

the news



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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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Vol. 70-4

Our 84th Year

January, 1998

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers
Delaware Valley Section, American Society of Highway Engineers (A.S.H.E.)
Reading Branch, Philadelphia Section, ASCE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1998

HOLIDAY INN, King of Prussia, PA • See Location Map Below
Cocktails – 5:30 p.m. • Dinner – 6:30 p.m. • Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: "The Atlantic City Casino Connection and Tunnel"

SPEAKER: To Be Announced

SPECIAL FEATURE: DREXEL UNIVERSITY NIGHT (Rescheduled from the December, 1997 meeting) The ASCE Student Chapter, Alumni and Faculty of the Civil and Architectural Engineering Department of Drexel University will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty, and Alumni are cordially invited.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1998. Please send your check for the number of attendees @ \$25 per member or guest; \$13 ASCE Student Members, payable to the Phila. Section, ASCE, P.O. Box 58186, Phila., PA 19102-8186; or call the electronic Message Center: (215) 934-3639 (Open 24 hours/day).

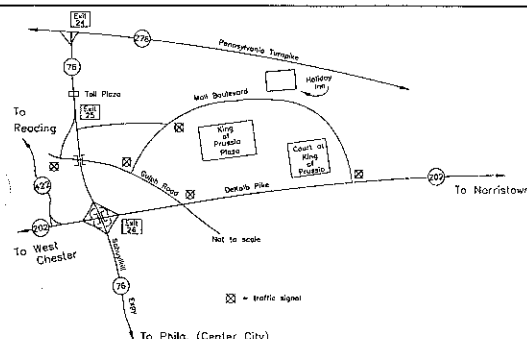
JANUARY CITY HALL TOURS AND LUNCHEONS

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers
Wednesday, January 21 & Thursday, January 22, 1998

Of particular current interest, in view of the extensive renovation program of City Hall, a limited number of Philadelphia Section members will be treated to a tour of City Hall on the dates abovementioned. **With the limit of 30 individuals on each tour, the function will be conducted by Dr. Richard Tyler, Director of the Philadelphia Historical Commission.**

The tours will begin each day at 11:30 a.m., followed by a Buffet Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 per person. For reservations, call the Electronic Message Hotline (215) 934-3639 and leave your daytime phone number. Meeting place and luncheon location will be announced.

A sign-up sheet will be posted at the Section's January Joint Meeting at Holiday Inn, King of Prussia on January 14, 1998. **No reservation calls will be accepted before that date.**



**LOCATION MAP for
Holiday Inn,
King of Prussia,
Pennsylvania**

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

**Transportation Group and
Younger Member Forum**

March Joint Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 5, 1998

LOCATION: Conference Room C on the 16th Floor of the Municipal Service Building, Phila., PA

TIME: 12:00 Noon

SUBJECT: SEPTA's Schuylkill Valley Metro Feasibility Study

SPEAKER: Mr. James S. Fritz, SEPTA's Project Manager

COST: \$10.00; students half price

SEPTA's Schuylkill Valley Metro Feasibility Study is a study to determine the best mode and alignment for rail service in the 62-mile long corridor from Philadelphia to the Borough of Wyomissing via Norristown, Phoenixville, Pottstown and Reading. Its goal is to prepare cost, revenue and performance measures needed to evaluate the feasibility of the concept and to assemble the necessary documentation to advance the project to the Major Investment Study/Draft Environmental Impact Statement Stage by mid-1998. Slated to be completed in February 1998, this study has the joint sponsorship of SEPTA and BARTA (Berks Area Reading Transportation Authority). Mr. Fritz will discuss the complete study and the next step.

A buffet lunch will be served starting at 12:00 Noon with the presentation beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Reservations are required and seating is limited to 50. Please contact either **Chris Rood, P.E.,** Transportation Group Chairman at (215) 580-7586 or **Steve Buckley,** Younger Member Forum Contact at (215) 790-2310 if you have any questions and for reservations.

Engineering Management Group

February Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 1998, 12 Noon

LOCATION: Municipal Services Building, 1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd., 16th Floor (Room To Be Determined), Philadelphia, PA

SUBJECT: "Continuing Professional Development"

(Continued on Page 2)



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I had the opportunity to attend the open house at ASCE National Headquarters on December 3rd & 4th. I was very much impressed with our new home, I feel that the committee spent money very wisely and made sure that we got our money's worth. Aside from seeing the new building finally finished, I was able to meet with many of the ASCE staff and board. One of the highlights of my trip was meeting with **Luther W. Graef ("Lou")**, National ASCE's new President, and **James E. Davis**, Executive Director. We discussed at length the needs

of the membership and some of the differences between government engineers and engineers in the private sector. I came away from our meeting with a very good feeling that both men are sincerely interested in the concerns of the membership and are working toward making ASCE a better Society for our existing members, not just increasing membership. We are seeing a lot of good changes in ASCE and it looks like it will continue through Lou Graef's term as President.

My meetings with ASCE staff have been very beneficial. There many new faces since the move from New York, as well as organization changes. COSOPO has been replaced with the Council of Vice Presidents, and the Committee on Sections and District Councils has been replaced with the Geographic Services Department. Meeting the faces behind the names always makes communications more effective. Now I know who I can go to for any issues or concerns of our Section's membership. So, if you have a question or a problem, give me a call.

I came back with more information than I could possibly compile for this issue of THE NEWS. Next month you will start seeing more news about what is happening on the National level. It is important that we are informed this year since our Zone will be electing the next National President-Elect, which will also be in the next issue.

Sincerely, Darin L. Gatti P.E., President, Philadelphia Section
Darin.gatti@phila.gov • (215) 686-5573

Technical Group Activities

(Continued from Page 1)

SPEAKER: Albert M. Tantala, P.E., President, Tantala Associates

COST: \$10.00 (students & retired persons \$5.00)

Mr. Tantala is a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's State Registration Board of Professional Engineers, Surveyors and Geologists. He will discuss the Board's activities regarding Professional Engineers' responsibilities for maintaining registration through continuing professional development.

A buffet lunch will be served starting at 12:00 noon and Mr. Tantala's presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m. Seating is limited. For reservations, contact **Dennis MacBride** at (215) 580-7084 no later than **Tuesday, February 17, 1998**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In order to facilitate earlier preparation and mailing of THE NEWS for the Philadelphia Section, ASCE membership, a new policy has been initiated with this issue. The review write-up of the previous month's General Section Meeting, which usually appears in the current month's issue of THE NEWS, will from now on be postponed until the following month, so that delays in completing the assembly of copy and editing of THE NEWS will be avoided.

It is also extremely important that all items for publication be submitted to the editor as instructed on Page Two of every issue of THE NEWS by the deadline date. The Membership's attention is again called to the complete list of remaining General Section Meeting and social function dates, printed on the last page of each issue of THE NEWS. Additions and changes to the list from month-to-month are usually noted on this list.

Awards Program

(Continued from Page 3)

With these slight modifications, we hope to make the Section's Awards program a little better and more efficient than it has been in the past. Of course, we still need the support and active participation of you, our members, to make this work most effectively. Your nominations are critical to help this program continue to be of the high caliber which has come to be expected by our membership. The Section will continue to offer a total of 13 awards, which are:

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*.

Technical Awards: Civil Engineering Manager of the Year, Geotechnical Engineer of the Year, Structural Engineer of the Year, Construction Engineer of the Year, Transportation Engineer of the Year, Water Resources Engineer of the Year.

*Please note that nominees for Government Service Award and Philadelphia History and Heritage Award can be individuals who are not Section members. Only Section members can be considered for all other awards.

For more information, award requirements, nomination forms, or answers to your questions, please contact **Bob Wright**, Awards Chairman, at (215) 686-5538, or by mail at the Section Post Office Box.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY 1998 ISSUE
JANUARY 14, 1998**

DELAWARE VALLEY ENGINEERS WEEK COUNCIL

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council (DVEWC) is pleased to announce that once again they will be sponsoring a Regional Future City Competition. The Regional winner then will be competing at the National level in Washington, D.C. during Engineers Week in February. This competition is open to students in the 7th and 8th grades and held in order to help students better understand the practical applications of math and scientific principals. The Regional Competition will be held at the Franklin Institute on **Saturday, January 31, 1998** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Volunteers for January 31st are needed.**

For further information and/or to volunteer as a presentation judge, a timer or do whatever task is needed, please contact either **Chris Rood**, c/o SEPTA, at (215) 580-7586 or **Suzanne Chiavari**, Volunteer Coordinator at (609) 346-8375.

PHILA. SECTION, ASCE OFFICERS 1997-1998

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YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by Christopher Menna, Forum Editor

Upcoming Events

The Northeast Regional Younger Member Council (NERYMC) will be held from **Friday, January 30 to Sunday, February 1, 1998**. The Friday location will be ASCE Headquarters in Reston, Virginia. The Saturday and Sunday events will take place at the Washington-Dulles Airport Marriott (703) 471-9500; room rates are \$64 per night. The cost of the Conference itself is \$65. The YMF Conference's panel discussion theme is entitled, "*How To Become A Successful, Young Professional*." NERYMC is being held jointly with the Zone I Management Leadership Conference (ZMLC), the Workshop for Student Chapter leaders (WSCL), and the Zone I Caucus for ASCE National President-Elect. The Saturday night event will be a social and tour of Washington, D.C., hosted by the National Capitol Section YMF. All YMF members are strongly encouraged to attend. Call **Yael Heller Jakogian**, Geraghty & Miller at (215) 752-6840 for more details or to register.

Past Accomplishments

On **December 4, 1997**, the YMF and the Transportation Technical Group held a Joint Luncheon at the Municipal Services Building in Philadelphia. Approximately 70 people were in attendance, 12 from the YMF. The topic was

The Reconstruction of the Market Street Elevated Line from 43rd Street to the Milbourne Station in Delaware County. The guest speakers were **John Tepper, P.E.**, SEPTA Senior Project Manager, and **David Koerner, P.E.**, SEPTA Senior Project Engineer. The presentation was an overview of the project, on subjects from funding to community involvement to construction start-up dates. There was so much interest shown in the topic that **Chris Rood**, Transportation Technical Group Chairman, indicated that the Market Street Elevated Project may be the subject of an ASCE Section meeting early next year. Many thanks to **Steve Buckley**, Parson Brinckerhoff and YMF Transportation Technical Group Representative for organizing the YMF portion of this Luncheon.

The YMF sponsored a Winter Social on **December 16, 1997** at the Elephant and Castle Restaurant in Center City. Members mingled and networked at this holiday meeting. Special thanks go out to our guests, members of the Philadelphia Section Board of Directors, who took some time out to be with us. Our first ever charity drawing was also held at this event. Since our group donated half of the money that it received to Philabundance, ASCE will be recognized at a donor on the back of their holiday card this year. This is just another positive way that our group has worked positively to publicize our organization.

Member Spotlight

The purpose of the member spotlight is to introduce a fellow YMF member to the Delaware Valley Engineering community.

Jeff Chenault, E.I.T., is a Project Engineer employed by Parsons Brinckerhoff in Center City.

PHILA. SECTION AWARDS THINGS ARE CHANGING (SLIGHTLY!)

As is our usual custom, the Philadelphia Section, ASCE proudly announces the opening of nominations for Section Awards for 1998. These recognize Section members and others for their significant contributions to the field of Civil Engineering.

So, what's the difference? It sounds like the same program the Section has been conducting for many years. If this is your reaction, you are correct. The program is not changing, but the notification procedure and deadlines are. There is also a slight revision of the nomination procedure. The changes are outlined below.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE - Previously, a Nomination Form was included in the February issue of THE NEWS. Frequently, of the nearly 2000 forms printed and sent to members, less than 10 were usually submitted. To reduce printing and mailing costs, nominators will be asked to request a Nomination Form, which will be mailed or faxed.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE - In the past, awardees were notified individually, after the last issue of THE NEWS was sent to press. Thus, most Section members did not know who the awardees were until the Spring Social Dinner Dance. Publicity of awardees was often only by word of mouth, and this typically became the responsibility of the awardees themselves. To avoid this awkward situation and maximize the publicity of the Awards program, the schedule is being advanced by one month. This will allow sufficient time to include a list of awardees in the April issue of THE NEWS, in advance of the Spring Dinner Dance.

DEADLINES - These are all one month sooner than in the past, namely:

- Deadline for nominations - **Friday, February 6, 1998**, at close of business, or postmarked on this date.

- Recommended awardees list developed by Awards Committee and presented to Section Board at its meeting of **February 12, 1998**. Awardees notified by letter shortly thereafter.

- Final list of awardees published in April issue of THE NEWS.

(Continued on Page 2)

As a Project Engineer, Jeff performs highway design on both large and small projects. Currently, Jeff is involved with the repaving and traffic signal work in the South Broad Street Rehabilitation Project in Philadelphia, whose job limits extend from Washington Avenue to Oregon Avenue. In addition, he is helping with the paving and drainage design on the Route 309 project in Montgomery County. In past employment, Jeff has assisted in developing Maintenance and Protection of Traffic Plans for the Reconstruction of the Market Street Elevated Line in West Philadelphia. This work required extensive coordination between the City of Philadelphia, PennDOT, and other townships. Also, Jeff is a YMF Officer and serves as the current Vice President of Technical Groups. Lastly, Jeff has just recently taken the P.E. exam. Good luck Jeff!

MILTON W. ROTHBAUM

With sadness, THE NEWS reports the death, at his home in Pennsauken, NJ, on December 2, 1997 of Philadelphia Section, ASCE Past President (1967-1968) **Milton W. ("Milt") Rothbaum, P.E.** The loss is especially painful to your Editor, because he and Milt were college classmates at Drexel University, where they both earned their B.S. in Civil Engineering. The two maintained a strong personal friendship and professional relationship continuously throughout the years and decades since college days.

From 1946 to 1959 Milt, a structural design specialist, was a partner in the firm of Nicholson and Rothbaum, Consulting Structural Engineers, Philadelphia. He was Founder and President of the succeeding firm of Rothbaum and Davis from 1960 to 1980 when the firm discontinued after the death of Mr. Davis. Since 1980, to the present, he was a Senior Structural Engineer with Pennoni Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, Philadelphia.

In more than 40 years of experience, Mr. Rothbaum's projects include numerous industrial, commercial, institutional and recreational facilities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A Registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, Milt's professional affiliations, in addition to ASCE, include the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Working with prominent architects, his project experience also includes structural design and coordination on multi-discipline, open-end type contracts.

Throughout his career, Milt has been continuously active in helping young engineers as a mentor and teacher. He served as Past Secretary and Honorary Vice President of the former Congregation Beth Israel of Camden, and held official positions with religious educational organizations and bureaus, and Hadassah.

Milt is survived by his beloved wife, Bess, two daughters, Sara Gantz and Mona Rieger, five grandchildren, five brothers, and two sisters. Rest in peace, dear friend. All who knew you will miss you.

ASCE HEADQUARTERS COMPLETE

By Darin L. Gatti

On December 3 and 4, 1997, National ASCE held an Open House at the new Headquarters in Reston, VA. Although they have been working out of the building for some time, the renovations have just been completed. The building has six floors of which ASCE occupies 1-4 and leases out floors 5 and 6.

The building has a Conference Center with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment. When ASCE is not using it, other organizations in the area are interested in having meetings there, so there is a great potential for income to offset the buildings' costs. The Caucus for President Elect and Zone I Management Conference will be held here at the end of January. The main entrance is a

(Continued on Page 4)

JOIN THE SECTION'S TECHNICAL GROUPS

Younger Member Forum

Yael Heller Jekogian, P.E., President

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Langhorne, PA 19047
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Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 922-8080

Structural

Richard Roberts, P.E., Chairman

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Phila., PA 19104
(215) 222-3000

Transportation

Chris Rood, P.E., Chairman

SEPTA - Eng'g & Construction Div.
1234 Market St., 12th Fl.
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IMPORTANT! 1997-1998 MEETING NOTICES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the dates of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE monthly meetings and social functions, as follows: (Check each upcoming edition of THE NEWS for additional details, possible date and topic changes.) THIS IS A TENTATIVE LIST.

ALL DINNER MEETINGS (Except as noted)

Cocktails - 5:30 p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m. Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

STUDENTS: All dinner and/or luncheon charges one-half price. If you prefer, you are welcome to attend all meetings after dinner or luncheon, at no charge.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS FROM PRIOR ISSUES.

Wednesday, January 21 and Thursday, January 22, 1998 - City Hall Tours and Luncheons.
See Page One for details.

Thursday, February 12, 1998 - Joint Dinner Meeting with South Jersey Branch, NJ Section, ASCE - Harbor League Club, Camden, NJ - "Schuylkill River Park and Bulkhead."
Swarthmore College Night

Thursday, March 12, 1998 - Joint Dinner Meeting with Delaware Valley Chapter, American Concrete Institute (ACI) • "Fire Damaged Structures - The Meridian Building"
Phila. Section, ASCE Past Presidents Night • Temple University Night

Thursday, April 9, 1998 - Widener University Night. Details to be announced.

Saturday, April 25, 1998 - Reinforced Concrete Canoe Race and Model Steel Bridge Competition. Location and details to be announced.

Friday, May 1, 1998 - Annual Spring Dinner Dance - Sugarloaf Conference Center, Germantown Avenue, Chestnut Hill, PA

New Headquarters

(Continued from Page 3)

two-story vestibule with a circular staircase to an open hallway on the next floor. The floor is

William G. Richards, P.E.
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marble tile and one wall is white marble carved with the names of donors who contributed \$1000 or more. Over \$4 million was raised through donations for this building and it seems to have been very well spent. The building is impressive and very tastefully appointed. Our new home was well received by all of those who attended the Open House.

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