

# PUB NEWS

## APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



### Chapter Website Updates

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### Spire Silver Shovel Award

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## President's Perspective

By Ben Will

Happy summer, 4th of July and the heat of the construction season! Thank you to all of the public works staff (public and private) who are out there planning, designing, building, maintaining, and keeping our infrastructure safe through the dog days of summer. This year is moving quickly as our KC Metro Chapter celebrated National Public Works Week (NPWW) May 21-27, 2023, and it was great to see all the recognition and events that took place.



I'd like to highlight a few items related to the chapter:

- **APWA National and Chapter Website** – the national and our chapter website have been overhauled this past month. While there were some interruptions in functionality, our chapter is communicating with APWA National to get the full content loaded onto our new chapter page: <https://kcmetro.apwa.org/>. Please reach out to me ([bwill@HNTB.com](mailto:bwill@HNTB.com)) or our communications team with any questions ([Allison Dobie](#) is our Webmaster and [Allison Bruner](#) is the Communications and Publicity Chair.) Thank you for your patience during this transition.
- **2024 North American Snow Conference Involvement and Call for Presentations** – The KC Metro chapter is proud to host the 2024 North American Snow Conference in Kansas City April 28-May 1, 2024. The deadline for session submissions is August 18. For more information or to submit a session, visit [Snow Conference Call for Presentations](#). Continue to look for ways to get involved with the snow conference to ensure our chapter puts on a great event in 2024!
- **2023 PWX August 27-30, 2023** – Visit [PWX link](#) for more information. For those attending from the KC Metro chapter, see the "save the date" information in the newsletter and look for registration information in the coming weeks. I expect a record KC Metro chapter contingent in San Diego!
- **MidAmX and NPWW 2023 Success!** – We put on a very successful Mid-Am conference at the Overland Park Convention Center May 22-24, 2023, during NPWW. This triennial event brought together 5 of the 9 Region VI chapters including the Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri as well as our KC Metro Chapters. The KC Metro chapter was well represented and a HUGE THANK YOU to all the chapter members that served in committee leadership roles, volunteered, attended and made this event a success. In conjunction with Mid-Am, this year's NPWW event was held at the College Basketball Experience (CBE) on Tuesday, May 23 from 5:30-8PM. This was also a super fun event and thank to the NPWW committee for all their hard work.
- **KC Metro Awards Event and Annual BBQ** – see the following pages for recaps of these great events that were held in June!
- **Committee Chairs Call to Action** – if you're a committee chair or even on a committee that is inactive, not sure what to do, what has been done in the past, or what resources are available, please reach out to me. Overall, if you want to become more active and involved in the APWA KC Metro Chapter or just want to know more about the chapter, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 913-312-4809 or [bwill@hntb.com](mailto:bwill@hntb.com).

## Delegate Details

By Bill Stogsdill

Can you feel the heat?! How are we passed July already? Have you planned a summer vacation? Take a little well deserved time off! Thank you for all you do for your communities, especially all our crews out in this heat.

Safety should always be on our minds. Heat can cause some major concerns to you physically. Make sure you pay attention to if you just aren't feeling right and get somewhere to cool off.



Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
<p><b>ACT FAST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move to a cooler area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing</li> <li>• Sip cool water</li> <li>• Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACT FAST</b></p> <p><b>CALL 911</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move person to a cooler area</li> <li>• Loosen clothing and remove extra layers</li> <li>• Cool with water or ice</li> </ul>
<p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Thirst</i></p> <p><i>Heavy Sweating</i></p> <p><i>Nausea</i></p> <p><i>Weakness</i></p>	<p><i>Confusion</i></p> <p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Becomes Unconscious</i></p>
<p><i>Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.</i></p> <p><i>Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.</i></p>	
<p>Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!</p>	

APWA nationwide has implemented a new website format that is now live. The website address transitioned from a .net to a .org page so make sure to update your browser bookmark!

National is looking for presentations for the 2024 Snow Conference which will be held in Kansas City, April 28 - May 1! The call for presentations ends on August 18.

PWX is quickly approaching and hotels are filling up! Early bird registration ended June 30 but registration is still open. If you plan to attend, make your reservations soon!

### Upcoming Webinars

August 10 - Public Works Perspective on Microtrenching in the Right-of-Way

## Celebrating a Career of Public Service and Teaching the Next Generation

Larry Frevert's public service included responsibilities in transportation planning, street and highway maintenance operations, traffic engineering and operations, public works administration and management. He retired from public service in 2005 following a 36-year career in government engineering. From 1995 to 2003, he served Kansas City, MO as Deputy Director and Acting Director of Public Works.

In 2001 he was president of the KC Metro Chapter of APWA, and in 2007

-08 he was APWA's national president. In 2010, he was named a Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year.

Larry did not "retire" after his 36-year career in public service, Larry was part of the original committee who developed the Public Works Institute (PWI), has been invaluable to the program since its inception in 2011. The Kansas City Metro Chapter PWI consists of 90+ hours of training in public works supervision, management and leadership plus orientation to the various public works operations responsibilities. To date there has been 20 PWI modules (3-days each) since the program's beginning in 2011. Total attendance has been over 1,000 public works professionals with over 200 having graduated the program after attending all four modules. Those in attendance have gained valuable leadership skills that they are able to take back to their communities and workplace.

PWI thrives because of Larry's expansive network and knowledge in Public Works throughout his career. Larry personally selects presentation topics and subject matter experts from regional public works directors and managers known for their knowledge of the subject and their skill at presenting to audiences. The program is unique in the engagement, networking, energy and confidence the graduates attain through their attendance. The KC Metro and the region have benefited because the high quality training this program provides, which has filled critical need in the industry.

The Spring 2023 PWI was the last session under the leadership of Larry Frevert. For the past two years he has been working with Dena Mezger and Tim Ross on transitioning his duties of PWI into their leadership. During this last PWI session this spring, Larry was presented an award for his continued dedication to the profession of Public Works and teaching the next generation of leaders. Tim Ross stated that "the biggest reason that the program is so successful is Larry's consistency and dedication to quality education".



## Spire Silver Shovel Award

On Thursday, April 27, Spire gave its Silver Shovel award to municipalities with no at-fault damages to Spire's infrastructure over the past year. At two breakfast events across the state, including one in Belton, Spire recognized more than 25 Missouri municipalities that have practiced safe excavation.

To be awarded, a municipality must be located within Spire's service territory, a member in good standing of Missouri One Call and have no at-fault damages to Spire's facilities in 2022. Spire's Damage Prevention and Right of Way teams created the Silver Shovel award in 2019 to encourage municipalities in the company's service territories to work more safely.

Congratulations to the communities who won a 2023 Silver Shovel award!

Kansas City area winners:

- Belton
- Grandview
- Harrisonville
- Higginsville
- Marshall
- Oak Grove
- Pleasant Hill



## Why Road Forecasts and Observations Matter to Winter Maintenance Decision-Makers

As a winter maintenance professional, you need to know when and where snow, rain, ice, or frost will occur. To help you, there are over 10,000 mobile weather apps available. Most of these are free but, and there is a big BUT, how useful are they for your winter maintenance operations?

### What Regular Weather Forecasts Do Not Tell You

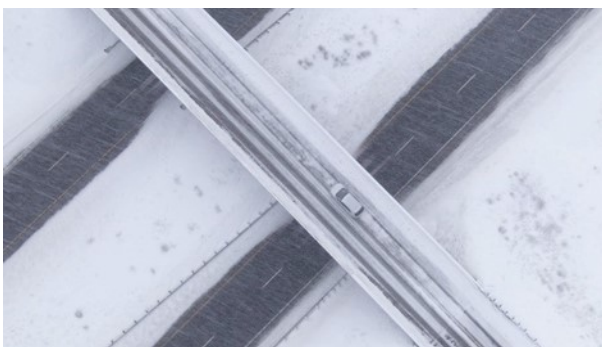
The apps will reveal the amount of precipitation over the next few hours and beyond. But, when it comes to winter maintenance, there are a few issues with relying on them:

- The forecast can seem hyper-local, but the actual resolution is usually coarse. Put another way, a forecast several miles away from your location may produce the same forecast. That can make a huge difference to your winter maintenance operations.
- A large-scale generic forecast takes time to create, but the weather can change quickly. The more time that passes since the forecast was created, the more outdated it is. You, on the other hand, need to make decisions based on the latest available data.

And then there's the leading question winter maintenance professionals should consider: ***What will the impact of the forecast be on my road surface?***

### What Is Occurring On Your Road Surface?

Knowing exactly how much snow will be on your roads, or if and where there will be ice or frost, will provide the complete picture and make your job easier.



If you were responsible for the highway in the picture, you might need to take different actions from someone responsible for the bridge above it. But if you rely on generic weather forecast apps, the forecast would be the same for the road and the bridge. That's why turning to Road Weather Forecasts is a good idea!

**A road weather forecast is created to show the impact of the weather on the road surface.** It considers atmospheric conditions, the physical characteristics of your roads and uses real-time observation data from your road network. It also updates every 10 minutes – much quicker than a generic weather forecast and more appropriate for up-to-date decision-making.

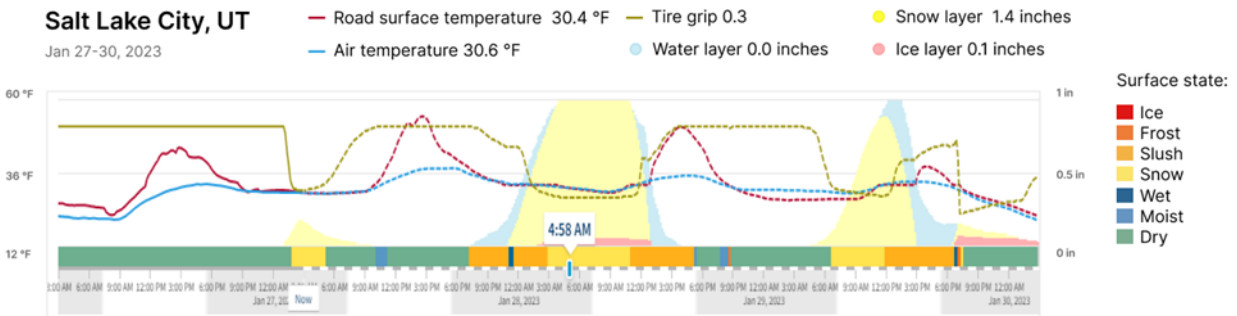
Road weather forecasts highlight:

- The forecast condition of the road surface (snow, ice, frost, wet, etc.)
- How much snow, ice, and water will be on your roads
- Forecast road surface temperature

## Why Road Forecasts and Observations Matter to Winter Maintenance Decision-Makers — cont.

- A forecast for the amount of grip between the vehicle tire and the road surface
- In addition to atmospheric forecasts such as air and dew temperature

This means you can make **data-driven decisions based on data from your road network.**



### Observations and Verification



You should also think about verifying the accuracy of any road forecast and gaining a bit of ‘road surface reality’ beyond a basic ability to see if it is snowing. This is usually done using weather stations that need a significant capital outlay. **With easy-to-install, low-cost IoT road sensors,** verification of forecasts is much easier and cost-effective. The data from these sensors show what is happening on your roads in real time and feeds into the road weather forecast models. This constantly improves the quality and accuracy of the forecasts.

The best practice for a winter maintenance decision-maker is to move to a winter maintenance forecast that:

1. Provides both atmospheric and road-specific weather forecasts
2. Utilizes data from road sensors
3. Gives hyper-local observations and forecasts
4. Updates frequently with the latest observation data

Christy Bernal – Weather Advisor [Vaisala Wx Horizon](#)

Get more tips on winter maintenance here [hello.wxhorizon.vaisala.com/resources/](https://hello.wxhorizon.vaisala.com/resources/)

Contact [Christy](#) or follow on [LinkedIn](#)

## Past Events

### Public Works Institute

May 9-11



Spring 2023 Public Works Institute attendees along with Chapter President Ben Will, PWI Directors Larry Frevert, Dena Mezger and Tim Ross

The Kansas City Metro Chapter held its 20th Public Works Institute (PWI) session entitled Public Works Leadership Skills May 9-11 at the Shawnee Town Hall, Shawnee, KS. Thanks to Jessica Johnson, Shawnee Administrative Coordinator and other Shawnee staff for making this facility available at no charge to the chapter. This allowed us to keep the registration fee at \$250 again for this session.

The class was welcomed to the PWI training on the first morning by Chapter President Ben Will. Seventy-five individuals attended the three-day training and presentations by many of the region's public works directors and senior public works staff. This attendance brought us to a total of 1,175 public works professionals who have attended at least one three-day PWI since the chapter began the program in 2011.

Through 2022, the chapter has graduated 203 professionals from our PWI, which requires attending all four of the three-day training modules. Thirty-three more persons completed the requirements for graduation in this latest PWI and will be recognized as 2023 graduates in December of 2023.

This spring's attendees came from 28 municipalities (14 Missouri and 14 Kansas), as well as UGWYCOCK and Jackson County. We also had ten out of region attendees from Jefferson City and Warrensburg, MO and Hutchison, KS. Ten people attended their first PWI.

PWI Module I – Public Works Basic Supervision Essentials is planned for October 2023. Watch for advance details on the event on the chapter's website as early as August with registration beginning in September.



### Past Events



Public Works Director Doug Whitacre welcoming PWI attendees to Shawnee and presenting on Council Relations.



Mahesh Sharma presenting on Cultural Awareness and Community Service



Sherri McIntyre presenting on Asset Management



One of many open discussions on Public Works Leadership Skills



Superior teamwork!



Jason Waldron presenting on Smart Cities

## Past Events

### KC Metro Chapter Awards Recognition June 5

A big thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate this year’s chapter and national level winners! The awards recognition was held on June 5 at the Bourgmont Winery with live music, a food truck and a tour of the winery.



#### Public Works Leader of the Year

Tim Ross, GBA (NATIONAL RECIPIENT ALSO!)

#### Field Supervisor Award

Bruce Niedholt, City of Liberty, MO



#### Young Leader of the Year

Allison Bruner, TREKK Design Group

#### Excellence in Snow and Ice

Kansas City Missouri (NATIONAL RECIPIENT ALSO!)



## Past Events



### **SCRC Transportation**

Little Mill Creek Tunnel

- City of Lenexa, KS
- Wilson & Company
- Pyramid Contractors, Inc.



### **Transportation under \$5 million**

Kansas Avenue Streetscape Project

- City of Olathe, KS
- GBA
- Miles Excavating, Inc.



### **Transportation \$5 million to \$25 million**

I-49 Outer Road Conversion

- City of Grandview, MO
- TREKK Design Group
- Radmacher Brothers Excavating Co.



### **Environmental Under \$5 million**

Lidenwood Dr and Brougham Dr Embankment Improvements

- City of Olathe, KS
- Affinis Corp
- Superior Bowen

## Past Events

### 2023 APWA Barbecue

June 9

The 2023 APWA Barbecue was a success! We had 14 teams participate on a beautiful early June day. The smokers were fired up before 6 AM, and the competition was primed to take home the grand champion trophy. After the 18 judges made their final ratings, one team rose above all the others... the GBA Barbecue Team won a close battle for grand champion over past champion Blazing Cattles BBQ of Walter P. Moore. In addition, Burns and Mcribs came away with a couple of first place trophies in various meat categories. We look forward to seeing everyone back out next year!



## Past Events

### Asset Management Luncheon June 20

On June 20, Asset Management fanatics joined together at the Johnson County Community College for the chapter luncheon and a chance to visit the Public Works First Responders Heart for the Parade of Hearts. Brandon Grover with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City Kansas presented to the group with information about what the KC Metro Chapter Asset Management Committee is doing and has coming up. The Asset Management Committee desires to be a resource for the KC Metro membership with all things asset management. If you are passionate about Asset Management, or just want to get more involved and learn some things, the committee is open to more members and volunteers!

The KC Metro Chapter is also working closely with the National Asset Management Committee to make sure we are not duplicating resources, sharing resources and most importantly sharing ideas.

The luncheon had 21 people in attendance and ended with excellent conversation about what the needs in the metro are. Please reach out to Brandon at [bgrover@wycokck.org](mailto:bgrover@wycokck.org) if you are interested in getting involved!



## Upcoming Events

### ACI Missouri Chapter Presentation The Power of Local Advocacy: Accelerating Code Adoption Through Community Engagement

**August 8, 2023, 12:00 PM**

Webinar

This presentation provides an overview of general building code development and applications, highlighting the need to reference ACI committee work in building codes. The use of model codes and reference standards is addressed. Understanding the politics, both the potential for support and opposition, for modifying building codes is described as a lead in to identifying opportunities to have a role in code advocacy efforts. ACI codes and many of its standards and programs are intended to provide for the good of the general public by providing minimum requirements for safety, health, and welfare. The benefits of exhaustive ACI committee work and mission of ACI as a technical professional society best serve the public where appropriate, current ACI requirements are integrated into the general building code and enforced.

**REGISTER**

### Facilities & Grounds Management Certificate Workshop

**August 9, 2023 7:30 AM — 5:00 PM**

Lenexa Fire Station #3

24000 Prairie Star Parkway

Lenexa, KS 66227

**REGISTER**

This 8-hour program will cover the basic need-to-know topics that professionals in the facilities and grounds disciplines need to understand to perform their jobs effectively and proficiently. The program provides training and real-life experiences in the areas of ADA compliance, grounds maintenance, preventative maintenance, capital improvement planning, and more. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks provided.

Questions? Contact Dan Brown at 816.701.2109 or [DLBrown@walterpmoore.com](mailto:DLBrown@walterpmoore.com).

### CPG Sustainable Structures Webinar Series The Role of Concrete in Carbon Neutrality

**August 16, 2023, 12:00 PM**

Webinar

This presentation will introduce the work of NEU, an ACI Center of Excellence for Carbon Neutral Concrete, and discuss the important role of concrete in reaching carbon neutrality. The presentation will provide an overview of key terms and concepts, the latest information on green concrete codes, and examples of low carbon practices for the concrete industry for the present and future.

**REGISTER**

## Upcoming Events

### PWX KC Metro Chapter Dinner

**August 29, 2023, 6:00 PM**

Tom Ham's Lighthouse  
2150 Harbor Island Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101

[REGISTER](#)



Save the date for the PWX 2023 annual Kansas City Metro Chapter Dinner. This year's dinner will take place at Tom Ham's Lighthouse in San Diego from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. More details to come including registration information with menu and bar offerings. Please plan to join us for a fun evening of socializing and panoramic views of the San Diego Bay and the Downtown skyline.

### American Concrete Institute Foundation 2023 Technology Forum

**August 29-31, 2023**

Topics include 3D printing, carbon--neutral concrete, recycled concrete aggregates, and more.

[REGISTER](#)

### National Ready Mixed Concrete Association Innovations Webinar Session 15

**September 13, 2023 11:00 AM**

Webinar

Webinar will feature Rice Husk Ash Pozzolan and product spotlights for Solida and Alcrete.

[REGISTER](#)

### 2023 APWA YP Disc Golf Tournament

**September 28, 2023 5:00 PM**

Legacy Park Disc Golf Course  
Shelter 2  
1801 NE Coneflower  
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

[REGISTER](#)

Join us for our third annual disc golf tournament presented by the APWA KC Metro Young Professional group. \$20 ticket includes food, snacks, beverages, and disc golf. Bring your own discs although I'm sure people will have some to share for any beginners. As always, there will be a couple raffles for gift cards/prizes! Meet at Shelter 2 at Legacy Park in Lee's Summit. All skill levels welcome! This is a great opportunity to get involved with the KC Metro Chapter of APWA and meet some new people!

## Upcoming Events



10 · 12 · 2023

# SAVE THE DATE

## 42nd Annual APWA KC Metro Chapter Golf Tournament

Drumm Farm Golf Club



### **2Public Works Institute, Module 1.6 Public Works Basic Supervision Essentials**

**October 17-19, 2023 5:00 PM**

Planning has begun for an October 2023 presentation of the first module in the four-module Public Works Institute program. Registration will be available September 5 on the chapter web site. This session will be held at the Lee's Summit Police Training Facility, 10 NE Tudor Rd, Lee's Summit, MO 64086.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Public Works Institute program or this upcoming event, please contact Public Works Institute Directors Dena Mezger at [wildcatce77@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatce77@gmail.com), or Tim Ross at [tross@gbateam.com](mailto:tross@gbateam.com).



## Chapter Leadership

### APWA 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit & Budget - Bryan Blizzard  
 Awards - Nathan Hladky & Becky Bonebrake  
 By-Laws - Alysen Abel  
 Chapter Meetings - Thomas Renfro  
 Communications and Publicity - Allison Bruner  
 Community Service - Jaclyn Willis & Tommy Hunter  
 Diversity and Inclusion - Sheila Shockey  
 Education & Training - Zach Matteo & Blake Moris  
 Emergency Management - Trey Whitaker & Alysen Abel  
 Engineering & Technology - Michael Haake  
 Facilities & Grounds - Dan Brown  
 Fleet Services - Mark Stinson & Josh Wood  
 Golf Tournament - Taylor Smith  
 Governmental Affairs - Trey Whitaker & Kati Horner  
 Historical - Ernie Longoria  
 Holiday Party - Nicole Woods & Sabrina Parker  
 K-12 Student Outreach - David Smalling  
 Leadership & Management - Gary Strack  
 Membership - Scott Cogan & Zac Coppersmith  
 Membership BBQ & Steak Fry - Brian Ladd & Jack Renfro  
 MidAmX - Dan Brown & Kyle Dieckmann  
 MO-KAN Street Superintendents - Bill Billings  
 Myron D. Calkins Scholarship - Erik Troy  
 Myron Calkins Symposium - Alysen Abel  
 National Public Works Week - Sabrina Parker and Nicole Woods  
 Snow & Equipment Training Expo - Paul Dunn & Jody Malone  
 Standards & Specifications - Michael Anderson & Mark Montgomery  
 Student Chapter - Levi Cole & Lewis Muriithi  
 Sustainable Infrastructure - Carla Anderson  
 Transportation - Linda Rottinghaus  
 Utility & Public Right-of-Way - Andy Roddy & Brent Berry  
 Water Resources Management - Andrew Smith  
 Webmaster - Allison Dobie  
 Young Professionals - Leslie Donnelly

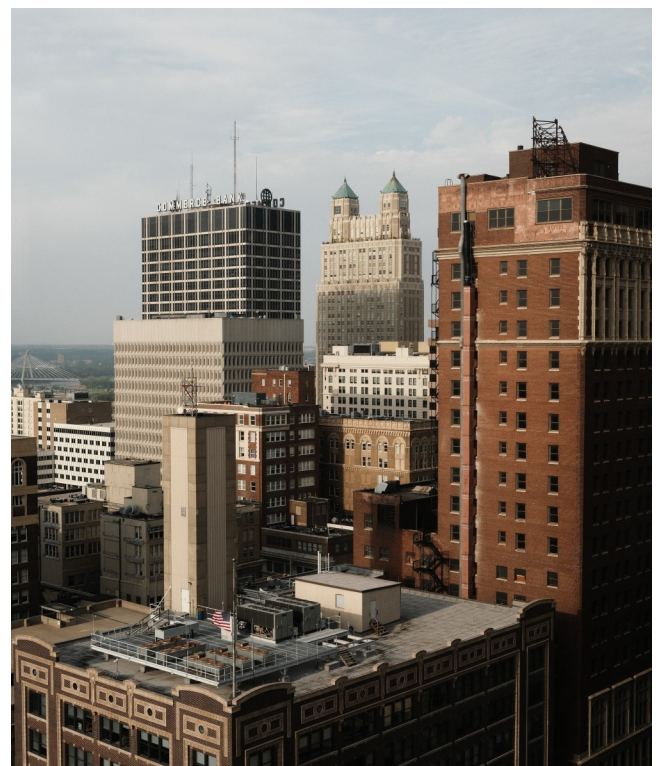
***For contact information, visit: <http://kcmetro.apwa.net>***

### Appointments, Liaisons, Coordinators, and Task Forces

Asset Management Task Force - Brandon Grover  
 Calendar/Events Coordinator - Ben Will  
 Construction Materials - Christy Martin  
 Public Works Institute - Larry Frevert  
 Solid Waste Management - **Vacant**

### KC APWA 2023 OFFICERS

President - Ben Will  
 Vice President - Nick Arena  
 Secretary - Patty Hilderbrand  
 Treasurer - Tawn Nugent  
 Past President - Alysen Abel  
 Director (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) - Phil Herman  
 Director (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) - John Cooper  
 Director (1<sup>st</sup> Year) - Ernie Longoria  
 Director (1<sup>st</sup> Year) - Trey Whitaker  
 Director-At-Large - Paul Dunn  
 Delegate - Bill Stogsdill  
 Alternate Delegate - Becky Bonebrake



## New Members

**Jerome Brown**, City of Shawnee

**Joe Cromley**, City of Independence

**Robert Gumm**, City of Independence

**Brian Hess**, GBA

**George Hunt**, City of Lenexa

**Athena Huynh**, City of Grandview

**Scott Karagiorgas**, Johnson County

**Jake Kowalewski**

**Nathan Lea**, City of Blue Springs

**Teresa Maxwell**, PB Hoidale

**Daniel McMullen**, Cit of Leawood

**Lee Mixon**, Mixon Hill

**Robert Rives**, Cit of Olathe

**Andrew Robertson**, GBA

**Katie Stucky**, GBA

**Brandon Wayne**, Cit of Leawood

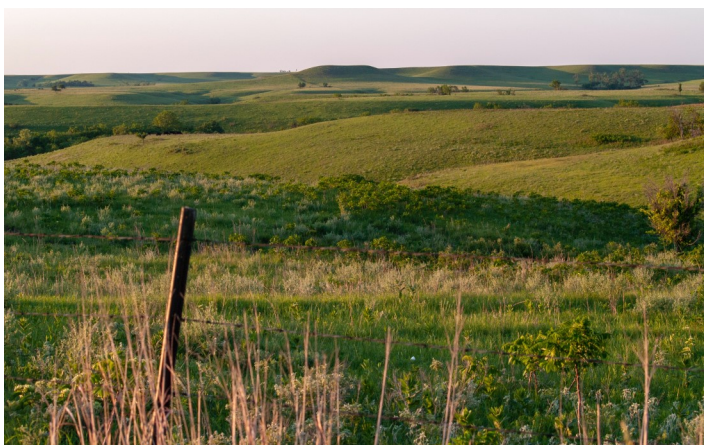
**Phillip Wilson**, Cit of Leawood

**Randy Zerr**, RIC

The APWA Pub News, a free publication of the Kansas City Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA), is published in six issues throughout the year. To receive a free subscription, send an e-mail to [abruner@trekkdesigngroup.com](mailto:abruner@trekkdesigngroup.com).

Publisher: Kansas City Metro Chapter of APWA  
 Editor: Kansas City Metro Chapter of APWA  
 Staff: Allison Bruner

The Pub News staff welcomes announcements, news articles, photos and suggestions. A new issue will be published in September. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, September 1, 2023. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Electronic formats are preferred, but not required. Send your stories to Allison Bruner via email at [abruner@trekkdesigngroup.com](mailto:abruner@trekkdesigngroup.com).



### **POLICY FOR THE USE OF THE APWA PUB NEWS, WEBSITE AND ELECTRONIC MAILING LIST**

It shall be the policy of the KC Metro Chapter that the use of the "APWA Pub News, Website and Electronic Mailing List" by outside agencies shall abide by the following:

- Outside agencies, educational institutions, and not-for-profit organizations may utilize the Chapter's website for dissemination of approved items that are considered beneficial to our membership.
- Approval of these items may be granted by the Chapter President, the Newsletter Editor and the Website Committee. When requested, announcements from other organizations may be posted on the Chapter's website under "News" if the Newsletter/Communications Committee is provided electronic announcements in a format that can be posted without modification or editing.
- The Newsletter/Communications Committee may use the chapter's electronic mailing list for announcements to KC Metro Chapter members when the topic is related to an APWA activity or event. However, an announcement will not be sent before the Chapter event has been posted on the KC Metro Chapter website.

This policy was approved by the Executive Committee on November 19, 2008.