



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:

Wednesday, December 10, 2008; Joint meeting with Society of American Military Engineers, Philadelphia Post

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; Joint meeting with South Jersey Branch, New Jersey Section, ASCE

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Thursday, April 9, 2009

As noted, this is subject to change. Updates will be provided in each edition of *THE NEWS*.

SAVE THE DATE! 138TH 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 info will be coming your way, and you can check the website for updates.

OCTOBER JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section,
American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section, Younger Member Forum

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2008

Loews Hotel • 12th & Market Streets, Center City Philadelphia
Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting 7:30 PM

SUBJECT: Sustainable Design

SPEAKER: David Schoenhard, Wulff Associates & **Robert Newton, P.E.**, Urwiler and Walter, Inc.

Energy efficiency, conservation, recycling, and stormwater retention/brown water reuse are only a few of the ideas that are taken into consideration in the current trends toward "green" (environmentally-friendly) buildings. Certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is now available to professionals who desire to specialize in this area. This relatively-new specialty area requires careful design and coordination, especially as local regulations and codes continue to change. The speakers will present some insights into the concepts of sustainable design, LEED accreditation/certification, and other current related issues in the building design field.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3. 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. 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.**

With thirty years as an architect, **David Schoenhard** has guided Wulff Architects since 2004 as its Vice President. He is an actual practicing principal and a committed LEED specialist in sustainable design and has pioneered sustainable-green design. He was responsible for the first green office building in the Philadelphia area (935 First Avenue, King of Prussia) which won the National Award from the Sustainable Buildings Industry Council. He has established one of the few architectural in-house LEED certification firms in Philadelphia, assisting the major developers of Liberty Property Trust and BPG Development Company with their corporate-wide commitment to only develop LEED Silver-Certified projects.

Robert Newton is a Senior Professional Engineer and Project Manager for Urwiler and Walter, Inc. at its offices in Sumneytown. He has been involved with projects that cover stormwater management, stormwater retention and detention facilities, dam and streambank restoration, design and permitting for waterway structures, floodplain analysis, and similar elements for the past 17 years.

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008

(NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE)

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

The topic and speaker will be provided in the November edition of THE NEWS.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the start of our 08-09 year! I have been involved with the ASCE, Phila. Section Board for about seven years now. The time commitment volunteered by the Board members has always inspired me. At our Spring Social in May, a new Board was installed for our Section. I would like to recognize the individuals that work so hard behind the scenes.

Jennifer Walsh organized the excellent Spring Social event in May. Jennifer was previously the Secretary and now serves as a Director.

James Markham, our first Past President, did an outstanding job leading our Section in 2007-08. Thank you again. Jim has initiated an effort to prepare a five-year plan.

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh is President Elect, and last year began the task of re-energizing our Technical Groups. **Thomas Brady** has committed to serve as Vice President.

Ann Tomalavage serves as Director for the Section, and also as an instructor for ASCE project management courses across the country. Ann runs our annual Board Retreat, and chairs the Program Committee that organizes each dinner meeting.

John Zarsky is also a Director, and the chairman of the Humphrey Fund committee. **Vicki Brown** also serves as Director, and as faculty adviser for Widener.

Jeremy Colello is another Director, and has led the Section's efforts to develop a continuing education program. Jeremy also handles the registration for dinner meetings.

Soheila Rahbari is a Director, and is active with ASCE National, and has served with the NJ ASCE Sections.

Joseph Platt has committed to continuing his service as Treasurer. **Christopher Wright** is our Membership Secretary, and will chair a committee to promote Student Outreach.

Christopher Menna is 2nd Past President of the Section, and serves as an ASCE Governor. Chris led the effort to develop the Infrastructure Report Card, which continues with the annual Legislative Day trip to Harrisburg.

Bob Wright is the "Editor in Chief" of *THE NEWS*, working with **Jim Markham** to bring the Newsletter to you each month. Bob's activity in other societies is also tapped on many occasions to organize the various Technical Groups to partner for meetings.

Ruben David, a Past President, helps to recruit speakers, with the ability to get many high profile presenters. Ruben also works to coordinate the many details of the dinners, and he is always our "voice in gratitude" before our meals. **Carol Martsoff**, also a Past President, also is active with several societies and works continuously to help the Section attract speakers and organize meetings.

AnnMarie Vigilante and **Keith Yamatani** are both new members to the Board. AnnMarie is the Secretary and Keith the Assistant Secretary.

The above are just items that I have observed, and I am sure there are tasks I have missed. Thank you again to our Board members for their continuing commitment to ASCE.

In June, the Board held our **Annual Board Retreat**. The focus areas for this year will be **Continuing Education, Outreach, and Technical Groups**. More information will follow on these subjects from our committees.

Mark J. Tiger, P.E.
President, ASCE, Philadelphia Section

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Some words from your Local Governor,
Christopher J. Menna

The **Region 2 Board of Governors (R2BOG)** recently met on September 6, 2008 in Philadelphia. The main purposes of the meeting were to review progress of the Region 2 Strategic Plan and to discuss the upcoming 2008 Pittsburgh ASCE National Conference. Your Governors have been assigned tasks to bring further value to the ASCE members within the Region. As mentioned previously, assigned tasks include such things as: 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. The R2BOG also is in the process of further improving its nomination procedures for future Region 2 Governor elected positions.

As a commitment to improving our service to you, the R2BOG will be attending additional Governor training at ASCE National Headquarters on **October 4, 2008**. Our second Region 2 Assembly is scheduled for **October 18, 2008** in Camp Hill and will be hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Section. All Governors, ASCE National Representation, and members of each Section within the Region will be in attendance. Those that attend the Assembly will hear progress concerning the Strategic Initiatives and will also have the opportunity to provide input to Region 2. All Sections are strongly encouraged to send at least 3 to 4 people to this meeting. YMF and Student Chapter leaders are encouraged to attend, too. If you would like to attend, please coordinate with your current ASCE Section President. The Assembly only occurs once a year, so please come out and help us make a difference!

The **ASCE National Conference** will be in Pittsburgh next month (**November 6-8**). One of

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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

Thomas W. Brady, Louis Berger Group

SECRETARY

AnnMarie L. Vigilante, Langan Engineering
& Environmental Services

TREASURER

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Keith Yamatani, Kleinfelder Inc.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Christopher W. Wright, DMJM Harris

DIRECTORS

Vicki L. Brown, Widener University ('07-'09)
Jeremy Colello, Pennoni Associates, Inc. ('08-'10)
Soheila Rahbari, CMX ('07-'09)
Ann M. Tomalavage,
Malarkey Consulting, Inc. ('07-'09)
Jennifer K. Walsh,
McMahon Associates Inc. ('08-'10)
John Zarsky, Pennoni Associates, Inc. ('08-'10)

PAST PRESIDENTS

James P. Markham, Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Carol C. Martsoff, Urban Engineers, Inc.
Christopher J. Menna, Phila. Dept. of Streets

PRESIDENT, READING BRANCH

Gerald Donnelly, STV, Inc.

President — Mark J. Tiger, P.E.

Senior Aviation Projects Manager
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
1818 Market St
Suite 3005
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 568-0539
mtiger@mbakercorp.com

Secretary — AnnMarie L. Vigilante, P.E.

Project Manager
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Robert Wright

Staff Writers

James Markham Joe Syrnick

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ASCE THE NEWS

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
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OCTOBER 10, 2008**

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. Vice President **Tom Brady** 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

Dennis MacBride
SEPTA
1234 Market Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 580-3404

DELAWARE VALLEY GEOINSTITUTE

Theodore A. Thomson, Jr., PhD, PE
Duffield Associates, Inc.
5400 Limestone Road
Wilmington, DE 19808
(302) 239 6634

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

William J. Mulloy
US Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building, 7th Floor
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 656-6583

ENVIRONMENTAL and WATER RESOURCES

Jeremy Colello
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
3001 Market Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 222-3000

STRUCTURAL

Dr. Mohiuddin Ali Khan
JMT Inc.
1300 Rt. 73 South, Suite 313
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
(856) 778-5517

TRANSPORTATION and URBAN DEVELOPMENT

William T. Thomsen
Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street, 14th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 922-8080

**I make progress by having people
around me who are smarter than I am
and listening to them. And I assume
that everyone is smarter about
something than I am.**

— H. J. Kaiser

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Lindsey Glavin, Forum Editor
Don Gusic, Forum President 2008-09
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
3001 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-222-3000
dusic@pennoni.com

On August 14, the YMF held a Happy Hour at the Manayunk Brew Pub in Manayunk. The event was attended by approximately 30 members who enjoyed the sun on the outdoor deck before some light rain came through. Appetizers were provided by YMF for all attendees. The event was organized by **Kazi Hasssan**.

So you may be asking yourself, "What does the YMF have in store for the upcoming months?" Well, let's explore that. Currently YMF is planning a couple of events in the coming months. First a **Joint Dinner Meeting** is planned between YMF and **Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE)** on **September 25, 2008** at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia. A panel of leaders in our industry will discuss their experiences in the Engineering field and sharing their thoughts on such topics as what makes an Engineer successful, how to enhance your career and the importance of professional involvement.

Also, YMF will be hosting our **Annual Bowling Event** at **Strikes Bowling Lounge** located at 4040 Locust Street, Philadelphia on **September 30th** from 6:00 to 9:00pm. We hope you'll join us at Strikes for bowling, professional networking, and an all-around good time. Appetizers will be provided as well as a cash bar. The event is \$10 for YMF members and free to all students. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to rsvp@ymfphilly.org.

The YMF will once again be partnering with the Friends of the Wissahickon (<http://www.fow.org>) to help with restoration activities in the Wissahickon Valley in Fairmount Park on **October 18, 2008**. These activities typically involve trail maintenance, removal of invasive plant species and restoration of stormwater/park facilities and are a great way to enjoy and improve the outdoor resources available in our region. If you are interested in volunteering the morning of the 18th, please rsvp to rsvp.volunteer@ymfphilly.org.

YMF WINTER SOCIAL!!!!!!! January 12, 2009

Mark your calendar for the most anticipated YMF event of each year. We'll release more details in the coming months, but wanted to make sure you all secure the date.

SECTION WEB SITE!

Check us out at 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.

LIQUID ASSETS

WHYY will be airing the PBS documentary "Liquid Assets: The Story of Our Water Infrastructure" in September!

Liquid Assets is a public media and outreach initiative that seeks to inform the nation about the critical role that our water infrastructure plays in protecting public health and promoting economic prosperity. The documentary, produced by Penn State University, explores the history, engineering, and political and economic challenges of our water infrastructure, and engages communities in local discussion about public water and wastewater issues.

Our beloved City of Brotherly Love is the focus of the first segment of *Liquid Assets*, since eighteenth-century Philadelphia was the home of the first water delivery system in America. Because of Philadelphia's growing population, its groundwater was polluted and not potable (not clean enough for drinking), so the city developed technologies to pump drinking water from the nearby Schuylkill River.

For more information, visit the website at www.liquidassets.psu.edu.

Liquid Assets will be airing on the Arts & Culture Channel 241 (Comcast) on **Saturday, September 20**, at **3 pm** and **7 pm**, and on **Sunday, September 21** at **3:30 pm**. Additional air times are as follows:

Wednesday, September 10, 1 pm
Monday, September 15, 7 am and 4 pm
Wednesday, September 17, 1 pm
Friday, September 19, 6 am and 11 am
Saturday, September 20, 3 pm and 7 pm
Sunday, September 21, 7:30 am and 3:30 pm
Monday, September 22, 6 am
Tuesday, September 23, 11 am and 3 pm
Wednesday, September 24, 6 am
Thursday, September 25, 3 pm
Friday, September 26, 6 am and 11 am
Saturday, September 27, 3 pm

Channel 12 itself will be broadcasting the program on **Sunday, October 5** at **4 pm**.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section Sponsorship continues to be a success. Last season, we had 30 local firms participate in the program. Thus far, things have been a little slow, with 12 firms in place, but there's still time to grab a good spot on the sponsors' page! As always, the Section extends its collective "thank you" to our sponsors for their commitment and continued support of the 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*, among other perks. If your firm is not in this esteemed group, and you would like to become a sponsor, this is the time to consider it.

For information on the program, please contact our Editor, **Bob Wright** at (215) 922-8081, x1647 or newseditor@asce-philly.org.

IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA! (?) THE 2008 SPRING SOCIAL

To borrow from the title of a television program, yes, it was indeed a great spring day on **May 15**, and a nice day to be on the water, or at least next to it. The ASCE, Phila Section's Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance was the occasion that brought nearly 100 Section members, spouses and guests to the Hyatt Hotel at Penns Landing for a successful and enjoyable ending event to a productive and equally successful 2007-08 season.

So why the title? Well, the Social usually has a theme, and this year's was a celebration of our fair city. In the past, the theme included decorations and menu selections that emphasized the particular country or area that was being highlighted. While the décor somewhat reflected the theme, those who were expecting Philadelphia cuisine were probably disappointed at the lack of soft pretzels, steak sandwiches, hoagies and Tastykakes among the dinner choices. (The fantastic buffet that was available quickly changed their moods, however!)

The evening featured the traditional induction of new Officers and Board Members as a main order of business. Past Section President **Chris Menna** was tapped for the duty, which he handled ably as he administered the Oath of Office to the new Officers as well as those completing the second years of their terms.

Jim Markham, our outgoing (in more ways than one) Section President, briefly highlighted the many undertakings and accomplishments of his successful term, thanking the Section Board and Officers for their support and assistance, before handing the gavel to the incoming President, **Mark Tiger**.

The Section's top awardees in the **Delaware Valley Science Fair** were present to display and discuss their winning projects. **Joseph Kiernan**, a 7th grade student at Haddonfield Friends School, took first place in the Grades 6-8 category with his comparison of strengths of various concrete mixtures entitled "*As Solid As A Rock*." Our first-place winner in the Grades 9-12 category, **Hannah Pilling**, a senior at the Springside School in Chestnut Hill, exhibited her effort on the self-explanatory "*The Impact of Land Use in the Wissahickon Watershed on Stream Health*."

The ASCE, Phila. Section Awards for 2008 featured six recipients who were highlighted mainly through the audiovisual show that has become a Section standard. Information on each of the awardees follows.

Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year

Dr. Rodney Plourde was cited as this year's **Civil Engineer of the Year**, the Section's highest honor. Rod is President and Principal at McMahon Associates, Inc. and serves as the firm's chief operations officer as well. He directs the activities of McMahon's operations from his office at the firm's Exton location.

Rod oversees all company management including marketing and business development efforts, financial and accounting functions, human resources, information technology, and facilities procurement and maintenance. Additionally, he serves as principal-in-charge and project manager on several of McMahon's larger projects. He has been a major contributor in the growth of the firm from a total of 11 employees in two offices when he joined to nearly 150 employees in 11 offices today.

Rod earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering at Villanova University in 1966, moving on to receive both Masters and Doctorate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1968 and 1971 respectively. He is a member of several technical and professional societies in addition to ASCE. While in Boston, he was active in the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section and served as Section President.

Rod and wife, Madeline, live in Exton.

Young Civil Engineer of the Year

The Section recognized **Joseph Platt** as our **Young Civil Engineer of the Year**. Joe is a Project Manager for Traffic Operations and Permitting at Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., at the firm's headquarters in Pottstown. He conducts and prepares traffic impact studies, corridor studies, transportation impact fee studies, needs and feasibility analyses, trip generation, access review, traffic calming studies, highway access permitting, and roadway design. He has directed and been involved in several local efforts primarily in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties.

Joe received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Widener University in 2001. He has professional registration in two states and is a member of the American Society of Highway Engineers in addition to ASCE. In the Philadelphia Section, he serves as our Treasurer and has completed his term as President of the Younger Member Forum. He has been a member of the Brookhaven Fire Company in his community for the past 14 years.

Joe and his wife, Nikki, live in Phoenixville.

Government Engineer of the Year

This year's nominee was **John Pickett**, the Director of Planning and Community Development for Delaware County, Pennsylvania. John began service with the County Planning Department in 1977 and became the Planning Director in 1985. In 1996, his duties were expanded to include oversight of the County's Office of Housing and Community Development. He directs a staff of 26 planners and administrative personnel with an operating budget of \$1.5 million. As Director, he has direct control of the County's transportation, land use and community planning efforts, which encompasses a population of over a half million residents in 49 municipalities.

John received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Swarthmore College in 1966 and a Masters degree in City Planning from the

University of Pennsylvania in 1967. He is a member of the American Planning Association, the American Institute of City Planners and several other organizations in addition to ASCE. In 2006 he was cited as the Delaware County Engineer of the Year by the Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.

John lives in Media.

Engineering Manager of the Year

John Nawn was selected for this honor. John, a Vice President of GAI Consultants, serves as the Managing Officer of the firm's Philadelphia office in Berwyn. He has been at this position for the past three years and he oversees the firm's operations in southeastern Pennsylvania. This includes projects in traffic, transportation, highway design, mass transit, railroads, environmental, municipal and construction inspection. He has 20 years of professional experience in the design, supervision and management of transportation projects at several local firms and has been a part of numerous highway improvements in our area.

John earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1987. He is an active member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the American Society of Highway Engineers, and several other organizations in addition to ASCE. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in four states and a certified professional traffic operations Engineer.

John, his wife Barbara, and their two children reside in Newtown Square.

Transportation Engineer of the Year

Incoming ASCE, Phila. Section President **Mark Tiger** got double the exposure as he was cited as the Section's **Transportation Engineer of the Year** before being handled the gavel as the new **ASCE, Phila. Section President**.

Mark is a Senior Aviation Projects Manager at the Center City office of Michael Baker Jr. Inc. He specializes in airport and airfield engineering. He has been with Baker for the past two years and has a total of 22 years of experience in the design and construction of airport runways, airside pavements, signage and lighting, navigational aid systems, horizontal and vertical alignments, and related matters.

Mark earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1990. He is an active member of the Engineers Club of Philadelphia in addition to ASCE.

Mark has a son and daughter and lives in Holland.

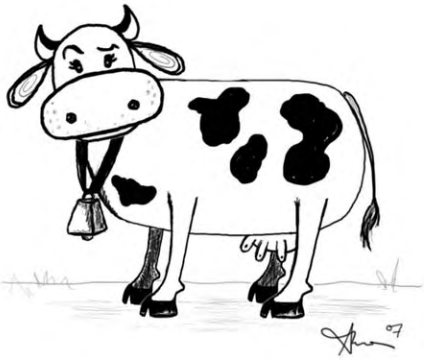
Geotechnical Engineer of the Year

The Section cited **Dr. Andrea Welker** for this honor. Andrea is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Villanova University. She joined the Villanova Faculty in 1999, where she teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in geology, soil mechanics, foundation design,

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MORE OF OUR CARTOON – STILL WITHOUT A NAME

What is the first derivative of a cow?



Prime Rib!

We're happy to note that we'll be including more of the cartoons/art of **Alma Radocaj**, a local art student, who agreed to take on the large task of production of a comic for *THE NEWS*.

Also, our "name the cartoon" contest is still open. We've received not thousands, not hundreds, not quite ten suggestions. As you know, we'd rather not let this fall into the Editor's hands, so we're asking for input.

Here are the names we've received so far, in addition to several we tossed out for consideration in the past. We won't reveal the sources (in one case, we can't, since the ideas were sent in anonymously). They are listed in alphabetical order to protect the innocent, or something like that:

CADdy Shack

CE No Evil

Civil Chuckles

Civil Comics

Civilevity

E = mc2 (engineers are mutually comical and cerebral)

Engineers "R" Us [sounds like a copyright infringement waiting to happen! – Ed.]

En-grin-eer

GRINeering

Hardhats

The Bridge to Funnyland

We're CEs, DAM IT!

Please be sure to send any ideas you have to us either to the Post Office box or through the website feedback option. We're hoping to get some direction so your help is greatly appreciated.

**Resolve to attend ALL
Section Meetings and
Functions This Year!**

ANACE*

Halloween in the City and Suburbs: A Big Kid's Perspective

This article was written by Section Member and Construction Technical Group Chair **Dennis MacBride** and it appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* last fall. With Dennis' permission, we thought we'd reprint it here for your edification. It may come in useful if you plan to go trick-or-treating...

I have lived half of my life in the City and the other half in the Suburbs. From a practical standpoint, trick or treating in the City is better — much better. Since row houses are stuck together, kids receive more candy per footstep. In the suburbs, detached housing means long treks for little legs and less candy booty.

Don't get me wrong, I love the 'burbs, but when I was eight years old trick-or-treating in North Philly wearing a pirate costume, I knew that I could hit the 60 homes on my block and 60 homes on the next block before my bag became so heavy that I would need to return home to empty it. Seeing and sampling the first round of goodies — humongous Hershey bars, big bags of Sugar Babies and green apples (C'mon, what were those people thinking about? Fruit for a kid? Yuk!) — gave us the energy to attack more homes.

After we conquered a few more blocks, we would go to the corner stores whose employees were more generous than the homeowners because it was good business. After we drained the stores, we'd hit the corner bars because the drunks would give us money — a nickel, a dime, sometimes even a quarter. It was nice to get money because we could buy more candy. Our childhood credo was: "What's better than candy? MORE candy!"

When I married and moved to Levittown, I missed the City's trick-or-treating festivities. My wife and I gave out candy but the kids' bags looked so skimpy. (Ignore the fact that the candy bars shrunk to about a tenth of the size that I remembered as a child.) I blamed the trickier-or-treaters' low yield to the long distances between the houses. I was determined that my children would do better, so after our three little darlings came into our lives, we drove an hour from our new home in South Jersey to Grandmom and Grandpop's house in Northeast Philly and attacked their neighborhood on Halloween. The City folk didn't know that outsiders had raided their turf because our children's Power Rangers masks covered their cute little suburban faces. It was a family secret that, until now, I am sharing with no one else but you.

As is true with so many things in life, all good things must come to an end. As our children grew, they wanted to trick-or-treat with their friends in our suburban neighborhood. Although I was a bit disappointed with the end of a tradition, I soon discovered a new world — the world of suburban trick-or-treating. Although our kids didn't harvest as many treats as they did in years past, the suburbs held a special charm that the City did not have. The crunching leaves beneath the little ones' feet, the smell of burnt wood from fireplaces and the spooky darkness between the single homes gave Halloween a different feel than that of the City. I learned to appreciate the best that the City and the Suburbs had to offer.

But if I were a kid today, I'd still rather trick-or-treat in the City.

Have a happy and safe Halloween!

*ANACE – Absolutely Nothing About or Concerning Engineering

ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILA.

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geosynthetics and geoenvironmental engineering. She currently advises undergraduate students and supervises the activities of three graduate students. She additionally serves as the Associate Director of the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership in the direction and performance of research on stormwater best management practices.

Andrea received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1991 and 1993 respectively and a Doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in 1998. She is a member of the American Society for Engineering Education as well as ASCE.

Andrea, her husband, David Ebling, and their two daughters live in Strafford.

Special thanks are extended to those who helped make the Spring Social a success once again this year. This includes the Program Committee (chaired ably by **Jenn Walsh**, with the assistance of **Tom Brady**, **Ruben David**, **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh**, **Jim Markham**,

Carol Martsof, **Chris Menna** and **Bob Wright**), the Awards audio narrators, who once again stayed inside on a nice spring evening to donate their voices to the effort (**Tom Brady**, **Jim Markham**, **Carol Martsof** and **Bob Wright**), and the Awards Committee (**Sandra May**, **Carol Martsof**, **Allan Moore** and **Bob Wright**).

As of presstime, final details of the 2009 ASCE, Phila. Section Annual Spring Social have yet to be developed, and these will be included in future issues of *THE NEWS* as they become available.

COMING NEXT ISSUE...

- More information on the November meeting and meeting schedule
- Report on the October meeting

Look for this in the November edition of *THE NEWS*, coming in late October.

ENGINEERING THE FUTURE: A NEW COURSE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

By Cathy Bazán-Arias, Ph.D., P.E.

Technical professions can benefit from more students developing critical thinking skills while in high school. That's why I applaud the work recently culminated by the Museum of Science (MOS) in Boston. MOS, through the National Center for Technological Literacy, recently published a nationwide textbook, *Engineering the Future: Science, Technology, and the Design Process*, a full-year course designed to introduce students to the world of technology and Engineering. This is the most ground-breaking work I've witnessed during my career to entice young students to join the technical ranks.

The course is built around questions that the students are guided to address through activities and projects. The main focus of the course is for the students to find the answers to the following questions:

- What is technology?
- What do Engineers do?
- What does an Engineer need to know? and
- How do new technologies impact society?

Presenting to high school students concepts ranging from economies of scale and unintended consequences of technology to Engineering design, energy principles, and Gantt charts in a clear, concise, and appealing manner deserves accolades. How many Engineers struggle with these explanations? Plus, the presentations showcase many diverse role models who share the reason why they joined the technical professional ranks and their role in their practice. And, to boot, students gain knowledge and practice under the Chinese proverb, "Tell me, and I'll forget; show me, and I'll remember; involve me, and I'll understand."

There are four key projects that the students cover as part of the course: design the best organizer in the world; design a building of the future; improve a patented boat design; and electricity and communications. Students' progress on their projects is recorded in an Engineer's Notebook, a kind of diary that provides data for design challenges and complementary activities for the projects. As fondly as I recall my high school science and mathematics lesson days, I really would have liked to learn physics, chemistry, and energy principles through applications in projects and more hands-on activities as presented in *Engineering the Future*.

I was fortunate to be part of this new, innovative course and attest to the years of work MOS invested in its creation. And I think that the publication could become a "live" document, with the contributions of other Engineering and science colleagues in future editions. Let your local high school know that the text is available and could be considered for future curricula. Many high schools want to have texts already field-tested; MOS has covered this ground work in various schools throughout the United States.

Let's pass the word to the educators shaping young high school minds! As MOS states on its

website, "The course is intended to help today's high school students understand the ways in which they will Engineer the world of the future — whether or not they choose to pursue technical careers." Let's hope they choose the "technical" side of the Force!

This article appeared in the December edition of *Civil Connection* and is reprinted here with the publication's permission. *Civil Connection's* articles can be found on <http://news.cenews.com>.

CHANGING THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE...

The ASCE, Phila. Section is in the process of changing the way we accept dinner reservations and mail, with the intent and goal that our methods of communication become more streamlined, efficient and easier to use. This will take place over the next several months and we will keep you updated through information in coming issues of *THE NEWS* as well as on our website.

A number of years ago the Section had a very close relationship with the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia. Some of you not-so-young members may recall that Section meetings and Board meetings were conducted at the Club's building in Center City and our mail was handled by Club staff. When the Club had to leave its building in 1990, that changed, and since then our meetings have been in a variety of places. If you send us mail, it goes to a post office box. We also established the Hotline for meeting reservations and information requests.

We continue to have a relationship with the Engineers' Club and have decided to use its administrative functions for things such as mail, meeting reservations and similar activities. In the coming months we intend to formally use the Club's mailing address for our mail, and we will retain the current Post Office Box for the transition period between now and then. We will also be closing the Hotline service and using the Club's telephone numbers for our contacts. These changes will be reflected in *THE NEWS* as they occur.

Longer-range plans include online meeting reservation and payments, which, for the first time, will allow you to use a credit card and PayPal for this purpose.

We hope these changes make things easier for our members, and we welcome your comments, observations, input, etc.

**When someone is impatient and says,
'I haven't got all day,'
I always wonder,
How can that be?
How can you not have all day?**

— George Carlin

UNDERSTANDING FINANCE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER — PART II

As part of its ongoing educational program, the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia is presenting a second part of the seminar which it hosted last February on making finance and related issues more understandable for us Engineers.

It is not uncommon for Engineering firm principals, project managers and technical staff to become confused and handcuffed when confronted with firm financial matters. After all, you were trained as an Engineer, not an accountant. This program is designed to peel away the layers of mystery and provide you with the necessary basics — specifically as they pertain to Engineering firm management. You will return to your office energized by new found financial skills, increased confidence, and a set of simple yet powerful tools and procedures you will use day in and day out to understand and manage your firm.

In Part I of this two-part seminar, we covered the ins and outs of the income statement, company budgeting and the critical financial aspects of project management.

In Part II we will examine the intricacies of the balance sheet which tracks and measures the capital structure and financial health of the organization. You will become proficient in extracting and then using key financial measurements such as the current ratio, debt to worth, working capital and owner equity. You will better understand the concept and use of leverage to finance and operate a firm. We will demonstrate how to decipher and read through the annual year end report package from your accounting firm to fully understand and appreciate the financial standing of the firm. You will see how privately held engineering firms are typically valued for buy/sell purposes. The session will close with a discussion of the use of incentive compensation and other opportunities to energize staff by linking individual success to company results and in the process further the performance of the firm.

For those of you who may not have attended Part I, we will begin the day with a recap (or a refresher for those of you who did attend) of the key points related to the income statement to bring both sections of the entire program together for everyone.

Our presenter will be **David Wahby**, president of Wahby & Associates, a practice management consulting firm formed in 1990, working exclusively with Engineering and Architectural firms nationwide.

The seminar will be conducted on **Saturday, November 1, 2008**. For more information on costs, location and registration, please contact the **Engineers' Club** at www.engrclub.org or (215) 985-5701.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from Page 2

the highlights will be the Governor's Luncheon on November 7, with **Governor Rendell** the speaker. The Pittsburgh Section's goal for attendance is 700 members and 300 students. The final program will go out in the next few weeks. There will be four tracks (education of future workforce, risk assessment, leadership, and student program). Please consider attending. It may be quite some time before our Region will be able to host a national conference again.

All members are encouraged to go the ASCE National website and to view the website 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 ASCE National Board. Remember that your Governors do not represent your Section in particular, but rather everyone within the Region. As a reminder, 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.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING ADDRESS

We receive several returned copies of *THE NEWS* each mailing. The usual reason for the return is insufficient mailing address.

As you renew your ASCE dues, please check your preferred mailing address for correctness. In order to have your mail delivered to you, your address needs to be as complete as possible — if you work in an office building or complex, the street address AND the office/floor/suite number needs to be included.

You can also check your information on ASCE's database at any time through National's website (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.

Another option remains our e-mail service which will get *THE NEWS* to your computer literally "hot off the presses." You can sign up for this service very easily through our website (www.asce-philly.org).

We appreciate your cooperation on this to ensure that *THE NEWS* and other ASCE mailings find you efficiently and quickly.

**A man only learns in two ways,
one by reading, and the other by
association with smarter people.**

— Will Rogers

SPONSOR PROFILE

Pennoni Associates Inc.; Providing Solutions in a Changing World Since 1966

Established in 1966 by C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni, P.E., Pennoni Associates began in West Philadelphia with a part-time staff of two and secretarial support provided by Mr. Pennoni's wife, Annette. Since then, the firm has grown to employ over 840 professional, technical and administrative personnel throughout 20 offices in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maryland.

Over the years, Pennoni has evolved from a small structural Engineering company to a multi disciplined firm that provides specialized solutions to meet the needs of clients. With Engineering experience in eight technologies, the firm offers services in Municipal Engineering, Civil/Site/Landscape Architecture, Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing Engineering, Survey, Environmental Engineering, Inspection/Testing/Geotechnical Engineering, Transportation Engineering, and Structural Engineering. Pennoni's employees are knowledgeable in diverse aspects of the industry and are active in the numerous professional and trade organizations associated with the Engineering profession. Aside from those activities, Pennoni encourages its employees to continue education within the industry and become registered or certified where appropriate.

Pennoni's management and staff are also committed to making their communities better places to live, work and play. Activities include employee involvement on environmental or historical commissions; municipal appointments as council or board member; the donation of services to charitable organizations; and the donation of funds for charitable fundraisers, such as the United Way.

The firm has been honored with several recent awards. Pennoni was once again named as a "Best Place to Work" in Pennsylvania for 2007 and New Jersey for 2006. The firm is currently ranked by *Engineering News Record* as number 190 in the Top 200 Environmental Firms list, number 134 in the Top 500 U.S. Design Firms list and number 95 in the Top 100 Pure Design Firms List. In July 2008, the firm received notification of its continued inclusion in *Public Works Magazine* Top AEC Firms.

Moving toward the future, Pennoni aims to continue to be a leader within the Engineering industry and will continue its quest for better quality of life for the communities where they live and do business.

**The secret of life is
honesty and fair dealing.
If you can fake that,
you've got it made.**

— Groucho Marx

THE PERKS OF REACHING 50 (OR GREATER)

There are some apparent perks and advantages of getting older (and getting older beats the alternative, for sure!). We thought we'd provide some of them for your edification.

We want to thank the person who sent us this list but we forget who it was...

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run — anywhere.
4. People call at 9 pm and ask if they woke you.
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 4 pm.
9. You can live without many things, but not your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the National Weather Service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
19. You can't remember much of this list, even though you just read it.

(A large print version of this is available upon request!)

HAVE SOME TIME FOR GOLF?

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, in conjunction with the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, has scheduled its **9th Annual Golf Outing/Fall Classic** on **Friday, October 17** at Island Green Country Club in Northeast Philadelphia. As usual, the format will be a four-person modified scramble, with various skill holes and prizes. Up for grabs once again is the coveted **Mulford Prism** which is awarded to the winning foursome (last year, the team from Michael Baker, Jr. Inc. walked away with the Prism).

The Outing will start at 8:30AM with registration and continental breakfast. Golf will begin with a shotgun start at 9:30AM, followed by a buffet lunch and the awarding of prizes.

Various sponsorships are available, so even if you cannot attend the event, your firm can be recognized for its support of Engineers Week.

For more information, please consult the Engineers' Club website at www.engrclub.org or (215) 985-5701.

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