

# PUB NEWS

## APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



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## President's Perspective

By Alysen Abel

In March 2020, life came to a screeching halt. At first it was delightful, then days started to run together. Here we are two years later, the kids are going back to school, mask mandates and other COVID protocols have loosened...life is starting to get back to normal.

The pandemic taught us that we are strong and can survive under pressure. It taught us that we can survive at home with our spouses and kids 24/7. Two years later, many companies continue to provide flexible work environments to those who spend the majority of their time in front of the computer.

APWA continues to adapt to this new virtual environment. Although COVID seems to have plateaued, many of us are used to attending back-to-back meetings without having to factor in travel time. On a local level, the KC Metro Chapter hosted several virtual programs and training sessions. We will continue providing virtual programs to support our members.

In 2020, National APWA hosted a year-long PWX-At-Home in lieu of their normal in-person conference. Based on the positive feedback received, they will continue providing virtual programs throughout the year, hosted by technical and standing committees. Look for more information about previously recorded and upcoming programs on the National APWA website at <https://www.apwa.net/>.

As COVID protocols lift, the KC Metro Chapter continues to plan more in-person events. The next module of the Public Works Institute (PWI) will be held April 12th to 14th. The three-day training will be held at The Lodge at Ironwoods with approximately 90 participants. If you haven't had the pleasure of participating in the PWI training, either as a student or a presenter, you are definitely missing out. This training is geared toward mid-level supervisors and those aspiring to become supervisors, who work for Public Works agencies. This certification program includes a total of four modules, hosted over a two-year period. For more information about the Public Works Institute, go to the KC Metro APWA's website at <http://kcmetro.apwa.net/>.

National Public Works Week is just around the corner. This year, National Public Works Week will be celebrated May 15th to 21st. The NPWW committee is working hard to create a fantastic after-hours event, complete with food trucks and musical entertainment. Look for more details in upcoming email blasts. I hope to see you there.

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee is ramping up for an exciting year. Under the leadership of Sheila Shockey and Charles McAllister, there will be future training and networking opportunities.

The KC Metro Chapter has several opportunities for our members to get involved. We want to find the "right-size" volunteer opportunities for each of our members. I encourage you to reach out to any of our KC-APWA Executive Committee members to find out how you can get more involved. Feel free to email me directly at [aabel@parkvillemo.gov](mailto:aabel@parkvillemo.gov).

I look forward to an exciting year filled with a variety of in-person events and virtual programs that will inspire you.



## Delegate Details

By Becky Bonebrake

Can you smell spring right around the corner? But before we can move on winter has to make one more appearance. Thank you all for serving your communities and keeping our communities safe during the winter events!

Here are your highlights of what is happening nationally.

APWA'S Government Affairs Committee (GAC) continues to meet with Congressional Committees and Federal agency leaders to support APWA'S public policy priorities. To follow the GAC and learn about ways you can speak up on key public works matters, be sure to sign-up to receive APWA "Contact Congress" action alerts by texting PWX to 52886.



### Call of Nominations of National Committees

If you would like to give back to the profession, share your knowledge, or want to become more involved in the association, this is a great way to get involved at the national level. Individuals can self-nominate or nominate a fellow member through March 28, 2022. [More information here.](#)

### Emerging Leaders Academy

APWA is seeking additional instructors. Self-nomination forms will be available on the APWA website in March. Emerging Leader participant applications due April 25, applications will be available in April [find out more here.](#)

### Certifications

Certified Public Works Professional - Supervision (CPWP-S) has seen a 62% increase in eligibility applications and 80% increase in exams administered. A new self-assessment tool is available for candidates to gauge their readiness. [Click Here for more information](#)

### DISCOUNTS

DIY Public WorksShop Kits are 30% off through March 31 with code DIY30

Habits of Dysfunctional Leaders Course, 20% through March 31 with code LEAD

### Upcoming Education Opportunities

[Click here for calendar and registration](#)

- Accreditation Open Forum Series- Get Ready for Accreditation, March 22 at 2 pm
- Effective Strategies for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection, March 31 at 10 am CT
- Facilities and Grounds Workshop, April 4-7
- North American Snow Conference in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, April 10-13
- Caring for your Grounds with Smart Irrigation, April 28 at 10 am CT
- National Public Works Week (NPWW) week of May 16-20
- Small Cities/Rural Communities Perspective on Sustainability, May 4 at 12 pm CT
- Climate Change Consideration for Asset Management, May 19 10 am CT
- Principles of Public Works Self-Assessment Workshop, May 26 at 12:20 pm CT

The Leadership & Management Committee's Learning Leadership Poster is now interactive! The [poster](#) now takes the user to Reporter articles that cover topics in more detail!

## Passing of Mike Winckler

All-

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of our dear friend, Mike Winckler. Mike passed away on Tuesday, February 15th. He was a hard worker who was very giving of his time. Mike was a great conversationalist who loved to both talk about his experience and hear about others'. And he always had the biggest smile on his face.

After graduating from Kansas State University in 2006, Mike started working at the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and became a Senior Construction Inspector. While at MoDOT, the largest project he oversaw was the new diverging diamond interchange at MO 150 Highway and Botts Road. Mike became a Professional Engineer in 2011 and then he went to work for the City of Independence in 2013. Through his time with the city, he served in many roles such as planning a citywide flood management plan, being a design & construction liaison, and managing a sanitary sewer capital improvements program. Mike became City Engineer in 2020 and managed the Engineering Division.

While rising through the ranks at the City of Independence, Mike dedicated countless hours to multiple professional organizations. He was an active member of the engineering and public works profession as a member of APWA, ASCE, and Missouri Water Environment Association.

Mike had a pretty amazing engineering career and life. His passing will be felt by the KC Metro Chapter of APWA and everyone who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

His memorial service was on Saturday, February 26th. Below is the link to his obituary.

<https://www.speakschapel.com/memorials/michael-winckler/4861922/index.php?fbclid=IwAR3Sgx1PWzXaNudNtP6QIcSoLcUdIsxjy8KG25wutUkKzC0uKGbIbTDzR8k>



## 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 Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Survey



The American Public Works Association recognizes, appreciates, and fosters the synergy which is created when the work environment values the differences in individuals and practices inclusiveness and open communication.

Our Chapter is forming a Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Please click on this survey link to tell us:

- What your employer is doing to promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (we want to share ideas)?
- What your interest is in this topic?
- Do you have burning questions you would like answered anonymously?
- What type of programs do you think the DEI Committee should offer to benefit members?
- Would you like to join this Committee and support our membership in creating an environment that values differences in individuals, equity and inclusiveness?

Click on this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APWADEI>.

**Please complete by April 1.** This will only take 2 minutes to complete. We appreciate your time.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Sheila Shockey at 913.515.4365 or [sheila@shockeyconsulting.com](mailto:sheila@shockeyconsulting.com).



## Diversity Spotlight

### International Women's Day at GBA!

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th. The celebration is marked annually to acknowledge and appreciate the accomplishments of women. Purple is the official color of International Women's Day, founded more than a century ago after a large number of women marched in New York City to demand better working conditions and voting rights. GBA Companies celebrates International Women's Day by wearing purple - a color symbolizing justice and dignity.



### GBA staff mentor female high school students on women in STEM careers for SM West "Women in Leadership Day"

Kendra Miller and Kelsey Jett from GBA had the opportunity to participate in the Shawnee Mission West High School 'Women in Leadership Day' on International Women's Day. Kendra and Kelsey spoke to female students on what it's like working as women in a STEM field. The students were eager to ask questions and learn from Kendra and Kelsey's experiences.

The high school reached out to GBA in hopes of finding more women mentors to participate in their 'Women in Leadership' program. Kendra and Kelsey volunteered and quickly got involved by emailing back and forth several times, and finally meeting with a young woman who had an interest in pursuing a career in veterinarian medicine. Even though the dream was not specifically engineering, they were able to provide valuable advice and knowledge of scholarship opportunities and ways to save money by taking community college courses.



Introducing women to STEM careers as early as possible is important so that students have time to explore their interests and discover what they are passionate about. By participating in this mentorship program, students are exposed to the opportunities available to them.

Kelsey and Kendra were happy to give back to the STEM community by providing mentorship and inspiration to students to continue to pursue their goals. They noted that all the students that they interacted with were extremely grateful.

## Annual Partnership Program

KC Metro Chapter is inviting our supporters to be part of the Annual Partnership Program. This program was started in 2013 with two objectives:

- Promote the support of our local agencies and companies at chapter activities throughout the year
- Simplify and limit the collection of event partnership costs into one payment

The Annual Partnership Program provides a convenient and cost-effective way for your agency/company to show your support for all major KC Metro Chapter events on an annual basis. Annual partnerships, while providing excellent recognition and exposure for your agency/company, also provide support for the events that require additional financial support, such as the National Public Works Week event, Membership BBQ, Chapter Golf Event, Young Professional Event, and the Holiday Party. To promote flexibility and reduce confusion, the annual partnership does NOT include any registration for the events. Registration will be handled directly with each event and additional requests for sponsorship will not be requested. Our Annual Partners will be promoted at all events with programs/signage.

We look forward to your continued support of the Kansas City Metro Chapter of APWA. To become an Annual Partner, please contact Ben Will [bwill@hntb.com](mailto:bwill@hntb.com) for more information.



## KC Metro Chapter 2022 Award Winners

Congratulations to this year’s Chapter Level Winners! Chapter Level winners will be recognized at the May Public Works Week event.

### Myron Calkins Young Leader of the Year

Leslie Donnelly, City of Olathe



### Public Works Leader of the Year

Tony Hofmann, City of Overland Park



- Operations Program Excellence Award
  - NEER, ai Risk Assessments for Sanitary Sewer System
  - City of Raytown
- Public Works Excellence Award
  - John Sullivan - Public Works Director of City of Westwood
- Excellence in Public Works Publication Award
  - “A Day in the Life of” ROW Stakeholders Video Series

### Project of the Year

- Small Cities Rural Communities Transportation
  - Streetscape Phase II
    - City of Smithville, MO
    - HDR Engineering
    - Sands Construction, LLC
- Small Cities Rural Communities Structures
  - T.B. Hanna Station - Universal Design
    - City of Raymore, MO
    - CFS Engineers
    - All-Inclusive Recreation
- Small Cities Rural Communities Environment
  - Louisburg Facility Plan and BNR Wastewater Treatment Plant
    - City of Louisburg, KS
    - Lamp Rynearson
    - Crossland Construction
- Transportation under \$5 million
  - NW 72nd Street Improvements
    - City of Kansas City, MO
    - Walter P Moore
    - JM Fahey Construction
- Transportation \$5 million to \$25 million
  - Lone Elm and Old 56 Highway Improvements
    - City of Olathe
    - HDR Engineering
    - Pyramid Contractors, Inc
- Transportation \$25 million to \$75 million
  - I-35 and 119th Street Interchange Reconfiguration
    - City of Olathe
    - HNTB Corporation
    - Miles Excavating, Inc
- Structures \$5 million to \$25 million
  - Overland Park Fleet Maintenance Facility
    - City of Overland Park
    - Finkle Williams Architecture
    - Harmon Construction



## 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)

## Upcoming Events



# CELEBRATION EVENT



SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 18  
4:30-7pm

**APWA – KC METRO CHAPTER**  **Corrigan Station Rooftop**  
1828 Walnut St, KCMO 64108

We're back and this time we're headed downtown! If you missed out last year, now's your chance to experience the all new National Public Works Week event, this year with a view! Join us for an after-hours social event celebrating this year's chapter award and scholarship recipients. Registration will provide event access with food truck catering, beverage options from local breweries, live entertainment during the initial social hour, followed by awards and announcements.

*Tickets to this event will be limited*, so watch for upcoming registration announcements.

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON...**

## 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 & Alysén 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 - Alysén Abel  
 MCIB/KCMMB - Todd LaTorella  
 Public Works Institute - Larry Frevert  
 Solid Waste Management - **Vacant**

### KC APWA 2021 OFFICERS

President - Alysén 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

**Jonathan Barnett**, City of Harrisonville

**Ed Cary**, City of Sugar Creek

**Chris Chiodini**, City of Grandview

**Michael Crooks**, City of Liberty

**Ben Hedrick**, City of Sugar Creek

**Leonard Henggeler**, City of Greenwood

**Matt Hoehn**, ESRI

**Stephen Holloway**, City of Belton

**Greg Lerow**, City of Gardner

**Joshua Martinez**, City of Liberty

**Justin Norman**, City of Prairie Village

**Megan Spence**, City of Olathe

**Jaclyn White**, City of Grandview



### **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](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 May. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, May 13, 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).

