



## Presidents Message

2020 has proven to be a challenging year for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we work. Construction for a short period of time was suspended, many had to move from a traditional office environment to working from home which provides its own set of challenges, especially those with young families.

In addition, Tropical Storm Isaias barreled through the area in early August causing multiple power outages, widespread damage, and flooding rains. Some received up to eight inches of rain causing streams to rise to levels have not seen in over 100 years. Above is a photo I took of the aftermath in Green Lane.

Many professional societies have been quiet over the past several months due to the pandemic including the Reading Branch. Prior to COVID-19, we were focusing on doing hard hat tours and networking happy hours, however given the restrictions that are currently in place and for everyone's safety, they have been put on hold. The Branch along with the Lehigh Valley Section are looking to do virtual meetings for the time being to continue to engage our membership.

Also, we have created a LinkedIn page. Simply visit LinkedIn and search our Group "ASCE Reading Branch" to join.

We thank you for patience and look forward to "seeing" you at a future Branch or Section meeting.

*John Caperilla, ASCE Reading Branch President*

## ASCE Reading Branch Board of Directors

### President

John Caperilla, McTish,  
Kunkel & Associates

### Directors

Chris Antoni, STV

Jan Dobinsky, Advance  
Geoservices

Phil Harter, Worley

Nick Johnson, Great Valley  
Consultants

Shayne MacLean,  
Kleinfelder

Sean Pence, Traffic Planning  
and Design

Kyle Turner, CEDARVILLE  
Engineering Group



The ASCE Pennsylvania State Council is seeking volunteers to assist in the preparation and promotion for the next edition of the ASCE Report Card for Pennsylvania's Infrastructure which is anticipated to be released in the Spring of 2022. It takes around 12 months to prepare the reports and the Council is asking for ASCE members across all disciplines to provide their expertise in the preparation of these reports and promotion of the report card once it is released.

The development portion of the Report Card will ask volunteers to write reports, provide their expertise and review data, conduct research on the topic specific to the category that they are working on as well as assign a letter grade on each of these categories.

For the promotion and release portion, each of the four Sections held press conferences at select locations in which local media outlets along with key local industry leaders and elected officials were invited to provide remarks. After the release, the team is promoting the report card in various that include but not limited to back home visits with their elected officials, presentations to students at local universities and a social media campaign highlight each of the categories.

The 2018 Report had eighteen categories. Over 75 ASCE members from across the Commonwealth participated in the development, release, and promotion of the report card.

More information about the 2018 report is provided at the website link below.

<http://www.pareportcard.org/PARC2018/default.html>

If you are interested in helping in the preparation of the 2022 Report Card for Pennsylvania's Infrastructure, please send an e-mail to:

[2022painfrastructurereportcard@gmail.com](mailto:2022painfrastructurereportcard@gmail.com)



## Virtual Discussion with Rep. Chrissy Houlahan

U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan will be hosting a webinar on **Friday October 16th at 11 AM** where she will discuss about legislation that has been passed by the House and other proposed legislation that impacts infrastructure in Pennsylvania.

Representative Houlahan is an Air Force veteran, engineer, entrepreneur, and educator who is continuing her career of service as the first woman ever to represent Pennsylvania's 6th District in Congress which includes all of Chester County and southeastern Berks County, including the city of Reading.

An event flyer will be sent out with a link to RSVP. We hope that you will join us for this informative conversation.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Phil Harter at [Phillip.Harter@worley.com](mailto:Phillip.Harter@worley.com).

## Renew Your ASCE Membership

As we enter the fall season, ASCE has begun the annual membership drive for 2021.

You may have received an e-mail from the Society reminding you to renew your membership for 2021 and the benefits you receive from ASCE with your membership. To review those benefits, please visit [www.asce.org/member-benefits/](http://www.asce.org/member-benefits/)

To Renew Your Membership, please visit <https://www.asce.org/> and click on "Renew".

## Contact US

The ASCE Reading Branch sends out a newsletter on a quarterly basis as a way to inform our membership of events and happenings within our Branch.

If you have news items for future newsletters, please free to contact us.

John Caperilla  
ASCE Reading Branch  
President  
[jcaperilla@mctish.com](mailto:jcaperilla@mctish.com)

Find us on LinkedIn:  
Search "**ASCE Reading Branch**"

## Region 2 Directors Report September - October 2020

### ASCE Virtual Conference 2020

While all ASCE members have participated in virtual meetings and events over the past few months, we must and will continue to improve the experience on these "screens". Many Sections and Branches haven't lost a step and continued their regular events via virtual meeting platforms. To keep ASCE's place in each of our fall schedules, please remember to sign up for your monthly meetings and take advantage of being able to participate in others Sections/Branches events as most have opened up their registrations to all members.

### Visit an ASCE designed historic site.

These sites illustrate the creativity and innovative spirit of civil engineers. Visit <https://www.asce.org/landmarks> to find sites near you. Share photos of your travels with me and I will post in Region 2 correspondence and on our Region's social media pages.

### The Mason Dixon Line

The Mason Dixon line, commonly referenced as the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland, also includes a portion of the northern boundary of West Virginia and the western boundary of Delaware. It was surveyed between 1763 and 1767 by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon. The Mason-Dixon line was marked by stones every mile 1 mile and "crownstones" every 5 miles, using stone shipped from England. The Maryland side says "M" and the Delaware and Pennsylvania sides say "P". The parallel (latitude line) was established as 15 miles south of the then southernmost point in Pennsylvania.

Mason and Dixon started off with a crew of five, but by the time they got towards the end of the survey the party had grown to about 115. They thought at the end of the survey that the stones were accurate within 50ft. But what is realized today is that some of them are as much as 900ft off. The reason is not because Mason and Dixon were inaccurate in their execution nor because the equipment was faulty. It was actually gravity. Gravity had an impact on the plumb bob they were using. They had a 6ft telescope and it used a plumb bob on a fine wire. But gravity varied from location to location because of the influence of mountains.

Jack A. Raudenbush, P.E., F.ASCE  
Director, Region 2