

Spring 2023 Newsletter



President's Message:

Spring has sprung. As we enter into warmer weather, we will start to see construction crews completing the necessary repairs and upgrades to our infrastructure. When you see those workers out there, please slow down in these work zones. According to the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, on average in the past 5 years, over 800 people have died in work zones. Recently in Maryland, six construction workers died on Interstate 695 in Baltimore when a car lost control and entered the work zone. Any loss of life is a tragedy; however, I ask that we continue to do our part in slowing down in active work zones and being aware of our surroundings.

In March, the ASCE Reading Branch teamed up with the Berks Mineralogical Society for a tour of the Reading Science Center. For more information on the Science Center <https://www.readingsciencecenter.org/>.

Within the Region, there are two student symposiums occurring in April. The first will be held from April 13th to April 15th at Penn State Harrisburg. The second symposium will be held from April 21st to April 23rd at Villanova University. If you are interested in volunteering in either of these symposiums, please visit the two links below.

[Mid-Atlantic West – Co-hosted by Penn State Harrisburg & York College of PA \(asce.org\)](#)

[Mid-Atlantic East – Hosted by Villanova University and Temple University \(asce.org\)](#)

I want to congratulate Andrew Kline, an ASCE Reading Branch member, who is a student at Villanova University for being named to ASCE's 2023 New Faces of Civil Engineering College. More information about the awardees is provided in the Society News Section of this newsletter.

If you have any suggestions for events/programming that would be beneficial to our members, please reach out to me. We are always looking to highlight projects here in the Branch.

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

ASCE Reading Branch Board of Directors

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Directors

Chris Antoni, STV ● Phil Harter, Worley ● Kyle Turner, CEDARVILLE Engineering Group

Nick Johnson, Johnson Environmental Engineering ● Sean Pence, Traffic Planning and Design

Historic Civil Engineering Sites Across the Reading Branch:

While the Lehigh Valley Section celebrated the 100th Anniversary of their founding in 2022, we will continue to identify key sites and landmarks in the Reading Branch. The Reading Branch was founded in 1975 by the Philadelphia Section and in 2017 was transferred to the Lehigh Valley Section. We will continue to highlight the sites here in the Branch that were highlighted in the book, "100 Civil Engineering Landmarks, Celebrating the Centennial of the ASCE Lehigh Valley Section" by providing background information along with some photos.



Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Skew Arch Bridge – City of Reading, PA

This unique bridge was designed by Richard B. Osborne in 1856 to carry the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad's Reading-to-Harrisburg line across 6th Street in Reading. Construction of the arch was completed in 1857. Because the railway and 6th Street intersect at a sharp angle, the structure's three arched spans are dramatically skewed. To accommodate this skewed geometry, the courses of stone forming the vaults are laid in helical (spiral) curves. Built by predominantly Irish Masons, they were partially paid in whiskey. Because the required stonecutting is so complex, only a few such bridges have been built in the U.S. In 1951 the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission placed a historical marker on the site and subsequently was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The bridge was acquired by Conrail after the demise of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in 1976, and then was transferred to Norfolk Southern Railway in 1999 who is the current owner of the bridge.

*Information pertaining to this site can be found in the book "100 Civil Engineering Landmarks, Celebrating the Centennial the ASCE Lehigh Valley Section" as well as goreadingberks.com.

SOCIETY NEWS

ASCE recognizes 2023 New Faces of Civil Engineering: Collegiate & Professional

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) announced the 2023 New Faces of Civil Engineering in both the Collegiate and Professional categories. ASCE's New Faces of Civil Engineering program highlights up-and-coming civil engineering students and young professionals from around the country and celebrates their academic and professional achievements, as well as their commitment to serving others. All New Faces honorees will be recognized during ASCE's annual Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Gala in October 2023 in Chicago, IL in conjunction with the ASCE Convention.

To learn more about the awardees, please visit the links below.

New Faces of Civil Engineering College: <https://www.asce.org/publications-and-news/civil-engineering-source/article/2023/02/21/meet-the-10-bright-new-faces-of-civil-engineering-college-for-2023>

New Faces of Civil Engineering Professional: <https://www.asce.org/career-growth/new-faces-of-civil-engineering/new-faces-of-civil-engineering-professional-edition>

The 2023 Salary Survey is now open!

ASCE is excited to announce the launch of the 2023 Salary Survey. We are gathering data from Society members to create a snapshot of the current and long-term trends related to compensation and benefits in the U.S. civil engineering industry. Survey closes April 25.

Results of the survey will be available in the early fall of 2023. To learn more, visit the link below.

<https://www.asce.org/career-growth/salary-and-workforce-research>

We want to hear from you!

If you have a topic that you might think would be good for a technical presentation at an upcoming meeting, please reach out to us. We want to highlight all the great projects that are currently going on in the Branch. Also, if you are interested in getting more involved with the Branch at a Board level, please contact us as well.

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 feel free to contact us.

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Find us on LinkedIn: Search "ASCE Reading Branch"