



TRIKO Valley News

Volume 20, Issue 2 - November 2019

From Our President...



It is hard to believe the holiday season is upon us. The TRIKO Valley Holiday Party will be December 4th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at deSha's. This will be a joint event with WTS and ACEC. Please RSVP as soon as possible and plan to join friends for an evening of fun.

Our next meeting will be November 19th, featuring an ethics presentation. Originally John Greenhalge was scheduled to speak but due to a conflict with his schedule Jason Mclean from the Ohio Engineers and Surveyors Board will be the presenter. Please attend this meeting to help meet the new PDH requirements for your

Ohio PE renewal.

The Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award submittal is fast approaching. Applications must be submitted to Eric Beck by December 6th. The Board of Directors looks forward to receiving your submittals. This is a good opportunity to showcase your best project of 2019. You can find the application on the TRIKO Valley website.

In October, we submitted our 2019-2020 membership assessment to ASHE National. TRIKO Valley section officially has 169 members. The Board is excited to say that this includes 12 new members. The Board decided to drop 9 members due to them moving out of the area or requesting to be dropped. Please help fill these spots by asking your friends and coworkers to join us at upcoming meetings. Ask them to consider becoming a member to help us improve our membership numbers.

I would like to personally wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and hope to see everyone at the holiday party on December 4th.

Tom Nicholson
Pretek Group

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ASHE - TRIKO Valley Section
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West Chester, OH 45071
www.trikovalley.ashe.pro

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.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019

Outgoing President Steve Mary called the meeting to order at 11:28 AM and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The first order of business was to introduce the proposed slate of officers for the 2019-2020 year. The slate is as follows:

President	Tom Nicholson
1st Vice President	Aaron Muck
2nd Vice President	Brian Rhodes
Treasurer	Eric Kistner
Secretary	David Emerick
Past President and Regional Rep.	Steve Mary
4th Year Director	Joe Schmeltzer
3rd Year Director	Katie Dillenburger
2nd Year Director	Terry Dull
1st Year Director	Todd Gadbury

With no nominations from the floor, Stan Harris made a motion that nominations close and the slate be elected. Vanessa Nghiem seconded the motion and it passed.

The new officers were installed by Stan Harris, National Director.

Tom Nicholson presented a Past President's pin to Steve Mary in recognition of his efforts in leading the Triko Valley Section over the past year.

President Nicholson asked for guest introductions and announced two new members (not present). He also announced that membership renewals are due and asked everyone who has not done so to renew as soon as possible.

It was announced that the Fall Highway cleanup will take place on September 21st. Volunteers are to meet at the Montgomery Inn parking lot at 10 am.

President Nicholson announced that the Holiday Party will be December 4 at Desha's. ACEC and WTS will once again participate.

Eric Kistner presented the Treasurer's report, noting an operating capital of \$31,158.99. Major expenses included the May luncheon, golf outing and National Conference reimbursement for the Triko Valley Board. Steve Mary made a motion to approve and Brian Rhodes seconded. The motion was approved.

Caroline Duffy gave the PIN report. Over the summer, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee crafted a five-year highway bill, the \$259 billion American's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019, that was approved in late August. The bulk of the package – \$259 billion per year – is for maintaining and repairing America's roads and bridges. Another \$10 billion is earmarked for projects to improve air quality and resilience. The bill also earmarks \$1 billion for competitive grants to support the development of fueling infrastructure for electric, natural gas and hydrogen-powered vehicles. Committee members said their hope is that increased public funding will also encourage private investment and new technology. It includes a provision, called the Bridge Investment Act, to create a competitive grant program aimed at easing the backlog in work needed on functionally obsolete bridges like the Brent Spence Bridge and structurally deficient ones like the Western Hills Viaduct. The bill also streamlines project delivery and federal approvals.

The House also passed a transportation bill this summer that would provide \$86.6 billion per year for infrastructure and an infrastructure grants program at DOT would receive \$1 billion. However, the House Senators, such as Rep. Kay Granger of Texas criticized the bill. These bills, like so many in the past several years, have little chance of moving past either house. Even though President Trump has pledged his fourth quarter paycheck of \$100,000 to the US DOTE, politics have once again put up roadblocks to our much-needed federal transportation bill and infrastructure will take a back seat until after the 2020 elections.

Stan Harris announced that the newsletter would be late coming out and that B&N had submitted an article on the South Hamilton Crossing project for the ASHE Scanner.

Steve Mary announced that the November meeting would be a presentation on ethics at the Montgomery Inn as has been done for the past few years. Watch your email for further details.

Brian Rhodes announced that we have two new members and membership applications are available on the table.

Katie Dillenburger thanked everyone for a successful 2019 golf outing and indicated that preparations for the 2020 outing would begin this winter.

Steve Mary introduced the speaker, Michael Loyselle, from the FHWA. He spoke on Rebuilding Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stan Harris for David Emerick
TRIKO Valley Section Secretary

ASHE PIN Report - November 2019

The ASHE PIN is glad that this election season is finally over - with the exception of the governor's race in Kentucky, which may not be decided for several weeks as votes are being recanvassed to decide if, in fact, the AG Andy Beshear has won the governorship by a mere 5,333 votes. AG Beshear has vowed that his administration will prioritize modernizing Kentucky's infrastructure in which ASCE has rated the bridges as a C- and the roads as a D+. Kentucky also has the seventh highest fatality rate on rural, non-interstate roads. However, AG Beshear has stated that he is against tolls, where Governor Bevin stated in the last debate before the election that he is for tolling the Brent Spence Bridge project. With the state of politics in Washington, any federal movement on a new transportation bill to fund the bridge replacement with federal funds is not predicted until after the 2020 presidential election, so the outcome of the governor's race in Kentucky could determine if the Brent Spence Bridge replacement project would happen sooner rather than later. With the threat of impeachment on the horizon, President Trump has dialed back his support for a new transportation bill being passed, and his White House Economic Adviser Larry Kudlow has a message for states and business leaders planning the nation's biggest infrastructure projects: we'll cut red tape for you, but don't expect a check from us.

"Folks, we will give you the permits if you can figure out how to pay for it, go on ahead and do it," he said, reiterating the infrastructure plan the President unveiled at the beginning of his term.

In late October, the Senate passed their version of the annual appropriation bill for FY 2020. The bill fulfills FAST Act funding levels for highway programs at \$46.4 billion from the Highway Trust Fund, and adds an additional \$2.7 billion from the General Fund. Allocated as \$1.25 billion for surface transportation block grants and railway-highway crossing safety improvement, and \$1.25 billion for bridge repairs. The bill allocates nearly \$2 billion for Capital Investment Grants, which is \$547 million less than last year, but sufficient to satisfy existing project funding agreements and advance new projects that meet eligibility requirements. The bill appropriates \$1 billion for multi-modal project grants (TIGER/BUILD), an increase of \$100 million above 2019, and provides \$3.3 billion for Community Development Block Grants, consistent with the 2019 levels. With the house approving its version of their appropriation bill over the summer, the conference committee will need to combine the two versions into one bill that will be passed into law before the current short-term stopgap measure expires on November 21.

Our infrastructure is crumbling, and even with 31 states having increased their tax on gallons of gasoline purchased since 2013, it is still not enough. Many states, such as Ohio, have also turned to increased license plate fees and fees on fuel efficient vehicles. Some states, like Oregon, have implemented a flat fee of paying 1.7 cents per mile driven instead of a gas tax per gallon of gasoline purchased. Utah and Washington have bills moving through their state houses to implement similar legislation. Other states are turning to tolling.

Locally, the election results showed that Cincinnati's Issue 22 passed, which would repeal the City of Cincinnati 0.3% income tax that supports the SORTA bus service, only if a countywide 0.8% sale tax to increase transit service and fund infrastructure passes in a future 2020 election.

The ASHE PIN hopes all of you voted. Not only is it your civic duty, but many people in our country have given their lives to give you the right to vote. Kudos to the forty-two percent of Kentucky voters who turned out for the election, the highest since 1995. It was predicted, based on previous election turn out, that only thirty-one percent of voters would turn out. Other elections were not as fortunate to have this high a turn-out. Hopefully, you were able to cast your ballot and help steer our great country upwards.



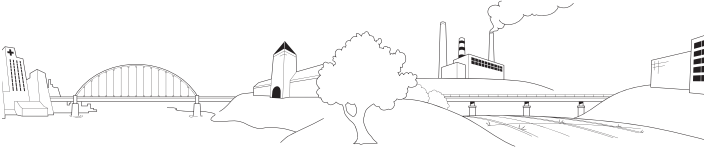
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at stan.harris@stantec.com.

Send website logos to Paul Durham at
paul.durham@stantec.com



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Adopt-A-Highway

On September 21st, we held our end of summer Adopt-A-Highway event. This was our second cleanup of the year and was very well attended. A special thanks goes out to Adleta Construction, Colan Associates, First Star Safety, Terracon, Thaman, and Woolpert for all their help with the event.

For those of you that are not familiar with our Adopt-A-Highway area, it is located at the I-71SB entrance to Ronald Regan Highway. We try to have 2-3 cleanups a year. Our next event will be early next year. Please watch for the date to be announced and plan to come out and help with the cleanup.



ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

General Membership Meeting - *Ethics Presentation*

Location: Original Montgomery Inn (Montgomery, OH)

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 11:30 AM

Please join us for our General Membership Meeting on November 19th at The Original Montgomery Inn. The topic for this month's meeting will be Ethics. The speaker will be Jason McLean, the Enforcement Supervisor for the State of Ohio Engineers and Surveyors Board.

Mr. McLean is responsible for supervision of the Board's enforcement and investigations unit. This unit is charged with investigating all complaints against regulated individuals, firms and those attempting to practice without a license. Prior to joining the Engineers and Surveyors Board in January 2009, Jason was an investigator with the state of Ohio for eight (8) years. In addition to his eighteen (18) years' experience as a state investigator, Jason has (15) years' experience as a police officer. Jason brings to this Board extensive knowledge of investigations and interviewing experience and continues to serve as a part-time police officer in Ohio.

Cost: \$25 online or at the door

Please RSVP whether paying 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.

2019 - 2020 Board of Directors

Title	Member	Company	Phone	Email
President	Tom Nicholson	PRETEK Group	937-641-8267	tnicholson@pretekgroup.com
1st Vice President	Aaron Muck	Terracon	513-612-9051	ajmuch@terracon.com
2nd Vice President	Brian Rhodes	JMT	513-699-8573	brhodes@jmt.com
Treasurer	Eric Kistner	Stantec	513-842-8200	eric.kistner@stantec.com
Secretary	David Emerick	Duke Energy	513-287-1001	david.emerick@duke-energy.com
4th Year Director	Joe Schmeltzer	American Structurepoint	513-407-8317	jschmeltzer@structurepoint.com
3rd Year Director	Katie Dillenburger	Bayer Becker	513-492-9837	katedillenburger@bayerbecker.com
2nd Year Director	Terry Dull	KZF	513-621-6211	terry.dull@kzf.com
1st Year Director	Todd Gadbury	Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office	513-946-8445	todd.gadbury@hamilton-co.org
Past President & Regional Representative	Steve Mary	Terracon	513-472-7029	steve.mary@terracon.com

Donald C. Schramm

Transportation Improvement Award

The membership established the Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Awards to recognize completed transportation projects that truly improve efficiency, safety and quality of life. 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. 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.

Two awards are given each year to qualifying local transportation projects. One award is given to projects valued over \$5 million construction cost and one to projects valued less than \$5 million.

SCHEDULE

December 6, 2019 – Entry Deadline

January 7, 2020 – Review and rating of entries by the Board of Directors

January 14, 2020 – Top three (3) rated entries in each category will be notified

January 21, 2020 – General Membership Meeting – Presentation to general membership by top three (3) rated entrants from each category. (Final selection to be determined by the general membership by closed ballot.)

March 17, 2020 – General Membership Meeting – Awards presentation

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible projects for the “Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award” shall be directly related to one or more of the following areas of the field of transportation:

- Highways
- Bridges
- Railroads
- Public Transit
- Bikeways
- Other Related Projects

GENERAL CRITERIA

- Projects entered in the competition must be located within the geographic area of the ASHE – TRIKO Valley Section.
- Construction of the project must have been substantially completed and ready for use between January and December of the competitions current year.
- Entries must be sponsored by a member of the ASHE – TRIKO Valley Section.

JUDGING OF ENTRIES

- All entries will be judged by the nine (9) members of the ASHE – TRIKO Valley Section Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors will rate each entry to determine the top three (3) rated entries (competition finalists) in each of the categories specified for the award.
- The sponsors of the competition finalists in each category shall give a presentation at the January General Membership Meeting. The format of each presentation will be at the discretion of the presenter. The time allotted for each presentation will be determined by the Board of Directors. The general membership in attendance at this meeting will vote by ballot for the projects receiving the award. All ballots will be submitted at the end of the meeting. Results of the voting will be tallied by the Chairperson of the Transportation Improvement Award and presented to the ASHE – TRIKO Valley Section Board of Directors at the March Board Meeting. There is only one (1) award for each category.
- Awards will be presented to the owner, design firm, and general construction contractor of the winning entries at the annual ASHE – TRIKO Valley Section Capital Improvement Program meeting in March.

Download the Award Application at trikovalley.ashe.pro/schramm-awards for a complete listing of rules and submission requirements.

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	Terry Dull	terry.dull@kzf.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	Paul Durham	paul.durham@stantec.com
Legislative Review (PIN)	Caroline Duffy	143Engineers@gmail.com
Online Payments/PayPal	Eric Kistner	eric.kistner@stantec.com
Community Service	Tom Nicholson	tnicholson@pretekgroup.com



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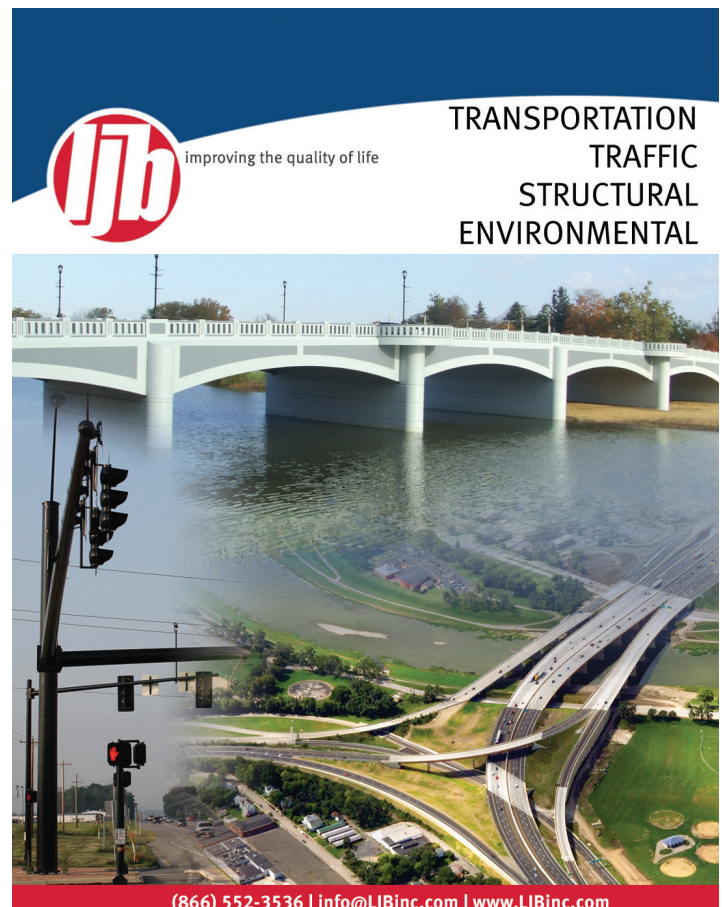
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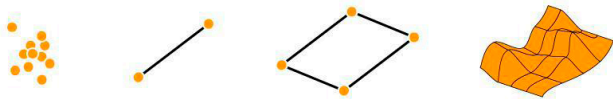
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