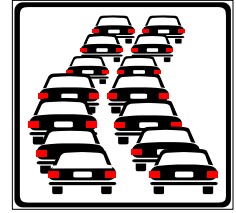




NYSATE

Section 10 Newsletter

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President - Karen Taylor

Vice President - Adam Levine

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Nancy O'Connell Pat Brower

Judith Peter Janine Parks

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EOY Luncheon

On February 23, 2007 over 80 people gathered at the Timber Point Country Club to honor Gary Gentile, our 2007 Engineer of the Year. The food was very good, but the roasting of Gary was the highlight of the lunch. President Karen Taylor gave a State of the Section address. Bill Thornewell, Treasurer, missed his cue for the financial report so State Director Margaret Conklin had to summarize the report. Remember, "We brought some money in, we spent some, and we had some left over." Lisa Weiss, Kent Edwards, and Eileen Peters spoke about their experiences with Gary as a Region 10 Landscape Architect. Lesson learned: Don't listen to Gary when he tells you to "Eat berries, they are good." Cyndie Laikowski, Don Gatz, and Don Pagel brought the roasting to a more personal level, talking about how Gary is a gentle man who many count on everyday as a co-worker and friend. If that wasn't messy enough, we were almost brought to tears by Gary's two daughters, Kerri and Tracey. Then to tie it all up, John Bugler joined in on the roast to tell the story of Gary's evolution from

college student to Region 10's

Landscape Architect. It's all Lady Byrd Johnson's doing!!! Gary is one of three finalists at this year's conference in Binghamton! Best of luck, Gary... bring home the Statewide Engineer of the Year.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ed Donovan who will receive an award from the American Society of Civil Engineers Long Island Branch on May 17 at the Westbury Manor. Ed is the recipient of the inaugural "Individual Achievement Award" being presented by the Long Island Branch.

Scholarships

Every year NYSATE Section 10 solicits applications for our Members/Dependent Scholarship Program. Dependent scholarships are available for children/wards of qualified members of NYSATE in this local section for high school seniors or graduates under the age of 25 enrolled in an accredited college for the Fall 2007 semester.

We are pleased to announce that Section 10 will be awarding 16 Dependent Scholarships. Selection was based on scholastic achievements, community involvement, and other merits. Congratulations and best wishes from NYSATE to all of the 2007 Scholarship winners.

A special congratulations to our Bragg Scholarship winner, Timothy Peters. This scholarship is given to a student pursuing a career in Engineering. It was established in honor of Frederick E. Bragg, a former NYSATE member in Section 2 (Utica). At the time of Fred's death in 1982 at the young age of 45, the State Board of Directors was setting up a scholarship program. Because Fred championed the cause, the highest honor was named for him. Each year, each Section of NYSATE gives out the Frederick E. Bragg Memorial Scholarship Award in memory of a great man who cared so much about the future... our children!

2007 NYSATE Dependent Scholarship Winners

Kemi Aiyedun, Musa Al Haj Ahmad, Shana Bhattacharya, William Brudi, Vipin Chamakkala, Herbert Glass, Stephanie Gonzales, Danielle Jedlicka, Kraig Leuschner, Nicole Lewis, Kevin Murphy, Jessica Peters, Timothy Peters, Randall Reissig, Goldie Shaarbafan, and Sherri Shaarbafan.

Training

Section 10 is committed to helping our Engineers and Landscape Architects obtain their Continuing Education Credits (CEUs). Since January, Section 10 has held several classes in both Region 10 and Region 11. We are committed to getting more classes in the coming months.

For more information, or if you have a suggestion for a class, please call Margaret Conklin (631-952-6929), Janine Parks (631-420-4270), or Adam Levine (718-482-4588).

Adopt-A-Spot

Section 10 would like to thank the following people for helping make our Memorial Garden behind the State Office Building in Region 10 look so nice for so many people to share: Gary Gentile, Karen Meyer, Pat Brower, Pat Audinot, Margaret Conklin, Thomas Geiger, John Meehan, Karen Taylor, Vicky Puzio, and Michael Riccardi.

Sunshine Committee

You may have received a get well note from your friends here in Section 10 if you were ill or had surgery. Or you may have received a savings bond for the birth of your child. These get well wishes, as well as condolences on the passing of a loved one arrive from your NYSATE Section 10 friends through the Sunshine Committee. If you know of a colleague who is a NYSATE member and is in the hospital, had a child, or lost a loved one, please contact Pat Audinot at 631-952-6632 or e-mail her at paudinot@dot.state.ny.us so that she can send a get well wish, congratulations, or condolences on behalf of all of our Section 10 members.

Suggestion Box

There is a suggestion box located on the fifth floor of the Hauppauge State Office Building under the NYSATE Section 10 bulletin board. If you have any suggestions on training classes, an idea for an outing, or news about a section member, please take a minute to inform us through the suggestion box. If you do not work in the Hauppauge State Office Building, speak with Nancy O'Connell in NYMTC, Judith Peter or Adam Levine in Region 11, or

Michael Geiger at Republic Airport.

Plowing The Roads

Do you believe everything you see on TV? Do you really think a bleach blonde can talk to a bottle of Fantastic? Of course not! So why would people believe that an SUV can race around in five feet of snow then stop on a dime? Perhaps it's because those TV commercials feature an SUV in a beautiful open field with a professional car driver - which is a far cry from driving on the Long Island Expressway (LIE) with 160,000 other drivers.

I can't help but think that those misleading SUV TV commercials influence the drivers of several SUVs and trucks that attempted to drive in between a huge plowing operation on the LIE. That's right, I actually witnessed not one, but several different SUVs and pick-up trucks trying to squeeze themselves in between a formation of four plows that weigh 56,000 pounds each. What were they thinking?

Our women and men of the Transportation Maintenance Group were hard at work on March 16 beginning at 4:00 am and continuing through until the wee hours of March 17. They were doing their best to sand, salt, and push the snow from all of our state roads during the St. Patrick's Day storm. What these plow operators are required to do during their cycle of plowing is nothing short of amazing. Not only are they operating the plow to remove inches of snow while they are spreading over 540 pounds of salt/sand over each lane mile, they are also remaining alert to all the obstacles along the roadway. Guide rails, sign posts, mail boxes, cars (both parked and disabled), PEOPLE, and many other small objects have to be skillfully avoided by

the driver of the 56,000 pound truck. With expert precision, the plow operator must clear the roads from shoulder to shoulder without taking any objects out.

All this is done by one person.

Imagine sitting in the driver's seat, high up in the cab of an immense pick-up truck loaded with a dashboard full of gauges. The truck is a two-wing plow, which means that in addition to the front plow, the truck has two "smaller" plows, one on each side. You can feel the truck's massive strength; its vast weight and powerful engine enables it to cut through the snow like a boat through water. In fact, when sitting in the truck, the snow actually looks quite like water bouncing off the bow of a boat. The snow takes on a wave-like shape as it is pushed from the front plow to the wings, and from the wing plow to the side of the road.

If anyone has seen our echelon plowing operation in action on the LIE, you have witnessed the best of the best! In order to completely clear the LIE in one pass, six or seven plows are required; that's right, six to seven! In a tightly choreographed brigade, the platoon of trucks span the width of the LIE, each truck lined up directly behind of the wing of the truck in front of them. The plow truck closest to the median barrier pushes the snow from the left shoulder over to the right. The truck picks up that snow, plus the snow in the left lane and pushes it to the right. And so on. Each subsequent truck clears their lane as well as passes the snow to the truck on their right. The last truck in the echelon series is the strongest. It must push the weight of all the accumulated snow from all the lanes onto the right shoulder.

This colossal and meticulous operation requires

tremendous precision and expertise. It is very impressive to behold how these women and men must work so closely together to ensure that the LIE and the other state roads on Long Island are safely cleared for you, me, and the public. Talk to one of the DOT snow plow operators and you'll find out that they take their job very seriously. They have to! They know that they are helping to protect people's safety and that hundreds of thousands of drivers are depending on them. They must work to clear the roads so people can get to the grocery store to buy bread and milk then settle into their cozy homes. But the DOT plow operators will continue to work clearing the roads for the next rush hour period. When they're finally through, they'll go home and either thank their spouse or child or good neighbor for shoveling them out, or once again be the last person on the block to begin shoveling their own driveway.

All of this, and still SUV drivers think they can squeeze past them and prance through the snow, like they see on the TV commercials. Sorry, but the LIE and the other roads are not an open field to play on. Someone needs to educate them... 4 wheel drive

doesn't stop any better than 2 wheel drive.

Being members of NYSATE we are supposed to educate each other on transportation issues. Let's all try to remember that it is our responsibility to drive safely and to conduct ourselves properly on the roads every day, but especially during weather related conditions. And please, let's help educate each other, our families, and our friends. Let's spread the word about the challenges the snow plow operators face and how they need lots of room to work safely. Quite simply, the best place to drive during a snow storm is 300 feet BEHIND a snow plow operation.

There are so many good, dedicated people at DOT, but this time, my hat is off to the women and men who clear our roadways for the benefit of all of us. I for one am very proud to work with what can best be described as the most dedicated, talented, amazing people. You are greatly appreciated!!!