



TRIKO Valley News

Volume 25, Issue 3 – February 2025

From Our President...



Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025 and the deep freeze. It's disappointing that the Bengals are sitting out of the NFL Playoffs this year, but I think we can all find another team (such as the Detroit Lions) to hitch our wagon to for the road to the *Big Game* this year. Our holiday party in December at Third Eye Brewing was a rousing success this year, with over 80 folks attending, ASHE members along with members from WTS and ACEC, gathered out of the cold and shared stories of a very busy year. Thanks, Kevin Hendrickson for planning the Holiday Party! Stay tuned for some more exciting Social Events he has cooked up.

Please welcome the new 1st Year Director, Viraj Patel from AECOM, who graciously answered the call for volunteers. Keep in mind that we will need another 1st Year Director at the end of this year after I “retire” and all directors move up one spot. Along those same lines, we will also need a new Secretary as Shawn Mason assumes the Section Presidency and invariably needs to clean up the mess I leave behind. Thanks to Craig Litmer, who is leading up the newly compiled Student Chapter/New Membership Development Committee. 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.

Hopefully, we all satisfied our Ethics PDH requirement with the November General Membership meeting program, it was an interesting program and we all learned what not to do! Our January 21st General Membership meeting will be our Schramm Awards Presentations, please join us to learn more about some projects completed around the Tri-State and to cast your vote. Further ahead in March, the plan is our annual for the annual Capital Improvements Program presentations.

Here are the upcoming General Membership meetings, please save the date for the remaining 2025 meetings:

- Tuesday: 3/18/2025
- Tuesday: 5/20/2025

Hopefully, we all saw the email blast with the survey to gauge responses to expand and improve ASHE TRIKO Valley's Community Service efforts. The survey is still active and responses will be gathered up

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ASHE - TRIKO Valley Section
P.O. Box 257
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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.

until Jan 22, 2025, so please respond if you have not already:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtqj0zF0WdswzcGRzanpJr-Jx5-s05WVusGcgzI uyITysQ/viewform?usp=header>

We still plan on completing our Adopt-A-Highway volunteering duties at least thru 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.

The next few months are shaping up to be busy ones. Hopefully, the weather breaks and by the next newsletter, we will be talking about spring and Reds Baseball! I continue to thank all of our membership and our board of directors on all of the work that it takes to keep the ASHE Triko Valley Section running.

ASHE-TRIKO VALLEY SECTION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 | THE ORIGINAL MONTGOMERY INN, MONTGOMERY, OH

On November 19, 2024, the ASHE TRIKO Valley Section held the fourth general membership meeting of 2024. President Dan Ficker called the meeting to order at 11:40 am, welcoming attendees, and leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dan Ficker advised the group that a First Year Director position is open. Dan also advised that Shawn Mason will be assuming Secretary duties for Dan Springer who stepped down. ASHE TRIKO Valley will need a Secretary for 2025-2026 and we are accepting volunteers to fill this role. Brian Rhodes has stepped down from the Membership Committee. Craig Litmer has volunteered to fill a combined Membership and Student Chapter role with a focus on younger member outreach.

The May General Membership Meetings were presented for approval. Katie Dillenburger made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Steve Mary. The Motion passed.

Guests at the meeting included Theo Miller and Maxwell Brown with AECOM.

Shawn Mason was in attendance but had no report.

Eric Kistner presented the treasurer's report (see below). Steve Mary made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Dennis Jennings. The Motion passed.



TREASURER'S REPORT

OPERATING CAPITAL AS OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2024: **\$13,844.47**
(LAST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

INCOME:	MEETING/LUNCHEON SALES	\$2,050.00
	ANNUAL RENEWAL	\$215.00
	NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE ADVERTISEMENTS	\$1,800.00
	CLAY SHOOT SALES	\$875.00

TOTAL CREDITS: **\$4,940.00**

EXPENSES:	BANK FEES	\$50.00
	MEETING/LUNCHEON EXPENSES	\$2,234.16
	NATIONAL ASSESSMENT	\$3,270.00
	REGISTRATION WEBSITE FEES	\$288.40
	REGISTRATION WEBSITE TRANSACTION FEES	\$172.07
	REGIONAL ASSESSMENT	\$50.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$6,064.63**

OPERATING CAPITAL AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2024: **\$12,719.84**

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	
NUMBER OF REGULAR MEMBERS	147
NUMBER OF STUDENT MEMBERS	7
TOTAL	154

NEW MEMBERS: NONE

Eric M. Kistner

ERIC M. KISTNER, TREASURER

Caroline Duffy was present and provided a PIN report (see below). Caroline provided an update on the 2027 National Conference in Louisville and encouraged attendees to get involved with Committees by contacting Jason Littleton.

ASHE PIN Report

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 with both houses 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.

Former President Donald Trump has nominated Representative Sean Duffy to head the Department of Transportation. Duffy is a former reality TV star and Fox News TV host who has been [critical of Trump](#) in the past. While in the House, Duffy served on the Financial Services Committee and chaired the insurance and housing subcommittee. Duffy align with Trump's pro-business, anti-regulation vision for the Department of Transportation.

Former President Donald Trump said he will appoint Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to co-lead a new government-efficiency commission, DOGE, the department of government efficiency. Their aim is to cut government spending, and one idea they've floated is to ax federal agencies. While neither Trump, Musk, nor Ramaswamy has made clear which departments could be on the chopping block, Trump has targeted the Department of Education in the past, [saying in 2023](#): "One other thing I'll be doing very early in the administration is closing up the Department of Education in Washington, DC, and sending all education and education work and needs back to the states." It is yet to be seen what other departments may be in jeopardy from the new administration. The only thing we know for sure is there will be change in Washington!

For the Regional Representative report, Katie Dillenburger mentioned that The National Conference is currently reviewing venues with an announcement to follow. There are several ways to support the Section by volunteering to support the Conference.

Brian Rhodes was not present and had no Golf update.

Katie Dillenburger informed attendees that the Newsletter will go out soon.

For the Membership and Student Chapter report, Craig Litmer was not in attendance and had no report.

Steve Mary presented the Program Report. At the May 2025 General Membership Meeting we will have a presentation on the Sharon Woods Lake Dredging project from Great Parks.

Samantha Poehner was not in attendance and had no report for Scholarship.

For the Social Events report, Brian Hendrickson discussed the successful Fall Shooting event at Middletown Sportsman Club. The Holiday Party will be held December 3rd at 5pm at Third Eye Brewery. A save the date was sent with sign up information coming soon.

Dan Ficker gave the Community Service report. The September 28th event was rained out. A spring cleanup date will be announced soon.

Paul Durham was not present and no report for the Website report. The website will be updated as needed.

Todd Gadbury was not present but provided a report that the applications for Schramm Awards for large and small projects are available now and are due December 15, 2024.

Dan introduced the speakers for the November Program:

- Engineering Failures + Their Consequences - Tom Pannett, P.E., Esq., MBA, CPPOret, Director Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

Caroline Duffy made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Joe Vogel. The motion Passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.

ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

General Membership Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025, 11:30 AM | THE ORIGINAL MONTGOMERY INN

Please register online.

ASHE PIN – January 2025

On January 20, 2025, President elect Trump will be inaugurated as the next President. As we look at President Biden's term, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill has been game-changer for the transportation industry. In a summary of the last four years, the U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced nearly \$5 billion in grants for 560+ projects in all 50 states, D.C., and U.S. territories through seven priority programs funded through President Biden's historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This funding will support state and locally-led projects of all kinds, adding to the more than 72,000 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded projects currently moving forward nationwide and the pipeline of projects that will be delivered in the coming years and decades. The department is expecting federal funding to remain steady thru 2027, but also acknowledged there are always unknowns that come with a change in administration in Washington. Appropriations funding for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill for 2025 and 2026 will be determined by the new Congress. The ASHE PIN is also looking forward to the reauthorization of the highway bill which is slated for 2026.

The renewal of the Ohio Public Works Commission funding is slated for May 6, 2025. Over the past nine years Ohio Public Works Commission has funded the following projects:

- \$2.3 billion has been awarded considering for the addition of Revolving Loan Program funds.
- 4,490 projects have been funded in 1,084 local governments in all 88 counties.
- Depending on the year, every \$1 in Ohio Public Works Commission funds has been matched with double to nearly triple the funding from other sources.

Please pass the word to you coworkers, family, and neighbors to support the Ohio Public Works Commission ballot issue. Yard signs supporting the OPWC ballot issue will be available at the March TRIKO Valley membership meeting.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOLF OUTING

The Golf Committee is currently working on the 2025 Golf Outing details. Please share ideas with any golf committee member, they are Brian Rhodes, Jeff Heimann, and Matt Loeffler.

SOCIAL

The holiday party was held on December 3, 2024. There were 81 people registered and it was a great event.

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	Viraj Patel	AECOM		virajpatel@aecom.com
Past President	Todd Gadbury	Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office	513-946-8445	todd.gadbury@hamilton-co.org
Regional Representative	Katie Dillenburg	Bayer Becker	513-492-9837	katiedillenburg@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
Student / New Membership	Craig Litmer	clitmer@structurepoint.com
Golf Outing	Brian Rhodes	brian.rhodes@cincinnati-oh.gov
Newsletter	Katie Dillenburg	katiedillenburg@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 the TRIKO website

if interested, contact Katie Dillenburg at
katiedillenburg@bayerbecker.com

General Membership

Brad Ackel
Jamal 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**
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Donald Cash
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Christopher Clemons
Jim Collins*
Kyle Compton
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John Davidson
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David Emerick
Richard Engle
Joe Espelage
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William Fair
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Nathan Fischer
Andy Fluegemann
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Ali Saleh
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Timothy Schwoeppe
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* Past Presidents

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