

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.

This information is “fine-tuned” in each edition of *THE NEWS* 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 5:30 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. As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so.

March 13, 2014: Topic to be determined

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

May, 2014: The Spring Social is currently in the planning stages and is being targeted for an early-to mid-May time frame. More information will be provided in future editions of *THE NEWS*.

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 6:00 PM, Dinner 7:00 PM, Meeting 8:00 PM

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

SUBJECT: Schuylkill Banks – Bridges and Boardwalks and Trails (Oh My!)

SPEAKERS: Joseph R. Syrnick, PE, PLS, President and CEO, Schuylkill River Development Corp.; Lane B. Fike, PE, Director of Capital Projects, Schuylkill River Development Corp.

PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting. Reservations should be sent to ASHE, c/o Contractors Association of Eastern Pennsylvania, 1500 Walnut Street, Suite 1105, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Reservations can also be faxed to 215-546-2259. Sorry, e-mail reservations CANNOT be accepted. Payment can be mailed to the noted address (checks payable to ASHE Delaware Valley Section), brought to the meeting, or invoiced.

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.

Schuylkill River Park has become a significant attraction in Center City Philadelphia since the opening of its original segment just over a dozen years ago. Utilizing dormant and deteriorating riverside space, the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC) has been able to succeed in the creation of trails, boat docks and similar facilities to make the river’s edge a vibrant and popular place. The first segment, on the east side of the Schuylkill extending from Locust Street to Race Street, has been supplemented by recent additions to link to the Art Museum and other segments in Grays Ferry and Bartram’s Gardens. A unique “boardwalk” structure and ramp are currently under construction to provide a link on the south end to the South Street Bridge. A new bridge across the CSX railroad was opened last year, allowing full-time access when the nearby Locust Street at-grade crossing is blocked by trains.

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Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings!

FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

The February meeting is still being planned and a date has not been set as of this printing.
More information will be provided in the February edition of *THE NEWS*.

A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL

It being that time of the year again, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or your own particular event (or all of them), the Officers and Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Section extend our best wishes to all Section Members, their families and friends for the best holiday season, and we hope the coming year brings all good things your way.

As always, we hope your holiday season is full of good cheer and is safe, enjoyable and memorable!

Your Editor would also like to send the same good wishes along, and leave you with his special holiday gifts of continued bad puns, lame attempts at humor, and an endless supply of run-on sentences for your diagramming delight. And, as an added bonus (since it’s the season of giving), see the Section’s alternative holiday message on page 3. It’s the least he can do. (And we mean that sincerely!)





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2013 comes to a close, this is the time of year to look back on the past year and look forward to the good things coming for the new year. I've always seen the holiday season as a magical time, and having a 7 year old little boy and a 3 year old little girl, it makes it very easy to see that magic through their eyes. We had some amazing accomplishments as a Section over the past year including our 100th Anniversary Celebration, the passing of a monumental transportation funding bill, the advancement of important projects within our Section, and our own personal and professional accomplishments, which are too many to name. We should look back with pride on the past year and be even more excited for the year to come!

As we wrap up this year, there were a few great things that all have happened over the past two weeks of which I would like to make you aware. First, on December 9th, the ASCE Philadelphia Section was honored with a Proclamation for our 100th Anniversary from Councilman Kenyatta Johnson, the Chair of the Transportation and Public Utilities Committee, for extraordinary service and dedication to the Innovation of Vital City Infrastructure. Next, the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) was selected to receive the 2014 SEI Chapter of the Year award in recognition of its exemplary activities and efforts to advance the Structural Engineering profession. Last, but certainly not least, **Noli Alarcon**, Vice-President at Tim Haahs, was elected to the esteemed Fellow grade of ASCE membership. This is a distinct honor for one of our Section Members and we congratulate him on this accomplishment. These three newsworthy items are a great way to culminate another successful year for our Section!

I'm excited to begin 2014 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 wish all of our members, your families and friends a blessed, joyous holiday season and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

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

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

Messrs. Synchron and Fike will provide an update on the projects currently underway and those in design and planned as the Schuylkill Banks effort continues to grow to achieve its goal of a continuous link along the tidal portion of the River.

Joe Synchron has been President and CEO of SRDC since 2005. Prior to that, he enjoyed a 34-year career with the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets, the last 19 of which he served as the Chief Engineer and Surveyor of the Department. He is a Past Section President and served as a National Director of ASCE for 3 years. He has been very active in the Section in numerous capacities throughout his career and most recently co-chaired our 100th Anniversary fund-raising/sponsorship program.

Lane Fike joined SRDC in 2007 after over 35 years with the Department of Streets, where he served as Programming and Planning Engineer with the Department's Bridge Section. He worked in various capacities in the Department's bridge replacement program during his career and was the Project Manager for the South Street Bridge replacement, the largest bridge project ever undertaken by the Department. He directs SRDC's capital construction projects and manages design projects being handled by consultants.

A REMINDER ON YOUR DUES!

Your dues statement/invoice for 2014 was dutifully delivered to you from National in mid-September. Dues are payable by December 31, so if you haven't taken care of this, as they say, tick tock... 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 costs 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.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS (AND, STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!)

We thank those firms who have made the financial commitment to Section Sponsorship for this season. The business cards of these firms (16 total thus far) are included in the sponsor section of *THE NEWS*. Sponsor logos are also displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website. Through a click on the particular sponsor's logo, we provide direct links to its own website so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions being offered by that firm.

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

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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
FEBRUARY 2014 ISSUE
JANUARY 17, 2014**

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Amanda Kessler, Forum Editor

Chris Gray, P.E., Forum President 2013–14

TimHaahs

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Blue Bell, PA 19422

484-342-0200

cgray@timhaahs.com

ASCE/ASHE HAPPY HOUR

After last year's highly successful joint happy hour, the YMF and ASHE Young Members Committee teamed up once again to host a happy hour at Rock Bottom at the King of Prussia Plaza on December 12. Over 60 members, almost all of them young (some of them more young at heart than chronologically!), partook of Rock Bottom's microbrews and celebrated the upcoming holiday season.

18TH ANNUAL WINTER SOCIAL

January 27, 2014

The annual Winter Social event will be conducted on Monday, **January 27**, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM at **McGillin's Olde Ale House** in Center City, where the YMF will take over the first floor of this fabled pub. This event regularly attracts over 150 young Engineers in the Philadelphia area. Donations for raffle prizes are still being accepted. Proceeds of the raffle will be donated to local charities. Last year, over \$1,800 was donated to the local Future City Competition, Philabundance, and Habitat for Humanity.

The cost is \$20 with advance reservation (due by January 21, RSVP's can be made through our website, www.ymfphilly.org), which covers food and house drinks. This event regularly reaches capacity, so don't delay – reserve your spot now to avoid being shut out.

COLLEGE OUTREACH PROGRAM

This fall, the YMF has been reaching out to local colleges by visiting schools and presenting information to the students about Civil Engineering careers and the YMF organization. This outreach program has been well received by the colleges and has been a great tool to retain the interest of young Engineers in the organization as they begin their careers.

On October 16 the YMF visited Temple University with a panel of Engineers. ASCE YMF board members **Colette Montague, PE**, **Chris Gray, PE** and **Brett Coleman, EIT** along with former YMF board member **Jennifer Pesch, PE** made up a panel representing Highway, Structural, Transportation and Environmental Engineering, respectfully. Approximately 40 students attended, asking the panel questions such as how prepared they felt entering their career, challenges they had to overcome, and how they set themselves apart.

The YMF visited Widener University on October 21 to discuss common design and structural analysis software. YMF board member **Colette Montague, PE** and **Christopher Bieter, PE**, both of whom work for Urban Engineers, discussed the different design and analysis programs they primarily use in their careers. Colette talked about Bentley product Microstation and how it differentiates from AutoCAD. Christopher's presentation was based on design software RISA 3D, which he uses as a Structural Engineer in the rail division at Urban.

On November 4 YMF board member **Brett Coleman, EIT**, gave a presentation on bridge rehabilitation, maintenance, inspection and design at Swarthmore College. Brett presented to about 10 students and was able to answer students' questions afterward. Additionally, college contact co-chair, **Kevin Brown, EIT**, talked to the students about scholarships that were available as well as some upcoming events that would be beneficial for them.

PHILADELPHIA SECTION 2014 AWARDS — NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Hard to believe it's that time again, but the Section's Awards Program for 2014 is now open for nominations. After we took our 100th Anniversary year off (and decided not to single out any particular person, since we were all "winners" by being part of this festive occasion!), we are returning to our regular program for this year. Our Awards recognize Section members and others for their contributions to the Civil Engineering profession. All Awards will be presented at the Spring Social/Dinner Dance, which has not been scheduled to date. More information on the Spring Social will be included in upcoming issues of *THE NEWS*.

We encourage you to submit nominations for those deserving individuals who should be recognized for their various contributions, achievements and career milestones appropriately.

GUIDELINES/RULES

- Nominations must be received by the close of business (5:00 PM) on **Monday, January 27**. Nominations should be submitted on nomination forms which are available from the Committee Chair.
- Individuals may be nominated for awards by a member in any grade of membership.
- Individuals may receive only one award in a single year, but may be nominated for more than one award in a single year.
- Award recipients are subject to the approval of the Section's Board of Directors.
- All awards are presented only in years in which, in the judgement of the Selection Committee or the Board, there is at least one suitable candidate.
- The Selection Committee, at its discretion, may nominate an alternate for each Award for Board consideration.
- The Selection Committee will recommend to the Board whether the recipient should also be nominated for applicable National or Regional awards by the Section.
- A nominee for any award MUST be a member in good standing of the Philadelphia Section in the year in which the nomination is made, with two exceptions (Government Service Award and Philadelphia History and Heritage Award). For these awards, membership in the Philadelphia Section is NOT required.

AWARDS

The Section has a total of 13 awards which cover various specialty areas. In addition, the Section President can nominate an individual for the Presidential Award at his/her discretion. The awards are as follows:

- Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Government Engineer of the Year

- Philadelphia Young Government Engineer of the Year
- Government Service Award
- Educator of the Year
- Philadelphia History and Heritage Award

Individual Technical Awards:

- Civil Engineering Manager of the Year
- Construction Engineer of the Year
- Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- Structural Engineer of the Year
- Transportation Engineer of the Year
- Water Resources Engineer of the Year

If you are interested in submitting a nomination for consideration, please contact **Bob Wright**, Committee Chair, at **215-922-8081, x1647** (or via e-mail at newseditor@asce-philly.org) to obtain a nomination form. You may also call Bob if you have any questions or need any additional information on the Section Awards Program.

SECTION'S CHRISTMAS/ HOLIDAY MESSAGE

Last month, you may recall that we opened up a contest for submissions for our Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message (known by its acronym, LAYM), which would allow others to participate in the process and save us from having to endure one that your Editor would crank out. As luck would have it, we (surprisingly?) received no entries for this. So, we had no choice but to turn your Editor loose, maybe with the help of a few beers, to come up with our LAYM for this year. And here, without further ado, it is.

It's coming up on that time of year
Good tidings to all, and lots of holiday cheer
We put pen in hand to write this, and put down
our beer

Happy Merry Everything 2013

Thoughts dance in your Editor's mind, he the
cannon that is loose

That sleigh must be cold – maybe Santa should
try a caboose

Can the reindeer provide enough power – should
they be replaced with moose?

Happy Merry Everything 2013

Let's decorate, deck the halls with holly, when
we're done we'll kick back

Put up lights, wrap gifts, hang stockings, leave
St. Nick a snack

Carrots for the reindeer, for the jolly fellow a
cold 6-pack?

Happy Merry Everything 2013

Sincerely from your Section officers and Board
After our 100th Anniversary, during which we all
soared

And many more years of service we look toward
Happy Merry Everything 2013

For our members, their families and friends we
sincerely wish

Following our 100th Anniversary hubbub, which
has come to a finish

Eat, drink and be merry, enjoy your particular
holiday dish

Happy Merry Everything 2013

Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, or what day
you celebrate

We hope for you and yours it's all first-rate
And even though these wishes are coming

a bit late

Happy Merry Everything – and best wishes for
2014 being great!

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

December 9, 2013

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Center City

The US Open at Merion – Logistics

by Robert Wright, Editor

The third meeting of our 2013-14 season allowed us to be a partner in what is known as the “Multi-Society Meeting,” coordinated annually by the Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia (ECP). Coincidentally, this was also the third time that this Meeting has been conducted. It also brought us to a new venue, the Ormandy Ballroom at the DoubleTree Hotel, right on Broad Street in the heart of the Avenue of the Arts/Theater District. This time around, ECP managed to round up over 160 attendees representing 22 different technical societies who no doubt came to hear a little about golf and a little about what was involved to make this event happen. If anyone was thinking about golf, the cold day, the unexpected snow storm the day before, and a looming snow storm for the following day may have led thoughts elsewhere, but at least for an hour or so, golf could come to the forefront.

ECP Past President **Bob Wright** was, for whatever reason, the master of ceremonies for the event, and he welcomed the crowd into the meeting room following the busy cocktail hour. After a moment of silence, he began recognizing the key attendees from each sponsoring society (which included the alphabet soup of AICHe, ASHRAE, ASHE, ASNE, AACE, CMAA, EAP, IES, IEEE, IIE, ITSPA, NCMA, NSBE, PSPE Delco, PSPE Philadelphia, PMI, SAME, SHPE, SME, SNAME and SWE, in addition to our Section.) He also thanked those who brought a toy for the **Toys for Tots** collection that CMAA coordinates with this meeting. Unfortunately, the Marines who have attended in the past to take the toys for distribution, were unable to be there. (After this, Past President Wright took his seat and caught his breath!)

As dinner wound down, Past President Wright returned to the podium to start the presentation, introducing featured speakers **John Viola**, Deputy Chief, and **Larry Howard**, Officer, of the Haverford Township Police Department, and **Jamie Simmons**, Manager of Technical and News Operations, NBC10. Past President Wright also recognized **Annette Parks**, Vice President for Engineering and Operations, NBC10, who was in attendance but not part of the presentation team, and added that she was hoping to be able to watch her beloved Cowboys beat the Bears later that evening (we have a feeling she was disappointed with the outcome of the game...). Deputy Chief Viola presented a short background on the issues the Department would need to face with the Open, and Officer Howard, who directed the effort for the Department, reported on the many items that the Department would need to address to make the event safe and successful.

Officer Howard reported that planning for the Outing began in 2011 when the USGA made its selection to return to Merion after a 32-year absence. The Department immediately conducted research on the handling of similar outings by

other police agencies, and made visits to the USGA Open events at Congressional Country Club (Washington, DC, 2011) and Olympic Country Club (San Francisco, 2012) to observe what was planned and implemented at each. Using what was learned in these efforts, the Department began to map out its plan. Logistics at Merion would be somewhat complicated by the residential areas surrounding the course and the distance separating the Club’s courses (roughly ¼ mile between the East and West Courses). Local residents would need to be handled and accommodated at all times during the Open.

The Open was conducted from June 7 (Friday) through June 16 (Sunday). Officer Howard showed a slide that illustrated the local rainfall record that was set in June 2013 and how over half of that fell during the Open. While this affected crowd handling and play times to some extent, it also forced the relocation of one of the remote parking areas (Rose Tree Park, near Media, where flooding rendered the 2800 planned spaces unusable) to Granite Run Mall, where available space was identified. Spectators were able to park at the Mall, as well as at PPL Park in Chester and Delaware County Community College in Newtown Square, using shuttle buses between these parking areas and the Open. SEPTA handled many attendees as well using a combination of the Norristown High Speed Line (the line’s Beechwood-Brookline stop is a short walk from the course) and shuttle buses from the Rosemont station of the Paoli-Thorndale Regional Rail line. Haverford Road was closed to through traffic for the duration and shuttle buses used it for staging, unloading, and loading. The Pennsylvania State Police assisted the Department in providing updates of traffic conditions particularly on I-95 and I-476. Because of the severe penalties assessed for golfers who were late for their start times, motorcycle officers were available to escort them to the course as needed so tee times were not missed.

The Department divided the course and surrounding area into four zones (A – west course, B – east course, C – practice greens, D – Haverford College, across Haverford Road from the course) for logistics purposes. Officer Howard explained how assignments were made and police personnel were deployed to cover the patrol areas within each zone. Specific credentials and identification were required for those who would be on the course each day. A roll-call/assignment tent and command center/trailer compound were established near the clubhouse for this purpose. Police personnel were brought in from surrounding jurisdictions to help, and adjacent townships such as Lower Merion assisted in patrols on key routes within their townships. Local volunteer fire companies also provided personnel and equipment on standby to be ready as needed. This included an X-ray

scanner truck on loan from the Philadelphia Police Department.

Officer Howard presented various facts and figures to illustrate the magnitude of the assignment and how successful it was. Over 200,000 spectators attended the event, roughly 20,000 more than expected (even despite the weather), and no incidents were reported. Local residents were reasonably accommodated and services were modified slightly so that trash pickup did not interfere with traffic flow. Utility and road work permits were denied on affected routes.

Following a few questions from the audience ably handled by Deputy Chief Viola and Officer Howard, Mr. Simmons began his review of how NBC10 approached the Outing. He noted that NBC10 was the exclusive local provider of live coverage, and was able to use the assistance of its parent company, Comcast, to get its programming on the air efficiently. This entailed the use of both hard-wire cable connections as well as satellite transmission. The latter was frequently compromised by the rainy weather and lightning, thus the ability to use Comcast fiber connections was a “plus” in the continuous coverage provided. NBC10 was also able to use a set constructed by the Golf Channel and used only once by that network.

Mr. Simmons highlighted the several technological items that made coverage of the Open easier and more unique than previous such events. Small cameras with backpack-size transmitters and processors enabled camera technicians to get in close to the action without the need for hard-wire connections that would interfere with crowd movement and play. Numerous generators and connections provided by specialty firms allowed continuous power and communication capabilities despite the lack of dependable wireless telephone service. He closed showing a short video clip of a local live report of the Open.

Past President Wright thanked the presenters for their enjoyable and informative presentation and gave each an ECP glass mug for their efforts.

N-ASCE*

ALL HAIL THE DRINKING MAN...?

You may not be aware that the 80th anniversary of the end of Prohibition has come and gone (December 5). Unlike the 75th anniversary, for which the celebration was a little premature (it started in 2007 to cite the 75th year of free-flowing alcohol), this one was a little quiet (even though we know how people like to start partying [and sometimes for no real reason, and we’ve been told how drinking can obscure things...].)

In any event, you may recall that the manufacture, sale and transport of “intoxicating liquor” (having an alcohol content greater than 0.5%) was outlawed in the United States by the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, also known as the Volstead Act (in tribute to its prime supporter, Rep Andrew Volstead, a Minnesota

SECTION SCHOLARSHIP – LAST CHANCE 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 to 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!*

JAMES W. McPHILLIPS

Prominent Section member and Past Section President **Jim McPhillips** passed away on December 4. Jim was active in the Section for many years, serving as President in 1969-70 and in several other capacities, as well as on a number of National committees. He was the General Chairman of the National Conference held in Philadelphia in 1976. On the professional side, Jim is probably best remembered as the Chief Engineer and Surveyor for the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets, a position he held for 24 years until his retirement from City service in 1986. He was a graduate of Drexel University and was employed at consulting firms and with the Bridge Section of Streets, leaving City employment for the private sector prior to his returning to the City as Chief Engineer. After his retirement from the City, he was a Project Director at Urban Engineers for several years and began his own consulting practice after retiring from Urban.

Jim is survived by his wife, Helene, five children, ten grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. He was pre-deceased by one daughter.

Contributions in Jim's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association National Office, 225 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601.

ENGINEERS WEEK – COMIN' UP SOON

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.



The six society Presidents with Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor, City of Philadelphia.

OUR SECTION IN THE NEWS

CITY COUNCIL CITES SECTION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Council of the City of Philadelphia (also known as City Council) passed a Resolution to honor our Section's 100th Anniversary and the many contributions Civil Engineers have made for the City. A ceremony was conducted at City Hall on December 9, at which time the Resolution was formally presented to our Section. Over a dozen Section officers and members were on hand to receive this Resolution and the accolades of Councilman **Kenyatta Johnson**, Chair of Council's Transportation and Public Utilities Committee, as well as Council members **Cindy Bass**, **Blondell Reynolds Brown** and **William Greenlee**.

Thanks to Past President **Ruben David** for taking the initiative on this honor.

A WIN FOR SEI

Our Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) Chapter (former Structural Technical Group) was selected to receive the 2014 SEI Chapter of the Year Award in recognition of its exemplary activities and efforts to advance the Structural Engineering profession. This was received from National SEI on December 11. It noted that "[our] Chapter and its dedicated team of volunteers is to be commended for offering a variety of professional development events throughout the year that support more than 400 local members. As a regular participant in the annual SEI Local Leadership Conference, the SEI Philadelphia Chapter is committed to leadership and the development of their local executive committee. They are actively involved in their ASCE Section, communicate regularly with members, and reach out to engage local university students."

The Award will officially be presented to Chapter representatives during the Opening Plenary Awards Luncheon at the Structures Congress 2014 in Boston on April 3.

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

NACCARATO TAKES THE HELM AT O & N

O'Donnell and Naccarato announced that **Anthony Naccarato** has succeeded **Nick Cinalli** as President of the firm effective December 2. Mr. Cinalli has served as firm President since 2003 and will remain a Principal and a member of the firm's executive leadership team. Mr. Naccarato joined the firm in 1988 and was named a Partner in 1998. "I look towards furthering the O & N tradition of delivering outstanding service, developing cost-effective structural solutions, and utilizing cutting edge



ASCE, Phila. Section President Jenn Walsh with Rina Cutler.

CITING WOMEN IN TRANSPORTATION

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) invited the current local section/chapter presidents of six technical societies to its meeting on November 5 to share a significant accomplishment. As things turn out, all of these presidents are women, and it is believed that this is a "first" for the Delaware Valley. In addition to the President of the host Chapter, **Carol Rose**, and our own Section President, **Jennifer Walsh**, the other presidents in attendance were:

Stephanie Butler, American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section

Joni Powell, Construction Management Association of America, Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Allie Slizofski, Intelligent Transportation Systems Pennsylvania

Kate Russo, Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers



Past President **Jeremy Colello**, President **Jenn Walsh**, and Past President **Ruben David** with the City Council citation.

and innovative technology. The firm's executive leadership will continue to work collaboratively, and Nick will remain an integral part of our team. His leadership, especially during the downturn, leaves our firm well-positioned for the future," noted Mr. Naccarato. Mr. Cinalli will leverage his 40 years of experience to further develop O & N's project management and claims consultation divisions, where he has been instrumental in the growth of both practice areas during his long tenure at the firm.

We congratulate Messrs. Cinalli and Naccarato and wish them the best of luck in their endeavors.

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.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: "YEAR 101"

Once again, here is our regular feature to provide opening dates of significant local Civil Engineering projects and achievements for your reference and knowledge – still good for winning a bar bet or a trivia contest (as we've been told).

Those for January are:

Franklin Institute – opened at its current location on January 1, 1934 (its original opening was February 5, 1824, and it moved several times until settling at its Parkway location). The Baldwin locomotive on display, number 60000, was operated into the Museum through an unfinished wall by extending temporary tracks from a connection to the former Baltimore & Ohio main line on the east side of the Schuylkill River (today part of CSX) along Race Street, and it sits on an arch truss bridge within the building structure, unseen by visitors but visible to staff members who use office space in the basement below it.

PATCO High Speed Line – opened within New Jersey (City Hall-Camden to Lindenwold) on January 2, 1969. After some work on the Ben Franklin Bridge and the Locust Street Subway in Center City, it began running over its full length just over a month later, on February 15.

Vine Street Expressway (I-676) – the full length across Center City opened on January 10, 1991. It had been completed from the Schuylkill Expressway to 16th Street in 1960 and faced numerous delays in its final implementation east to I-95 and the Ben Franklin Bridge.

Past President **Mark Tiger** noted that another significant event should be noted for December – on December 3, 1999, the first flight used the then-new 5000' commuter runway (8-26) at **Philadelphia International Airport**, marking continued expansion of the Airport to serve its busy market.

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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Baker

N-ASCE**Continued from Page 4*

Republican) and the National Prohibition Act. This was passed by Congress on December 18, 1917 (96 years ago, if anyone wants to have a drink to that!), but vetoed by President Woodrow Wilson. Congress overrode the veto and the Amendment was ratified on January 16, 1919.

As history will note, the Amendment was not all that effective and a major industry grew around bootlegging, rum-running, bathtub gin, etc. Many of the social problems that folks thought would go away with the ban on alcohol remained, and many more came along (including the rise of gangsters and poisoning from home-distilled concoctions). Also, enforcement agencies were never staffed as needed to police the ban, which did not help matters. To respond to the ineffectiveness of the Amendment, and to reflect changing times and morals, Congress passed the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, which repealed the 18th Amendment and ended prohibition, on February 20, 1933. This was ratified on December 5, 1933.

While alcohol was banned, ironically, many government bodies found that revenues dropped substantially, since liquor was well-taxed when it was legal, but there was no substitute for this when liquor sales were banned. When Prohibition was repealed, states in particular found that this revenue was very lucrative and taxes could be raised without much backlash from consumers. In Pennsylvania, there remain liquor taxes that were enacted for recovery efforts for the 1936 Johnstown flood, for example, even though the cleanup is presumably long completed.

This did not necessarily mean that local jurisdictions had to allow alcohol sales, and there remain many “dry” towns and counties in various

places, as well as others that have very arcane liquor control laws (and, hard to believe, those in our home state of Pennsylvania aren’t nearly the most strange!).

STUDY: COMMUTERS GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO AVOID SITTING BY STRANGERS

You’re on the bus or train, and one of the only free seats is next to you. How, and why, do you stop another passenger sitting there? New research reveals the tactics commuters use to avoid each other, a practice the paper published in *Symbolic Interaction* describes as “nonsocial transient behavior.”

The study was carried out by Esther Kim, from Yale University, who chalked up thousands of miles of bus travel to examine the unspoken rules and behaviors of commuters. Over three years Kim took coach trips across the U.S. She found that the greatest unspoken rule of bus travel is that if other seats are available you shouldn’t sit next to someone else. As the passengers claimed, “It makes you look weird.” When all the rows are filled and more passengers are getting aboard the seated passengers initiate a performance to strategically avoid anyone sitting next to them.

The best advice from Kim’s fellow passengers was:

- Avoid eye contact with other people.
- Lean against the window and stretch out your legs.
- Place a large bag on the empty seat.
- Sit on the aisle seat and turn on your iPod so you can pretend you can’t hear people asking for the window seat.
- Place several items on the spare seat so it’s not worth the passenger’s time waiting for you to move them.

- Look out the window with a blank stare to look crazy.
- Pretend to be asleep.
- Put your coat on the seat to make it appear already taken.
- If all else fails, lie and say the seat has been taken by someone else.

[Some of these folks must take the same trains as I do! – Ed.]

This all changes however when it is announced that the vehicle will be full so all seats should be made available, Kim observed. The objective changes, from sitting alone to sitting next to a “normal” person. She found that race, class, gender and other background characteristics were not key concerns for commuters when they discovered someone had to sit next them. They all just wanted to avoid the “crazy person.”

Kim found that this nonsocial behavior is also driven by safety concerns, especially for coach travel, which is perceived to be dangerous with ill-lit bus stations. She also found that passengers expected each other to be jaded by delays or other inconveniences.

Ultimately this nonsocial behavior is due to the many frustrations of sharing a small public space together for a lengthy amount of time, Kim concluded. Yet this deliberate disengagement is a calculated social action, which is part of a wider culture of social isolation in public spaces.

Thanks to Metro magazine for this information.

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

the news



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