



TRIKO Valley News

Volume 18, Issue 3 - January 2018

From Our President...



Happy New Year! I am writing this newsletter with a close eye out the window as we are slated for a rain/ice/snow mix today. This time of year especially, I find myself very thankful for those who work diligently to keep our roadways safe during inclement weather. So, join me in a big THANK YOU to road crews and beyond who keep us all out of harm's way. During winter, safe driving strategies include: staying off the road if you can, leave early and give yourself extra time to complete your trip, and increase following distance. It is also a good idea to have a roadside safety kit on hand in your vehicle with water, blankets, flashlight, salt or sand, jumper cables, etc. You can never be too prepared. Be safe out there!

On December 6th, we held our Holiday Party at DeSha's on Montgomery Road in partnership with ACEC Southwest Ohio. We had a total of 72 attendees. We were happy to welcome one of our scholarship recipients, Nick Okuley. Good times were had by all and we thank ACEC for coordinating the event.

The next meeting will be the Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award presentations on January 23rd at the Original Montgomery Inn in Montgomery. The awards were named after the late Donald C. Schramm, P.E., P.S. who was a leader in the transportation engineering field and in Hamilton County government. Mr. Schramm was a charter member of the TRIKO Valley Section of ASHE. He served as the Hamilton County Engineer in the Cincinnati area from 1973 to 1992. Mr. Schramm and his administration made every attempt to hasten the completion of the Ronald Reagan Cross County Highway Project through the very complex federal aid development process. The personal and professional attributes displayed by Mr. Schramm during his tenure inspired the ASHE TRIKO Valley Section to name the Transportation Improvement Awards in his honor.

Mark your calendars for the ASHE National Conference. This year, the conference is coming back to Ohio. The event will take place in Cleveland at the Westin downtown from May 17th-20th. Hopefully, I will see some of you there.

Vanessa Nghiem
AECOM



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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.

ASHE PIN Report - January 2018

With a tax reform win for President Trump, next on the presidential agenda is the proposed \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal. A 70-page infrastructure proposal is being written by the White House for Congress to use as a cornerstone for the much anticipated legislation. Coordination with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has been occurring and Chairman Bill Shuster said “The meeting with the president was encouraging and very productive. He’s a builder — he gets the importance of infrastructure and why it matters for jobs and the economy. Addressing our nation’s infrastructure in a bipartisan manner is going to take strong presidential leadership, and I believe we have a president who can provide the necessary leadership and who wants to rebuild our infrastructure to strengthen our economy.” With the Democrats being ignored in the healthcare and tax reform bills in 2017, it may be difficult to get the needed bipartisan support. Then the age old question has still to be answered, “how is the transportation bill going to be funded?” With the corporate tax just being lowered to 21 percent, Representative John Delany suggested raising the corporate tax rate to 23 percent to raise the initial \$200 billion investment for the transportation bill. With the bill to be unveiled in early February, many are hoping the State of Union address at the end of January will give early insight to the proposed plan.

Many states, like Indiana and West Virginia, have passed statewide infrastructure plans. Ohio has passed legislation that allows each county to pass a \$5 increase in the cost of annual vehicle registrations to be used only for transportation improvements. Hamilton County is one of the early winners with half of the money going towards the county’s local share of the Western Hills Viaduct construction and the remainder of the money going towards a robust 5 year transportation improvements outside of the Cincinnati city limits. With the county commitment, the City of Cincinnati council has committed to their local share of the Western Hills Viaduct construction. This partnership allows for grants to pay for the remainder of the project costs. Several counties, including Montgomery County, are following Hamilton County’s lead. It is good to have a funding mechanism for needed infrastructure improvements in each Ohio county. However, with Ohio voting on a new governor

2018 Membership Referral Reward

ASHE Triko Valley has a lot to offer its membership, and we appreciate when our current members invite others to join ASHE. ASHE Triko Valley would like to reward current members who sponsor new members with a chance to win a \$100 gift card. Each time a new member applies for membership (it only costs \$50 the first year), with your name listed as the sponsoring member, you will be entered into the drawing. The more members you sponsor, the better your chance to win. The drawing will take place at the 2018 Holiday Party. Membership has its rewards, and so does telling your co-workers and peers about all the great things going on at the ASHE Triko Valley Section!

General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2017 - Montgomery Inn

President Vanessa Nghiem called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:42 a.m. and recognized eight new guests including three University of Cincinnati students.

Secretary Emerick reported that the September 26, 2017 meeting minutes were published in the newsletter and copies are available on the back table. Paul Schoelwer made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Steve Mary and the motion carried.

Eric Kistner presented the Treasurer's report noting the following:

- Operating Capital as of September 5, 2017 \$34,448.14
- Income \$2,545.00
- Expenses \$2,118.11
- Balance as of November 11, 2017 \$34,875.03

Eric announced the new members including Joe Smithson and students Cody Havlin, Aubery Meenach and Paige Parris.

Caroline Duffy gave the PIN report noting that President Trump has not been able to pass Congressional legislation in the form of infrastructure bills. Tax reform will not be linked to highway spending. ACEC data shows that over half of the states have adjusted their gas tax including those states around Ohio. Many states are adjusting their gas tax to provide highway funding. Caroline encouraged us to contact our legislators and Ohio gubernatorial candidates to let them know that there needs to be a new state funding source.

Stan Harris noted that ASHE is looking for sponsors for the 2018 National Conference. There will be no newsletter this month but the section will continue with regular issues next month.

There was no student Chapter report but Cody's attendance was acknowledged. Students can join ASHE for free!

Steve Mary announced that there will be a tour of the Lytle Tunnel which is open to traffic now presented by Joe Smithson from ODOT. A waiver must be signed and students are welcome!

Vanessa announced that the Schramm Awards applications will be due at the end of the year.

Joe Schmeltzer announced the winners of the two scholarships and noted that we will be adding a third scholarship. Joe also represents the WTS \$5,000 scholarship committee.

Tom Nicholson announced that the Triko Valley Section will do an Adopt a Highway program in the spring. Vanessa announced that we will be sponsoring Construction and students will be at the January meeting to provide more information.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

President Nghiem announced that ASHE will be joining ACEC at DeSha's in Montgomery on December 6th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm for our holiday social.

Katie Dillenger announced that the golf committee is considering courses for the outing on the west side of Cincinnati. Vanessa indicated that Katie would welcome volunteers to help with her committee. No website updates were presented.

President Nghiem introduced John Greenhalge, Executive Director of the State Board of Registration for Engineers and Surveyors, who presented on engineering ethics.

After the presentation, a motion was made for adjournment at 1:16 p.m. by Steve Mary, which was seconded by Vanessa Nghiem and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Emerick
TRIKO Valley Section Secretary



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ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

Schramm Awards

Location: Original Montgomery Inn (Montgomery, OH)

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018, 11:30 AM

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 per person if you pay online and \$30 at the door

Please RSVP whether paying online or at the door.

RSVP at 2017 ASHE TRIKO Valley Holiday Party

2017 - 2018 Board of Directors

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President	Vanessa Nghiem	AECOM	513-419-3451	vanessa.nghiem@aecom.com
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Past President	Nathan Moore			moore.nmm@gmail.com

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	moore.nmm@gmail.com
Program	Steve Mary	Steve.Mary@stantec.com
Social	Vanessa Nghiem	Vanessa.Nghiem@aecom.com
Membership	Brian Rhodes	brhodes@jmt.com
Student Chapter	Aaron Muck	ajmuck@terracon.com
Golf Outing	Katie Dillenburger	katiedillenburger@bayerbecker.com
Newsletter	Stan Harris	stan.harris@stantec.com
Website	Matt Loeffler	loefflerm@bceo.org
Legislative Review (PIN)	Caroline Duffy	143engineers@gmail.com
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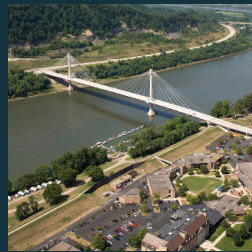
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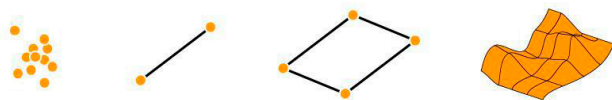


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