

### SEE YA IN THE FALL!

Hard to believe, but this is the LAST edition of THE NEWS for the current (2007-08) season. After this, we pack up and hiber-nate until the Fall. We hope you enjoy your summer and we'll see you after Labor Day.

Although it isn't definite at this point, we anticipate that we will awaken from our hibernation long enough to produce a Summer edition of THE NEWS. Keep an eye on your mailbox for this.

And, of course, our Officers and Board of Directors never hibernate, as they will work tirelessly over our summer hiatus to put together a meaningful and interesting meeting program for your enlightenment and enjoyment.

### 2008 SECTION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT SPRING SOCIAL

This year's ASCE, Phila. Section Awards will be presented to this year's recipients at the **Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance on May 15, 2008**. Information and details on the Social are given elsewhere in THE NEWS. The Section Award recipients are:

- **Rodney Plourde**, McMahon Associates — Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Joseph Platt**, Traffic Planning & Design — Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Dr. Andrea Welker**, Villanova University — Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- **John Pickett**, Delaware County Planning Department — Government Engineer of the Year
- **John Nawn**, GAI Consultants — Engineering Manager of the Year
- **Mark Tiger**, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. — Transportation Engineer of the Year

We hope you will join us at the Social to honor our Awardees for this year.

In the fall, THE NEWS will feature more information on the awardees as well as a synopsis of the Social's events.

### APRIL JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section,  
 Society of American Military Engineers, Philadelphia Post  
 Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, Philadelphia Chapter  
 Women's Transportation Seminar, Philadelphia Section  
 Engineers' Club of Philadelphia

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008**

**Down Town Club** • Public Ledger Building, 6th and Chestnut Streets, Center City Philadelphia  
 (enter from 6th Street)

Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting Presentation Follows

**SUBJECT: Developments at the Port of Philadelphia**

**SPEAKER: John Estey**, Chairman, Philadelphia Regional Port Authority

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 4.** Please send your check for the number of attendees at \$40 per member or guest, \$20 per ASCE Student Member. Checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section, ASCE" and sent to ASCE, PO Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186. Reservations can also be made on the Electronic Message Center, **800-461-4190**, or via e-mail at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org). Walk-ins will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.**

**SPECIAL FEATURE: Temple University and Widener University Night.** The ASCE Student Chapters, Faculty and Alumni of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Temple University and the Department of Civil Engineering of Widener University will be honored at this meeting. All Faculty, Alumni and Students are cordially invited to attend and participate.

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### 2008 SPRING SOCIAL

**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008**

**Celebrate Philadelphia!**



The 2008 Spring Social will be conducted on **Thursday, May 15**, at the **Hyatt Hotel, Penns Landing** at Columbus Boulevard (Delaware Avenue) and Walnut Street in Olde City. It will start with a cocktail hour at 6:00 PM, with dinner and the evening's program following. The cost is \$60 per person which includes a buffet dinner, hors d'oeuvres during the cocktail hour, and dessert. A cash bar will be open during the cocktail hour and dinner.

The Hyatt is located on Penns Landing alongside the Delaware River with an interesting perspective on the Central Waterfront. Parking will be available at the Hyatt. The cost is NOT included in the above price.

We invite all ASCE, Philadelphia Section members and their guests to attend our annual season-ending dinner, where we will, as we always do, thank our current Officers and Board of Direction for their service; welcome and induct incoming Officers and Board Members; honor our Section Award winners; cite those who are receiving Section scholarships and who have won our Delaware Valley Science Fair top prizes; and, above all, have fun!

Our theme of the evening will be our fair city, Philadelphia. It's been around for 325 years. Our Section has served it for 95 years. We have many historic and notable engineering landmarks here — so many, we published a **Landmark Guide** (which will be available for everyone attending) to tell people what we've contributed. **Make plans to attend and share the honors!**

For reservations, please send a check for the appropriate amount payable to "ASCE, Philadelphia Section" to ASCE, PO Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Tables of 10 can be reserved.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's all about the infrastructure.

Right after St. Patrick's Day, 180,000 people who don't normally think about the infrastructure around us certainly had it on their minds as they got to work without the benefit of I-95. You may recall that PennDOT shut down I-95 for a couple of days last month because one of the columns holding it up was in the midst of failure. It was a huge story.

In general, infrastructure failures make great news. If a road fails, or a pipe bursts, or a bridge collapses, or a dam fails it will be the top story. Not many people think about the infrastructure while it is working just fine.

Except for us.

We have the knowledge and the inclination to keep our infrastructure working smoothly and where we can, we improve it. It is how we spend our day. We spend our time thinking about the infrastructure, so the millions of people who aren't Engineers can spend their time not thinking about it.

ASCE National has identified the following as their number one issue to be addressed through strategic planning: Years of deferred infrastructure investment and maintenance, and the profession's limited effectiveness in communicating with public officials regarding infrastructure needs: a) Place public safety at risk. b) Hinder the nation's economic growth and competitiveness.

**Safety. Growth. Competitiveness.** You really can't overstate the importance of what we do.

Your ASCE, Phila. Section has accepted the challenge in establishing effective communication with public officials. As a result of our efforts over the last two years, the Pennsylvania House Appropriations Committee CALLED US for our input and testimony on some draft legislation regarding funding for water and sewer issues. They recognized that the tools we bring to the table are necessary to have a sound discussion about this topic.

We need to maintain our commitment as a profession to giving the public and the elected officials the information they need to stay informed about our infrastructure. There is no one else who can that as well as Civil Engineers.

Along these lines, we are once again scheduling a **Legislative Day** in Harrisburg on **May 13**. More information on this will be provided on the website. Please consider taking the time to put your very special knowledge and skills to work for the benefit of Pennsylvania on that day, and keep your eyes open for other opportunities to be stewards of our nation's critical infrastructure needs. If we fail, our society's safety, growth and competitiveness are compromised. It is up to us. It is that simple.

This is my last column as President of the ASCE, Philadelphia Section. There are many things about being President that I enjoyed, but none more than simply saying I represent Civil Engineers in the greater Philadelphia region. The people that comprise this organization are a great asset to our community. Thank you all for making it so easy to be proud of what we do.

Yours in Advocacy,  
James Markham, P.E.  
President  
ASCE, Philadelphia Section

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by Krista Pohl, Forum Editor

### Joe Platt, Forum President 2007-08

Traffic Planning and Design Inc.  
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The YMF, in conjunction with the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, conducted an informational event on Professional Registration and covered the how/why/when you should get your PE. The event was held on March 20 at the Elephant and Castle. The seminar focused on all things pertaining to the PE Exam. Topics of discussion included examination eligibility requirements, the application process, preparation for the exam, and the importance of having your PE in the Engineering business world. In all, it was a very informative event for the future Professional Engineers of the Philadelphia area.

So you may be asking yourself, "What does the YMF have in store for the summer?" Well, let's explore that. Currently YMF is planning a couple of events in the coming months. First the YMF will be hosting a **Happy Hour** from

5:30PM to 7:30PM on **April 17** at the **Irish Pub** (2007 Walnut Street). We hope you'll join us at the downstairs bar for professional networking, resume exchanges and an all-around good time. Appetizers will be provided and there will be \$2 domestic pint specials. We likely won't be having another happy hour until the election happy hour, so we hope to see you there. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to **Guy DiMartino** at [rsvp@ymfphilly.org](mailto:rsvp@ymfphilly.org).

Also, the Philadelphia and Delaware YMFs will be joining forces to sponsor a trip to **Citizens Bank Park** to watch the Phillies battle it out with the Cincinnati Reds on **Wednesday, June 4** at 7:05pm. The seats we've reserved are located in the left field scoreboard porch section (Section 242). Also, it's National League MVP Jimmy Rollins Bobble Head night! Tickets are \$32 per ticket and include a \$10 concession credit. Tickets can be purchased by emailing **Cathy Golata** at [rsvp@ymfphilly.org](mailto:rsvp@ymfphilly.org). If you want to attend, tickets must be reserved by **April 21** and payment received by April 25. The YMF is also planning a little tailgating before the game; we'll pass along the details to you when you reserve your tickets. *Continued on Page 6*

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## ...AND THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

As you have seen, the ASCE, Philadelphia Section Sponsorship Program was a big hit once again this season. We have 30 participants we would like to thank for their financial commitment and support. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## THE MARKHAM PRESIDENCY

### A Successful Leader (for a Penn Guy)...

As we approach the end of another season of the Philadelphia Section ASCE, spring is here — the real spring, not the one we got a taste and tease of in January. Just like the sparrows know when to return to Capistrano and the buzzards figure out when to show up in Hinckley, Ohio, we in the Section know that the arrival of spring means that the Section's season is about to end.

This year, we close our 95th year of existence with our 95th Section President, James P. Markham II. Most of us know Jim as the Manager of the Transportation Division at Pennoni Associates. Some of us know a little more about him. By the end of this article, you will probably learn a few things you already didn't know about Jim, maybe more than you had ever wanted. Beware...

By tradition, as far as we know, your Editor is obligated to take this opportunity to present a "year in review" and report on the outgoing President. When the President and Editor are pals, this becomes both easy and hard — easy in that there's lots to say, and hard because discretion has to kick in. Since I've developed the ability to not pay complete attention over the years, I'm proud to say I know Jim well enough that I can use this to my advantage, for a change.

So what can we say about our erudite, dapper, man-about-town Section President? Or, more accurately, what do we want to say? Let's stop beating around the bush and get this going already!

Jim was born in Pennsylvania, but way off in the wilds of the northwest. He spent much of his youth in New Hampshire, but apparently not enough to get a proper New England accent. His home state is where you find the town of Liquor Store, at the first exit off I-95 after you leave Massachusetts. (I kid you not — look it up!). I've been to the Granite State all of once, and this was my introduction to it. Is this good or bad? You decide.

For some unknown reason, he decided to attend college at the good old University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a degree in Civil and Systems Engineering in 1993. So far, so good — us Penn folks have to stick together, especially when we're greatly outnumbered in our workplaces by those from other schools (we didn't say "lesser" schools!).

After a short stint at a New Jersey company, Jim took a position with Pennoni, where he finds himself today — where he and I crossed paths once again several years ago. Surprisingly, he remembered me from my visit to his transportation class at Penn, where I provided ideas and assistance to student groups working on selected projects and then judged their solutions and presentations. Having done this with perhaps hundreds of students over the years, I vaguely recalled this encounter, but his remembrance of it was almost photographic. Despite this, he still talks to me.

At any rate, Jim and I started working together on several things, and the friendship took off from there. He didn't need much

prodding to get involved in the Section and other groups, so we managed to work together on outside stuff also. These included the Section's activities and our quinquennial (non-Penn grads — grab the dictionary!) Transportation Systems Alumni events at Penn, the most recent occurring last spring. Jim enjoyed this stuff and he appeared to be "hooked."

Let's review Jim's qualities. What do we like about him (always easier to start with the shorter list...!)?

He enjoys politics and likes to be politically active. So, it seemed that Section President was an inevitable place for him. Of course, he "paid his bones" first in the Younger Member Forum, back when he was young, and moved up, surprisingly voluntarily. You think he'd know better, especially after seeing others in action in these positions. Go figure.

He gets things done. Look at the many things the Section either started or accomplished during his term. Yes, he's a good motivator.

He likes to be a part of things. He always helps with volunteer efforts, good causes, etc. In addition to the Section and our alumni group, he's on the Board of the Engineers' Club. And he gets things done (did we mention that?).

So what's not to like?

Well, given his New England upbringing, he can't help but be a die-hard, dyed-in-the-wool Red Sox fan. He wears his "B" cap constantly — you almost have to pry it off his head. While we can say a lot about the Phillies, we can't say they're cursed (even though they're often cursed at), but the Sox have more World Series wins than we do.

He's a Penn guy. I can see the green-eyed monster of envy rising up here...

He gets things done. For some reason, there are people who dislike and distrust a do-er.

He has a dry sense of humor and sharp wit, and always seems to be smiling. You just can't be too careful around someone like that. (That's what I hear...)

He's a good golfer, even for a lefty. When we've played, we combine our strengths well. He keeps us in the hunt with his game, and I keep the cold beverages at hand and the cart from turning over. Hey, you use the skills you got.

He helps me with THE NEWS. Admittedly, his Section President job has temporarily relieved him from this duty, so I have to pen the monthly meeting reports. Consequently, you may have noticed the marked lack of quality and abundance of run-on and unnecessary information that has been the hallmark of this year's meeting articles since a certain Editor has had to put these pieces together. Some of us hope Jim returns to this duty next year, for the good of all involved! If not, well, prepare for another agonizing season...

For some reason, he seems to think City government had more intelligence while I was there. I can't imagine where he gets this idea. (Note to those of you in City government — after you get done laughing — please help Jim see the light here!)

We often kid about the aforementioned student project. I hear about it just about every time we go for a beer or have lunch. It's obviously made an impression — in this case, I think it helped steer him into the transportation side of the profession. (If so, I feel proud — if not, I guess his grades in structures and environmental weren't as good?)

Jim was recognized as a Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year, back when he was still young. He gave a very inspiring speech at the dinner in his honor. We reprinted it in THE NEWS we were so inspired. He recounted his role as an Engineer, which was quite often misunderstood by mere mortals (i.e. non-engineers).

Jim is active in his community, the Queen Village neighborhood, not far from where I originally hail. He has bravely attempted to reason with his neighbors on traffic issues. Those of us who have "been there and done that" know that everyone with a driver's license is an expert and decisions are not always based in logic. And, unwittingly, perhaps, he has continually tried to change street directions to no avail. Not because of his lack of interest and energy has this not yet happened.

Jim took a trip to China several years ago and had his photo taken on the Great Wall (that photo graces this month's President's Message). At a meeting we both attended a few months ago, a former professor of ours mentioned a recent trip he had made to China, and how every "nerd" feels the need to get his or her photo taken on the Great Wall. The next day, Jim proved his value to the group by sending us this photo.

A couple of years ago, Jim met AnnLouise, and not long after, his bachelorhood came to a grinding halt. They got married on a rainy and stormy night in 2005. Having been married on an overcast and drizzly day myself (but this was in the Pacific Northwest, where that's a constant from fall to spring), I've been told that is a portent of how the marriage will go. I don't recall whether it was a good or bad omen, but we're kind of in the same boat, Jim, so hope for the best. Almost a year ago, James III came along, and, with Jim's faithful pup, Daisy, that's the Markham brood.

Now it's time for Jim to go to the pasture where Presidents go when Past Presidenthood kicks in. Thanks for a great year! But just don't go too far yet — we need you to write those meeting reports...

Which leaves a spot for our 96th Section President, **Mark Tiger**, to enter and sign in please, as the old TV game show saying goes. I don't know Mark as well as I've known the last few Presidents, so I'll have to pay closer attention (as noted previously, not one of my strong suits) because I'll have to write one of these about him in a year or so. Mark has been impressive in what he's been able to accomplish for the Section thus far, and he'll surely do the Section well. And, as always, Mark, you'll have a good group of Officers, a great Board of Directors, and a somewhat loose cannon of a Newsletter Editor to help you every step of the way. **Good luck!**

## DO YOU TAKE YOUR HUMOR SERIOUSLY?

This article appeared in the December 2007 edition of **The Reporter**, the magazine of the American Public Works Association (APWA), and is reprinted with permission.

Part 1 of this article appeared in the March edition of **THE NEWS**. Part 2 is provided below.

### Your Humor Quotient: How to calculate it and how to raise it.

Have you noticed that you can be in the middle of the most stressful, infuriating situation, and just on the other side of it, just around the proverbial corner, is a huge laugh attack waiting to land on your head? If your HQ is below your standards, chances are so is your job satisfaction (dangling right above, say, tragic predictability). Use what follows to discover how you can feel light enough to escape the gravitational pull of workplace drama and absurdity.

Assign a rating from 1 to 10 for each of these HQ factors:

- 1. Your Sense of Humor.** If you lost yours at your last performance review or when your company reorganized and you had to hide it in your desk drawer, perhaps this would be a

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## APRIL DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

**SPECIAL FEATURE: Past Presidents Night.** All Past Presidents of the ASCE, Philadelphia Section are cordially invited to attend as guests of the Section to be honored for their contributions.

**John Estey** is the Governor's designee as Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) and has recently been appointed as Chairman of the Board of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA). He will present information on PRPA's ambitious programs and plans to revitalize the Port of Philadelphia to accommodate shipping traffic needs.

Mr. Estey had held significant positions in both the Pennsylvania state and Philadelphia City governments. Most recently, he served as the Governor's Senior Advisor, following four years as Chief of Staff to Governor Rendell. He was Mayor Rendell's Deputy Chief of Staff from 1997 to 1999. He helped develop and implement the Keystone Opportunity Enterprise Zones program and oversaw the revitalization of Independence Mall, the Philadelphia School Reform Commission, and the expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. His leadership played a key role helping Mayor Rendell pursue his vision for Philadelphia which led to unprecedented economic growth.

An attorney, Mr. Estey has served as a partner at the law firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP in Philadelphia. His law practice concentrated in the areas of government relations and corporate law. He received his Bachelors degree from Carleton College and his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

good time to take it out again, and use it to torture your colleagues. Otherwise the joke's on you. 1 = sense of humor is missing in action; 10 = laugh or die trying.

- 2. Your Availability for Humor** — If you have a manageable workload, resiliently bounce back from problems, stress, and conflict, and are passionately committed to having fun, you get a 10 for availability. If not, what you have is an opportunity to notice and adjust what's interfering.

For most of my clients, this factor weighs in most heavily. If you agreed to a "contract" with goals that make you want to lay down on your office floor, there's not much chance you'll maintain an overarching commitment to having fun. Or if you get caught up in your drawers looking for an escape hatch, that's not good. Solution: Recontract around a comprehensive set of goals that are achievable, at least 50% believable, and conducive to doing your best work. Accept nothing less. Be sure to include both developmental and maintenance goals, so all that you do can be recognized and contained. 1 = stuck and stressed, 5 = stretched, 10 = able to get stupid without provocation.

- 3. Essential Humor Skills** — We'll highlight three:

- How you handle your inner critic (the voice in your head that's telling you to "stop reading this and get back to work!"). Give yourself a 1 if you don't criticize yourself enough or consider that voice your enemy; 10 = finding the positive intention that your critical voice represents, using it to your advantage.
- Rapport: How well do you take measure of other people's HQ reality? 1 = what "other people"!? ... 10 = reading body language accurately, paying exquisite attention to subtle, non-verbal cues. Hint: If you've heard comments like "If you tell me another joke, I'm going to kill you!" or "You just don't know when to quit, do you?" deduct a few points.
- Respectful boundaries with humor: Give yourself a 10 if you take appropriate risks but back off or immediately apologize if you step over a line; you get a 1 if you don't have the wit to notice when you've gone "off sides."

Add it all up and you've got a snapshot of your humor potential. If you scored high, you can laugh all the way back to your office. If you scored low, this could be serious: in extreme cases, a lack of levity can actually cause humoroids.

*Daniel Robin is President of Daniel Robin & Associates (www.abetterworkplace.com), an international training and consulting firm that has helped people communicate, collaborate, and learn since 1985.*

## TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. Vice President **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh** will coordinate activities of the Groups. If you have any topics that you think would be of interest to the Groups, please feel free to pass this information along to the Group Chair.

### CONSTRUCTION

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## OOPS... AND OUR MOTTO

Last month, in the "Oops" column, we proposed a motto for **THE NEWS** — "non omnia possumus omnes" — to note that sometimes we make "boo-boos." The English translation is "we cannot all do everything." To illustrate this, we found an incomplete sentence in the 2008 Engineers Week report in the March issue, where the fourth sentence had the word "was" omitted (The Luncheon was held at the Loews Hotel...). The Editor must have run out of red ink in his sentence-diagramming pen, and he promises to double-check these diagrams in the future.

## **SPONSOR PROFILE — MCMAHON ASSOCIATES, INC.**

This article recently appeared in McMahon's company newsletter, and is reprinted with permission. The author, **Rod Plourde**, our Civil Engineer of the Year honoree for this year, makes many good points about our profession.

### **Making Better Engineers**

By *Rodney P. Plourde, Ph.D., P.E.,  
President of McMahon Associates, Inc.*

How do we make better Engineers? It's kind of a loaded question. However, looking back at my own experience, certain things jump out.

### **Intern Programs**

Intern, or cooperative work programs offered by universities provide Engineering students the opportunity to work and gain practical experience as part of their education. This exposure not only provides on-the-job training, but is a precursor to decisions by these students on the career they may wish to follow upon graduation. For we employers, it is an excellent recruiting tool, and provides us the opportunity to test a person's abilities and character before a permanent full-time offer is made.

### **Mentoring Programs**

Once hired, of course, on-the-job training of a graduate continues. However, young Engineers need not only technical training, but also guidance or advice on professional development or even life issues which may arise. That's where a mentoring program, where the mentor is not the graduate Engineer's immediate supervisor, becomes important. The graduate Engineer can use his or her mentor as much or as little as he or she wants, to discuss whatever issue he or she wants. No ground rules. Just a relatively independent sounding board who the graduate Engineer respects.

### **Professional Development Programs**

I've touched on this topic repeatedly in past "In Motion" articles. It can be provided as much within the office, through Internal Training Workshops (ITW's), as well as through universities and professional societies.

### **Professional Society Involvement**

Engineering societies not only provide professional development opportunities, but also networking opportunities, which are vital to the growth of a young Engineer.

### **Cross Training**

Much discussion often occurs on whether Engineering has become too specialized. Specialization certainly has its place in any profession. You don't go to a general practitioner if you need heart surgery. However, cross-training of young Engineers, outside their specialty, is important to both them, to develop their "big picture" focus, but also to the employer, to be able to shift the graduate Engineer to other types of projects as workload and project priorities may dictate.

### **Communications**

Transportation Engineering is not merely conducting traffic analysis or performing roadway design at your desk. Your analysis results and design recommendations must be effectively communicated to project managers first, and then clients and review agencies. While one can't just throw a young Engineer into a contentions client/agency dialogue, there is a need, and benefit to both graduate Engineer and employer, of gradual, increasing exposure to communication of Engineering products. It can start with just attending and listening at meetings, to gradual assignment of some Q&A at these meetings, to low-key presentations, and finally, to Project Manager level presentations and communications. Communication is not always an acquired skill, but must be developed.

### **Summary**

Hopefully, both young Engineers and others alike who read our newsletters will come away with their own insights as to the benefits of such practices.

*McMahon Associates, Inc. specializes exclusively in transportation Engineering which includes state highway design, municipal roadway design, transportation studies and planning, and traffic signal design, having served Federal, State, regional, and local organizations since 1976. With more than 31 years of experience, McMahon has compiled an extensive record of completed transportation Engineering projects. McMahon consists of a 150-person firm with excellent credentials in Transportation Engineering.*

## **DISPATCH FROM THE GOVERNOR**

### **Your Region 2 Governor, that is...**

#### **Chris Menna**

The Region 2 Board of Governors (R2BOG) met in Pittsburgh on March 10 to develop a strategic plan and to discuss the upcoming ASCE National Conference there this fall. Your Governors have been assigned tasks to bring further value to members within the Region. These include: inventorying the student chapters, YMFs, technical groups, and institutes; finding ways to support the National Conference; helping the other Sections within the Region to produce Infrastructure Report Cards; and recommending members for National Committee Positions to name a few. The R2BOG also reviewed its official candidate for Region 2 Governor elected position. The candidate's name will appear in an upcoming ballot.

All members are encouraged to go the National website and view the section about our Region. Get familiar with your Governors, contact them for help, and challenge them with your ideas. They are a resource with direct access to our Society Director, who in turn is on the National Board. Remember that your Governors do not represent your Section in particular, rather everyone within the Region. Our Region is made up of the former Districts 4 and 5, which includes all of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and the National Capital Section (greater Washington, D.C. area). We have about 10,000 members and Region 2 is the most geographically compact in all of ASCE. Your Governors (4 elected and 2 appointed), Society Director, and YMF Rep are ready to serve you.

## **TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES**

### **Structures Group**

**DATE: Thursday, April 17, 9:00AM– 4:30PM**

**LOCATION:** Room E, 16th Floor Municipal Services Building; 1401 Kennedy Blvd. (at 15th Street), Philadelphia

**COST:** \$250 (refreshments and buffet lunch included)

**SPEAKER: Dr. Mohiuddin Ali Khan, PhD, PE**

**SUBJECT: Scour Analysis Course**

This one-day course is an overview of scour analysis and design of scour countermeasures. The course provides an understanding of the theoretical and practical requirements for the selection and application of scour countermeasures, based on erosion type, substructure component, and economics. More details were provided in the March edition of THE NEWS.

Sign up by emailing [mohidin@temple.edu](mailto:mohidin@temple.edu).

Checks, payable to ASCE, Phila. Section, are due by **April 10**. Send checks to: Treasurer: ASCE, Philadelphia Section; P.O. Box 58186; Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186.

Reservations can be made through our Electronic Message Center: **1-800-461-4190** (Open 24 hours/day).

Space is limited to 30 people.

### **Construction, Engineering Management and Transportation and Urban Development Groups – Joint Meeting**

**DATE: Tuesday, April 29, 12Noon to 1:30PM**

**LOCATION:** Room E, 16th Floor Municipal Services Building, 1401 Kennedy Blvd. (at 15th Street), Philadelphia

**COST:** \$10 (refreshments and buffet lunch included)

**SPEAKER: William T. Thomsen, PE**, Senior Vice President, Urban Engineers, Inc.

**SUBJECT: New York City "Mega" Projects**

This presentation will cover several major transit projects currently underway in New York City. The East Side Access program (\$6.3 billion) will bring tracks of the Long Island Railroad into Grand Central Terminal via the existing unused 63rd Street tunnel and other proposed multi-track tunnels. The Initial Operating Segment of the 2nd Avenue Subway (\$4 billion), a route first proposed in 1929, is under construction and will add four new stations on the Upper East Side of Manhattan north of 63rd Street. It will tie into the system's 6th Avenue and Broadway trunk lines for service downtown and relieve the overcrowded Lexington Avenue line.

In addition, related topics on new vehicle technology for cars which will use these facilities will be covered, along with a brief overview of work currently underway at the Freedom Tower (former World Trade Center) site.

For reservations, please contact **Dennis MacBride** at (215) 580-3404 or [dmacbride@septa.org](mailto:dmacbride@septa.org).

## MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Down Town Club, Philadelphia, PA

### *The New CBS3 / CW57 Multimedia Studio*

*By Robert Wright, Editor*

On a pleasant and slightly chilly March evening, about 70 people decided to turn off the television, go out, and attend a dinner meeting to hear about (what else?) TV, specifically a new TV studio right here in our town. The gathering was a joint meeting sponsored by our ASCE, Phila. Section in conjunction with three other "alphabet" societies, namely the **Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE)**, the **Philadelphia Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)**, and the **Engineers' Club of Philadelphia (ECP)**.

ASCE, Phila. Section President **Jim Markham** got things started, with an invocation by ASCE, Phila. Section Past President and current ECP President **Ruben David**. After dinner, President Markham returned to the podium and welcomed Membership Secretary **Chris Wright**, who cited three of the Section's 15 newly-minted Life Members who were able to attend — **Harold Byer, J. Robert Gallagher, and Robert Naef**.

To highlight **Villanova University** as the evening's featured college, Professor **Joseph Yost**, the Student Chapter Faculty Advisor, made a few remarks and turned the podium to Student Chapter President **Matthew Haines** for an update on Chapter activities.

IEEE's **Richard Paleski**, one of the evening's featured speakers, MASITE President **Alex Meitzler**, and ECP President Ruben David all took a few minutes to make remarks on behalf of their respective groups. After his announcements, President David opened the feature presentation with introductions of the three speakers — **Richard Paleski, Arthur Metzler, and Anthony Naccarato**. (The meeting announcement in THE NEWS did not include Mr. Metzler in the program because of printing deadlines. We apologize for this omission.)

### And Away We Go...

Mr. Paleski opened the session with a general background of the effort. CBS 3 (also known as KYW-TV) had occupied its studio at the corner of 5th and Market Streets for 35 years. In early 2006, the owner of the building advised the station that its lease would not be renewed, and it would need to vacate by April 2007. With this in mind, and with a penalty of \$2 million per month for any delay in moving past the deadline, the station executives were forced to review their options. One thought was the construction of a new building at 15th and Arch Streets, but this would be lengthy, so other alternatives were explored.

The station knew that with the coming of the change in broadcast signals to from analog to digital/high definition (HD) in 2009, it needed to incorporate this technology into whatever new location it found. It also knew that it would need

to broadcast in standard format until the change to digital, so the capability to handle both had to be built in. With the "time crunch" to relocate, Mr. Paleski explained that the former Smith Kline French pharmaceutical factory at 1555 Hamilton Street (16th and Spring Garden Streets) was reviewed and selected as the new site in February 2006. A lease was signed the next month, and renovations began almost immediately.

### And Now Back to Our Show...

Mr. Paleski showed a video produced by the station that highlighted the new location and the work involved in its transformation. The new studio was designed to be the first HD facility built from the ground up. The floors were elevated by 2 feet to accommodate the myriad of cables and provide for future expansion and more cables. The station's power supply was critical, and a guaranteed uninterrupted power source (UPS) with backup was imperative, as the station must be counted on to be broadcasting in the event of a catastrophe. On-site generators have capacity to run 30 minutes of broadcast without outside power. Redundant power supplies were fed to the studio to ensure that power would be constant and available. Because of the amount and heat of studio lights, the cooling system had to be both large and quiet — not an easy task.

The move presented an opportunity to convert to new technology. Field cameras record reports on disks rather than tapes, and internal storage is now digital. Disks loaded into the computer system can be accessed by the entire newsroom. Two newsroom studios were provided for redundancy and to facilitate future maintenance. A "skydeck" outside broadcast area on the building's roof was provided for outdoor weather segments.

### Keeping Things Cool

Mr. Paleski indicated that AMA Consulting Engineers, a premier mechanical/electrical firm specializing in broadcast facilities, was engaged for these aspects of the studio. Mr. Metzler took the podium and explained that the undertaking was, from the beginning, woefully underfunded and very ambitious. Power and cooling requirements would be the key elements to be designed and resolved from his standpoint.

To conserve space, transformers were placed on the roof of the building, but these had to be carefully located to be out of view of the skydeck area. Power feeds had to be run from the basement to the roof to get to these. Mr. Metzler reviewed the highly specialized design associated with the studio, including the need to raise ceilings to extreme heights to accommodate the lighting and the 6-foot cooling ducts. The ducts exchange air at high velocities and must run quietly.

### Structure Challenges

Mr. Naccarato explained the structural aspects. The existing structure had high load capacities on its floors because of its designed use as a factory and the structure was found to be in good condition. At the time, it was being used as an "Internet hotel" for digital data storage.

To accommodate the studios, there was a need to raise the ceilings as well as the floor, as noted previously. Mr. Naccarato remarked that his firm, O'Donnell and Naccarato, has an extensive background in renovation of older buildings and cited the Lit Brothers, Wanamaker, and Bourse Buildings (the location of his firm's offices) as projects which his firm has successfully handled. The firm was well-versed in what would be needed in a building of this type and vintage. Structural modifications would be needed for the ceiling revisions and the skydeck.

Mr. Naccarato highlighted the key elements of his portion of the assignment. There was a need to make quick decisions, to get out of the way of other disciplines, and to get done on a very ambitious schedule. Work had to be performed around existing tenants in the building. The renovations were designed and built to meet these often difficult requirements. The contractor and subcontractors worked well together to achieve this goal.

Mr. Naccarato closed the meeting by noting that the station moved on April 2, 2007 and the move was flawless and seamless, and Mr. Paleski seemed to be on site constantly throughout the process. The project took 10 months to build when it probably should have taken 2½ years. The former station location has been demolished and will be replaced by the relocated National Museum of Jewish History, scheduled to open in 2010.

Presidents' Markham and David thanked the speakers for their informative presentation and presented tokens of appreciation from the ASCE, Phila. Section and the Engineers' Club to each.

### YMF FORUM NEWS

*Continued from Page 2*

Finally, have you ever wondered "How can I become active in the Civil Engineering community?" Are you interested in honing your communication and leadership skills? Do you like to have fun?! If you answered yes to these questions, the YMF may be the place for you. In the coming months, we will be holding elections for the executive board as well as appointing members to the various YMF committees. Please take a look at the description of available positions on our website and contact our current president **Joe Platt** at [jplatt@trafficepd.com](mailto:jplatt@trafficepd.com) if you have questions or are interested in joining us.

**An hour sitting with a pretty girl on a park bench passes like a minute but a minute sitting on a hot stove seems like an hour.**

— Albert Einstein



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