



# The Drawingboard

## Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

February 2008

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### In This Issue

- President's Message
- Next Meeting – Thursday Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>
- Construction Code Seminar
- Controlled Inspections
- Mathcounts
- Mayoral Engineers' Week Proclamation

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### President's Message

*By Brian Flynn, P.E.  
President*



#### The Future is Now

The economy may be slowing down but change is speeding up. Its already the end of February and you can almost feel the engineering landscape change underfoot. Earlier this month the Building Department has gone electronic with its filing process. Come July, the new Construction Code will be implemented with a 12 month phase in period. Every week brings news of new enforcement units created in the Building Department. With every initiative, the Building Department has been greeted with a corresponding catastrophe. The Scaffold Worker Safety Update was just released in January only to be followed up with a massive scaffold collapse in Brooklyn earlier this month. It is only appropriate that Commissioner Lancaster has just announced the start of Phase 2 of the Special Enforcement Plan to raise the bar for construction standards citywide.

#### Who is Responsible?

Commissioner Lancaster used the new enforcement law enacted this September to ban a licensed engineer in January. The engineer was found guilty of filing false documents. The city was shot down by an Administrative Law Judge when they went after the expediter who was the presumed mastermind of the scheme. Judge Miller ruled

*(Continued Next Page)*

***(President's Message Continued)***

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that "Expediters are not governed by professional code" and added that it would be "unreasonable to hold them to the same standard." Back in my column last May I grumbled that "Our licensed professional community is overrun with illegal practice by unlicensed individuals and firms who are not currently prosecuted, or even curtailed." Expediters were created and licensed by the Building Department with little or no oversight. While the majority are honest hard working people, a number of expediters have discovered that they can act with impunity because it is the licensed professional who is the fall guy. Perhaps this will finally change.

**A Time to Celebrate**

Our own Bob LoPinto PE ran the annual MATHCOUNTS Competition on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at JHS 189, Flushing and it was even more exciting than ever. The Top Individual and Countdown Round winner, Kevin Peng, was not only last year's winner but also one of the award winners in the year before. We know that Kevin has a very bright future ahead of him.

This year we celebrated Engineers Week with the Metropolitan Engineering Societies Council. A reception and presentation was held at Polytechnic University's Dibner Library on February 13<sup>th</sup>. At this event, the Proclamation by his honor, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, proclaimed February 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 as Engineer's Week in New York City. The Mayor quoted James Kip Finch who once said "The Engineer has been, and is, a maker of history".

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# Upcoming Meeting Information

## *Our Next Chapter Meeting*

*Thursday September 28, 2006 – 6:30 PM*

The [Mohawk Group](#) will making a presentation on environmentally friendly carpets. Ceu credits will be awarded to all eligible attendees. The presentation will include:

### **Wool To Nylon**

This course surveys the history of the carpet industry. Participants will learn about differences in natural and synthetic fibers by examining a cross section of each fiber. From its beginnings in natural fibers woven in smaller mills to today's wide range of synthetic fibers tufted on technologically sophisticated machines, this course explores the industry developments in fibers, carpet construction, dye methods, and manufacturing.

- **History of Woven Carpet**

- The history of woven carpet begins with its earliest origins before recorded history, the introduction of woven carpet to Europe, the development of mechanized carpet weaving, and the beginnings of the carpet industry in the United States. The final segment of the course discusses the importance of woven carpet history to the preservation and restoration of historic interiors. Looking at real case studies, participants examine the woven carpet choices made to restore famous historic hotels and theaters to their former glory.

### **Carpet 101**

This course outlines criteria for carpet specifications that meet aesthetic and performance expectations. Participants get an overview of fibers, yarns, dyeing, backings and related manufacturing processes that are important for specification. The course also reviews woven and tufted carpet construction.

### **Sustainable Interior Environments**

This course provides an introduction to Leadership in Energy Efficient Design and the role it plays in the construction and carpet industries. Participants will practice calculating LEED points by using carpet examples. Participants will leave with an understanding of the economic, environmental, and community benefits of constructing a LEED project. The course offers an understanding of the future of green design in the construction industry and an understanding of the role carpet can play in promoting sustainable design.

### **Healthcare**

This course in Commercial Carpet and the Healthcare Environment discusses the beneficial role of carpet in the healing environment. The discussion of carpet's benefits include financial benefits over the floor's life cycle, enhanced comfort and safety, improved indoor air quality, reduced indoor allergen, and maintenance that produces fewer VOCs. Throughout this discussion, the course uses science-based evidence.

*Location:*

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

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## **Construction Code Seminar**

*By Brian Flynn, P.E.  
President*

### **February 29, 2008**

On Friday, February 29, the Buildings Department is hosting a comprehensive training session on the new NYC Construction Codes for the public and construction industry at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan. The Department's technical staff will focus on the new 2008 Building Code and new administrative procedures under the new codes. Licensed industry professionals may receive three hours continuing education credit for attending. Registration is required, and seating is limited. See the Building Department website for further information.

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## Controlled Inspections

*By George Tavoulareas, P.E.  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

### **Qualifications**

As part of the implementation of the new Construction Code for New York City, Controlled Inspections will now be called Special Inspections. And yes, the TR-1 will remain. The city has issued a draft of the Special Inspection Qualifications, dated February 6, 2008.

A review of this draft guide has found several errors. The Chapter will monitor this guidelines.

In the draft, the inspections are broken down by Special Inspection Category and the relevant 2008 Code section. The Special Inspection applicant who signs and seals the TR-1 is referred to as the the Primary Inspector or Inspection Supervisor. The draft further lists the qualifications for the Supplemental Inspector under the direct supervision of the Inspection Supervisor with two alternatives. The draft lists specialties in engineering along with architects for specific inspections which goes against the nature of the PE license in NY.

The main thrust of the list of qualifications however is that they primarily list architects and engineers with relevant experience for both the Primary Inspector and for the Supplemental Inspectors. This is a step in the right direction for the safety and welfare of the public and our profession.

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## MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

*By Robert LoPinto, P.E.  
Mathcounts Coordinator*

The Queens Chapter - NYSSPE held its annual MATHCOUNTS Competition on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at JHS 189, Flushing. Eleven schools from Queens registered in the MATHCOUNTS Program competed in the competition. MATHCOUNTS is a Math skills

***(Continued Next Page)***

***(Mathcounts Continued)***

building and competition for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers, the CNA Foundation and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Competitions are held at the local Chapter level, followed by a State competition. The top individuals from the State competition then compete at the National Competition, which is being held in Denver, CO this year. The top winners of the National Competition can win college scholarships.

Teams of 4 students and up to 4 individuals from the schools spent about 4 hours taking various written and oral tests. There was a 40 minute, 30 question written individual test, followed by four sets of two written questions to be answered in 6 minutes each set. This was followed by a 20 minute, 10-question team test, where the 4 team members worked together to answer the questions. There was also an oral/written countdown round, where the top 10 individual finishers competed head to head for top honors.

The Queens Chapter Team Winners were:

1ST PLACE        MS 74- NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE MS

COACH: BRIAN ANNELLO

STERN HUANG

CHRISTOPHER JOU

KEVIN PENG

TIFFANY WANG

2ND PLACE        MS 67- LOUIS PASTEUR MS

COACH: CHRISTINA SKOUTAKIS

EDWARD CHO

CHOONGHUN LEE

BRADY PAN

RENE ZHANG

3RD PLACE        JHS 190- RUSSEL SAGE JHS

COACH: MARY RANDOLPH

MAX WANG

LUCH WONG

DEBBIE YUN

CHRISTTIA ZHENG

***(Continued Next Page)***

*(Mathcounts Continued)*

The top Individual Winners were:

RANK	INDIVIDUAL	SCHOOL
1	KEVIN PENG	MS 74
2	RENE ZHANG	MS 67
3	CHRISTOPHER JOU	MS 74
4	EDWARD CHO	MS 67
5	STANLEY WANG	MS 74
6	STERN HUANG	MS 74
7	DEBBIE YUN	JHS 190
8	JEFFREY LIN	MS 74
9	WENDY CHU	PS 122
10	MAX WANG	JHS 190

The Oral Countdown Round Winners were:

RANK	INDIVIDUAL	SCHOOL
1	KEVIN PENG	MS 74
2	RENE ZHANG	MS 67

The competitions went off without a hitch, thanks to the help of the Team Coaches, and the Chapter members. At the end of the competition, an awards ceremony with Chapter President Bryan Flynn, PE was held, and the trophies and other awards were presented to the Queens Chapter winners. Robert A. LoPinto, PE, Past Queens Chapter President and MATHCOUNTS Coordinator set up the day's events and ran the Countdown competition. Chapter Members Sal Galletta, PE, Chris Petallides, PE, John Sgouros, PE, Bryan Flynn, PE and Saeed Ainechi, PE assisted in the competition. In addition to the Team Coaches, who assisted with the scoring, Shaina Slonim and Toby Pagano volunteered their help through the national VolunteerMatch organization. The Top Individual and Countdown Round winner, Kevin Peng, was last year's winner, also. This year, Kevin scored 45 out of 46 points, a commendable feat. It should also be noted that in the countdown round, Wendy Chu, PS 122, moved from 9<sup>th</sup> place to 5<sup>th</sup> place, the highest movement in the countdown round. All in all, it was an enjoyable morning for all involved. The top three teams now move on to the State Competition in March. Good Luck!

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## Engineers' Week Proclamation

The proclamation was read at the Engineer's Week Reception which was held by the Metropolitan Engineering Societies Council at Polytechnic University's Dibner Library on February 13th. For more information on MESC, visit their website at [www.mescnyc.org](http://www.mescnyc.org).

**Office of the Mayor**  
City of New York



### Proclamation

Whereas: New York City's breathtaking skyline . . . the mobile phones and information technology that helps our business people maintain our status as an international financial capital . . . and the world-class public transportation system that moves our citizenry to work, recreation and home with unparalleled efficiency all have one important thing in common: we owe each of these marvels to engineers, whose creativity, dedication, and intelligence underlie nearly every aspect of New Yorker's lives.

Whereas: As we reflect on how engineers have shaped our great city up until today, we also know that their contributions will be vital as we strive to create a successful and sustainable future. Indeed, the success of PlanNYC - our vision of a greener, grater New York - rests largely on their hard work and innovation. This week, we are proud to join the metropolitan Engineering Societies Council, the Metropolitan Chapter President's Council, the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, and the New York Academy of Sciences in celebrating Engineer's Week, where the engineering fields greatest minds will unite to exchange ideas and celebrate the strides they have made to improve our lives over the past year.

Whereas: James Kip Finch once said: "The Engineer has been, has been is, a maker of history." As our city continues to grow and face new challenges, we encourage all New Yorkers to pause and recognize the invaluable work of our Engineers. Their monumental behind the scenes efforts to provide the foundation which our city's greatness stands, and will be vital as we strive to build a better tomorrow.

Now therefore, I, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, in recognition of their contributions to the beauty, vitality and stability of our city, do hereby proclaim February 13th - 19th, 2008 in the City of New York as:

### **"Engineer's Week"**



In witness whereof I have here unto set my hand and caused  
the seal of the City of New York to be affixed.

**Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor**








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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.

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President                      1<sup>st</sup> Vice President                      2<sup>nd</sup> 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
- Four-Color Process (Full Color Ad with red, blue, green and yellow)\$ 800.00

**Company/Organization** \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your checks payable to the Queens Chapter – NYSSPE. Mail your check with this order form to:  
Queens Chapter NYSSPE Reference & Membership Directory  
C/O Brian E. Flynn, P.E.

**President, Queens Chapter NYSSPE  
78-66 79<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:BEFlynnPE@aol.com) or mail it on computer media in PC format to our office: 78-66 79<sup>th</sup> Place, Glendale, NY 11385. In order to meet the printing schedule, all ads & order forms must be received no later than **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007**