# TRICALLEY American Society of Highway Engineers

The mission of 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
Luncheon Meetings

January 23, 2007 March 27, 2007

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November 2006

Volume 7, Number 2

#### From our President . . .

Greg Wilkens, P.E., P.S., Butler County Engineer

When considering what to write for this my second column, I thought, "what is the most critical issue of the day?" Well, we at the Butler County Engineer's Office have an adage that goes something like this: "We can engineer a solution to any traffic problem that exists, but finding the necessary funds to build the solution is another matter." Obtaining the money to fix congested roads, dangerous intersections, and aging bridges is the most difficult task with which we must contend.



As a county engineer here in the State of Ohio, I have firsthand experience with these difficulties encountered at the local level. Quite frankly, revenues are drying up more quickly than many realize. Needs are becoming greater to improve and expand existing infrastructure, especially in growing suburban counties. As the State focuses its limited funds more and more on the interstate system, less is being expended on the smaller state routes which are deeply integrated with the secondary roadway systems and local county arterials.

While we support the needs of the interstate system, there must be better ways to drive additional money down to the local level. Funding for roadway projects is a matter in which I strongly believe ASHE needs to become more involved. As professionals in the business, we have a responsibility to help facilitate the means to meet these demands. We need to exercise more influence on the political system in an effort to increase highway funding.

Please encourage your legislators to generate and push all resourceful ideas to the forefront. Remind them that good transportation creates jobs and helps the economy, not just locally, but regionally and statewide. We've experienced this firsthand in fast-growing Butler County, which has been a leader in job creation – and not by accident. A cohesive and planned approach to high profile projects such as the Union Centre Boulevard interchange at I-75 and the Butler County Veteran's Highway fueled an explosion of development and new jobs in our southeastern townships. We are reaping the economic rewards of investing in a roadway system that was quickly becoming obsolete.

Creative financing was a key element to generating these major roadway improvements. It took a lot of hard work as well as letters, meetings, and trips to Columbus. So to reiterate, I hope to see all Triko Valley Section members become more involved with the important task of promoting better and more reliable roadway financing. Safe, efficient roads are good for the motoring public and good for the economy.

On a lighter note, we are beginning to hone in on selecting a facility in which to hold the 2010 ASHE National Conference. This is our Section's chance to shine, so it is important that we continue to move forward with development of our remaining subcommittees. I encourage everyone to keep up the good work. And by the way, if anyone has any ideas for the Entertainment Committee, please contact me.

#### Notes from Your ASHE PIN (Political Information Network)

The ASHE PIN hopes everyone was able to exercise their right-to-vote on Tuesday, November 7. The election resulted in several upsets for some well known candidates. With a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Auditor of State, Secretary of State and Treasurer of State to be sworn in next year, the status of business in Ohio will change. The shift of both the United States House and United States Senate to the Democrats will also change how the Federal government will operate. Many professional organizations feel the shift in power in both houses may offer new opportunities to secure more federal funds for infrastructure, while also posing challenges in the areas of health care, taxes, and other business issues. ACEC President Dave Raymond said, "I expect the new Democrat majority will focus on moving the appropriations bills in a timely manner, and look for bipartisan initiatives, such as the reauthorization of the airports construction program (Vision 100), that will attract broad support," said Raymond. Stay tuned to the ASHE PIN for further updates.

On another note, the ASHE TRIKO Valley Board approved a letter penned by Newsletter Editor Stan Harris in opposition to the proposed State House Bill 661 in Ohio. The letter, addressed to Representative Sandra S. Harwood, stated

"ASHE supports a qualifications-based selection process, as currently required by Ohio's Design Professional Selection Law (Ohio Revised Code 153.65-.71). Every major public works and construction organization in the United States supports such a process. It is in the best interest of public health and safety to procure design services on the basis of qualifications and experience as opposed to low price. Professional design services represent only a small percentage of the construction budget (and a far smaller percentage of life-cycle cost) so it makes economic sense to ensure the design professional has the experience and qualifications needed to deliver a high-quality design. The TRIKO Valley Section (Cincinnati area) of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) wishes to voice our objection to House Bill 661, which would require counties to award contracts for engineering and architectural services based on competitive bidding."

With board approval, this excellent letter was sent to Representative Harwood on October 20, 2006. The Ohio legislature convened on November 6<sup>th</sup> for a 15-day session. The ASHE PIN will keep an eye on the status of this legislation and report at the November meeting.

#### **ASHE Scholarship**

As announced in the last newsletter, the ASHE Scholarship has been increased to \$1500 and \$1000. We are able to increase the scholarship amounts due to the success of the golf outing and we want to thank all who participated in the golf outing fundraiser. The first meeting of our committee was scheduled for November 15, 2006. The next round of scholarships will be awarded at the 2007 ASHE Golf Outing and applications will be due on April 27, 2007. Again, we thank all who participated in raising money for the people who are the future of our profession.

Please see our website for application information: http://www.ashe-trikovalley.com/



President Wilkens opened the meeting at 11:56 with the Pledge of Allegiance and recognition of 4 guests.

Bill Lawall reported a previous balance of \$3,498.67, deposits of \$13,535.17, & expenditures of \$13,047.91, leaving a current balance of \$3,985.93, plus the \$5,000 scholarship fund, plus \$200.00 in the 2010 National Convention fund.

Currently, there are 142 members. The next director's meeting is Oct 17<sup>th</sup> and the next general membership meeting is the November 28<sup>th</sup> Holiday meeting at the Montgomery Inn, in Montgomery.

David Emerick read the minutes from the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

The ASHE scholarship committee thanked those who submitted and participated in the golf outing. The next scholarship applications are due on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

The ASHE PIN reported that the nation's infrastructure is at a turning

point. The 286 billion-dollar trust fund will be bankrupt by 2009 as less funds have been appropriated than authorized. There are several options to address this issue, including Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Toll Roads. We were urged to get out and vote.

Ninety-nine golfers participated in the outing this year, and there were 29 hole sponsors, netting a \$1,100 profit. June 14<sup>th</sup> is the date of the outing next year.

There was a regional meeting in Columbus on July 21st. There will be four new sections including Buffalo, NY, Roanoke, VA, Portland, OR and Boston, MA. The national convention will be in Atlantic City in May this year. Our section requested justification of the National initiation fee increase from \$25 to \$50 this year. National is also raising the annual renewal dues from \$5 to \$10. March 10th there will be a National Board meeting in Cincinnati. New national bylaws were passed and comments are requested by November. An ASHE luncheon will be held at OTEC on Tuesday, October 24th.

We are looking for donations for the silent auction to be held at OTEC to raise money for the 2010 national convention in Cincinnati. Committee Chairs that have volunteered were thanked. A split the pot was announced.

President Wilkens announced a goal of growing the section by 10%, or 13 new members. Dave Hammer's resignation from the Board was accepted. Members should contact Board members if interested in the 1<sup>st</sup> Year Director position.

There was no old or new business raised.

After lunch was served, Dave Tomley and Steve Mary presented an LRFD Bridge Specification Update. ODOT training sessions on LRFD will be conducted in the spring at three locations and implementation is scheduled for July. Dave will provide an article on this topic for the Scanner.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

#### 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.

#### Split the Pot!

A Split the Pot contest will be held at future general membership meetings to raise start-up funds for the 2010 conference. 1 ticket for \$1,6 for \$15, or 15 for \$10.

#### **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 sharris@fmsm.com. Send website logos to Matt Loeffler at loefflerm@bceo.org.



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\* Past Presidents At Last Meeting

#### **ASHE SILENT AUCTION A SUCCESS!**

Fundraising efforts for the ASHE 2010 National Conference have begun! In October, a Silent Auction was held at the 2006 Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) at the ASHE booth. Over 66 items were donated by various companies and individuals for a total profit from the 12-hour Silent Auction of \$8,000.00. The various items that were sold are listed on the ASHE TRIKO Valley website <a href="http://www.ashe-trikovalley.com/">http://www.ashe-trikovalley.com/</a>.

The big ticket item for the auction, 2 tickets to The Ohio State University vs. University of Michigan Football Game, sold for \$2,000. A special <u>Thank You</u> goes to David Jones for donation of these highly-coveted tickets!

The auction was a success due to our many supporters including the TRIKO Valley Board Members for helping acquire the bid items, ASHE volunteers at the booth, Volunteers Rich Miller and Bill Lawall for help before, during and after the auction, and all of you who placed bids on the items.

We extend our gratitude to each of you!

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Mark Becker, winner of the Ohio State University vs.
University of Michigan Football Tickets, with ASHE 2010
National Conference Co-Chair, Cindy Minter.

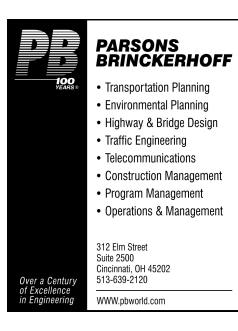


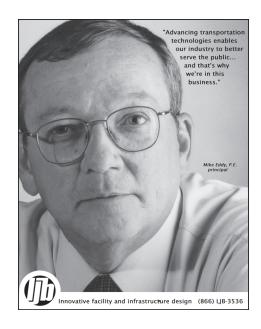
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For More Information Contact: David F. Hammer, P.E. Or visit us online at www.cdpengineers.com





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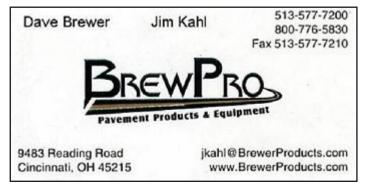
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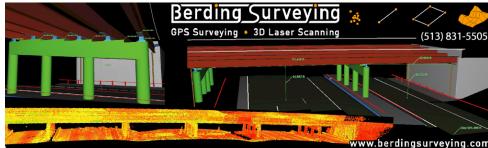
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#### **ELECTION NOTICE:**

Due to David Hammer moving to Florida, a special election will be held at the November meeting to elect a new Director. The nominees are:

Steve Profitt Amy Pursley Paul Schoelwer



# ASHE TRIKO VALLEY HOLIDAY MEETING



Tuesday, November 28, 2006, 5:30 PM

The Original Montgomery Inn, Montgomery, OH

## FEATURED SPEAKER: GREG RHODES

Executive Director of the REDS Hall of Fame

Dinner Cost: \$25.00

RSVP to Bill Lawall at 513-807-2245

by 4:00 November 27, 2006

#### ASHE

P.O. Box 257 Mason, OH 45040