

Summer 2022 Newsletter



President's Message:

Happy Summer Everyone. I hope you are enjoying some time away with your friends and family. While we're all taking some time off, I do want to make a plug for Pennsylvania's State Parks. In our 2018 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card, the Parks & Recreation Category received a B- which was one of the higher grades across the 17 categories. Pennsylvania is home to more than 3.75 million acres of dedicated parks and recreational areas. I would suggest you head out to one, there is one within 25 miles of all Commonwealth residents and you might meet some new friends while you're at it as I have in the photo above.

We had a successful technical webinar on May 25th with ASCE General Counsel, Tara Hoke on the topic of ethics. Knowing that we have members who are licensed in other states that require ethics credits, this meeting not only help them obtain a PDH toward that requirement, it's always good to be reminded of our ethical responsibilities not only to our fellow members, but to the public we serve. Our next webinar will be on August 18th in where Greg DiLoreto, Past ASCE Society President, will discuss on the IIJA and the Report Card for America's Infrastructure.

The Pennsylvania State Council is diligently working on the next edition of Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card, and they are at the home stretch. ASCE will be reviewing the reports over the next several months and we are planning to release the 2022 report card after the election in November. We do have a possible location; Montgomery County Community College's Pottstown Campus has expressed interest in hosting us for the release and I will have more details when they become available. I do have some news about them in our Branch News and Updates section.

In Region 2 news, Carol Martsolf from the Philadelphia Section was elected Region Director. John Segna from the National Capital Section was elected as Region Governor. I'm also pleased to share with you that I was also elected as a Region Governor. The three of us will take office in October and I look forward to serving in this new role and I will continue to serve as President of the Branch.

I would like to congratulate Board Member Nick Johnson for going out on his own to establish Johnson Environmental Engineering. Nick was previously with Great Valley Consultants. Nick along with fellow Board member Phil Harter have been involved with the Branch for many years prior to the transfer to the Lehigh Valley Section in 2017. We wish Nick the best in this venture.

Lastly, while we have been successful in keeping active through our technical webinars and availing our members the opportunity to obtain PDH's, I would like to get back to having in person events such as hard hat tours or a happy hour. We will keep providing our webinars in conjunction with Section and their events. If you have any ideas for in person events, please let me know. My e-mail is on the last page if you want to contact me. Also, if you're interested in getting more involved, let me know as well.

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

John Caperilla, ASCE Reading Branch President & Region 2 Governor-Elect

Historic Civil Engineering Sites Across the Reading Branch:

As the Lehigh Valley Section celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the founding of their section in 2022, the 100th Anniversary Committee is traveling around the Section to identify key sites and landmarks. While the Reading Branch was founded in 1975 by the Philadelphia Section, in 2017 the Reading Branch was transferred to the Lehigh Valley Section, and we are pleased to be part of their celebration and this assignment. Over the next several newsletters we will highlight a couple of sites here in the Branch and provide some background information along with some photos.

Most Blessed Sacrament Church– Bally, PA



The Most Blessed Sacrament Church was founded in 1741 as a mission outpost by the Rev. Theodore Schneider who called it St. Paul's Chapel. Constructed in 1743, it was the third Catholic church in the colony. It is the oldest existing Catholic place of worship in Pennsylvania and the fourth oldest Catholic structure in the thirteen original colonies. The church was renamed Most Blessed Sacrament in 1827. In addition to the church is a cemetery where among its dead is an African American soldier of the Continental Army, Isaac Jones.

The area was once known as Goshenhoppen, before being renamed Bally in honor of Father Augustine Bally, who was the pastor of the church for more than 40 years from 1837-1882. In the early days of the church, it served the community which was predominantly Pennsylvania Dutch now serves a more diverse community which now has 1,000 members. The church celebrated its 275th anniversary in 2016.

Information provided by:

<https://mbsbally.org/history-of-mbs>

<https://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-bally-church-275th-anniversary-atv-20160428-column.html>

Branch News and Updates

Challenger Learning Center to open in late August at Montgomery County Community College's Pottstown Campus.

Challenger Center, a nonprofit science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education organization and Montgomery County Community College are teaming up to bring a Challenger Learning Center to the College's Pottstown Campus. Challenger Learning Center at Montgomery County Community College will be the first Challenger Learning Center in Pennsylvania. The Center will bolster the state's ongoing STEM education initiatives by providing hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for thousands of students each year. It will open to the public on Saturday August 27th.

The new Challenger Learning Center will join a network of Challenger Learning Centers that have reached more than 5.5 million children around the world. Challenger Learning Centers offer a variety of hands-on STEM programs, with the core being its simulated space-themed missions that take place in a fully immersive Space Station and Mission Control. Aligned with national education standards and informed by real science data, these Missions excite students about STEM, introduce students to careers in these fields, and help students build critical 21st century skills through the hosting of summer camp programs, elementary school programs, professional development, teacher training, corporate missions, and more.

Established in 40 locations throughout the U.S., Challenger Learning Center Montco Pottstown is part of a worldwide network of over 40 Centers founded by the families of the astronauts tragically lost during the 1986 Challenger space shuttle mission and inspired by the legacy of America's first Teacher-In-Space, Christa McAuliffe – and the hopes and dreams of millions of school children.

[The Challenger Learning Center at Montco Pottstown - Montgomery County Community College \(mc3.edu\)](https://www.mc3.edu/challenger-learning-center)

Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority

Berks, Chester and Montgomery Counties have each passed separate resolutions authorizing the creation of the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA). The SRPRA will oversee and implement the restoration of passenger rail service between Reading and Philadelphia and will be supported with equal representation and funding from all three counties. This authority will begin pursuing funding opportunities and partner with rail operators, state, and federal transportation agencies. The creation of the SRPRA is not a guarantee that passenger rail will return, but it is a crucial next step to continue the long process of research and planning. For more information visit each of the links below.

Berks County – [Passenger Rail \(berks.pa.us\)](https://berks.pa.us)

Chester County – [Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority \(chescoplanning.org\)](https://chescoplanning.org)

Montgomery County – [Schuylkill River Passenger Rail | Montgomery County, PA - Official Website \(montcopa.org\)](https://montcopa.org)

ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure and IJA

Presented By: Greg DiLoreto

Thursday August 18, 2022

12 PM – 1 PM

The ASCE Reading Branch is pleased to host Greg DiLoreto, P.E., P.L.S, D.WRE, Pres.13.ASCE for a discussion on ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure and The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IJA). Greg is the Chair-At-Large for ASCE's Committee on America's Infrastructure and is a Past Society President of ASCE.

We anticipate that this presentation will meet Pennsylvania licensure renewal requirements and be good for 1 PDH.

RSVP by Wednesday August 17th, using the link below. A separate link to the presentation and meeting passcode will be provided only to registered attendees:

[ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure and IJA \(constantcontact.com\)](https://constantcontact.com)

If you have any questions, please contact John Caperilla at jcaperilla@mctish.com.

Contact Us:

The ASCE Reading Branch sends out a newsletter on a quarterly basis to inform our membership of events and happenings within our Branch. If you have news items for future newsletters, please free to contact us.

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Find us on LinkedIn: Search "ASCE Reading Branch"

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