

# PUB NEWS

## APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



### Thank You to Past President, Ben Will

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### Call for Award Nominations

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### Annual Holiday Event Recap

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### Engineer’s Day at the Missouri Capitol

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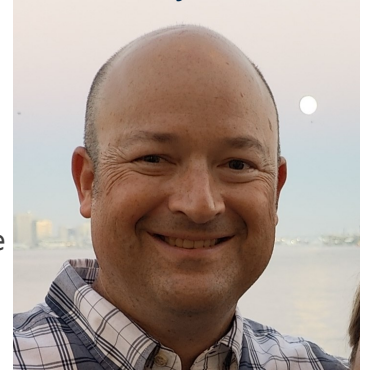


## President's Perspective

By Ben Will

Happy New Year to all APWA KC Metro Chapter members!

It is an honor to serve as the 2024 Chapter President and be on the executive committee for the past several years. I look forward to working and getting to know all of you this coming year. I would like to start with thanking the now Past President Ben Will for his leadership and insight in 2023. I know that I will continue to lean on him and all other Past Presidents for insight and advice as I take on this new role in 2024.



2024 will be the start of my 28th year in Public Works. I began my career painting curbs yellow as a seasonal help for the Traffic Division in the City of Manhattan, Kansas. I then moved over to the Street Division where I continued working for ten years. During those years I made the decision to go back to school and while working full time for the street division received my first degree from Kansas State University. After this I moved up into City Hall where I continued to work for the Public Works Department doing a lot of project management and various other assignments while working to complete my Masters degree. Then in 2011, I moved to Lenexa Kansas as the Assistant Municipal Services Director, was promoted to Director in 2016, a position I currently hold.

The chapter accomplished several initiatives under Ben's leadership, these initiatives were focused on providing value to our members and a voice for Public Works, continued focus on education and credentialing and ensuring a meaningful and active membership. 2024 will be focused on continuing and building on those initiatives. Additionally, there were many successful events held throughout 2023, a few highlights include: holding another successful National Public Works week and awards, BBQ Competition, Community Service Committee continued their great work in and around the KC Metro, the Public Works Institute held two sessions with great turnout and a record number of graduates, receiving the PACE Award for an amazing 27th straight year and hosting another successful Holiday Party in December.

2024 will be an opportunity for all members to be involved in one way or another, aside from hosting our annual events. The KC Metro Chapter will be the host chapter for the 2024 APWA National Snow Conference. I would like to thank Bill Billings, Paul Dunn and Trey Whitaker for stepping up and spear heading the committee that helps plan this event with APWA National. There will be much asked of our Chapter as this event takes place April 28-May 1. I know the Chapter will step up as we always have done.

Finally, I would like to thank Phil Herrman for his service and time on the Executive Committee and I would like to welcome Jack Renfro and Stephanie Boyce 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 get ready for another great year in 2024.

In summary, the APWA KC Metro Chapter is a great organization with many great people with diverse backgrounds. If you are interested in being involved or just want to know more about the chapter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 913-477-7810 or [narena@lenexa.com](mailto:narena@lenexa.com). I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the 2024 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 Becky Bonebrake

Welcome to the year 2024, almost a quarter of the way through a centennial.

There are not a lot of announcements to make to start the New Year. I hope that you all had a joy filled new year and holiday season! I know that looks different to everyone whether it was relaxing, restful or full of family and friends. As we enter the new year, I encourage you to identify what your "rest" looks like. I listened to a podcast recently that talked about rest in terms of the mind not body (*How to Rest* on the How to Keep Time Podcast by [The Atlantic](#)). Rest can be sleep, zoning out in front of the t.v. or video games, or rest can be a hobby, exercise, journaling or spending time with family or friends. For the theater lovers out there, Lin-Manuel Miranda developed the idea for the Broadway sensation *Hamilton: An American Musical* during a time of rest. We do our best work and come up with new ideas when we take a break from the day in and day out. What can we accomplish this year by continually recharging through the year?



APWA has some new resources available on the website and through programs that can help us think of things in a different way.

One resource available are videos from the Emergency Management Committee to promote a Natural Hazards Checklist.

For those agencies who have completed accreditation through APWA, or agencies that are in the process or considering starting, there is a new edition of the Public Works Management Practices Manual (11th Edition) that is available in the APWA store. There will also be several programs provided in 2024 to assist those who are working through the accreditation program.

The Leadership and Management committee has developed a Successful Supervision Framework that is available to members in the resource center on the APWA website. This Framework is dedicated to enhancing employee productivity, satisfaction and engagement.



Upcoming events include a Click Listen and Learn on January 11 with the topic of [Enhancing Asset Management through Capital and Operations Funding](#) and the 2024 North American Snow Conference hosted by yours truly the KC Metro Chapter! We will need volunteers and sponsorships to make this event successful! Please reach out to me at [becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org](mailto:becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org) if you have questions or interest in getting involved!

## Delegate Details - cont.



There are a variety of ways to get involved in both the chapter level and the national level of APWA! The chapter committees mirror the committee structure of national APWA and a lot of times our chapter committees work closely with the national committees due to member involvement at the national level. If you are interested in opportunities, any committee would be glad to answer any questions you have. At the national level, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) network invites you to join their group and take a significant step in shaping the future of DEI. If you are interested in learning more please email April Jones at [ajones@apwa.org](mailto:ajones@apwa.org).

## Awards Committee Announcement

### **Awards Submissions Due January 26**

Award applications are due **January 26, 2024**. Please email submissions to [awardsapwa@gmail.com](mailto:awardsapwa@gmail.com). Note that Snow/Ice Awards submissions have already closed.

See below for information regarding the various Chapter Level Only and Chapter/National Level awards below. 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. Please request nomination forms from the awards committee by emailing [awardsapwa@gmail.com](mailto:awardsapwa@gmail.com).

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

- Public Works Project of the Year
- Public Works Project of the Year for Small Cities/ Rural Communities (changed population eligibility to 50,000 or less)
- Professional Manager of the year award (9 categories)
- Asset Management Award
- Distinguished Service to Public Works Award
- Management Innovation Award
- Technical Innovation Award
- Excellence in Education Award

### **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

## Past Events

### Annual Holiday Event December 06, 2023

The KC Metro Chapter’s annual holiday party was held on December 6th, 2023 at Union Horse Distillery in Lenexa, KS. The venue was at capacity with an amazing turnout of 110 Public Works professionals gathered to celebrate another successful year.

This year’s Ken Cardwell Heart of America Award was presented to Sherri McIntyre. Her time at KCMO was marked by many achievements from launching the Downtown Streetcar project, to earning APWA Accreditation, to installing the regions first parking protected bike lane. The program also recognized this year’s new Lifetime Members: Bob Miller from TranSystems and David Ley from the City of Leawood.

There were fun and games to be had throughout the evening. Congratulations to Davae Dieckmann for winning the grand prize of the Holiday Party Trivia Challenge. Helen Miller won the silent auction, with all funds raised being given to the Community Service Committee to purchase additional toys. Toy donations were also collected at the door from attendees and were later given to Children’s Mercy for the holidays.



## Upcoming Events

### Administration and Contracts Committee Inaugural Meeting

**January 23, 2024 5:30 — 6:30 PM**

Overland Park Fleet Maintenance Facility

12401 Antioch Road

Overland Park, Kansas 66213

We would like to invite you and your Administrative and Contract Staff to the inaugural meeting of the Committee.

Our Mission is: To provide a forum of support to administrative public works staff members who serve public agencies, specifically to those who serve in roles outside technical, engineering, and field staff positions.

Our Vision is: To provide support to non-technical public works staff members, through training and workshops, committee/community support, and general knowledge/resources to assist with their non-technical roles in their public agencies.

We welcome anyone interested in learning about this new Committee and creating a network with other administrative and contact staff to attend. Membership in APWA is not required. If you have any questions, contact Alysen Abel at [AMAbel@GarverUSA.com](mailto:AMAbel@GarverUSA.com)

### Engineer's Day at the Missouri Capitol

**January 31, 2024 9:00 AM**

Jefferson City, MO

**[REGISTER](#)**

The KC Metro Chapter is joining ACEC, ASCE, NSPE, and the APWA-Missouri Chapter at the annual Engineers Day at the Missouri Capitol on January 31st. The event is focused around sharing with our legislators about



**Engineer's Day  
at the Missouri Capitol**

**January 31, 2024  
9:00 AM**

the important work of engineers in preparation for Engineers Week in March. Attendees gather at 9am in the Rotunda and will have the option to conduct meetings in a group, in pairs, or on your own. If you have any questions about the day, contact Kati Horner Gonzalez at [kati@katigon.com](mailto:kati@katigon.com).

**ACEC Missouri**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Missouri

MISSOURI CHAPTER  
**APWA**  
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

**ASCE**  
KANSAS CITY SECTION  
& ST. LOUIS SECTION

**NSPE-MO**  
MISSOURI SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

## Chapter Leadership

### APWA 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

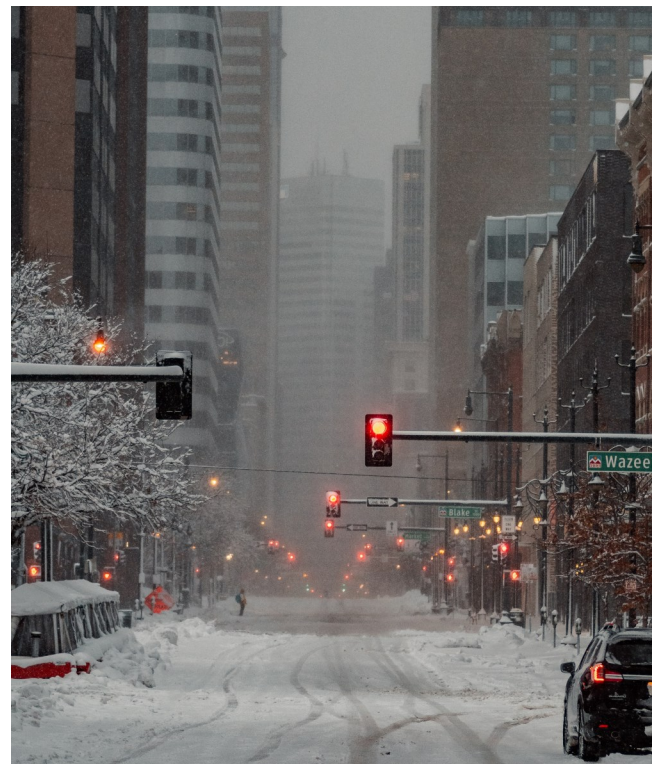
Audit & Budget - Bryan Blizzard  
 Awards - Nathan Hladky & Becky Bonebrake  
 By-Laws - Ben Will  
 Chapter Meetings - Thomas Renfro  
 Communications and Publicity - Allison Bruner  
 Community Service - Tommy Hunter  
 Diversity and Inclusion - Sheila Shockey  
 Education & Training - Zach Matteo & Blake Moris  
 Emergency Management - Trey Whitaker, Melissa Morkey  
 & Rob Cole  
 Engineering & Technology - Michael Haake  
 Facilities & Grounds - Dan Brown  
 Fleet Services - Mark Stinson & Josh Wood  
 Golf Tournament - Taylor Smith  
 Governmental Affairs - Trey Whitaker & Kati Horner  
 Gonzalez  
 Historical - Ernie Longoria  
 Holiday Party - Nicole Woods & Sabrina Parker  
 K-12 Student Outreach - David Smalling  
 Leadership & Management - Andrew Robertson  
 Membership - Zac Coppersmith  
 Membership BBQ & Steak Fry - Jack Renfro & Brian Ladd  
 MidAmX - Dan Brown & Kyle Dieckmann  
 MO-KAN Street Superintendents - Paul Dunn  
 Myron D. Calkins Scholarship - Erik Troy  
 Myron Calkins Symposium - Ben Will  
 National Public Works Week - Sabrina Parker and Nicole  
 Woods  
 Snow & Equipment Training Expo - Paul Dunn, Eric Willard  
 & Chase Forrester  
 Standards & Specifications - Kyle Dieckmann & Mark  
 Montgomery  
 Student Chapter - **VACANT**  
 Sustainable Infrastructure - Scott Komarek  
 Transportation - Linda Rottinghaus  
 Utility & Public Right-of-Way - Andy Roddy & Brent Berry  
 Water Resources Management - Andrew Smith  
 Webmaster - Kati Horner Gonzalez  
 Young Professionals - Joey Carley

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

Asset Management Task Force - Brandon Grover  
 Admin & Contracts - Kristen Love  
 Calendar/Events Coordinator - Ben Will  
 Construction Materials - Christy Martin  
 Public Works Institute - Dena Mezger & Tim  
 Ross  
 Solid Waste Management - **Vacant**

### KC APWA 2023 OFFICERS

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





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 March. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, March 1, 2024. 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.