

SELECT SOCIETY OF SANITARY SLUDGE SHOVELERS NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Founded: October 1980 (charter revision, 2019)

The Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers was originated to encourage "getting involved" in important association activities. There are members in water environment associations across the continent and the world, all of whom have been inducted, initiated and integrated into the Society. You cannot join - you must be "selected" on the basis of merit. This is a society for those who contribute notable amounts of their efforts, their time, and their energies. The society was conceived and founded to recognize the fact that many association members do not receive coveted awards such as the Bedell or Sawyer Awards, or become the association president, but nevertheless contribute in some outstanding measure to the mission and well-being of the Association. The first meeting of the New England 5S chapter was held on October 21, 1980, during the Fall Meeting of the then New England Water Pollution Control Association (now NEWEA) at the Sea Crest Hotel in North Falmouth, Massachusetts.

The rules are simple. The current members of the local society chapter evaluate and recognize your efforts toward advancing the Water Environment Federation, the New England Water Environment Association, or both by enhancing and improving Annual and Spring Conferences, specialty seminars, and other association activities in the form of:

1. Chairmanship of committees.
2. Service in one or more offices on the Executive Committee.
3. Presentation of multiple papers at NEWEA annual, spring, and/or specialty conference programs.
4. Meritorious service and diligence resulting in the encouragement and promotion of professional excellence.
5. Other extraordinary activities or services which, in the opinion of the voting members, are worthy of special recognition.

Nominations with supporting documentation are requested of the entire NEWEA chapter membership prior to the NEWEA Annual Conference. As a matter of practical courtesy, nominees are not to be notified that they will be on the ballot. A summary of nominee qualification is prepared and distributed at the annual society luncheon held during the NEWEA Annual Conference, prior to secret ballot voting; only New England chapter members at that event may vote. Votes are cast and tallied at the luncheon, and candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast are elected as new members. Summary documents and ballots are collected and secured following the vote. Successful candidates are notified and then inducted into the society at the next NEWEA Spring Meeting.

Selection to membership is in recognition of *outstanding, meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty*. Selection bestows the accolade of elevation "*on the official shovel to the highest ridge on the sludge bed, with the title of select sanitary sludge shoveler and all the honor, atmosphere, perquisites, dignity, and humility appertaining thereunto.*"

A Cardinal Rule is that initiation, induction, and integration ceremonies must be conducted by a Sludge Shoveler.

There are no dues and no officers except for the "Influent Integrator" who is designated by the neutral "pH7." This functionary is elected by vote or acclamation of the Select Sanitary Sludge Shovelers present at any meeting of the Association and approved by NEWEA executive officers, and then serves until a successor is chosen and installed. The Influent Integrator duties (with assistance from an appointed administrative Keeper of the Sludge Bed) are to record and report nominations and selections, preside with good humor at the annual 5S luncheon and the annual induction ceremony, present official certificates of elevation, bestow the shovel emblems, and inform chapter members concerning the society.

Each induction certificate shall be signed by the Influent Integrator as pH7 and by any other twelve 5S members for the remaining concentrations from pH1 to pH13.

The emblem is a shovel worn extending from the pocket, lapel, collar, or other secure attachment point. The grip is made by curling the fingers as though around a shovel handle. The grand hailing sign is made by raising the grip head high, thumb on the left, and lowering smartly, thus symbolizing the close relation between the atmosphere, water, and earth in which the Association is interested. The signal of distress is a sweeping motion made with both hands as if shoveling. The password is derived from the first letters of the name and is pronounced, "Sh-h-h."

The initiatory shovel display token is used only at official initiation-integration ceremonies and is carried by initiates until the end of the association meeting at which it was bestowed. The gold shovel emblem, worn as a lapel pin, a tie clasp, or other suitable item, should always be worn on display at association events to indicate a member in good standing. Members found not sporting the shovel emblem at association activities may be subject to such disciplines as furnishing refreshments, donating to NEWEA causes, and such good-humored bantering as may be deemed appropriate to the given occasion.

Select Sanitary Sludge Shovelers are fully expected to dignify their society membership by continued actions of exemplary note such as welcoming new or unfamiliar association members, assisting with functionary details at association events, displaying camaraderie and good humor where appropriate, and otherwise applying themselves to the greater good of the association and the industry.