

# PUB NEWS

## APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



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## President's Perspective

By Alysen Abel

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to 2022.

My name is Alysen Abel. I serve the residents of Parkville, MO as their Public Works Director, I have been in this role for over 7 years. Serving a small community comes naturally to me, I grew up in a small town in southern Indiana. After graduating from the University of Evansville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, I moved to Kansas City...the engineering mecca of the Midwest.

I am excited to be the 2022 President of the KC Metro Chapter of APWA. I have been a member for nearly 20 years, both as a consultant engineer and as a municipal employee. I have actively been involved in APWA, both locally and nationally.



Local Chapter Involvement: I encourage everyone to become active in APWA. We have several committees looking for assistance, either as a committee member or committee chair. I want to help find the right fit for you. Email me at [abel@parkvillemo.gov](mailto:abel@parkvillemo.gov) if you are interested in becoming more involved in the KC Metro Chapter.

National Committee Involvement: National APWA is currently looking for volunteers to serve on their Technical and Standing Committees. If you are interested in becoming more involved in National APWA, go to Nominations ([apwa.net](http://apwa.net)). Self-nominations are due by the end of March.

I started in APWA when I was a junior engineer working in consulting. I was encouraged to attend association meetings to network and market municipal clients. APWA has a good mix of consulting engineers and municipal employees. I immediately became involved in APWA committees, starting with the National Public Works Week Committee. Since that time, I have been involved with numerous committees and events during my tenure in APWA.

Being involved in professional association, like APWA, has given me so much over the years. I have developed strong professional and personal bonds with people that I have met through my committee and board involvement. I wouldn't be the person that I am today without the support of APWA and its members.

Here is list of the benefits that I have personally received from my association involvement:

- **Networking:** I have met a broad network of experts in Public Works, locally and nationally, that I can call upon. It is not about what you know, it is who you know.
- **Leadership Skills:** I have participated in and served as chair of the numerous committees in APWA. Through this committee experience, I have gained valuable leadership skills that currently assists me each day in my role as a supervisor.



## President's Perspective

By Alysen Abel

- **Technical Skills:** APWA members have access to programs locally, regionally, and nationally that help expand management and technical knowledge in a variety of specialties.
- **Presentation Skills:** Serving on local and national committees, and now on the Executive Committee, has given me countless opportunities to present to any group, large and small.

As we move into 2022, I have identified four main President's Initiatives. In the coming months, I will report back to the membership on progress related to those initiatives.

The 2022 President's Initiatives are:

- Provide Meaningful Benefits to our Members
- Encourage Active Involvement in APWA (Locally, Regionally and Nationally)
- Develop Relationships with Industry Partners
- Advance the Efforts to Update the Regional Stormwater Standards.

I want to thank Kyle Dieckmann (City of Overland Park), who served as the 2021 KC-APWA President. Kyle showed true leadership by successfully navigating virtual, hybrid, and in-person events. I would like to thank Trey Whitaker (City of Edgerton) and Shawn Graff (City of Lee's Summit) for their service to the Executive Committee over the years, I have enjoyed working with you. I would like to welcome Mark Stinson (City of Lee's Summit) and Phil Herrman (Burns & McDonnell) to the Executive Committee, I look forward to working with you.

I would like to thank everyone who encouraged me to become involved in APWA. I hope I can make a difference in the Public Works community over the next 12 months as your KC-APWA President.

The KC Metro Chapter of APWA has provided outstanding programs and special events in 2021. Those events include:

- 75<sup>th</sup> Street & I-35 Interchange Presentation
- Public Works Stewardship / ASCE Report Card
- Leadership Philosophies Presentation
- Leadership & Management Panel discussing COVID Challenges
- Emergency Management Panel
- Snow Operations Panel Discussion
- BBQ Challenge & Membership Drive
- National Public Works Week Event
- Holiday Party
- Golf Tournament
- Disc Golf Tournament
- Young Professionals Pictionary Event
- PW Peers Luncheons
- Chapter Training
- Chapter Planning Retreat
- Chapter Dinner at PWX in St Louis
- Public Works Institute, Basic Supervision Skills Module

## Delegate Details

By Becky Bonebrake

Happy New Year! I hope this article finds you well and that you had a very happy Holiday Season. 2021 was better than 2020, but I am still wanting some bigger strides in getting back to normal in 2022.

### **KC Metro 2021 Holiday Event**

Over 80 members celebrated all that is 2021 at a live holiday Party at the Boulevard Brewery in Kansas City on December 2nd. Regional Director Joe Johnson installed the 2022 slate of officers for the KC Metro Chapter.

Tim Ross was selected as the Ken Cardwell Heart of America recipient. Tim was a great choice and exemplifies what this award is about. Congratulations Tim!



### **2022 Council of Chapters Winter Meeting**

The Council of Chapters and Technical Committees will be meeting IN PERSON February 17th-19th in Downtown Kansas City. The combined meeting will focus on collaboration between the groups and work plans for 2022. The Council of Chapter Task Force and the Council of Chapters Focus Groups will meet to share ideas. The Task Force and Focus Groups are selected by the CoC Steering Committee and change annually.

### **2022 North American Snow Conference**

Planning is underway for the 2022 North American Snow Conference, which will be held in person April 10th to April 13th in Pittsburg, PA. Registration is not open yet, but will be soon. Please visit <https://snow.apwa.net/> for the most up to date information.

### **APWA National eLearning**

Did you know that APWA has an eLearning portal? It contains 3 types of eLearning programs:

- Webinars- Click, Listen and Learns and Panel type discussions (most are free to members)
- eCourses- Online training (most have a fee)
- Resource Center- archive of past CLL's, past PWX presentations, etc.

It's a great way for staff training events and to get CEU's. you can find out more information at [https://www.apwa.net/MYAPWA/Apwa Public/Education and Events/eLearning Portal.aspx](https://www.apwa.net/MYAPWA/Apwa_Public/Education_and_Events/eLearning_Portal.aspx)

### **KC Metro Chapter**

New President Alysen Abel is still working on filling out a few Committee Chair positions. If chairing a committee, or volunteering on one, is of any interest please let Alysen or myself know.

And if you have any other APWA questions please contact Becky Bonebrake or myself and if we are not able to answer the question we will find the right people that can.

## Myron D. Calkins Scholarship Application Open

Applications for the MDC Scholarship are due Monday, April 12, 2021. The scholarship award is up to \$2,500 per student, per year. For more information and to apply, download and complete the scholarship application here <http://kcmetro.apwa.net/PageDetails/665>. If you have any questions, please contact Erik Troy at [kcmetroapwascholarship@gmail.com](mailto:kcmetroapwascholarship@gmail.com).

## APWA Awards Applications Open

### **APWA Award applications are now available**

due **January 28, 2022**

*We all know people we work with who are deserving candidates.*

*Please submit their names or give them an application.*

Please submit applications via e-mail to: [awardsapwa@gmail.com](mailto:awardsapwa@gmail.com)

Information about the 2022 Awards are available from the KC Metro Chapter Website by clicking on the following link: <http://kcmetro.apwa.net/PageDetails/4174>. The chapter level award nomination forms are on the chapter website. The national level award nomination forms are found on the national website (link provided below). Please submit all nominations to the chapter at [awardsapwa@gmail.com](mailto:awardsapwa@gmail.com). The awards committee will review all nominations and select chapter level winners. Chapter level winners of the national awards will be submitted to nationals by the chapter before the national deadline.

#### **Chapter Level Only Awards:**

- Field Supervisor Excellence Award**
- Operations Program Excellence Award**
- Public Works Excellence Award**
- Excellence in Public Works Publication Award**
- Samuel A. Greeley Local Service Award**

#### **Chapter Level and National Awards:**

[https://www.apwa.net/MyApwa/Apwa\\_Public/About/Awards\\_Criteria\\_and\\_Forms.aspx](https://www.apwa.net/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/About/Awards_Criteria_and_Forms.aspx)

- Public Works Project of the Year**
- Public Works Project of the Year for Small Cities/ Rural Communities**
- Commendation for Exemplary Service to Public Works**
- Exceptional Performance Awards (6 Categories)**
- Management Innovation Award**
- Technical Innovation Award**
- Community Involvement Award**
- Professional Manager of the year award (9 categories)**

*Winners of the KC Metro Chapter Level Awards will be recognized at the National Public Works Week Luncheon*

## Scholarship Committee Position Open

The Scholarship Committee is seeking a co-chair volunteer(s) to assist in annual duties such as scholarship application solicitations, recipient selection, and distribution of scholarship funds. If you're interested in engaging in an important role with a wonderfully benevolent committee, please contact Erik Troy at [etroy@gsinetwork.com](mailto:etroy@gsinetwork.com).

## Upcoming Events

### **Public Works Institute, Module II.5**

Public Works Supervision Skills

April 12-14, 2022

The Lodge at Ironwoods

Leawood, KS

Planning has begun for an April 2022 presentation of the second module in the four module Public Works Institute program. This module, Public Works Supervision Skills will be presented at The Lodge at Ironwoods in Leawood.



Further information regarding this training can be viewed online at <http://kcmetro.apwa.net/EventDetails?id=28005>. Registration must be made online at this same web address between March 1 and 31 or until 70 registrations are received. The \$250 fee for the training can be paid by credit card online or by check mailed to the chapter or brought to the first day of training as the registration site directs.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Public Works Institute program or the planned module, contact Public Works Institute Director Larry Frevert at [lwfrevert@gmail.com](mailto:lwfrevert@gmail.com)

## Chapter Leadership

### APWA 2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit & Budget - Bryan Blizzard  
 Awards - Reid Catt & Becky Bonebrake  
 By-Laws - Kyle Dieckmann  
 Chapter Meetings - Thomas Renfro  
 Communications and Publicity - Allison Bruner  
 Community Service - Jack Renfro  
 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 & Tawn Nugent  
 Governmental Affairs - Trey Whitaker & Kati Horner  
 Historical - Ernie Longoria  
 Holiday Party - Brandon Kuehl  
 K-12 Student Outreach - David Smalling  
 Leadership & Management - Ted Semadeni  
 Membership - Scott Cogan  
 Membership BBQ & Steak Fry - Brian Ladd  
 MidAmX - Patty Hilderbrand  
 MO-KAN Street Superintendents - Bill Billings  
 Myron D. Calkins Scholarship - Phil Herrman & Erik Troy  
 Myron Calkins Symposium - Shawn Graff  
 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 - Jeffrey Mains & Brent Berry  
 Water Resources Management - Andrew Smith  
 Webmaster - Tiffany Cartwright  
 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 - Alysen Abel  
 MCIB/KCMMB - Todd LaTorella  
 Public Works Institute - Larry Frevert  
 Solid Waste Management - **Vacant**

### KC APWA 2021 OFFICERS

President - Alysen Abel  
 Vice President - Ben Will  
 Secretary - Nick Arena  
 Treasurer - Tawn Nugent  
 Past President - Kyle Dieckmann  
 Director (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) - Patty Hilderbrand  
 Director (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) - John Cooper  
 Director (1<sup>st</sup> Year) - Mark Stinson  
 Director (1<sup>st</sup> Year) - Phil Herrman  
 Director-At-Large - Bill Billings  
 Delegate - Bill Stogsdill  
 Alternate Delegate - Becky Bonebrake



## New Members

**Carlie Aksamit**, Anderson Engineering  
**Karl Beckemeier**, Anderson Engineering  
**Garrett Cates**, Anderson Engineering  
**Louis Cummings**, City of Kansas City, MO  
**Allison Dobie**, HNTB  
**Trevor Fox**, Anderson Engineering  
**Kiara Gallegos**  
**Clayton Hall**, City of Leawood  
**Marquis Holmes**, Unified Government  
**Kenny Kellison**, City of Platte City  
**Drew Kocour**, Unified Government  
**Wes Lafolette**, HNTB

**Caleb Lindesay**, Unified Government  
**Jimmi Lossing**, City of Kansas City, MO  
**Jane Manis**, City of Overland Park  
**Matthew Muckenthaler**, City of Kansas City, MO  
**Nicholas Parks**, Unified Government  
**Matthew Scott**, CDM Smith  
**Michael Shaw**, City of Kansas City, MO  
**Dalton Signer**, Anderson Engineering  
**Stephani Stark**, City of Olathe  
**Blake Weddle**, City of Platte City  
**Jaclyn Willis**, HNTB

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).

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 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 March. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, March 11, 2022. 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.

