



ASCE
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

Vol 95-1

Our 110th Year

Summer 2022

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE



ASCE Vision

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



ASCE Mission

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



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NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER...

...as the song of the same name tells you (recorded originally by the Tempos in 1959 and covered by several others but not by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, as many will argue). In any event, and we hope we didn't start an argument, 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.

So now that we've provided some trivia (and likely put a song in your head that you can't get out of there now...), we will now dutifully get out from behind the Editor's desk and resume our time away from it, 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.

N-ASCE*

BEN FRANKLIN MADE UP 200 TERMS FOR BEING WASTED

Ben Franklin is often quoted as having said, "Beer is proof God loves us and wants us to be happy." But he was actually talking about wine. In a 1779 letter to French artist Francois Morellet, Franklin began by stating, "In vino veritas ... Truth is in wine."

He then continued to wax lyrical: "Behold the rain which descends from heaven upon our vineyards. There it enters the roots of the vines, to be changed into wine; a constant proof that God loves us, and loves to see us happy."

The book "*Stirring the Pot with Benjamin Franklin*" by Rae Katherine Eighmey delves deep into Franklin's love of food and drink. Eighmey says that Franklin's fondness for boozing was closely tied to his enjoyment of socializing, as "he had a substantial wine cellar and substantial orders of wine, because he was entertaining a lot. He was a joyful host. He saw the benefit of shared convivial punch bowls in conversation and in negotiations, but above all he was pragmatic and he cautioned repeatedly against overindulgence."

Continued on page 4

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2022-23

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is currently 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. Our plan and intent is a 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.

2022

October 13

November 10

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

2023

January 18 (Wednesday) – joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge

February – to be determined

March 9

April – to be determined

May – Spring Social, to be determined



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I start my presidency for our 110th 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 with high 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. Not only was it nice to be able to bring that back in May with our first in-person Spring Social, for the first time since March 12, 2020, but we are able to do so at one of our favorite venues! I, for one, am looking forward to seeing all of you at Maggiano's again this October, networking face to face, and catching up like old times. Our Board will be working over the summer to formalize our transition back to in-person events and are looking forward to showing you all of the creative ideas we have come up with to enhance the experience of our technical dinner meetings. We have our summer planning meeting scheduled for the middle of July 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,
 Mohamed A. Elghawy, PE
 President, ASCE Philadelphia Section
 melghawy@trafficpd.com | 484-363-2472

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](https://www.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.

As such this 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.



ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2022-23 SEASON

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Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni

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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 folks will serve in appointed positions:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Thomas Kulesher, JMT

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, PennDOT

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

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE
 SEPTEMBER 23, 2022**

FROM THE NOT-THAT-CLUTTERED DESK OF THE EDITOR...

We know from listening to and watching the almost-constant TV news updates we get that summer is indeed here. When summer started, however, is anyone's guess and likely the source of confusion for the very young and their older counterparts. The local media expounds on Memorial Day weekend as the "unofficial" start of summer, even though there's a good 3 weeks before actual summer, the "official" start (?) (the summer solstice, this year June 21) of the season. The weather reports will advise that "meteorological" summer starts on June 1 and ends on August 31, but the actual end of summer season is at the autumnal equinox, September 22 this year, when fall begins. We will also hear on Labor Day weekend that that will be the "unofficial" end of the summer season. And, as we know, summer-like temperatures can happen any time between May and September, give or take. Confused yet? For purposes of *THE NEWS*, we'll stick with the actual days that summer begins and ends, as we learned them in school many years ago, and as dictated by the position of the equator as we pass around the sun. Using this guidance, we can safely proclaim that as you read this we are very much in the thick of the summer season.

So now that that's out of the way... (and hopefully not confusing you further)... Many of us are back at our "official" desks (uh-oh, here we go again with this "official" thing...) at this point, having experienced work from home and all of its benefits and trappings, so the clutter that had been accumulating at the home workspace (and keeping the office desk such that the desktop could actually be seen) is once again likely back where it should be. As much as many of us enjoyed working remotely, many of us did not, and with many of us having the ability to do either in a "hybrid" setting, that seems to be acceptable. I found it interesting in talking with non-engineer friends that had the same experience and figured the engineers, who we all know are non-social beings (as said friends would believe), would very much like the lack of interaction that work from home brings with it. Many of us have experienced otherwise, that we found it difficult to do much without such interaction and being in the office makes this a good deal easier than having to rely on e-mails, virtual tools and similar substitutes for actual talking face-to-face.

And we proved how much the non-social stereotype associated with engineers (usually by those who are not engineers) is inaccurate, with a nice-size turnout at our in-person Spring Social on May 19, where we got to once again see each other and enjoy the good food that Maggiano's has to offer after just over two years since the last time we were there (on the literal eve of everything shutting down). The common topic of the evening was just that, how we missed seeing each other in person (Zoom and Teams were nice but just didn't cut it). I have been to a handful of other in-person events over the past few months and the atmosphere of each has been very similar. We do indeed miss the camaraderie, networking, interaction and just plain catching up that we've become used to over the years at these sorts of events and which drastically changed when restrictions went into place. In many ways we also learned how important these technical societies and similar groups are to how we function and what we do, both professionally and socially, and how we missed them when they couldn't happen.

We did in some ways get a little spoiled by virtual meetings. At first, we ventured into these very carefully as the technology was still a bit rough, especially for larger groups, but we got to know things and this turned out to be a new and useful tool that has been greatly accepted and embraced by our members. So much so that starting in April 2020, and continuing through both the entire 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons, our Section meeting program and nearly all of our Technical Group meetings have been virtual. Yes, we've had two Section Presidents who you didn't see preside over any meetings in person, save the Welcome Back Fall Social last September and "part two" of the Spring Social in May. We managed to continue to have great topics and very respectable participation, so we were able to continue to serve our membership.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS NEW OFFICERS

YMF conducted its election at a happy hour at Craft Hall on May 12. Younger members of the Section were able to vote to elect the upcoming year's Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer).

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 2022-23 YMF Board:

President:	Tim Abel
Vice President:	Kirsten Brown
Secretary:	Assunta Daprano
Treasurer:	Kevin Walsh
Past President:	Dennis Wilson

Committee/Group Chairs

Awards:	CJ Medora
CivE Club:	Nooraldean Dabdoub, Anthony Rizzo
College Contact:	Kayla Nelson, Elvira-Marie Mikhael
Community Service:	HuYoung Kim, Marty Williams
Information Technology:	Cory Bogas
JEDI:	Matt Reese
K-12 Outreach:	Kerianne Chin, Ben Deatrich
Professional Development:	Tyler Farley, Caroline Voigtsberger
Public Relations:	Kevin Malley
Social Events:	Zach Abbas, Christian Antisell
Social Media:	Alexis Gawelko
Student Member Transition:	Sabrina Mamo
Technical Events:	Darren Black, Sean McCreesh

We thank these individuals for their willingness to serve and commit their time, as well as those who served this past year.

Keep in mind that many of our peer groups merely cancelled and shut down programs when in-person meetings were not able to be conducted, something that we felt we could not do, especially with the virtual option and technology available to us. We figured out how to use these methods with 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 these virtual events would come without the usual networking/happy hour and meal that gave our meetings a nice social touch, we managed to succeed on several fronts, with a quality program of meaningful and informative meetings, meeting the expectations of our members, and having good turnouts and participation. This is very commendable and we greatly thank those who made it happen.

So now, when we return to in-person meetings, the convenience that you may have gotten used to, i.e. not having to leave your house, sitting on your sofa in sweatpants and "tuning in" for the meeting, will be no longer, as you will need to travel to the meeting venue, put on some business-worthy attire, pony up some cash, and be around others. We have a feeling most of you will not mind the change. It's also a little hard to fathom that our Section is entering its 110th year of existence. Our 100th anniversary seems like only yesterday, but here we are 10 years later, and still going strong.

We hope to see you during our coming season's events, and if you have time and energy to help us do what we do, please let us know. We can always use more help.

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. **Marisa Geldert-Murphey PE, F.ASCE**, was elected to serve as President Elect and will be formally inducted into this position at the ASCE 2022 Convention (more information on this is provided below). Her detailed biography and experience are provided on ASCE National's website.

Ms. Geldert-Murphey works as the region director for Missouri and Illinois for the Lochmueller Group Inc., specializing in transportation and geotechnical engineering. She chairs ASCE's Public Policy and Practice Committee, following a recent stint on ASCE's Board of Direction as the Region 7 director (2016-19). Her Society leadership roles began as President of the St. Louis Section in 2006 with service as Region 7 governor (2009-13).

In addition, several Regional Directors and Governors were elected in this process. For our Region (Region 2), Past Section President **Carol Martsoff** was successful in her bid for Director- Elect. **John Caperilla** of the Lehigh Valley Section additionally won the contest for one of two Governor-Elect seats.

Thanks to all who participated in the election.

NATIONAL CONVENTION



For 2022, the National Convention will return to an in-person event.

Here's what you will experience:

- Engage with state infrastructure coordinators tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- Learn from local mayors about the importance of infrastructure to the economy, quality of life, and fighting inflation.
- Participate in sessions on social equity in infrastructure investment and the potential policy decisions that may be adopted.
- Attend breakout sessions focused on specific features of Future World Vision, a next-generation initiative for those who will create the future built environment.
- Enjoy eye-opening technical tours of local innovative engineering projects.
- Attend career-enhancing educational sessions and earn up to 28 PDHs.

Please visit convention.asce.org for more information and registration.

Ben Franklin Wasted

Continued from page 1

Indeed, in 1724, when Franklin was just 18, he worked at a printing house in London where his co-workers' diets were mostly liquid. "The pressman at British printing houses thrived on a pint of beer before breakfast, a pint at breakfast with bread and cheese, a pint between breakfast and dinner, a pint in the afternoon at about 6 o'clock and yet another when the day's work was done," Eighmey writes. Meanwhile, he drank only water at work and was able to lift and carry twice as much type as anyone else there. Thus, in an early demonstration of the sort of supreme negotiating skills that would later help form our nation, Franklin was able to persuade his co-workers to drink less by arguing that the nutrition beer afforded them could be obtained by eating bread, which would make them more energetic for work.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Several Members Cited by GVFTMA

The Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association cited three dozen local young professionals in its Top TDM Professionals Under 40 awards, which were presented at the TMA's meeting in May. The awards cover a variety of transportation-related fields and firms. Among those cited were the following Section members:

Paige Glassman, Traffic Planning & Design

Sabrina Mamo, Carroll Engineering

Tania O'Kane, HNTB

Danielle Schroeder, Gannett Fleming

Kevin Walsh, HNTB

We congratulate Paige, Sabrina, Tania, Danielle and Kevin on this recognition!

SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

McMahon Acquired by Bowman

Bowman Consulting Group Ltd. has acquired McMahon Associates in an action that was finalized in early May. Founded in 1976 and headquartered in Fort Washington, PA, McMahon is a company that specializes in delivery of a full range of innovative transportation planning and engineering services to private and public sector clients. Its focus is on projects oriented to roads, bridges, traffic, parking, traffic signals, ITS elements, community transportation, and public transit.

"For over 45 years, McMahon has specialized in delivering forward-looking transportation, planning, engineering and technology solutions to our clients", said Joseph DeSantis, President and CEO of McMahon. "Our success is the result of the commitment and dedication of our employees, many of whom have been with the firm for most of their professional careers. Bowman is a well-established and culturally compatible firm with services that are complementary to ours. By joining up with Bowman we gain access to new resources and technologies that allow for an even greater investment in the delivery of innovative transportation solutions to our clients while continuing to offer the same personal attention and trusted relationships our clients have come to expect from us."

Ben Franklin Wasted

Continued from previous column

This balance between his love of alcohol — historical records show he had a preference for Madeira and arrack punch — and his belief in moderation led to some contradictions. "There are a lot of aphorisms from his 'Poor Richard's Almanac' which talk about the problems with overdrinking," Eighmey said. "There's one that goes, 'Drunkenness is the worst evil, makes some men fools, some beasts and some devils.' He also said, 'When the wine enters, out goes truth.' So he was sort of arguing both sides of it."

While loving the drink itself, Franklin was so contemptuous of out-of-control drunkards that in 1737 he published "*The Drinker's Dictionary*," a list of over 200 alternative terms for drunkenness he had overheard in taverns over the years, in his newspaper *The Pennsylvania Gazette*.

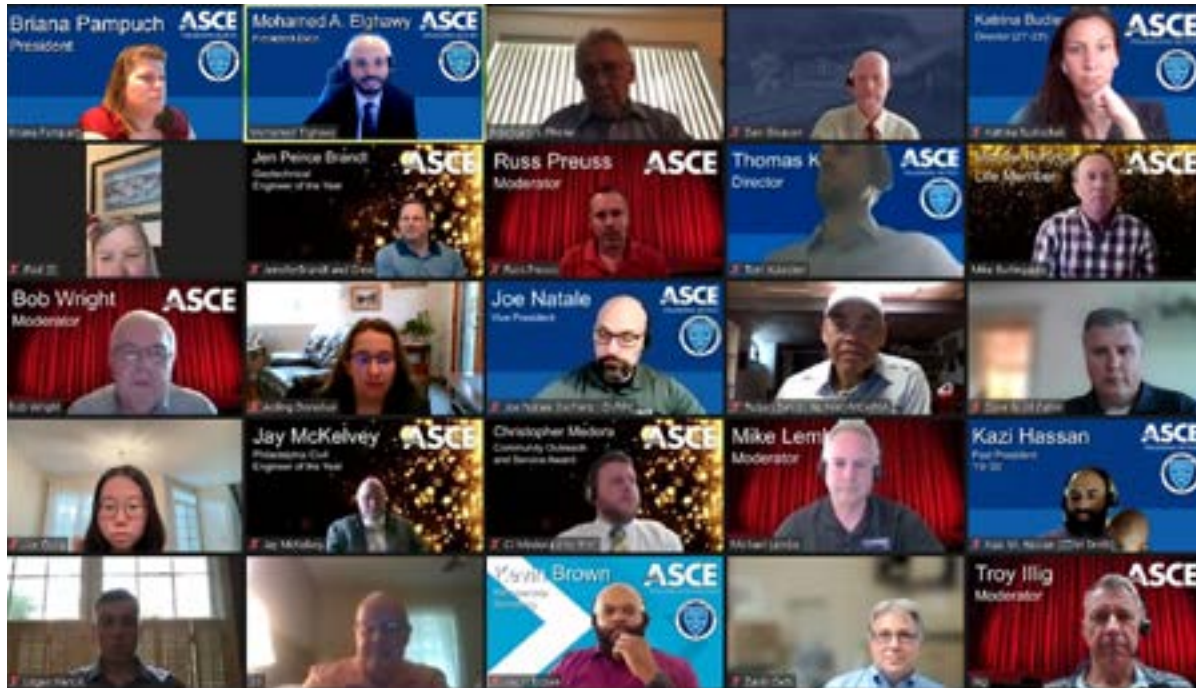
Even so, throughout his life, wine remained a regal pursuit for Franklin, and he enjoyed it moderately at every opportunity. "I have a grocery list [of his] from a year in France, and there's a lot of wine in there. I don't see [his conflicting attitudes] as mutually exclusive," Eighmey said. "If you are enjoying alcohol, that doesn't mean you drink to excess. The enjoyment of alcohol tied to moderation is perhaps, as Franklin would say, the key to a successful life."

Thanks to the *New York Post* for this information.

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

SPRING SOCIALS (!) A SUCCESS

As you may recall, way back in May (months ago at this point...) our Section scheduled two celebrations of our **Spring Social**, a virtual one on May 5 and an in-person follow-up two weeks later (May 19). We will provide a more detailed report on the Socials in the October edition of *THE NEWS* but wanted to offer this screenshot of the virtual event, showing a portion of those in attendance. We hope you were able to participate in one of the events.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

We are happy to report that our Section Sponsorship Program enjoyed another successful season in 2021-22. 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 • Colliers Engineering and Design • CDM Smith • Drexel University • HNTB • JBC Associates • 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 recognizes government and quasi-government agencies for the assistance they have provided us. The logos of these sponsors will be provided in the Agency Partners section in the October edition of *THE NEWS*. We are proud to cite last season's Agency Partners:

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

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 may be changing during the summer and we will include the chairperson information in our next report in October.

ASCE Brochure
 ASCE National Conference (2026)
 ASCE Philadelphia Report Card Promotion
 Audit
 Awards (includes Engineers Week Hall of Fame Recognition)
 Budget and Finance
 College Scholarship
 Communications (includes E-mail Outreach, Newsletter, Sponsorship, Website)
 Continuing Education
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 Humphrey Fund
 Membership
 Nominating (for Board Positions)
 Program (includes Meeting Check-in/Name Tags and Venue Coordination)
 Society Relations (includes Legislative Affairs, PA Council and Region 2)
 Spring Social
 Subsidiary Groups (includes Technical Groups/Institutes and Younger Member Forum)