



The Engineering Voice

American Engineering Alliance

Spring-Summer 2005

Chairperson's Report

The 10th Anniversary Celebration of the AEA's founding held on May 5, 2005 in Lower Manhattan was a resounding success. We had a great turnout from a good cross-section of the Engineering Community as well as representation from the political establishment. Mayor Bloomberg sent a representative from his administration to convey his greetings and best wishes to AEA (see Mayor's letter below). Following the remarks by the Mayor's representative, Council Member Hiram Monserrate gave the attendees an update on the status of the "Infrastructure Proposal" legislation.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Francis J. Lombardi, PE, Chief Engineer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Mr. Lombardi gave a rousing presentation on the role of Engineering Leadership in delivering successful projects. We also gave the Cornerstone Award to George Golovchenko, PE for his many years of dedicated and unselfish service to the Profession. The evening closed with further "mingling" and networking. The atmosphere and mood of the evening was so congenial that our guests did not want to leave.

One of the highlights of the evening was Council Member Monserrate's report to the attendees on the status of AEA's Infrastructure Proposal. Currently, Councilmember Monserrate's office is drafting legislation that will turn into legislation our Infrastructure Proposal calling for a Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure. This legislation will be introduced into NY City Council on August 17, 2005. As soon as this happens, we will be mobilizing our colleagues in the Engineering and Architectural Community to support our legislative effort by calling, writing or e-mailing their respective Council Members as well as the Mayor. We will provide the contact information for our members and colleagues. Check our website for updates and alerts.

In addition to galvanizing support from the Engineering and Architectural Community, we will also try to enlist the support of other stakeholders from professional and good government organizations to citizens groups and community boards. We will also try to get the media to profile our legislation and educate the public on the merits of our legislation. New York City desperately needs a Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure who will oversee the management of the entire infrastructure of the City.

If we can accomplish this dramatic change in the way the City manages its infrastructure, the citizens of this City will benefit greatly, and the Engineering Profession will finally emerge from the shadows and take its rightful place in the political establishment.

I would like to emphasize the importance of this AEA initiative. If we are successful in establishing the position of Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure for New York City we will literally transform the Engineering landscape. We will be pioneering something that this City and the rest of the country needs, namely the efficient and cost-effective management of the infrastructure by technically competent professionals. Once we demonstrate the efficacy of our Infrastructure Proposal, we can then push for its adoption by other cities across the nation. It might sound overly optimistic but our efforts here in New York can result in reversing the general trend among government entities of replacing technical professionals with technically illiterate managers.

AEA has put a lot of effort in implementing the Infrastructure Proposal. The board views this effort as key to achieving success in other areas. For this reason a disproportionate amount of resources have gone into it. Once we achieve this objective, the AEA will be perceived as a major player, not only by our sister societies but by the political establishment as well. This recognition and status will accelerate accomplishing our other objectives.

Although we have concentrated a lot of our energies on the Infrastructure Proposal, AEA has undertaken other initiatives and activities. AEA has continued joint actions with other Engineering Societies, continued to assist Engineers at risk, advocated for the proper use of Engineers and technicians by government entities, expanded efforts to engage and enlist Academia and forged alliances with other Engineering societies.

In the coming months AEA will continue pursuing its various initiatives and activities. As our resources expand, so too will our efforts to improve our Profession. If you share our dream of a unified and influential Profession, join us on this noble and exciting journey.

- Salvatore Galletta, P.E.

Adjutant's Call

What's Going On?

I know this is the question most of you are asking. Well actually quite a lot is going on, but we have not been able to keep you informed about it.

Of course the BIG story is the introduction of the AEA inspired Proposal for the Management of the New York City Infrastructure. Most of our time and effort has been in working with the other technical Societies and local the political establishment to get it adopted. Other news involves the necessary passing to new hands, of key responsibilities for the management of our Society and our "respectful revolution". Sal has covered the Proposal in his report. I will say a few words about two new developments in the running of our Society.

In order to keep a sharp edge on our operations, new leaders have to be constantly recruited to take over key functions that the "Old Guard" has been performing. This not only brings new ideas into the way things are done, but ensures that the vitality of our approach is maintained.

I'm reminded of a movie I once saw (Most of my philosophy comes from old movies!). There was an aging surgeon who insisted on continuing to perform operations. After all, it was true that the experience he accumulated over the years made him increasingly more qualified. There was also a brilliant young subordinate surgeon who thought the older one should no longer perform operations. Well, of course they end up together on an operating team for a very difficult surgery. The older surgeon was in charge, and it became obvious that his experience was key to the operation's success. However, the procedure took a long time, and it was crucial for the team to "close up" the patient quickly. The older surgeon turned to the younger one and said, "You close him up; you can do two stitches to my one." While the experience of the past is of incalculable value, we constantly need the vitality of youth to fully capitalize on this experience to successfully follow through on it. In this interest, the following two announcements are made.

New Editor in Chief

Beginning with the next newsletter, the *Engineering Voice* will be published under the guidance of a new Editor-in-Chief, David Berke, P.E. We are very happy and grateful to have him take over this

responsibility. He has already shown his dedication to serving the interests of our Profession by his participation in the activities of the New York City Technical Societies Infrastructure Advocacy (NYCTSIA), and specifically in promoting the Infrastructure proposal to members of the City's political establishment.

Dusting off the Web Site

Up until now, I have been handling (or rather "unhandling") the web site, and I guess for a dinosaur I didn't do very badly. However we cannot fully capitalize on this tool unless we put people in charge who are better capable of navigating in this area. Consequently, the Board has appointed Brian Gill, P.E. to revitalize the web site, and examine ways for it to serve the AEA's communications and member services interests.

ATTENTION - THE DIE IS CAST!

On Wednesday, August 17, 2005, at 12 Noon at the steps of City Hall in New York City there will be a public announcement and press conference. The introduction of a bill into the City Council will be announced, that amends the City Charter to require that there be a Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure who will be required to be a Licensed Engineer or Registered Architect. It is NECESSARY that anyone who can possible be at City Hall Park at that time, ATTEND this momentous event. This is what we have worked for, and have waited for. It is up to our rank and file to now take a small step, so that our Profession can take a giant one! BE THERE AND ENCOURAGE AS MANY OTHERS AS YOU CAN TO ALSO BE THERE! {A flyer is included with this newsletter}

- Lou Comunelli, P.E

WRITERS

We can improve the quality of our newsletter with either regular or ad hoc articles from our members. News items, essays, opinions, etc. are welcome.

Anyone interested should call Lou Comunelli at 718-636-9237 or 718-782-0268 or E-Mail a message to comunellil@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

AEA has 410 members, of which 117 are active members including 32 Life Members. Active members are those who paid their dues up to 2005.

Reminder letters are being sent to the members requesting to update their membership. Cooperation in the matter will be highly appreciated.

- Verghese Menachery

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of February 4, 2005, our account balances are as follows:

General Account	\$7,415.28
TELAF	<u>\$750.00</u>
Total	\$8,165.28

- Brian Gill, P.E.

LAPEL PINS / CLOTHING

Order your AEA Lapel Pins - \$8.00 ppd. Also available is a variety of clothing bearing the AEA Logo. Please use the Multi-Purpose Form to order merchandise.

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