

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



President Bob Wright, PE

As we know all too well, time flies. I'm surprised that it's already time for me to write my last President's message. It seems like just yesterday that I was handed a gavel and my "administration" began, but, looking back, it was last April 16, so my "expiration date", such that it is, is upon us. It gives me a chance to reflect back on the past season. Not easy to do since it has indeed whizzed by...

I am pleased that you have selected me to serve as your Section President and I hope I have lived up to the expectations that you may have had for me. It's tough to come into a position as the 49th president of a group that has enjoyed the services of 48 great presidents before me. In contrast, our country has had 44 presidents, and most historians would agree that only about 8 of them were great, with most mediocre and a surprising number of them not very good at all. We don't have that problem in the Delaware Valley Section, thankfully. (But we do have the asset and resource of having 9 of our Past Presidents on our Section's Board, which has proven to be a very valuable thing to have.)

Politicians often pose the question if we are any better off now than at the beginning of their terms (I seem to recall Ronald Reagan starting this). I could ask the same thing but I won't. I know we got a few good things in motion and, just like our country, it's not the president who gets things done, but it's the "accomplishers" on our Board and Committees that usually make things happen. I am very thankful for those folks and their energy and drive. I'd like to think I was in some way the inspiration for them, but I know better – their charge and mission is to serve our Section and our members.

Some people told me that having had experience as president of two other groups would help me. I'm not sure I'd agree particularly after the fact. I know I'm not ready for another, despite what may have been ad-libbed at our February meeting by our MASITE representative, Mahmood Shehata, as a follow-up to my statement that I haven't been MASITE President yet. Luckily I'm smart enough to know from these experiences not to promise stuff, especially stuff I know I couldn't deliver.

I hope you have enjoyed my messages and maybe even learned a little from them. I have enjoyed writing them and hopefully reading them hasn't lulled anyone into a nap. From some discussions I have had with some of you, these have at least sparked some memories and recollections, and I'll take this as a

2014-15 DINNER MEETINGS

- April 15
- May 21 (*information to be provided in early May*)

Costs continue as in previous years:

- \$35 - Advance Registration
- \$45 - After registration deadline/at door
- \$20 - Public Agency/Student

2014-15 TECHNICAL SESSIONS

- April 15

Costs will continue as previous years: FREE for Section Members, \$40 for non-members (subject to availability)

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President's Message - Continued

compliment if nothing else. The way things brought me to engineering with my building sets, my fascination with the Automat, and what I took from the World's Fair (and you can still see a couple of New York World's Fair "rehashes" at EPCOT if you get there), there hopefully are some "take-aways" here. Among them might be the following, not necessarily the intended ones, but:

- This guy is o-l-d (not really) – I was still in single digits age-wise when the first Super Bowl was played (and it wasn't called the Super Bowl then – it was the AFL-NFL World Championship Game, played on January 15, 1967 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, with the final score Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10. What this has to do with anything, well, maybe it will help you win a bar bet?). I will admit to being an unofficial and unpaid inspector while I-95 was being built a half-block from home, and I did learn a little from that (not enough to catapult me into engineering, but...). At least some of it was useful. Somehow I did learn from that to appreciate the smell of fresh concrete. Now that same section of I-95 is being programmed for reconstruction. That does make one feel a little old...
- He grew up in a different place and time (and yes he did) – I often like to tell folks I come from a quaint old-world European village (if I said South Philly that destroys the image, but it was much the same thing). There were "mom and pop" stores on just about every corner. Wawa, 7-Eleven and fast food joints were around but not within walking distance. And this was important – some folks cringe when I tell them my parents didn't drive, and we were not alone as a car was in many ways still a luxury (and "a" car – a two-car family was unheard of). The "green limousine", the predecessor of SEPTA, was the main way we got to places too far to walk. My consequent knowledge of Philadelphia's transit system has helped me to this day. And somehow I managed to land into a career as a highway guy... go figure.
- He thought he could be an astronaut. Yes, ask most guys my age who their heroes were. We can reel off names. If they weren't sports figures, they were astronauts (John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, maybe Buzz Aldrin (the second man on the moon) you know – how about Alan Shepherd, Gus Grissom, Frank Borman, Mike Collins (the guy who circled the moon alone while the other two guys got to step on it), Scott Carpenter, Wally Schirra – you can google them if you want). Once we got to the moon a couple of times, the "shine" wore off the astronaut corps, but they were the explorers of the day. And many boys my age wanted to be like them. (And now we're talking about going to Mars...)

The world has changed greatly in my lifetime, and we know that we as highway engineers, contractors and technicians had a lot to do with that. As we know, the job is never over – what has been built needs to be kept up, tweaked, sometimes rebuilt – and we know this is for the good of all. Mobility is close to a necessity, and we provide it – maybe the very, very few who never leave the house can live without it, but it's vital for the rest of us. Even in a world where we can telecommute and conduct numerous dealings and functions via computer and phone, there are still reasons we need to get out and get around. (Interestingly, medical care has gone the other way – doctors routinely made house calls when I was a kid, something unheard of today). We can take pride in doing what we do to enhance our ability to move about and do what we need to do for work and enjoyment, despite the fact that most people don't know who we are and that we do this.

From this, hopefully you know more about me and probably more than you ever wanted to know (not quite TMI, but...). A little insight into what makes me tick. As if you wanted to know. Or you could just buy me a beer...

Thanks to our Board and our Section members for giving me the opportunity to lead our Section. Thanks to my firm for giving me the time and support needed to make this work in addition to the many responsibilities of the "day job". Thanks to the behind-the-scenes "first lady" who helps as she can and has put up with my evenings out for ASHE and other "extracurricular" groups that are very important to our careers and professions. I am truly grateful for this chance and have learned a lot. I look forward to handing the gavel to my successor, Jeff Given, who I know will do a great job in his term as President. And I'm sure his President's messages won't be nearly as long as mine ...

Respectfully,

Bob Wright, PE

President, ASHE Delaware Valley Section

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2015-16

In accordance with our Section Bylaws, Section President Bob Wright has appointed a Nominating Committee to develop and recommend a slate of Officers and Directors for the 2015-16 season. The Committee is tasked to provide its recommended slate at least 60 days before our Annual Membership meeting and announced this at our February Section Dinner Meeting (February 18). This slate was published at least 30 days prior to the Annual Membership meeting (April 15), appearing in the last edition of *The Transportation Times*. It was read again at our March Section Meeting, and moved to be closed and accepted as presented. The new officers to be installed at our April Section Meeting:

OFFICERS

President	Jeff Given, Loftus Construction
First Vice President	Mark Kinnee, Urban Engineers
Second Vice President	Jack Mitchell, McMahon Associates
Secretary	John Caperilla, Borton-Lawson
Treasurer	Don Stark, Ammann & Whitney
Immediate Past President	Bob Wright, Urban Engineers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expires 2016

Pete Berthold, Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation
Bill Laird, CHA
Bruce Masi, Gannett Fleming
Sarah McInnes, Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

Term Expires 2017

Stephanie Butler, McMahon Associates
Alexa Harper, Gannett Fleming
Corey Hull, JMT
Isaac Kessler, AECOM

Term Expires 2018

Elaine Elbich, Pennsylvania Department
of Transportation
Phil Mandato, Felix Mandato & Sons
Joe Serbu, Pennsylvania Turnpike
Commission
Curt Shugars, Pennoni Associates

2014-15 DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOB WRIGHT, PRESIDENT

Urban Engineers Inc.

JEFF GIVEN, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Loftus Construction Inc.

MARK KINNEE, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Urban Engineers Inc.

DON STARK, TREASURER

Ammann & Whitney Inc.

JACK MITCHELL, SECRETARY

McMahon Associates Inc.

ROB PROPHET, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Traffic Planning & Design Inc.

RICH PRENTICE, SECTION EXECUTIVE/PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT

McMahon Associates Inc.

Term expires 2015

Elaine Elbich, PennDOT

Phil Mandato, Felix Mandato & Sons Inc.

Joe Serbu, Penna. Turnpike Commisison

Curt Shugars, Pennoni Associates Inc.

Term expires 2016

Pete Berthold, PennDOT

Bill Laird, CHA

Bruce Masi, Gannett Fleming Inc.

Sarah McInnes, PennDOT

Term expires 2017

Stephanie Butler, McMahon Associates Inc.

John Caperilla, Borton-Lawson

Alexa Harper, Gannett Fleming Inc.

Corey Hull, JMT

EVENTS / RESOURCES

THINKING ABOUT GOLF? SECTION OUTING SCHEDULED



The weather's getting a little warmer, daylight is slightly longer, and the golf clubs are ready to come out of their winter hiding place. Keep these thoughts - our Section's **20th Annual Golf Outing is set for Monday, June 22**. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

The Outing will return to the **Blue Bell Country Club** with a scramble format. Our Golf Committee, ably chaired by Rob Prophet, was able to keep the price comparable to last year's Outing. And, as always, it's for a good cause – **all proceeds go to the Section Scholarship fund.**

Various sponsorships are available. A separate flyer with more details on the Outing will be mailed in late April/early May. We strongly encourage firms or organizations to contact us early regarding sponsorship opportunities as we anticipate a fairly large turnout.

We hope to see you there. Serious golfers, duffers, those who own clubs and (especially) caddies are welcome.

PENNDOT SEMINAR SCHEDULED - May 21

The Section has conducted a half-day seminar at PennDOT District 6-0 for the past several years and will be doing it again this year. The seminar will be conducted on **Thursday, May 21**. More information will be included on a separate flyer to be sent on this event.

As in the past, there will be a limit on attendance (maximum of two attendees per firm will be permitted), to allow PennDOT employees to have priority in their attendance. We hope to see many of you there, particularly current and prospective PennDOT members!

FULCRUM INTERNATIONAL JOB RESOURCE

The Fulcrum International (TFI) provides a variety of professional communications and human resources consulting services. Through its arrangement with ASHE National, it can help you locate staff through the TFI Job Bank and with recruitment. ASHE members receive a 10 PERCENT DISCOUNT on all job posts and advertisements. Searching for jobs and posting resumes is always FREE to registered members. Just register as an Employer or a Job Seeker to begin.

For more information on advertising contact TFI at 407-228-1747 or via e-mail at Jacklyn.vanderpol@thefulcrumintl.com.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

ASHE DelVal has teamed up with ASCE Philadelphia YMF to Adopt A Highway! The two organizations are very excited to begin taking care of the 2-mile stretch of Bethlehem Pike between Lafayette Connector and Butler Pike in Ambler, PA. With four (4) dates to be chosen between the spring and fall to keep our roadway segment tidy, **our first pick-up date is scheduled for April 25th, beginning at 1:00pm.** Please contact Isaac Kessler (isaac.kessler@aecom.com).



f t #STANDUP4TRANSPORTATION

**STAND
UP4**

TRANSPORTATION

NATIONAL
TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE DAY

THURSDAY
APRIL 9
9AM

**DILWORTH
PARK**
RAIN OR SHINE
BROAD & MARKET ST.
PHILADELPHIA, PA

f t #STANDUP4TRANSPORTATION

IN MEMORIAM



Longtime Section member Al Alberts passed away on February 7.

Mr. Alberts retired to Florida in 2005 after a career at Urban Engineers that spanned over 25 years. He went to Urban after his retirement following many years of dedicated service at PennDOT District 6 in 1978. He served as a mentor to many in the construction management field both at Urban and PennDOT. A Drexel University graduate in civil engineering, he enjoyed a 50-year career serving in various positions, including Project Manager, Resident Engineer, and Construction Engineer, on numerous transit and highway construction projects. Among these are such major efforts as the Center City Commuter Rail Connection, the reconstruction of the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76), the reconstruction and restoration of roadways and utilities in the area of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the I-95 Center City Access Program, and the reconstruction of US 202 including the complex I-76/US 422 interchange.

Outside of work, Mr. Alberts was known as a “huge” sports fan with a passion for his Philly teams only matched by the passion and pride he had for his job. Behind the passion, he was a man who had a big heart and would do absolutely anything for anybody.

Mr. Alberts is survived by his wife, Evelyn, three children and three grandchildren.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The last Technical Session of the season is scheduled for April 15, to be conducted prior to the Section dinner meeting. The topic will be “Green City, Clean Waters”. A separate flyer has been distributed on this with more information on the presentation and registration.

We are pleased to have been able to provide two informative and well-attended short Technical Sessions so far this season, and we anticipate that the third (coming up) will be just as useful and successful. Through these sessions, we provide our members with instruction on a variety of transportation subjects using the technical expertise and knowledge of our membership. While geared towards younger members, these sessions are open to the entire ASHE membership. They additionally enable us to provide a means for our membership to obtain continuing professional development hours as required by their state licensing authorities.

For our 2015-16 season, we will be looking once again for our members to instruct Technical Sessions. We welcome your thoughts and remind you that you can obtain twice the PDH credit for instruction. Following the pattern in place, we have tentatively scheduled these to be conducted prior to the Section meetings in November, February and April. More information will be provided in *The Transportation Times* in September.

WHY JOIN ASHE?

- To help promote the highway industry on a Local, Regional, and National level
- To become a member of a group that provides extraordinary value, with National dues of only \$20/year and Section dues ranging from just \$5 to \$50/year
- To expand your knowledge of all things related to highways
- To participate in a highly diverse community, ranging from government employees and contractors to consultants, suppliers, and utility owners
- To stay up to date on technical, political, and project issues with the quarterly scanner newsletter, weekly emails, educational events and more!
- To be part of an organization that recognizes the future of the highway industry, fostering Student Chapters and offering educational scholarships (over \$ 1.4 million in scholarships awarded!)
- To enjoy networking opportunities with clients and partners, discussing projects, exchanging insights, and fostering positive working relationships



PARTICIPATE!



The ASCE Pennsylvania Sections invite you to attend the **2015 PA Infrastructure Day on Monday, May 11 in Harrisburg.** Infrastructure Day serves as an occasion for engineers to talk to

legislators about the facts regarding Pennsylvania's rapidly aging infrastructure.

This will be a day-long event, starting with orientation and registration and followed by meetings with individual legislators in the Capitol. Lunch will be on your own. The **deadline for registration will be April 11** to allow time to arrange appointments with the legislators. ASCE invites our counterparts at ASHE to participate and hope you will be able to attend.

WHAT IS INFRASTRUCTURE DAY?

Formerly known as Engineers' Legislative Day, the name Infrastructure Day was changed in 2012 to reflect the unified interest of all participating engineering organizations and individuals in our Commonwealth's infrastructure, as well as their united concern about the future of that infrastructure.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE DAY?

Civil engineers are stewards of the nation's infrastructure, charged with the design, construction, operation and maintenance of our vital public works. Inherent in that responsibility is the obligation to report on the state of the infrastructure and advise on the steps necessary for its improvement.

Infrastructure Day serves as an occasion for engineers to talk to legislators about the facts: Pennsylvania's infrastructure is rapidly aging, and many parts are operating far beyond their designed capacity. Investment in infrastructure has declined over the last 40 years nationwide, but Pennsylvania suffers from this decline more than many states because its infrastructure tends to be older.

Maintaining and managing our infrastructure is often viewed as a cost, but it is more accurate to define it as an investment in the future of the state. Infrastructure investment is a powerful job creator, and it is essential to Pennsylvania's economic health and to the well-being of Pennsylvania residents.

For more information and registration, please visit www.asce-philly.org.

www.2015.ashe.pro/



HOST OF THE 2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MAY 27 - 31, 2015

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

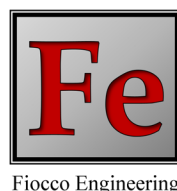


Please join us for the 2015 ASHE National Convention. Come and enjoy Baltimore's hospitality and charm. We have planned four action packed days of activities and technical sessions followed by fun filled but relaxing evenings. It's fun for the whole family. Looking forward to seeing you at this year's conference!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION PATRON PROGRAM



2014-15 DSVP PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP



The Section started the Delaware Valley Section Patron (DVSP) Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. We are proud to note that 24 firms are participating in the Program so far this season. Many thanks to those of you who have signed up and helped support the Section's many activities. The proceeds of the DVSP go directly to support the Section's Scholarship Fund.

If you are not in this Program and would like to join, please contact Section President/Editor of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES Bob Wright (see contact information below).

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.

BOB WRIGHT, SECTION PRESIDENT/EDITOR

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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

Thanks to Susan Buchanan of Schnabel Engineering for help with the production of the newsletter.