



September 2026 Newsletter

The Arch Newsletter Team

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

Programs Chair

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

Section President

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

Membership Champion

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

Upcoming Section Events

September

07 - The Arch September 2026

07 - Labor Day

11 - [2026 SAME Trivia Night](#)

19 - [YMG Mizzou Tailgater](#)

25 - [EWRI Chapter Meeting](#)

26 - [2026 Section Awards Banquet](#)

30 - [GI Quarterly Meeting](#)

October

01 - The Arch October 2026

13 - [October Section Luncheon](#)

Connect with [#asceSTL!](#)

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

Greeting St. Louis Section,

We are back! While the summer heat is still lingering, our summer break has officially wrapped up. We have an excited lineup of events scheduled for

September, and I look forward to connecting with many of you throughout the month.

Our official "new year" will kick off at our [Annual Banquet on September 26th at Maggiano's Little Italy](#). One of my favorite events of the year! During the event, we will honor our Section Award winners, install 2027 Board officers, and present student scholarships. **A special thanks to our Life Members for their**

Treasurer

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Technical Development*

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University Edwardsville

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Civil Design, Inc.

Past President

[Melantha Norton](#)

Nestle Purina PetCare

generous support of our scholarship fund, contributing nearly \$3,000 this year.

As one our cornerstone offerings, monthly technical luncheons resume October 13th – [with a presentation on the statewide Improve I-70 Program led by MoDOT Program Director Eric Kopinski](#). You won't want to miss this one! A special thank you to our luncheon sponsors: **CBB, CDI, EDM, Hg Consult, HR Green, Reitz & Jens, Subsurface Constructors**, and **UES**. Your support helped us keep these luncheons affordable for members and maintain discounted rates for student and life members.

I am honored to pass the gavel to **Shari Cunningham** as she is installed as the 2027 Board President. We will also welcome **Brenan Pool** as a new officer to the Board. After nine years of dedicated service on the Section Board, **Melantha Norton** will conclude her Board term. Thank you, Melantha, for your commitment to the ASCE St. Louis Section and Board and your mentorship and guidance throughout my time on the Board.

Our Younger Member Group (YMG) is also back in action this month with some fun events. [The 2026 Mizzou Tailgater in collaboration](#) with the Kansas City YMG is back, as well as their signature monthly happy hour for this month. This group has a strong history of engagement and continues to make the STL YMG one of the best in the region.

As I write my final President's Message, I reflect back on starting this term with "**ELEVATE**" as my guiding vision. Over the past year, your collective efforts have elevated our section through innovative events, active pre-college outreach, and inspiring student chapter visits.

It has been an absolute honor to serve as Section President for an organization that has shaped my professional career since my college days. Thank you for your hard work, enthusiasm, and support. It's a great time to be a member of the ASCE St. Louis Section. Signing off as President and looking forward to another wonderful year ahead!

Melissa Rettig, PE, RSP1

2026 St. Louis Section President

#asceSTL



2027 LABOR DAY

Join us at the 2026 Awards Banquet

The Board of Directors of the ASCE St. Louis Section cordially invites you and your guests to the **2026 ASCE St. Louis Section Awards Banquet** - an evening celebrating excellence, achievement, and service within the civil engineering profession in the Gateway City and beyond.

Register for this ASCE STL event



Koin fellow students, younger members, professionals, educators, and industry leaders for networking, dinner, and recognition as we present the 2026 Section Awards, including:

-  Project of the Year
-  Professional Recognition Award

- 🏆 Young Engineer Award
- 🏆 Outstanding Faculty/Practitioner Advisor Award
- 🏆 Service to the People Award

Award recipients and their one (1) complimentary guest each, ASCE student members, and ASCE life members are eligible for complimentary registration. Please contact event host for promotional codes or general questions!

Register for this ASCE STL event

Attend the October Section Luncheon!

🚧 \$2.8 Billion. 200 Miles. 9 Projects. One Interstate.

Join [#asceSTL](#) and for our October Section Luncheon featuring **Eric Kopinski**, director for **MoDOT's Improve I-70 Program**, for an update on one of the largest transportation investments currently underway in Missouri.



Interstate 70 has played a defining role in Missouri's transportation network and in the history of America's Interstate Highway System. Missouri was the first state in the nation to begin construction under the new Interstate Highway Program, with work beginning on I-70 in St. Charles County.

Decades later, Missouri is embarking on another major chapter in the corridor's history. With \$2.8 billion in funding, the Improve I-70 Program is advancing improvements along approximately 200 miles of I-70 through nine projects across the state. The program represents a historic investment in

the safety, capacity, reliability, and long-term future of one of Missouri's most important transportation corridors.

Eric will provide attendees with an overview of:

- The history and significance of Interstate 70 in Missouri
- The development of the Improve I-70 Program
- Current progress across the nine statewide projects
- Coordination and delivery of improvements across approximately 200 miles of corridor
- What's ahead as this historic investment continues

The presentation will conclude with an opportunity for questions and discussion with Eric about the program and its progress.



Eric Kopinski, PE

Eric is the MoDOT Improve I-70 statewide director. In this role Eric helps support each of the nine projects across I-70. Prior to his current role, Eric worked in various roles across the state over his 17 years with the Missouri Department of Transportation. Eric is a graduate of Missouri S&T and is happy to be with us today to share a little about I-70.

Register for the event!

When: Tue, October 13th @ 12:00 pm

Register by EOD on October 8th

Registration at 11:30 am, lunch served at 11:45 am, and program begins at 12:00 pm. One (1) PDH is available from this program.

[Maggie Cox](#), *Programs Chair*

Where: Il Monastero Banquet Center, Saint Louis University

Special thanks to our venue host

SLU School of Science and Engineering at Saint Louis University



Call for Communications volunteers

The Communications Committee is seeking volunteers to help support member engagement through our newsletter, website, and social media platforms.

Whether you have an interest in writing, marketing, photography, web design, or simply helping share the

great work of civil engineers across our region, we'd love to have your support. Volunteers may contribute as their schedule allows!



Webmaster

- Post upcoming events and job opportunities
- Update Section and Institute chapter subpages as needed
- Estimated commitment: 1-2 hours/month

Newsletter Editor

- Collect content from Section and Institute chapter leaders
- Format and distribute monthly newsletters via Informz
- Estimated commitment: 2-4 hours/month

Social Media Coordinator

- Create and reshare social media posts
- Promote and reshare upcoming events and highlight past activities
- Share local member and student news
- Estimated commitment: Flexible

Interested in helping? Contact the Communications Committee to learn more!

[**Learn more about this opportunity!**](#)

Call for Section volunteers

We're on the lookout for passionate members to step into leadership roles on our committees. Volunteering means developing leadership skills, building your network, and making a real impact in our Section. Don't just be a member—be the difference! Connect with a Board member or Section volunteer to get started

We're also specifically looking to fill the chair positions for the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and Student Involvement Committee!

Contact any Board member or volunteer for info!



Younger Member Group (YMG)



We're planning for FY27 and want to hear from you! Please complete our 5-minute feedback survey and let us know what events, programs, and opportunities you'd like to see from your Younger Member Group.

Fill out our 2027 Feedback Survey!



Brenan Pool
PRESIDENT



Krysta Swartz
PRESIDENT-ELECT



Beya Kazadi
TREASURER



Vacant
SOCIALS CHAIR



Brandon Hamel
PAST PRESIDENT

2027 EXEC BOARD

Welcome the FY2027 Board!

Please join us in congratulating the newly elected YMG Board for the 2027 fiscal year! We are excited to welcome our new board members and look forward to the leadership, ideas, and energy they will bring to the group.

- Past President - **Brandon Hamel**
- President - **Brenan Pool**
- President-Elect - **Krysta Swartz**
- Treasurer - **Beya Kazadi**

We're also looking for volunteers to serve as our Socials Chair and help with social media! If you enjoy planning events, connecting with other young professionals, or helping promote YMG activities, we'd love to have you involved. No prior experience is necessary—just an interest in helping our group grow and stay connected.

Contact us to serve the YMG!

2026 ASCE MIZZOU TAILGATER



LET'S GET LOUD FOR M-I-Z!

— TROY TROJANS V. MISSOURI TIGERS —

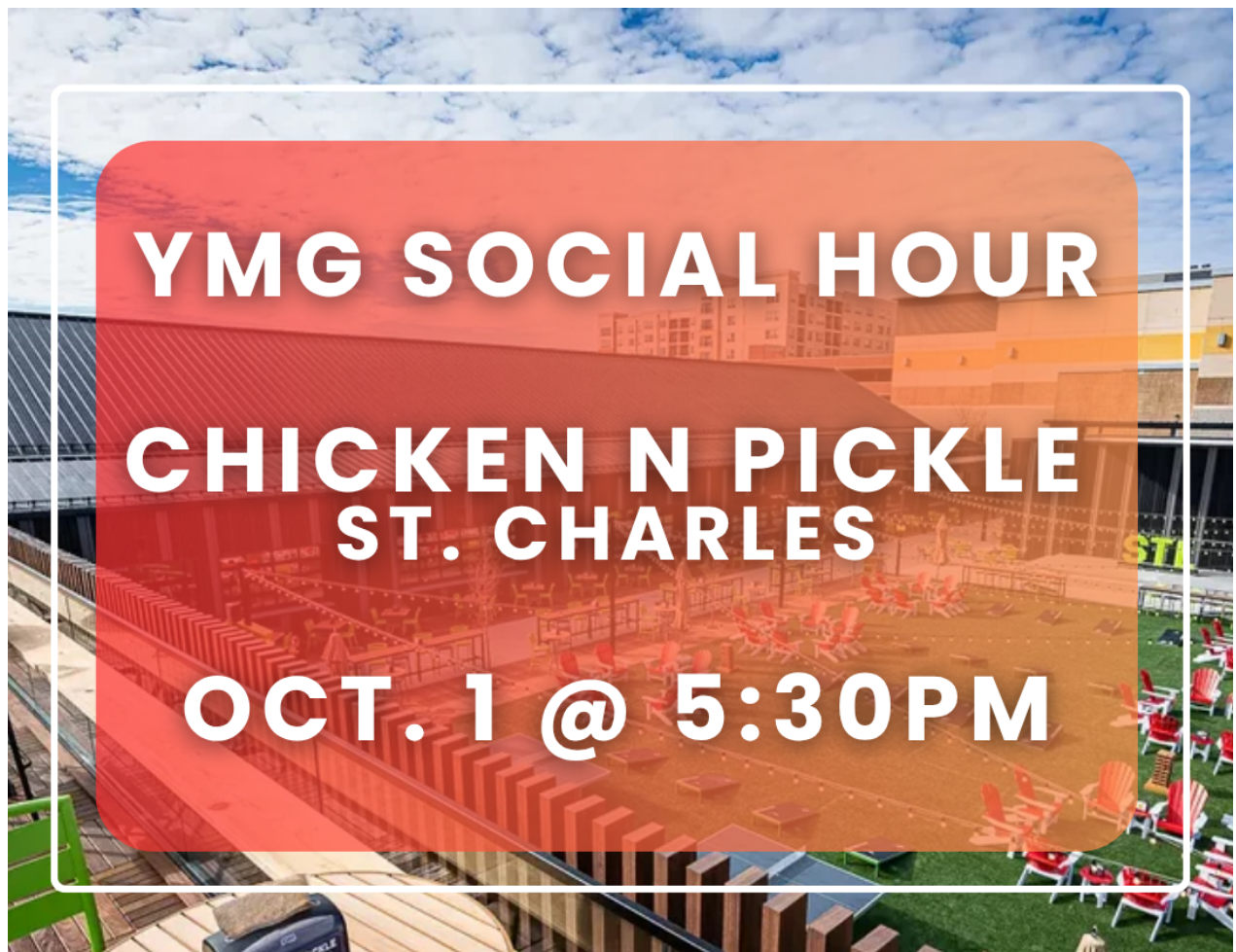
September 19th

3pm Tailgate, 6pm Game

Turner Ave Parking Garage



RSVP here for this YMG Event!



🍷 Pickleball, anyone?

Join [#asceSTLymg](#) for a casual evening of pickleball, food, drinks, and networking at **Chicken N Pickle**! Whether you're a pickleball regular, have never picked up a paddle, or just want to come hang out with fellow young professionals, all skill levels are welcome—no experience required!

[RSVP here for this YMG Event!](#)

Upcoming YMG Events

- [2026 STL & KC YMG Mizzou Tailgater](#)
 - Sept 19 @ 3pm
 - Turner Ave Parking Garage (CoMo)
- [October Social Hour](#)
 - Oct 1 @ 5:30pm
 - Chicken N Pickle St. Charles

[Brandon Hamel, EI, M.ASCE](#)

YMG President

Oates Associates, Inc.





ENVIRONMENTAL &
WATER RESOURCES
INSTITUTE
St. Louis Chapter

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

The Geo-Institute St. Louis Chapter will be holding a general chapter meeting at 11:30am to 1:00pm on September 25th at Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Conference Room 109. Attendees should come in through the revolving door (front of building) and tell security they are here for the EWRI meeting. Lunch will be provided for anyone attending in person! Please email EWRI STL to RSVP for in-person meeting and provide dietary restrictions by the end of Tuesday, 9/22!

Signup for this EWRI event!

Upcoming G-I Events

- [EWRI STL Sept'26 Chapter Meeting](#)
 - Sept 25 @ 11:30am
 - MSD, Conference Rm 109

Jiaman Xu, PE, ENV SP, PMP,
M.ASCE

EWRI STL Chair

Illinois American Water



GEO-
INSTITUTE
St. Louis Chapter

Geo-Institute (G-I) St. Louis Chapter

The Geo-Institute St. Louis Chapter is excited to host our quarterly technical meetup at Schlafly Bottleworks! Join us for an in-depth technical session featuring **Greg Hempen** as he presents "Completing the Removal of North St.

Louis County Radioactive MED Wastes". The St. Louis area has a history of nuclear explores the complexities of landslide remediation and the engineering precision required for stabilization using drilled shaft designs.

Register for this G-I STL event!

Abstract

Beginning in the 1940s, federal atomic weapons production generated radioactive and hazardous wastes at facilities across the United States, including a St. Louis chemical plant that processed uranium ores until 1957. Early disposal and handling practices contaminated the plant, nearby properties, transportation routes, and temporary storage sites, with contaminants subsequently

dispersed by wind and waterways. These properties became part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), which was transferred from the Department of Energy to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1998. The USACE St. Louis District now manages remediation of St. Louis-area FUSRAP sites under CERCLA, NEPA, and EPA oversight, with cleanup goals designed to limit long-term health risks. The Coldwater Creek watershed, including concerns surrounding Jana Elementary School, illustrates the complexity of understanding and communicating these remediation efforts. This history encompasses radioactive waste disposal and transport, extensive environmental investigations, regulatory oversight, cleanup efforts, and evaluation of long-term health risks.



Greg Hempen, PhD, PE, RG

Greg is a consulting geophysicist and geo-engineer with more than 50 years of experience, specializing in vibration mitigation from blasting and pile driving and in recommending geophysical and geological studies for complex sites. He retired from the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), where he served as the first lead geologist for the St. Louis FUSRAP program from 1998 to 2006. Through his consulting practice, EcoBlast, LC, Greg has worked with federal, state, and local governments, as well as consulting firms on public and private projects, and has authored publications aimed at broadly sharing technical knowledge and methodologies. His professional

interests include mentoring students and young professionals, supporting geologic and engineering licensure, serving as an ABET Program Evaluator, and participating in professional societies.



**GEO-
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter



**STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter

Structural and Geo-Confluence

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
River City Casino, St. Louis, Missouri

Registration is open for the fifteenth annual Structural and Geo-Confluence hosted by the St. Louis Chapters of SEI and GI. This one-day, in-person conference is open to all. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 7:15 a.m. and the program runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided.

Agenda includes:

- Deep Foundation Failures and Engineering Fixes – Howard Perko, DFI Traveling Lecturer 2026-2027
- The May 2020 Edenville Dam Failure Four Lakes Task Force; Lower Michigan – Bill Walton
- Millenium Tower Settlement – Tim Stark
- Analyzing Infrastructure Response to Mine Subsidence Movements – Gennaro Marino
- Pulling Back the Curtain: Structural Connectors, Code Reports, and the Evidence Behind Code Compliance – Martin Farrel
- Evaluating Mass Concrete Provisions for Drilled Shafts – Andy Boeckmann
- Central US Earthquakes' Risks, Preparedness & Concerns – Greg Hempen
- Seismic Disruptions and Emergency Response Accessibility: A Missouri Case Study – Emad Hassan
- Missouri American Water South Water Plant on the Meramec – Rick Huber and Jeff Hill

Registration Class	Early Rate by Wednesday, October 7 (3+ weeks)	Regular Rate October 8 to October 21 (3 weeks to 1 week)	Late Rate After October 21 and walk-ins (1 week prior)
Professional, ASCE Member	\$225	\$275	\$325
Professional, non-ASCE Member	\$250	\$295	\$325
ASCE Life Members	\$190	\$225	\$325
Full-time Students	\$75	\$100	\$150
Local, State, or Federal Government	\$190	\$225	\$325
Exhibitor (includes 1 registration)	\$600	\$600	\$600

Register at <https://www.ascestl.org/event-details/2026-structural-and-geo-confluence>

Refunds must be requested before October 14, 2026. Any refund will be subject to a 15 percent cancellation fee. Registration may be transferred to another person by advanced notice to Stephanie Spann (sspann@davidmason.com).

Register for this ASCE STL event

Upcoming G-I Events

- **GI STL Q3'26 Quarterly Technical Meetup**
 - Sept 30 @ 5:30pm

Travis Kassebaum, PE,
M.ASCE
G-I STL Chair
Terracon



SAME St. Louis & Scott Field Post

10th Annual

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday September 11th
Doors open at 5:30pm
Trivia starts promptly at 6:00pm ending at 9:00pm

Sunset Hills Community Center
3915 South Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63127

\$35 per person
Tables of 8

— CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP OR SPONSOR —

EVENT SPONSOR - \$1,000
VIP Table for 8 with complimentary snacks, company logo prominently featured during breaks, company logo on entrance sign, verbal recognition throughout the event

PLATINUM SPONSOR - \$750
Table for 8, company logo on signage, verbal recognition throughout the event

GOLD SPONSOR - \$500
4 free attendees, company logo on signage, verbal recognition throughout the event

TRIVIA SPONSOR - \$400
Company logo featured on trivia scoring sheet

WAGON OF BOOZE RAFFLE SPONSOR - \$300
Sign of company on the wagon, verbal recognition throughout the event

SILVER SPONSOR - \$200
Company logo featured on event signage

ROUND SPONSOR - \$100 PER ROUND
Company logo on round slides, verbal recognition at the beginning and end of that round

*Proceeds benefit:
Dogs for Our
Brave St. Louis*

Register for for this partner event



Registration now open for ASCE2027!

ASCE | **MEMBER
ADVANTAGES**

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[Supervisory Civil Engineer \(Structural\)](#)

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Originally sent September 7, 2026

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