

ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2013-14

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section Meeting program for the upcoming season continues to take shape. Our meeting program committee is busy lining up speakers and topics for what we hope will be an interesting and informative series of meetings. 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.

In coming issues of *THE NEWS*, this information will be “fine-tuned” to provide updates as they are available. We also suggest you visit the Section website for the latest changes in our meeting program. As we have done, each month’s edition of *THE NEWS* will feature detailed information on that month’s meeting along with as much information as is available for the following month’s meeting. The “look-ahead” schedule will show details that are available for future meetings at that time for your advance awareness.

Dinner meetings generally follow a schedule of a cocktail hour starting at 5:30PM, dinner at 6:30PM, 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. As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so.

February 13, 2014: Topic to be determined

March 13, 2014: Topic to be determined

April 10, 2014: “Breakout” – several topics
 Topics to be determined
 Villanova Conference Center, Radnor



DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section
 Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia
 Society of American Military Engineers, Philadelphia Post
 Construction Management Association of America, Mid-Atlantic Chapter
 (Sponsoring societies tentative as of presstime)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2013

DoubleTree Hotel, Broad and Locust Streets, Center City Philadelphia
 Cocktails 5:30PM, Dinner 6:30PM, Meeting 7:30PM

SUBJECT: US Open Logistics

SPEAKERS: **Jamie Simmons**, Manager of Technical and News Operations, NBC 10 Philadelphia;
John Viola, Deputy Chief, Haverford Township Police Department; **Larry Howard**, Officer,
 Haverford Township Police Department

RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, DECEMBER 2. The cost per attendee is \$65, with a reduced rate of \$35 for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by the deadline.

RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER DECEMBER 2: Reservations received after the deadline and “walk-ups” without prior reservations paying at the door will be charged \$75, with a reduced rate of \$45 for government agency employees and students. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.** Please keep in mind there are many participating societies and a sizable turnout is expected.

All reservations should be directed to the Engineers’ Club – online at www.engrclub.org/to/Multi-Society, via e-mail at reservations@engrclub.org, or by phone at **215-985-5703**. Checks should be made payable to Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia and mailed to Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia, 215 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting.

Payment will be expected for all reservations regardless of attendance.

The dinner will be in the Ormandy Ballroom on the ground floor of the south annex of the hotel. The entrance to the ballroom is on Broad Street, south of the entrance to the parking garage; access is not

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Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings!

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section
 Delaware Valley Section, American Society of Highway Engineers

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge, 1st Avenue and Gulph Road, Valley Forge, PA
 Cocktails 6:00PM, Dinner 7:00PM, Meeting 8:00PM

COST: \$35 through January 10 (\$20 for government employees and students),
 \$45 January 11 and after and at the door

Information on the meeting topic speaker will be provided in the January edition of *THE NEWS*
 PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting. Reservations will be accepted starting January 2, 2014.

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.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving to all our Section Members!! November has always been a month of giving thanks and this month we have a lot to be thankful for. Last month I encouraged all our members to reach out to your legislators to ask for their support with the transportation funding bill and as you all know, our legislators finally passed this long-term, comprehensive transportation funding bill which was critical to our infrastructure. So, thank you to those that answered that request and as an industry, it is something we should all be grateful for. I would also like to thank the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) and specifically, Mid-Atlantic Chapter President **Joni Powell**, with whom we held our first joint meeting that featured **Jeff Kneuppel**, Deputy General Manager of SEPTA. In his presentation, one of the things Jeff discussed was the importance of this funding bill and how critical it was to SEPTA, so we're glad to see our industry heading in the right direction.

In order to keep us heading in the right direction, it is so important to our organization that we encourage, support and educate our younger generation when it comes to Civil Engineering! Which leads me into highlighting two things our Section does that focus on our students. First, are the Section scholarships that we give out yearly. There are three scholarships that are offered by our Section. First, is the Engineers Week Scholarship, which is given out as part of the Engineers Week Celebration; second, is our Student Scholarship which is awarded to an undergraduate Civil Engineering student; and, finally, is a Section Member Scholarship which is awarded to an undergraduate Civil Engineering student who is the child of an active Philadelphia Section member. More information on the requirements and eligibility are elsewhere in this issue and on the website.

The next effort focuses on even younger students and is being led by our Younger Members Forum (YMF), and that is the Civil Engineering Club that started last year. This began as a pilot program nationally and Philadelphia was one of the Sections that stepped up and started this Club at a local school, the Chester A. Arthur School, and it is Pennsylvania's First Civil Engineering Club. This effort required countless hours dedicated by YMF and Section members to work with students on all the various aspects of Civil Engineering. A recent article from ASCE National stated that the Civil Engineering Clubs were an "overwhelming success the first year" and we should be proud that Philadelphia was part of the pilot program. **Kazi Hassan**, our Membership Secretary, will be presenting our experiences with the Civil Engineering Club at an upcoming conference and will be able to showcase the Section's accomplishments. I commend the YMF and everyone involved in helping to set our Section apart in working with students on this important endeavor. I know they are also looking to expand the program to additional schools, so if you are interested in helping them in anyway, please contact **Chris Gray**, our YMF President.

We hope to see all of you at the variety of upcoming events we have planned throughout the year and as always I encourage you to reach out to myself or any of the officers or Board of Directors with any ideas or suggestions to improve what we are doing at a Section level. I hope you enjoy the last few weeks of fall and have a very Happy Thanksgiving with your loved ones!

Sincerely,
Jennifer K. Walsh, P.E., PTP
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

available from the hotel lobby. Discounted parking for \$12 (cash only) will be available for those parking in the hotel parking garage; be sure to request a validation sticker at the registration desk.

Join the Engineers' Club and partnering societies at the annual Multi-Society Dinner Meeting. This is a good opportunity to kick off the holiday season by networking with Engineers and other professionals that you might not normally see at your society meetings.

The meeting will consist of a panel presentation and discussion of the myriad issues related to holding a major golf tournament at an older, smaller course surrounded by a residential area and limited roadway access. Presenters will discuss broadcast challenges, traffic detours and routing, and township logistics and coordination with USGA, Merion Golf Club, and other local and state officials.

We expect this presentation to satisfy the requirements for one PDH for PA and NJ Professional Engineers. PDH certificates will be

available at the close of the presentation.

Toys for Tots: Once again, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) will be coordinating a Toys for Tots collection with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Please bring an UNWRAPPED toy to brighten a child's holiday.

Jamie Simmons is the Manager of Technical and News Operations, NBC 10/WCAU, a NBCU Owned Television Station. In this role, Mr. Simmons oversees the Engineering Department and is the lead of technical projects. Additional, he is responsible for day-to-day technical news operations; including complex remote broadcasts like the US Open.

Mr. Simmons, a South Jersey native, began his career on the production side, and has won acclaim as a Photographer/Editor, including 13 Emmy awards.

John Viola is Deputy Chief and Larry Howard is an Officer with the Haverford Township Police Department. They provided key roles in Township logistics, event management, and coordination with USGA, the Merion Golf Club, SEPTA, and other local and state officials.

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**Our Constitution recognizes only the immediate Past President as a part of our Board but, following tradition, we list the immediate three Past Presidents to acknowledge their service.*

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
JANUARY 2014 ISSUE
DECEMBER 20, 2013**

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Amanda Kessler, Forum Editor
Chris Gray, P.E., Forum President 2013–14
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cgray@timhaahs.com

ARCELORMITTAL CONSHOHOCKEN STEEL MILL TOUR

NOVEMBER 13

YMF hosted a facility tour of the ArcelorMittal Conshohocken SMART steel plate facility. The majority of the 75 acre site houses 1,000,000 sq ft. of steel processing facilities that will produce 260,000 tons of steel in 2013, approximately 117,000 tons of which is heat treated.

A full tour group of 21 attendees had the opportunity to see first-hand the operation of the 75 acre site where thick steel plates are processed through reheating furnaces, a 110" roughing mill, and Steckle Mill, and then cut-to-length, and finished with a multitude of steel heat treating processes (quenching, tempering, and annealing). The steel plates produced from this plant service a broad range of markets from appliances, bridges, and ships, to military grade armor. At the conclusion of the tour, ArcelorMittal employees provided a Q&A session regarding a vast spectrum of steel industry topics that they are involved with. ArcelorMittal is the largest steel manufacturer & mining company in the world and provides an exceptional resource for steel expertise close to Philadelphia.

ASCE/ASHE HAPPY HOUR

DECEMBER 12

After last year's highly successful joint happy hour, the ASCE YMF and ASHE Young Members Committee have teamed up once again to host a happy hour at Rock Bottom at the Plaza in King of Prussia. This year's event will take place on Thursday, December 12 from 5 pm to 8 pm. Come join us for networking and appetizers, then head into the mall for your holiday shopping!

WINTER SOCIAL

JANUARY 27, 2014

The YMF will be hosting its annual Winter Social event on Monday, January 27, 2014 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at McGillin's Olde Ale House in Center City. This event regularly attracts over 150 young Engineers in the Philadelphia area. The YMF is currently requesting donations for raffle prizes. Proceeds will be donated to the local charities. Last year, over \$1,800 was donated to the local Future City Competition, Philabundance, and Habitat for Humanity. If interested, please contact Drew Sirianni by email at dsirianni@mcmahonassociates.com. Stay tuned for details on how to register.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

HONORS FOR HAAHS

The Pennsylvania Parking Association (PPA) recently recognized the new Philadelphia Zoo Centennial District Transportation Center with an Award of Excellence at its annual awards ceremony. PPA's 2013 Award of Excellence Competition recognized projects that exemplify excellence in parking design, equipment, operations, and construction among the parking industry, as well as the general public. TimHaahs provided full design services for the 683-space parking facility, working with Pennoni Associates and the Remington Group. The facility serves Zoo visitors, as well as the adjacent Centennial District.

The Asian American Chamber of Commerce recently recognized Timothy Haahs, PE, AIA, President/CEO of Timothy Haahs & Associates (TimHaahs) during the Philadelphia Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week. The MED Week observance, started in Philadelphia in 1983, recognizes the outstanding achievements of Minority Enterprises, and honors the corporations and financial institutions that support the development of these minority businesses.

WAGNER, MARTSOLF PROMOTED AT URBAN ENGINEERS

Among recent appointments to the position of Vice President at Urban Engineers were Mike Wagner and Carol Martsof. Mike joined Urban in 2001 and his growth and diversity are impressive. He currently serves as Practice Leader for Urban's Ports and Waterways Division. Carol is the firm's Training Manager and oversees the Urban Training Institute®, which provides numerous classes on a variety of technical topics, educating approximately 600 participants each year. She has been with Urban for the past ten years.

PEF NAMES MARTSOLF, WRIGHT TO POSITIONS

The Philadelphia Engineering Foundation (PEF) elected Carol Martsof to serve as its Vice President and Bob Wright as its Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, each for a one-year term (fiscal 2014). These appointments were effective July 1. Both Carol and Bob are with Urban Engineers.

THE STATISTICS ON SANITY ARE THAT ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR PERSONS IS SUFFERING FROM SOME SORT OF MENTAL ILLNESS. THINK OF YOUR THREE BEST FRIENDS — IF THEY'RE OKAY, THEN IT'S YOU.

— Author unknown

SUBMISSIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR OUR SECTION'S CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY MESSAGE

As you may be (painfully?) aware, our Section has allowed our Editor to be a bit of a "loose cannon" at times, and one of those times is the Christmas/holiday season, when he has crafted a message of sorts for our "enjoyment". This has even gained a title as the Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message (with the appropriate acronym LAYM). This has been a poem and limerick in the past, and we're open for anyone who's feeling creative, festive, maybe a little seasonally-affected (by natural, alcohol, or other means – we aren't judging!) to submit his/her messages. We welcome team efforts as well.

If we get enough of them, we'll conduct a contest (and determine what prize goes to the winner – usually the prize is the winner gets the job for life), or maybe we'll print them all – we'll see how this goes. We don't have much in the way of criteria – it should be "G" rated, and have some sort of Christmas/holiday connection, but we're fairly wide open otherwise. The "winner(s)" will be given the opportunity to have this published anonymously if they so choose.

We are hopeful that the upcoming YMF Happy Hour will stir some creative thought along these lines. Also, please feel free to consult past January editions of THE NEWS (available on our website if your collection isn't up to date) to see what's passed for this in years gone by.

Submissions are due by December 16. Please send these to our Editor at newseditor@asce-philly.org. As always, staff members of THE NEWS and their families are not eligible, just to keep this fair.

We are hopeful that we'll get at least one submission or else we'll have to leave this to our Editor to come up with, and we've seen the results of that route.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE - "YEAR 101"

We continue our regular feature to provide opening dates of significant local civil Engineering projects and achievements for your reference and knowledge. They may even be helpful for winning a bar bet or a trivia contest (as we've been told).

Those for December are:

Pennsylvania Railroad Broad Street Station- December 5, 1881 (it closed on April 27, 1952).

As mentioned at our October Section Meeting, the Station occupied the area on the north side of Market Street directly across from City Hall. The Penn Center office buildings between Market Street and Kennedy Boulevard replace what was the Station itself and its walled embankment which carried tracks from the west, known at the time as the "Chinese Wall".

I-476, the "Blue Route" – December 19, 1991 full completion/opening (the first section, from I-76 to Chemical Road, opened to traffic in 1979).

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

November 14, 2013

Loews Hotel, Center City

Challenges and Opportunities Facing SEPTA

by Robert Wright, Editor

For our second meeting of our 2013-14 season, we returned to the Loews Hotel in Center City on a brisk fall evening. Once our 80 or so attendees were able to find out how to get into the Hotel (construction had entrances closed and changed) and then locate our meeting room (moved at the last minute to accommodate another event – sorry for the inconvenience), they found the journey was well worth the effort, as they were treated to an interesting and informative evening. Thanks go out to our colleagues at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), which made arrangements with the speaker and with which we were able to plan a successful joint event with relatively short lead time.

President Jennifer Walsh and CMAA Chapter President Joni Powell corralled the crowd from their cocktail hour conversations and networking and got things underway with dinner. As the meal wound down, President Powell returned to “front and center” to introduce the evening’s presenter, Jeff Kneuppel, Deputy General Manager of SEPTA.

Mr. Kneuppel gave a general overview of his position and areas of responsibility at SEPTA, which cover the Engineering, maintenance and construction needed to keep the Authority’s assets in operating and serviceable condition to efficiently move the hundreds of thousands of customers it does every day. He pointed out several members of his staff in the audience who help him get this done. He also noted that he thought he would be delivering better news, believing that the Pennsylvania Legislature would be acting on a transportation funding bill as promised, but with that legislation put off for another week, he would not be able to celebrate just yet. He did show a short video on the “trickle down” effect of transit reinvestment in Ambler and how station improvements there, coupled with dependable train service, have greatly benefitted the community and local businesses.

In a comparison of “peer” transit operators similar in size and nature to SEPTA (Chicago, New Jersey, DC, Boston), Mr. Kneuppel demonstrated how agencies in those areas have benefitted from much higher levels of capital funding. The comparatively low amount of funds received by SEPTA, coupled with the lack of long-term commitment for such, has resulted in a \$5 billion backlog in state of good repair projects that have not been able to be delivered to address needs on SEPTA’s \$21 billion in assets. This trend has forced the Authority to develop a realignment plan (which some call a “doomsday” plan) that will drastically reduce rail service by 2023. The Regional Rail system would be shortened from 13 routes to 4 given the need to replace the Silverliner IV fleet (coming up on 40 years old), the possible closure of a number of aging and distressed bridges on several lines, and

a handful of sections of overhead catenary wires that date to their original installation in the 1920’s and are in need of attention. Trolley lines would be converted to bus as the trolleys currently in service would be life-expired. The Broad Street Line would have no express service, again related to the age and projected unreliability of the fleet which was put into service in 1983. He related that SEPTA would effectively become a bus company should all of this occur.

Assuming funding comes for these needs, Mr. Kneuppel noted that there are already \$500-\$600 million in projects ready to go to forestall the drastic reductions. SEPTA is prepared to take the same aggressive (and industry-lauded) approach to this that it used recently for federal stimulus projects and advance these through Engineering and construction as quickly as possible to increase its reliability and efficiency. This is why the need for immediate funding resources is critical.

Mr. Kneuppel touched on technology issues including the close-to-rollout electronic fare payment system. He remarked that SEPTA was the last major transit agency in our nation still relying on the old technology of tokens. This program will be implemented in a 3-phase effort, starting with the transit side and including Regional Rail as the last phase. No other transit operator has expanded electronic payment to commuter rail operations to date, making SEPTA the first to do so when it happens. This will entail the placement of turnstiles at the five major origin/destination stations (University City, 30th Street, Penn Center Suburban, Market East and Temple University), a challenge in itself in several ways, as the movement is made from a system based on visual ticket inspection (by on-board train conductors, a 19th-century “technology”) to one of electronic payment.

Mr. Kneuppel additionally outlined efforts to comply with federal mandates for installation of Positive Train Control (PTC). SEPTA is one of two commuter rail operators that is on schedule to implement PTC by the end-of-2015 current deadline. Related to this, he noted that funding through the federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program was made available to separate SEPTA and CSX Railroad freight operations on the outer end of the West Trenton Regional Rail line, where there was no other easy solution, and SEPTA will install a third track to have two tracks for the line’s use and one for CSX through the current bottleneck between Woodbourne station and the West Trenton terminus.

Sustainability is another item that SEPTA has identified as an investment priority. Mr. Kneuppel showed several efforts underway to react to climate issues (such as installing route cutbacks and raising electronic equipment housings in flood-prone areas), its first green roof at the rebuilt

33rd/Dauphin bus terminal (a former trolley facility dating to the early 20th century), and energy efficiency through the use of regenerative power from braking trains and the installation of natural-gas-fired electricity generators.

Presidents Powell and Walsh thanked Mr. Kneuppel for his insightful and entertaining talk and presented him with our Section’s new speaker’s gift, a combination pen, laser pointer and thumb drive, as a token of our appreciation.

N-ASCE*

EZ PASS TAKING TOLL ON TURNPIKE COLLECTORS

The cash-strapped Pennsylvania Turnpike is five years away from eliminating more than 600 toll collector jobs as the 550-mile long system switches to all-electronic tolls at the 70 plazas spread across the Commonwealth, if things go according to current plans.

Turnpike officials say that 72 percent of the 186.5 million vehicles that use the Turnpike already employ the EZPass system to automatically pay tolls. As EZPass has become more popular, the Turnpike has slowly reduced the number of toll collectors, whose starting pay is \$19 an hour. With overtime, 10 collectors made in excess of \$75,000 last year, with the highest-paid collector taking home \$94,487 in 2012.

The Turnpike is paying its consultant, HNTB, \$6 million to help to come up with the plan to replace the toll collectors with a system that combines the EZPass technology with cameras that can read license plates to bill motorists. Turnpike officials say it costs at least five times as much to collect tolls from motorists paying cash as it does to accept payment electronically.

As a result, the system has already begun to punish motorists who want to pay cash instead of subscribing to EZPass. This past summer, the Turnpike Commission increased tolls 2 percent for EZPass users and 12 percent for non-EZPass drivers. The Turnpike already uses the license-plate reading cameras to nab drivers who fly through the EZPass lane even though they don’t have a subscription. While it’s now a violation, once the system is in place, folks without EZPass tags will just receive a bill which will be based on a toll price that is higher than if the motorist used EZPass.

There is little reason to believe that the technology is insufficient to handle the task, which has been dubbed by Turnpike officials as the “most significant operational change in the 75-plus years of the Turnpike’s history”. But, there are some questions about how easy it will be to collect money from out-of-state travelers. “Reciprocity” has become a buzzword in the industry as states scramble to make sure that they are cooperating sufficiently to share information about travelers who owe tolls. Fifteen states use EZPass, so it’s fairly easy to share information.

There have been six toll increases since the state passed Act 44, a law that mandated that

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SECTION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Scholarship Program is now open for applications for the 2013-14 season. It will follow the same format as it did for the last two seasons.

The Section offers three distinct undergraduate scholarships annually:

ASCE Delaware Valley Engineers Week Scholarship

ASCE Student Scholarship

ASCE Section Member Scholarship

Scholarship winners will be recognized as the Section's guests at our March 2014 dinner meeting.

ENGINEERS WEEK SCHOLARSHIP

As part of the Delaware Valley Engineers Week celebration, the Section will continue to offer one \$2,000 undergraduate scholarship. The deadline for submissions has already passed.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

- At least one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Section to an undergraduate Civil Engineering student who meets the following requirements.
- The applicant must be matriculating in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at one of the five colleges which have Student Chapters in the Philadelphia Section: Drexel University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, Villanova University, or Widener University.
- The applicant must be an active participant in the ASCE Student Chapter.
- The applicant must be in their sophomore or junior year (and Pre-Juniors at Drexel).

Application Requirements:

- The applicant's name, GPA and/or class rank, and an address/telephone number where they can be reached must be included with the scholarship application. Additional information for consideration (such as need) is allowed. A letter and/or resume is an acceptable means to provide this information.
- A recommendation letter from the applicant's faculty advisor is not required but is strongly suggested.
- The applicant will be required to submit an essay, limited to 1,000 words, on ONE of the following topics:
 1. **Reach, Respect, Recognize** – How would you use these three words to describe your desire to have a career in Civil Engineering and, upon graduation, how might these three words impact your professional career?
 2. The impact a Civil Engineer can have on society is visible all around us, how has this impacted your desire to pursue a career in Civil Engineering and, upon graduation, what might your goals be as a Civil Engineer to contribute to society?

Submittal Deadline:

- Applications (including recommendations) must be submitted by January 27, 2014.
- Scholarship winners will be notified by February 24, 2014.

- Applications and recommendations should be submitted by mail or email to: Mr. Ernie Hanna, Scholarship Committee Chair American Society of Civil Engineers 215 South 16th St., Suite 16 Philadelphia, PA 19102

SECTION MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

At least one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Section an undergraduate Civil Engineering student who is the child of an active Philadelphia Section member and meets the following requirements.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The applicant must be the child of an active Philadelphia Section member.
- The applicant must be matriculating in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at an accredited college or university.
- The applicant must be an active participant in the ASCE Student Chapter at his/her school.
- The applicant must be in their sophomore or junior year (and Pre-Juniors at Drexel).
- Application requirements and submittal deadline are the same as for the Student Scholarship above.

We encourage all eligible students to apply. Good luck!

OOPS

We had a nice streak of being nearly perfect, but, as we know, no one's perfect, thus...

In November, we had a couple of miscues:

On page 3, the continuation of the Section Scholarship Program article was incorrectly noted as being on page 4. It should have reflected the continuation to page 5.

On page 4, in the report on the October Dinner Meeting, in the second paragraph in the left-most column, we referred to the "featuredfeatured" speaker. While stuttering happens verbally, we're not aware of any version of it related to writing, and this should only be one "featured". Sometimes the fingers type faster than the brain...

We apologize for any inconvenience that may have resulted from this. Your Editor has been sentenced to a continued and ongoing effort to diagram his sentences until he can guarantee that this won't happen again. Since it hasn't happened for a while, he may get some clemency on this, and that remains to be seen. In the meantime, he's loading up on red pens and awaiting the diagramming challenge.

THE HUSBAND WHO WANTS A HAPPY MARRIAGE SHOULD LEARN TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT AND HIS CHECKBOOK OPEN.

– Groucho Marx

ADVANCE PLANNING FOR ENGINEERS WEEK

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee will be celebrating Engineers Week 2014 from February 14 through February 22 and will continue its schedule of three events which will highlight the various contributions of Engineers and Engineering students in the Delaware Valley. Please note this information in your calendar and plan to participate.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Friday, February 14, 2014

DoubleTree Hotel, Center City

- This event is both the kickoff event of Engineers Week and the main event of the Delaware Valley celebrations.
- A poster session, with presentation of student paper winners, will be conducted starting at 11:00 AM.
- All Delaware Valley Awards and Scholarships will be presented.
- Engineers Week proclamations will be displayed.
- Project and individual awards of all participating Engineering societies in the Delaware Valley will be recognized.
- The 2014 Engineer of the Year, **Suzette Schultz**, and Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks.

YOUNG ENGINEER SOCIAL EVENT

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Manayunk Brewery, Philadelphia (Manayunk)

- This event will be a happy-hour type event geared to younger Engineers. The Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks.

CELEBRATION OF ENGINEERING RECEPTION

Thursday, February 20, 2014

Villanova University Conference Center, Radnor

- The culminating event of Engineers Week will be a social/networking gala event to celebrate Engineering, with cocktails, appetizer stations, and dessert stations.
- Award recipients will be honored with posters/exhibits/running PowerPoint in the networking area.
- Future City Competition Regional winners will display their first place model.
- The Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the year will provide brief remarks.

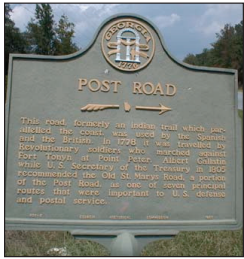
More information will be provided on price, location, and other details in the coming months. Please visit www.dvewc.org for up-to-date announcements.

As always, volunteers are needed! If you are interested in volunteering for one of the many activities of Engineers Week, please visit www.dvewc.org.

WHY SHOULD WE PAY TAXES TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN ROADS?

Pittsburgh Section Past President and former PA Council Chair **Greg Scott** recently put together this article for the Pittsburgh Section’s newsletter. Since things are much the same here on the other end of our state, we reprint this with his permission for your edification.

The Scottish Enlightenment philosopher and loadstar for the Founding Fathers, Adam Smith wrote in *The Wealth of Nations*...



According to the system of natural liberty, the sovereign has only three duties to attend to . . . First, the duty of protecting the society from violence and invasion . . . secondly, the duty

of protecting, as far as possible, every member of society from the injustice or oppression of every other member of it . . . and, thirdly, the duty of erecting and maintaining certain public works and certain public institutions, which it can never be for the interest of any individual, or small number of individuals, to erect and maintain; because the profit would never repay the expense to any individual or small number of individuals, though it may frequently do much more than repay it to a great society.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution followed soon afterwards. Known as the Postal Clause, it empowers Congress “To establish Post Offices and Post Roads.” Recognized primarily to facilitate interstate communication and commerce, there was disagreement as to Congress’s involvement in road building. Thomas Jefferson considered road building to be primarily a state responsibility. However since the founding of the Country, “certain public works” or infrastructure has been recognized as a core function of government.

Recently, some have advocated that both state and federal government should not fund infrastructure, or that infrastructure should somehow pay for itself. This outlook has created gridlock in Legislatures across the country, as advocates for the construction industry and the private employers who benefit from public infrastructure seek funding to address the deteriorating condition of America’s Infrastructure (see ASCE’s 2013 Report Card) but some vocal opponents insist that is not the will of the people.

Is this how the public feels? This past May, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) released a first-ever national poll conducted to see how valuable Americans think our road and transit network is to the nation, our everyday life, and relative to other modern necessities we routinely rely upon. Key findings included:

- Many Americans are not sure how much money we personally pay every month to maintain and improve the roads, bridges and

public transit we use. But 75% of respondents said having safe, efficient and well-maintained transportation infrastructure is at least, if not more, important to their personal livelihood and well-being than good cable, cell phone, internet, water, sewage and household electricity and natural gas services

- 8 in 10 of respondents (78%) said driving a motor vehicle is “very” or “extremely” important to our ability to conduct our daily lives, with 21% (including 34% of low income respondents) saying the same about using public transportation

- Nearly 9 in 10 (88%) said transportation infrastructure is important to maintaining a strong U.S. economy

- 83% said our transportation network is important in ensuring national defense and emergency response capabilities

- And no matter where we live — whether rural or urban — 71% of respondents agreed that growing traffic congestion in US metropolitan areas is making products we buy everywhere more expensive because congestion increases transportation costs for businesses

- Not surprisingly, given the importance we place on transportation assets, 74% of us agree that “investing in transportation infrastructure should be a core function of the federal government.”

So the majority of Americans understand what our Founding Fathers knew and what ASCE has demonstrated in its Failure to Act Study: that adequately maintained and robust infrastructure is critical for America’s economic prosperity and it will affect everyone’s pocketbook if we fail to do so.

In Pennsylvania, Governor Corbett recognized the essential nature of this core government function and after creating the Transportation Funding Advisory Commission (TFAC), which recommended broad increases in transportation funding. Corbett made it one of his 2013 goals. The Senate agreed and advanced a funding bill, but the Pennsylvania House has not advanced a bill to the floor. (This was accurate as of the original publishing of this article. Since then, as we know, transportation funding legislation has finally been passed.)

ASCE has lent its support to a myriad of industry organizations, business interests, private companies and regional chambers of commerce in support of additional transportation funding, but it appears this is not enough. In the end, individuals have to express what they expect their government to do for them.

I strongly encourage every ASCE member to demand that Pennsylvania address its economic future by

- Supporting a transportation funding plan that is comprehensive in addressing all modes, is adequate to address the problem, and is sustainable for years to come

- Supporting a transportation funding plan that will lead to jobs now – Engineers, construction

laborers and equipment operators, suppliers, etc. – and create tangible assets that will lead to new jobs and investment in the future for all those who use transportation to get to work, shopping, worship and recreation

- Supporting investing in transportation as a core function of government, and one that the Commonwealth cannot avoid the challenge of any longer

[Ed. note – it doesn’t hurt to let your elected representatives know that they NEED to do this – this should not be a political agenda as getting around is vital to all of us!]

PSPE PHILADELPHIA ENGINEERS WEEK BANQUET

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), Philadelphia Chapter, will conduct its 2014 National Engineers Week Banquet on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at the Springfield Country Club (400 West Sproul Road, Springfield). This event will recognize, promote and celebrate the role that Engineers fill in the Greater Philadelphia and Delaware Valley Region.

The price per person is \$65.00 for reservations received before February 14, 2014 and \$75.00 for reservations received afterward. A student rate of \$30.00 is available. Reservations can be made on the Chapter’s website, www.pspe-philly.org, using PayPal. Sponsorships and table-top exhibits are also available, and information on these can be found on the Chapter’s website.

DON’T FORGET ABOUT YOUR DUES!

Your dues statement/invoice for 2014 was dutifully delivered to you from National in mid-September. As noted on the invoice, you can pay by check or electronically. Please don’t forget to pay your ASCE and Philadelphia Section dues. Your dues are vital to the support of the Section’s activities.

Also, if your dues statement looks a little higher than in the past, you will notice your Section dues has increased by \$5 (from \$30 to \$35). After nearly nine years since the last increase in Section dues (\$5 as well, in 2005), the increased cost we face in the operation of our Section has unfortunately forced our hands. We will do our best to hold the dues at this level for as long as we can and appreciate your understanding and ongoing support.

“CHANGING OF THE GUARD” NEW CHAIR AT ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

As of November, there is a change “at the top” in our Engineering Management Technical Group. Current Chair **Mike Radbill** has asked to be able to fade into an assistance position within the group and will hand over the “reins” to **Ehsan Minaie, PhD, P.E.**, who is with Intelligent Infrastructure Systems (IIS). Ehsan’s contact information is included in the listing of the Technical Group chairs elsewhere in this edition.

We welcome Ehsan and wish him good luck, and thank Mike for his service for the past two years.

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. Director Keith Yamatani will be coordinating the 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 appropriate Group Chair.

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N-ASCE*

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the Turnpike begin paying \$450 million a year to PennDOT. The Turnpike was supposed to be able recoup its money by tolling Interstate 80, which, as we know, didn't happen, and the Legislature has yet to pass a law to get the turnpike out from under its Act 44 obligations.

Thanks to the Meadville Tribune for this.

LOOK, OUT IN THE STREET, IT'S A WORM, IT'S ROADKILL, IT'S POTHOLE GUY?

Ron Chane, owner of a screen-printing business in Jackson, MS, has become a "street vigilante" of sorts, fixing potholes in the dead of night using "borrowed" city asphalt. Armed with a shovel, a push broom and a pickle bucket, Chane and his girlfriend would periodically visit the city's asphalt supply, which they termed "Mount Saint Asphalt", then hit the streets to do their work. This past summer, they achieved their goal of filling 100 potholes (they actually did 101).

To show what they did, they would place a small plant in the center of the patch, and spray paint a circle around the fixed pothole with an arrow pointing to it and the words "Citizen Fixed". They got to the point that they were able to complete the operation in as little as 20 seconds.

Chane felt justified in doing his civic duty, but the city administration noted that, while it appreciated its citizens making such contributions, it did not accept any use of its resources without going through the proper channels. Local authorities are currently investigating the situation but no charges have been brought to date.

Thanks to Roads and Bridges for this information.

**N-ASCE - Not always something concerning Engineering... (after a few years of ANACE, we've decided to try a new "brand")*

UPDATE: PRIME TIME FOR CIVIL ENGINEERS IN POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT?

Last year at this time we were giving you some ideas to drop to anyone who might be looking for that gift for the often-picky Engineer. We were made aware of *The Jackhammer Elegies*, a novel by **Stefan Jaeger** (also the Managing Director of Member & Corporate Communications at ASCE National), unusual in that it's about Engineers.

In case you don't remember, the novel is a fictionalized version based on the account of a New York City Professional Engineer who'd been caught in an elevator after the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and his ordeal in getting out. In this instance, it's in Reston, VA (near DC), and covers the story of Scott Carter, a Structural Engineer who had designed the steel frame of the building in which he is trapped by an explosion. The blast rocks Carter from his everyday life into the media limelight—and ultimately into the crosshairs of a technically cunning terrorist. Carter's knowledge of the building's structural framework helps him alert the city about potential collapse, but that turns him into the conduit of threats from the mastermind of the attack, alias Jackhammer. Carter becomes a consultant to the FBI as it investigates the Engineering angles to the case, teaming up with Special Agent Michelle Taylor, whose striking presence pulls Carter into the complications of a growing love. The partners soon find themselves matching wits with an elusive mastermind targeting the lifelines of a city's public works.

As an update, we were advised that the novel recently won a 2013 SET Award from the

Entertainment Industries Council, which honors film, television and other genres that inspire "interest in Science, Engineering, Technology and Math through media and entertainment." Other 2013 winners include the TV shows and movies, *The Big Bang Theory*, *NCIS*, *Iron Man 3*, and *Star Trek into Darkness*.

So, maybe a stocking stuffer...



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news



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