

**CODE OF ETHICS ADOPTED BY
THE VERMONT SOCIETY OF
ENGINEERS**

By ballot October 1946

That the dignity of this chosen profession may be maintained and that proper service may be rendered individuals and the public, it is the duty of every engineer and surveyor:

1. To carry on their professional work with fairness to all concerned, fidelity to clients and employers and devotion to high ideals of personal honor;
2. To treat as confidential their knowledge of the business affairs or technical processes of clients or employers when their interests require secrecy;
3. To inform a client or employer of any business connections, interest or affiliations which might influence their judgment or impair the equitable quality of their services;
4. To accept financial or other compensation for a particular service from one source only, except with the full knowledge and consent of all interested persons;
5. To advertise only in a modest manner and with regard to the dignity of their profession;
6. To refrain from using improper or questionable methods of soliciting professional work and to decline to pay or to accept commissions for work secured by such methods;
7. To avoid using unfair means or to injure unjustly the chances of another to secure and hold employment;
8. To refrain from associating themselves with, or allowing the use of their name by any enterprises of questionable character;
9. To co-operate with engineers and engineering agencies in the dissemination of engineering information and experience;
10. To refrain from using the advantages of a salaried position in public service to compete unfairly with other engineers or surveyors;
11. To give due credit to work of other engineers when using or adapting their designs to projects in hand;
12. To consider their profession as affording them a distinct opportunity to apply their special talents for the service of the society.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE

VERMONT SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

The Vermont Society of Engineers had its birth at the Hotel Vermont in Burlington on March 7, 1912 when 41 men subscribed their names to the constitution, elected officers and effected a permanent organization.

Since that time the membership has grown to about four hundred including associates, affiliates and juniors, and of this number approximately one-fourth live outside of the state.

In 1995 the members of the Board of Government recommended to the membership that the Constitution, By Laws and other documents of the Society be amended to in such a manner as acknowledge the growing number of women in the profession. The "gender neutral" amendments were presented to the membership and voted favorably by a nearly unanimous vote.

In 1996 the Board of Government directed the Secretary to assemble all of the historical records of the Society and to present them to the Special Collections Department at the Kreitzberg Library at Norwich University. These significant historical documents will now be available to scholars and interested members.

An impressive list of the Society's accomplishments is evidence that its influence has been felt throughout the state. The first measures endorsed by the Society were the appointment of the Public Service Commission and the creation of a State Engineer. The Society sponsored a law that was passed in 1939 relating to the licensing of professional engineers in Vermont, and there are today more than four thousand registered in the state. It has cooperated in the continuing topographical mapping of the state and in investigations advancing various highway measures. In its discussions the Society had stimulated much interest in a wide range of activities beneficial to the state. It has supported efforts to modernize the registration laws of professional engineers and the adoption of state building safety codes.

In 1958 the Society initiated a program to award annual \$400 Scholarships to a Vermont engineering student attending the University of Vermont and Norwich University. A \$200 scholarship for a student at Vermont Technical College was subsequently established. Currently the scholarships are \$500 and \$250 respectively.

In 1982, with the approval of the membership, the Vermont Society of Engineers Education and Research Foundation was established. The Foundation is a tax-free, non-profit, organization for administering the scholarship program. Current assets of the Foundation are in excess of \$30,000.

The foundation will assure continuance of the program with a goal of increasing the amount and number of scholarships. Individual and corporate gifts are needed and welcomed. Memorial gifts will be appropriately announced in the Society bulletins. Gift to the Foundation are tax deductible.

The Foundation operates under a Board of Directors separately from the Vermont Society of Engineers but with some overlapping of Board memberships. The Directors of the Vermont Society of Engineers have voted to provide for all the administrative costs of the Foundation from the Society's funds so that donors can be assured that 100% of the earnings from each donation will be used only for aid to education and research.

Two major day long meetings are held each year, one the first Thursday in May, the other on the third Thursday in September or October at various sites around the state. Additional dinner meetings are scheduled throughout the year. Technical presentations and field trips to engineering projects are features of these meetings. These serve to draw the membership together for instructive study as well as social intercourse.

The Vermont Society of Engineers - an old organization keeping up with the present and planning for the future!