

AND AWAY WE GO...

If this title makes you think of Jackie Gleason, then you're getting a little older than you'd like to think or admit...

And even though it seems that it's too soon for us to be writing this, we see by the calendar that our season is about to wrap up. As strange as things have been lately, and after another successful season, our Section's extended summer vacation is nearly upon us, which means that *THE NEWS* goes away for a few months. We will return with new editions in September.

If we're given the "nod" from our Board, we'll take some time from the garden and other pursuits to pull together a short summer issue and update probably around Independence Day. (You are certainly welcome to convince the Board to not let this happen...) Until then, our intrepid and dedicated staff, somehow led by our mediocre Editor, will take a well-earned break, as is our tradition, despite the opinion that many of you have that we would actually need to do something in order to take a break from it. (Outrages can be directed to newseditor@asce-philly.org.)

Thus, this will be the last full edition of *THE NEWS* until our new season starts up in the fall. We wish you a good summer, we hope everyone gets back to some semblance of normal, and we'll welcome you back in September.



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.

MAY "VIRTUAL" MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Meeting Presentation – 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM

SUBJECT: Schuylkill Crossing at Grays Ferry

SPEAKERS: Joseph Syrnick, PE, Schuylkill River Development Corporation/Schuylkill Banks; **William Gural, PE**, Philadelphia Department of Streets; **Tyler Barile, PE**, Philadelphia Department of Streets

RESERVATION DEADLINE – THURSDAY, MAY 7. 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.

As we have had to postpone our planned April multi-topic meeting and would like to provide a meeting for our members while remaining within the constraints of social distancing and current guidance on gatherings, we have decided to try a "virtual" meeting in order to do this. When you register you will receive information and instructions on how to access this meeting on your computer or device.

The presentation will cover the conceptual development, design and construction of the Schuylkill

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SECTION EVENTS POSTPONED

As you are no doubt aware, our Section and Technical Groups have had to postpone upcoming planned events given current restrictions on large gatherings and requirements for social distancing. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will continue to make judgement calls and recommendations based on federal and state direction and guidance regarding hosting planned and upcoming events.

Our Section leadership holds the health and safety of all our members as our top priority. For events that we determine should not be held as planned, we will send out a cancellation notice with the intention of rescheduling them at a future date. We ask for your patience as we continue to navigate through this situation and urge our membership to follow guidance provided by our government and leadership to stay safe and healthy.

If you have any questions regarding an event and/or your attendance at one, please contact the event contact person listed on your registration and/or the event website.

We will keep you up to date through our regular e-mail blasts, website notices, and *THE NEWS* throughout the remainder of this summer.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this unprecedented and ever-changing situation.

SPRING SOCIAL UPDATE

One of the events we unfortunately have had to postpone is our Section's annual **Spring Social and Awards Dinner**, which was scheduled for May 14. The good news is the Social has been rescheduled for **Thursday, September 24**, and will be held at our planned location, **Tendenza**, in **Northern Liberties**. We will accordingly have our 2020 Section Award recipients recognized and congratulated at that time, and will welcome and install our incoming Officers and Board of Directors and thank those who have served in these positions over the past year. As always it will be an enjoyable and memorable event, and we hope you can join us to share in the festivities. More information and reservation details will be provided on this later this summer. Please watch for this in upcoming e-mail blasts and the Summer edition of *THE NEWS*.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In years past, the Section's transition into a new year has been a normal and smooth process. Typically, we wrap up our technical events in April and host our Annual Spring Social in May. The social event lets us celebrate our award winners and gives us an opportunity to introduce our new Board members for the following season. This year, however, COVID-19 is continuing to wreak havoc in our communities and is redefining what normal is. Families all over the world are impacted and my heart goes out to those who lost someone in this COVID-19 battle. After weeks of stay-at-home orders and social distancing, we are all adjusting to this new virtual world. We do not know what history has written for us, but for now, we will continue to adapt and stay ahead of this pandemic.

Before we move on to next year, let's take a moment to reflect on a successful 2019-20 season. The Section kicked off its technical meetings in October presenting on "Edge Hill Road/Tyson Avenue reconstruction project in Montgomery County, PA." The November meeting topic covered the "Runway Rehabilitation at Trenton-Mercer Airport in Trenton, NJ." In December, we participated in the Multi-Society dinner meeting led by the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia where we discussed "Resiliency." In January 2020, we collaborated with American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) and presented "Scudder Falls Bridge Replacement Project Update." We took a break in our technical meetings in February to celebrate Engineers Week's social events and continued in March with the "Construction of Comcast Technology Center." These events only account for 25% of the 20 professional development hours (PDH) that were offered to our members last year. The remaining 75% of the PDH-worthy events were organized and hosted by our Tech Groups, including Structural Engineering Institute (SEI), Geotechnical Institute (DVGI), Construction Management (CM), Transportation and Urban Development (T&DI), Environmental and Water Resource Group (EWR) and the Younger Member Forum (YMF).

The Section was proud to be a part of the Eastern Regional Younger Member Conference (ERYMC) and Multi-Regional Leadership Conference (MRLC), which was held in downtown Philadelphia. ERYMC and MRLC 2020 brought more than 500 Engineers and students from across the country to the City of Brotherly Love & Sisterly Affection. This conference set a new standard for regional conferences and it would not have been possible without the leadership of **Kevin Brown** and **Joe Natale**. The two co-chairs, along with the ERYMC planning committee, worked tirelessly to pull off an amazing 4-day conference.

If you are frequent reader of *THE NEWS*, you may have noticed our listing of the Section Committees. In addition to our Section officers and Board members, we are lucky to have numerous volunteers who spearhead or provide support to various committees. The committee members' effort eases the responsibility of all volunteers involved in the yearly operation.

My year as Section President flew by; I feel like it was just yesterday when I was handed the gavel by **Angelo Waters** at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. Leading this Section feels effortless and that is because of the amazing Board members who supported me the entire year. I was blessed to have people that are great leaders, passionate, strong communicators, and self-motivated. I could not have done it without you, so thank you!

To our upcoming President, **Jen Reigle**, I don't need to wish you luck. I know you will do an amazing job of leading the Section and if you ever need anything, you know where to find me.

Thank you to all our Section members for your continued support!

Kazi M. Hassan, PE
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section
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MAY MEETING

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Crossing at Grays Ferry, also known as the "Swing Bridge", which will carry the Schuylkill River Trail across its namesake river from the Grays Ferry Crescent to Bartram's Mile in South and Southwest Philadelphia. This effort utilizes a former railroad swing bridge adjacent to the Grays Ferry Avenue Bridge to provide this crossing and was developed as a unique and unusual adaptation of an unused and abandoned structure to be repurposed to provide continuity for the Trail.

This presentation is eligible for one Professional Development Hour (PDH).

Leadership consists of nothing but taking responsibility for everything that goes wrong and giving your subordinates credit for everything that goes well.

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION—2019-20 SEASON

PRESIDENT

Kazi M. Hassan, Pennoni

PRESIDENT ELECT

Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni

VICE PRESIDENT

Briana Earle, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

SECRETARY

Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Jeanien Wilson, Philadelphia Dept. of Streets

TREASURER

Joseph Natale, DVRPC

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Caroline "Cricket" Schreppler, Advantage Engineers

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Andrew Bechtel, College of New Jersey

DIRECTORS

Kevin Brown, Urban Engineers, 2019-21

Michael DeVuono, Arcadis, 2019-20

Gregory Dunn, Michael Baker International, 2019-21

Spencer Finch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Sciences, 2018-20

Tania O'Kane, HNTB, 2019-21

Nha Truong, Ernst & Young, 2018-20

PAST PRESIDENTS*

Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers, Inc.

Cathy Farrell, HNTB

Guy DiMartino, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

**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.*

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
SUMMER 2020 ISSUE
JUNE 26, 2020**

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Assunta Daprano, Forum Editor

Jesse Gormley, Forum President 2019-20

Pennoni Associates

jgormley@pennoni.com

FE EXAM PANEL – DREXEL UNIVERSITY

MARCH 3

YMF visited Drexel University to discuss with students the importance of taking and passing the **Fundamentals of Engineering (FE)** exam, while explaining the exam's role in the journey to becoming a licensed Professional Engineer (PE). YMF volunteers **Dani Schroeder** (Pennoni), **Tyler Farley** (TPD), and **Paige Glassman** (TPD) kicked off the night with introductions and a brief presentation outlining the exam, testing procedures, time constraints, topics of study, and providing useful ASCE and NCEES study tools. The volunteers then joined in with several students who have also already passed the exam as a panel to field any other questions students had. The panel not only took this time to answer students' questions, but to also share their firsthand experiences and provide quality advice to prepare, perform, and conquer the exam. YMF would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and the Drexel University Student Chapter for organizing and hosting this informative event.



WORK FROM HOME PANEL – DREXEL UNIVERSITY

APRIL 15

YMF returned to Drexel, this time via Zoom, to discuss with students how our workforce has coped with the COVID-19 stay at home order. After introductions, an open discussion followed with the students and YMF volunteers **Kevin Brown** (Urban), **Kirsten Brown** (Urban), **Assunta Daprano** (AECOM), and **Paige Glassman** (TPD) on a variety of topics including sick time, working from home set-ups, social distancing on the job, and focusing strategies. YMF would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and the **Drexel University Student Chapter** for organizing and hosting this informative event.

2020 SECTION AWARD NOMINEES – CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Section Awards will be presented at our **Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance**, which will be conducted on **September 24** (please see the separate article on this). This year's awardees are:

- **Darin Gatti**, Philadelphia Department of Streets – Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Dennis Wilson**, McCormick Taylor – Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Robert Lund**, SEPTA – Transportation Engineer of the Year
- **Sarah McInnes**, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- **Gregory Dunn**, Michael Baker International – Structural Engineer of the Year
- **Louis Belmonte**, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – Government Service Award
- **Lindsay Chateauvert**, Amtrak, and **Danielle Schroeder**, Pennoni – Community Outreach and Service Award

We hope you will join us at the Social to honor our Awardees for this year.

More information on our awardees will be included in our October edition of *THE NEWS*.

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, chairs and members for this season is provided below. We would like to thank all of these folks 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, **Mohamed Elghawy** (contact information is provided on page 2). Committee assignments may change for the coming season and this will be sorted out over the summer.

Audit – Briana Earle (chair), Cathy Farrell, Pat McCourt, Joe Natale, AnnMarie Vigilante

Awards – Bob Wright (chair), Carol Martsolf, Allan Moore, Joe Natale

Engineers Week Hall of Fame Recognition – Ruben David

Budget and Finance – Joe Natale (chair)

Civil Engineers in Government – Jeanien Wilson (chair), Ruben David, Bob Wright

College Scholarship – Andrew Bechtel (chair), Joe Natale, Angelo Waters, Bob Wright

Communications – Mohamed Elghawy (chair)

E-mail Outreach – Jeanien Wilson

Webmaster – Greg Dunn

Social Media – Joe Natale, Michael DeVuomo

Newsletter – Bob Wright (editor), Assunta Daprano, Lindsay Chateauvert

Sponsorship – Bob Wright

Continuing Education – Briana Earle (chair)

Humphrey Fund – John Zarsky (chair); Ruben David, Joe Platt (trustees); Mohamed Elghawy, Kazi Hassan (members)

Membership – Andrew Bechtel (chair)

Mural – Angelo Waters (chair), Ruben David, Bob Wright

Nominating (for Board Positions) – Kazi Hassan (chair), Greg Dunn, Troy Illig, Jen Reigle, Angelo Waters, Bob Wright

Program – Jen Reigle (chair)

Venue Coordination – Troy Illig

Check-in/Name Tags – Nha Truong (chair), Mike DeVuomo, Greg Dunn, Kazi Hassan, Tom Kulesher, Tania O'Kane, Tony Rauso, Jeanien Wilson, Wendy Yang

Society Relations – Cathy Farrell (chair)

Region 2 Governors – Carol Martsolf, Jack Raudenbush

Region 2 Younger Member Representative – Joe Natale

PA Council – Cathy Farrell, Bob Wright

Legislative Affairs – Spencer Finch

Spring Social – Troy Illig (chair), Briana Earle, Kazi Hassan, AnnMarie Vigilante, Jenn Walsh, Jeanien Wilson, Bob Wright

Subsidiary Groups – Briana Earle

Construction Management – Dennis MacBride

Delaware Valley GeoInstitute – Russ Preuss

Environmental and Water Resources – Eric Lindhult

Structural Engineering Institute – Dan Kucz

Transportation & Urban Development – Bill Thomsen

Younger Member Forum – Jesse Gormley

SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

LLOYD RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia proudly recognized **Herman W. Lloyd** for his **Outstanding Service to Engineering**. This award was presented to Herman at the Engineers Week Opening Ceremony on February 13.

Herman recently joined Traffic Planning & Design, Inc., as a Vice President, where he focuses on further expansion of the firm's Philadelphia presence, continuation of relationships with current clients, pursuit of new clients and relationships, and leadership of diversity and inclusion (D&I) efforts. He began his career in the AEC industry more than 50 years ago, during a time when diversity was not valued as it is today, starting in 1962 as a Construction Inspector at the Pennsylvania Department of Highways (PDH), now the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn-DOT). During his 29-year career with the State, he rose through the ranks in the District 6-0 Construction Unit to Assistant District Construction Engineer. He retired from PennDOT in January 1991, and he is still the only African American to ever serve in the position of Assistant District Construction Engineer. Following his retirement, he spent 28 years at two local consulting engineering and construction management firms.

Herman's prior professional organization leadership accomplishments include service in various capacities with the Delaware Valley Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), culminating in Section President (1998-99), as a Board Member for Pennsylvanians for Transportation Solutions (PenTrans), a member and strong supporter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, and a Past Chair for the prestigious Philadelphia March of Dimes Transportation, Building and Construction Awards Luncheon, having served as Chair of the event in 2016 and 2017. He also serves as a trusted advisor for the Philadelphia Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials and he received the 2015 COMTO Executive of the Year Award. He is a member of the ACEC/PA Diversity & Inclusion Committee and is a member of the ACEC-DPC Diversity & Inclusion Working Group. He is also a close associate with the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, currently working with the Supplier Diversity Roundtable.

Herman holds a bachelor's degree in Organizational Management from Eastern University and an associate degree in Civil Engineering from Delaware County Community College. On the personal side, he is a life-long member of Calvary Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, where he serves on its Board of Directors. He and his wife, Mattie, have been married for 57 years, and have four children, along with a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We congratulate Herman on this esteemed honor.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

BRADY JOINS BERGMANN

Section Past President **Tom Brady** has joined national architecture, engineering and planning firm Bergmann as Senior Project Manager, Atlantic Infrastructure. He brings over 26 years of experience in various aspects of highway design and project management, from preliminary studies to final design. His expertise includes horizontal and vertical geometry, interchange design, Right-of-Way and Construction Plans, Signing and Pavement Marking Plans, Traffic Control Plans, cost estimates, utility and agency coordination and PUC submissions.

Tom has a vast range of PennDOT experience, including serving as a project manager and lead engineer on several projects. He will work out of Bergmann's office in Conshohocken and assist the firm as it continues to grow across eastern Pennsylvania. He will take on leadership of the firm's current work in PennDOT District 4 and will provide ample growth opportunities of other staff.

Tom is a Professional Engineer licensed in Pennsylvania and is a member of the American Society of Highway Engineers in addition to our Section. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University along with a subsequent Masters degree from Villanova University. We wish Tom good luck in his new endeavor.

**N-ASCE*****THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC OF 1793 AND ITS IMPACT ON THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The unusual situation we find ourselves in at present has been experienced before – maybe not in our lifetimes, but... You may have heard references to the “Spanish Flu” outbreak of 1918, but there were others.

Philadelphia was laid out as a planned city by William Penn and Thomas Holme. Having witnessed the aftermath of the Great Fire of London, Penn envisioned an orderly, verdant city with a green space in each quadrant. Penn and Holme expected balanced settlement on the banks of both the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers. Thwarting this orderly vision right from the beginning, the city developed exclusively along the Delaware River with the greatest density closest to the port. The precisely laid out square parcels were subdivided and alleys were cut into the uniform street grid.

The density close to the river had deadly implications when mosquitoes carrying yellow fever stowed away on ships arriving from the Caribbean. Sailors residing in a boarding house near the port were the first to fall to the disease. During the summer and fall of 1793, nearly 10 percent of the city's population perished. Hardest hit were the

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION—2020-21 SEASON

The slate of Section officers and Board members was adopted by the Board at its April meeting and these individuals will be officially inducted and sworn in at the Spring Social. They are as follows:

PRESIDENT

Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni

PRESIDENT ELECT

Briana Earle, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

VICE PRESIDENT

Mohamed Elghawry, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

SECRETARY

Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

TREASURER

Joseph Natale, DVRPC

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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Scott Cepietz, Michael Baker International, 2020-22

Michael DeVuo, Arcadis, 2020-21

Gregory Dunn, Michael Baker International, 2019-21

Thomas Kulesher, JMT, 2020-22

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Cathy Farrell, HNTB

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In addition, these folks will serve in appointed positions:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Jeanien Wilson, Philadelphia Dept. of Streets

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Caroline “Cricket” Schreppler, Advantage Engineers

We wish these brave and generous folks our collective good luck for the coming season.

poor who could not afford to flee to safer territory in the city's outskirts. The streets and alleys closest to the wharf were the “red” zones. Thus the built environment significantly impacted the spread of the disease. The yellow fever epidemic likewise influenced the built environment.

One of the five squares provided in Penn's plan for the city was Southeast Square. It was originally a potter's field, across what is now 6th Street from the Walnut Street Jail. During the Revolutionary War hundreds of soldiers killed in battles were buried in the field. When the yellow fever hit, an additional 1300 victims were interred there, to the point that the city declared it full to capacity. A block away, in 1797, William Sansom bought land at auction on which he constructed the city's first purposely built set of uniform row houses. Designed by the country's first certified architect Benjamin Latrobe,

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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.

N-ASCE*

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Sansom Row was also the first speculative development in the city. The buildings at 705 and 707 Walnut Street remain today.

Affluent people moved to these homes and then demanded that the former potter's field be transformed into a park. The City complied, installing walkways and over 200 trees, and in 1825 the park was renamed Washington Square. The Walnut Street Jail was demolished in 1838. On a parcel of the former prison's footprint, the Athenaeum of Philadelphia was constructed in 1847 as the first Italianate building in the city. Thus, Washington Square was destined to become something more than a potter's field, but the yellow fever epidemic certainly sped up the timetable.

Following the devastation of 1793 and several smaller yellow fever outbreaks later that decade, the Philadelphia Board of Health was estab-

“CLASS OF 2020” LIFE MEMBERS

Life Membership in ASCE is a major milestone in a member's tenure. To achieve Life Membership, one must have reached the age of 65, paid dues for a minimum of 30 years, and have 10 years' continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Membership. And, even better, Life Members are exempt from dues and need only pay a small service fee to receive *Civil Engineering* magazine.

Our Section welcomes 16 newly-minted Life Members as our “Class of 2020”:

Susan Best
Jack Bienenfeld
John Brun
Michael Byle
Bruce Grier
William Grosskopf
Eugene Gruber
D. Kirk Harman
Richard Horenberger
Michael Marquis
John McElroy
Martina Moore
Paul Pettit
Roman Pronczak
Chris Rood (Section Past President)
Richard Tannahill

Last month, we had reported that there 15 new Life Members, but since then we were advised that there is one additional, Susan Best, who was inadvertently omitted from the list provided by ASCE National. We have looked into this and the correction was made.

We had intended to cite these esteemed individuals in person, as we usually do, at our April Section Meeting. With that being postponed, we will reschedule the presentation of the Life Member certificates to these individuals for our rescheduled Spring Social in September (see the separate article on this) so we can honor them accordingly in person.

We congratulate our incoming Life Members on this honorable accomplishment and thank them for their long-time support as Section members.

lished. In 1799, the board ordered the construction of a complex of buildings on an island in the Delaware River about seven miles south of the city, in Tinicum Township. The Lazaretto was the nation's first inspection and quarantine station. Ships bound for the port of Philadelphia were required to stop there for examination of both cargo and the people on board. Sick sailors and passengers were quarantined in the facility's hospital before proceeding to the city. Those who died were buried at the site's graveyard. Although not as well-known as Ellis Island, the Lazaretto was also once the leading point of entry for immigrants to the United States. At the turn of the 20th century, it was closed as a quarantine station and used for several other purposes since then. In 2006, a compromise was reached to maintain the site's buildings while also allowing for development on the land. It is the oldest surviving quarantine station in the United States.



PA REPORT CARD CATEGORY OF THE MONTH: ENERGY

Pennsylvania benefits from having diverse, reliable and affordable energy resources, and utilizes those resources to rank third in the country in terms of total energy production. The state has a solid foundation of energy generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure that is continuing to transform and react to market forces. However, Pennsylvania must also contend with increasing energy dependence and reliability requirements, aging infrastructure, and physical and cyber threats. While a portion of Pennsylvania's Electric Distribution Companies have been challenged with meeting reliability standards in recent years, the infrastructure appears to meet the current needs. It is clear that collaborative involvement among utilities, electric generation companies, regulators, and policymakers will be required to ensure investments and proposed projects address future system needs, such as renewables and evolving industry trends, while considering the impacts to affordability.

Compelling Statistic: Four of the state's 11 electric distribution companies failed to meet reliability performance metrics set by state regulators.

In addition to the Board of Health, a Watering Committee was established in the aftermath of the yellow fever epidemic. In 1799, a steam-powered water treatment system was designed by Benjamin Latrobe. His innovation established the nation's first municipal water supply, fed from a pumping station at Centre Square (now the location of City Hall). After finishing this project, Latrobe was hired by his friend Thomas Jefferson to oversee the construction of the US Capitol. He also designed the White House portico and several other DC landmarks. Ironically, he died of yellow fever in 1820 after completing a water system for New Orleans.

By 1811, the Centre Square station could no longer meet the needs of the growing city. A new steam powered pumping station was erected, this time near the Schuylkill River. The Fairmount Water Works pumped water from the river into a reservoir on Fair Mount. Gravity fed pipes sent water to the rest of the city. The Water Works was both an architectural and technological wonder. City residents and visitors flocked to the site to admire the beautiful setting, the picturesque architecture, and the impressive technology. During the 19th century, it was second only to Niagara Falls as the nation's most popular tourist

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N-ASCE*

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attraction. In the 1850s, Fairmount Park was established in order to protect the segment of the Schuylkill River's watershed that provided clean water to the city.

The Fairmount Water Works and the City's water distribution system were sufficiently advanced for their time that they were recognized as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1974, the second of four Landmarks to be designated by ASCE in our Section's coverage area (the first was the Frankford Avenue Bridge in 1970, with others being the City Plan of Philadelphia in 1996 and City Hall in 2006). The Water Works additionally gained status as a National Historic Landmark from the federal government in 1976.

The biggest impact on Philadelphia's built environment is, however, what did not happen in the years following the yellow fever epidemic. In 1793, the city was the financial center of the United States. The first Bank of the United States and the first stock exchange were located here. Its port was among the busiest in North America. After yellow fever, however, other cities embargoed goods coming from Philadelphia and merchants were wary of sending cargo to the city. In 1796, New York overtook Philadelphia in the value of imports. A year later, it exceeded the city in exports.

Additionally, in 1793 Philadelphia was the capital of both Pennsylvania and the US. When yellow fever struck, the federal and state governments fled to places like Germantown and Grays Ferry. George Washington's household moved to the Deshler Morris House, the so-called Germantown White House. In 1799, the state capital was moved to Lancaster, and the national capital moved to Washington, DC a year later. If Philadelphia had become an economic powerhouse akin to New York City, or the national capital like Washington, it is unlikely that it would have developed as the walkable, neighborhood-based, blue collar, and proudly parochial city that it is today.

It is worth considering how different our city might look if scientists had not taken until 1900 to understand that mosquitoes, not unclean water, was the cause of yellow fever.

Thanks to Hidden City for this information.

*N-ASCE – Not always something concerning Engineering...

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

– George Washington Carver



AERO
AGGREGATES
Ultra-Lightweight Aggregate
Made from 100% Post-Consumer Glass



Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL
We Make a Difference
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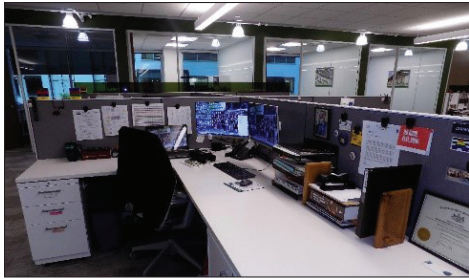
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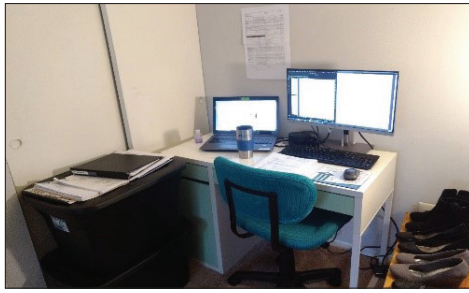
ADJUSTING TO THE “NEW NORMAL”

In the midst of the current shutdown situation with COVID-19, many of us have had to quickly adjust to working remotely, most often from home. We are indeed fortunate that today's technology allows this to happen, and we are indeed thankful that we are still able to work and make a living (a “luxury” many do not enjoy these days), but for a number of us it has been a transition and adjustment that had to be made very quickly. **Danielle Schroeder**, an Associate Bridge Engineer at Pennoni in Center City and the chair of the K-12 Outreach Committee on our Younger Member Forum, was kind enough to share her experiences with us.



Pennoni has taken measures to address safety, community concerns, and continue to meet our clients' needs while making decisions with the health of our employees at the forefront. I work in Pennoni's Philadelphia Transportation Group, and we've made the transition to work from home for the time being. I have been working remotely from my apartment since March 17 and, so far, it has been pretty smooth transition. To keep connected throughout the workday and troubleshoot various problems, we have been using Microsoft Teams. Our Bridge group has implemented 30-minute check-ins every other day with the entire group to keep us on track and we each have scheduled blocks of time on our calendars for each project we are working on so everyone on our team can see what we are scheduled to work on.

One of the main positives of working from home is I have a shorter distance to fill up my water bottle, so I've been drinking more water than usual. I also love the ability to sing along to my music (which wouldn't fly in the office!) and the extra hour and half of my day that I don't have to spend commuting to and from the office I have been using to tackle various apartment cleaning tasks. Though it hasn't completely been



a perfect setup, I have been able to keep up with work to meet deadlines. About mid-way through the first week, I started to miss my L-shaped office desk where I was able to spread out associated papers to what I was working on (photo at left). From what I currently had at my apartment, I improvised a side table from some plastic storage containers that I use to hold off-season clothes (photo above).

Of course, working from home comes with its own set of challenges. I have learned the importance of taking breaks, especially to go outside and get some fresh air. I typically bought my lunch most days at work, so with this transition I have been instead taking a short walk either at lunch time or after work hours. I was also missing the “water cooler” conversations that would naturally happen throughout the week in the office. To mend this, the “Fun Committee” for our group decided to have some dedicated posts throughout the week, including one day asking everyone to post a photo (or recipe) to something they were eating throughout that day. A colleague started a #FitnessFriday post where he encouraged each person do 20 pushups every 2 hours as to not interrupt productivity and provide a much needed break. I am not quite sure how many actually completed the pushups but it led to some fun and much needed conversation in our group.

While I have the luxury to be able to work from home, there are some who cannot, including many within the Engineering profession such as those manufacturing lifesaving medicines. I wanted to close out this post by thanking those who are still traveling to work every day during this international crisis. Having a partner in the healthcare profession, I would also like to remind everyone in these unprecedented times to be alert and not anxious and follow the associated guidelines published by the CDC and WHO.

DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS CANCELLED

Among the many events that had to be cancelled as a result of requirements for social distancing was the **Delaware Valley Science Fairs**, which had been scheduled for April 8. While the Fairs has decided to go forward and continue to provide judging for a number of its usual awards and prizes, it will do so virtually. As this process will be a little more complicated and time-consuming than in years past, the Fairs decided to cancel the Special Awards component of judging

to simplify the situation somewhat. Unfortunately, this affected our Section's participation in the Fairs, as we have offered our Special Awards to four individual student projects that have a Civil Engineering theme, with two prizes for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12, and have done so for over 25 years. Thus, we have no Special Awards winners to report.

We are hopeful we can return to our “normal” Special Awards judging and prizes next year.

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As you have seen, the Section Sponsorship Program was once again popular this season, with 13 firms taking part and supporting us. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor logos have also been included in a special Sponsors section of our website, where a direct link is provided to each sponsor's website to allow folks to easily visit and review potential employment openings and positions. In addition, their business cards are published in each edition of *THE NEWS* to show their commitment and support.

As usual, we will be contacting current sponsors later this summer (after our hiatus) to see if they will be returning as sponsors for next season. And, if you're not among this group but would like to be, please contact **Bob Wright** at newseditor@asce-philly.org for more details and information.

AND THANKS TO OUR OTHER SPONSORS!

In addition to our Section Sponsorship Program, our Technical Group for the geotechnical specialty, the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI), has established a sponsor network of its own to help support its programs, student awards and scholarship. Its sponsors' cards are included in each edition of its newsletter, which can be accessed at the Group's website, www.dvgi.org. These 32 (!) firms are the following:

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