

PUB NEWS

APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



2022 KC Metro Chapter Highlights

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President's Perspective

By Ben Will

Happy New Year! I hope 2023 is off to a great start for everyone and you're getting some of your New Year's resolutions checked off your list. I hope one of your resolutions is get involved and more active with the many wonderful people of the APWA Kansas City Metro Chapter!



It is an honor to serve as the 2023 Chapter President. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year, but before we get started with 2023, I want to thank Past President Alysén Abel for her leadership in 2022. The chapter accomplished several initiatives under Alysén's leadership focused on providing a meaningful membership, encouraging active involvement, developing relationships with industry partners, and advancing the efforts to update the regional stormwater standards. 2023 will be focused on continuing and building on those initiatives. Additionally, there were many successful events held throughout 2022, a few highlights:

- The National Public Works Week and Awards happy hour event was a success
- Young Professional (YP) events including frisbee golf and happy hour were well attended
- The annual Membership Drive and BBQ Competition included a great turnout of teams and attendees
- Community Service activities included a home renovation for Johnson County Developmental Services (JCDS), a Ronald McDonald House service event, and the Toys for Tots Collection at the holiday party
- The Top Golf Event was back by popular demand and delivered an outstanding day for all levels of golfers
- Rodeo Event included 129 people who participated in classes and competition activities
- Public Works Institute (PWI) module was held with record attendance and has become a can't miss event for our chapter
- Finally, we capped the year with the annual chapter Holiday Party

These events and accomplishments 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 Kyle Dieckmann and Mark Stinson who have rotated off the Executive Committee. Your dedication and leadership for the chapter have left a lasting impression.

Now to provide a bit of information about myself and look forward to 2023. I was born and raised in the rural north central Iowa town of Hampton, Iowa (GO BULLDOGS!). After high school, I attended Iowa State University (GO CYCLONES!). Like many, my school and career inspirations came from my parents. My mom was a long-time elementary school teacher and my dad worked as a civil engineer in county government for over 46 years. I graduated from Iowa State with a Civil Engineering degree in 2005 and started at HNTB Corporation. I've been fortunate to work with many great people and on many great projects throughout my career. I currently serve as a Department Manager in the Municipal Group at HNTB focused on transportation infrastructure projects in the KC Metro area.

My involvement with APWA began within a few weeks of starting at HNTB when a coworker came by before lunch and said "you're coming to this APWA monthly luncheon"... and from there the rest is history. Very quickly I learned about the great leaders and history of excellence of our chapter including 26 Presidential Awards for Chapter Excellence (PACE) Awards in a row, which is every year since its start in 1997, and the most of any chapter. For me personally, through the years APWA pushed me to step outside my comfort zone as I remember being on the National Public Works Week (NPWW) committee and ultimately the committee chair leading the annual luncheon and speaking in front of a large group. It was stressful but also super rewarding.

President's Perspective — cont.

So, I would push you to consider how and why you became a member and how else you can get involved and how else you can get someone else involved.

Looking forward to 2023 we will continue to follow our chapter strategic plan focused on 3 core initiatives:

- **Providing Value to our members and a Voice for Public Works** – This is supported with our diverse membership of public and private sector members. We have a range of committees and events that appeal to that diversity. The success of our chapter is founded in the work of all of our committees and continuing to provide value to our membership. We continue to focus on new members and our younger members through our PW Peers Program and Young Professionals committee.
- **Continued focus on Education and Credentialing** – This focus is a core purpose of our chapter and ranges from great programs like PWI to the Mid America Conference and Exhibit Show which we're excited to host at the Overland Park Convention Center May 22-24, 2023. This tri-annual event brings together the Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri as well as our KC Metro Chapters and will have a great mix of educational sessions and social events. We like to think of it as a mini PWX! Additionally, we'll continue to work on keeping the standards and specs up to date with a continued focus on APWA 5600 with the assistance of MARC and public/private agencies.
- **Ensure a Meaningful and Active Membership** – This means something different to each member. This can range from getting involved with the community service committee to participating in the Equipment Rodeo to organizing or participating in social events like the annual BBQ and golf tournament. This can also mean pushing coworkers and other members to step up and get more involved. We're still working to set our monthly luncheon schedule for 2023 so if any committees or individuals are interested in presenting or finding presenters, let me know!

Finally, I'd like to welcome Trey Whitaker from the City of Edgerton, KS and Ernie Longoria from the City of Shawnee, KS 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 2023.

In summary, the APWA KC Metro Chapter is a great organization with great people. If you are interested in being involved 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. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the 2023 President of the APWA KC Metro Chapter and look forward to the opportunity to work with all of you over the next year.

Delegate Details

By Bill Stogsdill

Happy New Year! Hopefully everyone had a joyous holiday season and you weren't affected by the polar plunge at Christmas or the travel issues the week after. 2022 is in the books and I think is what our new normal will be. It was nice to see so many smiling faces at live, in person events.

2022 Council of Chapters Winter Meeting and Chapter Leader Training

The Council of Chapters met in downtown Kansas City December 8th-9th in conjunction with the biennial Chapter Leaders Training event. The Council of Chapters broke into three focus groups, with O&M staff the main focus:

- **CoC Focus Group 1:** Membership doesn't look like the workforce; how do you encourage management to let O&M staff join APWA?



Delegate Details — cont.

- **CoC Focus Group 2:** How does your chapter engage O&M staff? How can APWA support chapter engagement with O&M staff?
- **CoC Focus Group 3:** How to make officers duties more appealing to all.

The Council of Chapters steering committee reported out on these discussions to the National Board and will continue the discussion in 2023.

Call For Nominations

Are you interested in serving on a National Committee? Know anyone that is? If you go to <https://www.apwa.net/nominations> you can nominate yourself or someone else to serve on a National Committee. The KC Metro Chapter has always been well represented on National Committees and we want that tradition to continue. Do not be afraid to self nominate! Deadline is March 28th.



Focus On

The January 2023 Focus on Public Works will once again be centered on Asset Management, Engineering and Technology. The upcoming Click, Listen and Learn subjects for January are:

- SCRC Perspective On Pavement Asset Management
 - January 04, 2023, 12 :00 pm -1 :00 pm
- How Drones Are Being Used by Public Works to Improve Safety
 - January 12, 2023, 12 :00 pm -1 :00 pm
- Infusing Technology into Asset Management
 - January 26, 2023, 12 :00 pm -1 :00 pm

APWA 2023 Top 5 Trending Technology

APWA has announced its Top 5 Trending technologies for 2023. They are:

- Asset Management Technologies
- Drones/UAS Technology
- Electric Vehicles
- Geographic Information Systems
- Technology for Field Crews

To find out more or see past top tech go to www.apwa.net/toptech

MidAmX 2023 Save the Date

The MidAmX is scheduled for May 22-24 at the Overland Park Convention Center. If you get a chance, please try to attend this joint conference between the KC Metro, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa Chapters that only occurs every three years.

SAVE the DATE

May 22-24, 2023
Overland Park
Convention Center
Overland Park, Kansas

**APWA MID-AMERICA
CONFERENCE AND
EXHIBIT SHOW**

APWA
Mid Am Expo

Call for Award Nominations

Award applications are due
January 27, 2023

*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 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. 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)



Agency Accreditation

The American Public Works Association is thrilled to announce the re-accreditation of three Kansas City Metro area Public Works agencies. Please help us recognize their hard work and dedication to providing excellence in public services. For more information about the agency accreditation process, please visit: https://www.apwa.net/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/Education_and_Events/Agency_Accreditation.aspx

Overland Park, KS Department of Public Works

Originally accredited in 2006 and accredited for the 5th time.



Kansas City, MO Public Works Department

Originally accredited in 2018 and accredited for the 2nd time.



Fairway, KS Public Works Department —

originally accredited in 2018 and accredited for their second time



Past Events — Annual Golf Tournament

Thank you to all of our sponsors and participants in the 41st Annual APWA KC-Metro Golf Tournament! We returned to Top Golf for the first time since 2018 and had a great turnout of 18 teams. Based on the positive feedback shared during the event, we'll consider hosting it at Topgolf in the future.

Teams competed in two games of Top Contender. Prizes were awarded as follows:

- **Top Overall Team** – Terracon
- **Top Female Score** – Leslie Donnelly, City of Olathe – 237
- **Top Male Score** – Clark Grisell, Terracon – 429
- **Lowest Female Score** – Katie Handley Stucky, GBA – 93
- **Lowest Male Score** – Brance Neal, Lamp Rynearson – 80

Thanks again to our tournament sponsors!

- **APWA Partners** – Advanced Drainage Systems, Anderson Engineering, Benesch, BHC Rhodes, Burns & McDonnell, City of Leawood, City of Raytown, Crawford Murphy & Tilly, GBA, HDR, Hg Consult, HNTB, Kaw Valley Engineering, Lamp Rynearson, Olsson, Phelps Engineering, Superior Bowen, TranSystems, TREKK, Unified Government, Walter P. Moore
- **Raffle Donations** – Advanced Drainage Systems, Aegion Corporation, Affinis, Allenbrand-Drews, Amino Bros., BHC Rhodes, HDR, HNTB, Landworks Studio, McAfee Henderson, Miles Excavating, Olsson, Pyramid Contractors, Schlagel, Tetra Tech, TranSystems, TREKK, VF Anderson, Walter P. Moore

And a big thanks to the committee members: Katie Bushong, Tiffany Cartwright, Zac Coppersmith, Jason Hanson, Tawn Nugent, Laura Sanford, Autumn Schleicher, Taylor Smith, Heidi Thummel, and Therese Vink!



Past Events — Annual Holiday Event

The KC Metro Chapter's annual Holiday Party took place on December 12th, 2022. The event was held at the Grand Street Café, which was strategically selected due to its proximity to the Country Club Plaza, one of Kansas City's most festive areas for the holidays. Grand Street Café welcomed nearly 100 guests to celebrate another incredible year for Public Works professionals across the metro. Among the attendees were 2 of this year's 14 Public Works Institute Graduates. All the graduates, whether in attendance or not, were recognized by outgoing PWI Director Larry Frevert, as well as the new chairs of the PWI committee, Dena Mezger and Tim Ross. The chapter was honored to welcome APWA National Region VI Director Joe Johnson again to deliver an update on APWA National's strategic efforts. Joe also had the honor of swearing in the newly elected officers, alongside 2022 Chapter President Alysen Abel and 2023 Chapter President Ben Will. As it often does, the Ken Cardwell Heart of America Award took the spotlight this year, including a standing ovation when its winner was announced. Bob Miller, of Transystems, was this year's recipient, and he graciously accepted after a wonderful presentation put together by last year's award winner, Tim Ross. The program also included a time to recognize its newest Lifetime Members, Ronald Schikevitz of Miles Excavating and Chip Corcoran of Renaissance Infrastructure Consulting. To conclude the program, the Holiday Party committee announced the winners of this year's fun and games activities, which included Jingle Mingle networking bingo, an ugly sweater competition and a door prize raffle. Toy donations were accepted by the Community Service committee and distributed to a local charity.



Upcoming Events

APWA Winter YP Happy Hour

January 19, 2023

Crane Brewing
6515 Railroad Street
Raytown, MO

Come join us for a beverage, pizza and networking!

For more information and to register click here:

<http://kcmetro.apwa.net/EventDetails?id=30639>



Engineer's Day at the Missouri Capitol

We hope to see you in Jefferson City and look forward to making the voice of the public works community heard in Missouri. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Chapter Leadership

APWA 2022 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 & Tawn Nugent
 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 2022 OFFICERS

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



New Members

Scott Banister, Unified Government
James Clay, City of Grandview
Thomas Crafton, City of Grandview
Morgan Fotovich, Unified Government
Christopher Gibson, City of Grandview
Kenneth Harper, Johnson County
Ian Hayes, Unified Government
Bryan Henderson, Unified Government
Steven Lindsay, Johnson County
Steven Maldonado, City of Independence
Lamar Martin, Unified Government

Russell Owens, Unified Government
Jason Petric, Johnson County
Jason Pio, Johnson County
Gregory Rohe, Johnson County
Scott Roberts, Unified Government
Dewayne Smith, Unified Government
Tanner Stark, Unified Government
Shawna Trarbach, Unified Government
Gladis Vallejos, City of Las Cruces
Bradley Wiss, Unified Government

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 3, 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.



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.