

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/>.

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The annual Southern Tier Professional Development Symposium has been cancelled for 2020 due to a lack of volunteers needed to facilitate this virtual event. If you are interested in volunteering to make sure that there is a Southern Tier Professional Development Symposium next year, please contact [Beth Ann Smith](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The ASCE Convention (Virtual) will be held on October 28-30, 11am – 5pm ET. Information can be found at <https://convention.asce.org/>
- November 5, 2020 is ASCE Day, celebrating the Society’s founding on the same day in 1852. Learn more at <https://www.asce.org/asceday/>
- November 11, 2020: Ithaca Section Virtual Board Meeting, 5 pm.
- February 11-12, 2021: Capital District’s 41st Celebration of National Engineers Week – Online Webinar Series. There is a call for webinars for this event. Seminar forms are needed by November 1; seminar materials are due by December 4. If you have a topic you would like to present, you can get more information by contacting Jen Miller, Director of Programs at jamiller@nysspe.org.

NYS COUNCIL UPDATE

The NYS Council is comprised of six sections: Buffalo, Hudson-Mohawk, Ithaca, Rochester, Syracuse and MET (NYC Metropolitan). A virtual meeting was held on September 15. Topics discussed include:

- New officers for 2021 will be:
 - Chair: Brad Kubiak - Syracuse Section
 - Vice-chair: Tony Cioffi - MET Section
 - Treasurer: Doug Castelli - MET Section
 - Assistant Treasurer: Tony Cioffi - MET Section
 - Secretary: Based on rotations schedule – Syracuse Section
- Each year the NYS Council conducts an assessment and collects dues from each Section. Discussions are underway to determine if the 2020-2021 assessment will remain the same as last year’s, reduced, or eliminated in consideration of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Work on the NYS Report Card had been postponed due to the pandemic, but will resume in early 2021. The current target date for release of the report is midsummer 2022. Volunteers are needed to help develop the report card; those interested can contact [Beth Ann Smith](#).

REGION 1 UPDATE

Region 1 is comprised of all the sections and branches within the states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and Maine in the US; and individual members in the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec in Canada. A virtual assembly meeting was held on September 25. Topics addressed include:

- John Folts will be the new Director, replacing Tony Cioffi as of Oct 2020.
- Like the NYS Council, the Region has their own assessment for dues. A proposal being discussed is a reduction for 2020-2021 to 50% of the 2019-2020 assessment.
- Proposed changes being considered nationally in ASCE membership, subject to approval
 - Graduated dues ladder will be 2 tiered vs. currently 5. All members (except students) 28 and under will pay 50% of standard dues. Other members will pay standard dues.
 - Life members will become eligible after 40 years of membership (vs. 35 now) and will pay 50% of standard dues (vs no dues now).
- Outgoing Society President K.N. Gunalan addressed attendees on the need for ASCE to become more nimble, inclusive, focused and streamlined.
- Incoming Society President Jean Louis Briand outlined his goals focused on communication. He will be conducting these meetings:
 - Town Hall with the President, first business day of the month at noon Central, all members invited. First meeting will be held on Nov. 2.
 - Students Presidential Group, first Sunday of the month at noon Central, by invitation, guests are welcome by can't speak.
 - Regions Institutes Presidential Group, every other month for 9 Institute Presidents and 10 Region Directors.
- Pilot competitions are being developed for students, including one by the Construction Institute and an entrepreneurial competition (Shark Tank-like).
- Various virtual meeting platforms were discussed. Virtual events are being conducted by many sections for meetings, webinars and competitions. Meeting attendance is significantly improved on a virtual platform. MS Teams seems to be a popular option. Region 1 is holding a Governors meeting to discuss purchasing Zoom software, with potential for shared use by sections and branches.

VIRTUAL MEETING DO'S AND DON'TS

Do test your connection – a camera and video check prior to the meeting will pay dividends

Do check your background – it is being viewed as well as you

Do give attendees a chance to introduce themselves

Do utilize the mute button when not speaking



Don't wait until meeting time to log on

Don't sit in front of a window or bright light – it will cast you in shadow

Don't multitask – pay attention as you would in person

OPEN POSITIONS

We continue to look for a Section President, Vice President or President-Elect. It is increasingly difficult to conduct business without more help. 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. Some employers will contribute a portion or all of your yearly dues if you are an officer of ASCE. You can contact us at ASCE.Ithaca@gmail.com if interested.

WHY BECOME INVOLVED IN ASCE ACTIVITIES

ASCE has resources to assist members in developing leadership skills. Some are through practice and “showing up,” and others are training opportunities. Each takes time and commitment. You can begin your leadership journey with your ASCE Section or Branch.

Key Points

- Local involvement offers many opportunities for members to use and enhance their leadership skills. Being involved in a local committee or board can help you improve your:
 - Communication skills – make presentations at meetings and interact with peers
 - Motivation and recruitment techniques – inspire volunteers to fit your event into their busy schedules
 - Team building – collaborate, listen to different perspectives, and problem solve with colleagues
 - Influence others – practice building consensus, leading meetings, delegating tasks, and sharing your vision
 - Management skills to compliment your leadership skills – such as organizing meetings and events and budgeting
- Leaders empower others by mentoring and mentoring facilitates the growth of the mentor, protégé, and the profession. By sharing experiences, insights and ideas, a learning relationship develops that accelerates professional development.
- Everyone has the ability to be a leader. ASCE conducts several programs and courses to develop leadership skills.

So, why not be involved and practice away from your office where your stumbles can be about learning, not necessarily about your next performance review.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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