



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings and warm regards from the Board of the Lehigh Valley Section.

November was a very busy month for the LVASCE. We offered two excellent webinars:

- “Ultra-Lightweight Foamed Glass Aggregate: Testing, Applications, and Case Studies” by **Theresa Andrejack Loux, PhD, PE** of **Aero Aggregates** (our Featured Sponsor for November); and
- “A Virtual Discussion on Infrastructure” by **U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan**.

Special thanks to **John Caperilla** and **Phil Harter, PE** of the Reading Branch for setting up the session with Representative Houlahan. It was topical, engaging, and very well attended. Let’s do it again next year!

In other news, **Lane Wilder, PE** has stepped into the breach as the new Chair of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI). Thanks, Lane, for your leadership and willingness to serve our profession.

At this time of year—in a normal world—we would be busily preparing for our annual LVASCE Holiday Banquet. But the world is anything but normal right now, so our Holiday Banquet has been cancelled. We look forward to resuming our social gatherings as soon as the COVID-19 situation permits. There is a light at the end of this long tunnel!

In January, we expect to begin accepting nominations for our 2020 annual awards—Engineer of the Year, Young Engineer of the Year, and Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement. Please support the profession by elevating our best people and projects for public recognition. Details are provided on our website at <https://www.lvasce.org/events/asce-awards/>



Finally, I’m delighted to welcome Lehigh Valley Technical Associates (LVTA) as a new Annual Sponsor for 2021. Thanks to former LVASCE Board member **Eric Himmelwright, PE** for making this happen.

I wish you all a joyful and safe holiday season. If you have any ideas about how the LVASCE can serve you more effectively, please don’t hesitate to contact me at sjressler@gmail.com.

Steve Ressler, PE, PhD, Dist.M.ASCE

UPCOMING EVENTS



On December 9th at 7:00 p.m., **Steve Ressler** will present a webinar entitled “The Roman Aqueduct: An Integrated Engineered System.” This presentation will be jointly offered by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of PSPE and the LVASCE History and Heritage Committee. The e-mail announcement will be distributed soon.

On December 17th at 12:00 p.m., **George Horas, PE**, Senior Vice President and Lehigh Valley Division Manager at **Alfred Benesch and Company** (our Featured Sponsor for December) will do a 1.0 PDH presentation on Benesch’s Railroad Services. The registration fee will be \$5.00. Watch for an e-mail announcement soon.



Starting in January, we will supplement our usual practice-oriented technical seminars with a series of research presentations by civil engineering graduate students at Lehigh University. These will provide excellent opportunities to learn about ongoing developments at the cutting edge of our profession. Thanks to **Professor Mesut Pervizpour** for organizing this exciting new lecture series.

And if we still haven’t satisfied your appetite for professional development, please note that the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute is now posting recordings of its recent webinars online at <http://www.dvgi.org/webinars.html>



P.E. EXAM PREP COURSE

Once again, LVASCE will be facilitating the delivery of ASCE’s PE Exam Prep Course in the spring of 2021. The cost will be \$600 per person—a small increase from last year, driven by ASCE’s decision to offer a more extensive 27-lesson course in 2021. As always, LVASCE is subsidizing participation in this important developmental experience. Watch for a registration e-mail soon.

LVASCE 100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

In April 1922, the national ASCE organization approved the establishment of the Lehigh Valley Section with 22 founding members. Today we have greatly expanded in membership and geographic extent, but our mission remains the same—to serve, support, and strengthen the civil engineering professional community in our region.

In less than two years, we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our founding. We’d like to establish a committee to plan this important celebration. **Past Presidents** of the LVASCE would be particularly welcome as members of this committee. If interested in participating in the LVASCE 100th Anniversary Committee, please contact Steve Ressler at sjressler@gmail.com

GET INVOLVED!

Looking for ways to get more involved with the Lehigh Valley Section of ASCE? Here are a few ideas:

- Volunteer to be a member of our LVASCE 100th Anniversary Committee (described above).
- To serve on a Q&A panel for our upcoming virtual “Dream Big” program with local middle schools and high schools during National Engineers Week (February 22-26, 2021), please contact **Steve Ressler** at sjressler@gmail.com
- If you’d like to get involved in developing ASCE’s 2022 Infrastructure Report Card for Pennsylvania, please contact **Dion Campbell** at dcboxers35@gmail.com
- If you are interested in getting involved with the newly created Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI), please contact **Catherine Martsof** at catherine.m.martsof@gmail.com
- **Dr. Gary Jordan**, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at King’s College, is beginning the process of establishing an ASCE Student Chapter at King’s. If you live or work in the Wilkes-Barre area and are interested in supporting this project, please contact Gary at garyjordan@kings.edu

REGION 2 DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Jack A. Raudenbush, P.E., M.ASCE is our Region 2 Director and a member of the ASCE Central Pennsylvania Section.



This has been a year few of us will likely ever forget. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live, but as an organization, we were quick to pivot to virtual platforms and digital communication so that our essential ASCE work could continue. Our October ASCE Board of Direction virtual meeting went off without a hitch, and we had a very productive week. First and foremost, the board voted to approve the proposed update to the ASCE Code of Ethics. The new code is clearer, more concise, and organized by stakeholder priorities. The board also voted to approve on second reading a proposed amendment to the ASCE Constitution that would give voting rights to student members. The amendment goes before the membership for a vote in the 2021 Society election. Some additional highlights from the BOD meeting:

After considering extensive feedback from current Life Members, the board voted last week to rescind its July decision to change Life Member criteria and fees. As a result, the terms, criteria, and dues structure for Life Membership will remain exactly as they have been in recent years.

The board received updates on the digital strategy project, which includes the forthcoming launch of the Civil Engineering Source news and information website and AI-driven newsletter, and a draft Region 10 strategic plan.

The Board Strategic Advisory Council delivered updates on its 2020 strategic priorities, and the board voted to approve the proposed 2021 strategic priorities, which include the budget, member value and engagement, as well as eight other focus areas.

To share your views or provide ideas on how ASCE can better serve its members and the profession, please e-mail Jack at jackraudenbush1965@gmail.com

SUPPORT LVASCE

We still have a few openings for 2021 Annual Sponsors. Please consider supporting the Lehigh Valley Section in this way. Your sponsorship will support our professional development programs, educational outreach, legislative activities, and scholarship fund. Sign up on our website at:

<https://www.lvasce.org/sponsor/>

OUR FEATURED SPONSOR FOR DECEMBER 2020

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