

ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2010-11

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:

2010

- Thursday, October 14, 2010
- Thursday, November 11, 2010
- Wednesday, December 1, 2010
Joint meeting with Society of American Military Engineers

2011

- Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers
- Thursday, February 10, 2011
- Thursday, March 10, 2011
- Thursday, April 7, 2011

NEWS/EVENTS FROM ASCE NATIONAL ELECTIONS — DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Elections for ASCE National President-Elect, a Region 2 Director, a Region 2 Governor, and an At-Large Director are now open. Ballots have been mailed to members and you can return a hard copy of your completed ballot or vote on line as indicated on the mailed ballot (at <https://www.directvote.net/asce/>). A passcode for voting on line is provided on the mailed ballot.

The "polls" close on August 13, so make sure you vote and have your voice heard!

The 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.

140TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE — SAVE THE DATES!

The 2010 ASCE Annual Conference will be held **October 21-23** in Las Vegas. More information will be coming your way this summer, and you can check the website for updates.

Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings This Year!

IT'S THE LAW! PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

As you may be aware, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists in Pennsylvania are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses in 2011. This is effective as of October 1, 2009.

The State finally passed Act 25 in early May, which formalizes the continuing education requirement for licensure. Professional Engineers, Surveyors and Geologists will need to have 24 hours of professional development that is related to their professional practice in order to renew their licenses in October 2011. The Act will indeed cover the current licensure period (extending back to October 1, 2009), so any eligible coursework, etc. you may have amassed since then can be counted toward the current two-year period.

Additionally, there will be a six-month grace period (until April 2012) for license holders to obtain the required 24 PDH's if they have not already begun to do so or will not be able to acquire the full amount by the renewal date (October 2011).

After a somewhat confusing start and "flurry" of e-mails, the State Board has contacted all current PE's and supplied hard copy of the new requirements and related details. These are also available on the Department of State's website at www.dos.state.pa.us/eng for your information.

As you may be aware, New Jersey has also passed legislation on this and its program will become effective in early 2011. We will provide this information as it becomes available.

The Section's meeting program will be able to be counted toward your continuing education requirement and a verification program, including sign-in/attendance recording and "receipts," will be implemented this fall to help you obtain your PDH's.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ASCE, Philadelphia Section President **Tom Brady** would like to wish everyone a happy summer as they are travelling about. When he figures out where he is (hopefully by not

following the signs surrounding him in the photo above), he'll get to work on his President's messages and other business for the year. He was last seen leaving the Spring Social with an unidentified green individual.



DIGITAL DELIVERY CONTINUES TO WORK WELL

One of our more significant accomplishments last season was the movement to digital delivery of *THE NEWS*. We are pleased to report that both the electronic and "snail mail" options seem to be working smoothly.

As promised, if you decide that reading the computer screen is less enjoyable than the comfort of the hard copy, we're pleased to send you the paper version via the Postal Service as long as you let us know you want this and where you'd like it sent. Yes, we are still printing this and will be happy to send it to you. There is no deadline for asking for this — it's more of a "rolling" system that you can enroll (or unenroll) in at any time. Please notify us at info@asce-philly.org or via mail to our address at the Engineers' Club so we can note your preference and add you to the correct list.

Happy reading!

ASK A CIVIL ENGINEER

Do you have a hard time explaining to friends and family just what "Civil Engineering" is? Even when you answer, do they still seem confused? If so, send them to "About Civil Engineering," a new area of ASCE National's website dedicated to showing all the important things Engineers do to make our lives better, featuring "Ask a Civil Engineer."

Accessible from a link at the top right of the home page, "About Civil Engineering" offers access to notable people and projects as well as videos about the latest Engineering breakthroughs.

But what if your family and friends have questions the "About" page doesn't answer? Have them submit a question to "Ask a Civil Engineer," in the right column of the page. Every month, ASCE will select an interesting Civil Engineering question and post the answer.

READING BRANCH REINVIGORATED WITH AN EARLY SUMMER SOCIAL

On June 13, something that hasn't happened in several years took place — our Reading Branch conducted an activity. Roughly twenty people attended a Reading Phillies game with a reserved spot in the picnic area. The event was organized by the area's two newly found champions — **Dan Klein** of The ARRO Group and **E.J. Walsh** of McCarthy Engineering — with support from the Philadelphia Section and Region 2. Old and new Reading Branch members came out, as well as some Philadelphia Section Board members and Region 2 Governor (and Section member) **Christopher Menna**.

In the spring, the champions led an effort to survey the Branch's current and potential membership to gauge interest for future Branch activities. Support for the survey came from the Section, Region 2, and ASCE National. It was determined that an informal activity would be best to start out with — hence the ballgame. The Branch was successful in obtaining a \$500 grant from the Region to fund the first social activity.

Now with momentum in place, the champions as well as some other interested members will start to plan a program for the 2010–11 year. It is hoped that a formal activity could perhaps take place in the fall, with the installation of a new Board and the recognition of the Branch's 35th Anniversary.

Those interested in participating in the Reading Branch should contact **Dan Klein** at (610) 374-5285 or daniel.klein@TheARROGroup.com.

...THANKS AGAIN TO OUR SPONSORS!

The ASCE, Phila. Section Sponsorship Program was once again popular this season, with 22 firms participating in it. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

There were some added and unadvertised benefits of sponsorship this year, including the continuously-running powerpoint which contains our sponsors' logos during the cocktail hour and dinner portion of Section meetings and the two "new" editions of *THE NEWS* in December and May.

Sponsor logos have also been included in a special Sponsors section of our website. Additionally, we no longer post employment ads on our website, but we provide direct links to sponsors' sites so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions.

Of course, we'll be contacting current sponsors later this summer to see if they'll go again in 2010–11. 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.

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2010-11 SEASON

At the Spring Social on May 14, 2010, the ASCE, Phila. Section's Officers and Board members were officially installed.

They are as follows:

PRESIDENT

Thomas W. Brady, Louis Berger Group

PRESIDENT ELECT

Ann M. Tomalavage,
Malarkey Consulting, Inc.

VICE PRESIDENT

Jeremy Colello, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

SECRETARY

AnnMarie L. Vigilante, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

TREASURER

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Guy DiMartino,
Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Cathy G. Farrell, Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.

DIRECTORS

Vicki L. Brown, Widener University ('09-'11)

Spencer Finch, Pennsylvania Environmental Council ('10-'12)

Soheila Rahbari, RGE LLC ('09-'11)

Theodore Thomson, Duffield Associates ('10-12)

Jennifer K. Walsh, McMahon Associates Inc. ('10-'12)

Keith Yamatani, Kleinfelder ('09-'11)

PAST PRESIDENTS

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, Flow Science, Inc.

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

James P. Markham II, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

PRESIDENT, READING BRANCH

The President of the Reading Branch will be discussed following the results of the recent survey of Reading Branch members on the continued role of the Branch in the Section.

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

President — Thomas W. Brady, P.E.

Manager, Transportation Engineering

The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

350 Eagleview Blvd., Suite 250

Exton, PA 19341

(610) 280-4018

tbrady@louisberger.com

Secretary — AnnMarie L. Vigilante, P.E.

Project Manager

Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

P.O. Box 1569, Doylestown, PA 18901-0219

(215) 491-6500

avigilante@langan.com

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Editor of *THE NEWS*

Robert Wright

Staff Writers

James Markham Joe Syrnick

SEND COPY TO:

ASCE, c/o Engineers' Club of Philadelphia

215 S. 16th Street, Suite 16

Philadelphia, PA 19102

**COPY DEADLINE FOR
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ANACE*

25 Years of the Train to the Plane

On April 28, SEPTA's Airport Line service between Center City and Philadelphia International Airport marked 25 years of service. The Line opened on April 28, 1985 with operation between North Broad Station through the Center City Commuter Connection (which opened not quite six months earlier in November 1984) to the Airport. Seventy-three daily trains provided half hour service seven days per week between 6:00AM and 12:30AM.

It was initially planned to be part of the R1 Route from West Trenton, but service began independent of the West Trenton Line because of concerns about maintaining a high on-time performance. Projected to carry 1500 passengers initially, ridership reached 1900 trips shortly after opening. By comparison, the Airport Express Bus previously operated carried only about 335 passengers per day. In 1990 daily usage had grown to nearly 2500 trips.

Stations were added at University City (April 1995) and Eastwick (December 1997). The latter opened the line to use by commuters headed to newly-opened office space and hotels on the west side of the Airport along Bartram Avenue.

In 2010 the Line's average weekday rider count is 7500 trips.

While Philadelphia was not the first US city to have a rail line serve its Airport (Boston and Cleveland beat us to it), ours was the first to connect its regional rail/commuter system to its airport. For a short time in the late 80's and early 90's, Amtrak trains to and from Atlantic City also served the Airport terminals using this line. Since then, several cities have connected their rapid transit systems to their airports.

Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest

Every July 4th, there are fireworks everywhere. Fireworks of a different kind can be viewed in Brooklyn (and, through the miracle of television on ESPN), when the Nathan's Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest gets underway.

At 12 Noon, a group of 20 steely-eyed individuals line up behind a 30-foot table at Nathan's flagship restaurant on Surf Avenue in Coney Island to begin the world hot dog eating championship, crushed by fans and media, for the historic 12-minute contest.

According to archives, the Contest was first held in 1916, the year Nathan's opened on Surf Avenue. The contest has been held each year since then, except in 1941, when it was canceled as a protest to the war in Europe, and in 1971, when it was canceled as a protest to civil unrest and the reign of free love.

*ANACE – Almost Nothing About or Concerning Engineering

Environmental and Water Resources Technical Group

Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, September 23

SUBJECT: Remediation of the Lipari Landfill (Former #1 U.S. Superfund Site)

SPEAKER: Daniel Sirkis, P.G., Geo-Environmental Section Chief, Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

TIME: 12:00PM—1:15PM (11:45AM registration)

LOCATION: Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office, 2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401

COST: \$15 per person (including lunch), \$5 students

DIRECTIONS: Directions to the DEP office (both by car or public transportation) can be found at <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/southeastregionalloffice/13778/directions/593147>. Parking is available in various lots.

The **Lipari Landfill** had significant quantities of hazardous materials which impacted the surrounding communities. The presentation will discuss the evolution of the clean-up program which included: slurry wall installation, groundwater treatment system, batch flushing, dual-phase extraction, injection galleries, and thermal oxidizer & biofilters for the treatment system offgas.

Attendees are eligible for one (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH) for attending this presentation.

Reservations can be made through the Section website (www.asce-philly.org). Payment can be made through the website via PayPal or via check following the instructions on the website.

WANTED – TECHNICAL GROUP CHAIR

You won't see many want ads in *THE NEWS*, but here's one. The ASCE, Phila. Section is looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and driven individual to take on the chair of the **Engineering Management Technical Group**. Our current Chair, **Bill Mulloy**, has stepped down after several successful years at the "helm" of the Group.

The basic duties of the Chair are the direction of the Group, the planning of a program of events for the season (meetings, tours, etc.), coordination with the Section Board and other Technical Groups, and related duties.

Anyone who may have an interest or has questions about the position should contact President **Tom Brady** at (610) 280-4018 or tbrady@louisberger.com.

**Don't ask what the world needs.
Ask what makes you come alive,
and go do it. Because what
the world needs is people
who have come alive.**

— Howard Thurman

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM (YMF) NEWS

2010-11 YMF Board Election Results

At our election happy hour on Tuesday, the YMF elected our new Board. Unfortunately we didn't get enough votes to ratify our revised bylaws, so look for that as our next event approaches. The Board for the coming season is:

President – **Mike Wagner**; Vice President – **Jeremy Chrzan**; Secretary – **Chris Gray**; Treasurer – **Kazi Hassan**; Assistant Secretary – **James Graham**; Community Service – **Stephen Maakestad**; Community Service – **Chris Russell**; Technical Groups – **Chris Renfro**; Technical Groups – **Amin Ramli**; South Jersey Liaison – **Marc Preim**; IT Chair – **Drew Sirianni**; IT Chair – **Martin Zimany**; Professional Development – **Lindsey Glavin**; Professional Development – **Alex Sopin**; College Contacts – **Jon Miller**; College Contacts – **Katie Berrillo**; Social Chair – **Jen Reigle**; Social Chair – **Adrienne Nikolic**; Outreach Coordinator – **Angelo Waters**; Outreach Coordinator – **Ben Bruening**; YMF Newsletter – **Scott Cepietz**; Social Media – **Guy DiMartino**; Social Media – **Bradley Sands**; Past President – **Cathy Farrell**

YMF Phillies Game

The Phillies game we've been telling you about is sold out! If you didn't get tickets through us for the game (August 10), you can still buy them through the Phillies or other sources. Additionally, feel free to stop by our free tailgate party; we anticipate being in Lot K near Lightpole K8, but that will be clarified on our website as the event date approaches.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Drexel Bridge Team Scores Well

ASCE, Phila. Section Member **Chris Renfro** of the Philadelphia Department of Streets and Student Member **Andrea Christiani** of the Drexel University Student Chapter made significant contributions as part of Drexel's team in this year's national Steel Bridge competition, conducted at Purdue University in May. The Drexel squad has been participating and watching its ranking increase every year, finishing 10th overall this time around. This means that Drexel is now capable of competing with and beating some of the best Engineering schools in the country. *Congratulations to Chris and Andrea on this honor!*

Nawn Moves to KS Engineers

KS Engineers, P.C. (KSE) is pleased to announce the addition of **John A. Nawn, P.E., PTOE, F.ACFEI** as Vice President at its Philadelphia office. John has over 22 years of experience managing traffic, transportation, highway, bridge, mass transit, railroad, environmental, municipal and construction engineering projects throughout the region. He has managed projects for numerous public sector clients and is uniquely skilled at managing complex planning, design and construction tasks, budgets and schedules. *Good luck, John!*

SECTIONS GRADE PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE

The four Pennsylvania Sections of ASCE (Central Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley, Pittsburgh and us) joined forces earlier this year to assess the conditions of the state's infrastructure. The Sections reviewed data on twelve separate categories, including reports, studies, surveys and various other materials from professional societies and non-profit associations, as well as available information from government agencies at the local, state and federal levels. Based on this review, a detailed assessment of the condition of our infrastructure was developed, taking into account its performance, funding, capacity and future needs.

The Report Card is not meant to point out shortcomings in policy, performance and/or planning. It is not intended to be critical of efforts in areas that are admittedly difficult to manage and improve given constraints that are often beyond the control of those charged with the management and improvement of these facilities. Similarly, it is not designed to cite the failures of elected officials. It merely shows in an at-a-glance format where we are now and where we need to concentrate future resources, develop long-range financial and staffing plans, and anticipate measures which will preserve what we have so we can continue to use it rather than let it completely fail.

ASCE has undertaken this same effort on a national scale, and the Pennsylvania Sections decided to do their own for statewide conditions in 2006. This year's effort was an update of the previous one and included several new categories. In 2006, an overall grade of D was given — this year, no overall compilation was provided.

The Report Card was unveiled in a ceremony in the State Capitol at 8:00 AM on May 24 in conjunction with the fourth annual Legislative Day (see the related article below) and at local events around the state later in the day. It "grades" twelve specific areas of infrastructure conditions, as follows:

Category	Grade	Grade in '06
Aviation	Not graded	C-
Bridges	C	C
Dams & Levees (levees not included)	C-	C-
Drinking Water	D+	D+
Navigable Waterways	D+	D-
Parks & Recreation	B-	Not graded
Rail	B	B
Roads	D-	D
Schools	B-	Not graded
Solid Waste	C	Not graded
Stormwater	D-	Not graded
Transit	D-	D+
Wastewater	D+	D-

Even where the grade has not changed (for example, Bridges), while much has been done to address conditions, facilities continue to age and resources have not been available to do much more than to play "catch-up." While recent stimulus funding measures at the federal level were a much-needed "shot in the arm" to get things going, these are an example of a one-time program in an area in which the better solution is a long-range plan and identified, dedicated funding sources. In Pennsylvania the concentration of stimulus funds was strongly on bridges, where needs are great and many projects

were in a ready-to-go stage. Roads and Transit in particular have dropped in grade and this reflects one specific area of concern funding-wise.

The Report Card can be viewed and downloaded at www.pareportcard.org.

Here in Philadelphia, the Section unveiled the Report Card at a ceremony at Dilworth Plaza on the west side of City Hall at 12 Noon, with local media outlets providing coverage and close to 200 attendees there to get copies of the Report Card in bright-red tote bags. We thank all those who attended and support the improvement of our infrastructure.

...And Legislative Day Held in Harrisburg

For the fourth year in a row, ASCE, along with the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and others, conducted its annual Legislative Day on May 24. Over 80 attendees from around the state participated and visited over 100 legislators to discuss the Report Card and, specifically, transportation funding needs.

With the prospect of reduced funding for roads, bridges, mass transit, and other transportation components, in spite of the growing needs, and no new resources in sight, our voices need to be heard, both as engineers and state residents. Transportation is an issue that affects all of us in some fashion.

We encourage you to contact your elected representatives to express the importance of continued long-range transportation and infrastructure funding.



PHILADELPHIA SECTION
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
 215 S. 16th Street, Suite 16, Philadelphia, PA 19102
 Telephone/Reservations: (215) 985-5701
 Web site: <http://www.asce-philly.org>
 National ASCE Central Number Toll Free 1-800-548-ASCE

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