Dear Lehigh Valley Section Members,

Spring is finally here (I think), so hopefully everyone is getting busier. This is my last newsletter column as President of the Lehigh Valley Section; it has been an honor to serve this distinguished organization. I must thank all of the Board Members and Officers who served with me this year, your dedication and enthusiasm strengthens our profession. We will be in good hands next season with our incoming President, Tim Kramer, and I look forward to my new role at his side.

Never fear, however, we are going out with a bang! Please see the announcements in this newsletter for upcoming events, including dinner meetings, bridge tours, Younger Member Forum events, and short courses. Our Section has been ramping up our efforts to provide Professional Development Hours (PDHs) for our members, and we will continue to do so in 2011. I hope you can join us for many of these events, and get involved (we need you!).

I would like to highlight a few accomplishments that are most satisfying to me:

1. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Dinner Meeting: As you may recall from my previous columns, we have recognized that our Section members in Northeast PA have been underserved in the recent years. We want to hear from these members, and work together to change this. Our first opportunity will be a special dinner meeting scheduled for May 4th at Colarusso’s in Moosic (see announcement in this newsletter). Many of the Section Board members and Committee Chairs will be present, so please join us and bring your ideas.
2. Student Chapter Interaction: A critical focus for us this year was to re-establish open communications with the Student Chapters at Lehigh and Lafayette. Thanks to the dedication of Bethany Ashman and others, I am proud to say that we have made great progress. We now have designated Practitioner Advisors and Faculty Advisors at both schools, and are communicating regularly about each others’ events. Next year we plan to do even more to support the Student Chapters with their programming and other initiatives.

3. Lehigh Valley Regional Infrastructure Planning Initiative (LV RIPI): This descendant of the ASCE Infrastructure Report Card effort, focusing on life-cycle costs and pay-as-you-go financing, has been steadily gaining momentum. We have the attention of numerous regional public and private stakeholders, as well as legislators in Harrisburg. We are collaborating with like-minded regional organizations such as LVEDC and Renew Lehigh Valley. I believe this is important for ASCE to be an unbiased, apolitical leader in the fight to restore our region’s infrastructure, and this initiative is giving us the opportunity to do so.

Thank you for all of your support over the past year, and I look forward to seeing you soon at our events. Never forget, we are part of a great, noble profession that is critical to the quality of life and economic prosperity of our region, state, and country, so be proud of what you do every day!

Phil Gauffreau, P.E., M. ASCE
President
Highway Capacity Manual 2010 TRAINING

The Lehigh Valley Section of the American society of Civil Engineers, and the Lehigh University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering are excited to announce this one day training seminar on the 2010 Highway Capacity Manual. The Manual is expected to be released by late March 2011. The Lehigh Valley Section has arranged to have Mr. Bill Sampson present this one day seminar. Bill is a member of the TRB Highway Capacity Committee and is developing the McTrans Highway Capacity software for the 2010 Manual.

The course will be held on May 17, 2011 in Auditorium 3 of Lehigh University’s Neville Hall on Packer Avenue on the Lehigh Campus. Registration for the course will begin at 8am with the course starting at 8:30am and ending at 5pm. Lunch will be on your own. There are several eating options within a few minutes walk from the campus.

The fee for the course is $150. Please provide a check written to LVS ASCE to the address below.

Registrations must be received by May 10. Space is limited so please register early.

Contact Pete Terry at peter.terry@bencivil.com with questions or reservations.

Pete Terry
c/o Benchmark Civil Engineering Services, Inc.
1727 Jonathan Street
Allentown, PA 18104
610 776-6700
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2011 Legislative Fly-In

Are you satisfied with the condition of our infrastructure?

The 220 attendees of the ASCE Legislative Fly-in on March 30th and 31st are not. ASCE members visited with more than 300 of our elected officials to stress the importance of our infrastructure. Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican; whether you think we are already too heavily taxed or you think the gas tax is too low; we all carried the same message to our elected officials: the condition of our infrastructure is declining and we need to do something in the interest of public safety and our economic competitiveness.

Specifically we carried a message that the recent passage of short term extension of the Surface Transportation Authorization makes it difficult for effective planning and construction of projects. Even the funds which are generated from the current Federal Gasoline Tax (18.3 cents per gallon established in 1993 and not adjusted to inflation) are not guaranteed to be available for the next construction season. Inflation reduces the buying power of those funds and we do not seem to be willing to find other sources of funding.

We also discussed support for the creation of an Infrastructure Bank as an alternative financing mechanism. Entities who wanted to fund their infrastructure projects would make a proposal to this new bank for funding and the bank would support only those projects which could pay back the loan and which had the best returns on investment. While this will most likely not solve all of our funding challenges, it could prove to be another valuable tool.

(Continued on Page 6)
2011 LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN (continued from Page 5)

We requested that the Dam Rehabilitation and Repair Act be re-authorized. This program provides federal support to inspect and identify deficiencies in publically owned dams. It is a relatively small program but has supported numerous state level programs.

I was glad to travel to Washington DC for the Fly-in. If you are interested in meeting with your elected officials but are not sure how to do it or what to say, please contact me. I will be glad to speak with you. Please also check out the resources which ASCE provides with its Key Contact Program on the ASCE.org website. They have an easy method for you to contact both State and Federal elected officials and provide briefs on numerous legislative issues.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pete Terry
peter.terry@bencivil.com
610 776-6700 (work)
POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Geotechnical Project Engineer
NTH Consultants, Ltd.
Lehigh Valley, PA

NTH Consultants, Ltd. is seeking a Project Engineer with progressive experience in geotechnical engineering design to support our Mid-Atlantic operations, based out of our Bethlehem, PA office. Candidates should be able to demonstrate experience with design of deep foundation, earth retention, and ground improvement systems; materials testing related to geotechnical investigations; and related construction observation. Experience with the design of shafts and tunnels will be considered a plus, along with geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring programs.

A minimum of 7 years of experience with a BSCE and P.E. are required, MSCE is preferred. Responsibilities will include client development, proposal writing, project coordination, and staff supervision (technical guidance and mentoring of engineering staff). Candidates should possess strong interpersonal skills for contact with team members and clients, be a proficient technical writer, and be competent with engineering software applications for geotechnical design.

Candidate must be capable of performing and/or providing technical oversight for geotechnical design of above-ground and/or underground structures, as well as temporary/permanent earth retention systems, deep foundations, MSE walls, earthen structures, etc.; preparing and reviewing plans and specifications for geotechnical design/construction projects; developing geotechnical recommendations and design criteria for reports; and planning/performing geotechnical investigations.

Visit us at www.nthconsultants.com for a full description and to apply on-line, or send a resume with cover letter to Cori Easley, Human Resources, at ceasley@nthconsultants.com.
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Don’t Forget to Update your ASCE Contact information with National and renew your ASCE Dues!  [http://asce.org](http://asce.org)

Our email database is based on the information you provide to ASCE National, so update your account today!

Our e-mails provide up to date information on upcoming events

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**WANT TO ADVERTISE WITH US?**

Contact Michael Paquette, P.E., M. ASCE  
[mpaquette@langan.com](mailto:mpaquette@langan.com)  
610-984-8500

- Now taking sponsors for 2011-2012 (newsletter and website)  
- Job Postings  
- Other Announcements to our Members
Please join us for a wonderful evening at MELT to support the work of Lehigh Valley professionals volunteering their time, talent and treasure to rebuild the Centennial Secondary School in Mattru Jong, Sierra Leone, which was devastated by the Blood Diamond-associated conflict in that country from 1991-2002.

There will be objects from Africa, as well as certificates to Lehigh Valley stores & restaurants on offer at the Silent Auction. $25 of your admission ticket is tax deductible – receipts will be made available at the event.

Checks should be made out to EWB-USA with “Lehigh Valley Professions” written in the memo line.

CONTACT
SEAN DOOLEY
c/o Keystone Consulting Engineers
2870 Emrick Boulevard, Bethlehem, PA 18020
610-865-4555
sdooley@keystoneconsultingengineers.com

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Dr. Norman Folmar, P.E. will be offering continuing education short courses at University Park on the following:

- HEC-RAS       May 9-11, 2011 (24 PDHs)
- HEC-GeoRAS
- HEC-HMS
- HEC-GeoHMS    May 23-25, 2011 (24 PDHs)

There will be a review of the fundamentals in open channel hydraulics and engineering hydrology and the appropriate courses will address such special topics as the following: modeling of hydraulic structures, unsteady flow, scour prediction, and dam break analyses.

In addition to classroom lectures, each course will include hands-on experiences for participants in the computer laboratory.

In addition to providing knowledge in the aforementioned areas, the courses will provide licensed professional engineers an opportunity to earn Professional Development Hours (PDHs) toward their mandatory continuing education requirement. For more information about each course and the instructor, please go to the following website.

http://water.engr.psu.edu/folmar/index_files/Page348.htm

- For details about course topics, please email nfolmar@engr.psu.edu
- For details about registration, please email tjrdo@engr.psu.edu
Reserve Tickets Now!

Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs Baseball Game

ASCE has reserved seats for the PPL Picnic Patio for the Iron Pigs Game vs. the Pawtucket Red Sox! Tickets include a two-hour buffet with unlimited ballpark food and soft drinks. All friends and family are welcome.

VS. Pawtucket Red Sox

**When:** Thursday, April 28, 2011  
Gates open at 5:45 P.M., First Pitch at 7:05

**Where:** Coca Cola Park  
1050 IronPigs Way, Allentown, PA

**Cost:** $20/person *(Includes all-you-can eat buffet and unlimited soft drinks)*

**RSVP:** Contact Ben Guthrie (bguthrie@trafficpd.com) or 610-625-4242 with any questions or to reserve tickets.  
*Reserve tickets early, only 35 seats are available!*


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The 2011 Eastern Regional Younger Member Council (ERYMC) meeting, co-hosted by the Maine Section and New Hampshire Section, was held January 14th and 15th at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine. Jennifer Baron, P.E., M.ASCE and Jeff Bjrz, P.E., M.ASCE, were the stellar co-chairs for the event. Sixty-eight Younger Members representing 28 Sections and Branches across Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5 braved the winter weather and descended upon the quaint City of Portland for the weekend.

ERYMC was held in conjunction with the Workshop for Section & Branch Leaders (WSBL) and the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL), as part of the Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC). Several activities throughout the weekend were jointly held with the WSBL and the WSCL and provided great opportunities to interact with, and learn from Student Chapter leaders, and Section and Branch leaders.

The Friday morning program consisting of the Younger Members and Section and Branch leaders kicked off with a breakfast, icebreaker, “Overview of ASCE”, and joint Region Breakout sessions. Afterwards the Younger Members began their own program with a scavenger hunt icebreaker, followed by an overview of the Committee on Younger Members presented by Clement Chung, P.E., M.ASCE, Eastern Geographic Member. Next were roundtables discussions focusing on the Younger Member Group Annual Report activities including outreach, community service, professional/technical meetings, membership/recruiting, and Student Chapter interaction. The afternoon session included two informative presentations: “Leadership Skills that You Need” by Dana Humphrey, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, Dean of Engineering at the University of Maine, and “Supercharge Your Career—Career Development for Younger Members” by Paul Bryant, P.E., M.ASCE, ASCE Committee on Leadership and Management. The afternoon ended with a joint icebreaker activity with the Section and Branch and Student Chapter leaders followed by a reception featuring some delicious New England clam chowder. This venue provided a great opportunity for socializing and networking with all attendees.

The Friday night social was held at the nearby Civic Center, where the Portland Pirates defeated the Connecticut Whales 3-0. The game included more than a few fights between players and a great time was had by all!

Continued on Page 14
Saturday’s events started with the Order of the Engineer Ceremony. Eight Younger Members participated in the ceremony, which included the acceptance of the Obligation of an Engineer. The ERYMC Annual Business Meeting followed, where four resolutions were passed, including a recommendation for Rhode Island as the location of the 2013 ERYMC/MRLC, gratitude to past CYM Eastern Geographic Member, Greg Kuklinski, P.E., M.ASCE, recognition of ASCE Younger Member Staff Contact, Nancy Berson, Aff.ASCE, and recognition of the Maine Section and New Hampshire Section for hosting a great ERYMC. The afternoon Breakout Sessions ranging from Advocacy to Volunteerism, generated excellent discussions amongst the Younger Members. The afternoon ended with a panel discussion entitled, “Valuable Experience Early in Your Career” where Roland Lavelle, P.E., M.ASCE, P.L.S., Vice President, HNTB Corporation, and Barry Sheff, P.E., M.ASCE, Senior Vice President, Woodard and Curran, answered questions from the audience on topics such as job hopping and traits they value in employees.

The ERYMC Awards Banquet was held on Saturday night at DiMillo’s Floating Restaurant, one of Portland’s Old Port highlights. Over seventy Younger Members, guests, and ASCE leaders attended the banquet to honor the following 2011 ERYMC award winners:
Outstanding Young Civil Engineer in the Private Sector—Catherine Soistman, P.E., M.ASCE, Florida Section, East Central Branch

Outstanding Young Civil Engineer in the Public Sector—Eric Gardner, P.E., M.ASCE, Tennessee Section, Nashville Branch

Outstanding Younger Member in Community Activities—Anjoli K. Martin, P.E., M.ASCE, Florida Section, East Central Branch

Outstanding Younger Member Group Community Service Project—Pathways to Care, Florida Section, East Central Branch

Outstanding ASCE Practitioner Advisor—Ashley T. Smith, E.I.T., M.ASCE, Tennessee Section, Nashville Branch

On Sunday morning, volunteers participated in the local Boy & Girl Scouts Engineering Badge Day. They helped over forty boy scouts, cub scouts, and girl scouts fulfill their engineering and science-related badge requirements, including twenty boy scouts who earned merit badges. Activities included building a popsicle stick bridge (the winner supported over 22 lbs!), designing the future infrastructure of Portland, and discussing the various career opportunities in Civil Engineering.

Many thanks to the Maine Section and New Hampshire Section for hosting such a fun, well-organized, and successful event. We look forward to seeing y’all in Nashville in 2012!
Lehigh Valley Regional Infrastructure Planning and Investment (LV RIPI) Project Update

As a follow up to the ASCE National and State Report Cards, the LV Section is doing a Regional LV Infrastructure Report Card over the next 6 months. The focus of the LV Report Card effort is to identify what funds are needed to replace Lehigh Valley infrastructure.

The regional infrastructure inventory is starting to take shape. A model municipality inventory is complete and available on the web page. The inventories for major cities: Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, are well underway. I will be working with the volunteers to develop inventories for other municipalities. Please let me know if you can help.

The LVRIPI Project is being viewed as an innovative model that other ASCE Sections are looking at to determine how they will deal with infrastructure in their area. We will be reviewing the Lehigh Valley plan with members from the Scranton Wilkes-Barre (SWB) area in early May and hope to initiate a SWB Infrastructure Report Card effort at our May 4th SWB meeting.

Infrastructure is a key issue for ASCE. It is in the headlines continuously. Allentown infrastructure has been on the news because of the unfortunate explosion of a natural gas pipeline in February. Recent infrastructure failures resulting in gas explosions and loss of life have highlighted the urgent need to replace aging underground utilities. Enabling legislation is moving toward the establishment of replacement fees for energy and municipal infrastructure. Through Tech Quest and the Pennsylvania Utility Contractors Association, LVASCE is proposing that infrastructure replacement fees be established based upon an engineering evaluation of PAY-GO Life-Cycle Costs. In addition, we are recommending that all infrastructure funds be deposited in a reserve account strictly for infrastructure replacement.

We need YOUR help to complete the LVRIPI Report Card project, so please sign-up as a volunteer. About 25% of the Lehigh Valley is covered by volunteers now. You can help us finish up the LV Report Card project which can lead to the establishment of a regional dedicated funding source for LV infrastructure replacement.

By Bill MacNair
billmacnair@gmail.com
YMF SKI TRIP

The Lehigh Valley ASCE Younger Members Forum (YMF) and the North Jersey ASCE Younger Members Group (YMG) hit the slopes together on February 26, 2011 at Shawnee Mountain Ski Area. Even though it was towards the end of the season, it was a beautiful day to ski and snowboard due to short lift lines and mild weather.

The event was attended by 8 Lehigh Valley ASCE members, friends and family, and 25 people overall! It was a great way to network with the North Jersey YMG. During a break from skiing, Leonard CillAi, a Region 1 Governor for ASCE, talked about the ASCE Report Card and recent lobbying/government relation efforts. He encouraged all of the members to get involved in government relations to make an impact on our communities. After the brief talk, engineering experiences and past skiing adventures were shared over lunch at the Hope Lodge.
UPCOMING MAY MEETING

ASCE’s Lehigh Valley Section invites our members from the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area, as well as all Northeastern PA ASHE members, to join us for a special event:

Infrastructure Condition Assessment & Replacement/ Urgent Need For Action

When: Wednesday, May 4
5:30 – 6:30 pm : Social Hour (Cash-Bar)
6:30 – 7:30 pm : Dinner
7:30 – Presentation
Where: Colarusso’s
4500 Birney Avenue, Moosic, PA 18507
(570) 457-5730

Menu:
Buffet Style Dinner

Price:
$30 per person, $10 per student
(Consider “sponsoring” a student for the $20 differential cost)

LV ASCE will be providing certificates of attendance for this event to assist with the continuing education requirements enacted by the PA State Board. The program may or may not qualify as a PDH, depending on your discipline or experience.

RSVP: Please make reservations NO LATER THAN Wednesday, April 27, 2011 by contacting Dicksie Wentzel by phone 484.893.1440, by FAX at 484.893.1449, or by email at dwentzel@nthconsultants.com
Pennsylvania Continuing Education Clarification

The Counsel for the PA State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists has confirmed that up to 12 qualifying and documented PDH units from the prior biennial renewal period of 10/1/7 to 9/30/9 can be carried forward to the current biennial renewal period of 10/1/9 to 9/30/11. This is in accordance with Section 4.5.c of the registration law which states “...a maximum of twelve PDH units may be carried forward into the subsequent renewal period”.
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