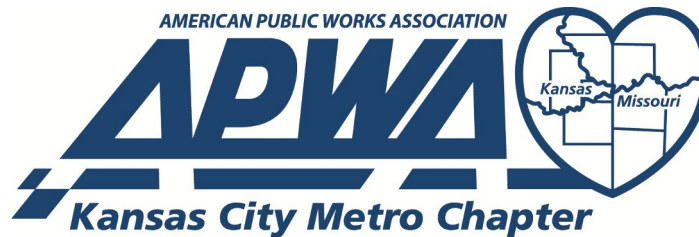


PUB NEWS



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President's Perspective

By Patty Hilderbrand

Hello APWA Friends,

Spring has sprung and it's always nice to get past winter and put the snow plow blades and spreaders away. Kids are looking forward to getting out of school for the summer, flowers are beginning to sprout and construction is ramping up even more. We will have some unique project schedules in Kansas City with FIFA games running from June 16th through July 11th. For those projects that will continue throughout the games, please have workers be extra cautious as we may have many drivers that might not be as familiar with our work zones.



National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) Since Spring also signals more construction activities, we recently recognized NWZAW. It's a good reminder to continue promoting safe driving through work zones. This year's theme was "Safe Actions Save Lives."

While vehicles are being designed safer and safer, driver behavior has been trending in the wrong direction. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, work zone fatalities rose by 50% between 2013 and 2022—a deeply concerning trend. I remain hopeful that, through the work we do and the awareness we raise, we can help reverse this trajectory and make work zones safer for everyone. Please stay alert, slow down, and be safe out there!

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is just around the corner— NPWW, taking place May 17-23. This week is a great opportunity to recognize the incredible contributions the public works industry makes to our communities and beyond. This year's theme, "Rooted in Service Powered by Community," shines a light on the commitment each of us makes to serving our communities and the energy they provide.



Central to the week's celebration are honoring the important role that public works plays in the safety and quality of life for the residents in all cities, counties and states across the country. From trash collection and road maintenance to providing clean safe drinking water and snow removal, the work our teams provide critical services that impact every aspect of daily life.

President's Perspective - Continued

By Patty Hilderbrand

Our staff work behind the scenes often with little to no recognition for the difficult tasks they perform and the long hours they put in. So from APWA, thank you for the work you do and the impact you make every day

Be sure to send in photos of NPWW activities in your community. To learn more, visit APWA's website: <https://www.apwa.org/events/national-public-works-week-npww/>.

Chapter Activities As you've probably noticed from our weekly email updates—there's a lot happening across our chapter! A heartfelt thank you goes out to our Chapter Committee Chairs for your leadership, energy, and dedication. Your efforts are the heartbeat of our chapter's vitality, and you truly are what makes this organization special.

You get the largest impact from your APWA membership when you are active in chapter committees and events. I promise there is something for everyone, but if you don't find anything that speaks to you, let me know and we can find a way to make it happen. Visit our chapter website to see all the great events already scheduled at: <https://kcmetro.apwa.org/event/>



PWX In case you missed it, registration is available for PWX 2026 in Houston! You can find more details here: <https://www.apwa.org/events/pwx-conference/>. For those who have attended in the past, you already know the incredible value this event offers for networking and education. I hope to see many familiar faces there again. If you haven't been before, PWX is a premier learning experience tailored for public works professionals at all stages of their careers. It's a unique opportunity to see, hear, touch, and engage through a wide range of traditional and hands-on sessions, workshops, seminars, exhibits, tours and networking events.

As in years past, KC Metro Chapter will be hosting a dinner on Tuesday night during PWX. Stay tuned—more details will be shared soon! We will also be providing information about Chapter members who are speaking at the conference, so you can easily find and support their sessions. Looking forward to connecting with many of you there!

Patty Hilderbrand

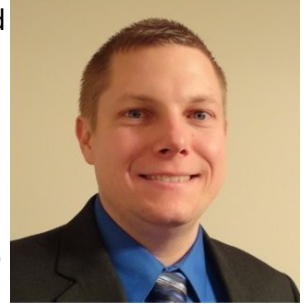
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Delegate Details

By Kyle Dieckmann

As we move through spring and into the month of May, construction is in full swing and many projects are underway in the Kansas City Area. The wet April weather, while beneficial for lawns, has presented challenges for construction progress. This May, we are also celebrating National Public Works Week (NPWW). I hope you and your organizations will take time to recognize NPWW and the importance of our profession. This year's theme, "Rooted in Service, Powered by Community," acknowledges the deep roots of service in public works. For more information on NPWW, please visit the [APWA website](#).



In coordination with NPWW, APWA Government Affairs will host events on Capitol Hill, including a policy breakfast focused on federal transportation priorities on May 20, an APWA Top 10 and Projects of the Year awards reception that evening, and the annual "Donuts&Trucks" on May 21, in partnership with DC Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Caucus.

Along with NPWW information from APWA, be sure to turn in to [Public Works Radio](#). This month's episodes will be available May 6 and May 20 before there is a summer break. This informational series even includes familiar voices from the Kansas City region. New episodes will return in August.

Additional Opportunities and National APWA Events

Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA): [Applications](#) are open for the 2026-2027 ELA program. This highly competitive program offers valuable training for leadership and management within the Public Works context. As an ELA graduate, I frequently use the lessons learned from my experience and continue to connect with classmates at APWA events. Additionally, the KC Metro Chapter provides a stipend up to \$3,000 for ELA members to offset the costs of attending PWX as part of the program.

Engineering Workforce Consortium: Learn how some of the most innovative engineering programs in the United States are providing education experiences that emphasize communication, teamwork, and innovation under current accreditation requirements on [June 9](#).

APWA In the Driver's Seat with John Cooper: Join Tim Ross and John Cooper (Distinguished KC Metro Chapter members) for a candid conversation about leadership in public works today, offered by APWA National on [June 23](#).

Finally, I hope many of you were able to participate in the Public Works Institute Module II, Supervision, held April 14–16. The Public Works Institute remains one of the best programs our chapter hosts, providing beneficial education for staff in the KC region and beyond.

If you have questions about the Delegate Details or wish to learn more about APWA, feel free to contact Alysén Abel (Alysen.Abel@springhillks.gov) or myself, Kyle Dieckmann (Kyle.Dieckmann@opkansas.gov).

Past Events

SCRC Networking Event, April 7th

Public works professionals from across small cities and rural communities gathered on April 7 at 30hop in Merriam, KS for a collaborative networking event focused on connection, conversation, and shared challenges. The event brought together approximately 20 attendees representing both local government and private sector organizations.

The evening provided an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas, discuss current and upcoming projects, and highlight the unique needs facing their communities. Conversations ranged from infrastructure and maintenance priorities to creative problem-solving and resource sharing.

In addition to productive dialogue, attendees enjoyed great food and a welcoming atmosphere that encouraged meaningful connections. Events like this continue to strengthen regional partnerships and support collaboration among professionals working to enhance the quality of life in small cities and rural areas.

Contracts Specialist Panel Discussion, April 28th



On Tuesday, April 28, 2026, the Admin & Contracts Committee hosted a “Contracts Specialist Panel Discussion” at the Green Street Market in Lee’s Summit MO. Panelists included Lisa Azimi from the City of Lee’s Summit MO, Alisha Holcomb from the City of Overland Park KS, and Leslie Walton from the City of Leawood KS. The panel was facilitated by Kara Darnell from the City of Lee’s Summit MO.

These contract specialists deal with various city policies and contract documents. The panelists shared insights, strategies, and real-world experiences related to contract management, procurement, compliance, and vendor relations. The panelists provided best management practices and lessons learned that will help, regardless of your role within your organization.

The Admin & Contracts Committee hosts educational programs and provides resources for administrative public works staff members who serve public agencies outside the traditional technical, engineering, and field staff positions. If you are interested in getting involved with the Admin & Contract Committee, contact Cindy DeShazo at cindy.deshazo@cityofls.net.

Past Events

ASCE/APWA Presentation, March 25th



On March 25th, 2026, Brenda Macke and Peyton Stoner from Burns & McDonnell presented a summary of the Maguire Street Improvements Project in Warrensburg, Missouri. Their joint ASCE/APWA presentation detailed the transformation of the city's highest-volume thoroughfare, specifically highlighting the use of the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) delivery method.

The "Rethink Maguire" initiative focuses on a critical corridor connecting U.S. 50 to the University of Central Missouri.

The project addresses infrastructure needs, safety, and aesthetic improvements along Maguire Street from Young Street to Broad Street.

A central theme of the presentation was the implementation of Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR), with Capital Paving & Construction serving as the construction manager.

Macke and Stoner outlined several reasons why this method was uniquely suited for the project:

- **Early Collaboration:** The contractor worked alongside the city and designers from the project's inception. This allowed for early identifying of cost controls and more accurate budgeting for a complex, multi-phase project.

- **Risk Management:** The team utilized a risk register to manage contingencies.

This approach allowed the city to set aside specific funds for identified risks rather than having them buried in a traditional lump-sum bid, providing better financial transparency.

- **Complexity and Timing:** Because the project required intense coordination with multiple utility companies and had a sensitive timeline to minimize disruption to the university and local businesses, the CMAR model provided the flexibility needed for real-time problem-solving.

- **Utility Coordination:** Early involvement facilitated smoother transitions for the extensive underground work, which included replacing 2,700 feet of sanitary sewer and thousands of feet of gas and water lines.

The project reached a significant milestone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late 2025. Next steps include Phase 2 construction of both stormwater and roadway improvements at Maguire and Emerson, and design work for the Maguire Gateway (interchange at Highway 50).



Past Events

Public Works Institute (PWI), April 14th-16th

The Kansas City Metro Chapter held its 25th Public Works Institute (PWI) session entitled Module II - Public Works Supervision Skills on April 14-16, 2026 at the Lenexa Justice Center. Thanks to Lenexa's Municipal Services Director Nick Arena and Master Police Officer Danny Chavez for arranging this exceptional facility at no charge to the Chapter. Their generosity allowed maintain the registration fee at \$250 again for this module. Attendees were engaged by twenty-one public works professionals who volunteered to share their expertise by presenting educational material and facilitate group discussions. Doug Whitacre facilitated a panel discussion on maintenance management with Paul Dunn, Trey Whitaker, Chad Elliott and Josh Welge on the last afternoon.



The entire class crowded outside on a beautiful day for a photo opp.



Past Events

Public Works Institute (PWI)(Continued), April 14th-16th

By completing this module of learning, nine attendees have completed all four of the three-day training modules and have graduated from PWI. Congratulations! These individuals and others that will graduate in the fall of 2026 will be recognized at the end of the calendar year with plaques and graduation certificates.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Tania Tavakkoli for completing the ENV SP training and passing the exam!

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.



**2026 APWA Barbecue
Friday, July 24, 2026
Knights of Columbus Park
Shawnee, Kansas**



**APWA KC METRO
ANNUAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

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



Upcoming Events



Third Thursday: Women in Public Works

Connect. Learn. Lead.

Join us for a quarterly virtual lunch series designed to bring women in public works together to connect, collaborate, and engage in meaningful conversations around the topics that shape our daily lives, both at work and at home.

- 🕒 Format: 1.5-hour virtual sessions
- 🍴 Flexible: Come and go as your schedule allows
- 🥗 Bring your lunch and join the conversation!

2026 Session Dates & Topics

May 21

Work-Life Balance

August 20

Mental Health & Resilience

November 19

Giving Ourselves and Others Credit

What to Expect

- Open, supportive discussions
- Real-world topics impacting both career and home life
- Opportunities to connect with other women in public works

RSVP

sboyce@missionks.org
for the link to join

Chapter Leadership

APWA 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

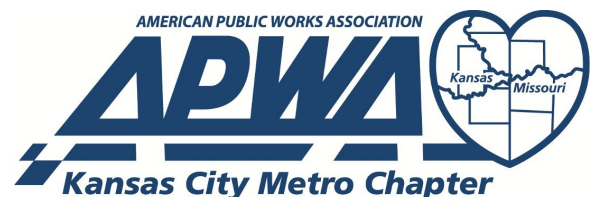
Administrative & Contracts - Kristen Love & Cindy DeShazo
 Asset Management - Brandon Grover
 Audit & Budget - Bryan Blizzard
 Awards - Nathan Hladky
 BBQ Contest - Brian Ladd & Jack Renfro
 By-Laws - Tawn Nugent
 Chapter Meetings - Thomas Renfro
 Communications & Publicity - Kait Hanson, Joshua Martinez
 & 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 - Jon 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 Wa-
ter 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 July. The deadline for the next issue will be Friday, July 3, 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.