

The Transportation Times

ASHE DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2012-13 EDITION #5

A Message from President Bruce Masi (his last one...!)



Ahhhh, it's 75 degrees and sunny on this delightful March day as I pen this ... my last "Message from the President". Like most things in life ... this is a bitter sweet moment for me. For, I am thoroughly enjoying the much needed break from work. And I am enjoying reconnecting with good friends down here in sunny Florida. But, my tenure as your President is on the wane and though much has been accomplished, I feel that there is still much to do. As you all know, it's been a FULL year (see my last message in *The Transportation Times 2012-13 Edition #4*, for the list of achievements), but as they say ... "All good things must come to an end" ... or do they?

As I'm seeing people down here that I have known, as well as those whom I'm meeting for the first time, I am reminded of the "gift" that ASHE DelVal gives to us (at least) seven times per year ... that is, the opportunity to commune with our fellow members in the highway industry, whether engineers, contractors, administrators, or vendors. We reconnect with friends, colleagues, or perhaps, brand new acquaintances at every single Dinner Meeting. But then there are also the Technical Sessions, the Young Members Committee (YMC) events, the annual ASHE/PennDOT workshop, etc.

And isn't that what we are all about? Sharing time with one another ... sharing information with each other ... keeping ourselves and others abreast of the latest approaches, techniques, and information in our field. All in an attempt to keep ourselves and the highway industry alert, aware, effective, and (hopefully) efficient. After all, we are a SOCIETY, are we not? The American Society of Highway Engineers, at its heart, is a community of individuals. And we hope that those individuals link in union with each other for the continuous improvement of us, our colleagues, our employers, and the traveling public, who are our ultimate clients. ONE President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed into law the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 [popularly known as the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act (Public Law 84-627)] on June 29, 1956, but it's took THOUSANDS of professionals within the highway industry over four decades to make that vision a reality.

So, if you've ever wondered WHAT you can do for the Delaware Valley Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers The answer is so very, very simple ... just show up! That's all ... just come to your Society's events. We have over 375 members on our rolls, yet our Dinner meetings only have between 120-200 people attending (not all of them members, by the way). Also, the Technical Sessions number between 40 and 70. Which I have to admit I fail to understand ... the Sessions are free to DelVal

members and they each provide 2 PDH's, yet less than 1/6 of our membership show up Truly baffling to me. The Officers and the Directors actually moved the Board meeting start time, so that WE could attend the Technical Sessions. (true story!)

Thus, I invite you ... to attend the dinner meetings, to show up to the Technical Sessions, to join in the events of the Younger Members Committee. It's simple ... it's easy ... and sometimes, it's even free!

As a last note, it's been a pleasure, an honor, and a privilege to have served as your President. I have enjoyed assisting this fine Section with holding our vision and enhancing the services which we provide our members. Also, I wish to thank the Board of Directors and the Section Officers ... you are a group of consummate professionals, and it's been a gift to be able to serve as your presiding officer.

I wish each and everyone one of you, ASHE DelVal members and friends, a most enjoyable Spring, filled with all sorts of fabulous opportunities, none the least ... the opportunity to continue to assist the great highway industry in which we serve .

**Your devoted President,
Bruce P. Masi, P.E.**

Project of the Year Competition – Results Coming...

The Project of the Year competition is underway. The Project of the Year Committee, chaired by Bill Laird, is busy reviewing the candidate projects.

Six projects have been submitted for consideration, ranging in size from \$1.4 million to \$98.1 million. They will be judged using the categories used previously ("large", over \$10 million, and "small", \$10 million and under).

Winners will be announced and cited at our April Section Meeting.

This will be the LAST edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES for this season. See you in the Fall!

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 **17th Annual Golf Outing is set for Monday, July 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 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.

MEET YOUR LAWMAKERS – Engineers and Land Surveyors Day, April 9

Over the past several years, Infrastructure Day has been scheduled to allow one-on-one visits with our State legislators. This year, the format is a little different. The Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), along with ASHE and several other organizations, has scheduled **Engineers and Land Surveyors Day on the Hill** on Tuesday, April 9. This will consist of a **FREE** lunch with your elected officials during which issues of importance to our profession will be discussed.

The meeting/lunch will be conducted at the State Capitol. Registration opens at 11 AM and the lunch starts at 11:30 AM, with the discussion following until 2 PM. You can register at <http://pspe.org/events/engineers-and-land-surveyors-day-on-the-hill/>. When you register, your State Senator and Representative will also automatically be invited and you will be able to send a personalized message to them on this.

We hope you will be able to attend this important event. **Your participation and voice are needed** to let our legislators know how important the infrastructure issue is to our economy and our daily lives.

So You Want To Be On A Section Committee...?

Our Section Committees and Committee chairs are listed below. If you have an interest in being part of any Committee, please contact Section President Bruce Masi or Second Vice President/Editor Bob Wright (contact information is provided on page 5):

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>ASHE/PennDOT Breakfast Meeting</i> | Alexa Harper | <i>Program</i> | Rob Prophet |
| <i>Audit</i> | Rob Prophet | <i>Project of the Year</i> | Bill Laird |
| <i>Dinner Meetings</i> | Mark Kinnee | <i>Public Relations</i> | Don Steele |
| <i>50/50</i> | Dick Prentice | <i>Scholarship</i> | Sarah McInnes |
| <i>Golf</i> | Rob Prophet | <i>Social/Society Relations</i> | Elaine Elbich |
| <i>Hotel</i> | Phil Mandato | <i>Student Chapters</i> | John Caperilla |
| <i>Membership</i> | John Caperilla | <i>Technical Papers</i> | Curt Shugars |
| <i>Newsletter</i> | Bob Wright | <i>Technical Sessions</i> | Jack Mitchell |
| <i>Nominating</i> | Stephanie Butler | <i>Young Members</i> | Alexa Harper |

ASHE Apparel and Merchandise Now Available!

As a member of ASHE, you now have access to the new ASHE Online Apparel and Merchandise Store. The Store offers branded/logo apparel, bags, totes, hats, caps, and similar items that indicate and celebrate your membership in ASHE. The items are easy to order and it only takes about two weeks from the time you place your order until you have the items in your hands. (Rush service is available also.)

You can view the available items at www.ashe-store.cathyrossner.com or through the pull-down menu for ASHE Company Store at National's website, www.highwayengineers.com.

PennDOT Seminar Scheduled

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 **Wednesday, May 22**. 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 your there, particularly our PennDOT members!

Delaware Valley Section Patron (D.V.S.P.) Program – Season 8 (another successful one...)

*** Five-Year Participants ***
















The Section started the D.V.S.P. Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. As we finish our eighth season of this program, we are proud to note that 14 firms have participated this year (listed to the left). Many thanks to those of you who have signed up and helped support the Section's many activities.

As you may be aware, the proceeds of the D.V.S.P. go directly to support the Section's Scholarship Fund.

The cost for the "basic" level of support (\$100) will remain as it has been since the start of the program. As we started last season, we are once again offering a "website" level, which, for \$150, will allow your logo to be placed on our website as well as in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, with a hyperlink directly to your website.

If you are not in this Program and would like to join, please contact Section President Bruce Masi or Second Vice President/Editor of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES Bob Wright (contact information is given on page 5). We will be soliciting for this program later this summer for those interested in participating in our 2013-14 season.

ASHE 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

National Membership Database Upgrade

ASHE National has "rolled out" its new web-based membership database. Each member can access and maintain his/her own membership data. National's goal is that this database will become the common database that both National and all Sections can use to maintain all membership information.

To access this database, go to www.database.ashe.pro and input your personal ID number (this is an 8-digit number which can be found on the ASHE SCANNER mailing label, above your name) – this is your ASHE ID number for as long as you are an ASHE member. Your initial password is the zip code of the mailing address you use for the SCANNER (include the dash if this is a 9-digit zip code). You can change your password after your initial login to protect the security of your data.

Please take an opportunity to review and update your personal data in this database.

2012-13 Meeting Dates – Only One Left....

As a reminder, our last Section meeting of the current season will take place on **April 17**.

Thanks for helping make our 2012-13 meeting season a very successful one! Attendance and participation have continued at high levels, both in our meetings as well as Technical Sessions. We are happy to see this increased support. (And we are pleased to be able to give you the maximum number of PDH's you will need to renew your PA PE license this fall!)

Our 2013-14 meeting season will begin on **September 18**. Please mark the date in your calendar.

Delaware Valley Section Officers and Board of Directors – Current and Incoming

The Section announced our slate of new Officers and Directors for the 2013-14 season at the March Section meeting and the individuals noted below will be sworn in and “made official” at the April Section meeting. We thank these dedicated individuals for their time and efforts in keeping our Section operating successfully.

| | <u>The “Outgoing” (2012-13 Officers)</u> | <u>The “Incoming” (2013-14 Officers)</u> |
|--|--|--|
| President | Bruce Masi Gannett Fleming Inc. | Stephanie Butler McMahon Associates Inc. |
| First Vice President | Stephanie Butler McMahon Associates Inc. | Bob Wright Urban Engineers Inc. |
| Second Vice President | Bob Wright Urban Engineers Inc. | Jeff Given Loftus Construction Inc. |
| Treasurer | Jeff Obrecht URS Corp. | Jeff Obrecht URS Corp. |
| Secretary | Jeff Given Loftus Construction Inc | Mark Kinnee Urban Engineers Inc. |
| Board of Directors <i>Term expires 2013 / 2014</i> | Pete Berthold Penna. Dept. of Transportation | John Caperilla Gannett Fleming |
| | Bill Laird CHA | Alexa Harper Gannett Fleming |
| | Sarah McInnes Penna. Dept. of Transportation | Jack Mitchell McMahon Associates Inc. |
| | | Don Steele Penna. Turnpike Commission |
| <i>Term expires 2014 / 2015</i> | Carlos Garcia Orth-Rodgers & Associates Inc. | Elaine Elbich Penna. Dept. of Transportation |
| | Mark Kinnee Urban Engineers Inc. | Phil Mandato Felix Mandato & Sons Inc. |
| | Jack Mitchell McMahon Associates Inc. | Curt Shugars Pennoni Associates Inc. |
| | Don Steele Penna. Turnpike Commission | Don Stark Ammann & Whitney Inc. |
| <i>Term expires 2015 / 2016</i> | Elaine Elbich Penna. Dept. of Transportation | Pete Berthold Penna. Dept. of Transportation |
| | Phil Mandato Felix Mandato & Sons Inc. | Bill Laird CHA |
| | Curt Shugars Pennoni Associates Inc. | Bruce Masi (Past President) Gannett Fleming |
| | Don Stark Ammann & Whitney Inc. | Sarah McInnes Penna. Dept. of Transportation |
| Regional Director | Rob Prophet Traffic Planning & Design Inc. | Rob Prophet Traffic Planning & Design Inc. |
| Past President (ASHE National) | Dick Prentice McMahon Associates Inc. | Dick Prentice McMahon Associates Inc. |

Our Section continues to strive to have the several components of the Society (contractors/suppliers, government/DOT, and consultants) appropriately and proportionally represented on our Board. Thanks to all who have volunteered to be part of our Section’s governance.

Technical Sessions

The last Technical Session of this season is scheduled for **April 17**, to be conducted prior to the Section dinner meeting. The topic will be "Safety Audit Process". More information will be provided in a separate flyer which will be distributed. Instructions on registration will be included in this flyer.

The Section was pleased to be able to provide two informative and well-attended short Technical Sessions 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 enable us to additionally provide a means for our membership to obtain needed continuing professional development hours as required by their state licensing authorities.

For our 2013-14 season, we will be looking once again for our members to instruct Technical Sessions. Topics which have been suggested in the past include design/build project planning, alternative materials use in highway construction, professional license examination preparation, and several transportation project details unable to be covered in the dinner meeting discussions. 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.

We welcome your thoughts and remind you that you can obtain twice the PDH credit for instruction.

ASHE National Conference 2013

Crowne Plaza Resort and Golf Club
Lake Placid, NY
June 6-9, 2013

Please visit <http://www.ashe2013.org/> for more information.



Critical Issues Seminar

The 2013 Critical Issues Seminar, hosted by the Younger Member Forum of the Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and co-sponsored by our Section, will be conducted on **Tuesday, April 23** at the Field House Sports Bar in Center City Philadelphia. This is an annual panelist-led discussion which focuses on a key issue facing the engineering community in our region.

The topic this year will be "Congestion 2030 – Planning for the Future". Four panelists from industry and agencies will lead the discussion.

More information, the event flyer and the RSVP procedure can be found at www.ymf-philly.org. This event is FREE and gratis appetizers will be provided.

Night at Blue Rocks Being Planned...

Our Section is planning an outing at the Wilmington Blue Rocks minor league baseball game in June in conjunction with the ASHE First State Section. More information will be provided on our website as details are finalized.

Our group will enjoy the game from the Blue Rocks Café behind home plate with food and soft drinks along with post-game fireworks.

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.

Bruce Masi, Section President

Gannett Fleming
1010 Adams Avenue
Valley Forge, PA 19484
610-650-8101 x7246
bmasi@gfnet.com

Bob Wright, Second Vice President/Editor

Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-922-8081 x1647
rmwright@urbanengineers.com