



NEW/S

Vol 94-6

Our 109th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

March 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 ALMOST OVER...

Hard to believe, and time indeed flies... The last two Section meetings of this season are upon us and information on each is provided under separate headings for these announcements.

There is one remaining Section event in our "look-ahead" schedule, the **Spring Social**. There are two events being planned in May, one a virtual formal event on **May 5** and the other being an in-person networking/social affair on **May 19**. Details are being finalized and more information will be provided in the April edition of *THE NEWS*.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

WILLIAMS PROMOTED AT KMJ



KMJ Consulting is proud to announce that Marty Williams has been promoted to Senior Engineer in the firm. President Karen Jehanian noted that "I am delighted to recognize Marty for his contribution to KMJ."

Marty, always the cool analyst, shines in his meticulous attention to both macro-scale project elements as well as the nitty-gritty details. As a Young Engineer and a veritable master of technology he produced work that is polished with cutting-edge techniques and modern methodology. His focused and collected approach to Engineering leads to project accuracy and consistency. Marty is also an active member of our YMF Board and serves as Community Services Chair.

We congratulate Marty on this promotion.

LAWRENCE NOW BUDISCHAK, RETURNS TO MCCORMICK TAYLOR

McCormick Taylor is pleased to welcome back Section Director Katrina (Lawrence) Budischak, PE, AICP, as a Project Manager, Transportation Planning in its Center City office.

We congratulate Katrina on her new position.



MARCH MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING PRESENTATION - 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

SUBJECT: DELAWARE RIVER PORT AUTHORITY (DRPA) CAPITAL PROGRAM AND PROJECTS UPDATE

SPEAKER: Michael P. Venuto, PE, PLS, Chief Engineer, Delaware River Port Authority RESERVATION DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9. There is no cost for ASCE members to attend this presentation. Non-ASCE members will be charged \$15. When registering, please have your ASCE ID number available. Your membership will need to be current for you to be able to register for the event as a member.

Reservations can be made through our website (www.asce-philly.org) and paid via PayPal or by check as applicable. Checks, made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE", can be mailed as instructed when you register. After you register you will receive information and instructions on how to access this meeting on your computer or device.

The **Delaware River Port Authority**, a bi-state agency, owns and operates four Delaware River bridges (Benjamin Franklin, Walt Whitman, Commodore Barry and Betsy Ross) in our area as well as the Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO) high-speed rail service between South Jersey and Philadelphia. DRPA is also involved in promotion and administration of several port facilities for ocean-going cargo. These transportation assets are supported by a \$750 million five-year capital program ensuring that they are maintained, improved and protected for the benefit of the citizens that DRPA serves. Mr. Venuto directs the Engineering program that serves and operates these assets. He will provide an overview of the current Program as well as an update on ongoing projects on these facilities.

Mr. Venuto has been a dedicated public service employee for the past seventeen years. He obtained his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University, an MBA from Lehigh University and a Bachelors degree in Surveying Engineering Technology from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and licensed Professional Land Surveyor in the State of New Jersey. He is a member of ASCE as well as the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors, WTS International, and the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia.

APRIL SECTION MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Virtual

As has been done for the past several, this meeting will consist of "breakout" sessions on three separate topics.

More information will be provided in the April edition of THE NEWS.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Even though Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter, I hope everyone has been getting outside to enjoy the 60-degree days these past few weeks!

I hope everyone enjoyed attending the Engineers Week Events hosted by the Delaware Valley Engineers Week (DVEW) Committee as much as I did! The first event on Thursday, February 17th was the Kick-Off Banquet & Awards Ceremony. It was so nice to see everyone in person and network with all



the awardees. It was great to see how excited everyone was to be back in person for DVEW since the event was virtual last year.

I am looking forward to "seeing" everyone at our March Section meeting that will be held virtually on Thursday, March 10th. Registration for the event is posted on our website and e-blasts. I am looking forward to hearing from Michael Venuto, DRPA, Chief Engineer, 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, SEI and T&DI/Construction Tech Group will be hosting our three presentation topics. Keep a look out for more information next month in our Section e-blast, newsletter and website.

If you have an interest in being a part of the Section's governance, now is the time to put your name in the hat! In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Section, I will be appointing a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for all Section elective offices for the 2022-23 administrative year. The positions which will be open for nominees this upcoming year are President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and at least three Director positions.

Please feel free to nominate yourself or a colleague if you are interested in serving the Section in one of these capacities. Nominations should be submitted to Section Vice President Joe Natale (jpnatale@gmail.com) by March 18th.

I hope everyone is getting ready for spring and I am looking forward to "seeing" everyone at our March Section Meeting!

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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PAST PRESIDENTS*

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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:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Gregory Dunn, Michael Baker International

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, PennDOT

Contact Us:

President—Briana Pampuch, PE

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

Secretary — Jesse Gormley, PE

Pennoni, 1900 Market Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-254-7876; jgormley@pennoni.com

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

Section Outreach

Jesse Gormley, Greg Dunn

Staff Writers

Assunta Daprano, Lindsay Chateauvert

SEND COPY TO:

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

COPY DEADLINE FOR APRIL 2022 ISSUE MARCH 11, 2022

SCIENCE FAIRS -SEEKING JUDGES

As we have for many years, our Section will be offering Special Awards at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs. At the time of this printing the Fairs are being planned as an in-person event, returning to this format for the first time since 2019, and will be conducted on Wednesday, April 6 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.

Volunteer judges are needed for this effort. 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 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.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ENGINEERS WEEK – AND NOT VIRTUAL THIS TIME !!

We managed to have in-person events for **Delaware Valley Engineers Week** this year and we hope you were able to participate in them. Engineers Week was celebrated from **Thursday**, **February 17 through Saturday**, **February 26**. While nationally it is observed starting on February 19, locally we extended it two days to work for our events, and because we must like 9-day weeks (?).

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 17 and drew close to 150 participants. At this event our 2022 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, Anne Michelini of Covanta Energy, and our 2022 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year, Timothy Kolody of Remington & Vernick Engineers, were formally installed into these positions. The Young Engineers Social, conducted on February 22, was similarly well attended.

Our Section had two members cited for esteemed honors. Dr. Joseph Martin of Drexel University was inducted into the Delaware Valley Engineering Hall of Fame to recognize his various accomplishments and excellent record as an engineering instructor. Susan Best was recognized as one of two recipients of the Outstanding Service award for her extensive and tireless service to the Engineering community and profession.

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.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

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

Winter Mixer

February 2

YMF, along with the ASHE Delaware Valley Section Young Members Committee and MASITE, hosted the 2022 Joint Winter Mixer outdoors at the Blue Cross River Rink. The venue proved to be a great place to enjoy the winter weather while gathering with colleagues. It offered outdoor seating alongside the rink at the fire pits, skating, food and drink for all.

A healthy turnout enjoyed the evening as shown in the accompanying photos.





Winter Social

March 21

The traditional YMF Winter Social, at McGillin's Olde Ale House, is set to return, although technically just missing the official winter season by a day. You are invited to attend and participate, socialize, network, and enter our charity raffle drawing during our most anticipated event of the year!

Attendees must be 21+. Masks are strongly suggested (while not actively eating or drinking at the event.)

Reservations can be made at www.ymf-philly.org. Charity raffle tickets are also available for advance purchase on the website and will be sold until 7:00 PM at the Social. Winners will be announced live, though winners do not need to be present to claim prizes! We hope to see you there!

An Irish Blessing
May the roof above us never fall in,
and may we friends gathered below
never fall out.

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 Budischak

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 – Open

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 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.

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

It looks as if it will have to be virtual (again...), but **St. Patrick's Day** is upon us (it's like this happens every year...) In any event, for that "great day for the Irish", as the song goes, we at *THE NEWS* will cite 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. This can be a little dangerous, since this hands things off to your Editor, and down the proverbial rabbit hole we go. So we decided to do something a little different this time. First, we'll present some accurate facts about St. Patrick and his actual ties to the Engineering field. Second, we'll give you the LAME you may have expected, a little twist on one we did in 2014. (We didn't want to repeat the pandemic-driven dreary one from last year, but some would say that would indeed be Ireland). Thus,...

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).

The Story of St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Engineers

When you think of St. Patrick's Day, you probably think of crowds of jovial people wearing green. It's a day when even those who have even the smallest drop of Irish blood seem to develop an unmistakable brogue. However, despite the revelry and the abundance of green that comes every March 17, there is actually a more serious reason for celebrating St. Patrick. Sure, we all might have heard about the driving of the snakes out of Ireland, but did you know that St. Patrick is also considered the patron saint of Engineers?

The actual details of St. Patrick's life are somewhat murky, and over several thousand years of retelling, the details have undoubtedly been embellished or forgotten. But the most accepted version of events is that the man who was to become St. Patrick was born in what is now Scotland in the late fourth century AD. His father was a deacon in the Christian church, which at that time was widely accepted throughout Britain.

In his adult life, St. Patrick worked to spread Christianity throughout the British Isles. As part of this mission, he built churches—including the first churches in Ireland, as a matter of fact. Before his arrival in Ireland, builders used a dry masonry technique that involved stacking flat stones on top of each other, gradually overlapping the stones to enclose the walls. St. Patrick, however, was familiar with more Romanized forms of architecture, including

the use of lime mortar. It's also believed that he introduced the concept of arches to Irish builders, giving them the knowledge they needed to build the traditional stone churches that still dot the Irish countryside today. Because of this, the Catholic church has deemed him the patron saint of Engineers.

St. Patrick is usually represented in imagery with a serpent or snakes around his feet, referring to the legend of his driving the snakes out of Ireland with his shillelagh, a type of cane, as punishment for attacking him during a fast. Typically, his role in engineering and modernizing building methods isn't celebrated on St. Patrick's Day. At some engineering-focused academic institutions, however, his engineering legacy lives on. At Missouri University of Science and Technology, for instance, self-styled "Knights of St. Patrick" among the engineering faculty are well-known for celebrating his accomplishments through a series of traditions during the week of St. Patrick's Day.

So, the next time you don your finest green attire in honor of St. Patrick, give a nod to his engineering accomplishments as well.

Thanks to the Case School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University for this.

And now the LAME:

May the road rise to meet you
And not the other way around
'Cause that would involve you fallin'
On your face to the cold ground
May the wind be ever at your back
And the sun shine warm on your face
Let's hope it's rain fallin' on your fields
Hope the snow is done, for goodness grace
And until we meet again may the Good Lord
Hold you in the hollow of his hand
Happy St Patrick's day to you and good cheer
Hope the day for you is grand

And we'll leave you with a bonus (just like every good Irishman would) before we make our Irish exit.

Here's to you and yours, and to mine and ours.

And if mine and ours ever come across to you and yours, I hope you and yours will do as much for mine and ours, As mine and ours have done for you and yours!

*Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig! (ban ochth' thee na fay'le paw' drig) – Happy St. Patrick's Day!

TIME FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION OFFFICERS

It may seem like we just did this, but it is indeed time to do it once again. If you have an interest in being a part of the Section's governance, your opportunity may be knocking. In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Section, President Briana Pampuch will be appointing a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for all Section elective offices for the 2022-23 administrative year. The positions which will be open for nominees are President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and at least three Director positions.

Please feel free to nominate yourself or a colleague if you are interested in serving the Section in one of these capacities. We are looking for hardworking, dedicated volunteers who have fresh ideas. (Yes, we do have standards...)

Nominations should be submitted to Section Vice President Joe Natale (jpnatale@gmail.com) by March 18.















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.













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