

PUB NEWS

APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



- New Chapter President**
See page 2 for more details
- 2024 Ken Cardwell Award Winner**
See page 4 for more details
- Self-De-Icing LED Signals**
See page 5 for more details
- Call for Chapter Award Submissions**
See page 6 for more details
- Passing of Public Works Friends**
See page 7 for more details

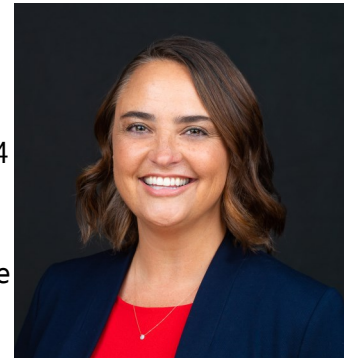
IN THIS ISSUE	
President’s Perspective	2
Delegate Details.....	4
Past Events.....	7
Upcoming Events	11
Chapter Leadership	12

President's Perspective

By Tawn Nugent

Happy New Year! I always find the start of a new year the perfect time for reflection and visioning. I hope your look back on 2024 brings you joy and your outlook on 2025 is filled with optimism.

I want to thank Nick Arena for his service to the APWA KC Metro Chapter as our 2024 Chapter President. Under his leadership, our chapter upheld its impressive legacy, receiving the Presidential Awards for Chapter Excellence (PACE) Award for the 28th consecutive year—more than any other chapter. This achievement was made possible largely due to the dedication of our hardworking committees, whose efforts consistently provide value to our engaged membership. Highlights from 2024 included:



- We had the honor of hosting the 2024 APWA North American Snow and Ice Conference in April. Thank you again to Trey Whitaker and Becky Bonebrake for your leadership in executing this national event in our hometown.
- Joint events with ASCE and WTS allowed our organizations to learn together.
- A Young Professional happy hour event provided a fun way to meet other professionals.
- The Small Cities/Rural Communities Committee held their first event providing valuable insights and actionable strategies for professionals in small cities and rural communities.
- The National Public Works Week event was a wonderful evening celebrating the importance of public works and our chapter's twelve award winners.
- The newly formed Administration and Contracts Committee hosted a Public Works 101 session aimed to educate non-technical office personnel on the basics of public works.
- The 19th Annual BBQ Challenge saw a fantastic turnout, with 16 teams participating and many attendees enjoying the competitors' entries.
- The DEI Committee hosted interactive training to empower supervisors and managers with essential skills and knowledge to become an inclusive leader.
- Community Service activities included a build day with Habitat KC, a dinner for the Ronald McDonald House, and a Toys for Tots Collection at the holiday party.
- Over a hundred people from the KC Metro area attended PWX in Atlanta, where members enjoyed fellowship at our chapter dinner.
- The 41st annual golf tournament was held at Topgolf which provided an opportunity for all levels of golfers to enjoy networking and a little competition.
- The Leadership and Management Committee hosted a panel discussion on how to learn from mistakes and become a better leader because of them.
- The annual Mid-America Equipment Expo and ROADeo event continued to offer valuable learning opportunities and competitive activities for over a hundred participants.
- Two modules from the Public Works Institute (PWI) program were offered to sell-out attendance.
- The year was capped off with our annual Holiday Party at the remarkable World War I museum.

Looking ahead to 2025, I'm truly honored for the opportunity to serve as your Chapter President. I believe that serving others enriches your own life, and APWA has provided me with countless opportunities to 'fill my bucket.' I became involved with APWA soon after moving to Kansas City. I recall Larry Frevert giving me a warm welcome at my first event, and then always remembering my name somehow. (I know others had this experience too!) The first committee I joined was the Engineering and Technology Committee, where I eventually served as co-chair alongside Patty Hilderbrand. Nearly 20 years later, here we are as President and Vice President—serendipitous, for sure!

President's Perspective**By Tawn Nugent**

The new year also brings some changes to the chapter leadership team. Nick will be transitioning to the exclusive past-presidents club, which is truly the 'who's who' in Kansas City. I welcome Trey Whitaker to the Secretary position and extend a huge thank you to John Cooper for serving as Treasurer again. I want to thank Ernie Longoria and Becky Bonebrake for their service on the Executive Committee as they both transition off. And I want to welcome Nicole Woods and Todd LaTorella to the Executive Committee as 1st Year Directors, as well as Kyle Dieckmann as our Alternate Delegate. Thankfully, Kyle can't get enough of serving APWA!

For those I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting, I look forward to connecting with you in person. In the meantime, I'd like to share a little bit about myself. After graduating from Iowa State University (GO CLONES!), I wanted to move to a 'big city' after growing up in Denison, Iowa (GO MONARCHS!). I chose Kansas City because it was warmer than Chicago and Minneapolis, but still the Midwest. I thought I'd stay a few years and then venture somewhere else. After 29 years here, I can confidently say that I have no interest in living anywhere else – I'm a proud Kansas Citian! A big reason for that is because of the work done by public works' staffs across the region. Our founders were forward-thinking and visionary. Despite being made up of ~30 different cities, we can move across the region easily because of our well-planned transportation infrastructure. Thanks to the presence of several rivers, our water supply outlook remains strong into the future. Our growing diversity in power sources is making us more resilient as a region. All of these strengths are the result of the dedicated work of public works professionals.

I also chose to stay in Kansas City because of the strong professional network I built through work and professional organizations. Out of college, I joined DRG where I first learned that clients can also become friends. I spent many years with GBA, where I had the opportunity to contribute to numerous transportation projects across the region. Since 2017, I've had the honor of serving as TREKK's Transportation Service Line Lead. In this role, I've built an extraordinary team of nearly 40 professionals across four offices. I truly feel fortunate to work alongside people I value as friends.

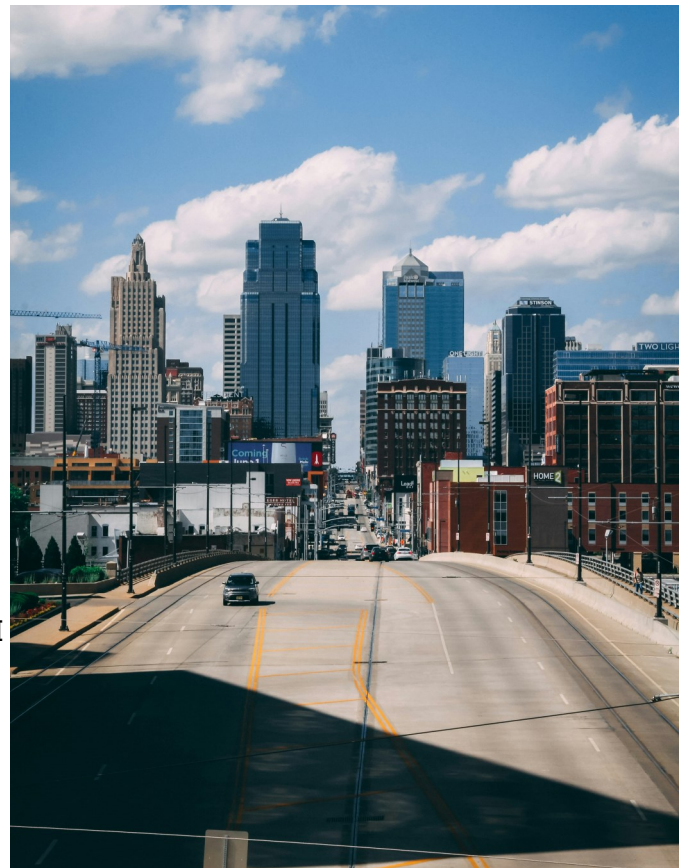
Like many other professional organizations, APWA gives you back what you put in. Personally, APWA has offered me the opportunity to connect with countless individuals across the metro area, enhance my leadership skills, and deepen my understanding of the public works profession. I challenge you to give a little more this year and discover what you get in return. As your President, I'm here to serve you and make 2025 an outstanding year for our chapter. Please reach out to me if you're not sure how to get involved or if you have any questions about the chapter.

I hope to see you soon!

Tawn Nugent

816.506.1017

tnugent@trekkdesigngroup.com

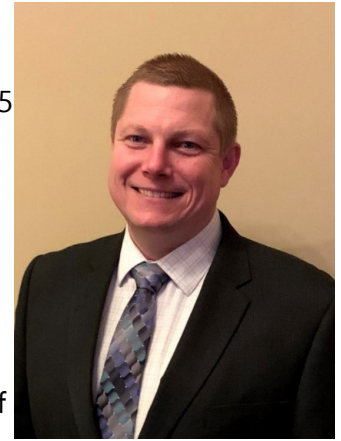


Delegate Details

By Kyle Dieckmann

Welcome to 2025. I am surprised that the new year is here so quickly. I am hopeful that all of you had a great holiday season and got to spend the holidays in a way that is meaningful for you. As for me, I spent time with my family. I am excited about 2025 and the opportunities that a new year brings.

I would like to share some information from APWA National. The APWA Government Affairs team will be visiting Capitol Hill this month to deliver our association's public policy priorities for the 119th Congress. Every US Representative and Senator—all 535 of them—will receive copies of our expectations for emergency management, transportation, and water resiliency. The policies were approved by the APWA Board of Directors on December 6 and will be available on the Government Affairs section of the APWA website this month. The AI Summit will be held January 29-30, 2025. At the summit you'll learn what AI is, its status and future, and its ethical and workforce implications. [Click here](#) to learn more and register. There is also an Accreditation Open Forum on January 21, 2025. The panel of experienced accreditation program evaluators will share their perspectives on how to meet the accreditation requirements. [Click here](#) to learn more and register.



I hope you were able to attend the Holiday Party that was hosted at the World War I Museum. The event was spectacular and in a venue that is unique to Kansas City. I commend the planning committee and was grateful to attend and enjoy an evening with members of our chapter. We also celebrated our Ken Cardwell Heart of America award recipient Bill Stogsdill. Congratulations to Bill as he is well deserving of the award for his efforts to our chapter. If you didn't attend the Holiday Party in 2024, make sure you attend in 2025.

I want to thank the many of you for your work to fight snow this most recent weekend and throughout the winter weather season. Your efforts are essential to our communities and the safety of those traveling through our region. Please be safe out there.

If you have questions regarding APWA, please contact Bill Stogsdill or myself.



Sustainable Infrastructure Committee Report

Self-de-icing LED Signals

by Carla P. Anderson, P.E.

Technical Summary for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) Research on Self-de-icing LED Signals can be found at: https://www.ksdot.gov/Assets/wwwksdotorg/bureaus/KdotLib/2022/FHWA-KS-22-04_Summary.pdf

The KDOT Pooled Fund project aimed at developing and demonstrating a new type of self-de-icing of LED signals using the existing energy typically lost off the back of the system.

First Stage of Testing – focused on laboratory development and testing to enhance the heating and lighting performance while reducing costs.

Second Stage of Testing – was conducted on the roof of the University of Kansas engineering complex with a focus on closed-course performance and reliability tests of new signals using real traffic signal cabinets. Based on the test results, new plastic housing with needed modifications were tested in the laboratory then again on the roof with satisfactory performance.

Third Stage of Testing – involved an initial field test site in Lawrence, KS on a signal facing north. Two additional field tests were conducted in Michigan and Wisconsin in November 2021.

In conclusion, it is apparent that with some modifications to the design of signal modules that the existing energy can be redirected to keep snow and ice from covering the signal indications and improve safety for maintenance workers and the traveling public while also providing a needed sustainable solution to a common problem.

To read the full report go to <https://kdotapp.ksdot.org/kdotlib/kdotlib2.aspx> and search for “Self-de-icing”.



Call for Chapter Award Submissions

Chapter Award Submissions

Due January 31, 2025

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 national awards will be submitted to APWA National by the chapter before the National deadline. Please request nomination form for the awards committee by emailing awardsapwa@gmail.com

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

Chapter/National Level Awards

- Public Works Project of the Year
- Public Works Project of the Year for Small Cities/Rural Communities (eligibility of 50,000 population 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

Email awardsapwa@gmail.com for more information on award submissions.



Passing of Public Works Friends

Honoring of Everett Carter

A Jackson County Public Works employee, Everett Carter, died Sunday while helping clear snow from the weekend's winter storm. The KC Metro APWA Chapter extends sympathies to Everett's family and friends and honors his legacy of serving Jackson County for 40 years.

As shared by Jackson County Executive Frank White Jr., "This is a heartbreaking loss for our entire Jackson County family. Everett Carter dedicated four decades of his life to serving our community with pride and professionalism. We will forever be grateful for his service and deeply miss his presence. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and colleagues during this incredibly difficult time."



Remembering Ed Mulcahey

Edward Mulcahy passed away on December 15, 2024. Ed was a pioneer of the Kansas City consulting engineering legacy. In 1966, Ed helped form JBM Associates a Kansas City based traffic engineering firm. The firm grew becoming JBM Engineers and Planners and in 1995 combined with two other transportation oriented companies, forming TranSystems. His career in consulting engineering spanned 42 years. Ed was actively involved in APWA and served as the KC Metro Chapter's President in 1994 and in ACEC rising to the position of National President.

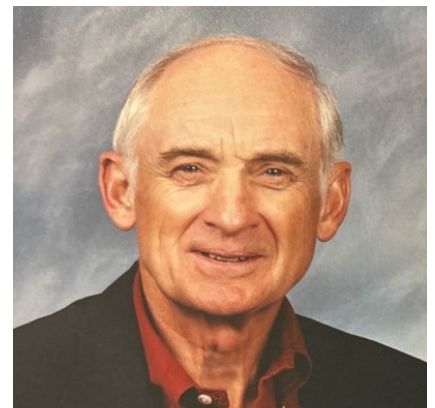


KC APWA chapter members shared the following tributes on Ed:

"Ed was a true professional, kind and honest. He was excellent at what he did and thoroughly enjoyed it. He made a positive difference in his profession and most certainly in the lives of people he touched. I know he certainly did in mine."

Remembering Dennis Garrett

Dennis Garrett passed away on December 12, 2024. Dennis was a long-time employee of the City of Overland Park, serving as the City's first Public Works Director. Dennis established many of the City's engineering and Public Works standards, ordinances, and design criteria during this time. After leaving the City in 1994, he worked for HNTB in the Overland Park office until 2005. Dennis was actively involved in APWA and served as the KC Metro Chapter's fifth President in 1969.



KC chapter members shared the following tributes on Dennis:

"Dennis Garrett was the 'guru' of engineering for OP. He was a public work's person. He had a huge impact on my life and career in public works. He accomplished so much in the community he worked in and lives he touched."

Past Events

Public Works Institute Public Works Management Fundamentals

October 30-November 1, 2024

The Kansas City Metro Chapter held its 23rd Public Works Institute (PWI) session entitled Public Works Management Fundamentals at the Education Conference Center in Raytown MO on October 30-November 1. Thanks to Damon Hodges and Joey Carley for arranging use of this great facility for us. And huge thanks to the Raytown School District who provided their conference center at no charge to the Chapter. Their generosity allowed us to keep the registration fee at \$250 again for this session. Attendees were engaged by twenty-six public works professionals who shared their expertise and facilitated group discussions. Many attendees provided quotes that indicated their recommendations for the session:

*A great place for new ideas and training for new managers....
Come where leaders learn to lead better
Developing excellence today for a better tomorrow
Highly recommend for all current and future leaders/managers
Great networking opportunity
Everyone is a leader
Your life will not change until you change your life
You are the only leader that matters*



The class was welcomed to the PWI training on the first morning by Raytown's City Administrator Damon Hodges.



After completing this module of learning, six attendees have completed all four of the three-day training modules and have graduated from PWI. Congratulations! These six individuals and eleven others that graduated in the spring of 2024 will be recognized soon in their workplaces with plaques and graduation certificates. Our 2024 graduates are:

Michael Alber	Jefferson City, MO	Greg Lerow	Gardner, KS
Halen Covell	Merriam, KS	Samuel Nugent	Kansas City, MO
Juan Del Real	Mission, KS	Fabian Owens	Gardner, KS
Christopher Gibson	Grandview, MO	Sean Phelps	Olathe, KS
John Henley	Roeland Park, KS	Darren Rodman	Riverside, MO
Eric Hersh	Riverside, MO	Lance Spainhower	Liberty, MO
Pat Kauffman	Jefferson City, MO	Richard Wilson	Parkville, MO
Kyle Keeney	Leawood, KS	Charles Witter	Kansas City, MO
Jon Lemke	Leavenworth, KS		

The next session will be Module IV Public Works Leadership Skills. It is planned for spring of 2025 in a location on the Kansas side of the metro. Please stay tuned for details on content and registration.

Past Events**Ronald McDonald House Community Service Event****November 14**

Kansas City, MO

The APWA KC Metro Chapter Community Service committee hosted an event with Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) in downtown Kansas City on Thursday, November 14th. RMHC provides support and resources for families of children who are ill or injured and need to travel for medical care. 10 members of APWA KC Metro Chapter gathered together to provide 75 meals for the families lodging at RMHC Houses adjacent to Children's Mercy Hospital. Efforts to prepare individually packaged meals allowed the families staying at RMHC to enjoy freshly prepared food while they are away from home. For more information on volunteer opportunities at RMHC in KC, please visit <https://rmhckc.org/volunteer/>.



Past Events**Contract Workflows and Management Event****November 14**

Lenexa City Hall

On November 14, 2024, the Admin and Contracts committee partnered with the Small Cities Rural Communities Committee to host an insightful event on contract workflows and management. Held at Lenexa City Hall, the session emphasized the critical role of contracting and contract administration in supporting downstream operations such as budgeting, procurement, and beyond.

Mark O'Connor of Infotech shared how automating data flow can streamline processes and enhance collaboration, showcasing the comprehensive impact of efficient contract management on agency operations. The event brought together 15 professionals from across the KC Metro to exchange ideas and explore strategies for improving organizational efficiency.

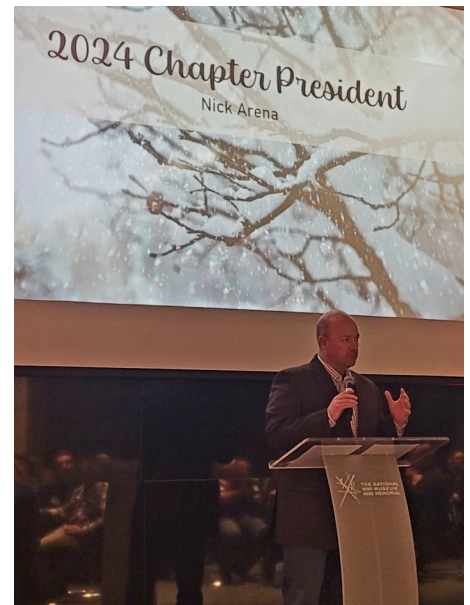


Past Events**Annual Holiday Party****December 11, 2024**

National WWI Museum and Memorial

The KC Metro Chapter's annual Holiday Party took place on December 11th, 2025 at the beautiful World War I Museum in downtown KCMO. We once again had an amazing turnout of Public Works professionals from across the metro, who gathered to celebrate another successful year. Attendees were granted access for a private viewing of the historic venue at the beginning of the event. Many attendees also brought toys which were collected by the Community Service Committee for donation to Children's Mercy Hospital.

The chapter was honored to welcome APWA National Region VI Director Joe Johnson again to deliver an update on APWA National's strategic efforts. Joe also had the honor of swearing in the newly elected officers, alongside 2023 Chapter President Ben Will and 2024 Chapter Present Nick Arena. The highlight of the program went to the presentation of the Ken Cardwell Heart of America Award. This year's winner was the very deserving Bill Stogsdill of the City of Fairway, KS. The award was presented to Bill by last year's winner, Sherri McIntyre. The evening was capped in the traditional raffle drawings for great prizes. Congratulations to all of the evenings award and prize winners!



Upcoming Events

2025 APWA KC Metro Annual Golf Tournament

April 11, 2025 11:30 AM

St. Andrews Golf Club Overland Park
11099 W 135th St.
Overland Park, KS 66221

[REGISTER](#)

The 2025 APWA KC Metro Golf Tournament will be held at St. Andrews, the most popular 18-hole golf course in the Kansas City metro. Registration is open to both individuals and teams, up to 120 golfers (30 teams of 4). A buffet-style lunch will be provided prior to the tournament. Contact Tommy Hunter at thunter@HNTB.com with any questions about the event.

Schedule:

11:30 AM Buffet-Style Lunch (included)
1:30 PM Shotgun Start



Chapter Leadership

APWA 2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

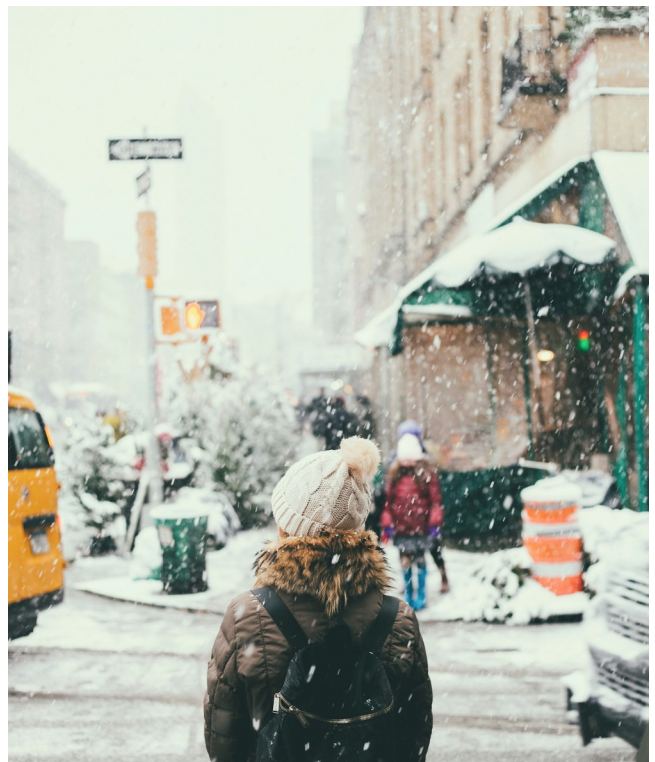
Administrative & Contracts - Kristen Love & Cindy DeShazo
 Audit & Budget - Bryan Blizzard
 Awards - Nathan Hladky
 BBQ Contest - Brian Ladd & Jack Renfro
 By-Laws - Nick Arena
 Chapter Meetings - Thomas Renfro
 Communications and Publicity - Allison Bruner
 Community Service - Kylan Rottinghaus & Tommy Hunter
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Sheila Shockey
 Education & Training - **Vacant**
 Emergency Management - Trey Whitaker
 Engineering & Technology - Michael Haake
 Facilities & Grounds - Dan Brown
 Fleet Services - Mark Stinson & Josh Wood
 Golf Tournament - Tommy Hunter & Taylor Smith
 Government Affairs - Trey Whitaker
 Historical - Ernie Longoria
 Holiday Party - Nicole Woods & Sabrina Parker
 K-12 Student Outreach - David Smalling
 Leadership & Management - Chad Thompson
 Membership - **Vacant**
 MidAmX - Kyle Dieckmann & Dan Brown
 MO-KAN Street Superintendents - Paul Dunn
 Myron D. Calkins Scholarship - Phil Herrman
 Myron Calkins Symposium - Nick Arena
 National Public Works Week - Sabrina Parker and Nicole Woods
 Nominating Committee - Nick Arena
 Small Cities, Rural Communities - Stephanie Boyce & Alysén Abel
 Snow & Equipment Training Expo - Paul Dunn
 Standards & Specifications - Mark Montgomery & Cody Wilbers
 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 - Joshua Martinez
 Young Professionals - Joey Carley

APPOINTMENTS, LIAISONS, COORDINATORS, AND TASK FORCES

Asset Management Task Force - Brandon Grover
 Calendar/Events Coordinator - Stephanie Boyce & Jack Renfro
 Construction Materials - Christy Martin
 Public Works Institute - Dena Mezger & Tim Ross
 Solid Waste Management - **Vacant**

KC APWA 2025 OFFICERS

President - Tawn Nugent
 Vice President - Patty Hilderbrand
 Secretary - Trey Whitaker
 Treasurer - John Cooper
 Director (2nd Year) - Stephanie Boyce
 Director (2nd Year) - Jack Renfro
 Director (1st Year) - Nicole Woods
 Director (1st Year) - Todd LaTorella
 Past President - Nick Arena
 Director-At-Large - Paul Dunn
 Delegate - Bill Stogsdill
 Alternate Delegate - Kyle Dieckmann





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 ambruner@burnsmcd.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 7, 2025. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Electronic formats are preferred, but not required. Send your stories to Allison Bruner via email at ambruner@burnsmcd.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.

