

President's Message



President Stephanie Butler

As I prepare this message, I am enjoying a bit of a winter wonderland out my window. When you feel that the white fluffy stuff causes you frustration, just remember back to the days when it meant a "free" day filled with outdoor play, hot chocolate, and nowhere to go. I have a feeling that this winter may bring us more of these days than we have had in the past few years so we might as well welcome them with a positive attitude, right?

Hip, hip, hooray! With the New Year, comes a new transportation funding bill for Pennsylvania!!! Without dwelling on the details, I would like to personally thank all of you who wrote letters, made phone calls to legislators, spread the word to co-workers, friends, and family members, and more. Our organization looks forward to the opportunities this will bring for our members, our firms, our clients, and most of all, OUR COMMUNITIES!

This month we are spotlighting the **Project of the Year Committee** for our ASHE Del Val Section. The POY committee is being chaired by Bill Laird for the third year in a row. Each year, Bill and his committee advertise for, and evaluate, the submissions on several different criteria in order to determine the winners in two categories. All project of the year submissions are shared during our April Dinner Meeting with the winners recognized and presented their awards. Each year, the ASHE Del Val section provides a technical article for the National ASHE Scanner, and we typically spotlight the POY winners. The Section also invites the POY winners to present at an upcoming dinner meeting allowing them the opportunity to share and highlight the details of their award winning project. As timing has it, the POY is open for submissions and the application is located on our website under the News page. Please don't delay in preparing those submissions. Applications are due by March 3, 2014. We look forward to seeing all the great work occurring in our area.

Our dinner meetings continue on January 15th which is our joint event with ASCE Philadelphia. We look forward to your attendance. Until then, "Your Board" extends holiday greetings to you and your families for a joyous season filled with peace, love and good health.

Respectfully,
Stephanie L. Butler, P.E.
ASHE – Del Val Section, President

2013-2014 Meeting Dates

- January 15th (ASCE Joint Meeting)
- February 19th
- March 19th
- April 16th

Costs:

- \$35 - Advance Registration
- \$45 - After Deadline/At the Door
- \$20 - Public Employees / Students

Technical Sessions

- February 19th
- April 16th

Costs:

- FREE! - Members /
- \$40 - Non-Members



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Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2014

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Delaware Valley Section wish all good things for you and yours for 2014 and we hope you have a joyous, memorable and safe holiday season!

In place of the twelve days of Christmas, we would like to pass along 12 things for which our Section should be thankful (some of these may sound familiar!):

- 12** Section Directors
- 11** Possible PDH's you could earn (if you attend all eligible Section meetings and Technical Sessions)
- 10** Million dollar cutoff between "small" and "large" projects in last year's Project of the Year competition
- 9** Seasons of DVSP support
- 8** Half of the total of DVSP participants so far this season (which supports our Scholarship Fund)
- 7** Monthly meetings
- 6** Project of the Year submissions for the 2012 Program
- 5** Dollars gets you 3 50-50 tickets (which helps subsidize our dinner costs)
- 4** Dinner meetings left this season
- 3** Technical Sessions this season
- 2** PDH's that can be earned at each Technical Session
- 1** Strong, vital and responsive Section to represent your interests and provide educational and networking opportunities for you

2013 - 14 DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephanie Butler, President

McMahon Associates Inc.

Bob Wright, First Vice President

Urban Engineers Inc.

Jeff Given, Second Vice President

Loftus Construction Inc.

Jeff Obrecht, Treasurer

URS Corporation

Mark Kinnee, Secretary

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Rob Prophet, Regional Director

Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

Dick Prentice, Past President (ASHE National)

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Term expires 2014**John Caperilla**

Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Alexa Harper

Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Jack Mitchell

McMahon Associates Inc.

Don Steele

Penna. Turnpike Commission

Term expires 2015**Elaine Elbich**

PennDOT

Phil Mandato

Felix Mandato & Sons Inc.

Curt Shugars

Pennoni Associates Inc.

Don Stark

Ammann & Whitney Inc.

Term expires 2016**Pete Berthold**

PennDOT

Bill Laird

CHA

Bruce Masi

Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Sarah McInnes

PennDOT

We are also accepting volunteers who would like to participate in Section committees at a non-Board member level. (See page 4 for a list of current Section committees and committee chairs.) Please let us know if you have interest and we will put you to work.

Citing Women in Transportation

At its November 5 luncheon meeting, the Philadelphia Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) invited the current local section/chapter presidents of six technical societies to share a significant accomplishment. All of these presidents are women, and it is believed that this is a "first" for the Delaware Valley. In addition to the President of the host Chapter, **Carol Rose**, and our own Section President, **Stephanie Butler**, the other presidents in attendance were:

- **Jenn Walsh**, American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section
- **Joni Powell**, Construction Management Association of America, Mid-Atlantic Chapter
- **Allie Slizofski**, Intelligent Transportation Systems Pennsylvania
- **Kate Russo**, Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers



The Presidents with Rina Cutler, Deput Mayor, City of Philadelphia



Stephanie Butler with Rina Cutler

Nominations for Section Officers About to Open

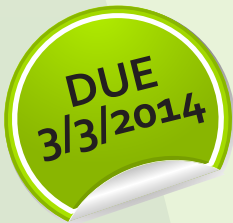
The Delaware Valley Section will shortly be opening nominations for new Officers and Directors for the 2014-15 season. We anticipate that several vacancies will open on the Section's Board of Directors for terms ending in 2017 as well as the Second Vice President position.

Nominations can be made to First Vice President Bob Wright, whose contact information is provided on page 8. Nominations are due by February 19 (the date of our February Section/Board meeting). The proposed slate of incoming nominees will be announced at the March Section meeting.

You can contact Bob for a list of open offices and positions on the Board of Directors.

2013 Project of the Year Competition

The Project of the Year competition is now open for submissions. The program will follow the two-category format, with separate awards for "large" and "small" projects. **The breakpoint between the two classifications will be determined once submissions have been made**, unlike in past years when this was divided at \$10 million, to allow more flexibility in the decision making. Projects must have been completed in 2013, be located within the geographic boundaries of the Section, and nominated by an ASHE member in good standing. **Applications are due on March 3, 2014.**



Please visit the Section website (www.ashedv.org) for more information and applications.

New Section By-Laws Approved by National

Over the past year, our Section conducted a somewhat lengthy but important process to update our By-Laws. This was done at the request of National ASHE so that our By-Laws would be consistent with both National's and those of other Sections, to the extent possible. National approved the revisions in late September and our Section's Board voted to accept these at its meeting on October 18. Thanks to President Stephanie Butler and our By-Laws Committee for leadership and action to make this happen.

The updated By-Laws have been posted on our website for your review and information.

Additionally, the opportunity to create a position of Section Executive arose as part of this effort. Many ASHE Sections have this post, but ours has not to date. Accordingly, we are considering appointment of a candidate to this position and will provide more information on this in the coming weeks.

Golf Outing

Our 19th Annual Golf Outing will be conducted on Monday, July 14 at Blue Bell Country Club.

Please mark your calendar (and perhaps keep some of those golf gifts you may have gotten for Christmas at the ready). More information and details will be forthcoming on this.



Section Committees

Our Section Committees and Committee chairs are listed below. If you have an interest in being part of any Committee, please contact Section President Stephanie Butler or First Vice President/Editor Bob Wright (contact information is provided on page 8).

Please note that some committees have co-chairs to assist in the often-complicated tasks they must handle. Additionally, the Auditing Committee is being restructured based on the revised Section By-laws recently passed by the Section and National Boards.

ASHE/PennDOT Breakfast Meeting.....	Curt Shugars
Dinner Meetings.....	Alexa Harper, Don Stark
50/50	Dick Prentice
Golf.....	Rob Prophet
Hotel.....	Phil Mandato
Membership.....	John Caperilla
Newsletter	Bob Wright
Nominating.....	Bob Wright
Program.....	Jeff Given, Rob Prophet
Project of the Year	Bill Laird
Public Relations.....	Don Steele
Scholarships.....	Sarah McInnes
Social/Society Relations	Elaine Elbich
Student Chapters	John Caperilla
Technical Papers	Bruce Masi
Technical Sessions.....	Jack Mitchell
Website.....	Pete Berthold
Young Members.....	Alexa Harper



Delaware Valley Engineers Week

Awards Luncheon | Doubletree Hotel, Center City Philadelphia

**FEB
14**

This event is both the kickoff event of Engineers Week and the main event of the Delaware Valley celebrations.

A display and poster session of student paper winners will be conducted prior to the Luncheon, starting at 11 AM.

All Delaware Valley Awards and Scholarships will be presented.

Project and individual awards of all participating engineering societies in the Delaware Valley will be recognized.

Engineers Week proclamations received from federal, state and local representatives will be on display.

The newly-elected Engineer of the Year, Suzette Schultz and Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks.

Young Engineers Social | Manayunk Brewery, Manayunk, Philadelphia

**FEB
18**

This will be a happy hour/social networking event geared to younger engineers.

The Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks.

Celebration of Engineering Reception | Villanova Conference Center, Radnor

**FEB
20**

The culminating event of Engineers Week will be a social/networking gala event to celebrate engineering. There will be cocktails, appetizer stations, and dessert stations.

Award recipients will be honored with posters, exhibits, and a running PowerPoint presentation in the networking area.

Future City Competition Regional winners will display their first-place model.

The Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the year will provide brief remarks.

Currently, the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee is in need of volunteers to assist in the many activities surrounding Engineers Week. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions on the various volunteer opportunities, please contact the Committee at www.dvewc.org.

The Committee will offer these events related to Engineers Week. Please note the dates in your calendar. More information will be provided as details are finalized. Please check the website (www.dvewc.org) for updates.

Why Should We Pay Taxes to Build and Maintain Roads?

ASCE Pittsburgh Section Past President and former PA Council Chair Greg Scott recently put together this article for the Pittsburgh Section's newsletter. Since things are much the same here on the other end of our state, we reprint this with his permission for your edification.

The Scottish Enlightenment philosopher and loadstar for the Founding Fathers, Adam Smith wrote in *The Wealth of Nations*...

According to the system of natural liberty, the sovereign has only three duties to attend to . . . First, the duty of protecting the society from violence and invasion . . . secondly, the duty of protecting, as far as possible, every member of society from the injustice or oppression of every other member of it . . . and, thirdly, the duty of erecting and maintaining certain public works and certain public institutions, which it can never be for the interest of any individual, or small number of individuals, to erect and maintain; because the profit would never repay the expense to any individual or small number of individuals, though it may frequently do much more than repay it to a great society.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution followed soon afterwards. Known as the Postal Clause, it empowers Congress "To establish Post Offices and Post Roads." Recognized primarily to facilitate interstate communication and commerce, there was disagreement as to Congress's involvement in road building. Thomas Jefferson considered road building to be primarily a state responsibility. However since the founding of the Country, "certain public works" or infrastructure has been recognized as a core function of government.

Recently, some have advocated that both state and federal government should not fund infrastructure, or that infrastructure should somehow pay for itself. This outlook has created gridlock in Legislatures across the country, as advocates for the construction industry and the private employers who benefit from public infrastructure seek funding to address the deteriorating condition of America's Infrastructure (see ASCE's 2013 Report Card) but some vocal opponents insist that is not the will of the people.

Is this how the public feels? This past May, the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) released a first-ever national poll conducted to see how valuable Americans think our road and transit network is to the nation, our everyday life, and relative to other modern necessities we routinely rely upon. Key findings included:

- Many Americans are not sure how much money we personally pay every month to maintain and improve the roads, bridges and public transit we use. But 75% of respondents said having safe, efficient and well-maintained transportation infrastructure is at least, if not more, important to their personal livelihood and well-being than good cable, cell phone, internet, water, sewage and household electricity and natural gas services
- 8 in 10 of respondents (78%) said driving a motor vehicle is "very" or "extremely" important to our ability to conduct our daily lives, with 21% (including 34% of low income respondents) saying the same about using public transportation
- Nearly 9 in 10 (88%) said transportation infrastructure is important to maintaining a strong U.S. economy
- 83% said our transportation network is important in ensuring national defense and emergency response capabilities
- And no matter where we live — whether rural or urban — 71% of respondents agreed that growing traffic congestion in US metropolitan areas is making products we buy everywhere more expensive because congestion increases transportation costs for businesses
- Not surprisingly, given the importance we place on transportation assets, 74% of us agree that "investing in transportation infrastructure should be a core function of the federal government."

So the majority of Americans understand what our Founding Fathers knew and what ASCE has demonstrated in its Failure to Act Study: that adequately maintained and robust infrastructure is critical for America's economic prosperity and it will affect everyone's pocketbook if we fail to do so.

In Pennsylvania, Governor Corbett recognized the essential nature of this core government function and after creating the Transportation Funding Advisory Commission (TFAC), which recommended broad increases in transportation funding, he made it one of his 2013 goals. [After too much consternation and debate, we finally have a funding bill in place!]

Continue on page 8

Delaware Valley Section Patron Program

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2013 - 14 DVSP Program Sponsorship

\$200

Benefits:

- Logo and Hotlink on Website
- Logo in The Transportation Times

The Section started the D.V.S.P. Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. We are proud to note that 16 firms are participating in this season's offering of the Program thus far (listed above). Many thanks to those of you who have signed up and helped support the Section's many activities. The proceeds of the D.V.S.P. go directly to support the Section's Scholarship Fund.

Last season's sponsors were contacted in September to determine their interested in continuing as D.V.S.P.'s for 2013-14. If you are not in this Program and would like to join, please contact Section President Stephanie Butler or First Vice President/Editor of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES Bob Wright (contact information is given on page 8).

This season, the previously-available two levels of support were combined into a single commitment that will have the sponsor logos shown on both our website and in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES for a \$200 fee.

Donna Prentice Memorial Section Scholarship Competition

- The Program was started by the Section in 1972.
- It has benefited numerous local college students.
- It was renamed in honor of the late Donna Prentice, wife of longtime Section member Dick Prentice, in 2003.
- Successful candidates will be notified in February and invited to attend our February Section Meeting to be honored.
- **18 Scholarship Applications were received this year!**

For Scholarship information, requirements, please visit our website

www.ashedv.org

or

Scholarship Committee Chair

Sarah McInnes smcinnes@padot.gov

Continued from page 6

ASCE has lent its support to a myriad of industry organizations, business interests, private companies and regional chambers of commerce in support of additional transportation funding, but it appears this is not enough. In the end, individuals have to express what they expect their government to do for them.

I strongly encourage you to demand that Pennsylvania address its economic future by

- Supporting a transportation funding plan that is comprehensive in addressing all modes, is adequate to address the problem, and is sustainable for years to come
- Supporting a transportation funding plan that will lead to jobs now – engineers, construction laborers and equipment operators, suppliers, etc. – and create tangible assets that will lead to new jobs and investment in the future for all those who use transportation to get to work, shopping, worship and recreation
- Supporting investing in transportation as a core function of government, and one that the Commonwealth cannot avoid the challenge of any longer

[Ed. note – it doesn't hurt to let your elected representatives know that they NEED to do this – this should not be a political agenda as getting around is vital to all of us!]

From the Editor

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, the newsletter of the Delaware Valley Section, is published and distributed to our Section's members to advise and update all on current events and happenings in the Section.

If you have news items for future editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, please feel free to contact us.

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Mission Statement

Provide a forum for members and partners of the highway industry to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable highway system through education, innovation and fellowship