



ASCE
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

Vol 96-9

Our 111th Year

May 2024

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE



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>

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NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

AND WITH THIS, WE CLOSE OUT ANOTHER SEASON...

Following our April meeting, our Section Dinner series wraps up, with only the Spring Social remaining as a full-Section event. It is always hard to believe that we arrived at this point seemingly very quickly, and it seems as though every time we write this, it's too soon for us to be writing it. But the calendar tells us otherwise, along with the warmer weather and longer days. With our Section's extended summer vacation nearly upon us, that means that *THE NEWS* goes away for a few months. (Please try to contain your disappointment...) Thus, this marks the last edition of the current season. We will return with new issues starting in September. As we have done over the past several years, we will additionally likely take a respite from our respite in early July and crank out a short summer edition.

Until then, it's time to shut down the "machinery" and take what we at *THE NEWS* will call a well-earned break after this edition is complete. We have a feeling some of you might be wondering that taking a break from something means that that something resulted in accomplishments or useful products, and we'll certainly leave that to individual opinion and judgement. You are welcome to direct any outrages to newseditor@asce-philly.org. We aren't sure when we'll read these (after all, it is our break), but we promise that we will read them at some point.

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 and we'll be here to welcome you back in September, when you will once again wonder where the time went.

MOUSTAFA GOUDA, PE

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Moustafa Gouda on March 24, 2024 in Cairo, Egypt. We do not have details on this at this time but will provide a full report in a future edition of *THE NEWS*.

Moustafa was a very active member of the Section for many years and served in various positions including Section President in 1991-92.

SPRING SOCIAL
Thursday, May 16

CESCAPHÉ



We hope you will be able to join us at our Section's Spring Social and Awards Banquet at the **Cescaphe** at the **Down Town Club** in Center City. At the Social we will salute another successful season for our Section as we enjoy drinks and dinner.

Our 2024 Section Awards recipients and the winners of our Delaware Valley Science Fairs Special Awards will be recognized and congratulated. We 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.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, May 16

Networking/social hour, 5:30 PM
Dinner following (approximately 7:00 PM)
Activities following dinner (until approximately 9:00 PM)

LOCATION: Cescaphe at The Down Town Club
600 Chestnut Street, Center City

FEE: \$75 per attendee ("early bird" available through April 26)
\$40 government agency employees and students
Fee includes two free drink tickets
Prices will increase by \$10 in each category (\$85 per attendee, \$50 government/student) for reservations received April 27 and after. The reservation deadline is Friday, May 10.

RSVP: Please RSVP through our Section's website (www.asce-philly.org). Paypal is available for this event. If you would like to reserve a table of 8-10, please indicate each table as a single registration

Due to our commitment with our event venue, 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.

Parking is available at several nearby garages and there is on-street metered parking in the area of the Down Town Club. Parking validation is NOT available.

2024-25 SLATE OF SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION

The slate of Section officers and Board members was recommended by our Section's Nominating Committee to our Section Board. The Board formally approved and adopted the slate "as is" at its April meeting. Accordingly, these individuals will be officially inducted and sworn in at the Spring Social. They are as follows:

President: Kevin Brown, TranSystems

President-Elect: Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

Vice President: Dennis Wilson, McCormick Taylor

Secretary: Danielle Schroeder, Gannett Fleming

Treasurer: Thomas Kulesher, JMT

Membership Secretary: Katrina Budischak, McCormick Taylor

Directors: Darren Black, Jacobs, 2024-26

Nooraldean Dabdoub, Traffic Planning & Design, 2023-25*

Ajin Fatima, Amtrak, 2023-25*

Archie Filshill, Aero Aggregates, 2024-26

Sean McCreesh, STV, 2024-26

Caroline Voigtsberger, Pennoni, 2023-25*

Past Presidents:

Joseph Natale, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning & Design Inc.

Briana Pampuch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

Those Board members noted with * will continue to serve for the remaining one year of their terms.

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.

We thank these folks for their anticipated service.

We Present Our 2024 Section Awards Nominees (The Envelope Please)...

No, not quite the Oscars, Emmys, Golden Globes, or even the Razzies, but something even better and more important — our **Section Awards**. These will be presented at our **Annual Spring Social** on **May 16**. More information and details on the Social are provided separately in this edition.

As usual, we received a number of strong nominations for Section Awards this year and the Awards Committee had the not-so-easy task to review the submissions and prepare a recommended slate of Award recipients. The recommended recipients have been approved by our Section Board of Directors. They are:

- *Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year:* **Harry Laspee**, Pennoni
- *Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year:* **Kirsten Kennedy**, Michael Baker International
- *Geotechnical Engineer of the Year:* **Ernest Hanna**, GZA GeoEnvironmental
- *Government Engineer of the Year:* **Elias Issac**, City of Philadelphia Department of Public Property
- *Civil Engineering Manager of the Year:* **Monica Trudeau**, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation
- *Young Government Engineer of the Year:* **Timothy Abel**, Amtrak
- *Government Service Award:* **Charles Davies**, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- *Community Outreach and Service Award:* **Kerianne Chen**, Traffic Planning & Design, and **Martin Williams**, KMJ Consulting

We hope you will be able to 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*.

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2023-24 SEASON

PRESIDENT

Joseph Natale, DVRPC

PRESIDENT ELECT

Kevin Brown, TranSystems

VICE PRESIDENT

Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

SECRETARY

Dennis Wilson, McCormick Taylor

TREASURER

Thomas Kulesher, JMT

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Katrina Budischak, McCormick Taylor

DIRECTORS

Nooraldean Dabdoub, Traffic Planning & Design, 2023-25

Ajin Fatima, Amtrak, 2023-25

Archie Filshill, Aero Aggregates, 2022-24

Troy Illig, WSP, 2023-24

Danielle Schroeder, Gannett Fleming, 2022-24

Caroline Voigtsberger, Pennoni, 2023-25

PAST PRESIDENTS*

Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning & Design Inc.

Briana Pampuch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

Jennifer Reigle, Amtrak

*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 individuals will be serving in appointed positions:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Assunta Daprano, AECOM

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, PennDOT

We will continue to have honorary Board Members appointed as well and these names are provided on our website.

Contact Us:

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Senior Project Manager/Implementation Engineer

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215-592-1800; jpnatale@gmail.com

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McCormick Taylor Associates

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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 SUMMER 2024 ISSUE
JULY 5, 2024**

PARC Categories of the Month

As you may recall, the Pennsylvania Report Card (PARC) was released in November 2022 and assessed and graded 15 categories of infrastructure. Over the past several editions of *THE NEWS*, we have provided summaries of the categories as a reminder. Continuing on (and concluding) this theme, we provide the last two category summaries. We hope you enjoyed this and found it informative and educational.

TRANSIT: D (no change from 2018)

Transit service and its supporting infrastructure is crucial for Pennsylvanians in dense cities, suburban clusters, and rural areas. In 2020, a historically low year for transit ridership across the country, passengers rode over 1 billion miles in Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) vehicles and 219 million miles on the Pittsburgh Regional Transit Authority network. Unfortunately, transit infrastructure has been underfunded for decades. SEPTA reports \$4.6 billion of unfunded capital needs, while the Port Authority of Allegheny County requires \$175 million for capital improvements to its light rail network alone. Transit operators and the state have been investing in vehicle replacements, in part thanks to Act 89 funding. Meanwhile, the federal bipartisan infrastructure law will provide Pennsylvania transit with \$3.2 billion over five years, including \$615 million in 2022 alone, to help address deferred maintenance. However, additional dedicated funding for capital and operations efforts is necessary to attain state of good repair across systems and better attract riders with greater service levels.

Wastewater: D- (no change from 2018)

Aging wastewater management systems discharge sewage into Pennsylvania's surface water each year. The average age of most sewer systems is approaching 75 years with many pipes over 100 years old. 26% of the state is served by on-lot systems with nearly one-quarter failure rate. Two-thirds of the state's Sewage Facility Plans are over 20 years old. The Commonwealth has a funding gap of \$8.4 billion over the next 10 years to repair existing systems, upgrade existing systems to meet regulatory requirements, control Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), address illicit Sanitary Sewer Overflows, and construct new or expand existing systems to meet increasing demand. Available funding over that time is estimated to be \$900 million, only about one-tenth of the required annual investment.

Please visit <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/pennsylvania/> for more information on this and how you can inform your elected officials on actions that should be considered to address this.

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 active Committees for the 2023-24 season is provided below for your reference.

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, **Dennis Wilson** (contact information is provided on page 2). Committee assignments (and some committees themselves) maybe revisited for the coming season and this will be sorted out over the summer.

Audit	– Website
Awards	– Social Media
– Engineers Week Hall of Fame/ Outstanding Service Recognition	– Newsletter
Budget and Finance	– Section Sponsorship
College Scholarship	Continuing Education
Communications	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
– E-mail Outreach	Government Relations
	Humphrey Fund

ASCE NATIONAL IN THE NEWS

Marsha Anderson Bomar, AICP, ENV SP, F.ITE, F.ASCE, and **Kenneth H. Rosenfield, PE, ENV SP, F.ASCE,** are the official nominees for ASCE 2025 president-elect as approved by the Board of Direction Nominating Committee. Each of them were able to attend our April dinner meeting and give some insights on their goals and intentions in their pursuits of the National President spot.

Society members will be able to vote for their preferred nominee during the annual election, which opens May 1 with online ballots accepted through June 1.

ASCE will induct the election winner as the 2025 president-elect at the Society's annual business meeting during the ASCE 2024 Convention in October in Tampa, FL. They would then assume the role of Society President for 2026.

Marsha Anderson Bomar is the interim commissioner of the City of Atlanta's Department of Transportation, while also serving as the city's commissioner for engineering. This role follows leadership roles with the Metropolitan Atlanta Regional Transportation Authority, Gateway85 Community Improvement District, and Stantec. Bomar also founded and ran her own companies, Street Smarts and Data Smarts, for 20 years prior.

For ASCE, she served on the Board of Direction as a technical region director from 2018 through 2020 and has been the Society treasurer since 2021. She has been active in ASCE's Transportation and Development Institute for two decades, including as president in 2010 and as a co-founder of the Georgia Section's T&DI chapter. Additionally, she served three terms on the city council of Duluth, Georgia, and was the first female president of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Among her many awards are the ASCE's William H. Wisely Civil Engineering Award in 2016 and WTS Woman of the Year in 2023.

Kenneth H. Rosenfield is a senior project manager for the Ardurra Group in Newport Beach, California. This follows more than 25 years with the city of Laguna Hills, as director of public works, city engineer, and most recently interim city manager.

He completed his three-year term on the ASCE Board of Direction last fall, serving as director of Region 9, where he has been an active member for more than 20 years. He chaired the Society-level Public Policy and Practice Committee in 2019. His many ASCE roles in California include those of Los Angeles Section president and Orange County Branch president.

Additionally, he has served as president of the Orange County City Engineers Association and three times chaired the Orange County Transportation Authority Technical Advisory Committee for implementing Measure M funding. His various awards include ASCE Region 9 2019 Outstanding Civil Engineering in the Public Sector and a 25-year Service Award from Laguna Hills.

SECTION COMMITTEES

Continued from previous column

Membership	– Construction Management and Engineering
Nominating (for Board Positions) Program	– Delaware Valley Geoinstitute
Venue Coordination	– Environmental and Water Resources
Society Relations	– Structural Engineering Institute
– Region 2 Governors	– Transportation & Development Institute
– Region 2 Younger Member Committee	– Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute
– PA Council	– Younger Member Forum
– Legislative Affairs	
Spring Social	
Subsidiary Groups	

APRIL SECTION BREAKOUT TOPICS MEETING

April 11, 2024

Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-King of Prussia

By Robert Wright, Editor

Our last meeting of the 2023-24 season, usually preceded with a statements along the lines of “it’s hard to believe it’s our last meeting”, found us traveling to King of Prussia on a cloudy spring day. After the hubbub of the solar eclipse (and itself following one of our somewhat rare earthquakes, with some flooding rains a few days before that, putting things into sort of a biblical mood), a room-filling turnout of over 120 attendees awaited a choice of three good breakout topics, as we have now-traditionally offered for our season-ending meeting, in a venue that is new to us (but which was also the location of our January joint meeting with the **American Society of Highway Engineers**) and which seemed to be well received by all.

Wrapping up his season of presiding over our Section dinner meetings, President **Joe Natale** welcomed all to be seated and updated the crowd with current announcements and happenings. Once dinner began to wind down, he brought **Niki Eno**, SEI Chair, to the podium to cite the three recipients of SEI’s annual scholarship for this year – **Angelina Pietrapaolo** (Villanova), **Mark Ryan** (Drexel), and **Rita El Samanary** (Widener). Next up was the **Villanova University Student Chapter**, the featured chapter for this meeting, and Chapter President **Andrew Vendrella** was welcomed to “front and center” to provide a brief update on the Chapter’s recent activities and plans.

President Natale returned to the podium, welcoming Membership Secretary **Katrina Budischak** who recognized the incoming “Class of 2024” Life Members (see the separate article on this) as well as the many Past Section Presidents in attendance (see another separate article on this).

Following this, President Natale noted that among our guests were the two candidates for ASCE National President-Elect, **Marsha Anderson Bomar** and

Kenneth H. Rosenfield, who were each given time to speak to the attendees and explain their platforms and ideas (see the separate article on the upcoming election).

In closing the meeting, President Natale thanked those present for their help in making this another successful season for the Section and dismissed folks to the breakout rooms to continue the evening with the three separate technical modules:

I-95 Tacony Viaduct

PRESENTERS: Robin Dominick, PE, CDM Smith, Avi Hawver, PE, CDM Smith, and Michael Giovannitti, PE, AGES

Sponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute

Rigid Inclusion Support for the Potomac Yard Metro Station

PRESENTER: Brandon Buschmeier, PE, Menard USA

Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Geoinstitute

Ridge Pike Improvement Program

PRESENTERS: Matthew Edmond, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission, Susan Guisinger-Colon, PE, McCormick Taylor, and Matthew Hickson, PE, Traffic Planning & Design

Sponsored by the Construction Management and Engineering Technical Group and the Transportation and Development Institute

With that, the breakout meetings continued and another successful Section meeting season was brought to a close.

PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED

If you have attended any of our April meetings in the past few years you have become accustomed to seeing many of our Past Section Presidents in attendance. That’s because we have made it a regular feature, almost a tradition at this point, to invite our Past Presidents as our guests to attend the last Section meeting of each season and be recognized for their contributions to our Section. We are always happy to welcome them and see them, and many of them are fairly regular attendees at Section meetings. We do know the offer of a free dinner doesn’t hurt getting them out (after all, they are engineers and therefore enjoy free things...).

We were pleased that 17 Past Presidents were able to attend our April meeting. Pictured below, left to right, are **AnnMarie Vigilante** (2015-16), **Jennifer Reigle** (2020-21), **Briana Pampuch** (2022-23), **Allan Moore** (2003-04), **Moe Elghawy** (2022-23), **Tom Branigan** (2000-01), **Joe Syrnick** (1980-81), **Kazi Hassan** (2019-20), **Larry Moy** (1971-72), **Chris Rood** (2001-02), **Klaus Fuelleborn** (1992-93), **Cathy Farrell** (2017-18), **Carol Martsof** (2006-07), **Ann Tomalavage** (2011-12), **Darin Gatti** (1997-98) and **Bob Wright** (1993-94).

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh (2009-10) attended the meeting as well but arrived after the photo was taken.

Thanks to Membership Secretary **Katrina Budischak** for coordinating this, and thanks to our Past Presidents who were able to make this event.



No personal consideration should stand in the way of performing a public duty.

— Ulysses S. Grant

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

As you have seen, the Section Sponsorship Program was once again popular this season, with 17 firms taking part and supporting us, the highest this level of participation has been for some time. 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.

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 34 (!) firms are the following:

Aero Aggregates*	Keller
American Geotechnical and Environmental Services (AGES)	Kleinfelder
Aerix Industries	Lafayette College
Colliers Engineering	Langan Engineering and Environmental Services*
ConeTec	Lehigh University
Drexel University	Menard Group USA
Earth Engineering	Peirce Engineering
ECS	Pennoni*
Gannett Fleming	Rimkus
GEI Consultants	Rowan University
GeoStructures	Schnabel Engineering
GeoStructures, Inc.	Subsurface Contractors
Golder	Temple University
GZA	University of Delaware
Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates	University of Pennsylvania
Inova Geosynthetics	Villanova University*
James J. Anderson Construction	Widener University

Those marked with * are also Section sponsors. We extend our THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

As you may be aware, professional engineers, land surveyors and geologists in many states are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses in many states. Locally, this includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

If you have a NJ license, chances are you recently renewed it (and if you haven't the end of April is when these licenses expire, so you may want to act accordingly). DE licenses will expire on June 30. Thus, you may find that those 24 PDH's you'll need to attest you have for renewal might be something you need to actually get, and maybe more quickly than you might have planned.

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 Younger Member Forum 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.

The downside, if you're short at this point, is that we have little to no Section activity over the summer, so you may need to pick up those PDH's in another way. However, 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).

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.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Laurel Welch, Forum Editor

Kirsten Kennedy, Forum President 2023-24

Michael Baker International, kirsten.kennedy@mbakerintl.com

Learning and Practicing Effective Public Speaking

March 28

The JEDI Board hosted the "Learning and Practicing Effective Public Speaking" event, with 5 virtual attendees and 5 in-person attendees. The event focused on a virtual presentation highlighting vocal technique and how to be your best, most authentic, public speaking self. In-person attendees then gave 2-minute elevator speeches and participated in games showing the importance of storytelling.

YMF K-12 Outreach Team – Season Summary/Recap

The K-12 Outreach Team has been very active this year, working with almost 10 different schools and reaching over 200 students in elementary, middle, and high schools across the City of Philadelphia and the greater Philadelphia region. We also recommitted our partnership with **Girls Inc.** and established new partnerships with organizations like the **Philadelphia STEM Ecosystem** and the **Free Library of Philadelphia**.

On October 30, YMF attended the **Girls Inc.** after school program at **Taggart School** in South Philadelphia. 15 students learned about what Civil Engineering is, and worked in teams to create marble roller coasters out of foam pipe insulation and construction paper.

On November 14, YMF and **WTS TrYOU** teamed up to host a straw bridge activity with teens at the **Coleman Northwest Regional Library**.

On December 8, in collaboration with the Philadelphia STEM Ecosystem, YMF visited **Furness High School** to chat with two 9th grade math classes about various types of Civil Engineering, after which the students broke into groups to create bridges out of straw.

On January 11, YMF joined the **Girls Inc.** afterschool program at **William D. Kelley School** in Brewerytown to tell the 3rd to 5th graders about Civil Engineering. The Engineering presentation was interactive, with lots of questions and ideas thrown around by the girls. After the presentation, the students broke into two groups to create their own roller coaster designs out of pipe insulation, tape, and construction paper.



Continued on page 7

Science Fairs: Projects Reviewed, Winners Selected

Our Section once again participated in the Delaware Valley Science Fairs this year, and while we are still not quite sure how long we have been doing this, we know it is roughly the 30th-plus year we have been offering Special Awards at the Fairs. (One of these days we'll get some time and actually look into this, but as noted, that will not be happening in time for this article...) Our Special Awards are available for student projects that involve or touch on civil engineering topics and concepts, and we have managed to find and highlight a number of interesting and commendable efforts over the years. If we have learned one thing as part of this endeavor, it has been that picking the top projects is consistently a difficult task given the quality and interesting subject matter of the offerings.



As we usually pass along, the plural in the Science Fairs title is not a typo, as the event is a compilation of 13 separate science fairs/events across a fairly large geographic area, stretching to the Jersey Shore, all of Delaware, and the Lehigh Valley, bringing students whose projects have won school district and local contests to compete on a regional level. The top medal winners at the Fairs can move on to the International Science and Engineering Fair later this spring. Just over 900 individual and team projects were entered into the Fairs competition this time around, with judging reviews conducted on April 3.

Our judging "contingent" included six volunteers this time, with four of the judges having done this for many years. The group, led by Past Section President **Chris Rood**, included Past Presidents **Ruben David**, **Chris Menna**, **Briana Pampuch** and **Bob Wright**, with "rookie" **Sharon Dotts** joining the team. This group evaluated about 30 engineering-related projects to develop a short list of candidates to interview for our Section's Special Awards, which recognize a first and second place finisher in individual projects in the Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 categories.

Despite the projects being classified into various science disciplines, including engineering, our judges often find that they must review many projects in other areas such as physics, earth sciences, environmental sciences, and mathematics that may touch on the nature of civil engineering. Sometimes these projects cross different disciplines, and sometimes they are merely misclassified. Thus, this evaluation and review involves a bit of "legwork" and searching among the many project displays, often with at least glance at each of the individual (non-team) offerings to develop their candidate short-lists. With, as noted, this totaling over 900 projects, and the high quality of

many of the entries only complicating the review and short-listing/decision-making process, the judging activity can become a little intense.

After considerable review, our team sorted through and short-listed several projects and came up with two winners in each of the categories of Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12. The winning students and their projects were:

Grades 6-8 First Place

"Truss' The Process: An Examination of Load Distribution"

Srinkkesh Senthikumar

Valley Forge Middle School, Wayne, PA

Grades 6-8 Second Place

"How Do Different Methods of Cleaning Oil Spills Affect the Amount of Oil Remaining in the Water?"

Jake Saks

Jamison, PA

Grades 9-12 First Place

"Using Wasted Recyclable Plastics to Decrease Carbon Emissions from Concrete"

Maggie Anne Kelleher

Brick, NJ

Grades 9-12 Second Place

"H Beam Breakdown"

Ryan Weber

Methacton High School

Eagleview, PA



Chris Rood was able to attend the Fairs awards ceremony on April 5 and present the Section's plaques and prizes to three of our winners.

The First Place winners will be invited to attend the Spring Social so they can share their projects and knowledge with engineers. We hope they will be able to participate so the rest of us can see the engineers of the future and allow them to display their winning efforts.

Thanks to the students and to those who participated in this event.

More information on the Fairs can be found at www.dvsf.org.

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

"CLASS OF 2024" 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.

This year, we welcome our most recent group of incoming Life Members, 23 individuals who comprise our "Class of 2024":

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Willard Anderson | Constantine Doukakis | Daniel Meyer |
| Wing Au | Greyson Franklin | David Millman |
| Brian Bersch | Richard Fromuth | David Perri |
| James Blake | Stephen Golden | William Rohleder |
| Cheryl Brennan | David Kriebel | Brian Shea |
| Robert Britt | Eric Lindhult | Graham Stewart |
| Robert Brooks | Arthur McGarrity | Mark Suchecki |
| Catherine Chia-Calabria | | Edward Woyden |



Each of our incoming Life Members was invited to attend our April Section Meeting as guests of our Section to be cited and awarded their Life Membership certificates. Five of the inductees, Mrs. Chia-Calabria and Messrs. Blake, Lindhult, Shea and Stewart, were able to attend and receive their certificates and pins. We are proud to congratulate this esteemed group, which among our 23 honorees represents an overall combined 1000 years (!) of ASCE membership, on this honorable accomplishment and thank them for their long-time support and involvement as Section members.

YMF K-12 Outreach Team Recap

Continued from page 5

On January 31, YMF visited **Presentation BVM** in Cheltenham to share about Civil Engineering with the middle school students. More than 50 middle schoolers heard from our volunteers about what Engineering is and how it is incorporated all around them. Following the presentation, students worked in teams to design, build, and test a straw bridge. Each design was unique and had its own pros and cons, but most far surpassed the students' initial weight guesses.

On March 8, YMF visited **North Penn High School** in Lansdale to showcase various types of Civil Engineering to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. After presenting what differentiates specialties such as geotechnical, structural, transportation, water resources engineering and many more, the students were able to ask questions to the volunteers about their day-to-day lives in the Civil Engineering field, what motivates them, and how to prepare for attending college.

On March 11, YMF visited the **Oak Lane Branch** of the Free Library of Philadelphia to facilitate a slender tower construction activity. Elementary students heard from our volunteers about what Engineering is, and tried their hand at building a 3' tall tower out of 10 sheets of paper and some masking tape. The students were able to learn about managing the available materials, and one student even petitioned to get more paper in order to construct a safe structure!



On March 21, YMF visited **Universal Creighton Charter School** to share some info about Engineering with the Girls Inc. after-school program. Students aged 9-13 were able to hear about Civil Engineers and then build a rollercoaster for a marble out of pipe insulation, construction paper, and masking tape. The girls were able to learn about time management and problem solving.



On April 5, YMF visited **Perkiomen Valley High School** to chat with upperclassmen about Civil Engineering. Students learned from volunteers about different types of Engineering, how to become a Civil Engineer, and were able to ask many questions during a panel

session after the presentation.

Last and certainly not least, we would like to give a very loud THANK YOU!! to all the folks who volunteered their time, energy, and expertise during each event, many of whom were volunteering for the first time this year. We could not have done any of this without you! Special thanks to **Dan Bhaumik, Kerianne Chen, Brett Coleman, Noor Dabdoub, Karan Bharat Doshi, Tisha Garrett, Yuki Ishii, Kirsten Kennedy, Allison Lepera, Maddie Marquardt, CJ Medora, Elvira Mikhael, Kamil Nuzha, Alyssa Pizzi, Silvia Scheuermann, Dani Schroeder, Gina Venuto, Olivia Weaver, Riley Williamson, and Emma Youngs.**

If you are interested in participating in future K-12 Outreach events, please reach out to the K-12 Outreach Chairs at ASCEPhilaYMFK12@gmail.com to join the volunteer mailing list. We also have one more event for the year at **Juniata Park Academy on May 6,** reach out if you'd like to volunteer.



Thanks so much, and we will see you all at upcoming events, Kerianne Chen and Elvira Mikhael
K-12 Outreach Chairs

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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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