



Association for Bridge Construction and Design

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER



HOME	BOARD OF DIRECTORS	CALENDAR OF EVENTS	HISTORY
MEMBERSHIP	CORPORATE SPONSORS	BRIDGE AWARD	INSTRUCTIONAL COURSES
STUDENT OUTREACH	CAREER DEVELOPMENT	PHOTO ARCHIVE	RESOURCE LINKS

HALL OF HONOREES

Phillip F. Frandina, P.E. was Erie County Commissioner of Public Works in 1978 when he began communications with the Pittsburgh Chapter and began organization of the Buffalo Area Chapter. In the years that followed, Phil was a very large part of the reason the organization remained active and flourished. His leadership and guidance set the organization on its feet, and steered it to what has become a very special 25 years. Phil's and his wife Mary Lou reside in Buffalo. Phil remains active in Frandina Engineering in Buffalo.

Robert H. Henley has the undisputed title of having the most officerships in the organization. With this year's election, he is beginning his 26th consecutive year as the organization's first and only treasurer. To those of us past presidents who have had the opportunity to work with him, we can only speak with highest regard on his consistent and dedicated attitude. Bob may have never sought the spotlight, but his contribution to ABCD is difficult to match. Bob and his wife Jean have recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Bob and Northeast Caissons remain synonymous.

Fredrick P. Meli, P.E. is largely credited with taking an already successful association and carrying it to that next level of maturity. He originated the now famous fall workshop, and provided countless other ideas and initiatives to build the organization, including providing seed money to other chapters, and initiating sponsorship of the Statewide Conference on Local Bridges. He is affectionately known by all as "Father Fred", and is not afraid to carry his pride of God and Country on his sleeve. Fred and his wife Joanne make their home in Tonawanda, where he enjoys opera and reminisces on his productive Thruway Authority career. He spent time with FEMA organizing the cleanup of the aftermath of 9/11 in New York City.

Ralph F. Abate, P.E. not only ran the first student bridge contests in Main Place Mall, but continues to run the Buffalo Contest today. His guidance has helped countless students to share in the joys of engineering, and fellowship of achievement for their school. He is married to his wonderful wife Barbara, and continues as principal of Abate Engineering.

Stanley J. Blas Jr. took the opportunity to build the early bridge testing machine, and helped immensely over the years in running the Bridge Contest. He now enjoys the fruits of his labor as an ABCD President. He is President of SJB Services, Inc.

John Loffredo, P.E. worked largely behind the scenes of the early Association. His hard work at organizing early dinner meetings helped the fledgling organization remain fruitful and grow. He is former City of Buffalo DPW and Erie County DPW Commissioner.

Sam Anthony P.E. is largely credited with expanding the membership into the Rochester community, and for starting the now revered Bridge Award. He is an associate with Erdman Anthony Associates.

Carmen Garozzo has been responsible for carrying out the duties of the Bridge Award since its inception. Carmen is a project manager with Wendel-Duscherer Engineers.

Stuart S. Chen, Ph.D., P.E. brought the University perspective to the Association. His insightful ideas and willingness to bring the Association to the University has enriched many. He is a research professor in UB's Civil Engineering Department.

Gerard M. Kapsiak, P.E. and **Joseph S. Logan, Jr., P.E.** both share the distinction of serving two terms as Association President. Their continued long term service and devotion to the organization has not gone unappreciated. Mr. Kapsiak is the Town of Hamburg Engineer. Mr. Logan is an associate with Fisher Associates.