



Newsletter

President's Message

By Robert Ballard

Snow, snow, and more snow! At the time of this writing, there is still about 12 inches on the ground. Many thanks go to the Counties, Cities, and ODOT for clearing the roads during this challenging weather. Sure can't wait for spring when we can enjoy being outdoors and for some of us start chasing the little white ball again.

It's hard to believe we are at the start of another decade. The year 2000 did not seem like it was that long ago. What a difference a decade makes. The word terrorism takes on a whole new meaning for us now than it did in 2000. Back in 2000, the highway industry was doing quite well. Ten years later, state budgets are challenged to maintain their transportation system with limited funds. Debate continues on funding for the next Transportation bill. What challenges in transportation will we face during the next ten years? What innovations in transportation will we see and use in our profession?

As far as ASHE for the next ten years, I envision seeing significant growth nationally. Congratulations to Frank O'Hare, Tom Bolte, Rich Weigand, and John McGeorge for helping the Circle City Section in Indianapolis become the newest Section in ASHE. From what I heard, this was probably the quickest that any Section has started. There are several other Sections of ASHE in the works including several along the west coast.

Congratulations to Frank O'Hare for selection as the next national second vice-president. Frank has served on the national board for the past two years as the Region 1 representative. We wish Frank much success when he assumes the office in June.

A big thank you goes to Tom Bolte and the planning committee for the success of this year's Engineer's Week luncheon. This year was ASHE's turn in the rotation to head the planning committee for the luncheon. Dr. Rizzoni's presentation regarding energy resources and consumption as it relates to transportation and other areas was most interesting and captivating.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 23, 2010
Luncheon

April 29, 2010
Spring Technical Seminar
Crowne Plaza North

May 25, 2010
Annual Luncheon



July 16, 2010
Ronald L. Zook
Memorial
Golf Outing
Player's Club
FOXIRE

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND
PAYMENT FOR **ASHE** EVENTS IS
NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE
THROUGH PAYPAL. IF YOU NEED
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rmattox@jobeshenderson.com

Interesting Interstate Highway Facts!!

- 1-90 from Seattle, Washington to Boston, Massachusetts is the longest interstate route spanning 3,020.54 miles
- Ohio has the fifth most interstate routes with 1,572 miles and 21 routes



Change of address?

If you have recently changed employers, moved, or otherwise have changes to your contact information, please update your information on the ASHE national website at <http://www.highwayengineers.org/membership.html>. Updated information entered here will automatically be sent to Scott Seaman, the Central Ohio Section Secretary.

New Membership

To receive ASHE updates via email, or inquire about new membership please contact Scott Seaman:

sseaman@stilsonconsulting.com

Email addresses will not be released.



ASHE Websites:

Local: www.centralohioashe.org

National: www.highwayengineers.org

You can find information about the Central Ohio Chapter, view upcoming events and even register for ASHE events.

MISSION STATEMENT

Provide a forum for members and partners of the highway industry to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable highway system through education, innovation and fellowship.



ASHE Family Night with the Columbus Blue Jackets

ASHE Central Ohio has started a social event tradition with the Columbus Blue Jackets. On Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010, the Columbus Blue Jackets faced off against the Dallas Stars and many of our members and their families attended the game together. There was also a happy hour event held prior to the game at Brothers Bar and Grill. This year, for the first time, all ASHE members and their guests were invited to take a group photo on the ice after the game. Special Thanks go to Barbara Jordan for her efforts to make this year's event a success!



ASHE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Hilton Cincinnati, Netherland Plaza
June 9-13, 2010

Online Registration is now available

<http://www.ashe2010.org/>



A new ASHE section in Indianapolis is now a reality! ASHE Circle City Section (Indianapolis) was chartered on January 28th with the help of many Central Ohio and Region One members. We are asking all existing ASHE members with contacts or branch offices in the Central Indiana area to let your Indiana friends and co-workers know about the new Circle City section.

For more information, including applications for membership please contact Jim Blazek (317-524-8385) jblazek@d2lwr.com or Joe Rogers (317-417-0385) joe.rogers@ads-pipe.com from the Indianapolis section.

Central Ohio members Dave Jones, Frank O'Hare, John McGeorge and Rich Weigand were instrumental in helping to charter the new Circle City section. A few pictures from the ceremony are shown.



President's Message Cont.

As we look towards spring, there are several ASHE activities to look forward to such as the March Luncheon, Spring Seminar in April, and our Annual Dinner in May. Information on the March luncheon and Spring Seminar are included in this newsletter as well as our website. Also, don't forget about the upcoming National Conference coming this June in Cincinnati. A link to the National Conference is on our website (www.centralohioashe.org).

Since my term as president will end in May, this will be my last newsletter message. I look forward to finishing the year strong before passing the "baton", so to speak, to our next president, Tom Bolte. It has been an honor to serve as your president and I look forward to continue to be active and serve ASHE in the coming years.



2010 ASHE Central Ohio Section Project of the Year: NCR-2 North High Street, City of Columbus

Winning Team: MS Consultants, Inc.

The ASHE Central Ohio Section recognized the winning team of MS Consultants during Engineers Week at the annual luncheon. We would like to congratulate MS Consultants for winning this year's competition and we would also like to thank W.E. Stilson Consulting and EMH&T for submitting their projects this year. We wish MS Consultants luck during the next stage at a regional level and to possibly have a chance for winning the National Project of the year award.



The ASHE January Luncheon featured Tom Hibbard, P.E. from MS Consultants as the guest speaker. As project manager of the I-70/I-71 downtown split project Tom shared many insights and history of the study as well as the current plans for the project. Information about the project can be found at www.7071study.org



ASHE Membership Update from Secretary Scott Seaman

I am happy to report that we are currently 190 members strong. As of late, we have recently added 10 new members since October 2009. Our membership is currently comprised of 59 corporate and individual firms, 2 contractors, 4 vendors, 1 trade association, 3 municipalities, 3 counties, 1 state agency and 16 loyal retirees. Of the corporate entities in our rosters, 38 firms have 2 or more members. The firms having 3 or more members are as follows:

- Burgess and Niple – 10
- American Structurepoint, City of Columbus, ODOT, Gannett Fleming, and PB World – 6 members
- BBC&M, Ohio Ready Mix Assoc., URS, WE Stilson, and Woolpert – 5 members
- EL Robinson, MS Consultants, and RW Armstrong – 4 members
- Barr & Prevost, CT Consultants, DLZ, Dynotec, EP Ferris, Franklin County, PSI, and Wilbur Smith- 3 members.

We appreciate all our members and realize that we all benefit from the diversity of our professional backgrounds. I would like to ask all members to reach out and invite a colleague or coworker to join and share the positive, fulfilling experience of being an ASHE member.

Save the date... April 29, 2010

2010 ASHE Spring Technical Seminar



“From concept to reality– Highway design from initial project need to final construction documents”

Agenda Items:

Project Need & Consultant Selection, Traffic Impact Study, Environmental Study, Field Survey and Mapping, Geotechnical Study, Design, Roadway and Drainage, Structural (Bridge and Wall), Traffic (Signals and Pavement Marking), Right of Way.



ASHE National President, Kevin Duris, P.E., has written a letter to key members of Congress asking them to show leadership in providing strong and sustainable funding for transportation infrastructure projects. President Duris encourages everyone to call, write or email their congressional representatives with similar messages. A copy of this letter is shown below.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS
65 Beacon Hill
Henderson, North Carolina 27537

February 4, 2010

On behalf of the over 6,500 members of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), we appreciate your efforts in supporting additional Federal Funding through the Federal Stimulus Program for Transportation projects. Despite some recent erroneous reports, the fact is that hundreds of thousands of Americans were able to hold their jobs through this difficult time. Unfortunately, the highway industry remains in a very perilous situation. Some key factors include:

1. The expiration of the Federal Transportation Act in September 2009 and a rescission of nearly \$9 billion have caused a slowdown in processing projects through the regular federal-aid program.
2. The stimulus program was aimed at "shovel ready" projects, which focused a significant portion of the funds to maintenance repairs.
3. Most contractors were able to hold onto many of their existing employees, but did little additional hiring and are also unable to commit to capital investments (such as equipment) due to the uncertainty of future funding.
4. States, facing recessionary revenue losses, have concentrated on delivering stimulus projects. However, progress on their other priority projects have slowed or even halted.

There is an enormous backlog of transportation infrastructure needs that must be addressed to insure the nation's continued economic vitality. We are aware that a second stimulus program is being proposed. We support any efforts to stimulate the economy, but we need a transportation program that better supports a sustainable, reasoned, and balanced approach better serving both the industry and the public.

The following steps are needed:

1. Quickly reauthorize the Federal Transportation Act with substantial new cash revenues. The federal gas tax was last increased in 1993. Revenue sources need to be indexed for inflation, and state and local governments need maximum flexibility in generating their own revenues.
2. If the next Federal Transportation Act cannot be reauthorized in a timely manner, then new revenues should be authorized and distributed following the rules of SAFETEA-LU.
3. All revenues from transportation user fees must be reserved for transportation purposes.
4. Allow all funding to be applied to the priority list of projects established by the States and Metropolitan Planning Organization's. These partnerships have been developed with federal guidance over the past 40 years. They should be allowed to work as first intended.

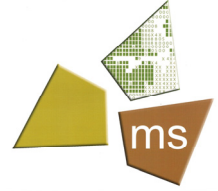
ASHE urges Congress to respond to the transportation need in a responsible manner that will produce sustained jobs without increasing the nation's debt. Most of the needed work requires upfront engineering work and environmental approvals in advance of construction. The number of these projects in the "production pipeline" has been dramatically reduced because of the uncertainty over future funding.

Your leadership in correcting this situation will be of immediate value and of value to future generations. ASHE stands ready to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,
Kevin E. Duris, P.E.
ASHE National President

The Central Ohio Section of ASHE

Wishes to thank our sponsors for their generous support.



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