

SELECT SOCIETY OF SANITARY SLUDGE SHOVELERS NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Founded: October 1980

The Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers was originated to encourage what is now known as "getting involved". The measure of success of this organization is testified to by the fact that as of now there are members all over the United States and Canada, 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 their efforts, their time, and their energies.

The rules are simple. Your efforts toward making your local Association a better one and making better Annual Conferences and speciality seminars in the form of:

1. Presenting at least two technical papers on the technical program.
2. Presenting at least two non-technical papers on the non-technical program.
3. Chairmanship of important, productive committees.
4. Other activities which, in the opinion of the voting members, are worth recognition.

The opinions of the voting members are final. In case of ties, duplicate awards are not made, but the members can be influenced.

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

The Original chapter of the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers was founded in Arizona in October of 1940. Generally, it is a well-known fact that the idea was conceived by A. W. "Dusty" Miller and F. Carlyle Roberts, Jr. to recognize the fact that many members do not receive the coveted Bedell Award, or Fuller Award, or become the Association President, but nevertheless contribute in some outstanding measure. The first meeting of the New England S.S.S.S. chapter was held on October 21, 1980, during the Fall Meeting of the New England Water Environment Association at the Sea Crest Hotel in North Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Nominations with supporting documentation are requested of the entire Society prior to the Annual Conference. Candidates are listed in a ballot at the Annual Society Luncheon held during the NEWEA Annual Conference. Votes are cast and tallied, selected individuals are notified of the vote and are inducted at the NEWEA Spring Meeting providing they are present.

Selection to membership in a chapter 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, AND DIGNITY APPERTAINING THEREUNTO".

There are no dues, or officers except the "Influent Integrator" who is designated by the neutral "pH7". This Officer is elected by vote of the Select Sanitary Sludge Shovelers present at any meeting of the Association and serves until a successor is elected and installed. The "Influent Integrator" duties are to record and report selections, present official certificates of elevation, bestow badges, and inform chapter members concerning the Society. A prerequisite of membership is the privilege of cleaning up before, during, and after meetings of the Association.

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

The badge is a shovel worn extending from the left breast pocket. 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 water and sewage in which the Association is interested. The signal of distress is a sweeping motion made with both hands as if shoveling.

The chosen station of Select Sanitary Sludge Shovelers is at the opposite end of the meeting from the President of the Association. The password is derived from the first letters of the name and is pronounced, "Sh-h-h".

The "badge" is only used at official initiation-integration ceremonies. The "Gold Shovel Emblem" worn as a lapel pin, a tie clasp, or other suitable item should always be worn on display to indicate a member in good standing.