

### 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.*

## SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2017-18

The Section Meeting program for this season is being finalized. Our meeting program committee is busy lining up speakers and topics for what we hope will be an interesting and informative series of meetings. The dates and other information known at this time have been provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you use this to mark your calendar at this time and hold these dates.

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

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

**January 17** (Wednesday) – Joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section • Radisson Hotel/Valley Forge Casino, Valley Forge • Cocktails 6 PM, Dinner 7 PM, Meeting 8 PM • Topic – Scudders Falls/I-95 Bridge Replacement Program

**February** – in planning stages

**March 8** – Maggiano's Little Italy, Center City Longwood Gardens Promenade/Fountains Rehabilitation

**April 12** – Multi-topic meeting/breakout sessions (in planning stages)

**May 3** – Spring Social, Sky Philadelphia, Center City

**Engineering ... to define rudely but not inaptly, is the art of doing that well with one dollar, which any bungler can do with two after a fashion..**

– Arthur Wellington

## NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows (approximately 7:30 PM)

Maggiano's Little Italy, 1201 Filbert Street (corner of 12th Street), Center City

**SUBJECT: Tips for Achieving Success on a SEPTA Project**

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

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6.** The cost per attendee is \$40, with a half-price (\$20) cost for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by this deadline.

**RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER NOVEMBER 6** – Reservations received after the deadline and "walk-ups" without prior reservations paying at the door will be charged \$50 (government agency employees and students will be charged the regular \$20 rate), but will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. Please note that payment via PayPal will NOT be available at the close of the reservation deadline.

**THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.** Walk-ins and anyone without a reservation will be handled on a space-available basis.

**IMPORTANT REGISTRATION NOTE - This meeting will be available for ASCE members in good standing ONLY. Each firm will be permitted to register a maximum of 10 people initially. Any change in this policy will be provided in e-mail blasts and posted on our website as we approach the RSVP deadline.**

Reservations can be made via e-mail at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org) or electronically through our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) and pay via **PayPal**. As noted above, the PayPal option will NOT be available as a payment option after the reservation deadline. Payment for reservations by check (made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE") will be accepted at the reservation table at the door as an option to electronic payment.

Our new check-in procedure, as begun at our October meeting, will be in place. Please print and bring a copy of your paper ticket to use the "express" check-in line (see the separate article on this elsewhere in this edition).

As always, guests will be welcome to attend the presentation without dinner at no charge. This will be subject to room capacity constraints.

**ACCESS AND PARKING:** Maggiano's is a short walk from SEPTA's Jefferson Regional Rail station and a half-block from bus routes, the Subway-Surface Trolleys and the Market-Frankford Line on Market Street. There is a parking garage directly above the restaurant for which validation

*Continued on Page 2*

## DECEMBER MULTI-SOCIETY JOINT MEETING

Our Section will join this effort, sponsored by the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, along with several other technical societies, as we have done for the past several years.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

**SUBJECT: Development and Construction of the National Museum of African-American History and Culture** (Washington, DC)

More information and details on the event will be provided in the December edition of *THE NEWS*.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the fall. In the world of the Philadelphia Section of ASCE, we've been doing great. Our first dinner meeting of the year was sold out! Our new check-in procedures, including a "fast pass" line for those who brought their pre-paid printed tickets, worked perfectly and got people into the cocktail hour faster. We're encouraging everyone to pay on-line and to take advantage of this new feature. I also would like to thank Section Past President **William Thomsen, PE** and **Edwin Williamson, PE** of Urban Engineers for presenting the "New York City East Side Access and 2nd Avenue Subway Projects"... truly Engineering marvels. In other news within our Section, **John Peirce, PE** of Peirce Engineering, Inc., was promoted to the "Fellow" membership grade. This esteemed membership grade is only held by 3% of ASCE members.

During the ASCE National Convention in New Orleans, some exciting things happened. First, **Tim Abel, EIT** of Pennoni Associates, was recognized as a runner-up for the National Daniel W. Mead Prize for his paper on professional ethics. Second, with the installation of **Kristina Swallow** as National President, this marks the first time in our organization's history that the positions of First Past President, President and President Elect are held by women! As an attendee of many ASCE regional leadership conferences over the years, I have seen these women rise through the ranks and have gotten to know each of these women. Their intelligence and leadership abilities made positive lasting impressions on me, and I'm thrilled they'll be the face of our organization. These women are well qualified for these positions and I'm moved by the example they're showing....that women can excel in their careers and in professional society organizations.

On a final note, regarding my challenge to each of you to become more engaged in politics, here's my personal update: I now receive and read daily updates on Pennsylvania legislation that's being reviewed and committee activities. To do this, I went to [www.legis.state.pa.us/login](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/login). As I write this, I'm happy to see that House Bill 1748 and Senate Bill 172, both related to automated speed enforcement in work zones, are currently in committee sessions being discussed. Personally, I think this will be helpful to change driver behavior in work zones and ultimately help to protect construction workers and drivers. In regard to Pennsylvania's lack of an approved revenue budget, our Section has a plain language recap of what is happening here <http://sections.asce.org/philadelphia/government>.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Golata Farrell, P.E.  
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section  
[cgfarrell@hntb.com](mailto:cgfarrell@hntb.com) | 610-290-5108

## OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

*Continued from page 1*

can be offered for a reduced price of \$8 for up to 6 hours. Validation is available at the hostess stand near the front door.

Mr. Knueppel 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 seven years as well as an intense and ambitious plan for capital improvements throughout the system. This focus is part of the Authority's Rebuilding for the Future Program, made possible by an unprecedented level of funding in Pennsylvania's Act 89 four years ago. His success in this effort led to his citation as our Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year in 2015. In his presentation, he will review how firms can be successful in addressing the unique requirements of SEPTA and its multimodal transportation system.

## SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

### TPD'S BUCKS COUNTY OFFICE NOW IN NEW LOCATION

Traffic Planning & Design (TPD) recently announced the relocation of its Bucks County office to a larger space to accommodate its growing needs. The new office is in Doylestown at 2003 Lower State Road, Suite 122. Stop by to see our new space and visit our Office Manager, Vice President **Phil Wursta**, who can be reached at **215-622-2525**.

### CENTENNIAL BOOK — YOU CAN STILL GET ONE (OR MORE...)

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

Copies of the book can be ordered through our website. Additionally, you can obtain a copy at our November Section meeting, where they will be available for direct purchase.

And, as we know, with the coming holiday season, maybe this would be a nice gift or stocking stuffer for someone...

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2017-18 SEASON

### PRESIDENT

Cathy G. Farrell, HNTB, Inc.

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers, Inc.

### VICE PRESIDENT

Kazi M. Hassan, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

### SECRETARY

Briana Earle, Langan Engineering  
& Environmental Services

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Chris Renfro, Phila. Dept. of Streets

### TREASURER

Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Joseph Natale, WSP

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning &  
Design, Inc.

### DIRECTORS

Andrew Bechtel, College of New Jersey ('17-'19)

Kevin Brown, Urban Engineers, Inc. ('17-'19)

Spencer Finch, Langan Engineering &  
Environmental Sciences ('16-'18)

Troy Illig, WSP ('16-'18)

Joseph Natale, WSP ('16-'18)

Jeanien Wilson, Phila. Dept. of Streets ('17-'19)

### PAST PRESIDENTS\*

Guy DiMartino, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

AnnMarie L. Vigilante, Langan Engineering &  
Environmental Sciences

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

*\*2nd and 3rd Past Presidents are non-voting members.*

*In addition, we have a number of Committees which handle various activities. Please visit our website for more information on how you can serve on one or more of these.*

### President — Cathy G. Farrell, PE

Assistant Department Manager, Transportation  
HNTB, Inc.

1650 Arch Street, Suite 1700  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

610-290-5108

[cgfarrell@hntb.com](mailto:cgfarrell@hntb.com)

### Secretary — Briana Earle, EIT

Staff Engineer

Langan Engineering and Environmental Services  
PO Box 1569

Doylestown, PA 18901-0219

(215) 451-6500

[bearle@langan.com](mailto:bearle@langan.com)

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

#### Editorial Assistants

Lindsay Chateauvert, Assunta Daprano

#### Section Outreach Coordinator

Briana Earle

#### SEND COPY TO:

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

### COPY DEADLINE FOR

December 2017 ISSUE

November 10, 2017



## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

**Lindsay Chateauvert**, Forum Editor  
**Nha Truong**, Forum President 2017-18  
 Philadelphia Water Department  
 1101 Market Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19107  
 nha.truong@phila.gov



### DEVIL'S POOL CLEANUP SEPTEMBER 16 • WISSAHICKON CREEK

In celebration of **International Coastal Cleanup Day**, YMF members joined United by Blue, REI Conshohocken, and Friends of the Wissahickon to participate in a cleanup of Wissahickon Creek. Volunteers spent the morning cleaning up trash and debris throughout the creek banks and in the surrounding park. Over 900 pounds of trash was collected before it had a chance to enter the water and make its way to our oceans. The cleanup concluded with snacks, a group photo, and a competition to see who found the weirdest piece of trash.

### DREXEL NIGHT AT PHILADELPHIA SECTION DINNER MEETING OCTOBER 5 • MAGGIANO'S



The October Dinner Meeting was attended by over 20 YMF members, including Drexel University ASCE Student Chapter members. At the invitation of the Section and coordinated through YMF, Chapter officers **Donna Zhang** and **Christopher Brandimarte** provided a short presentation about their Chapter and the recent events they have held. Featured guest speakers **Bill Thomsen** and **Ed Williamson** of Urban Engineers presented on the efforts for two New York City Mega Projects: East Side Access and the Second Avenue Subway Line. Thomsen and Williamson highlighted the various challenges that both projects met, as well as the constructability techniques used. The presentations were well orchestrated and enjoyed by all.

### ASCE 2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION OCTOBER 9-11

Despite the threat of Hurricane Nate, the American Society of Civil Engineers successfully hosted its 2017 National Convention in New



Orleans. YMF Board Members, **Tim Abel** and **Kevin Brown**, attended the event and participated in various discussion sessions. The topics included sustainability, professional development, outreach, the impact of infrastructure improvements on the economy and many more. In addition to networking with members from all over the country, Tim and Kevin were personally invited to the Governor's Suite by the recently inducted ASCE National President, **Kristina Swallow**, to celebrate her new position!

During the ASCE Annual Business Meeting, the outgoing National President, **Dr. Norma Jean Mattei**, and Executive Director, **Tom Smith**, presented **Tim Abel** with the **Daniel W. Mead Prize for Younger Members Certificate of Commendation**. The certificate was in recognition for his paper "*Ethically Ambiguous: Addressing the Implications of University Engineering Faculty Who Teach Without Obtaining Professional Licensure and an Argument for Professional Licensure in Engineering Academia*" and was well deserved. Congratulations Tim, on such a prestigious award! Tim (at right in the photo above, courtesy of ASCE) was congratulated by some YMF folks who were also at the Convention. Tim received the certificate shown above to cite this honor.

### COLLEGE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

YMF will be conducting panel discussions at local colleges to speak with undergraduate students about topics of their choice. YMF is currently seeking panelists for the November panels at Villanova University and Widener University! Panelists should be prepared to talk about their careers as well as offer advice to the students. A Villanova University panel will be held on **Monday, November 6**. The topic will be "**A Day in the Life of an Engineer, and Paths to a Successful Career**" and will include a discussion on the path to professional licensure, the panelists' current companies, and the benefits of joining ASCE. A Widener University panel will be held on **Tuesday, November 14** with the topic "**The Different Engineering Disciplines**". To obtain further information or to volunteer, please contact the YMF College Contact Chairs **Belinda Lester** ([blester@langan.com](mailto:blester@langan.com)) or **Jacob Nichols** ([jnichols@pennoni.com](mailto:jnichols@pennoni.com)).

## CIVE CLUB

The 2017-18 Civil Engineering Club at the **Chester A. Arthur School** will begin this month for its sixth year running! YMF is currently seeking the help of local Civil Engineers to volunteer with the program as meeting hosts, presenters, or field trip hosts for our Club. Additionally, YMF is seeking assistance in planning local, exciting, Civil-Engineering-related field trips for our middle school student club members. For more information, or to get involved, please contact CivE Club Chairs **Tim Abel** ([tabel@pennoni.com](mailto:tabel@pennoni.com)) or **John Doyle** ([jdoyle@trafficpd.com](mailto:jdoyle@trafficpd.com)). We look forward to another successful year, and hope you will join us in educating middle school students about the field of Engineering!

## DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR DUES!

Your dues statement/invoice for 2018 should have landed in your mailbox (and e-mail inbox) from National in the past couple of weeks. 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, with some incentives currently 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](http://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.

Continue to be a part of more than 150,000 members who enjoy these complimentary benefits:

- **2017 ASCE Civil Engineering Salaries** – The 2017 survey results consist of a Salary Calculator, searchable data runs, and an ebook (PDF format). Members receive 2 free uses of the Salary Calculator benchmarking tool.

- **ASCE Career Connections** – This is the premier career resource for Civil Engineers. In 2016, the ASCE Job Board posted over 2,450 jobs and we're on track to match that amount for 2017.

- **ASCE Professional Networking** – ASCE Members experience unique networking opportunities through our dedicated sections and branches, volunteering opportunities in their local communities, and on ASCE's active online community, ASCE Collaborate.

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

## OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

October 5, 2017

Maggiano's Little Italy, Center City

### *New York City East Side Access and Second Avenue Subway Mega Projects*

*by Robert Wright, Editor*

A healthy-size room-filling crowd of close to 100 was on hand as we kicked off our Section's 2017-18 dinner meeting season at our "home base", Maggiano's in Center City. It seemed hard to believe that the last time we met for such a meeting it was a rain-drenched day in West Conshohocken, particularly as the warm weather felt a little more like August than early October. We returned after our summer off to enjoy the fine food and camaraderie offered by our new home as well as to hear about the "mega projects" currently underway in the Big Apple.

At her first Section meeting at the helm, President **Cathy Farrell** welcomed all back to the Section's season and got the evening started, with the usual good blessing of the meal by Past President **Ruben David** and several announcements as dinner got underway. President-Elect **Angelo Waters** brought up Director **Spencer Finch** to present an update on legislative happenings (more information is available on our website and elsewhere in this issue) and then welcomed the Drexel University Student Chapter, which was featured at this meeting. Chapter officers President **Donna Zhang** and Secretary **Chris Brandimarte** gave a short presentation

covering the Chapter's recent activities.

Following this, President-Elect Waters introduced the evening's speakers, Past President **Bill Thomsen** and **Ed Williamson** of Urban Engineers, who tag-teamed the featured presentation on the multi-billion-dollar efforts on the East Side Access program and the Second Avenue Subway line. Urban is providing project management oversight services (PMO) for each of these gargantuan efforts for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), a program which is being managed by Mr. Williamson. The Second Avenue Subway finally became reality on January 1, opening for service after nearly 90 years of waiting (a long time to wait for a train!), and the East Side Access program is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

A lively question and answer session followed the fascinating and well-presented session. President Farrell, who described the presentation in her own words with several "wow's", thanked Messrs. Thomsen and Williamson for this great effort and presented each of them with a token of the Section's appreciation, our new solar charger speaker gift.

## TECHNICAL GROUPS UPDATE

### CHANGE AT THE HELMS OF DVGI, SEI GROUPS

We welcome two new Technical Group Chairs this season, as listed to the right.

At the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI), **Archie Filshill** of Aero Aggregates has assumed the Chair spot, taking over from **Jay McKelvey** of Earth Engineering. We thank Jay for his work directing DVGI over the past couple of years.

**Joe Fazio** of HNTB has taken the reins of Structural Engineering Institute (SEI). Joe succeeds **Josh Amsler** of AECOM. Thanks to Josh for his service in the leadership of SEI over the past season.

Good luck to both Archie and Joe in these endeavors.

Our Engineering Management Technical Group remains in need of a Chair, if anyone is interested in this position. We are also investigating a new Technical Group, the **Utility Engineering and Survey Institute (UESI)**, which may start up if there is interest. Please contact us at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org) if you need any additional information on either of these groups or have interest in leading them.

## 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](mailto:dmacbride@septa.org)

### DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE (DVGI) [www.dvgi.org](http://www.dvgi.org)

Archie Filshill  
[archie@aeroaggregates.com](mailto:archie@aeroaggregates.com)

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Eric Lindhult  
[eric.lindhult@gmail.com](mailto:eric.lindhult@gmail.com)

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI) [www.sei-philly.org](http://www.sei-philly.org)

Joe Fazio  
[jfazio@hntb.com](mailto:jfazio@hntb.com)

### TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

William T. Thomsen  
[wthomsen@urbanEngineers.com](mailto:wthomsen@urbanEngineers.com)

Please check the noted websites as well as the main Section site ([www.asce-philly.org](http://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.

## HOLD THESE DATES

### ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will be celebrating **Engineers Week 2018 from February 16 through February 24** 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.

**Kickoff Luncheon – Friday, February 16**  
**Young Engineer Social – Tuesday, February 20**  
**Awards Reception/Student Showcase – Thursday, February 22**

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

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

As you may know, the ASCE Philadelphia Section relies on volunteers from its membership to provide meaningful programming to the membership. Without the service of these volunteers this organization could not exist, so in efforts to share with you some of what our outstanding volunteers are doing, we are starting an effort to highlight those volunteers through our Section Volunteer Spotlight.

The criteria for this recognition are as follows:

- While we recognize and appreciate volunteer efforts throughout the engineering community, the nominee should have volunteered for our Section in some capacity
- The nominee should be an ASCE Philadelphia Section Member in good standing
- Volunteers will only be spotlighted once per year
- Members of our Section Volunteer Initiative are not eligible to be spotlighted
- Spotlighted volunteers and their respective employers/institutions/organizations may be recognized at a Section dinner meeting and in Section email blasts, newsletters, presentations, and social media

Please visit our website for more information and guidelines on this and the nomination form.

**Men build bridges and throw  
railroads across deserts, and  
yet they contend successfully  
that the job of sewing on a button  
is beyond them. Accordingly,  
they don't have to sew buttons.**

– Heywood Broun



## I ON INFRASTRUCTURE

*Another in our overview of infrastructure issues elsewhere... And this one is somewhat close to home.*

As reported in the April edition of *THE NEWS*, plans are in motion on the massive “Gateway” project in the New York City metropolitan area. While most of the attention of this effort is focused on the proposed tunnels that are needed at the Hudson River crossing between New Jersey and New York, the work will include other elements as well. It extends south to Newark Penn Station, where the four-plus tracks of the Northeast Corridor to the south funnel down to two on the approach to Penn Station. Two tracks will be added between Newark Penn and the new tunnels, effectively doubling carrying capacity. The troublesome and elderly Portal Bridge swing structure just north of Secaucus Station will be replaced by a new, higher fixed span that will not need to open for maritime traffic. New track connections will be provided at Secaucus to facilitate additional New Jersey Transit trains that will directly operate into and out of New York, rather than the current transfer required at Secaucus, using locomotives that can operate both with diesel and electric power. The former Farley Post Office building in Manhattan, to be rechristened in honor of the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, an early proponent of the improvements, will be repurposed to provide a larger Penn Station than the cramped and claustrophobic facility that currently services the throngs of passengers of Amtrak, New Jersey Transit and the Long Island Railroad.

The tunnels are the critical item in this effort, as they will supplement the 107-year-old twin tubes that presently provide this link and through which all Amtrak trains travelling its Northeast Corridor, as well as hundreds of New Jersey Transit’s commuter trains, operate. The combination of age, heavy use, and damage from Superstorm Sandy in 2012 has made repair of the existing tunnels a high priority. This same combination makes the repair effort difficult. After an assessment of the damage caused when Superstorm Sandy flooded the tunnels was completed in 2014, Amtrak concluded that the repair work on the tunnels would require closure of one of them at a time for an entire year, forcing all train traffic to need to jockey in and out of the one remaining tunnel. Train capacity would be reduced by upwards of 75% in this “doomsday” scenario. While Amtrak would prefer to have the new tunnels in place before any major rehabilitation work would start on the existing tunnels, this may very likely not be doable, as no one is certain how long the status quo can continue given the fragile condition of the tunnels.

At present, Amtrak allows a 55-hour closure “window” for work on each tunnel on weekends when possible. However, after three derailments within weeks last spring, Amtrak “bit the bullet” and renewed trackwork and switches on the tunnel approaches to Penn Station, which required three tracks to be out of service continuously, and resulted in the mayhem-misnamed “summer from hell”. The work forced major reductions of trains on Amtrak, New Jersey Transit, and the Long Island Railroad. Ironically, the Long Island’s trains do not use the tunnels, but the three railroads that share Penn Station have an agreement that requires each agency to reduce its train service proportionately in the event of major impactive work. The

work only affected 3 of the station’s 21 tracks, but those three are in the middle of the complex, connecting the Station to the tunnels, thus they affected virtually the entire Station’s operations. Existing ferries, bus routes, and PATH and New York City subway trains, all of which are at or over capacity, in addition to some improvised ferry routes and park-and-ride lots with commuter buses, helped to handle the burden of diverted riders.

When Penn Station opened in 1910, the two tunnels and associated tracks were envisioned as sufficient to handle the expected traffic, which was mainly on intercity trains along what is now known as the Northeast Corridor. The train service fueled significant growth on both the New Jersey and Long Island rail corridors, to the point that commuter traffic quickly began to exceed the long-distance train operations. Today the tunnels serve upwards of 600,000 train passengers every day, far in excess of what the trackage and Station were designed to handle. The route to the east, to Long Island, has four tracks that tunnel beneath the East River, but even that has exceeded capacity. The currently-underway East Side Improvements, which will send some Long Island trains to a new terminal near Grand Central Station (outlined at our October Section Meeting), will relieve some of that burden when it opens in 2022 (although this may change as it has had its share of delays).

The Gateway Development Corporation has been formed to lead the effort and secure the necessary funding to make the new tunnels and associated improvements a reality. The entire Gateway program has been estimated to cost between \$20 billion and \$34 billion. Recent increases have been attributed mainly to the plan’s environmental and economic impacts, which had to be fully evaluated and addressed before detailed design work and construction could begin. The Trump administration has not committed to providing federal financing for the tunnel, and the US Department of Transportation recently withdrew from the Gateway Corporation board, noting that it did not want to appear to favor the tunnel over projects elsewhere in the country.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on October 13 for the new Portal Bridge, although no funding has been identified to begin actual construction on the effort.

The construction of the new tunnels could begin by fall 2019, and these could open for use in spring 2026. At that point the existing tunnels could begin to be scheduled for shutdown and rehabilitation work (meaning that “stop-gap” measures will need to keep them viable for the coming nine years). Continued employment and residential growth in the metropolitan area has resulted in tremendous increases in usage of the New Jersey Transit commuter rail network, which will necessitate the capacity increases that will result from the Gateway project. In New York City alone, ridership numbers for the city’s subway system, which distributes the New Jersey and Long Island commuters to and from Penn Station, have reached record numbers not seen since the late 1940’s and are projected to continue to rise. New York City Transit is looking for funding and solutions to deal with this surge in ridership as well.

Thanks to the *New York Times* and *Roads and Bridges* for this information.



*Jeff Given explains construction estimating at the Construction Group’s successful meeting on September 13.*



*Part of the contingent attending the annual Legislative Day event at the State Capitol in May – from left, Cathy Farrell (Section President), Pat Kane (Pittsburgh Section), Jason Bowes (Central Pennsylvania Section), John Caperilla (Lehigh Valley Section), Angelo Waters (Section President-Elect), Bob Wright (Section Past President).*

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

**SUBJECT:** Chlorinated Hydrocarbon Constituents in Groundwater in Fractured Bedrock: Using Conceptual Site Models to Investigate and Remediate Impacted Sites

**SPEAKERS:** David Side, PG, Amec Foster Wheeler; Mike Edelman, PG, TRC Solutions  
**LOCATION:** PaDEP Office, 2 E. Main Street, Norristown

**TIME:** 12:00 Noon – 1:15 PM, lunch (sandwiches) will be provided

**COST:** members \$15, government employees and students \$10

**RSVP by Monday, November 13**

Reservations and payment can be made by PayPal at our Section's website ([asce-philly.org](http://asce-philly.org)). Payment for reservations by check can be made at the event (checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE"). Contact Eric Lindhult (215-852-0068 or [eric.lindhult@gmail.com](mailto:eric.lindhult@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or if you will be unable to attend after you have registered.

Attendees are eligible for one (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH) for attending this presentation.

## OUR SECTION HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Last season, we transitioned from our use of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia's office for the place where we received "snail mail" to Urban Engineers' office. Urban has generously offered to be our "mail drop". Thus, any hard-copy non-financial items should be addressed as follows:

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

Checks for dinner meeting and other Section event registration and financial items should be mailed to:

Jennifer Reigle, Section Treasurer  
Pennoni Associates, Inc.  
1900 Market Street, Suite 300  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

We would suggest that you continue to reach us through our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) and our e-mail address, [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org), as you need, as these are the ways in which we can receive information most efficiently and respond (as necessary) most promptly.

**YOUR CARD CAN BE HERE!**  
**CONTACT US AT**  
**[newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org)**  
**FOR DETAILS**

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We are off and running with our Section Sponsorship program, with 12 firms participating at this early point. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor 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, there's still time to be part of this season's group. Please contact **Bob Wright** at [newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org) for more details.



**MCMahon**  
TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS & PLANNERS

TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

Engineering | Planning  
Design | Technology

[www.mcmahonassociates.com](http://www.mcmahonassociates.com)



**Malarkey Consulting**  
Project Management Simplified

Ann M. Tomalavage, P.E., PMP, LEED AP  
President  
[annomalarky.us](mailto:annomalarky.us)

Project management simplified.



**VOLKERT**

J. Michael Wintermute, P.E.  
Vice President  
Volkert, Inc.

Cell 484.864.2468  
[michael.wintermute@volkert.com](mailto:michael.wintermute@volkert.com) [www.volkert.com](http://www.volkert.com)



Moving Forward Together

Services:

- Transportation Planning & Permitting
- Transportation Systems Management & Operations
- Multimodal, Complete Streets & Trail Design
- Construction Management & Inspection
- Environmental Services & Permitting
- Bridge Design & Inspection
- Highway Design
- Traffic Signal & System Design
- Expert Witness Support for Crash Investigations

**TPD**  
TRAFFIC PLANNING AND DESIGN, INC.

Offices located in PA, NJ, and MD [www.TrafficPD.com](http://www.TrafficPD.com) | 215.622.2525



**JBC ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**JBC ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
Construction Management

120 S. Warner Road, Suite 100  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
610.992.9090  
Fax 610.992.9099  
[www.jbcassociates.com](http://www.jbcassociates.com)

"Success is in the details. We handle them for you."



**CDM Smith**  
[cdmsmith.com](http://cdmsmith.com)

listen. think. deliver.

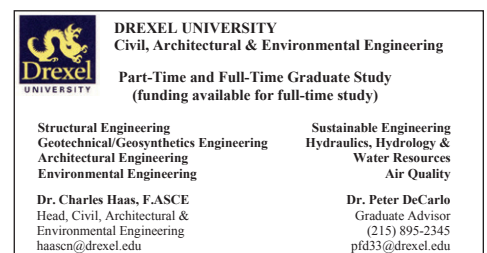
HARRISBURG	WAYNE	PHILADELPHIA
3605 Vartan Way, Suite 202 Harrisburg, PA 17110 1.717.541.4001	993 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 408 Wayne, PA 19087 1.610.293.0450	Two Penn Center Plaza, 1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1208 Philadelphia, PA 19102 1.215.636.0600



**Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL** *We Make a Difference*

Proud to celebrate 20 years  
in the Delaware Valley Region  
Fort Washington • Philadelphia

[MBAKERINTL.COM](http://MBAKERINTL.COM)



**DREXEL UNIVERSITY**  
Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering

Part-Time and Full-Time Graduate Study  
(funding available for full-time study)

Structural Engineering	Sustainable Engineering
Geotechnical/Geosynthetic Engineering	Hydraulics, Hydrology & Water Resources
Architectural Engineering	Air Quality
Environmental Engineering	

**Dr. Charles Haas, F.ASCE**  
Head, Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering  
[haascn@drexel.edu](mailto:haascn@drexel.edu)

**Dr. Peter DeCarlo**  
Graduate Advisor  
(215) 895-2345  
[pdf33@drexel.edu](mailto:pdf33@drexel.edu)



**HNTB** *HNTB Pennsylvania Locations:*

1410 Arch Street Suite 200 Philadelphia, PA 19102 215.584.4500	400 American Avenue Suite 100 King of Prussia, PA 19406 610.272.3311	400 N. Front Street Suite 300 Harrisburg, PA 17110 717.524.7911
---	---	--

OVER 100 YEARS OF INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

[www.hntb.com](http://www.hntb.com)



**wsp** | **PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF**

Strategic Consulting	Program Management
Planning	Construction Management
Design	Operations & Maintenance

For career opportunities and/or information,  
please visit [wsp-pb.com/usa](http://wsp-pb.com/usa)



**VUSP**  
VILLANOVA URBAN STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP

[www.villanova.edu/VUSP](http://www.villanova.edu/VUSP)



**URBAN ENGINEERS**  
Formulating Excellence

Founded 1960 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified | Employee-Owned

[www.urbanengineers.com](http://www.urbanengineers.com)

Additional Offices:  
PA, DE, MD, NJ, NY, CT, TX

530 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
V: 215.922.8080

\*Non ISO Registered



## A TIP OF THE HAT TO OUR NONAGENARIAN, THE NEWS!

Those of you who read *THE NEWS* very carefully may have already noticed a couple of things merely by looking at the masthead. The first is that our Section is starting its 105th year of service. The other is even more non-obvious – we are starting the 90th volume of *THE NEWS* this year. (If you haven't grabbed the dictionary yet, that's what "nonagenarian" means — in one's 90's.)

You may now be curious and wonder a couple of things — one, why isn't *THE NEWS* the same age as the Section, and two, who's kept *THE NEWS* running all that time? We can answer one of these definitively and the other not so much so.

Things are pretty clear about when it all started. The Section Board, realizing that it had to communicate with its membership, in a time before e-mails, when even telephones were not universal (and cell phones were non-existent), passed a resolution at its meeting of March 5, 1928 to authorize "the printing of a tabloid newsletter to give information of interest to members". The first edition of *THE NEWS*, clearly a collector's item if you have one, was printed and mailed in November 1928. And we've been going strong since then.

On the second question, like most 90-some-things, we can't recall much of where it all started and where we came from. It all happened a long time ago, way before anyone who is still active in the Section was around. We can't even find records on who was the first editor. But we can account for who has been at the helm for 76 of the 90 years, so we at least have most of the picture on this.

The legendary (so much so that we named *THE NEWS* in his honor) late **Sid Robin** took over the reins in 1941, when *THE NEWS* was a mere "youngster" of 13, and he remained as editor until his passing in 2003. Since Sid stepped down for a year to serve as Section President in 1962-63 (and handed off the Editor's duties to another who has since managed to become forgotten), this amounts to an amazing 61 years as Newsletter Editor.

Your current Editor, admittedly very much less legendary, took over the desk then and has somehow held it for a surprising 15 years so far. We say "surprising" since we thought our Section membership would have had enough of him by now, but we also know that your Editor is somewhat safe in his position as no one else really wants it!

**So happy birthday to us, and many more of them!**

And, if your Editor is still around to match Sid's 61-year record, please feel free to take the reins from him (and since he'll be a feisty 100-something-year-old at that point, it shouldn't be too difficult to do that...).

## NEW MEETING CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Our Section has begun a new Check-In procedure for our dinner meetings. The new process, started at the October meeting, employs an "express" line for people who paid in advance (electronically via PayPal). Once you show your printed ticket (and remember to bring this!), you will be permitted to enter the meeting room and get to the bar for happy hour. For those utilizing at-the-door payment (reserved paying by check or walk-ins), the check-in process will continue to be as before with a "manned" table for registration. Name tags for all attendees will be placed in the dining area at a self-serve table. Thus, less time outside to check-in equals more time to network inside, so it's to your advantage to use our electronic payment system.

As noted, it is prudent to bring your printed tickets with you. If you have not printed out ticket(s) for you and/or your guest(s), click on "View and print my ticket(s)" in your confirmation e-mail. If you have trouble downloading and printing your tickets, please contact Vice President **Kazi Hassan** at [kazihassan@pennoni.com](mailto:kazihassan@pennoni.com) prior to the event. We cannot accept ticket(s) on mobile devices, so please print out a hard copy of the ticket.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we attempt to streamline this process.

## GOVERNMENT & POLICY UPDATE

Our Section has begun an effort to keep us updated on Government and Policy issues that impact us, our professions, our projects, and our communities. We will provide information on a regular basis for your information, and even more current items will be featured on our website.

We have been following the State budget debate in Harrisburg, which, as usual is contentious.

The Commonwealth has been running without an official budget since the September 15 deadline (and the budget is supposed to be in place by July 1), with widely divergent budget proposals from the House and Senate. Observers have noted that the proposed "cuts" in the House proposal are too drastic (impacting many programs that fund our engineering work), while the Senate version passed in that chamber with support of Republican Senators who acknowledged that hard decisions had to be made and targeted tax increases would be needed to balance the budget.

During our annual PA Legislative Day in Harrisburg this past May, every senator and representative with whom we met and talked told us that they want to hear from us—and not just once a year. Therefore, we would suggest that you contact your elected officials in Harrisburg and let them know your opinion. Sample letters for this purpose are included on our website.

If you would like more information, or would like help writing your message, please contact our **Government Affairs Team**, chaired by Director **Spencer Finch**, with members/Past Presidents **Ann Tomalavage** and **Bob Wright**.

## ROBERT COWARD

We are saddened to note that Section Member **Bob Coward** passed away on August 11 after a long illness.

Mr. Coward was employed as an engineering consultant at WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff in Trenton and held previous positions as the Program Manager for the Maryland Transit Administration's Purple Line and several management positions during his twenty years with SEPTA's Engineering and Construction Division. He enjoyed his career, often saying he lived every little boy's dream of playing with trains for a living - he designed and built several bridges and train stations.

He served as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve and trained with ROTC while in college. He received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1970, where he was a member of the TKE Fraternity. He had an outgoing and exuberant personality, loved to laugh and tell jokes and always had a smile for friends and soon-to-be friends alike. He also enjoyed golfing, reading, traveling, spending time with his family, and going to the beach. His personal and career successes were influenced by his personal life motto, "make it happen." He was active in our Section for several years and received our Transportation Engineer of the Year award in 1995 to cite his various contributions. Mr. Coward is survived by his wife, Robin, two daughters and a son-in-law.

Memorial donations in Mr. Coward's name can be made to St. Mary Medical Center Foundation in Langhorne, PA (<https://support.stmaryfoundation.org/memorial>), the Special Olympics New Jersey (<https://www.classy.org/checkout/donation?eid=54431>), or CancerCare (<https://community.cancercare.org/donate>).

**The problem with the designated driver program, it's not a desirable job, but if you ever get sucked into doing it, have fun with it. At the end of the night, drop them off at the wrong house.**

— Jeff Foxworthy