

NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

APRIL SECTION MEETING

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Crowne Plaza Philadelphia – King of Prussia, 260 Mall Boulevard (behind King of Prussia Plaza), King of Prussia

As has been done for the past several years, this meeting will consist of "breakout" sessions on three separate topics. More information will be provided in the April edition of *THE NEWS*.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Over the past couple of months the list of our Section Sponsors has grown to its current total of **17** (!) firms participating in this program this season, the largest this has been for quite some time. We thank our sponsors for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor's business cards are printed in each edition of THE NEWS. Their

logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website, where we provide direct links to their own sites 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*, one of which you will find elsewhere in this edition.



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

SCIENCE FAIRS – HELP WANTED...

As we have for many years, our Section will be offering Special Awards at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs. The Fairs will be conducted on Wednesday, April 3 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.

Help is needed in the form of volunteer judges. 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 short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. A short orientation session will be provided immediately

MARCH DINNER MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

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

SUBJECT: The Chinatown "Stitch" – Centering Community Within a Transformational Transportation

SPEAKERS: John Chin, Executive Director, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation; Megan Clarkin, AICP, Director, Infrastructure Services, City of Philadelphia Managing Director, Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Sustainability (OTIS)

RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, MARCH 11. The cost per attendee is \$40 for ASCE Members (\$50 for non-members), with a half-price (\$20) cost for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by this deadline.

Reservations can be made through our website (www.asce-philly.org) and paid via PayPal or by check. This option will NOT be available after the reservation deadline. Checks, made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE", will be accepted at the reservation table at the door as an option to electronic payment. 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), and will be subject to acceptance on a space-available/standby basis.

All registrations are final. Due to commitments with our event venues, cancellations or no-shows will be invoiced for the full cost of the event. Registrants are able to transfer their registrations to others without penalty.

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.

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 can be offered for a reduced price.

For nearly twenty years, the Chinatown community has identified short-term and long-term strategies for mitigating the harms of the Vine Street Expressway (I-676). Broad community support and advocacy helped prioritize municipal funding to determine the feasibility of capping the expressway and addressing safety concerns along the Vine Street local lanes.

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2023-24

Planning and scheduling topics and speakers for our Section Meeting program for the season continues and is wrapping up nicely. We intend to move forward with our usual full complement of both Section meetings and Technical Groups.

The information we have at this point is provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you use this to mark your calendar at this time and hold the dates.

We have one event beyond those mentioned elsewhere in this edition, which will be our annual Spring Social. This will be conducted on **Thursday, May 16**, at the **Cescaphe** at the DownTown Club in Center City (the same venue as last year). More information will be forthcoming on this in the April edition of *THE NEWS*.

MARCH DINNER MEETING

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Mr. Chin and Ms. Clarkin will present on this proposal and discuss the roles of both the City agencies and the local community in the concept development and decision-making process for large-scale transportation infrastructure projects and highlight strategies for sustained public engagement as part of successful project delivery.

Attendees will be able to earn one Professional Development Hour (PDH) at this meeting.

SCIENCE FAIRS HELP WANTED

Continued from page 1

before the judging begins to get one familiar with the process and procedure. It is always a very interesting and enlightening experience.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Moore Moves to Parking Authority

Past Section President **Allan Moore** recently took on a new position at the Philadelphia Parking Authority, where he will serve as the agency's Senior Director of Capital Projects. Allan previously held the position of Director of Maintenance with the City of Philadelphia Department of Aviation and its predecessor group, the Division of Aviation within the Department of Commerce, for many years. We wish him good luck in his new spot.

To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk.

— Thomas Edison

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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.

In addition, these individuals will be serving in appointed positions:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Assunta Daprano, AECOM ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, PennDOT

We will continue to have honorary Board Members appointed as well and these names are provided on our website.

Contact Us:

President—Joseph Natale, PE

Senior Project Manager/Implementation Engineer Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission 190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106 215-592-1800; jpnatale@gmail.com

Secretary—Dennis Wilson, PE

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SEND COPY TO: ASCE, c/o Urban Engineers, Inc., 530 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

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SPONSOR PROFILE – URBAN ENGINEERS

We offer as this month's Sponsor Profile this information from Urban Engineers, authored by **Danielle Eisenstock**, the firm's Training and Development Manager. We thank Danielle for her agreement to have this reprinted here. We think those of you who enjoy being in the kitchen and actually preparing food, rather than merely eating it, will particularly see the comparisons.

A Recipe for Training: How Cooking Helps with Memory Retention and How to Use That Concept to Build a Training Program

My department holds meetings once a week, during which we cover upcoming tasks and events, what we are each working on, and any tasks that need followup. Regardless of the topic, we always begin our department meetings with a fun question. After several years of working remotely, the questions have become a little repetitive. I recently suggested that once a month we select a food, the first was "potatoes," and all take the following month to create a recipe using that ingredient. We then share our recipe with the rest of the department as a new way to start a meeting. At first, I was uncertain how this would work, but it led to a new way of learning about the other people in the department. What type of potato did everyone use? Was the dish savory or sweet? Who followed a recipe and who made one up? This concept got me to think – and research – what are the benefits of cooking outside of potential health benefits?

Dr. Marwan Sabbagh, Director of Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, was quoted in a Cleveland Clinic article stating, "Many brain processes involved in getting dinner on the table are classified as executive functions. Executive functions test our ability to organize, prioritize, sustain focus, solve problems, retrieve memories, and multitask."

As a training professional, I wanted to align the development of a training program with that of following a recipe and cooking. So, let's go through the steps. Think about your favorite meal: eggplant parm, macaroni and cheese, pancakes, tacos, pizza, ramen – you choose. When you make your favorite meal, there are several components: the ingredients, instructions, execution of the steps (cooking), testing the output (eating), and making some adjustments to meet your taste preferences.

The ingredients – Every training course starts with an outline. What are the main objectives that should be accomplished by the end and what are the essential tools for learners to achieve that goal? This is the course outline.

The Steps – The outline is then expanded into detailed steps or a presentation – this is what you present to the audience, so they know how to take the information and put it into action. This is the presentation in written form.

Cooking – Once the steps are presented, the audience is given the opportunity to try out the new steps they learned. A practice run if you will. During this stage, learners still have the assistance of the instructor, learning guides, and any other tools that are provided during the training. This is the presentation in action.

Testing the Output (Eating) – Now to everyone's favorite part - let's eat! After the class is over, the learners are sent out into the world to try what they learned. During this stage, learners are beginning to reinforce what they absorbed during the class and begin to commit some of it to memory. This is when learners get to test what they learned during the class and build those memories.

Adding the Salt (Making Adjustments) – After following a recipe out in the real world, you may begin to make modifications, until the original recipe becomes a "You" recipe with new ingredients, steps, and flavor profile. Like learning a new recipe - after attending a training and leaving with new tools - it's necessary to make those tools work for you and everyone else you're "serving". This is the true goal of every learning event.

Learning how to develop an effective training is like preparing an enjoyable meal. The more you cook the meal and the more comfortable you become with the steps, the easier it will be to reach for ingredients without relying on the recipe. Learning takes time and effort – but the end results can be as rewarding as making your favorite meal. *Bon Appetit!*

PARC Categories of the Month

As you may recall, the Pennsylvania Report Card (PARC) was released in November 2022 and assessed and graded 15 categories of infrastructure. We will be providing summaries of some of the categories in the remainder of this season's editions of *THE NEWS*, continuing to provide them alphabetically by category. This month, we cover the following areas.

Ports C+ (no change from 2018)

Conditions at Pennsylvania's two main ports – Erie and Philadelphia – move over 100 million tons of goods, the ninth-highest figure among U.S. states. PhilaPort has identified approximately \$59.5 million of repairs necessary in the short term to address serious or critical issues for its landside operations, waterfront structures, and in-water work. Growth projections at both ports require an investment need on the order of \$300 million for increased capacity. Performance of the two ports is difficult to further ascertain because public data are limited regarding their facilities condition and spending for operations and maintenance.

Public Parks C+ (2018 grade, B-)

Parks in Pennsylvania are undervalued in civic decision making, despite their vital importance. An approximately \$1.4 billion backlog of infrastructure projects exists for Pennsylvania's 300,000 acres of stateowned land, plus 1,000 miles of trails. A similar sum of necessary projects are counted in the state's 6,000 local parks. Pennsylvania's state budget has increased funding for that need in state lands, but local public land is reeling. The parks and recreation portion of Philadelphia's general fund dropped 13% from 2018 to 2021. In that same time, the operating budget for Pittsburgh parks dropped 19%. Local government must increase funding with new, dedicated sources and significantly increase data for planning and asset management.

Roads C- (2018 grade, D+)

The passage of Act 89 in 2013 resulted in the implementation and completion of nearly 3800 roadway improvement projects, with nearly 3,100 additional efforts underway and in the PennDOT 12-Year Program as of May 2022. Despite this major undertaking, there remains an \$8 billion shortfall of unmet needs. Pennsylvania ranks 45th of the 50 states in terms of congestion delays, imperiling key freight routes amid a supply-chain crisis. With the passage of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Commonwealth is slated to receive \$11 billion for targeted for roadway projects. Agencies and decision-makers should prioritize safety projects and work to reduce Pennsylvania's 1,129 traffic deaths per year.

Please visit https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/ pennsylvania/ for more information on this and how you can inform your elected officials on actions that should be considered to address this.

The world is full of willing people some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.

- Robert Frost

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Laurel Welch, Forum Editor Kirsten Kennedy, Forum President 2023-24 Michael Baker International, kirsten.kennedy@mbakerintl.com

Presentation BVM School

Outreach – January 31 YMF visited Presentation BVM School in Cheltenham to share about Civil Engineering with the school's middle school students. More than 50 students heard from our volunteers about what Engineering is and how it is incorporated all around them. Following the presentation, students worked in teams to design, build, and test a straw bridge. Each design was unique and had its own pros and cons, but most far surpassed the



students' initial weight guesses. Thanks to our volunteers for presenting and facilitating the activity, **Tisha Garrett**, **Dani Schroeder**, **Kirsten Kennedy**, **Elvira Mikhael**, and **Kerianne Chen**.



Annual Winter Social – February 5

YMF hosted its annual Winter Social at McGillin's Olde Ale House in Center City. The event raised over \$5,000 for local Philadelphia charities and was well attended by young professionals throughout the Philly area. Thanks to the YMF Vice President, Assunta Daprano, and the planning subcommittee for organizing another fantastic event!



Congratulations to YMF's own **Christopher (CJ) Medora**, who was recently honored as one of **ASCE National's 2024 New Faces of Engineering**. CJ spoke with *Civil Engineering Source* about his career and his interview is available at **asce.org**.

DUES – ARE YOU LATE...!!!???

Retaining membership in ASCE allows you to stay connected to the latest industry trends and keeps you linked to the best professional development programs and engaged with a worldwide network of peers. Your continual involvement builds a solid foundation to keep your career on track and moving toward achieving your professional and personal goals.

Dues for the current year were payable by January 1, but, if for whatever reason, you have not renewed, please avoid an interruption in your benefits and renew now. Choose the renewal option most convenient to you: online at asce.org/renewal (the quickest and easiest way), by phone at 800-548-ASCE (-2723), or by mail, if you were sent a hard-copy invoice. Ensure a positive return on your investment in a Civil Engineering career by renewing with ASCE.

LOOKING TO REFER A NEW MEMBER? OR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AN ENGINEER?

ASCE's Member Get A Member referral program is a good way to refer prospective new ASCE members to our society. For each new member you refer, you can receive a **\$50 Amazon.com gift card** when they join. You can refer up to five colleagues at a time. More details are available at asce.org.

Also, please keep in mind that ASCE isn't just for Civil Engineers. While you may be surprised to learn this, ASCE allows non-engineers to be members as well, with a specific grade of membership – the Affiliate Member grade – available for this purpose. While those with Civil Engineering degrees and backgrounds can usually join ASCE right out of school as Associate Members (and are eligible for reduced levels of dues if they have been Student Members), the Affiliate Member grade is available to anyone having "an interest in the advancement of the purposes and objectives of the Society", as stated in the definition provided in the ASCE Register, who may not have been eligible for Student Membership and/or do not meet the criteria for Associate Membership.

Thus, the Affiliate Member grade is ideal for those who work in related fields who may have an interest in Civil Engineering but do not have a Civil Engineering degree. Affiliate Members enjoy the same benefits and perks of ASCE membership as do other member grades above Student. Additionally, you may want to let some of your colleagues and friends know about this so they can consider ASCE membership and you can get some cash for the referral.

At the other end of the "spectrum", for those of you more senior and experienced members, the Fellow grade of membership is worth consideration. This is the highest level of membership one can attain on one's own and is a laudable and esteemed achievement. The specific requirements for application for this grade of membership are listed on asce.org.

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

— George Bernard Shaw





N-ASCE*

NJ TRANSIT NOT TAKING ANY BULL...

As you may have heard, Amtrak and NJ Transit train service was interrupted for a time on December 14 in a situation which made national news. While train delays are not all that uncommon, they are usually related to how busy the Amtrak Northeast Corridor is in the Newark area, where the four-track (plus) Corridor funnels down to two for the Hudson River tunnels leading into Penn Station in New York. Thus, any mechanical issue or related delay in that area can (and has) shut down practically the entire Northeast passenger rail network.



Just before 11 AM (so fortunately at least not during the peak hours), the reason for the delay this time was not one of the usual and expected ones given the age of the Corridor. A wayward bull somehow escaped from a slaughterhouse pen and found its way onto the Corridor tracks, and not long after at the platforms at Newark Penn Station, looking lost and confused no doubt when he found himself trapped on the train tracks. He quickly gained the name Ricardo and that would be the start of his notoriety.

He must have had a long, rough day fighting for his life while trying to understand why



there were all these people on the platforms smiling at him and recording him with their phone cameras. In a blink, he left his fatal prognosis behind and became a celebrity, in the process of which he also quickly became a problem to transportation. The incident caused a 45-minute delay on all trains through Newark. It is still unclear from which slaughterhouse he escaped as the closest ones are several miles south of Newark Penn Station.

While Amtrak and NJ Transit have guidelines on animals that can be carried on its trains, there are none that cover bulls, and Ricardo, a 1-year-old Texas longhorn, was not exactly traveling on a train or as a companion/emotional support/ service animal for any passenger. He was eventually wrangled by authorities and captured near Newark Liberty

International Airport, some 4 miles from Newark Penn Station. Then, Ricardo was sedated before a Sussex County sanctuary came forward for his rescue and gave him a new home, where he was resting comfortably following this harrowing ordeal.

The situation managed to garner widespread and national attention in the media, so much so that NJ Transit began to offer a 6" plush version of Ricardo the Bull on its website in early January. It sold out quickly. No word was offered on whether additional supplies of the stuffie version would be made available.

Thanks to the Asbury Park Press and the New York Post for this information. *N-ASCE – not always something concerning Engineering

2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Our Section offers two distinct scholarships annually, the ASCE Philadelphia Section Student Scholarship and the ASCE Philadelphia Section Member Scholarship.

All scholarship winners will be recognized as the Section's guests at our annual Spring Social.

ASCE PHILADELPHIA SECTION STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

A minimum of one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Section to a Civil Engineering student who meets the following requirements.

The applicant must be matriculating in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at one of our Section's five Student Chapters: Drexel University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, Villanova University, or Widener University, and must be an active ASCE Student Member.

ASCE PHILADELPHIA SECTION MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP

A minimum of one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Section to a Civil Engineering student who is the child of an active Philadelphia Section member. The requirements are the same as that of the Student Scholarship except that all children of active Philadelphia Section members matriculated in any full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at an accredited college or university are eligible. The applicant's submission should include his/her parent's name and ASCE ID number.

Application requirements and submittal deadline are the same for each scholarship offering and are available on our website.

We encourage all eligible students to apply. Any questions can be sent to Scholarship Committee Chair, **Dani Schroeder** (dani.civileng@gmail.com). Good luck!



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ENGINEERS WEEK – GOOD NEWS FOR OUR SECTION (ONCE AGAIN...)

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley was cited from Thursday, February 15 through Saturday, February 24. While nationally it is observed starting on February 17, locally we extended it two days to work for our events, and because we must like base 9 or something (?).

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee (DVEWC) events were popular and successful, as usual. These included the two main celebrations – the Opening Ceremony/Dinner, to kick off E Week, was held on February 15 at the Hilton Philadelphia City Line, with over 120 guests in attendance to welcome our own **Bob Wright** as the **2024 Delaware Valley Engineer of** **the Year** (more information on this was provided in the February edition of *THE NEWS*). The Young Engineers Social, conducted on February 20 at the Yards Brewery in Northern Liberties, was similarly well attended.

As we know, the completion of this year's events only kicks off the planning for next year's. DVEWC, a committee of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, is always in need of volunteers to assist in many of the activities surrounding Engineers Week. DVEWC has a need for your talents and skills in several diverse areas. If you are interested in volunteering or would like information on volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.enrgclub.org.

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig!* — Our Annual LAME...

This year St. Patrick's Day falls on a Sunday, so a great day for the Irish will be followed by a great Monday to recover (so get those "call in sick" excuses polished now...). As we at *THE NEWS* have done for several years, we will continue our citation of the big day and all things Irish with our annual "Lightly Amusing Message from Eire" (also know as LAME) for your enjoyment.

As with our Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message (LAYM) for the Christmas season, the staff of *THE NEWS* made an executive decision to go it alone with no contest or outside solicitation for submissions. We know this comes at great risk, but we're going a little more educational this time and a little less poetic. We want to raise your spirits to get away from the dreariness of winter as spring starts to tease us a little, and some would say that said dreariness would indeed accurately depict the Emerald Isle. In any event...

Complaints and outrages can be registered at our website, as usual (keep in mind your Editor can get away with this, given his allegedly mainly-Irish heritage, and that's his story and he's sticking to it). We offer this information courtesy of the Irish Road Trip website.

The Luck of The Irish: The Strange Story Behind the Term

The question is asked frequently about the meaning of the phrase "the luck of the Irish." Its alleged origins go back to the gold rush years in the United States, when some used it as a way of explaining the "luck" the otherwise hard-working Irish miners experienced from putting in a solid day of graft. Some websites describe it as Irish slang, which it definitely is not.

A number of major gold rushes took place throughout the 19th century across the world, but most notably in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa as well as the United States. When poor immigrants from Ireland started to make their way across to America at a time when the Great Famine was ravaging the little island, many took up jobs in the bustling mining industry. The Irish immigrants who would have arrived in America at this point in time were leaving an Ireland that was disrupted and crippled with food shortages, starvation and disease, as well as the long-standing oppression from the United Kingdom.

Many that travelled to the United States were doing so for one of two reasons, either to find a job so that they could send money back home to feed their families, or to start a new life. Those that worked in the mines were quickly recognized as hard workers and diligent laborers who sometimes delivered better results than their American colleagues.

The story goes that the Irish had a knack of digging up mining fortunes during the gold rush. The question became whether this was this luck or merely pure determination to succeed. After all, these people had just left a land rife with mass poverty and starvation and were surely just doing everything in their power to find, keep and excel at a job. The chances are that they had people back in Ireland whose lives relied on them. The miners that were working alongside Irish colleagues put their ability to source these mining fortunes down to sheer luck, rather than perseverance and diligence.

Thus, these days, the phrase is not meant to be offensive, but tends to be generally only used on tacky memorabilia.

And...

* Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig! (ban-ochth'-thee na fay'-le paw'-drig) – Happy St. Patrick's Day! (You should know this by now!)



VUSP Stormwater Symposium 2024

The Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership (VUSP) is pleased to announce that the biennial Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium will be held on **October 16 and 17** on the campus of Villanova University. The Symposium has served as the leading convener of experts dedicated to promoting green stormwater infrastructure to combat urban flooding and protect environmental quality. VUSP is a program of the Villanova Center for Resilient Water Systems whose mission is to "advance the evolving field of sustainable stormwater management and foster the development of public and private partnerships through research."

The theme for the **2024 Stormwater Symposium** is *Emerging Issues in Stormwater Management*. Over the course of the two-day program, attendees will learn about innovations in green stormwater infrastructure from a diverse group of professionals representing the academic, nonprofit, government and industry sectors. The intent is to foster multidisciplinary collaboration across technical fields as well as greater inclusion in the Engineering workforce, resulting in truly resilient solutions to stormwater.

Call for Abstracts Deadline - March 11.

Share your knowledge! Submit your abstract now for the opportunity to be a presenter at one of our many technical sessions. Our submission form is now live, visit the website below to review the requirements.

Website: https://na.eventscloud.com/ website/58506/





CONTACT US AT newseditor@asce-philly.org

SECTION AGENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

As you may be aware, our Section offers a Section Sponsorship Program to allow firms to help provide our various activities and programs for our membership and the Civil Engineering community in the Philadelphia area. This involves a financial commitment which is reflected in the placement of the participant's logo and business card in *THE NEWS* and on the Section's website, along with several other benefits.

Additionally, we have established an informal

recognition of government and quasi-government agencies for the assistance they have provided us, through volunteer assistance and award recognition among other things. Our Agency Partners' logos are shown below.

