



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings and happy New Year from the Board of the Lehigh Valley Section.

Despite ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and disruptions, our online technical program has continued to grow and gain in popularity. During the month of December, we offered two successful webinars:

- My talk on “The Roman Aqueduct: An Integrated Engineered System” was offered jointly by the LVASCE History & Heritage Committee and the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.
- **George Horas, PE**, Senior Vice President and Lehigh Valley Division Manager at Alfred Benesch and Company, presented “A Short Story on Alfred Benesch’s Rail Service Line Growth.” Benesch was our Featured Sponsor for December 2020, and George kindly accepted our offer to do a technical presentation as part of the sponsorship package.

Speaking of sponsorship, we are delighted to welcome **Aerix Industries** as a new Annual Sponsor for 2021. Watch for their technical presentation on low-density cellular concrete sometime this spring.

As you read this newsletter, we will be kicking off the new year with a new annual member survey, designed to ensure that our programs and activities are serving the needs of the Lehigh Valley civil engineering community effectively. Details are provided below. Please help us help you by completing the survey!



And, as always, I welcome your comments and questions about any aspect of the Section’s programs and governance. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at sjressler@gmail.com.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



On January 15th at noon, our Reading Branch will sponsor the presentation “Solar Ecology in Engineering” by **Tim Mills**, Program Manager for Renewable Energy & Distributed Generation, ARM Group LLC. Please join us for Tim’s unique perspectives on solar energy—and 1.0 PDH. Please register at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2efm3ok>



On January 27th at noon, **Ann Tomalavage, PE, PMP, LEED AP**, will do a presentation on one of the greatest engineering works of antiquity, the Pont du Gard—a Roman aqueduct bridge in southern France. This History & Heritage presentation is a follow-on to Steve Ressler’s talk on Roman aqueducts in December. Participants will receive 1.0 PDH. You can register at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6zkrfgu>

LVASCE MEMBER SURVEY



This month we are launching our new annual **LVASCE Member Survey**. The purpose of this online survey is to get your input on how we can tailor our technical, professional, and social programs and activities to better meet your needs. The survey is anonymous (though we encourage you to include your contact information on an optional basis), and it should only take about 10 minutes to complete. Please support the Lehigh Valley Section by providing your input. Civil engineers who are not ASCE members are welcome and encouraged to participate. The link is: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ehfe0e9ykhwgizgg/start>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK 2021

As we have done since 2017, the Lehigh Valley Section will be celebrating National Engineers Week 2021 by hosting screenings of ASCE’s awesome film “Dream Big” for local elementary, middle, and high school students. As in previous years, this project is being implemented in collaboration with **ArtsQuest** in Bethlehem. However, because of restrictions associated with COVID-19, this year’s program will be done entirely on-line. Our “Virtual Dream Big” screenings are tentatively scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. every day from February 22nd through 26th. Each screening will be followed by an on-line Q&A session with local volunteer engineers from all disciplines. If you are willing to participate in any of these Q&A sessions, please contact **Steve Ressler** at sjressler@gmail.com as soon as possible.



HELP US ENGAGE OUR MEMBERS

Our principal means of communication with LVASCE members is Constant Contact—an email-based marketing tool provided by ASCE Headquarters for our use. Constant Contact is a powerful tool, but it has one serious shortcoming: many corporate and individual e-mail programs interpret Constant Contact messages as spam. Thus, over half of our Lehigh Valley Section communications (including this newsletter) end up in a “Junk E-mail” folder, the “Promotions” tab in Gmail, or some other form of electronic oblivion. This issue can usually be addressed by designating the sender (lvasce.ccsend.com) as “Not Junk” or “Not Spam” in the recipient’s e-mail system. The problem, of course, is that recipients affected by this problem typically don’t know there is a problem, because they are not seeing any of our messages.

How can you help? Please forward this newsletter to any LVASCE member you know. Anyone who is not receiving our Constant Contact messages should contact Steve Ressler at sjressler@gmail.com, and we will make arrangements to send you our messages by an alternate method.

LVASCE 100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

In 2022, we will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Lehigh Valley Section. This month, we are happy to announce the establishment of our 100th Anniversary Planning Committee. The committee members are **Pete Terry** (Chair), **Cheryl Rishcoff**, **Ben Guthrie**, **Greg Kuklinski**, **Chas Snyder**, **John Caperilla**, and **Dave Wieller**. If you have any ideas for the 100th Anniversary commemoration, please contact Pete at peter.terry@bencivil.com

P.E. EXAM PREP COURSE

Once again, LVASCE will be facilitating the delivery of ASCE’s P.E. Exam Preparation 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. You can register here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxd5zvvh>

SECTION AWARDS

We are now accepting nominations for our annual awards—**Engineer of the Year**, **Young Engineer of the Year**, and **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement of 2020**. 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/>

NATIONAL RESOURCES

Did you know about these resources, which are currently being offered by ASCE Headquarters?

- Free virtual events: <https://collaborate.asce.org/covid-19/virtual-events>
- ASCE Professional Interest Directory – This online system will help you connect with other ASCE members who have similar professional interests (requires ASCE Collaborate login): <https://collaborate.asce.org/network/members/professional-interest>
- Virtual Roundtables – In these events, panels of civil engineering leaders share their insights and answer questions on a variety of topics. Roundtables occur every third Thursday at 3 p.m. EDT, and all past Roundtables have been recorded and posted at this site (requires ASCE Collaborate login): <https://collaborate.asce.org/covid-19/thursday-three>

SUPPORT LVASCE

Your corporate 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 JANUARY 2021