



WISCONSIN SECTION

Fox River Valley Branch

Fox River Valley Branch Newsletter Fall 2021

2020-2021 President's Message

Dear ASCE Fox River Valley Branch,

Welcome to another exciting year of ASCE in the Northeast region of Wisconsin. I am honored and delighted to serve you this year as President. I am grateful for our branch board and our members over the last year as we transitioned to virtual meetings. We plan to continue virtual through the end of 2021 and reevaluate at the beginning of the 2022. It is our hope that we can resume in person events soon as long as it is safe to do so or offer a hybrid option. We are working hard preparing great activities and presentations for you to enjoy in the next year. I hope you will be able to participate in the upcoming events whether in person or virtually. If there is a meeting topic or idea you would like to share, please email ascefrv@gmail.com.



We have welcomed a new member to our board and two new members to lead the Younger Member Group. A huge thank you to Seth Johnson for leading the YMG for many years and passing the baton onto Sam Bienenam and Jared Omernik. To learn more about our branch board and the YMG leaders check out their bios below. The Younger Member Group is also highlighted further in this newsletter.

The branch will be hosting the 2022 Annual Conference in the Fall of 2022. This conference will showcase the Northeast region of Wisconsin. The board is looking forward to this conference and seeking a conference co-chair and members to help plan and execute this wonderful event.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe, healthy, and happy. I wish you the best as we move into the Holiday season. Please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the branch officers should you have questions, comments, or ways we can improve our branch offerings to you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Liimatta, P.E.
2021-2022 FRV Branch President

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Meet Your 2020-2021 Branch Officers

The new Fox River Valley Branch officers began their new positions in September. Their term will last one year and are completely voluntary. If you are interested in a branch leadership position, please reach out to any of the officers below. We have two new volunteers serving as co-leaders for the Younger Member Group (YMG) and branch liaison to the ASCE student chapter at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay.

Each officer and YMG leader were asked to provide a brief bio about themselves as well as answer the question *“Who inspired you to have the career you have today?”*

President – Jennifer Liimatta, P.E.

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My ASCE journey started after college when I moved to the Green Bay area from Grand Rapids, Michigan. In the past eight years I have developed many great relationships and have enjoyed connecting with our members while seeing many great civil engineering feats in the Northeast Wisconsin area. My professional background ranges from design and construction in the transportation, private, and municipal sectors. I currently serve as a Municipal Engineer at Robert E Lee & Associates, Inc. and have been married to my husband, Jacob, for six years. In the spring of 2020, we welcomed our first child, Warner Arthur. He keeps us on our toes every day and I love watching him grow.

My father is the person who inspired me to pursue engineering. He is now retired but was a self-employed HVAC contractor specializing in residential developments. I remember looking through blueprints of homes with my father at the dinner table while he prepared for work the next day and then being able to visit the jobsite. It was at the jobsite where I enjoyed seeing how a plan can be translated to into a product. This sparked my interest in engineering and construction industry.

Vice President – Daniel Witter, P.E.

drwitter@uwalumni.com | (414) 218-9851



Surrounding myself with great people, I was fortunate to have some amazing mentors early in my career. It started with an Advanced Placement Physics teacher in high school inspiring me to pursue engineering. Later, a professor during my Bachelor's degree helped me narrow my curiosity to prepare for a Master's degree. A local engineer whom I met in class early on in my graduate studies, convinced me that advanced courses would provide a solid technical background to prepare for consulting. All it took to spark my interest in managing a business was one more great mentor.

Jun Lee, President of SRI Design, was that person. He remains one of my greatest career influences. The little bits of knowledge he passed down through the years remain at the forefront of everything I do.

Secretary/Treasurer/Webmaster – Luke Siebert, P.E.

Luke.Siebert@raSmith.com | (920) 843-5733



I have been an ASCE member off and on for the last 14 years and in the last three years I became more involved as a branch officer. I have been working as a civil engineer for the past 17 years in various areas including private land development and WisDOT construction and design projects. I currently work as a project engineer at raSmith in the Transportation Design division. I am married with a 6-year old son and 8-year old daughter. We like to build with Legos and spend time outside. I enjoy real life and fantasy football and baseball. My namesake is that of Luke Skywalker.

I have been interested in math and science as far back as I can remember. Before I started kindergarten my mom would make up math homework for me because I was jealous of my older siblings. The person who got me most excited about math was my high school calculus teacher Mr. Widerski. He had a passion and excitement for math and I think he saw that in me. After high school, I went on to college and had to decide between math and a more practical application of math and science. I chose the latter. Mr. Widerski also had me come back to talk to one of his classes to explain what you can do with math beyond the classroom while I was attending college.

Branch Director – Tim Tomlanovich, P.E.

Tim.Tomlanovich@nwtc.edu | (920) 498-5672



My name is Tim Tomlanovich and I currently teach Civil Engineering Technology at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC). I spent many years in the consulting industry practicing geotechnical engineering. I still get my hands dirty doing part-time consulting.

My career was inspired by Clyde Baker Jr. He was a world known geotechnical engineer that engineered the foundations of several of the tallest buildings in the world. He was a great mentor and took the time to teach me when I had questions. This is what inspired me to teach at NWTC and share my experience and joy of geotechnical engineering.

Branch Director – Seth Johnson, P.E.

Seth.Johnson@jacobs.com | (563) 505-6989



My name is Seth Johnson and I am a structural engineer with over nine years of experience. I currently work as a Structural Engineer for Jacobs Engineering, where I work on projects all over the country and world. I originally became involved in ASCE during my freshman year at UW-Platteville, as a member of the Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge teams. In addition to my branch leadership role, I am involved with ASCE planning technical conferences, worked on the recent state infrastructure report card, 2023 ASCE WI Section Centennial planning committee, and the branch Younger Member group. In my free time, I enjoy spending time on my sailboat, coaching soccer, and spending time outdoors.

Who inspired me to have the career I have today, was a family friend by the name of John Kincaid. He was a civil engineer with the US Army Corp of Engineers and went to UW-Platteville.

Branch Director – Ryan Bonell, P.E.

ryan.bonell@countymaterials.com | (920) 413-8079



I graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville in 2006 with a degree in environmental engineering. I am a licensed professional engineer in the State of Wisconsin and brings 14 years of experience to the table. In my current role as Technical Resource Engineer with County Materials, my main function is to educate and promote the use of concrete pipes and structures to the engineering, municipal and DOT communities. Prior to joining County Materials, I started his career in consulting working on a wide range of municipal projects in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

I have always liked fixing things and solving problems. My parents had always pushed me toward engineering using my uncles as examples of successful engineers. I had always been more interested in nature with a desire to find a job where I could spend my time outdoors. With that goal in mind I went to UW-Stevens Point with a major in Resource Management and a minor in business. It was actually in one of my business classes when I interviewed an environmental engineer for one of my assignments. This interview opened my eyes to new possibilities and the next semester I transferred to UW-Platteville to study environmental engineering. The rest is history and I am thankful to everyone who helped me along my path to where I am today.

YMG Co Leader – Sam Bieneman, E.I.T.

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I joined ASCE in 2020 after relocating to Green Bay following graduating with my undergrad degree from UW-Madison in 2018 as an opportunity to grow my professional network and become more involved in the civil engineering industry. As one of the new Younger Member Group co-chairs, I'm looking forward to planning events and getting to know more young engineers within the region. I am a designer and project manager for Via Rail Engineering where we specialize in industrial freight railroad projects across the country. Outside of work, I am an active musician playing violin with the Civic Symphony of Green Bay and drums with the Green Bay Packers Tundraline.

I trace my career inspiration back to my middle school guidance counselor. He constantly got questions from his student about why math and science classes were important. In response to that, he established a relationship with the UW-Madison engineering program and setup biennial "Engineering Exploration" field trips to expose us to engineering opportunities to apply math and science. Those trips definitely stuck with me and started me down my career path within civil engineering.

YMG Co Leader – Jared Omernik, P.E.

jomernik@scsengineers.com | (608) 216-7348



I graduated from UW-Madison in 2008 with a Civil Engineering degree. I've worked for SCS Engineers out of Madison for seven years. In 2019 my family moved from Madison to Green Bay to be closer to my wife's family. I'm looking forward to getting more involved in the FRV branch activities!

A couple of my engineering professors really inspired me to pursue a career in the environmental engineering field. I was taking general engineering courses and felt like I was drifting a bit, but I really found my groove after getting introduced to remediation and landfill design topics by a couple of really enthusiastic professors.

Younger Member Group

By Sam Bieneman, E.I.T., YMG Co-Leader

Attention all younger members - The Fox Valley Younger Member Group wants you! Our group provides social networking opportunities for young engineers looking to grow their professional connections and have fun with bowling nights, museum visits, and trivia. Events are currently being planned so keep an eye out for announcements soon! Have an idea for event? Suggestions are always welcome and we'd love to hear your ideas, please contact Sam Bieneman and Jared Omernik.

P.E. Exam Preparation

Younger Member Group will host the P.E. Roundtable and Study Sessions for those planning on taking P.E. exam this spring. Come join other young engineers to discuss exam material and ask questions to other young engineers who have recently passed the exam. Roundtable and study session will begin in January, dates and locations are TBD. Please reach out to Sam Bieneman and Jared Omernik (ymg.foxvalley@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating and keep an eye on your inbox for more details.



STEM Innovation Center at UW-Green Bay

2022 Annual Conference

The Fox River Valley Branch will be hosting the 2022 Annual Conference in the Fall of 2022. We are currently looking for a co-chair and volunteers to be a part of the planning committee. The planning committee will plan and execute this fantastic event that showcase what is going on in Northeast Wisconsin. Planning efforts will begin before the end of the year. If you are interested reach out to Jennifer Liimatta, jliimatta@releeinc.com.

Membership Renewal

Please check to make sure your ASCE membership hasn't been put on the back burner. Hopefully this newsletter provides more than one memory of how ASCE membership has provided value to your engineering career and personal life. Please feel free to share your experience with a co-worker or friend. See the ways you can benefit from your ASCE membership at <https://www.asce.org/membership/member-benefits>

2022 Spring Technical Conference

The 2022 Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference will be hosted by the Southeast branch. They are in the early stages of planning so stay tuned for more information.