



TRIKO Valley News

Volume 21, Issue 3 - January 2021

From Our President...



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing holiday season in whatever way you navigated through it. Leading up to the New Year, there was certainly much hype about saying goodbye to 2020 and ringing in 2021. While there is something refreshing about crossing over into a new year, our journey through a pandemic, political differences, and other uncertainties still exists. I hope and trust each one of you is doing your part to bring some form of peace and poise to each situation that may demand it and not the alternative.

I've grown to appreciate my peers in this industry when it comes to being civil and reasonable. We are expected to bring our safest and best approach for the good of the general public on the projects we participate on. Let's consider the same when it comes to the well-being of others outside of our projects. We have the opportunity to make the world a better place as a result of our work and how we choose to act outside of work. Take the high road and make all your interactions count!

We had a great ethics presentation given by Cornell's David Orr during November's general membership meeting. David presented some very interesting real-life scenarios that engaged our thinking and responses. Quickly coming up is our general membership meeting on January 19th. As in past years, our January meeting will include the annual Schramm presentations. We have five great project presentations lined up so please don't miss the opportunity to support and place your vote. Register [here](#) for the upcoming virtual meeting on January 19th.

Our social committee is exploring possibilities for us to safely get together in 2021. We have the same itch you do, but we don't want to put anyone in an uncomfortable or compromising situation. We welcome your input. While a decision on the 2021 golf outing has not yet been made, I want to remind everyone that our ability to provide annual scholarships to students is dependent on a fundraising event such as this. It is not too late to make a donation toward our 2020 virtual golf sponsorship which will directly support our scholarship fund. Contact Eric Kistner for additional information.

I'm always open to your input on our ASHE TRIKO Valley section. Email me with thoughts, comments, and/or suggestions. Visit our [website](#). I also challenge each of you to consider your friends, peers, and any academics/students that might consider joining the ASHE TRIKO Valley Section. Have a great day and stay safe!

Aaron Muck
Terracon

inside

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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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020 | ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

President Aaron Muck called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM, welcoming attendees and observing a few moments of silence/reflection. He also announced that the next general membership meeting will be in January. President Muck asked for a nomination to accept Dan Ficker as the newly elected First Year Director for the ASHE Triko Valley section. Todd Gadbury raised a motion, which was seconded by Eric Beck and passed. Aaron then conducted the installation of Dan Ficker.

For the secretary's report, a motion was raised by Stan Harris to approve the May 19th General Membership Meeting notes which are posted in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Tom Nicholson and carried.

Treasurer Kistner reported that as of September 29th the operating capital for the section was \$23,709.23. After income of \$330.00 and expenses of \$3,848.41, the current operating capital is \$20,190.82. We currently have 175 members, including 9 student members. Todd Gadbury raised a motion to accept the treasurer's report which was seconded by Steve Mary and carried unanimously.

Caroline Duffy presented the PIN report, noting that the election is over; however, a runoff is still planned for the two Georgia Senate seats. With the declared Biden-Harris win for the presidency and the Democrats keeping the house majority, the Georgia race is even more at the center of the future. If Democratic Senate candidates Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock unseat their Republican opponents in Georgia, the Senate will have an equal number of Republican and Democratic representation. This would result in the Vice President with the ability to cast deciding votes. We are expecting a new cabinet and a new head of the Department of Transportation. This may result in a reversal of the decision not to support federal funding for the Brent Spence Bridge. Grants such as TIGER and BUILD will probably have a different selection criterion. It is anticipated that President-elect Biden will reverse several of the Trump-era executive orders that relaxed many transportation processes. Let's hope that a transportation bill and a funding mechanism for transportation is a high priority for the new administration. The transition team appointed for the U.S. DOT has significant representation across the transportation sector, including labor representatives. President-elect Biden's first wife and daughter were killed in a car crash many years ago. Perhaps this tragedy may make transportation funding a priority in his administration.

Stan Harris noted that a nice article on the I-71 / Western Row Road improvements was published in the Scanner. Our next section article will be due in July of 2021. He requested more sponsors for the newsletter.

Aaron Muck noted that there is very little to report regarding the student chapter other than the recent national conference. He encouraged members to invite students to meetings.

Todd Gadbury announced that the previous year Schramm Awards have been sent out. December 18th is the deadline to submit new applications in the categories of \$5 million or less and over \$5 million.

Joe Schmeltzer indicated that the following scholarship selections were made:

- Joint ASHE / James P. Jurgensen scholarship awarded to Blake Brower in the amount of \$5,000. Blake is a University of Cincinnati student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Construction Management.
- Triko Valley scholarship awarded to Samantha Cotterell in the amount of \$1,500. Samantha is a University of Cincinnati student pursuing a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering with a focus in transportation

Both students were congratulated for meeting the criteria well. All applicants were thanked

Tom Nicholson noted that there is nothing new regarding community service. ODOT continues to have a hold on the highway sponsorship program.

Terry Dull announced that the section is considering donations instead of a holiday party. A Covid relief charity will be chosen where it will have the most impact.

President Muck recognized LJB, Bayer Becker, and Eric Beck Hamilton County Engineer for their virtual golf outing sponsorships.

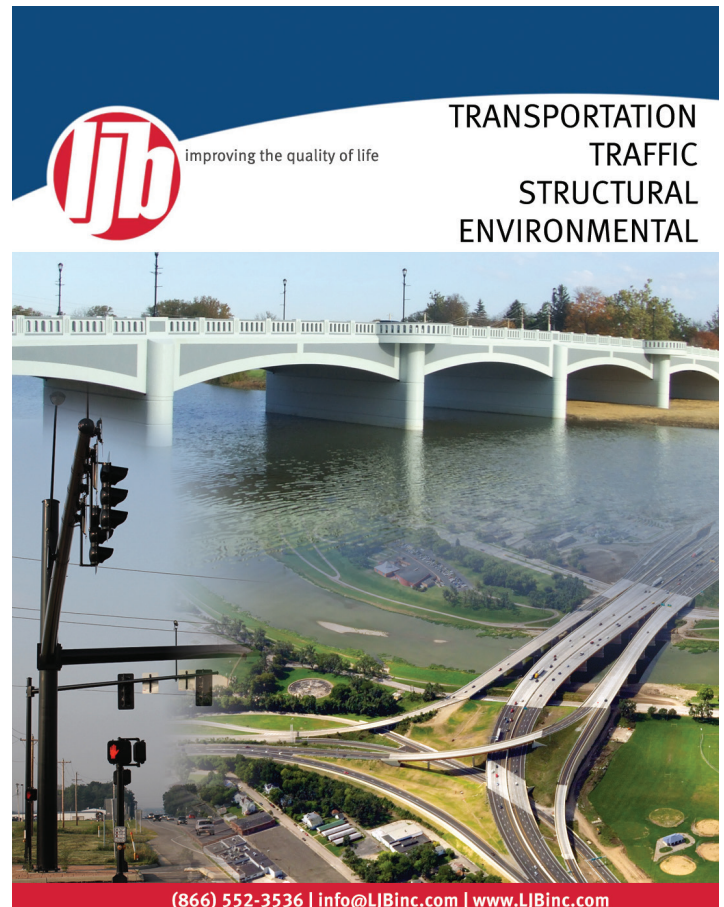
Aaron also encouraged members to visit the updated section website.

Brian Rhodes presented the membership report, indicating that there will be an incentive for public entity memberships. Currently we have 175 members with a breakdown of 9 students, 29 contractors, 33 public sector people, 102 consultants and 2 retirees. Members that are active in the section for 25 years are eligible for a Lifetime Membership status with benefits of free membership and meetings. Jim Collins was congratulated on earning Lifetime Membership status this year.

President Muck introduced David P. Orr, PE, PhD from the Cornell University Local Roads Program to present on ethics.

After the ethics presentation, Steve Mary raised a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Stan Harris and carried. The meeting was adjourned by Aaron Muck at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Emerick, Triko Valley Section Secretary



ASHE PIN Report - January 2021

What a year 2020 has been. Despite the slow progress on a transportation bill under the Trump administration, changes are on the horizon.

At the end of September, a government funding bill extension was passed to keep the government running until December 11, 2020. In addition, the FAST act was extended for one year at the end of September, however it was not funded. Since the second COVID stimulus package was being delayed by Congress, the government funding extension was pushed to December 28 and it was paired with the second COVID stimulus package. This legislation assigned \$10 billion from general revenue fund to fund the FAST Act one year extension at current levels of \$46.4 billion for core highway programs. No new PPP money for infrastructure was included in this funding package.

Since the Senate runoff elections in Georgia both went to the Democrats candidates, both houses of Congress and the White House will have Democrat control for the next two years. With a new presidency, the new Secretary of Transportation will be former Mayor and Presidential Candidate Pete Buttigieg. First on the agenda is to address the Highway Trust Fund, which will be bankrupt in April, 2021. He will work to implement Biden's plan, Build Back Better, that would outlay \$2 trillion over the next four years to address infrastructure needs. These investments would be focused on roads, bridges, rail, and transit, along with funds for broadband access, energy, wastewater, housing, innovation, and healthcare. While January at the US Capital has saddened the ASHE PIN, there is hope that our country will survive. Please pray that this divide that has gotten wider, deeper, and more painful, can be healed so that the country can move to matters desperately needed by the country, such as a transportation bill.



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ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

January General Membership Meeting

Annual Schramm Award Presentations

JANUARY 19, 2021 | 11:30AM - 1:30PM

Happy New Year! Join us for the January Meeting!
Please register in advance - space limited!

This general membership meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.
Register in advance for this meeting [HERE](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Our Zoom account limits us to 100 attendees so please register in advance to secure a place.

President Aaron Muck will address the attendees and reports will be given by committee chairs during the general membership meeting.

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.

Best Regards,
ASHE Triko Valley Board of Directors

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES!

\$50/year for small ads, \$150/year for large ad and corporate link on the TRIKO website. If interested, contact Stan Harris at stan.harris@stantec.com.

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

2020 - 2021 Board of Directors

Title	Member	Company	Phone	Email
President	Aaron Muck	Terracon	513-612-9051	ajmuck@terracon.com
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2nd Vice President	Joe Schmeltzer	American Structurepoint	513-407-8317	jschmeltzer@structurepoint.com
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3rd Year Director	Terry Dull	Neenah Enterprises	513-227-3972	terry.dull@neenahenterprises.com
2nd Year Director	Todd Gadbury	Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office	513-946-8445	todd.gadbury@hamilton-co.org
1st Year Director	Dan Ficker	Palmer Engineering	513-469-1600	dficker@palmernet.com
Past President & Regional Representative	Tom Nicholson	PRETEK Group	937-641-8267	tnicholson@pretekgroup.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@terracon.com
Social	Terry Dull	terry.dull@neenahenterprises.com
Membership	Brian Rhodes	brian.rhodes@cincinnati-oh.gov
Student Chapter	Aaron Muck	ajmuck@terracon.com
Golf Outing	Katie Dillenburger	katedillenburger@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

General Membership

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Eric Adkins
Frank Aransky
Travis Baker
Kendall Bales
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Amanda Beiting
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