



## **OCEAN COUNTY SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

A Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers

### **CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 24, 2011**

**PRESIDENT**

John M. Mele, PE

The previous meeting was held at Charlie Brown's Steakhouse in Lakewood, NJ on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Richard M. Cestone, PE

**ATTENDING OFFICERS:**

**TREASURER**

Patrick B. Lynam, PE

John M. Mele, PE

President

**SECRETARY**

Matthew M. Lunemann, PE

Richard M. Cestone, PE

Vice President

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Mark E. Reme, PE

Matthew M. Lunemann, PE

Secretary

William P. Delisky, PE

Director

**CHAPTER DIRECTOR**

William P. Delisky, PE

### **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & COMMITTEES**

**Treasurer's Report:** A Treasurer's Report was presented and approved by the membership.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting were presented and approved by the membership.

**Director's Report:** Director Delisky updated the Chapter on recent events as follows:

A committee meeting was held to discuss the organization of an NJSPE conference to be held in Atlantic City. The conference would be planned for 2012 prior to the license renewal date in order to provide PE's with the necessary credit requirements. The committee is looking for help to plan this conference. Anyone interested in helping to plan the conference was encouraged to contact Director Delisky.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

MATHCOUNTS was held on February 12, 2011 at Ocean County College. Many volunteers were on hand to help proctor the students and grade the exams. President Mele thanked everyone for their help with special thanks to Bob Burdick for running the event. President Mele congratulated William Allen Middle School for winning for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and also Christa McAuliffe Middle School (2<sup>nd</sup> place from Jackson Twp.), Toms River Intermediate South (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), and Toms River Intermediate North (4<sup>th</sup> by one point). Anyone interested in the results was asked to speak with President Mele following the meeting. It was further noted that 8 of the top 10 students came from William Allen Middle School.

The membership directory for the Monmouth County Society of Professional Engineers (MCSPE) was forwarded to the January meeting attendees, in the format discussed at that meeting, in an effort to increase involvement and revive that chapter. Members were encouraged to provide Secretary Lunemann with more current information they were aware of for any of those MCSPE members listed, so he can update the OCSPE/MCSPE records and reconnect with those members. President Mele thanked Mr. Bob McCarthy of D.W. Smith Associates for providing several helpful suggestions after receiving the directory.

President Mele informed the attendees that, as discussed at the January OCSPE meeting, the OCSPE has begun outreach efforts to MCSPE members. Special thanks to Mr. John Keating of Birdsall Services Group for volunteering his time to prepare address labels for the mass mailing to be sent out shortly. The membership was reminded that a joint meeting with the MCSPE has been planned for May 25<sup>th</sup> with a presentation by the Monmouth County Engineer.

The NJSPE Awards nominations review meeting was postponed to March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm in Trenton. OCSPE nominees were Maser Consulting for the NJSPE Private Practice Professional Development Award and Matt Lunemann for the NJSPE Outstanding Young PE/EIT Award.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Mele stated that verbal confirmation was received last Friday from Mrs. Sradock with the NJ State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors that tonight's program was likely to be approved for 2 continuing professional competency (CPC) credits at the next State Board meeting. Certificates would be sent out to the attendees after the meeting by David Sonner (tonight's presenter). Members were asked to please print their names clearly on the attendance sheet.

If anyone is interested in becoming an officer for the 2011-2012 year, they are encouraged to let President Mele or any one of the officers know. Nominations will be presented in April, with voting in May. Officers will be installed at the June meeting.

The April meeting will be with the Ocean County Engineer on April 28<sup>th</sup>. A similar meeting with the Monmouth County Engineer has been confirmed for May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Secretary Lunemann provided an update on the NJSPE Young Engineers Committee. The committee held their first meeting in January and was looking into the possibility of forming student chapters and creating a social event for young engineers. One of the main goals of the committee is to increase young engineer membership in NJSPE. A brief discussion was also held on ways to entice new members to attend chapter meetings. The Mercer County Chapter has a policy in place where first-time attendees/members are free.

The possibility of implementing a similar policy of a discounted rate for new members was discussed by the OCSPE officers via email. The issue will be discussed further and considering over the next few months. Attendees were encouraged to provide their thoughts on the idea or any other ideas they have to increase membership and meeting attendance.

President Mele stated that the OCSPE officers, along with most engineers around the state, have received many advertisements for continuing education courses and seminars from numerous sources. On several instances, the officers have exchanged emails regarding whether or not to forward these advertisements onto the membership. While some of them are from legitimate institutions, other groups sending out the advertisements were not familiar to the officers. It was the officers' decision that these emails would not be forwarded to the membership, since the OCSPE will be providing our own courses and opportunities for credit.

Also, the time necessary to verify the courses' legitimacy and answer questions on the courses would be significant and at no benefit to our organization. The officers also worried that by forwarding these emails to the membership that the OCSPE emails would be viewed as junk mail and deleted.

The attendees were asked to weigh in on the matter, and all were in agreement that these ads should not be forwarded to the membership at large. Vice President Cestone encouraged the attendees to be wary of courses offered if they didn't recognize the provider and to look into the courses, since some state that they provide continuing education credits but have actually not been approved.

## **PROGRAM**

Mr. David Sonner provided a presentation on SmartVent foundation flood vent systems. The FEMA standards for openings in foundation walls and enclosures, flood damage material requirements, and floodplain management elevations were also discussed in detail. A summary of some of the presentation is provided below:

Installing openings in foundations can bring homes up to code and result in lower flood insurance rates. Retrofitting was also possible to provide significant savings. Both crawl space and single family homes need to be vented, along with multi-family homes, garages, permanent sheds, and townhomes (required on 2 sides). Detached accessories were still viewed as an enclosure. Manufactured homes with skirting and backfilled stem wall foundations do not require venting.

For floodplain management and construction the NFIP Regulations Section 60.3 apply. In order to be enclosure compliant, the structure should have sufficient and adequate openings in A-zones and breakaway walls in V-zones. Vents were required to relieve hydrostatic pressure during a flood event, and venting is required by code, by NFIP, and by principles of good floodplain management.

Windows, garage door gaps, doors without openings, and air vents just under floor level (unless also meeting requirements of flood vents) are not considered openings. Vents must be on at least two different walls and be left open permanently and disabled from closing. The NFIP requires the bottom of openings to be no higher than one foot above grade, with the elevation certificate (FEMA) requires them to be within one foot above adjacent grade.

Non-engineered openings were also explained, e.g. grates, louvers, grills, sideways cinderblocks. For these openings, the net open area must be measured and not the total area of the opening. These non-engineered openings should provide one square inch per 1 square foot of enclosed area. Stacked units count as a single unit. Debris blockage is common with these openings.

Engineered openings are designed and certified for performance and are used as an alternative to the 1 in<sup>2</sup> to 1 ft<sup>2</sup> requirement. The certification was based on computations (TB-1, ASCE 24, & FEMA Technical Bulletin #1 from August 2008). Engineered openings had a 3-inch minimum dimension. Mr. Sonner recommended that everyone should verify the certification of the engineered opening, since many are not fully or properly certified. Engineered openings must automatically allow floodwater into and out of the vent and must be saltwater resistant.

Engineered openings should be used since fewer are needed and they offer a more attractive design. In New Orleans, Smart Vent did a job with Extreme Home Makeover on a house and a church. As a result of using Smart Vent foundation flood vent systems, \$4000 per year was saved in insurance premiums, with a 94% reduction on the house by placing the vents 1-foot

above the BFE and a 95% reduction on the church. Smart Vent has dual action vents and special vents for garages and many other products.

Townships can be rated to reduce flood insurance to all residents through the Community Rating System. Attendees were encouraged to attend the NJ Association of Floodplain Managers meeting, as this meeting was good for networking and keeping up-to-date on the latest in floodplain management.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We extend our thanks to Mr. David Sonner for an outstanding presentation. We further extend our thanks and congratulations to Sue Rissmiller for winning the 33/33/33 raffle. Sue won \$40 and donated \$20 back to the scholarship fund. As a result, a total of \$60 was added to the Alex Duque Scholarship account from this month's raffle.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew M. Lunemann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Matthew M. Lunemann, P.E.  
Secretary