

The Mid-Allegheny Minutes



April 19, 2026 Joint Dinner Meeting

ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section participated in a joint meeting along with the Altoona, Franklin, Pittsburgh and Southwest Penn Sections. The event was held at The RLA Learning and Conference Center in Cranberry Township.

With the keynote presentation by **Mark Compton**, Chief Executive Officer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Mark shared important transportation updates and industry insights. He has been serving as the CEO since 2013.

Attendees had valuable opportunities to network with the many professionals present. With the various sections coming together, the event has a larger audience than the individual meetings.

Mid-Allegheny Section is proud to be part of such an impactful industry event.



April 10, 2026 Tour at Valmont Coatings

The ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section was fortunate to be hosted by Valmont Coatings for an informative presentation and plant tour. The tour concluded with an opportunity to see several steel members being galvanized.

The hot-dip galvanizing process involves 8 steps, with the final step before cooling is being immersed in a zinc bath heated to approximately 830 degrees. The bath is composed of 98% zinc, creating a metallurgical bond that provides three levels of corrosion protection with a bond strength of 3,600 psi.

A galvanizing coating thickness of 2.5 to 3 mils can provide roughly 50 years of corrosion protection before maintenance is typically required. Valmont's galvanizing kettle average 40 feet in length, with many ranging from 50 to 60 feet. Double dipping can be performed on deeper beams up to 70 feet and shallower beams up to 90 feet long.

The section greatly appreciates Valmont Coatings for hosting this educational event and providing valuable insight into the galvanizing process and its benefits for long-term infrastructure durability.



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May 13, 2026 Dinner Meeting

The final meeting of the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section 2025-2026 program was held at the Indiana Country Club. The spring meeting serves as an opportunity to induct the incoming officers, recognize outstanding student scholarship recipients, and award two exceptional projects from the previous construction season.

The meeting began with remarks by ASHE National President, **Jim Shea, PE** of the Lake Erie Section. He provided updates on new technologies and resources available to local sections and noted that ASHE National membership has approximately 7,800 members. He also highlighted the National Board's continued efforts to support the development of new sections and help them establish successful programs.

Scholarships were then presented by the Scholarship Committee Chair, **Bill Ferko, PE** to this year's recipients:

- **Madalyn Sharp**, who is attending Clemson, received the Civil Engineering Bachelor's Degree Scholarship
- **Chloe Hart**, who is attending Penn State Behrend, received the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Family Member STEM Scholarship.

Lastly, the Outstanding Project awards were presented by the Awards Committee Chair, **Doug Zubal, PE** to:

- Outstanding Highway Engineering Project – Greater Than \$2.5 Million was awarded to the Margaret Road Intersection Improvements Project. **Brian Long, PE** from SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. presented the project, explaining the site had substandard site distances, a large quantity of Class 1 excavation, and remediation of acid producing rock. Improvements included a new connector road, a new two-span bridge and a box culvert. Constructed by Plum Contracting, the project cost was \$5.3 million.
- Outstanding Highway Engineering Projects less than \$2.5 million was awarded to the SR 0208 Pilgrimham Bridge #1 Culvert Replacement. The project was presented by **Amanda Olbeter, PE**, of PennDOT District 10, **Sean Hart, PE**, NCBI of Michael Baker International and **Greg Susany**

of **SET, Inc.** The project involved replacing an existing steel arch culvert with the new precast box culvert. Extensive environmental and archeological considerations were addressed throughout design and construction. Because the road is an emergency detour for I-80, the schedule was expedited and successfully completed utilizing a 10-day detour.

The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the section's future engineers, recognize outstanding transportation projects, and conclude another successful ASHE Mid-Allegheny program year.



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May 15, 2026 Golf Outing

Thanks to all who participated in the 26th annual ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section golf outing held on Friday, May 15th, 2026 at The Links at Spring Church. The course itself and service provided by the staff did not disappoint. A recent record of 116 golfers participated in the outing. The weather cooperated again this year as we had a beautiful day for golfing with very comfortable temperatures. Pitchfix Tools sporting the ASHE Mid-Allegheny logo, along with various golf supplies, were awarded to the top three foursomes and eight skill prize winners, and ASHE Mid-Allegheny Koozies were provided for all attendees. The outing concluded with a raffle drawing for a Yeti gift package, including a Tundra 45 Cooler, and Patriotic Themed Tumblers and Colsters.

The outing will tentatively return to The Links at Spring Church on May 14th, 2027



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Upcoming events include:

- Sporting Clay Shoot – July 31, 2026
- Bill Young Memorial Golf Outing – August 14, 2026
- District 10 Construction Golf Outing – September 18, 2026

Additional information on the events above can be found on our website.

The 2026-2027 Membership Renewals and Mid-Allegheny Club Sponsorships can be made online. Please use the following link.

<https://ashemidallegheny.simplertix.com/>

We sincerely thank all our Members and Sponsoring Firms for your continued support of the Section.

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Contact the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section

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If you have comments or suggestions related to presentations, meetings, or this newsletter, please forward a brief e-mail to the effect. Our board welcomes feedback so we can better serve our membership and industry.