

PUB NEWS

APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



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President's Perspective

By Kyle Dieckmann

Happy New Year! I'm sure that you are as excited to jump in to 2021 as I am. We know that 2021 will be a year unlike others we have experienced with many challenges and triumphs. First, I'd like to thank all of you who didn't get to ring in the new year as you had hoped. Many of you were called in for snow operations while others of you went to bed early to be ready to jump into snow operations on New Year's Day. You were not able to celebrate because you were ensuring the Kansas City Metro area could have transportation on the first day of the year. I am sincerely grateful for your efforts.



I'm excited to be the president of the APWA KC Metro Chapter and will provide some background on myself, but before I begin, I want to thank our Past President Shawn Graff. Shawn led the chapter through the onset of the pandemic and worked behind the scenes to keep the chapter going. Although 2020 was a challenging year we were able to continue to remain active. Here are a few highlights:

- UMKC Resume Writing and Interview Prep. Workshop, and Trivia Night
- Fleet Management Certificate and Mechanics Roadeo Luncheon
- The Community Service Committee provided a meal to the Ronald McDonald House
- We hosted the 39th Annual Golf Tournament
- Applying Forecasts to Road Maintenance Challenges Virtual Luncheon
- The chapter conducted our first ever Virtual Holiday Party

These events would not have been possible without the work of the committee members and committee chairs. Thanks to all of you who worked diligently to continue the success of our great chapter. Thanks also to Dan Brown and Heidi Thummel who have rotated off of the Executive Committee. Your dedication and leadership for the chapter have left a lasting impression.

Now to provide a bit of information about myself. I am proud to have been in the Kansas City Area nearly my entire life. I grew up in eastern Jackson County near Levasy, MO where I helped my family with farming. After high school, I was fortunate to attend the Missouri University of Science and Technology (UMR during my tenure). I took classes in Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering and soon realized that Civil Engineering was the best fit for me. I graduated in 2005 and started in consulting working on private development and public works projects. In 2012, I was hired by the City of Overland Park in the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department. Since working at Overland Park, I have managed street maintenance, roadway construction, and building construction projects. I am also the supervisor of the CIP Section within the Engineering Division. I sincerely enjoy working for Overland Park and appreciate the City's support of APWA and my involvement.

My involvement with APWA began when I started at the City. Wayne Gudenkauf and Mike Ross helped me seize the opportunity to get involved on the Operations Committee of the Mid America Conference and Exhibit Show. I have also been active in the Young Professionals Committee and attended the APWA Emerging Leaders Academy. From there I was fortunate to join the Executive Committee. As for my family, I have two young daughters Arianna and Kayley and am married to my wife Davae of 11 years.

President's Perspective — cont. from p. 2

Like many of you, APWA and Public Works is an important of my life. I am honored to serve as the Chapter President. For those of you that don't know, there is a traveling plaque that is given to the chapter president after their term. The plaque has the names of all the previous presidents. The list of past presidents is distinguished and includes individuals who have made huge contributions to our community. For this reason, I'm humbled to serve as president. I'd like to share a few of my initiatives for next year.

- Retain the Value of our Chapter – As we continue to weather the pandemic, the chapter must continue to benefit our members. A lot of the value of our chapter is our networking. This is difficult when we can't get together. We must strive to provide opportunities for learning and information sharing even when we can't gather. We must also continue to be a voice for our profession.
- Emerge Strengthened from the Pandemic – Like many other organizations, we will learn from the challenges and work to create new opportunities. The success of our holiday party is a great example of how we can change our practices in a virtual environment and thrive.
- Advance Recommendations of the Sustainable Stormwater Task Force – The task force is excited and ready to move forward with updating our standards around stormwater and water quality. Our chapter will continue to support furthering this effort.
- Utilize the Strategic Plan – Our plan includes the objectives of Value, Voice, Education & Credentialing, and Membership. Structuring our efforts around these priorities will ensure we are successful.

I'd like to welcome John Cooper from GBA and Patty Hilderbrand from the City of Kansas City, MO to the Executive Committee as 1st Year directors. I look forward to working with you as well as our other returning committee members as we jump in to 2021. We already have great ideas for future meetings and ideas to celebrate National Public Works Week.

In summary, the APWA KC Metro Chapter is a great organization with great people. If you are interested in being involved or want to know more about the chapter, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 913-895-6053 or kyle.dieckmann@opkansas.org. Thank you again for electing me to be your president.



Delegate Details

By Bill Stogsdill

2020... ½ out of 5 stars, would not recommend.

I am glad to see 2021, lets hope it brings a fresh start to all those that need it. COVID fatigue is real. Please take time to check in on co-workers, family and friends. Hopefully we will turn the corner in 2021 and get to whatever the new normal is.

KC Metro 2020 Holiday Event

Over 60 members joined in on a virtual event on December 10 to celebrate the 2020 award winners and reminisce on 2020. National APWA President Mary Joyce Ivers attended and was on hand to swear in the 2021 Executive Committee.



2021 Council of Chapters Winter Meeting

The Council of Chapters will be meeting virtually on February 19. Typically, Kansas City hosts this annual event. It is a meeting full of collaboration between chapters and their members and where the Council of Chapters Task Force and Focus Groups meet to share ideas. The Task Force and Focus Groups are selected by the CoC Steering Committee and change annually. This years Task Force and focus Groups are:

- Advocacy Task Force
- Public Works Awareness Task Force
- Public Works Workforce Task Force
- Supporting Struggling Chapters Task Force

PWX@home

PWX@home is a virtual program that APWA has put together that was to supplement education since our in-person meeting in New Orleans had to be cancelled. PWX@home will feature over a hundred online education sessions, exhibits, and networking opportunities presented, by topic, to you throughout 2020-2021. Each month is a different topic with several opportunities to connect, learn and grow. Please check it out at:

https://www.apwa.net/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/PWX_at_Home/PWX_at_Home.aspx

January's topic is Engineering, Technology, and Asset Management. There is a cost for some of the live events, but most are free and I encourage you to check it out.

New President Kyle Dieckman 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 Kyle 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.

Help! Items Needed for Chapter History Book

By Connie Hartline

Do you have pictures or a memory to share about any of these events between 2002 – 2020?

- The "Great Congress Switch" from New Orleans to Kansas City in 2006
- Any Snow Rodeo
- Kansas City Metro Chapter Golf Tournaments
- Public Works Institutes
- National Public Works Weeks Celebrations
- Mid-America Conferences

If you can help contribute to the forthcoming chapter history book, please contact Connie Hartline at chartline47@gmail.com



Call for Award Applications

Award applications are due

February 10, 2021

*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

Information about the 2021 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. 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

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)

Past Events

APWA KC Metro Chapter Annual Holiday Event

December 10, 2020

The KC Metro Chapter's annual Holiday Party took place on December 10, 2020. Like most events in 2020, the event was held virtually using Zoom Webinar with more than 60 attendees. Albeit virtually, the chapter was honored to welcome APWA National President Mary Joyce Ivers as its keynote speaker. Mary Joyce delivered an inspiring address that kept everyone engaged with their devices. She also had the honor of swearing in the newly elected officers, alongside 2020 Chapter President Shawn Graff and 2021 Chapter President Kyle Dieckmann. The 2020 Chapter Awards were presented, including the Ken Cardwell Heart of America Award, presented to Dena Mezger of the City of Lee's Summit. The program also included a time to recognize its newest Lifetime Members, Michael McDonald, Brian McCrary, and James Graham. To conclude, the Holiday Party committee led the remaining attendees through some virtual games for various door prizes, including Public Works Trivia and Spin the Wheel. Donations to Toys for Tots were not accepted this year but encouraged to be given individually in lieu of the event registration fee.



Swearing in of 2021 APWA KC Metro Chapter Officers

Chapter Leadership

APWA 2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit & Budget - Bryan Blizzard
 Awards - Reid Catt & Becky Bonebrake
 By-Laws - Shawn Graff
 Chapter Meetings - Thomas Renfro
 Communications and Publicity - Allison Bruner
 Community Service - Jack Renfro
 Diversity and Inclusion - Zach Hardy
 Education & Training - Josh Hartman **Co-Chair Vacant**
 Emergency Management & Homeland Security (PET) - Rob Cole
 Engineering & Technology - Michael Haake
 Facilities & Grounds - Dan Brown
 Fleet Services - Mark Stinson & Dan Brown
 Golf Tournament - Tawn Nugent
 Governmental Affairs - Trey Whitaker
 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
 Standards & Specifications - Michael Anderson & Mark Montgomery
 Student Chapter - Aaron Castro & Lewis Muriithi
 Sustainable Infrastructure - JC Alonzo
 Transportation - Linda Rottinghaus
 Utility & Public Right-of-Way - Jeffrey Mains & Brent Berry
 Water Resources Management - Andrew Smith
 Webmaster - Tiffany Cartwright
 Young Professionals - Leslie Donnelly

Appointments, Liaisons, Coordinators, and Task Forces

ACEC-APWA Liaison - Howard Lubliner
 Asset Management Task Force - Steve Roth & Chris Harker
 Calendar/Events Coordinator - Kyle Dieckmann
 MCIB/KCMMB - Todd LaTorella
 Public Works Institute - Larry Frevert
 Solid Waste Management - Lisa McDaniel

KC APWA 2021 OFFICERS

President - Kyle Dieckmann
 Vice President - Alysen Abel
 Secretary - Nick Arena
 Treasurer - Ben Will
 Past President - Shawn Graff
 Director (2nd Year) - Trey Whitaker
 Director (2nd Year) - Tawn Nugent
 Director (1st Year) - Patty Hilderbrand
 Director (1st Year) - John Cooper
 Director-At-Large - Bill Billings
 Delegate - Bill Stogsdill
 Alternate Delegate - Becky Bonebrake



New Members

Kristen Ayers, City of Pleasant Hill

Tony Bakken, City of Pleasant Hill

Jeff Brizendine, McClure

Brent Gerard, City of Overland Park

Nanditha Vallabhaneni, City of Kansas City



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.

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.

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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 12, 2021. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Electronic formats are preferred, but not required. Send your stories to Allison Bruner via email at abruner@trekkdesigngroup.com.

