

The Drawingboard

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

June 2009 Volume 9, Number 6

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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



(718) 894-7822 NYSSPE's Practicing Institute of Engineering, Inc. (PIE) has been 2ND Vice Pres. busy since 2004 accrediting lectures, seminars and courses for (718-) 956-3488 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 maters 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

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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 a presentation started with by DOB's 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 (718) 423-7924 14" or "Professional Certified" applications.

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(718) 274-4800 We look forward to seeing all of you Thurs., June 25th, 2009, (718) 482-0800 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: <u>International Masonry Institute</u>

(718) 224 2146 Location:

(516) 791-2300

(212) 594-4340

422 Weaver Ave., Fort Totten, New York

(516) 752-1687

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

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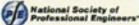
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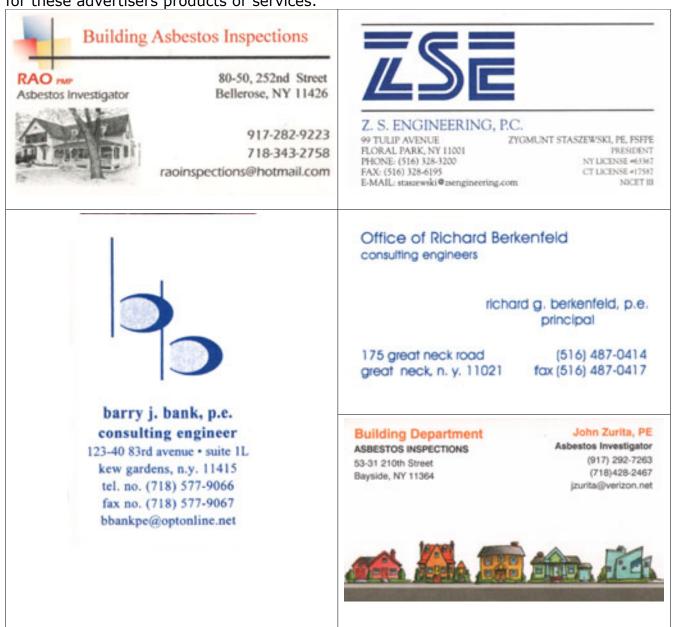
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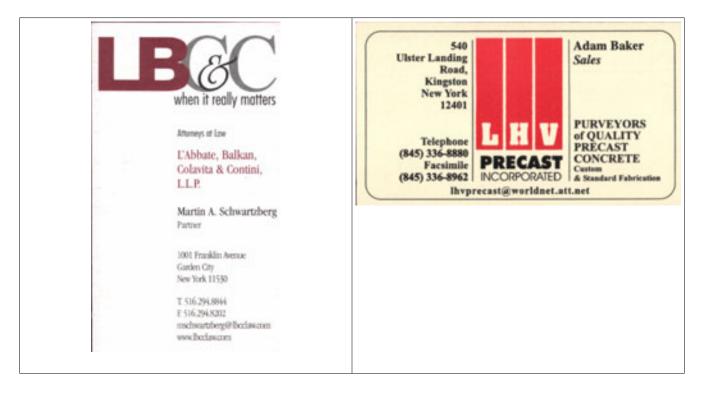
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QUEENS COUNTY CHAPTER

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 GEORGE TAVOULAREAS, PE JOHN SGOUROS, PE JOSE VELASQUEZ, PE President 1st Vice President 2nd Vice President 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.)

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