



## February 2026 Newsletter

### *The Arch Newsletter Team*

Newsletter Editor

[Brenan Pool \(Engenuity\)](#)

Programs Chair

[Maggie Cox \(Volkert\)](#)

Section President

[Melissa Rettig \(Hg Consult\)](#)

Membership Champion

[Lyle Simonton \(Subsurface Constructors\)](#)

**Connect with #asceSTL!**

### *Upcoming Section Events*

#### **February**

02 - The Arch February 2026

04 - [Engineer's Day at State Capitol](#)

11 - [Int'l Day of Women & Girls in Science](#)

12 - [YMG Happy Hour](#)

14 - **Valentine's Day**

17 - [E-Week Luncheon](#)

22 - [National Engineers Week](#)

26 - [GI STL Quarterly Meeting](#)

28 - [SLSC SciFest](#)

#### **March**

01 - The Arch March 2026

15 - STL Board Nominations

20 - [STL Awards Open](#)

### **2026 Section Board of Directors**

*President*

[Melissa Rettig](#)

Hg Consult, Inc.

*President-Elect*

[Shari Cunningham](#)

SCI Engineering, Inc.

*Secretary*

[Tony Roth](#)

UES



### ***From the President***

Dear St. Louis Section Members,

Happy February! I hope everyone is staying warm and fared well during the recent snowstorm. While February is always a busy month for engineers, it's looking especially packed for us here at

ASCE.

I'll kick things off with our most thrilling update from the **2026 CRYMC/MRLC**. Drumroll, please... the St. Louis Younger Member Group has been selected as the primary host for the **2028 CRYMC/MRLC in 2028!** A huge thank you goes out to our YMG Board for their dedication and a winning pitch. It's been far too long

*Treasurer*

[Nichole Witushynsky](#)

GBA

*Director of Professional &*

*Technical Development*

[Anne Werner](#)

Southern Illinois

University Edwardsville

*Director of Administration*

[Stephen Noeth](#)

Civil Design, Inc.

*Past President*

[Melantha Norton](#)

Nestle Purina PetCare

since we've hosted this event locally, and we can't wait to showcase the best of St. Louis to our fellow ASCE members from across the region.

I am looking forward to celebrating [National Engineers Week](#) February 22-28 with all of you! It's a time to honor the contributions of engineers and inspire future generations to pursue careers in engineering. **The Section will have a table** at the [SciFest: Engineering Expo at the Science Center](#) on February 28th. We will feature our civil engineering display board and have several hands-on activities for kids. You can [email me with your availability](#) or [sign up HERE](#) if you are interested in volunteering at this fun event. If you are not able to volunteer, consider bringing a young person to participate. This is a great event for all ages!

We encourage members to attend the [Engineering Center's E-Week Luncheon](#) at the **Clayton Plaza Hotel on February 17th**. Board members and Committee & Institute chairs will be representing the ASCE St. Louis Section. This luncheon is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow engineers and other professional organizations.

I look forward to seeing some of you at this month's events. Take some time to celebrate your contributions and the impact you have made as a civil engineer!

**Melissa Rettig**

2026 St. Louis Section President

---

**Support Students via Sponsoring the 2026 Mid-America Symposium**



Join us in supporting the [2026 ASCE Mid-America Student Symposium](#), cohosted by **Southern Illinois University Carbondale** and **Southern Illinois University Edwardsville** from April 9-11, 2026. Students will compete in competitions such as Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge, Surveying, Sustainable Solutions, 3D Printing, Concrete Bowling, and more!

Sponsorships provide vital support and offer great visibility with future engineers and partnering with university faculty. Consider partnering to help grow the next generation of civil engineers!

#### Sponsorship Tiers:

- **Platinum Level (\$5,000+)**
- **Gold Level (\$2,500+)**
- **Silver Level (\$1,500+)**
- **Bronze Level (\$1,000+)**
- **Red Level (\$500+)**

For more details, do contact the [ASCE SIUE Student Chapter](#) or visit [their giving page](#).



### Volunteers needed!

Looking to get more involved? The ASCE St. Louis Section, YMG, and STL Institute Chapters are calling for volunteers to support committees, events, and initiatives throughout 2026. Dedicate your expertise, expand your network, and help strengthen our local engineering community! Society-level committee applications are also open

to all members until mid-March for consideration.

**Volunteer with a St. Louis Section committee or chapter!**

**Volunteer with a Society-level committee!**

---

### 2026 Call for Board Nominations



The ASCE St. Louis Section Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations **for open Board positions**. [All members are invited to participate in this process!](#)

Open Board Positions are the following:

- **Director of Administration** (2-year term)
- **Treasurer** (1-year term, typically filled by an outgoing Director (as Official Nominee) if no Petition Nominees are submitted for Treasurer)
- **Secretary** (1-year term, typically filled by the outgoing Treasurer (as Official Nominee) if no Petition Nominees are submitted for Secretary)

Board members are expected to regularly attend monthly Section Board meetings and fulfill all responsibilities outlined in the [Section's Constitution, Bylaws and Handbook](#). Accepting a position generally leads to progression through subsequent Board roles, resulting in a multi-year commitment. Board members will be installed at the Section's Annual Awards Dinner, with terms beginning **October 1, 2026**.

There are two ways for Section Members to participate in the process:

1. **Submit a Section Member's name for consideration by the Nominating Committee.** Submit a Section Member's name using the Nomination Form linked below. Names submitted are considered only by the Nominating Committee for potential selection as an Official Nominee. This does not guarantee selection or placement on the election ballot. The Committee will present at least one (1) Official Nominee for each open position to the Board.
2. **Self-Nomination as a Petition Nominee.** Complete the Nomination Form linked below and upload:
  - A petition with signatures from ten (10) eligible voting subscribing Section Members, and
  - A signed letter of intent to serve, if elected.

Petition Nominees meeting all requirements will be placed on the election ballot as a Petition Nominee. **All forms must be submitted by March 15, 2026.**

### ASCE STL Board Nomination Form

For questions or issues with the form, contact: [Melantha Norton, Nominating Committee Chair](#). Thank you in advance for your valued participation and support of the STL Section!

---

## Engineer's Day at the Missouri State Capitol

### Engineers Day At the Missouri State Capitol

February 4, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. | Jefferson City, MO



MSPE's **2026 Capitol Day** will be held as part of the Engineer's Day at the Capitol with ACEC Missouri, APWA and ASCE on February 4th. This provides an opportunity to bring an even larger group of engineers to the capitol and represent our profession.

There is no charge to attend this event but ask for you to pre-register. Registration opens soon!

[Registration Page for 2026 Engineers Day](#)

---

**2026 E-Week Luncheon**



**Save the Date**  
**February 17, 2026**

## **Engineering Artificial Creativity: Lessons from Three Decades of Generative AI Innovation**

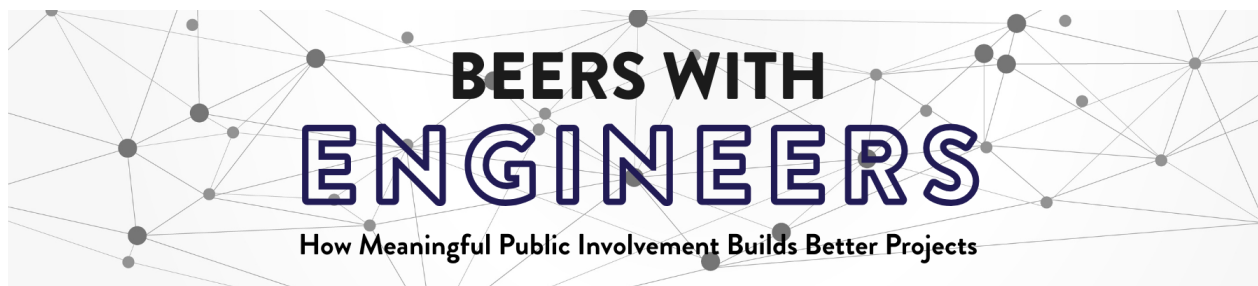
Generative AI did not begin with text-to-image or language models—it began with attempts to make neural systems think creatively. In this talk, Dr. Stephen Thaler offers a behind-the-scenes look at the engineering evolution of his patented Creativity Machine and DABUS architectures, which inspired many principles now central to modern generative systems. He will discuss the key algorithms that allow neural networks to bootstrap new ideas, detect utility within their own outputs, and adapt to chaotic environments. Engineers will come away with a practical appreciation for the role of instability, topology, and internal feedback in designing truly inventive machines.

### **SPEAKER**



**Dr. Stephen L. Thaler**  
**President and CEO**  
Imagination Engines, Inc.

Dr. Stephen L. Thaler is the President and CEO of Imagination Engines, Inc., and the inventor behind the Creativity Machine® and DABUS (Device for the Autonomous Bootstrapping of Unified Sentience) architectures—systems that arguably achieve creativity, cognition, and sentience through vast networks of self-organizing neural modules. Holding a Ph.D. in physics, Dr. Thaler began his career in the defense and aerospace sectors, where he developed advanced technologies in laser systems, stealth, and diamond film deposition before turning his focus to machine intelligence. Over the past three decades, Dr. Thaler has authored dozens of foundational patents in generative AI, establishing core principles in autonomous invention and machine consciousness. His pioneering work in noise-driven idea generation, synaptic degradation, and internally evaluative neural networks continues to influence how engineers and researchers understand creativity and cognition in artificial systems.



### Join Trailnet for their Beers with Engineers event!

Trailnet invites [#asceSTL](#) members to **Beers with Engineers: How Meaningful Public Involvement Builds Better Projects** presented by [Great River Engineering](#), an event built for engineers, planners, landscape architects, designers, and development professionals with a passion for transportation! It will take place on Thursday, Feb. 19th from 3:30 - 6 p.m. at [UMSL at Grand Center](#).

*Beers with Engineers* seeks to equip transportation professionals with the tools and connections that they need to thrive. It will include an engaging panel, collaborative activities, networking, snacks, and — you guessed it — local beer and other beverages. The focus this year is the use of public involvement to develop more effective projects.

Oh, and **did we mention that it's free?** Just register in advance to ensure your spot!

[Register for Beers with Engineers event](#)



### SciFest Volunteers Needed

It's that time of year again! We are gearing up for [SciFEST at the Science Center during Engineers Week](#). If you have any questions about the activities or scheduling, feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support of ASCE!

- Location: Saint Louis Science Center (main bldg.)
- Date: February 28, 2026
- Shift Times: 8:30-9:30, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM
- Activities: VR Goggles, MSE Wall, Shake Table, Board Display

## Volunteer for SciFest with ASCE STL!



## 2026 Regions 3, 6, 7 Multi-Region Leadership Conference



#asceSTL Section leaders, Younger Members, and Student Chapter Leaders represented our Section at the **2026 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC)** in Chicago this last weekend, hosted by the Illinois Section YMG at Marriott Chicago O'Hare. MRLC includes the Workshop for Section, Branch and Institute Leaders (WSBIL), Central Region Younger Member Council (CRYMC) and Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL).



**Nichole Witushynsky** attended the WSBIL on behalf of the Section, while **Krysta Swartz**, **Brenan Pool**, and **Abhishek Khatiwada** represented the Younger Member Group at CRYMC. Students included **Kelly Tuong**, **Mandy Tran**, and **Aureous Ifabiyi-Chope** as well as practitioner advisor **Laura Gray** (ASCE SLU), along with **Ankit Goswami**, **Oliwia Kazmierczak**, **Aubrey Cox**, and **Joshua Walkup** (ASCE Missouri S&T) attending the WSCL. Region and Society leadership were also present, including **Jordan Pettibone** (Region 7 Governor) and **Marsia Geldert-Murphey** (Past Society and Section President).

Conference highlights included a technical tour and social at the Google renovations of the James R. Thompson Center, a pre-conference networking night at Punch Bowl Social, the CRYMC Awards Banquet (themed after the 1893 World's Fair, and engaging presentations from Acting CDOT Commissioner Craig Turner, and Dynamic Demolitions by sponsor Collins Engineering.



We're also proud to celebrate several major accomplishments from MRLC 2026:

- The ASCE St. Louis YMG was awarded a \$250 Student Engagement & Activities Grant from [ASCE Younger Members](#)
- The YMG also received a \$500 grant from the [ASCE Foundation](#), supporting continued student-to-YMG engagement efforts
- Most notably, **St. Louis YMG won the primary bid to host the 2028 MRLC**, with Detroit selected as the secondary host — marking the first time St. Louis will host since 2014!

Thank you to everyone who represented ASCE St. Louis and helped strengthen leadership across all career stages. See you in Oklahoma City, OK for MRLC 2027 next autumn!

### 2026 ASCE Regions 3, 6, & 7 MRLC

## Application of Insulated Concrete Forms in General Commercial Const.

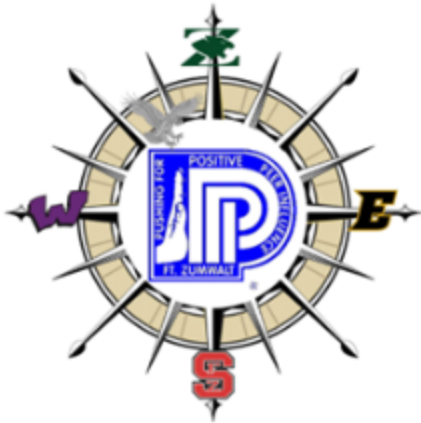
Building Enclosure Council of St. Louis is hosting an upcoming event, *Application of Insulated Concrete Forms in General Commercial Construction*, on Thursday, March 5 at the Masonry Institute of St. Louis.



This technical program will explore the use of Insulated Concrete Forms (ICFs) in commercial construction, highlighting benefits related to resilience, energy efficiency, construction scheduling, and long-term operating costs. The event includes a presentation and hands-on demonstration and offers 1 LU / 1 HSW.

**Check out BEC St. Louis' upcoming event!**

## STREAM Volunteering Event



Volunteers needed for **Fort Zumwalt School District STREAM event on April 9, 2026** from 5:30-7:00PM at the ASCE St. Louis Section booth. We are seeking 1–2 volunteers on April 9 at 5:30-7:00PM at Forest Park Elementary in O'Fallon, MO. This may be a convenient opportunity for those located on the western side of the St. Louis Metro area. Please feel free to forward this message to anyone who may be interested. Reach out to [Nichole](#) or [Jacob](#) for coordination!



## Younger Member Group (YMG)

St. Louis YMG was represented at 2026 CRYMC (as part of MRLC) by **Krysta Swartz**, **Brenan Pool**, and **Ahbishek Khatiwada** last weekend in Chicago, Illinois!

As exhibited above in the newsletter, the YMG is happy to report **we were awarded two (2)**



**grants** from ASCE Younger Members and ASCE Foundations... and we're slated to **host 2028 CRYMC in STL!**



A special kudos to the **S&T** and **SLU Student Chapter** leaders who attended MRLC, the conference presenters, the **Illinois Section YMG** planners, and our fellow YMG/YMF leaders we had the chance to connect with throughout the event!

We're grateful for the recognition and excited to keep the momentum going. We hope to **see you at our upcoming February Happy Hour**, and as always, new **volunteers are welcome** at ASCE St. Louis YMG. Please don't hesitate to reach out as we'd be honored to work with you!



# HAPPY HOUR WESTPORT SOCIAL FEB. 12 @ 5:30PM



**OUR SPONSOR**



**#ASCESTLYMG**

See you at the YMG Happy Hour!

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS



#asceSTlymg

### Upcoming YMG Events

- [February Happy Hour](#)
  - Westport Social

Brandon Hamel, E.I., M.ASCE  
YMG President  
Oates Associates, Inc.

- Thu, Feb 12 @ 5:30 pm
- March Happy Hour
  - Edwardsville Venue TBD
  - Thu, Mar 19 @ 5:30 pm



---

**Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI) St. Louis Chapter**



ENVIRONMENTAL &  
WATER RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE  
St. Louis Chapter

WATER  
INSTITUTE  
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

EWRI of ASCE - St. Louis Chapter

2026 Environmental & Water Resources Spring Symposium and Workshop

# WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

You are invited to attend a full-day educational symposium for professional development and to meet other environmental and water resources professionals.

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

Sign-In and Continental Breakfast 7:30 to 8AM

Technical Program 8AM to 4:15PM

**Location:**

DuBourg Hall at  
Saint Louis University  
221 N Grand Blvd  
St. Louis, MO 63103

**To Register Visit:**

<https://tinyurl.com/EWRI-2026>



**Registration includes:**

Up to 7 PDHs, continental breakfast, and lunch.

**Cost:**

Students \$15  
ASCE Members \$90  
Non-Members \$120

## This year's topics include:

Wastewater System Study  
by MSD

Flood Resilience through  
Increased Tree Canopy

Resource Recovery from  
Sewage Sludge

WWTF Design-Build Project

Hydrologic Extremes

Waterway Restoration

Filtration of Microplastics

Floodplain Reconnection

Blueway Project

River Restoration

Dam Removal

## Optional happy hour afterwards for attendees!

Join us for a happy hour after for food, drink, and networking. Symposium attendees will receive a free drink and snacks. Location is to be determined – we will provide updates once it is set!

**For more information, please contact:**

Samantha Keeven  
Spring Symposium Co-Chair  
[skeeven@hrgreen.com](mailto:skeeven@hrgreen.com)

Charles Pugh  
Spring Symposium Co-Chair  
[cpugh@stlmsd.com](mailto:cpugh@stlmsd.com)

### Upcoming EWRI STL Events

- [2026 Water, Water, Everywhere](#)
  - Fri, Mar 6th, 8am-4pm
  - DuBourg Hall, SLU

Jiaman Xu, P.E., ENV SP, PMP,  
M.ASCE

**EWRI STL Chair**

Illinois American Water





GEO-  
INSTITUTE  
St. Louis Chapter



## Call for Presentations

St. Louis Chapter of the Geo-Institute of ASCE Presents

### Case Histories Seminar and Student Projects

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026

**TIME:** 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**LOCATION:** SLU: Il Monastero Banquet Center – 3050 Olive St., St. Louis, MO 63103

Registration includes dinner. 2.5 PDH credits will be available.

The Geo-Institute is accepting **presentation topics** for our annual Case Histories Night. The committee is seeking speakers to provide a 60-minute presentation focused on geotechnical engineering projects. Please submit presentation topics to Travis Kassebaum ([Travis.Kassebaum@terracon.com](mailto:Travis.Kassebaum@terracon.com)) and Zachary Fallert ([zfallert@geosyntec.com](mailto:zfallert@geosyntec.com)) prior to **March 6, 2026**.

**Student research posters** will be on display during the registration/networking period, and selected students will give brief presentations on their topics.

A limited number of **sponsorship opportunities** are available for this event. If interested, please contact Beya Kazadi ([bkazadi@hanson-inc.com](mailto:bkazadi@hanson-inc.com)).

---

#### *Adopt an Engineer*

**Students:** We are looking to engage with students who have interest in geotechnical/geological/environmental profession, or who simply would like to understand more about the profession.

## Adopt an Engineer: Sign-Up Registration



Connect with professionals, young and seasoned, from various sectors, in one-on-one calls to ask questions and learn more about the industry.

**Professionals:** Volunteer an hour of your time to meet with students and help answer questions they might have. Discuss what you do in your industry, what a typical day looks like, what courses were the most beneficial, etc. An opportunity to give back to the student organizations!

**Share the QR code to those who may be interested.**

[Register here for this program!](#)

---

### *Call for Case Histories Night Topics*

The [Geo-Institute St. Louis Chapter](#) is accepting presentation topics for our **annual Case Histories Night**. The committee is seeking speakers to provide a 60-minute presentation focused on geotechnical engineering projects.

In addition, the Committee is also seeking potential student presenter. The student will have the opportunity to show case their research at the event. student research posters will be on display during the registration/networking period, and selected students will give brief presentations on their topics. Free admission for students

Please submit presentation topics to [Travis Kassebaum](#) and [Zachary Fallert](#) prior to **March 13, 2026**.

---

### *Upcoming G-I Events*

- [Quarterly Technical Session](#)
  - Thu, Feb 26th at 5pm
  - [Schlafly Bottleworks](#)

[Travis Kassebaum, P.E.,  
M.ASCE](#)

**G-I STL Chair**  
Terracon



# CHANGING THE WORLD

## CIVIL, ARCHITECTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING **Networking & Social Event**

Join us for an evening of networking on Monday night before the Spring Career Fair. This is a great opportunity for Miner alumni/employers and students to meet and talk outside fair hours in a more relaxed setting.

**6-8 p.m. | Monday, Feb. 16 | Butler-Carlton Atrium**



Register by Monday, Feb. 9: <https://forms.gle/GpHes9ydVsBUL2bv6>  
Have questions? Email Rachel Bailey ([rmbddf@mst.edu](mailto:rmbddf@mst.edu))



MISSOURI S&T

**ASCE** | MEMBER  
ADVANTAGES

**GEOTECHNICAL STAFF ENGINEER**

SCI Engineering, Inc. - St. Charles, MO; O'Fallon, IL



**STAFF ENGINEER**

Taliaferro & Browne, Inc. - St. Louis, MO



---

*Originally sent February 2026*

**ASCE St. Louis Section**

St. Louis, MO

[asceSTL.org](http://asceSTL.org)

[Unsubscribe](#)

CONNECT WITH  
*#asceSTL*

