
POLISH-AMERICAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED



IN 1934

1 Watergate Drive South Barrington Illinois 60010, USA • www.polishengineers.org

All members and friends of Polish-American Engineers Association are cordially invited to attend our meeting.

DATE: Friday, May 15th 2015

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Copernicus Center
Kings Hall
5216 W. Lawrence Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

SPEAKER: Doug West, PE
Senior Resident Project Manager
Alfred Benesch & Company

TOPIC: 130th & Torrence Avenue Railroad Bridge



Doug West, PE

Doug West, PE, serves as Senior Resident Project Manager at Alfred Benesch & Company, with more than three decades of experience in interstate highway design and construction management. He specializes in managing project staff, coordinating sub-consultant efforts and reviewing project documentation for numerous large-scale projects involving highway reconstruction, roadway and bridge work. Doug has successfully led projects for clients on the local and state levels, including the Chicago

Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation and Illinois State Toll Highway Authority.

Currently, he is leading construction management as the Project Manager for the 130th & Torrence Avenue project, a high-profile, \$101 million, and three-tiered grade separation and intersection reconfiguration on Chicago's south side. This contract entails a complex mix of roadway, railroad and structural improvements, most notably the installation of a new 394-foot, 4.75-million-pound steel railroad through truss bridge – believed to be the first of its kind ever rolled into place using Self-Propelled Modular Transporters (SPMTs).

ABSTRACT



Background: An industrial area just east of the Calumet River, located in the south side of Chicago, consists of three major streets: 130th Street; Torrence Avenue; and Brainard Avenue. There are two major railroad crossings: Norfolk Southern (NS) Railroad, at 130th and Torrence Avenue; and a commuter rail, CSS&SB/NICTD, that crosses over the NS at Torrence Avenue. The project proposed to eliminate traffic delays by grade separating the NS railroad at 130th Street and Torrence Avenue and to improve traffic flow by realigning 130th Street. There are three separate railroad grade separation structures in this project.

Scope: During Phase I, various alternatives were examined to grade separate railroad traffic from vehicular traffic. In the end, an underpass alternative was selected as the preferred alternate that met the project needs. With a depressed roadway, alternative solutions for the railroad bridge types were developed and evaluated against the project needs. Benesch prepared TS&Ls for the preferred alternatives for the new railroad structures which included two three-track, two span, ballasted deck plate girder railroad bridges carrying the NS tracks over the depressed 130th Street and Torrence Avenue. Additionally, the project required the reconstruction and realignment of the CSS&SB railroad bridge over



Torrence Avenue. A 394-foot long, double track, ballasted deck, through truss bridge was also constructed as a part of this project. This structure spans over existing NS tracks, as well as their future alignment, with minimal impact to the existing rail line. This bridge, the widened portion of Torrence Avenue, and the CSS&SB/NICTD plate girder approach spans was constructed on an offset alignment. During Phase II, Benesch developed alternatives for the assembly and erection of the truss span over the existing NS tracks. The preferred alternate required the truss assembly to occur on-site and then have it rolled it into place using self-propelled modular transporters. Benesch prepared Phase II documents for the project, which included final construction plans, detailed specifications and a cost estimate.

PAEA Announcements

Close to 45 members and sympathizers participated in the **May 3rd Parade**. It was tremendous tribute and also showed the strength of the organization. Weather cooperated and we all felt that the new parade route along Dearborn was a better and more convenient route than previous Columbus Drive route. About thirty members joined us for the traditional post parade pizza and beverage integration. Pre-parade Brunch featured Mike Krzyzewski, celebrated coach of Duke University Blue Devils basketball team and twice Coach of US Olympic team.



Our [annual picnic](#) is scheduled for June 27th. Save the date and start training for the volleyball and soccer games.

We are approaching **PAEA's biennial elections**. Candidates will be identified and elections will be scheduled for **June 2015** with the new administration assuming their responsibilities in September 2015. The Nominating Committee consisting of Roman Poplawski, Janusz Kulczuga and Pawel Pacocha is requested to develop slate of candidates for the 2015-2017 administrative year.

Likewise the **Auditing Committee**, consisting of Stanley Witzzak, Ewa Mroczek and Ed Staruk, should convene a review of the financial statements for the past two years.

Beyond the administration, the election will identify a new **Board of Directors**.

Please continue to publicize the **Ralph Modjeski Scholarship**. The deadline for applications is **May 30th**. The award will be maintained at \$750. Winner (s) will be announced in September.

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES. Please note that the dues schedule for 2015 has not changed. **Dues are \$50 per year, senior citizens and students \$25 per year.** We strongly encourage you to pay your dues in January or, if not possible, in February. 2015 membership cards will be provided to all those who paid their dues. Questions? You may inquire at the meeting or send an email to: paea.members@gmail.com

You may send your dues directly to our Treasurer:

Mr. Richard Kaczmarek
1725 S. Crescent
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Special Interest



New Exhibition: *Between the Lines, Poland 1974-1990*. Photographs by Stanisław Kulawiak and Creative Group SEM

WHAT: An exhibit of black and white photographs of everyday life in Poland from 1974-1990 by Polish photojournalist Stanisław Kulawiak and an installation of images of food lines in 1970s Communist Poland by Creative Group SEM (Z. Bzdak, S. Kulawiak, J. Ochoński, A. Rzepecki, K. Wolski).

Additional information: <http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org/exhibit-between-the-lines-poland-1974-1990/>

WHEN: **Opening Reception: Saturday, May 16th, 6 pm**

WHERE: **The Polish Museum of America**
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642

COST: Opening Reception with refreshments and entertainment: Adults - \$10;
Members - \$5 (with membership card)



The Polish Museum of America

requests the pleasure of your company
at its

35th Summer Ball

Friday, June 5, 2015

Galleria Marchetti

825 West Erie Street | Chicago, Illinois 60622



The Polish Museum of America

proudly presents

THE 2015 POLISH SPIRIT AWARD

to

GIFT FROM THE HEART FOUNDATION

and

SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN - CHICAGO

Black Tie

Cocktails 7:00 p.m.

Dinner 8:00 p.m.

Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra

For more information on the Polish Museum of America, including on upcoming events, please visit

<http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org/>

www.polishengineers.org