

# PUB NEWS

## APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



### Snow Conference Call for Volunteers

See page 3 for more details

### Myron D. Calkins Scholarship Applications Open

See page 4 for more details

### Annual Partnership

See page 5 for more details

### 2024 Chapter Award Winners

See page 6 for more details

### Building a Culture of Belonging

See page 7 for more details

### Stormwatch

See page 7 for more details

### IN THIS ISSUE

President’s Perspective.....	2
Delegate Details .....	3
Upcoming Events .....	9
Chapter Leadership .....	12



Want to keep up with APWA?  
Click [here](#) to like us on Facebook



## President's Perspective

By Ben Will

Hard to believe that March is already here and we are getting closer to closing the door on another winter season in the Metro. Luckily, the past winter has not been too harsh, I hope that continues for the next couple of weeks. Spring is one of my favorite times of the year, grass starts to green up, trees and plants are starting to bud, and there is more day light after we all get off work. However, spring is also the time that means one day is 80 degrees and the next is 20 degrees.



This time of year we are also reminded that severe weather can (and will) be part of our routine and lives for the next several months. Now is a good time to review your emergency management plan, policies and procedures. Not only for yourself, but also your family and your staff members at all levels. If you are interested in becoming more involved in a committee that can have direct impact on your community, please contact the Emergency Management Co-Chair Trey Whitaker at [twhitaker@edgertonks.org](mailto:twhitaker@edgertonks.org).

A couple of items and events that are coming up in the coming weeks/months:

- The 2024 APWA North American Snow and Ice Conference is right around the corner. April 29 through May 2. As you know, the event is right here in Kansas City this year. We are always looking for volunteers and sponsors for this great event. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to Becky Bonebrake at [becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org](mailto:becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org). If interested in sponsoring the event in any manner, please reach out to Trey Whitaker at [twhitaker@edgertonks.org](mailto:twhitaker@edgertonks.org). Even if you are not involved in snow and ice operations, this is a great event to attend, volunteer, or sponsor. You will gain a real appreciation for the men and women who are involved in these operations.
- Public Works Institute Module II is scheduled for April 2-4, 2024 at Eagles Landing at Lake Olathe. This is the second module in the four-module Public Works Institute program. The cost is \$250 per person and includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and drinks. Attendees will enjoy presentations by experienced public works professionals about skills that build better supervisors.

That is it for now. Enjoy the nicer weather over the coming weeks! Thank you for your continued support and interest in the APWA KC Metro Chapter. If you are interested in becoming more 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).

## Delegate Details

By Bill Stogsdill

Warmer weather means that spring is around the corner. Here in the Midwest it typically means this is false spring, we still have a bout or two with winter left, but we will be mowing before we know it!

### **2024 Region V and Region VI combined Delegate Meeting**

The Delegates from Region V and VI met in Kansas City on February 22nd at APWA Headquarters in Downtown Kansas City.

Region VI Director Joe Johnson and Region V Director Larry Hummel led discussions on a variety of topics including the website update, awards program, workforce development and our roles as First Responders.

A considerable amount of time was dedicated to information sharing between chapters on ideas that worked and ideas that didn't work.

### **2024 North American Snow Conference**

The North American Snow Conference is in Kansas City April 28-May1, 2024. The 2024 Snow Conference has it all, from expert-led snow and ice education sessions to an exhibit floor full of vendors excited to show you the latest winter maintenance solutions for your community. If you have been unable to attend in the past, take advantage of it being in your backyard.

Conferences like this take a lot of work by the host chapter to put together, and it takes a lot of volunteers. If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer, please sign by following this link:

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/203819024025/false#/invitation>

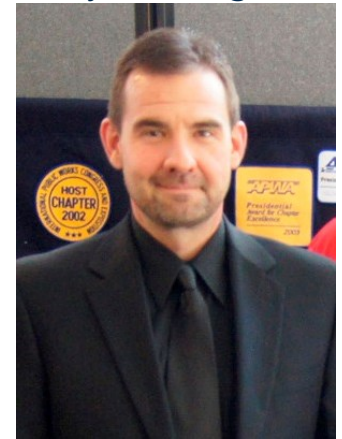
Additional information about the Snow Conference can be found here: <https://www.apwa.org/events/north-american-snow-conference/>

Hope to see you there!

### **Upcoming Chapter Events**

Please go to our website to get additional information on these events.

- (3/6/24) ASCE/APWA Joint Event
- (3/14/24) Young Professionals Pi Day Happy Hour & Networking
- (4/2-4/24) Public Works Institute Module II: Supervision Skills



## Delegate Details - cont.

### **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](http://www.apwa.net/toptech)

And if you have any other APWA questions please contact Becky Bonebrake at [becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org](mailto:becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org) or myself at [bstogsdill@fairwaykansas.org](mailto:bstogsdill@fairwaykansas.org) and if we are not able to answer the question we will find the right people that can.

## Myron D. Calkins Scholarship Application Open

### **Scholarship Applications Due April 15, 2024**



The KC Metro Chapter's Myron D. Calkins Scholarship application period is open and runs through April 15th, 2024. Interested applicants can download the application and all requirements to apply on the KC Metro APWA website. Please direct questions to [kcmetroapwascholarship@gmail.com](mailto:kcmetroapwascholarship@gmail.com). Good Luck!

Download the application here: <https://kcmetro.apwa.org/resources/myron-d-calkins-scholarship/>

# APWA KC Metro Annual Partnership



Heart of America

February 21, 2024

Dear Member,

As a valued supporter of the KC Metro Chapter of APWA, we are asking for your participation in the chapter's 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 or 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 or company, also provide support for the events that require additional financial support.

**As a reminder, the annual partnership does NOT include any registration for the events. Registration will be handled directly with each event.** Our Annual Partners will be promoted at all events with programs and signage. In addition, your partnership will specifically help finance the following events:

National Public Works Week Event	\$250
Holiday Party	\$250
Chapter Golf Event	\$250
Membership BBQ	\$100
Young Professional Event	\$50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$900</b>

Our Chapter is honored to host the upcoming **APWA's 2024 North American Snow Conference** from April 28th to May 1st. As the host chapter, we are actively seeking sponsors to help support this national event. To become a sponsor, please contact the Committee Chair, Bill Billings, at [bbillings100@gmail.com](mailto:bbillings100@gmail.com).

We look forward to your continued support of the APWA Kansas City Metro Chapter. To become an Annual Partner, please notify our chapter Vice President, Tawn Nugent at [tnugent@trekkdesigngroup.com](mailto:tnugent@trekkdesigngroup.com) of your commitment. **Payment should be remitted, along with an associated invoice, by March 22, 2024** to our Treasurer: John Cooper, 9801 Renner Boulevard, Suite 300, Lenexa, Kansas 66219.

If you have any questions regarding the Annual Partnership Program, please call Tawn at 816-506-1017.

Sincerely,

APWA KC Metro Chapter Executive Committee

# APWA KC Metro 2024 Award Winners

Congratulations to this year’s Chapter Level Winners!

**Myron Calkins**

**Young Leader of the Year**

Jack Renfro, HNTB



**Public Works Leader of the Year**

Jeff Fisher, Unified Government



**Field Supervisor Award**

Vern Fowler, City of Raytown



**Manager of the Year—Transportation**

Jason Waldron, City of Kansas City



**Manager of the Year—Administrative Management**

Raul Romero, Johnson County Wastewater



**Projects of the Year**

- Small Cities Rural Communities Environmental
  - Lake Lotawana—Waste Water Treatment Plant #1
    - City of Lake Lotawana, MO
    - Lamp Rynearson
    - David E. Ross Construction
- Transportation under \$5 million
  - Falcon Valley Drive Reconstruction
    - City of Lenexa, KS
    - Olsson
    - McConnell Associates
- Transportation \$5 million to \$25 million
  - Pflumm Road—143rd Street to 151st Street
    - City of Olathe, KS
    - Olsson
    - VF Anderson Builders, Inc.
- Structures Under \$5 million
  - Stagecoach and Sleepy Hollow Storm-water Improvements
    - City of Olathe, KS
    - Affinis
    - VF Anderson Builders, Inc.
- Environmental \$5 million to \$25 million
  - Hargis Lake Neighborhood Reconstruction
    - City of Belton, MO
    - Olsson
    - Kissick Construction Company

## Building a Culture of Belonging

## APWA KC Metro DEI Committee

### Embracing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Public Works: A Path to Community Success

Public Works Agencies, the backbone of community infrastructure and services, have a profound responsibility not only in maintaining and improving our physical environments but also in reflecting and nurturing the diverse communities they serve. Embracing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) is not just a moral imperative but a strategic necessity in these agencies.

#### Diversity: Reflecting the Community Tapestry

Diversity in Public Works means having a workforce that mirrors the rich tapestry of the communities they serve. This isn't just about numbers; it's about bringing varied perspectives, skills, and experiences to the table. A diverse team is better equipped to understand and meet the unique needs of different community segments, from designing accessible public spaces to ensuring language inclusivity in public communications.

#### Equity: Leveling the Playing Field

Equity goes beyond equality by acknowledging and addressing systemic inequalities. Public Works Agencies must ensure equitable access to their services and employment opportunities. This means actively identifying and removing barriers that might prevent marginalized groups from accessing public services or employment in these agencies. For example, adapting infrastructure projects to cater to underserved areas or implementing fair hiring practices that counteract biases.

#### Inclusion: Creating a Sense of Belonging

Inclusion in Public Works is about creating environments where all employees feel valued and empowered to contribute their best. This involves fostering a culture of respect, where diverse opinions are sought and heard. Inclusive practices can lead to more innovative problem-solving and a stronger, more cohesive team dynamic, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of public services.

#### Belonging: The Heart of DEIB

Belonging is the emotional aspect of DEIB. It's about nurturing a sense of connection and community within the workforce. When employees feel they truly belong, they are more engaged, committed, and productive. This sense of belonging can extend to the community, as residents see their identities and values reflected in the public services and projects.

#### The Road Ahead

Implementing DEIB in Public Works is not without challenges. It requires sustained commitment, continuous learning, and sometimes uncomfortable conversations. However, the benefits - a more responsive, innovative, and equitable public service - are well worth the effort. As our communities become increasingly diverse, the role of Public Works Agencies in championing DEIB becomes not only beneficial but essential for the wellbeing and prosperity of our communities.

In conclusion, embracing DEIB in Public Works Agencies is crucial for building strong, vibrant, and inclusive communities. It's about harnessing the power of diversity to create public services that truly reflect and serve the needs of every resident, fostering a sense of belonging and equity that uplifts everyone. As we move

## Building a Culture of Belonging

## APWA KC Metro DEI Committee

forward, let's commit to making DEIB a core part of our public service ethos.

If you would like to work with other Public Works professionals to learn more about DEIB or share what your organization is doing, join our APWA-KC DEI Committee by contacting Sheila Shockey at 913.515.4365 or [sheila@shockeyconsulting.com](mailto:sheila@shockeyconsulting.com). Visit our national website at: "[Diversity](https://www.apwa.org)" - [American Public Works Association \(apwa.org\)](https://www.apwa.org)

## Stormwatch

## APWA KC Metro Sustainable Infrastructure Committee

Floods are one of the most common natural disasters. Flash floods can happen quickly and without warning. They can have large economic impacts and pose a danger to the public. Overland Park and Johnson County have partnered to create a system that allows monitoring real-time rainfall conditions in the Johnson County area. This system consists of more than 100 gauges that collect rainfall information and disseminate this information through [www.stormwatch.com](http://www.stormwatch.com) a publicly available website.

Stormwatch presents data collected from remote weather stations throughout the area, with maps that are easy to understand, real-time dashboards, charts, graphs, and tables customized with thresholds and alarms that can be easily used for situational awareness, emergency management, and more!

In addition to reporting rainfall data, some stations also report:

- Stream levels
- Pavement state
- Temperature
- Pavement temperature
- Relative humidity
- Other weather data and apparatus status

On a day-to-day basis stormwatch serves as a tool used for calibration purposes, situational awareness, and historical information. During a rain event, stormwatch, and other tools, are used to make emergency response decisions in response to flooding. So, what are you waiting for? Visit [www.stormwatch.com](http://www.stormwatch.com) and check it out on your own!

We know you are doing great things for our communities. The Sustainable Infrastructure Committee (SIC) would like to hear about your Sustainable Success Stories. Tell us about your projects, share tips, or tools you use that are making a difference in your communities. Contact Scott Komarek, or anyone on the SIC if you have questions.



## Upcoming Events

### Johnson County Contractor Licensing

**March 11-13, 2024**

Overland Park Convention Center

The bi-annual Contractor Licensing Conference is the largest continuing education event for contractors and the construction community in the Midwest.

With an anticipated attendance of 500-600 attendees per day, this event will bring together contractors, building officials, inspectors, architects, project managers, and more.

It's an opportunity for attendees to stay current on code regulations, best practices, and emerging trends, while also networking with other professionals in the field.

[REGISTER](#)

### ACI Aggregate Testing Technician Level 1 Course & Exam

**March 11-12, 2024**

Pittsburg State University

School of Construction

Pittsburg, Kansas

Join us at Pittsburg State University School of Construction for the ACI Aggregate Testing Level 1. This includes the course and exam for level 1. Please contact Seth O'Brien at [sobrien@pittstate.edu](mailto:sobrien@pittstate.edu) to register or call (620)717-2203.

### APWA Young Professionals Pi Day Happy Hour & Networking

**March 14, 2024**

Pathlight Brewing Company

11200 W 75th Street

Shawnee, KS 66214

[REGISTER](#)

Come join us for a beverage, some pizza, and some networking. This is a great opportunity to meet some great folks and get involved with our chapter!

Cost: \$10 - your registration includes pizza, a beer, and a tour of the brewing facilities

Contact Joey Carley at [josephc@raytown.mo.us](mailto:josephc@raytown.mo.us) with any questions. We hope to see you there!

**Registration Closes 3/13/2024 at 3:14pm.**

## Upcoming Events

### ACI Aggregate/Soils Base Testing Technician Course & Exam

**March 28-29, 2024**

Pittsburg State University

School of Construction

Pittsburg, Kansas

[REGISTER](#)

Join us at Pittsburg State University School of Construction for the ACI Aggregate/Soils Base Testing Technician course. This includes the course and exam.

### Public Works Institute: Module II Public Works Supervision Skills

**April 2-4, 2024**

Eagle's Landing at Lake Olathe

475 S Wardcliff Dr.

Olathe, KS

[REGISTER](#)

Sign up now for the second module in the four-module Public Works Institute program. Registration is now open and limited to the first 70 participants so don't delay! If you have any questions about the Public Works Institute program or this upcoming event, please contact Public Works Institute Directors Dena Mezger and Tim Ross at [KCMetroPWI@gmail.com](mailto:KCMetroPWI@gmail.com).

### Concrete Design For Energy Efficiency

**April 3, 2024, 12:00—1:00 PM**

Kansas City Architects Association

1801 McGee St

Suite 100

Kansas City, MO 64108

[REGISTER](#)

Come join the Concrete Promotional Group, Inc & National Ready Mixed Concrete Association as they host this session. This session will feature Darryl Dixon as the speaker, a NRMCA Speaker.

## Upcoming Events

### 2024 Construction Expo

**April 9-10, 2024**

Pittsburg State University  
School of Construction  
Pittsburg, Kansas

[REGISTER](#)

This expo will feature courses on joint sawing and curing and ways to reduce concrete's carbon footprint. Featured speakers are UMKC'S Dr. John Kevern and NRMCA Regional Director Justin McCain. Registration is now open in addition to sponsorship opportunities.

### Storm Spotter Training

**April 9, 2024 12:00 — 4:00 PM**

Eagles Landing at Lake Olathe

[REGISTER](#)

The National Weather Service trains official County Storm Spotter groups each spring across the region. This year they are extending this training to public works professionals at this event. Attendees can expect to come away with a better understanding of factors that lead to destructive storms, visual cues which may provide a heads up to destructive weather, as well as ways to build situational weather awareness each day.

### Concrete Field-Testing Technician Grade I Exam

**April 19, 2024, 8:00 AM — 4:00 PM**

Kansas Sand & Concrete  
531 NW Tyler Street  
Topeka, KS 66608

[REGISTER](#)

This is an exam session only. Examinees should arrive prepared to take the exam. No training or review will be provided. Advanced study and practice with the procedures is highly recommended. Another Exam session will also be available April 25, 2004.

### APWA North American Snow Conference

**April 28 — May 1, 2024**

Kansas City, MO

[Sign up as a volunteer](#)

The KC Metro Chapter of APWA is seeking volunteers to help with the APWA National North American Snow Conference that will be in Kansas City this spring. All volunteers that provide a minimum of 4 hours of service will also be able to attend a half-day at the conference. We hope to see you as a volunteer and at the conference!

Please reach out to Becky Bonebrake at [becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org](mailto:becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org) with any questions.

[More information about the conference](#)

## Chapter Leadership

### APWA 2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

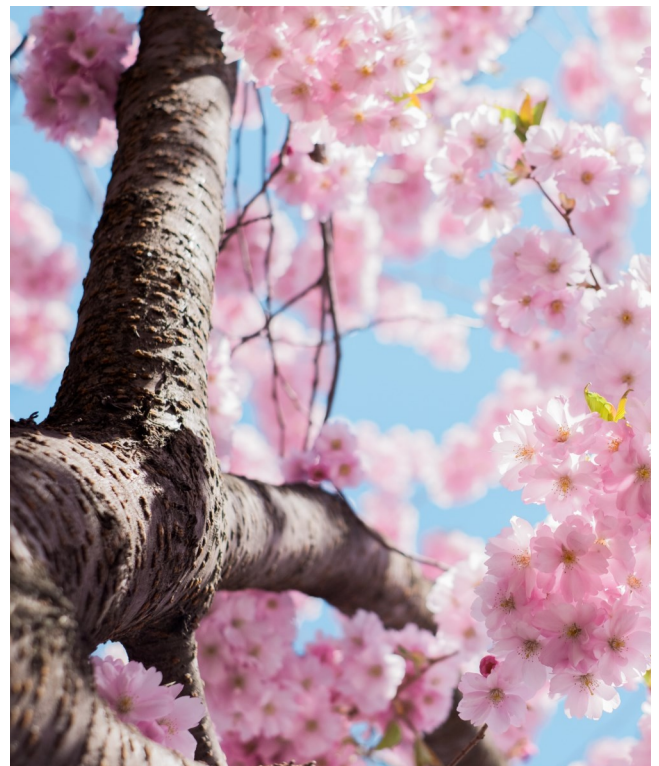
Audit & Budget - Bryan Blizzard  
 Awards - Nathan Hladky & Becky Bonebrake  
 By-Laws - Ben Will  
 Chapter Meetings - Thomas Renfro  
 Communications and Publicity - Allison Bruner  
 Community Service - Tommy Hunter  
 Diversity and Inclusion - Sheila Shockey  
 Education & Training - Zach Matteo & 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

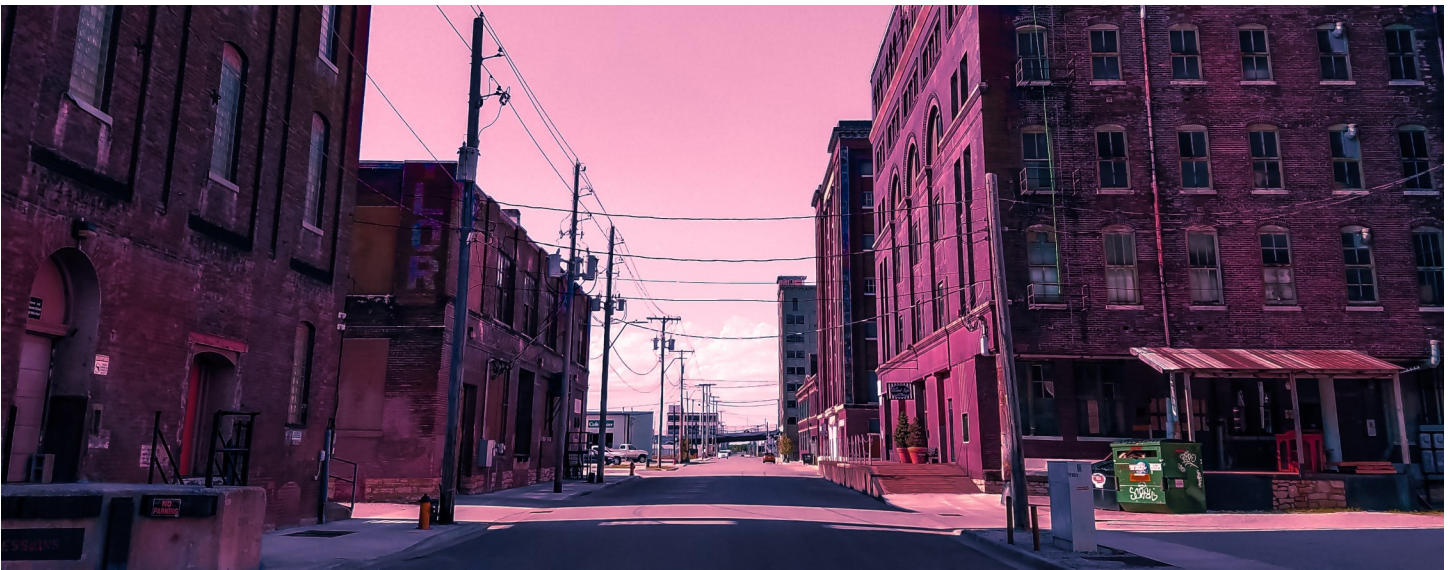
### Appointments, Liaisons, Coordinators, and Task Forces

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

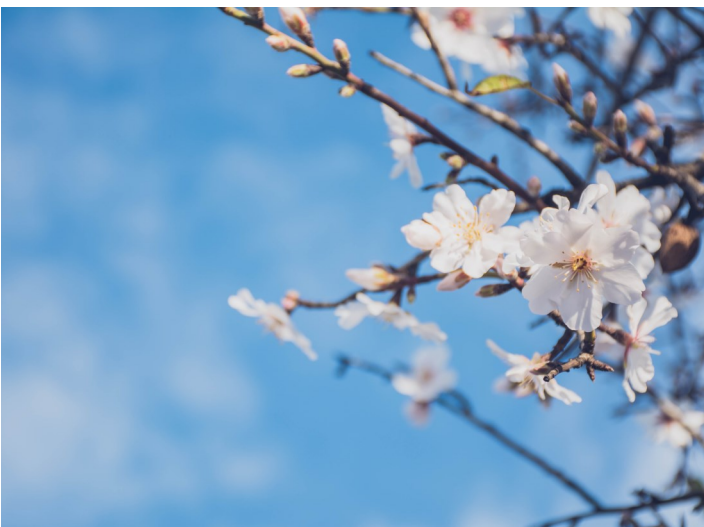




The APWA Pub News, a free publication of the Kansas City Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA), is published in six issues throughout the year. To receive a free subscription, send an e-mail to [abruner@trekkdesigngroup.com](mailto:abruner@trekkdesigngroup.com).

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 May. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, May 3, 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.