

# the news



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PHILADELPHIA SECTION  
**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**  
1317 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

VOL. 58 - 7

**OUR 73rd YEAR**

April-May, 1986

## APRIL JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers  
Philadelphia Post, The Society of American Military Engineers

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1986**

OFFICER'S CLUB, U.S. NAVAL BASE, PHILADELPHIA

Cocktails — 5:30 P.M.      Dinner — 6:30 P.M.      Meeting — 7:30 P.M.

**SUBJECT:**

**MEETING THE ENGINEERING CHALLENGES OF A MODERN NAVY**

**SPEAKER:**

**REAR ADMIRAL RICHARD F. BUTTS, USN**, Commander, United States Naval Base, Philadelphia

Admiral Butts earned his Master's Degree in Science in July, 1963 at the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey, California. From 1969 to 1971, he was stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Strategic Planning and Policy Division.

In August, 1985, Admiral Butts was named Deputy United States Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee at Brussels. He assumed his present duties as Commander of the U.S. Naval Base, Philadelphia on August 22, 1985. At the same time, he was appointed Commander of the U.S. Naval Bases at New York and Boston.

For reservations for April Joint Meeting, please call Edwin Kucerik, U.S. Army Engineer District, Custom House, 2nd & Chestnut Sts., Phila., PA 19106, Phone (215) 597-0456/0457.

Dinner Meal Charges: ASCE Member—\$12.00      Students—\$6.00

Students: Note that your Dinner Charge is half price. Plan to attend for Dinner or Meeting after Dinner.

## TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Geotechnical Group

#### April Meeting

Date: *April 15, 1986*

Subject: *Consolidation Settlement of Sanitary Landfills*

#### May Meeting

Date: *May 20, 1986*

Subject: *Stabilization of Fill and Soil Masses Using Lime and Fly-ash.*

All meetings will be held at the Engineers' Club.

6:30-7:00 P.M. Cheesc and wine will be served.

7:00-8:30 P.M. Lecture

For full information, names of speakers, etc., please contact: **Moustafa A. Gouda**, Chairman, Geotechnical Group, Lippincott Engineering Associates, Inc., 501 Burlington Ave., Delanco, NJ 08075, (609) 461-1239.

### Structural Group

#### April Meeting

**Joint Meeting with Lehigh Valley Section, ASCE**

Date: *Monday, April 21, 1986*

**BENETZ INN, Route 309, Quakertown, PA**

Cocktails — 6:00 P.M., Dinner — 7:00 P.M.

Subject: *Update on the Mexico City Earthquake*

Speaker: **Dr. Robert Hansen**, Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Michigan

Program Host: **Stephen H. Golden**, Chairman, Structural Group

(For full information and reservations, please contact Mr. Golden — c/o Pennoni Associates, Inc., 1911 Arch St., Phila., PA 19103, (215) 561-0460.)

*(Continued on page 3)*

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## ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!!

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, the staff of THE NEWS extends to all the Members and their families best wishes for healthy and pleasant Spring, Summer and Fall seasons.

We look forward to seeing you all at the first meeting of the Section's 1986-1987 season at the Engineers' Club on **Tuesday, October 14, 1986**. Watch for the October, 1986 issue of THE NEWS.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Section's Social Affair of the Year is coming May 3rd*

(see page 2 for details)

!! HERE IT COMES !!

*The Event We've All Been Waiting For!*

## The Fabulous Annual Spring Social

**Saturday, May 3, 1986**

AT



5th and Market Streets, Philadelphia

For your listening and dancing pleasure — the music of  
"THE SMART SET"

**COCKTAILS: 7:00 P.M. (Cash Bar)**  
Hors D'oeuvres

**DINNER: Catered by the famous *Alfredo The Original of Rome***

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

**COME JOIN YOUR FRIENDS FOR FUN**

Call or Send for your Tickets Today . . . Guests Welcome  
— \$25.00 per person —

Please make checks payable to Women's Auxiliary, ASCE and send for tickets  
**Ms. Deborah Brooks**  
c/o Kassner-Pierce Consulting Engineers  
The Bourse Building, Suite 650  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 238-0222

Call to reserve your tickets. Payment will be accepted at door  
if you don't have time to mail check.

**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA SECTION, ASCE**  
**TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL GROUP**  
1985 HIGHWAY CAPACITY MANUAL OVERVIEW  
Penn Harris Inn, Camp Hill, PA  
Monday May 5, 1986

Instructors: **Dr. Roger P. Roess** and **Dr. William R. McShane.**  
Luncheon: **Dr. Walter P. Kilareski** on RTAP.  
Registration 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.; Seminar 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
For further information contact **Raymond W. Britcher** at (717) 783-8147.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed payable to Central Pa. Section — A.S.C.E.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Individual registration — \$100\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Company registration for display table — \$200\*  
A.S.C.E. Membership — Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: AREA CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check to:  
Central Pa. Section — A.S.C.E., Transportation Technical Group, 4810 Derry St., Harrisburg, PA 17111  
\*Includes one lunch, breaks and seminar package. Deduct prepayment discount of \$5.00 prior to April 5, 1986

### 1986 CONCRETE CANOE RACE

The 1986 Annual Philadelphia Section, ASCE-sponsored Concrete Canoe Race will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 1986 at 9:00 A.M.** on the Schuylkill River shell course (between the Strawberry Mansion Bridge and Columbia Railroad Bridge). For full information, contact **Tom Lauer** Chairman, Student Chapters Committee, at (215) 365-5166.

### FEBRUARY 11TH MEETING CANCELLED

Because of the severe snowstorm, the Philadelphia Section's February 11, 1986 regular Monthly Dinner Meeting was cancelled. The subject: *Design Professionals' Salaries and Fees — Are We Our Own Worst Enemies?* was to have featured a panel of distinguished speakers: **Charles Hough, AIA**, Hayes & Hough, Architects; **Irwin Cantor, P.E.**, Office of Irwin Cantor, New York, Structural Engineers; **Russ Keeler, P.E.**, Keeler Associates, Philadelphia, PA Mechanical and Electrical Engineers; and **Al McClymont, P.E.**, McClymont Engineers, Geotechnical Engineers.

It is hoped that this interesting discussion can be rescheduled at a future date.

### PHILADELPHIA SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

#### OFFICERS 1985-1986

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Ira N. Pierce

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
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Charles J. Denny

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Robert Wright

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Susan Lior Richard Weiss

M. A. Iqbal  
(Reading Branch)

**PAST PRESIDENTS**

Bernard M. McNamee William M. Malarkey  
John E. Durrant

#### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Sidney Robin  
Chairman and Editor of THE NEWS  
Joseph R. Syrnick  
Assistant Chairman and Associate Editor

**SEND COPY TO:**

Sidney Robin  
64 Nancy Drive  
Richboro, Pennsylvania 18954  
Phone: (215) 322-7464

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
OCTOBER, 1986 ISSUE  
SEPTEMBER 2, 1986**

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a year, it has been! As President of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, I must now pretend that my work is about done, so that I can welcome Incoming President Al Tantala and his officers, and wish them well.

The plain truth, however, is that it is early March when I am preparing this message, and my work as President is still in high gear.

So, I do welcome Incoming President Al Tantala and indeed, wish him all the best for the new year. He will be an excellent President, given his energy, capabilities, personality and ASCE experience.

What has been accomplished so far this year could not have been done without the expert assistance of our able officers and the Membership. I also want to give special thanks to Immediate Past President John Durrant, who provided me with so much guidance throughout this year.

Now, comes my interim report, which also must serve as my final report to the membership as this is the final newsletter of the season. Several goals were set for the year, and this is where we stand.

First and foremost are the Philadelphia Sections' technical activities. We are a most active Section, and that activity is nowhere expressed better than at our Technical Group meetings and at our monthly meetings. They remain the backbone of the Section, and provide the membership with opportunities to learn what is at the cutting edge of our profession.

Secondly, this year we started a series of continuing education sessions on topics that are of more than passing interest to all Civil Engineers, but are not generally a part of the normal engineering curriculum. The distinguished, highly successful engineering consultant Roy F. Weston was our first speaker — on the subject of the business side of engineering. He will be followed by experts on stress management and personal finance. In addition, at the request of the US Navy and the home office of ASCE, we will be the first Section to offer a P.E. review course to young civil engineers who are working with the Navy.

In the area of public outreach, ASCE members can be proud of several accomplishments this year. Firstly, we prepared successfully a Public Service Television Announcement (PSA) for the Philadelphia Urban Manpower Program. Both the Program and the PSA are designed to involve urban minority youths in our profession through formal and on-the-job training, and with jobs that would lead to a career in engineering.

Also, we initiated relationships with the City of Philadelphia's Deputy Commerce Director and with the Executive Director of the Homemaker Services, in an effort to provide them with volunteer assistance in areas that would be of mutual interest. While the aim is to provide direction and public assistance, these relationships are not meant to deliver free professional services.

Finally, we are developing an initiative aimed at opening up channels of communications with the other design professions, including the American Institute of Architects and American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Our purpose is to establish a joint mechanism for working out problems and concerns that are of mutual interest. Our joint panel meeting with the AIA in February, on the subject of "Salaries and Fees," "Are We Our Own Worst Enemies" was cancelled due to the snow emergency. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

I saved the best for last. With the establishment of the Commuter Tunnel as 1985's Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement, honor was brought to Philadelphia and to the Section, due to the superb efforts of numerous ASCE members and their several public agencies, consulting firms and contractors.

We, the members and officers of ASCE will be honoring our own for other outstanding contributions to the profession at our May 3 Social, which will be an event in itself, to be held at the Philadelphia Bourse Building on Independence Mall.

I thank you all for the honor and pleasure to serve as ASCE Section President for 1985-1986.

Sincerely,  
Ira N. Pierce  
President, Philadelphia Section ASCE

### Editorial

#### THE PIERCE PRESIDENCY— THE MARK OF A PRO

From his earliest days in New York City, then in Philadelphia, as a high Transportation Administrator; Project Engineer; Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority official; State Arterial Highway Programs coordinator; Chief, Public Transportation Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission; to his present private Consulting Engineering practice, **Ira N. Pierce's** stamp of leadership has been impress-

ed in every facet of his work. His term as President of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, — which will end on May 3, 1986 when a successor will be inaugurated at the Annual Spring Social at the Bourse Building, — has been no exception. Reflecting his keen interest in Younger Members of ASCE (he was one of the creators of the National ASCE Eastern Regional Conference of Younger Members), his energies were particularly directed toward attracting recent graduates and Associate Members to active participation in Philadelphia Section affairs.

Not only was Mr. Pierce preoccupied with the multitudinous and relentless detail of the presiding office, he also almost single-handedly arranged all the monthly regular Section meetings. As the current season attests, all of the subjects were timely and stimulating, and featured outstanding authorities as speakers.

Under his guidance, the Section's Board of Directors individually and jointly; the Technical Groups; Women's Auxilliary; Administrative, Society Affairs and Special Tasks Committees made impressive strides. Mr. Pierce geared much of his initiatives to the area colleges' and universities' ASCE Student Chapters and Clubs, encouraging active participation in the Section through the continuing "College ASCE Nights" faculty and Contact Members in the Section. He has maintained the Section's full support for and appreciation of the needs of the Reading Branch, encouraging "intra-mural" joint activities between the two groups whenever possible.

In his *President's Message* (THE NEWS, October, 1985), President Pierce graciously acknowledged "the excellent, dedicated work" of his predecessors. By welding on his own strong links he has maintained and enhanced that unbroken chain of excellence. The Membership of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE will reap immeasurable rewards if it heeds Mr. Pierce's wise counsel "... Participate personally in the Philadelphia Section and National ASCE activities. Thus will be accomplished the most effective ways of keeping abreast of the continuously emerging technologies of our profession. At the same time, you will be harvesting the benefits of a valuable and enjoyable endeavor: making many new friends and associations..."

Thank you for a job well done, Ira Pierce! We look forward to and find comfort in the assurance that for many years in the future we will be the beneficiaries of your unique talents through continued active membership in the Philadelphia Section, ASCE.

And now, Welcome, President-Elect **Albert M. Tantala!** On May 3, 1986 you will be installed as the 1986-1987 President of the Philadelphia Section. We offer you our hands and our energies to assist you in continuing the progressive programs which your predecessors have established and maintained through many years. By means of these institutions and innovations, the Philadelphia Section, ASCE is recognized as one of the most outstanding professional organizations in the engineering community of the Metropolitan Philadelphia area and beyond. Best of luck, Al!

#### TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Hansen is a member of a group of experts who visited Mexico to inspect the damages to buildings in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake. He contributed his technical expertise in performing the forensic analyses on the damaged structures.

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE 1986-1987

In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, the Nominating Committee appointed by President Ira N. Pierce has submitted the following slate of nominees for elective office for 1986-1987. (The slate was announced at the March 11, 1986 Section Dinner Meeting).

President — Albert M. Tantala (one year).  
1st Vice President — Norman G. Weintraub (one year)

2nd Vice President — Susan Lior (one year)

Director — Joseph Gaudet (two years)

Director — Stephen H. Golden (two years)

Director — D. Kelly O'Day (two years)

Director — Reading Branch representative to be announced (one year)

Secretary — Edward J. Lutz (two years)

Treasurer — Charles J. Denny (two years)

Offices in which incumbents have one more year to serve are:

Assistant Secretary — David M. Barr III

Membership Secretary — Robert Wright

Directors — J. Richard Weggel

Thomas J. Lauer

Richard Weiss

Past Presidents to serve on the Board of Directors are:

William M. Malarkey

John E. Durrant

Ira N. Pierce

If no additional nominations have been submitted to the President in accordance with the Section's Constitution and By-Laws by April 1, 1986, the above slate of nominees shall be declared elected at that time and will be installed at the Annual Spring Social at the Bourse Building on May 3, 1986.

Members of the Nominating Committee were: John E. Durrant, Chairman; William M. Malarkey, Bernard M. McNamee, Ira N. Pierce, Sidney Robin, Joseph R. Syrnick and Bruno J. Talvacchia.

## HELLO — IS ANYONE THERE?

As you may have noticed in the March issue of THE NEWS, the **Younger Member Forum** needs suggestions for field trips and guest speakers.

I have been doing a little thinking myself and feel that lectures in the following areas might be particularly attractive to the Younger Member:

- *Job Interviewing* — A speaker — preferably someone employed by an engineering placement agency, who would be willing to give advice on preparing for, conducting, and following up a job interview — would be ideal for this topic.

- *Job Opportunities* — A speaker is needed to talk about some of the various specialties an engineer may pursue, or to discuss a particular field which he or she finds attractive.

- *Ethics* — Perhaps someone would be willing to discuss ethics and its roles in engineer-

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The **April Meeting** of the Auxiliary promises to be an exciting one. It will be an afternoon Luncheon-Cruise on **Wednesday, April 16, 1986**, down the Delaware River from Penn's Landing, on the spectacular newly-refurbished 600-passenger ship "*Spirit of Philadelphia*".

You'll enjoy the Philadelphia Harbor's beautiful sights, including Fort Mifflin; soak up the sun on the ship's expansive decks; a delicious buffet served on two decks fresh from the ship's galley; sip your favorite wine or cocktail while relaxing to the soothing music of the live bands on board; be entertained by the talented waiters and waitresses in their famous "*Salute to Broadway*" review. For full details of time and meeting place, etc., please contact **immediately**:

**Joan (Mrs. Wallace A.) Rutecki**  
712 Pennsylvania Ave., Bywood,  
Upper Darby, PA 19082  
(215) 352-3746

The cost is \$13.65 per person for the Cruise and Luncheon.

### May Meeting

The final Auxiliary function of the 1985-1986 season will be held at the **Engineers' Club** on **Wednesday, May 21, 1986**, a Luncheon-Meeting at **12:00 noon**. The meeting will feature the installation of officers for 1986-1987. Members are encouraged to bring as many guests as possible to this affair, which will emphasize the atmosphere of a social gathering and minimize business discussion. It will also offer the opportunity for recruiting new individuals to join the Auxiliary.

For full information about membership application, please call Membership Committee Chairman **Marie (Mrs. Kenneth J.) Zitomer**, (215) 548-5324.

ing, giving examples he or she has encountered and the lessons learned from them.

A guest speaker would only have to talk for a half-hour or so and we could serve wine and cheese or beer and pretzels! Meetings would be held in the Engineer's Club or some other place if you have alternative suggestions. So if **YOU** want to volunteer or know someone who is interested, please give me a call.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony M. Micciolo

Chairman, Associate Member Forum

c/o Phila. Water Dept.

Design Branch

One Reading Center, 2nd Floor

Phila., PA 19107

(215) 592-6295

## PROFESSIONAL WRITING COURSE

Lose your last proposals?  
Report to client too bulky?  
ASCE paper returned for heavy revision?  
Letters and memos long or unclear?  
Meeting minutes ramble?

If you answered "Yes" to even one of those questions, you'd gain from a short-course in Writing Professional-Technical Communications. Your Philadelphia Section ASCE wants to offer this course, pending your response to several questions noted below.

### Course Description

This course was successful at these ASCE Sections: Metropolitan (NY) (eight times), Connecticut, Tallahassee, FL, Springfield, IL and many private firms.

### Instructor:

**M.D. Morris, P.E.** FASCE Founder and for six years Editorial Chairman of the Journal, Construction Division, ASCE; Past National Chairman of ASCE Construction Division; Past President, ASCE Metropolitan (NY) Section; Twice President, Cornell Society of Engineers; Construction Editor, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Publishers; Instructor of 517 courses to 12,000 professionals over the past 20 years.

### Dates:

To be selected in April and May 1986 depending upon results of questionnaire about format.

### Practicum:

Since no busywork assignments are given, you must bring in a genuine project to work on as a course vehicle (proposal, report, tech-paper, etc.). Something constructively productive for your organization.

- 1.0 Would you prefer: (Check one)
  - 1.1 Three full consecutive days?
  - 1.2 Three full consecutive Mondays?
  - 1.3 Two full Fridays and two half Saturdays?
  - 1.4 Two full Fridays and one full Saturday?
  - 1.5 Five consecutive Mondays 6-10 PM.
- 2.0 Would you or your firm pay \$212 per person for this 21 hour comprehensive course that earns 2 CEU's.  
Yes/No (Please circle one)
- 3.0 Your Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clip coupon and mail to: **Debbie Brooks**, Kassner-Pierce Consulting Engineers, Suite 650, The Bourse Building, Philadelphia, PA 19106

## HURRY!

RETURN YOUR NOMINATION  
FORMS FOR THE PHILA.  
SECTION, ASCE ANNUAL  
CIVIL ENGINEERING AWARDS.

SEE THE JANUARY, 1986  
ISSUE OF THE NEWS  
FOR DETAILS AND  
NOMINATION FORMS