

Volume 25, Issue 2 - November 2024

From Our President...



Hello ASHE TRIKO Valley! They say as you get older, time goes by a lot quicker -- there is a lot of truth in that statement. It seems like just last week we hung up the beach towels and put away the sunscreen, but here we are talking about the Holiday Season again. Please save the date for our Annual Holiday Party on December 3rd starting at 4 pm. As in past years, this will be a joint celebration with our friends at WTS and ACEC. The final touches are coming together on the venue and other details, so stay tuned in the next week or so for additional information. Thanks, Kevin Hendrickson for planning the Holiday Party!

We had some changes in the ASHE TRIKO Valley Board of Directors and Committees. New Vice President Sean Mason has graciously stepped up as Interim Secretary for the remainder of our Program Year and thus we need a volunteer for the long-term Secretary starting next summer. We also have an immediate appointment for a first-year director and will call for Volunteers at the November General Membership Meeting. The Membership Committee chair is open, and we have discussed combining the roles of that with the Student Chapter Committee to grow our membership from our younger colleagues. If you are interested in getting involved with ASHE TRIKO Valley (or even at the Great Lakes Regional level) please contact me or any member of the Board. Even if you have been a member for a long time (......like myself), it's never too late to get more involved.

The November General Membership meeting is our traditional Ethics program, and on Nov 19th, Tom Pannett, Director at Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter will be giving the presentation entitled "Engineering Failures + Their Consequences". A friendly reminder to all the Ohio PEs that this presentation will count for one of the two hours in Ethics CPDs are required for each renewal period, so we should have a great turnout as always.

The entry deadline for our upcoming Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Awards is fast approaching on December 15, 2024. The awards are named after the late Donald C. Schramm, P.E., P.S. who served as the Hamilton County Engineer from 1973 to 1992 and was a charter member of the TRIKO Valley Section of ASHE. There are two project categories for submittals, one for Construction Cost of \$5,000,000 and under, and one for Construction Cost over \$5,000,000. If you were involved in an exciting project that completed construction in 2024, please consider sharing your accomplishments by applying for a Schramm Award. Project presentations will take place at our January 2025 General Membership Meeting. The entry form can be found on our website at www.trikovalley.ashe.pro.

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Meeting Minutes

Announcements

2027 National Conference

Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

General Membership

Sponsors



......Speaking of General Membership meetings, please save the date for the 2025 meetings:

Tuesday: 1/21/2025 Tuesday: 3/18/2025 Tuesday: 5/20/2025

Membership in ASHE TRIKO Valley is a great way to network with contractors, consultants, and public sector colleagues and stay informed on the latest information in the highway industry. Specifically, encouraging those younger professionals at your workplace to join ASHE is a great way to jump-start their professional development and network your entire team with others in the industry. Please invite anyone you know to join us for a meeting as a guest or consider signing up as a member. The ASHE Membership Application form can be found on our website.

We are all busy, so we at ASHE TRIKO Valley are grateful that everyone can take time out of their busy schedules for our Luncheon Meetings and volunteering opportunities. As we approach the Holidays and the New Year, don't forget to wind down, turn off, and relax, and enjoy the celebrations and togetherness.

Sincerely, Dan Ficker

ASHE-TRIKO VALLEY SECTION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 | THE ORIGINAL MONTGOMERY INN, MONTGOMERY, OH

On September 17, 2024, the ASHE-TRIKO Valley Section held the third general membership meeting of 2024. President Todd Gadbury called the meeting to order at 11:37 am, welcoming attendees, and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Stan Harris swore in the new ASHE TRIKO Valley Board. They are as follows:

President: Dan Ficker Palmer Engineering 513-469-1600 dficker@palmernet.com First Vice President: Dan Springer LJB 937-259-5192 dspringer@ljbinc.com

Second Vice President: Shawn Mason American Structurepoint 513-407-8317 smason@structurepoint.com

Fourth Year Director: Samantha Poehner Compass Infrastructure Group 513-262-7277 spoehner@compassinf.com Third Year Director: Kevin Hendrickson Advanced Drainage Systems 513-497-9953 kevin.hendrickson@adspipe.com

Second Year Director: David Westendorf Terracon 513-612-9095 david.westendorf@terracon.com

First Year Director: Craig Litmer American Structurepoint CLitmer@structurepoint.com

Secretary: Dan Springer LJB 937-259-5192 dspringer@ljbinc.com

Treasurer: Eric Kistner Stantec 513-842-8213 eric.kistner@stantec.com

Immediate Past President: Todd C. Gadbury Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office 513-946-8445 todd.gadbury@hamilton-co.org

Regional Representative: Katie Dillenburger Bayer Becker 513-492-9837 katiedillenburger@bayerbecker.com

Dan Ficker assumed President duties and thanked the past leadership. Dan also provided a reminder that sponsorships are open for the Website and Newsletter and reminded the group to renew their membership.

Guests at the meeting included Jacob Hurst with Hamilton County, Bill Brock of Kleingers, and Blake Stevens of Burgess & Niple.

Dan Springer was not in attendance but provided a reminder that the OTEC ASHE lunch is upcoming and fliers were made available to the group. The invitation will be emailed as well.

Eric Kistner presented the treasurer's report (see below). Stan Harris made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Todd Gadbury. The Motion passed.



TREASURER'S REPORT

5/21/2024

\$12,271.17

\$2,134.00

\$2,880.00

\$12,705.00

\$17,919.00

\$200.00

\$50.00

\$4,246.74

\$5,862.49

\$367.00

\$288.40

\$568.60

\$6,500.00

\$17,883.23

\$12,306.94

OPERATING CAPITAL AS OF MARCH 26, 2024:

(LAST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

INCOME: MEETING/LUNCHEON SALES

ANNUAL RENEWAL INITIATION FEES GOLF OUTING SALES

TOTAL CREDITS:

EXPENSES: BANK FEES

MEETING/LUNCHEON EXPENSES GOLF OUTING EXPENSES PO BOX ANNUAL FEE REGISTRATION WEBSITE FEES REGISTRATION WEBSITE TRANSACTION FEES SCHOLARSHIP PAYOUTS

TOTAL EXPENSES:

OPERATING CAPITAL AS OF MAY 21, 2024:

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER OF REGULAR MEMBERS

NUMBER OF STUDENT MEMBERS TOTAL

NEW MEMBERS: JAY HAMILTON - MEAD & HUNT

JACQUI KUNZI - CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING TROY NIESE - CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING BRAD WARNOCK - CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING

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ERIC M KISTNER TREASURER

Caroline Duffy was present and provided a PIN report (see below). Caroline did provide an update on the 2027 National Conference in Louisville and encouraged attendees to get involved with Committees by contacting Jason Littleton. The National Conference is currently reviewing the three shortlisted venues.

ASHE PIN Report

On the federal front, the week of July 12 2024, the House Appropriations Committee held two marathon markups where they voted along party lines to approve six of the twelve government funding bills for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. The legislation advanced out of committee included the Commerce, Justice, and Science; Interior and Environment; Energy and Water Development; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Acts of 2025.

Though the bills have advanced out of committee, they are unlikely to be signed into law in their current form. Rather, the bills represent the House GOP's negotiating position with the Democratic controlled Senate. Among the notable funding changes included in the bills are:

A \$2.044 billion reduction in Department of Transportation grant programs, 36% below the enacted level for FY24

The federal government's fiscal year ends September 30th. The Senate Appropriations Committee began marking up the first of its 12 of its annual spending bills on July 11th. It is unlikely that all spending bills will be approved and signed by President Biden before the end of the fiscal year.

On the state front, ODOT's financial outlook for the state is being evaluated. Having invested significant funding over the last 4+ years, ODOT's current funding is being eroded by high inflation resulting in a loss of buying power of the Gas Tax revenue, which has eroded to nothing or even slightly negative. A tight contactor market and the contractor labor shortages coupled with an increase in consulting fees, continues to hamper the financial outlook of ODOT. Since 2021, ODOT has experienced a loss in buying power of \$570M.

ODOT has had a very consistent programmatic offerings, including large projects. Current funding enables the Department to have projects ready and on the shelf for future funding opportunities. However, cost to update plans already completed is not ideal for design projects as CADD programs and standards are constantly being updated. Continuing on this path for future projects is not a viable long-term option. Therefore, programmatic offerings will likely change with the current 60-80 projects/year not being sustainable for the long-term future. ODOT is also exploring breaking out larger projects into smaller segments to encourage more competitive bids. This has been a successful option for the Department in the past and may be utilized once again.

This summer has been very fluid in the upcoming presidential election in November. Please exercise your rights and vote in the presidential election!

For the Regional Representative report, Katie Dillenburger mentioned that the Great Lakes Region conducted a regional event. The event was a great success. The Richmond I-75 Interchange Project (Schramm Award Winner) won a Regional Award at the event.

Brian Rhodes was not present and had no Membership update. For the Golf Committee Brian provided the following update:

The Golf Committee will be looking for potential new locations for the outing next year. We have been at Glenview for the past three years. Glenview has been a great host and the outing has been well attended, but we are always open to suggestions on new locations or ways to improve the outing as a whole. Please let any golf committee member know if you have ideas on new locations or ways to improve the outing, they are Brian Rhodes, Jeff Heimann, and Matt Loeffler. Thanks again to all the sponsors and players, you are what makes the outing a success!

Katie Dillenburger informed attendees that the Newsletter will go out within a week or two.

For the Student Chapter report, Shawn Mason was in attendance but had no report.

Steve Mary presented the Program Report. He will have an Ethics presentation by Rebecca Bowman at our next General Membership meeting. Our March 2025 General Membership Meeting will be the annual CIP program, and May will the Sharon Woods Lake Dredging project.

Samantha Poehner was in attendance and had no report.

For the Social Events report, Kevin Hendrickson discussed a Fall Shooting event for October 18th from noon to 3pm at Middletown Sportsman Club. Details to follow.

Dan Ficker gave the Community Service report. The July 20th event was a success, and another event is scheduled for September 28th. An email went out to membership prior to the meeting.

Paul Durham had nothing to report for the Website report. The website will be updated as needed.

Todd reported that the applications for Schramm Awards for large and small projects will be released soon.

Dan introduced the speakers for the September Program:

- HAM-275 Smart Lane Shane Campbell, P.E., Vice President, Senior Transportation Manage Gannett Fleming TranSystems,
- HAM-275 Smart Lane Phase 1 Design Build, Dennis Jennings, Palmer Engineering

Steve Mary made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Katie. The motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.

ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

General Membership Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, 11:30 AM | THE ORIGINAL MONTGOMERY INN

Please register online.

ASHE PIN – November 2024

Former President Donald Trump will become the next president of the United States. Following the Biden administration, which put billions of dollars into Amtrak, high-speed rail, public transportation and the transition to electric vehicles and buses, what might change under the incoming administration?

On transportation policy that affects cities and states nationwide, Trump has a mixed record. In his first term, he proposed a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan that never came to fruition. He repeatedly tried and failed to cut funding for Amtrak's long-distance trains and attempted to take back nearly \$3.5 billion in already-awarded federal grants for the California high-speed rail project to connect Los Angeles and San Francisco. Instead, the first Trump administration largely favored highway expansion projects. For nearly three years into the five-year Bipartisan Infrastructure law, less than half of the money has been announced, according to the DOT. The \$1.2 trillion federal Bipartisan Infrastructure law, which President Joe Biden signed into law in November 2021, includes \$550 billion in new money, in addition to the Highway Trust Fund. Forty percent of the funding has been announced with more than 60,000 construction projects advancing. Many speculate that with the new Congress being both lead by the Republicans, that the remaining funding for the Bipartisan Infrastructure law will be clawed back to pay for other Trump policies that are proposed to raise taxes. The next highway bill is slated to be passed in 2026. The reauthorization of surface transportation programs in 2026 will largely be led by congressional committees of jurisdiction. As things unfold with the new administration, the next highway bill and its funding source will be closely watched.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHOLARSHIP

More information to come.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

ASHE TRIKO Valley's Adopt-A-Highway is located at the SR 126 and I-71 interchange. Our most recent highway cleanup was rained out on September 28th. Look for cleanup event dates in the Spring.

GOLF OUTING

The Golf Committee will be looking for potential new locations for the outing next year. We have been at Glenview for the past three years. Glenview has been a great host and the outing has been well attended, but we are always open to suggestions on new locations or ways to improve the outing as a whole. Please let any golf committee member know if you have ideas on new locations or ways to improve the outing, they are Brian Rhodes, Jeff Heimann, and Matt Loeffler. Thanks again to all the sponsors and players, you are what makes the outing a success!

SOCIAL

The social committee hosted a sporting clay shooting event that was held on Friday, October 18, 2024. There were 13 people registered and 12 people attended. It was a good day!

Up next for the social committee is the Holiday Party, which is set for Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024.

HOLIDAY PARTY

ASHE TRIKO Valley is excited to announce that we will again be teaming up with ACEC and WTS for a Joint Holiday Party.

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024, starting at 4 pm

Third Eye Brewing Company 11276 Chester Road, Cincinnati, OH

Please register online. Registration includes 2 drink tickets plus heavy appetizers.

And with the spirit of the season, as part of our community service and outreach program, we will also be running a canned food drive. Please bring a donation.



2027 National Conference

Three sections, the Derby City Section, Bluegrass Section, and the TRIKO Valley Section, have been awarded the 2027 ASHE National Conference. The conference will be held in Louisville with technical tours, guest events, and entertainment to be held in the geographic region of the three sections. We are looking for volunteers from the TRIKO Valley section for the various committees, as noted below.

- 1. Financial Manages conference budget (~\$250k-\$300k), prepares quarterly treasurer's report, obtain EIN from IRS, prepares yearly tax forms.
- 2. Sponsorship In charge of program booklet ads, sponsorships for conference events, maintains master contact list of sponsors.
- 3. Technical Plans technical sessions for conference, coordinate AV needs for conference sessions, provide adequate signage to get people to their sessions, coordinate with speakers on their arrival time and obtain speaker gifts, manage CEUs/PDHs.
- 4. Exhibit Coordinate exhibition hall, solicit exhibitors, coordinate exhibitor registration with other subcommittees.
- 5. Program Develop conference logo/theme, produce conference program booklet, plan opening session, coordinate keynote speakers and awards banquet presentations, investigate electronic program (on mobile devices) in addition to printed program.
- 6. Registration & Reception Coordinate online registration platform for conference and develop registration form, provide attendee name tags, handle on-site registration, coordinate attendee hospitality room.
- 7. Entertainment coordinate entertainment for opening reception and opening session, past president's luncheon and evening dinners/banquets.
- 8. PR/Publicity Prepare publications for advance coverage to interested parties, prepare ad for 2027 to be printed in the 2026 program booklet, prepare Scanner article publicizing the conference, prepare and maintain conference website, responsible for photography of the conference.
- 9. Golf Secure golf course, solicit prizes, establish foursomes, coordinate other off-site "fun" events (i.e. clay shoots, etc.).
- 10. Transportation Coordinate shuttles for off-site events, contact local transportation sources about discounted rates for attendees.
- 11. Guest Program select and make arrangements for guest activities and establish cost for each activity, provide guest registration material for registration form.
- 12. Facilities solicit and procure conference hotel and meeting space accommodations, serve as primary point of contact with hotel facilities.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Caroline Duffy at 143Engineers@gmail.com.

2024 - 2025 Board of Directors

Title	Member	Company	Phone	Email
President	Dan Ficker	Palmer Engineering	513-469-1600	dficker@palmernet.com
1st Vice President	Shawn Mason	American Structurepoint	513-407-8317	smason@structurepoint.com
2nd Vice President	Samantha Poehner	Compass Infrastructure Group	513-262-7277	spoehner@compassinf.com
Treasurer	Eric Kistner	Stantec	513-842-8213	eric.kistner@stantec.com
Secretary (interim)	Shawn Mason	American Structurepoint	513-407-8317	smason@structurepoint.com
4th Year Director	Kevin Hendrickson	Advanced Drainage Systems	513-497-9953	kevin.hendrickson@adspipe.com
3rd Year Director	David Westendorf	Terracon	513-612-9095	david.westendorf@terracon.com
2nd Year Director	Craig Litmer	American Structurepoint	513-407-8317	clitmer@structurepoint.com
1st Year Director	vacant			
Past President	Todd Gadbury	Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office	513-946-8445	todd.gadbury@hamilton-co.org
Regional Representative	Katie Dillenburger	Bayer Becker	513-492-9837	katiedillenburger@bayerbecker.com

Committee Chair Contact Information

ASHE TRIKO Valley has several committees to help promote our organization in a variety of ways. Listed below, you can find the contact information of the chair 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	Contact Information	
Schramm Award	Todd Gadbury	todd.gadbury@hamilton-co.org	
Scholarship	Samantha Poehner	spoehner@compassinf.com	
Program	Steve Mary	steve.mary@terracon.com	
Social	Kevin Hendrickson	kevin.hendrickson@adspipe.com	
Membership	Brian Rhodes	brian.rhodes@cincinnati-oh.gov	
Student Chapter	Shawn Mason	smason@structurepoint.com	
Golf Outing	Brian Rhodes	brian.rhodes@cincinnati-oh.gov	
Newsletter	Katie Dillenburger	katiedillenburger@bayerbecker.com	
Website	Paul Durham	pjdurham@gmail.com	
Legislative Review (PIN)	Caroline Duffy	143Engineers@gmail.com	
Online Payments/PayPal	Eric Kistner	eric.kistner@stantec.com	
Community Service Dan Ficker		dficker@palmernet.com	

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES!

\$50/year for newsletter ad \$150/year for newsletter ad and corporate link on theTRIKO website

if interested, contact Katie Dillenburger at katiedillenburger@bayerbecker.com

General Membership

Brad Ackel Iamal Adhami Eric Adkins Frank Aransky Travis Baker Eric Beck* Amanda Beiting

Sam Bell Bryan Bender Gerard Berding Steven Bergman William Brayshaw* Tom Brayshaw John Brazina Wayne Breitenstein

Greg Brown Matt Brubaker **Jon Brunot** Dennis Brunton* Kassidy Buschor** Steven Butler Tara Campbell

Tammy Campbell Josh Carter Donald Cash **Timothy Casto Christopher Clemons**

Jim Collins* **Kyle Compton** John Crane John Davidson Blake Dickmann Katie Dillenburger*

Mark Dole Caroline Duffy* Terry Dull Paul Durham Ben Dusina John Elliott David Emerick Richard Engle Joe Espelage Jeremy Evans William Fair Dan Ficker Nathan Fischer

Andy Fluegemann

Bronson Funke

Todd Gadbury* Kendall Gindling** Jonathan Girdler **Jeff Glowka Dustin Gohs**

Paul Goodhue Paul Gruner Tim Guenther Robert Hans Stan Harris Steven Hartke Cody Havlin** Jeff Heimann

Kevin Hendrickson David Higgins** Kelly Hollatz Dan Hoying

Theodore Hubbard* Matthew Hyatt** Craig Jacob Dennis Jennings Tracy Jones

James Jurgensen, II* Ross Kendall John Kerr

Eric Kistner Jeffrey Koehn Steven Korte Wes Kroll Chris Kunz William Lawall Robert Lichter Craig Litmer

Matthew Loeffler* **Austin Long** Todd Long Michael Lorenz Steven Main Steve Mary* Shawn Mason Wyatt McDermitt

Jared McFaddin Aubrey Meenach** Joe Mellman David Meyer

Stephen Miles Douglas Miller Aaron Muck*

Michael Murray Gianna Napoletano**

Jeff Newby

Seng Tong Ngann** Vanessa Nghiem* Tom Nicholson* Nicholas Okuley Paige Parris** Ben Pendery Nathan Pera John Pflum **Duane Phelps** Michael Pittinger

Samantha Poehner Nepal Prateek Steve Proffitt* Joseph Prus Michael Prus William Prus David Quimby Anne Rahall

Arudi (Raj) Rajagopal

Etta Reed Brian Rhodes* Mark Richardson Dave Rotella **Edward Roth** Doug Royer Carl Ruf Ali Saleh

James Samples Joseph Schmeltzer Dale Schwieterman Timothy Schwoeppe

Nick Selhorst Steven Shadix Andrew Shahan **Robert Sheets** William Shefcik Kar Singh Stefan Spinosa **Daniel Springer Iacob Stremmel**

Michael Sturdevant Luke Stutler Vernon Stultz L. Beth Sutherland

CynthiaTaylor Michelle Terrell Michael Thompson* Matthew Tish Robert Trenkamp Daniel Unger Greg Urasek Joe Vogel* Jeff Wallace David Westendorf Ion Wilev

Gregory Wilkens* **Edward Williams** Shelby Wilson Mike Yeager Nick Yeretzian Steven Young

Heinrich Zehetmaier*

Mike Zwick

* Past Presidents

** Student Members











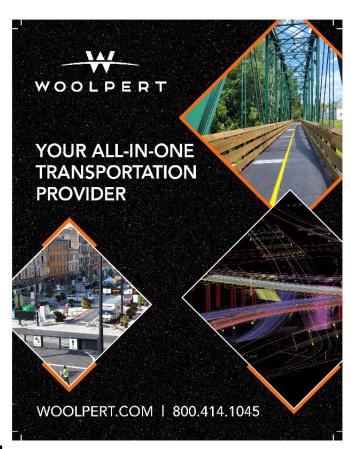












BURGESS & NIPLE



