



The Drawingboard

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

November 2008

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President's Message

*By Chris Petallides, P.E.
President*



Regards from Saratoga Springs, NY, where the NYSSPE (State Society) held its Fall '08 annual conference, November 6-8, '08. Queens Chapter members **Joel Miele, Sr., Elliot Shapiro, Brian Flynn, George Tavoulaareas** and yours truly provided solid chapter representation. As anticipated, a large portion of the conference dealt with the pending NYSSPE legal action against New York City's Mayor and City Council for violating State Education Law by vesting engineering and design related decisions in a "non-licensed" individual, as NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) commissioner. The delegate vote in favor of condemning the recent City Charter change (Intro 755A) and upholding the State Ed Law requiring the DOB commissioner to be a licensed professional was unanimous. The delegate vote to proceed immediately with the lawsuit against NYC was similarly overwhelming. Toward that end, the State Society earmarked \$20,000 (\$15,000 from NYSSPE's voluntary legal fund and \$5,000 from PEPP). In the meantime, the PDC donated an additional \$2,000 and the Queens Chapter is in the process of collecting matching funds from its members and friends. We urge you, therefore, to be as generous as you possibly can when you are approached for a donation in the near future because your legal rights and privileges as PE's (and RA's) as well as the public's health, safety and welfare are being ignored.

We are experiencing some difficulty lining up (paying) monthly sponsors for our general meetings and, as a result, the free dinners and free PDH's we have all grown accustomed to may be jeopardy. The reason(s) may be that we have already exhausted all the supply of local providers of engineering products and/or services, or that the recent economic crisis is cutting into vendors' ability to pay, etc.,

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etc. Let's put our heads together at our next general meeting, therefore, to come up with innovative ideas for the future.

Also, the "Professional Services Directory" featuring the business cards of our members at the end of these newsletters has become outdated over the years (and I am the biggest offender). Please remember to bring your most up to date business card(s) at our next meeting.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our next General Meeting, Thurs., November 20th '08, 6:30PM at Fort Totten.

Upcoming Meeting Information

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Date: *Thursday November 20th, 2008 – 6:30 PM*

Sponsor: To be determined

Location:

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

Legislative Update

Roll Call

City Council members voted as follows on Intro. 755A:

Excused: (2)

Garodnick and White Jr.

Affirmative: (36)

Speaker Quinn, Arroyo, Baez, Comrie Jr., Dickens, Dillan, Eugene, Felder, Gentile, Gerson, Gioia, Gonzalez, Ignizio, Jackson. James, Katz, Mark-Viverito, Martinez, McMahon, Monserrate, Nelson, Oddio, Palma, Recchia Jr., Rivera, Sandler Jr., Seabrook, Sears, Stewart, Vacca, Vallone Jr., Vann, Wepprin, Yassky and Como

Negative: (12)

Addabbo Jr., Avelia, Barron, deBlasio, Foster, Gennaro, Koppeli, Lappin, Liu, Mealy, and Reyna

Abstain: (1)

Brewer

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