

ASCE SC Section News

American Society of Civil Engineers

October 2025 - January 2026

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Awards

Ryan Harvey

History & Heritage

Cherri DeFigh-Price

Scholarship

Perry Green

Membership Champion

Vacant

Regional Engineering Conference

Jonathan Thrasher

Ryan Harvey

SCCESS Committee

Vacant

Infrastructure Report Card

Jonathan Ard

President's Pen



Dear fellow ASCE Members,

The ASCE South Carolina Section Board of Directors has begun planning an exciting roadmap for 2026, with a shared vision to strengthen member engagement, expand professional development opportunities, and elevate the civil engineering profession across the state.

But we can't do it alone.

We invite you—our members—to join us in making a meaningful impact. Whether it's serving on a committee, mentoring students, supporting outreach events, or helping shape policy and programming, your voice and expertise are essential to our collective success.

This is your opportunity to help build a more connected, inclusive, and forward-thinking engineering community in South Carolina.

If you're interested in taking an active role, we encourage you to reach out to any current Section Board member. Together, we can advance our mission and ensure the Section continues to thrive for years to come.

The ASCE South Carolina Section is powered by its members. Your leadership, ideas, and time make a difference.

Gwen Sollenberger



2025-2026

Officer Installment

Oath of office was administered by Kevin Krick

Past President: Bailey Lively (Midlands Branch)

President: Gwen Sollenberger (Upstate Branch)

President Elect: Chris Mack (Eastern Branch)

Vice President: Ryan Mattie (Eastern Branch)

Secretary: Cherri DeFigh-Price (CSRV Branch)

Treasurer: Grant Hollis (Upstate Branch)

At-Large Director: Perry Green (CSRV Branch)



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

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Dreher Shoals Dam - Historic Award Dedication

In a milestone moment for the state's engineering community, South Carolina has added a distinguished new chapter to its built legacy through the formal recognition of a historic engineering achievement. After a months-long research and review process led by historian and civil engineer Cherri DeFigh-Price, the project was officially approved by the Society's History & Heritage Committee for inclusion in the national registry of engineering landmarks.



Cherri DeFigh-Price

This recognition marks only the third engineering History & Heritage marker ever awarded in the South Carolina Section's geographic area—a rare distinction that underscores the significance of the honored work. These markers, administered by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), celebrate projects, structures, or innovations that have made lasting contributions to the advancement of civil engineering and public welfare.

DeFigh-Price's extensive research uncovered pivotal technical and societal impacts of the project, including its pioneering design, long-term durability, and influence on regional infrastructure development. Her work involved archival investigation, engineering analysis, and stakeholder interviews, culminating in a comprehensive nomination package that underwent rigorous peer review by the national committee.

"This isn't just about honoring the past—it's about connecting today's engineers to the legacy they're building upon," said DeFigh-Price. "These markers remind us that engineering excellence stands the test of time."

The History & Heritage program, established to preserve and promote the achievements of civil engineering, has recognized fewer than 300 sites nationwide. With only three in the South Carolina Section's geographic area, each new designation represents a significant contribution to the state's engineering narrative.



The official dedication ceremony took place on October 22nd, bringing together engineers, historians, and community leaders to celebrate the enduring impact of innovation.

For more information about the ASCE History & Heritage program or South Carolina's recognized landmarks, visit sections.asce.org/south-carolina/resources-0



Pictured unveiling the monument are ASCE Region 4 Governor, Chistina Ammens, and Dominion Energy South Carolina President, Keller Kissam.

South Carolina Kicks Off Update to State Infrastructure Report Card

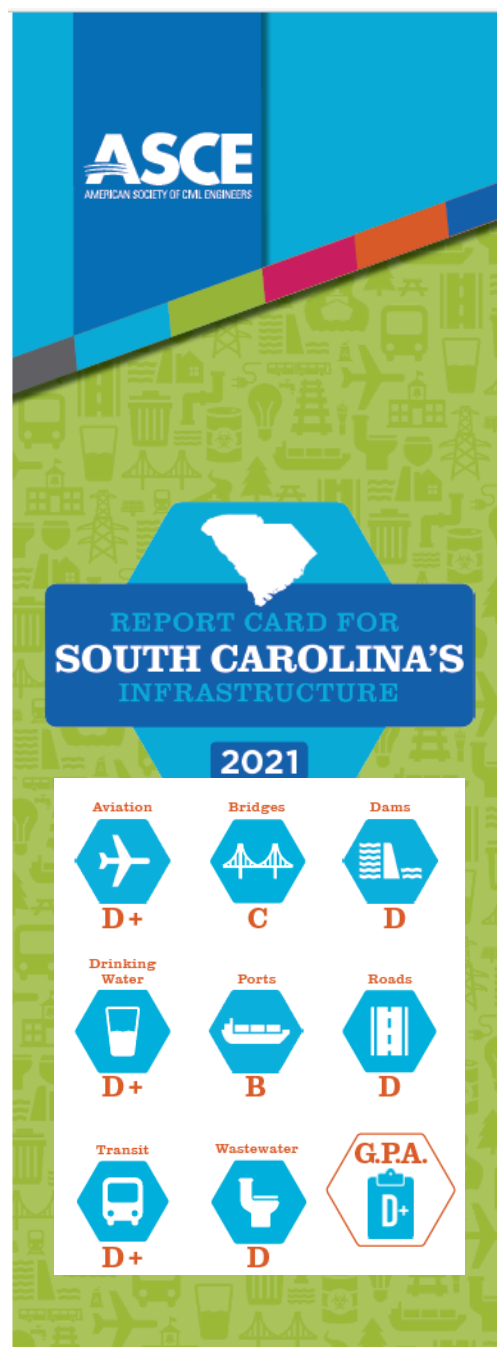
The ASCE South Carolina Section has officially launched the update to its *Infrastructure Report Card*, a critical tool for informing public policy and advancing engineering advocacy across the state.

Committee Co-Chairs Jonathan Ard and Renée Gardner have convened a team of volunteer engineers and subject matter experts to assess and grade key infrastructure sectors. This update will refresh grades for existing categories—**Roads, Bridges, Transit, Water, Wastewater, Ports, Dams, and Aviation**—and for the first time, introduce a new chapter: **Coastal Resilience**.

A kick-off meeting was held on October 27th with chapter authors, the Infrastructure Report Card (IRC) Committee, and ASCE Society representative Tatjana Kunz. With guidance from national ASCE, the team established a clear timeline for research, data collection, and report writing, with monthly check-ins to maintain momentum toward an **August/September 2026** public release.

Before final publication, the draft chapters will undergo a **Factual Accuracy Review** by technical peers, followed by ASCE Society review. The final report and companion brochure will serve as vital advocacy tools, equipping ASCE's advocacy captains to engage lawmakers and highlight the role of civil engineers in shaping resilient, sustainable infrastructure.

Volunteers with technical expertise are encouraged to participate in the peer review process. To get involved or recommend a reviewer, please contact Jonathan Ard or Renée Gardner.



The ASCE South Carolina Infrastructure Report Card is modeled after the national ASCE Report Card for America's Infrastructure, providing state-specific insights to drive investment and innovation.

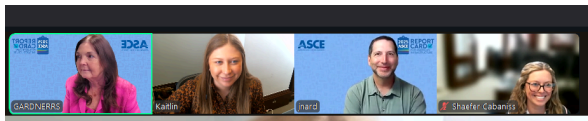
Pictured at left are: Ryan Harvey, Jonathan Ard, and Jonathan Thrasher at the 2021 Press Release.

National Advocacy Through In-Person and Virtual Fly-Ins

The ASCE South Carolina Section is actively advancing its advocacy mission, with members participating in both the 2025 Virtual Legislative Fly-In and preparing for the 2026 In-Person Fly-In in Washington, D.C.

Applications for the 2026 In-Person Legislative Fly-In opened on **October 6** and closed on **November 15**, marking the beginning of a selective process to represent the state at the national level. While this year's window has closed, members are encouraged to keep the opportunity in mind for next cycle—it's a powerful way to build leadership, communication, and policy engagement skills while advocating for the civil engineering profession.

This year, ASCE also expanded access through a **Virtual Legislative Fly-In in October**, allowing members to participate remotely. South Carolina was proudly represented by **Jonathan Ard and Renée Gardner**, who engaged in virtual meetings, advocacy training, and policy discussions focused on infrastructure investment, workforce development, and sustainable engineering practices. Pictured below is the meeting that took place with Senator Graham's staff, Kaitlin Williams and Shaeffer Cabiniss.



Meanwhile, training for the upcoming in-person event is already underway. **Jonathan Ard, Renée Gardner, and Matt Miller** have been selected to attend the 2026 Fly-In and are now participating in a comprehensive preparation program led by ASCE Society leaders. The training covers essential topics such as:

- Navigating Capitol Hill, including logistics for visiting U.S. Senator and Representative offices
- Understanding federal infrastructure priorities and ASCE's key legislative asks
- Crafting personal and professional stories that resonate with policymakers
- Delivering clear, impactful talking points that reflect ASCE's national agenda

Participants are also connecting with engineers from across the country, gaining exposure to diverse regional perspectives and advocacy strategies—an experience that enriches both personal growth and professional insight.

"The training is about more than just what to say," said Renée Gardner. "It's about learning how to speak the language of policy, build relationships, and show lawmakers that engineers aren't just behind the scenes—we're essential partners in decision-making."

The Legislative Fly-In is a cornerstone of ASCE's advocacy efforts, empowering members to bring the voice of civil engineering directly to Capitol Hill. By sharing real-world experiences and technical expertise, participants help shape legislation that impacts infrastructure funding, permitting reform, and public safety.

South Carolina's continued involvement reflects a strong commitment to elevating the profession and ensuring engineers have a seat at the table.

For members interested in future advocacy opportunities—whether virtual or in person—early awareness and application are key. More information will be shared through section communications in late summer 2026.



Scholarship Committee has New Leadership

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) South Carolina Section is pleased to announce the appointment of Perry Green as Chair of its newly reactivated Scholarship Committee, marking a significant step forward in supporting the next generation of civil engineers.

After a period of inactivity, the Section is now moving to reestablish formal guidelines for awarding scholarship funds to graduate and undergraduate civil engineering students at South Carolina institutions. In addition, the Committee is developing a framework to support K-12 STEM outreach programs, with the goal of inspiring early interest in engineering and expanding access to hands-on learning opportunities.

Under Perry's leadership, the Committee will work to define eligibility criteria, application processes, and selection protocols—ensuring transparency, equity, and alignment with ASCE's national mission. The effort aims to strengthen

ties between the Section and academic institutions while increasing the visibility and impact of ASCE in classrooms across the state.

"This is about investing in the future of our profession," said Perry Green. "We want to make sure deserving students get financial support, and that young learners across South Carolina have the chance to discover what civil engineering can do for their communities."

The Section welcomes involvement from members who are interested in volunteering, reviewing applications, or helping shape the direction of both the scholarship and STEM outreach initiatives.

Those interested in contributing are encouraged to reach out to Perry Green to learn more about how to get involved.



Leadership and Advocacy at Key January Events

January 2026 kicked off with energy and impact for ASCE South Carolina members, who participated in two major events: the **Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC)** in Jacksonville, Florida, and the **Design & Construction Partnership Legislative Reception** in Columbia.

At the MRLC, held January 9–10, SC Section representatives joined civil engineers from Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5 for a dynamic program focused on leadership development, Society engagement, and cross-regional networking. The conference provided valuable training on chapter management, member retention, and strategic planning—equipping attendees to strengthen their local sections and support ASCE's national mission.



Ashley Balder (Grand Strand Branch)
Gwen Sollenberger (Upstate Branch)

Meanwhile, back in South Carolina, members attended the annual Design & Construction Partnership Legislative Reception, a key forum for connecting with state lawmakers ahead of the legislative session. The event offered a vital opportunity to advocate for policies that support infrastructure investment, sustainable development, and the continued advancement of the civil engineering profession.



"These events remind us that our voice matters—whether we're building leadership skills or building relationships with policymakers," said one attendee. "It's how we move the profession forward."

Region 4 Younger Member Paper/Presentation Competition

The Region 4 Assembly of the American Society of Civil Engineers is proud to conduct the Daniel V. Terrell Paper Competition for Younger Members. This prestigious competition has been held for over 60 years and commemorates Dean Terrell's many years of work and service to the Society and especially his leadership in the establishment of the District Council System, the predecessor of the Region 4 Assembly. All members, associate members or affiliates of ASCE (not including student members) who are 35 years of age or less on **February 1, 2026**, residing in Region 4, are eligible to submit papers in this competition.

The Daniel V. Terrell competition topic (same as the topic for the society's Daniel W. Mead Contest) must address professional ethics with respect to the following question or statement:

Engineering the Public Welfare: How Civil Engineers Engage and Advance Communities Through Ethical Infrastructure Design in accordance with the ASCE Code of Ethics

Civil engineering is not only about the design and construction of vertical and horizontal infrastructure. It is an essential part of shaping communities and building a better quality of life for all persons. In this essay, critically analyze the ethical responsibility of civil engineers to recognize the historical, cultural, and social needs of a community and to incorporate those considerations into their work. Discuss how civil engineers can engage with communities to develop solutions that protect historical and cultural resources, improve access and mobility, and expand economic and social opportunities. Use real-world examples and reflect on how emerging technologies and policies can support these objectives.

For rules, awards, and competition scoring details visit Region.ASCE.org/region4/dv-terrell-paper-competition website. Papers must be submitted to the SC Section President prior to the March 1, 2026 official submittal deadline. Only two entries from each Section will be advanced.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR:

- February 25, 2026, Engineers Day on the Hill
- March 18-20, 2026, Legislative Fly-in, Washington, DC
- April 2-4, 2026, Region 4 Student Symposium, North Carolina A&T, Greensboro, NC
- April 24-25, 2026, Regional 4 Assembly, Raleigh, NC (DV Terrell Paper/Presentation Competition)
- May 17, 2026, International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICEC), Galveston, TX
- June 25-27, 2026, Student Championships, Fairmont, West Virginia
- November 5, 2026, ASCE Day and kickoff for the 175th anniversary celebration
- Feb 28-March 5, 2027, Philadelphia, PA, ASCE 2027 "The Infrastructure and Engineering Experience".
- FALL 2027 ERYMC/MRLC - to be held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, (date TBD)



Congratulations to Our New ASCE Life Members!

The ASCE South Carolina Section is proud to recognize the following members on achieving **Life Membership** status with the American Society of Civil Engineers—a distinguished honor that reflects decades of dedication, leadership, and service to the civil engineering profession.

Attaining Life Membership is a remarkable milestone, earned through years of continuous involvement, technical excellence, and commitment to advancing our industry. These individuals have not only shaped infrastructure across our state but have also mentored future engineers, strengthened our Section, and upheld the highest standards of the profession.

Please join us in celebrating their accomplishments and expressing our deepest gratitude for their lasting contributions.


🎉 **Congratulations and thank you** for your enduring service. Your legacy inspires us all.

- David Dana Wilson (Upstate Branch)
- William L. Remington (Midlands Branch)
- Alan Lumpkin (Upstate Branch)

- Forrest Winn Foshee (Eastern Branch)
- Mark Frederic Cline (Eastern Branch)
- Alan Evans Townsend (Eastern Branch)
- Mitchell E. Freeman (CSRV Branch)
- Kent Guthrie (Upstate Branch)
- Curtis Milton Dillard (Upstate Branch)
- Joseph Lee Martin (Midlands Branch)
- Bryan Francis Hickey (Upstate Branch)
- James Martin Reynolds (Eastern Branch)
- Charles Frederick Knobloch (Midlands Branch)
- Robert K. Higgins (Eastern Branch)
- Craig Miler Bennett (Eastern Branch)
- Mary L. Bogart (Grand Strand Branch)
- Ronald Edward Kirby (Upstate Branch)
- Lewis E. Seabrook (Eastern Branch)
- Judith Freeman Wortkoetter (Upstate Branch)
- Jeffery Ford Ramsey (Upstate Branch)
- Michael Maurice Simpson (Upstate Branch)
- John Corcoran Sheridan (Eastern Branch)
- Joaquin Mondonedo Serrano (Eastern Branch)
- Franklin Allen Honeycutt (Eastern Branch)



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ASCE SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION
SC SECTION (1934) Website
sections.asce.org/south-carolina