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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)

CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER, BACK IN SEPTEMBER...

To provide some updates on happenings, even though our Section is pretty much dormant over the summer, we offer this, our usual abbreviated summertime "teaser" edition of *THE NEWS*. We know our loyal readers are always in search of information, and in our attempt to accommodate them, we accordingly take a break from our break and crank out this smaller-than-normal issue for your enjoyment and reading pleasure.

With this, 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.

SPRING SOCIAL A SUCCESS

Our Spring Social was held on Thursday, May 4 at the Down Town Club by Cescaphe in Center City. Roughly 80 attendees enjoyed the venue, the great food (and large quantities of it!), and a nice spring evening. We additionally cited one of our Delaware Valley Science Fairs awardees, our two Section Scholarship winners, and our seven recipients of Section Awards.

We will provide a more detailed report on the Social in the October edition of *THE NEWS*.

N-ASCE*

"WATCH THE TRAM CAR, PLEASE" — 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

With it being summer, this seems like an appropriate time to mention something shore-related. Anyone who has paid a visit to the Wildwoods Boardwalk has probably ridden in or narrowly escaped the path of the slow moving yellow and blue metal beast that only talks when provoked. Since 1949, this boardwalk icon has been shuttling locals and shobbies alike up and down the 2-mile bumpy boulevard of games, food and good times.

Continued on page 2

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2023-24

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. 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 continue to schedule these as we can.

Also, our Technical Groups and Institutes will have their usual programs of meetings and events which will be noted in e-blasts.

2023

October 12

November 9

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

2024

January 17 (Wednesday) – joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Crowne Plaza Hotel Philadelphia-King of Prussia

February – to be determined

March 14

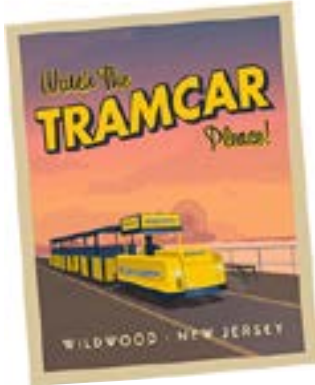
April 11

May – Spring Social, to be determined



N-ASCE* Watch the Tram Car, Please

Continued from page 1



But for those who blindly walk the boards, paying attention to only themselves or whatever is two feet in front of their face, they will eventually cross paths with the beast and it will let them know, in a polite way, it isn't happy. "Watch the tram car, please" echoes through the smell of pizza and drowns out the sounds of children's laughter as those unfortunate souls who are in the way are startled from their selfishness while a tram car bears down on them at a slick speed of 5 mph.

This year, the Wildwoods celebrates the 75th season of the Boardwalk Sightseer

Tram Cars. Originally built in 1939, these cars made their way to Wildwood and helped boost business, eventually becoming a symbol of the boardwalk.

Some facts on the tram car fleet and operation:

The tram cars were originally purchased by the Greyhound Bus Company to transport visitors around the 1939 World's Fair in New York. Nine years after the Fair closed, a Wildwood business owner, S.B. Ramagosa, purchased five of the trams and brought them to his town. They began operating on the Wildwoods Boardwalk on June 11, 1949, and the cost to ride one way was 10 cents.

Originally powered by diesel engines, they were changed to battery operation when Ramagosa acquired them, thus they are ahead of their time environmentally speaking (given the current popularity of EV's). Under the hood one will find a 2400-pound 36-volt battery. Around the middle of the service day, usually between 4:30 and 5 PM, fully charged tow tractors are swapped out for those that have been in service to that point.

From 1949 to the late 1980's, the tram drivers and conductors were all females. At present the crews include a number of retirees who have settled locally and exchange students from overseas.

From the first weekend in May to the last weekend in September, the trams carry between 500,000 and 600,000 passengers, with daily loads up to 10,000 during peak season. The maximum number of trams that run at any one time is eight, with two spare tow tractors in the wings. All five of the original 1939 trams still run. In 1964, the fleet was increased by three tow tractors, with two more added within the past few years. In the 75 years of service, more than 20 million passengers have taken tram car rides.

The Ramagosa family sold the fleet to a group of local business owners in 1994. In 2002, the new owners decided to sell the trams, and at the end of the summer season, they were stored at the Cape May County Airport, and several amusement parks around the country began to make offers for them. The Boardwalk Special Improvement District (SID), a private nonprofit corporation representing the property owners on the Wildwood boardwalk, stepped up to the plate and entered into a leasing arrangement with the former owners in the spring of 2003. SID purchased the trams outright the following year.

In 1971, a tram employee asked his girlfriend, Floss Stingel, to utter a few words into a home recorder. That phrase, "Watch the tram car, please", will forever resonate in the minds of anyone that has set foot on the Wildwoods Boardwalk. It became the voice of the beast, and it only took two or three tries. The electric operation contributed to the need for this as the trams run very quietly and are not heard by strollers on the boardwalk.

Trams have transported brides, grooms and wedding parties, but as far as anyone remembers a tram has yet to be in a funeral. The Harlem Globetrotters were shuttled up and down the boardwalk on the trams during their yearly appearances in Wildwood.

Thanks to NJ.com for this information.

*N-ASCE – not always something concerning Engineering

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Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning & Design Inc.

Briana Pampuch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

Jennifer Reigle, Amtrak

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

In addition, these individuals will be serving in appointed positions:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Assunta Daprano, AECOM

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, PennDOT

We will continue to have honorary Board Members appointed as well and these names will be provided accordingly.

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

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2023**

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Leaders on I-95 Emergency Reconstruction Efforts



After receiving a tour of the Interstate 95 highway collapse on June 17, **President Biden** provided an update on the administration's efforts to aid reconstruction efforts. He was joined by Pennsylvania officials including Governor **Josh Shapiro**, Senators **Bob Casey** and **John Fetterman**, Representative **Brendan Boyle**, and Mayor **Jim Kenney**. The collapse occurred on June 11, when a tanker truck carrying gasoline crashed and caught on fire under an I-95 bridge.

Section Director **Archie Filshill**, Founder and CEO, Aero Aggregates of North America, met with President Biden during the briefing to exchange ideas on contributing to a sustainable future together beyond the reconstruction of I-95. Dr. Filshill is also the Vice Chair of Geo-Institute's Continuing Education Committee, the Past Chair of the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute, the 2021 Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year, the 2023 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, and serves on the Geo-Institute Sustainability Committee.

Thanks to ASCE National's Government Relations Update for this information.

Reigle Moves to Amtrak

Past President **Jen Reigle** recently started a new position as Principal Design Manager at Amtrak. Congratulations to Jen on her new spot.

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 ASCE and Section members:

- **Cameron Connors**, HNTB
- **Loujin Daher**, Gannett Fleming
- **Assunta Daprano**, AECOM
- **Mohamed Elghawy**, Traffic Planning & Design
- **Brian McBride**, Urban Engineers
- **Joe Natale**, DVRPC

We congratulate all on this recognition!

Pampuch Movin' On Up

Past President **Briana Pampuch** has been promoted to Senior Project Manager at Langan. We congratulate Briana on her new position.

Wright Cited by ASHE

Past President **Bob Wright** was recognized by the Delaware Valley Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) as the first recipient of the Section's newly-established Member of the Year award. This was presented to Bob at the Section's annual meeting on April 19. Congrats to Bob on this citation.

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. ASCE membership has elected **Feniosky A. Peña-Mora** as our 2024 President Elect and he will be formally inducted into this position at the ASCE 2023 Convention (more information on this is provided below). With nearly 30 years of experience in academia and practice, De, Peña-Mora serves as the Executive Director of the Center for Buildings, Infrastructure and Public Space at Columbia University in New York, where he also has been the Edwin Howard Armstrong Professor of Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics since 2012. He is the founder and president of Peña-Alcantara Consultants Inc.

He chaired the Construction Research Council from 2009 through 2011, the International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure in 2017, and the Industry Leaders Council from 2020 through 2022.

Most recently, Peña-Mora served on the ASCE Board of Direction as an at-large director from 2019 through 2022, during which he also led the development of ASCE's new strategic plan as chair of the Board Strategic Advisory Council.

In addition, several Regional Directors and Governors were elected in this process. For our Region (Region 2), **Greg Kuklinski** of the Lehigh Valley Section additionally was elected to serve as Director.

Thanks to all who participated in the election.

Upcoming National Events



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

As you may be aware, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists in many states are required to obtain Continued Professional Development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses in many states. Locally, this includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. In September, your Pennsylvania license will be due for renewal.

During your renewal process, you likely had to check your tally of professional development hours (PDH) that you needed to attest that you had to meet the minimum for renewal. As you may know, 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/Institute and YMF meetings and events that offer PDH credit (including the ability to view a meeting after the fact, through Teachable, and get said 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.

Additionally, 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).

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Kevin Malley, Forum Editor
 Tim Abel, Forum President 2022-23
 Amtrak, timothyshaneabel@gmail.com

Election Happy Hour

May 17

YMF members met at Brauhaus Schmitz to round out the voting period and to hear the announcement of the 2023-24 executive board. Attendees were served German-inspired appetizers and spent the night networking with their fellow colleagues.

Joint Summer Mentorship Event

June 3

YMF's Student Transition started June with some summer fun! In collaboration with WTS and MASITE, YMF hosted the first ever Joint Summer Mentorship Event at Waterworks Park. This event provided professionals across other mentorship programs to connect.

The collaborative efforts of YMF, WTS, and MASITE created an environment of empowerment, fostering mentorship connections and providing valuable resources for career development. Through engaging panel discussions, one-on-one mentoring sessions, skill-building workshops, and networking opportunities, attendees left the event equipped with knowledge, inspiration, and a strengthened professional network. This event served as a testament to the power of collaboration, mentorship, and the collective commitment to empowering the future leaders of the industry.



Joint Kickball Games

June 15

YMF tied up their best kicking shoes and headed over to Fairmount Park's Edgely Fields for the Multi-Society Kickball Tournament. Thanks to the impeccable catching hands of YMF's fielders and steady pitching efforts by Kevin Malley and Cory Bogas, the team scored victories over MASITE (3-0) and ASHE (5-2), and were thusly cited with the coveted Traffic Cone Trophy for their efforts. Attendees enjoyed a variety of pizza, deli wraps, and cold beverages and enjoyed networking in between matches. The YMF team fielded **Kazi Hassan, Kevin Walsh, Will Cowan, Kevin Malley, Cory Bogas, Christian Antisell, Alex Long, Dylan Schantz, and Steve Newell**. The weather cooperated nicely and a good time was had by all.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

We are happy to report that our Section Sponsorship Program enjoyed another successful season in 2022-23. We are as always grateful for the 13 firms which made the financial commitment for last season, with many of them having done this consistently for several years:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Aero Aggregates | McMahon, a Bowman company |
| CDM Smith | Michael Baker International |
| Drexel University | Pennoni |
| HNTB | Traffic Planning & Design |
| JBC Associates | Urban Engineers |
| JMT | Villanova University Stormwater Program |
| Langan Engineering and Environmental Sciences | |

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

FROM THE SOMEWHAT-CLUTTERED DESK OF THE EDITOR...

Things seem to be returning to “normal” (i.e. before virus) in our everyday lives and dealings, to the extent that the virus protocols, shutdowns, etc. are all but officially no longer in effect (the lone hold-outs appear to be doctor’s offices, where masks are still required). Officially, many of the precautions and protocols at the federal level expired in early May, but mainly uneventfully and not noticed by most. Some might see this as something that happened very quickly (and thankfully for that), while others might say it took longer than it should have, but either way it’s a nice tribute to science and how we reacted quickly and strongly to the problem. In any event, it has been good for groups like ours to be able to have in-person meetings and network once again, and it may have taught us how valuable the in-person method is to what we do (allowing us to see each other socially, network professionally, and stay in contact). After a season of face-to-face dinner meetings, again, the value of these gets hammered home strongly.

And it’s been over two months since our Spring Social, our Section’s most recent event, but it feels like longer than that. We may have been hoping for a quiet summer in the Engineering world, but the emergency that I-95 became in the early hours of June 11 brought our profession back into the spotlight, even at the national level. And we responded greatly, having a solution in hand within a couple of days and getting the “fix” ready to handle traffic again (at least the I-95 mainline traffic) in an almost-unheard-of 12 days. The attention of national, state and local leaders was drawn to this, illustrating the importance of I-95 in the supply chain up and down the entire East Coast and how the detour through local and in many cases residential streets was not a viable long-term option (and some may argue that 12 days was too long, but...).

It was interesting to watch this play out, especially as our “brother” society, **ASHE Delaware Valley**, had its annual golf outing on June 12, when the extent of damage and the scope of repairs was just starting to be assessed, and how the chatter among those at the outing turned to how to fix things. In my “perch” at the putting green, to oversee the putting contest, I got to speak to many about this and also watched several others who were called back to the office to help in the effort pick up their clubs and head out early from the outing to respond to the “call of duty.” Because that’s what we do.

A week before that, I was in Harrisburg for the day, taking part in our annual PA Council legislative visits (see the separate report on this), and talking with elected representatives about the recently-released PA Infrastructure Report Card and the need for ongoing and increased funding for several items and areas of need. Where, in similar visits in years gone by, there would often be disagreements, with the electeds not wanting to raise taxes and not always seeing the full need for more funding (often looking toward forcing agencies to be more creative and efficient in their operations and project delivery), the conversations these days are more along the lines of us

being partners and helping each other. And even despite the party affiliation in many cases... We have successfully built relationships over the years and have shown we can help deliver what is needed, and we remain available to be resources to the electeds when they need our help. And the electeds are very willing to listen. This continues to work well.

So even though summer officially started on June 21 (and as our TV news folks will remind us, it unofficially starts on Memorial Day, but their weather forecasting co-horts will counter that meteorological summer is June, July and August), and a good deal of June has been cool, dry and very unsummerlike, summer has been an interesting time for Engineers thus far. With I-95 no longer the issue it was, the recent heavy rains and flooding have turned attention to Water Resources Engineers and the possible need to re-think the 100-year storm concept, but we’ll wait and see where that may be going.

And back to where we started with the virus issues, it appears that the 3-days-in-the-office policy that many companies had instituted may be going to 4 days, as Comcast in our area is headed that way (and many other firms seemed to have followed its lead when it pushed for 3 days). Whether this is good or bad, we shall see. My desk has gotten a little (somewhat, as the title of this piece indicates) cluttered recently, which is directly related to my being there just about every day, and my observations on my daily train commute (purely anecdotally) are showing that where Tuesday through Thursday appears to be the 3-day week preference for most, Monday is starting to pick up a little. The mid-week inbound trains are surprisingly standing-room most of the time and with labor shortages on SEPTA’s part there may be no immediate relief coming in the train schedule to address this. Again, we shall see...

As I get older I see the effects of it (and am often not happy with those), and one of these is the ability to forget more, resulting in my writing more down and keeping notes on devices, etc. as reminders (thus, forcing me to remember to check those reminders, so you see the vicious circle here...). I was asked a few months ago to help someone with an application for an award for me by providing some information that that person did not have (and my first impulse was to be uncooperative, since I wasn’t sure I should be getting that award, but...) and I was reminded that my time as Editor of *THE NEWS* started nearly 20 years ago (August 2003, when the esteemed Sid Robin left us and unwittingly put me on a path to this “promotion”). Thus, I will be starting my 21st season as Editor in 2023-24, having 20 years at the Editor’s desk somehow under my belt... As they say time flies when you’re having fun... In much the same way our Section is entering Year 111 of being around, pretty impressive, 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.



PA COUNCIL IN THE NEWS

On June 5, 13 representatives from the four Pennsylvania Sections of ASCE participated in the annual **Legislative Day** at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, coordinated by the PA Council. The day-long event included meetings with 17 elected representatives and staffs to talk the recently-released **PA Infrastructure Report Card**, transportation and environmental remediation funding, and several key issues. In addition, background and informational materials were delivered to the offices of 12 other representatives who were not in attendance, but were interested in our message and supporting our issues. Thanks to those who were able to take part in this.