



**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.



<http://www.asce-philly.org>

National ASCE Central Number:  
1-800-548-ASCE • Toll Free.

NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

**SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE  
2022-23**

Planning and scheduling topics and speakers for our Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is in the "final stretch" at this point. We have one event beyond those mentioned elsewhere in this edition, and that will be our annual **Spring Social**. This will take place on **Thursday, May 4** at the **DownTown Club** in **Center City**. More information will be forthcoming on it in the April edition of *THE NEWS*.

**2023 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

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

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

**ASCE PHILADELPHIA SECTION STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP**

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

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

**ASCE PHILADELPHIA SECTION MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP**

A minimum of one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded by the Section to a Civil Engineering student who is the child of an active Philadelphia Section member. The requirements are the same as that of the Student Scholarship except that all children of active Philadelphia Section members matriculated in any full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at an accredited college or university are eligible.

Application requirements and submittal deadline are the same as for the Student Scholarship. In addition, the applicant's cover letter should include parents name and ASCE ID number.

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

**MARCH DINNER MEETING**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023**

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

**SUBJECT:** Rehabilitation of Chestnut Street Bridges over 24th Street and CSX Railroad/Schuylkill River Trail

**SPEAKERS:** **Jessica Rehrig, PE**, Senior Project Manager, Alfred Benesch & Company and **Monica Harrower**, Cultural Resources Professional, PennDOT District 6

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, MARCH 4.** The cost per attendee is \$40 for ASCE Members (\$50 for non-members), with a half-price (\$20) cost for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by this deadline.

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

Reservations received after the deadline and "walk-ups" without prior reservations paying at the door will be charged \$50 (government agency employees and students will be charged the regular \$20 rate), and will be subject to acceptance on a space-available/standby basis.

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

**THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.** Walk-ins and anyone without a reservation will be handled on a space-available basis.

As always, guests will be welcome to attend the presentation without dinner at no charge. This will be subject to room capacity constraints.

**ACCESS AND PARKING:** Maggiano's is a short walk from SEPTA's Jefferson Regional Rail station and a half-block from bus routes, the Subway-Surface Trolleys and the Market-Frankford Line on Market Street. There is a parking garage directly above the restaurant for which validation can be offered for a reduced price.

The Chestnut Street Bridges Rehabilitation project consisted of seven bridges and two retaining wall structures located in Center City Philadelphia between 23rd

*Continued on page 2*

**APRIL SECTION MEETING**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023**

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 can't help but still feel a little blue over that Super Bowl loss against Kansas City. Losing 3 straight championships in less than 90 days with the Phillies (and the Union) can be tough for us diehard sports fans. But as Engineers, we're already plotting and calculating all the ways our teams can make another post season run.

I hope everyone enjoyed attending the **Engineers Week Events** hosted by the Delaware **Valley Engineers Week (DVEW) Committee** as much as I did! Their first event on **Thursday, February 16th** was the **Kick-Off Banquet & Awards Ceremony** and their second event on **Tuesday February 21st** was the **Young Engineers Social** at Dave & Busters. 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. The Section also held a **Happy Hour** on **February 27th** at **City Tap** to celebrate our **DVEY Archie Filshill** and **DVEY Hannah Iezzoni!** Congratulations Archie and Hannah!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our **March Section meeting** that will be held on **Thursday, March 9th**. Registration for the event is posted on our website and e-blasts. March's topic will be on the **Chestnut Street Bridge Reconstruction Project, SR 0003, Section CHL.**, presented by **Jessica Rehrig** (Alfred Benesch) and **Monica Harrower** (PennDOT District 6-0 Cultural Resources).

Looking ahead to our **April Joint Tech Group Section** meeting, we will be returning to our first in-person April meeting in 3 years on **April 13th** at **Villanova**. Our Tech Groups are finalizing their speakers and presentations. We will also be recognizing our **Past ASCE Section Presidents** and the **2023 Life Members**, as has been tradition prior to COVID. Keep an eye out for more information in our Section e-blast, newsletter and on our 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 2023-24 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 Jesse Gormley (JGormley@Pennoni.com)** by **March 17th**.

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

Best,  
Mohamed A. Elghawy, PE  
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section  
melghawy@trafficpd.com | 484-363-2472

## March Dinner Meeting

*Continued from page 1*

Street and 31st Street and on Schuylkill Avenue West from Market Street to Walnut Street. It also included the on- and off-ramps from/to I-76 near Walnut Street. The presentation will focus on the rehabilitation of the brick masonry arch bridges on Chestnut Street that span the CSX Railroad, Schuylkill River Park, and 24th Street.

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

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2022-23 SEASON

### PRESIDENT

Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Joseph Natale, DVRPC

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

### SECRETARY

Dennis Willson, McCormick Taylor

### TREASURER

Caroline "Cricket" Schreppler, Advantage Engineers

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Kevin Brown, TranSystems

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Katrina Budischak, McCormick Taylor, 2021-23

Assunta Daprano, AECOM, 2021-23

Michael DeVuono, Arcadis, 2022-24

Archie Filshill, Aero Aggregates, 2022-24

Daniel Gleason, PennDOT, 2021-23

Danielle Schroeder, Gannett Fleming, 2022-24

### PAST PRESIDENTS\*

Briana Pampuch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni

Kazi Hassan, CDM Smith

\*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

Thomas Kulesher, JMT

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, PennDOT

### Contact Us:

#### President — Mohamed Elghawy, PE

Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

Sanatoga Commons, 2500 E. High Street, Suite 650, Pottstown, PA 19464

610-326-3100, melghawy@trafficpd.com

#### Secretary — Dennis Wilson, PE

McCormick Taylor Associates

1818 Market Street, 16th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103

215-592-4200, dewilson@mccormicktaylor.com

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Editor of *THE NEWS*

Robert Wright

#### Section Outreach

Jesse Gormley, Dennis Wilson

#### SEND COPY TO:

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR APRIL 2023 ISSUE  
MARCH 17, 2023**

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Kevin Malley, Forum Editor  
Tim Abel, Forum President 2022-23  
Amtrak, timothyshaneabel@gmail.com

### WINTER SOCIAL

January 30



Once again, YMF gathered at McGillin's Olde Ale House, which hosted its Winter Social, and over 130 attendees participated! It was a great evening to make new connections with fellow young Civil Engineers and reconnect with our awesome network. Several great prizes were raffled off, and all had a good time.

A huge thank you to the generous local engineering companies and organizations that donated this year (listed below), raising over \$7500, which will be invested in local, non-profit organizations such as the Future City competition, Hub of Hope, Friends of the Wissahickon, and the Life Do Grow Farm throughout the year.

And an even bigger shout out to the planning committee for all of their work putting this event together, including **Kirsten Brown, Timothy Abel, Kayla Nelson, James Stanton, Christian Antisell, Kevin Walsh, Nooraldean Dabdoub, and Kerianne Chen.**

### ERYMC Conference

January 20-22

YMF was ably represented at the **2023 Eastern Region Younger Member Council (ERYMC)** conference conducted in Charlotte, NC. The YMF contingent included **CJ Medora, Dani Schroeder, Noor Dabdoub, Assunta Daprano, Kayla Nelson, Tim Abel, Matt Reese, Kirsten Brown, Dennis Wilson and Anthony Rizzo.** The long weekend included various leadership and networking-oriented programs for younger members and was well attended by representatives from Regions 1, 2, 4 and 5.

ERYMC was one of three Multi Region Leadership Conferences running concurrently in Charlotte over the January 20 weekend. MRLC's provide a venue for upcoming leaders to gain knowledge of the Society and their Region,



## SCIENCE FAIRS – HELP WANTED...

As we have for many years, our Section will be offering Special Awards at the **Delaware Valley Science Fairs**. The Fairs will be conducted on **Wednesday, April 5** at the **Greater Philadelphia Expo Center** in Oaks. Four Special Awards for individual student projects that have a Civil Engineering theme will be awarded, with two prizes for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

Help is needed in the form of volunteer judges. The judging will require you to spend most, if not all, of your day (approximately 8 AM to 3 PM) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. A short orientation session will be provided immediately 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](mailto:chris.rood@aecom.com)). You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website [www.dvsf.org](http://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.

## NATIONAL ASCE IN THE NEWS

At its January meeting, National ASCE's Board of Direction codified the following revisions to Life Member status, to take effect in 2028. These are provided here to help ensure those affected have accurate information:

**Qualifying status:** As of 2028, members must have 40 years of dues-paid Society-level ASCE membership to become Life Members.

**Annual dues:** Members who achieve Life Member status before December 31, 2027, will remain exempt. As of January 1, 2028, qualifying Life Members will receive a 50% discount.

**Service fee:** The \$50 fee is eliminated effective in 2028.

**Revised benefits:** Life Members in 2028 and beyond who choose to opt out of paying dues will retain ASCE membership status, but they will not receive ASCE member benefits (with the exception of ASCE insurance products). They will not be eligible to vote in Society elections. They may continue to participate in local ASCE activities at the section's or branch's discretion.

**Civil Engineering magazine:** All Life Members, paid and unpaid, will receive an online-only subscription to the magazine. Effective in 2028, Legacy Life Members (2027 and prior) can purchase an annual print subscription for \$75.

### YMF

*Continued from previous column*

interact with students, younger members, section, branch, and institute leaders, while gaining personal leadership skills and learning the importance of networking. Some highlights from the weekend included two of our members being selected for Younger Member Awards, **Dani Schroeder** (Outstanding YM in Government Relations) and **CJ Medora** (Outstanding Practitioner Advisor), as well as a young member social hosted by ERYMC Sponsors at Bank of America Stadium, and plenary sessions on non-verbal communication and presentation skills presented by **Brock E Barry, PE, PhD**, Director of Civil Engineering at the US Military Academy. Our local attendees capped off the weekend by gathering to cheer on the Philadelphia Eagles in their Divisional Round matchup against the New York Giants!

## SECTIONS GRADE PENNSYLVANIA INFRASTRUCTURE

The four Pennsylvania Sections (Central Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh) recently teamed to assess the conditions of the state's infrastructure. The Sections reviewed data on 15 separate categories, including reports, studies, surveys and various other materials from professional societies, non-profit associations, as well as government agencies at the local, state and federal levels. Based on this review, a detailed assessment of the condition of our infrastructure was developed, taking into account its performance, funding, capacity and future needs.

The end product of this assessment, as is also done nationally, was the 2022 Report Card for Pennsylvania Infrastructure. The Report Card is not meant to point out shortcomings in policy, performance and/or planning, and is not meant to be critical of efforts in areas that are admittedly difficult to manage and improve given constraints that are often beyond the control of those charged with the management and improvement of these facilities. Similarly, it is not designed to cite the failures of elected officials. It is intended to show at a glance where we are now and where we need to concentrate future resources, develop long-range financial and staffing plans, and anticipate measures which will preserve what we have so we can continue to use it rather than let it completely fail.

This effort represents the fifth such undertaking performed by the Pennsylvania Sections, prepared every four years starting in 2006.

In most categories, the grade has not appreciably changed. While much has been done to address conditions, facilities continue to age and resources have not been available to do much more than to play "catch-up."

The Report Card can be viewed and downloaded at <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/pennsylvania/>. Results from previous Report Cards are included on the website as well for comparison.

We thank Report Card Co-Chairs **David DiGioia** (Pittsburgh Section) and **Michelle Madzlan** (Central Pennsylvania Section) for their diligent efforts and spearheading the process. They were assisted by over 50 volunteers across Pennsylvania who performed the analyses and comparisons, gathered data, and completed reports to support the assigned grades. Those who participated in this effort include the following:

### Aviation

Kelly Hewton, Chair  
Richard Holes, Dan Ritter,  
Scott Stoddard, Yanyu Wang

### Bridges

Gregory Dunn, Chair  
Thomas Anthony, Belchaye  
Demisse, Elliot Fink, Nicholas  
Giglio, Andrew Hartmann,  
Danielle Schroeder, Ying Shi,  
James Stanley, Stevan Wilver

### Dams

Caitlin Grady, Chair  
Lauren Dennis, Loujin Daher,  
Kevin Grim, Alfred Uzokwe,  
Brad Zelonis, Qian Zhang

### Drinking Water

Joel Johnson, Chair  
Bevin Beaudet, Pengkun Liu

### Energy

Seth Blumsack, Chair  
Katie Bartolotta, Trevor  
Lykens, Mark Sanders,  
Hannah Wiseman

### Hazardous Waste

Angelo Waters, Chair

### Levees

Caitlin Grady, Chair  
Lauren Dennis

### Parks & Recreation

Matthew Reese, Chair  
Nicholas Bresser

### Ports

Michael Wagner, Chair  
Michael Scott, Robert Wright

### Rail

Christopher Menna, Chair  
Zachary Cerankowski,  
Briana Pampuch

### Roads

Robert Wright, Chair  
Christian Antisell, Daniel Bhaumik,  
Austin Eberly, Ajin Fatima, Nicholas Giglio,  
Avery Miller, James Miller, James Stanton

### Solid Waste

Jennifer Waters, Chair  
Ashwin Ranna, Gregory Scott

### Stormwater

Michael DeVuono, Chair  
Mark Bowen, Benjamin Deatrich,  
Keith Merl, P Isaac Quelly, Darien  
Schreffler, Adrienne Vicari, Qian Zhang

### Transit

Alexander Reiner, Chair  
Daniel Bhaumik, John Carollo,  
Justin Miller

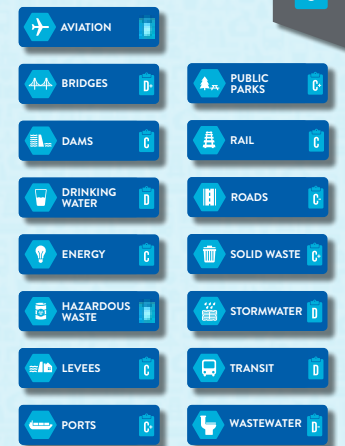
### Wastewater

Gregory Scott, Chair  
Bevin Beaudet, Jonathan Fischer,  
Keith Merl, Ashwin Ranna, John Wagman

### 2022 Report Card for Pennsylvania's Infrastructure

G.P.A.

C



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ENGINEERS WEEK – OUR SECTION TAKES THE TOP TWO “PRIZES”!

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley was cited from **Thursday, February 16 through Saturday, February 25**. While nationally it is observed starting on February 18, locally we extended it two days to work for our events, and because we must like base 9 or something (?).

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee (DVEWC) events were popular and successful, as usual. These included the two main celebrations – the **Opening Ceremony/Dinner**, to kick off E Week, was held on February 16 and drew about 130 participants. At this event our **2023 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, Section Member Archie Filshill**, and our

**2023 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year, Section Member Hannah Iezzoni**, were formally installed into these positions. The Young Engineers Social, conducted on February 21, was similarly well attended.

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

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We thank the 13 firms participating in our Section sponsorship program this season for their financial commitment and support, and are proud to note the number of firms is one more than the last edition (we welcome JMT to the "fold").

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](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org) for more details.

# Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig!\*

## Our Annual LAME... (and even LAMer, a Re-run...)

This St. Patrick's Day will definitely be different from those over the past three years, as we're all back to in-person events again and as we've learned, if there's an event that absolutely is not worth it if it has to be virtual, the "great day for the Irish" is it. Thus, to cite this momentous event, as we have been doing every year for quite a while, we at *THE NEWS* will cite all things Irish with our annual "Lightly Amusing Message from Eire" (also known as **LAME**) for your enjoyment.

As with our **Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message (LAYM)** for the Christmas season, the staff of *THE NEWS* made an executive decision to go it alone with no contest or outside solicitation for submissions. We know this comes at great risk, but to minimize the potential damage, we decided to re-run our offering from last year, a combined history lesson to balance out the lameness of the **LAME**. Along these lines, we are providing some accurate facts about St. Patrick and, ironically and appropriately, his 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 (so a double re-run). We want to raise your spirits to get away from the dreariness of the past couple of years, but some would say that said dreariness would indeed accurately depict the Emerald Isle. In any event...

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

### 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!  
*Also, at the time of your passing into the next life,  
may you be safely settled into Heaven a half-hour  
before the devil knows you've passed.*

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

## DUES – GETTING BEHIND!!!

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](https://www.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](https://www.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**

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# N-ASCE\*

## SNARKY MESSAGES ON VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS...?

Last October, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) decided that it wanted to be more creative in how it presented its safety messages on the over 200 variable message signs (VMS) on its highways. It was going to try a few new messages that were fun and catchy in the hopes that people will get and remember the message to drive safely.

The program received generally positive feedback from highway users, but the DOT was contacted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) after a month of having these messages posted and was told to remove them.

Some of the banned messages were:

- Don't Cruise Boozed
- We'll Be Blunt – Don't Drive High
- Get Your Head Out of Your Apps
- Slow Down – This Ain't Thunder Road

FHWA did not provide any explanation for its directive. This did not sit well with New Jersey's congressional representatives when they learned of it and they collectively contacted FHWA to demand the rationale behind this directive. The issue remains in discussion and has not yet been resolved, mainly because of the installation of new congressional members, but it will be interesting to see how this plays out.

Apparently this has not extended to other states, such as our own Commonwealth (which posted this message during the holiday season, "Only Rudolph Should Drive Lit – Plan a Sober Ride"), Delaware ("Who You Gonna Call? No One – You're Driving!") and Utah ("It's a Lane, Not a Birthright – Let Them Merge").

Thanks to *Roads and Bridges* for this information.

## THE EARLIEST U.S. PRESIDENTS DIDN'T WEAR PANTS

This should've probably been in our February edition, to cite President's Day, as well as Washington's Birthday (as we know our first President was an Engineer). But, we'll pass it along a month late. The very first American Presidents — George Washington included — led the country through the American Revolution and its earliest days without wearing a single pair of pants. That's because the Founding Fathers actually wore breeches, pairs of tight-fitting men's bottoms that cut off at the knee. (Their calves were covered with knee-high stockings.) Breeches were a status symbol; full-length pantaloons were generally reserved for working folk who needed more ease to complete manual labor, which was difficult to do in custom-fitted breeches. The knee-length items were also the pinnacle of men's fashion because they were on-trend in Europe; Americans generally kept up with overseas styles, in part because the Colonies initially couldn't mass-produce clothing (for some time, textiles were the top import from England).

Another revolution — in France — eventually led Americans to turn their backside on breeches around the start of the 19th century. French political groups such as the *sans-culottes* (literally meaning "without knee breeches") stylized longer trousers as the apparel of the everyday man, disparaging breeches as the clothing of the wealthy elite. For a while, American Presidents continued to stick with the cropped breeches, though pants slowly crept into everyday style. Americans wouldn't see the country's highest leader don full-length pants until 1825, when John Quincy Adams became the sixth President — and the first to be inaugurated while wearing a pair of trousers. (He also ditched the powdered wig.)

\*N-ASCE – *not always something concerning Engineering*

## 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](mailto:info@asce-philly.org) or through our Section Secretary, Dennis Wilson (contact information is provided on page 2).

ASCE Brochure – *Katrina Lawrence Budischak*  
 ASCE National Conference (2026) – *Chris Menna*  
 Audit – *Jesse Gormley*  
 Awards – *Bob Wright*  
 Budget and Finance – *Cricket Schreppler*  
 College Scholarship – *Danielle Schroeder*  
 Communications – *Jesse Gormley*  
 Continuing Education – *Joe Natale*  
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – *Assunta Daprano*  
 Government Relations – *Archie Filshill*  
 History and Heritage – *Joe Natale*  
 Humphrey Fund – *John Zarsky*  
 Membership – *Kevin Brown*  
 Mural – *Angelo Waters*  
 Nominating (for Board Positions) – *Moe Elghawy*  
 Program – *Joe Natale*  
 Registration and Payment – *Mike DeVuono*  
 Society Relations – *Cathy Farrell, Bob Wright*  
 Spring Social – *Troy Illig*  
 Subsidiary Groups – *Jesse Gormley*  
 Construction Management – *Bob Wright*  
 Delaware Valley GeolInstitute – *Jim Beideman*  
 Environmental and Water Resources – *Eric Lindhult*  
 Structural Engineering Institute – *Jack Cardinal*  
 Transportation & Development Institute – *Bill Thomsen*  
 Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute – *Nha Truong*  
 Younger Member Forum – *Tim Abel*

## Dues Due Now

*Continued from page 3*

(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](http://asce.org).

# SECTION AGENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

As you may be aware, our Section offers a Section Sponsorship Program to allow firms to help provide our various activities and programs for our membership and the Civil Engineering community in the Philadelphia area. This involves

a financial commitment which is reflected in the placement of the participant's logo and business card in *THE NEWS* and on the Section's website, along with several other benefits. Additionally, we have established an informal

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



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