

## The Bahamas Society of Engineers

# Tid - Bits

(A Monthly Newsletter Publication)

## From the President's Desk - Eng. Robert Reiss

### Special points of interest:

- Luncheon venue change
- Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Professional Engineers Board Re-enacted
- BSE 2010 Banquet Planning Commences
- Courtesy Call Update—Minister of the Environment

Welcome to this Winter Issue of *Tidbits*. I would like to extend BSE's gratitude to Eng. Jamie Musgrove for leading the publication of *Tidbits* for quite some time and warmly welcome and thank BSE Director Eng. LaToya Johnson for taking on this role going forward.

Thank you all for the trust placed in me and the entire BSE Board to meet your expectations and address your needs. Additionally, immediate Past President, Eng. Jerome Elliott has provided excellent guidance and support along the way.

Numerous actions have been taken since the Annual General Meeting in October including: the Luncheon venue change to Gray Cliff; the Luncheon Sponsor initiative;

secured pledges to fully endow the Scholarship Fund; Haitian relief efforts; engaging the Professional Engineers Board with members' issues and concerns; and engaging in courtesy calls to various Ministries.

We continually strive to enhance the value of your membership in the BSE. In return, we ask that you renew your BSE membership yearly to assist in keeping the organization functioning. We must remember that being an ACTIVE, FINANCIAL member is one of the fundamental things you can do to support this organization. If you have not received a renewal notice for 2010, please let me ([orreiss@reisseng.com](mailto:orreiss@reisseng.com)) or Membership Chairman M. Bastian ([mybastian@coralwave.com](mailto:mybastian@coralwave.com)) know and we will have an invoice



BSE President  
C. Robert Reiss  
IBD Reiss

sent to you immediately.

Respectfully,  
C. Robert Reiss, Ph.D., P.E.  
President

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## Monthly Luncheon Venue Changed to Gray Cliff

After several attempts in the past, the Society has finally made a change to its monthly luncheon venue! After being held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the East Villa Restaurant, the luncheon venue is now being changed to the **4th Wednesday** of each month at

the **Gray Cliff Hotel & Restaurant on East Hill Street**. The Society has solicited and successfully secured several sponsors to date for the luncheon's new venue which it hopes will assist in increasing the interest and attendance of the general membership.

The Monthly Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.—1:15p.m. at Graycliff. The Sponsor for this luncheon is Oldcastle Building Products (Caribbean) Ltd. The speaker for the event is Mr. Verne Janzen, Technical Director, NAD.



BSE President, Robert Reiss accepts a \$4,000 cheque from Bahamas Hot Mix Managing Director, Ebbe Saidi.

## Peter Gordon Memorial Scholarship Update

The Peter Gordon Memorial Scholarship Fund is the first Scholarship Fund created by the BSE. The scholarship funds collected by the BSE will be the basis of an Endowment Fund secured through the College of the Bahamas. This Fund has a target donation maximum of \$40,000. In turn, scholarships provided by this Fund will be awarded to deserving future Bahamian engineers attending the

College of the Bahamas. The Scholarship Fund has received significant sponsorship to date with a total pledged amount of \$34,575 and a total collected amount of \$28,075 as of February 2010. This includes (1) Corporate Platinum Sponsor, (1) Corporate Gold Sponsor, (11) Corporate Silver, (11) Corporate Bronze, and (16) Individual Sponsors. The Bahamas Society of Engineers is thankful to all of our sponsors for their support to

our scholarship funding efforts. Bahamas Hot Mix, one of the Fund's Corporate Gold Sponsors, is represented in the photo on the left with BSE President Robert Reiss and Bahamas Hot Mix Managing Director, Ebbe Saidi. The company pledged and donated \$4,000 to the scholarship fund at the end of last year. Please stay tuned for more photo shots of additional donors in subsequent newsletter issues.

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*BSE Members were willing and available to assist the people of Haiti in their time of need showing that we strongly believe that we are our brother's keeper!*

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## Haitian Relief Efforts

The Bahamas Society of Engineers has participated in numerous coordinated efforts along with the Rotary Club and Bahamian Pilot Paul Aranha to support the people of Haiti in their time of need. Paul Aranha made numerous trips to deliver items to Haiti in the weeks after the devastating earthquake shook the island nation and additionally,

Many BSE members have donated to the Haitian relief efforts through private organizations. The BSE submitted a notice to the Bahamas government advising of the Society's willingness to also assist the country in its volunteer efforts, if needed. The President will work on a press release to highlight the Society's efforts in assisting Haiti. The press release will be combined

with the Rotary Club press release to mention the names of the individuals and companies that made significant contributions including: IBS, IBD Reiss, UCCS, CCS, and Mr. Gilbert Gongora.



## BSE's 2010 Annual Banquet Update

Plans for the BSE's Annual Banquet are currently underway. The Board discussed and noted that the banquet brings the engineering community together, provides funding for the organization, highlights the industry and individual achievements in

the profession, and promotes the organization. It was concluded that the BSE's banquet, held biennially in the past, is an important activity for the Engineering Society and should be held annually. The annual banquet, planned for December 2010,

will be geared towards a technical conclave for the engineering society and community. If you are interested in working on the banquet committee this year, kindly contact President Robert Reiss at [crreiss@reisseng.com](mailto:crreiss@reisseng.com).

## Professional Engineers Board Update

The Professional Engineers Board (PEB) is responsible for establishing and maintaining the Register of Professional Engineers in the Bahamas. This Register contains the list of all Professional Engineers who are duly registered and authorized to practice professional engineering in the country. The Government of the Bahamas enacted the Professional Engineers Act in 2004 to regulate and control the pro-

fessional engineering practice. An Official Notice regarding the Professional Engineers Board was sent out in the Tribune on Thursday, March 18, 2010. The notice states that the Board is currently accepting applications for registration with a deadline for submission and approval under the Grandfather Clause slated for April 30, 2010. Additionally, all persons who submitted applications to the Board

during the 2007 registration campaign MUST reapply in accordance with current application guidelines. The BSE collected comments from the membership and drafted a letter to the PEB on March 11, 2010 with a request for a formal response on the issues posed. We are still awaiting a response. Application forms and other information available on the Board's official website: [www.pebahamas.org](http://www.pebahamas.org).



## BSE Northern Branch Representation

In order to grow the organization, it is important that efforts are made to open the society to engineers throughout the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. In an effort to expand the organization, plans are now underway to review the By-laws and create an administrative structure for the society and additional branches created by the society. The or-

ganization is looking at establishing a Northern Branch in Grand Bahama where current BSE members reside. By creating the additional branch structure, more engineers throughout the Bahamas can participate in and become a part of this unique engineering society. President Reiss has made contact with BSE member and Gold Rock,

Freeport employee Jamaal Gomez concerning the Northern Branch idea. Mr. Gomez was extremely excited about the idea of starting a branch in Grand Bahama and will be happy to work with the organization on being one of the spear-headers in this initiative.

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*Additional branch structures to encourage organizational expansion and promote membership increase!*

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## Calendar at - a - Glance

<u>DATES</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>LOCATIONS</u>
April 28, 2010	Monthly Luncheon Meeting	Gray Cliff
May 26, 2010	Monthly Luncheon Meeting	Gray Cliff
June 23, 2010	Monthly Luncheon Meeting	Gray Cliff
July 15, 2010	Monthly Luncheon Meeting	Gray Cliff
September 22, 2010	Monthly Luncheon Meeting	Gray Cliff
October 27, 2010	Annual General Meeting	TBD
November 24, 2010	Monthly Luncheon Meeting	Gray Cliff
December 10, 2010	Annual Banquet	TBD



# The Bahamas Society of Engineers

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Formed in 1998, the Bahamas Society of Engineers (BSE) is a multi-faceted organization dedicated to the promotion of the Art, Science and Practice of Engineering and the Allied Arts and Sciences. The Society encourages original research and seeks to foster engineering education and professional training. One of the organization's primary goals is to advance the standards of engineering as practiced by all of our members, as well as promote the exchange of information among Engineers and other members of the public. The role of the BSE is increasingly important since the passage of the Engineers Act in 2004 and furthermore, the establishment and current re-activation of the Professional Engineer's Board in 2010. The BSE recognizes the importance of providing technical advice in policy decisions by the government, and in supporting persons who may require assistance in achieving registration and will maintain vigilance in its current and future endeavours.

**Bringing creative minds together!**

[www.bahamasengineers.org](http://www.bahamasengineers.org)

## BSE 2010-2011 Officers

President - C. Robert Reiss  
Vice President - Bradley King  
Treasurer - Dennis Nairn  
Secretary - Mario Bastian  
Imm. Past President - Jerome Elliott

## BSE 2010-2011 Board Members

Director - Erold Farquharson  
Director - Deshon Fox  
Director - Cyprian Gibson  
Director - LaToya Johnson  
Director - Quentin Knowles  
Director - Kristi McCarty  
Director - Christopher Symonette

## Courtesy Call on the Minister of Environment — Dr. Earl Deveaux

On March 19, 2010, BSE representatives, in the persons of Robert Reiss, President and Mario V. Bastian, Secretary made a courtesy call on the Ministry of the Environment. Present at the meeting was the Honorable Dr. Earl Deveaux, Minister for the Environment, Ms. Nichol Campbell, Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr. Attorney Russell, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Anya Symonette, Minister's Assistant. The meeting was both frank and engaging as BSE representatives took the opportunity to place an emphasis on six key areas including: 1) the registration process of local Engineers, 2) BSE's technical assistance to government ministries, 3) BSE's support in our country's planned initiatives, 4) BSE's discouragement of foreign engineering service uses when local services exist, 5) the request for notices of employment and

project tenders to be forwarded directly to the BSE for dissemination to its membership, 6) and that the published Professional Engineers Board List eliminate the use of the current Engineer's and Contractor's List thus giving every local engineer registered an opportunity to perform engineering work within the Bahamas. The Minister expressed his delight in learning that the registration process for Professional Engineers in the Bahamas was underway and from a fundamental point of view had no difficulty with the Ministry of the Environment seeking to utilize resources from amongst the local pool of engineering talent.



Left to Right: Robert Reiss, Dr. Earl Deveaux, Nichol Campbell, Mario Bastian