ASCE PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE NEWS

Vol 99-3

Our 114th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

November 2026

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

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

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NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2026–27

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season remains in development and our 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.

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

These are our "look-ahead" dates, all in 2027.

January 20 (Wednesday) – joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Crowne Plaza, King of Prussia – Schuylkill River Swing Bridge

February, to be determined

March 11

April 8

May, to be determined – Spring Social, The Lucy, Center City

2026 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card Coming Out!

After a research, preparation and development process that took the better part of this past year, the ASCE Pennsylvania Council is pleased to announce that it is ready to make its debut. Please save the date to join us on **Tuesday, November 17**, at **11:00 AM** at **Amtrak's William H. Gray III 30th Street Station** for the release of our **2026 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card**. We hope you will be able to participate.

The "official" statewide release event will take place in the **State Capitol** in **Harrisburg** at **10 AM** on the same day. Other release events will be conducted in Pittsburgh and Bethlehem.

This is the sixth version of the PA Report Card, which has been provided every four years since 2006.

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

Maggiano's Little Italy, 1201 Filbert Street (corner of 12th Street), Center City

Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows (approximately 7:30 PM)

SUBJECT: **PhilaPort Cruise Terminal** – Design and Construction

SPEAKERS: **Michael Day, PE**, PhilaPort; **Duane Mace**, Bowman Consulting Group; **Kevin Bomboy, P**E, STV Group; **Eric Pearson**, PE, STV Group

This presentation will cover the design and construction of the recently-opened PhilaPort Cruise Terminal at Hog Island in Tinicum Township. It will include the challenges of the existing conditions of the site, design issues on both the river and land sides, construction difficulties and operational constraints.

RESERVATION DEADLINE – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6. The cost per attendee is $70, with discounted rates for government/agency employees ($50) and students ($35, half-price). **PLEASE NOTE NEW PRICES ARE IN EFFECT AS OF THIS MEETING.** These apply to reservations received by the RSVP deadline. The cost includes dinner and one drink ticket.

Reservations can be made through our **website**. Reservations received after the deadline and "walk-ups" without prior reservations paying at the door will be subject to a higher charge as well as acceptance on a space-available/standby basis.

This event is eligible for one professional development hour (PDH).

DECEMBER MULTI-SOCIETY MEETING

Engineers' Club of Philadelphia and Numerous Technical Societies

More information and details will be provided in the December edition of *THE NEWS*.

I couldn't wait for success, so I went ahead without it.

— Jonathan Winters

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We kicked off our programming year back at Maggiano's with a great presentation on the I-95 CAP design and construction progress. Special thanks to Jesse, Mike, and Chad for spending their evening with us. It was great to see so many familiar faces back for another year, and I truly look forward to connecting with those I haven't met yet.

Our program will roll on with our second dinner meeting of the year on November 12th with a presentation on the design and construction of the PhilaPort Cruise Terminal.

We're also very excited for the release of the 2026 PA Infrastructure Report Card. Release events are being planned across the State, and here in Philadelphia we'll be celebrating at Amtrak's William H. Gray III 30th Street Station on November 17th.

I had the privilege of attending ASCE's annual Presidents and Governors Forum and Leader Orientation at ASCE headquarters in Reston, Virginia in mid-October, and as a part of that event, I got to sit in on the annual business meeting which included remarks from incoming **Society President, Carol Haddock**. With our industry seemingly as busy as ever, and with no end in sight other than (hopefully) a nice holiday reprieve, it seems as good a time as ever to echo President Haddock's sentiment of "Together."

The ASCE community is vast and strong, and together we are able to achieve great things. When times get hard, remember to take a breath and don't be afraid to lean on those around you. I also encourage you to lift up those around you whenever possible, whether that's offering a helping hand to your peers, or offering educational and developmental opportunities to younger staff. Building depth and redundancy on our project teams makes the "Together" all the more possible when the time comes. To me, that is what "Together" is all about.

Dennis Wilson, PE, M.ASCE

President, ASCE Philadelphia Section

THE NEWS IS CHANGING SLIGHTLY…

For those of you who follow *THE NEWS* closely (especially, as your Editor likes to call it, our tens of fans), you may have noticed we have started Volume 99 this season. While our Section has been around for 114 years (it all started in 1912), we apparently did not get around to having a formal newsletter until 1928, when the initial edition was distributed in November. Since then, *THE NEWS* has been a regular and ongoing feature.

Over time *THE NEWS* has evolved and has had its format and look revised a few times. One of the more major changes was the move from printed/mailed copy to all-electronic in 2010 after several years in a "hybrid" state, offering both print and electronic delivery. When we ceased hard-copy delivery we still had a die-hard following of over 30 members who preferred the mailed hard copy version.

As we currently have regular e-blasts and our website to convey updates, happenings and events, we are in a position to be able to contain costs somewhat and depend a little less on content in *THE NEWS*. Accordingly, this season, we will be reducing the number of editions we produce each season from eight/nine in the past to six. The revised schedule will have editions published and distributed in October, November, December, January/February, March and April/May. We will discontinue our Summer update, when information and events tend to be in a lull. As noted, we will continue to send you regular e-blasts to keep you up to speed on what is happening and *THE NEWS* you need to know. (And a little less work for your Editor, as if he needs that…)

THE NEWS will continue to provide its hard-hitting journalism (or something like that…) and offer what we can for your information and knowledge. Thanks for your understanding on this.

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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.

We thank these folks for their service and wish them well in their spots.

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COPY DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2026 ISSUE
DECEMBER 11, 2026

ASCE Day – NOVEMBER 5

In 1852, twelve esteemed engineers gathered in New York City to establish what would become the American Society of Civil Engineers. November 5 will mark the Society's 174th anniversary of this founding, so mark your calendars for this ASCE Day. We are providing this advance notice so you can plan your celebrations accordingly.

This will also be the start of ASCE's Built to Shine program, which will be conducting various events during the lead-up to our 175th anniversary in 2027. Please watch your e-mails for planned and coming activities.



N-ASCE*

TOP BANANA, AND NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THOSE FROM SAVANNAH…

In June, the Montana Highway Patrol pulled over a 23-foot banana-shaped car near Billings after a state trooper noticed its license plate was partially obscured. Remarkably, operating oversized fruit wasn't the issue. No ticket was issued, but photos of the stop quickly spread across social media.

The vehicle belongs to Steve Braithwaite, who earlier this year sold almost everything he owned, put the rest into storage and retired into a giant banana instead of an RV. Braithwaite is used to the attention the vehicle gets. "I would say the first eight or nine years, I was probably the most pulled-over man in America," he told KBZK News.

The idea first came to him while standing in line at a gas station more than 15 years ago. "I pictured it down the road, driving down the road, and started laughing," Braithwaite recalled. "I thought, if it makes me laugh now, I'm going to build it." He began construction on "The Big Banana Car" in 2008, spending weekends transforming a 1993 Ford F-150 into rolling produce. By 2011, the joke had become street legal. It's difficult to think of another great engineering project that began beside a rack of beef jerky.

The Big Banana Car has now spent more than a decade travelling the continent. In June, Braithwaite embraced the lifestyle completely, becoming what he describes as a "full-time banana car nomad." His latest adventure is appropriately called the "World Needs More Whimsy Grand Tour." "The world is seriously low on whimsy right now, and driving around in a banana, it just brings it out of people, and it's lovely," Braithwaite said.

These days, it's difficult to argue with a man whose life plan involves making strangers smile with oversized produce.

Thanks to *Roads and Bridges* for this information.

** N-ASCE – not always something concerning engineering…*

NATIONAL ASCE IN THE NEWS

NEW PRESIDENT TAKES THE REINS

2027 President **Carol Haddock** accepted the gavel as ASCE President at the annual business meeting in Reston, VA on October 17. Ms. Haddock took over as the term of 2026 President Marsha Anderson Bomar wrapped up. Ms. Haddock was advised that in her acceptance remarks, the word of the day was apparently "together", as she used it 17 times. She noted that, "'Together' doesn't mean we are clones of each other; 'together' doesn't mean we're always in agreement, but together' means we include all of the different and amazing people that we are. All of us. It takes everyone within ASCE providing their own unique contributions while working together for us to achieve our mission."

Ms. Haddock is the director of public works for the City of Baytown, Texas, and a professor-in-the-practice at Rice University. She previously served as the director of Houston's Department of Public Works, the first woman to oversee the largest public works agency in the United States. In that role, she led a team of over 4,000 employees responsible for vital services such as water, wastewater, streets, stormwater, and permitting in Houston.

Her ASCE roots are deep. She joined the Society as a student member in 1988, rising through the ranks to leadership roles in the Houston Branch and Texas Section and then the ASCE Board of Direction. "ASCE is where I've made some of my best lifelong friends," she noted. "It's where I've had some of the amazing opportunities that have allowed me to advance in my career."

Rossana D'Antonio was inducted as the new **ASCE president-elect** and will be our 2028 President.

NEW REGION 2 GOVERNORS

At the ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum in National Headquarters (Reston, VA) on October 19, two incoming Governors of our Region were officially installed following elections last spring. **Nicholas Giglio** of the Lehigh Valley Section, a project engineer at Urban Engineers, and our own **Bob Wright**, started their three-year terms at that time. We thank outgoing Governors **Greg Kuklinski** of the Lehigh Valley Section, a project manager at Benesch, and Past Section President **Joe Platt**, a Vice President at TPD Inc., for their service.

EXPERIENCE ASCE2027



ASCE2027 is the place for bold ideas and transformative solutions. Connect with top minds, explore future-focused innovations, and sharpen your expertise through deep dives into cutting-edge practices and tech. Reconnect with peers in exclusive institute hubs and engage with leaders across the full infrastructure spectrum, from engineers and planners to policymakers and social scientists. Explore learning opportunities, gain practical knowledge, and connect with peers and experts from across the industry. From expert-led short courses and technical sessions to networking opportunities and more, ASCE2027 offers valuable experiences to help you make the most of your time at the conference.

This event will be held in our fair city, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Our headquarters hotel will be the Philadelphia Marriott, just steps away from the venue.

Registration is now open and can be accessed **https://experience.asce.org**. We hope to see you there.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Belen Labarta, Forum Editor
Christopher (C.J.) Medora, Forum President 2026-27
AECOM, christopher.medora@aecom.com

College Executive Boards Kick-Off Event

September 22

The YMF College Contact Team welcomed executive board members from the regional Student Chapters for the annual College Executive Boards Kick-Off. Representatives from the different universities came together for an evening of networking, collaboration, and planning for the year ahead. The event provided student leaders with an opportunity to connect, share ideas, and build relationships to support a successful year across the region.

Annual Phillies Game & Tailgate

September 25

The 2026 Phillies Game and Tailgate was a fantastic event once again. With more than 50 attendees, the group came together to enjoy food, drinks, and tailgate games before heading into the ballpark. Our DJ kept the energy high throughout the afternoon with his mashups. Although the Phillies didn't come away with a win against the Rays, it was still an exciting matchup and marked the first game of their final regular season series.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

October 3

The combined forces of ASHE Delaware Valley's Young Members Committee and YMF joined to clean up our two-mile stretch of Bethlehem Pike between Lafayette Ave Connector and Butler Pike in Ambler. The team, with 17 participants, collected a variety of trash, from bottles, and plastic wrappers, to small cigarette butts. These efforts beautify the neighborhood and help improve the water quality of surrounding streams. Afterwards they enjoyed lunch at Fireside Bar & Grille. Thank you to our volunteers and Fireside Bar & Grille for providing the meeting location! We look forward to doing it all again the spring!

Mentor Mentee Mixer

October 12

YMF hosted its Mentor-Mentee Mixer, bringing together approximately 30 mentors and mentees to connect, network, and build professional relationships. As the kickoff event for the year's mentorship program, the mixer gave mentees the opportunity to meet a diverse pool of mentors with expertise across various areas of civil engineering and have a say in selecting their mentor for the remainder of the year. The event fostered knowledge sharing, collaboration, and meaningful connections, laying the foundation for continued mentorship and professional growth throughout participants' careers.

GETT Expo

October 24

YMF partnered with the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI) to host a table at the Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT) Expo. Volunteers engaged students through a hands-on activity of building edible soil profiles using layered treats that represented different types of soils and rocks. This creative activity gave students a tangible look into geotechnical and civil engineering concepts while also giving them something sweet to snack on. We would like to give a special thank you to Theresa Loux and the DVGI team for their efforts in making this a successful event!



OCTOBER SECTION MEETING

October 8, 2026 Maggiano's Little Italy, Center City

I-95 CAP Construction Update

By Robert Wright, Editor

A full room of attendees welcomed our initial Section dinner meeting of the 2026-27 season. Once the lively networking hour wound down, with much catching up to do with folks who have not seen each other since last spring, President **Dennis Wilson** presided over getting the crowd settled into their seats (never an easy task) and began the evening with announcements. President Wilson welcomed the **Temple University Student Chapter**, the featured Chapter of the evening, with Chapter President **Corinne Boco,** accompanied by Member **Sejourne Desgranges,** offering an update on current and planned activities.



As dinner wound down President-Elect **Katrina Budischak** welcomed the presenters for the main event, **Michael Altomari, Jr.**, Assistant Construction Engineer, PennDOT District 6-0, **Chad Lavallee, PE**, Project Manager, Buckley & Co,, and Past Section President **Jesse Gormley, PE**, Senior Bridge Engineer, Pennoni. The team provided an update on the construction of the I-95 Central Access Philadelphia (CAP) project, a $459 million infrastructure initiative working to reconnect Philadelphia to the Delaware River waterfront. The project features an 11.5-acre landscaped civic park, supported on structure spanning I-95 and Columbus Boulevard/ Delaware Avenue with numerous amenities, and a new asymmetric tied-arch pedestrian bridge that extends the existing South Street Pedestrian Bridge, among other elements. The scope includes an array of civil aspects that involve geotechnical, structural, transportation, utility, and construction engineering, as well as other related engineering fields. Construction began in 2023 and is expected to be completed in 2030.

Following the presentation several questions were offered from the audience and the presenters ably responded to them.

President Wilson thanked the speakers for their informative presentation and closed the meeting.



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

At this early point in our season, we are proud to note that 16 firms have agreed to participate in our Section Sponsor program thus far. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

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 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.

We also offer a higher level of sponsorship this year, the VIP Title level, which provides an opportunity for a firm to be featured as the exclusive sponsor of our regular e-mail blasts for a one-month period. This is available for an additional fee.

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. Locally, this includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. Both New Jersey and Delaware renewals occurred this past spring and summer, while for Pennsylvania this will happen next September. Which gives you time to plan ahead…

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. 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).

Whenever I hear,
"It can't be done",
I know I'm close to success.

— Michael Flatley

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES…

AND TELL A FRIEND… NOT JUST FOR ENGINEERS

As a reminder, your ASCE dues for 2027 is coming due at the end of the year. You may have seen the e-mail reminders on this and hard-copy invoices are being mailed to those who have requested them. You may be thinking "didn't I just pay this", but that's probably last year's dues and, yes, time does indeed fly.

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 the recent changes and consolidations in membership grade, one can now join as a full Member, which is available to those having "an interest in the advancement of the purposes and objectives of the Society" as well as civil engineering-degreed individuals

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. And it is an exclusive group, with just 3 percent of our total membership (over 160,000) hold this honor. These individuals have made celebrated contributions to the profession and developed creative solutions that have changed lives around the world.

The specific requirements for application for Fellow are listed on **asce.org**.

HOLD THESE DATES

ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its **Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee**, will cite **Engineers Week 2027 (February 18-27)**. We have traditionally extended our local celebration beyond that recognized by National Engineers Week to include our kickoff event.

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley will officially begin with the **Engineers Week Opening Dinner** on **Thursday, February 18** (two days before National E Week begins). At this event, we will introduce and formally induct the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year 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. This will take place at the Hilton Hotel on Penns Landing.

The **Young Engineers Social** is a networking and social event to cite the newly-inducted Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year. This event will no longer be scheduled during Engineers Week. Venues and schedule are still being considered and will be provided in future updates.

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

Also, please check on the various Engineers Week awards and scholarships that are available and will be awarded at the Opening Dinner. This information, along with other updates on Engineers Week, can be found at the Engineers' Club website, **www.engrclub.org**.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Schroeder Cited by Mass Transit Magazine

Section Membership Secretary **Danielle Schroeder** was recently recognized as one of Mass Transit Magazine's 40 Under 40 for 2026. Dani serves as a Senior Engineer/Assistant Project Manager with Huitt-Zollars, Inc. at the firm's Philadelphia office. She serves as the assistant project manager for the firm's PennDOT Transit Program Management Office project, where she supports oversight on a nearly $800 million construction program involved with transit agencies across the Commonwealth. She and her team work as an extension of PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transit, where they help with initial planning and scoping of projects through technical reviews, compliance coordination and performance dashboards. She leads numerous high-profile assignments and acts as the technical review lead of the office.

We congratulate Dani on yet another honor to add to her many accomplishments and recognition.

I have always wished that my computer would be as easy to use as my telephone. My wish has come true. I no longer know how to use my telephone.

— Bjarne Stroustrup

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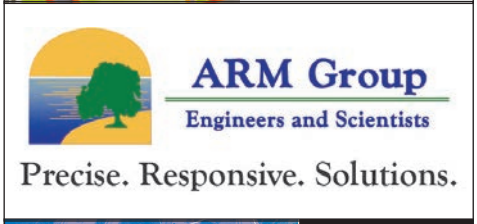












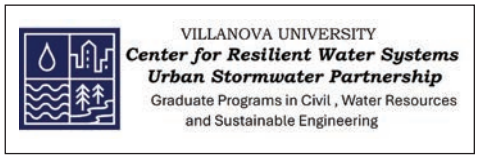


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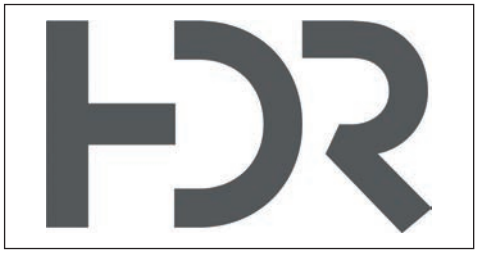












SECTION AGENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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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