

# The Transportation Times

ASHE DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2010-11 EDITION #5

## 2010-11 Meeting Dates – One More...

As a reminder, our last Section meeting of the current season will take place on **April 20**.

Thanks for helping make our 2010-11 meeting season a very successful one! Attendance and participation have increased greatly, both in our meetings as well as Technical Sessions. We are happy to see this increased support.

## Project of the Year Competition – Results Coming in April

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

A total of nine projects were submitted for consideration - one in the "large" category (construction costs \$10 million and over) and 8 in the "small" classification (construction costs under \$10 million).

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

## Delaware Valley Section Patron (D.V.S.P.) Program – Completing Our Sixth Year!

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 18 firms have participated in the Program this season (listed on page 2). By doing so, they have helped to make it a success once again. Many thanks to those of you who have signed up and helped support the Section's many activities.

As in the past, the basic level of support (\$100) will remain as it has been since the start of the program. This season we offered a "website" level as well, which, for \$150, allows your logo to be placed on our website as well as in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, with a hyperlink directly to your website.

We will be soliciting current participants later this summer to re-enlist you. If you are not already a part of this and would like to join, please Director/Editor of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES Bob Wright (contact information is given on page 6).

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

## A Message from President Rob Prophet – His Finale!



For my last President's message, I wanted to take the opportunity of thanking the ASHE members and Board for allowing me the opportunity to serve the section over the past year. The experiences I have had in working with the membership are something I will not forget. I also would like to thank the Officers and Board members for their continuous behind the scenes work. Their effort enables the Section to run smoothly which makes the president's job easier. I have no doubt that the Section will provide the same level of support for our incoming president, Don Stark, next year.

I also want to briefly speak of my experience with ASHE. When I first started attending our section meetings about 15 years ago, I was incredibly intimidated by the people in the room. Most of the attendees were my seniors by some 20-30 years and many were high profile members of the local transportation community. I would often arrive at meetings and nervously sit in my car trying to get motivated to go inside. After several years, I became more comfortable with my fellow members to the point where I started looking forward to the third Wednesday of the month. Soon after, I found myself becoming more involved and eventually was asked to join the Board. After serving several years on the Board and also helping with the National Convention, I was asked to become an Officer and eventually moved up to the position of President. When I started 15 years ago, I would never have thought that the nervous kid sitting in his car would be in the position I am in today.

So why am I telling you this? First, it is to remind the older members of our Section to take the time to make the newer, younger members feel more comfortable and welcome. These younger members are the future of not only our Section but our industry. We will grow as they grow. Second, it is to encourage the younger members to get involved with the Section as much as possible. This includes not only attending the Technical Sessions and dinners but volunteering for committees and/or representing the Section at events such as Delaware Valley Science Fairs or Future City. It also means seeking out the older members and engaging them in conversations. The opportunity is there if you seek it out.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a wonderful and safe Summer. See you in September.

**DVSP MEMBER FIRMS 2010-11 Thanks for your support!**

**\*\*\* Five-Year Participants \*\*\***

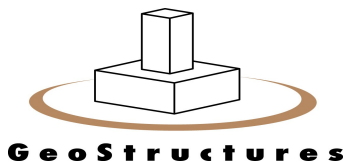



















Check Out Our Website - [www.ashedv.org](http://www.ashedv.org)

### Hold The Date – Night at Blue Rocks

Our Section is planning an outing at the **Wilmington Blue Rocks** minor league baseball game on **Friday, June 17**, in conjunction with the **ASHE First State Section**. The game, against the Winston Salem Dash, will take place at Frawley Stadium in Wilmington, with the first pitch scheduled for 7:05 PM. Our group will enjoy the game from the Blue Rocks Café behind home plate, with food and soft drinks, along with post-game fireworks.

More information on this, including how to purchase tickets, can be found on our website. Please hold the date and plan to attend and bring the family for a night of baseball, fun, socializing and enjoyment for everyone.

### 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"**

## Delaware Valley Section Officers and Board of Directors - 2010-11 and 2011-12 Seasons

We thank our outgoing Officers and Board for their service this season:

**Rob Prophet, President**  
Traffic Planning & Design Inc.  
**Don Stark, First Vice President**  
Ammann & Whitney Inc.  
**Bruce Masi, Second Vice President**  
Gannett Fleming Inc.

**Bill Dougherty, Treasurer**  
**Stephanie Butler, Secretary**  
McMahon Associates Inc

---

### Board of Directors

Term expires 2011

**Matt Marquardt**  
Urban Engineers Inc.  
**Bob Milliken**  
Underground Services Inc.  
**Dilip Radadia**  
Jacobs  
**Don Steele**  
Penna. Turnpike Commission

Term expires 2012

**Elaine Elbich**  
Penna. Dept. of Transportation  
**Phil Mandato**  
Felix Mandato & Sons Inc.  
**Curt Shugars**  
Pennonni Associates Inc.  
**Bob Wright**  
Urban Engineers Inc.

Term expires 2013

**Pete Berthold**  
Penna. Dept. of Transportation  
**Jeff Given**  
Loftus Construction Inc.  
**Jeff Obrecht**  
Apex Companies LLC

---

**Scott Sibley, Regional Director**  
Gannett Fleming Inc.

---

**Dick Prentice, Past President (ASHE National)**  
McMahon Associates Inc.

---

The Section announced our slate of new Officers and Directors for the 2011-12 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.

**Don Stark, President**  
Ammann & Whitney Inc.  
**Bruce Masi, First Vice President**  
Gannett Fleming Inc.  
**Stephanie Butler, Second Vice President**  
McMahon Associates Inc.

**Bill Dougherty, Treasurer**  
**Jeff Given, Secretary**  
Loftus Construction Inc

---

### Board of Directors

Term expires 2012

**Elaine Elbich**  
Penna. Dept. of Transportation  
**Phil Mandato**  
Felix Mandato & Sons Inc.  
**Curt Shugars**  
Pennonni Associates Inc.  
**Bob Wright**  
Urban Engineers Inc.

Term expires 2013

**Pete Berthold**  
Penna. Dept. of Transportation  
**Bill Laird**  
CHA  
**Jeff Obrecht**  
Apex Companies LLC

Term expires 2014

**Carlos Garcia**  
Dawood Engineering Inc.  
**Matt Marquardt**  
Urban Engineers Inc.  
**Jack Mitchell**  
McMahon Associates Inc.  
**Don Steele**  
Penna. Turnpike Commission

---

**Rob Prophet, Regional Director**  
Traffic Planning & Design Inc.

---

**Dick Prentice, Past President (ASHE National)**  
McMahon Associates Inc.

We have also attempted to streamline our Board to operate more efficiently and to have standing committees report to, rather than necessarily being chaired by, Board members.

The Section is attempting to have the several components of the Society (contractors/suppliers, government/DOT, and consultants) appropriately and proportionally represented on our Board. **We are keeping one vacant Board position open for a representative of one of these areas in order to retain this balance. If you meet these requirements and are interested in serving on the Board, we would like to hear from you.**

## Professional Development Hours/Tracking

As another benefit of your membership and participation in ASHE, our Section's meeting program will generally be able to be counted toward your continuing education requirement, depending on the topic. The Section will use our judgment to advise if a particular meeting may not be able to qualify. We do NOT ensure and/or guarantee that these events will be eligible to be counted toward professional development hour (PDH) credits. The specific requirements for this are available on the Pennsylvania Department of State's website at [www.dos.state.pa.us/eng](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/eng) for your information. A similar program is being implemented in New Jersey and we will provide more background on this as we receive it.

The Section will provide the forms and documentation as described below **to our members**, as a service, to assist you in securing the credits you need to keep your license status intact. One important aspect of this program is that the responsibility for record-keeping and accounting for your qualifying hours remains with the individual, thus YOU should keep accurate documentation. You may need backup and/or clarifying data in the event you are called to an audit by the State Board.

The Section will provide a sign-in sheet which will verify your attendance at a meeting, technical session, or other eligible activity. The sheet will be available for you to sign at the conclusion of the meeting (in many ways this ensures that you have attended the meeting, not just showed up to sign in). The sign-in sheet for each meeting will be posted on our website ([www.ashedv.org](http://www.ashedv.org)) and can be downloaded by individuals to be used for documentation purposes.

The Section will NOT be issuing personal or individual certificates for events. The sign-in sheet, as noted above, can serve as supporting information and can be used for your

We appreciate your patience and understanding in this regard and welcome feedback (and assistance if you would like to help our record-keeping efforts).

record-keeping purposes as you see fit.

The documentation may not be instantaneously available on our website immediately following any event. As you are aware, the Section is a volunteer organization and there will accordingly be a short time lag in the uploading of sign-in sheets on our website. We do promise that all documentation for a season will be uploaded by June 30 of that season so it will be available for your license renewal (generally on October 1 of the odd-numbered year in Pennsylvania).

---

## Revised Prices for Dinners and Technical Sessions

As you may be aware, **the cost of Dinner Meetings has increased by \$5, this season, with an advance reservation price of \$35 and an at-the-door price of \$45. The cost for public employees and students will remain at \$20.** The new costs remain low compared to those charged by other technical groups as we strive to negotiate the best deals we can to keep costs as low as we can.

**Additionally, Technical Sessions, which had been free in the past, will remain free for Section members** (another benefit of ASHE membership!). **Non-members wishing to attend will be assessed a \$20 charge for each Technical Session.**

---

## Drexel PRO Benefits Available to Section Members

Through a collaboration between Drexel University and ASHE, ASHE members and their immediate family members can now earn a degree or certificate and receive special tuition rates when you enroll in one of Drexel's online program. This includes 10-25% off the regular on-campus tuition rates for these programs, a convenient online format without commuting or career interruption, top-ranked programs from a distinguished provider, one of "America's Best Colleges 2010", tuition reimbursement, loans and grants are available depending on eligibility, and no application fee.

To learn more about this, please contact Drexel Applicant Services at 866-803-0053 or [partners@drexel.edu](mailto:partners@drexel.edu).

---

## Technical Sessions

The Section was pleased to provide three informative and well-attended short Technical Sessions this season. 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 2011-12 season, we will be looking once again for our members to instruct Technical Sessions. Among the topics suggested are 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.

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

## National Convention in Orlando



The ASHE Central Florida Section and the Southeast Region are pleased to host the 2011 National Conference from June 22-26, 2011 and support ASHE's mission - *to provide a forum for partners of the highway industry to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable highway system through education, innovation and fellowship.*

We plan to make this event an opportunity to **Expand Your Transportation Network.**

More information is available on National's website ([www.highwayengineers.org](http://www.highwayengineers.org)).

## 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 Rob Prophet or Section Director/Editor Bob Wright (contact information is provided on page 6):

<i>Audit</i>	Bob Milliken	<i>Nominating</i>	Don Stark
<i>Dinner Meetings</i>	Curt Shugars	<i>Program</i>	Matt Marquardt
<i>50/50</i>	Dilip Radadia	<i>Project of the Year</i>	Jeff Given
<i>Golf</i>	Rob Prophet	<i>Public Relations</i>	Elaine Elbich
<i>Hotel</i>	Phil Mandato	<i>Scholarships</i>	Don Stark
<i>Membership</i>	Bruce Masi	<i>Technical Papers</i>	Peter Berthold
<i>Newsletter</i>	Bob Wright	<i>Technical Sessions</i>	Jeff Obrecht

## Thinking About Golf? Section Outing Date/Location Set

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 **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing is set for Monday, July 11.** Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

The Outing will return to the **Blue Bell Country Club, the site of our last two Outings**, with a scramble format. Our Golf Committee, ably chaired by Rob Prophet, was able to keep the price comparable to last year's Outing.

We strongly encourage firms or organizations to contact us early regarding sponsorship opportunities as we anticipate a fairly large turnout. 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 included with the April Section Meeting notice.**

## HOLD THE DATE - Legislative Affairs Day, May 10

As was done over the past four years, the four Pennsylvania Sections of our "brother" organization, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), along with the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and others, have planned another event to visit legislators and highlight infrastructure needs. This will feature a visit to our State elected officials in Harrisburg on **Tuesday, May 10.**

**Your participation and voice are needed to let our legislators know how important the infrastructure issue is to our economy and our daily lives.**

The day will consist of a kick-off session with speakers outlining our positions and tips on conducting effective conversations with elected representatives, followed by face-to-face meetings with elected officials to express our positions and issues in transportation and other industry topics. This gives us the opportunity to convey our interest and utilize your professional knowledge and background to support important policy decisions effecting the health, safety and welfare of Pennsylvanians. Last year's event was quite successful, with numerous attendees from organizations statewide.

If you are interested in attending this event, please consult the Philadelphia Section ASCE website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) for up-to-date information on the schedule of events and registration. If those in our industry don't tell our elected officials about the importance of our infrastructure, who will? And, can we trust that those who do not have our knowledge and background in the needs and importance of transportation infrastructure can convey our message as effectively and emphatically as we can?

We encourage you to ask your employer to support you in this important event.

## Consider Inviting a Friend (or Two) to Join ASHE

The Section encourages you to “**pick 2, bring 1**” – pick two colleagues to tell about ASHE and bring one of them to the next Section meeting.

ASHE has strength in its inclusiveness – we embrace any and all who work in the highway industry, from college students to the most senior professionals. With this knowledge, we still need to exhibit courage and bold action to change from the status quo and recruit more of those in the industry into the ASHE “fold”.

We encourage you to “talk us up” and invite your colleagues and friends to a meeting to see what we have to offer. Also, the Section offers dinner meetings and technical sessions which can help you obtain professional development credit you may need for your state license.

If you know someone who would like to become a member, please have him/her contact our Membership Chair, Bruce Masi, for information and applications. Applications are also available at the ASHE National website, [www.highwayengineers.org](http://www.highwayengineers.org), as well as our Section’s website, [www.ashedv.org](http://www.ashedv.org).



## Traffic Congestion Intensifies as Economy Recovers

After a decline in 2008 due to the recession, traffic congestion began to increase again in 2009 and 2010, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) found in its most recent Urban Mobility Report ([www.mobility.tamu.edu/ums/report/](http://www.mobility.tamu.edu/ums/report/)). The Report noted that congestion costs continue to rise, costing the nation \$115 billion in 2009 compared to \$24 billion in 1982. Congestion cost the average commuter \$808 in 2009, compared to an inflation-adjusted \$351 in 1982. The average commuter spends 34 hours delayed in traffic a year. In addition, the total amount of wasted fuel in 2009 topped 3.9 billion gallons.

The TTI cautions that the congestion trend is expected to grow and recommends immediate action to improve transportation infrastructure. Among the recommendations are to add roadway and public transportation capacity in the places where it is needed most; to change travel patterns, employing ideas like ridesharing and flexible work times to avoid traditional “rush hours”; to provide more choices, such as alternate routes, telecommuting and toll lanes for faster and more reliable trips; and to diversify land development patterns, to make walking, biking and mass transit more practical.

“Congestion is costing us nearly a full work week and almost 40 gallons of gas a year—at a cost of over \$800 per average motorist,” said American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) National President Kathy Caldwell. “Couple that with the barely passing grade of D- our roads received in ASCE’s 2009 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure and you can easily see that we are failing to maintain even our current substandard conditions.”

Funding for improvements, which is scarce these days, would be very helpful.

## From the Editor...

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, the newsletter of the Delaware Valley Section, is published and distributed to our 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.

*Rob Prophet, Section President  
Traffic Planning & Design Inc.  
2500 E. High Street  
Pottstown, PA 19460  
610-326-3100  
[rprophet@trafficpd.com](mailto:rprophet@trafficpd.com)*

*Bob Wright, Director/Editor  
Urban Engineers, Inc.  
530 Walnut Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215-922-8081 x1647  
[rmwright@urbanengineers.com](mailto:rmwright@urbanengineers.com)*

## Members in Transportation

### ***New Arrival for Farrells***

Cathy Farrell and husband Tim welcomed son Dean Paul into the world on March 3. Dean weighed in at 8 lb, 1 oz and 21 inches long.

Congratulations, Farrells!

### ***McAtee Cited By Drexel***

The Drexel University Construction Management Advisory Council (CMAC) presented Joseph McAtee with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant accomplishments and his impact on the construction community and built environment in the Philadelphia region. This honor was bestowed upon Joe at the CMAC Awards Reception on March 14. Joe is the Executive Vice President of Urban Engineers. Through this award, he joins a select group of recipients, whose contributions to the construction industry and to Drexel’s CMGT Program are indeed notable.