SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2015-16

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

Each month’s edition of THE NEWS will feature detailed information on that month’s meeting along with as much information as is available for the following month’s meeting. The “look-ahead” schedule will show details that are available for future meetings for your advance awareness.

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

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

February 2016
Joint meeting with Women’s Transportation Seminar, Philadelphia Chapter
Location, topic and date to be determined

March 10, 2016
Topic to be determined
Maggiano’s Little Italy, Center City

March 14, 2016
Multi-topic meeting/breakout sessions, topics to be determined
Villanova Conference Center, Radnor

April 5, 2016
Spring Social
Location to be determined

DON’T FORGET ABOUT YOUR DUES!

Your dues statement/invoice for 2015 should be in your hands, both in hard-copy format as well as electronically, at this point. As a reminder, this is payable by January 1, with some incentives being offered for early renewal. You can pay by check or electronically.

Please don’t forget to pay your ASCE National and Philadelphia Section dues. Your dues are vital to the support of our Section’s activities. We appreciate your ongoing support.

DECEMBER MULTI-SOCIETY JOINT MEETING

Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia
American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section
Other Technical Societies (to be announced)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015

DoubleTree Hotel, Broad and Locust Streets, Center City Philadelphia
Networking/Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting 7:15 PM

SUBJECT: PHL Improvements and Master Plan

SPEAKER: Mark Gale, Chief Executive Officer, PHL

RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30. The cost per attendee is $50, with a reduced rate of $20 for students, for reservations received by the deadline.

RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER DECEMBER 1 AND AFTER – Reservations received after the deadline and “walk-ups” without prior reservations paying at the door will be charged $70, with a reduced rate of $40 for students. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE. Please keep in mind there are many participating societies and a sizable turnout is expected.

All reservations should be directed to the Engineers’ Club – online through the Club website, www.engrclub.org, via e-mail at reservations@engrclub.org, or by phone at 267-639-1234. Checks should be made payable to Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia and mailed to Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia, 325 Chestnut Street, Suite 800, Philadelphia, PA 19106. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting.

Payment will be expected for all reservations regardless of attendance.

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

The dinner will be in the Ormandy Ballroom on the ground floor of the south annex of the hotel. The entrance to the ballroom is on Broad Street, south of the entrance to the parking garage; access is not available from the hotel lobby. Discounted parking for $12 (cash only) will be available for those attending.

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

Radisson Hotel/Valley Forge Casino, 1st Avenue and Gulph Road, Valley Forge, PA
Cocktails 6:00 PM, Dinner 7:00 PM, Meeting Presentation 8:00 PM

SUBJECT: Tappan Zee Bridge Update

COST: $35 through January 15 ($20 for government employees and students), $45 January 16 and after and at the door

More information on the meeting topic and speakers will be provided in the January edition of THE NEWS

PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting. Reservations will be accepted starting January 4, 2016, and the process will be provided in the January edition of THE NEWS.

Walk-ins will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to wish all of our section members a Happy Thanksgiving! This time of year has always been a time of giving thanks and spending time with family and friends. As we enjoy our family traditions, we should all take a few minutes to remember those that lost their lives or loved ones in the recent Paris attacks, they are in our thoughts and prayers.

This time of year also means that your National and Philadelphia Section ASCE membership’s renewals will be due in just a few weeks. Keep in mind with this membership you not only receive a copy of the Civil Engineering magazine on a monthly basis but you also receive access to free webinars that can provide you up to 5 free PDH credits per year, discount on life, health and professional liability insurance and access to technical, educational and professional resources through over 35 technical journals and 8 specialty institutes. Locally, these membership dues help support our monthly technical meetings and construction tours, help us provide networking and community service events and allow us to enhance our outreach efforts that hopefully will inspire younger students to pursue the Civil Engineering profession.

One of the most rewarding ways to see the benefit of your local section dues is to get involved with one of the Section and YMF outreach efforts. Currently the YMF is looking for volunteers to join their K-12 outreach committee. This committee focuses on the outreach efforts of the younger generation of students who express an interest in the Civil Engineering profession. The committee attends career days at local high schools, gives presentations on “What is Civil Engineering” and participates in hands-on group activities to engage students of all ages.

As promised, here is a quick update on our little John. Since my last message he has learned to hold himself up in a sitting position, knows his name and smiles with excitement when we enter the room, is on the verge of rolling over and has clearly uttered the words “Mummy” numerous times. He also enjoyed his first Halloween as the infamous Popeye the Sailor Man and attended his first Flyers hockey game! We are looking forward to celebrating the upcoming holidays with him.

Again, I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and hope Jack Frost doesn’t pay us a visit anytime soon!

Sincerely,
AnnMarie Vigilante, P.E.
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL IN TRANSIT

This course is intended to provide an overview of the essential components of quality assurance and quality control in transit agencies. It will also review and expand upon the FTA’s Quality Management System Guidelines and address the various perspectives for quality relative to capital development, transit operations, maintenance, or vehicle acquisition.

Topics to be covered include an overview and definition of quality assurance and quality control, the benefits of implementing a quality management system, the components that comprise a quality management system, and strategies to implement quality processes in at least one of the following areas — capital development, operations, management, and vehicle acquisition.

The course is targeted to current and new transit professionals that engage in federally funded activities. It will be particularly beneficial for grantees, FTA staff, consultants, contractors, and vendors.

It will be offered over a 2-day period on Tuesday, December 15 and Wednesday, December 16 at SEPTA’s headquarters (1234 Market Street, Center City). The cost is $300 with agency employees accepted at no charge. A total of 1.4 CEU’s will be awarded to those who successfully complete this course.

Please call 848-932-6040 or e-mail msirleaf@nti.rutgers.edu if you need additional information or would like to register for this.

WATER FOR LIFE PROJECT

The Philadelphia Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders and the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia are teaming up to conduct a fundraising effort for the Water for Life Project in the Philippines (Apatut, Balaoan and LaUnion). This will be a casual evening of networking, socializing, camaraderie, dining and dancing.

DATE: Thursday, December 10
TIME: 6:00pm Networking/Socializing (open bar – draft beer and soda); 6:30pm Dinner; 7:00pm Introductions and Project Status Presentation; 7:30pm Dancing
LOCATION: Michael G. Lutz Lodge #5, Fraternal Order of Police, 11630 Caroline Road, Philadelphia
COST: $35
Checks should be payable to FECGP and sent to: FECGP, 4 Sugar Maple Lane, Horsham, PA 19044
If you are unable to attend, tax deductible donations are appreciated (checks can be sent to the above address with the notation “Water for Life Project Philippines”).
YOUNG MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Meredith Lis, Forum Editor
Chris Renfro, Forum President 2015-16
Philadelphia Department of Streets
1401 Kennedy Blvd., Room 830
Philadelphia, PA 19102
crenfro84@gmail.com
(610) 246-4444

MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAM
OCTOBER
After widespread praise following the YMF's first mock interview sessions, coordinator Kevin Brown, with the help of the Mock Interview committee, revamped the session plan and held another round of interviews for local college students. To address feedback from previous sessions highlighting the value of being interviewed by a professional in a chosen discipline, students were asked to respond to one of six posted job descriptions. Questions in this round of interviews were more pointed than previously, when interviewer/interviewee disciplines did not necessarily match. This round, students were asked to submit a cover letter in addition to a resume, which was generally regarded as a difficult yet rewarding task further preparing students for real job applications. All participating students relayed that the program met or exceeded their expectations and came out of the session with helpful critique on their resumes and cover letters. The YMF would like to thank all of our volunteer engineers for this session, including Jennifer Pesch, Chris Renfro, John DiValentino, Michael Franceshina, Cathy Farrell, Brett Coleman, and Kevin Brown. The YMF plans to continue these helpful sessions next year; keep an eye out in upcoming newsletters if you are interested in volunteering for Mock Interview sessions in the future!

WELCOME BACK BOWLING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 • PEP BOWL
Another school year; another Welcome Back Bowling! This popular student and young professional mixer had a great showing in the 2015-16 school year. As usual, the event was held at Pep Bowl, where the YMF could bring in enough pizza and soda to feed even starving college students. For a bit of added competition, the YMF offered a trophy this year to the student with the highest-scoring game. Congratulations to student Travis Daywalt on bowling the high-scoring student game of the night! Thanks to YMF College Contact chairs Emmon Farley and Paige Glassman for planning this once-again successful event. The YMF looks forward to a great year of more events with our college students.

JOINT WINTER HAPPY HOUR WITH ASHE YMC
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
Rock Bottom Brewery, King of Prussia, PA
Kick off your holiday shopping in the King of Prussia Mall with a joint ASHE Delaware Valley Young Members Committee and YMF happy hour at Rock Bottom Brewery! The venue is a great place to enjoy in-house hand-crafted beers while gathering with your colleagues. Appetizers will be provided and hand-crafted beers/cocktails will be available at happy hour prices (must be 21+ years to purchase and consume alcohol). Please RSVP by Friday, December 4. This event is FREE. RSVP is highly encouraged, though not required, as appetizers will be arranged based on expected attendance. See http://ymfphilly.org/events.htm for additional details.

YMF K-12 OUTREACH EFFORTS
With the start of the 2015-16 school year, the YMF has done some wonderful K-12 outreach and has even more planned for the year. YMF’s K-12 outreach coordinators Charlie Mumford and Katrina Lawrence are planning visits to a wide variety of schools in the Philadelphia area for various panel discussions, presentations, and career days. Please contact YMF President Chris Renfro at crenfro84@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for any K-12 outreach event; the YMF finds all such efforts very beneficial to potential Civil Engineering students! The YMF is also in its third year of volunteering at the Chester A. Arthur School in Philadelphia planning a weekly Civil Engineering (CivE) Club after school. The middle school students enjoy meeting a variety of professionals in the field and doing learning activities together. If you are interested in volunteering to lead a session, please visit http://bit.ly/1IrVIVM, or find more information about the CivE Club at http://www.ymfphilly.org/cive.htm.

FIRMS/SPONSORS IN THE NEWS
KEAST & HOOD OPENS CHARLOTTESVILLE OFFICE
Keast & Hood has opened an office in Charlottesville, VA, led by Associate Craig D. Swift, PE, SE, LEED AP. The Charlottesville location responds to a growing business presence and client base throughout Virginia, where Keast & Hood provides structural engineering for new construction and historic preservation projects at institutions and historic sites including the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Old Dominion University, Charlotte County Courthouse, and the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. This is the firm’s third office, in addition to its headquarters in Philadelphia and another branch office in Washington DC.

This office’s location is on the Downtown Mall, a pedestrian-friendly urban area at the center of Charlottesville, at 418 East Main Street. The space is known as the “Collab” where architects, engineers, landscape architects, and others work in formal and informal business collaboration.

TPD MAKES CONTRIBUTION TO SECTION SCHOLARSHIP FUND
On October 3, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD) held its annual corporate party at the Blue Bell Inn. Staff and their guests enjoyed an evening of dinner, drinks and dancing, in addition to holding a fundraising raffle which garnered $1,000 with the intent to support local engineering student scholarships. Due to TPD’s collaborative relationship with the colleges and universities represented by our Section’s Student Chapters, it has chosen to donate the proceeds to our Section’s annual scholarship program. We greatly appreciate this generous support and very much thank TPD for this consideration.

JMT OPENS HARRISBURG OFFICE
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT) recently opened its newest office in Harrisburg, located directly across the Susquehanna River from downtown Harrisburg. JMT also has offices in Allentown, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and York. Several of JMT’s current staff members have relocated to this location to bring the firm closer to clients. As with every new office, the firm looks forward to growing its staff, expanding its technical capabilities, and continuing to provide outstanding services to its clients throughout the Commonwealth.

The new office is at 214 Senate Avenue, Suite 102, Camp Hill, PA 17011, (717) 562-5000.

HOLD THESE DATES
ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED
The Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will be celebrating Engineers Week 2016 from February 19 through February 27 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.

AWARDS LUNCHEON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
DoubleTree Hotel, Center City
This event is both the kickoff event of Engineers Week and the main event of the Delaware Valley celebrations. A poster session, with presentation of student paper winners, will be conducted before the Luncheon. All Delaware Valley Awards and Scholarships will be presented.

As you may have heard, Kevin Johnson, President of Traffic Planning and Design, Inc., was elected as the 2016 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, and he will be formally installed at the Luncheon.

YOUNG ENGINEER SOCIAL EVENT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
Buffalo Billiards, Center City
This is a happy hour/networking event geared to Younger Engineers.

CELEBRATION OF ENGINEERING RECEPTION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25
Drexel University, Philadelphia/University City
The culminating event of Engineers Week is a social/networking gala event to celebrate engineering, with cocktails, appetizer stations, and dessert stations. Future City Competition Regional winners will display their first place model.

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

As always, volunteers are needed! If you are interested in volunteering for any of the many activities of Engineers Week, please visit www.dvewc.org.
DARE WE HAVE ANOTHER CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY MESSAGE CONTEST?

Well, just like Charlie Brown trusting that Lucy will hold the football for him to kick it, and then learning that she’s going to do what she normally does and pull the ball away, we’re going to try a Christmas/holiday message contest once again. We now declare it open for submissions and we’re hoping any of you aspiring poets out there will give this some consideration.

As you may be (painfully?) aware, our Section has allowed our Editor to be a bit of a “loose cannon” at times, and one of those times is the Christmas/holiday season, when he has crafted a message of sorts for our “enjoyment”. This has even gained a title as the Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message (with the appropriate acronym LAYM). To share the opportunity, we are once again opening a competition for you, our loyal readers, to submit your own personal LAYM for possible use in the January edition of THE NEWS (when we properly and chronologically correctly cite the festive time). This can be a poem, a limerick, whatever, and we’re open for anyone who’s feeling creative, festive, maybe a little seasonally-affected (by natural, alcohol, or other means – we aren’t judging!) to submit his/her messages. We welcome team efforts as well. Feel free to submit more than one effort if you choose.

To date we have gotten a consistent response on both this and our St. Pat’s Day competition, the LAME (Lightly Amusing Message from Eire), i.e. ZERO (and that’s not an acronym for Zaniy Enormous Response and Outpouring…), but since we at THE NEWS are accustomed to pushing that big rock up the hill (just like Sisyphus), we’ll try one more time. The winning entry will be published in the January edition of THE NEWS. Or we’ll print all the entries – we’ll see how this goes. We don’t have much in the way of criteria – it should be “G” rated, and have some sort of Christmas/holiday connection, and no “borrowing” from the pros at the greeting card conglomerates, but we’re fairly wide open otherwise. The “winner(s)” will be given the opportunity to have this published anonymously if they so choose. There might even be a prize of sorts as well – since we haven’t had to think about this in the past, we haven’t come up with prizes, but there’s always a first time.

Please feel free to consult past January editions of THE NEWS (available on our website if your collection isn’t up to date) to see what’s passed for this in years gone by.

The competition closes on December 11. Please send these to our Editor at newseditor@asce-philly.org. As always, staff members of THE NEWS and their families are not eligible for prizes, just to keep this fair, but they can still submit an entry or two (or three…).

We are hopeful that we’ll get at least one submission or else we’ll have to leave this to our Editor to handle, and we’ve seen the results of that route.

WILLIAM L. RUHLING, JR.

We are sad to note that Bill Ruhling passed away on October 30 after a brief illness. He was a member of our Section in addition to the American Society of Highway Engineers and served as a Project Manager with URS and more recently AECOM. He was a graduate of Drexel University.

Bill was an avid bicyclist and an accomplished skier. He was involved in several environmental and animal activist groups. He is survived by his wife Catherine (nee Mahler) and one brother.

Contributions in Bill’s name may be made to the Wissahickon Valley Watershed 12 Morris Rd, Ambler, PA 19002, the Pennsylvania SPCA 350 E. Erie Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19134-9987, or the charity of your choice.

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

parking in the hotel parking garage; be sure to request a validation sticker at the registration desk. Join the Engineers’ Club and partnering societies at the annual Multi-Society Dinner Meeting. This is a good opportunity to kick off the holiday season by networking with Engineers and other professionals that you might not normally see at your society meetings.

Chief Executive Officer Mark Gale will provide an update on new developments and improvements at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL).

Mr. Gale has served was appointed as CEO in December 2009. In this capacity, he is responsible for directing the planning, development, and administration of all the activities of the City’s Department of Commerce, Division of Aviation, which includes the Northeast Philadelphia Airport in addition to PHL and manages nearly 800 personnel. He additionally serves as the City’s chief representative in local, state, national and international affairs in the marketing of PHL and improving air service. Prior to being named CEO, he served in several positions over a career at PHL that has spanned nearly 25 years. His next immediate challenge will be the implementation of PHL’s Master Plan, which will provide significant expansion and improvements for Airport customers in the next ten to fifteen years.

Mr. Gale received his Bachelor’s degree in Aeronautical Studies from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is an accredited member in the American Association of Airport Executives and serves on the group’s Board of Directors. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Aviation Council of Pennsylvania, as well as the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau’s Board of Directors Executive Committee.

Please note PDH’s will NOT be awarded for attendance at this meeting.

SECTION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

The Section’s Scholarship Program is now open for applications for the 2015-16 season.

The Section offers three distinct undergraduate scholarships annually:

• ASCE Delaware Valley Engineers Week Scholarship
• ASCE Student Scholarship
• ASCE Section Member Scholarship

The application process for the Engineers Week Scholarship is now closed. This will be awarded at the Engineers Week Awards Luncheon on February 19, 2016.

For the Student Scholarship, a minimum of one $1,000 award will be made by the Section to an undergraduate Civil Engineering student. The applicant must be matriculated in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at one of the Philadelphia Sections five Student Chapters (Drexel University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, Villanova University, or Widener University). The applicant must be an active participant in the ASCE Student Chapter. The applicant must be in their sophomore or junior year (and Pre-Juniors at Drexel).

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

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

• Why is the US Highway Trust Fund important to the average layperson? How can ASCE better educate people on its importance, and advocate for its continued funding?
• In 2014 the ASCE published a Report Card on Pennsylvania’s Infrastructure (www.pareportcard.org). Based upon these report card grades, which area of Civil Engineering do you think ASCE should highlight when speaking with elected officials? Why?

Complete applications must be submitted by January 31, 2016 to Andrew Bechtel (bechtel@tcnj.edu).

We encourage all eligible students to apply. Good luck!
NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

November 5, 2015
Maggiano’s Little Italy, Center City
Rehabilitation of the PATCO Commuter Tracks Across the Ben Franklin Bridge
by Robert Wright, Editor

Our second meeting of the 2015-16 season put us back in Center City on a nice springlike day that unfortunately fell in the first week of our return to standard time, making it strangely dark and warm as we arrived at Maggiano’s for good food and an interesting topic. A “sell-out” crowd packed the house with the prospect that some folks might need to be turned away to meet the room capacity constraints, but as things turned out, all were able to be squeezed in.

An excellent team of presenters, Mike Venuto of DRPA, and John Parola and Alex Lawrason of HNTB, were on hand to walk us through the significant and sometimes difficult project to renew the PATCO “High-Speed Line” tracks that cross the Delaware River on the Ben Franklin Bridge and serve this vital transit link between Center City and South Jersey. With the many stakeholders, agencies and requirements that dictated the progress of the project, and the line’s daily customers needing to get where they needed to go on time, the effort demanded near-surgical precision in its planning, design, construction and field management to make it a success. The speakers showed in their presentation how these constraints and goals were met.

President AnnMarie Vigilante opened the evening’s program and managed to pry everyone away from the bars and conversations and into their seats to get things started, and brought Past President Ruben David to the podium for his always appropriate blessing of the meal (unlike October, this time the grace was said before people actually started eating…). As dinner got underway, President Vigilante returned to welcome Belinda Lester, President of the Drexel University Student Chapter, for a brief update of what the Chapter is up to these days. With dinner winding down, Vice President Cathy Farrell came to front and center to start the presentation and introduce our evening’s featured speakers.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS
WRIGHT NOW AT PENNONI

Section Past President and Editor of THE NEWS, Bob Wright, recently took a position as Senior Highway/Transportation Engineer at Pennoni Associates at its main office in University City. He was a Vice President at Urban Engineers prior to his move to Pennoni. We wish him well in his new spot.

AND GETS ANOTHER HONOR

Bob was cited by the American Public Works Association (APWA) as a Public Works Leadership Fellow at APWA’s National Congress/Convention in August. Since he was unable to attend the convention, the APWA Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter invited him as a guest at its meeting on October 20 to present him with the certificate and pin that comes with this honor. The Leadership Fellow citation is offered by APWA’s Donald C. Stone Center, which provides opportunities for sharing of institutional knowledge and experience that is so critical to public works operations. Leadership credentialing is available at four levels, with the highest (Fellow) designated for those with 20 or more years of relevant public works experience at leadership/management levels who have been involved in the mentoring and development of the next generation of public works executives during their careers. We congratulate Bob on this achievement.

President Vigilante, Alex Lawrason, John Parola and Mike Venuto close the presentation after some questions from the audience (first photo)

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
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DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE (DVGI)

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ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

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STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI)

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TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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wthomsen@urbanEngineers.com

FIND/LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

As part of the ASCE PA Social Media campaign, we now have a Facebook Page for our Section. The campaign’s main goal is to increase awareness of the expiring Highway Trust Fund, and also the 2014 PA Report Card. The PA Sections will be coordinating social media postings to reach the largest audience, and we’re joining the fight! Below is the link to our newly created Facebook page. Please take a moment to like the page!

ASCE Philadelphia Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/ASCEPhilly

Thanks for liking our page and sharing!

Thursday is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often.

– Johnny Carson
N-ASCE*

Beware, Public Urinators — Some of San Francisco’s Walls Now “Fire” Back

Last spring, San Francisco’s public works crews finished treating nine city walls with special paint. While painting of walls is hardly newsworthy, the paint is liquid-repellant, and basically sprays any liquid directed at it back at the source, thus its use on “popular” places where men (we’re assuming…) seeking bladder relief unexpectedly get their “leakage” right back onto their shoes and pants. It’s the city’s latest attempt to clean up urine-soaked alleyways and walls and discourage people from going where they should not. It is hoped to help curb late-night revelers and indigents who answer nature’s call on city walls.

Public urination has long been a problem in San Francisco. Legislation banning it in 2002 but has seen little success, despite a $50 to $500 fine.

The paint has proved to be effective in Europe. It was applied to walls in Hamburg’s St. Pauli quarter, where beer drinkers often can’t be bothered to find a bathroom after tossing back a few. The experiment captured the attention of San Francisco officials.

Paint and installation costs roughly $300 for each wall. Following the nine locations already addressed in areas in which the “demand” was heavy, more are scheduled to be painted. The coating, Ultra-Ever Dry, comes from Ultra-tech, a Florida company in the chemical cleanup and waste management business, which also provided the paint for Hamburg. The paint coats an object and creates a surface chemistry and texture with patterns of geometric shapes that have peaks, or high points, that repel most water-based and some oil-based liquids.

So how will the city know it’s actually working? It intends to check the installations for any signs to indicate urination has happened, both visual and olfactory (smell).

Thanks to sfgate.com for this information.

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

OUR NEW, IMPROVED WEBSITE...

...is now available for your use. We’re still at the same web address (asce-philly.org) but we’ve updated our look and options to be consistent with ASCE National’s desire to have consistency among the various Section websites.

Please take a peek (or visit longer) when you get a chance to see the new look and layout.