

NEWS BULLETIN

AN ASSOCIATION OF INDIVIDUALS



OF THE MOLES

ENGAGED IN HEAVY CONSTRUCTION

HOLING

THROUGH

SEPTEMBER, 2020

THE MOLES TRADITIONAL SCHEDULE DISRUPTED by the CORONA VIRUS January 2021 Moles Awards Dinner Cancelled!

The Moles organization established in 1937, has seen the “best of times and the worst of times” but despite highs and lows, The Moles have stayed true to tradition and maintained their annual schedule of meetings and gatherings. The only exception was when the Clambake events were cancelled for several years during World War II because government-mandated gasoline rationing prevented members from driving to the Long Island venue.

Fast forward to the year 2020, our Awards Dinner was held on January 28, 2020 with nearly 2000 attendees present. Shortly thereafter in late February of 2020, Moles members and their spouses gathered in Boca Raton for a pleasant extended weekend of relaxation and returned home on March 1st.

The next event many members were looking forward to was the GCA/Moles combined St Patrick’s Party to support the Mike McHugh Scholarship fund scheduled for Friday, March 13th at Club 101. Even though we all witnessed it, it is hard to imagine how quickly and drastically our world changed during the first two weeks of March 2020. As you surely recall, even the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, continuously held annually since the year 1762 AD was cancelled on March 11th by Governor Cuomo. Since those notorious weeks in March, out of an abundance of caution (a phrase heard over and over during the last 6 months), The Moles cancelled all of its traditional events, limiting activity to a few committee meetings held virtually.

Looking forward into the Fall of 2020, we plan on having our Fall Members Meeting in early November virtually utilizing the Zoom format. Realistically, it will pale in comparison to an in-person meeting, but it is a start on our road back to normalcy. New member Adam Wallach from Weeks Marine, Inc. and Rick Ellman from Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers will provide a technical lecture on the unique Pier 55 project known as “Little Island” being built in NYC. Additional information will be sent out shortly and we hope you will join in remotely!

Most disappointing, the January Moles Awards Dinner, you know the one where the pre-cocktail party is so crowded that even if social distancing guidelines required only a one

foot separation, we would still not be in compliance, will be cancelled this January for the first time since 1941. It pains me to be the bearer of such disturbing news and I only hope that the pandemic will be so far in our rear-view mirror by then that I will get a flood of emails criticizing the decision to cancel! That scenario would be wonderful, but without the non-partisan intervention of our Fairy Godmothers (Ha-ha), I think the decision to cancel will prove to be prudent and our only option.

In early May of 2021, rational thinking by our trained engineering minds leads us to be confident to be able to host our May Business Dinner **live and in person**, even if we hold it in a non-NY City location utilizing an outdoor venue. The meeting will involve the induction of Gary Almeraris as our President along with new Moles Officers and Trustees, the introduction of both the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021 new Moles members, the presentation of the Ralph Atwater Award, the honoring of 50- and 40- year members and also a hell of a lot of “Catching Up” with your other Moles members!

Until then, Stay Safe and be Well.

Tom Groark
Executive Director



Welcome New Members !

The Moles welcomes **Jeremy D. Billig**, current President of the McLaren Engineering Group. Jeremy is a registered P.E. in ten states and has extensive experience on numerous major projects in the Tri-State area. Examples of these projects include such unique projects as the Rockefeller University building expansion over the FDR highway and the Pulaski Skyway viaduct and roadway rehabilitation. Jeremy is a Cornell University grad and resides in Westchester County, N.Y.



Marco D. Boscardin, Ph.D, PE, DGE, F. ASCE, has worked on numerous tunnels, dams, major bridge and industrial facilities, specializing in geotechnical and geo-structural engineering during his 40-year career. Marco is currently the President of Boscardin Consulting Group based in Amherst, MA. Marco received his BSCE from MIT and MSCE (Geotechnical) and Ph.D from the University of Illinois at Urbana.



Jack E. Brockway PE is the President and CEO of Herrenknecht Tunneling Systems USA Inc, the tunnel boring machine supplier for many of the major tunneling projects managed by Moles members and is regarded as an expert in the engineering and manufacturing of TBMs. Jack was the recipient of the 2020 *Golden Beaver Award - Service and Supply*. Jack resides in the State of Washington, where he received a BS-Aeronautics and Astronautics from the University of Washington.

Michael P. Bruen PMP, PG, LEG, is Vice President of Stantec Consulting Services following its acquisition of Harza Engineering, where Michael served as their Senior Tunnel Specialist focusing on hard rock and soft ground projects. His experience goes back to the 70's Chicago TARP project, a ring of storm water storage tunnels around the city. Michael recently was involved in a very similar TARP Project located in Dubai.



E. Richard Capps Jr., a P.E. registered in NC, SC and VA, is the Southeast Regional Sr. V.P. for STV Incorporated, located in Charlotte, NC. Over his 30-year career, Richard managed a wide range of highway and complicated Interchange projects many of which were delivered efficiently using the Design/Build method. Richard is active in industry associations including ASCE, ASHE, ACEC and ARTBA.

Andrejs M. Delle PE is a Project Executive and Chief Estimator for the Walsh Construction Company located in Little Falls, NJ. With 30 years of experience, Andrejs has managed numerous projects in the NY Metropolitan Area such as MTA projects at South Ferry, 2nd Ave Subway and the 207th Street Rail Yard Rehabilitation in addition to the major LaGuardia Airport Reconstruction for the Port Authority.



Amanda Elioff PE brings her expertise and experience relating almost exclusively to tunneling operations as she is inducted into The Moles. A VP with WSP USA, Amanda is currently working on the Westside Purple Line of the L.A. Subway. Amanda is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a BS and MS in Civil Engineering.

Stephen A. Famularo PE is the Vice President of Marine Services at McLaren Engineering. An experienced diver himself, Stephen has become a premier figure in marine engineering particularly in the greater New York area. Following Superstorm Sandy, Stephen led the Disaster Recovery inspection operations for the City of New York by leading inspections of all NYCEDC facilities in downtown New York City. Stephen holds a BSCE from Manhattan College and a MSCE (Coastal Concentration) from the University of California at Berkeley.



Conrad W. Felice Ph.D, PE, P.Eng., D.GE, F.ASCE is currently the Geotechnical Manager for both the Washington State DOT \$2.5 Billion I-405 Corridor and 509 Gateway Design-Build programs. During his over 40-year career, Conrad has designed and provided construction engineering for signature long-span bridges, dams and offshore platforms, underground military, transit, waste water and hydroelectric facilities. Conrad is a registered P.E. in 17 states and 4 provinces in Canada, a DFI Trustee and active in both the NAC and ASCE.

Michael M. Foley is Vice President of Barletta Engineering Corp / Heavy Construction Division. Mike oversees all aspects of Estimating through Construction Operations for Barletta. He has been the driving force on major transit, highway, bridge and wastewater projects in the greater Boston area. A graduate of WPI, Mike has already assisted the Moles Education Committee during their initial Boston Area Student Day Tour of the Green Line Extension project.



Gregory W. Hallett is a Senior Vice President at the Normet Group, a mining equipment manufacturer based in Salt Lake City, UT. Previously as Project Manager for Sandvik Mining and Construction, he worked on the Eastside Access Tunnel Project in NYC. Gregory co-authored a paper with Eric Jordan, *Roadheader Excavation in Hard Rock*. It was through the use of roadheaders which allowed the excavation of the tunnel intersections and caverns to proceed eliminat-



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Meet the Class of 2020!

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ing the detrimental effects of conventional blasting on the Grand Central complex, along with the numerous skyscrapers, above the project's Right of Way.

Jason Hardell PE is the V.P. of Operations with the George Harms Construction Co. and has worked on all aspects of heavy construction including drilled shafts, marine construction, foundation, pile driving as well as support of excavation. Jason is active in DFI and has authored a paper on drilled shafts for the Route 35 Victory Bridge Project. Jason graduated with a BSCE from Virginia Tech in 2001 and is a 2nd generation Moles member, joining his father Tom.



Scott W. Hoffman PE, is a Project Manager at Skanska USA Civil, whose experience in the heavy construction industry is extensive and very impressive despite only graduating from Brooklyn Poly in 1997 and Columbia University (MSCE) in 2006. Scott has established his expertise working on such major projects as the 7 Line Extension, D C Water Tunnels, 2nd Ave Subway, Boston Central Artery and currently the \$4 Billion LaGuardia Airport Terminal B Redevelopment program. Scott's application for Moles membership was supported by many long-time dedicated Moles members.



Charles Huynh is the Project Manager/Chief Estimator - Eastern District for Keller North America, f/k/a Case Foundation Company. Charles has worked on numerous deep foundation projects in the Northeast such as the 2nd Avenue Subway, the new Tappan Zee Bridge, Hudson Yards, and the LaFarge cement plant modernization project in Manhattan. Charles received his BSCE from Lehigh in 1998 and his MBA from Temple Univ. in 2006.

John Kaplin CCM, PG is McMillen Jacobs Associates' California Regional Manager and VP who oversees all business and operational aspects for the San Francisco Bay Area, L.A. and San Diego projects. He has 30 years' experience in geotechnical investigations, design and construction management on heavy civil projects. John serves on the Board of Directors of McMillen Jacobs Associates and is a member of UCA of SME and CMAA. John received both his BS and MS in Geology from Colorado State University.

The Moles welcome **Paul A. Koch** PE to our 2020 Class of new members. Paul is V.P. of Operations and Estimating at Skanska Koch (formerly Karl Koch Erecting Co). Paul is a major component of a company, well known for its efficiency in completing projects. In 1967 Karl Koch Erecting was awarded the entire steel erection contract for both towers of the World Trade Center. In 1993, the company assisted in the recovery following the bombing and once again returned to the site in 2001 to assist in the collapsed debris removal and the subsequent total rebuilding of the WTC site. Paul is a Board member of the ACCNJ.

Steven R. Kramer PE F.ASCE, a Senior Vice president of COWI North America, has over 35 years' experience leading diverse groups and developing strategies to successfully complete major infrastructure projects. Often invited to speak at industry conferences, Steven has published over 90 technical papers and is co-author of the book, *Introduction to Trenchless Technology*. Steve was recently honored by his alma mater, Washington University, with their 2016 *Engineering Alumni Achievement Award*.



Christopher J. Leykam PE is the Chief Operating Officer of J.T. Cleary Inc. (part of the Tully Group). Chris has extensive Heavy Construction and Marine Construction experience. Previously, Chris managed the extremely challenging marine-based operation of the Float Out/ Float In for the Willis Ave. Bridge replacement. Chris holds a BSCE from UNH and received his MSCE from NYU Tandon School in 2010.

Paul H. Madsen is a prominent and well-respected manager for Kiewit Infrastructure Co. specializing in tunneling operations. Paul has been a part of such major tunneling projects such as the Montreal Subway, NYC subway, California's Devil Slide Tunnel, Dulles Airport's Utility Tunnel and a major tunnel project in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Paul is active in the UCA of SME and its George Fox Conference. Paul received his MSc. Soil & Rock Mechanics from Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.



Richard P. Palmer PE, a Vice President at Weeks Marine, has over thirty years of industry experience, most recently associated with the Pier 55 Project in NYC as the Project Executive and as Project Director/On-site Manager on the first offshore North American wind project- the Block Island Offshore Wind Farm Foundation contract. Richard is an alumnus of Cornell University (BS Agricultural Engineering '85) and Texas A&M University (MSCE '88).

Marcie B. Shavel is the Owner and President of Coastal Steel Construction of NJ, LLC, a company specializing in the installation of reinforcing steel on heavy/highway sector throughout the State of New Jersey. A graduate of RPI, Marci initially worked at Slattery Skanska for many years as a Project Director before starting her specialty subcontracting company in 2000.

Houssam H. "Sam" Sleiman PE, CCM, FCMAA, Hon.D.Eng presently the Director of Capital Programs and Environmental Affairs at the Massachusetts Port Authority, is a graduate of Northeastern University (BSCE '83, MSCE '85). Sam has over 30 years' experience in the Heavy Construction Industry, where he has managed numerous transportation infrastructure-related projects such as the



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Meet the Class of 2020

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Third Boston Harbor Tunnel construction on Logan Airport property in addition to passenger terminal and airfield improvements. Sam was inducted into the National Academy of Construction in 2016.



Peter A. Spath Jr. is currently with Loureiro Contractors in Plainville, CT and formerly a V.P. of Construction with The Middlesex Corporation. Peter has nearly 30 years' experience in various technical positions including design, estimating, construction field operations and executive project management. Peter received his BSCE from the University of New Haven in 1998.

Jeff Taylor PE was the Project Executive on a MBTA project for GLX Constructors, a JV of Flour, Balfour Beatty, Herzog and the Middlesex Corporation, constructing a \$1 Billion Design-Build contract to extend the MBTA Green Line. Previously he served as the Deputy Project Director for the \$2 Billion WMATA Purple Line Light Rail Project between Bethesda and Carrollton outside Washington D.C. Jeff recently joined Transurban, relocating to Virginia in the process. Jeff earned his BSCE from the Virginia Military Institute in 1998.

Adam D. Wallach PE is a Project Manager for Weeks Marine, Inc., assigned to the unique Pier 55 Project on the West side of Manhattan, the soon to be completed, iconic park design over the Hudson River that will be known as "Little Island". Previously, Adam lead the Weeks Marine pile installation and pile protection scope of the New Tappan Zee Bridge recently renamed the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. Adam earned his BS in Structural Design from Cornell University.



Eric C. Wang PE has 30 years' experience on heavy civil underground projects including the L.A. Metro, Bay area Rapid Transit, WMATA projects, the WTC reconstruction effort and the MTA East Side Access Manhattan Tunnels and Cavern Contracts. An Associate Vice President of HNTB, Eric also promotes geotechnical organizations such as the UCA of SME, ASCE Geo-Institute Tech Committee and is an instructor in Breakthroughs in Tunneling.



The new members of the Class of 2020 will be formally recognized at the Annual May Members Dinner and Business Meeting.

New Member Applications Notice:

Historically there have been periods when available open slots for new Moles members were very scarce. Currently however, due to some of our senior members retiring and transferring to Emeritus status, there are a substantial number of open slots in all three membership categories. It may be an optimum time to propose an associate that you believe is deserving of Moles membership.

To propose an individual involved in the Heavy Construction industry for membership into The Moles the process is relatively straight forward:

- Download and complete the Candidate for Membership application from The Moles Website's Members-only section
- Request 5 fellow Moles members to submit supporting letters for the applicant's membership application (see website for instructions)
- Follow-up with The Moles office to ensure all documents including a two-page resumé and supporting letters have been received prior to the January 15th cutoff date. The Membership Committee will review and act on all applications received during the months of February and March. Following approval by the Executive Committee in April, we will introduce and welcome those selected to join the 2021 Class of new Moles members at our May Members Annual Business Dinner.

Please feel free to contact the Moles office with any questions.

CALENDAR EVENTS

November 4, 2020 - Members Dinner – Virtual via Zoom

January 27, 2021 – Moles Awards Dinner **CANCELLED**

Feb. 25th thru Feb. 28th 2021 (tentative) – Moles Winter Meeting in Boca Raton, Florida

May 2021 – Members Business Dinner – In person with Zoom participation optional - New Officers Inducted, 2020 & 2021 New Members Inducted, Ralph Atwater Award presented, Recognition of 50 and 40-Year Members

November 2021 – Fall Members Dinner - In person with Zoom participation optional - Announce 2022 Outstanding Achievement in Construction Award Winners and Recognition of 25-Year Members

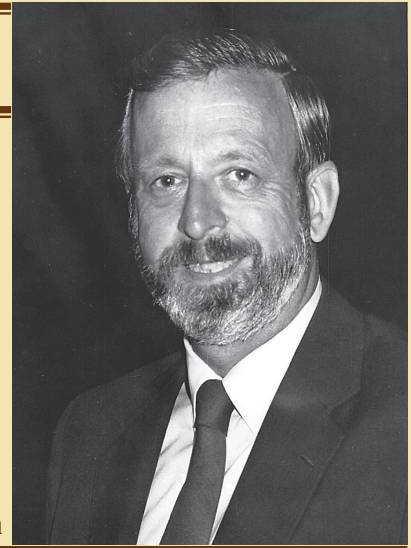
January 2022 – Moles Award Dinner - Presentation of Member and Non-Member Winners of the 2022 Outstanding Achievement in Construction.

Check the Moles website Calendar for updates!

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Life Member **Daniel P. McGeehan** passed in February 2019 at the age of 90. A Moles member since 1979, Dan held executive positions in the cement industry and was Vice President for the Atlantic Cement Company for many years. Dan knew well the heavy construction industry's cement needs and supported many Moles' companies for their cement supplies.

Life Member **Rudi van Leeuwen** (pictured at right), a well-known and very active member of The Moles, died in April of 2019. Tragically, Rudi and his wife Elsa of 59 years, died on the exact same day. To those who knew him, he will always be remembered for his genuine love of our industry, for his gracious manner and Dutch accent as he greeted nearly everyone in attendance at Moles meetings since his induction in 1970.



Rudi van Leeuwen

Members in the News

The Moles' President-Elect, **Gary Almeraris**, was recently recognized by the Underground Construction Association (UCA) of SME with their *Outstanding Individual Award*. The Award recognized Gary's 40-year career in the underground construction industry. Gary is the VP of Operations for Skanska USA Civil headquartered in Queens, NY. But if you know Gary, he is known to be seen magically coming out of tunnel shafts anywhere around the planet – no one has ever come close to whacking him in the real-life Whack-A-Mole Challenge and probably never will! Congratulations Gary!

UCA also awarded Moles Members, **Henry A. Russell Jr.** and **George Williamson** with the UCA *Lifetime Achievement Awards* for their outstanding careers in the tunneling industry. Henry Russell currently is the Mott McDonald Principal Tunneling Engineer and V.P., while George Williamson is V.P. of Traylor Brothers Inc. Underground Division. Congratulations to both of these experienced Moles Members! Maybe in their spare time, either Henry or

George can finally score some points on catching Gary in the real life Whack-A-Mole Challenge.

Andy Ciancia, Chairman of the Board and Managing Principal of Langan Engineering and University Senior Lecturer at NJIT, has been invited to join the National Academy of Construction and will be inducted in their national convention in October. Andy is the 44th Moles member who is also a member of NAC.

Speaking of Moles members who are also members of the NAC, **Mal McLaren**, CEO and Founder of McLaren Engineering Group, has been named the *Entrepreneur of the Year 2020* by ASCE. McLaren Engineering Group has been involved with over 15,000 engineering projects spanning various construction segments including Marine Engineering. Congratulations to Mal, maybe now you can buy one of those expensive and very fast McLaren race cars that are named after you!

I AM AN ENGINEER

"I take a challenging dream and apply to it the knowledge of science and mathematics. I add to these the heritage of my profession and my understanding of God's unfailing laws. With these ingredients I create a new design.

"I organize the efforts and skills of my fellow-men, undergirding them with the capital of the thrifty and the technology of the specialist. From far and near I bring together many products created or developed by skilled and dedicated hands.

"I expend myself toward the achievement of the dream; combating the doubters, the hazards of nature, and a multitude of other obstacles — seen and unseen. I venture on toward new horizons — pioneering in virgin explorations.

"And, when I realize the fulfillment of the dream, I know my efforts have been for the convenience, comfort and welfare of all mankind. By working with the revealed laws of God, I have glorified Him without Whom I could do nothing.

"I have served God and mankind when I have brought into reality my highest hopes and dreams of service. Although my life is but a rivet in the bridge of time across which children of a hundred generations hence may walk, because I have been true to my profession, they shall walk unafraid.

"Yes, I am an engineer!"

From the Archives

Sixty years ago, the tribute at left appeared in the April 1960 edition of *Holing Through*. They were spoken by Reverend Leroy Davis at the funeral services for Grover Denny, a project manager for Merritt-Chapman & Scott and a pioneer in the trench tunnel method. Grover supervised the building of massive deep-water foundations of Michigan's Mackinac Bridge, some as deep as 215 ft under water and the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel.



Kayaking in Old Lyme, Connecticut

On September 1st, a group of Moles and their guests met at Black Hall Outfitters in Old Lyme, CT for a short kayak trip followed by a water-side, outdoor lunch at the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club in Essex.

The small-group social was a test run of sorts, since The Moles are used to hosting large-scale events with hundreds in attendance. Set for August 4th, the original date of the cancelled Clam-bake, Hurricane Isaias quickly squashed those plans as the area took a direct hit resulting in power outages throughout the Tri-State area. Perhaps The Moles were lucky to not have had the Clam-bake this year!



Holing Through is published by The Moles three times a year. Please e-mail newsworthy updates to: Executive Director and Editor of *Holing Through*: Thomas J. Groark, P.E. tgroark@themoles.net. The Moles office is located at 50 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Suite 102, Montvale, NJ 07645. Office: (201) 930-1923 or Tom's mobile: (201) 407-1959. The Moles website, www.themoles.net, is a valuable resource for staying connected; view current calendar events, additional photos in the photo gallery and members directory, as well as archived copies of *Holing Through*!