



The Drawingboard

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

March 2007

Volume 7, Number 3

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eWeek 2007 Issue



President's Message

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

It's good to be an engineer. The satisfaction of helping people in ways that they can't even imagine is its own reward. Sometimes, we even get recognition for our invaluable contribution to the greater good. In celebration of Engineer's Week, we have received accolades from the President, Congress, our **Mayor Bloomberg** and Borough President **Helen Marshall**. **State Senator Padavan** came to kick off our chapter's celebration of Engineer's Week. Senator Padavan, a fellow engineer, shared his thoughts on our noble profession. The Senator pointed out the importance public involvement and listed numerous of our colleagues who help to shape our communities. It is encouraging to see that the Senator relied on and uses his skills as an engineer to effect change in his current political office.

Mayor Bloomberg is also an engineer by training. One needs not to look any further than the Mayor's NYC2030 sustainability program to appreciate the influence of his engineering training.

On a sadder note, the Department of Parks and Recreation does not appreciate our involvement in the greater good which includes the protection of the public health and the environment.

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

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In historic Fort Totten, home to the Army Corps of Engineers for decades, in the building that they built, providing lectures and educational seminars on subjects that affect all New Yorker's, providing programs that parallel some of those by the Park's Department; we have been told by the Park's Department that we do not meet any of the Park's Department requirements and that we do not belong in Fort Totten. Since we have been here long before the conveyance of the property to City, we are appealing to more rational public leaders.

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)

Membership Meeting
(6:30PM)

March 8, 2007
April 12, 2007
May 10, 2007
June 14, 2007

March 22, 2007
April 26, 2007
May 24, 2007
June 28, 2007

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Bernie Haber, P.E.	(718) 224-2146

Upcoming Meeting Information

Our Next Chapter Meeting
Thursday March 22, 2007 – 6:30 PM

Location:

422 Weaver Ave., Fort Totten, New York

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, March 22nd 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

Legislative Update

New York Assembly Seeks to Amend Statute of Repose

A recent New York Assembly Bill (A.B. 5927) would alter the statute of repose on certain actions against professional engineers.

Under current law, actions to recover damages for injury, wrongful death, or property damage arising from professional negligence after 10 years from substantial completion required the plaintiff to establish that professional negligence was the proximate cause of injury prior to filing the case. If the plaintiff was unable to do so, the action was subject to dismissal.

Assembly Bill 5927 requires that "no action to recover damages for injury, wrongful death, or property damage, nor any action for contribution or indemnity for damages sustained on account of such injury, wrongful death, or property damage arising from any defect in the structure or improvement resulting from the design, planning or supervision of construction shall be brought against a professional engineer more than ten years after the completion of such improvement."

2007 Engineers' Week Recap

By George L. Tavoulares, P.E.

This year we celebrated our first and I hope it's not our last Engineer's Week on February 22, 2007 at Ft. Totten. We had speakers discuss the profession and engineering in general. Senator Frank Padavan, the only engineer in the NYS Senate discussed how his education as an engineer influences him as a legislator. Senator Padavan used his logical thinking and told us that it's easy to leave Iraq but the engineer in him tells him "what happens when we leave?" "Does the country fall apart?" Ms. **Laurie Kerr**, RA, Senior Policy Advisor, Mayor's Office of Operations and an engineer discussed the City of New York's plans to deal with the major physical challenges to its infrastructure and the environment it will have in the year 2030. The Chapter's **Bernie Haber**, PE- Partner Emeritus, retired, from

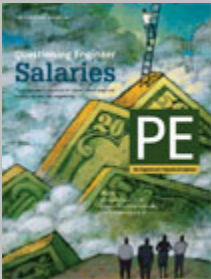
(Continued next page)

Computer and Office Donations Needed

Is your firm or company updating its computer or other office equipment and planning to get rid of the older systems? If so, please consider donating such equipment to the Queens Chapter of the NYSSPE.

The Queens Chapter is seeking donations of computer and office equipment. For more information contact Brian Flynn, Queens Chapter President at 718-539-2649

Hardesty and Hanover discussed bridge failures. Mr. **Jose Diaz**, PE- Vice President Hill International discussed the fast track reconstruction of the PATH service to the World Trade Center site, including the Temporary WTC Station, the Hudson River Tunnels, and Exchange Place Station (collectively know as the Phase I Downtown Restoration Program) and how engineers contributed to the completion of this project which affected thousands of commuters in more than two states. The chapter's past president, **Joel Miele**, PE discussed the The Board of Standards and Appeals and the criteria used to evaluate cases and the NYC building code. Mr. **Steven Demetropoulos**, PE, Traffic Engineer, Port Authority of NY & NJ discussed the Port Newark-Elizabeth Marine Terminal Comprehensive Traffic Study - Results and Recommendations. Mr. **Alan Weinstein**, AIA Queens President and **Paul DiNatale** discussed the interaction of engineers and architects on design projects and was perhaps the most interesting lecture of all. We all had a great time and the food was good. We hope to see you next year and yes at Ft. Totten.



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.

Useful websites for Engineers:

National Society of Professional Engineers	www.nspe.org
New York State Society of Professional Engineers	www.nysspe.org
American Institute of Architects	www.AIA.org
American Engineering Alliance	www.aeaworld.org
American Institute of Chemical Engineers	www.aiche.org
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City of New York	www.nyc.gov
NY State Senate	senate.state.ny.us
NY State Assembly	assembly.state.ny.us
NY City Council	nycouncil.info
The White House	whitehouse.gov
Ed Turner Responsible Charge	www.responsiblecharge.com

eWeek Photo Gallery:



The Keynote Speaker, **Senator Frank Padavan**, being introduced by Brian Flynn on Engineer's day



Paul DiNatale, RA (left) and **Alan Weinstein**, RA, AIA Queens Chapter President discussing the role Architects play with Engineers in design projects



Laurie Kerr, RA Senior Policy Advisor from the Mayor's Office of Operations discussing PLANYC2030



Our Chapter's own, **Bernie Haber**, PE discussing "Major Causes of Bridge Failures"



Jose Diaz, PE, Vice President for Hill International discussed the fast track reconstruction of the PATH service to the World Trade Center site, including the Temporary WTC Station, the Hudson River Tunnels, and Exchange Place Station (collectively know as the Phase I Downtown Restoration Program)



Our Chapter's **Joel Miele**, PE pictured with Chapter's President **Brian Flynn**, PE discussed the Board of Standards and Appeals



Steven Demetropolous, PE of the Port Authority of NY & NJ discussed the Port Newark-Elizabeth Marine Terminal Comprehensive Traffic Study - Results and Recommendations. He is pictured here receiving his Engineer's mug

: Professional Services Directory

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Order Form

The Queens Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers will publish the chapter's 2006 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 2006 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 1st Vice President 2nd 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
- One-Third Page Ad (2-1/2" deep x 4-1/4").....\$ 165.00

(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

(ADDITIONAL CHARGES)

- Spot (Single) Color (Each Color) Please choose color below..... \$ 160.00
 Red Blue Green Yellow
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Company/Organization _____

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Telephone _____

Fax _____

Signature _____

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Queens Chapter NYSSPE Reference & Membership Directory

C/O Brian E. Flynn, P.E.

President, Queens Chapter NYSSPE

78-66 79th Place, Glendale, NY 11385

Telephone (718) 894-7822 Fax (718) 894-7833

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**