

ASCE PHILADELPHIA SECTION

NEW/S

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Our 109th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

FEBRUARY 2022



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.



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NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2021-22

Planning and scheduling topics and speakers for our Section Meeting program for the upcoming season continues. On the downside, the Section has decided to continue with virtual format for the remaining meetings this season given the virus situation and related uncertainties. It has been our experience that the virtual option has worked well and these have been well-received. We thank those of you who have participated in them for your flexibility on this, as it has allowed us to have a meaningful program despite the restrictions. We intend to move forward with our usual full complement of both Section meetings and Technical Groups.

We understand that the main drawback of virtual meetings is the inability to interact and network as we would all do at in-person meetings. On the "plus" side, it has allowed many of us to more easily schedule to attend meetings as no travel is needed and many of us have done this sitting at our desks or our dining room tables. Also, we are recording the meetings when we are able and the presenters are in agreement, thus one can view them through the **Teachable** app at a later date as well.

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.

Beyond March, we are planning two additional events:

April 14 – Multi-topic meeting, topics to be announced May – Spring Social

STATEMENT ON FERN HOLLOW BRIDGE COLLAPSE

This statement was issued by our counterparts from the ASCE Pittsburgh Section following the unfortunate and tragic bridge collapse on January 28.

On behalf of the ASCE Pittsburgh Section, we are saddened by the news of the Fern Hollow Bridge collapse early on the morning of January 28 in Pittsburgh. Safety is the top priority of every civil engineer, and protecting public health and safety is core to our mission at ASCE. We share our compassion to all of those affected by this unfortunate incident.

While collapses like these are highly unusual and extremely rare, it is imperative to identify the root cause of failures when they

Continued on page 3

MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Joint Meeting with Delaware Valley Section, American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE)

Virtual/Zoom Meeting (link distributed following registration)

SUBJECT: DELAWARE RIVER PORT AUTHORITY (DRPA) CAPITAL PROGRAM AND PROJECT UPDATES

SPEAKER: MICHAEL VENUTO, PE, Chief Engineer, DRPA

More information will be provided in the March edition of *THE NEWS* and upcoming e-blasts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will be celebrating Engineers Week 2022 from February 17 through February 26 with two events which will highlight the various contributions of Engineers and Engineering students in the Delaware Valley. Please note this information in your calendar and plan to participate.

Opening Ceremony – Thursday, February 17

5:00 PM Networking, 6:00 PM Dinner, Formal Program and Awards following **Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Center City**

Price: \$80 (\$60 for government agency employees and students)

Reservation deadline February 10, with prices increasing after that date

Young Engineers Social – Tuesday, February 22 6:00 PM

Ladder 15, Center City

Price: \$36 (\$25 for government agency employees)

Reservation deadline February 10, with prices increasing after that date

We will introduce and formally induct the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, Anne Michelini, and Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year, Timothy Kolody, as well as highlight the various contributions of Engineers and Engineering students. All Engineers Week award and scholarship recipients will be cited at the Ceremony.

As noted, each of these events is planned to be conducted as an in-person event. Details on the event locations, costs, RSVP/payment process, and meal selection are provided on the Engineers' Club website,

www.engrclub.org.

Please note this in your calendar and plan to participate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope everyone has been staying warm over the past few weeks!

Thank you to everyone who "tuned" into our virtual joint January Section meeting with ASHE Del Val on Wednesday, January 19th. Joseph Syrnick gave an update on the construction of the next section of the Schuylkill Banks Trail and New Christian-to-Crescent Bridge

Connection. He shared information on different obstacles that had to be worked through during the design phase and provided an update for



the start of construction. We are looking forward to a construction update in a few years.

As we enter into February, I am excited to participate in Engineers Week Events hosted by the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee. Their two main events are the Kick-Off Banquet & Awards Ceremony and the Young Engineers Social. From being virtual last year, it will be great to see everyone in person and network with all the awardees!

For our March Section meeting that will be held virtually on Thursday, March 10th, keep an eye out for the registration link in our upcoming e-blast and on our website. Michael Venuto, DRPA Chief Engineer will be presenting on the DRPA Capital Program and Projects Update.

Looking ahead to our **April Joint Tech Group Section meeting**, we will be holding this meeting virtually on **Thursday**, **April 14th**. DVGI and SEI will be 2 of our presentation options to tune into. Keep a look out for more information in the coming months in our section e-blast, newsletter and website.

To end out our year I am looking forward to our annual Spring Social in May where we will be recognizing our Section Award winners, Scholarship winners, Life Members and Past Presidents. This will also be where I will be passing the baton to our next president. I know this is still a few months away, but I can't believe I am already through half of my presidency!

Lastly, to continue my monthly reminder about the 2022 ASCE PA Report Card that is planned to be released this July, if you are interested in being a volunteer, please reach out to our co-chairs David DiGioia (ddigioia@ mcmahonassociates.com) and Michelle Madzelan (memadzelan@ elagroup.com).

I hope everyone stays warm during these cold winter days and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in person at the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Kick-Off Banquet and Awards Ceremony!

Best, Briana Pampuch, PE President, ASCE Philadelphia Section bpampuch@langan.com | 215-491-6548

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We thank the 14 firms participating in our Section sponsorship program this season 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*.

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

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2021-22 SEASON

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

In addition, these folks will serve in appointed positions:

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Gregory Dunn, Michael Baker International

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Langan Engineering & Environmental Services 2701 Kelly Road, Suite 200, Warrington, PA 18976-3565 215-491-6548; bpampuch@langan.com

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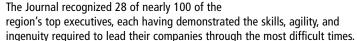
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COPY DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2022 ISSUE FEBRUARY 11, 2022

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Naccarato Named 2021 Most Admired CEO

Anthony Naccarato, President of O'Donnell and Naccarato, has been honored by the *Philadelphia Business Journal* as a 2021 Most Admired CEO.



Among his many professional accomplishments, Tony has taken O&N from one of the leading Structural Engineering firms in the Mid-Atlantic region to a nationally recognized firm while maintaining the family culture that his father created when opening the firm in 1981. O&N has grown from 50 employees and 2 offices to 80 employees and 4 offices. Despite the many challenges O&N faced during the onset of the pandemic, he was able to quickly get business under control, with O&N maintaining the entirety of its staff throughout 2020.

Tony maintains a commitment to engaging young people in the fields of Engineering and Design. He served as the Founding Board Chair of the ACE Mentor Program Greater Philadelphia Affiliate and remains a member of the National Board of Director's Leadership Council and is also the Immediate Past Board Chair of the National Kidney Foundation Eastern PA/NJ and is a champion of many fundraising events throughout the year.

The Journal recognized each of these leaders and 2021 Most Admired CEOs at a live event at the Crystal Tea Room in Philadelphia on December 9. We congratulate Tony on this honor.

Brown Now at TranSystems

The TranSystems/L.R. Kimball team is happy to welcome Section Membership Secretary Kevin Brown as a Field Director leading construction work in Eastern Pennsylvania for the firm. Most recently, he managed PennDOT's \$40 Million I-76 Viaduct Rehabilitation Project. Congratulations to Kevin on his new spot.

FERN HOLLOW BRIDGE COLLAPSE

Continued from page 1

do occur, and to ensure that proactive steps are taken to prevent future incidents.

The 2018 ASCE Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card graded the Commonwealth's bridges at a D+. Of Pennsylvania's 22,779 highway bridges — the ninth largest inventory in the nation — 18.3% (4,173 bridges) are classified as being in poor condition, down from 24.4% in 2014. On average, Pennsylvania's bridges are 15 years older than the national average and continue to be in need of repair and modernization.

ASCE applauds the Federal Highway Administration's announcement last week that \$26.5 billion in bridge funding is now available from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including \$1.6 billion over 5 years for Pennsylvania. This new funding includes a 15% set aside for bridges off the highway system, like Fern Hollow.

ASCE fully supports the need for continued engineering assessments to pinpoint the cause of the collapse, and we stand ready to support official investigations with technical expertise and advice available through our 150,000 civil engineer members worldwide.

While we learn more about why this particular collapse occurred, we support and thank all the first responders, utility workers, and public safety representatives who conducted essential rescue efforts and addressed this morning's incident as quickly as possible. We will also continue to keep those who have been injured in our hearts and thoughts.

Erin Feichtner, PE President, ASCE Pittsburgh Section 2021-22



Mohamed Asker, Forum Editor
Dennis Wilson, Forum President 2021-22
McCormick Taylor, dewilson@mccormicktaylor.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Civil Engineering (CivE) Club 2021-22

January 24 and January 31

YMF volunteers will participate virtually as meeting hosts and presenters at the **Chester A. Arthur School** to discuss Engineering topics such as Aviation, Rail, Structures, and Intelligent Transportation.

Blue Cross River Rink Winter Mixer

February 2

YMF, along with the ASHE Delaware Valley Younger Members Committee and MASITE, will be hosting the 2022 Joint Winter Mixer outdoors at the Blue Cross River Rink. The venue is a great place to enjoy the winter weather while gathering with your colleagues. The event will take place outdoors alongside the rink at the fire pits

Please watch for more information on these events in upcoming e-blasts.

Winter Social

March 21

The annual YMF Winter Social will be conducted on Monday, March 21 at McGillin's Olde Ale House. More information will be made available shortly.

CivE Club Recognition

The January/February edition of *Civil Engineering* featured an interesting article, "Designed for Success," which outlined several efforts undertaken on Civil Engineering Clubs. Section Members Jesse Gormley and Sean McCreesh were among those interviewed on this topic.

2022 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Section offers two distinct scholarships annually:

- ASCE Philadelphia Section Student Scholarship
- ASCE Philadelphia Section Member Scholarship

We additionally support a scholarship awarded during Delaware Valley Engineers Week.

Details on the submission requirements are available on the Section website. Applications must be submitted by February 25 to be considered. Please contact Scott Cepietz (scott.cepietz@ mbakerintl.com) for more information on this.

Our Section's Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) is offering a scholarship for students intending to pursue a career in the Structural or Bridge Engineering. Applications are due by February 28. Please contact Niki Eno (neno@midatlanticsteel.com) for more information on this.

Our Section's Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI) is also sponsoring several scholarships for students studying Civil/ Geotechnical Engineering or Applied Geoscience. Applications are due by February 1. Please contact Eric Backlund (eric.backlund@camposepc.com) for more information on this.

Please encourage any local student meeting the above criteria to submit an application.

DUES - NOW OVERDUE...

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, using the invoice sent to you last fall (if you still have it). 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.

SECTION COMMITTEES

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

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

ASCE Brochure – Katrina Lawrence

ASCE National Conference (2026) - Chris Menna

Audit - Joe Natale

Awards - Bob Wright

Budget and Finance – Cricket Schreppler

College Scholarship - Scott Cepietz

Communications - Jesse Gormley

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Government Relations - Open

History and Heritage – Joe Natale

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Membership - Kevin Brown

Mural - Angelo Waters

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Program - Moe Elghawy

Registration and Payment - Mike DeVuono

Society Relations - Cathy Farrell

Spring Social Committee - Troy Illig

Subsidiary Groups - Joe Natale

Construction Management - Bob Wright

Delaware Valley GeoInstitute – Jim Beideman

Environmental and Water Resources – Eric Lindhult

Structural Engineering Institute – James Greco

Transportation & Development Institute – Bill Thomsen

Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute – Nha Truong

Younger Member Forum – Dennis Wilson

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

As has been the case for quite some time at this point, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists need to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to be able to renew their licenses. This being an "even" year, renewal will come due in New Jersey in April and in Delaware in June. Thus, it may be a good time to assess what you might need credit-wise to be able to attest to this for your license renewal.

Our Section's meeting program is generally able to count toward your continuing education requirement (meetings that the Section believes would not count will be prefaced as such in the meeting announcement) for many states. We also offer various Technical Group and YMF meetings and events that offer PDH credit. We continue to have a verification program in place to help our members obtain and track PDH's. Over a two-year licensure period, our Section meeting program alone could amount to half of what one needs to meet many states' requirements. Also, we have a library of recorded meetings that you will be able to view and obtain PDH's through Teachable. com. Please see our website for more information on this.

If you haven't taken full advantage of what our Section offers, you may need to pick up those PDH's in a different way. Fortunately ASCE National offers free on-demand webinars and coursework that will get you up to 10 PDH's as a benefit of your membership. Information on this is available in the Membership section of the ASCE National website (www.asce.org). There are other offerings that are available from National at cost to help you pick up what you may need as well.

If you don't yet have the letters PE after your name and are thinking about going for it, please check ASCE's live exam review courses. This allows one to interact with instructors during live webinars and access free on-demand recordings 24/7 until the exam date. The courses reference codes specified by NCEES for the exam. You can feel confident with the most comprehensive and convenient way to prepare for and pass the exam. More information is available on the ASCE National website.

JANUARY SECTION "VIRTUAL" JOINT MEETING

Schuylkill Banks Update and New Christian to Crescent Bridge Connection

January 19, 2022

By Robert Wright, Editor

Starting off the "22" part of the 2021-22 season, the situation remained as a virtual format meeting, and we, as we have done for over 30 years, joined forces with our counterparts at the Delaware Valley Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) for our annual joint meeting. There were about 130 attendees, making this the usual popular event it tends to be even though it may have been difficult for some of us to stay at our computers given the relative balmy weather outside at the 12 Noon meeting start.

Delaware Valley Section President Corey Hull opened the meeting and offered a couple of announcements, and Section President Briana Pampuch followed with some of our own information. President Hull then introduced our speaker, Joseph Syrnick, President and Chief Executive Officer of Schuylkill Banks, and also a Past President of our Section, to provide an update on the Schuylkill River Trail effort and an exciting new addition.

Mr. Syrnick started with a short historical background of Schuylkill Banks and how a riverside park/open space program was suggested and potentially in the works nearly 100 years ago, but only came to fruition in the past 25 years. The Trail in the Center City segment is very popular, with over two million user trips in 2020, and became a popular outdoor option in the pandemic. It is a critical link especially to and from Southwest Philadelphia, which has limited opportunities for open space for its residents. He explained that the current trail system has a gap between completed segments south of Christian Street and north of the Grays Ferry Crescent, and this will be closed with the project that will require structures for the

most part to traverse the various land uses and follow a route within the River to avoid some existing features and uses. The adjacent CSX main line on the River's edge in particular must be accommodated. The need for a structure for much of this connection led to the evaluation of various bridge types to close the largest gap, which would require a sizable bridge. Cablestayed types were evaluated and preferred given their minimal intrusion into the River itself.

Mr. Syrnick noted that a longer than usual design life was specified by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, which will own and maintain the bridge, given the several concerns on how the Department will be able to provide upkeep and normal maintenance. Tub girders have been proposed as the primary structure element and these can be provided with access points to allow required ongoing bridge inspections from within the girders and below the deck. One downside of this however is the size of girders needed and the limitations on access from adjacent land that will require much of the construction to be completed from the River side on barges. A proposed "leg" to connect with the adjacent Grays Ferry neighborhood, which would also entail a structure to cross the railroad, will not be included in the current project but is a future consideration.

Once the final recommended concept was established, Mr. Syrnick outlined that value Engineering and constructability assessments were conducted to further refine the design. One change that came out of these reviews was the elimination of many of the stay cables, which reduced costs and still permitted a viable and sufficient structure without major changes in aesthetics.

Mr. Syrnick noted that the construction cost estimate was \$47 million and the low bid among a total of seven bids received was just over \$45 million. Bidders were subject to strict qualifications to be able to bid and this included specific expertise in the area of cable-stayed structures. Work is underway with an anticipated completion and ribbon-cutting in spring 2025.

Several questions were submitted through the Q & A feature of the presentation and Mr. Syrnick offered insightful responses. President Hull closed the informative session and thanked Mr. Syrnick for his good presentation.

DECEMBER "VIRTUAL" JOINT MEETING ENGINEERS' CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

Ethical Practice – A Perennial Business Challenge

December 16, 2021

By Robert Wright, Editor

It came together in a very short timeframe, but the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia was able to schedule its usual year-end Multi-Society Meeting with little lead time and managed to get it in before the end of the year. And it was a good presentation on an always timely topic. While current restrictions and the short-notice nature of the event combined to keep this as a virtual event, as was last year's, nearly 110 attendees participated from several different technical societies, including our Section, to hear a great

presentation on this subject.

Engineers' Club President (and past Section President) Chris Menna opened the event with some Club announcements and handed off to Past Club (and Section) President Bob Wright for an update on Engineers Week activities. Following that and some procedural meeting information passed along from Club Director (and Section President — are you noticing a trend here...?) Briana Pampuch, President Menna returned to introduce the speaker for the meeting, Deborah Grubbe, PE, President of Operations and Safety Solutions LLC (and 2018 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year), who presented some background information and several interesting case studies on ethics and ethical practice.

Following Ms. Grubbe's informative and interesting presentation, several questions were posed from the audience and she ably responded.

President Menna closed the meeting and thanked Ms. Grubbe for an insightful session.































YOUR CARD CAN BE HERE!

CONTACT US AT newseditor@asce-philly.org FOR DETAILS

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, last season we began our 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.









