



TRIKO Valley News

Volume 15, Issue 3 - January 2015

From Our President...



Dennis Brunton
Barrett Paving
Materials, Inc.

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday. The Board wishes everyone a healthy and prosperous 2015.

This past December 3rd, the ASHE TRIKO Valley Holiday Party took place at Pebble Creek. ASHE members and guests enjoyed a great dinner with guest Ron Oester telling stories and answering questions concerning the Reds. Thanks to Vanessa Fritsch for all the hard work setting up the evening.

In the upcoming year, our joint Reds game social with OCA looks to be on June 9, 2015. There is a change from last year in that we will be using the REDLEGS Landing. This is a private venue along the right field side. A buffet & soda is included along with 2 drink tickets & personal bartender. The cost will be around \$60.00 per person.

Again this year, we will continue to showcase projects from our membership, as well as put a spotlight on a member. Look for it in this

edition and future editions of our TRIKO Valley newsletter.

The TRIKO Valley Board of Directors will be coordinating a few technical tours that will take place during the months without a general membership meeting. Look for upcoming details.

The ASHE National Conference will take place from May 27 thru May 31 in Baltimore, Maryland. Abundant professional development opportunities are available to further your skills through a comprehensive conference schedule and expansive networking opportunities. Please consider a sponsorship to promote your firm and support the conference. For more information on conference details, visit www.2015conference.ashe.pro.

It may be a new year, but we still do not have a long-term resolution to funding the Highway Trust Fund. That sentence has been stated for how many years now? I personally have lost track. Please voice your opinion to the elected officials who represent us. Maybe something will get done.

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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.

This month's meeting is the popular Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award presentations. Thank you to all the firms who submitted projects this year. Please join us on January 27 at 11:30am at The Original Montgomery Inn to learn about these exciting projects completed in 2013. The Schramm Award winners will be announced at the general membership meeting on March 17, 2015.

ASHE PIN Report - January 2015

As the price of a barrel of oil has dropped by approximately 50% worldwide, there has been a renewed interest in raising the gasoline user's fee among members of Congress and from the transportation industry, as the May 31, 2015 expiration date of the Highway Trust Fund fast approaches. Yet, members of the Republican-controlled Senate and House, along with President Obama, has reiterated that an increase in the gasoline user's fee, even with the drop in the price of oil, is unlikely.

Several other proposals are being evaluated to fund the Highway Trust Fund. The first possible source of funding by President Obama was unveiled on January 16th as a tax proposal and administrative action aimed at promoting private investment. Public infrastructure bonds, which would be exempt from the alternative minimum tax, could be issued to finance infrastructure projects. In addition, President Obama would support an increase in federal financing of \$300 billion for the work over four years. However, details on the source of the federal financing were not revealed. A second source of funding is tax changes resulting in a revenue stream to fund construction, which may or may not have results by the May 31st deadline. Yet, a third source is "dynamic scoring" that allows the economic benefits justification from project implementations to be leveraged against the budget deficit.

Meanwhile, as the source of funding debates continue, many entities are reacting. Many states, such as Kentucky, have a state gasoline user fee that is indexed to the price of a barrel of oil. As the price of a barrel of oil drops, it is estimated that Kentucky will fail to collect \$250 million for its transportation budget this fiscal year. Many states in this situation will get a double-hit from the uncertainty of the Highway Trust Fund funding, and the dramatic, unexpected decrease in their state transportation revenues. These states are expected to cut their construction program as a result. Other states are reacting in a conservative manner, such as Tennessee, which pulled \$400 million worth of projects from the 2015 bid list, due to the uncertainty of long-term funding of the Highway Trust Fund.

What can ASHE members do to help get the funding of the Highway Trust Fund through Congress? Contact your congressman and let them know that transportation funding should be made a priority. To help facilitate this message, all ASHE members will be receiving, within the next month, a bumper sticker urging Congress to pass the Transportation bill. In addition, each ASHE Section will be receiving 50 extra stickers for distribution. Additional stickers will also be available at the ASHE Store. The second item provided by ASHE to help relay this message is a presentation template loaded with relevant and timely data that can be used by our members and constituents to advance the message for an improved highway funding solution. It will soon be available for download from the ASHE National website at: ashe.pro under the Information>Downloads section.



ASHE-TRIKO Valley 2014 Holiday Party Recap

December 3, 2014 - Pebble Creek Golf Course and Event Center

The ASHE Holiday Party was held on Wednesday evening, December 3rd at Pebble Creek Golf Course and Event Center.

Twenty four members and guests attended the social event. The evening consisted of drinks and a dinner buffet. After a delicious meal catered by Pebble Creek, the group was entertained by our guest speaker, Ron Oester. Ron is a hometown favorite. Ron grew up in the area, graduating from Withrow High School, and went on to become a Cincinnati Reds Hall of Famer in 2014. Ron's baseball career in Cincinnati began when he claimed the starting second base job in 1980. Ron ended on a high note, as a part of the 1990 World Championship team.

Ron told several stories about the players and coaches he had the pleasure of playing with. He also got to know the traveling media pretty well and led off with a humorous story about Marty, Joe, and underwear. Dennis and Eric are already kicking around ideas for next year's Holiday Party. If you have any ideas, please contact a board member. We are open to suggestions.



ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING General Membership Meeting - Schramm Awards

Location: Original Montgomery Inn (Montgomery, OH)

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.

After the general membership meeting, presentations will be given for the annual Schramm Awards. Voting by ASHE Members only will take place after the presentations are given, and awards will be presented at the next general membership meeting in March.

Cost: \$25 online or at the door

**RSVP by phone to Eric Kistner at 513-842-8213
or RSVP online at www.trikovalley.ashe.pro
and click on Meeting Link to register and pay online**

2014 - 2015 Board of Directors

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Member Spotlight

We want our members to get to know each other! Each month, we'll feature a different ASHE member in our Member Spotlight! This month, we're featuring Eric Beck!

Place of Work: Hamilton County Engineer's Office

Job Title: Deputy Engineer for Field Services

Degrees and Certifications: BS Civil Engineering, Michigan Technological University; Licensed Professional Engineer in Ohio and Kentucky

Where were you born? Lansing, Michigan

Family: Wife, Lea; 2 children – Kristen, 21 and Bradley, 10

What are your technical/professional interests? Roadway and Bridge construction

What are your hobbies? Golf and history of the Civil War.

Favorites

TV Show: NCIS

Meal: Filet Mignon

This or That:

1. Coke or Pepsi? Coke
2. Dogs or Cats? Either
3. Loud or Quiet? Quiet
4. Phone or Email? Email
5. Pie or Cake? Cake
6. Beach or Mountains? Mountains



Committee Chair Person Contact Information

The ASHE TRIKO Valley Board of Directors has several committees to help promote our organization in a variety of ways. Listed below, you can find the contact information of the chair person for each committee. If you would like to share an idea or would like to volunteer to serve on a committee, please contact the appropriate chair person. The Board thanks you for your continued support and dedication to the transportation industry.

Committee	Chair Person	Contact Information
Schramm Award	Eric Beck	Eric.Beck@hamilton-co.org
Scholarship	Nathan Moore	Nathan.moore@kleingers.com
Program	Steve Mary	Steve.Mary@dot.state.oh.us
Social	Vanessa Fritsch	Vanessa.Fritsch@urs.com
Membership	Steve Proffitt	sproffitt@thelenassoc.com
Student Chapter	Aaron Muck	ajmuck@terracon.com
Golf Outing	Brad Ackel	Brad.ackel@kzf.com
Newsletter	Stan Harris	stan.harris@stantec.com
Website	Matt Loeffler	loefflerm@bceo.org
Legislative Review (PIN)	Caroline Duffy	cduffy@Barreng.com
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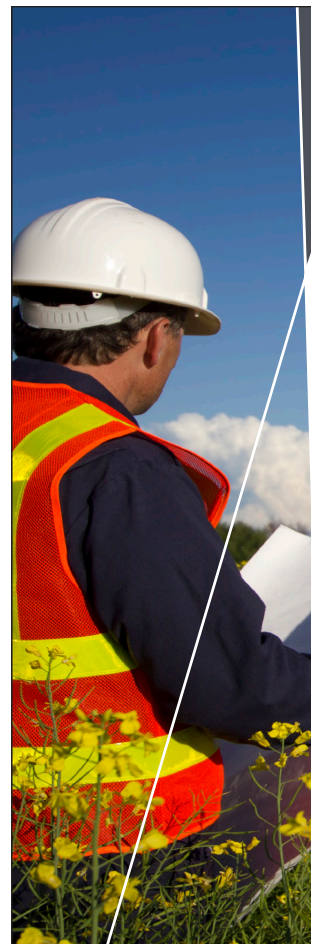
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New ASHE Sections

Greetings ASHE members,

The beginning of each year has traditionally been a time many of us devote to getting smaller based on New Year's Resolutions. We at the ASHE National level are interested in getting bigger! We have focused attention on more remote areas such as Portland, Oregon and Denver, Colorado amongst others. Our newest initiative includes seeing if there are opportunities closer to "home". "Home" meaning seeking potential new section champions which may be travelling to areas with current sections, or have a branch office in an untapped region of the country which may have an person interested in sharing the ASHE mission with others and getting a section started.

Anyone interested in discussing opportunities to start a new section are encouraged to contact either Tim Matthews or Perry Schweiss, Co-Chairs of the ASHE New Sections Committee (contact information provided below), or any one of the ASHE National Board members (contact information provided on the website - ASHE.pro). There are many resources available to assist in this endeavor including Powerpoint presentations, detailed guidance and procedures, etc.; all of which can be found on the website. The most important resource available however is also ASHE's strongest attribute...it's members!

We are 6,000+ strong with 41 active sections and, with your spark, we will continue to grow in membership and, as this initiative supports, geographically! We look forward to hearing from those with the pioneering spirit and enthusiasm to spread the ASHE mission!!

With sincere gusto!

Tim W. Matthews, PE
(Southeast Region)/Atlanta Section)
TIA Regional Coordinator|Office of TIA
Georgia Department of Transportation

Perry Schweiss, PE
(Northeast Region)/(Southwest Penn Section)
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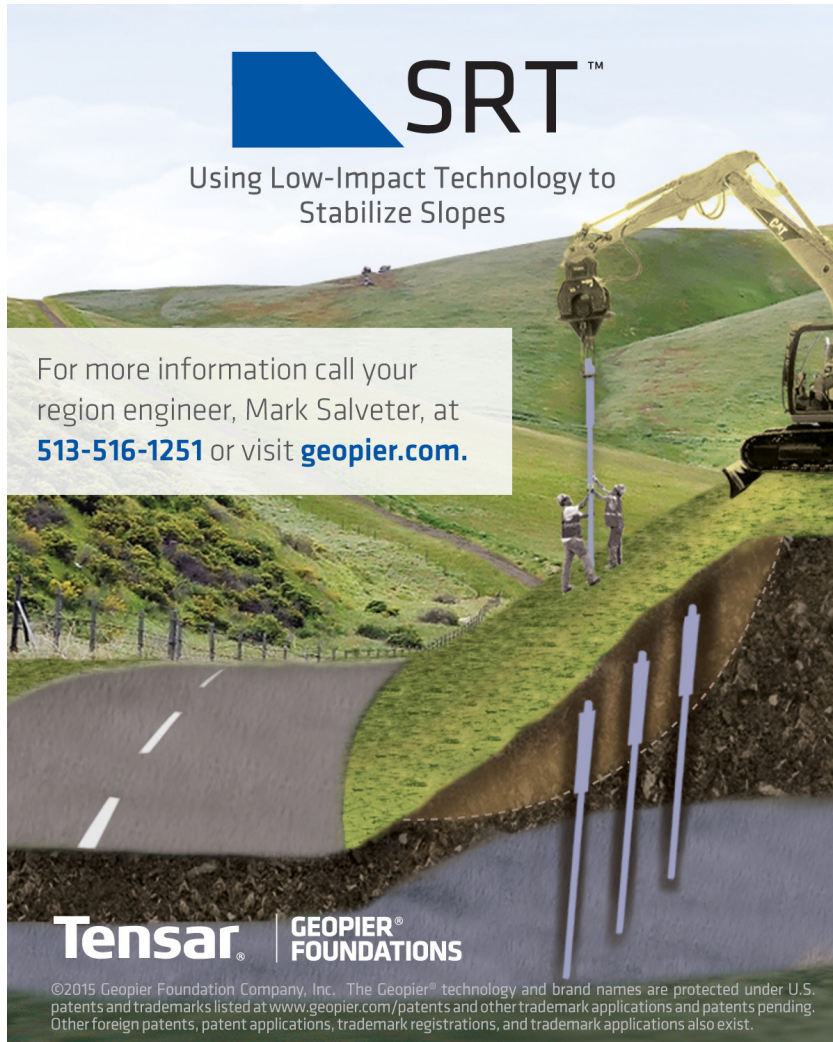
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Advertising Opportunities!

\$50/year for small ads, \$150/year for large ad and corporate link on the TRIKO website.
If interested, contact Stan Harris at stan.harris@stantec.com.

Send website logos to Matt Loeffler at loefflerm@bceo.org.

General Membership

Brad Ackel
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Travis Baker
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Gerard Berding
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