



Winter 2021 Newsletter

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Well, we made it through 2020. Hip, Hip Hooray! We will see what 2021 has in store for us.

While COVID-19 has kept us from meeting in person, the Branch has been able to pivot into having virtual meetings for our members with the goal of these meetings to offer PDH's towards renewals for licensed professionals in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our first virtual meeting with U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan that was originally scheduled for October 16th, had to be rescheduled to technical difficulties. On November 24th, Rep. Houlahan, who represents the 6th Congressional District which covers a portion of our Branch, provided us with an overview of infrastructure legislation from a Federal perspective and how it impacts engineers in Pennsylvania.

On January 15th Tim Mills, with ARM Group presented on the topic of Solar Ecology in Engineering where he provided an overview of the Solar Energy industry along with the recent developments and the engineering applications in which solar is used on engineering projects.

On January 27th, as part of their History and Heritage program, the Lehigh Valley Section will have Reading Branch Member and a Past President of the Philadelphia Section, Ann Tomalavage will give a presentation on the Pont du Gard, a bridge that is part of the Roman aqueduct built in the 1st Century AD to carry water over 31 miles to the Roman city of Nemausus in Southern France.

With a new year, we have the beginning of the 117th Congress and the start of a two-year session in the Pennsylvania Legislature. In addition, Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States on January 20th. ASCE looks forward in continuing to work with our elected officials as we advocate for infrastructure.

John Caperilla, ASCE Reading Branch President

ASCE Reading Branch Board of Directors

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Engineering Group

Want to Get More Involved?

If you are interested in getting involved with the Reading Branch, please reach out to me by e-mail at:

jcaperilla@mctish.com



As noted on their website, the RBSEF, Berks County's regional science fair, was started in 1952 by the Reading Chemists' Club. The fair takes place at Albright College in March of each year. Participation in the fair is open to students from Berks County schools in grades 6-12.

The purpose of the science fair is to encourage science education through the process of developing and presenting a science fair project. The scientific method has been the key for the development of scientific principles in the modern era. The Oxford English Dictionary defines the scientific method as "a method or procedure that has characterized natural science since the 17th century, consisting in systematic observation, measurement, and experiment, and the formulation, testing, and modification of hypotheses." The steps required for a science fair project are based upon application of the scientific method.

The science fair provides participants the opportunity to present their research to judges. The judges are selected from local community organizations for their expertise and willingness to share their knowledge and encourage the students.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, The Reading - Berks Science and Engineering Fair (RBSEF) for 2021 will be going virtual.

The ASCE Reading Branch has been a sponsor for many years and this year will be providing two (2) \$100 awards in the Senior Division for outstanding projects Senior Division for outstanding projects in Civil, Structural, Environmental, Geothermal Engineering, or related sciences.

Judging and Interviews will occur over two weeks from March 15th to March 27th this will give the judges ample time to review the projects and pick the winners. If you are interested in judging, please visit their website at <https://www.rbsef.com/> and/or reach out to RBSEF President and Acting Special Awards Chairman, Greg Przyjemski by e-mail at gregp454@gmail.com.



ASCE will soon be releasing the 2021 Infrastructure on March 3rd. Sign up to receive the agenda and registration link when it is available <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/2021-release/>

ASCE 2022 Report Card for Pennsylvania's Infrastructure

The Pennsylvania State Council is still seeking volunteers to assist with the preparation and promotion of the ASCE 2022 PA Report Card.

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.

ASCE Convention

ASCE will hold their annual convention in Chicago from October 6 – 9, 2021. The ASCE 2021 Technical Program Subcommittee is currently accepting proposals for presentations for the next ASCE Convention. If you are interested in submitting an abstract, please see the link below. Abstracts are due on February 8th.

[2021 Call for Submissions | ASCE Convention](#)

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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President
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Find us on LinkedIn:
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Society News: By Ben Walpole

The official nominees for ASCE 2022 president-elect, as selected by the Society’s Board of Direction Nominating Committee, are **Maria Lehman, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE**, and **Peter M. Moore, P.E., ENV SP, LEED AP, F.ASCE**. The ASCE election opens May 1 with online ballots accepted through June 1. The election winner will be inducted as the 2022 president-elect at the Society’s annual business meeting during the ASCE 2021 Convention in October, before serving as Society president in 2023.

Maria Lehman has nearly four decades of multidisciplinary experience in transportation and facilities engineering, including her current position as the director of U.S. Infrastructure for GHD, leadership roles at Parsons, and terms as chief operations officer and interim executive director for the New York State Thruway Authority.

She serves on the ASCE Board of Direction as treasurer, marking her fourth stint on the Board (assistant treasurer, 2018-2020, Zone 1 vice president, 2001-2003, and District 1 director, 1993-1996). Also a member of ASCE’s Industry Leaders Council, Lehman’s many past ASCE commitments include three years on the Environmental and Water Resources Institute Board of Governors, serving a second term on the Committee on America’s Infrastructure, a variety of other Society-level committees, and five years of officer service to the Buffalo Section.

“My experience has taught me how to see a better future, and to transfer that knowledge to younger engineers. I believe that ‘If it ain’t broke, break it. There is a better way to build it,’” Lehman said in her nominee’s vision statement. “Civil engineers are currently at an inflection point; the confluence of crisis: health, economic, and infrastructure. We need to stand united to revolutionize our industry to meet our future world vision.”

Peter Moore has nearly 25 years of engineering experience, working both domestically and internationally. He is currently the president of Chen Moore and Associates, a statewide consulting firm in Florida. Moore served on the ASCE Board of Direction as the Region 5 director, 2017-2020, as well as on many Society-level committees over the years, including the Program and Finance Committee, Committee on Education, and Committee on Younger Members. He also is a member of the ASCE Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute’s board of governors. Locally, he served in all officer positions for both the Broward Branch and Florida Section.

“My vision is a simple three-pronged approach – accountability, advocacy and accessibility,” Moore said in his nominee’s vision statement. “Accountability is a fundamental tenet of the engineering profession as we apply our skills towards the overall public good. Advocacy is the only way that ... civil engineering will achieve the prominence that is required to properly execute our duties. And the future of the engineering profession will be incredibly diverse and the key to keep different perspectives; it is critical that the profession be accessible to everyone.

[Learn more about each official nominee and the ASCE election.](#)