

ASHE Welcomes the Circle City Section

The American Society of Highway Engineers, ASHE, expanded into the Hoosier State on January 28 when the Circle City Section was chartered in Indianapolis with 50 members. Charter members representing the engineering consulting community, roadway contractors, material suppliers, real estate, trade associations and state and local government officials took time out from cheering the Super Bowl bound Colts to attend the chartering event.

ASHE National President Kevin Duris, National Treasurer Dave Jones, National Board Member Frank O'Hare, Central Ohio's Region1 Representative Rich Weigand, Past President John McGeorge, and First Vice President Tom Bolte were in attendance at the dinner meeting held at the famous Rathskeller Restaurant in downtown Indianapolis, just a few blocks from the "Circle." Presentations included recognition of the time and effort of the five members from the Central Ohio Section who assisted in the formation of the new Section. President Duris gave a presentation on ASHE's Strategic Plan, emphasizing the goal of growing ASHE into new areas of the country, noting the Circle City was now the 42nd Section. He also discussed the role of ASHE as we participate in the monitoring of our U.S. Congress' actions as it concerns funding for our highways and bridges. Kevin Savage, a native Hoosier, from the TRIKO Section invited the new members to attend the 2010 National Conference in Cincinnati. June 9-13, at the Hilton Netherland Plaza. Kevin emphasized the technical opportunities that would be available plus the other social activities of the conference. Letters of welcome were presented from the Region One's Officers and Section Presidents. A letter received from Derby City Section President Karl Sawyer especially set the tone for the success and future of Circle City.

On a night where the temperature fell into the single digits the new members who attended the event were presented with membership certificates and ASHE lapel pins. The event also included the induction of the Section officers and the presentation of the Section Banner and Charter. As an ASHE tradition, the Charter was signed by each of the attending charter members.

The officers for Circle City are:

- Jim Blazek – President
- Joe Rogers – Secretary/Treasurer
- William Knopf – First Vice President
- Alan Sutkowski – Second Vice President
- Bruce Fraser, P.E. – Regional Representative
- M. Dudley Bonte, P.E. – Director

Section President Jim Blazek thanked the members for attending and helping the Section to successfully charter. He acknowledged the hard work of the organizing committee and thanked them for making the vision a reality. He also discussed how fortunate it was that the Hoosier State's transportation program has continued to be funded. For more information about the Circle City Section, go to their Web site at <http://www.asheindy.org/>.

ASHE is actively working with organizing committees in Denver, Portland-Salem, Ore., and Albany, N.Y. The New Sections Committee has also had recent inquiries about starting Sections in Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Austin, Texas, and Detroit. If you are interested in getting involved with one of these new starts or would like to start a Section in another area, please contact Sam Mody at smody@hntb.com.

Visit the ASHE National Web site at www.highwayengineers.org to learn more about the organization.