

CENTRAL CHAPTER  
NY STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
**NEWSLETTER** **JUNE 2007**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The electrical short course that was held in May was a success. About 25 people attended each class and earned up to 18 PDHs. The fees paid were a significant boost to the Chapter's finances. It allowed us to give three \$1000 awards to outstanding high school seniors who plan to pursue an engineering career.

The Central Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers selected Ms. Lauren Candee, C.W. Baker High School, Baldwinsville (Civil Engineering); Ms. Reagan Cuddy, Auburn High School (Civil or Materials Engineering); and Mr. Edward Seiter, Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School (Electrical Engineering) as their **2007 Scholastic Achievement Award** winners.

**Ms. Lauren Candee** is a member of the National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, and is the Yearbook Head Editor. She was a mentor for elementary school students and tutors younger French students. She is on varsity track team, and is captain of her field hockey team. She has been on high honor roll every quarter in high school, received other high honors, and is in the top 5% of her class.

**Ms. Reagan Cuddy** is an officer in the Honor Society, mentors elementary school children, and is a youth group leader. She volunteers in a soup kitchen and leads other students to help there. She is on the YMCA swim team and qualified for the state meet. She won an RPI medal for outstanding math and science skills, and Clarkson University Leadership award. She is in the top 5% of her class.

**Mr. Edward Seiter** was student council co-president, a vocal ensemble member, and participated in the Lockheed Martin Explorer Post. He mentors grade school students in reading and provides emotional help. He is a National Honor Society member, and has received numerous community of caring awards. He is an exhibits technician at the Museum of Science & Technology. He is in the top 10% of his class.

**Mr. Richard L. Elander, P.E., received the Engineer of the Year Award** at the 2007 Celebration of Technology Banquet. He recently retired as Commissioner for the Onondaga County Department of Environment Protection. Mr. Elander was appointed Commissioner of the Department in October 2000, and served as Commissioner through March 27, 2007. During his tenure, in addition to his Department-wide duties, Mr. Elander was responsible for overseeing, administering and directing multiple large-scale County projects directed toward the cleanup of Onondaga Lake. Under Mr. Elander's guidance, the last of the over 30 projects that the County has undertaken to assist in the cleanup of Onondaga Lake have been progressed through design and are scheduled for construction/startup in 2007/2008. The current success of the County's Onondaga Lake Improvement Program can be attributed in large part to the vision, guidance, and devotion provided by Mr. Elander.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)**

There is no calendar yet; however, we will restart PDH lunches this fall. We'll have more information in the next newsletter in September.

**Please mark your calendars for Monday, November 12, 2007.** That's the date of the next **CNY Engineering Expo**. It will be held at the Holiday Inn on Electronics Parkway in Liverpool. There will be five parallel tracks of presentations. Six or seven PDHs will be available. We'll have all the details in the September newsletter.

We will probably be increasing our chapter dues next year or the year after. They are now \$15 for most members and will likely increase to \$20. The reason is to standardize dues throughout New York. Similar standardization will happen in other states. Chapter dues vary from \$3 to \$40 throughout New York's 23 chapters. There are similar variations in other states. This is a huge administrative nightmare and significant cost for NSPE. There are about 45,000 NSPE members and 12,000 different sets of dues! Chapter presidents who participated in a conference call agreed to the \$20 fee. This will be discussed and probably ratified at the NYSSPE Convention in June in Buffalo.

The New York State legislature has numerous bills affecting PEs under consideration. Here's a sample.

### **S.5307 – OPPOSE – LICENSURE OF GEOLOGISTS**

In our original agreement PEs were allowed to continue to practice geology and sign drawings and reports, but not call themselves professional geologists. Without that provision we will continue to oppose this bill, as it will disenfranchise PEs who have been providing these services for decades in accordance to the highest professional standards. *Currently on Senate Calendar*

### **A.5933/S.2162 – SUPPORT – QUALIFICATIONS BASED SELECTION**

This bill adds public authorities and public benefit corporations to the definition of NYS Departments that must use the QBS method to procure engineering services. *Currently on Senate Calendar/Assembly Ways & Means*

### **S.3225/A6686 – OPPOSE – PROFESSIONAL EXEMPTIONS**

This bill would raise the threshold for which PEs and RAs are required to sign off on plans for minor projects to \$50,000 or 3000 square feet. We reject the premise of the existing thresholds of \$5,000 or 1500 square feet, and strongly oppose the continuation of basing professional requirements on a monetary figure. We met with the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, who has recommended this action and will continue to strongly oppose this new bill. *Currently in Senate Higher Education Committee/Assembly Higher Ed*

### **A.1927 – OPPOSE – LS SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

This bill revises the definition of land surveying specifically adding the determination of rights of way, easements, and the location of man made structures as services to be provided only by land surveyors. It creates a two tiered licensing program to allow licensees in adjoining states to perform non-boundary type services. *Currently in Assembly Higher Education Committee*

### **S.5272 – OPPOSE – DESIGN DELEGATION**

This bill would require PEs and RAs to sign off on the delegated design work of sub-contractors with an approval without exception stamp. This would unjustly shift the liability on to the design professionals for work that they were not directly responsible for. *Currently in Senate Higher Education Committee.*

## 2007-8 CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER OFFICERS ELECTED

OFFICE	
President	Mike Hayes P.E.
1st Vice President	Vacant
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Don Geiser P.E.
Secretary	Carl Fahrenkrug P.E.
Treasurer	Tim Taber P.E. _____

### WEBSITE

To keep current right up to the event, go to our website at <http://www.cnype.org>

### THANK YOU

We continue to seek donations for your Chapter's Scholarship Fund. The fund is supported by contributions from firms and individuals who take an active interest in the future of our profession. Current contributors include:

- Associated Builders & Contractors
- Blasland, Bouck and Lee
- C&S Engineers Inc.
- Clough Harbour
- Klepper Hahn & Hyatt, PC
- Microwave Filter
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- Stearns & Wheler
- Syracuse Research Corporation.
- Syracuse Thermal Products
- Watkins Environmental Sciences, P.E., P.C.