

# ASCE SC Section News

American Society of Civil Engineers

2024-2025

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### 2024-2025 President

Bailey Lively

### 2024-2025 President-Elect

Gwen Sollenberger

### 2024-2025 Vice President

Vacant

### 2024-2025 Past President

Chris Mack

### 2024-2025 Secretary

Cherri DeFigh-Price

### 2024-2025 Treasurer

Grant Hollis

### 2024-2025 At-Large Director

Mark Lorah

### Catawba Branch Director

Brad Ross

### CSRV Branch Director

Mark Lorah

### Eastern Branch Director

Jonathan Ard

### Grand Strand Branch Director

Ryan Harvey

### Midlands Branch Director

Grace Porter

### Upstate Branch Director

Jason Jansante

### Younger Member Forum

Vacant

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Section Web Site & Newsletter

Renée S. Gardner

### Awards

Ryan Harvey

### Scholarship

Vacant

### Membership Champion

Vacant

### Regional Engineering Conference

Jonathan Thrasher  
Ryan Harvey

### SCCESS Committee

Vacant

### Infrastructure Report Card

Jonathan Ard

## Outgoing President's Pen



Dear fellow ASCE Members,

I am proud to have served you as the ASCE South Carolina Section President this past year. My vision for the 2024-2025 fiscal year was to continue to advance the goals the Board defined in previous years supporting the ASCE Strategic Plan society objectives for 2023-2028. We certainly achieved this mission together with the help of Section Board volunteers fueled by the enthusiasm of our membership. We promoted advocacy by facilitating civil engineering leadership through participation in Legislative Reception, Legislative Fly-in, and Engineers Day on the Hill. We energized a diverse, engaged civil engineering community by highlighting best practices and recognizing achievements of SC Civil Engineers in our annual awards at the Fall Conference. We amplified our collective impact through engaging our local communities at Upstate Branch Popsicle Bridge Event, CSRA Brick Con, and Midlands Branch Home Works volunteer event. We delivered value to our members by promoting ASCE society virtual on-demand PDH opportunities as well as offering in-person PDH opportunities at Branch meetings and Section conferences across the state throughout the year.

*Bailey Lively*



## September 2024

Officer Installment

Oath of office was administered by Kevin Krick

**Past President:** Chris Mack (Eastern Branch)

**President:** Bailey Lively (Midlands Branch)

**President Elect:** Gwen Sollenberger (Upstate Branch)

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Cherri DeFigh-Price (CSRV Branch)

**Treasurer:** Grant Hollis (Upstate Branch)

**At-Large Director:** Mark Lorah (CSRV Branch)



In attendance are from l to r: Christina Ammens (Region 4 Director), Grant Hollis, Mark Lorah, Ryan Harvey, Gwen Sollenberger, Chris Mack, Bailey Lively, Cherri DeFigh-Price, Grace Porter, Kevin Morgan, Renée Gardner, Kevin Krick (SC Governor)

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# January 11, 2025 CSRA Brick Con

LEGO fans descended on the Augusta area to show off creations at the annual convention. Among them was our very own **Mark Lorah**.

As reported by Bianca Moorman of the Aiken Standard, Augusta landmarks, towns, trains and the Millennium Falcon were on display as LEGO fans flocked to an event that was all about the colorful toys.

CSRA Brick Con 2025 — A LEGO fan event — was held at the Columbia County Library so LEGO fans could share their displays, sets and other unique items.

The main feature was a city built using LEGO bricks that featured a Food Lion, a Waffle House, a dinosaur and other buildings.

The event was organized by SC Bricks, a nonprofit created by Adult Fans of LEGO. The group is based in Greenville, with members from Georgia and the Carolinas.

Augusta resident, LEGO builder, Mark Lorah had several pieces on display, including the clubhouse at Augusta National Golf Club, a bald eagle, the Imperial Theatre and other Augusta landmarks.

Lorah is a structural engineer and feels like he has a mission to work with children to inspire them to design and learn about engineering. He said LEGO bricks are a perfect way to do that.

He said LEGO also saw the trend of adults using its bricks and started to put out sets for adults.

"We have a term for it, AFOL, an adult fan of LEGO," he said. "You will find a lot AFOL."

He said the LEGO community is like a family.

"It's a huge community and we can inspire each other," he said.



# January 2025 Legislative Reception

Each year, the Design Construction Partners (DCP)—a respected alliance that includes the ASCE SC Section—hosts its annual Legislative Reception, a key event that brings together professionals from engineering, architecture, construction, and surveying. This gathering offers a vital opportunity to connect with state legislators, discuss pending legislation, and advocate for policies that support both industry standards and public well-being.

The reception fosters collaboration between practitioners and policymakers, enabling meaningful conversations about challenges and innovations shaping infrastructure and development across South Carolina. It's a chance to share your expertise, build relationships with decision-makers, and help shape the future of our built environment.

Stay tuned for event invitations, and consider volunteering to attend. Your voice matters—use this opportunity to thank lawmakers for their service and offer the valuable perspective only an engineer can provide.



2025  
Design Construction  
Partnership  
Legislative Priorities



## February 28 - March 1 Multi-Regional Leadership Conference

The MRLC is three conferences combined into one. It includes the **Workshop for Section, Branch and Institute Leaders** (WSBIL), **Eastern Region Younger Member Council** (ERYMC), and the **Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders** (WSCL).

Over 400 Civil Engineers and Civil Engineering students were expected to attend the conference from ASCE Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5. The span includes the eastern part of the United States from Louisiana to Florida and up to Maine. These regions also include Puerto Rico and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec.

This year the conference was held Memphis, TN. Representing South Carolina was Kevin Krick.

The purpose of the Multi Region Leadership Conference is to provide a venue for upcoming leaders to gain knowledge of the Society and their Region, interact with students, younger members, section, branch, and institute

leaders, while gaining personal leadership skills and learning the importance of networking.

Seeking to enhance your leadership skills and contribute to the profession? Consider volunteering at the branch or section level! Engaging in these roles not only allows you to develop valuable leadership abilities but also provides an opportunity to give back to the engineering community. To learn more about available positions and how you can make a difference, please reach out to any of our board members. We appreciate your commitment to the profession and look forward to your involvement!



From left: Cole Melody Kofi (Al Large), Kevin Krick (SC), Colette Easter (KY), Christina Ammens (Region IV Director), Darren Williams (VA), Jennifer Sharkey (IN), Dave Meadows (WV), Ashely Smith (TN), Chas Webb (NC), Manheesh Krishnan (AK)

## March 26-28, 2025 — Legislative Fly-In

Every spring, ASCE holds its Legislative Fly-In to Washington, DC. This is an exclusive and intensive two-day event providing participants with professional development in honing their skills in the public policy process and advocacy, as well as valuable peer-to-peer networking with fellow ASCE influencers.

Arriving in Washington ready to represent SC – Jonathan Thrasher, Renée Gardner, and Jonathan Thrasher.



Taking a break between meetings



Meeting with Representative Wilson

Participating in the Legislative Fly-In is a valuable opportunity for the SC Section, civil engineering society, and the citizens of SC. It allows individual engineers to develop their skills and represent their respective congressional districts. If you're interested in attending, please reach out to the SC Section board. Financial assistance is available through reimbursement policies to help cover the costs of participation.



# March 2025 Upstate Branch Popsicle Bridge Event

The ASCE Upstate Branch has been hosting the Popsicle Bridge Event since 2009. The event was started by the Upstate Branch members and the Greenville County Schools Challenge Program to help students learn more about math, science, and engineering in a fun and practical way. The students spend approximately three months in the classroom learning about bridge design and the challenges of creating a strong, yet lightweight bridge which is essential in today's real world scenarios of cost efficient design. The 4th grade students construct their bridges with Popsicle sticks and white craft glue and must adhere to certain constraints regarding height, length and width. The bridges are then brought to the competition for final weigh-in and testing as part of the event.



Every year, the Upstate Branch seeks volunteers to contribute to this important event. Keep an eye out for announcements and consider joining to give back to the profession that has given so much to us. Your participation can inspire the next generation to pursue engineering as an exciting and fulfilling career path. Stay tuned for more details on how you can make a difference!





# June 2025 SC Engineering Conference & Trade Show

American Council of Engineering Companies of South Carolina (ACEC-SC), American Society of Civil Engineers of SC (ASCE SC), and South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (SCSPE) partner to host this annual conference. Organization is facilitated through Jones, McAden, & Associate, Inc. (JMA). Representatives from each organization serve on the conference committee and work diligently to bring forth a valuable opportunity for engineers to hear timely presentations on various engineering subjects, keynote presentations and earn enough professional development hours to substantially meet the annual requirement. Additionally, the conference offers a trade show where products and services engineers use directly or specify are offered with knowledgeable representatives to assist participants.

Presenters from the ASCE SC Section included Ryan Harvey, Leanne Panduren and Mark Lorah. Keynote speaker was Marsia Geldert-Murphey, PE ASCE Society President.



Ryan Harvey



Marsia Geldert-Murphey



Leanne Panduren

## September 11 - Annual Pre Conference Board Meeting



Attendees l to r: Bailey Lively, Mark Lorah, Gwen Sollenberger, Laura Boisclair, Perry Green, Chris Mack, Ryan Mattie, Ryan Harvey

# September 12 - SC Section Fall Conference

The Conference Committee continues to work diligently to build the annual one-day conference. This year's conference held in Charleston offered a single track. Attendees had the opportunity to earn 6 PDHs. In addition, the keynote speaker was Amy Bresnahan, PE, (Dominion Energy) providing *The History of Lake Murray and the Dreher Shoals Dam*, which now has earned the designation of a SC Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. An unveiling ceremony is scheduled for October 2025.

Committee members were Chris Mack (Chair), Ryan Mattie, Laura Criscio, & Hannah Saulnier



Amy Bresnahan



CT York

SCDOT Updates





## September 12 - SC Fall Conference cont'd



Adriane Radeker

Legos - More than a toy  
Mark Lorah



# SC Section Annual Awards Announced

**LeTellier Cup:** for Outstanding lifetime contribution to the profession of Civil Engineering



**Dr. Mostafa Batouli**

**SC Young Civil Engineers of the Year** – member under the age of 35 who has demonstrated the most outstanding contribution to the profession of Civil Engineering in South Carolina in Fiscal Year 2025

**Dylan Jordan, PE**

Dylan was not in attendance to accept his award in person

**Project of the Year** – The most outstanding civil engineering project completed within the state of South Carolina in Fiscal Year.

**SC DOT, City of Columbia, and Kimley Horn** for their work on the  
“Harden Street Vulnerable Road User Corridor Safety Project.”

**Technical Merit** – Recognition for an outstanding project (does not need to have completed in the year) or technical innovation toward the profession of Civil Engineering.

The Daniel Island Drive bridge over Beresford Creek for JMT’s  
choice of **glass fiber reinforced polymer (GFRP)** for the  
superstructure and pile caps

**Distinguished Service to People Award** - is awarded to a Member of the ASCE South Carolina Section or local Branch that has demonstrated outstanding service during the past year to the people.



In the wake of Hurricane Helene’s devastating impact, **Jose Hernandez**, as the sole proprietor of PRYCO STRUCTURAL mobilized swiftly to support the CSRA community by delivering critical Civil Engineering services during a time of urgent need. He responded to nearly 80 inquiries—primarily residential—working long hours, through nights and weekends, and even staying overnight at the office to ensure the demand to get the CSRA’s community back on their feet was met.

# SC Section Annual Awards Announced

**SECTION SERVICE AWARD:** is awarded to a Member of the ASCE South Carolina Section or local Branch that has demonstrated outstanding service during the past year. The candidate must be an active member in ASCE at the time of the award nomination.



We would like to honor **Kevin Krick** for his years of service representing the SC Section in the region and all of his work helping to maintain a strong presence within the region for the state of South Carolina.

**SECTION LEADERSHIP AWARD:** is awarded to a Member of the ASCE South Carolina Section or local Branch that has demonstrated outstanding leadership during the past year. The candidate must be an active member in ASCE at the time of the award nomination.



This year's recipient volunteered for the President 2022-2023 and Past President 2023-2024. He also served on the ASCE SC Section Board assisting delivery of the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 annual conferences. Theo also is part of ACEC Emerging Leaders Board where he works directly with USC students. For demonstrating outstanding leadership in support of the Midlands Branch, this year's Section Leadership/Service Award goes to **Theodore Deligiannidis (Theo)** (Midlands Branch).



# SC Section Annual Awards Announced

The **SECTION CIVIL ENGINEER EDUCATOR OF YEAR AWARD** recognizes an educator within the South Carolina Section boundaries that has demonstrated excellence at developing the next generation of Civil Engineering Students. The candidate is preferred to be an active member in ASCE at the time of the award nomination. He/she must be actively teaching at a level that prepares students to become professional engineers. Nominees should demonstrate how the educator is encouraging professional development, technical society involvement as well as academic excellence.



**Dr. Jennifer Ogle** is a Professor and Chair of the Glen Department of Civil Engineering in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences Clemson University

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** Nominations are not accepted for this award. The person, group or firm that has demonstrated significant contributions to the ASCE South Carolina Section is selected by the ASCE SC Section President.



**SUPERIOR**

US 1 over I-20 Interchange Improvement  
Design Build Project  
Lexington, SC  
July 19, 2024



This \$38 million best value project provided congestion relief and improved safety for commuters in and out of Columbia, SC. Some of the key features of the project included a reduced footprint, which drastically reduced the required right of way and helped mitigate impacts to adjacent wetlands and the historical Four Oaks property, widened I-20 overpass, new ramp on I-20 west bound, removal of loop ramps, a new overpass for Cedar Road, which eliminated a conflict point along the corridor, and the design of a new roundabout intersection for enhanced operations and increased safety. The JMT/Superior Construction team collaborated to think outside the box and develop an innovative solution for the specific conditions at the project site rather than relying on a more traditional design. Congratulations to **SC DOT, Superior Construction & JMT** for their accomplishments on this award winning project.

# SC Section 2025-2026 Board Members



Gwen Sollenberger  
President



Chris Mack  
President-Elect



Ryan Mattie  
Vice President



Bailey Lively  
Past-President



Cherri DeFigh-Price  
Secretary



Grant Hollis  
Treasurer



Perry Green  
At-Large Director



Jonathan Ard  
Eastern Branch Director



Ryan Harvey  
Grand Strand Branch Director



## SC Section 2025-2026 Board Members



Kiera Hughes  
Midlands Branch Director



Ryan Holder  
Upstate Branch Director



Vacant  
Younger Member Forum

## Passing of the Gavel



Incoming President Gwen Sollenberger with Outgoing President, Bailey Lively

# Incoming President's Pen

Dear ASCE South Carolina Section Members,

As I take on the role of President for the upcoming year, I am both honored and excited to lead our Section into 2026. Building on the strong foundation established by my predecessors, I am committed to fostering a vibrant community among our members and advancing the civil engineering profession in South Carolina.

Reflecting on the past year, we have made significant strides together. Our representation at events such as Engineers Day on the Hill and the Legislative Fly-In has amplified our voice in advocating for essential infrastructure needs. The success of our joint conferences with other engineering organizations has demonstrated our commitment to collaboration and innovation.

Looking ahead to 2026, I am particularly enthusiastic about several key initiatives:

- **\*\*Engagement with Student Chapters\*\***: We will focus on revitalizing our scholarship program and enhancing support for student activities. Engaging with our student chapters and younger members is crucial for the future of our profession.
- **\*\*2026 Section Conference\*\***: We are gearing up for an exciting Section Conference that promises to be informative and engaging. This event will provide a platform for networking and sharing knowledge among professionals across the state.
- **\*\*Continued Advocacy\*\***: We will maintain our efforts in advocacy, ensuring that civil engineering remains a priority in public policy discussions. Our participation in events like Engineers Day on the Hill will be vital in this regard.
- **\*\*Leadership Development\*\***: Identifying and nurturing the next generation of ASCE leaders will be a priority. We will seek opportunities for mentorship and leadership training to empower our younger members.
- **\*\*STEM Initiatives\*\***: We will explore new initiatives to promote STEM education within our communities, inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in civil engineering.
- **\*\*Membership Growth\*\***: Expanding our membership base is essential for our continued success. We will implement strategies to attract new members and retain our current ones.

I am grateful to serve alongside a dedicated Board and committed volunteers who share a passion for our profession. Together, we will strive to make a meaningful impact in our communities and the civil engineering field.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I look forward to working with each of you as we embark on this exciting journey together.

Warm regards,

Genevieve "Gwen" Sollenberger  
President, ASCE South Carolina Section

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**ASCE SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION**  
**SC SECTION (1934) Website**  
**[sections.asce.org/south-carolina](https://sections.asce.org/south-carolina)**