THE
TRANSPORTATION TIMES

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS, DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION 2025-26 EDITION #3

Meeting Schedule

Dinner Meetings

January 21 (joint with ASCE Philadelphia Section)

February 18

March 18

April 16
60th Anniversary Gala

May 6
Annual Meeting

Technical Sessions

Technical Sessions will be scheduled throughout the season and will be conducted virtually. See page 7 for more information on this.

President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday. I know I did. It was a reminder of how much we have to be grateful for, including the strength and engagement of our ASHE Delaware Valley Section. Our Section continues to thrive because of your dedication, participation, and support. Thank you for helping make ASHE Delaware Valley such a strong and connected organization. Our most recent Dinner Meeting featured a presentation on engineering ethics. Thank you to our presenter, Mike Toole, for bringing insight, engagement, and even a bit of humor to a topic that guides our profession every day. Engineers and ethics is a combination we can't afford to get wrong!

I also want to recognize **Dustin Woywod** and the rest of the Younger Member Committee for partnering with the ASCE YMF to host a fantastic joint networking event at Puddlers Kitchen & Tap in Bridgeport. It was energizing to see so many younger professionals in attendance. This group represents the future of our industry, and I admire their enthusiasm and commitment to keeping our profession strong. **Susan Giannantonio** and the Technical Session Committee also continued to offer valuable technical content through another virtual tech session, this latest session on SEPTA's Glenside Bridge Replacement project. This is just one example of how accessible our organization makes continuing education, especially when it comes to earning PDH's.

Looking ahead, our Section remains committed to supporting the organizations and initiatives within the region. We will continue our engagement with the Future City Competition, March of Dimes, Delaware Valley Engineers Week, the Delaware Valley Science Fairs, and of course our Scholarships and annual award nominations. Many joint meetings are planned for 2026 with our partner societies, including ASCE, WTS, and MASITE, which is just another reminder of how connected and collaborative our region is.

As promised, I am excited to share more about our **ASHE Delaware Valley Section 60th Anniversary Gala**, which will be held on **Thursday, April 16** at the Ellis Preserve Ballroom in Newtown Square. More details will be coming soon, but please save the date! It will be an evening celebrating our Section's history, achievements, and the people who have shaped the ASHE Delaware Valley Section over six decades.

As the holidays approach, I want to wish all of you a warm holiday season. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and kicking off a successful new year!

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Rice, PE
President, ASHE Delaware Valley Section

Our Diamond Anniversary !

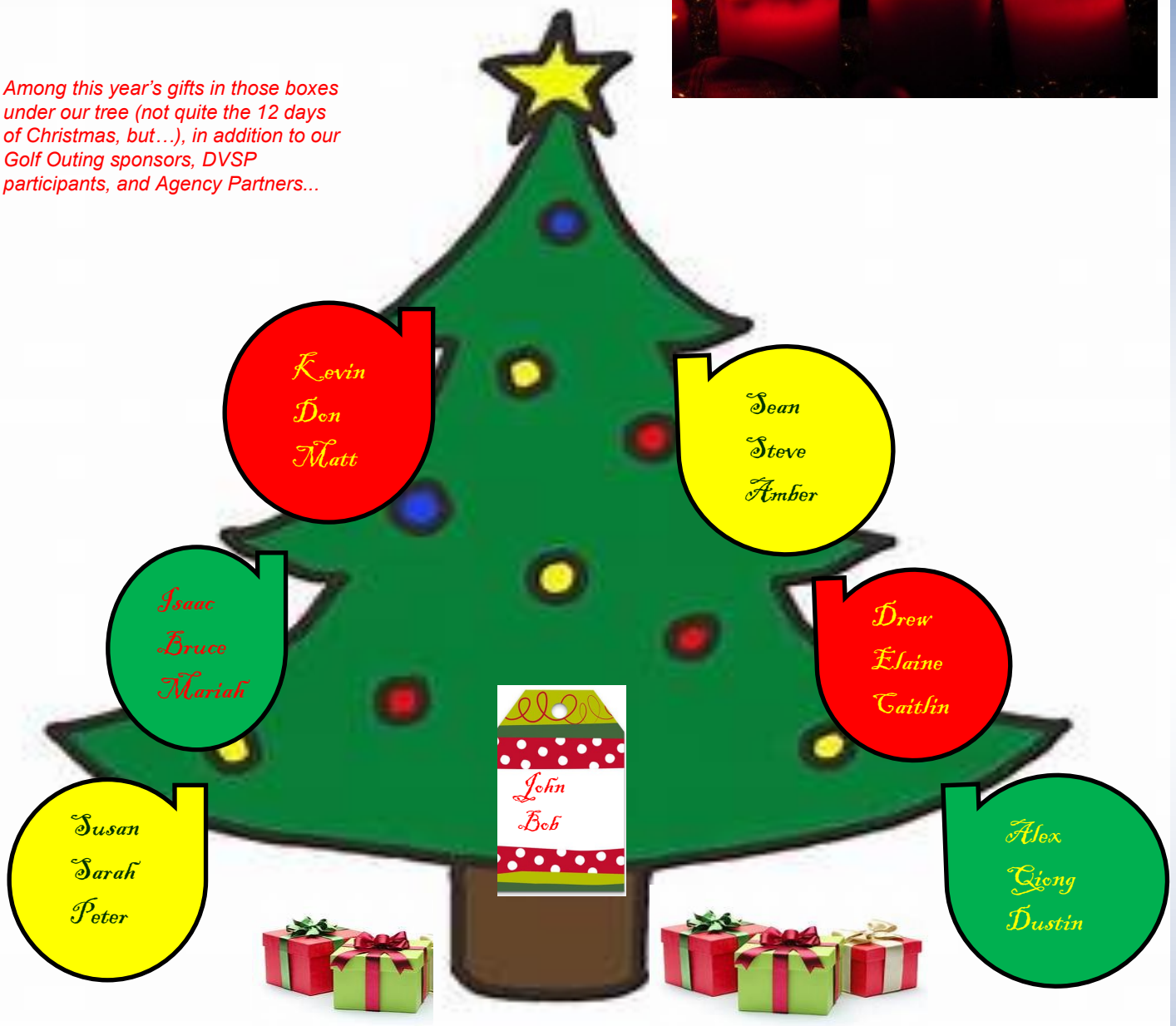
Some of you may be aware that our Section "got off the ground" in September 1966 as the tenth Section formed in the then-fledgling ASHE organization (we hold Charter #11). The first ASHE section, Harrisburg, started ten years before ours.

Thus, this means that this is our Section's **Diamond** anniversary season (60 years), leading up to the anniversary of our founding in September 2026 (the same year our nation will celebrate its *semiquincentennial* (250th birthday)). We will conduct a special event in conjunction with a National Board Meeting on April 16 (as noted in Kevin's message above). This would be our formal recognition and "kickoff" of our citation of 60 years of service. Please watch for updates on this as well as the rescheduling of our Annual Meeting to May 6. More information will be coming in future editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES and e-mail blasts.

And, as always, we thank our Section members for helping to make this all happen

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Season's Greetings, and Best Wishes for a Good New Year from the Officers and Board of the Delaware Valley Section, ASHE!

Among this year's gifts in those boxes under our tree (not quite the 12 days of Christmas, but…), in addition to our Golf Outing sponsors, DVSP participants, and Agency Partners...



12 *Section Directors working diligently for our membership*

11+ *Years of a strong Young Members Committee*

10 *Our Section was the tenth ASHE Section to be chartered (1967)*

9 *Dinner meetings (and Multi-Society lunch meeting) scheduled for the current season (4 conducted to date)*

8 *Past Presidents currently serving on our Section Board*

7 *Anticipated Technical Sessions this season*

6 *Project of the Year submissions for last season's competition*

5 *DVSP participants for all 21 years of the program's existence*

4 *Dinner Meetings remaining for this season (after January)*

3 *Editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES delivered thus far this season (you're welcome…)*

2 *Agency Partners to start this program*

1 *Incoming Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year (!!)*

2025-26 Delaware Valley Section Officers and Board of Directors

President
Kevin Rice
HNTB

First Vice President
Don Gusic
CDM Smith

Second Vice President
Matt Ward
GFT

Treasurer
Sean Pence
TPD

Secretary
Steve Windle
Bowman

Immediate Past President
Amber Midgley *
Bentley Systems

Board of Directors
Term expires 2026

Isaac Kessler *
Remington & Vernick Engineers

Bruce Masi *
GFT

Mariah Shaw
TPD

Drew Sirianni *
HNTB

Term expires 2027

Elaine Elbich *
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Caitlin Gallagher
HNTB

Susan Giannantonio
NTM Engineering

Sarah McInnes
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Term expires 2028

Peter Berthold *
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Alex Eadline
CDM Smith

Qiong Liu
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Dustin Woywod
Michael Baker International

Regional Director
John Caperilla *
CDR Maguire

Section Executive
Bob Wright *
Bowman

** Indicates Past Section President*

Section Committees/Chairs

ASHE/PennDOT Breakfast Meeting
Alex Eadline

Auditing
Isaac Kessler

Dinner Meetings
Greg Scafonas, Drew Sirianni, *Co-Chairs*

Educational
Susan Giannantonio

Environmental
Heather Coons

50-50
Greg Scafonas

Golf
Jim Brady

Hotel
Bob Wright
Jeff Hanna, *Assistant Chair*

Membership
Caitlin Gallagher

Newsletter
Bob Wright

Nominating
Don Gusic

Outreach
Peter Berthold, Steve Windle, *Co-Chairs*

Professional Society Relations
Elaine Elbich

Program
Qiong Liu

Project of the Year
Alex Eadline

Scholarship
Lili Bhatt
Bruce Masi, *Assistant Chair*

Student and Young Members
Dustin Woywod

Technical Papers
Drew Sirianni

If you have an interest in being part of any Committee please contact Section President Kevin Rice (information is provided on page 8).

Mark Your Calendar - Engineers Week 2026

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will celebrate **Engineers Week 2026** on February 19-27. This will be the 74th year that Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley has been conducted.

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley will officially begin with the **Engineers Week Opening Ceremony** at the Hilton Hotel Penns Landing on **Thursday, February 19**. As noted separately in this edition, our own **Sarah McInnes** will be formally installed and recognized as the 2026 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year at this event. All Engineers Week award and scholarship recipients will be cited at the Opening Ceremony. Our Section has established the ASHE/Engineers Week Scholarship which is awarded as part of this Ceremony, with the first recipient cited last year. We encourage students to apply for this and other scholarships that are available as part of Engineers Week.

Please visit the Engineers' Club website, www.engrclub.org, for more information on events, awards, scholarships and updates as well as award submission deadlines.

ASHE
2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON D.C.

May 27 – 31, 2026

2026 National Conference

Brought to you by the Chesapeake and Potomac Sections

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel

2026 ASHE National Conference – ASHE East Penn

McInnes Elected as Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year

We are pleased to announce that our own **Sarah McInnes** has recently been elected as the 2026 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year. Sarah will be formally installed and recognized at the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Opening Ceremony in February (please see the separate article on Engineers Week celebrations in this issue). She was nominated for this honor by our Section with the American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section, and the ASCE Delaware Valley GeoInstitute co-sponsoring and supporting the nomination. ASCE Section Director Robin Dominick offered the nomination speech.

Sarah serves as the Senior Assistant Construction Engineer, Construction Services for PennDOT District 6. In this role, she oversees a large staff of 55 and a multifaceted program that includes construction project delivery, structure control, materials, consultant agreements, surface treatment, constructability and schedule review, and project closeout. As part of her current leadership role, she is directly responsible for one of the largest staffs at District 6 and for hiring and mentoring staff and engineers for the Construction Unit. Previously, she served as the District Geotechnical Engineer for over 13 years, managing both in-house staff and consultant agreements to deliver geotechnical engineering services across the District. She implemented new geotechnical technologies and asset management strategies that improved project delivery and reduced long-term maintenance costs. She began her career at PennDOT in 1997.

Sarah was recognized as ASCE's Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year this past spring. She is a prolific contributor to engineering literature, with over 20 technical papers presented at national and international conferences. Her publications cover a wide range of topics, including karst-related highway design, sinkhole evaluation, lightweight backfill solutions, steel H-pile performance, rockfall hazard analysis, and slope performance prediction. She is an active member of several technical societies and groups and is a current Director of our Section.

We proudly congratulate Sarah on this well-deserved honor.

Young Members Committee Happenings

The joint Winter Mixer, co-sponsored by the Young Members Committee and ASCE's Younger Member Forum, was conducted on December 2 at Puddlers Kitchen and Tap in Bridgeport. Roughly 25 attendees partook of the event and enjoyed the evening's festivities and networking.

As always, please watch for more information on planned and upcoming activities in event flyers which will be available in e-mail blasts and communications as well as on the tables at our upcoming Dinner Meetings.

Section Awards - Nominations Coming Up…

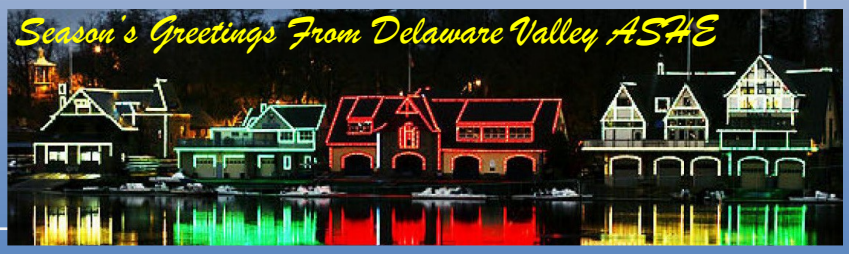
The Delaware Valley Section is pleased to open nominations for awards to be presented this season.

2026 Member of the Year/Young Member of the Year - We are accepting nominations for our **Member of the Year** and **Young Member of the Year** Awards. These awards will recognize members for their contributions to the Highway Engineering profession within the Delaware Valley region. This will be the fourth season that these will be offered. Information has been provided and will be coming on the submission package/nomination form. The deadline for submissions is **January 31**.

2025 Project of the Year - We are seeking nominations for the **2025 Project of the Year**! Two awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting, one for larger projects and one for smaller projects. To be eligible, the project must be submitted by a member in good standing with ASHE. Project construction must have been substantially completed and open to the public between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025. 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.

An e-mail will be distributed from the Section shortly which will provide additional information. Nominations must be received by **February 13**. If you have any questions, please contact Alex Eadline at (717) 541-4013 or via email at eadlineaj@cdmsmith.com. We look forward to reviewing your nomination!

All awards will be presented at our Annual Meeting (May 6). It is encouraged and preferred that candidates are able to be present at this to be honored accordingly.



AECOM
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Bowman
CDM Smith
Dewberry
GFT
HDR
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JBC ASSOCIATES, INC.
JMT
KCI TECHNOLOGIES
L&V ENGINEERING
LDG Architecture Engineering & Consulting
LOFTUS CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Delaware Valley Section Patrons (DVSP) 2025-26 Thanks for your support!

McCORMICK TAYLOR
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RETTEW
RK&K Engineers | Construction Managers | Planners | Scientists
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URBAN ENGINEERS
WRA
wsp

Your logo could be here!
(See page 6 for how to become a Delaware Valley Section Patron.)

DVSP Program Sponsorship - Season 21 Underway

Our Section started the Delaware Valley Section Patron (DVSP) Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. As you may be aware, the proceeds of the DVSP support our Section's Scholarship Fund. For a single 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.

As we pass the halfway mark of our 21st season, we thank the **26 firms** that have committed once again to participate in the program this season for their generosity and support. Their logos are shown on page 5 as well as on our website.

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 8).

DVSP benefits
($300 for the season)

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

Logo in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES

*We are pleased to note that five DVSP participants - **AECOM, Bowman (formerly McMahon), McCormick Taylor, TPD and Urban Engineers** - have been sponsors for all 21 years of the Program. Thank you for your long-time support!*

And our Agency Partners…

Our Section has always been fortunate to enjoy the consistent and strong support of governmental agencies. These are not for-profit concerns, as our consultants and contractors are, thus they are not able to participate in other means of recognition such as our DVSP Program. Indeed, however, they have consistently been there with Board and Section committee representation and volunteer events.

To allow us to cite their contributions and great support, we have established our Agency Partner Program (and we're in search of a catchy name for it - DVSP is already taken… - so anyone out there is welcome to offer ideas), which will include their logos on our website and in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES to recognize and highlight their contributions and volunteer service.

We welcome our two initial participants in this effort, **PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission ,** and would encourage you to thank the staffs of these organizations when you see them for their generous support. Thanks again to each agency for its assistance.

We welcome other agencies to be part of this program as well. Please reach out to President Kevin Rice or Section Executive/Editor Bob Wright (contact information is provided on page 8)

Members in Transportation/Transition

Wolfe Now at Colliers

Juli Wolfe has recently started a new position as Department Manager, Highways & Traffic Engineering at Colliers Engineering & Design.

Juli was most recently with RETTEW. We wish her good luck in this new endeavor.

Walsh Takes on New Role

Jenn Walsh reports that she is excited to share a change in role at HDR and her transitioning into the Area Business Development Lead for Pennsylvania and Delaware. HDR takes great pride in serving as an extension of its clients, partnering with them to deliver successful projects, solve complex problems, and help them navigate the challenges they face within their agencies and organizations. In this new role, Jenn hopes to build upon the strong relationships already established and continue supporting our clients in addressing the issues that matter most to them.

We wish Jenn continued success.

Farrell Moves on to Lochner

Cathy Farrell advises that she is also excited to share that she has begun a new position with Lochner, an Egis Company, as the firm's Pennsylvania State Lead. Cathy noted that after nearly 11 years with HNTB, her time with the firm has come to an end, and she is leaving with a deep sense of gratitude for the incredible people she has had the privilege to work along side and immense pride in what they have accomplished together. The experiences, challenges, and friendships from her time at HNTB have shaped her both personally and professionally, and she is truly thankful for that.

We congratulate Cathy on her move and pass along our collective good wishes.

Environmentally Speaking…

Do you know why PennDOT's clearances were only minimally impacted by the state shutdown?

Our PennDOT sponsored transportation projects must adhere to environmental clearance requirements that require review and coordination with numerous state and federal agencies varying by the project. To facilitate smooth coordination, PennDOT funds various liaison positions in state and federal agencies for environmental reviews (including the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [DCNR], PA Department of Environmental Protection [DEP], PA Fish and Boat Commission [PFBC], PA Game Commission [PGC], PA Historical and Museum Commission [PHMC], US Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], and US Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]). These positions place agency staff directly into the transportation project review pipeline.

Staff in these positions focuses on permitting and environmental compliance, such as Chapter 102/105 water and stormwater permits, wetland impacts, threatened and endangered species review, cultural resources, and other regulatory evaluations. DEP receives the largest share of funded staff, including:

- Engineers and biologists assigned to all six DEP regional offices
- Central Office transportation coordinator
- 14 total DEP technical staff dedicated to PennDOT work

This long-established dedicated position approach allowed our project clearance reviews to continue despite the recent government budget delays.

On behalf of all ASHE DelVal members, the Environmental Committee would like to give ***a shout out to PennDOT*** *for keeping environmental project reviews moving during the recent federal and state administration challenges.*

Thanks to several members of the Environmental Committee who collaborated to compile this information.

Dinner Meetings - Two Venues (Again); Technical Sessions Continue...

Our Section Dinner Meeting program has been well-received, with three well-attended and interesting meetings thus far this season. We are planning to continue the two-venue program this year, with our February meeting scheduled at Maggiano's, as well as another possible visit there as we look further ahead.

We are pleased that we will have a program of varied and interesting topics this season and look forward to continued success as the season progresses. We will continue to do what we can to get the maximum benefit for our meeting attendees at the optimal cost as we plan our upcoming meeting program.

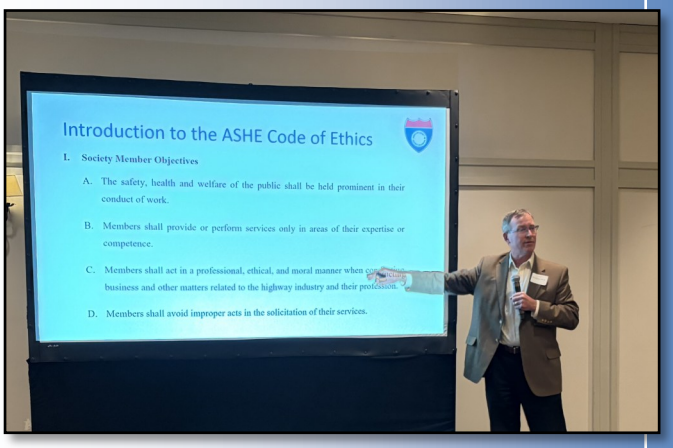
Your feedback on the meeting locations, meals, etc. is certainly welcome both in the PDH questionnaire forms as well as direct comments to the Officers and Board. We are here to help make these experiences the best possible and would certainly like to hear from you if you have suggestions, input, etc.

Technical Sessions will continue to be virtual events. There have been four successful Sessions so far this season with at least three more coming. As always, they will continue to offer the important and valuable PDH benefit.

More information will be provided on scheduled Technical Sessions in upcoming editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES as well as in separate Session flyers and e-mails. We hope you have been able to take advantage of these informative sessions.

Photos from Recent Meetings

An attentive crowd was on hand for our September meeting with WSP's team presentation on the upcoming I-95 Girard Point Bridge rehabilitation project (photo at left). In November, Dr. Michael Toole informed those present on Ethical Issues in Marketing, Bidding and Negotiating (photo at right).



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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R E M I N D E R

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

February 20

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 Memorial Scholarship Competition - Submissions In, Evaluations Being Made for Selections

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 gone on in their professional careers to become members of ASHE.

Following our strong response to this program last season, in which we were able to make 12 awards with a total value of $17,000, by comparison this season has been much lighter, with 5 applications received. Despite the lower turnout, we remain proud to be able to support our local future engineers and help them in their educational pursuits. The Scholarship Program has assisted numerous students over the years, and was renamed in honor of the late **Donna Prentice**, wife of long-time Section member Rich Prentice, in 2003.

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by **Lili Bhatt**, is evaluating the submissions at this time and will be making final decisions and awards shortly. The selected applicants will be invited to our February Section Meeting to be honored in person.

Additionally, repeating what was begun last year, we will be funding a Student Scholarship that will be awarded as part of the Delaware Valley Engineers Week celebration (see page 3). More information and the application requirements/form are available on the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia website (www.engrclub.org).

At our 29th Annual Golf Outing, conducted on May 19, the net proceeds realized, nearly **$10,000**, will be directed to the Scholarship Fund as in years past. Our DVSP Program also supports our scholarships, thus we thank all who participate and contribute to this as well. These efforts help us make our Scholarship Program a success every year.

How You Can Help Us Grown Our Membership

Are you passionate about highway engineering? ASHE is a nationwide, inclusive society dedicated to advancing transportation and infrastructure through collaboration and innovation. Locally, the Delaware Valley Section covers the Philadelphia metropolitan area (five counties in PA) and has a membership of nearly 350 professionals in engineering, design, construction, contractors and government agencies, providing a strong networking base and offering professional development with dinner meetings on various topics as well as technical sessions highlighting projects and techniques of interest to the highway/transportation engineering community.

If you know someone who is considering becoming an ASHE member, our Membership Application can be downloaded from our website (delvalley.ashe.pro) and submitted. Please visit our website and click on the Membership tab for more information and details on this. Additionally, please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested in joining our Section.

Want to learn more? Check out this short video (link below) to see what ASHE is all about!

Why Join ASHE?

Thanks to those of you who continue to support 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