



Bahamas Society of Engineers
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

BAHAMAS SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1ST NOVEMBER, 2017

2016/2017 BOARD MEMBERS

President	DeCosta Bethel
Vice President	Wellington Neely
Treasurer	Zanda Bonamy
Secretary	Quincy Johnson
Directors	Remington Wilchombe, Quentin Knowles, Karen Myers-Rolle, Anton Taylor, Alban Smith, Carlos Palacios.
Immediate Past President	Melanie Roach

I believe that the BSE has achieved yet another active year and my gratitude is extended to the Board of Directors who once again supported this organization which I believe has the opportunity to make a real and positive difference in our community. At the last AGM, I paid tribute to our Administrator. This MUST be repeated this year as we are VERY fortunate to have her services and rapt attention to the requirements of the post. To the Board and Administrator, “Thank you for your continued support during this past year”.

During the year we have **a)** Further solidified our relationship with the Contractors and Architects, **b)** Increased our involvement with STEM **c)** Hosted two successful ‘Mix N Mingles.’ **d)** Continued our support and involvement with the Bahamas Bureau of Standards and Quality’. **e)** Continued our involvement with the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce ‘Energy & Environment’ committee. **f)** Continued our support of the Bahamas Engineers, Architects and

Allied Professionals' initiative. g) Held an interesting series of site visits and luncheon presentations

SUMMARY

Salient activities of the Bahamas Society of Engineers for the 2016/2017 operational period were:

1. **Strategic Plan:** More than two of our eleven meetings during this past year was spent on a review and revision of our strategic plan. This included our *Vision, Mission, Goals and Strategies* to achieve these goals. A copy is attached to this document.
2. **Local Engineering Involvement:** BSE supports local engineering and quality standards through its involvement with the *Bahamas Bureau of Standards and Quality*. Vice-President Eng. Wellington Neely and our Administrator are active members of standing committees.
3. **Continuing Professional Development:** Discussions on continuing professional development remain on-going and require a concerted effort to bring to fruition.
4. **Engineering work by non-Bahamians:** We continue to support the focus group '*Bahamas Engineers, Architects and Allied Professionals*' (**BEAAP**) in their efforts to urge the government to lend greater support toward ensuring that work involving the built environment in The Bahamas is performed by Bahamian professionals wherever possible.
5. **S.T.E.M. programmes and initiatives:**
 - a. **Bahamas Engineering and Technology Advancement (B.E.T.A.).** We were pleased to once again support this important initiative to the tune of one thousand dollars (**\$1,000**) which is rapidly growing and making a major difference toward exposing our youth to the exciting vocations within the **STEM** arena. This year the camp was held in Freeport our industrial capital. The six engineering disciplines including: *Aerospace/Mechanical, Biomedical, Chemical, Civil/Environmental, Computer science/Web development, Electrical* offer excellent insights into the technological arena. This highly successful camp accommodated seventy five students and our Administrator, Eng. LaToya Johnson was once again the facilitator throughout the entire week.
 - b. **St Johns College Solar Car Project.** BSE contributed one thousand dollars (**\$1,000**) toward this initiative. St Johns College entered and successfully participated in a solar car competition in the USA. The Solar Car Challenge, an elite **STEM** program for high school students based in Dallas, Texas, USA started

in 1993 as a high school extra-curricular program named the “Winston Solar Challenge.” The program’s popularity has grown rapidly and has become its own non-profit entity as more than 161 schools from the USA take part in the challenge. The aim of the program is to stimulate creativity in the classroom by encouraging students to design, engineer and race a roadworthy solar powered car from scratch.



Presentation to Father Chazz.

- c. **Bahamas LEGO Challenge:** We continued to support this highly competitive global challenge that utilizes the custom design and programming of autonomous robots to score points on a themed playing field. Themes are real world situations such as: nanotechnology, climate, quality of life for the handicapped population, and transportation. Participants are exposed to potential career paths within a chosen Challenge topic in addition to solidifying the **S.T.E.M.** principles that naturally come from participating in the program. The theme this year, was ‘*Animal Allies*’ and Eng. Palacios performed as chief judge and presented the BSE floating trophy.
- d. **STEMFORCE BAHAMAS:** – This programme hosted by the *University of Texas at Austin* included 26 students from Grand Bahama, New Providence and Long Island informs and engages students into the world of geosciences by taking them into the field. This year they explored the pacific north-west and are shown here in a snowball fight. We continue to explore opportunities to further support



this initiative.

6. **National Society of Black Engineers (N.S.B.E.):** The BSE continues to support this group however no presentations were made during this year.
7. **C.O.B. University of The Bahamas Scholarship:** BSE continues to support the engineering students at the University of The Bahamas with a scholarship programme in conjunction with Bahamas Hot Mix.
8. **Rotary International Engineering Scholarship Program (RIESP):** Through Mr. Dennis Knowles, the *Rotary Club of Lucaya*, the *Rotary International Scholarship Program* and the Grand Bahama Industrial community we plan to substantially increase the pool of Bahamian students who qualify for college admission within **STEM** disciplines. The programme includes a summer institute for K-12 educators and student competitions that facilitate learning math and science concepts. **SECME** which is headquartered at *Georgia Tech* is the largest pre-college alliance in the United States involving 35 major engineering universities 70 industries and government agencies, 107 school systems representing 900 schools and 30,000 students in 17 states. **SECME** has grown beyond the Southeast USA to include school systems in New York, Indiana, Jamaica and The Bahamas. This initiative is headed by Mr Dennis Knowles and our Board of Directors.
9. **BSE Northern Branch:** The Northern branch continues to be grow and be active in that area. The annual workshop was delayed due to hurricane Irma and President Wilchombe will elaborate further on their activities which included the development of a science club for robotics.
10. **Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation (BCCEC)** BSE continued its support of the *Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation* through our support of its '*Energy and Environment Committee*. This

committee is now actively engaged with the promotion of energy conservation, cleaner energy production, renewable energy and landfill reform.

11. Luncheon Presentations and Site Visits

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
November	Installation and awards banquet at Sapodillas
December 16	'Holly Jolly' Christmas event at Hilton
January	Panel Discussion – 'The State of the Built Environment.'
February	
March 17	Site Visit – LJM Maritime Academy.
April 17	NHI Presentation – 'An Overview and next steps – Enrolment and Primary care.'
May 17	BBSQ presentation - Energy Efficiency and electro-technical standards Review
June 17	Re-Imagineering the built environment – Architect Michael Diggiss
July 17	Site tour – Baha Mar 'Central utility Plant' site tour
August 17	BPL presentation on 'Consumer Protection Plan.'
September	
October	

Professional Engineers Board.

Our representatives for the 2016 – 2018 term are: Eng. Quentin Knowles (Electrical) and Eng. Lionel Turnquest (Civil)

Immediate Actionable Items.

1. Expand the efforts of BSE toward encouraging and supporting **S.T.E.M.** projects especially the **RIESP** scholarship programme.
2. Increase the visibility of the collaboration between *Engineers, Architects and Contractors.*
3. Work with **B.E.A.A.P** to enhance the exposure and visibility of Bahamian Engineers to Foreign Direct Investors.
4. Continue efforts for the BSE to become more involved with the process of granting of work permits in the field of engineering.
5. Increase our regional presence and visibility through alliances with regional bodies and participation in conferences.