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J2

The ASHE Potomac Section Newsletter**President's Message**

I am grateful for the privilege of serving as the ASHE Potomac Section President for the 2023-2024 term, especially considering the dedication of our Board, many of whom are new to the board of have taken on new roles. They have been instrumental in our continued success, including arranging events such as:

- Rick Kenney, DDOT's Chief Engineer, providing an update on DDOT's program and upcoming opportunities. We are looking forward to a continued partnership and annual meeting with DDOT!
- In October, we were back at the VDOT Nova District Office for the first time since 2019, engaging with District leadership. With over 140 registrations, the event was a resounding success and just made everything feel normal again.
- Geoff Pelletier from the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPR) shared insights into VPR's vision, discussed unique challenges faced projects and provided an overview of upcoming ventures.

In November, our Young Member group organized a well-attended hiking event at Bears Den Overlook, followed by a gathering at Bear Chase Brewery and in December our intimate, sold out holiday party put a nice bow on 2023 for ASHE Potomac.

As we step into 2024, we have a promising lineup of events. In February, we kick off the year with Arlington County. March brings us VDOT Central Office L&D and S&B. In April we are hosting a Municipal/Locality Roundtable; and we close the season in May with a technical dinner meeting focused on Complete Streets. In addition, keep an eye out for our upcoming events, specifically tailored for our younger members.

Our membership renewals and Gold Sponsorships are slightly lower than anticipated. We kindly remind everyone to renew their membership, and if you are uncertain about your status, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at ashepotomac@gmail.com. Details for both membership renewals and Gold sponsorships are on our website.

Speaking of membership, we want to diversify! We believe our section will be strengthened with a broader representation of public sector and contractor members, so please spread the word to your contractor and public sector clients, partners, and friends.

Are you interested in getting more involved? Keep an eye out for potential board member opportunities for the 2024-2025 season. Feel free to connect with a current board member to learn more and watch out for announcements.

Additionally, our 2026 National Conference committee is actively seeking volunteers to assist with event planning. Lastly, our Steven M. Evans Memorial scholarship program is in full swing. If you are aware of any civil engineering students with an interest in transportation, please encourage them to apply.


Please don't hesitate to reach out with any feedback, Suggestions or questions and thank you for your continued support and involvement in our section.

Jason Cawrse, P.E.

President, ASHE Potomac Section



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2023-2024 Board of Directors



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Secretary
Thang Nguyen
Volkert



Treasurer
Kush Vashee
RK&K



Director
(Facilities)
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Volkert



Director
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Erin Beckmann
Fairfax County
Government



Director
(Gold Sponsors)
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Sadie Fahoul
EXP U.S. Services Inc



Director (Newsletter)
Brooke Adams
Kimley-Horn



Director (Website)
Arturo Garcia-
Negrete
RK&K



Young Member Coordinator
Sean Hoffman
J2



Past President
Derrick Shelton
Haley & Aldrich



September 2023 Meeting Recap

Infrastructure Project Management Administration Program and Upcoming Opportunities

DDOT

Richard Kenney, P.E.
Chief Engineer

On September 14th ASHE Potomac hosted **Mr. Richard Kenney**, Chief Engineer at DDOT. Rick provided an update on **the FY 2024 Capital Improvements Plan, District bridge rehabilitation projects and trail projects, DC Power Line Undergrounding (PLUG)** and more.

Topics discussed included:

- moveDC
- IPMA Program
- Safety – MOT Guidelines for Pedestrians and Cyclists
- Project Opportunities
 - Near Term
 - Future
- Competitive Grant Funding
- Opportunities For Improvement



[Presentation slides can be found here](#)



October 2023 Meeting Recap

VDOT NOVA District Leadership



On October 10, the VDOT NOVA District hosted ASHE Potomac and presented on a variety of topics related to the transportation industry in Northern Virginia. **John Lynch (District Engineer)**, **Kamal Suliman (District Traffic Operations Director)**, **Lauren Mollerup (District Maintenance Engineer)** and **Nick Roper (District Project Development Engineer)** led sessions on the Megaprojects, Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program, maintenance efforts, and 2023 project status updates. This was a very well attended evening. Stay tuned for our 2024 session.

Interesting topics covered include:

- I-66 Express Lanes opening and performance
- I-495 NEXT
- I-95 Express Lanes Opitz Boulevard Ramp Project
- I-495 southside express lanes study and I-95 Bi-directional study
- Traffic Signal design QC
- VHSIP Expanded Program (FY2022-2027)
- New and Revised Traffic Division I&IMs
- FY24 Maintenance and Operations Budget
- NOVA District project development and contracting opportunities
- Roadway widening and extension projects
- IIJA in Northern Virginia

VDOT

John Lynch, P.E.
District Engineer

Kamal Suliman, P.E.
District Traffic Operations Engineer

Lauren Mollerup, P.E., C.C.M.
District Maintenance Engineer

Nick Roper, P.E.
District Project Development Engineer



[Presentation slides can be found here](#)



November 2023 Meeting Recap

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

On November 7th ASHE Potomac hosted **VPRA's Geoff Pelletier P.E.** to discuss the infrastructure program, current projects and upcoming opportunities.

Geoff Pelletier P.E., PM,
CCM
Senior Director of Projects

Topics Covered Include:

- ❖ VA Passenger Rail Network
- ❖ Amtrak Ridership
- ❖ Transforming Rail in Virginia
- ❖ Amtrak Airo Trains
- ❖ New River Valley Expansion



[Presentation slides can be found here](#)

Young Member Hike and Happy Hour

ASHE Potomac Members enjoyed a day of hiking and networking at Bears Den Overlook and Bear Chase Brewery.





December Meeting and Holiday Party

On Tuesday December 12th, ASHE Potomac wrapped up the year with an evening of merriment! Members, spouses and friends enjoyed a sit-down dinner, open bar and lots of trivia games.

Congrats to all of our winners!

See the Delineateaser for one of the tricky questions..



THANK
YOU
to all who
donated to the
local food drive

ASHE National Conference



ASHE 2024 National Conference
June 7-11, Raleigh North Carolina
Register [Here](#)

Calling for Volunteers!

The 2026 National Conference will be in Washington D.C.

Volunteers are needed for various committees to help make this event the best one yet. If you are interested, please plan to attend the information session on February 20th. More details will be sent out in advance of the information session. reach out to

Cerasela Cristei (cerasela.cristei@exp.com) or Anis Shaikh (anis.shaikh@ice-eng.com).





Young Member Ice Skating Event & Happy Hour



ASHE Young Members (and young at heart) enjoyed the brisk winter weather ice skating in Reston Town Center on January 24th.

Appetizers and networking followed at Maker's Union Pub.



More to come in 2024!

Missed a meeting? Upset?

Don't worry. We understand...

We've got you covered!

Check out our website:

<http://potomac.ashe.pro/events.html>



American Society of Highway Engineers
Potomac Section

HOME

ABOUT ASHE

MEMBERSHIP

EVENTS

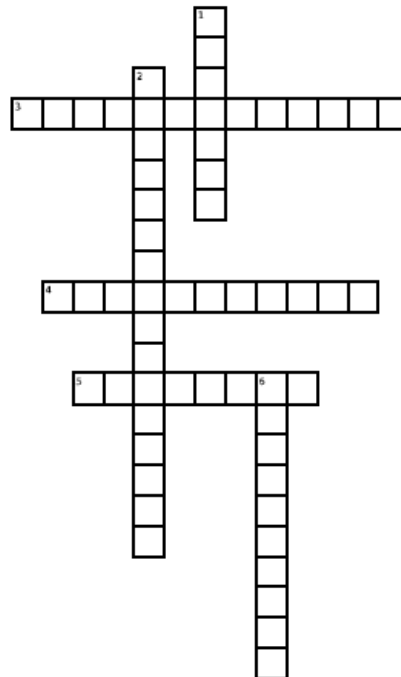
EVANS SCHOLARSHIP

SPONSORSHIP

the

Delineateaser

Winter 2024 Edition



Down:

1. One of the tunnels in Hampton Roads
2. Where did our young members group stop on their hike?
3. How many Gold Sponsors does ASHE Potomac have?

Across:

3. What is the name of the new bridge in DC that is designed to accommodate expansion of Union Station and adjacent private development?
4. Lauren Mollerup is VDOT NoVA District's _____ Engineer
5. What activity are we doing this winter in Reston?



American Society of Highway Engineers Potomac Section

Thank You Gold Sponsors!



DID NOT SEE YOUR FIRM?!?!

Interested in becoming a Gold Sponsor?

Contact Melvin Harvey, melvin.harvey@jacobs.com

Thanks to our Gold Sponsorship Program, ASHE Potomac has been able to:

- Increase funding for the Stephen M. Evans, P.E. Memorial Scholarship
- Provide Firm recognition and information to members
- Lower dinner charges for all ASHE Potomac Members
- Allow for reduced membership and dinner meeting charges for Public Sector members to promote their participation