

The Mid-Allegheny Minutes



January 17, 2024 Dinner Meeting

The third meeting of the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section 2023-2024 program held at the Indiana Country Club. Opening remarks were presented by ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section President, **Sean Hart, PE**. The presentation by **Michael Cuddy, PE** from TranSystems entailed Bridge Aesthetics for Workhorse Bridges and Historic Structures.

Michael discussed why engineers should care about bridge aesthetics and when to consider them in the design process. The substructure shapes and colors as part of the determinants of appearance were discussed along with historic compatibility versus applied decoration. Followed up with a selection of effective designs.

The section would like to thank Michael for sharing his knowledge with the section and takeaways we can consider in the future.



Photos: Sean Hart and Michael Cuddy (left to right)

The project included rehabilitating the same bridge three times allowing for economies of scale in the design. Lessons learned were carried forward to the other structures. Aaron discussed the repairs performed on the bridges and issues encountered during construction. Majority of work was structural steel repairs & painting. Other repairs performed were: strengthening the deteriorated steel, strengthening the stringer copes, new steel curbs, repairing/replacing sidewalks, new tie-downs, new shear connectors, new deck, eye bars, pin nuts, masonry cleaning, and enhanced lighting systems.

After Aaron's presentation, the UPJ students presented on the ASCE Pitt-Johnstown Activities which consisted of: the Steel Bridge Competition, the Concrete Canoe Competition, the Estimating Competition, the UESI Surveying Competition, and Associated General Contractors of America field trips and events. It was great to hear and learn about the events and competitions that the students are participating in at UPJ.



Photos: Nathan Farabough, Grant Baurle, and Timothy Myers (UPJ Students) and Aaron Colorito, PE (left to right)

February 21, 2024 Joint Dinner Meeting

The fourth meeting of the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section 2023-2024 program together with the ASHE Altoona section was presented at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) Living-Learning Center-Heritage Hall in Johnstown, PA. Opening remarks were presented by ASHE Altoona Section President, **Matthew Walerysiak, PE**, and ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section President, **Sean Hart, PE**. The presentation of the evening focused on the 6th, 7th, and 9th Street Bridges Rehabilitation Project in Pittsburgh presented by **Aaron Colorito, PE** of Michael Baker International, Inc.

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Photos: UPJ Students that attended the dinner meeting



Photos: Chris Messner, PE and Bob Bochicchio, PE
(left to right)

March 13, 2024 Dinner Meeting

The ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section held the fifth dinner meeting of the 2023-2024 program at the Indiana Country Club. Opening remarks were presented by ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section President, **Sean Hart, PE**. The presentation by GPI on SR 92 Stone Masonry Arch Rehabilitation took us through the evening.

Chris Messner, PE and **Bob Bochicchio, PE** presented on the rehabilitation of the stone masonry arch that had split ownership between the state and the railroad and abutted against the Susquehanna River. The existing stone and timber supports had structural deficiencies that needed repair while maintaining the historic qualities of the structure. Due to extensive detour lengths single lane of traffic was maintained under temporary widening. A soil nail wall and concrete foundation were used to support the existing roadway. Storing and reusing the existing stone was a complex operation that went successfully.

The section appreciated Chris and Bob taking the time and traveling to present this project to the section.



Photos: Chris Messner, PE and Bob Bochicchio, PE
(left to right)

We sincerely thank all of our Members and Sponsoring Firms for your continued support of the Section.

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Upcoming events include:

- April 2, 2024 Joint Dinner Meeting – RLA Learning & Conference Center at Cranberry Woods, PA presented by Michael Carroll the PennDOT Secretary of Transportation.
- May 8, 2024 Dinner Meeting at the Indiana Country Club and topics will be Awards, Scholarships, and Induction of Officers
- May 17, 2024 Golf Outing – The Links at Spring Church in Apollo, PA.

Additional information on the events above can be found on our website.

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If you have comments or suggestions related to presentations, meetings, or this newsletter, please forward a brief e-mail to the effect. Our board welcomes feedback so we can better serve our membership and industry.