NYC in 2015 (2016?). I believe this will be similar to the successful event that the Capital District engineers' week event, as well as the [engineering expo successful event in Westchester](#) have had for the past several years. A committee will be formed.

The Professional Compliance Committee will tie in with the PEPP efforts described above.

A marketing document has been prepared and is in use.

MCPC was active last fall, but less so this spring. They expect to be more active in the fall again.

Financially the state society had a good year. This was partly good investment performance and partly good revenue from educational activities. The message was that we need to do things, be seen doing things, and make those things revenue positive.

We have signed up with MultiView (sp ?) to accrue web derived ad income. They will place ads on the NYSSPE website, each subject to approval, at a fee to the advertiser of \$3K/yr. We get 30% of the revenue. We also get complete access to their 90K company database that we can use for direct marketing or other activities. Other than the approval of ads, this arrangement is completely hands off.

This last year showed a **4% membership increase**. It's the first increase in 7 years! We also had a 75% increase in student members, representing about 150 students. The new sustaining membership program has started and we got a few [new sustaining members](#).

Part of the way we get new members is to tell them the benefits of membership. Jack suggested that we needed a document that explicitly listed those benefits because, as things stand now, all I can generally say sounds a lot like flag waving. I believe that suggestion will be acted upon.

The website was changed to a Wordpress based site (as is BxNSPE.org). It is proving very manageable. They are actively pursuing a lot of varied level articles for the site, and social media integration including Youtube. There are semi-monthly newsletters being issued as well as the events newsletter with a 6000 person distribution list. PIE also has a new website with all forms online and online payment of fees.

Future projects include: "The Race for Relevance", outreach to delinquent members and better reporting to them that they are delinquent, adding an Attorney Consultation Program as a member benefit (1/2 to 1 hour free consult, e.g.), a comprehensive student intern program to match students and companies, a career development / mentoring program (to include, for example, video interviews with practioners), a PE seal program (we buy the first seal for new licensees as a way of introducing ourselves), and continuing education tracking software. (These are candidates for the benefits of membership document I asked for.)

There will be a major July event at Alfred University on STEM.

These are only some the items discussed at the board meeting and NYSSPE & the Queens Chapter facilitates posting on this newsletter, but the views and accounts expressed herein are those of the author(s) and not the views or accounts of NYSSPE, its officers, or its directors, whose views and accounts may or may not be similar or identical. NYSSPE, its officers, and its directors do not express any opinion regarding any entity, product or service by virtue of reference to such product or service on this newsletter.

Website of the Month

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK_ItX_2MNq

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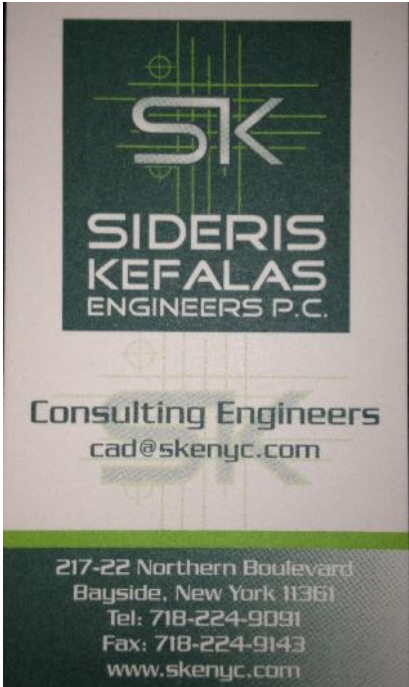
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