

ASCE Reading Branch Quarterly Newsletter

Hello !

Check out our Fall/ Winter 2025 Newsletter below to stay up to date on all things ASCE Reading Branch! As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas that you may have, as we love hearing from our members!



President's Message

Here we are with just a handful of days left in 2025... where has the time gone?

As I sit here staring at holiday decorations with still a few inches of snow left on the ground, I'm reminded by the joy our organization brings me year round! It is the contributions of all of you, the members, who make ASCE such a great organization for both professional advancement and networking opportunities.

2025 was a strong year for the Reading Branch. We hosted a variety of *FREE* webinar events, and we turned 50 years old! That's right, the ASCE Reading Branch celebrated it's 50th anniversary this year having been founded in 1975. With our origin in the Philadelphia Section to our current home in the Lehigh Valley Section, we have had a strong history with our members constantly at the core.

Looking to our 51st year in 2026, we will continue to host a variety of events and webinars to support you, our members! If, or maybe I should say when you have ideas or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! We can only improve if we know where we need to focus our efforts.

To close out my final President's message of 2025, I want to simply say thank you!

- Thank you for continuing to be members of ASCE and the Reading Branch!
- Thank you for supporting me in my term as President!
- Thank you for showing up at our webinars/ events!

Thank you, *thank you*, THANK YOU!

Happy holidays, and cheers to the New Year,
Andrew C. Kline
ASCE Reading Branch President



Enjoy some holiday pictures of me and my favorite places at this time of year!

Photo #1: My Buddy the Elf costume on Christmas Day 2024

Photo #2: The Christmas tree at Villanova University surrounded by hundreds of lights

Photo #3: Me & the Grinch at the Colebrookdale Railroad station in Boyertown

Upcoming Events

The Little Project That Could: An Update from SRPRA



January 13th, 2025 at 12:00 pm (noon)

via Microsoft Teams

Join us for a free to attend lunchtime webinar to learn about the project underway to restore rail service to Reading, PA from Philadelphia with additional stops in Pottstown & Phoenixville. The webinar will be presented by representatives from the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority (SRPRA), including representation from Berks County's delegates to the SRPRA board. This webinar is anticipated to qualify as 1 PDH.

Take a Ride on the Falkirk Wheel



February 19th, 2025 at 12:00 pm (noon)

via Microsoft Teams

The Falkirk Wheel is a rotating boat lift in Falkirk, central Scotland. It connects the Forth & Clyde Canal (1790) with the Union Canal (1822). The Falkirk area was the cradle of Scotland's Industrial Revolution in the 18th century. It was the earliest major center of the iron-casting industry. James Watt cast some of the beams for his early steam engine designs at the Carron Works in 1765. The difference in height between the two canals was 115 ft and required a series of 11 locks. Each run took most of a day to pass through the flight of locks.

When the Falkirk Wheel opened in 2002, it reconnected the two canals for the first time since the 1930s. The Wheel is the only rotating boat lift of its kind in the world.

This webinar is anticipated to qualify as 1 PDH.

Planning for Additional 2026 Events

We are working to plan a slate of webinars, construction site tours, and more for the 2025-2026 season, but we need your input! Do you want more sessions on history & heritage, a specific discipline, ethics, or something else? Email us at readingbranch.asce@gmail.com to share your thoughts and ideas!

From the Lehigh Valley Section...

Our parent section has a variety of upcoming events, both technical and social, for you to check out! Learn more about their upcoming events on their [website](#).

Some highlights include:

- Joint ASCE/WTS/ASHE Event - *January 13th*
- Phantoms game - *February 9th*

From the Philadelphia Section...

Our neighbor section to the southeast has a variety of upcoming events, both technical and social, for you to check out! Learn more about the upcoming events of the section on their [website](#), and the upcoming events of the section's YMG group on their [website](#).

From the Central Pennsylvania Section...

Our neighbor section to the west has a variety of upcoming events, both technical and social, for you to check out! Learn more about their upcoming events on their [website](#).

From ASCE HQ...

ASCE HQ always has a variety of webinars, programs, conferences, and events coming up! Watch your inbox for messages from ASCE's technical institutes, CTA, and other groups.

ASCE Society News



Celebrating 50 years of the ASCE Reading Branch!



New ASCE Mega Conference: Launching March 2027

ASCE2027: The Infrastructure and Engineering Experience is coming to Philadelphia in March 2027, and now is your chance to be a part of the technical program! The call for content is accepting submissions now, and keynote speakers are starting to be announced. Registration is not yet open, but information is coming soon.

Visit experience.asce.org to learn more about this exciting new event coming to our back yards!



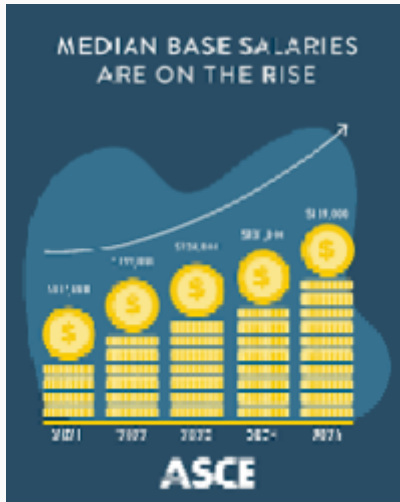
Society Leadership Change

ASCE's Executive Director, Tom Smith, has announced his retirement after almost 29 years of service to ASCE including 11 years in his current role. Tom's retirement is effective December 31st, 2025.

A search committee has been formed to find a permanent successor, but ASCE 2023 President Maria Lehman has been

appointed as Interim Executive Director until a candidate is selected. Maria has already begun her service in order to promote a smooth transition of duties.

Read more from ASCE's website at this [link](#) and this [link](#).



Civil Engineering Salary Data

ASCE's annual salary survey data has been released showing yet another year of growth in civil engineering pay across the United States! The salary survey dives deep into many facets facing employment in our industry, much more than we can cover here, so check out this great summary article from The Source at this [link](#).

Access the full report and use the salary calculator at this [link](#).

Call for Volunteers

We are always looking for new volunteers within the Reading Branch!

Do you have an interest in joining our board to serve as an officer? Do you have ideas for events that you want to help plan? Do you have a passion for developing newsletters and sending email blasts?

If you answered yes, or even stopped to think for any of those question, we need you!

[Email us](#) to express interest and get involved!

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 our events, messaging, and programs to reflect the needs and wants of our members!

Contact Us

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Find us on LinkedIn by searching for "[ASCE Reading Branch](#)"

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