What can ASCE do for me?

I was once asked that very question early in my career when I approached a co-worker about becoming a member of ASCE. There are, of course, the obvious perks such as this periodic newsletter, the ASCE magazine, and the various technical publications for your chosen specialty. Then there are those that benefit the civil engineering community as a whole. These benefits are provided by a professional staff from the National offices of ASCE in Alexandria Virginia and a corps of volunteers working from the sections and branches who lobby at both the national and state levels to keep our elected officials aware of the importance of maintaining and improving the nation’s infrastructure. These same people also enlighten our elected officials on how specific legislature may impact the engineering community.

Beyond those benefits the answer is simple; you get out of ASCE, what you put into it. There are local meetings and regional and national conferences that offer continuing education credits, but you have to elect to attend those meetings and conferences. The conferences and continuing education courses offered by National are available to members at a discounted rate. When participating in those activities you get benefits that are proportional to the time and effort that are put into them and the reward is reflected in CEU or PDH units. But how can you get more out of your ASCE membership?

One way that I have found that returns much more than what you put into it is by volunteering to serve. Yes, volunteering requires your time and commitment but the rewards are countless for the effort. By volunteering you have the opportunity to work with a broader spectrum of the profession than on the job.  

Continued on next page
The opportunities for volunteering on the section level are numerous. Both Lehigh University and Lafayette College have student chapters that welcome mentors to work with them on their respective Bridges to Prosperity and Engineers without Borders programs. These programs assist villages in third world countries build sustainable infrastructure to improve their quality of life. Both have faculty advisors but as we all know an experienced set of eyes to review plans and evaluate ideas is invaluable to a successful design. There is also an Engineers without Borders Chapter in the greater Lehigh Valley area that has members from various engineering disciplines. Although the program is interdisciplinary, ASCE is the major national sponsor of the Engineers without Borders program. In an anecdote that touches on the impact that these organizations can have on a community, one of our sections past presidents, Peter Terry, once told me he that he and his wife, who is a nurse, were traveling in an under developed country when they saw a man that had visible symptoms of a bacterial borne disease. Pete's wife looked at him and said, “You know I could cure that man with a vial of antibiotics and a few shots.” To which Pete replied, “With a waste water treatment system I could make it so that once he is cured no one in his village ever gets that disease again.”

If concentrating your efforts closer to home has more appeal to you there are many opportunities to serve local, state and national boards and councils. The Pennsylvania State Council sponsors an annual legislative fly-in where you can meet with your state representatives and senators to make them aware and keep them abreast of issues that are vital to our profession. The state council also prepares the Infrastructure Report Card. The most recent report card was published in 2014 and can be viewed on our website. The report card provides a snapshot of 14 different aspects of the state infrastructure giving each a rating and presents a cost benefit analysis showing the relationship of the cost of maintenance versus the impact on the state’s economy. Volunteers to help with the analysis and preparation of the report card are vital to the success of that program.

ASCE National offers 8 different engineering institutes and 11 technical groups that you can participate in. The local section has a committee for the following disciplines in environmental, geotechnical and transportation and a chapter of the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI). Each of the committees organizes one meeting per year. They are responsible for selecting a topic, speaker and location and work with the Board of Directors to schedule and advertise the meetings. Occasionally the meeting involves a field trip to a project site. SEI also takes initiative for organizing additional seminars that offer continuing education credits. The current board is comprised of a broad spectrum of professionals who cover a wide range of experience levels and represent various disciplines. Each member of the board also serves on one or more of the committees.

Our meeting schedule for this year is nearly complete with just a few details for the May and June meetings left to be decided. It is never too early to begin looking for dinner meeting topics for next section year. If anyone is working on a construction project that will be far along or nearing completion next fall, we would really like to hear about it so we can begin making preparations to feature your project at a dinner meeting.

Maybe you would prefer to participate in an activity that is less structured. If so, there are mentoring programs at the middle school, junior high and high school levels. These programs are more flexible on scheduling. If commitment to just a single weekend is more suitable, the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council (LVEC) participates in the Odyssey of the Mind competition for high school students. They are always in need of proctors, monitors, judges and people to help with registration.

LVASCE is currently about half way through our section year. As we move into the second half, we will be seeking volunteers who are willing to dedicate their time to one of the aforementioned positions as well as fill any open positions on the Board of Directors next year. This year we had an influx of energetic and enthusiastic younger members step onto the board and also take responsibility for leading several of the committees. The results have been impressive. I would like to see that trend continue into next year.

If you can find the time please volunteer to step into a position of leadership in LVASCE next year. I can assure you from personal experience that the reward in connecting with peers, watching young professionals grow into leaders and the opportunity to sharpen your own leadership skills will yield returns far greater than what you put into it. Please visit LVASCE’s website www.lvasce.org to learn more about ASCE National and the LVEC. There you will find information on how you can participate in LVASCE.

Dion R. Campbell, P.E., M.ASCE
President, ASCE Lehigh Valley Section
PA ASCE Penn State Football Outing  
By: Dion Campbell, P.E., M.ASCE

Sometimes even the most well laid-out plans are foiled by Mother Nature. Such was the case on November 29, 2014 when members from the four Pennsylvania Sections of ASCE attended the football game between the Penn State Nittany Lions and Michigan State Spartans at Beaver Stadium. After three months of planning between Lehigh Valley, Central PA, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh Sections everything was set to go. We had an RV with a parking pass, grills, chips, hot dogs and hamburgers, soft drinks, desserts and outdoor space heaters procured and ready for a tailgate before the game. Even the television network cooperated and had the Big Ten Conference move the kick-off time from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, which would have allowed for much more pregame socializing and revelry.

And then the snow came the Wednesday before the game. The early season snowfall forced the closure of the RV parking lot. Notice of the closure was not sent out until the night before the game and left no time for the tailgate organizers to call an audible. Inevitably the tailgate party had to be canceled leaving each potential tailgater to fend for themselves for pregame festivities.

The morning of the game broke cold and windy. Temperatures at game time were in the 20s with strong blustery winds. Regardless, those of us that had tickets braved the frigid weather and made our way into the stadium. Once there the game proved to be just as unpleasant as the weather. Michigan State won the coin toss and elected to receive. The Spartans returned the opening kick-off for a touchdown. That would be the closest Penn State would get in scoring for the remainder of the game. The Nittany Lions eventually lost by a score of 34 to 10.

Although the final score was disappointing, there were some highlights. It was Senior Day. The pregame festivities featured introductions of the senior football players who would be playing their final game at Beaver Stadium that day. David Taylor, PSU Wrestling, was presented the 2014 Hodge Award as the NCAA Most Outstanding Wrestler. This was the second time David had won the award and only the third time that someone had won it multiple times in the 20 year history of the award. At half time they introduced the Blue Band with the announcement that they had been voted “The Best Band in the Land” in the 2014 USA Today reader’s pole. At the end of the half time show the seniors from the Blue Band, cheer squad, and National Champion dance team were individually introduced. Following the game, the football squad gathered in the end zone in front of the student section and sang along while the Blue Band played the Pennsylvania State University Alma Mater.

Despite the unseasonable weather, cancelation of the tailgate and PSU losing the game it was still an enjoyable event. In the weeks that followed, the event organizers from the four sections decided to attempt another football outing next fall but at a game earlier in the season when the weather should be more reliable. Look for the invitation in an upcoming email or on the website in September.

Lehigh Valley Phantoms Hockey Night  
By: Joseph R, McFadden, A.M.ASCE

Members of the Lehigh Valley Section, Philadelphia Section, and Central PA Section all gathered together at the new PPL Center on January 30th to watch the LV Phantoms hockey team take on the Hershey Bears. LVASCE’s Younger Members Forum sponsored a happy hour at Chickie’s & Pete’s Sports Bar prior to the game. Unfortunately, the Hershey Bears spoiled the LV Phantom’s mascot, MeLVin’s, birthday party by beating the Phantoms by a score of 6-1. Aside from the final score, all ASCE attendees were very impressed with the newly completed venue.

LVASCE’s experience with the PPL Center has now come full circle as the section was fortunate enough to witness the construction of this arena from the ground up during past site visits.
Introducing the new Legislative Affairs Chair
By: John Caperilla, EIT, A.M.ASCE

I have recently taken over as the Legislative Affairs committee chair. The former chair, Bill MacNair, will continue to serve on the committee and I want to thank him for his service. I welcome the opportunity to serve in this role and look forward to working with you in keeping the section informed on key issues here locally and nationally.

The annual Legislative Fly-In is fast approaching; I will be representing the section at the annual meeting in Washington D.C. on March 24th and 25th. The two day conference will bring nearly 200 ASCE members and leaders from sections and branches across the country to learn about public policy issues affecting the profession of civil engineering and how they can influence the legislative process. We will also be making a trip to Capitol Hill to meet with our local elected officials to discuss the key issues that are affecting us including the looming insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

Over the next few months, the committee will be reaching out to our State Representatives and Senators as well as those in the U.S. Congress and Senate for “back home” visits to show our support for fully funding our infrastructure.

If you are not already, I suggest becoming an ASCE Key Contact. As a Key Contact, you will receive weekly e-mails from ASCE highlighting key topics and updates from Washington as well as from other states.

On the state front, Leslie Richards was selected by Governor Tom Wolf to serve as the Transportation Secretary. Richards will replace Barry Schoch, who will continue to serve as a Senior Advisor. Prior to her appointment, Leslie Richards served as the vice chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. Richards, also has served as chair of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and as a representative on the Southeastern PA Transit Authority (SEPTA) Board. Before being elected commissioner, Richards served as the chair and vice chair of the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors. In the private sector, Richards served as a senior project manager at a woman-owned civil engineering firm.

I will provide a report on the Fly-In in our next newsletter. If you are interested in getting more involved or simply have a question, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at jcaperilla@borton-lawson.com

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LAFAYETTE COLLEGE &

Lehigh University

When: Thursday, April 16, 2015
Time: 5:30 pm – Social Hour
6:30 pm – Dinner
7:30 pm – Student Presentations

Where: Lehigh University, Asa Packer Campus
Fritz Engineering Laboratory
13 East Packer Avenue
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Stay tuned for dinner menu and presentation topics in a future email.
In the meantime, keep checking the events page on the LVASCE website.
2015 Multi-Region Leadership Conference – Miami, FL
By: Erin Feichtner, EIT, A.M.ASCE & Greg Kuklinski, P.E., M.ASCE

Over 350 current and rising leaders from ASCE’s Regions, Sections, Branches, Younger Member Groups, and Student Organizations gathered for an opportunity to develop and enhance their leadership skills, receive greater exposure to the organization, operations, and resources of ASCE and network with peers and colleagues in warm Miami, FL on January 8-9, at the Hyatt Regency for the 2015 Multi-Region Leadership Conference.

Organized under the umbrella of the Multi-Region Leadership Conference, three major Society components met concurrently as well as individually during this intensive 2 day event. The three Multi-Region Leadership Conferences encompassed the Workshops for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL), the Eastern Region Younger Member Conference (ERYMC), and the Workshops for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL). In attendance from the Lehigh Valley Section was: Erin Feichtner, EIT, A.M.ASCE from Borton Lawson, Joe McFadden, A.M.ASCE from Michael Baker International and Greg Kuklinski, P.E, M.ASCE from Alfred Benesch & Co.

The conference started out with a volunteer outreach event on Thursday night where local girl scouts were introduced to what the field of civil engineering is and tasked with rescuing a stuffed dog from a “well” using common craft items. Erin and Joe got to work with two very energetic and bright girls who designed a rescue apparatus that retrieved the dog in 30 seconds, earning them second place.

The main conference started on Friday morning. As part of his duties on the National Leader Training Committee, Greg was responsible for planning and organizing the WSBL and coordinating with the WSCL and the ERYMC. Joe attended the WSBL and Erin attended the ERYMC as the Section’s official voting delegates. The Friday Session began with the section representatives being introduced to ASCE’s new executive director Thomas Smith III and given an overview of the national ASCE organization and structure by the Director of Geographic Services Nancy Berson and her staff. Later in the morning at the ERYMC, delegates received an introduction to the national Committee on Younger Members (CYM) and participated in open discussion with leaders from other Younger Member Groups. These discussions resulted in several best practices ideas of technical lectures, outreach events, and membership incentives that have worked well in other areas. The WSBL delegates went to a session called “Leading Others” which helped to boost the leadership skills with a better understanding of yourself and others.

Right after lunch on Friday, ASCE President Bob Stevens, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, President-Elect Mark Woodson, P.E., F.ASCE, and Executive Director Tom Smith III, F.ASCE, addressed questions from the audience on key issues such as transportation funding and the raise the bar initiative. President-Elect Woodson urged everyone in attendance to contact their government representatives asking them to raise the gas tax to help fund infrastructure and promote sustainability. Next the group was broken into their geographic regions and were allowed to network and share updates and ideas with others in Region 2. After the Region Breakout, a mock board meeting skit was run by the Region Governors and Directors which demonstrated how not to run a Section/Branch board meeting and some useful advice to effectively run a board meeting. The last session of the day was a lecture on how to address confrontational and difficult people in leadership positions which was presented by former ASCE National President Blaine Leonard, P.E., F.ASCE.

Continued on next page
At the end of the day, there was a reception outside the hotel along the Miami River with all delegates and then later that evening, there was a Younger Member social at a local bar which was an evening full of trivia and great networking between other Younger Member Group representatives.

Saturday all three groups attended an interactive and enjoyable lecture on generational differences and how these differences impact the workplace. Erin then attended the Younger Member portion of the morning which included a presentation on the newly completed Miami Port Tunnel, which was an advanced and large scale project for the Florida Region. Next the ERYMC business meeting was held. The most notable item on the agenda to be passed was to nominate Newark, NJ as the location for the 2017 ERYMC. The WSBL delegates attended a session on ASCE Resources available to your Section/Branch from National and got to attend two Best Practices Breakout Sessions which were session given by members regarding activities that worked well in their Section Branch. All of the delegates came together for lunch to hear a talk about “What Makes a Leader” from Mike Loose, P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, who is a former Navy Seabee and current Senior Vice President at Parsons. The presentation described the characteristics of a leader and how to conduct one’s self if you wish to be an effective leader.

To close the day, the WSBL members attended an ethics session and the Younger Members attended a panel discussion on experiences and advice for transitioning into a management position. Section and Branch Awards were presented at the conclusion of the conference, LVASCE received the 2014 Outstanding Section and Branch Web Site Award in the “small” Section and Branch membership category (<501 members). Joe accepted this award on behalf of the website committee for helping to develop our Section’s new website.
Holiday Banquet 2014
By: J. Scott Stenroos, P.E., M.ASCE

On December 5, 2014 more than 35 members of the Lehigh Valley Section, spouses and guests celebrated the Holiday Season together at the Arts Quest Center at Steel Stacks in Bethlehem, PA. The festive group also included students from nearby Lehigh University and Lafayette College. We also enjoyed spectacular views from the Fowler Blast Furnace Room and traditional string music featuring Cliff Cole on the hammered dulcimer.

Our special guest for the evening was Lehigh University’s Tara Hofferth who gave a recap of the 2014 Bridges 2 Prosperity (B2P) project in Vallecito, Panama. The slide presentation offered a unique look at the building of a pedestrian bridge across the El Rio Indio (river). Tara also introduced B2P’s 2015 proposed bridge project in Vaquilla, Panama. For those interested in following the story of the Vaquilla Bridge project please visit the Lehigh team’s facebook page. Also, please consider donating to this great cause on their crowd funding website. Every donation goes along way!

Last but certainly not least, was our keynote speaker Aurel Arndt from Lehigh County Authority (LCA) who spoke about the acquisition of the water and sewer system from the City of Allentown.

Good food any holiday cheer were shared by all!
The Structural Engineering Institute Lehigh Valley Chapter (SEILV) hosted a lunchtime webinar at the office of Lehigh Valley Technical Associates on December 15, 2014. Lunch was provided by the Lehigh Valley section and about 20 members attended the ASCE live webinar on the design of masonry shear walls.

SEILV committee members have been busy with monthly lunch meetings to plan continuing education events for the upcoming year. We have tentatively set the date for a full-day seminar on August 12, 2015, with the location and topics yet to be determined. If you or someone you know would like to make an hour-long presentation at the event, please contact Cheryl Rishcoff at 610-871-3935, ext. 20 or crishcoff@trcww.com. Some possible ideas would be technical topics of which you are an expert, or a unique and challenging structural design project that you have worked on and would like to share with others including, but not limited to, building and bridge projects.

We have also added a new SEILV page on the ASCE Lehigh Valley Section website at http://www.lvasce.org/committees/sei/. Please visit our page to see the committee roster and contact information as well as important announcements and upcoming events.

SEILV is now co-sponsoring the Fazlur R. Khan Distinguished Lecture Series and offering 1 PDH for eligible attendees (Free of Charge)

1st Lecture: WILLIAM PEDERSEN,
Founding Design Partner, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, New York, NY
"Balancing"
Friday, February 20, 2015 - 4:30 pm

2nd Lecture: GLENN R. BELL,
Chief Executive Officer, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc., Waltham, MA
"Structural Engineering at Mid-21st Century: Reengineering Our Roles"
Friday, March 20, 2015 - 4:30 pm

3rd Lecture: PETER MARTI,
Professor of Structural Engineering, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
"Science and Art of Structural Engineering"
Friday, April 17, 2015 - 4:30 pm

Location: Sinclair Lab Auditorium
Lehigh University
7 Asa Drive Bethlehem, PA

For additional information about the Fazlur R. Khan Distinguished Lecture series please visit: http://www.lehigh.edu/frkseries
ASCE YMF/YMG Joint Ski Trip
By: Mike Derr, P.E., M.ASCE

On Saturday, January 24th members of the Lehigh Valley Section, North Jersey YMG, and New York Metropolitan YMF braved the slippery conditions and traveled to Camelback Mountain for the annual ski trip.

Prior to hitting the slopes, Mike Derr gave a short presentation on the Aquatopia Indoor Water Park and Camelback Lodge construction project. Once complete, the waterpark will be the largest indoor waterpark in the Northeast and 4th largest in the U.S. as well as the first ski-in/ski-out in the country.

Dion Campbell discussed the new water tank and well system that will supply the waterpark. Dion also gave an excellent skier safety instruction.

Despite the unfavorable conditions, everyone had fun. Stay tuned for future joint section YMF events!

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Where Have You Been Lately?

The YMF is the future of LVASCE and that’s why we recognize the importance of connecting with our members through various social events as well as opportunities for professional development. We encourage all firms to send at least one representative to our YMF events to foster relationships within the engineering community. Some of the regularly hosted events include monthly happy hours and semi-annual bridge tours. In addition, YMF actively engages the local universities to enlighten the students about the transition from academia to the professional world.

If you have any suggestions for future events or questions about how you can get involved in YMF contact Bethany Malusa at bmalusa@benesch.com Make sure to Follow us on Twitter or Like us on Facebook so you don’t miss out on any upcoming YMF activities!

ASCE Younger Members Happy Hour

ROAR SOCIAL HOUSE

Come network with other young Civil Engineers!!

When: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Where: Roar Social House
732 West Hamilton St.
Allentown, PA 18101

Drink Specials
Appetizers will be provided
35TH ANNUAL LEHIGH VALLEY ENGINEER’S WEEK BANQUET
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Date: Friday, February 27, 2015
Time: 6:00 pm Cocktail Hour w/ Cash Bar
      7:00 pm Dinner
Location: Holiday Inn Conference Center Lehigh Valley
          Located at the intersection of I-78 and Route 100, Fogelsville (www.hilehighvalley.com)

Energy Resources and the Power Industry – Where Are We Headed?
Presented by keynote speaker Komandur Sunder Raj
Beginning with some historical perspective of the energy sectors, and the present energy flow/energy
consumption by source and sector, there will follow an overview of coal, petroleum, natural gas, nuclear
and renewable energy sources. Environmental considerations will be summarized, and current
challenges, initiatives and future trends will be presented

All Engineers, Family & Friends are Welcome!

Early Registration:
$35 per attendee or $20 per student attendee
Please consider donating $15 to sponsor a student
To qualify for early registration, payment must be received by February 17th

$45 per attendee with payment received after February 17th

Meal Choices:
- Chicken Marsala with mushrooms
- Flat Iron Steak with shallot herb sauce
- Pan Seared Salmon with teriyaki vegetables
- Roasted Vegetable Napoleon

Please reserve online by Tuesday, February 17th at www.LVPSPE.org/Events

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FEBRUARY 22-28, 2015

For more information, please check our website www.lvengineer.org
District 5-0 ~ State of the District
Presented by Michael Rebert, PE – District Executive

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015
Time: 5:30-6:30 – Social Hour
      6:30 Dinner & Speaker
Where: Sands Resort & Casino
      77 Sands Boulevard, Bethlehem
Cost: $20 pp for Government Employees (excludes PennDOT employees)
      $45 pp for ASHE & ASCE Members if paid in advance
      $50 pp for Non-members if paid in advance
      **$5 additional fee for all payments at the door**
Meal Choice:
   * Chicken: Roasted chicken breast, whipped roasted garlic-yukon potatoes, rosemary jus
   * Beef: pepper crusted New York strip loin, red skin potato galette, creamed spinach, Dijon sauce
   * Vegetarian Pasta: Whole wheat penne pasta, roasted red pepper, rapini, lemon, garlic and basil

Register online at: eastpenn.ashe.pro
Or by contacting Lauren MacDonald at: LMacDonald@trafficpd.com

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Membership – John Caperilla (jcaperilla@borton-lawson.com)
Nominating/Awards – Scott Stenroos (sstenroos@keystoneconsultingengineers.com)
Lehigh Valley Engineering Council – Mike Derr (mderr@qtaeng.com)
Younger Member Forum – Bethany Malusa (bmalusa@benesch.com)
Student Chapter Affairs – Kyle John (kyle.john@whiting-benesch.com)
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Structures – Cheryl Rishcoff (crishcoff@trcww.com)
Transportation – Tim Kramer (kramer.timothy@gmail.com)
Environmental – Aaron Frantz (frantzar@cdmsmith.com)
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**THANK YOU!!**

Your generous contributions to the Section are greatly appreciated and enable us to provide our members with opportunities to build relationships and further their careers within the engineering community.

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**Other Advertisement Opportunities with the Lehigh Valley Section**

- **One-time ad in newsletter (includes logo on website)**
  - $100 for business card size
  - $150 for double business card size
  - $250 for full page

- **Sponsor a Student**
  - $20 per dinner meeting or event

- **Sponsor an LVASCE Meeting**
  - **Gold $200:** Includes recognition in the meeting announcement sent to entire section; a PowerPoint slide, and option to hang company banner and table for advertising at the dinner.
  - **Platinum $500:** Includes Gold above plus opportunity to give introduction/presentation about your firm.

Contact Joe McFadden via email if you are interested at imcfadden@mbakerintl.com

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What’s New on the LVASCE website?

Our committees page now features a new page for the Lehigh Valley Structural Engineering Institute. Thanks to Matthew Kawczenski, P.E., S.E. for designing and maintaining the page. Also, visit our job postings page for the latest career opportunities in the Lehigh Valley.

For the latest LVASCE news, be sure to follow us on Facebook! Check out the pictures from the multi-regional conference in Miami, where website committee member Joe McFadden accepted an award on behalf of the Lehigh Valley Section for Outstanding Section and Branch Website.

Job Postings:

Barry Isett & Associates, Inc – Civil-Municipal Engineer

Barry Isett & Associates, Inc – Mechanical Engineer

Barry Isett & Associates, Inc – Structural (Building) Designer

Barry Isett & Associates, Inc – Civil (Land Development) Engineer

Benchmark Civil Engineering Services – Entry Level Engineer

Michael Baker International – Available Jobs

Monroe County Conservation District – Hydraulic Engineer

Upper Macungie Township – Sewer Authority Manager

HDR Job Postings

DiGioia Gray & Associates – Construction Monitoring Engineer

LVPC – Director of Transportation Planning

LVPC – Senior Transportation Modeler

CeraTech USA – Regional Sales Manager