



ASCE
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

Vol 94-5

Our 109th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

JANUARY 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 the '22 "half" of our Section Meeting program continues. We anticipate a return to in-person meetings in March at this point, which we all know will be greatly appreciated and allow us to see each other in person and not merely on our computer screens.

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.

In coming issues of *THE NEWS*, this information 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. As we have done, 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, and the "look-ahead" schedule will show details that are available at that time for your advance awareness. E-mail blasts will be sent out on a regular basis to advise and remind of upcoming events and registration deadlines.

We also note the advantage of joint meetings with other societies and will schedule these as we can.

March 10 – Maggiano's Center City; Delaware River Port Authority Capital Program and Projects Update

April – to be determined

May – Spring Social, to be determined

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

BROWN'S "SPIN" ON HIS ENGINEERING CAREER

Section Membership Secretary **Kevin Brown** was recently featured in an update/release from his alma mater, Widener University, with his words of wisdom on how his Widener education helped him turn an early interest in the engineering field into a rewarding career. Please visit this site to read the entire insightful interview:

<https://www.widener.edu/widener-advantage/pride-perspectives/building-career-impact-industry-and-future-engineers?fbclid=IwAR17JV5bqxiTUeohayzXuBPc26qDarRY--OhNe98KKo4X7IKJDY6g1z-XEI>

We thank Kevin for his efforts to spread the word on our profession.

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

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

Virtual meeting

SUBJECT: SCHUYLKILL BANKS UPDATE AND NEW CHRISTIAN TO CRESCENT BRIDGE CONNECTION

SPEAKER: JOSEPH R. SYRNICK, PE, PLS, President and Chief Executive Officer, Schuylkill River Development Corporation/Schuylkill Banks

PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting. Reservations can be made electronically through the ASHE Delaware Valley Section website, www.delvalleyashe.pro. The notice for this meeting and instructions on the RSVP process will be made available in early January through our e-mail blasts.

The cost of the meeting will be free for ASHE and ASCE members and government agency employees, with a nominal charge for non-members.

The **Christian to Crescent trail segment** is the final link needed to provide an entirely off-road route between Center City and the Grays Ferry Crescent for pedestrians and bicyclists. This was a potentially difficult trail segment to design and construct because the area is still industrially active and the riverbank narrows for a portion of its length. In order to complete this segment, a cable supported bridge will be constructed along the east riverbank, the first such structure to be built in our immediate area.

Once this segment is built, SRDC's vision of a completed off-road, multi-use trail along the Schuylkill between the Fairmount Water Works and Bartram's Garden will be realized. SRDC's consultant completed a feasibility study that analyzed the sites along this future trail segment and proposed the best possible trail alignment option. The final design of this trail segment was completed by the Philadelphia office of AECOM. Construction is being completed by PKF Mark III Inc.

Mr. Syrnick, a Past President of our Section, will provide a project overview through the conceptual evaluation and design processes to the current stage.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope everyone has been enjoying this holiday season spending time with friends and family!

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia (ECP) held its virtual Multi-Society meeting on December 16. Hope you were able to tune in! Deborah (Deb) Grubbe did a great job presenting on Ethical Practice. She was able to present to a wide variety of engineers and share ideas of how to act in a difficult situation. Deb ended with a very engaging Q&A session with everyone who listened in.



We invite everyone to register for our joint virtual meeting with ASHE Delaware Valley on Wednesday, January 19. Registration will be posted on our website and shared in our e-blast in the beginning of the New Year.

Following our joint meeting with ASHE Delaware Valley in January, we are excited to participate in Engineers Week Events starting on Thursday, February 17 hosted by the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee. For our March and April Section meetings, our Board will be meeting in January to evaluate on how we will be moving forward and hope to host these events in person!

I also wanted to share other initiatives our Section is working on. Keep an eye out for updates in the coming year:

- Unveil the ASCE Mural
- A new National Historic Landmark in Philadelphia
- Continue to expand our Diversity & Inclusion focused programs
- Continue to provide additional technical and outreach programming
- 2022 ASCE PA Report Card Release (if interested in volunteering see info below)

If you are interested in being a volunteer for the 2022 ASCE PA Report Card, please reach out to our co-chairs **David DiGioia** (ddigioia@mcmahonassociates.com) and **Michelle Madzellan** (memadzellan@elagroup.com).

I hope everyone has a great Holiday Season and "see" everyone at the joint virtual meeting with ASHE Delaware Valley in January!

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

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

As we approach the midpoint of the season, we note that there are 14 firms participating in our Section sponsorship program. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor 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.

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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

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, PennDOT

Contact Us:

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530 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

COPY DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE
JANUARY 21, 2022

ROBERT MILLIKEN



Robert "Bob" L. Milliken, Jr., 77, of Coatesville passed away on November 15, 2021 surrounded by loved ones. He was the beloved husband of Patricia Milliken with whom he shared 53 years

Bob served in the US Navy from 1962 to 1970 and was deployed in Vietnam for two years. Following his active duty he attended Charleston Institute of Technology and received his degree in Mechanical Engineering. After college and moving to Pennsylvania, he served four years in the Active Reserves. Throughout his professional career he served in various leadership positions and at the time of his retirement was president of Underground Services, a subsurface utility engineering firm. Post-retirement, he stayed within the industry working with InfraMap Corp as a consultant.

Bob was a member of our Section as well as the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) and served as the ASHE Delaware Valley Section President in 2007-08. He was cited as our Section's Engineering Manager of the Year in 2012.

In the spirit of service, after his retirement, Bob served pro bono as the Interim Executive Director of the Chester County Association for the Blind and was an active member of the Coatesville Area Lions Club and at his church, Olivet United Methodist Church, where he served on various committees and as a member of the trustees during his 45 years as a member. As a proud veteran, he was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Vietnam Veterans of America organizations.

By virtue of the admirable and generous accomplishments above, Bob epitomized service, family, friendship, and patriotism. He is a true hero to all who have known him.

In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by his two children, a granddaughter, three brothers, three sisters, and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Olivet United Methodist Church, Coatesville, or the Masonic Dyslexia Center for Children, Reading.

DO YOU STILL OWE YOUR DUES?

If you haven't yet paid your ASCE dues, you're going to be late shortly! **Your ASCE and Philadelphia Section dues are both due on January 1.** As noted on the invoice, you can pay by check or electronically.

Keep in mind that your membership entitles you to be eligible for ASCE Member Advantages. These encompass benefits in several member discount programs including professional liability insurance, life insurance, credit cards and banking services, and rental car discounts. ASCE always looks to negotiate the best deal for members. Similarly, when members save through these programs, ASCE earns revenue that helps keep your dues rates as low as possible. Please check asce.org for the details on these offers and programs.

There are additionally a number of free eLearning Webinars available to help you develop critical career skills, with topics covering a broad range of technical interests, leadership development tools, and key member programs. One of the most popular benefits of membership is that every year you can earn up to ten **free PDHs** for the eligible ASCE On-Demand Webinar courses you successfully complete. If you haven't used your complement for this year, it may be too late, but another group of free courses will be offered in the new year.

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



ASCE PHILADELPHIA SECTION

2022 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE
[HERE](#)



**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 25, 2022**

For more information, please reach out to Scott Cepletz
(scott.cepletz@mbakerintl.com)

HOLD THESE DATES

ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The **Engineers' Club of Philadelphia**, through its **Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee**, will cite **Engineers Week 2022** on **February 17 through February 26**. We have traditionally extended our local celebration beyond that recognized by **National Engineers Week** to include our kickoff event.

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley will officially begin with the **Engineers Week Opening Ceremony** on **Thursday, February 17** (two days before National E Week begins). At this event, we will introduce and formally induct the **Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year** and **Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year**, 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.

The **Young Engineers Social** will be conducted on **Tuesday, February 22**. This is a networking and social event to cite the newly-inducted **Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year**.

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 information in your calendar and plan to participate.

SECTION AWARDS — NOMINATIONS OPEN

As we typically do this time of year, we are opening our Section's 2022 Awards Program for nominations. These allow us to recognize Section members and others for their contributions to the Civil Engineering profession. All awards will be presented at the Spring Social in May (date to be determined, with updates on this to be provided in coming issues of *THE NEWS*).

We encourage you to submit nominations for those deserving individuals who should be recognized for their various contributions, achievements, and career milestones, appropriately.

GUIDELINES/RULES

- Nominations must be received by Friday, January 28. Nominations should be submitted on forms which are available from the Committee Chair.
- Individuals may be nominated for awards by a member in any grade of membership.
- Individuals may receive only one award in a single year, but may be nominated for more than one award in a single year.
- Award recipients are subject to the approval of the Section's Board of Directors.
- Awards are presented only during years in which, in the judgement of the Selection Committee or the Board, there is at least one suitable candidate.
- The Selection Committee, at its discretion, may nominate a candidate or an alternate for each award for Board consideration.
- The Selection Committee will recommend to the Board whether the recipient should also be nominated for applicable National or Regional awards by the Section.
- A nominee for an award **MUST** be a member in good standing of the Philadelphia Section in the year in which the nomination is made, with three exceptions - for Educator of the Year, Government Service Award, and Philadelphia History and Heritage Award need not be members of ASCE and/or the Philadelphia Section.

AWARDS

The Section has a total of 14 awards which cover various specialty areas. In addition, the Section President can nominate an individual for the Presidential Award at his/her discretion. The awards are as follows:

- Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Government Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Young Government Engineer of the Year
- Government Service Award
- Educator of the Year
- Philadelphia History and Heritage Award
- Community Outreach and Service Award

Individual Technical Awards:

- Civil Engineering Manager of the Year
- Construction Engineer of the Year
- Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- Structural Engineer of the Year
- Transportation Engineer of the Year
- Water Resources Engineer of the Year

If you are interested in submitting a nomination for consideration, please contact **Bob Wright, Committee Chair**, at 215-433-1666, or via e-mail at newseditor@asce-philly.org, to obtain a nomination form. You may also call Bob, if you have any questions or need any additional information on the Section's Awards Program.

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*

Continuing Education – *Joe Natale*

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – *Assunta Daprano*

Government Relations – *Spencer Finch*

History and Heritage – *Joe Natale*

Humphrey Fund – *John Zarsky*

Membership – *Kevin Brown*

Mural – *Angelo Waters*

Nominating (for Board Positions) – *Briana Pampuch*

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 Geolnstitute – *Jim Beideman*

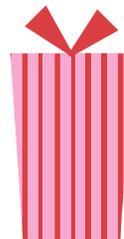
Environmental and Water Resources – *Eric Lindhult*

Structural Engineering Institute – *James Greco*

Transportation & Development Institute – *Bill Thomsen*

Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute – *Nha Truong*

Younger Member Forum – *Dennis Wilson*



A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL (AND OUR ANNUAL LAYM* ...)

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Section extend our very best wishes to all Section Members, their families and friends for a safe, enjoyable and memorable holiday season and a prosperous and productive 2022. While 2021 was a little better than its predecessor, we're hoping this year will continue the improvement theme.

We at *THE NEWS* would also like to send the same good wishes. This might be becoming a tradition (we're not sure how long something has to happen to officially qualify for that status), as we put our own little "spin" on this (and you are likely painfully aware of this) through our Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message* (with the maybe-unfortunate but quite descriptive acronym of LAYM...). In the spirit of tis' better to give than to receive, we continue to try to give you the best we can in each edition, information you can use and otherwise, and we hope you receive it in the spirit that it is presented. But sometimes we digress and give something we hope makes you at least grin (not groan...) if not outright chuckle, and this might be "it" (or it may at least suffice until March, when, depending on inspiration, we may have our Lightly Amusing Message from Eire (LAME) to do the trick). And we think we all could use a chuckle or two...

Also, the tradition seems to be excluding a potential competition for the LAYM, even with the knowledge that there is at least one aspiring poet out there in "Section-land" (if you get the Younger Member Forum e-blasts you've seen the Paige Poems), and opted to keep this within our reach again this year. We're not saying that is the best way to go, but it does get this done. Thus, for your holiday enjoyment, here is this year's LAYM and it in no way reflects the views or opinions of our Section. As usual, outrages can be registered at newseditor@asce-philly.org, and please take this in the manner it is intended in the spirit of the holiday season.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Mohamed Asker, Forum Editor

Dennis Wilson, Forum President 2021-22

McCormick Taylor, dewilson@mccormicktaylor.com



COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT November 20

YMF partnered with Philly Urban Creators for a day of autumn gardening at Life Do Grow Farm. Volunteers raked leaves, picked weeds, cleaned up trash, and placed new mulch on the farm. The weather was beautiful and the volunteers were treated to a lunch around the

campfire afterwards as a thank you for their hard work. We would like to extend a big thank you to Philly Urban Creators for hosting us!

EVENTS CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED:

Joint ASHE/ASCE YMF/MASITE Winter Mixer – February

K-12 Outreach at Southwest Leadership Academy Charter School

– February

Winter Social at McGillin's Olde Ale House – March

Critical Issues Seminar – March

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

From our Section's cannon that is pretty much loose
Who likes to share things that can often be obtuse
Time for another LAYM*? Came out of the blue
It sneaked up on us but we got inspired to do

It's quickly coming up on that time of year
Good tidings to all, and lots of holiday cheer
Time does indeed fly, seems like it was just summer
But it's now almost time for that parade of the mummer

We've been through another tough year, must be careful still
Socially distance to some point, getting used to the drill
Fortunately there's a vaccine, but masks remain in "style"
Still not easy to tell if folks are giving you a smile

We think we're making progress, then another variant
We'd like to move on from this, but unfortunately we can't
So for now we need to stay careful and aware
Since we too well know that this virus doesn't fight fair

But there's good reason to celebrate, decorate, deck the halls
Sing carols, get together, cover trees with colorful balls
Time to get busy, get ready, no time to kick back
Boughs of holly, wrap gifts, hang stockings, leave St. Nick a snack

Get some shopping done and visit non-virtual malls
No need to sit home and stare at the screen or the walls
Buy those gifts, send those lists, fill up Santa's sack
And maybe for his efforts this year leave him a six-pack

And from our Section leaders we offer and extend
To our members all the best as 2021 rolls up to an end
For your Christmas holiday and a great new year too
A little scary that it's already 2022...

We give the gift that keeps giving all year with The News
Filled with info that's obscure and items you can actually use
And those strange odds and ends in what we call N-ASCE
(So we deserve to be on Santa's "nice list", don't you agree?)

Good holidays, happy new year, and great days in between
Enjoy them even if there's no Nativity scene
More good stuff coming from your Section and Board
Including a new Report Card to see how we scored

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or whatever day you cite
May you enjoy them greatly and may your smiles be bright
So celebrate responsibly and be easy with the "hooch"
And don't miss the "real" holiday message from President Pampuch

Happy Merry Everything 2022!

FUTURE CITY – HELP NEEDED

As it has done for a number of years, the Future City Philadelphia program is conducting its annual competition and will hold the regional finals on January 22 through a virtual format. Mentors and various volunteers for the competition, including judges, evaluators and Zoom hosts, are needed. Please visit www.futurecityphilly.org for more information and details on this.

A total of 45 local schools will be competing this time around and our Section's Younger Member Forum will be among those offering a Special Award.

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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.

