



# NYSATE NEWS

New York State Association of Transportation  
Engineers - Section 11

January 2009

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**by Harry White**

So, Christmas is over. While some of us are a little poorer financially, I hope that we are all a whole lot richer for sharing the holiday with our friends and family. Once again, the holidays did not disappoint.

My two older kids only wanted one thing this Christmas. For 7 months, all I heard about was a hand held video gaming system called the 'Nintendo DS'. The hints started dropping about July. "Everybody has a Nintendo DS on the bus," they would both lament. They mentioned it so often, they even shortened up the name to two succinct syllables: DS. "Everyone has a DS and they are so cool that they are the coolest things on the planet." Sure. "It's too bad we don't have a DS - like everyone else." Too bad, right. "We would really like to have a DS. I hope we get a DS. If someone loved us they would get us a DS. DS, DS, DS....." OK, I made the last one up, but it's not that far off from the not-so-subtle suggestions we were getting on an hourly basis come November.

This was the Holy Grail of Christmas 2008. It was the equivalent to Ralphie's Red Rider BB gun - only more annoying. Well, two DS systems showed up on Christmas morning. After much screaming and jumping, they began a marathon session of video gaming. Nothing could stand between them and their video gaming happiness. They showed stamina that would have made Lance Armstrong wither. They loved their DS.

So what did I trip over first thing on the morning of December 26<sup>th</sup>? You guessed it - The DS. So I got a stubbed toe, and my kid got no DS for a day. There was crying, both for the lost DS and for the sore toe.

What's the point of all this? Nothing. I'm just complaining. I hope you enjoyed the story. But even if you didn't, fear not! We have a lot coming up for you this year in NYSATE. We have selected our Engineer of the Year, to be announced officially at the dinner meeting scheduled for February. The Annual NYSATE Conference this year is in a beautiful location, and should prove to be a fantastic venue. Plus, there is going to be an overnight trip somewhere. If you have a suggestion for the upcoming year, let me know - we always want your suggestions. This is YOUR organization - Participate!

## **STATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**by Steve Riley**

The State Directors recently met on September 27- 28, 2008 at the Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, (Cattaraugus "you can't get there from here" County), New York in which the Board approved the site for the 2009 NYSATE Annual Technical Conference - Conference 69 which is being hosted by Section 6. Conference 69 will be held June 2-5, 2009. For more Conference 69 info, check the NYSATE Conference website:

[www.nysate.org/conference/index.htm](http://www.nysate.org/conference/index.htm)

We have made our final Conference site selection for Conference 70: the Desmond Hotel

in Albany to be held from May 18 - 21, 2010. All our Conference Committees are active but we can still use your help. See Becky Gibson or me if you are interested in volunteering. We are highlighting the Capital District, our theme being **“Heritage and Innovation”**, with technical and guest tours planned throughout the Tri-City area. Check out our Conference 70 Booth and Hospitality Room at Conference 69.

The next scheduled State Board of Director’s meeting is January 9-10, 2009 in Albany.

## **SECTION 11 - 2009 ENGINEER OF THE YEAR**

**by Steve Riley**

It is with great honor and pleasure that Section 11 announces its 2009 Engineer of the Year:

**Ms. Cathy Nusca**

Cathy graduated with a B.S. Civil Engineering from the University of Rhode Island and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of New York. She is currently a CE II working in the Design Quality Assurance Bureau.

Cathy has been an active NYSATE member for over fifteen years and we are privileged to have her as a dedicated member in Section 11. She has held the office of Local Section Director for two terms and has been the Section 11 Treasurer since 2006. Cathy is also active working on several other Section 11 committees which include: Annual Summer Picnic Committee, Section 11 Annual Technical Seminar Day and the Committee to Establish the Dom Catalfamo Scholarship Fund. She is also Section 11's NYSATE Annual Technical Conference Chairwoman for Conference 70's Exhibitor Committee in which we are hosting in 2010.

Cathy is also very active in her community, beginning with her membership at St. Paul’s

Episcopal Church where she is the coordinator of the weekly Coffee Hour and the Annual Christmas Bazaar. Continuing the Christmas theme, Cathy has helped supply Christmas gifts for a local family in her community as well as volunteering for Toys for Tots for many years.

For the past fifteen years, Cathy has been the coordinator of the Annual John Ublacker Memorial Bowling Tournament.

As a member of Quilt North, a local quilting club, Cathy has made quilts for various charities including Caring Together - a support group for ovarian cancer survivors.

Finally, Cathy has been a blood and Pheresis donor - donating more than 6 gallons of blood, participated in the Watervliet Pop Warner fundraisers, and a volunteer for the local High School Student Ambassador Program.

On a personal note, Cathy is married to her husband Joe and has two stepchildren, Joey (16) and Alexis (9). Cathy enjoys spending her free time vacationing with her family and socializing with her close friends and relatives.

**CONGRATULATIONS** Cathy, Section 11 2009 Engineer of the Year and good luck in the Statewide EOY nominations.

## **NYSATE 28th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

**by Jim Flynn**

With snow abound and winter here, it’s the perfect time to think about hitting the links. This year’s tourney will be at Eagle Crest Golf Course in early June. As usual, it will be Callaway scores with a shotgun start. There will also be plenty of food, drink and prizes. Mark your calendar for some fun, sun and good shots. For more information contact Jim Flynn at 485-9117.

## **2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**by Steve Riley**

The 2009 Annual Conference - Conference 69 is being hosted by Section 6 from June 2 - 5, 2009 at the Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, New York. Their theme is “**GOING GREEN ON THE TRANSPORTATION SCENE**”. We will be hosting a booth in the exhibitors’ area promoting our Conference - Conference 70 which is in 2010. We need your help to make our Conference successful. There are still openings on several Committees. See me or Becky Gibson, Assistant Conference Chairwoman to sign up.

## **2009 CONFERENCE DELEGATE SELECTION**

**by Cathy Nusca**

Since the selection process used last year was such a success we will use the same procedure at the February dinner meeting to select the 2009 Conference Delegates. If you want to be a delegate this year fill out the enclosed coupon and submit it to your Section Director by **COB February 1, 2009**. Late submittals will not be considered. You qualify as an at-large delegate if:

- Are an active member
- Have been a member of Section 11 for the preceding year
- Have paid dues to Section 11 for the current year (2009)
- Have not been a delegate within the last 10 years

and submit a coupon (*see bottom of page 4 for the coupon*), your name will be put in the drawing at the dinner meeting. If you’re not present at the meeting, you will be notified if your name is drawn.

To help you decide whether or not you want to be a delegate here’s some information on the

2009 Annual Conference. It’s being hosted by Section 6 and will be held on June 2- 5 at the Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY (about 2 hr. south of Buffalo). No cost information is currently available but you can check the NYSATE Website at [www.nysate.org](http://www.nysate.org) for the latest information.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

**by Dave Woodin**

In 2008, a record \$3375 in scholarships was awarded at the annual picnic to eight deserving students that are either high school seniors or full time college undergraduates. It also marked the most applications ever received (21).

In an effort to attract more applicants, the format was modified slightly to provide one award that was determined via a random drawing. The other seven awards were merit based, taking into consideration the student’s GPA, class rank, and SAT/ACT Board scores. The random drawing award was limited to those applicants that did not win one of the merit awards.

In 2009, there will be considerably less money awarded as last year’s funds included prize money from a trivia contest at Conference 67.

Applications for the scholarships in 2009 will be available in **early March**. The date is being pushed back a few weeks as we would like to solicit input from the membership as to how the scholarships should be awarded. For example, some Sections base it strictly on academics while others use a random drawing or a mix of academics and random drawings. Also, if the awards are to be merit based, then what specific criteria should be evaluated and how should it be weighted?

Submit your suggestions to me by Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Educational Committee will review them.

# **NYSATE Winter Dinner Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2009**

**5:00 pm Cocktail Hour  
6:00 pm Dinner**

**Turf Tavern  
40 Mohawk Avenue  
Scotia, NY  
(518)393-3671**

**Last day to purchase tickets: Friday, January 30, 2009**

**Ticket Price: \$15.00 NYSATE Members \$22.00 Non-Members**

**See Your Section Director for Tickets!  
Retirees: Call Harry Bartik at (518)864-5847**

- \* **Engineer of the Year Presentation - Cathy Nusca**
- \* **State of the Association Address by Harry White**
- \* **Delegate Selection - NYSATE Conference 69**
- \* **Two Member Resolutions to be Voted:**
  1. **Withdraw \$2,000 from the Reserve Fund to subsidize the Summer Bus Trip**
  2. **Withdraw \$7,500 from the Reserve Fund to fund the 2010 Annual NYSATE Conference**
- \* **Technical Presentation (1 PDH) - REPLACEMENT OF WANTAGH STATE PARKWAY OVER SLOOP CHANNEL**

**by Louis Recchia, NYSDOT Main Office Foundations & Construction Unit**

***YES! Enter Me In the Drawing to Attend NYSATE Conference 69!***

I understand that I must register for the Conference and stay at least two nights at a Conference hotel to qualify for the full subsidy. Subsidy will be distributed once the required receipts are presented upon return from the Conference.

**Date: Tuesday, June 2—Friday, June 5, 2009**

**Location: Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, NY**

**Subsidy Amount: *TBD based on Cost of Conference Attendance***

**Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Work Location: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Work Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_**