

WELCOME FRIENDS!

COVID infections rates are going down, and vaccines have arrived. But many of us will still be stuck at home for months. Do you miss the “water-cooler” and “coffee room” conversations? Are you interested in ASCE activities and civil engineering goings-on in the area? Join us for personal and professional conversations at an ASCE Zoom meeting this spring, summer, or next year.

JOIN YOUR NEXT ZOOM MEETING

Ithaca Section ASCE is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom board meeting at 5 pm on March 10, 2021. Future meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of odd months at 5 pm. 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!

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/>.

ITHACA SECTION CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS UPDATE

The latest version of Ithaca Section's Constitution and Bylaw is 20 years old and in need of an update. For example, there are references in the documents to the Council of Vice Presidents, which no longer exists. The Section Board is currently reviewing these documents and will be recommending changes in the coming weeks. Upon completion of this review, the proposed changes will be distributed to membership for approval.

**MULTI-REGION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED**

The 2021 Region 1, 2, 4 & 5 Multi-Region Leadership Conference was originally scheduled as a virtual event on June 10-12, 2021. ASCE National has decided to hold this event earlier in the year at a date yet to be determined.

**NYS COUNCIL NEWS**

A summary of activities and policies that the New York State Council has discussed at their meetings this year include the following:

- They have reduced their section assessments (dues paid by the various sections in NY) by 50% in recognition that the Council's expenses will be less this year because of reduced costs in this virtual, Covid environment.
- The Council is reaching 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
- The Council is developing an update to the New York State Infrastructure Report Card in 2022. Work on this has begun, and the Council needs volunteers to help author, review

and coordinate the release of this document. The 13 categories for the 2022 Report Card are aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, parks, roads, solid waste, transit, wastewater, energy, rail, ports & terminals, and non-motorized transportation systems. If you or someone you know is able to help, please contact one of these 2022 New York State Report Card Committee Co-chairs no **later than March 3, 2021**:

- 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. His email report on January 25 is provided below:

- **The Student Presidential Group (SPG) met on Dec. 6, 2020, and on Jan. 3, 2021.** SPG having completed recommendations and action on 3 topics (student transition to ASCE member, help for students, student chapters) decided to work on 3 new topics (communication with students, connecting students with Sections, student conferences and competitions). Note that the board decided that, starting in July 2021, all students will automatically become ASCE members for one year upon graduation. This is an opt out approach rather than an opt in approach.
- **The Region and Institute Presidential Group (RIPG) met on Dec. 15, 2020, and ranked as highest the following priorities.**
 - Develop further opportunities for interaction between regions and institutes
 - Grow membership
 - Increase the transition rate for students
 - Subgroups of RIPG have been formed to prepare proposals to be presented to the next RIPG meeting on Feb. 16, 2021.
- **The second “Ask the President” townhall took place on Dec. 1, 2020, and the third one on Jan. 4, 2021, by Zoom.** I do answer many questions from our members but there are too many to answer during the townhall. So, I prepare a written answer to all questions. These written answers are sent to all those who attend the townhall. *[Editor’s note: The next “Ask the President” townhall is on March 1, 2021 at 1 p.m. EST where the theme will be the new ASCE Code of Ethics Special. Please [click here](#) to register.]*
- **This month, ASCE released its new Failure to Act report on the economic impacts of underinvesting in our infrastructure.**

News from ASCE Board of Directors meeting on Jan. 15-16, 2021, and decided the following:

- Maria Lehman and Peter Moore were selected as official nominees for president-elect.
- A list of novel ideas that would help ASCE’s continued growth was prepared during a “Time to Think” period.

- The topics of membership growth, balancing the budget, and cybersecurity help for our members were discussed.
- New public policies on Broadband, NEPA, and Renewable Energy Policy were adopted.
- Authorized \$800,000 from reserves to fund development of the Future World Vision Mega City project while fundraising by the ASCE Foundation continues.
- Listened to and acted on suggestions from the Student Presidential Group.
- Created a new Government Engineers Council reporting directly to the board.
- A plan is under way for a Civil Engineering Client Summit in late February 2021 where clients of civil engineers will express their opinion on the need and value of post PE certification.



OPEN POSITIONS

We have several open leadership positions. You can contact us at ASCE.Ithaca@gmail.com if interested in serving as an officer or committee chair.

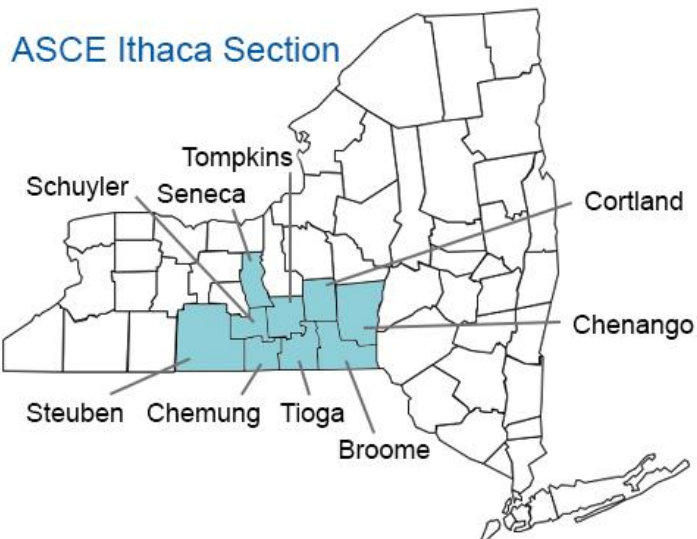
In 2017, a series of reorganization meetings were facilitated and there were many people interested in continuing the Ithaca Section. Although we have great participation from a number of members, there is still more needed. This is a great way to get your initial leadership training. Right now, it is all virtual, so no traveling. This is also a great way to keep involved if you are getting ready to retire, but still want to be involved in your profession. On the committee training is provided!

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)*



Our section also includes the Cornell University Chapter.