



The Drawingboard

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

November 2009

Volume 9, Number 11

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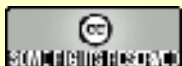
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President's Message

*By Chris Petallides, P.E.
President*



As the holiday season is fast approaching and we realize that yet another year has rolled by we look back and reflect on the year that just passed and wonder if we could have done things differently for a better outcome vis-a-vis the Society and the Profession. For example, in retrospect, we ask ourselves, was it a good idea for the PE Society to initiate a

lawsuit against a (very wealthy) City Mayor who chose to eliminate the licensure requirement for the position of Buildings' (DOB) Commissioner for no apparent reason other than to suit his own purposes, thus violating State Education Law and placing the public's health, safety and welfare in jeopardy?

As you already know, a female judge has ruled against us (surprise, surprise!) and we have already filed a "notice of appeal"; the full appeal may take several months to complete. Basically, the judge decided that since the unlicensed commissioner (Mr. **LiMandri**) may (Note: he "may" but he is not obligated to) delegate his technical duties (for which he is not qualified) to his licensed first deputy, then there's "no harm/no foul" and, therefore all is OK by her.

Furthermore, the latest DOB proposals include turning over all construction inspection duties to lay people, i.e., General Business Corporations (Inc.'s) provided they hire a licensed professional as a lab director (basically, to rubber-stamp for

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them). Again, these proposals are contrary to State Law which specifically states that “**professional services can only be offered by licensed professionals or authorized professional organizations**”. (NOTE: Unlicensed individuals or firms, including business organizations, cannot offer professional services under any pretext).

You will be pleased to know that we are already on record opposing these new reckless proposals and we hope that someone, including the Mayor, (who, himself, we hear, has some engineering background) will realize the danger to the public’s health, safety and welfare of such irresponsible actions and turn these important technical decisions back to licensed professionals who are qualified to handle them. The public hearing on the subject was duly attended on Monday, Nov. 10th ’09, by QC members **Michael Karantinidis**, PE and **Brian Flynn**, PE, NYSSPE Vice Pres. **Tom Szekely**, PE , MCPC Chair **Joe Pasaturo**, PE and others, all representing the Engineering Society.

In the meantime, as everyone involved with the DOB will attest, the DOB is becoming increasingly more dysfunctional. In a time of economic crisis, the construction industry is now being further stymied by the newly created DOB bureaucracy (SEU), largely made up of incompetent staff (and some misfits), and directed by lawyers (?). This problem became very evident at this month’s Industry Meeting, in Queens (11/10/09) where the attending licensed professionals expressed nothing but concern for the City’s building industry and public safety and profusely complained about everything from the incomprehensible new DOB forms, to many irrelevant DOB filing & inspection requirements and the lack of communication between the licensed professional applicant community and the DOB.

Looking back, we say “yes”, we may have lost the battle (re: lawsuit initial court decision) but we have not the WAR. In support of this view, please note that the Board of Directors’ of NYSSPE (representing more than two thousand registered professional engineers in NY State) at its fall meeting, in Albany, NY, (11/13/09) unanimously reaffirmed the Society’s commitment to continue fighting until our legitimate concerns for the public’s safety are recognized (attending the Board meeting on behalf of the Queens Chapter, NYSSPE, were past president, **Sal Galletta**, PE and myself).

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(President's message continued)

The Board also reaffirmed its previous decision to invite the organized NY Architectural Societies (not just individual architects) to join us in our common goal to bring professionalism back to the DOB and help protect the public's health, safety and welfare which is the stated core mission of our professional oath.

Our next general meeting and last general meeting of the year 2009 is scheduled for Thurs., November 19, 2009, 6:30PM at Fort Totten.

Dinner will be served, followed by the Meeting & 1PDH Lecture by our Sponsor.

As always, we look forward to your input and feedback.

Upcoming Meeting Information

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Date: **Thursday November 19th , 2009 – 6:30 PM**

Sponsor: Blue Linx Company

Presenter: Kevin Meadows

Subject: [Engineered Lumber](#)

Location:

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



PROFESSIONAL DESIGN CENTER OF NEW YORK, INC
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American Institute of Architects

Queens Chapter

NYS Society of Professional Engineers

2009

P D C Lecture Series

4-09

Lecture

Date: Tuesday November 17, 2009
Time: 7:00PM to 9:00PM

At

422 Weaver Ave. Fort Totten, Bayside, Queens

2 Continuing Education Credits

Admission fee is \$50 for AIA & NYSSPE members; \$60 for non-members.
Please RSVP to : George Tavoulaareas, 272 Clinton Road Garden City, NY 11530
by 11/15/2009

PRESENTED BY:

Delia Schumway, PE; Chief Engineer, NYCDOB Excavation-Interior Demol. Unit
Bob LoPinto, PE, President of the Professional Design Center

THE PROGRAM: Excavation, Shoring and Underpinning under the new code.

The lecture will discuss the new demolition, excavation, shoring and underpinning requirements set forth under the new NY City Building Code. Testing and inspection requirements of concrete and filing the new TR-1, TR-2 and TR-3 forms under the new code shall also be discussed.

Buffet dinner 6:15 pm-7:00pm included Contact George Tavoulaareas, PE at
347-387-1649 for further information

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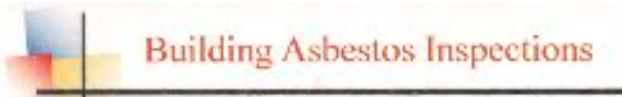




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QUEENS COUNTY CHAPTER

OF

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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"

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