



TRIKO Valley News

Volume 20, Issue 3 - January 2020

From Our President...



Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to enjoy time with family and friends over the holiday season. As we begin a new year and decade, let's take time to reflect on some personal and professional achievements. May your 2020 be filled with health and happiness!

Our next meeting will be the Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award presentations on January 21st at the Original Montgomery Inn. The field was narrowed to two projects over \$5 million and three projects under \$5 million. Many thanks to the Schramm Awards Committee. I know it was not an easy

task narrowing down the submissions. Also, a big thank you to those who are showcasing their projects – we appreciate your dedication to our industry and look forward to seeing the presentations on these projects. I am sure our decision on the winner will be difficult. The winners will be announced March 17th.

Mark your calendars for the 2020 ASHE National Conference. This year the conference will be June 3-7 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Hope to see some of our members attend.

Please plan to attend our March General Membership meeting on March 17th at the Original Montgomery Inn. This will be our Capital Improvements Program meeting, and is always well-attended. This meeting will include discussions with area utilities, municipalities, ODOT, KYTC and County Engineers on upcoming design and construction projects.

Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to invite friends and professionals in the highway industry to join our organization. Our membership can positively impact our community and maintain quality leadership in our industry.

Tom Nicholson
Pretek Group

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ASHE - TRIKO Valley Section
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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.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019

President Tom Nicholson called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:35 AM and recognized four guests.

Stan Harris raised a motion to accept the May 21, 2019 meeting minutes from the Section Secretary, which was seconded by Steve Mary and carried. Caroline Duffy raised a motion to accept the September 11, 2019 meeting minutes which was seconded by Steve Mary and carried.

President Nicholson announced that the Holiday Party will be on December 4, 2019 at deSha's and that the Schramm Awards meeting will be held on January 21, 2020. Terry Dull has agreed to be the new Social Committee Chair.

Tom Nicholson presented the Treasurer's report, noting an operating capital of \$29,220.84 after expenses including the annual National Assessment. The section currently has 170 members. Steve Mary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Caroline Duffy seconded. The motion was approved.

Caroline Duffy gave the PIN report noting that the elections are finally over except for the close governor's race in Kentucky. The apparent winner, AG Andy Beshear has vowed to modernize Kentucky's infrastructure but is against tolls. Any federal movement on a new transportation bill is not predicted until after the 2020 election. President Trump has dialed back his support for a new transportation bill passage with the threat of impeachment on the horizon. The Senate passed their version of the annual appropriation bill for FY2020, which fulfills FAST Act funding levels for highway programs at \$46.4 billion from the Highway Trust Fund and adds another \$2.7 billion from the General Fund. With the House approving its version of an appropriation bill over the summer, the 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, 2019. 31 states have increased gas taxes and many states, such as Ohio, have also turned to increasing license plate fees. Senator Rand Paul's Penny Plan to enhance the infrastructure act would provide \$12.3 billion in 2020 for new infrastructure spending. Joe Bidden has released a \$1.3 trillion plan for a broad range of infrastructure projects. The ASHE PIN hopes that all of you voted to help steer our great country upwards.

Steve Mary noted that Stan Harris is on the ASHE National Board ad-hoc committee that will review the regional structure. Stan was also nominated for the National Board Second Vice President and would be the National President in 2022. The National Board desires to increase membership by ten percent.

Stan Harris announced that there will not be a December newsletter but the section will resume issuing the newsletter in January.

Steve Mary reminded members of the upcoming Schramm Award presentations in January 2020. We will be advertising for scholarship applications soon.

Tom Nicholson indicated that they had a nice day for the highway cleanup and another one will be planned in the spring.

There was no golf committee report or website news.

After lunch, President Nicholson introduced the speaker, Jason McLean, Enforcement Supervisor at the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors who discussed Ohio laws, rules and code of ethics for professional engineers and surveyors.

After the presentation, Steve Mary raised a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Todd Gadbury and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

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

ASHE PIN Report - January 2020

The ASHE PIN was relieved that the federal government passed the legislation to avoid a government shutdown at the end of last year, and that the appropriation for the FAST Act for the next fiscal year was also passed. However, as the FAST Act expiration is approaching on September 30, 2020, and with the state of Congress, the impeachment of the President, and the upcoming presidential election in 2020, many think that the FAST Act will be extended for one year to September 30, 2021. However, the age-old question still remains: how can we find funding for the Highway Trust Fund? While 'vehicle miles traveled' is being explored by numerous states in the western part of the country, no alternate funding source besides the gasoline users fee has been brought up as a viable method to collect monies for the Highway Trust Fund.

On the local level, the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA) operates the Metro bus service in Cincinnati and its suburbs. Currently, SORTA is funded by a 0.3% earnings tax, levied by the City of Cincinnati and paid only by those employed in the City of Cincinnati. In March 2020, Hamilton County voters will vote to replace that 0.3% earnings tax with a 0.8% sales tax applied to everything purchased in Hamilton County to fund infrastructure projects in the county and improve SORTA operations through its Metro Moves program, which will expand frequency, establish new crosstown routes, and improve hours of service.

Currently, SORTA is one of the only transit systems in the state funded by a municipal earnings tax. SORTA also faces a looming \$160.5 million deficit over the next ten years. The sales tax replacement will create a sustainable funding model, funding a countywide system with a countywide revenue source.

An analysis by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber identified a need for more than \$1 billion in infrastructure improvements across Hamilton County. These infrastructure improvements will be on routes that the buses utilize. We have a unique opportunity to solve both of these challenges together in 2020. If passed, the sales tax will generate \$130 million in revenue annually to replace the \$55 million currently generated by the earnings tax, with \$30 million being indexed for infrastructure improvements and \$100 million for SORTA operations.

All questions can be directed to Pete Metz at 513-300-8084 and pmetz@cincinnatiachamber.com or Jared Kamrass at 513-258-9049 and jared@rivertownstrategies.com.

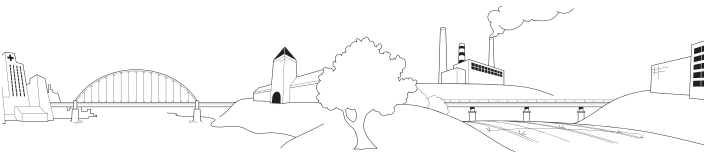


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website. If interested, contact Stan Harris
at stan.harris@stantec.com.

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

Holiday Party

On December 4, 2019, members of ASHE, WTS, and ACEC gathered on at DeSha's in Montgomery for drinks and appetizers to celebrate the holiday season. This is the third year in a row that ASHE has joined with these two other organizations for this celebration. A total of 77 attended the event, and, as always, the opportunity to socialize and network without the typical meeting agenda and technical subject matter was appreciated.



ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

General Membership Meeting

Schramm Award Presentations

Location: Original Montgomery Inn (Montgomery, OH)

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 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 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

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President	Tom Nicholson	PRETEK Group	937-641-8267	tnicholson@pretekgroup.com
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2nd Vice President	Brian Rhodes	JMT	513-699-8573	brhodes@jmt.com
Treasurer	Eric Kistner	Stantec	513-842-8200	eric.kistner@stantec.com
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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

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	Joe Schmeltzer	jschmeltzer@structurepoint.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
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