



ASCE, PHILA. SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2013-14 UPDATE

The ASCE, Phila. Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is being finalized and remaining 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, and the meeting presentation following at approximately 7:30, unless otherwise noted. We also intend to follow our second-Thursday pattern except where joint meetings will preclude this. As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so.

The last Section meeting of this season will be conducted on **April 10**.

Our **Spring Social** is scheduled for **Thursday, May 8**. More information will be provided in future editions of *THE NEWS*.

TRYING AGAIN —

Submissions Being Accepted For Our Section’s Saint Patrick’s Day Message

As you may be aware, our Section has allowed our Editor to be a bit of a “loose cannon” at times. Christmas is one, and St. Patrick’s Day is another, and for each of these, he has crafted a message of sorts for our “enjoyment”. As we did for Christmas, we’re opening up a competition for this this time around, to allow other talent out there to submit a St. Pat’s message to be published in the March edition of *THE NEWS*.

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

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FEBRUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section
Women’s Transportation Seminar, Philadelphia Chapter

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

Sonesta Hotel, 18th & Market Streets, Center City Philadelphia
Networking 11:30 AM, Lunch and Meeting Presentation Follow

*** NOTE CHANGE IN DATE AND TIME FROM INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED ***

COST: \$45 for WTS and ASCE members, \$65 for non-members (we are not able to provide a government rate or student discount for this meeting — sorry)

SUBJECT: Delaware River Port Authority Capital Program Update

SPEAKERS: **John Rink**, General Manager, Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO);
Michael Venuto, P.E., Chief Engineer, Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)

PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH PHILADELPHIA SECTION, WTS. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting. Please visit www.wtsinternational.org/philadelphia for information on reservations.

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.

The Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) is a bi-state regional transportation agency that connects millions of people and businesses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. DRPA owns and operates the Port Authority Transit Corporation’s (PATCO) “High Speed Line” as well as the Benjamin Franklin, Walt Whitman, Commodore John Barry and Betsy Ross toll bridges.

Messrs. Rink and Venuto will provide an overview of the Authority’s aggressive over \$750 million five-year capital program, which includes the currently-underway redecking of the Walt Whitman Bridge, the replacement of PATCO’s trackage and structure on the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, and the complete rebuilding of the 120-car PATCO fleet. They will highlight these and other significant projects and provide some insights on planned and future capital projects.

Mr. Rink is the General Manager of PATCO, a position he has held for the past two years, following service in DRPA’s engineering office. He is a graduate of Drexel University where he earned a Bachelor’s degree in Architectural Engineering.

Mr. Venuto serves as the Director of Engineering and Chief Engineer of DRPA. He has been at the Authority for the past 13 years and has served as a Project Manager before being promoted to Chief Engineer. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University and an MBA from Lehigh University.

Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings!

MARCH DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

Loews Hotel Center City, Congress Room BC, 12th & Market Streets, Center City Philadelphia
Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows (approximately 7:30 PM)

SUBJECT: Raise the Bar – A New Future for Engineering Licensure

SPEAKERS: **Anthony Puntin, P.E.** and **Megan Peal, P.E.**, Members of the ASCE National Raise the Bar Committee

More information will be provided in the March edition of *THE NEWS*.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone has been enjoying this winter and all the beautiful snow we have been getting!! To give you a taste of some warm weather to look forward we have finally selected a location and date for our 2014 Spring Social. It will be held on Thursday, May 8th at the Hotel Monaco in downtown Philadelphia, it is a unique location with a beautiful rooftop lounge and ballroom. I'd like to thank Troy Illig for all his hard work so far organizing this event for our members and please keep an eye out for more details to come. We will also be unveiling our Centennial Book at the Spring Social. Tom Brady and his committee have been working very hard to put together a book in recognition of our 100th Anniversary that we celebrated last year!

We are also providing a unique opportunity for members to be a part of the Centennial Book with a sponsorship program created primarily for small companies and individuals. More information on this sponsorship program will be included in the March edition of THE NEWS, so please consider being a part of sponsoring this once-in-a Lifetime publication that will be around for years to come.

We are a little more than halfway through the year and so far, it's been a great year! We've hosted wonderful speakers, joined up with our colleagues for various meetings, worked with our technical groups to support their needs, the YMF has had many successful events and we are organizing upcoming events to carry us through the rest of the year. Several of us spent a recent Saturday getting educated on how we will be promoting the roll-out of the 2014 PA Infrastructure Report Card in the next couple months. I'd like to thank Ann Tomalavage and her committee for all the hard work that is going into this endeavor. So, many things are happening behind the scenes for the good of our membership and the public. So many of our members are a vital part of this happening and we appreciate the time they are spending to provide a comprehensive and accurate assessment of our infrastructure.

I'm looking forward to the second half of 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. We are always looking for energetic, enthusiastic and passionate people to be leaders in ASCE and one of them can be you!

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

TRYING AGAIN

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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 St. Pat's 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 we'll get at least one submission (which would be one more than we got for our Christmas/holiday message, forcing us to let our Editor loose). Please feel free to consult past March 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.

BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY

Bridges to Prosperity is a non-profit organization that seeks to fight poverty by building footbridges over impassable rivers in impoverished, rurally isolated areas across the globe. The Penn State chapter of Bridges to Prosperity was created in February 2013, and currently has 40 active members, ranging from freshmen to seniors who are majoring in a variety of different disciplines. In May 2014, the group will be traveling to Panama to construct the chapter's first bridge, a cable-stayed bridge that is currently under design.

In addition to design, construction, and community relations, the group is also responsible for fundraising for its bridges. B2P is looking for support from the local Engineering community and would greatly appreciate any support. Please do not hesitate to contact **Jennifer Kearney** at jak5580@psu.edu or **717-578-6059** with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2013-14 SEASON

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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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**Life is not a matter of
holding good cards, but
of playing a poor hand well.**

— Robert Louis Stevenson

**Whenever I hear,
"It can't be done,"
I know I'm close to success.**

— Michael Flatley

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

CANSTRUCTION

YMF is once again participating in the annual **CANstruction** event, being held at The Shops at Liberty Place on **May 9**. The event consists of several teams competing to design and construct a structure made entirely out of cans. The team is looking for young Engineers who are able to help develop ideas for the CANstruction design, solicit donations, move cans, and assist on the build night. Participation any one or more of those areas is welcome and encouraged. Contact **Chris Renfro** at cjrenfro84@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the YMF CANstruction team.

18TH ANNUAL WINTER SOCIAL

YMF hosted our 18th Annual YMF Winter Social on January 27 at McGillin's Olde Ale House. The event was once again a huge success, with an attendance of 207 Engineers and their guests. Everyone enjoyed mingling with their coworkers, catching up with colleagues, and meeting other young Engineers and students. Students from five colleges around the Philadelphia area took advantage of the opportunity to meet young Engineers, learn about local companies, and discuss career opportunities.

During the event, raffle tickets were sold for prizes donated from local companies. The prizes included Flyers tickets, movie tickets, as well as various restaurant and retail gift cards. Our sponsors collectively donated an amazingly generous \$4,700 in prizes. Proceeds of \$2,005 will be donated to the **Future Cities Competition**, **Philabundance**, and **Bridges to Prosperity!** Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Many thanks to YMF Vice President **Drew Siranni, P.E.** of Pennoni Associates and the entire 2013-14 YMF Board for planning the event.

FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

January 25

Seven YMF volunteers participated in the annual Future City Competition at SAP America's campus in Newtown Square. The Competition encourages teams of 6th thru 8th grade students to develop their concept of a Future City. The students plan their city around key issues, such as transportation, safety, and sustainability, and then develop a model to showcase their concept. The students' imagination and creativity is the limit. With 28 schools competing in this year's local competition, the event was a huge success.

VILLANOVA PANEL DISCUSSION

On December 5, YMF visited Villanova University with a panel of Civil Engineers. The panel consisted of **Dr. Theresa Andrejack Loux** and YMF board members **Niki Eno, P.E.**, **Scott Cepietz, EIT** and **Nha Truong** representing

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ENVIRONMENTAL & WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL GROUP

FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

SUBJECT: Groundwater Development for Public Water Supply

SPEAKERS: Thomas V. Waddington, P.G. and **R. Scott Hughes, P.E.**

TIME: 5:30 PM – Registration/Networking
6:00 PM – Dinner and Presentation

LOCATION: Michael's Restaurant and Delicatessen, 130 Town Center Rd., Valley Forge Center, Route 202, King of Prussia, PA
<http://www.michaelsdeli.com/directions.asp>

COST: \$30.00 per member / **\$20.00** per full-time student

Messrs. Waddington and Hughes will address the planning and investigative requirements imposed by state regulatory agencies and regional river basin commissions when developing groundwater sources for public water supply. This presentation will review examples of procedures used to locate and protect sustainable groundwater supply sources, drill, develop and test wells, and apply for regulatory permits. The data secured from a successful groundwater development program, including test well/production well drilling and pumping test results, are then used to design appropriate water pumping and treatment facilities necessary to apply for and obtain regulatory withdrawal, construction and operation permits.

Mr. Waddington is a Senior Hydrogeologist with Gannett Fleming, Inc. at its Harrisburg, PA office, and is a registered Professional Geologist. He has 30 years' experience, and is actively involved with groundwater availability studies and analyses, exploratory drilling programs for

groundwater resource development, groundwater flow models, interpretation of aerial photography and geologic maps, source water protection planning, aquifer tests and analyses, and reports and permit applications for groundwater projects.

Mr. Hughes manages Gannett Fleming's Water/Wastewater Department at their Valley Forge, PA office, and is a registered Professional Engineer. He has over 35 years' experience providing Engineering services and managing water resource and infrastructure improvement projects. He directs groundwater development projects involving hydrogeologic studies; well drilling and testing; and design, permitting and construction of well pumping and treatment facilities.

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

RSVP's are due by **Tuesday, February 25**. Reservations should be posted to the website, www.asce-philly.org. Payment by PayPal can be done from the reservation website. Payment by check or cash can be provided at the meeting. Checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE."

Reservation cancellations must be made 48 hours in advance or you will be charged for the meeting.

Contact **Eve D'Onofrio** at **610-630-1660** or **Scott Hughes** at **610-650-8101** if you have any questions on this.

Planning ahead, the next EWR Group meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 20**, with the topic "**ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR POTABLE WATER PIPES**". Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

SECTION MEMBERS HONORED DURING ENGINEERS WEEK

Among the many awards and honors presented during **Delaware Valley Engineers Week** are the the **Delaware Valley Engineering Hall of Fame** and the **Outstanding Service Award**. The Hall of Fame is comprised of individuals, teams, projects and companies whose Engineering achievements have had a lasting impact on the profession and/or the public. The Outstanding Service Award has two components, one for contributions in Engineering, the other for work in the community, and it is fairly self-explanatory.

We are proud to note that two of our members will be honored as part of these programs. **Dr. Vukan Vuchic** is being inducted into the Delaware Valley Engineering Hall of Fame for his outstanding accomplishments and service, both close to home and worldwide. **Ruben David** is being recognized for his extensive work in community and professional society activities.

An internationally recognized authority on Transportation Engineering, Dr. Vuchic boasts a distinguished, 43-year teaching career at the University of Pennsylvania. He has authored countless books, articles and technical papers on the topic of transportation systems, and has served as a consultant on planning, design and operations of transportation systems to transit

and planning agencies worldwide. Through these personal contributions, and via the hundreds of students and officials he's instructed and inspired, he has made the Delaware Valley and other urban hubs around the world more livable and more sustainable for generations to come.

Dr. Vuchic's research interests lie in the arena of transportation systems, especially with regard to urban and urban public transportation, highway transportation, transportation networks, and railroad systems in countries across the globe. Locally, he has worked with SEPTA and the City of Philadelphia as an advisor on major transportation projects and activities. Among his more significant accomplishments is the development of SEPTA's Regional Rail plan to coordinate operations through the Center City Commuter Rail Connection, which created the "R" routes that were in effect from the opening of the Connection in 1984 until SEPTA revised the Regional Rail system and its route designations in 2010.

Over the course of a 43-year teaching career at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Vuchic has taught various transportation courses. He has presented lectures and short courses at over 100

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JANUARY DINNER MEETING

January 15, 2014

Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge

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

by Robert Wright, Editor

Our fourth meeting of 2013-14 and the first one of the new year found us somewhere on the undefined fringe area between Valley Forge and King of Prussia, the guests of our pals at the Delaware Valley Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE). In comparison to what late fall and early winter had brought us weather-wise to that point, the day was fairly mild and a little wet with a cool drizzle that was much more welcome than frozen precipitation (of which many of us believe we've already had too much). Anyway, enough on the weather. A nice-size crowd of nearly 190 members of the combined Sections gathered to get an update on Schuylkill River Park. Being Engineers, the whimsical "Oh My!" in the title of the presentation did not bring the fear that it did to little Dorothy and her faithful mutt Toto from the film from which this was borrowed – it only enhanced our interest. (And, speaking of pooches, more about this later...)

Delaware Valley Section President **Stephanie Butler** had the unenviable task of getting everyone away from the bar and in their seats to begin the evening, and she succeeded, welcoming all to the meeting. After a moment of silence to recognize recently-passed members of both Sections, Delaware Valley Section Past President **Curt Shugars** provided a blessing of the meal, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner followed, and as it wound down, President Butler returned to front and center to make several announcements, followed by Section President **Jenn Walsh** with a few Section updates of her own. President Butler then introduced the presentation team for the evening, each from the Schuylkill River Development Corporation, **Joe Syrnick**, President and CEO, and **Lane Fike**, Director of Capital Projects.

Mr. Syrnick was "first up" and gave a brief history of Schuylkill Banks. It has become a very popular attraction, so much so that he could only show one photo (of the many he warned the attendees that he had to show) of the River Trail with virtually no one on it. He had another photo which illustrated that, of the different modes that are accommodated on the Trail, including walking, bicycling and skating, the automobile is not one of them, and an errant vehicle that attempted to use the Trail found itself caught in one of the narrow segments intertwined between the Chestnut Street bridge supports. He noted the often difficult relationship experienced with the Trail's "next door" neighbor, CSX, and how this has changed to be more cooperative than in the past.

Speaking of CSX, one of the more recent accomplishments for Trail expansion was the bridge across the rail line just south of Locust Street. There are two at-grade crossings of this rail line to link the Trail to the city (at Locust Street and at Race Street), as Mr. Syrnick explained, and when trains cross, the crossings are not usable. This is not a problem when trains are moving, as the crossing gates close, as they are supposed to.

Unfortunately, sometimes trains stop for extended periods and block the crossings, leading Trail users to risk climbing under or between rail cars to get to or from the Trail. CSX requested that the bridge in question be constructed to provide an alternate route if trains were blocking the grade crossing. The bridge design was undertaken and a number of alternates were evaluated, both from Engineering and aesthetic standpoints, as well as with a design review group which included City representatives, local neighborhood residents, and park users. An option was selected and agreed upon, and this was moved through final design and bidding. Just before work was to begin on this \$5.8 million effort, at what was to be an informational community meeting, some folks objected and filed suit to stop construction. The groups' issues were able to be addressed, so work was started on time.

Returning to the hounds, the existing dog park and recreational areas on the east side of the railroad, where the bridge would touch down, would be affected by the project. Mr. Syrnick noted that the literal tail started to wag the dog, with the importance of the dog park catapulting above that of the bridge. Community input led to some redesign of the dog park and the creation of a temporary facility to be used during construction (as things turned out, the temporary park was actually larger than the final one that would be provided by the project). He walked through the elements of the structure and its construction, which would provide both the bridge and new viewpoints on the approach ramp on the river side of the bridge. The approach ramp on the river side would have a "zig-zag" alignment to discourage fast bicycle riders as well as to add in the River viewpoint landings.

Construction vehicle access to the bridge site was somewhat difficult as large cranes and other equipment, including the two sections of the prefabricated truss span over the railroad, had to be maneuvered through the narrow streets leading to the site. Mr. Syrnick highlighted the construction program and many intricate details of the structure, protective fence/railing, and lighting. He added that the bridge has been well received by both the neighborhood and the engineering community since its opening in October 2012, having been the recipient of several awards (including the Delaware Valley Section ASHE Project of the Year 2012, small project category, presented last spring).

Mr. Fike took to the podium to talk about another outlined the work currently underway on the "Boardwalk", which will extend the Trail from its current terminus at the CSX bridge to the South Street Bridge. Because the available land narrows substantially south of Spruce Street, much of the Trail must be accommodated on an off-shore structure over the Schuylkill River, and this structure has been dubbed the "Boardwalk." In addition to the structure in the River, it will feature a connection to a ramp which will tie into

the north sidewalk of the South Street Bridge. This \$17 million undertaking was begun in early 2013 and is slated to be completed later this year.

The in-river structure is supported by single-column caissons which are founded in rock roughly 35-50 feet from the river bottom. Mr. Fike outlined the need for barges to accommodate the cranes and other construction equipment given the narrow corridor of land available for a work platform, and other barges that would be needed to remove the muck and soil resulting from the caisson drilling and placement. He showed a number of slides of the construction activity, and in particular how the tidal fluctuations in the River dictated the work schedule – high tides arrived in late morning and early afternoon, requiring work to be completed and protected accordingly.

The horizontal and vertical alignment of the structure was intentionally skewed to some degree, which resulted in a structure that to the casual observer was crooked and sloped. Mr. Fike remarked that at least one such observer explained to him that the difference in elevation had to be the result of hitting a rock on the river bottom, which forced the support pier in question to be higher than the others. To circumvent any similar such observations about "why is this a Boardwalk when there are no boards?", the contractor came up with a novel approach of finishing the deck with rakes to create a "faux" plank-shaped surface. Even though the "boards" are not wood, the treatment does evoke that of a boardwalk.

Mr. Fike explained that the ramp to the South Street Bridge was originally planned to be provided as part of the recent replacement of that bridge, but the City deleted that portion of the work. The beams had already been ordered and fabricated when the work was deleted, and the fabricator looked to someone to accept them. PennDOT came to the rescue and stored the beams in the infield area of the I-76/Roosevelt Boulevard interchange until they were needed for placement, at which time the contractor picked them up, inspected them, and, finding they were acceptable for use, returned them to their intended purpose in the structure.

President Butler thanked the presenters for their enjoyable, informative and often humorous update and gave each tokens of each Section's appreciation for their efforts.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION OFFICERS

If you have an interest in being a part of the Section's governance, your opportunity has arrived. In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Section, President **Jenn Walsh** will be appointing a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for all Section elective offices for the 2014-15 administrative year. The positions which will be open for nominees are President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and at least three Director positions.

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PSPE DELAWARE COUNTY ENGINEERS WEEK DINNER

The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), Delaware County Chapter, has scheduled its **2014 Engineers Week Dinner** for **Wednesday, February 19**, at the Towne House Restaurant, 117 Veterans Square, Media. In addition to the recognition of Engineers Week, the Chapter will be honoring its Delaware County Engineer of the Year and other awardees.

The evening begins with a social hour at 6 PM, followed by dinner at 7 PM, and the meeting program at 8 PM. The cost of the event is \$35 per person. Reservations are due by **Friday, February 14**. Please visit the website (www.delawarecountypspe.wix.com/delco-pspe) for more information.

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** 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 Region.

The price per person is \$65.00 (\$75.00 for reservations made after February 14). A student rate of \$30 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.

YMF

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geotechnical, structural, transportation Engineering and water resources respectively. YMF board member **Dr. Andrew Bechtel** facilitated the questions that came from a group of about 25 students. The students asked the panel about what they do at work, why they chose the field of Civil Engineering and what advice they have for students in the field of Civil Engineering.

PHILABUNDANCE

YMF volunteered at the **Philabundance Hunger Relief Center** in South Philadelphia on November 26, just prior to Thanksgiving. The group of 29 volunteers sorted and packed over 5,000 pounds of food which was distributed to various agencies that same night. We'd like to give thanks to all our volunteers and to Philabundance for a job well done!

SECTION NOMINATIONS

Continued from Page 4

Please feel free to nominate yourself or a colleague if you are interested in serving the Section in one of these capacities. We are looking for hard-working, dedicated volunteers who have fresh ideas.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, February 21**. Any inquiries or nominations should be submitted to the Section's Secretary, **Cathy Farrell**, whose contact information is given on page 2.

ENGINEERS WEEK — IT'S HERE!

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, 11:00 AM networking, 12 Noon lunch
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, **Philip Gonski**, will make brief remarks.
- **COST:** \$60 per person through February 7, \$70 February 8 and after. A government rate of \$40 for government agency employee through February 7, \$50 February 8 and after is available. A choice of meals is available as well — please check our website for this information.

YOUNG ENGINEER SOCIAL EVENT

Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 6:00 PM
Manayunk Brewery, Philadelphia (Manayunk)

- This event will be a happy-hour type event geared to younger Engineers. The Young Engineer of the Year, **Philip Gonski**, will make brief remarks.
- **COST:** \$30 per person through February 7, \$35 February 8 and after.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW

Retaining membership in ASCE allows you to stay connected to the latest industry trends and keeps you linked to the best professional development programs and engaged with a worldwide network of peers. Your continual involvement builds a solid foundation to keep your career on track and moving toward achieving your professional and personal goals.

Dues for the current year were payable by January 1, but, if for whatever reason, you have not renewed, please avoid an interruption in your benefits and renew now. Choose the renewal option most convenient to you: online at asce.org/renewal (the quickest and easiest way), by phone at **800-548-ASCE (-2723)**, or by mail, using the invoice sent to you last fall (if you still have it). Ensure a positive return on your investment in a Civil Engineering career by renewing with ASCE.

CELEBRATION OF ENGINEERING RECEPTION

Thursday, February 20, 2014, 6:00 PM
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. Delaware Valley Engineering Hall of Fame and Outstanding Service Award recipients will be cited.
- **COST:** \$75 per person through February 7, \$85 February 8 and after

For more information visit www.dvewc.org.

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.

CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION/ URBAN DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL GROUPS

MARCH DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

SUBJECT: SEPTA's Capital Investment "Catching Up" Plan

SPEAKER: **Jeffrey D. Kneuppel, P.E.**, Deputy General Manager of Operations/Infrastructure, SEPTA

TIME: 5:00 PM – Registration/Reception, 6:00 PM – Presentation

LOCATION: Sonesta Hotel, 18th & Market Streets, Center City

COST: \$65.00 per member, \$25.00 per government agency employee/full-time student

This meeting is being sponsored by the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA), Mid-Atlantic Chapter, and co-sponsored by the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), Philadelphia Chapter and three of our Section's Technical Groups (as noted above). Mr. Kneuppel will provide a follow-up to his presentation to CMAA and our Section in November and outline SEPTA's short- and long-range plan for continued investment to rectify various infrastructure deficiencies including bridges, buildings, rapid transit facilities, railcars, trolleys and buses.

RSVP's are due by **Thursday, February 27**. Reservations will be handled by CMAA (not by our Section). More information can be found at <http://ceepurl.com/NqAHn>.

REGION 2 DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A Message from Chris Menna, January 2014

First, thank you to all that had voted for me. I was much honored to be elected and to be inducted at the recent ASCE National Conference in Charlotte. The other National Board members impressed me with what they have to offer to our society. The Board and associated professional staffers welcomed me and helped to ease me into my new role. I look forward to working with them over the next three years. Two of the most exciting things that I learned about were the upcoming 2014 International Conference in Panama (to take the place of the regular October National ASCE Conference) and the current efforts underway to find a new Executive Director to replace **Pat Natale**. The appointment of a new Executive Director is an intense process that is of the utmost importance. This new person will lead us into the future. I am very fortunate to be involved in this process. Pat will continue as Executive Director in 2014 and will go out in style in Panama. He will stay on in a limited role for support during the transition process. We were so lucky to have him for all of these years. It will be challenging to find a successor.

Second, I would like to again thank **Robert Victor** for his past service as our Region 2 Director. I have learned much from him. Look for him to continue to be active within our Region and at the National level. For those that know him, he has and continues to be active on several high level ASCE National Committees.

Lastly, we have much in store for all of you as we build on the recent successes of our 2013 Region 2 Assembly, held at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport. Our Regional Board is transitioning at the moment. We conducted a face-to-face Board meeting and updated our Strategic Plan on January 18 in Harrisburg. From there, we will have a strong Board presence at the Regions 2, 4 and 5 MRLC in Indianapolis, Indiana on February 7-8. I strongly encourage all geographic units within our Region (Sections, Branches, Institutes, and Student Chapters) to send representation so that you can learn and take back energy, enthusiasm, and ideas to your respective groups. Your leaders should be aware of any provided reimbursement available from National or your local groups and should take advantage of this opportunity. If you need direction, please contact me or one of the other Governors. I look forward to seeing you there. We are always trying to find ways to bring more value to our members, so please contact us with your ideas and concerns. As the Board strives to do more for you, we will try to become as visible as possible. Please make us aware of any special events that are going on in your respective areas. As an example, some of the Board is planning right now to visit Howard University this spring as well as to attend the Maryland Section's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

Take care. My Board and I look forward to what lies ahead.

MEMBERS HONORED

Continued from Page 3

universities around the world. He has authored five books and roughly 120 articles, published in countries all over the world, as well as penning nearly 30 technical reports on various transportation-related topics.

Dr. Vuchic resides with his wife in Swarthmore.

For more information on Dr. Vuchic's nomination, please visit www.dvewc.org/hof2014/.

Mr. David received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of the East in Manila in his homeland, the Philippines. With degree in hand, he arrived in Philadelphia and began working for the City of Philadelphia, rising through the ranks from entry-level graduate engineer to project director in the Department of Public Property. He has had an exemplary career and has been a critical part of various city building projects in his 36 years of city service, from which he retired in August 2013.

Along with his contributions to the city throughout his career, Mr. David has found time to actively volunteer in several civic, religious, and community groups, through which he aims to increase awareness of Asian and Asian-American affairs and to help further causes for the Filipino-American community. His volunteerism extends beyond this diverse group of organizations with his relentless dedication, philanthropy, and service to the Asian and Asian-

American communities through numerous activities and organizations. This extends to a number of civic and religious concerns as well.

In his professional career, Mr. David's Engineering achievements include 36 years of experience in budgeting, programming, planning, design, construction management and project administration on various capital projects, both small and large, for city departments and agencies. His dedication to the city of Philadelphia and making it what it is today is shown through the many major projects that he undertook while working in the Department of Public Property.

As an advocate of the Engineering field, he has helped to mold the future of Engineering in our region through his service as an adjunct faculty member at Temple University. His professional society involvement has included service to our Section and the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia. His dedication has gained him recognition from as our Section's Government Engineer of the Year in 1993.

Mr. David and his wife live in Northeast Philadelphia. They have three grown children, one son-in-law, one daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

For more information on Mr. David's nomination, please visit www.dvewc.org/osa2014/.

SCIENCE FAIRS COMING UP — JUDGES NEEDED

Our ASCE, Phila. Section will once again be offering Special Awards at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs, as we have done for over 20 years. The Fairs will be conducted on Wednesday, April 2 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. Four Special Awards for projects that have a Civil Engineering theme will be up for grabs, with two awards for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

Volunteer judges are needed for this effort. The judging will require you to spend most, if not all, of your day (approximately 8 AM to 3 PM) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. It is always a very interesting and enlightening experience.

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge for the Section please contact Chris Rood at crood@drjtbc.org. You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website www.dvsf.org.

For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website.

We hope you can join us for a rewarding and interesting day.

N-ASCE*

THE METROCARD TURNS 20

Here in the City of Brotherly Love, we await SEPTA's introduction of Electronic Fare Payment, the first phase of which is scheduled to happen this year. In New York, a version of this has been around for 20 years, and planning has begun to introduce the "next level" of this later this decade.

Until the late 1990s, New York City's most iconic symbol was slightly smaller than a nickel. The New York City subway token had been the real key to the City since its 1953 introduction (when the fare rose from 10 cents to 15 cents and two coins would be needed in the turnstiles instead of one), but the MTA's MetroCard — the token's replacement — offered transit riders a much better deal and today remains a fixture in the pockets of more than 95% of its customers. It serves millions of bus and subway riders daily offering a great transportation value.

January 6 marked the 20th anniversary of MetroCard's introduction in two downtown Manhattan subway stations. As it spread to encompass most of the subway system, customers, who for decades had simply dropped a token into the slot on top of the turnstile, had to familiarize themselves with a new method of entry. Using the MetroCard required riders to master the swipe. Not too slow, not too fast and don't lift too early. Some likened it to delivering a punch to the gut (well, it is New York...).

There was even a process for deciding whether customers would swipe or dip their cards into

Continued on page 8

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**Continued from Page 4*

turnstiles. Subway customer focus groups determined that they did not want to let go of their cards as dipping would require. Bus customers, however, were not given that choice.

It took a little more than three years to outfit all 468 subway stations and the City's nearly 6,000 buses with MetroCard turnstiles and fare boxes. Subway station control areas had to be outfitted with new or upgraded power and communication lines, as well as new turnstiles and gates. This work was performed at more than 700 entrances in the system's stations.

The real value of MetroCard, however, was first realized on July 4, 1997 with the introduction of free bus-to-subway transfers, available only with a card-based fare collection system. This was followed by the introduction of bonus value in January 1998 and subsequently, the Unlimited MetroCard on July 4, 1998, which gave customers true value with 7-Day and 30-Day cards. Of course, with increased value came a new color—MetroCard Gold.

Was it a game changer? Transit ridership soared and commuting costs were virtually cut in half for tens of thousands of riders. The ridership jump was not unexpected and the new policy of free transfers drove NYC Transit to order 205 new buses and hire an additional 250 bus operators to handle the increase.

Thanks to *New York City Transit* for this information.

**N-ASCE – Not always something concerning Engineering...*

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**FISCINA HONORED BY WTS**

Carmine Fiscina was cited by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) as the recipient of its Philadelphia Award for 2013. Carmine, the Technology and Safety Engineer for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) at its Philadelphia Metropolitan Office, was recognized for his extraordinary efforts to promote the transportation industry and people within the Philadelphia area. He has been with FHWA for 50 (!) years and has worked in our area for over 35 years. He joined the Metropolitan Office when it was opened in June 1997, relocating from his previous "base" in Harrisburg, and has been an integral part of the design and construction oversight teams for the major interstate and primary highway projects in the Philadelphia area.

WTS presented this award to Carmine at its annual Awards Dinner on December 5.

Carmine was recognized as our Section's Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year in 1999.

Congratulations to Carmine on this well-deserved honor!

CONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL GROUP**LUNCHEON MEETING****TUESDAY, MARCH 11**

SUBJECT: Philadelphia Family Court – New Building Project

SPEAKER: Charles Rudalavage, AIA, LEED AP, Principal, Ewing Cole

TIME: 12:00 NOON - 1:30 PM

COST: \$15

LOCATION: Urban Engineers, Inc., 530 Walnut Street, Philadelphia

Mr. Rudalavage will provide information on the new Family Court Building now under construction at 15th and Arch Streets in Center City.

Participation in this presentation entitles each attendee to one (1) PDH for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Professional Engineer Continuing Education Requirements. PDH certificates will be distributed at the end of the presentation.

More information on the meeting and RSVP's will be provided in the March edition of *THE NEWS*.

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).

One in February – the **Locust Street Subway** opened for service on February 10, 1952. The line, an extension of the Broad Street Subway, had been in the planning stages since the City's rapid transit plan was adopted in the 1910's. It was lightly patronized from the start, but saw new life in the 1960's when the PATCO rapid transit line to South Jersey was planned to use the line (the High-Speed Line, as it would be come to known, would take over the existing little-used Bridge Line between 8th/Market Streets and Camden as well). The Subway closed in December 1968 to begin preparations for Speed Line service, reopening on February 15, 1969 as the Line began operations into Philadelphia.



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