

PUB NEWS

APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



National Public Works Week

See page 2 for more details

See page 9 for more details on the KC Metro Chapter event

Emerging Leaders Academy Applications Open

See page 3 for more details

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Subcommittee

See page 4 for more details

Building a Culture of Belonging

See page 5 for more details

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Perspective.....	2
Delegate Details	3
Past Events	7
Upcoming Events	8
Chapter Leadership	12



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



President's Perspective

By Ben Will

May is officially here, I hope that everyone has been spared from the severe weather that has been around the area the past couple of weeks. May is an exciting month for APWA and our KC Metro Chapter as we think about celebrating National Public Works Week May 15-21. National Public Works Week serves as an opportunity to highlight the importance of public works and the dedicated individuals who design, build, operate, respond to emergencies, and maintain it.



At its core, National Public Works Week underscores the fundamental role that public works plays in supporting the health, safety, and quality of life of residents in cities, towns, and rural areas across this country. From ensuring clean water and safe roads to managing waste disposal and maintaining facilities, public works professionals are responsible for a wide range of critical services that impact every aspect of daily life.

National Public Works Week serves as a platform for recognizing the hard work and dedication of public works employees. These individuals often work behind the scenes, braving inclement weather, emergency situations, and long hours to ensure that essential services are delivered reliably and efficiently. Their commitment to public service deserves recognition and appreciation from the communities they serve.

In addition to celebrating the present achievements of public works professionals, National Public Works Week also encourages reflection on the future of infrastructure and the evolving needs of communities. As populations grow, technologies advance, and environmental challenges intensify, public works agencies must adapt and innovate to meet the changing demands of society. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, National Public Works Week helps pave the way for sustainable, resilient, and equitable infrastructure solutions for future generations.



National Public Works Week is more than just a celebration—it is a reminder of the interconnectedness of our communities and the indispensable role that public works plays in shaping our collective well-being. By honoring the contributions of public works professionals and promoting awareness of their vital work, we can inspire a renewed commitment to building and maintaining safe, vibrant, and sustainable communities for all.

Thank you for all that you do on a day-to-day basis. It is appreciated and noticed.

Delegate Details

By Bill Stogsdill

It is already May and a lot of our duties have already shifted to construction and summer maintenance activities. As we are out working in traffic conditions more regularly, and distracted driving is at an all-time high, just a friendly reminder to be aware of your surroundings and to be cautious.



National Public Works Week

This year National Public Works Week is May 19-25, 2024 and the theme is "Advancing Quality of Life for All". This year's NPWW poster illustrates how public works professionals contribute to and enhance the quality of life in all the communities they proudly serve.

How does your organization celebrate National Public Works Week? Does your Governing Body adopt a Proclamation? If you need a sample Proclamation, ideas or other resources, APWA has lots of resources online at:

<https://www.apwa.org/events/national-public-works-week-npww/>



Emerging Leaders Academy

The APWA Emerging Leaders Academy is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 class. It is a program that will help you with leadership development early on in your career. The KC Metro Chapter has had over 30 members to date go through the academy.



If selected, you are required to attend PWX to help with your class presentation and to graduate. To help offset this, the KC Metro Chapter will provide a \$3,000 stipend (reimbursable to whomever pays for your PWX trip) to anyone that is selected for the ELA and graduates from the ELA.

Application timeline:

- Applications due- July 10, 2024
- Applicants notified of status in 2024-2025 class- No later than August 30, 2024
- 2024-2025 class retreat in Kansas City, MO- November 7-9, 2024

If you would like more information, please visit here for the application: <https://www.apwa.org/education-careers/emerging-leaders-academy/>

Becky and I are past graduates of the Emerging Leaders Academy, so do not hesitate to reach out with any questions about the program.

Delegate Details - cont.

Upcoming Chapter Events in May/June

- 5/16/24- Embrace Your Mistakes
- 5/22/24- NPWW Event
- 6/1/24- Habitat for Humanity Build Day
- 6/4/24- 5600 & BMP Manual Update
- 6/13/24- Public Works 101
- 6/28/24- APWA BBQ Competition

To sign up for any of these events, or to get more information, please visit: <https://kcmetro.apwa.org/event/>

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.

Bill Stogsdill bstogsdill@fairwaykansas.org

Becky Bonebrake becky.bonebrake@opkansas.org

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Subcommittee

Did you know that several metro jurisdictions have signed an emergency public works mutual aid agreement, just like fire and police? Did you know that there is a program in the metro that helps private industry loan heavy equipment to first responders during a disaster? Does your jurisdiction have a debris management plan for the aftermath of severe weather?

You can learn about all of these and more by participating in the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Subcommittee. This team meets virtually on the first Thursday of every month at 10am and provides a forum for public works professionals to discuss our federally mandated role as first responders after a disaster or emergency. This is an opportunity to not only network and learn from fellow public works professionals but also local emergency managers.

For more information, please contact
Melissa Morky at mmokry@waterone.org,
Trey Whitaker at twhitaker@edgertonks.org,
or Rob Cole at rwcole@olatheks.org.



Building a Culture of Belonging

APWA KC Metro DEI Committee

Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Public Works: A Practical Guide for Public Works Professionals

Public Works professionals are uniquely positioned to influence and shape the fabric of our communities. Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) into Public Works organizations is not just about creating a positive workplace culture; it's about ensuring that the services provided are equitable, accessible, and reflective of the community's diverse needs. Here are practical ways Public Works professionals can embed DEIB into their organizations:

1. Develop a DEIB Strategic Plan

Start by creating a strategic plan for DEIB. This plan should include clear goals, action items, and measurable outcomes. Engage employees at all levels in this process to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the organization. This plan should be a living document, open to revisions as the organization grows and learns.



2. Cultivate an Inclusive Culture

An inclusive culture begins with awareness and training. Provide regular training sessions on topics like unconscious bias, cultural competence, and inclusive communication. Encourage open dialogues and create safe spaces where employees can share their experiences and perspectives. Recognize and celebrate diverse cultures and backgrounds, making sure everyone feels valued and included.

3. Implement Equitable Hiring and Promotion Practices

Review your hiring and promotion practices to ensure they are fair and equitable. This might involve working with diverse recruitment sources, using structured interview processes to minimize bias, and ensuring diversity in hiring panels. Consider implementing mentorship and professional development programs to support the growth of underrepresented groups within the organization.

4. Focus on Accessible and Equitable Service Delivery

Public Works professionals must ensure that the services they provide are accessible and equitable. This means considering the diverse needs of the community in every project or initiative. For instance, ensuring public facilities are ADA compliant, or that public communications are available in multiple languages. Engage with community members to understand their needs and tailor services accordingly.

Building a Culture of Belonging

APWA KC Metro DEI Committee

5. Foster Partnerships with Diverse Community Groups

Build relationships with diverse community groups. These partnerships can provide valuable insights into the needs of different community segments and offer opportunities for collaborative projects. They also help in building trust and ensuring that the services provided are culturally sensitive and inclusive.

6. Measure and Reflect

Regularly assess your organization's progress in achieving its DEIB goals. This might involve conducting surveys, reviewing workforce and service delivery data, and seeking feedback from employees and community members. Use this data to reflect on successes and areas for improvement, adjusting strategies and practices as needed.

7. Lead by Example

Leadership commitment is crucial in driving DEIB efforts. Leaders should model inclusive behavior, actively participate in DEIB initiatives, and communicate the importance of these values within the organization. Their commitment can inspire others and create a ripple effect throughout the organization.

In conclusion, integrating DEIB into Public Works organizations requires a proactive and sustained effort. It's about creating a workplace where everyone feels valued and empowered, and ensuring that the services provided are fair, accessible, and responsive to the needs of a diverse community. By taking these practical steps, Public Works professionals can play a pivotal role in building more inclusive, equitable, and resilient communities.

If you would like to work with other Public Works professionals to learn more about DEIB or share what your



Past Events

Public Works Institute: Supervision Skills

April 2-4, 2024

The Kansas City Metro Chapter held its 22nd Public Works Institute (PWI) session entitled Public Works Supervision Skills at the Eagle's Landing event center at Lake Olathe on April 2-4, 2024. Thanks to Stephani Stark and a bunch of other Olathe staff for helping with preparation and daily care throughout the week. And a big thanks to Olathe for making this facility available at no charge to the chapter. Their generosity allowed us to keep the registration fee at \$250 again for this session.

The class was welcomed to the PWI training on the first morning by Chapter President Nick Arena. Seventy four attendees were engaged by twenty three public works professionals who volunteered to share their expertise and facilitate group discussions. Most attendees commented that learning these specific skills and the opportunity for networking were especially valuable.

After completing this module of learning, eleven attendees have completed all four of the three-day training modules and have now graduated from PWI. Congratulations! All will be recognized in their workplaces with plaques later this year. The next session will be Module III Public Works Management Fundamentals. It is planned for fall of 2024 in a location on the Missouri side of the metro. Please stay tuned for details on content and registration.



(above) All attendees at this Public Works Institute; (below left) APWA KC Metro Chapter President Nick Arena welcoming attendees to the PWI session; (below right) all 11 PWI graduates from this session



Upcoming Events

Missouri Bridge Conference

Sponsored by MoDOT in coordination with the University of Missouri

May 15, 2024

Stony Creek Hotel
Columbia, MO

[**REGISTER**](#)

The Missouri Bridge Conference intends to provide a forum for bridge engineers to hear from leaders in their profession, to discuss best practices, to learn about new bridge engineering technologies, and more. We invite you to attend.

(NRMCA) Concrete Innovation Webinar Series:

De-Risking Lower-Carbon Concrete

May 15, 2024

Webinar

[**REGISTER**](#)

De-Risking Lower-Carbon Concrete – The importance of innovation and the value proposition of leadership - Don Davies, Co-founder, Davies-Crooks Associates; Sara Neff, Head of Sustainability, Lendlease Americas; James Murray-Coleman, Director of Sustainability, Trammel Crow Company

Product Spotlight - Master Builders Solutions: Concrete Strength and Sustainability Redefined - Tyler Grissom, Product Manager, Master Builders Solution

Embrace Your Mistakes - A Lessons Learned Roundtable

APWA KC Metro Chapter Leadership and Management Committee

May 16, 2024 7:30 AM (breakfast meeting)

Matt Ross Community Center
8101 Marty St.
Overland Park, KS 66204

[**REGISTER**](#)

Roundtable Panelists:

- **Bill Stogsdill** Director of Public Works, Fairway, KS
- **Dena Mezger** Retired Director of Public Works, Lee's Summit, Missouri
- **Patty Hilderbrand** Director of Public Works, Harrisonville, Missouri
- **Bill Ebel** Retired City Manager, Overland Park, Kansas

This distinguished panel will provide brilliant, whimsical stories about their experiences in leadership roles. They will be able to provide a look at their current and past leadership opportunities with a spin towards the fun (maybe not so fun at the time) experiences. Please join us for this unique breakfast opportunity and be prepared to interact with our panel.

Upcoming Events

APWA KC Metro Chapter National Public Works Week Event

May 22, 2024 5:00—7:00 PM

Silo Modern Farmhouse

17501 W 87th Street

Lenexa, Kansas 66219

REGISTER



NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK 2024

Wednesday May 22nd from 5:00p to 7:30p

Tickets are on sale now for the 2024 National Public Works Week Event!

Silo Modern Farmhouse

17501 W 87th St, Lenexa, KS 66219

Join us on May 22, 2024 for an after-hours social event celebrating the best of Public Works in the KC Metro! This year we are headed to the Silos Modern Farmhouse, just west of the Lenexa City Center on 87th Street. Doors open at 5:00p. More information to come on the evening's schedule and awards announcements.

Tickets are \$35 and include food and drink tickets. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Sales close on Monday May 13th.



AWARDS • FOOD & DRINKS • NETWORKING



Upcoming Events

APWA KC Metro Chapter Habitat for Humanity Build Day

June 1, 2024 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Location in KC: TBD

[**REGISTER**](#)

A build day with Habitat KC is a one-of-a-kind team-building experience with a positive impact. Spending a day volunteering with Habitat KC will foster stronger team bonds and enhance communication skills while creating affordable housing solutions for Kansas City families. No previous construction experience is needed to volunteer, and all the tools needed to complete the job will be provided.

APWA KC Metro Chapter New Regional Stormwater (5600) Design Criteria Coming for the KC Metro Area

June 4, 2024 11:30 AM

Kauffman Foundation

Conference Center

4801 Rockhill Rd.

Kansas City, MO

[**REGISTER**](#)

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is administrating a regional project to update the regional stormwater design standards. This project includes both the stormwater design criteria currently defined as Division V, Section 5600, Storm Drainage Systems and Facilities of Kansas City Metro Chapter of APWA as well as the Manual of Best Management Practices for Stormwater Quality, MARC and Kansas City Metro Chapter of APWA. The project is at the mid-point so come and learn about the process to date, opportunities to participate in upcoming workshops, and learn about the final process for the new design manual.

APWA Administration and Contracts Committee Public Works 101

June 13, 2024 11:30 AM

Lee's Summit City Hall

Howard Conference Room

[**REGISTER**](#)

Ever wanted to learn more about Public Works, but were afraid to ask? The newly formed Admin & Contracts Committee will host a Public Works 101 Session to discuss all the aspects of Public Works including basic services, technical aspects, field operations, fleet services. This session is specifically designed for non-technical office personnel who support Public Works agencies.

Upcoming Events

NRMCA Concrete Innovation Webinar Series: Decarbonization Strategies **Less Clinker in Cement, Less Cement in Concrete: A Two-fold Strategy Towards Decarbonization**

June 19, 2024 10:00 AM

Webinar

Concrete Innovations Learning Center is designed to bring practitioners, researchers and policy makers together to exchange the latest innovations for sustainable concrete design, construction and manufacturing. Visit www.concreteinnovations.com for detailed topics.

REGISTER

19th Annual APWA BBQ Challenge and Membership Drive

June 28, 2024 6:00 PM

Knights of Columbus Park
19699 Shawnee Mission Parkway
Shawnee, Kansas 66218

Come on out to the Knights of Columbus Park to enjoy all you can eat competition barbecue and drinks! The price will be 10 dollars per person, pay at the gate with cash or check. If you would like to enter a team into the competition, please sign up by June 1st. See below forms for sign up information and rules. Please contact Jack Renfro with any questions (jrenfro@HNTB.com)

REGISTER

Chapter Leadership

APWA 2024 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 - Chad Thompson
 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 2024 OFFICERS

President - Nick Arena
 Vice President - Tawn Nugent
 Secretary - Patty Hilderbrand
 Treasurer - John Cooper
 Past President - Ben Will
 Director (2nd Year) - Ernie Longoria
 Director (2nd Year) - Trey Whitaker
 Director (1st Year) - Stephanie Boyce
 Director (1st 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.

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 July. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, July 5, 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.

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.

