



ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2009-10

The ASCE, Phila. Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is starting to take shape. 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.

We also noted the success of the varied locations of meetings and will continue to schedule a mix of Center City and suburban venues to make them as convenient as possible for you. More details will be provided on meeting locations in upcoming editions of *THE NEWS*.

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

DATES TO SAVE, as of this printing, are:

2009

Thursday, October 8, 2009
 Thursday, November 12, 2009
 Wednesday, December 9, 2009;
 Joint meeting with Society of
 American Military Engineers

2010

Wednesday, January 20, 2010;
 Joint meeting with American Society
 of Highway Engineers
 Thursday, February 11, 2010
 Thursday, March 11, 2010
 Thursday, April 8, 2010

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009

Down Town Club • 6th & Chestnut Streets, Center City Philadelphia

Cocktails 6:00 PM • Dinner 7:00 PM • Meeting 8:00 PM

SUBJECT: Social Media for Project Managers

SPEAKER: Rick Alcantara, Tara Communications LLC

Mr. Alcantara will discuss the business benefits, technologies and challenges behind social media. Learn how Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and other platforms will change how you manage projects, find jobs, promote expertise, engage customers and more. Discover which technologies are leading the revolution. Uncover some of social media's hidden traps.

Mr. Alcantara is former president of the Phila. Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, board member of the International Association of Business Communicators, vice president of the Public Relations Professionals of Southern New Jersey and adjunct instructor at Drexel University and Rowan University. He is a frequent speaker on PR/marketing strategies and issues. He holds a master's degree from Rowan University and a bachelor's degree from Susquehanna University.

More information on this meeting will be provided in the October edition of *THE NEWS*.

APRIL MEETING REPORT

April 2, 2009

Crowne Plaza Hotel Philadelphia-Valley Forge

The Future of the US 422 Corridor

by Robert Wright, Editor

The last meeting of the 2008-09 season was apparently a "place to be" for local Engineers and Planners, as 180 of us added to the general congestion in the King of Prussia area to learn how much longer some of that congestion will be with us. (There must be something about King of Prussia — maybe the malls? — that draws out crowds, as we typically see these kinds of numbers at our other event in this area, the annual joint meeting with the Delaware Valley Section, American Society of Highway Engineers.) To "bring home" the idea of congestion, the crowd at the cocktail hour before the event did its best to mimic some of the worst jams on the Schuylkill Expressway — it was indeed tough to navigate around the lobby area with all those in attendance!

Section President-Elect Kristen Bowman Kavanagh managed to bring things to order, settle the crowd and introduce herself as the fill-in for **President Mark Tiger**, who was unable to attend. As the Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE) was co-sponsoring the meeting, President-Elect Kava-

nagh brought MASITE President (and Section Director — small world!) **Jenn Walsh** to the podium for her own welcome and announcements.

Past President **Ruben David** was then tapped to lead the crowd in the blessing of the meal. After dinner, President-Elect Kavanagh returned to the podium to begin the busy agenda of the meeting.

LOTS OF STUDENTS, SOME LIFE MEMBERS AND PAST PRESIDENTS

Students made up a good chunk of the attendance, as representatives from four Student Chapters showed up. Three of them were to be highlighted at this meeting, and the fourth came to hear the presentation (it might have been easier to call this "Not Drexel Night!"). President-Elect Kavanagh brought the schools' speakers forward alphabetically so they could bring the crowd up to date on what is happening at their respective schools.

First up was **Swarthmore College**, with Student Chapter Advisor (and Past Section President) **Faruq Siddiqui** introducing **David Bober**, Chapter Co-President. Next to be

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**We must look forward
to the future or past to the back.**

— J. Danforth Quayle

Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings This Year!

ENGINEERS LEGISLATIVE DAY — A "THREE-PEAT"

(and we hope Pat Riley won't expect any royalties for us using his word...)

On **Tuesday, May 12, 2009**, roughly 70 Engineers from around the state found their ways to Harrisburg for **Legislative Day 2009**. This event was started by ASCE's four Pennsylvania Sections in 2007 to highlight the statewide **Infrastructure Report Card**. This year, the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) took the lead in organizing and scheduling the day.

A specific focus on several key topics including Transportation Funding, Revised Continuing Education Requirements for Engineers, Qualifications Based Selection, and Support Funding for Math and Engineering Needs was the order of the day. A number of participants attended a hearing held by the House Professional Licensure Committee on legislation on the establishment of continuing education requirements for Engineers, Surveyors and Geologists. (Action on this legislation, House Bill 975, is expected, as it was reported out of Committee in June. We will keep you posted.

Along with PSPE and ASCE, representatives from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC), the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), and the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia took part in the day's happenings.

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Engineering Management Group, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, Delaware County Chapter, will conduct a tour of the **Fizzano Brothers Concrete Products plant in Crum Lynne, Delaware County**. There will be a short presentation before the tour and a Q&A session following it.

This will take place on **Thursday, September 17** at the plant (1776 Chester Pike) starting at **4:00 PM** and is expected to take approximately 2 hours. There will be an optional meal after the tour. The tour is **FREE** — individuals will be responsible for their meal costs on their own.

Fizzano (www.fizzano.com) provides a complete line of masonry products and hardscape building materials.

For reservations, please RSVP by **Monday, September 14, 2009** to **Bill Mulloy** at **William.J. Mulloy@usace.army.mil**.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES GROUP

The Environmental and Water Resources Technical Group is setting up topics for this coming Fall/Winter. If you are interested in attending Group meetings or have topic suggestions, please forward your e-mail address and contact information to Group Chair **Eve D'Onofrio** at edonofrio@esdesignnllc.com.

BILL POLK

William Harris Polk, 93, an Engineer and Public Transit Expert who was active in the creation of SEPTA, passed away on April 25, 2009.

While growing up in Madison, Wisconsin, Mr. Polk visited one of his grandmothers at the local train station, where she was a ticket clerk. He loved watching the trains pull into the station and discovered his passion for railroads. After he graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1937, he worked for a steel company for just over a year, but drifted to follow his interests and took a position at the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (also known as the Milwaukee Road) when he got the chance.

Another job led him to Philadelphia in 1957, where the call of the rails once again enticed him and he joined the staff of the newly organized Passenger Service Improvement Corporation in 1961. The nonprofit agency was formed to increase ridership on local rail lines. Three years later, this organization morphed into what we know today as SEPTA, which the Pennsylvania legislature had established to provide transit for metropolitan Philadelphia.

In 1970, Gov. Raymond Shafer appointed him as Deputy Secretary for the newly formed Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. For the next 13 years, Mr. Polk worked with communities to improve rail and bus service. Following his retirement from PennDOT in 1983, he served on the Montgomery County Transportation Advisory Committee and SEPTA's Regional Citizens' Advisory Committee, where he was an advocate for preserving rail and bus lines threatened with closure.

In addition to his wife, Jean, Mr. Polk is survived by a son, two daughters, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Villanova University PENNSYLVANIA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Bailing Out Stormwater • Oct. 14-15

The symposium is intended to advance the knowledge and understanding of sustainable stormwater management for those dealing in all aspects of planning, design, implementation and regulatory compliance. This is the seventh symposium on stormwater issues that has been held at Villanova.

Abstracts are still being accepted for the poster session as well as for the stormwater BMP recognition program. More information can be found at www.villanova.edu/VUSP.

CEU's will be given for attendance at the symposium. The symposium proceedings will be published to the Internet. Potential exhibitors and sponsors are encouraged to contact **Dr. Robert Traver** at (610) 519-7899.

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2009-10 SEASON

At the Spring Social on May 13, 2009, the ASCE, Phila. Section's Officers and Board members were officially installed.

They are as follows:

PRESIDENT

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh,
Flow Science, Inc.

PRESIDENT ELECT

Thomas W. Brady, Louis Berger Group

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Ann M. Tomalavage,
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Mark J. Tiger, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
James P. Markham, Pennoni Associates, Inc.
Carol C. Martsolf, Urban Engineers, Inc.

PRESIDENT, READING BRANCH

Gerald Donnelly, STV, Inc.

We wish these brave and generous folks our collective good luck for the coming season.

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
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SEPTEMBER 11, 2009**

SECTION GOES ELECTRONIC THE NEWS GOING DIGITAL

We're going to enter the 21st century, albeit 10 years later than most others — that is, the ASCE, Philadelphia Section will be moving to electronic correspondence at the end of this year. Starting with the December/January 2010 edition of *THE NEWS*, we will be changing our distribution methods, with e-mail becoming the "default."

Postage and printing costs continue to increase, and we see the e-mail option as a major tool available to us to save the over \$15,000 we spend each season on these combined expenditures. These savings can be allocated into other areas in our budget, meaning we can better utilize these resources on programs, meetings and other items which generally have more tangible benefits to our members.

Over the past several years, we have offered e-mail delivery of *THE NEWS* as an option to members. E-mailing allows *THE NEWS* to get in your hands quickly and efficiently. Over 200 members have opted for this to date and they have found that *THE NEWS* gets to them at least one week faster than via conventional mailing.

Mailing delays, which are generally beyond our control, play havoc with the time sensitivity of items in *THE NEWS* such as meeting notices and reservation deadlines. A number of years ago, we changed our mail delivery from bulk rate to pre-sorted first class to take advantage of the touted faster delivery of first-class mail. We decided to pay the higher rate to get *THE NEWS* to you as quickly as possible. This does not always happen, and our experience has been that we are still subject to seasonal and mail-volume delays that result in less-than-timely receipt of *THE NEWS* by many members.

E-mailing will also allow us to reach a larger segment of our membership. Currently, only those who pay Section dues receive *THE NEWS*, again in our attempts to keep costs as low as possible. We would expand delivery of *THE NEWS* to all assigned Section members as part of the change to e-mail.

We are additionally looking to change the way we e-mail *THE NEWS*. At present, it is a large attached file and has had some problems in the past with server firewalls, size limitations, etc. Among the methods being considered are a "hot link" to our website, where *THE NEWS* would be posted immediately upon release of the current edition.

We do not have current e-mail addresses for all of our members. Thus, we may need to obtain your preferred e-mail address at some point in the coming season to keep our address book current and make sure we have the correct address so *THE NEWS* can continue to reach you in a timely fashion.

We realize that not all of you are ready for this, or have e-mail capability or computer savvy, so we would still retain the hard-copy mailing option if you so prefer. If you would like to continue receiving a hard copy in addition to the e-mailed version, please notify us at info@asce-philly.org by the end of the year.

LIFE MEMBERS HONORED

Our ASCE, Phila. Section welcomed a total of 16 newly-minted Life Members to its fold earlier this year. As you may know, this is a momentous occasion, and it's fairly easy to do if you:

- have reached the age of 65,
- have paid dues for a minimum of 30 years,
- have had 10 years continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Membership

Life Members are exempt from dues and need only pay a small service fee to receive *ASCE News and Civil Engineering* magazine.

The "Class of '09" included the following:

Mohamed Abdelhamid; Sergei Borichevsky; David Casper; James Charles; Arthur Dvinoff; Paul Gaudini; Roland Hall; Ernest Knight; Leo Leonetti; Richard Longo; Mario Quattrochi; Theodore Robb; John Salyer; Albert Schaufler; Ralph Steiner; Arthur White

Mr. Robb was able to attend our March meeting and be honored, while Messrs. **Charles, Dvinoff, Gaudini, Hall and Leonetti** joined us in April for their citation and congratulations.

ASCE appreciates the lifelong support of these members. We thank them for their contributions and years of dedication to our profession.

ASCE NATIONAL NEWS/EVENTS ELECTIONS — 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* and you can cast your vote through National's website. The "polls" close on **August 13**, so make your vote count!

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section does NOT generally endorse or recommend particular candidates for office. We prefer to have you rely on your own judgement, opinion and knowledge to make your personal decision and we do not intend to sway this in any way. We CAN say that the candidates for the open positions are all highly qualified for the positions they are seeking and each would serve the Society well. Information on the candidates is provided on National's website and we urge you to consult this as you consider your decision and **VOTE**.

The only thing we would urge you to do in this election is **VOTE**. If you don't, that will guarantee that your voice will NOT be heard. *Please take this opportunity to express your desires and participate in this election, VOTE.*

139TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE — SAVE THE DATES!

The 2009 ASCE Annual Conference will be held **October 29–31, 2009** in **Kansas City**. The theme this year is "*From Builders to Integrators — Civil Engineers Leading the Way.*" More information will be coming your way this summer, and you can check the website for updates.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

DAVID CITED BY APPA

Past President **Ruben David** was named as the **2009 Outstanding Individual Awardee** by the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA). Ruben was cited at a dinner on July 4th, part of APPA's 38th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar and Gala that was conducted in Philadelphia, July 3–5, 2009. Congratulations to Ruben on yet another well-deserved honor!

MOORE JOINS PB

J. Stephen (Steve) Moore has been named a **Vice President of Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)**, responsible for managing PB's Philadelphia and Harrisburg operations, in April. Steve has over 23 years of experience in the transportation infrastructure market. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, Delaware, North Carolina, Maine and Florida. He earned a master's degree in public administration from Florida Atlantic University and a B.S. in civil engineering from North Carolina State University. He is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Highway Engineers in addition to ASCE. He serves as vice chairman for the executive board of directors of the Transportation Management Association of Chester County and is vice president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania.

HAHNS WINS AWARD

Tim Haahs was recently honored with an **Award of Merit** at the International Parking Institute's annual conference. The Philadelphia International Airport Enhancement project received this design award recognizing excellence in parking facility rehabilitation or restoration in the nationwide competition.

Tim Haahs assisted the Philadelphia Parking Authority in the improvement of the existing vehicular entries and circulation routes via the addition of architectural elements, lighting, and directional signage. These improvements have greatly enhanced travelers' experiences by providing a more pleasant and user-friendly environment, on both a vehicular and a pedestrian level.

...AND THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

As you have seen, the ASCE, Phila. Section Sponsorship Program was a big hit once again last season, with 25 firms participating. This is especially notable in the difficult economic times we have, so we'd like to extend our special and collective **THANKS** to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

Of course, as they say, one good deed deserves another, so we'll be contacting current sponsors later this summer to see if they'll go again in the coming season. We hope the program will be as successful then as well.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact **Bob Wright** at newseditor@asce-philly.org for more details.

APRIL DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

recognized was **Temple University**. **Bechara Abboud**, Student Chapter Advisor, had his own "cheering section" of over 50 of his favorite students, and President **Andrew Rodzon** gave an update on happenings there. Lastly, **Villanova University** Student Chapter President **David Mensching** got a few minutes to speak (apparently he and his fellow students must have been unable to get Final Four tickets?).

Vicki Brown and her own contingent of about 10 **Widener** students listened to their fellow students intently. (We thought we'd mention that they were there.)

Membership Secretary **Chris Wright** cited the newly-inducted **Life Members**. (See the separate article on this.)

President-Elect Kavanagh thanked the Past Presidents who came out on their night. **Ruben David**, **Allan Moore**, **Chris Rood**, **Faruq Siddiqui** and **Bob Wright** came forward and were recognized.

OUR FEATURED PRESENTATION

Surprisingly there was still time for a presentation, and Past President **Bob Wright** introduced the evening's speaker, **Leo Bagley**, Section Chief, Transportation Planning and Assistant Director, Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC).

Mr. Bagley opened with the overview of the R6 Extension project developed by AECOM/DMJM Harris. This report is a follow-up effort to the previous studies in this corridor, most notably those covering the Schuylkill Valley Metro (SVM). SVM was undertaken in the mid-1990's but found not to be feasible or fundable with a \$2.2 billion price tag. A Governor's Task Force revisited it in 2005 and managed to pare the cost estimate down to \$800 million, but this was still too much.

MCPC looked for ways to tackle the transit needs, and in 2007, adopted the "KISS" (keep it simple...) approach as its goal to simplify the project in able to get something built. Mr. Bagley took the lead for the effort at MCPC and formed a Technical Advisory Committee with repre-

sentation from four counties (Berks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), the Norfolk Southern Railroad (owner of the freight rail line to be used for the service), and two transit operators, SEPTA and the Berks Area-Reading Transit Authority (BARTA), along with selected politicians. The intent was the examination of the feasibility and practicality of toll express lanes on the US 422 expressway that could fund highway and transit improvements in the corridor.

THE RAIL SIDE

Mr. Bagley noted that the effort's goal was the provision of a lower-cost alternative to SVM. This would consist of the northwestward extension of the SEPTA R6 Norristown line and the elimination of SVM's routing via the R6 Cynwyd line. The service would have three round trips in each peak period and one in the midday. Three rail options were reviewed — an extension to Valley Forge, a further extension westward in the 422 corridor, and the full line to Reading. Dual-mode (electric/diesel) equipment was evaluated to provide a one-seat ride. The maximum price tag for this was upwards of \$500 million.

Suggested funding sources were provided. Mr. Bagley explained that capital construction costs would use \$44 million in federal funds from a previous "earmark" project in the corridor, to be supplemented by a combination of state funds and toll revenue. Operating costs would be covered entirely by tolls, with any excess revenue not needed for road maintenance going to transit.

AND HOW ABOUT THE ROADS?

The review of the toll alternatives determined that the express toll lanes were not feasible, as there was no direct benefit especially in off-peak when congestion was not a significant factor. Mr. Bagley indicated that tolls on the three Schuylkill River crossings were then considered but dropped because of political opposition, and tolling will not be considered in this effort.

DVRPC is currently looking at a corridor master plan, and this is in development by McCormick Taylor Associates. It is very comprehensive and it includes the effects of 422

congestion on side/parallel roads. The study is projecting long delays, continued land development, increasing volume-capacity ratios (V/C), and considerable traffic diversion if 422 tolling is started. Mr. Bagley added that any toll would need Federal Highway Administration approval, and this is currently not being considered anywhere else in the US.

Mr. Bagley outlined the existing regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects included in it for 422 enhancement. Not surprisingly, the road's needs are much greater than the funding available (over \$650 million in projects vs. \$110 million in the TIP) and many identified projects have no prospect of funding. Cost increases as a result of inflation have also resulted in projects already on the TIP being underfunded by the time they are ready for implementation. When the transit costs of \$500 million are taken into consideration, the total toll revenue needed to make this all happen is \$1.25 billion.

CAN IT BE DONE?

As Mr. Bagley stated, there is no political will for tolls. The study reviewed the rates on other toll roads, including the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and set a 10 cents/mile cost as a reasonable starting point. The mileage-based rate is most fair to all users. Tolls would be collected via an automatic/electronic method with high-speed toll collection. Revenue raised would be prioritized for road improvements, and used for rail capital costs if the three involved counties (Berks, Chester, Montgomery) and PennDOT were in agreement. In a web-based poll, it was learned that 3 of 4 people responding favor tolls.

The project is getting started this fall, when a traffic/revenue study will begin, along with outreach efforts and preliminary engineering on the issues on the existing Norfolk Southern rail line. Mr. Bagley advised that the \$44 million "earmark" will be pursued as starter money.

Mr. Bagley noted that more information is available on the project website, www.R6extension.com. He ably fielded several questions.

The Sections thanked Mr. Bagley for his insightful presentation and awarded him with their respective tokens of appreciation.



**PHILADELPHIA SECTION
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**

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