

PUB NEWS

APWA KC Metro Chapter Newsletter



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President's Perspective

By Patty Hilderbrand

Happy March in Kansas City! 84 degrees one day then 35 the next. I am ready for Spring. Thank you to all the Public Works crews that drive snowplows and keep our streets safe during winter snowstorms. I know it means long days and nights, but you are the best. Thank you!!!



Spring also means our chapter calendar begins to fill with great educational and networking opportunities. You'll see on the following pages that we have a variety of events coming up. A special one that I want to point out is the MidAmX scheduled for May 13-15 and hosted by 5 chapters. The Chapter's National Public Works Week Dinner will be held as part of the conference on Thursday May 14th. Information on registration, exhibit booths and sponsorships can be found at <https://kcmetro.apwa.org/event/midamx-2026/>.

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.

Thank you to those that have already answered our call to be a 2026 Annual Partner! Your financial support of the chapter allows five of our committees to keep costs lower for our members. For those of you that haven't signed up yet, please contact John Cooper at jcooper@gbateam.com.

Did you know the KC Metro Chapter has over 700 members? Many of those learned about APWA from a colleague. Your membership has afforded you access to great educational and networking opportunities that most likely has positively impacted your career. My challenge to each of you is to reach out to new employees where you work and invite them to join you at an upcoming event. Give them the same professional opportunity that someone else gave you. Another way to get great value from your APWA membership is to join a committee. You can make sure your voice is heard, share your knowledge and energy and meet other members who share your area of interest. The Chapter has almost 40 active committees, so I am sure there is something for everyone. If you need help contacting the chair for the committee you are interested in, please reach out to me and I can get you hooked up.

Patty Hilderbrand
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Delegate Details

By Alysen Abel

I am excited for this time of year. Spring is almost here! Soon we can enjoy the beautiful weather and the blooming flowers and trees. This time of year also brings detour routes, orange barrels, and construction zones. I love that our Public Works projects are in full swing.

I wanted to provide the wealth of information from APWA, both locally and nationally.



Get Involved Locally – There are nearly 40 local chapter committees that provide value to the members of the KC Metro Chapter APWA. Many of these committees are looking for volunteers. Involvement on committees provides leadership skills and network connections. If you are interested in getting more involved, reach out to me. I will get you connected...

Submit your National Committee Nomination – National APWA is soliciting nominations for appointments to National Committees for the 2026-2027 year. The deadline for applications is March 31st. For more information, visit the APWA National website at <https://www.apwa.org/connections-networking/groups-committees/apwa-nominations/>.

Attend KC Metro Events – There are several chapter events coming up. The KC Metro Chapter continues to provide value to our members through networking opportunities, educational programs, and other resources. For more information about upcoming events, visit our website at <https://kcmetro.apwa.org/event/>.

Attend the North American Snow Conference – The 2026 North American Snow Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio on April 26th thru 29th. This conference will feature education sessions and exhibit booths showcasing winter maintenance solutions. Registration is currently open, visit their website at <https://wisconsin.apwa.org/event/apwa-north-american-snow-conference-2026/>.

Attend the Mid-Am Expo Conference – In addition to chapter events, the regional conference will be held on May 13th thru 15th at the Overland Park Convention Center. There will be opportunities to meet APWA members from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. There will be something for everyone including educational sessions, social events, and exhibit booths. Registration is open.

Celebrate National Public Works Week – National Public Works Week is right around the corner! Celebrate the contributions of your Public Works agency the week of May 17th thru 23rd. This year's theme is "Rooted in Service, Powered by Community".

Please contact Kyle Dieckmann or myself if you have any questions. Alysen.Abel@springhillks.gov or Kyle.Dieckmann@opkansas.org.

Government Affairs Committee

By Chris Bussen

Legislation being considered in the Missouri House:

House Bill 2761 & Senate Bill 1586

Propose to eliminate regional Solid Waste Management Districts in the State of Missouri. The Legislation aims to restructure or potentially abolish/reduce the current 20 Solid Waste Management Districts to 5. The reduction in Solid Waste Management Districts would change the landscape of solid waste disposal throughout the state, this could include the need for more landfills, removal of regional household hazardous waste programs, cities and counties will be required to develop specific solid waste plans, phasing out of grant programs aimed at local services, and the service cost for end users will increase.

If you have any question please reach out to Chris Bussen – chris.bussen@cityofls.net

Updates to Sections 5600 and 5900

By Tawn Nugent

The APWA KC Metro Chapter is excited to announce that the **membership approved the proposed updates to Sections 5600 and 5900** at our recent Holiday Party on December 10, 2025.

The website has been updated accordingly and can be accessed here:

<https://kcmetro.apwa.org/resources/specifications/>

Thanks again to our partner, Mid-America Regional Council, for their leadership and contributions. Update from MARC here: <https://www.marc.org/news/environment/kansas-city-apwa-chapter-approves-updates-single-set-stormwater-standards-region>

Scholarship

Myron D. Calkins Scholarship Applications are now open thru April 15th, 2026

The KCMetro Chapter of APWA sponsors the annual Myron D. Calkins Scholarship for students pursuing APWA -related college degrees and certification programs. Up to \$1,250 will be awarded per semester (maximum of \$2,500 per calendar year) to qualified candidates.



[MORE INFORMATION & APPLICATION](#)

Past Events**Women in Public Works/SCRC Lunch & Learn****March 6, 2026**

The APWA KC Metro Chapter recently hosted its first Women in Public Works Lunch & Learn panel, bringing together professionals from across the region to hear from women leading public works departments in small communities. The event, held at the Powell Community Center on March 6, 2026, welcomed approximately 35 attendees representing both the public and private sectors.

Panelists included Sherri McIntyre of Liberty, Celia Kumke of Merriam, and Stephanie Boyce of Mission. Together, the panelists represent more than 80 years of combined experience in public works and engineering.

During the discussion, each panelist shared her unique path to leadership, highlighting that no two journeys were the same. The conversation also explored the realities of working in smaller communities, where limited staff and resources often require public works leaders to take on a wide range of responsibilities. Despite these challenges, the panelists emphasized the strengths of small communities, including dedicated staff, supportive leadership, and strong collaboration with partners such as consultants and county agencies.

Panelists also discussed the importance of building trust with employees, elected officials, and residents. Key strategies included maintaining open lines of communication, being honest and transparent, listening to concerns, and taking the time to understand the personalities and communication styles of both staff and governing bodies.

While the challenges of being a woman in public works have diminished over time, the panelists shared that empathy, encouragement, and advocacy for both for themselves, and others continue to play an important role in the workplace.

The panel concluded with advice for aspiring leaders: be yourself, take chances, and don't hesitate to apply for opportunities. The speakers also reminded attendees that leadership is not defined by a title, anyone can lead through their actions and influence.

The event left attendees inspired by the leadership, insight, and commitment these women bring to their communities, highlighting the growing impact of women in public works and helping pave the way for the next generation of leaders.

Upcoming Events

ASCE/APWA Joint Meeting

From Study to Street: Delivering the Maguire Street Corridor with CMAR

Presented by: Brenda Macke and Peyton Stoner

March 25, 2026

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Thompson Barn, 11184 Lackman Road, Lenexa, KS 66219

This presentation will walk through the Maguire Street Corridor Upgrade in Warrensburg, Missouri, from early concept and study through construction and completion and ribbon cutting in December 2025.

REGISTER THROUGH ASCE



SMALL CITIES/RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

2026 SCRC NETWORKING EVENT

Whether you work in a small town, rural community, or urban core, we'd love for you to join us!

Tuesday, April 7th, 2026, 4:30pm-6:30pm
30hop, 8715 Shawnee Mission Parkway,
Merriam, KS 66202



Upcoming Events

**Mid Am Expo (MAX) Conference
May 13-15, 2026**

The Mid Am eXpo Conference is coming back to the KC Metro in 2026. This conference is held every 3 years and brings together the APWA Chapters: KC Metro Chapter, Kansas Chapter, Missouri Chapter, Iowa Chapter, and the Nebraska Chapter. The Mid Am eXpo (MAX) committee is already hard at work planning the 2026 conference. Keep your eyes out for opportunities to volunteer and help with programming. More information about the conference will be released this fall/winter.



REGISTRATION

SAVE THE DATE

APWA KC METRO ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**TOPGOLF OVERLAND PARK
OCTOBER 15, 2026
12-5 PM**

Chapter Leadership

APWA 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Administrative & Contracts - Kristen Love & Cindy DeShazo
 Asset Management - Brandon Grover
 Audit & Budget - Bryan Blizzard
 Awards - Nathan Hladky
 BBQ Contest - Brian Ladd & Jack Renfro
 By-Laws - Tawn Nugent
 Chapter Meetings - Thomas Renfro
 Communications & Publicity - Kait Hanson, Joshua Martinez & Morgan Reidmiller
 Community Service - Kylan Rottinghaus
 Emergency Management - Trey Whitaker
 Engineering & Technology - Michael Haake
 Facilities & Grounds - Dan Brown
 Fleet Services - Mark Stinson
 Golf Tournament - Tommy Hunter
 Government Affairs - Trey Whitaker
 Historical - Ernie Longoria
 Holiday Party - Nicole Woods & Sabrina Parker
 K-12 Student Outreach - David Smalling
 Leadership & Management - Chad Thompson
 Membership - John Batchelor
 Membership Engagement - Sheila Shockey
 MidAmX - Kyle Dieckmann & Dan Brown
 MO-KAN Street Superintendents - Paul Dunn
 Myron D. Calkins Scholarship - Phil Herrman
 National Public Works Week - Nicole Woods & Sabrina Parker
 Small Cities, Rural Communities - Stephanie Boyce & Alysen Abel
 Snow & Equipment Training Expo - Paul Dunn, Sean Phelps & Logan Stiles
 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
 Women in Public Works - Tania Tavakkoli

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 - Clayton Duffin

KC APWA 2026 OFFICERS

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



List of accredited Agencies in KC Metro Chapter

- Belton, MO: *Public Works*
- Fairway, KS: *Public Works*
- Kansas City, MO: *Public Works*
- Lee's Summit, MO: *Public Works and Water Utilities*
- Lenexa, KS: *Municipal Services*
- Olathe, KS: *Public Works*
- Overland Park, KS: *Public Works*
- Raymore, MO: *Public Works*
- Shawnee, KS: *Public Works*
- Unified Government: *Public Works*



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 kkhanson@burnsmcd.com.

Publisher: Kansas City Metro Chapter of APWA
 Editor: Kansas City Metro Chapter of APWA
 Staff: Kait Hanson

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 8, 2026. Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Electronic formats are preferred, but not required. Send your stories to Kait Hanson via email at kkhanson@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.