

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2016-17

Our “look-ahead” schedule is provided below for your planning purposes and to add to your calendar to hold the dates. Our meeting program committee is busy lining up speakers and topics for what we hope will be an interesting and informative series of meetings. This will be “fine-tuned” to provide updates as they are available. We also suggest you visit the Section website for the latest changes in our meeting program.

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 for your advance awareness.

As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so. This may be subject to space available at the particular venue.

Information on future meetings this season as of this printing are:

FEBRUARY

Joint meeting with Women’s Transportation Seminar, Philadelphia Chapter

Location, topic and date to be determined

MARCH 9, 2017

Delaware River Channel Deepening
Maggiano’s Little Italy, Center City

APRIL 6, 2017

Multi-topic meeting/breakout sessions
Location and topics to be determined

MAY 2017

Spring Social
Location and date to be determined

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We extend our special and collective THANKS to each of our 14 sponsors for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website. Additionally, we provide direct links to sponsors’ own websites so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions. We also offer sponsors the opportunity to have a “spotlight” article in an edition of *THE NEWS* as well as service as a sponsor of one of our monthly dinner meetings.

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

DECEMBER MULTI-SOCIETY LUNCHEON MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016

Sofitel, 120 S. 17th Street (at Sansom Street), Center City Philadelphia

Networking 11:30 AM, Lunch 12:00 NOON, Presentation 12:30 PM

SUBJECT: Rebuilding the System – SEPTA Capital Program Update

SPEAKER: Jeffrey D. Knueppel, PE, General Manager, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)

RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28. The cost per attendee is \$65 (\$45 for government agency employees) for reservations received by the deadline.

RESERVATIONS RECEIVED NOVEMBER 29 AND AFTER. Reservations received after the deadline and “walk-ups” without prior reservations paying at the door will be charged \$85. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE. Please keep in mind there are over a dozen participating societies and a sizable turnout is expected.

The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting. All reservations should be directed to the Engineers’ Club – online through the Club website, www.engrclub.org or via e-mail at reservations@engrclub.org. Checks should be made payable to Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia and mailed per the instructions with registration. Checks will also be accepted at the door. Payment will be expected for all reservations regardless of attendance.

Toys for Tots Collection – As has been done for this event in the past, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the **Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)** will be coordinating a **Toys for Tots** collection with the **Marine Toys for Tots Foundation**. Please bring an UNWRAPPED toy to brighten a child’s holiday.



Mr. Knueppel, our Section’s Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year in 2015, was appointed as General Manager of SEPTA in October 2015, following 3 years as Deputy General Manager and 6 years as Assistant General Manager/Chief Engineer, part of his 29-year career with the Authority. He has concentrated efforts on the improvement of the reliability, attractiveness and efficiency of SEPTA’s services through the transformation of capital improvement delivery processes. He has led staff to successfully implement over \$190 million in stimulus projects in the past six years. His team is now focused on the movement of other major efforts to construction as part of the Authority’s Rebuilding for the Future Program, made possible by an unprecedented level of funding in Pennsylvania’s Act 89.

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section
American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017

Radisson Hotel/Valley Forge Casino, 1st Avenue and Gulph Road, Valley Forge

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

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Turnpike Improvement Update

SPEAKER: Brad Heigel, Chief Engineer, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

PLEASE NOTE — RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH
DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE.

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting reservations for this meeting.

The reservation process will be provided in the January edition of *THE NEWS*.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we head into the holiday season, there are always two annual ASCE markers on our radar – the Engineers' Club's Multi-Society Meeting and ASCE membership renewal. The Multi-Society Meeting is a great event with 15 different societies partnering to bring various members together in a way is not typically done in other meetings. Also, this time of year means that National and Philadelphia Section ASCE membership renewals are due in the coming weeks.

These dues provide a wide range of membership benefits, with access to 5 free PDH credits per year and the monthly *Civil Engineering* magazine, and locally they help support our technical meetings and outreach efforts to name a few.

On the National front, ASCE is proud to announce the upcoming release of that **Dream Big: Engineering Wonders of the World**, which will premiere in giant-screen theaters during Engineers Week (February 2017). The film will take viewers around the world to show how Engineers are using innovative solutions and designs on a grand scale and shaping the world of tomorrow. Dream Big will be yet another way we can reach a broad audience about the importance of Engineering and what we do, and it will help to continue to change perceptions about the profession. It will also serve in outreach efforts to inspire more young people to consider careers in Engineering. I am looking forward to the release. Please take a couple minutes to watch the fascinating movie trailer (<http://www.asce.org/dream-big/>) and spread the word about the upcoming film.

I hope everyone has a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,

Guy DiMartino, P.E.

President, ASCE Philadelphia Section

DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR DUES!

A reminder that your dues statement/invoice for 2017 is in your hands. As noted on the invoice, you can pay by check or electronically. Either way, please don't forget to pay your ASCE and Philadelphia Section dues (both are due on January 1 but there are currently some incentives being offered for early renewal).

Keep in mind that your membership entitles you to be eligible for ASCE Member Advantages. These encompass benefits in several member discount programs including professional liability insurance, life insurance, credit cards and banking services, and rental car discounts. ASCE always looks to negotiate the best deal for members. Similarly, when members save through these programs, ASCE earns revenue that helps keep your dues rates as low as possible. Please check asce.org for the details on these offers and programs.

There are additionally a number of **FREE eLearning Webinars** available to help you develop critical career skills, with topics covering a broad range of technical interests, leadership development tools, and key member programs. Many of these offer professional development hour (PDH) credit that you may need for your license renewal. Often these PDH's are valid in states such as Florida and New York, which are not all that easy to obtain given those states' pre-approval requirements.

Your dues are vital to the support of our Section's activities. We appreciate your ongoing support.

ASCE VISION

Civil Engineers are global leaders building a better quality of life.

ASCE MISSION

Provide essential value to our members and partners, advance Civil Engineering, and serve the public good.



The ASCE Foundation is dedicated to helping Civil Engineers address infrastructure and sustainability needs. Through programs such as the Report Cards, ASCE helps prepare current and future practitioners to create unique answers to address Civil Engineering challenges.

Your gift today will provide vital funding for ASCE programs focused on Lifelong Learning, Leadership and Sustainable Infrastructure, including the Report Card, which is not possible with the revenue from dues alone!

The countdown is on to **Giving Tuesday!** The ASCE Foundation is again participating in the philanthropic world's alternative to **Black Friday** and **Cyber Monday**. On Tuesday, **November 29**, we are once again joining forces with our sister Engineering societies to make this 5th anniversary year even bigger! Your generous gift will help us reach our goal of \$30,000 for Civil Engineering programs. Please visit our website (www.ascefoundation.org) for more information and options for donations.

FIND/LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

As part of the ASCE PA Social Media campaign, Facebook Pages are available for our Section, our Younger Member Forum, and ASCE Region 2. These have been established to help us create and promote synergy and communication among all Sections and groups within our Region. Please take a moment to visit and LIKE these pages and invite your Engineering friends (and others) to do the same.

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2016-17 SEASON

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Joseph Natale, WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff ('16-'18)

Jeanien Price, City of Philadelphia ('16-'17)

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Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.*

Jennifer K. Walsh, McMahon Associates Inc.*

** In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, only the immediate Past President will serve on the Board, and only for a one-year term. We show the most recent three Past Presidents as has become our tradition.*

President — Guy DiMartino, P.E.

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Editor of *THE NEWS*

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Section Outreach Coordinator

Nha Truong

SEND COPY TO:

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One Drexel Plaza, 3001 Market Street, Suite 200,
Philadelphia, PA 19104

COPY DEADLINE FOR

January 2017 ISSUE

December 14, 2016

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Nicole Eno, Forum Editor

Kevin Brown, Forum President 2016-17

Urban Engineers, Inc.

530 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

kbrown@urbanengineers.com

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP

OCTOBER 16

YMF along with its counterpart, ASHE Delaware Valley Section's Young Member group, teamed up for the 2016 fall adopt-a-highway street cleanup. Approximately 15 young Engineers and Temple University Civil Engineering students showed up at the parking lot of Fireside Bar & Grill, received gloves and trash bags, discussed roadside safety, and then began to pick up trash along the two-mile stretch of Bethlehem Pike in Fort Washington that has been adopted jointly by ASCE and ASHE. After the cleanup, the group enjoyed pizza and wings from Fireside Bar and Grill.



SWE INVENT IT BUILD IT EVENT

OCTOBER 29

YMF volunteered at the **Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Invent It Build It Event**, assisting at the ASCE booth, led by **Lisa Black**. The event consisted of about 35 different booths of various Engineering disciplines available for the students ("future engineers") to visit and learn about Engineering and STEM fields. At the ASCE booth the volunteers exposed young females to Civil Engineering, gave insight to the profession and advice on colleges, and lead a hands-on activity. The several hundred students in attendance were from all over the Philadelphia region and very excited to discuss a possible Civil Engineering career.

The ASCE booth was also promoting the IMAX movie, "Dream Big", to the students who are interested in pursuing a career in Civil Engineering. The movie is a giant-screen film about Engineering that will give the public more insights on the journey of discovery from the world's tallest building to the highest bridge. Also, the movie will educate the future generations in Civil Engineering and as well as the importance of infrastructures. The movie will be released in February. Stay tuned for more information on how to view it in Philadelphia area.

COMCAST INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER TOUR

NOVEMBER 9

YMF attended a construction tour of the **Comcast Innovation and Technology Tower**. The brand-new skyscraper will change the entire skyline of Philadelphia as we know it. The construction tour began with the Engineer of record, **Thornton Tomasetti**, providing a brief presentation about the design tower and the Engineering challenges the design team faced.

The group then went out to the site and was taken around by the construction management firm, **L.F. Driscoll**, to several levels throughout the building showing different, unique floor designs as the tower went skyward. The group reached a peak on the 44th floor which provided breathtaking views of Philadelphia. Space on the tour was limited so there were roughly 25 people in attendance, but many more people showed interested in attending.

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING: SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 10

Our Section conducted its November Section Dinner Meeting at Maggiano's in Center City, with the topic of "Hidden and In Plain Sight: Perspectives on the 30th Street Station District Plan" (see the separate article and meeting report on this). Swarthmore College was the featured Student Chapter of the evening and, in addition to engineering students, Helen Hawver and Ross Bednar attended the meeting. Helen spoke about the happenings of the Chapter and noted that, despite being small, it still provides useful events for its membership. She also let everyone know that anyone who may be interested in giving a presentation at Swarthmore should let her know.

K-12 OUTREACH

Our K-12 Outreach co-chairs need your help for an upcoming outreach visit at **Pottstown High School** with 9th and 10th graders (**December 15** from 11 am to 3 pm). If interested in volunteering with us, please contact YMF K-12 co-chairs **Katrina Lawrence** and **Charlie Mumford** at ASCEPhilaYMFK12@gmail.com for further details and sign-up with our K-12 volunteer form at www.goo.gl/HeV3QR to get on our volunteer list! These opportunities allow kids from local schools to interact with industry professionals in a classroom setting while learning about Civil Engineering. All presentation and activity materials will be provided. Thanks!

ASHE/ASCE JOINT HAPPY HOUR AT ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY

DECEMBER 14

YMF will again team up with ASHE for a happy hour in King of Prussia, just in time for Holiday shopping. Check our website for more information and RSVP's.

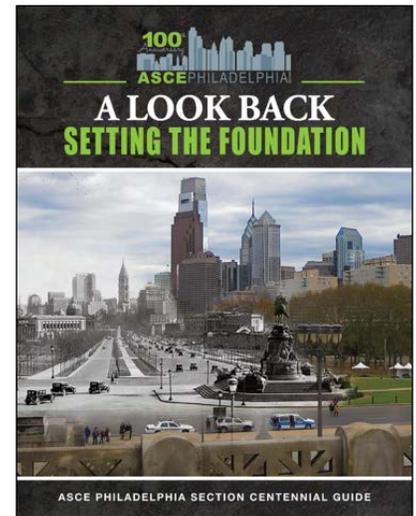
YMF WINTER SOCIAL

JANUARY

Look out for the date for YMF's annual **Winter Social** coming in a future email blast!

IF YOU ARE NOT FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM, YOU WILL BE FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM.

- Vince Lombardi



IT'S HERE!!

CENTENNIAL BOOK PRE-ORDERS

To memorialize our Section's 100th Anniversary season and cite the many local landmarks, facilities and efforts that have been brought "to life" by our members over that time, we have created a keepsake commemorative Centennial Book.

Ever wonder what the significance is about the Frankford Bridge or what the initial Philadelphia City Plan looked like? How did I-76 and I-95 come to be the highways we know today? How does the Center City of today compare with what it was in the past?

Now is the time to pre-order this long-awaited book so you find these answers, as well as discover the numerous other accomplishments of local Civil Engineers and fellow Section members.

The Philadelphia Section Centennial Book will be released by the end of the year. This is a 100-page soft-cover coffee table book, exploring the history and organization of our Section and the numerous Civil Engineering projects in the region that have impacted our lives for the past 100 years.

Please visit our website (www.asce-philly.org) and use the link to place your pre-order. You can pay through Paypal or check, payable to ASCE Philadelphia Section.

Pre-orders must be placed and payments received by **December 10!**

For additional information or questions, please contact **Jennifer Reigle** at jreigle@pennoni.com.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

MALONEY PROMOTED AT JMT

Jim Maloney has been promoted to a newly-created role of Deputy Chief Marketing Officer at JMT. In this role, he will facilitate the strategic growth of the firm across the Northeast and Midwest United States, including the firm's recent expansion into Ohio and New York. He will also oversee the firm's regional marketing and business development operations and staff, lead firm-wide strategic planning efforts, and advise on other corporate initiatives.

Jim joined JMT in 2008 as the Assistant Office Manager in the firm's Philadelphia office, where he jointly oversaw the daily operations of the firm in the region, as well as the growth and diversification of the office. Congratulations, Jim!

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

November 10, 2016

Maggiano's Little Italy, Center City

Hidden and in Plain Sight – Perspectives of the 30th Street Station District Plan

by Robert Wright, Editor

Meeting #2 of our 2016-17 season found over 80 attendees assembling at Maggiano's on a slightly chilly fall day, with many of us still getting used to the return to standard time and earlier darkness. Despite a protest over the national election that brought the rush hour to more of a crawl than usual, folks found their way to the meeting and possibly appreciated those two free drinks a little more than usual after the lengthy and stressful trip.

The evening's topic, the in-progress **30th Street Station District Plan**, promised to be informative and interesting, particularly as it addresses a site that has had any number of proposals for its use over the years but little actually happening. Our speakers would advise by the end of the evening that exciting things are in the works on several fronts. **Peter Denitz** and **Anna Lynn Smith**, planners/engineers from WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, part of the plan's team of design professionals, would illustrate how the plan is finally going to happen and become the reality that previous objectives could not achieve.

President-Elect **Cathy Farrell**, filling in for President **Guy DiMartino**, got everyone settled and away from the bars (never an easy task) to begin dinner. As dinner wound down, she returned to the podium for a few announcements, and brought up **Helen Hawver**, representative of the featured Student Chapter for this evening, **Swarthmore College**, for a short update on what the Chapter is doing. President-Elect Farrell then honored Past President **Ann Tomalavage** and presented her with the **Section's President's Award** for her hard work and diligence on the 2014 PA Report Card. Past President Tomalavage was not able to attend the Spring Social last May to accept this award, so she was invited to this meeting to be duly cited.

With these items of business out of the way, President-Elect Farrell welcomed **Director Joe Natale**, who introduced the evening's speakers. Mr. Denitz led off with some background and history of the 30th Street Station area, some pertinent facts and figures, and an explanation of the various and diverse functions the site provides, despite its appearance as one large railroad yard. One of the significant constraints on the Plan is that these yards and functions are critical to Amtrak and SEPTA operations and cannot easily be moved or reshaped, thus one main element in the Plan to basically work around them. He presented a video that covered the aspects of the Plan and how this would benefit current stakeholders in specific and the Delaware Valley region in general. The Plan has had to be cognizant of the nearby Powelton Village and Mantua neighborhoods to the west, and this has been addressed in the placement of parks and low-rise buildings on that side of the site, transitioning to high-rise buildings closer to the Schuylkill River.

Mr. Denitz noted that the Plan has a number of major stakeholders including public agencies such

as SEPTA, Amtrak and PennDOT, and these agencies have facilities that will be directly affected and will need to be accommodated. For example, a proposed intercity bus terminal on the north plaza of 30th Street Station, north of Arch Street, will require relocation of the I-76 eastbound off-ramp to Arch Street. Other measures focused on the Station would revitalize the north (Arch Street) side, which is now mainly occupied by waiting taxicabs.

Ms. Smith outlined the proposed reopening of the concourse-level connection between the Station and the nearby SEPTA Market-Frankford Line and Subway-Surface Trolley stop. This connection has been closed for over 30 years and a new glass-roofed atrium would be part of the revamped concourse. She added information on new pedestrian trails, paths and even bridges spanning the Schuylkill River to strengthen the connection to Center City. Existing rail infrastructure, particularly the freight-rail High Line, is being examined to determine if relocation is a viable alternative, and what can be accommodated and incorporated into the proposed improvements if the High Line must remain as is.

Overall, the vision intends to work with the stakeholders and coordinate with overlapping master plans underway by Drexel University and the University City District. Mr. Denitz and Ms. Smith explained that the plan was costly, ambitious and long-term, but presented several other "success stories" world-wide, particularly Kings Cross in London, a similar site where long-term redevelopment has been accomplished, to show that the Plan was indeed achievable.

Following the interesting and informative presentation, the speakers addressed insightful questions and comments from the audience. President-Elect Farrell thanked them for their good work and provided each with our token of appreciation, a solar cell phone charger.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will be celebrating **Engineers Week 2017** from **February 17 through February 25** 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.

Luncheon: Friday, February 17

Young Engineers Social: Tuesday, February 21

Awards Reception: Thursday, February 23

More information will be provided on price, location, and other details in the coming months. Please visit www.dvewc.org for up-to-date announcements and nomination information for Engineers Week awards and scholarships.

SECTION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

The Section's Scholarship Program is now open for applications for the 2016-17 season.

The Section offers three distinct undergraduate scholarships annually:

ASCE Delaware Valley Engineers Week Scholarship

ASCE Student Scholarship

ASCE Section Member Scholarship

The application process for the Engineers Week Scholarship is now closed. This will be awarded during Delaware Valley Engineers Week in February.

For the Student Scholarship, a minimum of one \$1,000 award will be made by the Section to a Civil Engineering student who is matriculated in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at one of the Philadelphia Section's five Student Chapters (Drexel University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, Villanova University, or Widener University). The applicant must be an active ASCE member.

For the Section Member Scholarship, a minimum of one \$1,000 award will be made by the Section to an undergraduate Civil Engineering student who is the child of an active Philadelphia Section member and matriculated in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at any accredited college or university. The applicant's cover letter should include his/her Section member parent's name and ASCE ID number.

The application requirements for each of these Scholarships include a cover letter containing the applicant's name, address/telephone/e-mail contacts, educational institution, GPA/class rank, resume, and additional information for consideration (such as need). A letter of recommendation from the applicant's faculty advisor should be submitted either with the application or separately. An essay (limited to 1000 words) should be included on this topic:

Education is one of the major requirements for becoming a Licensed Civil Engineer. Currently, ASCE is promoting a "Raise the Bar Initiative" to increase the degree level necessary for professional licensure from the Bachelor's to the Master's degree level. Discuss the ramifications that this change will have on industry, both positive and negative.

Complete applications must be submitted by **January 31, 2017** to **Andrew Bechtel** (bechtela@tenj.edu).

We encourage all eligible students to apply. Good luck!

**YOUR CARD CAN BE HERE!
CONTACT US AT
newseditor@asce-philly.org
FOR DETAILS**

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. 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.

CONSTRUCTION

Dennis MacBride
dmacbride@septa.org

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE (DVGI) www.dvgi.org

Jay A. McKelvey III
jaym@earthengineering.com

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

Chair currently vacant

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Eric Lindhult
eric.lindhult@gmail.com

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI) www.sei-philly.org

Josh Amsler
joshua.amsler@aecom.com

TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

William T. Thomsen
wthomsen@urbanEngineers.com

Please check the noted websites as well as the main Section site (www.asce-philly.org) for up-to-date information on Technical Group meetings and events. These will be included in our regular e-mail blasts as well.

REMINDER: WHERE TO SEND "SNAIL MAIL"

A friendly reminder that we have two places where our Section can receive mail.

For non-financial items:

ASCE Philadelphia Section
c/o Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

For checks for dinner meetings, other Section event registration, sponsorship, and financial items:

Marc Preim, Section Treasurer
STV, Inc.
1818 Market Street, Suite 1410
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3616

If you are paying by for a dinner meeting reservation by check (either bringing it to the meeting or mailing it), please include a copy of the receipt generated when you register for the event and the event name on the check's memo line.

**SUCCESS USUALLY COMES
TO THOSE WHO ARE TOO BUSY
TO BE LOOKING FOR IT.**

— Henry David Thoreau

READING BRANCH HAPPENINGS

Our Section's Reading Branch was founded in 1975 to establish an ASCE presence in the northwestern corner of our Section's geographic area, namely Berks County along with northwestern segments of Chester and Montgomery Counties, and to better serve the growing Civil Engineering population in that area. Over the years, the Branch had roughly 200 members at its peak and provided a useful meeting program and events. From time to time activity waned a bit, and with changes in the Engineering business in the Reading area in the last decade, membership in the Branch began to decline. During that time, a few attempts have been made to revive the Branch, with limited success. A leadership "champions" group recently stepped forward and will be moving to once again create a meaningful presence with the Branch.

As **President DiMartino** noted in his President's Message last month, after extensive coordination and discussion at the Section, Region and National levels, it was determined that the Branch's members would be better served if it were part of the Lehigh Valley Section, which borders our Section to the north. This seems to be a good fit geographically as members in the Branch's coverage area are likely more willing to travel the shorter and less-busy distance to and from the Lehigh Valley than Philadelphia for events. With many of our Section's meetings in Center City, these trips can become particularly daunting.

This action was formalized in October and representatives of both Sections, the PA Council, the Region, and the "champions" of the Branch met to go over details and lay out the next steps in the process. One of these next steps will be that members who are currently registered in the Branch will be contacted and will have the opportunity to choose if they would like to remain with the Branch as part of the Lehigh Valley Section, become members of our Section, or both.

ASCE believes this is a "win-win" for Branch members and will provide them with more responsive service as ASCE members. Please watch this space for additional updates and information as it develops.

ONE MORE (AND ONE LAST!) TIME... CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY MESSAGE CONTEST

Even though we have a perfect record (zero...) for entries in each of our contests for special messages (LAYM — Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message, and LAME — Lightly Amusing Message from Eire, its Saint Patrick's Day counterpart), we're going to try one last time. We promise! We now declare the LAYM open for submissions and we're hoping any of you aspiring writers, bards, poets and/or restroom graffiti aficionados out there will give this some consideration.

This can be a poem, a limerick, whatever, and we're open for anyone who's feeling creative, festive, maybe a little seasonally-affected (by natural, alcohol, or other means — we at *THE NEWS* don't throw stones, comfortable as we are in our glass house...) to submit his/her messages. We welcome team efforts as well. We'll even consider cartoons and artwork this time. Feel free to submit more than one effort if you choose.

The winning entry will be published in the January edition of *THE NEWS*. Or we'll print all the entries — 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 Christmas/holiday connection, and no "borrowing" from the pros at the greeting card conglomerates, but we're fairly wide open otherwise. The "winner(s)" will be given the opportunity to have this published anonymously if they so choose. There might even be a prize of sorts as well — since we haven't had to think about this in the past, we haven't come up with prizes, but there's always a first time.

Please feel free to consult past January 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.

The competition closes on **December 9**. Please send these to our Editor at newseditor@asce-philly.org. As always, staff members of *THE NEWS* and their families are not eligible for prizes, just to keep this fair, but they can still submit.

We are hopeful that we'll get at least one submission or else we'll have to leave this to our Editor to handle, and we've seen where that can go. Your help is appreciated.

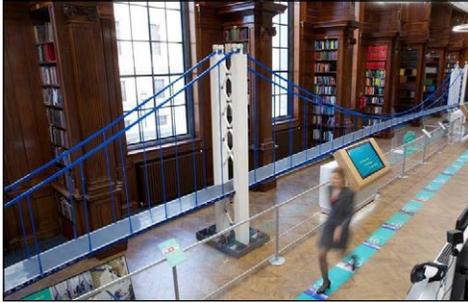
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS — SECTION COMMITTEES

We are looking for motivated volunteers to support/lead our various committees. As you can see from below, there is no shortage of options.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| • Scholarship | • Legislative Affairs | • Professional Development/
Continuing Education |
| • Social | • Government Employee
Outreach | • Other (Is there something you
want the Section to focus on?) |
| • Membership | • Humphrey Fund | Have an idea or something in
mind? Let us Know! |
| • Public Info/Relations | • Delaware Valley Science Fair
Judging | |
| • Awards | • Engineers Week Programming | |
| • Publications | | |
| • Section History and Heritage | | |

If you are interested in joining any of the above committees or just want to learn about what these committees are all about please contact our Membership Secretary, Nha Truong (Nha.Truong@phila.gov) or our President, Guy DiMartino (gdimartino@traffpcpd.com).

N-ASCE*



NEW WORLD RECORD FOR LEGO BRIDGE

We've seen world records awarded for a caravan and a Millennium Falcon built out of Lego, but this latest construction makes them both look small. The **Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)** has been awarded a **Guinness World Record** for a Lego replica of the UK's Severn Bridge measuring 102' long and 10' tall.

The replica was designed by Bridge Engineer and ICE Gold Medalist **Dr. Robin Sham**, with input from a project design team from **WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff**. It was constructed by 10 **Bright Bricks Lego** professionals, with the help of five Bridge Engineers from WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, taking 650 man-hours to build with more than 200,000 pieces. The length of the bridge is split into two connected side spans of 54' and it is these spans that have set a new world record. The previous record for a single span constructed out of Lego, set in 2014, was 46'.

Weighing in at nearly 1400 pounds, the completed bridge stands freely without the use of glue or structural supports. Its cables act in tension to support both the decking and the overall structure, with the gravity anchors at each holding the structure in place.

Working with Lego presented a different set of challenges than usual for the Engineers. They are familiar with the properties and behaviors of steel and concrete, but not as much with the properties of Lego, making it less predictable. At one point, it was found that some of the suspension cable lengths needed adjusting. On another occasion, a tilt was spotted in the gravity anchors due to the strain being placed on the cables, meaning additional ballast had to be added.

The aim of the Lego Bridge was to demonstrate the Engineering challenge involved in building a bridge to the public. It was first constructed on September 5 in the gymnasium at Weydon School in Surrey, UK, where the record was verified by Guinness World Records. It has since been moved and reconstructed at One Great George Street, the home of the ICE in London, where it is on display as part of an exhibition that celebrates some of the world's greatest bridges and the Engineers who built them.

"The ICE's visionary Lego Bridge project connects Civil Engineers with the public, demonstrating the monumental accomplishments of Civil Engineering," says Dr. Sham in a press release. "Using familiar Lego bricks to demystify and showcase the extraordinary feats of Engineers, I hope the next generation will be inspired to consider Engineering as a career." Thanks to *New Atlas* for this information.

* N - ASCE - not always something concerning engineering...

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