

WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT !

Congratulation to Benjamin Girtain Plowe, our new President. Ben is currently Flood Protection and Dam Safety Engineer for NYSDEC Region 7, and recently served as our Secretary. He graduated from Cornell University with a BS degree in Environmental Engineering.

Heartfelt thanks go out to Lynne Yost, our immediate Past President, for her leadership and guidance over the past few years.

JOIN YOUR NEXT ZOOM MEETING

Ithaca Section ASCE is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom board meeting at noon on May 12, 2021. Our board meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of odd months. If you would like to attend, please contact us at ASCE.Ithaca@gmail.com and we'll send you the meeting login information.

ALL ITHACA SECTION MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

LIVE WEBINAR OPPORTUNITIES

The Syracuse Section has been providing webinars with PDH credits free to their members, and has graciously allowed Ithaca Section members to participate on a cost sharing basis. The Ithaca Section will pick up the fee for its members; non-members are charged a nominal fee. On March 30, the topic was "Corrective Work in Steel Structures", presented by Alexander Newman, PE, F. ASCE. **Check your email for an announcement of the next offering.**

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

We are still operating under a "no in-person activities" restriction. We will be conducting business virtually until further notice. Any changes to Ithaca Section activity restrictions will be updated on our website <http://sections.asce.org/Ithaca/>.

JOB VACANCIES

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 7 expects to post for engineering positions as soon as April 5. The following weblinks are provided for those interested.

NYSDEC Listing of Job Vacancies

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/about/27863.html>

NYS Civil Service

<https://www.cs.ny.gov/engineering/oc/>



REGION 1 UPDATE

The Region 1 Spring Assembly was a virtual event held on March 26, 2021. This 4 ½ hour session covered numerous topics and included several ASCE National presenters and distinguished guest speakers. A brief summary of highlights included:

- A demonstration of the Future World Vision interactive simulation under development was presented by David Odeh. Five different cities are being developed: Mega City, Rural City, Floating City, Frozen City and Off Planet. The Mega City module is nearly completed, and will be the first to be rolled out. The program allows you to view this imagined city from sky high and you can drill down to community and even street level. This exciting “video game” will give users and audiences a glimpse of the possible future metropolitan landscape and operations as they relate to civil engineering.
- A reminder that the region provides grants for sections and students.
- A summary of the report card results issued in early March was provided by Maria Lehman and Anna Denecke:
 - The letter grading scale is: A exceptional (fit for future); B good (adequate for now); C mediocre (requires attention); D poor (at risk); F failing/critical (unfit for purpose). The overall grade is a C-. Grades ranged from high of B for rail and a low of D- for transit.
 - Trends: Maintenance backlogs are an issue; federal investments help move the needle.
 - Some sectors have limited data in which to grade or is unreliable.
 - The average American household will spend \$3,300 a year over the next 20 years due to infrastructure deficiencies.
- Each section and branch, and the NYS Council, provided updates on their status.
- The Leader Training Committee identified resources available to help sections and branches operate and attract new members:
 - The LTC has an infographic template that sections and branches can use to provide a single page summary of their achievements and benefits. **The Region 1 version of this graphic is provided at the end of this newsletter.**
 - The Multi-Region Leadership Conference this Spring will be a national virtual event on April 7-10 from 2:00 – 4:30 pm each day.
 - The Collaborate feature on the ASCE website can be set up for any section or branch.
 - Their website offers dozens of webinars and other information under their resources tab. The website link is: <http://regions.asce.org/leader-training-committee/home>
- President Jean-Louis Briaud provided words of wisdom:
 - The country’s infrastructure needs \$300B per year for the next 10 years.

- All civil engineering college students will automatically become associate members of ASCE upon graduation. Their first-year dues will be free, then half of the regular dues until age 28.
- An upcoming constitutional ballot initiative is to allow students to vote.
- 2022 presidential candidates are Maria Lehman and Peter Moore; they each gave a brief presentation of their views to the audience.



NYS COUNCIL NEWS

A summary of the New York State Council's March 18, 2021 meeting:

- The Council continues to reach out to any individual who is interested in helping them manage their website. If you are willing to help, please contact Bill Merwarth at ascebill@gmail.com
- Minor changes to their bylaws were adopted.
- Their legislative committee is seeking additional members.
- Chair Brad Kubiak established a student support task committee. This committee will foster coordination and communication with the numerous student chapters in NYS. One of its goals is to establish at least one Practitioner Advisor for each school.
- The Council's development of 2022 New York State Infrastructure Report Card is underway. They still need help with ports and terminals, aviation, rail, and for reviewers. If you can help, you can contact one of the co-chairs:
 - Beth Ann Smith at BethAnn.Smith@GHD.com
 - George B. Kalkowsky at George.Kalkowsky@mrbgroup.com



NEWS FROM ASCE PRESIDENT JEAN-LOUIS BRIAUD

Each month ASCE President Jean-Louis Briaud provides updates on Society issues and progress made. He conducts an "Ask the President" townhall the first weekday of each month. His fourth progress report emailed on March 26 is provided below:

- This month the big news was the release of [ASCE's 2021 Report Card on America's Infrastructure](#) that got tremendous policy and media attention nationwide. Congratulations and a big thank you to Kristina Swallow, chair of the Committee on America's Infrastructure and her team, including our staff led by Emily Feenstra. The overall grade was a C- up from a D+ in 2017. While the grade moved in the right direction, we are still far from an A and must continue to advocate for a major infrastructure bill. It will take about \$300 billion per year for 10 years to get us there, and it is good to know the new administration wishes to go in that direction and is very serious about it. Let's keep talking to our representatives in Congress and urge them to act. Infrastructure renewal is not just concrete and steel; it is schools, hospitals, and improved quality of life for everyone.
- The [ASCE Failure to Act report](#) on infrastructure was previously released and showed that every year American families lose \$3,300 in disposable income due

to our failing infrastructure. Since we have about 130 million families in our country, it means that \$429 billion goes out the window every year. Add to this that our infrastructure is only ranked no. 13 in the world by the World Economic Forum and you will understand why I feel very strongly that we need that \$3 trillion bill. I would further advocate that we set aside 0.1% of that bill for infrastructure research that will lower the cost of projects and repairs by creating new solutions and innovations. (Special thanks to Ed Kavazanjian, from whom I first heard that idea.)

- Meanwhile we continue our work on:
 - **Student transition** to ASCE professional membership upon graduation
 - **Younger member retention**
 - **Interaction between ASCE regions and technical institutes**
 - **Mobilizing life members** and their energy
 - **Interacting with our international leaders** to broaden ASCE impact
 - **The civil engineering client summit on certification** that took place on Feb. 26 thanks to Edward Stafford and his team; Edward will report to the ASCE board at its next meeting of April 30 to May 1.
 - The fifth “**Ask the President**” townhall took place on March 1 when the topic was ASCE’s new code of ethics. The discussion during the “Ask the President” townhall is not limited to the featured topic of the month and all questions are welcome.



OPEN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

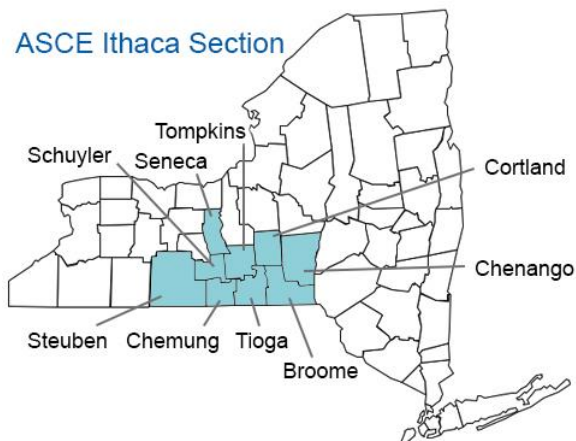
We have several open positions. If interested in serving as an officer or committee chair, please contact us at ASCE.Ithaca@gmail.com.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Send your ideas, suggestions or other correspondence via email to ASCE.Ithaca@gmail.com. Visit our website <http://sections.asce.org/Ithaca/>.

The Ithaca Section is one of six sections in New York State and covers the following counties (and cities):

Broome (Binghamton)
 Chemung (Elmira)
 Chenango (Norwich)
 Cortland (Cortland)
 Schuyler (Watkins Glen)
 Seneca (Waterloo)
 Steuben (Hornell, Corning)
 Tioga (Candor, Owego)
 Tompkins (Ithaca)



Region Governor Activities

GOVERNORS 7

**REGION BOARD
COMMITTEES 3**

AUDIT COMMITTEE
COMMUNICATION AND
ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
STUDENT MEMBER SUPPORT
COMMITTEE

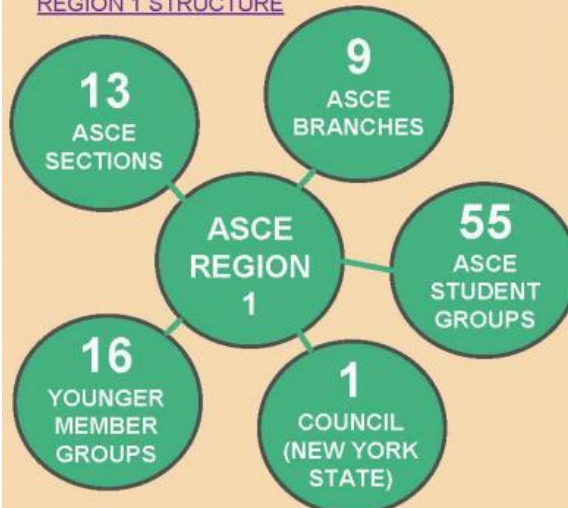
3 REGION BOARD
FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

ANNUAL GOVERNOR VISITS
TO THE REGION'S
GEOGRAPHIC SECTIONS &
BRANCHES **+70**

12 FACE TO FACE VISITS TO
COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES

19,600
REGION 1 MEMBERS

REGION 1 STRUCTURE



“ENHANCING REGION MEMBER VALUE”



3 STUDENT CONFERENCES

METROPOLITAN CONFERENCE
(Rowan University, April 17 – 19, 2020)

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE
(Norwich University, April 17 – 19, 2020)

UPSTATE NEW YORK CONFERENCE
(Clarkson University, April 23-25, 2020)

UPCOMING 2019-2020 REGION EVENTS

Region 1 Fall Assembly in Saratoga Springs, NY (September 14 – 15, 2019)

New York State Council Meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY (September 13, 2019)

MRLC for Regions 1, 2, 4 & 5, Philadelphia, PA (January 31 – February 1, 2020)

Region 1 Spring Assembly in Connecticut (TBD)

REGION 1 GRANT'S AWARDED IN 2019



**REGION 1
INFRASTRUCTURE
REPORT CARDS**

2019 VERMONT REPORT CARD
2018 CONNECTICUT REPORT CARD
2017 NEW HAMPSHIRE REPORT CARD
2016 NEW JERSEY REPORT CARD
2016 MAINE REPORT CARD
2015 NEW YORK REPORT CARD

VISIT <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/state-by-state-infrastructure/>
FOR MORE INFO