



ASCE

PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

Vol 94-1

Our 109th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

SUMMER 2021



ASCE Vision

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



ASCE Mission

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



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

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

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2021-22

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is in the very preliminary stages 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. We are at this point planning to return to in-person events and more details will be provided on this as we get closer to the meeting dates. 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.

2021

October 14

November 11

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

2022

January 19 (Wednesday) – joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge

February – to be determined

March 10

April – to be determined

May – Spring Social, to be determined

Yes, We Are Still Here

RETURNING FOR REAL IN SEPTEMBER...

This is our usual abbreviated summertime "teaser" edition of THE NEWS. While we are technically off for the summer, we know our loyal readers are always in search of information, and in our attempt to accommodate them, we take a break from our break and crank out this smaller-than-normal issue for your enjoyment and reading pleasure.

Anyhow, you're welcome, and, once this edition is completed, we will vacate the Editor's desk once again temporarily with the promise (or warning...?) to be back with our usual full issues starting in the latter part of September or so. We hope you are enjoying your summer thus far.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL

New President Elect and National Directors/Governors

This year's election for National President Elect, Region Governors Elect, and several constitutional amendments was concluded on June 1. MARIA LEHMAN, Director of US Infrastructure at GHD, and longtime ASCE member and volunteer, was the victor in the election for President Elect, going up against PETER MOORE. Ms. Lehman has been extremely active in National ASCE as well as her "home" Section in Buffalo.

Ms. Lehman will be inducted at the Annual Business Meeting this fall at the ASCE 2021 Convention (more information on this is provided below). Her detailed biography and experience are provided on ASCE National's website.

In addition, several Regional Directors and Governors were elected in this process. For our Region (Region 2), Patrick Sullivan of the Pittsburgh Section will be installed as our Governor-Elect.

By a vote of 66.5% in favor, the membership also defeated the proposed constitutional amendment intended to allow Student Members the right to vote. Amendments to the constitution require the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those members voting, thus although the measure obtained a majority of votes, it was "thisclose" to not getting the required percentage to pass.

Thanks to all who participated in the election.

National Convention



The ASCE 2021 Convention will be conducted virtually this year, from **October 6-8**. Registration will open in early July. Please visit www.asceconvention.org for more information.

SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

TPD Joins ENR's List of Top 500 Design Firms in the Nation

Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD) made its inaugural appearance on the nationally acclaimed *Engineering News-Record (ENR) Top 500 Design Firms* list, landing at number 450. ENR is recognized as the leading engineering and construction news publication in the United States. Its Top 500 list ranks the largest domestically based design firms, both publicly and privately held, based on revenue.

With over 200 members, 13 office locations, and an ever-expanding repertoire of services, TPD has achieved notable growth over the past few years. KEVIN JOHNSON, TPD's President, attributes the firm's success to "our dedication to investing in a talented and diverse staff of professionals, in addition to our exploration of new service-driven and geographic opportunities, while operating as lean and strategically as possible."

TPD is a transportation engineering firm that serves the eastern United States with offices across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and the Carolinas. Additionally, we are currently ranked as the Best Civil Engineering Firm to Work for (large size category) by the Zweig Group.

The full ENR 500 ranking list can be found at enr.com.

Congratulations to TPD on this achievement!

MEMBERSHIP STATUS – HOW MANY OF WE ARE WE?

We occasionally toss around facts and figures (mainly figures) about our Section membership. Our previous Membership Secretary, ANDREW BECHTEL, was able to provide these numbers for us for where we stand as of the beginning of May.

Total members – 2124

Associate members – 429

Members – 1004

Fellows – 50

Affiliate members – 73

Life members – 303

Students – 250

Other – 15

This is down from our last report, at the start of 2021, when we were at 2249 total, but may not fully account for those who have not yet sent their dues/renewals. (So if you haven't sent yours in yet...)

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

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2021-22 SEASON

PRESIDENT

Briana Pampuch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

PRESIDENT ELECT

Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph Natale, DVRPC

SECRETARY

Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

TREASURER

Caroline "Cricket" Schreppler, Advantage Engineers

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Kevin Brown, Urban Engineers

DIRECTORS

Scott Cepietz, Michael Baker International, 2020-22

Assunta Daprano, AECOM, 2021-23

Michael DeVuono, Arcadis, 2020-22

Daniel Gleason, PennDOT, 2021-23

Thomas Kulesher, JMT, 2020-22

Katrina Lawrence, Pennoni, 2021-23

PAST PRESIDENTS*

Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni

Kazi Hassan, CDM Smith

Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers

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

In addition, these folks will serve in appointed positions:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Gregory Dunn, Michael Baker International

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, Jacobs

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

Contact Us:

President—Briana Pampuch

Langan Engineering & Environmental Services
2701 Kelly Road, Suite 200, Warrington, PA 18976-3565
215-491-6548; bpampuch@langan.com

Secretary—Jesse Gormley, PE

Pennoni, 1900 Market Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-254-7876; jgormley@pennoni.com

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

Section Outreach Coordinator

Jeanien Wilson

Staff Writers

Assunta Daprano, Lindsay Chateaufvert

SEND COPY TO:

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE
SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

With this having been in place for at least a decade or so, you likely know the “drill” – professional engineers, land surveyors and geologists in most states are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to be able to renew their licenses. This is PA’s “year” for renewals for PE’s as current licenses expire on September 30. And this being summertime, it might be difficult for you if you need to get some professional development hours (PDH’s) you’ll need to have to renew if you already don’t have them in hand.

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 YMF 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. Also, starting last season, we have a library of recorded meetings that you will be able to view and obtain PDH’s through Teachable.com. Please see our website for more information

on this.

If you haven’t taken full advantage of what our Section offers, the reality 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. Fortunately 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). There are other offerings that are available from National at cost to help you pick up what you may need as well.

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.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

We are happy to report that our Section Sponsorship Program has enjoyed another successful season. We are as always grateful for the 14 firms which made the financial commitment for last season, with many of them having done this consistently for several years:

Aero Aggregates
CDM Smith
Drexel University
HNTB
JBC Associates
KMJ Consulting
Langan Engineering and Environmental Sciences
McMahon Associates
Michael Baker International
Pennoni
Traffic Planning & Design
Urban Engineers
Villanova University Stormwater Program
Your Quality Solutions

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 do not show the sponsors’ logos in the Summer edition of THE NEWS but will pick it up again in the fall. And speaking of this, we will be contacting current sponsors later this summer with more information on the program for the coming season. We hope the program will be as successful then as well.

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

Also, as you may be aware, our Section has begun our informal recognition of government and quasi-government agencies for the assistance they have provided us. The logos of these sponsors will be added to our new Agency Partners section starting in the October edition of THE NEWS. We are proud to cite the initial “crop” of Agency Partners:

Amtrak
City of Philadelphia Department of Streets
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 6-0
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS – NEW OFFICERS

YMF conducted its election virtually in late May and younger members of the Section were able to vote to elect the upcoming year’s Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). With social distancing in effect, the usual happy hour that would be conducted for this had to be limited to a virtual meeting, but all seemed to work out.

Following the election, the incoming, current, and past Presidents met to appoint members to fill the other Board positions. These appointed individuals typically either held a Board position previously or reached out to express interest in serving on the Board this past April/May. All elected and appointed Board members serve a one-year term, which began on June 1. Please join us in welcoming the following members to the 2021-22 YMF Board:

President – Dennis Wilson
Vice President – Tim Abel
Secretary – Lindsay Chateauvert
Treasurer – John Doyle

Past President – Katrina Lawrence
Committee/Group Chairs
Awards – Paige Glassman
CivE Club – Sabrina Mamo, Nooraldean Dabdoub
College Contact – Tyler Farley, Kayla Nelson
Community Service – Caroline Voigtsberger, Marty Williams
Information Technology – Cory Bogas
K-12 Outreach – Christian Antisell, Ben Deatrich
Professional Development – Darren Black, Ajin Fatima
Public Relations – Mohamed Asker
Social Events – Kirsten Brown, Kevin Walsh
Social Media – Assunta Daprano
Student Member Transition – CJ Medora
Technical Events – HuYoung Kim, Sean McCreesh

We thank these individuals for their willingness to serve and commit their time.

FROM THE SOMEWHAT CLUTTERED DESK OF THE EDITOR...

We're at that point in the summer when it starts to feel like "forever" since we've had an ASCE meeting (and in actuality, it was only about 2 months ago when we conducted the Spring Social and wrapped up the 2020-21 season, way back in mid-May). Now that summer is here, the days are longer (actually, they've already started getting shorter, once we passed the first day of summer late last month), the weather is warmer, and, not related to the season, the restrictions that we've had on social distancing, gatherings, etc., are starting to go by the wayside. The good news is that we took on the virus and in many ways won, but we know the virus is a little tricky and we need to be vigilant and keep an eye on the mutations, reoccurrences, etc.

I find myself back at my "real" desk and since I have been regularly occupying it it's managing to get a little cluttered again. I had been keeping it fairly clean, but by the same token that was only because I was working from home and cluttering the desk there. Now that we have returned to the office, the home desk is looking very neat and clean. Go figure.

As we know, wrapping up the 2020-21 season seemed a little different, as it was indeed a different season – no in-person meetings, no networking, plenty of virtual offerings and get-togethers, but we managed to conduct a very successful meeting season despite never seeing Past President Jen Reigle in person presiding over any of them or having any of those tasty (and very much missed) dinners at Maggiano's. We all are looking forward to returning to normal (if we, at this point, remember what that exactly is – keep in mind we did manage to squeeze in our last meeting in March 2020 as the world was closing down and all of us were treading very carefully forward, not quite fully aware of what was coming our way). If you're counting (and my firm's president has given us numbered weekly updates, so I know this), we're in the 60's at this point – and you may recall how at first we were thinking maybe 4-6 weeks of quarantine would do the trick.

Fortunately, science and technology were there to rescue us. The vaccines were developed and rolled out in record time. While we were awaiting those, we found ways to conduct our activities and business virtually. I have told a number of folks that, had this happened as recently as maybe a dozen years ago, we would be "dead in the water" with no such capability – thus, technology rose to the occasion and enabled virtual work, meetings, etc., to happen. We have come out of an economic disaster with jobs available and begging for applicants (maybe not so great, but better news than we faced at the start of the pandemic), and most if not all of us have remained very busy and gainfully employed in our field.

The "experiment" of virtual meetings, into which we tread very carefully in May 2020, turned out to be a new and useful tool that has been greatly accepted and embraced by our members. As previously noted, we managed to conduct EVERY event last season virtually, and we had great topics and very respectable participation, so we were able to continue to serve our membership. Keep in mind the response of many of our peer groups was merely to cancel and shut down programs for the duration – we didn't feel we could do that, given the technology available to us, but we knew there was going to be a "learning curve" of sorts to figure out how to use the methods that could make this happen, have them be able to accommodate large groups of attendees, and make them run effectively. We found a good and dedicated corps of folks who took this on and made the meetings happen, and we appreciate their assistance very much. We knew our members were depending on us (no pressure...). While they would come without the usual networking/happy hour and meal that gave our meetings a nice social touch, we wandered into the "strange and different land" of virtual meetings, and succeeded on several fronts – delivering a quality program and meaningful/informative meetings, meeting the expectations of our members, and having good turnout and participation. We showed that we could indeed do this, and this gave us an option in our "arsenal" in the event that we would need to use it again. We were not about to merely give up and blame it on the situation beyond our control – we were proactive and did what we could do.

And, as we have found, we may have done "too good", if that's possible. Getting to meetings became quite a bit easier for many, with no need to factor in travel, scheduling, etc., and now we may need to look at a situation in which even our in-person meetings may need to be "hybrid" of sorts, to accommodate both those wanting to attend physically as well as those who may prefer to be there virtually. We will need to play this by ear as our season starts up.

We continue to do very well and are both admired and envied by other groups which can only wonder how we do it. Our good mix of seasoned leaders, the enthusiasm of our Younger Members Forum, and the active and strong Student Sections, makes it all work. We consistently have good meetings and topics and get good turnouts at our events, something other groups struggle to do. We manage to succeed, despite how busy we all are, because we make it work. Our "good thing", which you've often heard me call this, is entering into its 109th year of existence this season. Our collective strength lies in the people who take advantage of what our Section has to offer. We have been successful lately in our outreach efforts to "spread the word" about what

we do, particularly with students, and we will be continuing to do so.

We also have the advantage and "depth" of experience, as you may have seen with the good involvement and turnout of Past Presidents and officers/directors in our events and committees. A number of folks remain strong supporters of what we do, thus we can easily continue to be a "good thing" for many years to come. We hope to see you during our coming season's events, and if you have time to offer help, please let us know.

And, just like at the close of the Spring Social, that's all, folks

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, **Jesse Gormley** (contact information is provided on page 2). Committee Chairs may be changing during the summer and we will include the chairperson information in our next report in October.

- ASCE Philadelphia Report Card Promotion Audit
- Awards (includes Engineers Week Hall of Fame Recognition)
- Budget and Finance
- Civil Engineers in Government
- College Scholarship
- Communications (includes E-mail Outreach, Newsletter, Sponsorship, Website)
- Continuing Education
- Humphrey Fund
- Membership
- Mural
- Nominating (for Board Positions)
- Program (includes Meeting Check-in/Name Tags and Venue Coordination)
- Society Relations (includes Legislative Affairs, PA Council and Region 2)
- Subsidiary Groups (includes Technical Groups/Institutes and Younger Member Forum)
- Spring Social

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I start my presidency for our 109th year, I am so thankful for last year's board and for working together on continuing to offer all of our member benefits including PDH worthy virtual webinars, virtual networking and creating an online webinar library. I am looking forward to working with our board for this upcoming year in hopes to transition back to our "normal" in person dinner meetings and events. We all miss the in person networking and of course the delicious food at Maggiano's. As we plan for shifting back to our in person meetings this fall we know it may not be the full "normal" from before the pandemic at first, but having everyone in the same room networking face to face is what we all really miss. Our board will be working over the summer to formalize our transition back to in person events and are looking forward to seeing everyone together again this fall. We have our summer planning meeting scheduled for the beginning of August where we will discuss what initiatives and informative programs we will have lined up for this upcoming year.

As our region has been opening up I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer with family, friends and staying cool through some of the heat waves that have come through our region. I am looking forward to seeing everyone together again this fall!

Best,
Briana Pampuch, PE
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section
bpampuch@langan.com | 215-491-6548

SPRING SOCIAL UPDATE – WE'RE HAVING ONE...!

Please mark your calendars and hold the date – **OUR FIRST IN-PERSON EVENT in over a year and a half will be conducted with our "SPRING SOCIAL IN THE FALL"** (not its official title...) that will be conducted on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**, after having had to be postponed three times. This will be held at **Tendenza** in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia. We will salute another successful season for our Section as we enjoy drinks, networking and dinner, and honor and congratulate our Section Awards recipients from both 2020 and this year. As always it will be an enjoyable and memorable event, and we hope you can join us to share in the festivities.

COST AND RESERVATION INFORMATION will be provided in upcoming e-mail blasts.

We appreciate your ongoing patience and cooperation on this.

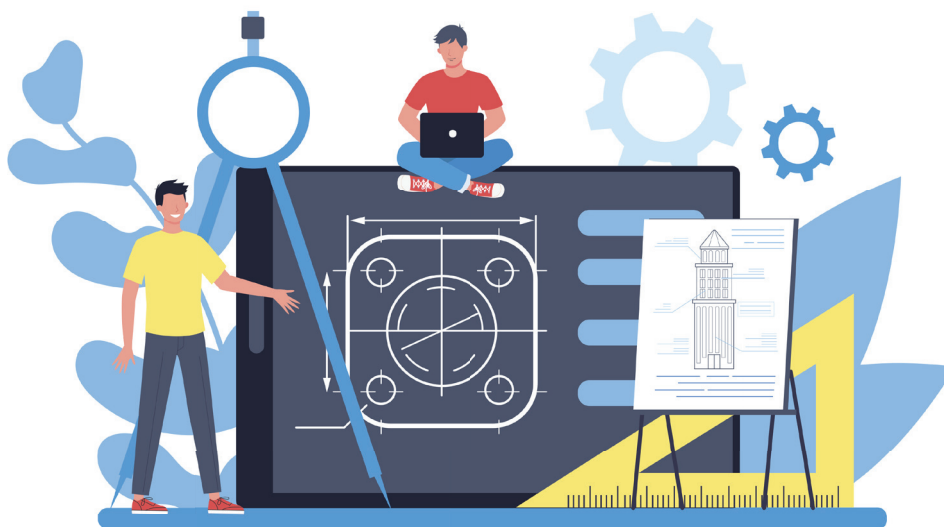
SO, HOW'D YOU LIKE THE NEW LOOK...?

You may have noticed (and let's hope you have...) that we have done some probably long-needed updating for the look of THE NEWS, thanks to our creative director (and assembler of every edition you have seen for at least the last 25 years or more), Kathy Keiper. We admit we were probably overdue for this "makeover" (not your Editor's word for it, but...), but, like a lot of things, kept putting it off. It doesn't help that, as engineers, our aesthetics are a bit off at times, so it's a good thing we have help from folks like Kathy to keep us on track.

We would appreciate any feedback, observations, comments, suggestions, thoughts, etc. on the new look at newseditor@asce-philly.org. Don't worry – we won't try to rope you into anything if you offer your ideas, and if you want to wait until our meetings start up again, this could always be a subject of conversation over a beer or three (assuming you'd be buying, but...)

To be loved is to be fortunate, but to be hated is to achieve distinction.

— Minna Antrim



People forget how fast you did a job, but they remember how well you did it.

— Howard W. Newton