



Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

The Drawingboard

October 2007

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President's Message

*By Brian E. Flynn, P.E.
President*



This past Thursday, we had a Professional Design Center (PDC) lecture that featured the Building Department's newly formed Excavation Inspections Unit headed by Chief Engineer Timothy Lynch, PE along with other members of the new unit. This city wide inspection unit was created by executive order of the Mayor. Its mission is to send a team to each and every site when construction starts as the Building Department did before the 1968 Code Revision.

The city, the Mayor and the Building Department have been under almost constant attack by the press for allowing the unbridled collateral damage to sites adjacent to construction. As the land in the city became more scarce and with zoning ever more restrictive, development went underground. And while many developers and builders feel that they are entitled to dig as deep as they want, it creates significant hazards to adjoining properties. Unfortunately many of these projects have hit the news due to failures and destruction of adjoining properties.

The lecture was excellent and well attended. Engineer Lynch reminded us all of the need to adhere to the Canon of Ethics which holds the safety, health and welfare of the public paramount above all else. He showed us many examples of site excavation failures around the city that could have been prevented and their causes. The Building Department is now looking for actual design of the necessary supporting structures and not just generic details. They are looking for the licensed professional responsible for controlled inspections to actually be involved with the sites as the work progresses. They are willing to issue Stop Work Orders on sites that have not informed the controlled inspectors of work that started. And yes, they are willing to go after the controlled inspector who fails to actually inspect.

[\(continued next page\)](#)

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Rule 52 was created by the Building Department last year requiring the contractor to notify the Building Department 24 to 48 hours before excavation starts. However, the contractor is not required to inform the controlled inspector. This is unfortunate because it is not possible to know when a project actually starts unless we are notified. The contractor or developer does not work for us nor we for them. Our designs and documents should be held up to a high standard, but we should not be held accountable for the misdeeds and deceptions of others. Unless, of course, if we provide our signature and seal certifying their inadequate work.

Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure

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Spearheaded by **Sal Galletta, PE** and the American Engineering Alliance, legislation was recently introduced in NY City Council calling for the creation of an office for the management of the City's public and private infrastructure. This legislation (Resolution 195-2006) is sponsored by Councilmember **Hiram Monserrate**.

On July 11, 2007, Engineer Galletta presented to members of the New York City Council recent developments in promoting New York City Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure. Discussed was the lack of constituency for maintaining bridges, water infrastructure and roads and that the infrastructure of the City is now run by the budget office instead of an Engineering office. Also discussed was that the Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure could be tied to the Mayor's 2030 plan. The plan contains three major areas: 1) maintaining the City's infrastructure 2) providing housing and 3) embracing principals of sustainability.

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On August 6, 2007 Engineer Galletta participated in a press conference at City Hall in New York City concerning the issue of Infrastructure and the role Engineers play in the maintenance and delivery of infrastructure projects. Sal again reiterated the critical need for management of the nation's infrastructure assets by licensed technical professionals.

[\(continued next page\)](#)

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, September 27 2007 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

The following is the resolution introduced in City Council:

Res. No. 295-2006

Resolution urging the Mayor to issue an executive order creating an office to oversee all development, operation, and maintenance of the public and private infrastructure of the City of New York.

By Council Member Monserrate

Whereas, New York City has a vast and complex public and private infrastructure that includes bridges, tunnels, roads, buildings, structures and systems that, despite their age, are the envy of the world; and

Whereas, Public infrastructure affects the safety and security of businesses, workplaces, schools, places of worship, hospitals, cultural institutions, property, homes, and the daily quality of life of all New Yorkers; and

Whereas, Public infrastructure also affects millions of visitors to the city annually; and

Whereas, A substantial portion of the city's annual budget is dedicated to the upkeep of existing and the development of new public and private infrastructure; and

Whereas, There is currently no requirement that the Mayor appoint a single, expert individual to oversee and be accountable for the centralized and integrated development, operation, and maintenance of the city's infrastructure; and

Whereas, The lack of comprehensive, centralized expert asset management results in an infrastructure system that is not as efficient and as cost-effective as it can be; and Whereas, The Mayor can substantially improve asset management of the public and private infrastructure by issuing an executive order that creates a permanent office to be filled by either a Licensed Professional Engineer or a Registered Architect who will be appointed by the Mayor and charged with oversight of all public and private infrastructure; and

Whereas, Such an office shall be empowered and required to: (1) advise the Mayor and the Council in formulating the capital program for the city;

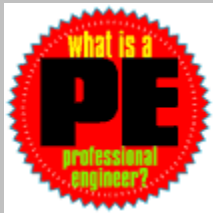
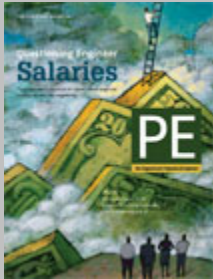
(2) set overall policies for the maintenance, rehabilitation and construction of the city infrastructure;

(3) oversee and control all infrastructure operations; establish and enforce rules for the construction, maintenance and restoration of public areas used by private utilities;

(4) represent the Mayor in dealings with federal and state agencies, other regional governments, and private entities on all infrastructure-related matters;

(5) interact with government and private regional planning agencies;

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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.

(6) establish uniform standards for procuring Engineering and Architectural services on the basis of qualifications;

(7) ensure the use of such standards by all city agencies; and

(8) coordinate with state and federal agencies in procuring funds for city infrastructure projects; and

Whereas, The creation of this office will increase accountability and improve the development, operation, and maintenance of the public and private infrastructure; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York urges the Mayor to issue an executive order creating an office to oversee all development, operation, and maintenance of the public and private infrastructure of the City of New York.

DJ LS # 499

AEA's Annual Dinner at the India House Club

American Engineering Alliance's Annual Social is scheduled for Wednesday October 24, 2007 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at Bayard's in downtown Manhattan.

The guest speaker is the immediate past NSPE President Robert Miller, P.E., who will discuss the "Status of the Profession". Also to be presented and discussed will be Plan NYC2030 - The Mayor's plan for sustainable growth and the vision for New York City in the year 2030. The Mayor's Representative for the evening is Benjamin Jones of the Department of Buildings.

NYSSPE's Fall Professional Development Conference

This year's conference is being held November 2-3 at the Six Flags Great Escape Lodge & Indoor Waterpark in Queensbury, NY. There will be opportunity for continuing education of Friday. The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday after the Practice Division's meet. For more information go to www.nysspe.org.

Upcoming Meeting Information

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Thursday, October 25th, 2007 – 6:30 PM

Please join us as **John Partridge** of [Powers Fasteners](#) gives an informative, educational presentation of structural anchorage in concrete and masonry base materials.

Topics will include:

- *Requirements for anchor selection and design;*
- *Influencing factors, i.e., edge distance, spacing, combined loading, corrosion, etc.*
- *Design of Mechanical anchoring systems;*
- *Design of adhesive anchoring systems;*
- *Introduction of new anchoring technology;*
- *Background on Powers fasteners and design literature and current ICC ES Reports;*
- *Typical applications and failure modes;*
- *Codes and current Acceptance Criteria.*

Location:

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

Legislative Update

By Anthony DiRuggiero

Two new bills are making their way through the state Assembly that affect practicing engineers.

[A07746](#) allows the Commissioner of the Buildings Department to refuse to accept any document filed by any person has knowingly or negligently falsified or allowed to be falsified any document required to be filed under the Building Code.

[\(continued next page\)](#)

[A07748](#) closes loopholes in the Building Code that currently allow builders to excavate without supporting adjacent properties. The bill will also require that all persons that excavate procure insurance regardless of the depth in order to protect adjacent property owners.

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:

Directors' Meeting
(6:30 PM)

October 11th
November 1st
December 6th

Membership
Meeting
(6:30PM)

October 25th
November 15th
December 20th

Fall Professional Development Conference

By Jennifer A. Miller
Director of Programs; NYSSPE-PIE

Attached as a separate PDF file is the NYSSPE Fall Professional Development Conference meeting information.

The meeting is November 2-3, at the Six Flags Great Escape Lodge & Indoor Waterpark, 89 Six Flags Dr., Queensbury, NY

Hotel reservations are to be made DIRECTLY with the Six Flags Great Escape Lodge & Indoor Waterpark, 89 Six Flags Drive, Queensbury, NY by October 2, 2007. Please book your room ASAP as they do sell out. Attendees will be responsible for settling the bill for their sleeping accommodations and incidental charges directly with the hotel upon departure.

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Reservations Call: 518-824-6000 – Group Name: NYSSPE

Room Rate(s): Thursday, November 1st - \$149.00 + tax*;
Friday, November 2nd - \$169.00 + tax*






* Maximum of 4 guests per room at quoted rates. Supplemental fee of \$25.00 per additional guest will be charged. The rates above INCLUDES admission to the Indoor Waterpark. Save and share a room.

: Professional Services Directory

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Order Form

The Queens Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers will publish the chapter's 2007 Annual Membership Directory. Our members are found in key government agency positions, as well as senior and partner positions in private engineering firms, which design, specify and consult on Construction projects throughout the Metropolitan area. When they need to find a source for specific requirements they turn to their annual Queens NSPE Membership Directory. Now you and your firm can reach these key decision making individuals when they are looking for your services by placing an ad in the up coming 2006 Queens NSPE Membership directory.

Attached is an order form to place an advertisement in the 2007 Membership Directory.

In addition to our annual journal, the Queens Engineering Society Sponsors numerous events and seminars to further inform our members of the new developments in industry. We hope that you will help support our efforts. Please see the order form on the next page

**QUEENS COUNTY CHAPTER
OF THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

OFFICERS:

BRIAN E. FLYNN, PE	GEORGE L. TAVOULAREAS, PE	JOHN SGOUROS, PE	FIL KEFALAS, PE
President	1 st Vice President	2 nd Vice President	Treasurer

Please reserve an ad as indicated below in the 2007 Queens Chapter Membership Directory.
Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$_____ for the size ad selected below:

(STANDARD AD POSITIONS (BLACK & WHITE ADS))

- ☐ Full Page Ad (7-1/2" deep x 4-1/4" wide)\$ 400.00
- ☐ One-Half Page Ad (3-3/4" deep x 4-1/4" wide).....\$ 300.00
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SPECIAL POSITIONS (BLACK & WHITE ADS)

- ☐ Back Cover (7-1/2" deep x 4-1/4" wide) \$ 800.00
- ☐ Inside Front Cover (7-1/2" x 4-1/4" wide)..... \$ 700.00
- ☐ Inside Back Cover (7-1/2" x 4-1/4")..... \$ 600.00
- ☐ Page 1 (7-1/2 x 4-1/4") \$ 550.00
- ☐ Forward (7-1/2" x 4-1/4") (Before Member Section)..... \$ 500.00

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- ☐ Spot (Single) Color (Each Color) Please choose color below..... \$ 160.00

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Please include your Artwork or camera ready copy. **Artwork Specifications** (Computer Formats): PDF; P65; EPS (INQUIRE); TIF; BMP; Others. Camera ready copy accepted OR We'll Make Your AD for You. Please email your computer format artwork to: BEFlynnPE@aol.com or mail it on computer media in PC format to our office: 78-66 79th Place, Glendale, NY 11385. In order to meet the printing schedule, all ads & order forms must be received no later than **October 31st, 2007**