

TRIKO VALLEY NEWS



The mission of the American Society of Highway Engineers is to provide a forum for members and partners of the highway industry that supports education, innovation, and fellowship; promoting a safe and efficient highway system for mobility now and in the future.

Future Meetings
March 27, 2012
May 22, 2012

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March 2012

Volume 12, Number 2

From our President . . .

Paul Schoelwer

March is here and the Transportation Bill is due at the end of the month. Hopefully all our efforts will go for a strong Bill. Likely, by the time you read this, the Bill will not have been passed. So, if possible, all of us need to double our efforts to make sure Washington is aware of the importance of this Bill. Support has come from the Laborers International Union of North America and other groups. They have put forth a pamphlet "How to Survive a Bridge Collapse," and the radio commercial "American Bridges are falling down" commercial. Not exactly subtle, but what is subtle these days?



I am seeing signs of optimism with the economy and especially, the transportation sector. I read an article in the Enquirer which boasted a creation of over 1000 new civil engineer jobs in Ohio alone by 2018. I have to take some of that with a grain of salt as they did not state their sources. The average salary appears to have dropped but that may be due to the high amount of recent graduates needed to take these jobs.

The new registration program, Wild Apricot, has been launched. I think it went well, but it is still a work in progress. If you have thoughts about improving it please let us know. I would like to point out that you do not need to be part of Google Checkout to RSVP. You only need that if you are going to pay on line. Ideally, we all pay on line but if you prefer not to it is very important for you to RSVP so that we can reserve the room appropriately. On the initial run we had roughly 75% of the Schramm meeting attendees RSVP. Of that about half paid on line.

Many of you may have received the email from Wild Apricot on the membership drive we are currently having. It is a great opportunity to win some great Reds tickets. So if you know co-workers, friends or former members who would like to return or become part of ASHE take advantage of this opportunity.

The golf outing has been set. It will be held on June 12th at Walden Pond. Brad Ackel and Steve Proffitt have worked hard to set this up and they will need volunteers to help run it. I believe, at the request of the city of Hamilton for the safety of its citizens, they chose the week I will be on vacation. So although I will not be able to join you please enjoy yourselves on the course and don't be shy in having your company sponsor a hole.

The topic of a summer meeting has come up again. Since it will be more of a social meeting, going to the Reds game has been a very strong subject of conversation. We are in the process of conversing with additional engineering groups to enhance the seating options. Hopefully, we can get this finalized before the last meeting in May. It would be nice to see everyone at a Friday game.

Due to ODOT PDP training on March 20th, the meeting will be pushed back to March 27th. In past years the capital improvement program was focused on construction jobs. This year's program should include new design projects as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Boathouse. Get there early to get a good seat.

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ASHE PIN (Political Information Network) REPORT - December 2011

It has been quite a roller coaster ride since the last writing of the ASHE PIN in January 2012! In the beginning of February, House Transportation Chairman Mica did get his transportation bill through his committee. There were 144 amendments offered to the Chairman, but only 27 were added in a marathon session that went through the night. Speaker John Boehner was now left with getting it approved by the House. However, the bill with no earmarks, very few amendments, and eliminated transit funding, also was missing one crucial item—the votes needed to pass it out of the House.

Speaker Boehner recognized the lack of the necessary votes and refused to bring it to the floor on the scheduled date of February 17, 2012. He pulled the bill amid objection to its spending levels from both conservatives and liberals, who argued that it spent too much and too little on highway programs respectively. He hoped to gain votes over the president's week recess, but that did not materialize. As the Speaker was trying to get votes for the bill, he made some concessions to the original format of the bill. In addition to shortening the length of the highway reauthorization from five years to two years, the Speaker also scrapped the proposal to remove transit funding from the highway trust fund that was criticized by Democrats and several Northeast Republicans. Speaker Boehner has kept in the provision of using monies from new energy sources to fund the House version of the bill. As of today, however, Speaker Boehner still does not have the votes to pass a bill in the House.

While the drama of the House was ensuing, the Senate has successfully introduced their bipartisan 2-year transportation bill co-authored by California Democrat Barbara Boxer and Oklahoma Republican James Inhofe. A vote is expected today, March 14, 2012, on their measure. The overall bill would spend \$109 billion over less than two years, which would spend all the money that is in the Highway Trust fund with no solution for future funding. The bill would increase the flow of highway aid to states by adjusting current spending levels to take into account inflation over the past several years. States would have greater discretion over how to spend the money, but the bill also would create a new regime of performance and project eligibility requirements aimed at preventing waste and making sure national goals are met. The measure also would reduce the number of federal transportation programs by roughly two-thirds in an effort to eliminate duplication. Bicycle, pedestrian, safe routes to schools and rails-to-trails programs — which were targeted by Republicans — were preserved by moving them into a larger congestion mitigation program where they would have to compete with other programs for money.

While this movement on a new transportation bill is a good sign, the March 31, 2012 expiration of SAFE-TEA LU and the ability to collect the highway user's fee looms closer. We need a new transportation law! What can ASHE do about the situation? Call your Congressional Representatives in both Houses and urge them to pass the bill. The Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood has vividly described the nation's roads as "one big pothole." Let us do what we can to make it clear to Congress that we need these potholes filled!



TRI-KO Valley News

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 24, 2012
Montgomery Inn Boathouse**

President Schoelwer called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 11:45 am and recognized two guests, Jillian Lancer of HDR and Aaron Muck from Terracon.

President Schoelwer presented a lifetime achievement award to Bill Brayshaw. Jack Plüm spoke about the retirement of Bill Brayshaw and the importance of providing accurate information to the press. He read a letter from Ted Hubbard that was sent to the Cincinnati Enquirer correcting information that they published regarding the retirement and potential rehiring of County Engineering staff.

Secretary Emerick indicated that meeting minutes are on table for the December Holiday meeting and encouraged members to update contact information in the new Wild Apricot membership management program.

Chris Nyberg gave the Treasurer's report, announcing a starting balance of \$23,631.22, deposits of \$965.00 and expenses of \$1,551.50 resulting in operating capital of \$23,044.72. There are currently 144 members in our section. Chris encouraged members to sign up for meetings through the Wild Apricot reservation feature.

President Schoelwer congratulated Caroline Duffy for her reappointment to the National Board of Directors.

Caroline Duffy presented the PIN report, noting that the Senate went back into session yesterday with a deadline of having the transportation bill passed by March 31, 2012. The Senate has approved a two-year reauthorization of federal highway programs at current funding levels. Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act is the new transportation bill proposed which features reauthorization of the Federal-aid highway program at the Congressional Budget Office's baseline level, consolidation of Federal programs, elimination of earmarks, expedited project delivery while protecting the environment, "America Fast Forward", which strengthens the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program (TIFIA) and provides for a consolidated freight program. The House Transportation Committee is working on a five-year version of the bill. Additional sources of funding are being explored including leveling fees on new energy production such as shale gas reserves. The House committee won a commitment from leaders for the full House to debate the transportation bill in February. ASHE members are encouraged to contact their legislators, write letters to editors and use other methods to get the word out to pass the National Transportation Bill.

Brad Ackel indicated that the Golf committee will be convening soon to plan this year's outing. Membership is down to 144 due partly to attrition and records updating. President Schoelwer announced that we will look to subsidize those who have been laid off.

Stan Harris asked members to send newsletter articles in timely and announced that ASHE sections can apply for exposure funds of up to \$1,000.00. He asked attendees to let board

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES (*continued*)

members know of any funding ideas.

Steve Proffitt announced that we will have the annual Capital Improvements program in March and the topic for the May program will be a laser scanning and mapping presentation.

Joe Vogel announced the Schramm award presentations as follows:

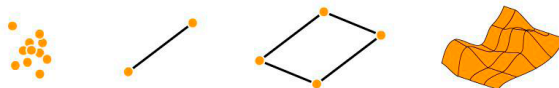
1. InDot R-29852 (I-74) presented by Ray Lindenmann of John R. Jurgensen Company
2. State Route 4 Bypass presented by Mike Murray of M-E Companies
3. Otto Armleder (Hamilton County Parks) presented by Jeff Keohn of M-E Companies
4. Plainfield Road Widening-City of Blue Ash presented by Josh Eschenbach of John R. Jurgensen Company
5. Trenton-Busenbark presented by Tim Casto of Kleingers
6. Med Pace Way presented by Tim Casto of Kleingers

After the presentations, ASHE members present were asked to vote for the top project in the over \$3 million and under \$3 million categories.

President Schoelwer announced that the ASHE 2012 conference will be held at Seven Springs, Pennsylvania. The next general membership meeting will be held on March 20th. PDH certificates can be picked up from the table in the hallway. Vanessa Fritsch reminded us of the SDITE 2012 meeting in April.

Joe Vogel raised a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Greg Wilkens. President Schoelwer adjourned the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
David M. Emerick
Secretary



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2012 Lloyd Wallace Memorial Golf Outing

2012 ASHE TRIKO Valley Section Lloyd Wallace Memorial Golf Outing

The TRIKO Valley Section of ASHE will have its annual golf outing on **Tuesday June 12th, 2012**, at **Walden Ponds Golf Course**. Our annual outing is named after Lloyd Wallace (former ODOT District 8 Deputy Director) in tribute to his contributions to the highway engineering field. The outing will be a Scramble format with registration between 10:00 am and 11:00 am, **Shotgun Start at 11:30 am**.

We would like to extend an invitation to you and your firm to join us at the golf outing. The registration fee per golfer is \$90. This fee includes golf at an excellent golf course, box lunch with soft drinks, Steak and Chicken dinner following golf, door prizes, and the chance to win the major door prize.

This outing is our sole means of raising money for the **ASHE TRIKO Valley Section Annual Scholarship Program** which provides yearly scholarships to Juniors in college entering their final year in transportation or construction programs. A donation of \$125 would give your firm a sponsorship at the golf outing with your firm's logo or name placed on a sign at the tee box as well as being recognized in the outing handouts. Another method of advertising for you firm is to provide a "Door Prize" (e.g. box of golf balls, golf glove, divot repair tools, etc). This is a great opportunity to market your firm as approximately 100 transportation and construction industry personnel will be participating, from consultants and contractors to clients and owners.

Please see registration and sponsorship information on the next page. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 513-864-8617 or at brad.ackel@kzf.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Sincerely,



Brad Ackel
Golf Committee Chairman

2012 LLOYD WALLACE MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

Tuesday June 12th, 2012
Walden Ponds Golf Course
6090 Golf Club Lane
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

ITINERARY

10:00 am to 11:15 am	Registration and Lunch
11:15 am	Announcements
11:30 am	Shotgun Start
5:30 pm (or following golf)	Dinner and Prize Presentation

Cost per Golfer: \$90
Dinner Only: \$30

- A Box Lunch will be provided on your cart at registration. Lunch will include lunch meat hoagie, potato chips, piece of fruit, dessert and soft drink. During golf a cash beer & snack cart will be on the course. Dinner will be served immediately after golf. Dinner will include steak, grilled chicken, salad, mixed vegetables, baked potato, dinner rolls, brownies and soft drinks.
- Please consider a hole sponsorship for \$125. This donation will go toward the ASHE TRIKO Valley Section Annual Scholarship Program. A sign with your firm's logo or name will be placed at one of the 18 tee boxes, and your firm will be recognized in the outing handouts.
- Prizes will be awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams as well as a "prize" for the last place team. Prizes will include long drive, closest to the pin, and long putt. There will be chances to win door prizes and everyone registering for the outing will have a chance to win the major door prize.
- **Registration Deadline is Friday June 8.**
- Any questions please contact Brad Ackel at 513-864-8617 or brad.ackel@kzf.com

Send a copy of this form and check, payable to ASHE TRIKO Valley, to:
KZF Design
700 Broadway St.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Attn: Brad Ackel

Golfer's Name	Company	Dinner Only
1.		
2.		
4.		
3.		

Sponsors/Donations:

Check for Hole Sponsor for \$125 _____
Name for sign at tee box an in outing handout _____
(Supply Logo in electronic format via email to brad.ackel@kzf.com)
Door Prize Donation _____

Your contact information:

Contact person: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email address: _____

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RSVP!!

Please be sure to RSVP for meetings! Space is limited and an accurate head count helps the Montgomery Inn and the ASHE officers to better plan for meetings.

Business Card Ads!

\$50/yr for small ads, \$150/yr for large ad and corporate link on TRIKO website. If interested, contact Stan Harris at stan.harris@stantec.com. Send website logos to Matt Loeffler at loefflerm@bceo.org.



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ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

The Montgomery Inn Boathouse, 11:30 a.m.

**Annual Public Works Forecast &
Schramm Award Finalists Presentations**

Lunch Cost: \$25.00

**Visit web site (www.ashe-trikovalley.com)
and click on Meeting Link to register and pay online.**