



5th DIMENSION



NYSATE NOTES

By: **Scott M. Johnson**

After another successful training event, followed by our annual picnic, I just want to remind everyone we are always open to ideas for training. If you are aware of a speaker(s) that would be interesting to a wide range of our members, and can also create a program which qualifies for Professional Development Hours (PDHs), please let me or any of our board members know. We would be happy to look into it deeper. Education for our members is one of the main reasons for the existence of our association

CLIMATE CHANGE and ENERGY CORNER

By: **Andy Brayman**

One of our Region 5 co-workers brought a potentially scary occurrence to my attention, and I figured this was the appropriate venue to share information of this type. Apparently there are reports that some compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs can start a fire when they fail at the end of their lifetime. I was unaware of this, so I did a little researching on the internet. Our co-worker and other people have reported flames and smoke, including a strong odor, accompanying a popping sound as the light failed. Understandably, this has caused concern that these incidences could lead to house fires. However, from what I could glean from the internet, there is no fire hazard associated with a CFL dying. Typically, CFLs will slowly dim overtime or begin to flicker or experience a change in light color. In rare instances, the end can come more abruptly and will occur as described by our co-worker, except there are no flames; the light observed is attributed to arcing electricity within the light bulb. However, according to numerous sources, including those in government and industry, this is actually how it should happen, and is an indication that fire is being avoided, not caused. I know that sounds a little counterintuitive, and possibly conspiratorial, but it is explained that this mechanism is allowing excess heat to escape after failure of the bulb circuitry. The plastic base of the bulb may appear discolored, deformed or even charred, but the plastic in all brands is certified fire retardant. In cases of defective or improperly installed bulbs, they can overheat and fail earlier than expected, but it does not appear that there is a significant threat of fire associated with these circumstances. CFLs can be used in recessed fixtures, but should never be used in enclosed recessed fixtures. This prevents circulation of air around the bulb which can lead to overheating. Also, using a dimmer switch with bulbs not designed to accommodate this function can cause problems as well. As with any product it is important to follow directions, and if one appears to catch fire immediately shut off the power and e-mail cfl@energystar.org to report the incident. Also contact the manufacturer about a refund or replacement. To ensure that you are using a safe brand of bulb, look for the "UL" on the base of the bulb, or simply buy Energy Star® labeled bulbs. You can look online for additional early signs that a CFL is reaching the end of its life and for proper installation procedures.

Energy saving tips:

- Unplug battery chargers when the batteries are fully charged or the chargers are not in use.¹;
- When buying air conditioners, look for a high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The current minimum is 13 SEER for central air conditioners.¹;
- If you have torchiere fixtures with halogen lamps consider replacing them with compact fluorescent torchieres/lights. Compact fluorescent lights use 60-80% less energy, can produce more light (lumens) and do not get as hot as halogen lamps.¹;
- Select windows with air leakage ratings of 0.3 cubic feet per minute or less.¹;
- Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline.¹

¹ Tip taken from U.S. Department of Energy website

CONSTRUCTION

By: **Leon Pieczynski**

The Construction Group continues to motor on during this hot, hazy summer. Many long term projects will be completed this year, most notably the new section of US 219, along with several short duration jobs. Work will begin soon on several projects, among them: I-190 Bridges/ Lockport Rd. & CSX Railroad, Rt. 240 at Pilgers Curve, and Rt. 62 Town of Eden Streetscape.

Some of our seasonal TCI's will begin to return to school in mid August, the remaining will continue working on projects as needed by the contracts.

Construction Supervisor John Wind, received a Certificate of Recognition from the New York State Employee Assistance Program for his work as an EAP Coordinator with DOT – Region 5. Karen Dunn, Program Manager for EAP, sited John's dedication and support to the program.

Congratulations to Kathryn Murray who gave birth to a baby boy on July 20, 2011. Ctac Avery arrived at 10:58 PM and weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. and is 20" long.

We welcome back Kim Zielinski who was on our injured reserve list for a short time. Kim's back and ready to answer all your Site Manager questions.

Our condolences go out to Andy Cieslica and his family on the loss of his father.

DESIGN

By: Beverly Hoch

Congratulations to our participants in the Corporate Challenge held at Delaware Park on June 9th. Special congratulations to our mixed team consisting of Paula Leszak, Heather Langdon, Paul Gavin, and Brian Wzontek, which came in 18th place among 389 companies! That is an outstanding achievement! Also, thanks to everyone who helped out to make it a fun event for the 16th year in a row.

Derek Brim, Sr. (SET) is one proud dad! His son, Derek, Jr., an Electrical Engineering Major, has received an award from the UB School of Engineering for research done on "Characterization of Batteries and Energy Storage Devices." Derek is also a wide receiver on the Buffalo Bulls football team.

Derek's daughter, Kendra Brim, has graduated from Colgate University with a degree in Political Science. She just completed a month long study in Western Australia on the Noongar Community in June. Kendra also has completed a distinguished four-year career as a member of the Colgate Raiders Women's basketball team.

We wish to extend congratulations to all employees who have recent graduates at all levels!

Design hopes the cards are stacked for Carm Pinzone (CE I), who has left for the West Coast to pursue his engineering career.

Denise Willard (ET) is "back in the saddle again," returning to work weeks after a horse riding injury.

Welcome to UB interns, Mithilesh Pait, Kelly Schuman and Udit Rastogi, currently assigned to the Structures Unit.

A new baby boy, Gavin Thomas, arrived on July 2nd to George Laundrie (CE I) and wife, Erin. Gavin weighed in at 7 lbs. 6.7 oz., and was 20.5" long. George recently transferred to Region 7 earlier this year to become the Assistant Resident Engineer at Clinton County Residency.

Condolences go out to recent retiree, Ruth Hazen (PET), whose mother, Vera, passed away in June.

Design Unit A (Sanjay Singh), Mark Castonguay's squad, received a DQAB Process Quality Award for PIN 5811.24 – PMI – NY Route 950A. KUDOS!

Enjoy your summer!!!

EXECUTIVE

By: Matt Balling

The official date of the 2011 *United Way Day of Caring* is Wednesday, August 17, 2011. All Region 5 employees are invited to participate. During the last three years we have partnered with the Little Portion Friary, a privately operated homeless shelter on Main Street in Buffalo. The entire operation of the shelter is run by volunteers, and the shelter does not accept any government funding. The work we have done in the past has included general property maintenance, interior cleaning, painting, landscaping, and minor construction. We're particularly interested this year to see if we can add some volunteers to our team that have experience with drywall and plastering, masonry/pointing repair, and gutter repairs. The Day of Caring is tightly organized to make the volunteer experience fulfilling, and the contribution of your time is very rewarding. It includes free breakfast and lunch, and transportation from HSBC Arena to the job site and back. If you are interested please contact Matt Balling at 847-3209.

FLEET ADMINISTRATION

By: Diane Geiger

Last writing it was all the rain.... Who knew that would ever turn in to all the sun and heat!!! Florida has nothing on NYS these days.... Enjoy it, it will all be over too soon---

We'd like to thank Mark Hageman for giving us light in the hallway here at Fleet. It's been dark for so long, now it looks as though the heavens have opened and we're seeing the light! And then there were the new one-handled faucets in the bathrooms, a nice update.

As everyone is well aware, personnel and money is tight in our agency. Fleet is doing it's best to keep our customers up and running. Doing more with less like all are experiencing.

You know you're getting old when.... A hardware/home store flyer is exciting..... no, really....

Enjoy the vacations – stay healthy and safe.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

By: Scott M. Johnson

At the end of April, I sent out this message to all Region 5 employees. *“I am requesting that ALL users review files in their Program Areas folders on the “O” drive and your own “R” drive. Please look for items which are no longer needed and can be deleted. Personal pictures, music, etc should be written to CD or memory stick and removed. Please review old files in particular for need. Frequently files are created and never managed after creation. We have many folders of files created by people who have retired. Are the files still needed, have they been copied elsewhere? In addition, all capital project files belong in ProjectWise, not on the “O” or “R” drives.”* As of this writing our further review indicates that very little cleanup has taken place. Since server space continues to be at a premium I am once again requesting that everyone start looking at the folders under your area of responsibility and start doing cleanup. This message was also in the last newsletter. In the near future, I will have my staff begin doing the work that isn't being done by the data owners

In the past I have written and e-mailed about the importance of using the Help Desk. Once again, I wish to remind everyone that any time you need services from our group you must call the help desk. It is our tracking and scheduling mechanism. Your cooperation would be very much appreciated. This applies to all computer hardware, software and peripheral devices, Department issued cell phones, Blackberries. It also applies to phones at 100 Seneca Street, but not in the residencies.

PLANNING & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

By: Lisa Kepner

Congratulations are in order to Heather Langdon for passing the P. E. exam and to Paul Gavin and Chris Renn who both received a REEP Award for their excellent collaboration on providing the necessary economic stimulus projects information for Region 5 to the Main Office.

Now that the weather has warmed up considerably, this is a great opportunity for everyone to get out and get some fresh air and exercise. There are many bike paths in western New York and you can obtain a copy of the latest “Bicycle Route Guide” from Greg Szewczyk, in our office, by calling 847-3614 or by e-mailing him.

On a personal note, we wish a Happy Birthday to Rich Jablonski who just celebrated his birthday this month and to our August birthday people, Heather Langdon and Kurt Felgemacher.

OPERATIONS

By: Patty Fedele

Charlie Morgante and his wife Jackie are proud to announce that their daughter Rachel recently graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati in May with a degree in Economics. Rachel will be working for the EPA in Cincinnati doing budget analyses.

Congratulations to Mark Kopera, Supervisor of Bus Safety Inspectors, and his wife Sandra on becoming first time grandparents! Their oldest son Daniel and his wife Megan who reside in Louisville, Kentucky became the proud parents of Henry Michael Kopera, born on 6/29/11 at 11:43 p.m. & weighed in at 8 lbs 4 oz.

Jordan Bailey, Regional Pavement Marking Manager, recently won his **SECOND** weight loss competition contest at his local gym! If you remember, just last fall he won the competition by losing an astounding 75 lbs in 3 months, winning a prize of a 42" HD TV. This time around for the spring competition at Fitness 19 in Depew, he lost an additional 52 lbs in 3 months, taking home the first prize of an I-Pad 2! Congratulations Jordan, you're an inspiration to us all!

BRIDGE MAINTENANCE

By: Jill Bricklemeyer

Bridge Maintenance would like to say hello to summer and what a hot one at that. As the heat continues we want to keep worker safety in mind. Remember to drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated. OSHA recommends that you drink at least 1 pint of water per hour, avoid drinks with caffeine in them and wear lightweight, light colored, loose fitting clothing.

We would like to congratulate Corey Kandefer, BRSI in Hamburg and his wife Tara on the birth of their second daughter Haley born on July 5th. Haley joins her big sister Emma.

SOUTH ERIE RESIDENCY

By: Cheryl Weishaupt

The summer, at least July, has proved to be a 'sizzler' as is the atmosphere surrounding the current contract negotiations with our state unions. After the votes are counted, we should know by mid-August where we stand – time will tell. I know what the topic of conversation will be at this year's CSEA picnic (July 29th)!

Crews are working hard on summer projects: mowing, patching, milling/filling, maintaining equipment and the buildings, building a greenhouse at our Collins facility, accepting salt deliveries (yes, salt), removing trees, and the list goes on. This has been especially difficult with recent temperatures in the 90's.

Enjoy what remains of the summer; snow will be here before you know it. Remember, safety first.