

The District of Columbia
Professional Engineer

NEWS BRIEF Fall 2008

A Publication of the District of Columbia Society of Professional Engineers



President's Message

By Ahmet Zeytinci, PhD, PE

Welcome back to another exciting year for Professional Engineers in the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the DCSPE Board Members for their contributions and support.

Today, one of the challenging issues confronting Professional Engineering in the United States is the "**Industry exemption**". The primary purpose of licensure in any professional area, be it medicine or engineering, is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. The Industrial Exemption allows engineers to practice in an industrial setting without the accountability afforded by licensure. This issue dates back to the founding of NSPE by Dr. D. B. Steinman over 70 years ago. I believe that the elimination of the industrial exemption should be a goal for Professional Engineering.

Consider the following:

Graduate level education is recognized as essential to the practice of every profession with the exception of Professional Engineering and has been a thorn in our side all these years together with that of the Industry Exemption. Our colleagues in ASCE are promoting a Body of Knowledge (BOK) for the practice of engineering that requires a minimum of 30 credits beyond the Baccalaureate Degree. The NCEES supports

this initiative and is deliberating how and when such a requirement would be part of the license exams. Making this a part of the licensure requirement cannot be adequately addressed without considering the problems that persist due to the industry exemption. Just this past month a near catastrophic failure of the explosion of an oxygen container on a trans-oceanic airliner is an excellent example of the need for the elimination of the industry exemption.

I am looking forward to serving you and working with you. I will be counting on your help and feedback as we plan and implement a round-table to discuss the pros and cons of the need for formal education beyond the Baccalaureate degree and the problems associated with the industry exemption..

Please consider joining us at a joint meeting with the Washington Section of the **ASME** and the Washington Alumni Chapter of **Tau Beta Pi** at a reception at the Embassy of Estonia.

RECEPTION EMBASSY OF ESTONIA

Thursday, September 11, 2008

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Embassy of Estonia

2131 Massachusetts Avenue NW

Washington, D.C.

Cost: \$30.00 per person

(See back of NEWS Brief for Details.)

Estonia is a democratic parliamentary republic divided into fifteen counties. The capital and largest city is Tallinn. With 1.3 million inhabitants, it is one of the smallest members of the European Union.

Estonia regained its independence in August 1991. It has since embarked on a rapid program of social and economic reform. Today, the country has gained recognition for its economic freedom, its adaptation of new technologies and has one of the world's fastest growing economies.

Estonia has participated among the NATO forces in Afghanistan. At the reception we will have a chance to learn more about Estonia and it's activity in areas such as energy and commerce.

Our host is Ambassador Vaino Reinart. Early in his career he had been a research engineer at the Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics of the Estonian Academy of Sciences. He has been in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1992 and served as Ambassador to the European Union before coming to Washington.

The evening will include a buffet reception with a chance to talk with Embassy staff, fellow engineers, and guests.

The Buffet

Veal loin with black trumpet mushroom sauce

Vegetable pasta risotto

Aragula salad with cherry tomatoes and cucumber gazpacho

Dessert

*Chocolate coffee mousse and pineapple tart
Complementary wine, beer, and soft drinks.*

To register for this event, call:

**ASME Washington Section
Executive Secretary, Andrea Gironda at
(703) 489-9503 or e-mail her at
agironda@verizon.net by September 5.**

Directions: The Embassy of Estonia is located at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and 22nd Street NW, at the intersection with Florida Avenue. If you take Metro, it's a 3-block walk from the Dupont Circle Station on the Red Line. Take the north exit from the station and walk west on Q Street.

ESTONIA



DCSPE 2008-2009 Officers

President: Ahmet Zeytinci, PhD, PE
Past President: Andy Russo, PE, FNSPE
President Elect: Tony N dum, PE
Vice President: Samuel G. Wilson, PE
Treasurer: Randolph A. Petersen, PE, FNSPE
Secretary: Paul Roegge, PE
Practice Section Chairman:
PEC: Howard C. Gibbs, PE, FNSPE
PEG: Eric Cole, EIT
PEHE: Pradeep Behera, PhD, PE
PEI: John M. Wall, PE, FNSPE
PEPP: Robert L. Hershey, PhD, PE, FNSPE
DCSPE 3010 Legation St NW, Washington, DC 20015.
Margaret Brach ES, Fax: 202-686-3791