

## NEW YORK INTERAGENCY ENGINEERING COUNCIL

4th Qtr, 2009

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### Workshops

ITX Corporation, a leading provider of continuing architectural and engineering workshops is partnering with the NYIEC. They will organize and provide a complete half day High Performance Building workshop, including 5 AIA Sustainable Design HSW Learning Units, at no charge to us if an NYIEC member agency can provide a meeting space for the workshop. Please contact Joseph Macaluso at 212 803 3289 if you can locate a suitable location.

### Annual Luncheon

Don't ask how, but we were able to once again secure the historic Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street, in Manhattan for this year's Annual Luncheon (October 21st). If you haven't been there yet you're in for a treat. The club dates back to 1863. Its members were instrumental in bringing down "Boss" Tweed ring, and raised funds to outfit American soldiers in several conflicts. Fifteen U.S. presidents and seven senators have been members of the club. The building is spectacular. To find out more about the club visit their web site at [www.unionleagueclub.org](http://www.unionleagueclub.org). This event is free of charge for up to eight staff members of each NYIEC member agency. Have a suggestion for a keynote speaker? Let us know.

### Quarterly Meetings

Our Quarterly meeting was held on January 20th at

### Happy 2010

Welcome, to the belated Fourth Quarter 2009, NYIEC Newsletter! On that note a belated wish for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010. Maybe the delay is a good thing, a procrastinator's justification; now at least we can see glimmers of hope for the economy. Money is starting to flow, and projects are starting to inch forward. In these times organizations like NYIEC are especially important to find and share ways to squeeze every ounce from limited budgets to get the most project for the buck. So... get involved! Attend the Tech Conference (seven Continuing Education Units in one day), attend the Quarterly Meetings (they're not limited to delegates), attend the Luncheon (great speaker, great meal), contribute an article to the NYIEC Newsletter (or you'll be stuck with more of my meanderings), Looking forward to seeing more of you the next decade of 2010

Joe Macaluso  
Chairman NYIEC

### Technical Conference

Planning for the Technical Conference has already started. By popular demand it will be held at the same location as last year, the City University Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan. The date is set, June 23rd. Prior to the next quarterly meeting, there will be a special meeting, maybe conference call, on February 24th to start on preparations in earnest. The theme of the conference will be Construction Planning & Management. If you would like to recommend a potential speaker with a topic that addresses the theme please let us know, and ask the potential presenter submit a bio and abstract on the proposed presentation. We're always looking for volunteers to help out. Interested? Contact Joe Macaluso, at 212 803-3289.

For those who have not yet attended, the conference is an all day event that includes a breakfast buffet, and lunch. Typically there are seven presenters, plus a keynote speaker; each presentation includes AIA HSW continuing education credits, a CD with the presentations is also included for future reference. We expect to be able to hold the fee at \$125 for NYIEC member agencies, and \$150 for all others, a true bargain, but hurry as the lunch facility is limited to 140 guests.

### Initiatives at the Port Authority of NY & NJ

Jim Starace, Deputy Director Port Authority Engineering /Construction, spoke of recent Port Authority Construction Management enhancements and new initiatives, developed, in part, as a result of feed back from New York City and New Jersey based General Contractors Associations. The primary purpose of the discussions with the contracting community was to look at ways to improve contract administrative procedures and

the Port Authority of NY & NJ offices in Manhattan. We typically start off the meeting with a one hour presentation on a topic of interest. Jim Starace, gave a great presentation this time on Port Authority initiatives (see the Meeting Presentation article). After the meeting, as we typically do, we enjoyed lunch at a nearby eatery for an hour of casual constructive construction conversation. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 24th, at the offices of Empire State Development Corporation, 633 Third Avenue. Delegates, if you can not make it please assign, someone from your staff to take your place. .

compensation provisions so as to better share risk with bidders and as a result to improve the overall bidding environment for PA projects.

Some of the changes included: A provision for the reduction of retainage at the substantial completion of a project, material escalation provisions for concrete and steel (asphalt escalation is already a part of the standard PA specification), a revised provision to handle unforeseen conditions encountered during construction and administrative procedures to streamline and expedite the change order and closeout process.

Enhancements have also been implemented in the process by which the PA audits time and material (cost plus fee) work. Some of these changes include approving the contractors payment for higher than prevailing wages, if justified and approved in advance, streamlining of the standard contract requirements associated with the rental rate blue book provisions, an improved summary of the audit findings that are returned to the contractors and a requirement for the contractor to respond to PA audit findings within 30 days of their receipt of the report. The PA is also analyzing the possibility of the use of securities in lieu of conventional cash retainage.

Other initiatives include a greater use of Primavera Expedition software for the tracking of contractor submittals, non-conformance issues and requests for information (RFI's), use of electronic submittals, a more streamlined record drawing (as-built) process, the future use of BIM (Building information modeling) and new requirements for the recycling of construction materials and control of diesel emissions from construction equipment.

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