Greetings to the Lehigh Valley civil engineering community. Our big news this month the LVASCE Board has approved the establishment of a Lehigh Valley Chapter of the ASCE Environmental and Watershed Institute (EWRI). The new EWRI Chapter will join our highly successful Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) Chapter as an ASCE-affiliated institute that provides members with access to specialized technical, educational, and professional resources, as well as professional networking. Many thanks to Catherine M. Martsolf, SE, LEDA for organizing and advocating for this initiative. If you are interested in getting involved with the Lehigh Valley EWRI Chapter, please contact Catherine at catherine.m.martsolf@gmail.com.

Speaking of institutes, the Lehigh Valley Chapter of SEI has finalized its new board of directors for 2020-21. The new SEI officers are Peter Chase, PE (Chair), Lanie Wilder, PE (Vice Chair), and Tina Gobasan, PE (Secretary).  Thanks, Lanie, and Tina—thanks on your election and thanks for your service to our institute.

Also this month, Mike Deer, PE single-handedly planned, organized, and implemented our 3rd Annual EPIC Golf Outing on October 2nd. With 14 foursomes participating, the event was a huge success—a particularly noteworthy achievement in this era of COVID-related restrictions and mandates for social distancing. The proceeds from this golf outing will be used for our LVASCE scholarship program, which we administer in collaboration with the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPyE). Thanks, Mike, for all your input in support of this worthwhile program.

On October 21st, we kicked off our on-line technical webinar program with a superb presentation by Jennifer Waters, PE, LEED AP. Thanks, Jen, for your overview of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)—and for getting our webinar series off to a strong start. Thanks also, to Urban Engineers of Philadelphia for providing the webinar platform and facilitating the session.

Finally, I’m delighted to announce that Michael Baker International and Keller North America have signed on as LVASCE annual sponsors for 2021. Watch for their “Featured Sponsor” ads in the months ahead.

I wish you all a joyful and safe Thanksgiving holiday. If you would like to provide feedback on this newsletter or have any ideas about how the LVASCE can serve you more effectively, please don’t hesitate to contact me at steve.resler@gmail.com.

Steve Resler, PE, PhD, Dist.M.ASC

UPCOMING EVENTS

On November 16th at 12:00 pm, Teresa Andrzejewski Lux, PhD, PE, of Aero Aggregates (our Featured Sponsor this November) will present a technical webinar entitled “Ultra-Lightweight Foamed Glass Aggregate, Testing, Applications, and Case Studies.” Registration details will be sent out by e-mail and posted on the LVASCE website soon.

On November 24th at 12:00 p.m, U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan will present “A Virtual Town Hall on Social Innovation.” Rep. Houlahan, a former Army veteran, engineer, entrepreneur, and educator, who is continuing her career of service as the first woman to represent Pennsylvania’s 6th District in Congress (cheers!), will be highlighting the work of the Support Our Veterans Committee (SOVC). This webinar (which was rescheduled from October due to technical difficulties) will focus on infrastructure legislation from a Pennsylvania perspective and address the needs of infrastructure professionals in Pennsylvania. Participation in the webinar is free. Please register at https://www.lvasce.org/evnts/aero-aggregates/

And if you have any suggestions for future webinar speakers and topics, please contact Steve Resler at steve.resler@gmail.com.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Congratulations to Greg Kulinski, PE who has officially begun his term as ASCE Region 2 Governor. Thanks, Greg, for your long-term service to the Lehigh Valley Section, for your great work as Practitioner Advisor to the ASCE Student Chapter at Lehigh University, for your service on the national ASCE Leader Training Committee, and for your contributions to the leadership of our Region and our Section.

We are also delighted to announce that Professor Clay Nitas, PhD, PE, from the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Lehigh has been selected by the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute to receive the 2020 T.Y. Lin Award for the paper, “Immediate Deflection of Partially Prestressed Concrete Flexural Members,” which was published in the Journal of Structural Engineering. The authors will be recognized at the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute awards ceremony during the 2021 ASCE Presidents and Governors Conference.

Greg Kulinski, P.E.

Dr. Clay Nitas, Ph.D., PE

GET INVOLVED!

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

• We still have an open position for an Assistant Treasurer on the LVASCE Board of Directors. Contact Steve Resler at steve.resler@gmail.com for more information.

• Our Younger Members Forum provides many opportunities for professional and social networking, educational outreach, and community service. If interested, please contact Mark Hamermesh at mhamermesh@comcast.net.

• Don’t forget the special technical resources and professional development opportunities offered by our two ASCE Technica—EWRI and SEI.

• Finally, it’s not too soon to start preparing nominations for next year’s LVASCE awards—the Engineer of the Year, Young Engineer of the Year, and Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award. Please see our website (https://www.lviasce.org/events/lvasce-awards/) for details.

PRESIDENTS AND GOVERNORS FORUM

During the period September 10-20, 2020, 1:45 Session and Branch Presidents, Regional Governors, Society Directors, Board Members, and Institute Leaders from across all regions and branches will gather virtually to address issues and best practices related to the LVASCE Leadership Development Conference. This virtual conference is intended to support the LVASCE Branches and Regions in their efforts to enhance their leadership development programs and activities. Please see our website (https://www.lviasce.org) for more information.

ASCE LEADER TRAINING COMMITTEE

As a member of the ASCE Leader Development Committee, Greg Kulinski, PE, our Region 2 Governor, is essential in organizing and implementing this event. The other members of his team were Tony Alad, PE, Lanie Wilder, PE, and Nancy Banos, an ASCE Staff member celebrating her 41st anniversary at ASCE. For more information about the FDG, see the Leader Development Committee’s website: https://www.asce.org/leadership-training-committee/pdfs/ASCE-Leader-Development-Committee.pdf

SUPPORT LVASCE

Please consider serving as an Annual Sponsor of the Lehigh Valley Section. 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/