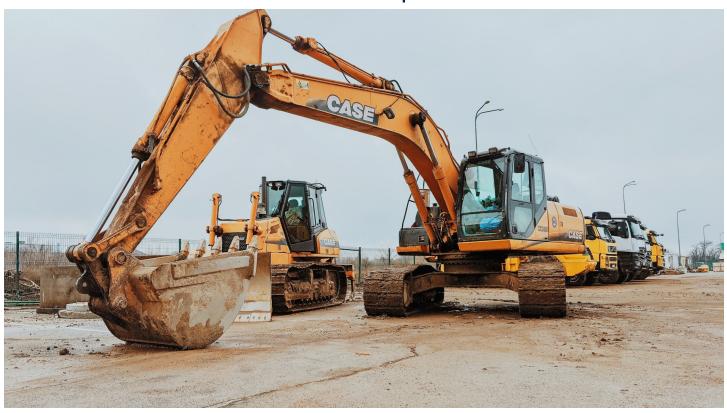
PUB NEWS

APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



Upcoming PWX and YP Summit in AtlantaSee page 2 for more details

Emerging Leaders Academy Applications OpenSee page 3 for more details

New Administrative & Contracts Committee
See page 4 for more details

Building a Culture of BelongingSee page 6 for more details

New Small Cities/Rural Communities Committee
See page 8 for more details



President's Perspective	2
Delegate Details	3
New Members	5
Past Events	8
Upcoming Events	11
Chapter Leadership	13



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President's Perspective

By Ben Will

Hard to believe that it is already July, thank you to all of the public works staff (public and private) who are out there planning, designing, building, maintaining, and keeping our infrastructure safe through the heat of summer. As the temperatures rise, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your unwavering dedication and hard work. Your commitment to maintaining our roads, infrastructure, and public spaces, often under challenging and sweltering conditions, does not go unnoticed.



Your resilience and perseverance ensure our community remains safe, functional, and beautiful, even in the face of extreme heat. I truly appreciate your efforts and the sacrifices you make daily. Thank you for your exceptional service and for being the backbone of our community.

The KC Metro Chapter recently celebrated National Public Works Week (NPWW) May 19-25, 2024, and it was great to see all the recognition and events that took place. Thank you for all who attended the KC Metro Chapter's event and awards ceremony on May 22.

A reminder that the 2024 PWX is coming up in Atlanta. For those that will be attending from the KC Metro Chapter, please be on the lookout for important information regarding events and our Chapter dinner. More information to come soon. For more information regarding PWX please visit 2024 PWX

APWA National is providing TWO complementary registrations to PWX and the YP Summit that takes place the Saturday before PWX begins. In order to qualify for the free registrations,

- The Registrant must be 35 years old or younger to qualify as a Young Professional
- The Registrant must be able to attend both the Young Professional Summit (September 7) and PWX (September 8-11) in Atlanta, Georgia
- The Registrant must pay for their travel expenses either on their own or with the assistance of their employer or chapter

In addition, the KC Metro Chapter will provide a stipend of \$2,000 to the two members that are selected to help offset travel expenses. The deadline is July 26, 2024 to submit.

If you are interested please send a cover letter and resume (make sure to include any APWA activities) to:

- Nick Arena <u>narena@lenexa.com</u> Chapter President and
- Bill Stogsdill <u>bstogsdill@fairwaykansas.org</u> Chapter Delegate

Stay safe, stay hydrated, and know that your work is greatly valued.

Delegate Details

July typically brings some of the most challenging (non-winter) weather. This year we have been inundated with warmer than average heat and it seems like a neverending string of damaging thunderstorms. Early July has brought torrential downpours, flooding, and damaging winds. To all the Public Works First Responders, thank you for your efforts this summer!

PWX

Have you signed up for PWX in Atlanta? The KC Metro Chapter always has a strong presence at PWX. If you are offered the opportunity to attend, say yes. There is always something for everyone. Incredible education sessions, one the largest expo

floors in our industry, and networking opportunities for you to share information with your peers from across the nation and world. Find more out at http://www.apwa.org/pwx



YP Summit at PWX

Are you a Young Professional and would you like to attend PWX in Atlanta? APWA National is providing TWO complementary registrations to PWX and the YP Summit that takes place the day before. Please see the message below from President Losier for eligibility criteria. Unfortunately, anyone already registered for the YP Summit or PWX is not eligible to receive one of these complimentary registrations since the offer is not retroactive.

In addition, the KC Metro Chapter will provide a stipend of \$2,000 to the two members that are selected to help offset travel expenses. The deadline is July 26, 2024, to submit.

If you are interested, please send a cover letter and resume (make sure to include any APWA activities) to:

Nick Arena narena@lenexa.com – Chapter President and Bill Stogsdill bstogsdill@fairwaykansas.org – Chapter Delegate

Upcoming Events

- Click, Listen & Learn webinars:
 - July 25, 2024—What's New With the MUTCD 11th Edition?
 - Click here to register: https://www.apwa.org/event/whats-new-with-the-mutcd-11th-edition/
 - August 29, 2024—Memorials in the Right of Way
 - Click here to register: https://www.apwa.org/event/memorials-in-the-right-of-way/
- 7/17/24- Facilities and Grounds Certificate Program
 - Click Here to register: https://kcmetro.apwa.org/event/facilities-and-grounds-management-certificate-program/
- 8/22-23/24- Becoming and Inclusive Leader- DEIB Training for Supervisors and Managers
 - Click Here to register: https://member.marc.org/ap/Events/Register/NaFYbn7tYCaCm

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Stay Safe!!

Administrative & Contracts Committee

KC Metro Chapter Board approves the Administrative & Contracts Committee

Leaders from the KC Metro Chapter of APWA were approached a few years ago about starting a committee, a committee specifically for office support staff members. At the time, there is no committee (locally or nationally) available to support non-technical personnel. In order to fill this gap, a small core group of people met to discuss the committee and to develop the Mission, Vision, and Goals. The final proposal was submitted to the KC Metro Chapter Executive Committee for consideration. In December 2023, the KC Metro Chapter of APWA approved the Administrative & Contracts Committee as a new standing committee.

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

Vision – 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.

On January 23, 2024, the Administrative & Contracts Committee hosted their first committee meeting. During the inaugural meeting, committee leaders presented the Mission, Vision, and Goals. The group discussed future program ideas.

The Administrative & Contracts Committee will host quarterly programs to help support the enrichment of office support staff members. For more information, look for future email blasts.

The Administrative & Contracts Committee is looking for more members. If you have Office Support staff members in your organization, please have them contact Kristen Love (klove@leawood.org) for more information to get more involved. Both members and non-members are welcome.



Membership Management Update & Welcome New Members

Last June, APWA began an ambitious project to update several components of how we manage our membership and engagement across the entire organization. A major component of this project was to migrate our membership management system to an entirely new platform. While the project has made huge progress over the past year, we did have a few bumps along the way. Unfortunately, this had an impact on how our chapter was able to access, manage, and contact our chapter members.

APWA staff is working hard to complete the rollout of this new platform, but there is still work to be done. For now, members cannot update certain contact information within their profile, but you can update your email address, preferences, and other key information. To help us with this transition, please log in to your account to make sure the right email address is on file. It will help tremendously!

Despite the remaining work, there have been some recent developments that help our chapter leadership better serve you. We are very excited to announce our chapter is now able to access member information for the first time since June 2023. What does this mean for you? First, it means we are able to update our lists to reflect changes in contact information that have occurred over the last year (so go check your email preferences right now!). What it also means is we are able to access new member information. And what THAT means, is we are able to start actively welcoming new members to our chapter once again! Keep your eyes peeled for information about upcoming new member welcome opportunities—we look forward to ramping these back up in the coming months.

So, without further ado, let's give a WARM welcome to all our members who have joined since June 1, 2023:

Phillip Wilson, City of Lee's Summit

Jake Kowalewski, CIS

Mark Schaufler, City of Lee's Summit

Dom Bennett, City of Lee's Summit

Angela Laurie, City of Kansas City, MO

Mia Puthumana, City of Kansas City, MO

Daniel McMullen, City of Leawood **Brandon Wayne**, City of Leawood

Scott Karagiorgas, Johnson County Wastewater

Kyle King, City of Peculiar

Mason Pritchett, City of Peculiar

Apollo Hernandez, Unified Government **Monica Hawkins**, City of Lee's Summit

Alexandra Williams, TREKK

David Brucker, Hometown

Garrett Kauss, Garver **Gerald Bollinger**, CMT

Rane Stone, City of Prairie Village Lance Stegman, SIP Industries

David Nolte, JEO

Richard Fatherley, City of Westwood David Keener, Paradise Pavement Tania Tavakkoli, City of Overland Park David Burke, City of Kansas City, MO Thomas Taylor, City of Kansas City, MO Aaron Ussery, Unified Government

Kristina Blevins, Unified Government

Diana Jimenez, Unified Government

Coreena Strom, City of Olathe

Andrew Wainscott, City of Leawood

Colby Stroh, City of Olathe

Braxton Scheufele, PCC Midwest

Kevin Schumm, Terra Drive Systems

Christopher Mynk, QK, Inc.

Andrew Nelson, Unified Government

Luther Walker, Unified Government

Marcus Hankins, City of Raytown

Sanjay Veerla, University of Missouri

Terry Moss, City of Lee's Summit

Liz Wilkerson, City of Lee's Summit

Ryan Heckman, City of Lee's Summit

Karen Allison, City of Lee's Summit

Kim Ward, City of Lee's Summit

Tyler Sonne, City of Lee's Summit

Ashley Montgomery, Burns & McDonnell

Danny Wells, City of Peculiar

Steve Garr, City of Kearney

Andrew Walberg, CFS

Ben Snider, HNTB

Mike Riley, City of Peculiar

Building a Culture of Belonging

APWA KC Metro DEI Committee

Leading by Example: Championing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Public Works

In the realm of Public Works, the importance of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) cannot be overstated. It is the leaders within these organizations who play a pivotal role in cultivating a culture that embraces these values. Leading by example is a powerful approach to inspire change and foster a workplace where diversity is not just accepted but celebrated. Here's how leaders in Public Works can actively promote DEIB:

1. Personal Commitment and Continuous Learning

- Step 1: Demonstrate personal commitment to DEIB by participating in diversity training and workshops.
- Step 2: Share your learning experiences with your team, encouraging them to engage in similar opportunities.
- Step 3: Stay informed about current DEIB trends and challenges and reflect this learning in your leadership practices.

2. Inclusive Communication

- Step 1: Adopt inclusive language in all forms of communication. This means being mindful of genderneutral language, cultural sensitivity, and accessibility.
- Step 2: Encourage open dialogue where all team members feel safe expressing their ideas and concerns.
- Step 3: Provide multiple channels for feedback, ensuring that even quieter voices are heard.



3. Diverse Hiring and Promotion Practices

- Step 1: Lead the charge in implementing equitable hiring practices, such as diverse interview panels and unbiased recruitment strategies.
- Step 2: Actively work to identify and eliminate barriers that might prevent underrepresented groups from advancing within the organization.
- Step 3: Mentor and sponsor employees from diverse backgrounds, aiding their professional development and visibility.

Building a Culture of Belonging

APWA KC Metro DEI Committee

4. Equitable Project Management

- Step 1: Ensure that public works projects consider the needs of diverse community groups. This can involve community consultations and inclusive planning processes.
- Step 2: Allocate resources in a manner that addresses historical inequities and supports underserved communities.
- Step 3: Lead by example in the field, demonstrating respect and inclusivity in all community interactions.

5. Celebrating Diversity

- Step 1: Recognize and celebrate cultural events and diversity milestones within your organization.
- Step 2: Encourage team members to share their cultural backgrounds and experiences, fostering a deeper understanding among colleagues.
- Step 3: Implement policies that acknowledge and accommodate various cultural and religious practices.

6. Visible Advocacy and Support

- Step 1: Publicly advocate for DEIB initiatives both within and outside the organization.
- Step 2: Use your position to influence broader policy changes that support DEIB in the public works sector.
- Step 3: Partner with other leaders and organizations to amplify the importance of DEIB in community development.

In summary, leaders in Public Works can be powerful catalysts for change by leading by example in the realm of DEIB. Through personal commitment, inclusive practices, equitable management, and visible advocacy, they can create an environment where diversity is celebrated, and every individual feels valued and supported. This leadership approach not only enriches the workplace culture but also ensures that public services are inclusive and equitable, truly reflecting the diverse communities they serve.



We'd love to hear what you have been doing to incorporate DEIB in your organization. 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. Visit our national website at: "Diversity" - American Public Works Association (apwa.org)

Past Events

Small Cities/Rural Communities Panel

May 7, 2024

At the beginning of this year, the KC Metro Chapter proudly launched its Small Cities Rural Communities Committee, marking a significant step forward in addressing the unique needs of these communities. The committee's kickoff event featured an insightful panel of public works directors who shared their experiences and strategies for overcoming challenges, capitalizing on successes, and leveraging shared resources for mutual benefit.

The event, held on May 7, saw an impressive turnout, attracting professionals from both the public and private sectors. This diverse audience facilitated rich discussions and networking opportunities, fostering stronger public-private partnerships.

Key topics covered during the panel included:

- **Managing Priorities in Public Works:** Panelists discussed the delicate balance required to meet community needs while managing limited resources and high expectations.
- **Expanding Resources:** Strategies were shared on how small cities and rural communities can effectively expand their resources through collaboration and innovative approaches.
- **Impact of Growth:** The discussions highlighted how growth affects small communities and the necessary adaptations in public works to support sustainable development.

The inaugural panel proved to be a resounding success, providing valuable insights and actionable strategies for professionals dedicated to advancing public works in small cities and rural communities. The event also underscored the importance of continuous learning, collaboration, and the forging of strong public-private partnerships to enhance community infrastructure and services.



Panelists:

- Stephanie Boyce, City of Mission, KS
- Patty Hilderbrand, City of Harrisonville, MO
- Joe Johnson, City of DeSoto, KS
- **Sherri McIntyre**, City of Liberty, MO

Moderator:

 Alysen Abel, 2022 KC Metro Chapter President

Past Events

National Public Works Week Event

May 22, 2024

The KC Metro Chapter's National Public Works Week event was held on May 22, 2024 at the Silos Modern Farmhouse in Lenexa, KS. Around 90 attendees enjoyed a beautiful evening on the patio celebrating this year's Chapter award winners and all our members do for Public Works.

This year's award winners include:

- Myron Caulkins Young Leader of the Year: Jack Renfro, HNTB
- Public Works Leader of the Year: Jeff Fisher
- Manager of the Year, Transportation: Jason Waldron, City of Kansas City, MO
- Manager of the Year, Administrative Management: Raul Romero, Johnson County Wastewater
- Field Supervisor Award: Vern Fowler, City of Raytown, MO
- Management Innovation Award: Future of Transportation Innovation Lab, City of Kansas City, MO
- Small City/Rural Community Environmental: Lake Lotawana Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 (City of Lake Lotawana, Lamp Rynearson, David E. Ross Construction)
- Transportation (Under \$5 Million): Falcon Valley Drive Reconstruction (City of Lenexa, Olsson, McConnell Associates)
- Transportation (\$5 to \$25 Million): Plfumm Road, 143rd St to 151st St (City of Olathe, Olsson, VF Anderson Builders)
- **Structures (Under \$5 Million):** Raw Water Pump Station & Smith's Fork Pump Station (City of Smithville, HDR, Irvinbuilt)
- **Environmental (Under \$5 Million):** Stagecoach and Sleepy Hollow Stormwater Improvements (City of Olathe, Affinis, VF Anderson Builders)
- **Environmental (\$5 to \$25 Million):** Hargis Lake Neighborhood Reconstruction (City of Belton, Olsson, Kissick Construction Company)





Past Events

Public Works 101

June 13, 2024

In the second Admin & Contracts meeting hosted by the City of Lee's Summit, Alysen Abel and Nick Arena provided an insightful overview of public works essentials, engaging attendees with a comprehensive Public Works 101 session. They covered critical aspects such as street maintenance and repairs, stormwater management, and snow operations, highlighting the intricacies and challenges of each area. With 21 participants in attendance, the session was an enriching opportunity to deepen understanding and foster collaboration within the community.



APWA Barbecue Competition and Membership Drive

June 28, 2024

The APWA Barbecue Competition and Membership Dinner on June 28th was a success! 16 teams competed in four categories including Sausage, Chicken, Ribs, and Pork. Congratulations to the following teams who placed, and to the Knights of Columbus for hosting us for yet another successful year.

Grand Champion: Blazing Cattles BBQ



Reserve Grand Champion: Terra-Que



Third Place: GBA Barbecue Team



Upcoming Events

Facilities and Grounds Management Certificate Program

July 17, 2024

Lenexa Fire Station #3 24000 Prairie Star Parkway Lenexa, KS



The KC Metro Facilities and Grounds committee is pleased to again host the Facilities and Grounds Management Certificate Program this year. The program will cover the basic need-to-know topics that professionals in the facilities and grounds disciplines need to understand to perform their jobs effectively and proficiently. The program provides training and real-life experiences in the areas of ADA compliance, grounds maintenance, preventative maintenance, capital improvement planning, and more. After completing this course, participants will be better able to:

- List the topics about which facilities and grounds professionals should possess a basic mastery and proficiency.
- Discuss what facilities and grounds professionals should consider in their day-to-day planning and in forming both long- and short-range objectives.
- Identify the information that should be considered by facilities and grounds professionals when they develop program initiatives and budgets.

This course is approximately eight (8) hours in duration and is eligible for .8 CEU credits upon completion.

Becoming an Inclusive Leader—DEIB Training for Supervisors and Managers

August 22-23, 2024

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center 4801 Rockhill Road Kansas City, MO 64110



Becoming an Inclusive Leader is a two-day experiential training designed to empower supervisors and managers with essential skills and knowledge in diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB). Participants will immerse themselves in interactive modules, covering crucial topics such as trust-building, navigating challenging communications, understanding generational diversity, and fostering connections within diverse teams.

The program emphasizes practical application, providing leaders with tools to create a trustworthy, transparent, and inclusive work environment. By engaging in constructive dialogues and building authentic relationships, participants will be equipped to champion DEIB initiatives, drive positive change, and cultivate a culture of belonging and respect within their organizations. Participants will focus on creating action plans concerning their role as an agent of change to cultivate a sense of belonging in their agencies.

Upcoming Events

Joint APWA-WTS Event

Sorry Not Sorry

August 15, 2024

Thompson Barn 11184 Lackman Road Lenexa, KS 66219



Kerrie Greenfelder has over 20 years of experience as an executive leader, project manager, and designer of record for multimillion dollar water infrastructure projects. With years of direct project experience, she dedicates her time to empowering and bettering those around her with the lessons she's learned along the way. In this "Sorry I'm Not Sorry" session, Greenfelder will highlight the pitfalls of the stereotypical too-vocally-"sorry" woman in the workplace. Weaving in aspects of genetics, her busy social life, the water industry, and abundant volunteering roles, she'll empower attendees to eliminate the "sorry" from their daily lives, as well as provide tips for women to harness their ambition. Are you ready to not be sorry, too?



Chapter Leadership

APWA 2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Administrative & Contracts - Alysen Abel & Kristen Love

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

Government 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 September. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, September 6, 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 notfor-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.