



CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

The New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc.

November
2005

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PE TIMES NEWSLETTER

President's Message

By Thomas J. Mc Grath, P.E.

The long hot and hazy summer is over and we are now turning our attention to fall and hopefully a more pleasant season.

Chapter activities have started with another successful golf day, thanks to the efforts and hard work of Anne Garrity. We have begun scheduling chapter meetings with accredited CPC programs. Watch our website, www.capdistpe.org, newsletters and e-mails for upcoming programs.

November 4th and 5th, 2005—
NYSSPE Conference, Albany
Marriott

November 17, 2005—Catholic
Protection from Corrosion of
Steel in Concrete

The Eastern Chapter of the AIA has approved extending the same AIA member pricing to members of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers on future continuing education programs sponsored by their organization.

We have filled the Director's vacancy and the Board has approved the appointment of Nick Costa, PE of Sipperly Associates, to that position. Thank you Nick for stepping forward. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome three new members to our Chapter: Jason Sableski, Michael Rossi, and Ray Darling, PE. We look forward to your support.

I would also like to thank Angelo Santabarbara for stepping up to the plate and taking on the chores of putting together our newsletter. I apologize for the confusion we had with the last newsletter, some of you were unable to open it, but most were successful. The newsletter is on the website if you are unable to open it at any time.

Thank you for participating in the voting on the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. The proposed changes were approved by the Chapter membership and the Board has approved the changes to the By-Laws.

We are always striving to make improvements in the Chapter and our programs. Should you want to be more active we encourage you to do so. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 782-0882 or E-mail me at tmcgrath@spectraenv.com

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2006 Engineers Week

By Jack C. Healy, P.E

The schedule for Engineers Week is filling out, however, there are still many slots to fill and we need your help to make that happen. Presenters can receive up to three continuing education credits for giving a one hour seminar. If you are interested in presenting a topic, please make yourself known.

This year's celebration will be two full days of seminars and activities: Thursday February 16 and Friday February 17. The programs will be held at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road in Colonie.

The seminars will include sessions on civil, transportation, environmental, geotechnical, structures, chemical, mechanical, and electrical. Other activities include the Order of the Engineer, two luncheons, a dinner at the Marriott Thursday evening, outreach programs for high school and college students, and model bridge competition for area high school students. A copy of the preliminary schedule will be available soon through email and on our website.

Again, please contact me at jhealy@ryanbiggs.com or Jennifer Miller at jamiller@nysspe.org if you would like to present, sponsor a booth, or assist in the planning! Also, we are looking for volunteers to help during the celebration. Please us know if you can help.

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Upcoming Chapter Meetings

By Jay D. Derman, P.E.

Chapter meetings are scheduled for November, January, March, April and May.

The November meeting will be a dinner meeting on Thursday, November 17th at the Italian American Community Center. The topic for this evening is "Cathodic Protection from Corrosion of Steel in Concrete" and will be led by Uriel Oko, Ph.D., P.E. The presentation will cover the theoretical background of corrosion, why corrosion of steel in concrete occurs, and methods of corrosion protection. The program has been approved for 1 PDH. Registration will begin at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6:15 pm and the program commencing at 7:15 pm. Dinner choices are chicken parmigana, baked scrod or roasted pork loin. Cost is \$30 for members and \$40.00 for non-members. Contact Jay Derman, PE at 463-0905 or jderman@ix.netcom.com.

The January meeting, scheduled for Thursday, January 19, is tentatively planned to be a breakfast meeting with Mark Kriss, Esq. as our speaker. Mark's topic will be an "Update on Legislative

Issues of Concern to PE's". It is planned that this program will offer 1 PDH. Further details as to location and time will be available shortly.

Our March meeting, set for Thursday, March 16, will be a breakfast session on "Geothermal Heating and Related Internal Building Requirements". Brad Fisher, PE will make the presentation. This program will offer 1 PDH. The program will be held at offices of the Eastern Contractors Association on Airline Drive, Colonie, commencing with registration/breakfast at 7:15 am and the program at 7:45 am. Additional information will be available in early 2006.

The April chapter meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27. The topic and location are being developed and information made available in the future.

The May meeting will be the Annual Installation of Officers and will take place on Thursday evening, May 26.



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Constitutional Amendments and By Laws Approved

By James Galarneau, P.E

By a majority vote of the Board this past year, the CDCNYSSPE Constitution (Latest Revisions 1995) and respective

By Laws were given to Jim Galarneau and Wally Waidelich for the purposes of proposing new amendments. These proposed Amendments and By Laws were presented and approved by the Board in June 2005. Subsequently the proposed Constitutional Amendments were distributed to the membership in an August 2005 ballot.

The CDCNYSSPE Constitutional Amendment Ballots were received and tallied in September. There were 46 ballots received which meets the 20% of the total membership rule. After the tally two-thirds or more of the members voting had declared themselves in favor of the proposed amendments. Therefore the Constitution amendments are approved.

At the October Board meeting the results were reported and accepted. Additionally, by separate Board action the proposed related By Law changes were also approved. This finalizes all changes necessary at the Chapter level. The amended Constitution and respective By Laws will now be sent to the State Executive Committee for their final approval as required. No objections are expected. The Executive Committee will be meeting in November at the State meeting in Albany. After the State meeting, the membership will be advised.



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MANY THANKS...For Supporting our 22nd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing!

By Anne L. Garrity, P.E.

The Capital District Chapter's 22nd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing was a huge success again this year. The weather was surprisingly warm hot but absolutely beautiful! And although registration was down a bit we were able to raise just shy of \$2,000 between the Scholarship Raffle, hole

sponsorships, registration, and cash donations.

Thanks to those companies who so generously donated prizes to our Scholarship Raffle:

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A special thanks to CDC member Herman Greene, PE and the Precast Concrete Association of New York (PCANY) for their cash donations towards the Chapter's Scholarship fund!

And finally thanks to those folks who contributed prizes towards the blind bogie raffle including: Ramsco, CT Male, Edwards and Kelcey, Ryan Biggs, and Clough Harbour & Associates.

The Chapter is thrilled to have such generous support, year after year. Hope to see everyone again next year!



October and November Chapter Meetings


By Jay D. Derman, P.E.

The October Chapter Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 20th, is a tour of the quarry and associated facilities of Bonded Concrete in West Sand Lake. The tour, to be conducted by Andy Clemente, P.E., will cover the plans for the sources and manufacturing methods of aggregates for Bonded Concrete for the next 50 years. The tour will start in the West Sand Lake concrete plant of Bonded Concrete, then move to the aggregate processing area of Troy Sand & Gravel, and then to the quarry area of Troy Sand and Gravel.

The program is planned to begin at 3:00 pm and should last approximately 2 hours. This program has been approved for 1 PDH.

The November Chapter Meeting is planned for Thursday evening, November 17th, at a location TBD. Our guest speaker will be Uriel Oko, Ph.D., P.E. Dr. Oko's presentation is entitled "Cathodic Protection from Corrosion of Steel in Concrete" and will cover the theoretical background of corrosion, why corrosion of steel in concrete occurs, and means and methods of protection. This program has been approved for 1 PDH.

Please mark your calendars for these two interesting presentations and inform your colleagues as well. Additional information on both the October and November meetings will be provided in the near future.

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Future City Competition

By David Ardman

What to do with an abandoned strip mall?

Capital District seventh and eighth graders use engineering to tackle the challenge.

As common as crabgrass but not nearly so easy to eradicate, small, abandoned strip malls are a vexing social problem for engineers and city planners across the country. For tens of thousands of middle school students, however, it's just another challenge they have to conquer in the 2006 National Engineers Week Future City Competition™.

Sponsored by the nation's professional engineering community, the competition asks students, working in teams and under the guidance of a teacher and a volunteer engineer mentor, to design and build a future city as a way to hone their math, science and engineering skills. The students must also research and write an essay dealing with a particular social dilemma.

The Capital District Region Future City Competition will be held in January 2006 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). First place winners there will join teams from 36 other regions for an all-expense-paid trip to the Future City National Finals in Washington, D.C., February 20-22, 2006 during National Engineers Week. Grand prize is a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. More than 30,000 students from 1,000 middle schools are expected to participate in Future City this year.

Students first create their cities on computers using SimCity 3000 software (donated to each school by Electronic Arts), and then build three-dimensional scale models of the city, write the essay and an abstract. At the competition, students present and defend their designs before a panel of engineer judges.

Abandoned strip malls, usually treeless parking lots fronting a row of shuttered storefronts, are a nationwide problem. So how, exactly, does a child of 13 convert a five-acre rectangular lot, boasting an empty grocery store, restaurant and gas station, into a viable mixed-use development consisting of retail and residential complexes? It won't be easy, admits Carol Rieg, Future City National Director, but, she says, that's entirely the point.

"Future City purposely gives middle school students challenges big enough to cause even the experts to scratch their heads," says Rieg, who has been with the competition since it began with a handful of middle schools in 1992 and has since become the largest engineering educational program in the country.

"It gets them to think about a problem many of them see every day on their way to school or home, but have never before even considered. And they identify the role of engineering in a context they can relate to."

Future City also has benefits far beyond helping students understand the real world role of math and science, Rieg says, noting, "When young people start to closely examine the problems of their own neighborhoods with the intent to find solutions, it not only sharpens their skills as potential engineers, but as future citizens as well."

The essay theme this year is "Create an Engineering Feasibility Plan for a specific redevelopment area in your

Future City." As civil planners know, the rehabilitation and renewal of such an abandoned site is a complicated matter, involving several engineering considerations including water and sewer utilities, transportation access and soil analysis.

Solving the redevelopment puzzle and other complications of designing a city stokes student interest in engineering, a career that few may have considered prior to the competition. Teachers, engineers and parents who have worked with the program say the balance of fun and work successfully reaches young people with hands-on lessons in practical math and science that help maintain studies in subjects they will need to pursue engineering in college.

Registration deadline for the 2006 Future City Competition is October 15. Contact Capital District Regional Coordinator Jennifer Smith at (518) 738-0322 or David Ardman, director of public relations at Barton & Loguidice, P.C. in Albany at (518) 218-1801 for more information. Future City details can be found at www.futurecity.org or by calling 1-877-636-9578.

The National Engineers Week Future City Competition is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Committee, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations, co-chaired in 2006 by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Northrop Grumman Corporation.

IN BRIEF: The National Engineers Week Future City Competition™ each year invites middle school students nationwide to create cities of tomorrow.

The competition encourages interest in math, science and engineering through hands-on applications. This year's challenge includes creating an engineering plan for redevelopment of an abandoned strip mall in the

community. Registration deadline for AREA schools is October 15, 2005. Contact regional coordinator NAME at PHONE or EMAIL, visit www.futurecity.org or call toll-free 1-877-636-9578.



NYSSPE Urges Support of the 2005 Transportation Bond Act

Contact: Kelly K. Norris, CAE

President John W. Naylor, PE announced today that the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc. (NYSSPE) formally endorses the 2005 Transportation Bond Act, and encourages voters to do the same by voting yes on the November 8th referendum.

“In past years, NYSSPE has not been extremely vocal with regard to the State’s infrastructure spending plan. However, since the defeat of the Transportation Infrastructure Bond Act of 2000, the society has made funding for infrastructure maintenance a priority. The critical condition of the State’s infrastructure and the risk it imposes on the public makes it imperative that the

voice of Professional Engineers be heard loud and clear,” said Naylor.

The Institute for Infrastructure Asset Management at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute issued a report on Highway and Bridge Performance in New York State. New York was compared with ten peer states: California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio. These peer states are, essentially, our economic competitors. The study found in New York:

The rate of accidents in which people are injured or killed is the worst in the country.

Bridges are the worst among those of all the peer states and worst in the nation with the percent of deficient bridges being more than twice the national average.

The percent of deficient pavement is nearly twice as high as that of the ten peer states and more than twice the national average.

Congestion is becoming substantially worse.

Less than 30% of the highway-generated revenues go to the Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund.

Funds expended on Highway construction have remained essentially constant over the last decade. Inflation has eroded the value of highway construction expenditures.

Highway and bridge accomplishments are declining rapidly due to limited investment and inflation.

In 2005 alone, there have been a number of incidences throughout New York State that reinforce the need to pass the Bond Act. Specifically, the closing of the Crown Point Bridge over Lake Champlain due to a malfunctioning bridge joint; the closure of the Henry

Hudson Parkway in New York City due to the collapse of a retaining wall; the closure of the Adirondack Northway, near Warrensburg because of massive amounts of erosion; and most recently, the partial collapse of the ramp bridge from Interstate 787 in Albany.

Miraculously, there were no injuries involved in any of these calamities; however the millions of people who utilize the transportation systems in New York need to be confident that their personal safety is not in jeopardy. As Professional Engineers, it is our job to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public; to that end the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc. strongly supports passage of the 2005 Transportation Bond Act.

The New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc. is a statewide professional organization with 23 local chapters and over 3,000 members. Representing all engineering disciplines in five practice divisions (construction, education, government, industry, and private practice), NYSSPE works to promote and protect the professional interests of all engineers.

For information about membership in the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc. (NYSSPE), contact Executive Director Kelly Norris, CAE at the RPI Technology Park, 385 Jordan Road, Troy, NY 12180. The association's phone number is (518) 283-7490 and the Web site is www.nysspe.org.

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Mathcounts

By Sal Ervolina

The Capital District Chapter's Mathcounts competition will be held on Saturday February 11, 2004 at the General Electric (GE) Global Research Facility in Niskayuna. GE has once again generously agreed to host the chapter competition at their recently renovated Niskayuna facility. The deadline for school registration is December 9, 2005. School registrations are beginning to come in, and a large school turnout is once again expected on competition day. This is an extremely rewarding activity and we welcome all volunteers who would be willing to help out during the competition.

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Minimum Requirements: New York State PE License plus 3-years bridge related experience (design, inspection and/or construction inspection).

Send resume to
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of design professionals, technicians and supporting staff.

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Qualified candidates must have a degree in electrical engineering, professional registration preferred. Should have at least 5 to 7 years experience since graduation in the performance of electrical consulting engineering required and be a fully competent engineer in all conventional aspects of this discipline. Will plan and conduct work in evaluation, selection, adaptation and modification of standard techniques and procedures. The ideal candidate will possess a professional attitude showing interest in our reputation and growth. Should have relevant experience in the design of commercial electrical distribution systems, understand the state and local electrical code requirements in the various areas where RW completes projects, and be well-informed concerning electronic and computerized controls for mechanical and electrical systems. Qualified candidates should respond, via mail/fax/e-mail, to RobsonWoese Inc, 5824 Widewaters Parkway, East Syracuse, NY 13057; fax: 315.445.0958; e-mail: hr@robsonwoese.com. More than Engineers....Consultants

