

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS, DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2020-21 EDITION #3

*Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays
and best wishes for
a good New Year
from the Officers and Board of
the Delaware Valley Section, ASHE!*

*Drew
Corey
Nate
Isaac
Amber
Steve D
Alexa*

*PEACE
on earth*

*Elaine
Phil
Bob O
Matt
Peter
Bruce
Sarah*

be merry

*John Z
Jeff
David
Mike
Steve W
John C
Bob W*



Meeting Schedule

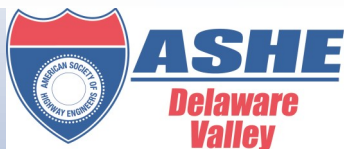
"Dinner" Meetings

- ♦ January 20
- ♦ February 17
- ♦ March 17
- ♦ April 21

Please see the article on Dinner Meetings for more information on our planned program

Technical Sessions

- ♦ February 17
- ♦ April 21




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President's Message

Thank you for your continued support of the Delaware Valley Section. Due to your support, we have completed the first half of our fiscal year with several successful events such as our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup in partnership with the Philadelphia Section of ASCE, a presentation on the PennDOT state of affairs by Secretary Yassmin Gramian, and a technical session on NEPA, among others. I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that there have been some lessons learned with the virtual/webinar format of the meetings, but I'm more confident in our program operation moving forward. Currently, in the interest of safety, we expect the remainder of our meetings for the fiscal year (through the end of May 2021) to not be in person, and we will continue to utilize the online format.



As many of you are aware, the sponsorships of our annual Golf Outing are normally used for our College Scholarship fund. Since we cancelled the Golf Outing scheduled for last summer, we needed to identify an alternative revenue source. The alternative revenue source was determined to be the fee to attend our meetings. Currently the collections from the meetings are putting us on target to meet or exceed the typical sponsorship collections from the Golf Outing, so we are in a good position for the scholarship program this year. The appeal to companies that was mentioned in this message in Edition #1 is no longer necessary.

Nominations for ASHE National awards (individuals and projects) are now open. Detailed information, such as deadlines and requirements, is distributed to the membership. Please consider nominating individuals or projects for these awards. If there are any questions about nominations, contact our 1st Vice President and Nominating Committee Chair, Corey Hull, PE.

I wish all our members and supporters a happy holiday season and a happy new year! And always remember, a Pennsylvania lottery ticket can be a simple, fun last-minute gift – just ask Gus, the second-most famous groundhog in Pennsylvania.

Respectfully,
Drew E. Sirianni, PE, PTOE
President, ASHE Delaware Valley Section

2020 Project of the Year Nominations Wanted

The Delaware Valley Section is seeking nominations for the "2020 Project of the Year"!!

Two awards will be presented at our April 2021 meeting, one for larger projects and one for smaller projects. To be eligible, the project must be submitted by a member of good standing with ASHE. The project construction must have been substantially completed and open to the public between **January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020**. The project is to have been constructed within the geographical boundaries of the Delaware Valley Section (outer boundary of the five county Philadelphia Area, namely Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties) and should have a highway, bridge or transportation focus.

Within the next several weeks, look for an email from our Section which will provide additional information. Nominations must be received by **Thursday, February 18, 2021**. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Ward at (484) 631-6466 or email at mtward@transystems.com. We look forward to reviewing your nomination!

Things Unfortunately Remain Different With Our Dinner Meetings and Section Events

With the current restrictions and guidance in effect for large groups and gatherings, we have had to make the difficult decision to not conduct our usual in-person dinner meetings for the remainder of this season. We will certainly keep you posted on any updates or (hopefully) changes that may allow us to return to in-person events if that becomes an option at some point.

We have managed to conduct four "dinner" meetings (including the "bonus" meeting in December) and two Technical Sessions to date as virtual events. Recent meetings have been without any problems or issues (we had some at first, but have managed to get past this). We have had good attendance and participation at these meetings. We will continue to use the virtual platforms for meetings as a fallback to be able to provide a meaningful and informative meeting program when in-person/dinner events are not possible.

We anticipate a good program of meeting topics for the rest of this season and will continue to provide professional development credit (PDH) as appropriate. While, unfortunately, you will not be able to benefit from the usual networking and social opportunities that each Dinner Meeting had offered, we are hopeful there will be at least the learning and professional development credit available for you while we see what the future brings. We will be conducting planned Technical Sessions in February and April as well.

We appreciate your patience as we do what we can to provide our as-normal-as-possible meeting program within the constraints in place. As we like to say, we're all in this together, and let's hope for the best.

DVSP Program Sponsorship

Our Section started the Delaware Valley Section Patron (DVSP) Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. In the 16 years of this Program's existence, it has grown from a group of 12 participants into its current coverage.

**DVSP benefits
(\$200 for the season)**

**Logo and Hotlink on
Section Website
(delvalley.ashe.pro)**

**Logo in THE
TRANSPORTATION TIMES**

As you may be aware, the proceeds of the DVSP are earmarked to support our Section's Scholarship Fund. For a \$200 fee for the season, sponsoring firms are cited for their support with their logos displayed on our website and in each edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES. This also provides a "hot link" to access the firm's website directly from ours.

Thus far a total of 25 firms have committed to the DVSP Program. They are represented by their logos, shown on page 5 as well as on our website. **Many thanks to those of you who have participated in this program and helped support our Section!**

If you are not already a DVSP and would like to join or find out more about the program, please contact Bob Wright (information provided on page 6).

Young Members Committee Happenings

The Committee will continue to follow current guidance on gatherings and group activities as this develops and changes.

The recently regularly-scheduled cleanup of the "co-adopted" segment of Bethlehem Pike in Ambler/Fort Washington took place on Saturday, October 24. This happens twice a year, in the Spring and Fall, but the event planned for last April had to be cancelled given social distancing restrictions then in place. The combined "forces" of our Young Members Committee and the Younger Member Forum of the Philadelphia Section ASCE have consistently provided a good-size contingent of helpers to get this done, and, not surprisingly, the effort is concluded with a well-deserved lunch and drinks. The groups' work has always been well-received by the businesses and residents along this corridor.



A total of 14 volunteers came out for this event (shown in the photo above - thanks to Kayla Nelson for providing it) and were able to socially distance and safely pick up trash along the corridor. Their hard work was rewarded at the end of the day as they enjoyed some pizza, got a chance to network in person, and reflect on a job well done. We appreciate their efforts and taking the time for a good cause.

Other events are being considered by the Committee for this fall and winter and these will obviously need to keep current restrictions in mind. Please watch for more information in event flyers which will be available in upcoming e-mail blasts and communications.

President

Drew Sirianni, *Pennoni Associates*

First Vice President

Corey Hull, *JMT*

Second Vice President

Nate Parrish, *HNTB*

Treasurer

Isaac Kessler, *Remington & Vernick Engineers*

Secretary

Amber Midgley, *AECOM*

Assistant Treasurer

Steve DiSciullo, *Michael Baker International*

Immediate Past President

Alexa Egan Harper, *Gannett Fleming*

Board of Directors

Term expires 2021

Elaine Elbich, *Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*

Phil Mandato, *Felix Mandato & Sons*

Bob O'Neill, *Lotus Environmental*

Matt Ward, *TranSystems*

Term expires 2022

Peter Berthold, *Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*

Bruce Masi, *Gannett Fleming*

Sarah McInnes, *Pennsylvania Department of Transportation*

John Quirus, *HDR*

Term expires 2023

Jeff Given, *Loftus Construction*

David High, *Traffic Planning & Design*

Mike Mogan, *Rybinski Engineering*

Steve Windle, *McMahon Associates*

Regional Director

John Caperilla, *McTish, Kunkel & Associates*

Section Executive

Bob Wright, *McMahon Associates*

Environmentally Speaking...

Our Environmental Committee provides this regular feature in *THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES* on items of interest from the environmental side for our awareness and information.

Many of you attended the Technical Session conducted on December 9, "Navigating the NEPA Process" - in fact, over 120 of you were there! Thanks to presenters **Colleen Meiswich**, **Mark Radatti** and **Ryan Whittington** for an interesting and informative presentation.

Naughty? Or Nice?... Definitely Nice! The following update has been excerpted from a *Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals* (PAEP) announcement and has been slightly altered for content:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has upgraded its project submission procedures, and entered the digital age. Effective immediately and until further notice, the following email address should be used to submit electronic project review request submissions and associated documentation (e.g., maps, diagrams, photos) for any project that did not receive clearance through PNDI: **IR1_ESPenn@fws.gov** for proper logging and tracking. This general mailbox goes directly to USFWS administrative staff.

If you submit a project review update request, just make the notation "UPDATE" in the cover letter reference line or text. If the project has changed, tell USFWS how it has changed, and also provide the supporting materials with the submission (original plus the new additions clearly marked). If there are no changes to the project, indicate that there are "NO CHANGES" in the cover letter.

The USFWS Pennsylvania Field Office replies to all correspondence via electronic mail. Please ensure your electronic mail address is included in your correspondence and located in a prominent location for ease of reference.

Happy Holidays from the ASHE Delaware Valley Environmental Committee!

Members in Transportation/Transition

Section Members Recognized by GVFTMA

The Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA) recently honored this year's Top Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Professionals Under 40 in (what else?) a virtual ceremony. Included in this group were Section Members **Daniel Bhaumik (Carroll Engineering)**, **Sean Pence (TPD)** and **Kevin Rice (HNTB)**. We congratulate these folks on this honor. (If we missed anyone, please feel free to let us know.)

Wright Gets the Spotlight

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) has offered a Member Spotlight series which focuses on a particular Chapter member and provides a short video allowing that member to answer several questions. This effort had stopped temporarily during the recent shutdown but has picked up again. Section Executive/Past President (and Newsletter Editor) **Bob Wright** was the topic of a recent Spotlight where he offered some allegedly sage advice to younger members. We thought the Chapter knew better than to encourage him, but... This and other Spotlights can be viewed on the Chapter's website, www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/philadelphia.

Future City - Help Needed

Future City Philadelphia will conduct its annual competition on January 30. Mentors and various volunteers for the competition, including judges, evaluators and Zoom hosts, are needed. Please visit www.futurecityphilly.org for more information and details.

A total of 41 schools will be competing this time around. Our Section will be offering a Special Award as we have done for several years.

If you have an interest in being part of any Committee, please contact Section President Drew Sirianni (information is provided on page 6).

Please note that some committees have co-chairs to assist in the often-complicated tasks they must handle.

Section Committees/ Chairs

Adopt-A-Highway
Amber Midgley

**ASHE/PennDOT
Breakfast Meeting**
Alexa Egan Harper

Auditing
Bruce Masi

Dinner Meetings
Steve Windle

Environmental
Colleen Meiswich

50/50
Sean Pence
Kevin Rice

Golf
Mike Mogan

Hotel
Phil Mandato

Membership
Dave High

Newsletter
Bob Wright

Nominating
Corey Hull

Program
Jeff Given
Drew Sirianni

Project of the Year
Matt Ward

Public Relations
Corey Hull

Scholarships
Sarah McInnes

**Social/Society
Relations**
Elaine Elbich

Student Chapters
Mariah Kerr

Technical Papers
Bruce Masi

Technical Sessions
Steve DiSciullo
John Quirus

Website
Pete Berthold

Young Members
Steve DiSciullo



Delaware Valley Section Patrons (DVSP) 2020-21
Thanks for your support!



Contact Us

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

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

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REMINDER

Deadline for copy/
information for the next
edition of THE
TRANSPORTATION TIMES

February 19

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Please visit
delvalley.ashe.pro for all
the Section's current
information you'll need to
keep up-to-date on things.

Donna Prentice and Robert Shaw Memorial Scholarship Competitions - Applications In, Being Evaluated

Our Section's Scholarship Program has been benefitting local college students since 1972. We have had one of the largest such efforts among ASHE Sections nationally over the years. Many recipients have gone on to positions in the industry, both locally and out of the area, and a number have become members of ASHE.

A total of \$12,000 in awards was made last year to 9 students for the Donna Prentice Scholarship. We are proud to be able to support our local students and help them in their educational pursuits. The Program has benefited numerous local college students over the years, and was renamed in honor of the late **Donna Prentice**, wife of long-time Section member Rich Prentice, in 2003.

This season's competition was closed on November 15, with a total of seven students submitting applications for consideration. We will also once again be assisting another group with selection for the **Robert Shaw Memorial Scholarship** for Penn State students, in which we have participated and assisted for the last six years. Two students received awards from this effort last season, and we are hopeful there will be several for consideration this time.

While we were unable to conduct our 25th Annual Golf Outing earlier this year, given restrictions and guidance on social distancing, we are soliciting for contributions to the Scholarship Fund to continue our efforts to assist our students, with Section "dinner" meeting fees being dedicated to this cause. We are planning to hold the Golf Outing again next summer as restrictions permit.

Successful candidates will be notified in January and invited to participate in our February Section Meeting to be honored.

2021 National Conference - TO BE RESCHEDULED

The scheduled 2021 ASHE National Conference, which was to be co-sponsored by the East Penn and North East Penn Sections in addition to our Section, has had to be postponed due to current guidance on gatherings. The Conference will be rescheduled for a future date.

Reminder - Membership Applications Are Now Electronic!

If you know someone who is considering becoming an ASHE member, our Membership Application can be downloaded and completed, then submitted via e-mail, with payment available via PayPal. Please visit our website (delvalley.ashe.pro) and click on the **Membership** tab for more information and details on this.



We hope this will make the process of becoming a member of our Section more efficient. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested in joining our Section.



American Society of Highway Engineers — Mission Statement

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