

The Transportation Times

ASHE DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2011-12 EDITION #2

A Message from President Don Stark

And we're off and running! We had an excellent turnout for our September meeting. Those in attendance got to hear two excellent presentations on the 2010 Projects of the Year. It was also the first official meeting over which I presided and I'm glad to have that one under my belt. I hope no one out there is now saying, "Well, after that meeting, it can only go up from here!" Except for me and I will say that because our scheduled guest speaker for October was none other than the Secretary of Transportation for the State of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Barry J. Schoch, PE.

The Secretary was looking forward to speaking at our meeting to discuss Transportation Funding and by default the state of Pennsylvania's Transportation system, something I am sure we would all like to know about (if we don't already have first hand information). Although he was unable to attend because of a last-minute situation, he did send Deputy Secretary Mark Compton, who ably filled in and explained the recommendations for funding options which will hopefully help close the gap for current needs.

While on the topic of transportation funding, I hope that everyone out there has taken the time to write to Governor Corbett to persuade him to adopt the recommendations of the Transportation Funding Advisory Committee (TFAC). I know there have been e-mails going around that will take you to a site that will not only generate a letter and send it to the Governor and your local elected officials; it will mail it for you also. Sometimes technology is great at simplifying our lives and we must take advantage of it. To quote one of our founding fathers, "If we don't all hang together, then surely, we shall all hang separately".



Section President Don Stark thanks our September meeting speakers, Chris Stanford (left) and Joe Riley (right), who each presented on the Section's 2010 Projects of the Year

On a lighter note, we have some great speakers lined up for the remainder of the year and, in November, we will be conducting our second Technical Session of the year, the first one we will host this season (you will recall that PennDOT District 6 generously provided a speaker and venue for September's Technical Session). Not only will it be a great topic, it will get you some all important PDH's everyone is now looking for. (Sorry, no PDH's for October!)

Our November meeting will bring us up to our winter break as there is no meeting in the month of December. So if you didn't make it to the September meeting, make sure you get to a meeting soon. Join your fellow colleagues in the industry for a happy hour drink and discuss on your own terms the state of transportation funding (Caution: may require a second drink to make you feel better about not feeling so good?) or talk about the great project of the year you worked on that has just about wrapped up construction and you want submit to our Project of the Year Committee this year.

Hope to see you there!

2011-12 Meeting Dates – Plan to Be There!

In order to help you plan your attendance at our Section's meetings for the coming season, here is the schedule of meeting dates. Our meetings will return to a third-Wednesday pattern after November.

We have already had our September and October meetings and will be conducting November's as noted in the separate meeting flyer. The remaining meetings for this season, after November, are all in 2012, as follows:

January 18 (annual joint meeting with ASCE)
February 15
March 21
April 18

Meeting topics will be announced in each monthly meeting announcement flyer. Technical Sessions are also being scheduled for the remainder of the season (see page 3 for information on the Technical Session in November).

**Delaware Valley Section
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2011-12 Season**

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The Section is attempting to have the several components of the Society (contractors/suppliers, government/DOT and consultants) appropriately 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.**

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.

DVSP Member Firms 2011-12 * THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

*** Five-Year Participants ***



November Technical Session – Professional Ethics

The second Technical Session planned for this season will be conducted on Wednesday, November 9, just prior to the November Section Meeting, starting at 4 PM. The topic is “**Professional Ethics**” and will be administered by Frederick M. Brehm, an attorney with Powell Trachtman Logan Carlle and Lombardo, who additionally has an engineering degree and background.

A separate flyer will be distributed for registration for this Technical Session. Please note that the event is limited to only two participants from any organization.

We anticipate that this event will satisfy the Pennsylvania PE License Renewal requirements and will be able to be counted for 2 Professional Development Hours (PDH’s).

Future Technical Sessions are being considered for the latter portion of the season. As always, if you have any thoughts on topics or would like to present a session, please pass this along and the Board will explore it .

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 Don Stark or Section Director/Editor Bob Wright (contact information is provided on page 6):

<i>ASHE/PennDOT Relations/Seminar</i>	Elaine Elbich	<i>Newsletter Nominating Program</i>	Bob Wright
<i>Audit</i>	Don Stark	<i>Project of the Year</i>	Stephanie Butler
<i>Dinner Meetings, Social, Society Relations</i>	Don Steele	<i>Public Relations</i>	Stephanie Butler
<i>50/50</i>	Carlos Garcia	<i>Scholarships</i>	Bill Laird
<i>Golf</i>	Rob Prophet	<i>Technical Papers</i>	Mark Kinnee
<i>Hotel</i>	Phil Mandato	<i>Technical Sessions</i>	Peter Berthold
<i>Membership</i>	Bruce Masi	<i>Website</i>	Curt Shugars
			Jack Mitchell
			Rob Prophet

DVSP Program in Full Swing

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 12 firms are participating in the Program so far this season. The logos of the sponsors are displayed on page 2.

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 begun 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 Don Stark or Director/Editor of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES Bob Wright (contact information is given on page 6).

Future City Competition

This is the 17th year of the Philadelphia Future City Competition. It will take place on **Saturday, January 28, 2012** at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall in South Philadelphia. Mentoring opportunities are available now and many volunteers will be needed the day of the competition.

Our Section sends a team of judges to the competition and awards a Special Prize on behalf of our Section. The team which receives this Special Prize is invited to our Section dinner meeting in March to display its model and formally be recognized for its efforts.

Dues Invoice in Your Hands

Invoices for ASHE dues for the 2011-12 season were mailed in late July. We appreciate your prompt payment so you can remain in good standing with ASHE and our Section. **We thank you for your continued support.**

Please also provide your up-to-date contact information on the sheet that accompanied the invoice so that our files may have your current address, e-mail, mailing preference, and whether you would prefer to receive hard copy of Section announcements and THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES.

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

Professional Development Requirements – A “Must” in PA and NJ, Coming in DE

As you may be aware, professional engineers, land surveyors and geologists in Pennsylvania are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses. The current licensing period started on October 1, 2011 and licenses in this period will expire on September 30, 2013. As part of your renewal, you were requested to indicate whether you had the requisite 24 Professional Development Hours (PDH's) for renewal.

In Pennsylvania, you will be permitted to count up to 12 PDH's you may have acquired as far back as October 1, 2007. PDH's earned between October 1, 2011 and April 1, 2012 will be able to be counted as well, but as a special case. On your renewal form, if you checked “no” for the question that asked whether you had the required number of hours of CPD, the Board will be in contact with you to advise how you must proceed. The specific requirements are available on the Department of State's website at www.dos.state.pa.us/eng for your information.

As you may also have heard, New Jersey has instituted requirements for continuing education effective January 12, 2011. A current licensee will be required to obtain 15 continuing professional competency credits during the current licensure period (which expires April 30, 2012), two of which shall be in professional practice ethics, to meet the requirements for the 2012-14 biennial renewal period. Please visit the New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors website for more information on this (www.nj.gov/lps/ca/pels/pels_licensee.htm).

Unlike Pennsylvania, the New Jersey Board requires that courses taken to satisfy the continuing education requirement be pre-approved by the Board. A listing of currently approved courses can be found at: http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/pels/pels_licensee.htm.

It appears that the New Jersey Board does NOT intend to send notice of these regulatory changes to all licensees.

Thus, you should visit the Board's website for updated information.

The Section is reviewing how to have our meeting program and Technical Sessions meet the New Jersey requirements to allow our members to obtain the credits they need for their New Jersey licenses. We will keep you informed on this.

It appears that Delaware is also working on a program to require continuing education for continued licensure, but this may not be implemented until 2014. We will keep you up to date on developments that happen here. Once we are able to review the requirements, we will be able to determine how our program can satisfy them.

Our Section's meeting program and Technical Sessions will be able to count toward your continuing education requirement and a verification program is in place to help you obtain and track your PDH's.

Our Section Will Turn 45 in January

MILE
45

The Delaware Valley Section was formed in 1966 with a total of 69 members. The Section's Charter was approved by ASHE National on January 25, 1967, as the tenth Section in the then-fledgling ASHE organization. (ASHE was founded in 1956, with the Harrisburg Section holding Charter #1.)

Reminder - 2011 Project of the Year Competition

The Project of the Year competition will be opened for submissions in early 2012. The program will follow the two-category format, with separate awards for “large” projects (construction costs \$10 million and over) and “small” ones (construction costs under \$10 million). Projects must have been completed in 2011, be located within the geographic boundaries of the Section and nominated by an ASHE member in good standing. More information will be forthcoming in the next edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES.

Donna Prentice Memorial Section Scholarship Competition – Applications Now Being Accepted

The Section's Scholarship Program continues to be successful. The Program was started by the Section in 1972. Over the almost 40 years of its existence, it has benefited numerous local college students, many of whom have gone on to become ASHE members after graduation.

It was renamed in honor of the late **Donna Prentice**, wife of longtime Section member Dick Prentice, in 2003.

The current schedule for the Section Scholarships sets the deadline for applications on **October 28**. Several thousands of dollars are expected to be awarded to deserving candidates this year.

Successful candidates will be notified in February. Those selected for awards will be invited to be the Section's guests at our February Section meeting to be cited accordingly.

For Scholarship information, requirements and the application form, please visit <http://www.ashedv.org/events.html>.

Delaware Valley Engineers Week Update

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 our website (www.dvewc.org) for updates.

AWARDS AND PROCLAMATION LUNCHEON

Friday, February 17, 2012
Doubletree Hotel, Center City
Philadelphia

The Awards and Proclamation Luncheon will include:

- A poster session with presentation of student paper winners from 10:00 am to 12 noon prior to the Luncheon
- Engineers Week Awards and Scholarships will be presented
- Engineers Week proclamations will be displayed
- The Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks

YOUNG ENGINEER SOCIAL EVENT

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 (TENTATIVE – location to be determined)

This will be a happy hour/social networking event at a location geared to younger engineers. The Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks.

CELEBRATION OF ENGINEERING RECEPTION

Thursday, February 23, 2012
Pyramid Club, Center City Philadelphia

The culminating event of Engineers Week will be a social/networking gala event to celebrate engineering, similar to the new format introduced last year. There will be cocktails, appetizer stations, and dessert stations. Other features of the event include:

- 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, followed by a brief recognition of the Hall of Fame, Outstanding Service, and Engineering Achievement award recipients

Please visit www.dvewc.org for updates and the latest information.

To show our support of Engineers Week activities, our Section has sponsored a banner which will be displayed on the streets of Center City Philadelphia during Engineers Week, as it was last year (the first year of the banner program). More information on this will be provided in the next edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES.

Golf Outing Update

Our 16th Annual Golf Outing was held on a beautiful Monday, July 11 at Blue Bell Country Club. A scramble format was used once again to make things a little more interesting. Over 70 participants were there to enjoy a day of golf and support the Section Scholarship Program.

Our 17th Annual Golf Outing will be conducted on Monday, July 16, 2012, once again at Blue Bell. Please mark your calendars. More information will be coming on golf and sponsorship later this season.

To correct an item reported in the last edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, over \$6500 was raised for the Scholarship Fund, through the proceeds of the Outing, including a putting contest.

Dinner Meetings/Technical Sessions Costs

Dinner Meeting prices for the 2011-12 season will be held at \$35 with advance reservations (by the reservation deadline) and \$45 for after the deadline/at the door, the same as last season. The cost for public employees and students will remain at \$20. These costs remain low compared to those charged by other technical groups as we strive to negotiate the best deals we can with our provider 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.

ASHE Northeast Region – Albany ♦ Altoona ♦ Central New York ♦ Clearfield ♦ Delaware Valley ♦ East Penn ♦ First State ♦ Franklin ♦ Harrisburg ♦ Long Island ♦ Mid-Allegheny ♦ New York Metro ♦ North Central New Jersey ♦ Northeast Penn ♦ Pittsburgh ♦ Southern New Jersey ♦ Southwest Penn ♦ Williamsport

Continued Concerns on Highway/Transportation Funding in Pennsylvania - Email Blast to ASHE PA Members From Past National President Duris

In mid-September, Past National President Kevin Duris sent this e-mail to all Pennsylvania ASHE Members, to make us all aware of the significant effort being put forth by our Industry to increase Transportation Funding for Pennsylvania. Your HELP is needed to ensure this effort is successful. We are reprinting this here for your reference.

I am asking each of you to take the time to contact Governor Corbett, your State Representative, and your State Senator, telling them how important it is for them to enact Legislation that implements the recommendations made in the August 1, 2011 Final Report of the TFAC Commission (Transportation Funding Advisory Commission). Failure in these efforts to secure this funding will have dire consequences for Pennsylvania and the Construction Industry. Jobs will be lost - some forever!

Furthermore, I ask that you encourage family, friends and business associates to do the same.

If this Legislation is not passed during this Fall's Legislative session, then political history tells us we will have to wait another four years (until after the next Governors election) to see any chance of funding relief.

In simple terms it means PennDOT's program will be reduced by 50 % from the current level (100% from the 2010 peak which included \$1 billion in stimulus money).

A reduction of this magnitude not only cuts jobs, but will have such a negative affect upon our State economy and infrastructure, that non-highway construction will also be impacted, since there will undoubtedly be a reduction, if not outright suspension, of major building projects by our commercial, industrial and institutional customers.

There are a number of websites that I strongly suggest you check out that will be helpful in providing you with more detailed information about this issue and will also facilitate your efforts in contacting our elected officials.

The first website is the TFAC site which contains the final report and other pertinent information. It is www.tfac.pa.gov.

The second website is the APC (Associated Pennsylvania Constructors) site, which has a section entitled "Advocacy Resource Center". This section has a number of other links that can provide you with information about the issue. It is also provides a simple way to contact your elected officials. This site is www.paconstructors.org. Click on "Advocacy Resource Center", under WEB RESOURCES, click "TCI-PAC Political Action Center: Contact the Governor and your

Legislators". Complete step one and hit continue. A pre-written message is ready to send. It only takes a few minutes.

The third site is called ReConnectPA, and it is an interactive site that will allow you to provide feedback as to what Transportation projects, needs, and suggestions are important to you. Pick your worst bottleneck, pet peeve, or other Transportation concern and post it to the site at www.reconnectpa.org.

Although I would like everyone to contact all of their elected officials, the most important person in this fight is Governor Corbett. There is bipartisan support in the Legislature, BUT....it will not happen unless Governor Corbett takes ownership of the TFAC report. He must take a strong public position in favor of the initiatives outlined out in the TFAC report. He must be the unequivocal leader of this legislative effort!! If not it will fail. This is the message that all of you need to send. Send it via phone calls, face to face, letters, email, face book and even Twitter. The delivery method is not as important as the message. Please take the time in the next few days to educate yourself on this issue and then let your voice be heard in support of our issue.

Should anyone desire to discuss this issue with me or have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

I thank you in advance for your support and I know our voice can make a difference.

*Kevin E. Duris, P.E.
ASHE Past National President
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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.

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