

Double!



Snake Eyes

The best indicator of the cost of maintenance and construction of America's surface transportation system may be the Construction Cost Index (CCI) of the Engineering News-Record. Standing at 9870.12 in September, 2014, it is about **double** its value in 1993. In 1993, Congress added 4.3 cents a gallon to the gasoline tax, with the added revenue dedicated to deficit reduction. With the addition of the 0.1-cent-a-gallon levy to fund the leaking underground storage tank trust fund the federal tax rose to 18.4 cents a gallon. The federal Motor Fuel User Fee still stands at only 18.4 cents per gallon today.

Since 1997, the full federal gasoline tax has gone to the **Highway Trust Fund**.



To prevent the Highway Trust fund from running out of money, Congress extended its life until May, 2015, through what some consider to be 'gimmicks'. See previous issues of this newsletter at www.asce-pgh.org > News & Events > Newsletters.

The federal government has been taxing our fuel for 82 years. From the beginning, the money was going to things other than roads and bridges. Most Americans favor an increase in the federal motor fuel user fee to adjust for inflation and increased costs from delayed maintenance and construction if the money is actually used to pay to build and maintain our surface transportation system. Many of those Americans oppose an increase because of their distrust of the public policy makers, believing they will vote to use it elsewhere.

The image of 'snake eyes' above resembles a pair of eyes, which is appended to the term 'snake' because of the long-standing association of this word with treachery and betrayal. Because it is the lowest possible roll of the dice, and will often be a loser in many dice games, the term is a reference to bad luck.

So, what kind of luck will Americans have in the next 9 months?

Will your Congressman vote to restore your trust in the Federal government and adjust the user fees we pay to build and maintain our surface transportation system for inflation **double** plus the added cost of deferred action?

Will your Congressman vote to ensure that the user fees you pay are used to build and maintain your transportation system?

How will you vote? Every Congressman is a candidate for re-election on November 4. Your vote is one of an estimated 200,000 construction industry votes in Western Pennsylvania. Your vote counts! A photo of your Congressman is at the bottom of the first page of the May issue of this newsletter. All the candidates in the November 2014 General Election are listed on page 5. The winners in the 2012 General Election and their margins of victory are shown in the December 2012 issue of this newsletter, on the Section website, above.



A recent projection is that only 18 percent of Philadelphia voters will turnout in the November 4 election, but 25% in metropolitan Pittsburgh. Since the Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is 60% larger than the Pittsburgh MSA, the tepid turnout of Philly voters may make each vote in Western Pennsylvania more valuable.

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YMF Travels to UPJ for the 2014 National Concrete Canoe Competition

In June, 2014, the Pittsburgh Younger Member Forum (YMF) sent a team of engineers to volunteer at the National Concrete Canoe Competition hosted by the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ). The event, now in its 26th year, centers around designing, constructing, presenting and racing canoes made of — you guessed it — concrete! This year's competition took place June 19-21, 2014 on the UPJ Campus and nearby Quemahoning Reservoir.


23 teams participated, traveling from as far as Canada, Puerto Rico, and China. The three day affair included technical presentations, a career fair, canoe displays, and an awards ceremony. Designs were judged based on technical paper submissions, oral presentations, overall final product, and culminating in a race against the clock and one another.

YMF Members Mike Zerby, Stephanie Buncich, Jesse Fresch, Lauren Dziagwa, Karen Mueser, Linda Kaplan, Sara Mullaney, Sonya Flournoy, Bill Confair, and Jim Radion helped out by doing everything from keeping time during the races, scoring, setup/breakdown, organizing students, and just cheering the teams on. YMF Past-President Angela Mayer also served as a judge.

The UPJ Team finished in 15th place, with The University of Nevada at Reno paddling their hardest to win the overall competition.

For more information on the National Concrete Canoe Competition, go to <http://www.asce.org/concretecanoe/>.





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CANstruction 2014

For the third year in a row, the Pittsburgh Younger Member Forum teamed with the Keystone-Mountain-Lakes Carpenter's Union to enter the annual CANstruction Pittsburgh competition.

This year's entry "Send Hunger to the Land of Make Believe" was a replica of King Friday the Thirteenth's castle from Mr. Rogers Neighborhood, and was our most ambitious design yet. Constructed over the course of six hours by **Karen Mueser, Linda Kaplan, Paroma Saha and Nicholle Piper** of the YMF and Rick Okraszewski and Dave Plutt of the Carpenter's Union, the castle was eight feet wide, seven feet deep and eight feet tall. The castle was comprised of a black bean curtain wall, a keep made of great northern beans, and towers comprised of pinto beans, garbanzo beans, and chicken and vegetable broth had battlements of sauerkraut and tuna fish - sure to keep out invaders if by the smell alone!



Perhaps the best part of CANstruction is the cause. All of the cans used in the structure were donated to our food bank partner, The Brashear Association, which is located in Pittsburgh's Southside. With more than 2,500 cans of food weighing over 2,200 pounds, the castle will provide many meals for the families of Pittsburgh and we are pleased to be donating so much good food to the members of our community that need it.

While CANstruction is ultimately a food charity, there is a healthy dose of competition between the teams and six awards from the 'Best Use of Labels' to 'Fan Favorite' were up for grabs. This year, "Send Hunger to the Land of Make Believe" won the 2014 award for "Best Meal" for our suggested recipe of a Tuna Salad Sandwich and Four Bean Soup.

We extend special thanks to all who donated to the project including: friends, family, and members of the ASCE Pittsburgh Section, Giant Eagle Parkway Center, Massaro Corporation, Carnegie Mellon University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The Greater Pennsylvania Regional Carpenters Unions, **DiGioia Gray & Associates**, and **American Geotechnical and Environmental Services, Inc.**

For more information on CANstruction please contact team captain **Karen Mueser** of **L. Robert Kimball**, at Karen.mueser@lrkimball.com. You can also check out the CANstruction Pittsburgh website at Pittsburgh.canstruction.org

The Important Candidates asking you to trust them:

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PA House District	
1: Patrick Harkins	<i>unopposed</i>
2: Florindo Fabrizio	<i>unopposed</i>
3: Ryan Bizzarro*	Jason Owen
4: Curtis Sonney	<i>unopposed</i>
5: Greg Lucas*	Jason White
6: Brad Roae	<i>unopposed</i>
8: Richard Stevenson	<i>unopposed</i>
9: Chris Sainato	Jason Murtha
10: Jaret Gibbons	Michael See
11: Brian Ellis	<i>unopposed</i>
12: Daryl Metcalfe	<i>unopposed</i>
14: Jim Marshall	<i>unopposed</i>
17: Michele Brooks	<i>unopposed</i>
19: Jake Wheatley	<i>unopposed</i>
20: Adam Ravenstahl	James Barr
21: Dom Costa	<i>unopposed</i>
22: Erin Mulchany*	Chris Cratsley
23: Dan Frankel	<i>unopposed</i>
24: Edward Gainey*	<i>unopposed</i>
25: Joseph Markosek	Mike Doyle
27: Dan Deasy	<i>unopposed</i>
28: Mike Turzai	<i>unopposed</i>
30: Hal English*	David Tusick
32: Anthony DeLuca	Lawrence Paladin
33: Frank Dermody	Gerry Vaerewyck
34: Paul Costa	<i>unopposed</i>
35: Marc Gergely	<i>unopposed</i>
36: Harry Readshaw	<i>unopposed</i>
38: Bill Kortz	<i>unopposed</i>
40: John Maher	<i>unopposed</i>
42: Matthew Smith	<i>unopposed</i>
44: Mark Mustio	Mark Scappe
45: Nick Kotik	Aaron Kime
46: Jesse White	<i>unopposed</i>
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49: Peter Daley	Richard Massafra
50: Pam Snyder*	Mark Fischer
51: Tim Mahoney	Gary Gearing
52: Deberah Kula	<i>unopposed</i>
54: Eli Evankovich	Patrick Leyland
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56: George Dunbar	Raymond Geissler
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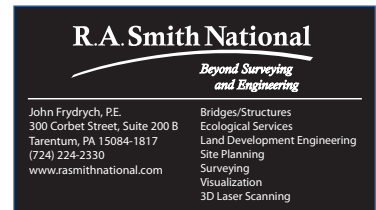
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National Steel Day Tour: Scott Hall Construction Site, CMU



To observe National Steel Day of the American Institute of Steel Construction, (AISC), the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) Pittsburgh Chapter hosted a construction site tour of the Scott Hall project on the Carnegie Mellon University campus.



When finished, this 100^K SF building will house wet and dry laboratories, collaborative and office spaces, a cafe, and a 10^K SF cleanroom facility. This impacted the design of the building significantly as vibration requirements for the cleanroom and laboratory spaces are very strict.

Preceding the tour, a brief overview of the project was presented as well as a look at some of the more unique structural design challenges. The project site sits in the back of CMU's campus on a steep hillside leading down to active railroad tracks. The building is cantilevered out over the hillside and supported on diagonally splayed steel columns. Each column is outfitted with multiple strain gages to allow for continual monitoring of the building. Building floor plans were designed as trusses to resolve all forces from the columns, resulting in unusual framing and connection designs.



The structure is designed to tie into four other campus buildings, creating a connecting hub for many of CMU's engineering departments. To accomplish this, a portion of the building is being constructed under the main campus level in a previous service entrance area. Main campus walkways will then extend over this portion of the structure creating new green roof space. The cleanrooms will be housed in the area under the green roof. Construction is expected to be completed Winter 2015.

Project manager Max Dorosa led the tour with the assistance of project structural engineers Matt Larson and Daniel Brodtkin from Arup USA. For more information on the project, final design renderings, and up-to-date progress photos check out the project website at <http://www.cmu.edu/cdfd/scott-hall/>.

For more information on SEI Pittsburgh Activities, contact **Sonya Flournoy**, at Sonya.Flournoy@lrkimball.com

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Pittsburgh Section Opportunities to Learn and Network

Maintain technical proficiency and current knowledge, and learn what other members, companies, organizations, and lawmakers are doing. **Mark your calendars now.**

Member prices extend to non-member spouses or one guest of member, except as noted by '*'.

October 16, 2014, Thursday, Accelerated Bridge Construction in PA Webinar

October 23, 2014, 2014 Thursday, Terzaghi Lecture

1. PAA
2. Sponsored by Geotechnical Institute.

October 30, 2014, Thursday, EWRI Innovative Disinfection Technologies

1. ESWP
2. Presentation of EPA Pilot Testing by Craig Patterson, P.E. (US EPA)!

November 3, 2014, Monday - Student Skills Workshop: Career Fair 'Speed Dating'

1. CMU Campus, Robert's Hall, Singelton Room. 5pm.
2. filter potential employers/employees quickly and effectively.
3. develop an "elevator pitch" to use at career fairs
4. practice in a mock career fair
5. Contact Jeff Argyros: jeffargyros@gmail.com

November 4, 2014, Tuesday, General election Day

November 18, 2014, Tuesday, Cross-USA lecture

1. Sponsored by Geotechnical Institute
2. Ken Stokoe
3. Gaetano's Restaurant, Banksville Road
4. 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6 pm

December 3, 2014, Wednesday, 2014 ACE Mentoring Session

1. PAA
2. Sponsored by Geotechnical Institute

December 4, 2014, Thursday, December dinner

1. Sponsored by YMF
2. Bill Flanagan, Allegheny Conference on Community Development, speaker
3. At Clear Story Creative Studio, Southside.
4. 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6 pm



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HAVE YOU SEEN THE PITTSBURGH SECTION BLOG – ROCKS ROADS RIPPLES N'AT ?

Pittsburgh's Civil Engineering Weblog (BLOG)

September 2014 will mark the launch of the new ASCE Pittsburgh Section NewsBlog – **Rocks Roads Ripples n'At**. This move is part of a continuing effort to make important information readily accessible, searchable, and interactive for current and future Pittsburgh Section ASCE members, public policy makers, news media, and advertisers. In addition to newsletter information, the Blog will allow for more frequent updates including Government Relations and legislative developments, additional photos of events, personal profiles of members, and other developments of interest to our members. The blog design will also allow for a search by subject or keyword feature, to streamline convenient topical browsing through previous articles. The format encourages comments and discussion on new and archived articles.

You will find **Rocks Roads Ripples n'At** under the 'News' section of the ASCE Pittsburgh website at www.asce-pgh.org. Be sure to check it out!



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