



ASCE
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

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Our 111th Year

January 2024

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.



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

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

NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

FEBRUARY SECTION MEETING

Details are still being finalized for our February Section Meeting at this time. More information will be provided in upcoming e-blasts and in the February issue of *THE NEWS*.

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

Delaware Valley Section, American Society of Highway Engineers Women’s Transportation Seminar, Philadelphia Chapter

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

Crowne Plaza Hotel Philadelphia-Valley Forge, 260 Mall Boulevard (across from King of Prussia Plaza), King of Prussia, PA

Cocktails 6:00 PM, Dinner 6:45 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows

SUBJECT: PennDOT Update

SPEAKER: Michael Carroll, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

PLEASE NOTE — RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE THROUGH DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE. The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting. Reservations can be made electronically through the ASHE Delaware Valley Section website, www.delvalleyashe.pro. Electronic payment can be made through this site as well. Checks are accepted and can be sent via the instructions on the site or brought to the registration table at the meeting.

Dinner costs are \$75, with a \$25 price available for government agency employees and students. Reservations are due by Thursday, January 11. No refunds will be made for cancellations.

We encourage you to reserve ahead to ensure a place at the meeting. Walk-ins will be accepted on a space-available basis. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.** This has always been a popular meeting and a significant turnout is expected.



Michael Carroll was appointed as the Commonwealth’s Secretary of Transportation by Governor Josh Shapiro in early 2023. For 16 years prior to that he served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, having been elected to eight consecutive terms to represent his district in the Scranton area. He has been involved in transportation issues during his term and served as Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee from 2018 to 2022. He leads the

Department’s over 12,000 employees who serve at PennDOT’s Central Office in Harrisburg and the eleven engineering/maintenance districts throughout the Commonwealth, with responsibility for roughly 43,000 miles of highway and 25,000 bridges.

This meeting will not be eligible for Professional Development Hour (PDH) credit.



A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL

While we recognize the collective celebrations observed this time of year as the “holidays” and the “holiday season,” whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or your own particular event (or all of them), the Officers and Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Section extend our best wishes to all Section Members, their families and friends for a safe, enjoyable and memorable season full of good cheer. Also, we offer our best wishes for a great new year and we sincerely hope that MMXXIV, as the Romans would say, brings good things your way.

We at *THE NEWS* would also like to send the same good wishes. We continue to try to give you the best we can in each edition, information you can use and otherwise... (hopefully a healthy balance between the two, but we have a feeling the latter is where we usually “land”). We hope you accept what we provide in the spirit that it is presented, sometimes a little tongue in cheek (we could all use a little more humor in our lives – some of us maybe more than a little...) and we certainly hope you enjoy it.

As we like to say, and in the spirit of the season, ‘tis better to give than receive, so we happily give you our annual **Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message (LAYM)** for your enjoyment (maybe...) accordingly. It was either this or a Hallmark card, and your Editor is no fan of greeting card shops, so...

And appropriately enough, with our Section President aptly named, as they say in Italy, **Buon Natale!**

The time has come, it’s late in the year
Your Editor, no surprise, could use a beer
As the reality of the deadline for The News gets near
Happy Merry Everything 2023

We tried a contest a while ago, but that went amiss
People promised us their musings, we got bupkis
So we leave it to your Editor to crank out this
Happy Merry Everything 2023

Continued on page 3

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2023-24

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season remains somewhat in preparation mode and our meeting program committee is busy finalizing speakers and topics for the remaining 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 schedule these as we can.

Our schedule of remaining meetings is:

March 14 – Maggiano's Center City; Chinatown/Vine Street "Stitch"

April – multi-topic/breakout sessions; specific topics and venue to be determined

May 16 – Spring Social; Cescaphe Down Town Club

HOLD THESE DATES

ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will cite **Engineers Week 2024 (February 15-24)**. We have traditionally extended our local celebration beyond that recognized by National Engineers Week to include our kickoff event. This marks the 72nd year of local Engineers Week celebration.

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley will officially begin with the **Engineers Week Opening Dinner on Thursday, February 15** (two days before National E Week begins) at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue, the same location as last year. At this event, we will introduce and formally induct the **Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year**, our own **Bob Wright**, and **Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year**, as well as highlight the various contributions of Engineers and Engineering students. All Engineers Week award and scholarship recipients will be cited at the Dinner.

The Young Engineers Social will be conducted on Tuesday, February 20, at a location to be announced shortly. This is a networking and social event to cite the newly-inducted Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year (to be named shortly).

Please note this information in your calendar and plan to participate. More details on venues and pricing will be included in future updates.

Please visit the Engineers' Club website, www.engrclub.org, for more information and updates.

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:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Assunta Daprano, AECOM

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Patrick McCourt, PennDOT

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

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Secretary — Dennis Wilson, PE

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Editor of *THE NEWS*

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 FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE
JANUARY 19, 2024**

Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message

Continued from page 1

It's a tenuous thing when we have this plight
Handing this to your Editor, who will try as he might
Could be good, most likely not, either way he will write
Happy Merry Everything 2023

The jolly bearded guy has arrived for all
At your local department store or shopping mall
Right after Halloween, the decorations we'll install
Happy Merry Everything 2023

Holiday themes all over, festive lights strung around
Christmas carols and seasonal tunes will resound
And maybe even some snow to cover the ground
Happy Merry Everything 2023

Bring a tree inside, decorate it, a custom that's strange
Lots of ornaments and garland, things to arrange
Leave space beneath for the gifts we'll exchange
Happy Merry Everything 2023

A different feeling in the air, time to reflect
Once again, we'll get with friends and family, reconnect
And make sure the halls with holly are adequately decked
Happy Merry Everything 2023

For those who we've lost, a little painful to deal
Hard to not have them with us, a little sad we'll feel
But happy memories will always be there, helping to heal
Happy Merry Everything 2023

Kids all hope they've been good, or sufficiently enough
If not, they risk the jolly guy not bringing them any stuff
To get coal in one's stocking has to be quite tough
Happy Merry Everything 2023

On Christmas Eve we track the guy in the red suit
Radar picks up his travels as he starts his long route
Anxious kids hoping he's bringing them some loot
Happy Merry Everything 2023

As we are often reminded in the season of yule
The Christmas origins some of us learned in Catholic school
A birth in a manger, no room in the inns, sounds a bit cruel
Happy Merry Everything 2023

Engineers have been busy, lots of funding, lots to design
CM/CI, conceptual evaluations, plans to seal and sign
Milestones for each client by year's end, quite a tough deadline
Happy Merry Everything 2023

On this the officers and Board of our Section are very clear
They hope your holiday season is one of good cheer
And best wishes and good luck in the coming year
Happy Merry Everything 2023!



SECTION AWARDS – NOMINATIONS OPEN

As we typically do this time of year, we are opening our Section's 2024 Awards Program for nominations. These allow us to recognize Section members and others for their contributions to the Civil Engineering profession. All awards will be presented at the Spring Social, scheduled for May 16.

We encourage you to submit nominations for those deserving individuals who should be recognized for their various contributions, achievements, and career milestones, appropriately.

We have a slightly different approach this year, with the nomination form being available on our website for your use. Please download it and complete it if you have a nomination you would like to submit, then send it to us as indicated on the form.

GUIDELINES/RULES

Nominations must be received by **Friday, January 26**. Nominations should be submitted on the form on our website.

Individuals may be nominated for awards by a member in any grade of membership.

Individuals may receive only one award in a single year, but may be nominated for more than one award in a single year.

Award recipients are subject to the approval of the Section's Board of Directors.

Awards are presented only during years in which, in the judgement of the Selection Committee or the Board, there is at least one suitable candidate.

The Selection Committee, at its discretion, may nominate a candidate or an alternate for each award for Board consideration.

The Selection Committee will recommend to the Board whether the recipient should also be nominated for applicable National or Regional awards by the Section.

A nominee for an award **MUST** be a member in good standing of the Philadelphia Section in the year in which the nomination is made, with three exceptions – for Educator of the Year, Government Service Award, and Philadelphia History and Heritage Award, candidates need not be members of ASCE and/or the Philadelphia Section.

AWARDS

The Section has a total of 14 awards which cover various specialty areas. In addition, the Section President can nominate an individual for the Presidential Award at his/her discretion. The awards are as follows:

- Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Government Engineer of the Year
- Philadelphia Young Government Engineer of the Year
- Government Service Award
- Educator of the Year
- Philadelphia History and Heritage Award
- Community Outreach and Service Award

Individual Technical Awards:

- Civil Engineering Manager of the Year
- Construction Engineer of the Year
- Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- Structural Engineer of the Year
- Transportation Engineer of the Year
- Water Resources Engineer of the Year

We are additionally offering, for the first time, a Project of the Year award/competition. Requirements and information are posted on our website.

If you have any questions on the nomination process or would like more information, please contact **Bob Wright**, Committee Chair, at 215-433-1666, or via e-mail at newseditor@asce-philly.org.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Laurel Welch, Forum Editor

Kirsten Brown, Forum President 2023-24

Michael Baker International, kirsten.brown@mbakerintl.com

Joint Winter Mixer

December 6

YMF participated in a joint holiday-season happy hour/Winter Mixer, co-sponsored by the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) Delaware Valley Section Young Members Committee and the Council of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), on December 6. This was held at the Conshohocken Brewing/Puddlers Kitchen and Tap in Bridgeport. The event was well-attended and successful. Thanks to all who were able to attend and network.

Books Through Bars

January 13

YMF will be assisting this effort with the **Books Through Bars** program, which responds to requests from incarcerated people for books. It mobilizes hundreds of volunteers to run every aspect of the work, from data entry to soliciting book donations to library organization. Many prison libraries are inadequate and inaccessible, while access to resources from the outside is limited by prison restrictions and inmates' poverty. One of the most important tasks volunteers do is carefully reading the letters received, picking books for each request from the library, and packing the books.

This will be conducted on **Saturday, January 13**, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Volunteers will prepare book packages for inmates, with an optional networking session at neighboring **Loco Pez West Philly**. Masks are required. A separate flyer is being distributed with more details. Please **RSVP by January 10**. You may contact **Kevin Malley (kmalley13@outlook.com)** for additional information.

Winter Social

February

Please watch for more information coming on our annual Winter Social, which will be slightly later than in the past this time around.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

As we approach the midpoint of the season, we note that there are 14 firms participating in our Section sponsorship program (two have recently been added). We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor's business cards are printed in each edition of *THE NEWS*. Their logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website, where we provide 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*.

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



TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES...

ALSO, LOOKING TO REFER A NEW MEMBER? OR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AN ENGINEER?

And if you want to advise friends and colleagues of the benefits of membership, 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.

As you may be aware, your membership entitles you to be eligible for ASCE Member Advantages. These encompass benefits in several member discount programs including professional liability insurance, life insurance, credit cards and banking services, and rental car discounts. ASCE always looks to negotiate the best deal for members. Similarly, when members save through these programs, ASCE earns revenue that helps keep your dues rates as low as possible. Please check asce.org for the details on these offers and programs.

There are additionally a number of free eLearning Webinars available to help you develop critical career skills, with topics covering a broad range of technical interests, leadership development tools, and key member programs. Many of these offer professional development hour (PDH) credit that you may need for your license renewal. Often these PDH's are valid in states such as Florida and New York, which are not all that easy to obtain given those states' pre-approval requirements. You are able to take up to 10 free PDH courses at your convenience, so this is indeed a valuable benefit. (And, a friendly reminder, if you haven't taken your 10 free courses yet, you have until the end of the year to do so for the current membership period.)

Also, please keep in mind that ASCE isn't just for Civil Engineers. While you may be surprised to learn this, ASCE allows non-Engineers to be members as well, with a specific grade of membership – the Affiliate Member grade – available for this purpose. While those with Civil Engineering degrees and backgrounds can usually join ASCE right out of school as Associate Members (and are eligible for reduced levels of dues if they have been Student Members), the Affiliate Member grade is available to anyone having "an interest in the advancement of the purposes and objectives of the Society", as stated in the definition provided in the ASCE Register, who may not have been eligible for Student Membership and/or do not meet the criteria for Associate Membership.

Thus, the Affiliate Member grade is ideal for those who work in related fields who may have an interest in Civil Engineering but do not have a Civil Engineering degree. Affiliate Members enjoy the same benefits and perks of ASCE membership as do other member grades above Student. Additionally, you may want to let some of your colleagues and friends know about this so they can consider ASCE membership and you can get some cash for the referral.

At the other end of the "spectrum", for those of you more senior and experienced members, the Fellow grade of membership is worth consideration. This is the highest level of membership one can attain on one's own and is a laudable and esteemed achievement. The specific requirements for application for this grade of membership are listed on asce.org.

FUTURE CITY – HELP NEEDED

As it has done for a number of years, the Future City Philadelphia program is conducting its annual competition and will hold the regional finals on January 20 at Archbishop Carroll High School in Radnor. Mentors and various volunteers for the competition, including judges, evaluators and hosts, are needed. Please visit www.futurecityphilly.org for more information and details on this.

A total of 43 local schools will be competing this time around and our Section's Younger Member Forum will be among those groups offering a Special Award as we have done for a number of years.

N-ASCE*

ANOTHER PHILADELPHIA FIRST – THE THANKSGIVING PARADE

As is the usual case, we at *THE NEWS* are right on top of things, and we are now talking about the Thanksgiving parade just over a month AFTER the last one (or as we like to look at it, eleven months in advance of the next one). In any event, Philadelphia was the first city to have such a production, and has had it almost continuously for over 100 years, four years before the Macy's parade in New York City was started.

The inaugural Thanksgiving Day parade kicked off in 1920, with a few dozen Ford Model T's rolling through downtown (back before it was called Center City), one containing Santa Claus, who made his way to Gimbels Department Store, the parade sponsor. He then proceeded to go eight stories up to its toy department. It drew barely as many onlookers as marchers (55 employees of the store). In the intervening century, the parade has grown rather more popular, with a million people turning out to watch the festivities.

In the early days, most information about the parade appeared in advertisements. It took time for Gimbels president Ellis Gimbel to build momentum for the event, which he always viewed as a way to draw attention to the Christmas shopping season. Hence the gimmick, part of the parade since its inception, of having Santa climb through the window to the store's Toyland section. Gimbel designed the parade to please children, and always invited orphans to share the stage with him, as many as 4000 in later years.

Like other parades of its type, it features balloons, floats, high school marching bands, and celebrities. Gimbel wanted his Toyland to be the destination of holiday shoppers everywhere. The parade featured floats as marchers paraded down Market Street, with the finale consisting of Santa Claus arriving at the 8th floor, at his outpost until Christmas, by climbing the ladder of a Fire Department hook and ladder truck and into a window. There Santa would await visits from children with their Christmas wish lists.

There are intriguing references to an early parade mishap when, apparently, Santa lost his footing on the way up and had a close call. By the 1930's, he was followed up the ladder by a radio personality named Uncle Wip (on loan from radio station WIP, owned by Gimbels) to provide backup. In 1934, Kate Smith came to perform, accompanied by over 2000 marchers, 94 floats, and 40 marching bands. By 1939 the parade had become so popular (half a million attendees) that lost children had become a recurring problem.

World War II rationing had its impact in the early 1940's, with a civilian gasoline ban that caused all floats to be horse-drawn, and reports say nearly all of the marchers were women. The wartime parades grew more patriotic. The mood changed following the war and more balloons and cartoon heroes from television were added to the lineup.

The Parade had its consecutive streak broken in 1971 as it was cancelled for the first time, due to bad weather, although some marchers took a few turns around the Art Museum for the benefit of television crews. There have been periodic attempts to eliminate balloons as a feature, because they are difficult to wrangle. Even motorized floats have been forced to withdraw at times.

The parade outlasted Ellis Gimbel (he died in 1950), and Gimbels folded in 1986. The store itself moved in 1979 to a new location across Market Street within the then-new Gallery shopping mall, somewhat complicating Santa's entrance with the new building having very few and narrow windows. Still, though the routes and rituals and sponsors have changed, the parade has remained popular with Philadelphians. Over the years celebrities including Liberace, Joey Bishop, David Brenner, the Harlem Globetrotters, Mario Andretti, Joe Frazier, Nell Carter and Kool and the Gang joined the party, as well as sports figures, with Bernie Parent and Hank Aaron in 1976, and Mike Schmidt in 1980.

Continued on page 6

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Welch Cited by South Jersey Branch

Laurel Welch was recently honored with the George Stout Award by the South Jersey Branch of ASCE. This award recognizes an individual's dedication to and involvement in the Branch's planning and programming. Laurel is a Past President of the Branch, and played key roles in the coordination of several events to encourage member engagement and professional development. She additionally led a Board of 11 members, and assisted in planning events to support the Branch's scholarship and outreach efforts.



Laurel noted that she was incredibly honored to receive this award from the Branch and was thankful for the continued support of her employer, Urban Engineers, for her involvement in engineering organizations such as ASCE. Her Urban colleagues Charlie Bassano and Mike McAtee (to her right in the photo) and Antonio Ditri (to her far left) attended the award presentation, as did her father Hal (to her immediate left). She is currently active in our Section's Younger Member Forum. She is a Professional Engineer in the state of New Jersey and a certified Envision Sustainability Professional with experience in transportation design and construction. Before transitioning to her current role as a Construction Engineer at Urban, she gained nearly 8 years of experience in the design of roadway projects and ADA-compliant pedestrian facilities, as well as interchange reconstruction and drainage design. This background in design affords her a unique perspective on the construction of engineering projects.

We congratulate Laurel on this honor.

Mitchell Arrives at GREYHAWK

Thomas Mitchell, PE, CFCC, was recently hired as Executive Consultant at GREYHAWK, an award-winning construction management and consulting firm, where he will leverage over 40 years of construction consulting experience in claims and dispute resolution in his role within the firm's Construction Consulting Practice.

"Tom has an uncanny ability to look at a claim or dispute, analyze all the parts and pieces, and articulate complexity in clear and simple terms. He will be an asset to GREYHAWK's consulting business and our clients," noted Chairman Charles F. Boland, PE. "With four decades of experience and relationships, Tom will help us guide and grow our team and company."

Tom will lend his expertise to the firm's abilities in the areas of claims and dispute resolution, cost estimating, scheduling, project risk management, surety consulting and support, and specialty consulting. He will also become an active presence for GREYHAWK at conferences nationwide.

Tom's career began as an engineer with the US Army Corps of Engineers, where he led civil and military projects. He later transitioned to consulting roles, ultimately rising to national construction consulting practice leader at his previous firm. He has provided construction consulting services to contractors, subcontractors, and owners in the education, commercial, transit, and industrial markets. He has PE registration in 6 states, is a Certified Forensic Claims Consultant (CFCC), and serves on the American Arbitration Association Panel of Neutrals and on the National Construction Dispute Resolution Committee.

We wish Tom good luck in his new position.

PARC Category of the Month: DRINKING WATER

As you may recall, the Pennsylvania Report Card (PARC) was released in November 2022 and assessed and graded 15 categories of infrastructure. We will continue to provide a summary of one category in each edition of The News. To keep it simple, we'll do this alphabetically by category. This month, we go to something very familiar to us, Drinking Water.

2022 grade D 2018 grade D

Most of Pennsylvania's public drinking water systems are struggling to fund projects to meet their replacement goals as well as new regulations, despite recent investment in main replacement and improvement in identifying vulnerability to failures for prioritization of repairs. Over the next 10 years, Pennsylvania's public water systems are projected to have a \$10.2 billion funding gap, a number only very slightly offset with recent federal actions to provide infrastructure funding.

In addition, there remain substantial amounts of lead service lines posing risk to public health, particularly for underserved communities. Emerging contaminants such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pose growing public health threat. To conquer these issues, water utilities need to adopt full-cost pricing and find technologies that enable more efficient operation and emergency response.

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.

N-ASCE* Thanksgiving Day Parade

Continued from page 4

The parade route was revised after Gimbels left the scene. Until then, the event started at the Art Museum, wound its way down the Parkway, then down Broad Street on the southbound side of the street to Spruce Street, back up the northbound side, around City Hall and down Market Street to the place where Santa would climb to enter Toyland. With no Gimbels store to be the endpoint, the route was shortened starting with the 1987 event and basically reversed its course, and avoided Broad Street altogether, starting at 20th Street and Kennedy Boulevard and heading down Kennedy Boulevard, over 16th Street, and out on the Parkway to Eakins Oval, where Santa currently runs up the Art Museum steps to kick off the Christmas season.

Another local department store, Boscov's, stepped in to replace Gimbels as a parade co-sponsor, along with WPVI-TV (Channel 6), which had been broadcasting it since 1966. Boscov's remained a sponsor until it faced its own financial problems in 2007. IKEA replaced Boscov's as a co-sponsor in 2008 and continued for two more parades, then was replaced itself with Dunkin Donuts assuming the role in 2011 and remaining as such through the present day.

The parade has become more high-tech and added more elaborate balloons, floats and singing/dancing productions, along with more celebrities, over the years. It was a "no go" in 2020 given the City's virus-related shutdown and cancellation of large public gatherings, only the second time in its history that it was not conducted. The year before that (2019), high winds forced the balloons to be removed from the parade because of high winds.

While the parade is the oldest Thanksgiving Day parade in the country, it copied from other locales which had similar holiday-related events, although not on Thanksgiving. One of these, the Santa Claus parade in Peoria, IL, was begun by a local department store in 1887 as a day-after-Thanksgiving event, a tradition that continues at present. Other Thanksgiving parades were established in New York (1924), Detroit (1924), and Milwaukee (1927), among other places.

A historical marker commemorating 100 years of the Thanksgiving Day parade is mounted at the western edge of Eakins Oval.

Thanks to several sources for this information.

*N-ASCE – not always something concerning Engineering

Philadelphia Chapter GOLD SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

WTS Recognizes Several Sponsors/Staff

The Philadelphia Chapter of the **Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)** conducted its annual Snowball Awards Soiree on November 30. As is usually done at this event, a number of WTS awardees were cited. Among those were the following who are our Section Sponsors and Agency Partners:

- Woman of the Year – **Aleta Adams**, Chief Control Center Officer, SEPTA
- Member of the Year – **Elyse Conti**, Marketing Manager, Traffic Planning & Design
- Diversity Award – **SEPTA**
- Secretary Ray LaHood Award – **James Maloney**, Senior Vice President, JMT
- Philadelphia Award – **Aero Aggregates** of North America

We congratulate each of these award winners on their well-deserved honors.

APC Cites Aero

Aero Aggregates of North America was recognized by the **Associated Pennsylvania Constructors** as a recipient of the "2023 Remarkable Achievement Award" for its role on the I-95 Emergency Replacement Project, through the provision of lightweight aggregate fill that allowed the construction of the temporary bridge replacement. This award was presented to Aero at the APC/PennDOT/Pennsylvania Turnpike Fall Seminar in November. Congratulations to Aero on this honor!



McMahon Now Bowman

Following the acquisition of **McMahon Associates** by the **Bowman Consulting Group Ltd.** in May 2022, the McMahon brand will end its transition as McMahon a Bowman company and be changed to be known fully as Bowman as of the start of 2024. Founded in 1976 and headquartered in Fort Washington, PA, McMahon has specialized 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. As Bowman, the firm will continue the delivery of innovative transportation solutions to its clients while still offering the same personal attention and trusted relationships its clients have come to expect.



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.



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