

### ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2008-09

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section Meeting program for the 2008-09 season is just being formulated, and the TENTATIVE dates have been provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you use this to mark your calendar at this time and hold the dates.

We are diligently working to schedule topics and speakers that will offer interesting and insightful events. In coming issues of *THE NEWS*, we will provide updates as information becomes available. We also suggest you visit the Section website for the latest changes in our meeting program.

All dinner meetings feature a cocktail hour starting at 5:30PM, dinner at 6:30PM, and the meeting presentation following at approximately 7:30PM, unless otherwise noted. We also intend to follow our second-Thursday pattern except where joint meetings will preclude this. As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so.

The dates as of this printing are:

Thursday, October 9, 2008

Thursday, November 13, 2008

Thursday, December 11, 2008

Wednesday, January 21, 2009; Joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section; Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge (cocktails 6:00PM; dinner 7:00PM; presentation 8:00PM)

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Thursday, April 9, 2009

### SAVE THE DATE! 138<sup>TH</sup> ASCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2008 ASCE Annual Conference, with the theme "*Engineering – The Workforce of the Future*," will take place **November 6-8, 2008**, in Pittsburgh. More information will be coming your way this summer, and you can check the website for updates.

### WANT TO GET YOUR NEWS FASTER? TRY THE ELECTRONIC WAY!

A select group of members get their information about ASCE, Phila. Section happenings a little faster than others. An interesting aspect of this is that you can join this exclusive "club", if you don't already belong, for no charge. Our e-mail option for delivery of *THE NEWS* gets the latest edition of it to your computer literally "hot off the presses." You can sign up for this service very easily through our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)).

And, if you opt to get *THE NEWS* the old-fashioned way (by "snail mail"), that's fine. However, we continue to receive several returned copies of *THE NEWS* each mailing. The usual reason for the return is insufficient mailing address. These days, the Post Office needs a complete street address and office/suite number. Without this, mail will be returned to the sender. This both delays the delivery of *THE NEWS* to the member and increases the Section's mailing costs, as the Post Office assesses us an additional amount for undeliverable material.

You can check your information on ASCE's database at any time through National's website ([www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)) in the Member Profile section. You may need to establish a username/password for your account to do this, if you have not previously done so. Additionally, as you renew your ASCE dues later this year, please check your preferred mailing address for correctness.

We appreciate your cooperation on this to ensure that *THE NEWS* finds its way to you efficiently and quickly, whether via the World Wide Web or in your mailbox.

### DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Elections for ASCE National President-Elect, an At-Large Director, a Technical Region Director, and Region 2 Governor are now open. Ballots were included in the June edition of *ASCE News*. You can cast your vote through National's website. The "polls" close on **August 15**, so make your vote count!

**Big shots are only litte shots  
who keep shooting.**

— Christopher Morley

### ENGINEERS STORM THE STATE CAPITOL AGAIN

#### ASCE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DAY "II" A SUCCESS!

You may recall that the the four Pennsylvania Sections of ASCE (Central PA, Lehigh Valley, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia) released the PA Infrastructure Report Card in 2006 and, as a follow-up, scheduled a day with legislators in May 2007. Based on the success of this event, it was repeated this year on May 13, 2008, with over 70 members of ASCE, the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), and the Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE) in attendance.

The day began with some updates and pointers on discussion topics as well as addresses from **Reps. Joseph Markosek** and **Richard Geist** on the current funding solutions, including the Pennsylvania Turnpike leasing proposal. Following the opening session, teams met with over 75 Senators and Representatives to express our groups' concerns and positions on infrastructure funding and support of educational programs related to Science and Engineering.

Thanks to all participants and sponsoring firms for your support and assistance.

Special thanks to **Chris Menna** and **Mark Tiger**, who coordinated the event within the ASCE, Phila. Section, for their diligence and patience in this very successful effort.

### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

With a total of 30 firms participating in the ASCE, Phila. Section Sponsorship program last season, we think we can declare it an ongoing success. We extend the Section's collective "thank you" to these sponsors for their commitment and continued support of the Phila. Section.

There are several benefits available to you as a Section Sponsor. For a low annual fee, you too can be a part of this program and have your business card appear in each edition of *THE NEWS* (except the Summer one!), among other perks. We will be soliciting past sponsors later this summer to "re-up." If your firm has not been part of this program in the past, we welcome your participation.

For information on the program, please contact the Editor of *THE NEWS*, **Bob Wright** at (215) 922-8081, x1647 or [newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org).

## PHILA. SECTION PARTICIPATES IN DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIR ONCE AGAIN!

For the 15th consecutive year, the ASCE, Philadelphia Section sent judges to the Delaware Valley Science Fair, which was held on April 2 at the Valley Forge Convention Center. The Section's judges reviewed numerous projects and came up with two winners in each of the categories of Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12.

The winning students and their projects were:

**Grades 6-8 First Place** — **Joseph Kiernan**, Haddonfield Friends School. Joseph's effort, *Solid As A Rock*, looked into the strength of various concrete mixes. He is a 7th grader. (Joseph won the Section's Second Place prize last year with the project, *A Bridge Over Troubled Water*.)

**Grades 6-8 Second Place** — **Billy Ransom**, an 8th grader at Springer Middle School in Wilmington, took second place with *3D Shapes and Vertical Compression*, an investigation on structural shapes.

**Grades 9-12 First Place** — **Hannah Pilling**, Springside School. Hannah, a 12th grade student, conducted her project on *The Impact of Land Use in the Wissahickon Watershed on Stream Health*.

**Grades 9-12 Second Place** — **Benjamin Drake**, a 10th grader at High Technology High School in Lincroft, New Jersey, presented his effort on *Wave Breaking Buoys* to look into coastal protection.

President **James Markham** attended the Fair's award ceremony on April 3 and presented commemorative plaques and checks to the winning students.

We were fortunate to have both First Place recipients in attendance at the Spring Social this year, and those of you who were there got to see the good work and effort that Hannah and Joseph put into their projects. More information on the Spring Social will be included in the October *NEWS*.

Thanks to the students and to those who participated in this event, including Section Judges **Chris Rood** (the Section's coordinator for the Fair) and **Bob Wright**.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### GABOR CITED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

**Mike Gabor** was cited with the "Outstanding Service to Engineering" Award by the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council. The award was presented to Mike (although he was unable to attend to accept it) at the Engineers Week Banquet at Drexel University on Saturday, February 23. Mike is the Vice President of Marine Engineering for Urban Engineers, Inc. and has over 43 years of professional experience, particularly in marine infrastructure. He has been extensively involved and active in numerous community service, educational and technical organizations throughout his career. More information on particulars can be found on [www.dvewc.org](http://www.dvewc.org) under the Awards and Scholarships segment. *We congratulate Mike* belatedly (we're only 5 months or so late!) on this honor.

### MENNAS ADD ONE

**Emilia Anne Menna** arrived the afternoon of June 9, weighing in at 8 pounds and just over 20 inches in height. Emilia is the first child of Past President **Chris Menna** and his wife, **Felicia**. As Chris noted, "Just in time for Father's Day." *Conrats to the Mennas!*

### HARMAN GROUP WELCOMES KUCIRKA

The Harman Group is pleased to welcome **Mark Kucirka, P.E.** to its King of Prussia headquarters as an Associate. Mark brings considerable structural Engineering experience in industrial, commercial and institutional projects to the firm. In his role, he will be responsible for Quality Assurance for projects and will serve as a mentor to younger Engineers in Structural Engineering Technology. *Welcome, Mark!*

## UPDATE ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

As you may be aware (and as previously reported in *THE NEWS*), Senate Bill 655 was signed by Governor Rendell in November 2006. This means that Pennsylvania joins the list of states that will require continuing professional development (CPD) as a condition of license renewal. However, the exact mechanism of how this will be done and the regulations that will need to be effected by the State Board have not been developed, so the CPD requirement will not be in place for your next license renewal (October 2009) as planned. Thus, Pennsylvania PE's need not track CPD just yet, as it will not be needed for your next renewal, but will likely be in place for the following one (October 2011).

Additionally, another bill was introduced into the Legislature in February (Senate Bill 1264) on this subject. SB 1264 would have slightly different requirements and is more in line with those of neighboring states than SB 655 is, and it is more liberal in the allowance of what may be counted as CPD. SB 1264 has been referred to committee and public hearings may be scheduled. Our counterparts at the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) are attempting to have at least one of these hearings scheduled in the Philadelphia area.

In any event, Pennsylvania has now taken two major steps forward in this area, and we will keep you posted on developments as they occur. Thanks to PSPE for this information.

**Age is a case of mind over matter.  
If you don't mind, it don't matter.**

— *Satchel Paige*

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2008-09 SEASON

The ASCE, Phila. Section Officers and Board Members were officially installed at the Spring Social on May 15, 2008. They are as follows:

### PRESIDENT

Mark J. Tiger, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh,  
Flow Science, Inc.

### VICE PRESIDENT

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Jeremy Colello, Pennoni Associates, Inc. ('08-'10)  
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### PAST PRESIDENTS

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Robert Wright

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SEPTEMBER 14, 2008**

## APRIL JOINT DINNER MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2008

The Down Town Club, Center City Philadelphia  
*Developments at the Port of Philadelphia*

by Robert Wright, Editor

A “sellout” crowd of over 160 people wandered in from the streets of Center City on a nice spring evening and filled the main room at the Down Town Club to hear about the developments at the Port of Philadelphia. For the first time in recent memory, the turnout was such that we had to put some folks on “standby” mode to ensure that those who reserved would have spots over those who walked in. (And let that serve as a reminder — it’s always a good idea to reserve a spot, since we cannot guarantee that walk-ins will be able to be accommodated!) This was our largest turnout in recent memory, even rivaling some of the joint meetings with ASHE that we’ve had that bring out lots of attendees.

The event was a collaboration of the Society of American Military Engineers, Philadelphia Post (SAME), the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, Philadelphia Chapter (PSPE), the Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia (ECP) and our Section. Added into the mix were two colleges that were featured for the evening — Temple University and Widener University, each of which brought a sizable contingent of students. Additionally, the ASCE, Phila. Section celebrated its annual Past President’s Night and about a dozen former Section Presidents were able to attend and be recognized.

The meeting was opened by ASCE, Phila. Section President **James Markham**, with an invocation by ECP President and Past Section President **Ruben David**. After dinner, President Markham returned to the podium to get the evening underway, with remarks from SAME Post President **Rad Delaney** and PSPE Chapter President **Philip Udo-Inyang**. Next up were the faculty advisors and Student Chapter representatives from each of the featured colleges. Temple’s Student Chapter Faculty Advisor **Bechara Abboud** and Student Chapter President **Caitlin Thomas** updated all present on Temple’s activities, followed by Widener’s Student Chapter Faculty Advisor **Vicki Brown** and Student Chapter Representative **Jeremy Paupuch**.

### Two Port Authorities

ECP President Ruben David came to update all on the Club’s activities and introduced the evening’s speaker, **John Estey**. Mr. Estey recognized and thanked those members of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PRPA) staff in attendance and gave a little treatise on the two local port authorities. The Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA), on which he serves as the Governor’s appointed chair, has more to do with the region’s bridges and PATCO. PRPA, on the other hand, where he serves as chair, is more directly related to actual trade matters and port operations, and has evolved over the years from a City agency which operates port facilities to a State body.

### Southport

Southport is the big item in the Port of Philadelphia at present, and it is a new site with exciting possibilities. Mr. Estey described the Southport site at the east end of the Navy Yard south of Packer Avenue Marine Terminal. The area is currently occupied by a rail yard and support facilities and is not fully utilized, as the Conrail ore/coal piers (Piers 122/124) have not been operating for several years. There is sufficient room for expansion of the Marine Terminal and related port facilities, and this is critical as this pier complex would additionally be able to accommodate large vessels that cannot clear the Walt Whitman Bridge.

Because of funding limitations from the usual public sources such as the State and the City, a public-private partnership (P3) is currently envisioned to get the project up and running in as little time as possible. Mr. Estey showed the rise in trade with China in particular over the past 15 years and how American and Canadian ports are not totally equipped to accommodate this surge. Water services are growing and carriers/operators want more direct control with their own terminals and operations. A major issue with West Coast ports is twofold — available berths and rail capacity issues for the so-called “land bridge.” This is where P3’s will be critically important.

Why does P3 offer the best solution for Southport? Mr. Estey noted that there is considerable economic development potential associated with it. The Port of Philadelphia is very competitive despite its distance from the ocean, and shipping/transloading costs are equal to what is experienced in New York and Baltimore. The now-available site, designated in a land swap several years ago, makes this development even more enticing.

Today, PRPA has projected costs of between \$250 million and \$430 million to build the desired complex and provide needed infrastructure. This is especially critical since there is no roadway connection to much of the site from the north, the primary means of access. Mr. Estey outlined the expected benefits of Southport, a total of 2800 port-related jobs, \$116 million in personal income, and \$25 million in tax revenues. There could be additional jobs created for “peripheral” activities that are not directly related to the expansion, such as trucking and railroad personnel.

### How and When

Mr. Estey reviewed the in-place team of design/conceptual consultants that is working to put together an investment plan and engineering/feasibility documents. The schedule is a very ambitious one, but this is necessary to make things happen especially given the current overseas trade situation.

The project timeline starts with the feasibility review, begun this past February. A market analysis is due in May. The request for qualifications (RFQ) process for conceptual design will begin in July, followed by requests for proposals (RFP) from potential facility operators in September. Mr. Estey reported that this ambitious schedule is expected to result in an agreement in place with an operator by February 2009. This concession agreement is expected to be for a term of 40-50 years.

Several thoughtful questions were asked by those present and ably answered by Mr. Estey, who was presented with tokens of appreciation for his presentation.

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

**Don Gusic**, Forum President 2008-09

Pennoni Associates, Inc.

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Philadelphia, PA 19104

215-222-3000

dgusic@pennoni.com

### New Officers

The YMF is pleased to report that the following members have volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming season. They are as follows:

President, **Don Gusic**; Vice President, **Cathy Golata**; Secretary, **Jeremy Chrzan**; Treasurer, **Mike Wagner**; Assistant Secretary, **Christopher Shaeffer**; Outreach Coordinators, **Jen Reigle**, **Adrienne Nikolic**; Community Service Chairs, **Chris Gray**, **Angelo Waters**; College Contacts Chairs, **Shivani Mahajan**, **Jen Pesch**; Social Chairs, **Guy DiMartino**, **Kazi Hassan**; Technical Groups Chairs, **Katie Sohnly**, **Alex Sopin**; South Jersey Liaison, **Fred Vesce**; Professional Development Chair, **Dave Petrucci**; Newsletter Editor, **Lindsey Glavin**; IT Chair, **Drew Sirianni**.

### Social Events

On June 4, the YMF teamed with our Forum counterparts from the Delaware Section and South Jersey Branch to attend the Phillies game against the Cincinnati Reds. Ninety-three tickets were sold for the event and there was so much interest that a waiting list had to be created. The YMF members received a promotional Jimmy Rollins bobble head and a \$10 concession credit with their tickets.

Although there was a strong thunderstorm prior to the game, it did not stop 50 YMF members from enjoying hot dogs, snacks and socializing at the YMF-sponsored tailgate. A 50/50 raffle was held to raise money for the 2009 ERYMC convention to be held in Cherry Hill. The event was organized by **Guy DiMartino** and **Cathy Golata** of the ASCE, Phila. Section, **Nate Butterff** of the Delaware Section and **Jamie Gooch** of the South Jersey Branch.

For more information about the YMF, visit our award-winning website at: [www.ymfphilly.org](http://www.ymfphilly.org)

## FROM THE (SLIGHTLY) CLUTTERED DESK OF THE EDITOR...

It's the summer, and ASCE stuff is a foggy memory. After our very successful Spring Social, we all scattered and began to focus on outdoor stuff. And with our often strange weather (a heat wave and highs in the 90's two weeks before the official first day of summer), it's not surprising that we're a little confused. Sure, there's an event here or there during the actual summer, but, for the most part, the ASCE, Phila. Section goes dormant while we all go outside and play, so to speak. Being summer, your Editor is compelled to spend a little "punishment" time inside to crank out a Summer *NEWS* to remind you that we're still here, so here goes. I could swear I just did this, but the calendar says otherwise.

The Latin saying "*tempus fugit*" is appropriate and always accurate — time does indeed fly. I can still recall fairly vividly (and, with the condition of my memory, this is saying a lot) our 2007 Social at the Constitution Center, where we tried a different venue and a "school night" rather than a Friday or Saturday. We stuck with Thursday this year, but moved to Penns Landing. And, from what I heard, a good time was had by all. Thanks to **Jenn Walsh** and the **Social Committee** for another good one.

This begins my fifth year as Editor of *THE NEWS* and, yes, it's still fun. I'm not sure how it started, but I've been passing along my ramblings in this column in the Summer *NEWS* since I took the helm. No one's asked me to stop, and I try not to do any stream of consciousness types of articles during the main season (so I have to get it all in the Summer edition?) — at least that's what I say. Some of you may have differing opinions on this...

We've managed to hit 81 years of *THE NEWS* and we're still going strong — and it's still the same price it was on day one (free), not something

many publications can brag about. Even "*Mad*" magazine, which always boasted its "cheap" price, can't compare, at least cost-wise. Some of you may question the comparison in content, but we won't go there. (What, me worry?)

So let's change the subject. Our profession continues to change. Unfortunately, we're not growing, despite all the emphasis on and awareness of infrastructure, so we need to work on that. We have been diversifying, so that's a plus. If things go as planned, we'll have our fourth female Section President next season. (It only took us 75 years to "break the barrier" and get our first woman President!) Along these same lines, in the 55 years of the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year competition, the 2008 "winner" is the first woman who has received this honor (**Dr. Dianne Dorland**, Dean of Engineering at Rowan University).

We also know we don't speak up when we need to and we hear this again and again. The two State Representatives who were speakers at the Legislative Day session chided us on this (and one of them is a Civil Engineer by training). They need to hear from us in order to serve us. It's like the old joke about the dog that suddenly spoke to its owner one day, after 10 years of being the family pet, to tell him that "my water's too warm." The owner, upset that he didn't know the dog could talk, asked why the pet hadn't said anything before. The dog replied, "Well, up until today, everything's been OK." We need to be heard and we're not used to doing this. We've found that the Legislative Day venue has at least opened a door for this sort of communication and ASCE National's Key Contact program helps to a large degree as well.

...which leads to another related thought — we are **four years away from our 100th anniversary season**, so that gives us something to start planning. You saw it here first. **Send in your ideas and thoughts.** It is a big deal. We are

one of the oldest technical society sections in the Philadelphia area, if not the oldest.

So what's left to do with *THE NEWS*, as we enter Year 81? Some of you have said we should raise the level of content to an appropriate one — a mixed message to me, since I thought my job was to lower this bar. Go figure. We found a cartoonist and we're keeping things to eight pages, so I'm not sure what's left to do. (Add a crossword puzzle? If someone is so inclined...) We'll keep it where it needs to be, somehow (notice how I change the personal pronoun when things start going bad!) but, indeed, it is a "we" thing and I have lots of help. I won't drop names here, for the sake of brevity, but you know who they are.

Speaking of the cartoon, which remains without a name, we did have one response to our search for what to call it. One anonymous contributor — and I'm not leaving his/her name out for any reason, as the note came in the mail with no name and no return address — has suggested a couple possible titles for the cartoon, so we'll kick them around and put them out for your consideration. Thank you, whoever you are. If anyone else has any thoughts on this, please mail or e-mail them to us (or tie them to a rock and pitch it through our window?) for consideration.

Some of you have heard me say that I'm in the ASCE, Phila. Section and remain involved to the extent I am because "it's a good thing." Maybe it's a good thing because we're all in it, just the same. With the hard-working and diligent Officers and Board that we have, this should be easy. Let's keep doing this. We all benefit.

### SECTION WEB SITE!

Check us out at [www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org).  
Comments and/or suggestions? Contact us  
either via our Electronic Message Hotline at  
**1-800-461-4190** (24 hours a day) or  
e-mail at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org).



**PHILADELPHIA SECTION**  
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