

# MARYLAND SECTION NEWS

Vol. 102 No. 4

April, 2002

## Message from the President



Change can be for the better. This year, we continue trying new things. On March 13th, we held our meeting at the Maryland Historical Society. Will Aasen, our Programming Chair, did a great job in organizing and executing a catered affair at the Museum. From the feedback I heard, many enjoyed the change in scenery and opportunity to tour this museum of Maryland history. I know I enjoyed the museum. Especially exciting is having a crowd of more than 160 people take advantage of this event. Thank you for attending.

### Continue with New Ideas:

This coming month, at our April 10th meeting, we will try something new. To encourage our members to hang around and socialize after the meeting, we will have an **AFTER MEETING SOCIAL HOUR** at the down-

stairs bar. All meeting attendees will be given a coupon good for a free drink (beer, wine, rail drink or soft drink). Let's keep the socializing and networking going. Please consider hanging around for a few minutes just to continue the socializing. ASCE will foot the bill for your first drink in the bar.

### Upcoming Programs:

On Wednesday, April 10th, we will hold our meeting at the Engineer's Club. We are fortunate to have **Henry Kay**, Director of Planning at MTA, to talk to us about the Maryland

Transit Administration's master plan for new mass transit initiatives in Maryland. The cost is \$27 for members, \$33 for guests and \$14 for students.

In June, we are considering some new ideas. One possibility is a dinner at the Baltimore Zoo for our members and their families. As details are finalized, we will let you know.

### Special September Celebration:

In honor of ASCE's 150th Anniversary, the Maryland Section is beginning the plan-

ning for a "Celebration of Civil Engineering in Maryland" Gala Evening in September. We hope to invite as our guests, all of the surviving former Presidents of the ASCE Maryland Section. We hope to show some of the great engineering achievements and ASCE Section award winners throughout the years. More details will follow as we solidify our plans.

*I hope to see you April 10th and please join us after the meeting for additional socializing!*

Joel

## SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT)** is pleased to announce that **James (Jay) W. Smith, P.E.** has been promoted to Vice President in our Baltimore office. Jay oversees JMT's Special Projects Section and is responsible for public agency clients throughout Maryland at the state, district, and local levels.

Mr. Smith has over 24 years of experience in civil engineering, particularly in roadway design, site engineering, utility design, stormwater management, hydrology and hydraulics, and drainage design. Among his noteworthy projects are the design of doubletrack improvements for MTA's light rail system in Baltimore, site design for New Town High School in Owings Mills, and the recently completed MD 528 streetscape in Ocean City.

Mr. Smith has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, and he is a reg-

istered professional engineer in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Jay is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers and American Society of Highway Engineers.



**Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT)** is also pleased to announce that **Steven P. Aust** has joined JMT's Baltimore office as a Project Engineer with the Water Resources Section. Mr. Aust has more than three decades of project management with design engineering experience in Maryland for public agencies and consulting firms. He will be responsible for coordination with the Maryland Department of the environment and other clients.

*Continued on page 5*

# NATIONAL ASCE

## Employer Recognition Program

For Exemplary support of Younger Member Involvement in ASCE Activities

### The Program

Younger Member enthusiasm, meaningful involvement and growth are the keys to ASCE's future. As a means of fostering individual younger member participation in Society activities, the ASCE Committee on Younger Members (CYM) has developed a program to help Sections and Branches recognize those employers who encourage their young engineers to get involved. Special recognition will go to those organizations that exhibit exemplary support evidenced by efforts such as:

- Providing a model for involvement through company-wide participation in local, regional and national ASCE activities
- Allowing young engineers time off to attend ASCE meetings and seminars
- Supporting and encouraging technical and professional growth
- Encouraging young engineers to prepare articles for publication in ASCE professional and technical journals
- Assisting in the payment of local and national dues



Younger Members who want their organization to be considered for recognition will fill out a questionnaire, which describes their organizations' level of compliance with these guidelines. Sections and Branches, with the help of local Younger Member Groups, will forward meritorious submittals to CYM. After its review, CYM will prepare a list of exemplary employers, by Section and Branch. This list will be submitted for publication in *Civil Engineering* magazine or *ASCE News*. Sections/Branches will be encouraged to provide local recognition (for example, a certificate of commendation) to selected organizations.

### Program Operation

The program will operate as follows:

1. Award submittals will be received through Sections and Branches.
2. With the help of local Younger Member Groups, Sections/Branches will recommend exemplary organizations for recognition.
3. CYM will review nominees and their submittals at its fall meeting. This review will be for award consistency and to better define minimum standards (The entire nomination form must be completed.).
4. For those organizations that meet award criteria CYM will:
  - (a) submit a list of winning organizations for publication in *Civil Engineering* magazine or *ASCE News*; and
  - (b) encourage Sections/Branches to provide winning organizations with local recognition.
5. Your firm may be nominated for the award each year. If your firm is a previous winner of the award, the nominator must be a different younger member in the firm.

For more information contact Nancy E. Berson, Senior Director at ASCE national at [nberson@asce.org](mailto:nberson@asce.org) or 1-800-548-2723 ext 6010

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# SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from page 1

Prior to joining JMT, Mr. Aust managed programs for the State of Maryland's Water Management Administration and Air Management Administration.

Steve received a Bachelor of Engineering Science degree from the Johns Hopkins University and a Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland-College Park.



Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RK&K), has named **Thomas E. Mohler, P.E.** an Associate. Mohler will provide technical leadership and share management and marketing responsibilities in RK&K's Transportation Engineering Department.

Mohler's 18-year career as a transportation engineer encompasses a wide range of civil and structural engineering projects and managerial assignments. Prior to RK&K, he managed the Surface Transportation Department for a large, nationally-ranked consulting engineer-

ing firm where he was engaged in roadway, bridge, ports and mass transit planning and design projects in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia. Mohler has taken a creative approach to several projects by leading efforts with unique delivery systems such as public/private partnerships and design/build. He is currently functioning as the Section Design Manager for the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge.

Mohler, a native of Baltimore, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Lafayette College and is a registered professional engineer in Maryland. He is an active member of Marylanders for Efficient and Safe Highways; Maryland Society of Professional Engineers; American Society of Civil Engineers and past president of the Consulting Engineers Council of Maryland.



Sabra, Wang & Associates, Inc. (SWA) is pleased to announce the hiring of **Ray E. Dagher, P.E.** in our Baltimore

office. Ray will be a chief of the Highway Design Division, overseeing all civil and highway projects in our Maryland and Virginia offices.

Prior to joining SWA, Ray worked at Jacobs Sverdrup Corporation for 12 years and at Century Engineering for three years. Ray has 18 years of experience working on contracts for government agencies such as MDSHA and Districts, VDOT, DelDOT, WVDOT, SCDOT, and other local jurisdictions.

Ray will be responsible for the highway engineering business and development and directing all civil/highway projects for the firm.



The Board of Directors of **Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson** is pleased to announce the following promotions:

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# NATIONAL ASCE: THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

## HIGHWAY FUNDING RESTORATION GETS BOOST FROM BUSH ADMINISTRATION

The Bush Administration announced its support for legislative efforts to restore \$4.4 billion to the federal highway funding budget for FY 2003. This is a reversal of the president's budget proposal earlier this year that effectively cut federal highway funding by \$9 billion. Quoted in the Las Vegas Review Journal, Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters stated, "The White House recognizes the impact [of these cuts] on the economy and local economies and transportation projects."

Over 300 House members and 69 Senators have signed on to co-sponsor legislation that would restore at least \$4.4 billion to the FY 2003 budget. Additionally, House Appropriations Committee Chairman C.W. 'Bill' Young (R-FL) and Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle (R-IA) agreed Wednesday to report an appropriations bill that would restore a portion of the funding.

Also this week, the General Accounting Office offered suggestions to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Highway subcommittee on how to fix the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority (RABA), the formula that is partially to blame for producing the \$9 billion difference in funding from FY 2002 to FY 2003. Options for a long-term fix suggested by the GAO include eliminating the 'look ahead' portion of the calculation, averaging the 'look back' portion over two years, or distributing

adjustments over two years.

The committee also looked at ways to increase revenue to the Highway Trust Fund, particularly how to stem the loss of revenue due to increased use of ethanol. Ethanol blended fuels are partially exempt from the standard excise tax on gasoline and 2.5 cents of the tax received on each gallon of the blended fuels is transferred to the General Fund. GAO estimates that this will result in a 'loss' of over \$13 billion in revenue to the highway fund during the period FY 2002 to FY 2012.


Congress will revisit these issues, including long-term changes to RABA, when it tackles reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century next year.

## HOUSE PANEL CLEARS \$20 BILLION CLEAN WATER BILL; BUSH EYES END TO FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CLEAN WATER, DRINKING-WATER

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved H.R. 3930 on March 20. The bill, a \$20 billion proposal to reauthorize the Clean Water Act's State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for the next five years, contains a measure requiring all construction work funded through the SRF water infrastructure account to be paid for with prevailing wages under the Davis-Bacon Act. Reps. Sue Kelly (R-NY), Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) and Peter DeFazio (D-OR) succeeded in revising the original bill to include prevailing labor wages for both SRF first-time capitalization grants and the subse-

quent work that comes with the funds generated after states have paid back into the SRF their debts on the infrastructure loans. An attempt by Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI) to weaken Kelly's amendment to allow Davis-Bacon to apply only to the first round of construction work failed despite his threat that House Republican leaders would bring the bill to a "screaming halt." Asked by DeFazio to identify to the Committee the leaders who threatened the bill, Rogers declined, saying "That's a conversation best held away from this microphone." But Committee Chairman Don Young (R-AK) said he would have a "real problem" if GOP leaders stop H.R. 3930 before it reaches the floor. In recent weeks, Environmental Protection Agency officials have said the funding levels proposed in Congress to address aging sewer and drinking-water systems do not satisfy the Bush administration's fiscal priorities and therefore lack White House support. On the same day that the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee cleared its bill, the Senate Appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over the EPA budget held a hearing with Administrator Christie Whitman. Subcommittee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) said the White House Office of Management and Budget EPA budget proposal for Fiscal 2003 would eliminate all federal SRF funding beginning in Fiscal 2006. Whitman responded that the SRF is at a "very healthy stage," currently revolving at \$2 billion, and would be all right in

*Continued on page 4*



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# ASCE Night Maryland Historical Society

March 2002

The March ASCE Maryland Section Meeting was held at the Maryland Historical Society in Downtown Baltimore. More than 160 people enjoyed the evening. The night included a buffet dinner, speakers and time to tour the museum. Will Aasen, the ASCE program chair, did a great job putting together the event. For those that missed the event, here are a few photos to show you just how enjoyable the evening was.

▶ Joel Oppenheimer leading an exciting evening's program



▲ Lining up to be served at the Buffet. Everyone seemed to enjoy the meal.

▶ The wonderful setting had everyone being social and enjoying the evening.



The ASCE Engineering News is a monthly publication, except July and August, published by the Maryland Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is provided free to Section, life and student members. Comments or questions should be directed to the Editor.

# National ASCE: This Week in Washington

Continued from page 3

the future even without new funding.

She also said that OMB's planning assumptions reflect a long-term reduction of federal SRF funding but not a policy decision on how EPA will address water pollution and infrastructure. Whitman called water resources "the major environmental challenge of the 21st century." Meanwhile, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is expected to hold a hearing in April on drinking-water infrastructure legislation and introduce its own bill, a committee aide said this week. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is continuing staff talks behind the scenes on S.1961, a \$35 billion bill addressing drinking-water and wastewater infrastructure. A formal Committee drafting session originally scheduled for this week was delayed until after the two-week spring recess because of several issues, including Davis-Bacon, committee staff said.

Under H.R.3930, the SRF account's funding authorization would increase from \$2 billion in Fiscal 2003 to \$6 billion in fiscal 2007, for a five year total of \$20 billion. The current appropriated level is \$1.35 billion level. The last authorized level was \$600 million in fiscal 1994.

The bill would require states to develop within a year a method for prioritizing water infrastructure projects based on water quality benefits and affordability. With that, states would be required to develop by FY 2004 an integrated priority list of all projects and activities that seek SRF assistance, including nonpoint source and treatment efforts.

Other state directives called for in H.R. 3930 include funding the most environmentally friendly projects and using 25 percent of their SRF money above an annual \$1.4 billion threshold for additional infrastructure subsidization. The bill also would authorize \$15 million a year for a new program for rural and small community technical assistance; reauthorize the Clean Water Act Section 106 state pollution control grant program to \$250 million a year; and require states to use at least 15 percent of the federal contribution to the SRF for assistance to communities with populations of fewer than 20,000 people.

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**DATED MATERIAL INSIDE**

**– MEETING NOTICE –  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2002  
**Time:** 6:00 P.M. — Cocktails  
7:00 P.M. — Dinner  
8:00 P.M. — Meeting

**Place:** The Engineering Center; 11 W. Mount Vernon Place  
**Speaker:** Henry Kay, Director; Office of Planning, MTA  
**Program:** Joint ASCE/ITE Meeting  
MTA Long Range Regional Rail System Plan

**Abstract:** The Maryland Transit administration's Long Range Regional Rail System Plan, the first comprehensive effort in more than 40 years, is expected to be completed by Mid-March 2002. The plan is designed to improve mobility along highly congested corridors, spur economic development in targeted areas and stimulate Smart Growth. Mr. Kay will describe key elements of the plan and the possible rail corridors, outline how the plan satisfies the goals of the initiative, and provide and update of future activities and milestones.

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**Stay to socialize with fellow colleagues after the Meeting and enjoy one complimentary drink courtesy of ASCE.**

**Reservations:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Total Members & Guests)

- Reservations will be considered firm and billed unless cancelled by not later than Monday noon prior to meeting.
- Cancellations must be submitted via mail or fax.
- Reservations can only be held until 6:45 p.m.
- Seats will be available for dinner after 6:45 on a first-come first-serve basis.
- If you are unable to attend dinner, you are welcome to attend the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- Checks should be made payable to:

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All reservations and cancellations should be sent to:  
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Mail, fax or email by: April 8, 2002, 12:00 noon

**FUTURE MEETING DATES:**  
May 8, 2002  
June 12, 2002