

### SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2019-20

We have had a very successful and well-received meeting program thus far this season and there are only a handful of meetings left to go, as hard as it may be to believe. Our meeting program committee remains busy with finalizing speakers and topics. As always, we suggest that you mark your calendar at this time and hold these dates. Upcoming editions of *THE NEWS* will provide more details as they become available, and our usual information on the two immediate meetings each issue will be provided.

As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost, if you prefer to do so.

Information on meetings after March, as of this printing, are:

**April 16** – Multi-topic meeting/breakout sessions, in planning stages; Inn at Villanova  
**May** – Spring Social, in planning stages

### SPONSORS IN THE NEWS RYAN JOINS JBC

JBC Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce that **Stephen Ryan, PE**, has joined the firm as Senior Associate. Steve brings 33 years of project management experience with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in the design, construction and delivery of complex Engineering projects. He currently is serving as the Resident Engineer responsible for managing the construction inspection on the Pennsylvania Turnpike's Cashless Tolling Facilities Pilot Project on the Northeast Extension.

Steve's professional experience has afforded him the opportunity to become a skillful communicator on projects which impact the motoring public and the local business community to ensure an emphasis on achieving public acceptance. He has a proven track record of delivering projects on budget while minimizing impacts to all stakeholders. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University and his M.S. in Civil Engineering from Villanova University. While at PennDOT, he served as Class Mentor for a class of 20 Civil Engineer Trainees. In 2016, he was the recipient of PennDOT District 6-0's Outstanding Achievement Award. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and six other states.

We wish Steve good luck as he moves to the "private side."

### ORDER OF THE ENGINEER RING CEREMONY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020

Our Section, in conjunction with Villanova University, the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, and the American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section, will participate in the Order of the Engineer Ring Ceremony sponsored by the University during Engineers Week. This will be an opportunity for you to obtain your Order of the Engineer Ring (please visit [www.order-of-the-engineer.org](http://www.order-of-the-engineer.org) for more information and background on this) and network with Villanova engineering students. Over 75 people participated in last year's event (photo below), with roughly 50 receiving their Rings.

The event will be conducted as follows:

Monday, February 17, 2020  
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM  
Villanova University  
Villanova Room, Connelly Center



This event is free for anyone to attend, whether you already have a Ring and merely want to network or if you would like to obtain your Ring. Prospective attendees should pre-register at <https://vuevents.villanova.edu/ehome/index.php?eventid=518395>. There is a \$15 fee to participate in the Order of the Engineer Induction Ceremony and receive a ring. Details are included at the above website. We hope to see you there.

### FEBRUARY NETWORKING EVENT

The Philadelphia Section will NOT be conducting a technical/dinner meeting in February. Several Technical Groups will be holding events and this information is provided in our e-blasts and on our website ([www.philly-asce.org](http://www.philly-asce.org)). We will have a networking/social event that includes congratulating **Jesse Gormley**, incoming **Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year** (see more information on Jesse elsewhere in this edition). This will be held on **Monday, February 10, at City Tap House**, 2 Logan Square (18th & Arch Streets), starting at 5:30 PM. There is no cost to attend this event. Appetizers and a cash bar will be available. RSVP's are due by **Wednesday, February 5** and should be made through our website.

### MARCH DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

**Maggiano's Little Italy**, 1201 Filbert Street (corner of 12th Street), Center City  
Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting Presentation follows (roughly 7:30 PM)

**SUBJECT: Construction of the Comcast Technology Center**

**SPEAKER: Samuel G. Verzella**, L.F. Driscoll Co., LLC

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

Please note that there may be special requirements for attendance at this meeting – more information will be provided on this.

### JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

January 15, 2020

Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge

**The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission's (DRJTBC)**

**Scudder Falls Bridge Replacement Project Update**

by Robert Wright, Editor

Despite the calendar saying otherwise, winter had not shown its face very much in early January, and for our annual joint meeting with the Delaware Valley Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) on January 15, it felt more like mid-March outside. Despite the balminess, a room-

Continued on Page 5



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to congratulate two of our own, **Jesse Gormley** and **Carol Martsoff**, on their recent accomplishments.

**Jesse Gormley** was selected as the **2020 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year** by the Engineers Club of Philadelphia. As part of ASCE's Younger Members Forum (YMF), Jesse has held numerous leadership roles for more than 10 years. Several years ago, I spent time with Jesse on the YMF board where he served as the Community Service chair. During that time, I recognized Jesse's passion for the community. Back then, the YMF board struggled to host one or two service events per year and Jesse successfully completed four service events. Even more than the dedication into his role as the Community Service Chair, it was evident he truly cares about giving back to the community. Jesse currently serves as the YMF President and he is implementing numerous changes to help improve the entire board and operation. At Pennoni and outside of work, Jesse continues to lead by example and develop the next generation of engineers.

**Carol Martsoff** was selected as the **2020 Engineer of the Year** by Delco Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE). A past president of ASCE Philadelphia Section, Carol currently serves as the Region 2 Governor of ASCE. At a national level, Carol is leading the effort for ASCE's Members of Society Advancing Inclusion Council (MOSAIC). For her day job, Carol is the Director of Urban Engineers' Training Institute. Whether with her work at Urban or her many roles for ASCE, Carol continues to guide and support the Engineers of today to be better at their jobs and daily life.

Join me in congratulating Jesse and Carol! Look out for upcoming events during Engineers Week 2020 where Jesse and Carol will be celebrated for their achievements.

We recently celebrated Martin Luther King Day and are about to embark on Black History Month in February. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of equal rights for everyone shaped the country we live in today. In line with his vision, ASCE released its policy on Diversity & Inclusion to "support and encourage the equitable opportunity for all people to participate within the Civil Engineering profession without regard to gender or gender identity, race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation, or family, marital, or economic status." ASCE Philadelphia, along with the YMF, will be hosting events in the future specific to Diversity & Inclusion. If you would like to get involved and help us with our Diversity & Inclusion effort, feel free to reach out to me.

*"We may have all on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."*

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Kazi M. Hassan, PE  
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section  
kazihassan@pennoni.com | 215-254-7720

## SCIENCE FAIRS COMING UP — IN SEARCH OF JUDGES

Our Section will be offering Special Awards at the **Delaware Valley Science Fairs**, as we have done for over 25 years (!). The Fairs will be conducted on **Wednesday, April 8** at the **Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks**. Four Special Awards for individual student projects that have a Civil Engineering theme will be awarded, with two prizes for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

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

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge please contact **Chris Rood** at [chris.rood@aecom.com](mailto:chris.rood@aecom.com). You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website [www.dvsf.org](http://www.dvsf.org).

For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website. We hope you can join us for a rewarding and interesting day.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We thank those firms who have made the financial commitment to Section Sponsorship for this season. The business cards of these 13 firms are included in the sponsor section of *THE NEWS*. Sponsor logos are also displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website. Through a click on the particular sponsor's logo, we provide direct links to its own website so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions being offered by that firm. Sponsors can additionally provide a profile article in *THE NEWS*.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact **Bob Wright** at [newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org) for more details.

**One has to watch out  
for engineers — they begin  
with the sewing machine  
and end up with the  
atomic bomb.**

— Marcel Pagnol

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2019-20 SEASON

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*\*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.*

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
MARCH 2020 ISSUE  
FEBRUARY 21, 2020**



## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Assunta Daprano, Forum Editor

Jesse Gormley, Forum President 2019-20

Pennoni Associates

jgormley@pennoni.com

### PENN MEDICINE PAVILION TOUR

December 5

Project representatives from the **Balfour Beatty/LF Driscoll** joint venture and **Foster and Partners** gave a technical presentation and a tour of the **Penn Medicine Pavilion** project to YMF members. As the new patient tower will house 500 patient rooms and 47 operating rooms across its 17 floors and 1.5 million square feet, the project team faced numerous challenges throughout all phases. The representatives explained that having all parties including the owner, engineers and architects work as a single IPD (Integrated Project Delivery) team allowed them to execute the project most timely, economically and efficiently. As the project is anticipated to be completed in Spring of 2021, the project team would like to invite YMF members for another construction tour when the project is closer to completion.

### WINTER SOCIAL

January 13

YMF hosted the annual Winter Social at McGillin's Olde Ale House. This tradition was another great success with over 170 local, Young Engineers in attendance for a night of networking, raffles, food, and fun.

As part of the event, the YMF held its annual charity raffle. Generous donations from over 25 local Engineering companies were provided and the raffle raised \$3,800 to benefit local non-profit organizations and STEM initiatives, such as the Future City competition and Hub of Hope, among others.

YMF would like to extend its sincerest thanks to all of our donors for their continued support, as well as to everyone who came out to the event and support the YMF in other ways throughout the year. We could not do it without you!



### CivE CLUB

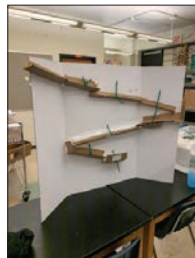
Fall Recap

The Civil Engineering Club recently completed the Fall Semester of its 8th consecutive year at the Chester A. Arthur Middle School in Philadelphia. Over the past few months, CivE Club co-chairs **Lindsay Chateauvert** and **Sean McCreesh** led the extracurricular club of approximately 15 middle school students along with Arthur School teachers Mrs. Zhao and Mr. Gerstemeier. Each Monday of the semester, Lindsay and Sean gave a short presentation on a different Civil Engineering topic and then conducted a related activity with the students.

This semester, the weekly topics included an introduction to Civil Engineering, urban planning, transportation, and water resources. Some of the activities that the students participated in this semester included making wind-powered cars, using Streetmix to redesign Washington Avenue, building Marble Run Boards, and creating water filtration systems. Each activity ended with a friendly competition between the students where they could compare and evaluate their different designs. The Fall semester concluded with a pizza party where the students recapped what they learned over the past months and watched *Dream Big: Engineering Our World*.

The Spring semester of the CivE Club will begin on January 27 and conclude with the **8th Annual Balsa Wood Bridge Testing & Award Ceremony** on May 18.

YMF is currently seeking the help of local Civil Engineers to volunteer with the program as meeting hosts, presenters, or field trip hosts for the upcoming Spring semester. Additionally, the YMF is seeking assistance in planning local, exciting, Civil-Engineering-related field trips for our middle school student club members. For more information please contact **Lindsay Chateauvert** at [Lindsay.Chateauvert@Amtrak.com](mailto:Lindsay.Chateauvert@Amtrak.com) or **Sean McCreesh** at [SMcCreesh@Pennoni.com](mailto:SMcCreesh@Pennoni.com). We look forward to the rest of the year and hope you will join us in educating middle school students about the field of Engineering!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will be celebrating **Engineers Week 2020** from **February 13 through February 22** with two 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.

#### OPENING CEREMONY – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

DoubleTree Philadelphia Hotel, 237 S. Broad Street (at Locust Street), Center City

**PRICE:** \$80 (\$60 for government agency employees and students) for reservations received by February 5

#### YOUNG ENGINEERS SOCIAL – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Brickwall Tavern, 1213 Sansom Street, Center City

**PRICE:** \$36 (\$25 for government agency employees and students) for reservations received by February 5

Reservations will be accepted after the deadline at slightly-higher prices and on a space-available basis.

Please note that a meal choice is available for the Opening Ceremony and you will be asked to select this when you reserve your place.

Please visit [www.engrclub.org](http://www.engrclub.org) for additional information and to make your reservations.

Additionally, we are proud to report that **Jesse Gormley** has been selected as the 2020 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year. He will be officially recognized and “installed” at the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Opening Ceremony/kickoff dinner noted above.

Jesse serves as a Project Structural Engineer and Manager with Pennoni at the firm's headquarters in Center City. He has been with Pennoni for the past twelve years, starting as a co-op student and returning as a full-time



Engineer following his graduation from Drexel University in 2010 with both his Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering and Master of Science in Civil Engineering degrees, with Magna Cum Laude honors. He specializes in bridge and structural design, inspection and load rating analysis for bridges, and design of retaining walls and related earth-retention structures.

Jesse is a member and supporter of several professional organizations and institutes, including the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, American Society of Highway Engineers, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, Structural Engineering Institute, and Women's Transportation Seminar. He is most active in our Section, where he has been a Board member for the Younger Member Forum since 2011 in a variety of capacities and is proud to currently be serving as President. His crowning achievement during his YMF tenure, though, remains the co-founding of the Chester A. Arthur Civil Engineering Club in South Philadelphia in 2012. The Club, which was the first in Pennsylvania and the first club nationally to work with middle school students, is currently in its eighth year and has seen over 60 students participate in the weekly afterschool program to learn about all the various disciplines of civil engineering. He is also active at the National level of ASCE on its Committee on Younger Members (CYM).

Jesse is passionate about student outreach and increasing public awareness of the engineering professions. He strives to have students realize the diverse opportunities available in the STEM fields. In addition, to the Civil Engineering Club, Jesse has organized numerous outreach events at local schools, reaching hundreds of students. Most recently, he began a partnership with the new Science Leadership Academy Middle School in West Philadelphia to lead a six-week, project-focused mini-course to 5th and 6th graders, on behalf of Pennoni. He has written about these experiences and given presentations to both ASCE and ECP members on best practices for STEM outreach.

Jesse feels fortunate to have very supportive family and friends. His mother is a teacher and was especially encouraging of his interest in the STEM-related classes, finding unique ways to work science and math into his childhood, particularly through cooking. He is especially appreciative of his wife, Christina, and daughter, Sadie, for all the opportunities and support they have provided him. They are residents of Havertown.

## ROBERT M. KOERNER, PHD, PE

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the death of Robert (Bob) M. Koerner on December 1, 2019. Bob was born on December 2, 1933 in Philadelphia to immigrant parents and grew up in Lansdowne. He earned his BSCE degree from Drexel University in 1956, his combined MSCE degree from Columbia, Delaware and Drexel Universities in 1963, and his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Duke University in 1968.

Bob began his career in construction and worked on several notable projects including the Walt Whitman Bridge and the Cross Bronx Expressway/I-95 in New York City. After three near fatal accidents on the job, his wife convinced him that she didn't want to raise their three young children as a widow, so he needed to find a safer career. He transitioned into teaching at the Pennsylvania Military College (now Widener University) and then moved to North Carolina to pursue his Ph.D. at Duke University.

Bob returned to Philadelphia in 1968 to join the Civil Engineering Department at Drexel University. His initial research was on deep foundations, acoustic emission monitoring of soil deformations, and nondestructive testing to locate below ground structures and objects. In the late 1970's he began research in the fledgling field of designing and installing fabrics and polymers in roadways and retaining walls. In 1980, he co-authored the first textbook on geosynthetics, and the "phone never stopped ringing" with requests for information and data on this new material.

With Bob's full and complete focus on geosynthetics, he became renowned in the field, in the US and internationally, and is known for over 700 publications, most notably the text "Designing with Geosynthetics," which he updated to the 6th edition in 2016. He simply never stopped writing (his final CV is 65 pages

long). His publications include numerous books, book chapters, proceedings major reports, conference proceedings, papers and articles.

In 1986, Bob founded the Geosynthetic Research Institute (GRI) to support the growing industry of geosynthetic education and research. It was located at Drexel University until 1998 when he moved off-campus to its present location in suburban Folsom. GRI was tremendously successful as it was shaped by federal, state, and private research interests. A consortium of organizations was formed from the outset, and GRI became the foundation of the Geosynthetic Institute (GSI). There are currently 73 organizations involved representing the entire cross-section of the industry, including agencies, owners, consultants, testing laboratories, resin producers, manufacturers of all types of geosynthetics, and installers.

In 1998 Bob was elected into the National Academy of Engineering. He proudly served the local, national, and international Engineering community for over 50 years. At his core, he was a teacher. He was always talking with people, sharing his latest insights, rehearsing lectures to himself if he was running alone, or laughing and talking with others if running in a group. He completed 25 marathons, over 200 shorter races and many thousands of training miles.

Bob is a Past President of our Section, having served in 1975-76 after holding several other officer positions prior to and subsequent to his presidency. He was recognized as a Distinguished Member of ASCE as well and was elected to the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year spot in 1981.

Bob is survived by Michael R. Koerner (and wife Mary), George R. Koerner (and wife Jamie), and Pauline Koerner Limberg (and husband Douglas), and his six grandchildren. His wife Pauline, who was an active member of our Section's Ladies Auxiliary during its existence, unfortunately passed away in early December.



## PA REPORT CARD CATEGORY OF THE MONTH: PASSENGER RAIL

Much of Pennsylvania's passenger rail infrastructure is over 80 years old and is in need of on-going repairs and/or replacement. Passenger rail agencies have demonstrated their ongoing commitment to safety with advancement of Positive Train Control (PTC) installation within the federally mandated deadlines, which will help prevent major accidents and save lives.

When Act 89 was passed in 2013, passenger rail agencies were quick to respond with additional construction to rebuild the system and explore longer term efforts to increase capacity. The demand for passenger rail service continues to grow across Pennsylvania and should be studied further, particularly in the western part of the state, to maximize ridership opportunities. Continued funding is needed to improve existing infrastructure and provide expanded service throughout the state.

*Compelling Statistic:* The Northeast Corridor Commission has identified there is a **\$38 billion backlog in State of Good Repair needs to the Northeast Corridor.**

## DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR DUES!

If you haven't yet paid your 2020 dues, a friendly reminder that you're late!

As you may be aware, 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 (and you may have noticed more benefits have recently been added). 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 [www.asce.org](http://www.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. One of the most popular benefits of membership is that every year you can earn up to ten free PDHs for the eligible ASCE On-Demand Webinar courses you successfully complete. Every year we update the list of courses to ensure we have relevant and timely topics across all the major facets of Civil Engineering.

## REFER FRIENDS. GET REWARDS.

We are excited to officially kick-off our Member-Get-a-Member (MGAM) referral program for 2020. As a member of ASCE, you are eligible to participate and get rewarded for your efforts.

With the positive response we received from members last year, we are continuing to offer a \$50 Amazon.com Gift Card\* for each newly joining professional member you refer. At the end of the year, the member with the most successful referrals will get a \$500 Amazon.com Gift Card.\*

## GET DETAILS & REFER

### HOW OUR REFERRAL PROGRAM WORKS:

Visit our Member-Get-a-Member page

Refer up to 5 colleagues at a time by providing their name and email

We'll send your referrals a few emails on your behalf that outline the benefits of ASCE and offer them 25% off their initial membership dues

When one of your referrals becomes a professional member, we will email you a \$50 Amazon.com Gift Card\* in gratitude

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

**When engineers and  
surveyors discuss  
aesthetics, and architects  
study what cranes do,  
we are on the right road.**

— Ove Arup



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### "PRENDIE GIRL" WALSH DOES GOOD...

Past Section President Jenn Walsh was recently inducted into the Archbishop Prendergast High School Hall of Fame. Jenn graduated from "Prendie", in Upper Darby, in 1988 and was active in the National Honor Society, Mathletes, Scott's Hi-Q and was also the captain of the cross country and track teams. She graduated as Salutatorian of her class and went on to Villanova to obtain both her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering. She currently serves as a Senior Project Manager and oversees the Traffic Engineering and Planning Section for HDR, Inc., an international Engineering firm employing over 10,000 people around the country/world, at the firm's office in Plymouth Meeting. She has over 25 years of experience in Traffic Engineering, traffic operations, signal design, and comprehensive transportation planning, and handles efforts for a variety of traffic, highway and bridge projects including Traffic Engineering analysis, traffic control plans, intersection design, and traffic studies.

Throughout her career, Jenn has been involved in numerous projects throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and West Virginia improving the transportation system and developing innovative solutions to transportation problems. She has also served as an expert witness in numerous municipalities to testify for projects on behalf of her clients.

Jenn has always believed in giving back to her profession and her community. She was always very grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the Engineering profession in numerous ways. In



addition to being an active member and officer of our Section, she has been involved and active in leadership roles in the Institute of Transportation Engineers (Mid-Colonial District and Mid-Atlantic Section), including service as a Past President for each, the Women's Transportation Seminar, and the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia.

Her parish and community were also important to Jenn and she began her service to each in the mid 1990's when she was the CYO track and cross country coach for her grade school when they needed a coach. She continued coaching track and cross country for numerous years. She then got involved with the Big Brother/Big Sister Program in 1998 volunteering as a Big Sister and was matched with a Little Sister, Emily, who was 12 at the time, is now 32, has three children and a family of her own and is still a part of her life.

Jenn has found time (somehow...) to be "Mom" to two children, 13-year-old Nicholas and 9-year-

old Kiely, who are her entire world! Both currently attend Cardinal Foley Regional Catholic School and are very active in numerous sports including football, soccer, baseball, softball, basketball and cross country. Nicholas is also an altar server at Annunciation Parish and Kiely looks forward to being one when she is old enough.

Jenn has continued coaching her own children's teams, including soccer, basketball and softball and continues to coach basketball and softball for her daughter's teams, and was the manager for her daughter's traveling soccer team. She recently completed serving a 3-year term on the Cardinal John Foley Regional Catholic School Home & School Board as President responsible for helping to raise \$130,000 per year for the school. After her role as President, she continues to be involved in numerous fundraising events for the school including leading sponsorship for the Turkey Trot and assisting with the Spring Fling. She has organized all the high school reunions since graduation and has helped raise money to be donated back to Prendie. She also participates in a program at her children's school to teach Engineering to the younger kids through after school activities. She has been an Engineering mentor to students in 8th grade and a judge to students through the Future Cities Competition.

The qualifications for the Hall of Fame note that the individual will have had made significant contributions to the school, community, and/or society in general. Jenn has certainly made numerous such selfless contributions and we congratulate her on her induction into the Hall of Fame!

## JANUARY MEETING

*Continued from Page 1*

filling crowd of close to 200 attendees squeezed into The Venue at the Radisson Hotel and Valley Forge Casino to hear an update on the Scudder Falls Bridge project currently underway. This was in some ways a "rerun" of the last such report on this effort two years ago, but, as tends to happen on projects, progress has been made and there is still no "s" at the end of Scudder, despite what you may hear otherwise.

Delaware Valley Section President **Alexa Egan Harper** managed to get the crowd into the seats and somewhat settled, with a blessing of the meal offered by Past President (of each Section) **Bob Wright**, asking for a moment of silence for prominent members of each Section who recently passed away (see more information on this elsewhere in this edition). Following a few announcements by President Harper and Section President **Kazi Hassan**, dinner was served, and President Harper returned to the stage to welcome the featured speaker, **Kevin Skeels**, the Commission's Assistant Chief Engineer.

Mr. Skeels went through some history of the structure and the events and issues leading to the need for the replacement of the bridge, which started in 2017. The new facility will feature nine lanes, with 3 thru lanes directional and additional add-drop lanes for the interchanges. The project extends for 4.4 miles, from the PA 332 interchange in Pennsylvania to the Bear Tavern Road interchange in New Jersey. The total construction bid is \$530 million and completion is anticipated

in early 2022. He showed a slide which reflected the redesignation of the highway that crosses the bridge from I-95 (a north-south roadway) to I-295, which was done last summer as part of the I-95/Pennsylvania Turnpike interchange program. As this gets a little confusing (I-295 in New Jersey is north-south, while in Pennsylvania it is east-west), he noted his presentation would refer to directions of traffic as New Jersey-bound or Pennsylvania-bound.

Mr. Skeels outlined the project team, which consists of the construction contractor, Walsh, and several consulting firms which are managing and overseeing the effort. Given the presence of different species of wildlife, both in the River and on land, the schedule of work has a number of restrictions are in place to minimize the disruption on the various migration and shelter needs of the species. This has contributed to slow the progress of the work to some extent, but it has also been built into the delivery schedule, which includes a number of stages and subphases for the various elements of the work to avoid traffic congestion and conflicting movements. Traffic in both directions has been shifted to the north spans (upstream, eventually Pennsylvania-bound) since July and work is currently concentrated on the south (downstream) spans. Tolls were introduced on the bridge (which will pay for the work) last summer and these are all-electronic, using EZ Pass or license plate photographs for the transactions. A new 4-story building has been constructed on the Pennsylvania side of the bridge to house the toll equipment and other electronic gear that

will monitor the structure.

The south spans will include a pedestrian/bicycle shared path, which itself requires several approach structures to clear adjacent roadways. The interchanges on either side of the river (PA 32 and NJ 29) feature substandard and short ramps, and Mr. Skeels showed how these are being reconfigured, along with two roundabouts on the New Jersey side to help distribute traffic and alleviate the short ramp storage lengths. Because of the many possible movements within very short areas, collector-distributor roads are being provided, which has resulted in the nine lanes being constructed as opposed to the 4-lane configuration (2 directional) that were provided on the existing structure.

After the detailed and informative presentation, several questions were elicited from the audience, including one on the possible diversion of traffic as a result of the imposition of the toll on the bridge. Mr. Skeels noted that there are other bridges nearby that could handle diverted traffic for those unwilling to pay the toll, but those structures (Washington Crossing to the north and Calhoun Street to the south, each a Commission bridge but not tolled) are already heavily used in peak hours and may result in longer travel times for those choosing to divert to them. He added that the peak hour movements on the Scudder Falls Bridge are basically to New Jersey in the AM and to Pennsylvania in the PM.

President Harper thanked Mr. Skeels for his insightful presentation.

## SECTION COMMITTEES

Our Section runs very well and it is mainly a result of the dedication and service of our many volunteers, both our Officers and Board Members as well as our various Committees. While many of you know the former group well, you may not be all that aware of the latter. Our Committees address many of our regular and ongoing issues and keep our Section vibrant and in the forefront of service to our membership. A list of our Committees and chairs for this season is provided below. We would like to thank all of these folks for their contributions and diligence in helping our Section do what it does.

Additionally, if you have a particular interest in helping the Section as a Committee volunteer, please reach out to us at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org) or through our Section Secretary, **Mohamed Elghawy** (contact information is provided on page 2).

**Audit** – Briana Earle

**Awards** – Bob Wright

**Engineers Week Hall of Fame Recognition**  
– Ruben David

**Budget and Finance** – Joe Natale

**Civil Engineers in Government** –  
Jeanien Wilson

**College Scholarship** – Eammon Farley

**Communications** – Mohamed Elghawy

**E-mail Outreach** – Andrew Bechtel

**Webmaster** – Greg Dunn

**Social Media** – Joe Natale, Michael DeVuono

**Newsletter** – Bob Wright

**Sponsorship** – Bob Wright

**Continuing Education** – Briana Earle

**Humphrey Fund** – John Zarsky

**Membership** – Andrew Bechtel

**Mural** – Angelo Waters

**Nominating** (for Board Positions) –  
Kazi Hassan

**Program** – Jen Reigle

**Venue Coordination** – Troy Illig

**Project Build** – Tania O’Kane

**Report Card Promotion** – Cricket Schreppler

**Society Relations** – Cathy Farrell

**Region 2 Director** – Jack Raudenbush

**Region 2 Governors** – Carol Martsof,  
Angela Marie Mayer, Carrie Nicholson,  
Patrick Sullivan

**Region 2 Younger Member Representative** –  
OPEN

**PA Council** – Cathy Farrell, Bob Wright

**Legislative Affairs** – Spencer Finch

**Subsidiary Groups** – Briana Earle

**Construction Management** –  
Dennis MacBride

**Delaware Valley GeoInstitute** – Russ Preuss


**Environmental and Water Resources** –  
Eric Lindhult

**Structural Engineering Institute** – Dan Kucz

**Transportation & Urban Development** –  
Bill Thomsen

**Younger Member Forum** – Jesse Gormley

**Spring Social Committee** – Troy Illig



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PHILADELPHIA Two Penn Center Plaza, 1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1208, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 1.215.636.0600



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