

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

The Drawingboard

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President's Message

By George Tavoulaareas, P.E.
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Several weeks ago, Newsday published an article that had **Gov. Cuomo** postpone a decision to allow hydrofracking in NY state after speaking to his ex brother-in-law and "environmentalist" **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** Hydrofracking is the process of retrieving natural by gas drilling underground with chemicals and water under high pressure to extract the gas from bedrock. Since 2008, New York State has imposed a moratorium against hydrofracking and the State, through several agencies would need to approve hydrofracking before work could commence. Several states including Pennsylvania allow hydrofracking and according to the article, Cuomo was close to allowing hydrofracking in several economically depressed upstate regions until Kennedy, **a non-engineer** and a lawyer voiced concerns about the safety of the drilling practice including the chemicals used. According to the article this could delay a final decision by Cuomo for at least a year.

Governor Cuomo should rely on the advice and technical expertise of professional engineers, not non PEs in making a determination with hydrofracking. It is engineers, not environmentalists and lawyers, who have the technical expertise to review this extraction method and determine whether its safe. Every professional engineer has an obligation to uphold the safety of the public above all else. Lawyers do not have this obligation and until we become more politically active our voices will not be heard.

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The mayoral election has started to take shape with the announcements of **Christine Quinn, John Liu**, etc as official candidates for mayor. Over the next several months we will plan events where we can meet the candidates and discuss our issues with them. Stay tuned.



Anthony Fasano, PE NYSSPE Executive Director Makes a Presentation to the Queens Chapter

Anthony Fasano, PE the state's new Executive Director attended February's meeting and discussed his plan for growing the NY State Society of Professional Engineers utilizing both online and offline efforts. Anthony also discussed current legislative issues facing New York PEs. On behalf of the Chapter I offered Anthony our resources to help him grow the society.

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I am pleased to announce that **Eugene Kielmanowicz** PE, a member of our Chapter will sit on the NYC Electrical Licensing board. The licensing board reviews applications for electrical licensure and licensee compliance with Electrical Code administrative provisions.

I look forward to seeing you this Thursday, March 28th at 6:30 at Ft. Totten. There will be a presentation on masonry wall systems by Mr. Keith Lashway of the International Masonry Institute

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Proposed NYC Rules

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

Currently, there is a proposed rule regarding construction trades and continuing education. Please email questions and comments about the proposed rules.

Next General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday March 28, 2013 at 6:15pm. at 422 Weaver Ave in Ft. Totten, NY. 1PDH \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members, Students are free and are encouraged to attend

High Performing Masonry Wall Systems (1 hour) – NY1069 Keith Lashway, PE; Director, Market Development and Technical Services, International Masonry Institute

Clarifies the basic functions of the building envelope / enclosure and how masonry systems satisfy those functions through control of air, moisture, and vapor transmission. Positions masonry as a system rather than a collection of individual components, also discusses how the construction manager and building owner are demanding single source responsibility for the building envelope / enclosure, and how a mason contractor can best operate in this environment.

- Understand how the various components of a wall operate as a system to control the environment.
- Learn the basic functions of air and moisture barriers
- Define how a pressurized rain screen wall provides benefit to the building.
- Learn critical details of a masonry cavity wall system

Website of the Month

Nate Ball, engineer host of PBS show Design Squad, explores how engineering improves local and global communities [Click here for video](#) (40mb .wmv)

ASCE Engineers Week <http://www.ascemetsection.org/content/view/27/685/>

NASA Engineers Week Video [Watch Video >](#)

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