



## MINUTES OF THE 86TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2008—CHAIR:  
W.K. BILANSKI, PhD, P.ENG.

THE 86TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, Professional Engineers Ontario, was held at the Windsor Hilton Hotel, Windsor, Ontario, on Saturday, May 10, 2008. The meeting was called to order by President W.K. Bilanski, PhD, P.Eng.

Before declaring the business meeting open, the president thanked the participants and attendees of Friday's Engineering and Public Policy Conference, calling the session both informative and worthwhile. He said to continue the discussion on public policy and its relationship with cross-border issues, Ray Mantha, P.Eng., assistant deputy minister, provincial highways management, ministry of transportation, would be the keynote speaker at the AGM luncheon.

President Bilanski congratulated the 13 exceptional individuals who were recognized for their significant lifetime contributions to the engineering profession in Ontario at the 2008 Order of Honour gala on Friday evening.

The president reminded members that the 448th meeting of council would be held following the business meeting and the keynote luncheon.

President Bilanski then thanked the staff for all their assistance during the past year. He also thanked his wife, who acted as his secretary and assisted with behind-the-scenes work.

### INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL

As the first order of business, the president introduced the members of the 2007-2008 council.

The Executive Committee: Walter Bilanski, president; David Adams, P.Eng., president-elect; Diane Freeman, P.Eng., vice president (elected); John Vieth, P.Eng., vice president (appointed); Pat Quinn, P.Eng., past president; Catherine Redden

(absent), lieutenant governor appointee; and Cliff Knox, P.Eng., eastern region councillor. The remaining members of council: Councillors-at-Large Márta Ecsedi, P.Eng., Peter DeVita, P.Eng., and Richard Weldon, P.Eng.; Regional Councillors David Euler, P.Eng., and Seimer Tsang, P.Eng. (Northern Region); Nick Colucci, P.Eng., and Cliff Knox (Eastern Region); Corneliu Chisu, P.Eng., and Thomas Chong, P.Eng. (East Central Region); Royden Fraser, PhD, P.Eng., and John Vieth, P.Eng. (Western Region); and Phil Maka, P.Eng., and Colin Moore, P.Eng. (West Central Region); Lieutenant Governor-in-Council Appointees Santosh Gupta, PhD, P.Eng., Henry Hill, Richard Hilton, P.Eng. (absent), Vassilios (Bill) Kossta, James Lee, PhD, P.Eng., Catherine Redden (absent), Chris Roney, P.Eng., Tarsem Lal Sharma, PhD, P.Eng., Rakesh Shreewastav, P.Eng., Derek Wilson, P.Eng. (absent), and James Witmer, C.E.T.

PEO's directors to Engineers Canada were introduced: Pat Quinn, and former presidents Bob Goodings, P.Eng., and Kenneth McMartin, P.Eng.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

President Bilanski then referred to the order of business for the meeting as outlined in section 22 of Bylaw No. 1 and in the agenda distributed at the meeting.

### IN MEMORIAM

The president then asked all present to stand for a moment of silence to remember the members of the association who had passed away since the last annual general meeting.

### ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

President Bilanski referred the members to the minutes of the 2007 meeting, which had been published in the March/April 2008 issue of *Engineering Dimensions* and distributed at the meeting.

It was moved by John Vieth and seconded by Rakesh Shreewastav that the minutes of the 2007 meeting be adopted.

Motion carried

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The president then introduced representatives from provincial and national engineering associations from across the country:

- Janet Benjamin, P.Eng., president, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia;
- Rick Kullman, P.Eng., president-elect, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan;
- Dennis Paddock, P.Eng., executive director and registrar, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan;
- Michael Monette, P.Eng., president and chair, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE); and
- Chantal Guay, P.Eng., chief executive officer, and Kenneth McMartin, past president, Engineers Canada.

Throughout the morning, they spoke about current issues. Written reports from some of the associations were included in the AGM registration package and were also available at the publications desk in the foyer.

During the Engineers Canada presentation, it was announced that Engineers Canada has established a fellowship designation to recognize individuals who have greatly contributed to Engineers Canada, the constituent members and the profession. In appreciation for President Bilanski's contributions to the profession during the past 50 years, it was announced he would be honoured with the Engineers Canada fellowship designation. The presentation of the citation and pin would be in Quebec City at Engineers Canada's annual meeting.

# AGM MINUTES

## BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The president reminded the members that one member submission had been received, concerning inconsistencies in some of the publicity materials PEO published on behalf of candidates during the 2007 election campaign. The subject of the submission was the publication in chapter newsletters of candidates' statements in a way that might have been unclear to some members.

### Submission No. 1

The submission read: "That PEO investigate fully the extent of the problem, and the cause of the problem, and the steps to be taken to ensure that future elections are not tainted by similar shortcomings."

**Action/progress:** Following discussion at the AGM, council immediately appointed the chair of the Regional Councillors Committee to form and chair a task force of regional councillors to inquire into the matters raised in the submission and to report to council.

The questions to be addressed were:

- What was the scope of the irregularities?
- Who might have been affected by them?
- Was it possible to assess the impact on the outcome of the election?
- Were there any feasible remedies?
- What were the possible root causes of the irregularities?
- What could be done to prevent similar irregularities in the future?

The task force collected and analyzed the evidence from the candidates directly impacted by the situation and the appropriate PEO staff. Materials reviewed included correspondence, typeset newsletter inserts, and 2007 election ballot count results, by region.

The task force reported its findings to council in September 2007:

- Typeset inserts of some chapter newsletters initially distributed by PEO contained some inconsistencies; however, PEO staff did take timely action to correct them;
- There was no evidence the inconsistencies in the published material resulted from any deliberate act or intention to bias the election results for or against any candidate;
- The evidence suggested only a correlation between the format in which the affected

candidates submitted their statements and the inconsistencies that occurred; and

- It was unlikely the inconsistencies in the published text affected the outcome of the elections.

In the interest of preventing the inconsistencies identified in its inquiry, the task force recommended several changes to the election procedures, some of which had already been implemented in the voting procedures that council had approved for 2008.

Council did approve the recommendations of the task force for some changes in the procedures and directed the CEO/registrar to implement the changes prior to the 2008 council election. Supplementary material from candidates is no longer compiled for regional inserts to chapter newsletters, and PEO does not do electronic mailings of additional candidate material. In 2008, candidates' platforms were published in *Engineering Dimensions* and accompanied the ballots. Additional candidate material, as specified in the publicity procedures, was published on the PEO website, or a link was provided on the PEO site to candidates' own websites. These changes did prevent a recurrence of the problems experienced in 2007.

The president concluded that there is always an opportunity to make the process even clearer, since PEO's election publicity procedures are reviewed and approved by council each year, and lessons learned each year in administering the election are routinely incorporated into the procedures the next year.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The president referred to the auditor's report and the financial statements, which appeared in the March/April 2008 issue of *Engineering Dimensions* and were included in the 2007 Annual Report distributed as part of the registration package for the meeting.

He also referred to the booklet entitled *Questions and Answers on PEO Operations*, included in the registration package. This booklet was compiled to address questions on all aspects of PEO's operations.

It was moved by Thomas Chong and seconded by Seimer Tsang that the financial statements as presented, be received.

Motion carried

## APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

It was moved by Cliff Knox and seconded by Tarsem Lal Sharma that the firm of Deloitte and Touche be appointed as auditors of the association for the 2008 financial year.

Motion carried

## SUBMISSIONS FROM THE MEMBERS

The president stated the procedures for submissions to the AGM, noting that the vote of members at the meeting on any submission is not binding on council and that all would be considered further by the Executive Committee and/or council.

President Bilanski then stated that, as noted in section 17 of By-law No. 1, which relates to the association's administrative affairs, PEO's annual meeting is held for the following purposes:

1. to lay before members reports of the association's council and committees;
2. to inform members of matters relating to the affairs of the association; and
3. to ascertain the views of the members present at the meeting on matters relating to the affairs of the association.

He said submissions presented to the annual general meeting serve as a vehicle for members in attendance to express their views on matters related to the affairs of the association, and that a document to assist members in making submissions is available on the PEO website.

He said members making submissions have been requested to describe clearly the issues being addressed, and to indicate how their submission advances the objects of the Ontario *Professional Engineers Act*.

The president encouraged members not to wait for the AGM to bring issues to council, noting issues may be submitted at any time through the policy development process, using an issue identification form that is available from PEO's manager of policy, or by asking that an item be put on the council agenda. Items for an agenda should be submitted at least three weeks prior to the council meeting. The council meeting schedule is published on the website.

He said council considers the issues raised at the AGM important and will address submissions expeditiously.

### Submission No. 1—transparent election process

“Whereas the hastily issued memorandum addressed to all candidates by PEO on February 28, 2008 under the heading ‘PEO Elections—Rules regarding the Removal, Sorting and Counting of Ballots’ at the final moments of counting votes does not reflect a free, fair and transparent election process and can be construed by members and the public at large as an unfair process.

Therefore be it submitted that PEO shall develop a clear election process before the next council elections, which shall not only fulfill the requirement of a free, fair and transparent election process but shall also demonstrate the concept of a free, fair and transparent election process as enshrined in the democratic constitution of Canada to its members, the candidates seeking office and the public at large.”

Proposed by Raju Chander, P.Eng., seconded by Georg Kralik, P.Eng.

Raju Chander commented that the intention of the submission was not to cast questions on the election, but was to stress the transparency that should be part of any election process. He said it should be clear to candidates and the members at large that the election is really free, fair and transparent; while the results of the voting are correct in the 2008 election, the process of sorting, counting and the witnessing of this event were not transparent.

He said PEO should devise a process that is comparable with the process used by any union, or in provincial or city elections, including that the candidates or their representatives be able to see whether a ballot is valid and properly identified, and be able to keep a count. The current process does not allow PEO candidates to take away with them an unofficial count and PEO took an extraordinary amount of time to release the results.

During discussion, points raised included:

- Candidates or their representatives do not see every individual ballot as it is counted. However, candidates can be confident that with the current process the number coming out of any necessary recount would not be any different from the initial count because the process that the counters go through is extremely rigorous and very consistent. Often in public elections, a recount will produce fairly different numbers. If the association were to move in the direction of electronic balloting, only the results would be seen;
- The Alberta association has had similar voting turnouts to PEO—15 to 20 per cent—until they enabled electronic voting this year, when total participation went down to 9.5 per cent; 50 members voted by paper ballot. For PEO, the difficulty with electronic voting is that, as specified in the act, PEO must confirm bylaws by letter ballot sent by mail;
- The electoral process is not tainted, but it does not have the transparency and the simple aspects of a normal voting process that it should have. Attempts were made to stop observers from counting or seeing what was taking place at the table. The end result of an election might be fine, but the election process might not be. The association and

members should be much more concerned about this than they are;

- A Search and Election Committee now exists and is supposed to look at elections, take feedback, make valuable fixes and come back with a process to make the elections better. By a neutral committee looking at these problems, it can make decisions that will make the process work;
- PEO should get the paper process working properly first, before considering moving to electronic voting;
- For the bylaw confirmation, the invalid votes are 3.2 per cent of votes cast, which is higher than the percentage of invalid votes for the council election; and
- Council directed that a recount of the bylaw confirmation be done and the results were identical.

Upon a voting being called, the motion was carried

### Submission No. 2—scheduling of major PEO events

“Whereas PEO is a self-regulating body of active professional engineers who practise engineering, these professional engineers also volunteer their time to manage the self-regulating functions as per the *Professional Engineers Act*.

Whereas many of the volunteer engineers supporting chapter and PEO activities are full-time working professionals, which makes it difficult, if not impossible, for them to participate in activities conducted during weekdays.

Whereas current scheduling of PEO major activities, like conferences for the benefit of the volunteers, during working days is seriously hampering the participation of many working engineers and hence defeats the purpose.

Therefore be it submitted that PEO shall encourage and support the participation of working professional engineers by conducting major events on weekends. Only under exceptional circumstances, and sufficient advance notifications (not to be less than three months), shall the major events be conducted during weekdays.”

Proposed by Raju Chander, P.Eng., seconded by Georg Kralik, P.Eng.

Raju Chander commented that PEO is a self-regulating body mainly run by volunteers, who should be increased, solicited and accommodated as much as possible to encourage a constant flow of new volunteers.

PEO has to be proactive and knowledgeable of the current conditions, values and knowledge of working engineers, which can only be obtained by accommodating their need to make a living.

## [ AGM MINUTES ]

Georg Kralik stated that he considered the submission to be valid. Due to conditions at his firm, it had been very difficult for him to attend the AGM. He also had to use vacation days, and noted many of the delegates were likely in similar positions.

During discussion, points raised included:

- Engineers have demanding jobs and are also raising families, making it very difficult to get involved during the day at the PEO offices. Council should try to schedule activities after 5 p.m. on weekdays or on the weekends, so volunteers can sacrifice their personal time from their spouses instead of getting laid off from their jobs;
- The motion is meant to address the demographics of PEO's volunteer base. PEO needs to address this issue to get good representation on its committees, in its chapters and on its council;
- PEO is the licensing body for engineers, yet some of the biggest employers of engineers are not supporting their employees to come and govern the profession. PEO should reach out to some of these employers and make it clear the contribution their employees are making, and PEO's contribution to these employers' work;
- Almost every major event is conducted on a weekend. There may be an overlap on Friday evening and those outside of Toronto have to spend time travelling, but evening meetings usually start after 5 p.m. and there is lots of notice for daytime meetings;
- In the last two years several different functions have been held during working hours on weekdays or immediately after work, which is an issue for members who are more than an hour's drive from Toronto;
- Expecting industry to honour commitments to PEO is unrealistic, since there is the option of having these functions on weekends and after hours;
- Two groups need to be considered in this decision: members living close to both the Quebec and Manitoba borders, because it takes a lot of time for them to travel to any function in Toronto, and staff, who would be required to work an extra day over and above their normal work week;
- The median age of those attending this meeting is probably more than 50. PEO needs to

recognize that it has a problem with participation by younger engineers. It must be more flexible in terms of the time and location of different types of committee meetings;

- Managers who understand the importance of engineering and professional development should encourage their staff to attend this type of event, particularly since half of it was on Friday and half was on the weekend. PEO has to publicize, promote and get the idea out in the community that it is important for employee engineers to attend these events for the sake of the profession as well as for their employers;
- Engineers with children may have their weekends totally taken up with other activities, so scheduling events on Saturdays can be worse than during the week. This is a really difficult balancing act to try to accommodate the variety of individuals that PEO wants to empower to be a part of this association. While PEO strives to find a balance, it cannot be complacent on this issue and must continue to give consideration in organizing its schedules;
- PEO should give enough advance warning about events so that members are able to arrange their affairs and attend meetings;
- PEO should look at inclusiveness for its governance and its volunteers, and think long and hard on how to better involve its volunteers and allow them to achieve a balance in their lives while still fulfilling their need to volunteer; and
- Engineers have to teach employers how important they are, and that as professionals they have obligations such as upgrading their profession, attending meetings and learning.

In concluding the discussion, a member of the Windsor Chapter thanked everyone for attending the AGM and conference, and the members of the local chapter who had volunteered their time. He said it is important to thank volunteers for what they do. He also said that if somebody wants to be involved, they will be, regardless of when events are held. He reiterated the need to get employers to recognize that their employees who volunteer add value to the association, and should be encouraged and recognized for this. He suggested members at the AGM thank their employers for allowing them to come.

Upon a vote being called, the motion carried

President Bilanski noted as per the procedure for submissions, the matters discussed will be considered by the Executive Committee and council in the near future.

### ESSCO PRESIDENT INTRODUCTION

Before breaking for coffee, President Bilanski introduced Ruth-Anne Vanderwater, president, Engineering Student Societies' Council of Ontario (ESSCO), who thanked PEO for the invitation to attend the conference. She said ESSCO worked closely with PEO during the past year, participating in the Chapter Leaders Conference and the PEO Student Conference. In the upcoming year, PEO has been invited to ESSCO's AGM at Ryerson, and PEO's Student Conference will be held in the fall.

She concluded by saying PEO's work plan for 2008 included some items that students would be interested in having a voice in, and looked forward to working with PEO on these issues.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Bilanski commented that, as his term of office neared conclusion, he reflected on the progress the association had made over the past 12 months and would say there had been many significant accomplishments.

As he began his term, he had made a commitment to review the academic requirements for the licensing of professional engineers. Academically, no major changes have been made in the standards for regis-

tration in Ontario since PEO was founded, while other major professions have increased the length of their educational requirements. Both the European Union and the US are working toward requiring additional years of academic training to qualify as a professional engineer.

The Future of Engineering Education and Licensure Conference, held in June 2007, provided an opportunity to review the existing state of engineering education and the adequacy of the four-year undergraduate degree in preparing future engineers. It was also the first step in incorporating a plan to maintain the public's confidence in the profession and in PEO as its regulator.

He said that, during the year, potential economic hurdles were removed to encourage engineering graduates and newcomers to Canada to apply for licensure in Ontario. Under the Engineering Intern Training Financial Credit Program, graduates of engineering programs accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board and international engineering graduates with a bachelor of engineering or applied science may be eligible to apply for their P.Eng. licence at no cost.

Through its Government Liaison Program (GLP), PEO worked diligently during the year to increase its profile at Queen's Park. The second Engineering for Ontario Day reception provided an opportunity to participants in the GLP, council members and staff to interact with their provincial government representatives (including 10 ministers and 19 other MPPs from all major political parties) and to relate the importance of PEO's role in protecting the public interest.

Also, in 2007, the first Engineering and Public Policy Conference was staged, where panels of public policy experts representing academe and government offered suggestions and strategies on ways PEO can be seen as a positive force in the development of public policy.

More recently, he said, the membership had voted in favour of a small fee increase to assist the association in securing and owning new headquarters in Toronto.

On the other hand, President Bilanski said, there was so much more that could have been done.

For example, while he was pleased the membership had voted in favour of the fee increase, he was disappointed that council and the association had not presented a more unified stance on the issue. If progress is to be made on initiatives, divisiveness must not continue.

Also, he said, PEO's current governance makes it difficult for the president to get anything positive done, with the role of the president reduced to that of a figurehead.

The president then offered big-picture examples of where the association should focus its energy in the short term.

He said there must be a concerted effort to restore the value and relevance of the P.Eng. licence, with the first step being updating the education/registration requirements. Restoring the relevance to our licence would help to reverse the declining interest in licensure by our graduating students. Today, licensure application is the exception to the rule, which can be attributed, to some extent, to an exception clause in the *Professional Engineers Act* under which one professional engineer can supervise and take responsibility for the engineering work of many unlicensed people. PEO cannot operate effectively with this exception in place, he said.

President Bilanski said improving the value and relevance of the P.Eng. licence may also help to re-establish the high profile and accompanying salaries professional engineers once held, which compared favourably to those of doctors and lawyers.

In conclusion, President Bilanski said that over the past 35 years he had been elected on four occasions to lead the association, and he thanked the members for their continuous and loyal support. He said that after his first three times as

president, he had felt he had accomplished something for the betterment of the profession, and he had left the profession in better shape than he had found it. He said he hoped that in the years to come this term would be regarded in the same light, and he once again thanked the membership.

## PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING COUNCILLORS

President Bilanski thanked the members of the 2007-2008 council for their service to the profession during the past year.

In recognition of their service, he presented certificates, name badges and desk plaques to retiring members of council: Pat Quinn, Márta Escedi, Seimer Tsang and Thomas Chong.

## QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The president said the schedule allowed a few minutes to take questions from the floor. During discussion, the following comments were made:

- With reference to the earlier discussion concerning meetings and volunteer time, it was suggested that PEO look into ways other organizations communicate, such as using conference calls, video conferences, Internet conferences, etc.

In response, President-elect Adams said that at its upcoming workshop, council would be investigating various ways of communicating, including equipping councillors with computers.

The Alberta association has equipped councillors with computers and sends everything out electronically. They also do video conferencing and members can attend their annual meeting electronically from various centres around the province.

As PEO moves forward with the new building, there are plans to equip it with modern tools and wireless connections to facilitate communication;

- The chair of the Advisory Committee on Volunteers reported that the committee had initiated a number of subprojects, one of which is how to improve communications through the use of computer technology and the Internet. At present, the committee is developing ideas by practising with some of the technology.

A subcommittee is also working on ways to recognize volunteers and to encourage employers to have their employees participate by recognizing employers and educating them about the benefits of having their employees volunteer with PEO. The committee would be pleased to receive and consider the ideas of the members;

## AGM MINUTES

- Regarding the new building, the Building Committee had been debating about whether to have a utilitarian building or something special. After the results of the bylaw confirmation, it was decided to have a building that engineers could be proud of.

At the committee's last meeting, it was decided to look at certain areas of the city to see if there is something the association would be prepared to buy. Three different properties have been identified.

Once a site is found, a new building will be constructed. It is envisioned that besides offices, the building would have exhibition and auditorium space and a repository for the artifacts of the profession. It is envisioned the building will take into account energy, conservation and design and will raise the profile of engineering.

In response to the question as to whether council is in accord with this vision, it was stated there will never be a unanimous agreement in engineering on anything, but that there is a consensus on council that PEO should move forward;

- With reference to the survey done on a fair and transparent way of funding chapters, the subcommittee is now looking at the responses. A proposal would be presented at the next Regional Councillors Committee meeting, and go to the membership through the next round of regional congresses;
- In scheduling meetings, PEO should take into consideration dates of other events, such as Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, Easter, etc.;
- Thanks were expressed to council and staff for the conclusion of the building code issue with the government;
- The president of the BC association said the number one priority of its council is the importance of raising the profile of engineering and increasing the value of the engineering licence. While one possible benefit would be raising engineering salaries, more importantly, by raising the profile of engineering, the profession will help public safety, through raising the awareness of everyone to look to the engineering profession for policy and to solve problems with society;
- As part of the public policy program, the association is in the process of trying to set up a

"candidate college" in an attempt to get engineers elected into the legislature. It is envisioned the college would be held at PEO's offices; a syllabus has been outlined; and discussions are ongoing with the architects about running it jointly with them. Issues being looked at include how to run as a candidate and to support people in running. Talks have taken place with each of the political parties about some type of assistance, positioning and what they are looking for in candidates. The program is in the formulation stages, but as plans unfold, information will be available;

- The foundation of PEO is the Code of Ethics and definition of professional misconduct. At its last meeting, council approved major changes to the code with virtually no consultation. A show of hands was then requested, indicating many members present were unaware of the changes;
- In response to a question, it was stated that council has a policy to use qualifications-based selection when procuring professional services. When PEO put out a request for proposal (RFP) for expert witnesses and specifically required the bill-out rates of the submitters, it was trying to create a roster to cover all disciplines and have experts available as it needed them. It was pointed out that the RFP on the website did not say that and PEO should be sending consistent messages;
- Building officials have reported having difficulty enforcing the Ontario Building Code with respect to the court's decision on Bill 124. Because the building code has not been amended, some building officials are enforcing it the way it's written rather than as the judge ordered it to be interpreted;
- In response to the question of whether PEO is encouraging the Ontario government to actually change the code, it was stated that the building code had been effectively changed by virtue of the court decision. The issue for the building officials has to do with a table that had been part of the original building code and that is now effectively struck out. PEO and the Ontario Association of Architects have created and distributed a document to all building officials outlining precisely what the requirements are for engineers and architects to be involved in building design or general review of construction. A meeting is being arranged among the building officials, the architects and the engineers. A joint committee of the architects and engineers is also being established to sort out such issues;
- With reference to the industrial exception clause in the *Professional Engineers Act*, now that the association has a good relationship with the government, it should be able to get some action in that direction; and
- The iron ring is a symbol to many people that an individual is an engineer. Perhaps some arrangement could be made to tie the iron ring ceremony to licensing so this perception would be correct.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE 2008-2009 COUNCIL

The president asked the members continuing on the 2008-2009 council to stand and be recognized:

President David Adams; Vice President Diane Freeman; Past President Walter Bilanski; Appointed Councillors Santosh Gupta, Henry Hill, Richard Hilton (absent), Vassilios (Bill) Kossta, James Lee, Catherine Redden (absent), Chris Roney, Tarsem Lal Sharma, Rakesh Shreewastav, Derek Wilson (absent) and James Witmer; Councillors-at-Large Peter DeVita, John Vieth and Richard Weldon; Regional Councillors Cliff Knox and Nick Colucci (Eastern Region), Cornelius Chisu (East Central Region), Phil Maka and Colin Moore (West Central Region), Royden Fraser (Western Region), and David Euler (Northern Region).

New members of the 2008-2009 council were introduced: President-elect Catherine Karakatsanis, P.Eng.; Northern Region Councillor David Spacek, P.Eng.; East Central Region Councillor Denis Carlos, P.Eng.; Western

Region Councillor Len King, P.Eng.; and Lieutenant Governor Appointee Rebecca Huang, LLB.

## INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT

Past President Walter Bilanski then swore in David Adams as president for the 2008-2009 term and presented the gavel of office to him.

The president then presented Bilanski with a ceremonial gavel of office, a certificate of lifetime membership, a sculpture and a name badge as past president. He thanked him for his year as president and for his devotion to the profession over four terms in office.

## CLOSING REMARKS FROM DAVID ADAMS

President Adams thanked all the members of the association who had voted for him, with a substantial margin of victory in each of the five regions. With this broad support, he intended to make changes advocated in his platform. His proposed work plan had been included in the meeting package, and he urged everyone to bring forward their ideas on the proposals.

The president said activity does not guarantee success, and PEO must now concentrate on success. He said PEO's measure of success is derived from how well it protects the public and how well it recruits, prepares and measures practising engineers. For some years the association has not been doing well in its licensing of new graduates. The reason many exclude themselves from seeking licensure is because neither their employers nor the government insist they take responsibility for their work by obtaining a licence. He said some also feel the rigours of licensure do not apply in their field and many lean on the exception clauses in the act. This situation is unacceptable.

He said PEO needs direction and a new spirit of co-operation. He said he intended to strongly pursue the government on the exception issue and, hopefully, by way of either a regulation or an act change, PEO will make some headway.

He proposed the following for his term:

1. institute a multi-tiered licensing model that begins with students and progresses right through to the P.Eng.;
2. offer a meaningful, structured, knowledge-based internship program, buttressed by Wiki-style Internet mentors; and
3. work with the government to close the back doors to the practice of professional engineering, through new regulations or a change in the act.

He was also proposing to make all committees self-regulating, reporting directly through their chairs to an assigned councillor, who would accept responsibility of being the liaison with a particular committee. He said this would make councillors active participants in implementing the policies council sets.

He said council would be meeting six times in two-day sessions during his term to discuss his proposals and also to deal with many other issues as they come up.

The president said he and Kim Allen, P.Eng., PEO CEO/registrars, had developed a leadership agreement that would soon be published in *Engineering Dimensions*. This agreement defines how they will work with one another, encourage one another and bring together the whole staff, and the responsibilities of the CEO/registrars and the president.

He then commented specifically on the last item on his list of proposals: the establishment of an Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, outlining three reasons the centre is important.

1. It would enable PEO to directly impact future prosperity and job creation in Ontario;
2. It would assist political leaders in prioritizing actions to bring Ontario out of the economic doldrums we find ourselves in; and

3. Technical advice to government developed through the centre might generate new industries. PEO has to get close to government to find out what it wants done and what engineers can do to make that come to fruition. President Adams said that through this initiative, a new era for the profession that intentionally extends its reach beyond the provision of traditional engineering skills and service would be gained.

He concluded with a quotation from Shakespeare that expressed this position and attitude:

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;

Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries.

On such a full sea are we now afloat;  
And we must take the current when it serves,  
Or lose our ventures."

Before adjourning the meeting, the president took a few questions.

In response to a question, President Adams said he is concerned about the changes to the Code of Ethics, although a study has indicated a common desire that the Code of Ethics be enforceable. He said we all should have high ideals and that he is against removing any of them from the Code of Ethics.

The registrar added that the key policy change council passed was to make the Code of Ethics enforceable, which would involve making changes to the code so all the requirements are objective.

A comment was made that it is the removing of the ideals from the Code of Ethics that is the issue.

The president of OSPE said he applauded the proposal to ensure that those members of society who practise engineering recognize that there is a professional association and they should pursue licensure.

He said OSPE supports helping candidates for licensure learn about the process through its Centre for Professional Development and has a number of activities underway.

With reference to the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy, he said OSPE has working groups on technical issues up and running, and that there are opportunities through the coming year to bring these messages to the government. He said OSPE looks forward to working with PEO on such issues.

## ADJOURNMENT

The president then declared the meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m. Σ

Kim Allen, P.Eng.  
CEO/registrars