

TAKEAWAYS FROM NYS COUNCIL AND REGION 1 MEETINGS IN SARATOGA SPRINGS

These meetings were held on September 13-15 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. The Ithaca Section was represented by Beth Ann Smith and Dave Kennicutt. Topics of special interest included:

- Infrastructure Report Card: Region 1 is looking for a Chair for the Release Committee, authors are being sought for the report, and help is also needed for contributors and reviewers. If interested, please contact Beth Ann Smith at BethAnn.Smith@ghd.com.
- The NYS Council is looking for a Chair for the Professional Registration Committee. You may contact Bill Merwarth at ascebill@gmail.com if interested.
- ASCE is facing budget deficits due to declining membership. Of particular concern is the rate of transition from student to full member, and member retention. The “Raise the Bar” initiative has been rebranded as “Engineer Tomorrow”, and a new initiative called “Future World Vision” will be rolled out soon to address these concerns.
- Brenda Crudele, PE, NYSDOT Director of Structures Design, provided a presentation on Model Based Contracting. A pilot project is being advertised using CADD 3D models instead of 2D plan sheets, which is a direction the DOT, is moving to.
- Member engagement was a big topic. Ideas and best practices were shared, including: Sports/game outings (e.g. golf, baseball, hockey), other outings (trivia night, brewery, wine tours), mock interviews, PE refresher course. The theme seemed to be to make meetings more social events to attract and preserve younger members.

FUN AT WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

Our September meeting was a dinner and PDH presentation at WG International Speedway. The presentation titled “It’s a Matter of Ethics” was provided by Mary Beth Rumble of Poole Professional, New York, Inc. Attendees had the opportunity to take pace car rides around the 3.4 mile road course.



2019 SOUTHERN TIER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

The symposium was held at the Holiday Inn in Binghamton on October 8. Sixteen presentations were offered across 3 major topics, including a lunchtime ethics discussion. Attendees were able to earn up to 6.5 PDH credits.

NEW OFFICERS AND OPEN POSITIONS

Ben Girtain-Plowe is our new Secretary, and Dave Kennicutt is our new Webmaster/Newsletter Editor. We still need to fill several positions for other Section Officers. Open positions are President-Elect and Vice President. Please consider becoming an officer; engagement provides not only networking opportunities, but enhances professional development and comes with the personal satisfaction from knowing you are promoting the profession of civil engineering. You can contact us at ASCE.Ithaca@gmail.com if interested in being an officer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 22, 2020: NYS Council meeting (teleconference) at noon.
- **January 25, 2020: Learn to Curl, CRC Rink, Lansing, NY at 7:00 pm (more information to come)**
- January 31 – February 1, 2020: Regions 1, 2, 4 & 5 Multi-Region Leadership Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- **February 18, 2020: Engineer Week Dinner (more information to come)**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ***Become Active.*** Attend board meetings, help plan events, and provide feedback. Our section is being challenged by lack of support. If there are ideas or suggestions on how we can improve our Section, please let us know.
- ***Become a Section Officer.*** See above for open positions and the benefits of becoming an officer.
- ***Submit topics of interest for the Newsletter.*** Let us know if you have a story or event that is of interest to the civil engineering profession and you want to include in our next newsletter. Contact newsletter editor Dave Kennicutt at dkennicutt@stny.rr.com.
- ***Coordinate an Event.*** If you know a vendor that is willing to provide a tour, a fun event that you would like to organize, know of a good venue for a meeting that you can arrange, etc. we want to hear from you.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Send your ideas, suggestions or other correspondence via email to ASCE.Ithaca@gmail.com.