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## CHATTIN WITH CHAS WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow engineers,

This is Chas Webb, President of the Eastern Branch. We are now one-quarter through the year and now one year into this pandemic. I would like to commend our Board for their work over the last year. This has been a difficult year for many of us. Despite all of that the Eastern Branch Board has found a way to create some bright spots. The Eastern Branch has found a way to become the most active branch in the State of North Carolina and one of the most active branches in Region 4. (Region 4 includes 9 states.) That's all because of the hard work of our Board.

The first thing I want to call attention to is the Civil Engineer and Young Civil Engineer of the Year Awards. I had the honor of presenting two highly qualified engineers with those awards. More information can be found on the next page.

The other thing I would like to call attention is the work that the Young Members Group (YMG) is doing.

In March the YMG volunteered at the NC Food Bank in Raleigh. Through their work, nearly 10,000 meals were able to be sorted. The YMG is also hosting a Stream Cleanup on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

I commend the YMG for their work and service to our community. Speaking of the YMG, I'm sad to say that Arash Bozorgi has vacated his position as YMG President. Arash was an excellent part of our Branch and he will be missed. However, we are excited that Jennifer Smith will be joining us as the YMG President. Jennifer brings a lot of energy to our group.

As of now we will continue to have virtual meetings. We are looking at doing hybrid meetings later in the year. We want to hear from our members on how they feel about in-person or virtual meetings. Please contact any of our Board members. We absolutely value your input.

Stay well and safe!

-Chas

## Returning To Normal Work?

We are now one year into this pandemic. Very little predicted that twelve months later, that we would be in the same position as we were in April of 2020. One of the things that's starting to come up is returning to normal. It's likely that we will not see a full return to normal for at least another year. That remains to be seen. But what's guaranteed to happen is there will be a return to the workplace. What's also guaranteed is it will be different when we do return. Just as it was different when working from home began, it will be just as different when returning back to the office.

When you do return to the office, try and draw on your experiences when you started working from home. When you started working from home, your priorities and how you approached your work likely changed. How you adapt to the changes when you return to work can make a big difference in your productivity.

Another thing to keep in mind is, we are all going through this. Everyone is battling this pandemic. While it's been a year that we've had to work from home, there is finally light at the end of the tunnel.



*The Awards*

The inaugural Civil Engineer and Young Civil Engineer of the Year awards were presented to Joseph Angell and Charlie Townsend. The awards recognized those who showed excellence in civil engineering in the Eastern Branch.

Joseph Angell, PE, F. SAME was presented with the Civil Engineer of the Year Award. Joseph is a member of Wiley I Wilson. He earned his Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from the University of Rhode Island and earned his Master's of Engineering from Pennsylvania State University. Over the past year Joseph has been involved in a number of organizations including the ASCE Eastern Branch mentor program where he mentored two students. Over the past year Joseph has been involved in a number of military projects. Joseph has a long history of excellence in civil engineering.

The Eastern Branch was very pleased to present Joseph with the Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

Charlie Townsend earned the Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

“What made this moment even more special was my parents were able to attend”

Charlie Townsend, PE is a project manager for BGE, Inc. Charlie earned a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State and will earn his MBA from North Carolina State this May. Charlie has managed some key projects over the last year. Projects include Smokey Hollow in Raleigh and Highline in downtown Apex. The Eastern Branch was pleased to present Charlie with the Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

## TAKING A LOOK

## CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The awards were presented virtually. The awards were then delivered to Charlie and Joseph in a socially distant setting. Both recipients expressed their sincere gratitude to the Eastern Branch for selecting them as the winners. Charlie added in a LinkedIn post “What made this moment even more special is that my parents who are both civil engineers were able to attend.”

Eastern Branch President, Chas Webb who created and presented the awards said, “I was glad to recognize two highly qualified engineers. Both engineers have shown a commitment to excellence in civil engineering as well as serving their community. I commend both of them for their work.”

The awards were done in conjunction with Engineer's Week 2021.



NORTH CAROLINA SECTION  
EASTERN BRANCH

## Meet the President

### Chas Webb

Charles "Chas" Webb is our President. Chas was born and raised in Connecticut. From there he earned his Bachelor's in Civil Engineering from the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga. He also earned his Master's in Engineering Management from UTC.

Currently Chas works for the City of Raleigh in Stormwater Management. Prior to that Chas worked in Chattanooga, TN as a project engineer for the County Sewer Authority.

Chas is a licensed engineer in North Carolina and Tennessee. He is also a Certified Floodplain Manager. (CFM)

Chas has a history of leading volunteer organizations. While in Chattanooga he president of the Chattanooga Track Club. (CTC)

The CTC is a 1000-member group that puts road races and track meets in Chattanooga. Chas also led the Chattanooga Development Symposium which was put on by the Chattanooga Branch of ASCE.

Chas was also treasurer of the UTC ASCE Chapter.

In his spare time Chas plays golf, piano and taking landscape photographs.

Chas moved to Raleigh in January of 2018 and has enjoyed getting to know a number of different people including his fellow ASCE members.

Fun Fact about Chas: Chas has beat Journey Keyboardist and Don't Stop Believin' songwriter - Jon Cain twice in cornhole.

## EYE ON IT

### What's going on with National?

ASCE recently released their infrastructure report card. An overall grade of C- was reported. While this may seem like a low grade, it's important to note that this is progress. It is an improvement from the previous report card conducted in 2017.

For more information about the infrastructure report card, please visit [asce.org](http://asce.org) and search 'report card.'



ASCE National has issued a directive that there shall be no in-person events until July 1, 2021. The Eastern Branch will be following directive. We hope we can return to in-person events soon. We value your input on when and how we proceed to in-person events again.

## Speaker Spotlight – Keith Rines

### Our January Speaker was Keith Rines

Keith Rines delivered a very interactive presentation for our January meeting. The presentation was called "What are you doing and is it best for the project schedule?"

The presentation focused on the details of schedule creation. What has worked and what hasn't worked. It also touched on ways to be more efficient.

The presentation was interactive, with polls occurring during the presentation.

If the name Keith Rines sounds familiar, then you are correct. All you have to do is look no further than the first page of this newsletter to see that Keith is also our treasurer. Prior to being our treasurers Keith was President of the Eastern Branch.





DO YOU  
HAVE AN  
IDEA OR  
WANT TO  
GET  
INVOLVED?

WE LOVE HEARING FROM  
OUR MEMBERS. PLEASE  
VISIT [ASCENC.ORG](http://ascenc.org) OR  
CONTACT ANY OF OUR  
OFFICERS.

## Upcoming Events

- **April Meeting**

The fourth meeting of the year will take place virtually. Please visit our website for more details.

- **2021 YMG Stream Cleanup April 24th**

The Young Member Group is hosting a stream cleanup in April. Please check your e-mail for more details.

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We're now on LinkedIn! Find us by searching ASCE Eastern Branch. There you will get weekly updates with what is on with the Eastern Branch.

Eastern E-News was designed and created by Chas Webb. Chas is currently a stormwater engineer for the City of Raleigh.