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President's Message

And with that, my year as Section President has come to an end. And what a whirlwind it was! As I look back and reflect over the last year, I can't help but to feel extremely grateful



for the experiences and community support. I've had the privilege of representing our Section at the ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum, connecting with students and professionals, working with the amazing volunteers on our board, and being named VT-ASCE's Young Engineer of the Year.

Like I said at the Annual Meeting, I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without the unwavering support from mentors, peers, friends, and members. As I've grown in my

career (and in life), the importance of community has become even more front and center. It is essential to connect with and learn from those around you. Our last few events have been great opportunities to spend time with and highlight the career paths of other Vermont engineers. This newsletter highlights some of the takeaways from our Women in Engineering panel event, as well as some of our distinguished ASCE members and award recipients.

While my term has officially ended, my time with ASCE and the greater Vermont engineering community is far from over. I will continue serving on the board, engaging with our professional and student members, and volunteering my time and expertise for the betterment of our field and community. I look forward to seeing you all at future events!

Best,
Zelda Dively, PE

Region 1 Spring Assembly Recap

On May 12, New England delegate Matt Estabrooks attended the Region 1 Spring Assembly which was a hybrid event held at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The meeting included a discussion of the Region 1 vision, mission, and goals as well as

an open discussion of opportunities and challenges that each of us see in our branches and sections. We also met and heard from the new ASCE Director/CEO Peter O'Neil and from ASCE President Marsha Bomar. In addition, candidates for Region 1 Director (Danielle Spicer), At Large Society Director (Jared Green), and ASCE President Elect (Rosanna D'Antonio) introduced themselves and discussed their goals for these important positions. The meeting was a great opportunity to connect and discuss important topics with other leaders from Region 1 and from Society.

Women in Engineering Panel - Follow Your Own Path

Earlier last month, the Vermont sections of ASCE and WTS teamed up for a virtual Women in Engineering panel event, featuring four leaders in Vermont's civil engineering community. Our panelists included:

- **Renee Layton** - Project Manager, Agency of Transportation
- **Serenity Wolf, PE** - President and Director of Engineering & Landscape Architecture, Stevens & Associates
- **Nicole Kesselring, PE** - President, Enman Kesselring Engineers
- **Ann Gammell, PE** - Regional Construction Engineer, Agency of Transportation

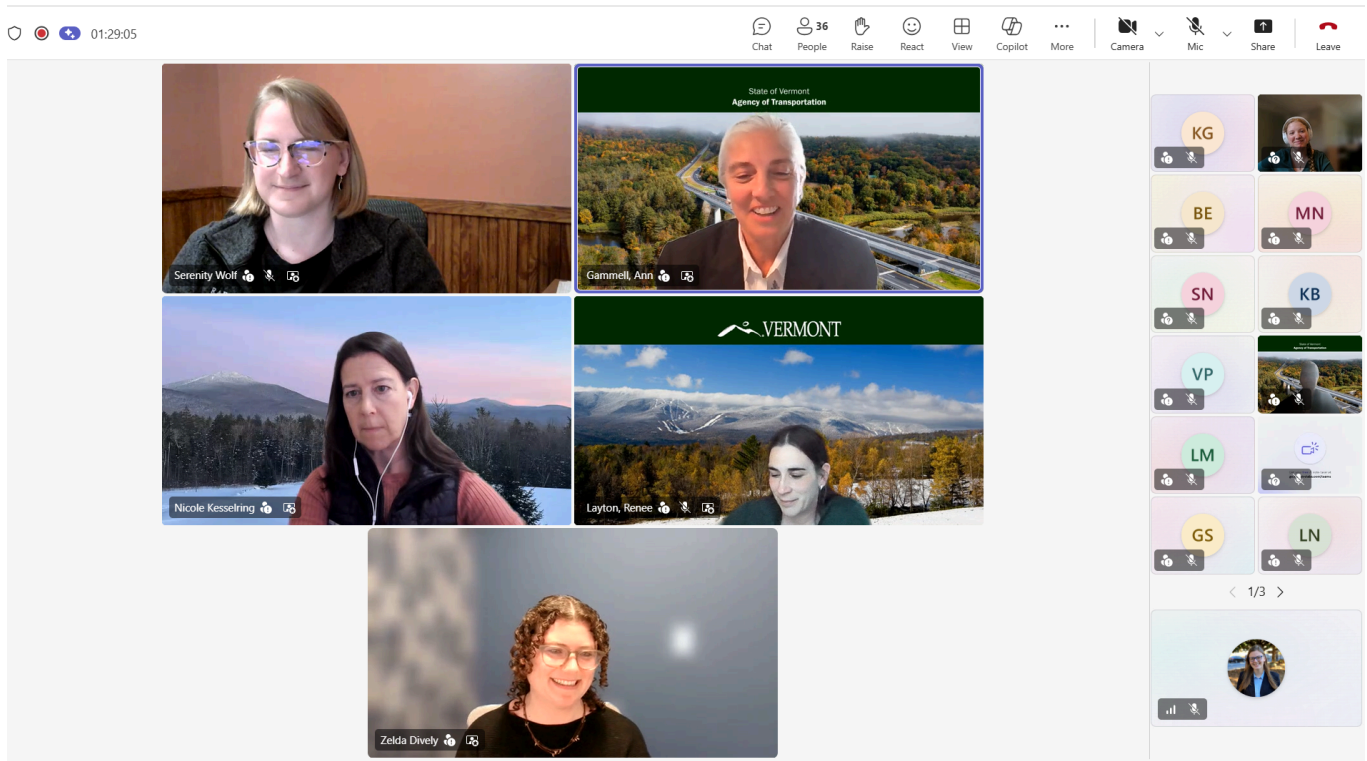
Our panel discussion, moderated by Zelda Dively, PE, touched on pivotal decisions/moments that shaped their career path, how their technical expertise has influenced how they lead projects and people, how attitudes towards women in engineering have changed over their careers, and practical advice for women in different stages of their career. While all panelists had unique perspectives to share, there was a common thread of remaining authentic to yourself, learning as you go, and leaning into your community. Our participants appreciated learning more about our panelists' career paths through their decisions and insights.

Some of the key takeaways that we felt should be shared more broadly include:

- Build strong networks and support systems
- Be confident and don't be afraid to ask questions
- Diverse perspectives and career paths strengthen our engineering community

- Different styles of working and leading are valuable (it's okay to do things your own way)
- You can be direct without being unkind (setting boundaries and saying no is important)

We wanted to extend our appreciation to our wonderful panelists for sharing their time and insights with us. This was a great event, and we look forward to doing similar ones in the future!



VT-ASCE Annual Meeting

ASCE-VT held our Annual Meeting on June 4th starting off with a site tour of the Bartlett Brook stream restoration project followed by a family-friendly BBQ at Oakledge Park. We celebrated the start of summer by honoring our annual award recipients, inducting our new Board of Directors, and enjoying catching up with colleagues and friends. Thank you to all who joined us for this beautiful day and fun event!





2026 VT-ASCE Award Recipients

The Vermont Section of ASCE is proud to announce our 2026 award recipients!

- Engineer of the Year: Dennis Lutz, PE
- Young Engineer of the Year: Zelda Dively, PE
- Project of the Year: SLR Consulting

Unfortunately, Dennis was not be able to attend our Annual Meeting as he was at his Cornell University reunion at that time. However, we would like to recognize him and this achievement at an event later this fall. Please keep an eye out for more information!

Continue reading to learn more about our award recipients!

Engineer of the Year: Dennis Lutz, PE

Dennis E. Lutz, P.E., was the Public Works Director for the Town of Essex, Vermont for thirty-eight years and continues to work with the Public Works Department on special projects. He led the Public Works Department that has been recognized as one of the leading public works agencies in the State of Vermont in many diverse areas including administration, financial controls, infrastructure management, and environmental programs.

He is a graduate of Cornell University with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Civil Engineering. His work background includes seven years with the State of Vermont as an Environmental Engineering Supervisor and another seven years as project manager for Donald L. Hamlin Consulting Engineers. His military service spanned thirty-seven years, beginning on active duty as an Engineer Company Commander in Vietnam and later as a construction site engineer in Oregon for the Corps of Engineers. Following active duty, he became a member of the Vermont National Guard and spent the last five years of his military career as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Vermont National Guard.

His major military awards include:

- The Legion of Merit,
- Three Army Meritorious Service Medals,
- The Army Commendation Medal,
- The Vietnam Service Campaign Medals

He was also awarded the Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal by the Army Engineer Association. For most of his working career, he managed the leadership responsibilities of a very active part-time military career and a full-time public works position.

Dennis has his Professional Engineering License (P.E.) in civil and sanitary engineering from the State of Vermont and was named Public Works Director of the year by the Vermont Highway Association. Dennis is an active member in the American Public Works Association, American Water Works, Green Mountain Water Environment Association, and New England Water Works Associations. Dennis also helped to initiate a Regional Stormwater Education Program, known as RSEP, for Chittenden County. He is also a lifetime member of the American Society of Civil

Engineers. Dennis was appointed by the Governor as a Commissioner on the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission and is in his third six-year term. He has made numerous presentations at APWA regional and national conferences. Dennis has served as an elected Commissioner from the City of South Burlington to the Champlain Water District for over 12 years. He has impacted the education of many civil engineering students through a very active summer internship program and through participation in the University of Vermont Senior Design Program.

In his spare time, Dennis enjoys gardening, traveling, photography, camping, canoeing, hiking, reading (history and historical novels), biking, and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Carol, volunteered at Burlington's Flynn Theater for over twenty years and at Saint Michaels College Playhouse for over ten years. In May of 2026 they will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary. Their son Matt lives in Bristol, Vermont with his wife and their two children.

Dennis' commitment to his community, profession, and country has spanned decades and we are honored to recognize him as our Engineer of the Year. Please join us in congratulating Dennis on this well-deserved award!

Young Engineer of the Year: Zelda Dively, PE

Zelda Dively, PE is a Civil Engineer at VHB, working closely with both the Land Development and Water Resources teams. Zelda graduated from UVM in 2019 with a bachelors in Environmental Engineering and in 2020 with a masters in Civil and Environmental Engineering. She started at VHB as a summer intern in 2019, continuing part-time as she wrapped up her graduate studies before starting as a Civil Designer in September 2020.

Zelda has quickly become a standout talent as a dedicated professional engineer with VHB's Land Development and Water Resources teams. She has built an impressive reputation for her technical expertise and has become a go-to in navigating complex environmental permitting. Her skills have been instrumental in balancing critical aging ski resort infrastructure upgrades with Vermont's environmental regulations, ensuring that delicate waterways remain protected during active development. Zelda regularly works at the intersection of environmental regulation and site civil design, organizing permitting strategies, preparing application

materials, and using tools like ArcGIS Pro to support technical analyses. She also utilized her GIS skills under a significant push to create mapping for several ski resorts to determine 3-acre jurisdictional impervious areas including Stowe Mountain Resort, Smuggler's Notch, Killington Ski Resort, Jay Peak Resort, and Sugarbush Ski Resort. Whether designing erosion and sediment control measures on challenging mountain terrain or managing alpine riparian buffer zones overlapping existing infrastructure, Zelda's work ensures these resorts can grow sustainably.

Beyond project work, Zelda is deeply engaged in professional development and emerging leader initiatives within VHB and the broader engineering community. She has served as Vermont Co-Lead (since 2021) and New England Co-Chair (since 2023) for VHB's Emerging Professionals Group ("EPG"), building a robust internal program focused on mentorship, networking, and public speaking opportunities for junior staff. Her efforts in strengthening office culture and support for younger professionals earned her VHB's New England Region Culture Champion award in 2024. Zelda has also been an active board member with ASCE's Vermont Section since 2023, serving as Younger Member Chair, President-Elect, and President.

Outside of work, Zelda enjoys live music, spending time outside, cooking, traveling, spending time with friends and family, and practicing yoga. She even completed a 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training certificate from Sangha Studio in 2025.

Zelda's well-deserved recognition highlights her technical excellence, leadership, and deep commitment to the profession. Please join us in congratulating Zelda on this incredible milestone!



Project of the Year: SLR Consulting, Inc.

SLR Consulting has been awarded Project of the Year for the design, permitting, and construction oversight of six dam removals and stream restorations across Vermont. After consecutive years of severe flooding, SLR's water resources team blended fluvial geomorphology, hydraulics and hydrology ("H&H") modeling, and stream ecology to reconnect over 125 river miles and restore 10+ acres of floodplain. The six dams removed have reduced local flood elevations at buildings, reduced the risk of a downstream flood wave during a potential dam failure, and removed local fall hazards. Vermont dam removals receive Phosphorus reduction credit for improving long term channel stability and protecting downstream water quality.

SLR navigated intense utility and structural constraints across the six infrastructure-dense sites. Some impressive feats included structurally disconnecting a dam from an active factory in Barre, stabilizing an active water main while managing heavy sediment in the water reservoir in Berkshire, and designing a unique pinned and grouted scour protection system for a town bridge in Newport Center. When

unexpected bedrock was found under a 45-foot dam in West Rutland, SLR executed a rapid field redesign of the design profile. Rather than using rigid infrastructure, they deployed nature-based solutions—like beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures — to improve instream and floodplain habitat. Please join us in congratulating SLR Consulting on this well-deserved award!



VT-ASCE's Inaugural Student Scholarship Award Winner

The Vermont Section of ASCE is thrilled to announce Aidan Lund as the recipient of the First Annual ASCE-VT Civil Engineering Student Scholarship! This award recognizes a Vermont civil engineering student who demonstrates strong academic performance, active engagement with ASCE, and meaningful service and leadership in their community. Aidan has maintained a strong academic record as a civil engineering major at Norwich University, consistently earning Dean's List honors. As

President of the Norwich ASCE student chapter, he has demonstrated deep professional commitment by organizing student events, supporting the regional steel bridge team, and attending multiple national Workshops for Student Chapter Leaders. Please join us in congratulating Aidan on this well-deserved recognition!

President-Elect Selected as a 2026 Southern Vermont Emerging Leader

Adding on to our ASCE member award recipients, our President-Elect, Andrea Ameden, PE, was recently selected as a 2026 Southern Vermont Emerging Leader by the Southern Vermont Young Professionals and the Shires Young Professionals. This award recognizes young adults who are making a difference in their region. Andrea was nominated for her active involvement in her community, the Town of Winhall, volunteering on town committees and leading an education enrichment program for area elementary school students in Winhall streams. In coordination with the Mountain School at Winhall's classroom activities for "Trout in the Classroom", a hatch-and-release program, she helped students with overturning rocks in the stream and catching samples with dipping nets. The groups then took to identifying, counting, and recording the samples before returning them to the stream. It is a notable challenge to keep so many kids focused on so many steps when they're all outdoors from the classroom on a beautiful spring day beside a stream in Winhall. Andrea was described as "articulate, energetic, considerate, capable, and resourceful - all characteristics of great community leaders".

"Given Winhall's small population, there are relatively few STEM-career professionals in our town, and it is tremendously beneficial for local students to see an engineer such as Andrea at work in the field, so that through the exposure they are more likely to pursue it, as well. "

She was recognized during the 9th annual Southern Vermont Economy Summit on May 12th. She is also being nominated for Vermont Business Magazine's Rising Stars. Congratulations, Dre!

Visit sovermontzone.com/emerging-leaders to learn about each of the 2026 Southern Vermont Emerging Leaders and see past awardees.



Congratulations to All 2026 Vermont Graduates!

VT-ASCE would like to extend our congratulations to all the students who graduated this semester! We are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to welcoming you as professionals in our field. We encourage you to stay connected to ASCE and explore the resources available to you as an emerging professional.

Click the button below for younger member resources.

[Younger Member Resources](#)

Green Up Day Recap

On Saturday, May 2nd, ASCE Vermont members stepped up to make a difference for Green Up Day! A handful of dedicated volunteers across the state got out into their communities, hitting the roadsides and cleaning up local parks to help keep Vermont beautiful. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and showed the positive impact our section can have.





Stay Connected With the VTASCE Board



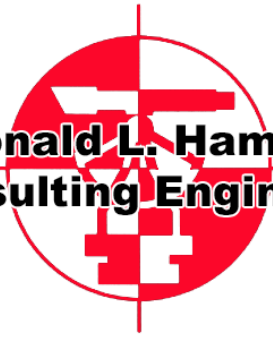
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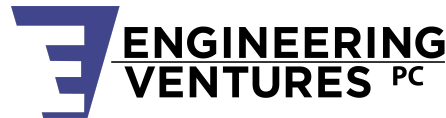
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