



Presidents Message

Yes, as you can see from the photos above, spring has finally arrived. For those of a certain age, you will defiantly get the reference from the NES game Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2. For me it is time to get out on the bike and go for a "Flat 40".

While we still under guidance from the Society to hold our meetings virtually, we continue to provide a virtual program to all of you. We hope you will join us for our upcoming webinars on May 5th where I will be talking about Government and Legislative Affairs from an ASCE perspective and on June 9th where we will have a presentation from Corey Hanifen from Alchemco titled "Waterproofing Concrete Structures: Needs, Benefits and Options."

I also want to thank Ann Tomalavage for her presentation on the Pont du Gard. Ann has been very supportive of our efforts as a member of the Branch. In addition, Tim Mills from ARM Group on his presentation on the Solar Ecology in Engineering which provided an overview of the Energy market.

We are also looking for Board Members. I will provide more details on open positions on our Board in this edition. If you are interested in getting more involved with the Branch, please reach out to me.

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

ASCE Reading Branch Board of Directors

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THE READING SCIENCE CENTER OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC OCTOBER 3RD

By: Jim Cinelli, PE, M.ASCE, Founder and Board President, Reading Science Center

The Reading Science Center open their doors to the public on Saturday, October 3rd, 2020. The new science-themed attraction located at 645 Penn Street in downtown Reading features fun and engaging interactive science and technology experiences for the community, schools, and families. A dedication ceremony for the magnificent entrance mural entitled “Zero Gravity” that was created by Alvernia University student Josie Basile was part of the opening ceremonies.



After more than three years of planning, we are excited to bring hands-on STEM education to the Reading area. Through the hard work and generosity of many, we have assembled 30 science exhibits and developed numerous educational programs. Members of the greater Berks County community have helped the science center become a reality by donating their time and expertise to the center’s various committees, preparing the physical space, making financial donations and supporting fundraising events.

Exhibits in the 7,000-square-foot space include a cell lab where young scientists can view their own cells under a microscope, a structural engineering table where participants can build a bridge and then test it against a shaky earthquake, and a motion exhibit where segments of track can be selected and combined to explore the science behind roller coaster speed. Among many other exhibits, the space also includes a classroom where workshops, seminars and group experiments will be held. The center’s exhibits are most appropriate for ages 4-adult.

Part of the Reading Science Center’s mission is to expose the STEM sciences (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to students so that they may become interested in and excited about choosing STEM fields of study. The organization believes that science is for everyone and is dedicated to serving the local community.

Our central location in downtown Reading makes us accessible to everyone, and we are excited to be a part of the renaissance that is occurring in the city. The center plans to provide field trip opportunities to local schools in the future but is not currently scheduling school events due to Covid-19.

Financial support for the Center comes from the local community through individual donations, and we are pursuing additional funding sources through private foundations as well as regional, state and federal grants. Donations may be made directly on the RSC website www.readingsciencecenter.org.



Admission is \$8.00 per person. Children 2 and under are free. Children under 2 years old are free. Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Visitors are required to wear masks and maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet while visiting. The Reading Science Center has implemented enhanced cleaning, sanitizing and screening procedures based on CDC guidelines. For more information visit www.readingsciencecenter.org.

Upcoming Events:

Join us for our upcoming virtual meetings.

Wednesday May 5th,

Noon to 1 PM:

An Overview of Legislative & Government Affairs from an ASCE Perspective

Register Here:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=juhnlg8ab&oeidk=a07ehu5z0akeaa657b2>

Wednesday June 9th,

Noon to 1 PM:

Waterproofing Concrete Structures: Needs, Benefits and Options | Presented by Alchemco

Register Here:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=juhnlg8ab&oeidk=a07ehuqsa6x729c8a53>

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.

John Caperilla
ASCE Reading Branch
President
jcaperilla@mctish.com



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ASCE READING BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since the Reading Branch was transferred to the Lehigh Valley Section in 2017, the Branch has been working hard on becoming more active and provide to our approximately 170 members technical programming and events that will be of interest as well as provide PDH's for those who are licensed professionals in order form them to meet the professional development licensing renewal requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Professional Licensing Board.

However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Branch like many other Sections and Branches across the Society had to pivot and determine how to continue to engage our members in a virtual environment. The Reading Branch has been able to provide a virtual technical program which included a presentation from U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan where she discussed infrastructure needs from a Federal perspective and other technical topics from a wide variety of disciplines.

We wanted to inform you that the Reading Branch will be seeking to positions on our Board of Directors. The Branch Board currently has **eight (8) members, four (4) officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) and four Directors**. Officers and Directors serve two-year terms. For more information on each position and the responsibilities, please review our Branch Bylaws by clicking on the link provided below.

<http://branches.asce.org/reading/sites/branches.asce.org/reading/files/ASCE%20Reading%20Branch%20Bylaws.pdf>

If you are interested in any of these positions or have any questions, please reach out to Branch President John Caperilla by e-mail at jcaperilla@mctish.com.

Thank you for your continued membership and I look forward to hearing from you.