

Message from the Chair



Former chairs Noubar Takessian, P.Eng. (left), and Changiz Sadr, P.Eng., FEC (centre), pose with Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng. (right) at the certificate presentation at the Armenian Community Centre in Willowdale on November 19, 2011.

As my first term as Chair comes to a close, I am pleased to report that the 2011-2012 season has been an eventful one for the Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter. In all, we have had two certificate presentations (one last November, the other in March), nine seminars, and countless executive and committee meetings.

At press time, the executive, under the capable, experienced leadership of Certificate Presentation (CP)/Annual General Meeting (AGM) Chair Gary Marcarian, P.Eng., is planning the March 10 combo of CP and AGM. Not far from all of our minds is the excitement from the last licence presentation, held November 19 at the Armenian Community Centre. That evening, we presented licences to more than 40 new professional engineers. We had our fun that evening as well as stand-up comedian and engineering graduate Craig Fay told jokes, and DJ Bill Wilson provided music for the dance.

Meanwhile, Education Chair Maziyar Bolour was busy building equipment that was used for our second annual bridge crushing competition held on March 25 at the Newnham Campus of Seneca College – more on this in an upcoming edition of The Chronicle. As you probably have read in this space, during the season Bolour has been instrumental in carrying out an ambitious program that includes a mentorship drive, and reaching out to local schools.

In the past 12 months, thanks to the team of Bogdan Damjanovic, P.Eng., Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, EIT, and Tun Tun Lin, we planned a total of 11 seminars and workshops, two of which had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. The programs ran the gamut from work-life balance to the 2011 Japanese earthquake to volunteering in the community. Internally, a new reporting system was implemented by the executive at the February 2012 meeting granting the programs committee more flexibility in selecting future seminars, workshops and industry tours.

50TH ANNIVERSARY 1962-2012

Rajiv Svirastava, P.Eng., Government Liaison Chair, is hard at work planning another political-oriented event for engineers in our community. Svirastava is also instrumental in the upcoming East-Central Academy and Congress, designed to discuss matters of a political nature. Additionally, last September, in the closing weeks of the provincial election, his committee hosted an early-morning breakfast with the Willowdale candidates, which focusing on engineering issues in the community. Svirastava, along with yours truly, also attended the PEO government-liaison conference in September as well as various local political fundraising events.

Our message has also been taken into cyberspace. In order to attract a younger demographic to our cause and to our ranks, committee Chair Mammad Horriyat, P.Eng., has launched a new Facebook page, which I am hoping will stimulate interest and dialogue among local engineers in the community. Also during the 2011-2012 season, the committee formerly known as Website committee was renamed Electronics Media Committee, to better reflect the growing responsibilities of the group.

The awards committee continued with its strong presence this season as well. Headed by Ali Nabili, P.Eng., the committee is presently trying to assess who qualifies for PEO's volunteer pins, awarding those with five years or more of volunteer service to the PEO. We awarded members with two different types of certificates of appreciation – one on behalf of PEO's Regional Councillors Committee, and the other on behalf of the chapter executive. Additionally a new award system celebrating volunteerism in engineering is presently in the works.

Finally, I would be remiss if I failed to mention that we are turning 50 years old this year. It was in 1962 the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter was founded and I'm proud to say that it's still going strong in 2012! Check this newsletter periodically for the events we will have in store for our 50th anniversary.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have suggestions or concerns.

Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.
Chair, Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter
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The Central PEO Penta Congress, an all-chapter, all-regional congress held at PEO head office in Willowdale/Thornhill on January 28, 2012, attracted delegates from across Ontario. Pictured above are delegates lined up to add their voices to the discussion.

THE CHRONICLE

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Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Executive

Chair: Nanda Lwin, **Vice Chair:** Vimbai Munyai, **Past Chair:** Changiz Sadr, **Treasurer:** Mehrangiz Kafi, **Secretary:** Souheila Bardakji, **Certificate Presentation/Annual General Meeting:** Gary Marcarian, **Government Liaison:** Rajiv Srivastava, **Education:** Mazyar Bolour, **Programs:** Bogdan Damjanovic, **Engineers-in-Training:** Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, **Publications:** Ariel Agor, **Electronic Media:** Mammad Horriyat, **Awards:** Ali Nabili

The Chronicle publishes articles of interest to the membership of the Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter. The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the council of PEO, nor does PEO assume responsibility for the opinions expressed herein.

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Certificate Presentation/Annual General Meeting Chair Gary Marcarian, P.Eng., celebrates the holiday season at the annual volunteer party of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter at Miller Tavern in North York on December 9, 2011.

50TH ANNIVERSARY 1962-2012



Publications Chair Ariel Agor, P.Eng. (left), enjoys the holiday season at the annual volunteer party of the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter at Miller Tavern in North York on December 9, 2011. He is joined by volunteer Tun Lin (centre), and Electronics Media Chair Mammad Horriyat, P.Eng. (right).



The certificate presentation held at the Armenian Community Centre in Willowdale on November 19, 2011 attracted newly-minted engineers and chapter bigwigs alike. Pictured above are Electronics Media Chair Mammad Horriyat, P.Eng. (left), and Vice Chair Vimbai Munyukwi, P.Eng. (right).



Engineers-in-Training Chair Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, EIT, and volunteer Tun Tun Lin are all smiles at the certificate presentation held at the Armenian Community Centre in Willowdale on November 19, 2011. The event attracted approximately 100 people.

Be part of the fun.

Log onto www.wtpeo.org and find out how you can volunteer with the **Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter**. Here is just one opportunity where you can help:

Education Committee – If you like to volunteer for the mentorship program, the annual Bridge Crushing Competition or talking to local high schools about engineering, we could use your help! Please contact us at education@wtpeo.org

Volunteer Opportunity: Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter Mentorship Program

The Willowdale/Thornhill Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) Chapter is currently looking for volunteers for its mentorship program. This program matches engineering interns (EIT) or non-PEO members who are seeking to obtain their licences in the near future with licensed professional engineers (P.Eng.), providing valuable knowledge, experience, and networking opportunities, related to the profession.

In this program, mentees are paired with and receive direct mentorship with PEO's licensed members. The mentorship program can be used for credit or service hours for learning or volunteer requirements. And the benefits are immense! Gain confidence, and technical know-how, while expanding your networks, learning about other cultures, and making new friends.

Mentoring can be completed practically anywhere, as long as frequent communication can be established between mentor and mentee. The assignments and tasks for each mentor will vary depending on the skills and interests of the mentee and the needs of the mentee.

We are looking for motivated and energetic mentors to apply and we look forward to receiving applications and welcoming new mentors into this program.

Mentors can influence the leaders of tomorrow, ensure the success of our profession and learn about some of the challenges younger engineers face today. Mentees can learn what it takes to become leaders through experience and the guidance of their mentor.

Participation is the key. We request that you commit to working with your mentor/mentee for at least six months, and encourage a 12-month mentoring relationship. It is recommended that mentors and mentees have contact by email and/or phone at least once every two weeks and meet in person once a month.

Sign up to participate. Filling out an application will assist the Mentorship/Education Committee in matching each mentor and mentee appropriately. If you are interested in participating as a mentor or a mentee, please complete the application and return via email to education@wtpeo.org.

To download the application form, please log on to:
<http://www.willowdalethornhill.peo.on.ca/mentors.html>

Be part of the fun.

Log onto www.wtpeo.org and find out how you can volunteer with the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter. Here is just one opportunity where you can help:

Publications Committee – If you like to write or edit or take photos, we could use your help! Please contact us at publication@wtpeo.org



PEO enforcement officer Marisa Sterling, P.Eng., along with PEO Vice-President (Appointed) Thomas Chong, P.Eng., and PEO East Central Councillor Denis Carlos, P.Eng., joke around with Certificate Presentation/Annual General Meeting Chair Gary Marcarian, P.Eng. at the certificate presentation on November 19, 2011 at the Armenian Community Centre in Willowdale.

Seminars.

Watch your e-mail for our monthly seminars and workshops on topics of interest to professional engineers.

Parting Shots...



Jeff McIntyre of George Brown College's Mechanical Engineering Technology program was on hand for a seminar entitled *The Changing Role of Ontario's Colleges in the Innovation Economy* held on November 22, 2011 at Fairview Library. From left to right: McIntyre, Programs Committee Chair Bogdan Damjanovic, P.Eng.; Secretary Souheila Bardakji, P.Eng.; Tun Tun Lin; Chair Nanda Lwin, P.Eng., and Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, EIT.

The second licence certificate presentation for 2011 was held on November 19 at the Armenian Community Centre. The ceremony was hosted by Certificate Presentations Chair **Gary Marcarian, P.Eng.**, and featured comedian **Craig Fay**. Approximately 100 people attended the ceremony.

The first certificate presentation for 2012 is slated to be held on March 10 at the same venue. Expected to make an appearance are PEO President **David Adams, P.Eng.**, and Don Valley East MPP **Michael Coteau**.

Government Liaison Chair **Rajiv Srivastava, P.Eng.**, has been named a facilitator for the upcoming PEO East-Central Government Liaison Academy and Congress. The event will feature MPP's and will be held on April 21 at PEO head office. At press time, invited MPPs were **Lorenzo Berardinetti** (Scarborough Southwest), **Helena Jaczek** (Oak Ridges-Markham), and **Peter Shurman** (Thornhill).

Past Chair **Changiz Sadr, P.Eng.**, will receive an Ontario Volunteer Service Award

for his 10 years of service to the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter. Sadr will be recognized on March 26 in Scarborough. This is his third Ontario Volunteer Service Award since 2009.

Spearheaded by Education Chair **Maziyar Bolour, P.Eng.**, the Willowdale/Thornhill PEO Chapter held its second annual bridge crushing competition at the Newnham Campus of Seneca College on March 24. The contest was open to secondary-school students from Grades 9 to 11. More on the competition in future editions of The Chronicle.

Aung Ko Ko Kyaw, EIT, was named Acting Engineers-in-Training (EIT) Chair at the January 10 meeting at Fairview Library, after the resignation of **Mohammad Abachi, EIT**.

Chair **Nanda Lwin, P.Eng.**, attended the Central PEO Penta Congress, an all-chapter, all-regional congress held at PEO head office in Willowdale/Thornhill on January 28. Lwin welcomed all delegates to the Willowdale/Thornhill community.