



### SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2020-21

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is in the formative stages at this point 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. With the unusual situation we all face this year, virtual meetings will be offered for the remainder of 2020, and we await updated guidance for those in 2021. Our experience with virtual meetings thus far has been very positive and well-received, and we thank our members for their flexibility in helping this to happen. This allows us to have a meaningful program for our members despite the restrictions, and we envision a full complement of both Section meetings and Technical Groups.

While the feedback and “scuttlebutt” we have heard on virtual meetings tends to be mixed, the definite “downside” is the inability to interact and network as we would all do at in-person meetings, and the opportunity to catch up with and have dinner with friends and colleagues is not there. However, many of you have positively reacted to the ease that virtual meetings present as no travel is needed (many of us have “attended” these sitting at our desks or our dining room tables) and these have fit a little more easily into some schedules. There may be a possibility in the future that some meetings could be offered in both formats, to accommodate both those who prefer the in-person event and those who may find virtual attendance better suited for their needs.

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

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#### 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.*

## OCTOBER MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020

MEETING PRESENTATION – 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**SUBJECT: Manayunk Canal History and Recent Restoration Projects**

**SPEAKERS: Robert Armstrong**, Trails and Transportation Program Manager,

City of Philadelphia Managing Director’s Office of Transportation, Infrastructure & Sustainability (OTIS); **Katherine (Kay) Sykora**, Project Manager (retired), Manayunk Development Corporation; **David Weld, Project Manager**, Philadelphia Water Department

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 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](http://www.asce-philly.org)) and paid via PayPal or by check as applicable. Checks, made payable to “Philadelphia Section ASCE”, can be mailed as instructed when you register. After you register you will receive information and instructions on how to access this meeting on your computer or device.

**SPECIAL FEATURE – DREXEL UNIVERSITY NIGHT.** The Student Chapter of **Drexel University’s Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering** will be featured at this meeting. Students, alumni and faculty are invited to attend as well.

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## NOVEMBER MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

**Zoom Meeting** (link distributed following registration)

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

## THE 2020 “SPRING” SOCIAL – THE VENUE IN THE “CLOUD”...

A year ago we reported on the 2019 Spring Social and how it was a little later than those in previous years, with it happening in mid-May as opposed to about a week earlier. In 2020 the “late factor” was measured by months, as the current restrictions on gatherings pushed this from its originally-planned date of May 14 to September (and then putting the “Spring” part of this in question), and then unfortunately to a virtual event. While we look forward to our visit to Tendenza, the planned venue, next year (please add this to your 2021 calendar for May 13, and we’ll hope for the best), we were unable to do much more than a “Zoom” get-together for this one. With no Delaware Valley Science Fairs awards able to be judged and made this year, and with our new officers being sworn in at a Board meeting back in May as well, the activities planned for the Social were bound to be different from past years, but we felt we had to have some sort of event. With few options we could utilize, this was how things had to be handled, and it morphed into our “Welcome Back Fall” Social.

Our now Past President **Kazi Hassan** opened the session with his remarks and cited the 2019-20 Officers and Board of Directors for their service and assistance with the successful operation of the Section, even with the very unconventional last couple of months we experienced with it (and keeping in mind our March Section Meeting was literally on the eve of the initial round of shutdowns

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new ASCE year, one sure to be unlike any year we have experienced thus far! Like you, I was hoping by now I would be writing this message in my office in Center City Philadelphia, while prepping for our first dinner meeting at Maggiano's. Sadly, that is not the case. These last six months have isolated us from each other and redefined our "typical" day, but they have also provided us opportunities. Opportunities to appreciate our family, neighborhoods, and communities; and opportunities to innovate and find solutions to the new problems the pandemic has presented. Our profession has done a fantastic job of embracing these opportunities and finding new ways to communicate and collaborate, allowing the progression of much-needed local infrastructure projects.

Like our profession at-large, our Section has found success adapting our yearly programming and events to run virtually allowing us to provide continuing education and professional development opportunities to all of our members in a safe manner, adhering to local health guidelines. We have already hosted two virtual meetings:

- Schuylkill Crossing at Grays Ferry (Swing Bridge) Project webinar in mid-May
- Multi-Technical event featuring three concurrent presentations at the end of August

This latter event included presentations from two of our technical groups. Did you know that our Section has six active subsidiary groups, including five technical ones that each focusing on a specific area of Civil Engineering?

- Structural Engineering Institute (SEI)
- Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI)
- Construction
- Environmental & Water Resources (EWR)
- Transportation & Development (T&D)
- Younger Member Forum (YMF)

These groups host their own events and provide additional resources to our membership and industry. Please check them out via our website (<http://sections.asce.org/philadelphia/resources>).

Our tech groups also contribute to ASCE's diversity and inclusion, which has always been important to the Section, however recent events across the country have made us more aware of its necessity. It is my goal to raise our awareness of diversity and inclusion and establish this as a focal point for the Section throughout the year. ASCE is a proud advocate for diversity and inclusion, taking actions like forming the Members of Society Advancing an Inclusive Culture (MOSAIC) committee in 2016 and providing a wealth of resources on this topic more members: <https://www.asce.org/diversity-and-inclusion/>.

With all the challenges facing us this year, it is vital that Civil Engineers advocate for the needs of our profession and industry to continue holding the safety, health, and welfare of the public paramount. It is up to us to inform and guide policy makers on what the priority issues are and what resolutions need to be made, from funding to STEM education to infrastructure needs.

ASCE offers a couple of tools to assist us with this. First, there is the Key Contact program, through which you can sign-up (<https://www.asce.org/keycontacts/>) to receive news and updates on state and federal issues pertaining to the Civil Engineering industry, as well as communicate with your legislators on these issues. ASCE provides form letters and look-up tools to determine your local legislators so communicating with them is as simple as a few keystrokes and mouse clicks. The second tool is the ASCE 2018 PA Report Card ([https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ASCE-PA-report\\_2018.pdf](https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ASCE-PA-report_2018.pdf)), which identifies the state's infrastructure deficiencies and provides guidance for prioritizing infrastructure funding.

Before I sign off for this month, I want to thank everyone who has supported and continues to support ASCE Philadelphia; whether by reading these messages, attending events, or volunteering for one of our many Committees your support is what makes this organization so successful! Please feel free to let us know if you have any suggestions to improve upon our success.

"See" you all at our **September 24th Welcome Back Social & Awards Ceremony** and October 8th technical presentation!

Best,  
Jen Reigle, PE  
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section  
[jreigle@pennoni.com](mailto:jreigle@pennoni.com) | 215-254-7723

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

### PRESIDENT

Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Briana Earle, Langan Engineering  
& Environmental Services

### VICE PRESIDENT

Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning  
& Design, Inc.

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Jeanien Wilson, Philadelphia Dept. of Streets

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Joseph Natale, DVRPC

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Caroline "Cricket" Schreppler,  
Advantage Engineers

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Andrew Bechtel, College of New Jersey

### DIRECTORS

Kevin Brown, Urban Engineers, 2020-22  
Scott Cepietz, Michael Baker International, 2020-22  
Michael DeVuono, Arcadis, 2020-21  
Gregory Dunn, Michael Baker International, 2019-21  
Thomas Kulesher, JMT, 2020-22  
Tania O'Kane, HNTB, 2019-21

### PAST PRESIDENTS\*

Kazi Hassan, Pennoni  
Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers, Inc  
Cathy Farrell, HNTB

*\*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.*

### Contact Us:

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#### Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

#### Section Outreach Coordinator

Jeanien Wilson

#### Staff Writers

Assunta Daprano, Lindsay Chateauvert

#### SEND COPY TO:

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE  
OCTOBER 9, 2020**

**Nobody made a greater mistake than he  
who did nothing because he could do only a little.**

— Edmund Burke

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

**Assunta Daprano**, Forum Editor

**Katrina Lawrence**, Forum President 2020-21

McCormick Taylor

kalawrence@mccormicktaylor.com

### CONSTRUCTION TOUR – PAVILION AT PENN MEDICINE

SEPTEMBER 15

YMF scheduled a virtual construction tour and technical presentation of the Pavilion at Penn Medicine. **Ed Hanzel**, Senior Project Executive, along with many of his project managers from LF Driscoll presented project highlights and gave a virtual walk-through of the construction site.

The presentation highlighted how Penn Medicine along with its IPD (Integrated Project Delivery) partners overcame challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic and expedited its schedule to build 60 emergency department rooms and 60 patient rooms in 20 days for COVID-19 readiness. The team also shared how they managed more than 700 workers at the site utilizing job-site safety protocols which included proximity tracking devices on hardhats, health screening, hand-sanitizing stations and other measures. We would like to thank Ed Hanzel and his project team for virtually hosting and presenting and those who were able to participate.

### MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

We are now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 Mentorship Program. Please visit the Mentor Program web page (<http://ymfphilly.org/mentor-program.html>) to fill out an application. The application deadline is October 16.

The YMF Mentorship Program connects young professional and student members with experienced Engineers. These one-to-one relationships aim to support the mentee's career and professional development goals. The mentee application is open to all young professional and student members within the ASCE Philadelphia Section. The mentor application is open to all members, with 3+ years of experience, within the ASCE Philadelphia Section.

This year particularly calls for more collaboration and communication among Engineers. Please consider joining the program so that all of us can learn and help each other through 2020-2021. If interested, please contact our Student Member Transition Chair, **John Doyle** at [JDoyle@TrafficPD.com](mailto:JDoyle@TrafficPD.com).

### K-12 OUTREACH – ASK AN ENGINEER VIDEO

If you haven't done so already, be sure to check out our #AskAnEngineer (Part 1) video, where Civil Engineers from YMF have answered questions from local students in the greater Philadelphia region about our profession. The video can be accessed through our website, [ymfphilly.org](http://ymfphilly.org). Stay tuned for Part 2, coming soon!

Stay tuned for Part 2, coming soon! Please email our K-12 Outreach Chairs at [ascephilaymfk12@gmail.com](mailto:ascephilaymfk12@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need additional information on this.

## 2020-21 SCHEDULE

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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.

### 2020

**December** – to be determined, "multi-society" joint meeting with Engineers' Club of Philadelphia

### 2021

**January 20** (Wednesday) – joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge

**February** – to be determined

**March 11** – Maggiano's, Center City

**April** – to be determined

**May 13** – Spring Social, Tendenza

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

**Audit** – Mohamed Elghawy

**Awards** – Bob Wright

**Engineers Week Hall of Fame Recognition** – Ruben David

**Budget and Finance** – Joe Natale

**Civil Engineers in Government** – Jeanien Wilson

**College Scholarship** – Scott Cepietz

**Communications** – Jesse Gormley

**E-mail Outreach** – Jeanien Wilson

**Webmaster** – Greg Dunn

**Facebook** – Joe Natale, Michael DeVuono

**Newsletter** – Bob Wright

**Sponsorship** – Bob Wright

**Continuing Education** – Mohamed Elghawy

**Humphrey Fund** – John Zarsky

**Membership** – Andrew Bechtel

**Mural** – Angelo Waters

**Nominating** (for Board Positions) – Jen Reigle

**Program** – Briana Earle

**Venue Coordination** – Troy Illig

**Check-in/Name Tags** – Nha Truong

**Society Relations** – Cathy Farrell

**Region 2 Director** – Jack Raudenbush

**Region 2 Governors** – Greg Kuklinski, Carol Martsolf, Joe Platt, Pat Sullivan

**Region 2 Younger Member Representative** – Joe Natale

**PA Council** – Cathy Farrell, Bob Wright

**Legislative Affairs** – Spencer Finch

**Spring Social** – Troy Illig

**Subsidiary Groups** – Mohamed Elghawy

**Construction Management** – Bob Wright

**Delaware Valley GeoInstitute** – Russ Preuss

**Environmental and Water Resources** – Eric Lindhult

**Structural Engineering Institute** – James Deeney

**Transportation & Urban Development** – Bill Thomsen

**Younger Member Forum** – Katrina Lawrence

**One ought, every day at least, to hear  
a little song, read a good poem, see a  
fine picture, and, if it were possible,  
speak a few reasonable words.**

– Goethe

## SPRING SOCIAL

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related to the virus). He thanked everyone for their perseverance and understanding on this, particularly with events that had to be reshuffled and rescheduled, with the event that nothing will be cancelled and all attempts will be made to reschedule meetings and sessions (and several have been conducted thus far). The evening wrapped up with the “formal” public “thanks” to the outgoing Board members and the welcoming and induction of our 2020-21 slate of officers. President Jen Reigle closed the event with her remarks on the coming season.

One thing that we were able to do this year as “normal” is our Section Awards program. Eight Section members who were nominated for Awards this year. The audiovisual presentation that has been produced for this purpose appeared to be well-received (as usual), but also a little different. Information on each of the awardees follows.

### PHILADELPHIA CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

**DARIN GATTI**

Darin was nominated as the recipient of our Section’s highest honor. He is the Chief Engineer and Surveyor for the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets and is the President of the Department’s Board of Surveyors. He has held this title for the past twelve years, culminating a 38-year career with the Department. Much of his career has been in the Department’s Bridge Section, where he worked his way from entry level engineer to the lead engineer in the design group. As Chief Engineer, Darin directs the Department’s transportation, highway and bridge design and construction efforts as well as its field survey and property line regulation activities. This includes a capital program of transportation facility improvement projects in various stages of development with a total value of over \$200,000,000. During his tenure, the Department has received several awards for excellence and innovative implementation techniques.

Darin earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1982. Throughout his career he has been a strong and tireless proponent of our profession, and an extremely active member of our Section, serving in a number of capacities over the years, including a term as Section President in 1997-98. He has been the practitioner adviser for the Drexel University ASCE Student Chapter and has assisted efforts for students in the regional steel beam and concrete canoe competitions. In 2014 he was cited by the Drexel University Alumni Association with a Special Distinction award to recognize his professional and community involvement. He and his wife Carolyn live in Fox Chase.

### PHILADELPHIA YOUNG CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

**DENNIS WILSON**

Dennis serves as an Associate Project Manager with McCormick Taylor Associates at its offices in Center City. He has been a part of the firm’s highway department for the past eight years and has

been with McCormick Taylor since his college graduation. His responsibilities entail a wide range of transportation projects, including intersection and interchange improvements and highway facility rehabilitation efforts, primarily for PennDOT’s Districts 5 and 6 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. He currently leads activities for local projects on I-95, SR 309, and ADA upgrades at PATCO’s Lindenwold Station, as well as providing highway occupancy permit submission review for PennDOT District 6. Additionally, he provided key assistance for the opening of the firm’s newest office in Fort Myers, Florida.

Dennis received his Bachelors degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012. He has been very active in our Section’s Younger Member Forum and was instrumental in the planning of the Multi-Region Leadership Conference conducted in Philadelphia earlier this year. He is also active with the Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee. He resides in Folsom, Delaware County.

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

**GREGORY DUNN**

Greg is a Senior Bridge Engineer with Michael Baker International at its offices in Fort Washington, a position he has held for the past year. In this capacity he serves as structures task leader for Baker and handles project management, bridge design, analysis and rehabilitation efforts, bridge information modeling, structural inspections, proposal development, QA/QC reviews, and construction support services. He had served in a similar position in another firm for nine years prior to joining Baker. He has been involved in several significant projects, including local efforts on the Vine Street Expressway overhead structures replacement, the US 1 viaduct at Wayne Junction, the Valley Road bridge replacement adjacent to SEPTA’s Paoli Regional Rail Station, and the rehabilitation of the Lumberville-Raven Rock bridge across the Delaware River.

Greg received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 2009 and returned to Drexel for his Masters degree in 2016. He has been an active member of our Section and serves as a member of our Board of Directors as well as our website coordinator. He lives in Glenmoore, Chester County with his wife Lauren and son and daughter.

### GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

**SARAH MCINNES**

Sarah is the District Geotechnical Engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation District 6 office in King of Prussia, a position she has held for the past twelve years. She has been in the District’s Geotechnical Unit in several capacities since 1997. She is involved in all phases of transportation project development, including geotechnical scope, proposal review, report review and preparation, preliminary engineering, subsurface investigations, foundation design, and construction and maintenance consultation. She has managed the District’s geotechnical program to provide timely project delivery and safe, economical and constructable

products, and has taken great effort to implement a design program to minimize construction and future maintenance costs. This has been achievable through her leadership and ability to utilize the latest available technologies to further the Department’s mission.

Sarah received her Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Syracuse University in 1992, followed by her Masters degree from Villanova University in 2013. She is active in our Section’s GeoInstitute and has served on the Board of Directors of the Delaware Valley Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers for several years. She has authored and published several papers and presentations on geotechnical topics as well. She and her husband Doug and their son and daughter live in Harleysville.

### 2020 TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

**ROBERT LUND**

Bob was appointed as the Deputy General Manager for Engineering at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority earlier this year, culminating a 19-year career at SEPTA. As the Deputy General Manager, he is part of the Authority’s leadership team and directs and manages all operations, infrastructure, vehicles, real estate and capital programs. He oversees a staff of nearly 8500 employees and directs a combined capital and operating budget of \$1.35 billion. He ensures the Authority’s commitment to safety, reliability and customer experience through leadership and best practices that demonstrate safety as a fundamental value and priority in all aspects of work. He worked at other firms for 23 years before joining SEPTA. Bob has held several engineering positions at the Authority throughout his career and has overseen critical projects such as the Market Street Elevated reconstruction and the complex replacement of the Crum Creek Viaduct on the Media-Elwyn Regional Rail Line.

Bob received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering from Villanova University. He is a member of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association and the American Public Transportation Association in addition to ASCE. He has been instrumental in the placement of our Section Mural in a new location, which will be coming to fruition shortly. He lives in Berwyn.

### 2020 GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARD

**LOUIS BELMONTE**

Lou serves as the Assistant District Executive for Operations with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation at its District 6 office in King of Prussia. In this capacity he is responsible for the executive level management of activities in the District’s Traffic Operations, Transportation Services, and Traffic Engineering and Safety Divisions. These groups handle a variety of functions including traffic control, freeway system management and the regional traffic management center, work zone safety, municipal partnership programs, traffic signal design and approvals, permit management, and related items. He has been with the Department for the past thirty-two

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### SPRING SOCIAL

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years and rose through the ranks from entry-level Engineer upon his college graduation through several positions at the District in construction, maintenance and traffic to his current role. Under his direction, the District has taken the lead in several innovative measures, including establishment of flex lanes and a regional fiber-optic communications network to monitor traffic signal systems, and the establishment of the state-of-the-art Southeastern Regional Traffic Management Center, scheduled to open in 2022.

Lou is a graduate of Villanova University, where he earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1988. He, his wife Kathleen, and four children live in King of Prussia.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SERVICE AWARD FOR 2020

DANIELLE SCHROEDER  
LINDSAY CHATEAUVERT

We are pleased to recognize two nominees for this award.

**Danielle Schroeder** serves as an Assistant Bridge Engineer with Pennoni at its office in Mechanicsburg, having recently relocated there from Philadelphia. She has been with the firm full-time for the past three years and served as an intern there for two years prior to her graduation. Dani received her Bachelors and Masters degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 2017 as part of its accelerated program. She is an active member of the Women’s Transportation Seminar as well as our Section’s Younger Member Forum. This past summer, she was elected to the Drexel Alumni Board of Governors, the youngest person to serve on the Board. She and her fiancé Doug live in Mechanicsburg.

**Lindsay Chateauvert** is the Engineer of Structures with Amtrak at its offices in University City. She has been with Amtrak for the past three years. In this capacity she assists in the management of the railroad’s bridge maintenance and inspection programs and directs the annual inspection of over four thousand structures. Lindsay received her Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Connecticut in 2013. She is an active member of our Section’s Younger Member Forum. She lives in Old City.

Dani and Lindsay have served as co-chairs of the K-12 Outreach Committee of our Younger Member Forum. Under their direction, numerous visits to local elementary and secondary schools in our region have been scheduled to present to and talk with students about the Civil Engineering profession. They provide hands-on activities and assignments to advise the students what Engineering entails to introduce them to our field and show them what they may need to know if they are considering Engineering as a career choice.

### OTHER AWARDS

Our Presidential Award had two “takers” this year, with Section Treasurer Joseph Natale and Section Director Kevin Brown honored for their hard work and diligence in the coordination of the Multi-Region Leadership Conference in January.

### THANKS TO...

Special thanks are extended to those who helped make the Spring Social a success once again this year. This includes the Spring Social Program Committee (chair **Troy Illig, Briana Earle, Kazi Hassan, AnnMarie Vigilante, Jenn Walsh, Jeanien Wilson and Bob Wright**), the Awards audio narrators (**Kevin Brown, Briana Earle, Kazi Hassan, Carol Martsof, Jen Reigle, Harold Windisch and Bob Wright**), who had to read this “live” this time around instead of being pre-recorded, and the Awards Committee (chair **Bob Wright, Carol Martsof, Allan Moore and Joe Natale**).

Planning for the **2021 Spring Social**, scheduled for **May 13 at Tendenza**, will begin later this season. Details will be provided as they develop.

### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

#### VIGILANTE NAMED 2020 LEHIGH VALLEY WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society named Past Section President AnnMarie Vigilante as the Lehigh Valley Woman of the Year in August. As part of her 10-week campaign, AnnMarie, a Senior Associate with Langan at its office in Doylestown, raised an impressive \$65,000 in support of blood cancer research. Funds raised support therapies and treatments that are saving lives. The Man and Woman of the Year is a philanthropic competition to support blood cancer research among a group of motivated and dedicated individuals in communities across the United States.

Congratulations to AnnMarie on this honor.

#### STOVER NAMED FELLOW IN CMAA

The Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) announced three members have been selected for induction into the CMAA College of Fellows in June. This included Past Section President Brian Stover, who is currently a Vice President with HNTB at its offices in Arlington, VA.

The FCMAA designation is the highest honor CMAA can bestow on an individual member. “These individuals were selected for their record of contributions to the success of CMAA, their dedication to CMAA’s core objectives, and their commitment to the future of the organization,” said Robert Fraga, Chancellor of the CMAA College of Fellows. The College seeks to represent a diverse community of industry leaders who lend their knowledge and insight to the strategic issues facing the industry and the construction management profession, identify and assist in the development of future leaders, and take an active role in supporting the mission of CMAA.

We congratulate Brian on this recognition.



### 2018 PA REPORT CARD IN THE NEWS

Have you seen the 2018 PA Infrastructure Report Card in the news? The Report Card is designed as a simple tool to help residents, businesses, and policymakers understand the state of PA’s infrastructure. Sharing the Report Card findings through news articles like these is key to continuing informed conversations about how to improve our infrastructure.

Notable to the conversation, critical decisions are going to be made in the coming year on infrastructure. Given the impact COVID 19 has had on sources of revenue for planned infrastructure work, government agencies have needed to change their paradigms; therefore, certain recommendations made in the 2018 Report Card on how to raise the grades need to be revised as we move forward. For example, a decrease in commuting has resulted in lower gas tax revenues, tolls, and transit fares. These considerations will be expanded upon in the future Report Card with the current 2018 Report card as a benchmark.

A larger version of this is available on our website.



### NEWS FROM NATIONAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

The **ASCE 2020 Convention** will be conducted in **Anaheim, CA** from **October 28-31**. Virtual sessions are planned and registration is now open. Please visit [www.asceconvention.org](http://www.asceconvention.org) for more information.

 **ASCE NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**Anaheim CA**  
**OCTOBER 28-31, 2020**  
[www.asceconvention.org](http://www.asceconvention.org)

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

**IN MEMORIAM**

**JOSEPH S. FINSTON**

We received word over the summer that Joseph S. Finston passed away on September 14, 2019. Joe joined Kaufman Construction Company Inc. as a field engineer on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and subsequently led major construction projects in the greater Philadelphia area for the firm. In 1964, he became President and CEO of Kaufman, a position he held for nearly 30 years.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania prior to going to work for Kaufman. He spent much of his retirement years doing what he loved, hiking, skiing and enjoying the great outdoors. He was a literal “fixture” at Section meetings and events for many years.

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## AUGUST SECTION "VIRTUAL" BREAKOUT TOPICS MEETING

August 27, 2020

Late August isn't typically a time for Section meetings to be scheduled, as many members are either getting away for a "last gasp" of summer vacation or getting their college student children off to school. With the unusual year we have had, however, the Section decided to reschedule the planned April Section meeting as a virtual event, offering the usual choice of "breakout" topics for attendees to select. Despite the timing, a healthy turnout of nearly 70 attendees were on hand to participate in the meetings, which were all great offerings. These included:

### *Villanova University Pedestrian Bridge*

This module covered the recently-installed pedestrian bridge on the campus of Villanova University, spanning from the Norristown High Speed Line station over Lancaster Avenue to the Saint Thomas of Villanova Church. The presentation included a review of the project setting and history, structural characteristics of the various bridge segments, unique project elements, and a review of the project's construction. The presenters were Christopher Seaman, PE, Senior Project Manager, McMahon Associates, and Daniel Wanger, PE, Pedestrian and Bicycle Design Technical Leader, McMahon Associates.

### *Boundary Hydroelectric Dam: Stabilizing a Rock Slope with Limited Access and Tight Construction Tolerances*

This session reviewed the stabilization of a 100-foot tall rock slope on the downstream side of a hydroelectric dam in Northeast Washington State using post-tensioned tiebacks. The project challenges included limited site access, strict drill tolerances, rope access means and methods, equipment weight restrictions, abnormal rock face geometry, communication, and construction schedule. The presentation included an overview

By Robert Wright, Editor

of the design focusing on site access, geotechnical capacities and performance of the brecciated limestone, and tieback tolerances; exploratory rock coring and down the hole inspection to inspect fracture planes, as well as the use of near real-time 3D modeling to assess risk based on as-built information and to make field changes based on site observations and contractor requests. The presenter was Mike Senior, EIT, Senior Staff, Schnabel Engineering. The Delaware Valley Geo-Institute sponsored this presentation.

### *SEPTA Subway-Surface "Blitz" Program*

This presentation outlined the SEPTA Subway-Surface "Blitz" program for 2020, conducted in July, which addressed short-term and limited-duration improvements and maintenance in the Subway-Surface tunnel in Center City and University City. It highlighted this year's work and touched on improvements carried out in previous efforts, which have been ongoing for several years. The five Subway-Surface "Green Line" trolley routes are detoured to permit continuous access without service interruptions to perform the work and the detour and handling of customers in and of itself is a logistical exercise as well, as thousands of riders are affected. The speaker was Dennis Stefanski, PE, Program Manager, Special Projects, SEPTA. The Construction Technical Group was this session's sponsor.

President Jen Reigle got things started with a few items of housekeeping and handed off to President-Elect Briana Earle, who introduced the speakers and topics and got attendees on their merry ways to each presentation.

Thanks to Joe Natale and DVRPC for assistance with the Zoom arrangements and process.

## OCTOBER MEETING

*Continued from Page 1*

The Manayunk Canal is a remaining segment of a canal system that was once over 106 miles long, stretching from the anthracite region of Schuylkill County down the Schuylkill River into Philadelphia. It was one of the first anthracite canals built to bring coal down through this network, and served as a key component of Philadelphia's Industrial Revolution while also shaping the evolution of outlying communities such as Phoenixville, Pottstown, Reading and Schuylkill Haven. The Canal differed from most canals of its time because it was comprised of segments of canal, with inlet and outlet locks around difficult sections of the river as well as the slackwater created by numerous dams constructed up and down the river. The first lock was constructed in East Falls at that neighborhood's waterfall. The last construction was of the Fairmount Dam in 1823, the creation of which caused the slackwater to cover the rocks past East Falls. The Manayunk Section was completed in 1818.

In more recent decades, the Canal project has been a top priority in Manayunk. Its location directly behind Main Street businesses creates the perfect opportunity for a watered street with businesses and apartments alongside it. Starting with planning in 1993 and with the first capital projects completed in 1997, the Canal has seen over \$8 million in capital investments, with another project of \$1.2 million pending. This includes efforts to improve the canal towpath for pedestrian and bicycle use as well as measures to reintroduce positive water flow into the Canal itself.

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

## SPONSOR PROFILE - MCMAHON ASSOCIATES

### ADAPTABILITY RULES THE DAY

If there's a theme to 2020, aside from chaos, at McMahon it would have to be adaptability. Every person has had their "normal" world change, and so have engineering firms. Typically, it may take a long time for engineering firms to make notable changes, but in extraordinary times like these we can look at some positives that have resulted from required changes that happened almost instantly and some good that has come from the new ways we do things. At McMahon, like many of you reading this, we have been forced into being much more adaptable, and nimble, than ever before. These capabilities can usher in a revolution in our industry and how we all work.

In the 40+ years that McMahon Associates, Inc. has been in existence as a full-service transportation engineering firm, the current pace of change has never been matched. The pandemic changed, yet improved, the technologies we use, our communications infrastructure and the way we manage the safety and welfare of our employees.

2020 started with McMahon converting our

VOIP phone technology to Zoom well before the virus hit. That well-timed conversion then enabled us to already have the established infrastructure to shift, nearly overnight, to a fully remote work environment. Additional investments in technology upgrades, from better laptops and additional webcams for employees, to upgrading servers, security and wi-fi capabilities, have made this transition almost seamless and enabled us to maintain daily operations with little to no interruption. We adapted quickly to working efficiently in the virtual world.

We also transitioned to a new Business Manager who took over financial operations during the pandemic, which could have been extraordinarily difficult. However, since our transition plan included overlapping our new Business Manager with our retiring CFO for a few months beginning early in Q2 of 2020, we were able to utilize her skills and experience to help us manage the crisis and operations, allowing her more time than would normally be available to undertake the special projects necessitated by COVID. We have also been able to have her invest time

into learning our financial systems and personnel in order to make enhancements and efficiencies for the firm. Her leadership and immediate successes will continue to help us as the crisis subsides. We needed to adapt quickly from our original plan for her onboarding, and utilized the situation to create a positive for the firm.

While we miss the in-person day-to-day interactions among staff, overall communication has been elevated to even better levels within our firm. Our leadership team has worked more closely in the face of the crisis to ensure that our employees and their safety always stayed at the forefront. Policies and procedures were created to help ensure both employee safety and effective business operations, especially as the firm began reopening its physical workplaces. Communicating regularly and efficiently, while providing access to national, state, local and family-based resources have enabled our employees to feel informed, empowered, cared for and less anxious. We have embraced remote working with great efficiency and communications among individuals and offices throughout the firm due to our strong culture of employee-to-employee relationships. Zoom meeting technology has carried this through to our

*Continued on Page 8*

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS – 30 YEARS!

At this early point in our season, we are proud to note that 13 firms have agreed to participate in our Section Sponsor program. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

And, as noted in the title, this season marks 30 years of our sponsorship program! When this started in our 1991-92 season, there were nine firms that participated in it (2 of these remain as sponsors today!). Thanks to all of you have participated in this over the years.

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* (please see the separate article on one of our sponsors in this issue).

We contacted last year's sponsors in mid-August to determine their interest for this season, so if you were "in" last year but haven't yet renewed, we look forward to having you back.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact **Bob Wright** at [newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org) for more details.

In case you were wondering, the nine "original" sponsors were the following. You are correct if you think some of them no longer exist.

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J. Richard Weggel, Ph.D, PE (Drexel University)

## N-ASCE\*

### HOW THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING BECAME PHILLY'S MOST POLARIZING GOVERNMENT TOWER

These days, the Municipal Services Building is the quietest it's been in decades, at least on the inside. (On the outside, it was the literal epicenter of several protests this summer, and remains "behind" a line of barricades at present as a result of these activities.) Following the coronavirus shutdown, things are beginning to return to some sense of normal with city agencies returning with limited staff and little public access out of the 18-story government tower, less clunkily known as MSB. Outside, the awkward dominoes and Parcheesi pieces look more forlorn than usual, as if they miss the skateboarders and protesters and selfie-takers who normally populate the granite tundra of Thomas Paine Plaza.

Empty or not, the building and plaza have been a historic backdrop to life in the city for more than half a century. Built in the early 1960's, the MSB won numerous accolades from architectural critics, who praised the compact, efficient design that was in global vogue at the time. To

## McMahon Associates

*Continued from Page 7*

contact with clients and partners. Reaching out and "remotely" connecting with someone has never had a higher priority, especially for a firm whose culture is a very strong asset of why people work at, and with, McMahon. Through our GIS-based solution, TRAIRS, we have even helped municipalities shift from in-person communications and support structures to online platforms for daily municipal requests like road maintenance and permits. Permits especially became important as everyone shifted to doing all of their COVID-DIY projects. In turn, we helped a lot of decks get built. While our communications have had to adapt and to be more frequent and stronger than ever, we all still agree that there is nothing better than the ability to connect with a colleague, a client, and other business associates in person.

The biggest "benefit" of the pandemic has to be the reminder of what is truly important and precious at our firm - our people. It's unusual for a company to have daily impact on the lives of their employees, but this was one of those times. We focused on making sure everyone was okay, and continue to do so. That every person was being supported in any struggle they faced, whether it be family needs, childcare issues with closures, remote working support, or mental health needs. We brought "fun" remote activities to the team like a Walk at Work – Home Edition and Healthy Selfies initiatives. We engaged with each employee like never before. We responded to the crisis with the ability to adapt to many changes, and to work harder to keep our culture strong. The pandemic has been a powerful reminder that we are all in this together. A lesson that we, as a firm, will continue to embrace in the post-COVID world.

Thanks to **Casey Moore, P.E.**, Executive Vice President – Corporate Operations and **Jennifer Kamienski**, Marketing Director, of McMahon Associates, Inc. for this.

some, it was a depressing ode to government mundanity, to others, an underappreciated landmark of Center City's post-World War II rebirth. On a more practical level, MSB exists because the city was growing, and its government needed room to expand beyond City Hall.

Many US cities saw surging growth periods in the post-World War II years, before the massive declines that would come to define the latter half of the century. In 1950, Philadelphia breached 2 million residents, the largest population it's ever seen. For then-Mayor Richardson Dilworth, this presented new planning challenges. The government had grown to accommodate its ballooning constituency, and City Hall was too small to house the various appendages of the state. At the time, the city was spending upwards of \$500,000 on rent for outside office space. Meanwhile, Center City was getting a facelift and developing from former railroad and warehouse properties.

The future also included structures like MSB, which came to occupy a public open space known as Reyburn Plaza. In the area around City Hall,

## SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

### TPD RANKED #4 CIVIL ENGINEERING FIRM TO WORK FOR NATIONWIDE

Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD) has been ranked the #4 Best Civil Engineering Firm to Work For in the nation, as well as #1 overall in its size category on the Zweig Group's 2020 Best Firms To Work For list. This program recognizes outstanding A/E/C firms for inspiring their teams to perform at the highest levels through providing distinctive and innovative work environments. Firms are evaluated comprehensively on firm culture, workplace practices, benefits, retention rates, professional development, and more, from both management and staff's perspective. When asked anonymously if they believe TPD should qualify as one of the best firms in the industry to work for, TPDers responded:

*"No other company I know of focuses so much positive energy on its employees' well-being and family life."*

*"The firm is very employee-focused and strives to provide the best workplace environment they can."*

*"Especially during COVID-19, TPD has set up its employees to succeed in [any] environment and will equip them with the tools needed."*

This is TPD's 18th year on the list, and 3rd year ranking #1 in its size category (2020, 2010 and 2009). TPD is concurrently ranked the #77 fastest-growing firm in the nation on the Zweig Group's Hot Firms list, for their consistent and impressive growth.

Since 1989, TPD has continually demonstrated a commitment to providing exceptional staff benefits, including technology resources and flexible schedules to encourage a healthy work/life balance and aggressive professional development. TPD accepts these awards for another year with pride and commits to continuing to work to provide an outstanding workplace and environment for the entire TPD family.

that vision was manifested by local architect Vincent Kling, whose work included JFK Plaza/Love Park, Centre Square, and One Meridian Plaza, all big office towers aproned by vast, low-maintenance public spaces. Part of a global trend in architecture at the time, MSB was considered revolutionary for downtown Philadelphia.

But even from the early days of construction, the government obelisk didn't exactly win over the locals. Observers lamented the dreary design, and even drearier name. The architecture world showered the building with awards, however, lauding the vaulted-ceiling lobby and other design elements. Around this same time, other local architects were drafting ideas that appeared radical in contrast. They reportedly detested City Hall, and came up with what they called the City Tower as an alternative. Their desired location for it was what later became JFK Plaza, also known as Love Park. It never saw the light of day, but MSB soldiers on.

Thanks to BillyPenn for this information.

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