



# IN EWS

Vol 96-8

**Our 111th Year** 

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

April 2024



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NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

# SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2023-24 ALMOST OUTTA HERE...

The April meeting closes our Section Meeting/dinner season.

The **Spring Social**, scheduled for **May 16**, will be our last Section event for this season. It will be conducted at the **Cescaphe at the DownTown Club** in Center City, the same location as last year. Details are being finalized and more information will be provided in the May edition of *THE NEWS* as well as in upcoming e-blasts.

# SCIENCE FAIRS — SEEKING JUDGES — LAST CHANCE!

As we have for many years, our Section will be offering Special Awards at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs. The Fairs will be conducted on Wednesday, April 3 at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. Four Special Awards for individual student projects that have a Civil Engineering theme will be awarded, with two prizes for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

Volunteer judges are needed for this effort. The judging will require you to spend most, if not all, of your day (approximately 8 AM to 3 PM) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. A short orientation session will be provided immediately before the judging begins to get one familiar with the process and procedure. It is always a very interesting and enlightening experience.

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge please contact **Chris Rood** (chris.rood@aecom.com). You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website www.dvsf.org.

For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website. We hope you can join us for a rewarding and interesting day.











### **APRIL DINNER MEETING**

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

### THURSDAY, April 11, 2024

**Crowne Plaza Philadelphia** – King of Prussia, 260 Mall Boulevard (behind King of Prussia Plaza), King of Prussia

Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM

This meeting will follow the "breakout" format used that has been the theme of our April event for over the past ten years. Attendees will assemble for dinner and announcements, then move to other rooms depending on which topic they want to hear. There will be a choice of three separate modules/topics as described below.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – FRIDAY, MARCH 29.** The cost per attendee is \$70, with a reduced (\$50) cost for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by this deadline.

RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 29. Reservations received after the deadline and "walk-ups" without prior reservations paying at the door will be charged \$80 (government agency employees and students \$60), but will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. Please note that electronic payment will NOT be an available option at the close at the reservation deadline.

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE. Walk-ins and anyone without a reservation will be handled on a space-available basis.

All registrations are final. Due to commitments with our event venues, cancellations or no-shows will be invoiced for the full cost of the event.

Registrants are able to transfer their registrations to others without penalty.

As always, guests will be welcome to attend the presentation without dinner at no charge. The individual modules will be subject to room capacity constraints.

### **SPECIAL FEATURES:**

**Life Members Night** – Newly-inducted Life Members will be featured and honored at this meeting as guests of the Section.

**Past Presidents Night** – Past Presidents are invited to attend this meeting as guests of the Section in appreciation of their service and assistance.

**Villanova University Night** – The ASCE Student Chapter, Faculty and Alumni of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Villanova University will be highlighted at this meeting. All Faculty, Alumni and Students are cordially invited to attend and participate.

# From Moe to Joe (or, "Don't Mess with our Moe-Joe...") - Our 2023-24 Section President

Spring has a funny way of showing up lately. We know the harbingers of this in the animal world are related to birds, which tend to migrate — when the robins start to appear in our yards, spring is close by, as well as with the swallows' annual return to San Juan Capistrano and the buzzards arriving in Hinckley, OH. Locally, another sign is the start of the Flower Show. Still another is the return of daylight time and longer days, once we get past that lost hour of sleep. The TV weather-casters will tell you that, meteorologically speaking, the start of March is the start of spring (which lasts until the end of May, when meteorological summer picks up), and you probably didn't think we'd be able to say "meteorological" twice in the same sentence, yet we sufficiently ran this sentence on to be able to use some derivative of it three times...

But we're not doing this to talk about the weather. For our Section, the sign of spring happens slightly later. April brings the by-now traditional year-end assessment of our current President which you are now reading. We know we all anxiously anticipate this annual tradition, if we can call it that (it's certainly been around for a while), but we also do not fully know why or how this began. Your Editor inherited it when he got this title from his esteemed predecessor Sid Robin over twenty years ago and was subject to and endured his own critique ten years or so before that as his own presidency wound down. At least these days we do this in April and give the standing President a chance to rebut it, if need be, in May. In years gone by our last seasonal edition of THE NEWS was a combined April-May one, so any chance for the President to respond and/or deny anything that was reported would happen with the next edition in October, when the assessment was long forgotten by most. With this now appearing in the penultimate (your word for today) edition, we leave one opportunity to right any wrongs. (And by now you know your Editor is generally good for wrongs...)

With this background and caution, we will proceed carefully to summarize and assess President Joe Natale's season, with the realization that we cannot not do this as we risk trivializing one of our Section's traditions. Your Editor dares not go there. Not even if you force us — there are some things that are sacred and we will not mess with them. This is one of those things. Thus, we will now get into the details such as we know them.

And it is indeed not easy to know them, thus we had to consult several sources to pick up material to prepare this sendoff. Joe managed to "buck" the trend by not authoring any President's messages during his term (but in case you change your mind and want to rebut this, Pres, you do have one more chance). While as far as we know the messages are more of a courtesy than a requirement (but inserting a little peer pressure, Joe may be the first President not to pen any in your Editor's 40-something years of Section membership and involvement), they have been a good source of what we can relate in this article. Without these valuable resources, we have to resort to other means, i.e. his friends (or so-called friends, or possibly after this hits the streets, ex-friends) and fellow Section leaders.

You have successfully invested time with this for four paragraphs thus far, so we need to stop filling space and get to the particulars. Joe Natale serves as a Senior Project Implementation Engineer with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission as his paying "gig". He was handled the gavel at our Spring Social way back in early May (or eons ago...), as many of us witnessed, to take on the duties of our Section's Presidency, becoming the 110th person to do so and, because one President stayed on for two terms way back when, our 111th President. Last season, then-President Moe Elghawy was able to resume our in-person meetings, to the delight of many, and during Joe's reign we continued that trend, including three meetings at Maggiano's, which were, not surprisingly, well received. As some of you may recall, the November meeting was well attended to the point that we had to

# ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION—2023-24 SEASON

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

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

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We will continue to have honorary Board Members appointed as well and these names are provided on our website.

### Contact Us:

### President—Joseph Natale, PE

Senior Project Manager/Implementation Engineer Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission 190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106 215-592-1800; jpnatale@gmail.com

### Secretary—Dennis Wilson, PE

McCormick Taylor Associates 1818 Market Street, 16th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-592-4200, dewilson@mccormicktaylor.com

### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

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**Robert Wright** 

### **Section Outreach**

Jesse Gormley, Dennis Wilson

### SEND COPY TO:

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

COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY 2024 ISSUE APRIL 12 , 2024

### APRIL DINNER MEETING

Continued from page 1

The featured "breakout" sessions will consist of the following.

 I-95 Tacony Viaduct (sponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute)
 Robin Dominick, PE, CDM Smith, Avi Hawver, PE, CDM Smith, and Michael Giovannitti, PE, AGES

This presentation will provide an overall perspective of the I-95, Section BS2 project with a focus on the Tacony viaduct. This will focus on the design process and challenges of the roadway alignments, TS&L alternatives, foundations, curved steel girders and integral post-tensioned concrete cross girders. The project is currently in construction and the presentation will include a summary of the O-cell testing and resulting field modifications to the large diameter caissons.

 Rigid Inclusion Support for the Potomac Yard Metro Station (sponsored by the Delaware Valley GeoInstitute)

Brandon Buschmeier, PE, Menard USA

The Potomac Yard Station on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority (WMATA) Metro system, opened in May 2023, serves as a crucial link between Alexandria, Virginia, and Washington DC. This station, along with the new rail lines and associated pedestrian walkways and bridges, is supported by Controlled Modulus Columns (CMCs). Employing different diameters, spacings, and depths, the CMCs are designed to increase the bearing capacity and reduce long-term settlement of the station and associated structures, while providing a more cost-effective solution compared to a traditional deep foundation pile scheme. Building upon the knowledge and perspectives acquired from the Potomac Yard Station, this presentation explores the design principles of CMCs across various soil compositions and under differing load conditions. It also examines the strengths and limitations inherent in utilizing CMCs for construction projects in the DMV area and beyond.

 Ridge Pike Improvement Program (jointly sponsored by the Construction Management and Engineering Technical Group and the Transportation and Development Institute)

Matthew Edmond, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission This session will outline a four-part program for long-awaited improvements (roadway reconstruction, widening, drainage, traffic signals) on Ridge Pike in Montgomery County, from the Philadelphia County Line (Northwestern Avenue) to Belvoir Road, covering Whitemarsh and Plymouth Townships. Two sections are currently under construction, with one in design and one in the planning stages.

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

### **DUES – GETTING REALLY BEHIND...**

Retaining membership in ASCE allows you to stay connected to the latest industry trends and keeps you linked to the best professional development programs and engaged with a worldwide network of peers. Your continual involvement builds a solid foundation to keep your career on track and moving toward achieving your professional and personal goals.

Dues for the current year were payable by **January 1**, but, if for whatever reason, you have not renewed, please avoid an interruption in your benefits and renew now. Ensure a positive return on your investment in a Civil Engineering career by renewing with ASCE.

### 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**.

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

# PARC Categories of the Month

As you may recall, the Pennsylvania Report Card (PARC) was released in November 2022 and assessed and graded 15 categories of infrastructure. We will provide summaries of some of the categories in the remainder of this season's editions of *THE NEWS*, continuing to provide them alphabetically by category. This month, we cover the following areas.

### Rail: C (not rated separately in 2018)

Pennsylvania's rail network is as diverse as the commonwealth itself, ranging from intercity passenger service to transcontinental freight rail systems, to small, short line railroads serving rural areas of the states. The 6,700-mile state network features three Class I operators (CSX, Norfolk Southern, Canadian National), two Class II companies, and 32 Class III operators. In general, Class I infrastructure is in good to excellent condition. Amtrak service will expand with the recently announced agreement to use Norfolk Southern track to open a passenger rail line in Western Pennsylvania. The 2020 Pennsylvania State Rail Plan reports \$6.9 billion of investments in capital projects between 2021 and 2045. This includes \$5.7 billion for 132 passenger rail projects and \$1.2 billion for 323 freight rail projects, the latter of which are mostly Class III railroad infrastructure needs. The bipartisan infrastructure law will help expand and improve passenger rail services in the Keystone state, while keeping the freight network modern and safe.

### **Solid Waste: C+** (no change from 2018)

Pennsylvania residents generate less municipal solid waste than the American average: 4.0 and 3.8 pounds per day in 2019 and 2020 respectively, compared to the national mark of 4.9. In total, the state's 43 active municipal waste facilities have adequate capacity, but remaining life differs greatly by location. The Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority reports less than 4 years remaining while the McKean County Landfill has 190 years' worth. The state recently added a fee of \$0.25 per ton and \$4 per ton fee to benefit land conservation programs, the first among states to divert mandatory tipping fees. Despite that innovation, flexibility is limited at the local level. The state should modify Act 101 to permit county and/or local governments to establish various methods for generating revenue to sustain their solid waste management, recycling, and education programs.

### Stormwater: D (no change from 2018)

While Pennsylvania's stormwater infrastructure is generally performing adequately for lower-intensity events, more intense, frequent, and longer duration storms overwhelm the aging network. Over 65 utilities across the Commonwealth provide much needed dedicated funding to address local stormwater needs, representing \$1.3 billion for wastewater and stormwater infrastructure over the next five years. But approximately \$2 billion in stormwater assets have reached the end of their useful life and a total need exists of \$6.7 billion in stormwater funding over the next three to five years. The Commonwealth lacks an easily accessible and accurate database of all publicly and privately owned stormwater assets, a tool could strengthen operation and maintenance programs and life-cycle assessments. The Commonwealth's primary tool for guidance and regulation for the design of stormwater assets is over 15 years old.

Please visit https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/pennsylvania/ for more information on this and how you can inform your elected officials on actions that should be considered to address this.

### **MARCH SECTION JOINT MEETING**

March 14, 2024

PennDOT Update

### The Chinatown "Stitch" – Centering Community Within a Transformational Transportation

A full room of around 100 attendees showed up at Maggiano's on a nice pre-spring evening, made even a little bit nicer by still being daylight at the time the meeting started (thanks to that hour we lost the Sunday before), to hear about the Chinatown "Stitch." After not having been at Maggiano's for a Section meeting since November, many were anxiously awaiting the usual good meal that is available there in addition to the usual camaraderie and networking that was last experienced at a Section event nearly two months before, at the ASHE Delaware Valley and WTS Philadelphia joint meeting in January. Amid questions on "where did the time go" that our 2023-24 season was winding down (this being our penultimate dinner meeting and the last at Maggiano's), those in attendance were very interested to hear about another exciting transportation-but-not-transportation project that is coming our way.

President Joe Natale got everyone seated, never an easy feat especially with an open bar and with lots of catching up going on among those present, and as the first course of dinner started, made several announcements on upcoming items as well as making note of the somewhatnewly-installed Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year in the room. Next up, President Natale introduced Matt Philbin, President of the Temple University Student Chapter, the featured group for this meeting, who updated everyone on happenings with the Chapter.

As the second course of dinner was being finished by the attendees, President Natale returned to the podium and introduced YMF Vice President Assunta Daprano, who noted that the meeting topic was coordinated by YMF, and then introduced the featured speakers, John Chin Executive Director of the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation, and Megan Clarkin, Director of Infrastructure Services for the City of Philadelphia Managing Director Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Sustainability (better known as OTIS). Mr. Chin gave a historical background on the settlement and development of Chinatown, which dates to the 1870's, and the importance of the Holy Redeemer Church and School, which had been proposed to be demolished under the original plans for the extension of the Vine Street Expressway east of its then terminus at 16th Street in the late 1950's. Fortunately that plan was deferred as a result of community intervention. A much scaled-back plan which preserved Holy Redeemer and was less impactive on the surrounding neighborhood was developed in the mid-1980's and opened to traffic in 1991. The provision of the depressed expressway with local service roads and considerable noise and visual reduction was welcome but the community continued to press to have the depressed lanes mitigated even further, something that was not possible at the time of construction given funding and other constraints. The idea for the "Stitch", a landscaped and open-space offering cover over the expressway



lanes, began to come about in the early 2000's as a way to reconnect the divided portions of the Chinatown community. Mr. Chin noted that there is new residential development happening in Chinatown as well.

Ms. Clarkin reported that the Stitch had been considered in three different alternates to be implemented to focus on the reconnection of the Chinatown neighborhood, which would expand the recently-provided expanded plaza at 10th Street and extend westward to encompass the three blocks from there to 13th Street. To avoid being classified as a tunnel, which would bring additional and expensive elements to the effort, a "hole" was planned just east of 12th Street to break up the cover. The City had its design consultant prepare and evaluate the three proposals with a variety of criteria to present these options to the community for feedback. A selected option came out of the community review/input process and is being advanced for conceptual design. An intensive public engagement effort is envisioned as well, and several activities along these lines have already been undertaken.

Ms. Clarkin added that the literal "shot in the arm" for the effort was recently received (days before this meeting) with Senator Casey able to obtain over \$150 million in funding to be directed to the project construction. She noted that this might get at least part of the planned "Stitch" underway but costs would need to be more closely reviewed. The plan is to have design started on the final product shortly for advertisement for construction bids in 2028 and project completion in 2031 if all goes as planned.

Mr. Chin and Ms. Clarkin ably responded to several questions from the attendees. President Natale wrapped up the evening and thanked the presenters for their informative presentation.

### **NEWS FROM NATIONAL**

There will be two upcoming opportunities to meet the 2024 official nominees for ASCE President-Elect. Meet your candidates and learn how they intend to lead ASCE in two Zoom forums where they will answer your questions.

The candidates are Marsha Anderson Bomar, AICP, ENV SP, F.ITE, F. ASCE of the City of Atlanta, Department of Transportation and Kenneth H. Rosenfield, PE, ENV SP, F.ASCE of Ardurra Group, Inc. Their bios are available on the ASCE National website.

The forums are scheduled for:

8:00 PM (Eastern), Wednesday, April 23

9:30 AM (Eastern), Thursday, April 25

To attend either session, please visit the ASCE National website to register. As a reminder, you will need to be a member in good standing as of April 1 to be eligible to vote.

### THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We are pleased to report that we have 17 firms committed as our Section Sponsors, the largest this has been for quite some time. We thank our sponsors for their financial commitment and support.

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direct links to their own sites 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*, one of which you will find elsewhere in this edition.

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



# N-ASCE\*

# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GARDENERS AND BRIDGE ENGINEERS

Something to think about as spring planting season gets near, for those who tend gardens among us...

Gardeners evaluate and plant different types of flora. Bridge engineers design bridges. There are other differences.

There are a few places in the world where gardeners and bridge engineers join forces. One is at the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls, MA. The bridge was originally constructed to carry a trolley track across the Deerfield River in 1908 between Buckland and Shelburne Falls. It was built by the Shelburne Falls & Colrain Street Railway to help connect to the Boston & Maine and New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroads at their station on the Buckland side of the river. By the 1920's, business slacked, and the trolley company stopped service. For many years, the bridge lost its main function and spanned forlorn and bare across the river.

In 1929, residents of Shelburne Falls found a new use for the bridge, as a linear garden. The bridge was repurposed as the Bridge of Flowers. Lush gardens have been planted on the bridge deck. During the warm season, the bridge provides a colorful path of flowers and shade trees above the cooling and rushing waters below. It has become something to see, and over the years, many people have come to see it. The bridge, with its graceful arches, is a popular tourist destination just off the Mohawk Trail.

The bridge structure is a five-span concrete spandrel arch founded on stout foundations on the river's high rock ledge. In addition to flowers, the bridge supports a major water main connecting the towns of Shelburne and Buckland. In the past, the concrete structure was subject to reconstruction and repairs. The last large repair project was performed in 1985. Recent inspections found that it was time for substantial rehabilitation work.

As part of a project to repair concrete spandrel walls and drains, it was necessary to move all the plants and small trees off the bridge. This would provide space for local demolition of elements to be replaced. The bridge, which is managed by the Bridge of Flowers Committee, engaged teams of local residents to move the greenery. Engineers who are working on the repair project volunteered on a Saturday last fall to help move the plants.

The engineers got the assignment to help place and repot the flora in planting beds at a location not far from the bridge. Being engineers, they were eager to learn about the work through precise, linear, criteria-based tasks objectively described in crisp detail. As it turned out, gardeners (and apparently almost everyone else) do not communicate in the same style that engineers are accustomed to. So that day, the engineering team learned a bit about plantings, and a bit about our always-interesting engineering communication approach.

The first task assigned to the engineering team by the bridge's head gardener was to move several flowerpots to healing beds where the flora would peacefully reside over the winter. Using the typical engineering method, the team received the direction to "move the flower pots to the healing beds" and attempted to implement them. The team needed to find out what the healing beds were, the design objectives, and the overall criteria (of course, being engineers..., they desperately needed this information).

After discussing things a bit, the team established the criteria, did a little project management and got to work. But then came the next issue, as some of the flowering pots were too big and stuck out of the ground a bit too far. In that case, the flower roots needed to be removed from the pots and placed directly on the healing bed. The team developed a refined definition of "too big", which they contended was too vague, and settled on this being a condition in which the top of the pot was higher than the top of the flower bed wall. This was formally clarified with the expected request for information (RFI) submission to the head gardener and allowed the team to settle on all the design criteria and develop appropriate procedures to perform the work. The flowers and pots were properly moved, mulched, and ready for winter. With the criteria developed and tasks defined, the team happily and productively

proceeded into construction activities for the rest of the afternoon. Although it may

have been not that efficient at times, with one engineer moving the mulch wheelbarrow and the other three providing encouragement on how to do it, but it was progress. Working with the flora, the team got the hang of not just the job but received a reminder on the differences between engineer-communication and how much of the rest of the world speaks. This allowed the plants to be comfortably and safely placed on their healing beds and the bridge could then be prepped for the repair work to come.

The team learned that gardening is more interactive over time, and the head gardener advised that the plants could be adjusted in the spring as needed. It was noted that throughout the afternoon, the head gardener provided clear guidance, but the engineers felt the need to translate it into "engineer-speak."

The team also learned that it had "heeled in" the plants, which refers to a temporary planting situation that is really only about keeping the plant material alive for future use. No meticulous design and no "healing" involved other than your healing hands! Essentially, the team was merely stockpiling the materials.

Thanks to ASCE and Brian Brenner for this information.

\*N-ASCE – not always something concerning Engineering

# YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Laurel Welch, Forum Editor
Kirsten Kennedy, Forum President 2023-24
Michael Baker International, kirsten.kennedy@mbakerintl.com

### **AWARD SPOTLIGHT!**

YMF would like to congratulate Board Member/Treasurer **CJ Medora** on his recent selection as one of ASCE's "New Faces of Civil Engineering!" CJ is a Traffic Project Engineer at AECOM. His work includes designing traffic control, signing and pavement markings,



bicycle facilities, and traffic signals. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) and holds his LEED Green Associate certification. He is a Practitioner Advisor for Villanova University, and a member of the ASCE Committee on Developing Leaders. Read his New Faces feature here.

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### Moe Joe

Continued from page 2

have folks sit in the side room to try and fit everyone into the meeting space (or as they say in the restaurant business, "overbooked"). Thus, Joe has been able to steer the ship and help craft an interesting and informative meeting program to continue to capture the attention of our members. We Section members are very pleased to be able to have these opportunities, and with the April meeting remaining, look forward to another great effort with three choices of topics to attend.

But, as we noted, without his monthly messages, we have to resort to other resources and sources to enable us to "roast" Joe a little. And we did get some interesting information on this, not quite "dirt", but enough to help us fill this space.

With our last Spring Social being on May 4, a date special to Star Wars fans, we have been told that Joe dressed in the Imperial color scheme. We did notice he brought his own light saber (even your Editor, not a big Star Wars fan or not even known to pay close attention to things, managed to pick up on this). What you may have missed (and your Editor has to admit he did completely) was that Joe quoted Emperor Palpatine at least 17 times in his presidential induction speech (and we welcome any verification of this number if we are reporting this in error). We have a feeling that outgoing President Moe, another Star Wars aficionado, likely caught all this as he made his transition to Past President that evening.

Joe is said to be a big-time fan of fantasy and plays a lot of Dungeons and Dragons, to the extent that he is in fact a Dungeon Master. Our source on this added that this does not necessarily make him evil and he has run and streamed a number of matches for charity. Good to know. We have also been told that Joe enjoys singing and karaoke, and maybe we'll see some of that at this year's Spring Social. He is also known to be an avid woodworker and software developer in his spare time. We are aware that he enjoys camping as well.

On the ASCE side, you may know that Joe has been very involved in the Younger Member Forum both at the Section level as well as National. This has nothing to do with Star Wars, karaoke, woodworking or software, but we thought we'd toss it in. He has been active in our Section and YMF and has held several positions over the past few years, including having been instrumental with the Teachable library of recorded Section meetings and helping with Zoom for our virtual events and offerings.

As we know, those in the position of leadership are also in the enviable position of being able to take some credit for the good things that happened while they were the leader. Joe was able to get our first Career Fair off the ground in February and this was a successful event by most measures. But we know Joe will also be quick to remind you that others put in the sweat equity and effort that got these things off the ground and in place, and he is certainly proud to share the glory that comes with this. You have to admire that. In a similar fashion, Joe presented an eloquent nomination speech for the candidate who became the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year this year, marking two years in a row that a Section member was able to attain this honor. (You may know this year's Engineer of the Year, but it's not about him.)

Thus, while it's never our aim to put some "dirt" out there or build on scandal, we feel we kind of succeeded in giving you some insights into our President and what makes him tick as well as what he accomplished, albeit very guietly, this season. We also know engineers don't usually have too much in the "dirt" area between our business and our personal lifestyles, if for no other reason than having no spare time for much else, so if you were looking for the raw details, well, sorry to disappoint. You'll need to talk with some of Joe's cohorts and friends about that...

We do hope we have been able to give you a little insight on our outgoing President, and we are quite thankful for Joe's hard work and dedication, although we noted this was a very quietly operating machine. We are sure Joe will continue to be a "force with us" (an admittedly poor attempt to bring Star Wars into this again...) as he enters his new phase as Past President and goes to that pasture where many (but not all) Past Presidents go and tend to re-appear for their free dinners at our April meeting, and we wish him well in that journey. As he hands the reins (and maybe the light saber...) off to incoming President Kevin Brown at the Spring Social, we will be forced to once again pay close attention so we have the material we need to do this to assess Kevin's term a year from now. Of course, this might be made a little easier as your Editor has known Kevin for his entire professional career (and a little before that), so this may turn out to have a secondary purpose, i.e. we'll see how well your Editor pays attention (and we know that's one of his weaker attributes).

## **DUES PAST DUE**Continued from page 2

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.

### YMF

Continued from page 5

### **School Outreach**

On March 8, YMF visited North Penn High School in Lansdale to showcase various types of civil engineering to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. After reviewing what differentiates specialties such as geotechnical, structural, transportation, water resources engineering and many more, the presenters opened the floor for students to ask questions about their careers in the civil engineering field, what motivates them, and preparing for college. Thanks to volunteers Karan Bharat Doshi, Silvia Scheuermann, Christopher Medora, and Elvira Mikhael for sharing their experiences!

On March 11, YMF visited the Oak Lane branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia to facilitate a slender tower construction activity. Elementary students heard from our presenters about engineering and tried their hand at building a 3' tall tower out of 10 sheets of paper and some masking tape. The students were able to learn about managing the available materials, and one student even petitioned to get more paper in order to construct a safe structure! Thanks to volunteers Tisha Garrett, Dan Bhaumik, Alyssa Pizzi, and Kerianne Chen for their help with this.

### **TECHNICAL GROUPS IN THE NEWS**

The Delaware Valley GeoInstitute (DVGI) was cited with the Best Chapter award by the National ASCE Geo-Institute during GeoCongress 2024 in Vancouver, BC in late February. We congratulate DVGI on this honor.



### **SPONSOR PROFILE**

Navarro & Wright Consulting Engineers, Inc. (N&W) is a Multi-Disciplined Civil Engineering firm, formed in 1996, servicing public, private and institutional clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region. N & W is a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE). Headquartered in New Cumberland, PA with branch offices in Pittsburgh, Allentown, and King of Prussia, PA, as well as Maryland, West Virginia and Delaware, N&W offers the project management, engineering, surveying, geotechnical, materials testing, environmental sciences, and construction services necessary to site, permit, design, construct and support operations for a wide range of Civil Engineering projects.

N&W offers a broad range of related services to its clients including:

- Civil Engineering
- Geotechnical Engineering
- Construction Services
- Traffic & Transportation
- ARML Certified Materials Testing Laboratory
- Surveying
- Environmental/Cultural Resources
- Air Quality and Acoustical Services
- Structural Engineering

N&W provides responsive, quality-driven customer service that seeks to engage the client and stakeholders as active participants in the decision-making process. A cornerstone of this approach is a core set of values that guides our interaction with our clients:

- Maintain open, interactive lines of communication with all project participants.
- Provide professional guidance and foster a cooperative atmosphere between all of the project participants.
- Respect that all project participants have something positive to contribute to the overall effort.
- Listen with an open mind and encourage constructive input as a means of improving the project for the community's benefit.
- Treat all participants fairly and with respect.
- Promote a partnership/teamwork approach to problem solving.
- Anticipate problem areas, provide professional guidance, and offer constructive solutions to resolve these issues.

# 2024-25 SLATE OF SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION

The slate of Section officers and Board members was recommended by our Section's Nominating Committee for adoption by the Board at its April meeting. Assuming that happens, these individuals will be officially inducted and sworn in at the Spring Social. They are as follows:

President: Kevin Brown, TranSystems
President-Elect: Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

Vice President: Dennis Wilson, McCormick Taylor Secretary: Danielle Schroeder, Gannett Fleming

**Treasurer:** Thomas Kulesher, JMT

Membership Secretary: Katrina Budischak, McCormick Taylor

Directors: Darren Black, Jacobs, 2024-26

Nooraldean Dabdoub, Traffic Planning & Design, 2023-25

Ajin Fatima, Amtrak, 2023-25

Archie Filshill, Aero Aggregates, 2024-26

Sean McCreesh, STV, 2024-26

Caroline Voigtsberger, Pennoni, 2023-25

#### **Past Presidents:**

**Joseph Natale**, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission **Mohamed Elghawy**, Traffic Planning & Design Inc.

**Briana Pampuch**, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services 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.

We thank these folks for their anticipated service, of course once this slate is adopted. We will provide an update on this in the May edition of *THE NEWS*.

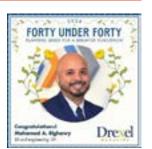
### **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

### Elghawy Named a Drexel 40 Under 40

With the recent release of the Winter/Spring 2024 issue of **Drexel Magazine**, the University named its Class of 2024 of its 40 Under 40 alumni. Among those honored on the list is Past Section President Mohamed Elghawy.

Drexel has posted this information on its social media accounts. Drexel President John Fry will also celebrate this in person at the 40 Under 40 Reception, to be held during Alumni Weekend in May.

We congratulate Moe on this honor.



A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.



# YOUR CARD CAN BE HERE!

CONTACT US AT newseditor@asce-philly.org

### SECTION AGENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

As you may be aware, our Section offers a Section Sponsorship Program to allow firms to help provide our various activities and programs for our membership and the Civil Engineering community in the Philadelphia area. This involves a financial commitment which is reflected in the placement of the participant's logo and business card in *THE NEWS* and on the Section's website, along with several other benefits.

Additionally, we have established an informal

recognition of government and quasi-government agencies for the assistance they have provided us, through volunteer assistance and award recognition among other things. Our Agency Partners' logos are shown below.











































