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Richmond Branch - ASCE  
<http://www.ascevirginia.org>

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## The City of Richmond CSO Crossover Chamber *Project Presentation and Tour*

Date: April 28, 2009  
Place: Stool Pigeons  
Time: 11:30 AM  
Costs: \$15.00  
Menu: Option 1: Club sandwich, chips and drink  
Option 2: Chicken BLT wrap, chips and drink  
Option 3: Chef salad and drink  
Option 4: Hot ham and swiss sandwich, chips and drink  
Note: No open toe shoes permitted, a limited number of hard hats will be available so bring one if you have it

Contact Rebecca Nordan at [rnordan@koontzbryant.com](mailto:rnordan@koontzbryant.com) or 740-9200 by noon on April 27, 2009

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) occurs in combined wastewater/ stormwater systems following rain or snow melt events, when flows in the system exceeds the design capacity of the conveyance and treatment works. When this situation occurs in Richmond, all of the excess untreated runoff flows either directly or indirectly to the James River. The City of Richmond has the largest CSO system in the state. The Department of Public Utilities in the City has been working for almost 40 years and invested about \$250 million to reduce the impact of CSO events on the James River.

The Crossover Chamber was added to the Shockoe Retention Facilities in the early 1990's during the floodwall project by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Retention Basin along with the Arch Sewer, Box Sewer, Shockoe Diversion Structures, Diversion Conduits, and Crossover Chamber (COC) comprise a 50 million gallon combined sewer retention system. These facilities capture and retain the first flush from the combined sewer system during wet weather events. The retained flow is subsequently conveyed to the Richmond Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment.

The Shockoe Bottom Crossover Chamber Separation Project will have both environmental and flood control benefits. As previously configured, the Shockoe system either allowed combined sewage flows to divert to the Shockoe Retention Basin or allowed interior overland flooding to drain to the river, but was not able to simultaneously perform both functions. Operating the multiple large gates required to switch from the pollution control mode to the interior flood control mode was time consuming and resulted in the discharge of about 600,000 gallons of combined sewage from the crossover chamber to the James River. An additional benefit of this project will be the creation of a passive overflow relief from the Shockoe Box Sewer to the East Gravity Outlet channel which would not have been feasible before the separation of the crossover chamber.

Richmond Department of Public Utilities engineer Robert Stone will be presenting information on this project over lunch. Mr. Stone has been with the Department of Public Utilities since 1991. He has managed numerous major water, wastewater and CSO capital improvement projects. After lunch we will take a brief tour of the construction project in across the street here in Shockoe Bottom.

## A Message from the President

By Bryan Stevenson



April is not normally the time that we have revisions to the officers but with our recent departures, people have volunteered to fill some shoes. A big “thank you” goes out to:

- Amanda Harmon who is now serving as the Active Treasurer/Secretary.
- Denise Nelson who is serving as the new Young Member chair.

The above two along with Education Chair Mike Howell, University Liaison Craig Ponte and Branch Officers recently had a successful Board of Directors meeting. Among the topics we discussed:

- Meeting ideas and topics for the close of this year and next year
- Ways to serve the membership better including offering single site ASCE webinar broadcasts
- This year’s upcoming golf tournament
- Things we can improve on in the upcoming year

In the next few months you will get to meet members of the board in an upcoming new feature in our newsletter.

We have positions available on the board and would love to have you involved. Let us know if you are interested and, as always, let us know how we can do our job better. Contact me at 804-330-8040 or [bryan.stevenson@aesva.com](mailto:bryan.stevenson@aesva.com).

I attended the Region 4 Governors conference in Indianapolis last month and had the pleasure of meeting officers from other areas in the Region. Region 4 includes Sections and branches from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Indiana and Virginia. The Region is our opportunity to directly contact National. Among our discussion topics were each state’s infrastructure Report Card. The Virginia Section is currently in the process of compiling our Commonwealth’s Report Card which should be released this fall.

If you haven’t had a chance, check out <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/> for the very well produced website dedicated to the 2009 version of the Report Card for America’s Infrastructure.

## Yes, We are having the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual ASCE Golf Tournament and Picnic

The annual Golf Tournament and Picnic will be in October this year. The tournament, hosted by the Young Member, group is a fundraiser for the Branch's ASCE Civil Engineering Scholarship Fund at UVA. Craig Ponte will be leading the efforts for this year's tournament and he could use your help. Contact Craig at [CPonte@ammann-whitney.com](mailto:CPonte@ammann-whitney.com) or 804-262-5111 if you are interested in being involved.

## Things You May Have Missed Online...

Here are a few things from ASCE online that you may have missed:

- The *Insights* podcast - started in February, this monthly podcast features perspectives and insights from civil engineering industry leaders. Episodes to date have featured Smithsonian Institute Secretary Dr. G. Wayne Clough, PE, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations Vice Admiral Mike Loose and CEO of Pankow Operating Rik Kunnath.  
<http://insights.asce.org/>
- *Our Failing Infrastructure* blog- started last year by the ASCE Government Relations office, this blog is for "news update, commentary and opinion section, sounding board.... and whatever else is going on in policy and current events." Topics since the beginning of this year have focused primarily on the topics relative to the Report Card on America's Infrastructure and relative political action.  
<http://blogs.asce.org/govrel/>  
(note: *Government relations* also has a Facebook group page called *Saving America's Infrastructure*)
- Online versions of Publications- Several publications are available on line including *Civil Engineering* magazine, *ASCE News* and a massive "for pay" research database all accompanied with easy to use search capabilities.  
<http://www.pubs.asce.org/>
- *President's Blog*- started under 2008 president David Mongan, this blog is a weekly reflection from the national President.  
<http://blogs.asce.org/president2009/>

## Virginia Tech Civil Engineer Alum to Honor Department Head

A reception will be held in Richmond on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Europa in Shockoe Bottom to honor retiring Civil and Environmental Engineering department head William Knocke. William (Bill) Knocke has guided the Charles E. Via Jr. Department of CEE for the last 15 years. Knocke, whose specialty is water and wastewater treatment, has been part of the Tech faculty since 1979 and will continue with the school as a professor. The Virginia Section honored Knocke with the 2008 Virginia Outstanding Civil Engineer Award last October for his contributions over the last 30 years. Knocke was also a past recipient of the ASCE Walter Huber National Research Prize for notable achievements in research related to Civil Engineering.

Those interested in attending should contact Estela Moen at 540-231-0981 or [epmoen@vt.edu](mailto:epmoen@vt.edu) by April 24, 2009.

## Newsletter Sponsors – Thank You



Support your branch! Would you like to advertise your company's logo in next month's issue? The cost is \$10 (checks only, made payable to ASCE Richmond Branch). Contact any board member for details.

Did you know there are over 200 active members of the Richmond Branch! Do you have something to say? Would you like to contribute an article? Let's hear from you, and maybe your thoughts will be in the next newsletter. Contact Bryan Stevenson at 330-8040.