



ASCE
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

Vol 96-3

Our 111th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

November 2023



ASCE Vision

Civil Engineers are global leaders building a better quality of life.



ASCE Mission

Provide essential value to our members and partners, advance Civil Engineering, and serve the public good.



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NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2023-24

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season remains in the preparation mode and our meeting program committee is busy lining up speakers and topics for what we hope will be an interesting and informative series of meetings. The information we have at this point is provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you use this to mark your calendar at this time and hold the dates.

In coming issues of THE NEWS, this information will be "fine-tuned" to provide updates as they are available. We also suggest you visit the Section website for the latest changes in our meeting program. As we have done, each month's edition of THE NEWS will feature detailed information on that month's meeting along with as much information as is available for the following month's meeting, and the "look-ahead" schedule will show details that are available at that time for your advance awareness. E-mail blasts will be sent out on a regular basis to advise and remind of upcoming events and registration deadlines.

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

Our schedule of meetings for **2024** is:

January 17 (Wednesday) – joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Valley Forge Hotel, King of Prussia; Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation Michael Carroll

February – to be determined

March 14 – Maggiano's Center City; The Chinatown/Vine Street "Stitch"

April – multi-topic break-out sessions; topics and location to be determined

May 16 – Spring Social, Cescaphe Down Town Club

DECEMBER MULTI-SOCIETY MEETING

Engineers' Club of Philadelphia and Numerous Technical Societies Information will be provided in the December edition of THE NEWS.

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

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

SUBJECT: SEPTA – Transforming a Legacy System

SPEAKERS: Ryan Judge, Deputy Chief Planning Officer, SEPTA; **Anna Hooven**, Program Manager, SEPTA

RESERVATION DEADLINE – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3. 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) 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.

Mr. Judge and Ms. Hooven will provide an overview of SEPTA's overall plans for improvements across the system throughout the coming decade, including upgraded stations, new vehicles, more regular and dependable service and schedules, and a modernized trolley system. They will additionally review the associated economic benefits that these projects and efforts provide to our state and region.

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

If you have any questions on this, please contact **Section President-Elect Kevin Brown** (kbrown@transystems.com).

SECTION COMMITTEES

If you have an interest in helping and/or would like to join a Committee, please reach out to us at an e-mail address we have set up for this, volunteer@asce-philly.org, or through our **Section Secretary, Dennis Wilson** (contact information is provided on page 2). Committee Chairs will be provided in our next report in December.

ASCE Brochure
 ASCE National Conference (2026)
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*In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, only the immediate Past President will serve on the Board, and only for a one-year term. We show the most recent three Past Presidents as has become our tradition.

In addition, these 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 will be provided accordingly.

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

Contact Us:

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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 DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE
 NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.

— John F. Kennedy

OCTOBER SECTION MEETING

October 12, 2023

Maggiano's Little Italy, Center City

PennDOT I-476 Hard Shoulder Running Project Update

By Robert Wright, Editor

October usually means a few things in our part of the world, and one of those things is the start of our Section's dinner meetings to kick off the "new" season (this actually started at the Spring Social last May, but we also go dormant for the summer, so this meeting is the resumption of our activities). It usually doesn't mean baseball at the professional level is still being played in our city, but the Phillies surprised many of us and we found ourselves competing with Game 4 of the league divisional series. Fortunately that wouldn't get underway until just after 8 PM, so not a major conflict (and just for the record, we scheduled our meeting months ago, so the Phils created the conflict and did not see fit to coordinate with us...). In any event, a nice early fall day, combined with said Phils game, did not deter nearly 70 attendees from coming to Maggiano's (which, with its usual good fare, is always a "must" for many to be there and partake) to open our 2023-24 season and a chance to catch up with some friends and colleagues that we had not seen for a few months.

President Joe Natale welcomed all and got the raucous crowd seated with a few announcements before dinner got underway. He noted that was **Drexel University's Student Chapter** night, even though it seemed that the many Widener students in the crowd may have outnumbered Drexel's, but in any event, President Natale introduced **Chapter Vice President Victor Onukwugha** and **Secretary Chris Edwards** who teamed up to offer an update on the Chapter's recent activities and programs. Following this, President Natale called on **President-Elect Kevin Brown** to open the main presentation and introduce the speakers, **Sandi Yeakley, PE**, Project Manager, Benesch, **Stephanie Privette, PE**, Project Manager, HNTB, and **Allie Slizofski, PE, PTOE**, Principal, Drive Engineering/Drive Integration.

Ms. Yeakley provided a short background on the effort, which focuses on the segment of I-476 south of the PA 3/West Chester Pike interchange. This section has a 4-lane cross section (2 lanes in each direction), as opposed to the 3-lane-directional condition north of that point, and subsequently is frequently congested and slow. This is also a common issue, not necessarily related to peak hours, but also stadium-event driven as well as summer Thursdays and Fridays with shore-bound drivers. The intent of the hard-shoulder running concept is to provide additional capacity when the need is greatest without expensive and impactful highway widening. Although this portion of the Blue Route, as it is commonly known locally, was built with

some provisions for future widening, the high cost and lengthy project development process would not allow for a more immediate solution, thus hard-shoulder running is being considered and pursued. Because the roadway feeds a large volume of traffic to southbound I-95 at the junction of the two highways, the hard-shoulder running concept will be extended to that area on I-95 from the Blue Route to the US 322 interchange. On the I-476 portion the left shoulder will be widened and strengthened to allow this use.

Ms. Privette explained the traffic patterns and tendencies that were studied and evaluated to show when the need for hard-shoulder running was greatest as well as the provisions for dynamic signage and variable speed-limit indications, variable message sign boards for advance warning of conditions and potential lane blockages, and how this will be coordinated with existing ramp metering, traffic observation cameras and other controls. She noted the opening of the PennDOT Regional Traffic Management Center in January has been a valuable asset in the monitoring and observation of traffic and will greatly assist the operation and movement of traffic when the hard-shoulder running is put into effect, to confirm signage is properly working and has the correct messages/indications to respond to the conditions.

Ms. Slizofski covered the various information and data evaluated to show where choke points, slowdown areas, and similar problem spots occurred, which would be the ideal locations for variable message and warning signs to supplement the effort. She quantified the number of signs and devices that would need to be installed for the first phase of the program, which is scheduled for letting a week after this presentation and construction in 2024-25. The second portion of the program is currently in design and is scheduled for letting in 2026.

The presentation team ably responded to a number of insightful questions following the presentation. President Natale thanked them for their interesting program and offered parting gifts for their time and effort on this.

The full presentation will be made available on our webinar library on Teachable.com, an online platform where we will upload our recorded PDH-worthy webinars, which can be watched at one's own pace and time to earn your PDH.

N-ASCE*

BAD DRIVING IS HEREDITARY...?

According to a report in a recent edition of Roads & Bridges magazine, if your teen is a distracted driver, you might be the reason why. UK-based company Scrap Car Comparison examined the records of "bad drivers" (those who have been pulled over or ticketed in the past 10 years) and "good drivers" (those with clean records) and then compared them with their parents' records. The study found that 66% of "bad drivers" were raised by parents who were also bad drivers. Among this second generation of law breakers, 45% had been pulled over by the police, and 37% had received a ticket.

By comparison, only 14% of motorists raised by "good drivers" (which, we all know, we all are...) had been pulled over, with just 12% receiving a ticket.

So is bad driving hereditary? Researchers believe it is, and the cause is more than just bad advice during driving lessons. "Simply being a passenger in our

parents' vehicles from a young age can also lead to us subconsciously absorbing things from being in that environment," the study noted. Drivers agree that their parents are at fault for their bad driving habits, with speeding being the most common. Around 55% of drivers said their parents are the reason for their fast driving, while almost 49% attributed their road rage to their parents. Poor spatial awareness was cited by 24% of respondents, and 21% blamed their parents for their bad parking skills.

So, thanks again, boomer...

Unfortunately for teens, "my dad did it" is still not a valid legal defense in traffic court.

Thanks to *Roads & Bridges* for this information.

*N-ASCE – not always something concerning Engineering



YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Laurel Welch, Forum Editor

Kirsten Brown, Forum President 2023-24

Michael Baker International, kbrown@mbakerintl.com

YMF

Joint YMF/DVGI Aero Aggregates Manufacturing Plant

Tour – September 14



YMF joined forces with the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI) for a tour of **Aero Aggregates** of North America's manufacturing plant in Eddystone. The event, with roughly 25 attendees, began with a

presentation about the history of foaming recycled glass, went on to detail the material properties of the aggregates, and concluded with discussion of recent project applications, including the I-95 emergency repair in Philadelphia. Attendees were split into two groups for the tour of the plant, where they were guided through each manufacturing process. Attendees had the opportunity to network while enjoying a spread of Philly Pretzel Factory rivets and hot dogs, assorted cookies, and chips, prior to and at the conclusion of the plant tour. Aero Aggregates kindly provided jarred samples of their product to each attendee! We

would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Aero Aggregates' for opening their doors to our members and to **Theresa Andrejack Loux** and **Rick Smith** for the presentation and tour!



End of Summer YMF Happy Hour

September 20



19 Young Engineers gathered at Urban Village for the YMF's End of Summer Happy Hour and annual group photo. Attendees networked with new faces and caught up with familiar ones over an assortment of appetizers and refreshing drinks.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS – HOW MANY OF WE ARE WE?

We occasionally toss around facts and figures (mainly figures) about our Section membership. Our Membership Secretary, **Katrina Budischak**, was able to provide these numbers for us for where we stand as we start our 2023-24 season.

Total members (dues paying) – 2028

- Associate members – 579
- Members – 1102
- Fellows – 54
- Affiliate members – 111
- Students – 170
- Other – 12

There are additionally 361 Life members, who do not pay formal dues but a fee to receive *Civil Engineering* magazine.

We thank everyone for their help in our being able to have these impressive levels of membership and participation that we have.

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES...

ALSO, LOOKING TO REFER A NEW MEMBER? OR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AN ENGINEER?

As a reminder, your 2024 ASCE dues is coming due at the end of the year. You may have seen the e-mail reminders on this and hard-copy invoices are being mailed.

And if you want to advise friends and colleagues of the benefits of membership, **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.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Vigilante Selected for Lehigh Valley Business Honor

Lehigh Valley Business recently released its 2023 Power List for Construction and Real Estate. The Lehigh Valley has been growing by leaps and bounds and the people honored on the Power List are the engines that drive this growth. They are the leaders, movers and shakers for companies that provide the means to buy, sell and build the houses, apartments, businesses and warehouses that make the Lehigh Valley a vibrant region.



Past Section President AnnMarie Vigilante was among those honored on this list. AnnMarie, a Principal/Vice President of Langan Engineering, noted that her "leadership style centers around communication," creating an environment where open and honest communication is valued, where employees feel comfortable expressing their thoughts, opinions and concerns, and this promotes trust and enables effective collaboration, producing success for the company. She added, "Leading with communication has allowed me to build trust and credibility within my organization and create a cohesive and high-performing team."

We congratulate AnnMarie on this well-deserved selection.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

ASCE DAY – NOVEMBER 5

In 1852, twelve esteemed Engineers gathered in New York City to establish what would become the American Society of Civil Engineers. November 5 will mark the Society's 170th anniversary, so mark your calendars for this ASCE Day. And with this being on a weekend, that keeps things wide open for extended celebrations, etc., as you may need...



OPAL AWARDS GET SPOTLIGHT

"They are the largely unsung stars behind some of our nation's most important projects," began Jane Pauley, "but one night every year, they stand center stage."

That was the inspiring opening to one of the greatest public exposures for Civil Engineering in a long time as CBS' "Sunday Morning," in its August 13 broadcast, covered the presentation of our Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement award at the OPAL Gala during the ASCE 2022 Convention. Viewers gained insights into what we do by learning about the SpeedCore building process at the heart of the OCEA award presented to Seattle's Rainier Square Redevelopment. The report was presented by Kris Van Cleave, whom ASCE honored with its Excellence in Journalism Award in 2018. If you missed this or would like to see it again it is available on CBS' Sunday Morning's website, <https://www.cbsnews.com/sunday-morning/>.

HOLD THESE DATES

ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will cite Engineers Week 2024 (February 15–24). We have traditionally extended our local celebration beyond that recognized by National Engineers Week to include our kickoff event.

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley will officially begin with the **Engineers Week Opening Dinner on Thursday, February 15** (two days before National E Week begins). At this event, we will introduce and formally induct the **Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year** and **Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year**, as well as highlight the various contributions of Engineers and Engineering students. All Engineers Week award and scholarship recipients will be cited at the Dinner.

The **Young Engineers Social** will be conducted during Engineers Week (date to be determined). This is a networking and social event to cite the newly-inducted Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year.

Please note this information in your calendar and plan to participate. More details on venues and pricing will be included in future updates.

Also, please check on the various Engineers Week awards and scholarships that are available and will be awarded at the Opening Dinner. This information, along with other updates on Engineers Week, can be found at the Engineers' Club website, www.engrclub.org.

PARC Category of the Month: Bridges

As you may recall, the Pennsylvania Report Card (PARC) was released last November and assessed and graded 15 categories of infrastructure. We will continue to provide a summary of one category in each edition of *THE NEWS*. To keep it simple, we'll do this alphabetically by category, with this month's being Bridges.



Bridges 2022 grade D+
2018 grade D+

Pennsylvania has the ninth largest bridge inventory in the nation, coupled with an average bridge age nearly a decade older than some other states. Despite a 4.5% decrease in the number of poor condition bridges, Pennsylvania contains the second highest number of poor condition bridges among states: 25% more than the next state. The 2021 Bipartisan infrastructure Law will provide \$13 billion in transportation funding over five years to help offset these. However, even that elevated level falls well short of the \$18 billion annual need. Pittsburgh's 2022 Fern Hollow Bridge collapse represents a vivid example of the extreme consequences of aging infrastructure.

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.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Our Section Sponsorship program is up and running once again, with 12 firms participating at this early point in the season. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website. Additionally, we provide direct links to sponsors' own websites 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* as well as service as a sponsor of one of our monthly dinner meetings.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, there's still time to be part of this season's group. Please contact **Bob Wright** at newseditor@asce-philly.org for more details.



**It's only those who do nothing
that make no mistakes,
I suppose.**

— Joseph Conrad

**I can tell you that I'd rather
be kissed by my dogs than
by some people I've known.**

— Bob Barker

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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