

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 Luncheon Meetings

March 27, 2007

May 15, 2007

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American Society of Highway Engineers
www.ashe-trikovalley.com

March, 2007

Volume 7, Number 4

From our President . . .

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

Spring is just around the proverbial corner, we hope. After a cold and snowy second half of the winter, our focus at the Butler County Engineer's Office will shift from snow and ice control back to road construction and maintenance. Slated to be one of our biggest construction seasons ever, this year will be quite busy and productive for us and perhaps a bit challenging for motorists.

We will hear what else is planned for the region at our March 27 Triko Valley meeting. There will be presentations from Warren, Butler, Clermont, and Hamilton Counties, as well as from ODOT and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Also at our March meeting, we'll present the Donald C. Schramm Awards for the two project categories – projects under \$2 million and projects over \$2 million. We've had some very interesting submittals this year. Thanks to all who have contributed.



There is a very interesting speaker lined up for the May 15 Triko Valley meeting. David Sikorski, Associate with Hatch Mott MacDonald serving as the Eastern Regional Manager – Highways, will address the topic of public-private partnerships and the sale of the Indiana Turnpike by the State to a private overseas entity. This should be a very pertinent topic considering recent news about the Highway Trust Fund's looming financial crisis. So plan to attend. The meeting will be held at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse beginning at 11:30 a.m. As always, we will wrap up by 1:30 p.m.

A number of us will be attending the National Convention in Atlantic City May 20-24. Anyone with an interest in carpooling to this event should contact Carolyn Duffy.

The Triko Valley Golf Outing is scheduled for June 14 at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Colerain Township. Please mark your calendars. We are counting on a big turnout. Remember, your participation helps support our scholarship fund which we've been able to increase thanks to the dedication and generosity of our Triko Valley members.

A kickoff meeting was held in February for our National Convention Committee which is getting into full swing. Most all committee chairs were in attendance and it appears that we are ahead of schedule, but there is still plenty to accomplish. Facilities chair Mary Beth Elfers has been working diligently to narrow down the selection of facilities in which to hold the convention. A recommendation to hold it at the Netherland Hilton in downtown Cincinnati was presented to members of the National ASHE board who were in town March 9-10 to view the facilities and hold their board meeting. The recommendation is being reviewed by the National board and a contract is being drafted. Another of our immediate goals is to find a theme for the convention. Please contact Matt Loeffler with your creative ideas. Matt can be reached at the Butler County Engineer's Office, phone 513-785-4109.

Notes from Your ASHE PIN (Political Information Network)

In Ohio, the Motor Fuel Excise Tax is currently 28 cents of every gallon of gasoline sold. The Ohio Constitution states that this tax and any tax on Motor Fuel must be specifically used for highway purposes. This does not include other transportation facilities such as railroad and/or airports, or any non-transportation related uses. The Commercial Activity Tax (CAT) went into effect on July 1, 2005. The monies from the CAT are directed into the General Revenue Fund. The CAT on Motor Fuel was granted a two-year exemption from the CAT because of the constitutionality issues about having a tax on motor fuel be directed to the General Revenue Fund as opposed to the Motor Fuel Fund. **This issue about where to direct the monies generated from the CAT are being decided now in the Ohio Statehouse.** The speculation about the amount the CAT on Motor Fuel has been anywhere from 1 to 2 cents per gallon. Each penny would generate around \$60 million per year. With the increase in fuel cost last year, the increase in the cost of construction projects has left many projects underfunded. Directing the CAT to the Motor Fuel Fund will align with Governor Strickland pledge of not passing any new taxes as part of the initial budget, yet it would help close the gap between a construction projects funding and costs.

In addition to the CAT discussion, there is another alternative being discussed in the Statehouse where a trade-off would occur where the CAT would be directed to the Motor Fuel Fund in exchange for reduction in the gas tax that would be equal to what the CAT on motor fuel would generate. While this move would yield political value, this is **NOT** a step in the right direction that is needed to close the gap between funding and construction of the State's most important projects.

What can the TRIKO Valley ASHE organization do about this?

This issue is being decided now. Please contact the following members and voice your opinion that the Commercial Activity Tax on Motor Fuel should be directed to the Motor Fuel Fund and not the General Revenue Fund. In addition, repealing any part of the gasoline tax in exchange for the Commercial Activity Tax being directed to the Motor Fuel Fund is a political move that will not help find an answer to the Transportation Budget shortfalls within the State of Ohio.

| | |
|--|---|
| Senator Bill Harris Statehouse Room #201 Second Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215 Telephone: (614) 466-8086 Email: SD19@mailr.sen.state.oh.us | Representative Jon Husted Speaker of the House 77 South High Street 14th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111 Telephone: (614) 644-6008 Email: district37@ohr.state.oh.us |
| Senator Patricia Clancy Chair of the Highways and Transportation Committee Senate Building Room # 143 First Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215 Telephone: (614) 466-8068 Email: sd08@mailr.sen.state.oh.us | Representative Tom Patton Chair of the Transportation and Justice Subcommittee 77 S. High Street Thirteenth Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111 Telephone: (614) 466-4895 Email: district18@ohr.state.oh.us |

"We live in America. Voice your opinion."

ASHE 2010 National Conference

ASHE 2010 National Conference Committee has had its kickoff meeting on February 20, 2007. We want to thank the following people for stepping up to co-chair the committees:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Financial | Bill Lawall | Koren Sprinkle |
| Advertising | Dave Thurston | |
| Technical | Joe Vogel | Steve Mary |
| Exhibit | Stan Harris | Paul Schoelwer |
| Program | Cindy Taylor | |
| Registration And Reception | Dave Emerick | Rich Miller |
| Entertainment | Greg Wilkens | Cindy Wallace |
| Pr/Publicity | Matt Loeffler | Nathan Moore |
| Golf Outing | Jim Collins | Tim Peters |
| Transportation | Ted Hubbard | Eric Beck |
| Guest Program | Carol Ramler | |
| Facilities | Mary Beth Elfers | Paul Gruner |

If you wish to assist these Co-Chairs, please feel free to contact them.

According to the schedule provided by the National Board, we have accomplished the objectives for 2007, with the exception of developing a theme, logo and a budget. The PR/Publicity committee will be tackling the theme and logo and may be soliciting the assistance of the section for ideas. The Finance Co-Chairs, Bill Lawall and Koren Sprinkle, will be putting a budget together with the assistance of Conference Co-Chairs, Cindy Minter and Caroline Duffy, in conjunction with the different committee co-chairs.

We have approximately \$8500 in our budget, thanks to the success of our Silent Auction and the Split-the-Pot Raffles. Koren Sprinkle, one of the Finance Co-Chairs, will be taking over these efforts for the next three years with the help of the fundraising committee.

The Facilities Committee has evaluated the various proposals that were received from the various venues. The consensus of the Facilities, Exhibit and Technical Committees was to choose the Netherland Hilton Hotel to host the ASHE 2010 National Conference. The Facilities Committee, as well as the Conference Co-Chairs, are in negotiations with the hotel. A draft of the contract will be forwarded to National for review.

The National Board meeting was held in Cincinnati March 9-10, 2007 at the Netherland Hilton Hotel. On March 9, a tour of the facilities proposed for the 2010 conference was conducted followed by a dinner at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse. Several Region 1 and nine ASHE 2010 Conference Co-Chairs also attended the successful dinner.

The ASHE 2007 National Conference will be held on May 20-24, 2007 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. We encourage everyone to attend. Several members from our section, as well as other sections of our Region 1, are planning on attending. For further information, please see the conference website: <http://www.ashe2007.com/>.



TRIKO Valley News

President Wilkens opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and recognition of guests.

Bill Lawall presented the treasurers report indicating a current balance of \$4,098.62 (previous balance of \$5,193.69, deposits of \$1,125.95, and expenditures of \$2,221.02). A separate account was also established for the 2010 National Conference, with a checking balance of \$1,432.54 and a CD account of \$6,500.00.

Stan Harris read the minutes of the November 28, 2007 meeting on behalf of Secretary David Emerick.

Caroline Duffy reported that the scholarship committee will be giving two scholarships, one for \$1,500 and one for \$1,000. Presentations will be given at the participating schools in the coming months. The application form is on the chapter web site. The next scholarship applications are due on April 27th, 2007. Caroline also presented the PIN report. At this time, the House of Representatives is proposing to continue transportation funding at the 2006 level instead of the level provided for in SAFETEA-LU. Members are urged to contact their Senators and Representatives and urge full funding. Ted Hubbard reported on the model law change passed by NCEES requiring 30 additional hours of education beyond a BS degree in order to be eligible for the PE exam. He said this is not binding on Ohio and members should write the Board of Registration and express their opinions. Greg Wilkens asked if the members present were in favor or opposed to this proposed change. Seeing strong opposition, Wilkens

stated that the ASHE board would write a letter of opposition.

Jim Collins reported for the golf committee. There will be a committee meeting on January 29. The outing is tentatively scheduled for June 14 at Pebble Creek. He asked if members were satisfied with Pebble Creek and most responded affirmatively. He also said they would try to get sponsorship/donation letters out earlier this year.

Jim also gave the regional representative report. The next Region 1 Directors meeting will be February 8 in Columbus. Following the meeting some will attend the Central Ohio Section outing to the Columbus Blue Jackets game. Jim also reported on the National Directors meeting. They voted again on raising initiation dues from \$25 to \$50. Again, it was defeated 8-4. National will be protecting our website domain names, both ashe-trikovalley.com and ashe2010.com. The Scanner will have a new format with additional color. National is working on developing a web-based membership database. National yearly dues are increasing from \$10 to \$20. A Credit/Debit summary was developed for all the sections. Triko Valley has a \$20 credit.

Cindy Minter presented a National Conference update. A list of committee chairs and co-chairs has been developed. There are openings for the Program and Advertising chairs and a number of co-chairs. The National Board will be holding a meeting in Cincinnati on March 9-10 and will meet with the TRIKO Chapter Board.

President Wilkens announced the results of the election to fill the vacant First Year Director position. Paul Schoelwer was elected.

President Wilkens announced that the Board was considering changes to the chapter by-laws in order to align with changes in the national by-laws. To offset proposed national dues increases, it is proposed that the initiation dues be raised to \$50 and the renewal dues to \$40. The Board will be discussing at a special upcoming meeting.

Next, the presentations for the Schramm Awards were given. The entries were:

\$2 Million and Under

- Oxford Bowstring Arch Bridge
- Stillwell Beckett Road and Woods Station Road

Over \$2 Million

- Five Mile Trail
- Dixmith Avenue Relocation
- Norwood Lateral Rehabilitation
- I-74 Rehabilitation

The split-the-pot winner was Ted Hubbard, who graciously donated his winnings back to the chapter. The pot was \$109.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.

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, 3 for \$5, or 7 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



Scholarship Opportunity!

The ASHE Triko Valley Section is offering two scholarships (\$1500 & \$1000) for students entering their final year of a highway transportation related program.

Award also includes a round of golf for two at the award presentation.

Application deadline April 27, 2007

For more information visit our website at **www.ashe-trikovalley.com**



**2007 LLOYD WALLACE MEMORIAL
GOLF OUTING**

Thursday June 14, 2007
Pebble Creek Golf Course

ITINERARY:

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Registration & Lunch
11:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
5:00 p.m. Dinner & Door Prizes

Cost Per Golfer: \$75
Dinner Only: \$25

- Lunch will be a buffet cookout with hamburgers, brats & metts. Dinner will be a chicken and rib buffet. Lunch and dinner also includes soft drinks and draft beer. During golf a cash beer & snack cart will be traveling the course.
- Please consider sponsoring a hole for \$100. This money will go towards reducing the cost per golfer, door prizes and our future scholarship fund. Signs with your firms' logo or name will be placed at the tee box.
- Door prize donations will be greatly appreciated.
- Registration deadline is Monday June 11.
- Any questions call Jim Collins at 785-7285 or by email at collinsj@ci.hamilton.oh.us
- Directions to Pebble Creek: I-75 to I-275 west to Colerain Avenue North, left Dry Ridge (at Lowe's), left Prechtel, golf course is at end of Prechtel.

Send form and check to: ASHE
P.O. Box 257
Mason, Ohio 45040

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

Sponsors:

Check if you are willing to sponsor a hole for \$100 _____.

Name for sign at tee box _____

(Supply logo in electronic format if available, email to: collinsj@ci.hamilton.oh.us)

Contact person, phone number & email address: _____

Door Prize Donations:

Check here if you can donate a door prize _____.



Barrett Paving and the City of Cincinnati Department of Transportation and Engineering recently were awarded a Quality in Construction Award from the National Asphalt Paving Association at their Annual Convention in San Francisco. Mike Thompson, Vice President of Barrett, was on hand to accept the Award and brought back a plaque for the City of Cincinnati, which he presented to Joe Vogel of the City of Cincinnati at the recent ASHE Board Meeting. (See photo)

The Award was for the City's River Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Project from Dart St. to Illinois Avenue. The project was substantially completed in late 2005 and provided four important improvements to the City's infrastructure -

- 1) The tight curve at Hillside was reconstructed towards the south to provide a straighter, smoother, safer alignment for traffic.
- 2) The intersection of Hillside Avenue and River Road was reconfigured to increase sight distance and improve safety.
- 3) A new water main was installed as part of the project to serve the residents of Riverside.
- 4) Seven miles of River Road – from Illinois Avenue to Dart Street - were rehabilitated by grinding off the old asphalt, replacing defective portions of the underlying concrete base, repairing curbs where needed, and resurfacing with new heavy duty asphalt pavement. This project improved almost 30 lane miles of pavement.

Additional Project Information:

Contract Price: \$4,576,000

Contractor: Barrett Paving Materials, Inc.

Funding:

- City of Cincinnati Street Rehabilitation Program
- Greater Cincinnati Water Works
- State Capital Improvement Program
- Municipal Road Fund

Design:

City of Cincinnati, Engineering Division (Roadway)
Greater Cincinnati Water Works and EMH&T Engineers (Water Main)

This project, although entirely in the City of Cincinnati, was a tremendous benefit to the Region as it improved access to the western regions of Hamilton County and the States of Indiana and Kentucky, and the improved geometry should lead to a lower accident rate. This portion of River Road encompasses US 50, a major east-west connector across Hamilton County and a heavily used truck route.

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2007-2008 ASHE OFFICER ELECTIONS:

At its March 2007 meeting, the TRIKO Valley Board of Directors nominated the following slate of Officers:

President - Caroline Duffy
1st Vice President - Joe Vogel
2nd Vice President - Tim Peters

Treasurer - Bill Lawall
Secretary - Dave Emerick
3rd Year Director - OPEN
2nd Year Director - Cindy Minter
2nd Year Director - Paul Schoelwer
1st Year Director - Steve Profit
Regional Representative - Jim Collins
Past President - Greg Wilkens

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ASHE TRIKO Valley Scholarship

This is a reminder that the ASHE TRIKO Valley Scholarship is due on April 27- 2007 at **4 pm**. The two scholarships are worth \$1500 and \$1000 and can be used for any expenses of the student. Please remind any student you know that are finishing their last year of their bachelors, masters or doctorate in the transportation or construction majors to apply for this scholarship. This scholarship is available at the following location:

<http://www.ashe-trikovalley.com/ASHE%202007%20application.pdf>.

ASHE TRIKO Valley Scholarship Committee has made presentations to the University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, the Ohio College of Applied Science, Cincinnati State and Technical College and Northern Kentucky University student sections of the American Society of Civil Engineers. In addition, the scholarship has been placed on the scholarship websites of the University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton and the Cincinnati State and Technical College.

ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 11:30 AM
The Montgomery Inn Boathouse

Annual Public Works Forecast
2006 Schramm Award Winners

Lunch Cost: \$20.00

RSVP to Bill Lawall at 513-807-2245
by 4:00 March 26, 2007

ASHE

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