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On the cover: Congress Photos by Christopher Barr Photography, Phoenix, Arizona, (Christopherbarr.com)
Invest, learn and share for yourself and your community

Brian R. Usher, PWLF
APWA President

Editor’s Note: President Usher gave the following address during the APWA Congress (now called PWX) Opening General Session on August 30, 2015.

I am pleased to be here in Phoenix with all of you today.

As your new APWA President, and on behalf of the APWA Board of Directors, I would like to say “Welcome” to all who have traveled from near and far—from the U.S., from Canada, and from many points far beyond. We look forward to you enjoying several exciting days of learning and sharing.

The theme for this year’s Congress is “Invest in the Future,” which I know strikes a chord with all public works professionals.

Now is the time we all must invest in the future of our communities in order to ensure the quality of life of our families and neighbors. We must invest our time, resources and assets in the technology of the future so that we can protect and preserve our infrastructure, and our communities’ livability and sustainability.

I am pleased to see so many young people now fully engaged in APWA and our profession. Of course, at this point of my life, that includes most of you! In the past, public works professionals learned our craft and how to be leaders by immersion—on-the-job training, as there was little access to formalized training programs. Today APWA offers so much in this arena, from our Members’ Library, certification and credentialing programs, as well as all of you, our chapter members, do come home. In these times, the profession must emphasize professional leadership through more dedicated methods which combine education, knowledge and experience.

You know, no matter how much you try, you cannot prepare yourself to be standing here looking out at all of you. It is at once honoring, humbling, and terrifying. As this past year progressed I found myself engaged in a great deal of reflection. As incoming President you are interviewed about your career, you are asked to share your thoughts, what you’ve learned, and to reflect on what led you to this point. When I received my Top Ten Award ten years ago, I reached out and thanked many of those who had supported me and provided guidance. But this year I found that list had expanded greatly as I reflected back. Beginning to name names is always dangerous, as there is never enough time to include everyone I know I should. But there are some who I must reference. First, I want to extend my appreciation to a group of folks without whom I know I would not be here, and that is the Chicago Metro Chapter. My twenty-five years serving on committees and as branch and chapter officers were what

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obviously led me here. Also, to the great members of the Florida Chapter who have adopted me into their ranks the last eight years, thank you. And to so many of you who I’ve had the honor of working alongside on committees and task forces, and on the Board, you also helped in directing me to this point.

When I became involved in this profession I was so very lucky to get to meet and have as mentors some amazing public works leaders, including APWA Past Presidents Herb Goetsch from Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Max Whitman from Winnetka, Illinois; and Bob Miller from Schaumburg, Illinois. These and so many others have provided unlimited advice, suggestions, and guidance to me through the years.

As incoming President you are asked what your priorities will be for your year of leadership. Mine are really not my priorities, but those of APWA. This year we continue to support our three strategic priorities: advocacy for public works; integrated and comprehensive professional development in our educational programs; and continuing our support of chapters, especially in light of the changing financial requirements across North America. This year we are growing the Emerging Leaders Program and hope next year to add a second session to this highly successful program, and we continue to support younger public works professionals across North America.

We have an active Asset Management Task Force, a committee exploring a National Equipment Rodeo, and in response to your comments, our Finance Committee will be reviewing our complete membership and dues structure, the first time we’ve done this in a very long time. Today, rather than going on about goals, I am choosing instead to share three challenges with you.

I challenge you, no matter your age or place in our profession today, to reach out this year to someone in our business and listen to them and learn from them. I have found myself doing this even this past year. Never feel that you know all there is to know, never be satisfied with just knowing enough.

I challenge you to look at those just joining our ranks, regardless of their age, or yours, and take the time to mentor and educate them in something you have learned along the course of your career. Pay it back, pay it forward, but share what you have been blessed to receive, reach out to help others.
And lastly, I challenge you to take advantage of all we at APWA have to offer you, from participating at the local branch and chapter levels, to utilizing the Members’ Library. I challenge you to leverage all the training opportunities there are in APWA. I hope you will explore and participate in our credentialing and certification programs, and of course, I hope you optimize your time at our national shows, the North American Snow Conference and of course while you are here this week at Congress. Don’t let any opportunity slip by to learn, share and collaborate.

I need not tell you how much the commitment we each bring to our profession has implications to those we love as well. I know over my lifetime there have been far too many missed Little League games, Scouting events, birthdays and even anniversaries as we attend meetings, repair water and sewer line failures, and deal with snow and ice events. There is no way we can truly excel in our work without the support and understanding of our loved ones. My parents, who early on taught me that public service was a true calling, not something to be scorned, set my path early through their examples. Scout leaders, community group leaders, historical society board members, elected officials, all those they tackled while I was growing up. I saw first-hand that if I expected to succeed in this business, the community’s needs were equal or above my own. My dad passed away thirty years ago, while running for his third term as my hometown’s mayor. Mom worked for the local fire department and edited the hometown’s newsletter for another twenty years after dad’s death. Service to our community is in our blood. My son and daughter know first-hand the impact of my career on them. Of course they also got to come to the office with me, and climb on trucks and backhoes, so it wasn’t all bad. But I did miss a lot of milestones.

My daughter is home with her family, caring for my new, fourth grandchild. Her time as a “volunteer” parent is coming on fast.

I am so honored that my son, Adam, was able to join us here this week. He currently works as a 9-1-1 telecommunicator in Largo, Florida, and has won recognition for his dedication, as well as the City’s Lifesaving Medal for his outstanding actions during an attempted suicide call. All you parents know how proud that kind of event makes us.

And to my wife, Teri, who has been at my side for more than twelve years, who was thrust into this thing called APWA, and has supported me so much. She too has experienced belated anniversaries and birthdays as my APWA commitments have overlapped our personal lives. I could not do what I am doing, nor be the person I am today without her companionship, her commitment, and her love. To her I can never extend enough gratitude or thanks.

The challenges facing public works professionals are becoming more and more complex each and every day. Funding shortfalls, technological changes, and customer expectations are changing at amazing rates. To meet these changes, we must continue to work together as we have come together here, at Congress, in Phoenix.

These next four days have so much to offer each one of you. Don’t miss a single opportunity to grow and learn. We are all striving to find new and better ways to make our communities healthier and stronger.

Take the time to learn about something you are not currently engaged in—you never know what responsibilities you may be given in the future. And don’t miss the Exposition! This is your chance to learn from the experts on resources that are available to you to improve the way your agency performs. I am looking forward to seeing many old friends this week, as well as making many new ones! One more great outcome of attending Congress.

We are all working together to invest in our future!

“Building a street system that accommodates cars, public transit, bicyclists and pedestrians is critical to making Phoenix a great modern city. A Complete Streets policy that incorporates all of these forms of transportation into a single plan is key to our economic success as a city.”

– Greg Stanton, Mayor, Phoenix, Arizona

APWA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY
Understanding the budget process

Josh Reiner
Government Affairs Manager
American Public Works Association
Washington, D.C.

For the last ten years the narrative from the media is that Congress has failed “to pass a budget.” What the media means by budget is a product that is the result of a complex process that involves give and take between the President, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. As the federal government and its programs have become more complex, so has the budget. Understanding the budget process can help you understand how federal agencies like the Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and Army Corps of Engineers are funded.

One of the most important things to know about the federal budget is that 65%, $2.45 trillion in 2014, of it is on autopilot. Called mandatory spending, Medicare, Social Security, and a few other programs automatically pay to recipients from the Treasury without action by Congress. These programs are outside the normal budget cycle and take great political force to change. What the media refers to as the budget is discretionary spending, and Congress has to decide what levels to fund which agency.

The fiscal year for the Federal Government is October 1 to September 30. The first step is for the President to propose a budget, which is due by law every year on the first Monday in February. Once Congress receives the President’s proposal, each chamber’s budget committee reviews it and considers it as they create the spending ceilings for the next fiscal year. Once each committee passes the legislation, it is sent to the floor of each chamber for passage. A conference committee works out any differences. The target date for that resolution is April 15.

Once the topline levels are decided, the Appropriations Committee in each chamber goes about deciding how each dollar is appropriated to each agency. As they create the bills specific to each agency, Members not on the committees are able to share their views on what the bills should include. With the elimination of earmarks Members of Congress are only allowed to recommend to the Committees funding levels for programs at the national level, not ones specific to their district or state. While limited, the Committees consider these recommendations greatly. To influence the Committees, individual members, trade associations and other organizations meet with them to pressure for funding the programs important to them. Normally occurring from March to July in the year, this is when the public can most affect what the budget contains.

For the last few years, though, this process has become broken. With mandatory spending crowding discretionary spending, and a struggling economy, many tough problems that have been put off for decades are being exacerbated by a very divided government and public. Frequently now, Congress passes one massive spending bill at the last minute called an omnibus. Since the budget is a must-pass bill, many Members of Congress target the chamber’s leadership to include superfluous legislation they support as a “rider.” APWA closely watches for riders that can help or hurt public works. With the significant role the federal government plays in building and maintaining the nation’s infrastructure, it is important for those on the ground working to make civilization happen know how the process of funding the government is affecting their efforts.

Josh Reiner can be reached at (202) 218-6734 or jreiner@apwa.net.

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The Council of Chapters’ Public Works Leadership for the Future Committee is working steadily to find ways to help chapters recruit young professionals and leaders of all ages. It is important for our organization to encourage members of all types to ensure the viability of the public works industry.

The committee has already made a recommendation that all chapters should offer some sort of discount to young professionals to attend a chapter conference. The Steering Committee of the Council of Chapters determined that the idea should be tweaked to say that chapters should offer a “First Timers discount” no matter what the age of the first-time registrant. Mentors will be on hand to help any first-time attendee navigate the conference and/or luncheon meeting course.

For the larger chapters and metropolitan chapters that offer monthly luncheon meetings and other events, some sort of discount also should be offered to those that fit under the Young Professional (YP) designation. The discount should be patterned after what National offers at Congress (PWX), which is a YP designation for anyone 35 years of age and under and/or five or less years of experience in the public works profession.

The Public Works Leadership for the Future Committee will compile a list of “Best Practices” that chapters are offering to entice younger members and even students to attend the chapter conferences. The reality, at least according to our younger members, is that it is easier to get the approval to attend a chapter (or state) conference than it is to go to a national event. The special offers proposed will make it more palatable for the employer of any of the younger members to send them to the event. There also is a suggestion that chapters reward any member who brings a YP member to the event with them. Offering a discount to any member who brings a younger member could be a real incentive for agencies and firms to send more members and to get the younger members more actively involved.

In the next year, the committee plans to place more emphasis on finding ways to involve members who are NOT in the YP age range to take on positions of leadership in the chapter, focusing on ideas and examining programs or projects that might help develop leaders for the future who no longer fall into the YP category. There are a number of individuals within the APWA membership who are looking to become leaders within their respective chapters and who may progress to become national leaders, who are between the ages of 35-50. It is felt that this group of the membership, and those who are currently not members, might be “on deck” to become leaders when the current generation moves on.

The committee members are researching chapter best practices to see what, if any, programs exist that would help entice more members between the ages of 35-50 to begin the journey into leadership positions and programs to help develop them into better leaders. It is also hoped that the same programs are found to assist current members to develop into leadership roles and also to expose an even greater number of the public works professionals across North America to the benefits of membership in APWA.

The committee would appreciate any input regarding the focus outlined above for the coming year. If your chapter, branch or even you as an individual has ideas, programs, practices, etc. that you feel would assist in achieving the goals of the committee, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other member of the committee. Together we CAN make it happen!

Larry Hummel is the Manager of Engineering with the Van Buren County (MI) Road Commission and the Chair of the Council of Chapters’ Public Works Leadership for the Future Committee. He is the Delegate from the Michigan Chapter and a former President of the Chapter. He can be reached at larryhummel@vbcrc.org.
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Brian Usher
APWA President

SAVE THE DATE!

Make plans to be in Minneapolis in 2016!
Renovating St. Paul's Union Depot

Gregory Brown, P.E., Project Engineer, AECOM, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Carl Osberg, P.E., Senior Project Manager, WSB & Associates, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota

The St. Paul Union Depot’s relation and importance to Minnesota and the upper Midwest has been likened to Ellis Island’s significance to America. In its prime years of the 1920s, up to 300 trains per day operated out of the Depot on 20 platforms. The Depot was a hub for immigration, commerce, and mail and served as a focal point for the community. Recent renovations to the Depot, it is hoped, will restore some of that community focus as well as modern transportation functions.

The project included a number of surprises and challenges beyond the average historical renovation project.

Access to most of the site was limited during the first year due to ongoing U.S. Postal Service operations, and two of the three project years included Mississippi River flood levels that necessitated the construction of dikes and other measures to keep the river from inundating the project area.

Excavation work for structural foundations and grading turned up a variety of historic artifacts as well as literally tons of “historic” construction debris—the fill material of choice in the 1920s.

Some of the more interesting artifacts include shoes, medicine bottles, coffee cans, a conductor’s log book, and a souvenir cup with the Milwaukee Road’s logo. All artifacts were documented and placed in storage—a few of these artifacts are on display at the Depot.

The project required a wide range of specialties to transform the 33-acre site from a defunct rail station to an active transportation center in the heart of the Lowertown neighborhood.

On one end of the spectrum were historical paint curators examining existing paint fragments to determine original colors used in the Depot; on the other end were heavy equipment operators in hazmat gear excavating and disposing of impacted soils.

The range of activities was generally happening concurrently, making for extremely active and interesting construction site visits.

The project required coordination of operations for passenger rail, freight rail, local bus, intercity bus, charter
bus, LRT, taxis, limos (weddings), aircraft (St. Paul downtown airport), metro mobility, bicycles, private cars and steamboats as well as pedestrians of course—extremely multimodal!

Several blocks of sidewalks adjacent to the depot site were expanded for pedestrian use and improved with decorative lighting, security systems, benches, and other amenities. The site plan included dedicating the northerly 20 feet of the train deck level (along Kellogg Boulevard) as a pedestrian and bike promenade that begins at the corner of Sibley Street/Kellogg Boulevard.

The promenade extends over a new pedestrian bridge and down to the Mississippi River steamboat landing (there are several steamboat trips on the American Queen that depart from St. Paul) and will connect to the Bruce Vento Trail and Lafayette Bridge trail heads without ever crossing traffic.

The promenade includes pocket parks for resting and taking in views of the Mississippi River and very active railroad operations in the vicinity (especially designed for engineer-bikers!).

A new oval-shaped bus platform is included on the train deck where three rail platforms once stood. The bus platform includes real-time bus schedule information signs, and space for over 20 buses to operate at a time including layovers and passenger operations.

To enhance the convenience of bus passengers, the bus platform is designed to be accessible from the adjacent downtown street grid without needing to enter the Depot building.

The passenger rail platform is situated at the southern end of the site to maximize the available platform length for Amtrak’s 1,700-foot-long Empire Builder cross-country trains.

The Depot is designed to allow two Amtrak staff to safely and efficiently handle ticketing, baggage, train services (refuse, water, ice, food), as well as Amtrak freight operations, which the design team was surprised to learn.

The renovated Depot incorporates a new full-service entrance along Kellogg Boulevard, which provides a more centrally-located building access as well as more efficient access for automobiles and taxis.

Project success depended upon cooperation between agency stakeholders, multiple levels of government, and transit tenants and has resulted in the rebirth of a civic monument for the region.

The Union Depot was selected as APWA’s 2013 Public Works Project of the Year in the category of Historical Restoration/Preservation More Than $75 Million. There will be a technical tour of the Union Depot offered as part of PWX 2016 in Minneapolis.

AECOM (formerly URS Corporation), the lead engineer, along with the Mortenson Construction team, was tasked with delivering the project for the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority within three years of notice to proceed. Gregory Brown can be reached at (612) 373-6479 and Carl Osberg can be reached at (763) 541-4800.
Oakwood Green: Blazing the trail for small city sustainability

Stan Brown, P.E., PWLF
City Manager
City of Oakwood, Georgia
Chair, APWA Small Cities/Rural Communities Committee

The City of Oakwood, Georgia, population of 4,133, blazed a new trail in 2014 by embracing the “triple bottom line” concept and leading the way for other local governments to follow the path of becoming a more sustainable community.

Triple Bottom Line
Economic development has long been top priority for Oakwood and, as a result, the City has excelled as an economic engine for the community, creating more jobs than population, building an 86% commercial/industrial tax base, and experiencing a daytime population of over 25,000. Although extremely proud and well-known for its economic development success, the City acknowledged that environmental and community services and programs were often second-tier priorities.

When the economy slowed during the last few years, the City launched its Oakwood 2030 Vision process which, in the end, recognized the need for a more balanced approach to sustain the quality of life and services expected by its citizens. As a result, the City changed its course, adopted the “triple bottom line” concept, and developed its Oakwood Green Initiative. Now, as the region’s local government champion of the “triple bottom line” concept, the City’s goal is to balance the interests of (1) economic impact, (2) environmental stewardship, and (3) community engagement intersect to achieve a higher quality of life;

• We have a clean and healthy environment free from pollution to air, water and land; and
• We exceed expectations across all sustainability issues and proactively reduce our environmental impacts.

For the City to focus on making this vision a reality, Oakwood Green adopted the mission statement to “engage our community and inspire environmental action to create a greener footprint and healthier economy.”

To support mission accomplishment, the City’s Oakwood Green goals were developed and grouped into the categories of land & water and air & energy. The land & water goals are to:

Key to Future Success
Triple Bottom Line of Sustainability

Our goal is to balance these three interests.
Preserve our sense of place through the conservation, protection, replenishment and master planning of our parks, green space, view sheds, tree canopy, forest, and water resources.

- Foster sustainable development that enhances the economic viability, preserves the character of Oakwood, and encourages a sense of connectedness.
- Strengthen the image and charm of Oakwood through coordinated efforts to enhance property conditions and community appearance.
- Create a greener community of national renown through a model waste management plan that engages all our citizens.

The air & energy goals are to:

- Maintain and enhance air quality through sound, acceptable, achievable clean air practices.
- Support and encourage improved energy use and performance through identification of resources, innovative practices, and opportunities.
- Foster sustainable development, programs and practices that enhance the economic viability, enhance air quality and encourage energy efficiency.

Implementation and Results
To move forward on the Oakwood Green Initiative in 2014, the City focused its efforts on program management/operational improvements which included Oakwood Project Paperless, community appearance improvements, and air quality/energy performance enhancements on City-owned facilities.

One of the year’s most successful green initiatives was Oakwood Project Paperless which involved all City departments and resulted in: (1) paperless meetings with use of Wi-Fi, laptops and flat screens; (2) the transition to a paperless files management system utilizing the “cloud” for ease of accessing files from anywhere; (3) elimination of one of two main copy/fax/printer machines at City Hall; (4) scanning of planning and development documents (building/civil plans/project files/etc.) to reduce storage space requirements; (5) 23% reduction in office supply.

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expenditures; (6) implementation of electronic banking (statements, deposits, credit card payments, drafts); and, most significantly, (7) relocation/consolidation of the Police Department into City Hall based on the vacant space gained through Project Paperless. With the relocation of the Police Department to City Hall, the old Police Department building was shut down (for future repurposed use) and the City’s environmental footprint was instantly reduced by 30%.

In terms of enhanced community appearance, Oakwood Green initiatives resulted in: (1) increased illegal sign abatement efforts; (2) implementation of a special solid waste pickup program for large household items; (3) contracting with GDOT for the City to assume the right of maintenance (higher service level for mowing and litter control) of State routes throughout the City; (4) completion of I-985 Exit 16 gateway landscape project; (5) another successful community/stream cleanup as a part of the Great American Cleanup event; (6) implementation of a comprehensive abandoned/vacant structure abatement program; (7) continued sustainable development practices implementation through use of the Oakwood 2030 Downtown Master Plan Downtown District and Corridor Overlay Design Standards; and (8) the adoption of the first “Complete Streets” policy within the county.

Another aspect of community appearance, the City’s pavement management program, centered on asphalt material reclamation and reuse, which resulted in over 90% of the City’s roadways rated as “good” to “very good.” The City’s program, with a heavy emphasis on sustainable practices, is now a model for other communities throughout the nation.

As for air and energy programs through the Oakwood Green Initiative, the City adopted the first local government “Idle Reduction Policy” in the county in an effort to reduce fuel consumption and emissions. The City also implemented the recommendations from an Oakwood Green energy audit of City facilities which resulted in a 27% reduction of energy cost. The achieved savings were immediately reinvested through the installation of motion switches in City Hall and LED parking lot lighting to further reduce the City’s energy cost.

**Sustainability Trail Blazer**

As a sustainability trail blazer in the northeast Georgia region, the City led the charge as one of the founding partners of the Hall County Green Alliance—a grassroots, county-wide, volunteer network of local governments, school systems, residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations who work together toward common environmental goals. Under the City’s leadership, the Alliance currently consists of over 30 public/private/nonprofit partners. Based on its innovative sustainability practices, leadership and proven results, the City of Oakwood was awarded the 2014 HCGA Partner of the Year and was also recognized as a 2014 Celebrate Health North Georgia Sustainable Community.

Building on the success of Oakwood Green in 2014, the City will continue to shape its future using the “triple bottom line” concept with a keen awareness of the importance of environment stewardship, along with economic impact and community, when making sustainable community-wide decisions. Through the Oakwood Green Initiative, the City is well on its way to achieving the vision of “greening” the community.

For additional information on Oakwood Green, contact Stan Brown at sbrown@cityofoakwood.net.
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Recognize Your Leaders

Nominator’s Name: James R. Neal, P.E., Director, Charleston County Public Works Department

Candidate’s Name: Matthew Fountain, P.E., P.G.

Candidate’s Title: Manager, Engineering Division

Candidate’s Agency/Organization: Charleston County Public Works Department

Candidate’s City/State: North Charleston, South Carolina

How long has the candidate been involved in the public works industry? 10 years

How long has the candidate worked in their current position? 2 years

Please describe the reason that the candidate is being considered for recognition.

Matthew Fountain demonstrated exemplary leadership skill and ability as the guiding force in completing the emergency repairs to Paradise Island Road. The road connects an island community to the mainland and when the causeway and culvert began to fail, immediate repair was necessary to keep the community from being cut off and completely isolated. Matt’s leadership in forming a team to accomplish the job, dealing with difficult technical and environmental issues, including negotiations with coastal and environmental regulators, and logistical problems as well as dealing with the public, was unparalleled. Matt demonstrated the vision and consummate skill to lead a diverse team, one made up of construction workers and maintenance team members from one division, surveyors and engineers from another, and regulators from yet another, to complete the design and construction of the repair in record time. He was able to develop a plan, put the right team in place, and get the job done with nothing but compliments for all concerned. He embodied the traits of a true public works professional, giving the credit to his team and those that supported the effort of getting the job done, quietly, efficiently, and effectively.

How was the candidate’s leadership ideas/actions brought to the forefront?

The project was on its face a routine culvert replacement, but the location in a tidal marsh on the only access for an island community called for ingenuity and effective leadership in order to effect the replacement without cutting the community’s access. Matt distinguished himself as an effective leader, exhibiting an extremely positive attitude in supervising the staff which was assigned to him to complete the work. He was the consummate role model in the way he comported himself. The staff with whom Matt came in contact showed great respect toward him in carrying out their duties. Complimentary comments have come, unsolicited, from other departments, including the Planning Department staff and the Environmental Management Department staff as well as from the island residents, who marveled at the work.

Who did the candidate work with to help bring this idea/action forward?

It was necessary for Matt to work closely with all the divisions of the Public Works Department, but especially the operations and maintenance staffs. He also had members of the Engineering Division and Stormwater Division on his team. Further, coordination and cooperation with the Planning and Environmental Management Departments was necessary, as was working with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to secure the necessary permits to conduct emergency repair and to construct an emergency bypass road through the tidal marsh. Matt also worked closely with the island community leaders.
to keep them informed on traffic conditions and the status of the project. All agencies and persons involved in emergency repair cooperated to the fullest, primarily due to Matt’s consummate leadership skills. The project team, from the construction crew to the planning, permitting team, and community, had to work together to get the project done and they did so under Matt’s leadership.

**Did the candidate experience any challenges when trying to implement this?**

Obtaining regulatory approval to encroach upon the tidal marshes in order to construct the emergency bypass and then actually doing the construction and follow-on causeway removal was the major challenge to implementing the emergency repair work. The second, and perhaps most technically difficult challenge, was dealing with the tidal ebb and flow within the tidal sluice itself and preventing potential washouts of the bypass. Other challenges included maintaining positive interpersonal relationships with the Paradise Island residents who were experiencing inconveniences from the construction activity, and at times, expressing a great deal of concern over the activity and the projected date for completion. Matt’s skill in overcoming the challenges made this extremely challenging project seem like an easy fix, but those involved realized it as a complex and challenging endeavor.

**Are there steps/processes that, when looking back, the candidate could have done differently to make this idea/action even more successful (lessons learned)?**

The Paradise Island Emergency Road Project was flawlessly executed under Matt’s leadership. The design features and logistics involving staging of materials and equipment were handled extremely well. As usual, public works projects involving customer service to accommodate the residents’ concerns can always be improved. While the Paradise Island residents understood the need for the emergency work, more advanced notification and earlier community meetings might have allayed some of the questions and concerns expressed by them. Lessons learned as to improved customer service are always in play.

E-mail “Recognize Your Leaders” submissions to bstein@apwa.net.
In the Community: Advocate for people with disabilities

Danny Hodges
Wastewater Operations Superintendent
City of Newport News, Virginia

Danny Hodges, Operations Superintendent, Wastewater Division of the City of Newport News Department of Public Works, received a call from Virginia Governor McAuliffe appointing him to serve on the Virginia Community Integration Advisory Commission. The appointment is a tribute to Danny’s longstanding advocacy for people with disabilities. The following is the story from a man who is truly passionate about caring for people with disabilities. It is such an honor to have Danny on staff serving not only the citizens of Newport News, but the Commonwealth of Virginia. – submitted by Karen Self, MPA, Management Analyst, City of Newport News, Virginia

I have been quite active advocating for people with disabilities since my wife and I began fostering several years ago. We adopted two siblings five years ago, one of which has multiple disabilities. At that time, I realized the obstacles all people with disabilities and their families faced in so many aspects of their lives. I have been fortunate enough to speak on Capitol Hill on several occasions and have benefited from a Virginia grant program (Changing Systems, Changing Lives) through the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD) to include a yearlong advocacy training class called Partners in Policymaking.

Last year, I was nominated for a seat on the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. On August 20, 2014, I received a call from the Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth and was placed on hold; I assumed they would tell me I was either selected or thanks but no thanks. The Governor came on the line and proceeded to explain why he wanted to extend an invitation for me to sit on the Community Integration Advisory Commission. I accepted the position and started serving the four-year term in December.

The Community Integration Advisory Commission is established as an advisory commission in the executive branch of Virginia State government. The purpose of the Commission is to monitor the progress of all executive branch state agencies toward community integration of Virginians with disabilities in accordance with all state and federal laws in order that persons with disabilities may enjoy the benefits of society and the freedoms of daily living. This includes education, independent living, recreation and employment. The Commission meets quarterly in Richmond, the state capitol, and then makes its recommendations directly to the Governor.

In the past year, I have been involved with several interesting and important issues. This endeavor continues to be extremely educational and quite an eye-opening experience. I feel privileged to be a part of our state’s legislative process and to see firsthand how our state government truly works. This past year has been hard but rewarding; work has included a lot of policy study, several trips to Richmond, drafting many letters to the Governor, observing a Federal Department of Justice hearing and meeting with several legislators. During my first year on the CIAC, we have tackled many important issues, some of which are very personal and directly affect my family.

My first assignment on the commission was to draft a state-wide policy proposal that addresses the use of restraint and seclusion in the school system. Currently, our state has no established policy regarding the restraint and seclusion of our children in the public school system. This led us to create a workshop with the Director of Education. By the time we produced the policy proposal, the General Assembly had ended its session. Therefore, we advised the Governor to address the policy through the budget process instead. The Governor
took our recommendation and the policy proposal was submitted. I am proud to say as of January 1, 2016, the Commonwealth of Virginia will have a policy in place to address this issue.

Other issues we have begun to address are the Governor’s Access Plan Program for the Seriously Mentally Ill, Community Housing, Money Follows the Person, Commonwealth Coordinated Care, Work Incentives for the Disabled, Education Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Housing Opportunities, Intellectual Disability, Developmental Disabled and Day Support Waver Redesign, and Peer Support. We are on track to become the first state in the nation to implement the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) act. This was very important to me considering I have travelled to Capitol Hill every year for the past six years to advocate for the passing of this legislation.

Currently, we are working with the Department of Justice 2012 Settlement as it relates to Home and Community Based Settings Final Rule Transition Plan. In addition, I am working with a group to revise the Olmstead Strategic Plan which is derived from a 15-year old U.S. Supreme Court decision to provide appropriate opportunities for people with disabilities to become fully integrated into the community. This is more than a legal obligation, it is a moral imperative.

With my first year on this Commission coming to an end, I am very excited about serving the remaining three years. Equally, I look forward to creating positive legislative changes to current and future policies that affect people with disabilities. This opportunity has taught me so much about our government’s legislative process. I hope to continue to learn and be the positive change which will enrich and fulfill the lives of many people in our community who live with a disability. I hope we all can remember that any of us are only one accident or illness away from benefiting from the services we are working to provide.

If anyone is interested in the issues mentioned above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Danny Hodges can be reached at dhodges@nnva.gov.
EDUCATION CALENDAR

For more information about these programs or to register online, visit www2.apwa.net/Events. Program information will be updated as it becomes available. Questions? Call the Professional Development Department at 1-800-848-APWA.

2015

November 12
The Urban Forestry Role in Community Resilience

November 16-20
CSM, CPII and CPFP Certification Exams (computer-based testing)

December 10
Investing in the Future: Succession Planning

2016

January 21
Measuring the Total Value of Your Public Works Investment

January 25-28
CSM, CPII and CPFP Certification Exams (computer-based testing)

March 21-24
CSM, CPII and CPFP Certification Exams (computer-based testing)

May 2-5
CSM, CPII and CPFP Certification Exams (computer-based testing)

May 22-25
2016 North American Snow Conference, Hartford, CT

July 18-21
CSM, CPII and CPFP Certification Exams (computer-based testing)

August 28-31
2016 PWX, Minneapolis, MN

September 19-22
CSM, CPII and CPFP Certification Exams (computer-based testing)

November 14-17
CSM, CPII and CPFP Certification Exams (computer-based testing)

= Click, Listen & Learn program (Free to Members)

= Live Conference (Paid Registration)

= Certification Exam

= Web-based training

APWA members may access past Click, Listen & Learn programs from the Members’ Library at no cost. Programs can be streamed to your computer via the link found in the library. If you have expertise that you would like to share, please use the online Call for Presentations form to describe your expertise and perspective on the topic. www.apwa.net/callforpresentations/
Boiling water, even for those who are hopeless in the kitchen, seems like a pretty routine exercise. When it has to be done on a large scale, however—to heat a building or cool sophisticated electrical equipment, perhaps—the details can be important. As the water changes from liquid to gas, the bubbles forming on the hot surface (such as a kettle’s bottom or a ceramic heating element) break the contact between that surface and the water. The rate of heat transfer drops and the water takes longer to get to boiling. The time to turn a volume of water to steam goes up. (Whether you are watching has nothing to do with it.) In extreme cases, the heating element can overheat and burn out because heat is not getting to the water—potentially disastrous if we are talking about cooling the core of a nuclear reactor. In less sensitive applications the result may simply be that the heating process is less efficient and it costs more to produce steam.

A team of researchers at Drexel University in Philadelphia think they have found a way to make heating surfaces work better and produce more steam faster. Their secret ingredient is the tiny tobacco mosaic virus.

It seems that this virus—the first ever identified and so called because of the characteristic mosaic pattern seen on the leaves of infected tobacco plants—is rod-shaped but composed of a single coiled strand of RNA wrapped in a coating of small protein units that stack like bricks around a cylindrical chimney. Scientists have genetically modified the virus to produce a version in which some of the bricks become chemical binding sites; they act like little hooks that can catch molecules of other materials.

The Drexel team found that these modified viruses will then stick to a wide variety of materials—copper, aluminum, stainless steel, and silicon, among others—to form a nanostructured surface of tiny bristles. This nanostructure is then coated with a thin film of metal to form a rigid shell of evenly spaced tendrils that one of the lead researchers likens to “metallic grass.” The microscopic “grass” has a capillary effect, wicking water down to keep in contact with the heating surface as the steam bubbles form near the tips of the blades. Think of it as the opposite of what happens when your high-tech sports-fabric tee shirt wicks sweat away from your skin.

In tests, these virus-structured coatings have as much as doubled heat transfer rates as compared to untreated surfaces. The coatings seem very durable and can be applied to complex shapes using relatively simple, room-temperature processes, suggesting that the technology could be useful in a wide range of applications including water purification and power generation as well as HVAC. Perhaps boiling the water for my morning coffee will be faster too; some days I really need that boost!

Andrew Lemer, Ph.D., is currently a Senior Program Officer with the National Academy of Sciences of the United States, Washington, D.C. In addition to technical papers and occasional articles for the Reporter, he writes on civil infrastructure and human settlement at www.andrewlemer.com.
One of the most fundamental but oftentimes challenging aspects of becoming an effective leader can depend upon an individual’s proficiency in managing resources. A common theme that seems to impact almost everyone in the public services profession is that we are always “trying to do more with less.” Whether your agency is challenged with declining revenues, aging infrastructure with insufficient maintenance funds or rapid growth that is outpacing your budget, effective managers will need to seek ways to hone their skills in this area. Fortunately, this is another opportunity the APWA Public Works Institute program can assist with by providing training for individuals wishing to become more proficient in the management of resources and infrastructure.

Unit 9 of the Public Works Institute focuses on helping those enrolled in the program to develop higher levels of proficiency in the area of resource management. Sub-unit topics that are suggested for presentation in the Public Works Leadership Institute are:

- Information and Records Management
- Creative Decision Making
- Basic Project Management
- Effective Crew Scheduling
- Contracting/Bidding
- Consultant Management

Resource management is one of the segments of our profession that has changed significantly in past years. To get started let’s take a look into the world of asset management. Whether it be streets, sewers, fleets, buildings or another public works-related program, the sheer volume of information associated with trying to manage these areas can be overwhelming. Combine this with the fact that in the past, the only real alternative for an agency was to operate in an environment of paper documents. While this certainly created significant inefficiencies for many organizations, there were really not any other alternatives.

Like most things in life, however, technology has driven change. In the area of asset management the significant transformation in our profession has been the trend toward software-driven programs to manage projects, store and retrieve data, and utilize information for the operational management of assets. While the implementation of these programs has significantly improved organizational efficiency and the way public agencies now conduct business, it has also created challenges with employees having to learn or adapt to this new type of culture in the workplace. And one thing we also know is that change can be difficult to introduce into an organization without the proper leadership skills.

To provide an example of just how much things have evolved, let’s take a look at the management of roadway infrastructure. Many years ago in my organization, developing the criteria for streets needing repair, determining how much funding would be allocated and prioritizing maintenance schedules was a complex and challenging task. While there was ample documentation, quantifying it in terms that city leaders could easily interpret, especially in the annual budget process, proved cumbersome to say the least. It seemed like our public safety counterparts (who seemed to
have a very good understanding of the power of data) would always “trump us” when it came to “who got the money.” Public works officials would say that “this street needs repaired” or “that road needs replaced” but without the ability for the vast amount of information and variables to be easily defined, the effectiveness of the message was oftentimes lost. Flash forward to the implementation of the Department’s newly acquired computerized pavement management system and the playing field became more level. What used to be mounds of information and complexity was now rolled into a software-driven program. While in the past the concept of being able to quantify the overall condition of our street system had been virtually impossible, now a simple OCI (overall condition index) number was at our fingertips. The elected body was provided the ability to select a comprehensive OCI number for the baseline condition of the city street infrastructure and the system would provide an applicable five-year funding allocation required to achieve that goal.

While the implementation of this process may sound fairly simple, the initial reaction from City officials was that they really did not want to spend that amount of money to maintain the city’s street system. It had worked pretty well for them in the past to simply “kick the can down the road” and commit budgetary resources to other priorities. Now like our public safety counterparts, we had data in a format they could understand to more effectively manage this critical component of our infrastructure. The Public Works Department had not only discovered a new weapon to utilize in the budget process, but also a method to assist the elected body in more effectively managing the city’s most valuable asset.

In the development of our Institute, the APWA Iowa Chapter elected to utilize agency professionals to conduct the various training sessions contained in the PWI modules. To make this training opportunity more comprehensive and inclusive we also involved our partners from the Iowa DOT and counties. With our past collaborations and natural “overlap” in many of the duties we perform this seemed like a practical approach. Not only would we be able to expand the opportunity to others to be included in this training program, but at the same time expand our pool of experienced speakers.

The Iowa Chapter places a high level of importance on providing educational opportunities to our members. Like our parent association, we understand education and training are really our primary mission and work hard to be effective in this critical role. Individuals in our profession are oftentimes hard to find. We are proud to have developed a Public Works Leadership Institute for individuals in our profession to take advantage of to enhance their respective skills. If you have any questions or need assistance regarding any aspect of our Institute or the Public Works Institute program, feel free to contact me at bret.hodne@wdm.iowa.gov or (515) 222-3536.
Countless hours of work and considerable cooperation led to the signing of a formal agreement with ICLEI Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean at APWA’s annual Congress in Phoenix, Arizona. This marks an exciting new chapter of work with our partners in Latin America.

APWA’s International Affairs Committee (IAC) is comprised of committed association members who work to advance public works awareness, advocacy, and the sharing of information around the globe. A global perspective is imperative for any organization wishing to remain relevant. The IAC strives to position our association as a global resource and authority on all things public works. The formalization of our relationship with ICLEI, our partners in Latin America, is a great step in furthering these efforts.

In anticipation of the Phoenix Congress, the APWA/Mexico/Latin America Subcommittee of the IAC began work on the agreement in early 2014. Multiple drafts were sent between the organizations over a period of several months. Tyler Palmer, Chair of the APWA/Mexico/Latin America Subcommittee, attended the ICLEI Conference in Villahermosa, Mexico in April 2015 to finalize the agreement details. Palmer also presented at the conference, speaking about the distribution of common-pool resources and the critical role that public works plays in the creation of conditions that allow us to live in close proximity to one another. He provided examples of different ways this is accomplished in the United States, and contrasted and compared this to systems of delivery used in Mexico.

Lissette Hernandez Salazar, Director of Events for ICLEI Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, attended Congress and participated in the signing ceremony which took place at our IAC meeting. “We are so pleased and honored to be here for this historic event,” Hernandez stated. “Our partnership with APWA has been very beneficial, and we look forward to our continued relationship.”

The APWA/Mexico/Latin America Subcommittee worked closely with the planning committee for the Phoenix Congress to augment our outreach to Latin America in an effort to increase attendance from that region of the world. Spanish language fliers were distributed at various events in Mexico and Central America. We were very pleased to have several visitors from the targeted regions. In addition, we have witnessed increased support from local chapters. The San Diego Chapter in particular has been very active in generating relationships with their neighbors in Mexico, and helped facilitate meetings in Congress that will help us further pursue our international goals.

There are several meaningful ways to get involved with APWA’s international work. We encourage anyone who is interested to visit the IAC’s page on the APWA website to learn about volunteer opportunities. There is also the wonderful opportunity to apply for a Jennings Randolph International Fellowship and conduct a study tour of your own in cooperation with one of our international partners. For further information visit http://www.apwa.net/discover_apwa/APWA-International/Jennings-Randolph.

Tyler Palmer can be reached at (208) 883-7097 or tpalmer@ci.moscow.id.us.
The international agreement establishes a strong partnership between the respective organizations and the countries they represent. The agreement’s common purpose is to enhance the quality of life by facilitating the exchange of ideas, information, technology, and management practices involved in the engineering and management services for public works infrastructure.

“The APWA-CPWA-ICLEI international partnership agreement connects the participating organizations to work internationally to identify ways to better serve all of the organizations and members, establish direct links to each organization’s respective web site, establish protocols for use of products and services, provide for improved communication between organizations,” said APWA President Brian Usher, PWLF.
The Phoenix Experience

The weather was hot, but the education and networking were cool at our big show

Laura N. Bynum, M.A., Media Relations and Communications Manager, American Public Works Association, Washington, D.C.; R. Kevin Clark, Editor, APWA Reporter, American Public Works Association, Kansas City, Missouri

It’s not every conference where attendees are greeted with a sunspot kind of heat followed by a mid-conference monsoon. But neither the heat nor the monsoon could dampen the spirits of the thousands of enthusiastic participants who descended this year on APWA’s Congress & Exposition in Phoenix, Arizona. Those attendees made it abundantly clear that nothing would keep them from the multitude of opportunities to network, learn and have fun with their peers.

Of course, the weather was only a supporting player in what amounted to a terrific experience during Congress week. The event brought together nearly 5,000 attendees, speakers, exhibitor representatives and volunteers at the Phoenix Convention Center. This year’s show featured inspiring General Session speakers, over 150 educational sessions and more than 400 exhibitors to help our members understand and overcome their daily public works challenges. In between, there were plenty of
entertaining social events and a vast array of opportunities for networking. Much credit for the great success of the conference goes to the Arizona Host Chapter and their many volunteers...a job well done!

Excitement ran as high as the temperature
As always, a number of significant Pre-Congress activities took place on Saturday prior to the official opening of the conference. These included meetings of APWA’s Technical Committees, a golf tournament arranged by the host chapter, and the Council of Chapters Business Meeting along with breakout sessions. In addition, 30 registrants from 24 agencies participated in the “Self Assessment Leading to Accreditation Workshop” held on Congress Saturday. Excitement ran high throughout the session as agencies shared their interest in the Accreditation process and learned how to work through the program to gain its greatest benefits for their departments. “With 102 Accredited agencies in North America at this time, it is apparent that the program is meeting the needs of those agencies and others are recognizing the value of documenting policies, practices, and procedures to compile a Standard Operating Procedures Manual which will be available to all staff and aid in succession planning and training,” said Ann Daniels, APWA Director of Credentialing. Participants from the Iowa, North Carolina, Georgia, and Idaho (Rocky Mountain) Chapters all expressed interest in having a similar workshop hosted by their chapter or branch. Information on setting up the workshop can be obtained from Ann Daniels at adaniels@apwa.net.

Someone cares enough about you
Amid the 100+ degree temperatures Sunday morning, thousands of public works professionals converged on the Phoenix Convention Center for the official start of this year’s show. The first day of the conference included early morning activities such as the First-Timers Meeting at 7:00 a.m. that featured APWA President-Elect Brian R. Usher (who would become APWA President just a few hours later); APWA Interim Executive Director (and former APWA President) Larry Frevert; and APWA Director-at-Large for Leadership and Management,
Cora Jackson-Fossett who welcomed a packed house of first-time attendees to the conference and filled them in on the logistics and details of the annual event. “I challenge you to learn and take advantage of all things that we have to offer to you today, and I hope fervently that we will see you back for many years to come at our future conferences,” Usher told the first-time attendees.

“Someone cares enough about you that they sent you here this week to learn,” Frevert said to the first-timers. “Learn at least three things. Write them down. Take some ideas, some interest in new technologies, and some interest in new equipment back and share with your colleagues to make your communities better.”

Early business meetings on the first day included the DCS Council Chairs Meeting, the Small Cities/Rural Communities Committee, and the Fleet Services Open Forum as well as the Young Professionals Steering Group. At the same time early educational sessions included topics such as “LPA Stakeholder Partnering for Success,” “High Stakes, Low Impact: How a Strategic Water Main Rehabilitation Helped Usher in a Riverfront Renaissance” and “LA DOTD’s South Louisiana Submerged Roads/Paths to Progress Programs.”

At 9:00 a.m. Opening General Session keynote speaker Marcus Luttrell, author of Lone Survivor, signed books for all those in the long line who had been waiting for him in the North Ballroom lobby.

The Opening General Session began on time at 10:00 a.m. after Luttrell’s book signing, which was opened by “Anita Rhoade,” the APWA Congress comedienne who was on hand to help APWA President Larry Stevens announce the beginning of the session. Stevens announced the official opening of the APWA Congress and introduced the Arizona Chapter hosts, the APWA Board of Directors, and several international partners participating in the conference. He commended those in attendance for coming together to further both their education and their success in creating a better world. Stevens’ reflections on his year as President included reaching 100 Accredited agencies as well as driving significant investment in the young professionals who will be leaders in the next generation of public works. Stevens also commended the work by all the APWA chapters that have worked to focus on record attendance and improved education opportunities.

“Wherever I’ve travelled—and my travels have taken me across all of North America, from the east coast to the west coast, Canada, New Zealand, Hawaii, Alaska—chapters are seeing record-setting attendance, improved formats and venues, and increased educational opportunities,” Stevens said.

As the incoming APWA President, Brian Usher took possession of the gavel and opened his presidency with thanks to all in attendance, especially the young people who are taking places in public works as the older generations retire. He also discussed the continued importance of investment in our infrastructure. “Our theme ‘Invest in the Future’ strikes a chord in all of us who are public works professionals,” Usher said. “In order to ensure that we have strong, vibrant communities with strong, vibrant infrastructure, we need to double down and figure out how we can take the programs and our infrastructure and make sure it serves us for the future.”

Incoming APWA President Brian Usher (right) received the presidential gavel from outgoing President Larry Stevens.
Don’t worry, you can still catch up!

It’s not too late! APWA wants to remind you that you and your staff still have an opportunity to take part in the most comprehensive professional development series available to public works professionals. If you sign up today, you can catch up using the “Building the Public Sector” on-demand archives to access any sessions you’ve missed.

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you can’t control. If you spend most of your time worrying about dying, man, you’re not living. You’re dying. Don’t worry about that, man, don’t sweat that. That’s coming irregardless. You need to just go as hard and fast as you can and enjoy it. That way when it does show up, man, you’re ready. You’ve got nothing left. That’s the biggest thing, man, don’t ever fear anything you can’t control.”

After the Opening General Session, attendees hurried to the exhibit hall opening where many of the latest infrastructure and public works technologies were on full display, ranging from advanced public works equipment and vehicles to futuristic robot bulldozers and drones. But not everyone was fascinated just with the bells, whistles and speed of the latest technology. Also drawing a crowd was the “Low and Slow Across America’s Infrastructure Tour” Hudson Commodore 8 that was driven by Dan McNichol, Ph.D., best-selling author and journalist. Dan had driven the car across the country to visit infrastructure projects and public works agencies, and he communicated his insights from that trip when he gave the keynote speech on Wednesday at the Closing General Session (described on p. 34).

The afternoon sessions included the Chapter Leaders Forum and educational sessions such as “Succession Planning in Winnipeg,” “Achieving New Heights in the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport” and “Adapting the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon to Improve Bicycle Safety.” Also included in the afternoon was the Emergency Management Opening Forum among other educational sessions. The day’s activities were capped off by the Get Acquainted Party that featured cowboys, cowgirls, native dancers and other Phoenix area entertainment. The food and drink was also themed with the Phoenix area in mind and attendees enjoyed getting together with other participants after a long day at the conference.

Celebrating the best in public works
On Monday, August 31, the second day of the APWA Congress began at 8:00 a.m. with the General Session from the Public Works Technology Panel, which was facilitated and moderated by the Emergency Leaders Academy. Several speakers discussed new technologies directly affecting the future of public works. The panel included Tom Schaffnit, President of
A2 Technology Management, speaking about the evolution of intelligent transportation; Nate Hartman of RDO Integrated Controls who spoke about the use of drones for public works; Todd Henderson of Cartegraph, who spoke on creating a brighter future through the combination of people, technology and data; and Kate Hartman, Team Leader, from the U.S. Department of Transportation, who spoke about that agency’s connected vehicles program. Kate explained how this new DOT initiative focuses on adjusting traffic patterns to create interactive connections among cars and people on the roads. She discussed mobility applications and the technology powering the programs for drivers and pedestrians: vehicle-to-vehicle communication; vehicle-to-infrastructure technology; weather and environmental applications; and intelligent traffic signals that tie into public safety and other transportation elements.

Tom Schaffnit spoke about the evolution of connected vehicles technology through development of industry standards, creation of a reliable supplier base, and communication of knowledge required for individual and cooperative use of projects. Potential benefits are being drawn from the insights of a consortium of automakers, interjection of the public sector, and the discovery of common interests for all. He also spoke about the Dedicated Spectrum Communications (technical support of low-latency communications in the mobile environment and basic safety message concepts for vehicle-to-vehicle, or V2V, crash avoidance) as well as relevant technical standards and positive enhancements to the program before deployment. Nate Hartman illustrated the use of aerial mapping and drones equipped with 3D for project background purposes. Todd Henderson of Cartegraph also spoke on the use of drones in connection with the convergence of technology used by high-profile organizations and the need for transparency in government as this evolving technology starts changing the way public works are delivered.
The exhibit hall opened at 10:00 a.m. after the Public Works Technology Panel session while over 400 vendors busily prepared their booths for the upcoming day. Comedienne “Anita Rhoade” was in the exhibit hall filming with EdgeFactory, and there were multiple Exhibitor Solutions Theater sessions on the exhibit floor addressing topics such as “Get Connected with Intelligent Public Works,” “Sustainable Budgets and The Power of Mobile Asset Management,” “Cutting Edge Solutions” and “The Evolution of the Snow Blade.” “There’s an App for That” in the Technology Pavilion focused on lightweight infrastructure management, while a well-attended APWA trivia contest brought some competitive spirit to the floor. The Movex Innovations robot bulldozers and the drone at RDO Integrated Controls both garnered media attention from Phoenix TV Channel 12, as well as Channels 3 and 5 for their evening newscasts.

Lunch is always a great time to do business, and the Canadian Public Works Association Luncheon featured the Federation of Canadian Municipalities CEO Brock Carlton with CPWA President Kealy Dedman (see related article on page 36). At the same time, many others enjoyed the Public Works Historical Society luncheon held elsewhere at the center.

The afternoon educational sessions included topics such as “Current Best Practices in Pavement Management,” “Filling Fleet Manager Vacancies,” “Generation Park – The Future of Master Planned Commercial Communities” and “Setting Ambitious Goals and Targets that Inspire Innovation.” The Public Works Stormwater Summit Day 1 Session began at 2:00 p.m. focusing on aging systems, volatile storms and weather patterns that have increasingly become the focus of public works professionals attempting to renew and strengthen infrastructure using sustainable and green infrastructure tactics.

At 3:00 p.m. the International Public Works Director Roundtable featured public works directors from around the world in an interactive exploration of common challenges and solutions that directors encounter every day no matter where they live. The APWA Government Affairs Committee also held an educational session titled “Advocacy Matters!”

The evening highlights included the Awards and Recognition Ceremony and Reception in the North
Ballroom in which APWA’s Awards Program recognized the outstanding individuals, groups and chapters that represent the best in public works. These included awards for the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year, Accredited and Reaccredited Agencies, Young Leaders of the Year, Emerging Leaders Academy and the Donald C. Stone Conferment of Credentials. Other awards included the Sustainability Practices Award for an Individual and for a Program/Organization, as well as several Professional Managers of the Year and the PACE Awards. The ceremony was followed by a special reception honoring the winners.

The final events of the day were the International Guests Reception at the Heard Museum, followed by the Young Professionals Networking Reception for members aged 35 and younger which was held at Copper Blues at CityScape Phoenix.

But it’s a dry rain…
It might always be hot in Phoenix, but conference-goers quickly learned that it’s not always dry. The third day of the APWA Congress dawned clear only after a long night of monsoon storms rolled through causing power blackouts and rain damage across the area. Nonetheless, the Tuesday General Session began right on time in the North Ballroom with Diana Nyad, the long-distance swimmer, sports journalist and broadcaster who talked about achieving her lifelong dream to swim from Cuba to Florida. Nyad discussed what it was like to swim that mind-numbing distance in an extreme endurance event. Her message, “Find A Way,” explains her constant commitment to not quit when it
counts the most, even when you’re alone and no one is there to make you believe in yourself. Nyad explained the adrenaline rush that comes with not giving up, despite jellyfish, hazards and sharks (and haven’t we all run into a few of those in our careers?). She left the crowd with the theme “It’s Who You Become” that is important.

Following the General Session the stage was filled for the big announcement by APWA President-Elect Ron Calkins, “Anita Rhoade,” Board members and Arizona Chapter members waving T-shirts and hats, all celebrating the rebranding of the APWA International Public Works Congress & Exposition to be now known as PWX. Attendees joined in the celebration, filing out of the ballroom in their PWX hats to share the news with others. A large PWX sign was put up for all to sign and “Anita Rhoade” proudly wore her new PWX shirt with Arizona Chapter members along with the APWA Board of Directors and the APWA staff.

President Usher stands with representatives of SMITH Manufacturing during the presentation of the Best Single Booth on the exhibit floor.
Educational sessions began at 10:00 a.m. with topics including “An Insider’s Look at Arizona’s Water Infrastructure,” “Bicycle Network Assessment,” “Community Resilience and Climate Change” and “How Connected Vehicles will Change the Way We Travel and Impact Public Works.” The Center for Sustainability Roundtable focusing on “Maximizing Your Sustainable Return on Investment,” the Small Cities/Rural Communities Town Hall Meeting, and the Diversity Brunch all ran in parallel beginning at 10:00 a.m. The exhibit hall opened at the same time, featuring over 400 vendors in the last day of the exhibit hall. Many attendees went to the Expo Experience to catch the Exhibitor Solutions Theater sessions and the new applications in “There’s an App for That.”

Prizes given out on the Exhibit Floor included Best Booth Awards presented by APWA President Brian Usher. Several booths won this year’s awards including Bergkamp, Inc. for Large Booth; DesignPole for Medium Booth; and SMITH Manufacturing for Single Booth. SMITH Manufacturing also took the Best in Show Award. The Expo Floor also featured the Low and Slow Across America’s Infrastructure car, Mrs. Martin, driven from Boston to San Francisco by Dan McNichol, the award-winning journalist and best-selling author.

The APWA DCS Forum began at 1:00 p.m. along with the Chapter Website Training and the Public Works Institute Open Forum. Afternoon educational sessions included topics such as “A View from the Top,” “Celebrating Success – Accreditations,” “Fueling the Conversation” and “Leadership Development for Public Works.” The Public Works Stormwater Summit featured Day 2 of their program with more educational sessions following at 3:00 p.m.

As the sun set on day three of the APWA Congress, individual chapters gathered for spectacular dinners around downtown Phoenix, Scottsdale and other local hotspots, where good friends met to catch up, exchange ideas and experiences, and plan for the future.
Low and slow and the state of our infrastructure

The final day of the conference began with the APWA Business Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting at 8:00 a.m. Leaders of the various Technical Committees and other committees reported to the Board throughout the morning. The Wednesday workshop tours departed from Monroe Street Porte Cochere, North Building for tours including the Arizona State University Solar: the Largest Solar Portfolio of Any University in the United States; the NRG Energy Center in Phoenix; the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport; and the Tempe Town Lake Dam Tour. Classroom workshops included the “Post-Disaster Safety Evaluation of Facilities and Infrastructure,” and the educational sessions included topics on “County Transition,” “Solid Waste Recycling Collection,” “How Smart Technology is Saving Millions,” “Leading Change” and “Ohio Research Initiative for Locals” as well as “Sustainable Fleet Replacement.”

The Closing General Session began at 11:00 a.m. featuring APWA President Brian Usher who closed the conference thanking the Arizona Chapter for handling their hosting duties with such dedication and success. The new PWX will take place in Minneapolis next August. Usher thanked attendees and encouraged them to go forward with the new technologies they experienced at the conference to move the organization forward, and to persevere with new ideas that will bring even greater value and respect to the profession. He called for new issues, introspections on infrastructure and new settings for public works.

The final Keynote Session featured award-winning author and journalist,
Dan McNichol, Ph.D., discussing the Low and Slow Across America’s Infrastructure Tour. McNichol presented photos and images of the trip taken with Engineering News-Record reporter Aileen Cho, highlighting the state of America’s infrastructure and the operations of public works agencies along the way. McNichol described how he bought and fixed the 1949 Hudson Commodore 8, named “Mrs. Martin,” with his friend Pere Christiansen, the Hudson Whisperer, who kept the car running despite many mechanical issues and problems. McNichol showed image after image from his trip including many public works staff, APWA members who are public works directors, members of the APWA Board of Directors and the APWA staff who supported the complex logistics of the trip. He described how Mrs. Martin represents the state of America’s infrastructure and how public works has had to keep the nation’s infrastructure running as best as they can, just as he has tried to keep Mrs. Martin running despite the aged mechanical state of the Hudson.

“We are in crisis,” McNichol said regarding the state of our infrastructure. “I wanted to find out if we were, and believe me, after three years of driving Mrs. Martin, I think everyone else knows we’re in crisis over this issue. And I want APWA to be the leader in drawing the answers, the solutions and the spirit to get it all fixed.”

On to Minneapolis

All in all, this year’s show was an exhilarating event that showed off some of the best Phoenix has to offer. Why not carry those feelings of enthusiasm for our annual conference into next year? Start making plans now to attend the 2016 PWX in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 28-31. Our big show just keeps getting better and better. Be sure to come to Minneapolis to find out for yourself.
For the ninth consecutive year, CPWA hosted the leaders of international associations attending Congress for a Monday morning breakfast and discussion of public works issues. Attendees included the executive directors and several of the presidents of the following associations: Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA), Finnish Association of Municipal Engineering (FAME), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Federation of Civil Engineers of Mexico (FEMCIC), Ghana Institute of Engineers, and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (IPWEA – both Australia and New Zealand representatives).

APWA was represented by two members of the Board of Directors and the International Committee Chair. Discussion was led by Doug Drever, PWLF, City of Saskatoon, who also serves as President of the International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME). Discussion topics included issues in public works including sustainability, asset management, and infrastructure funding, as well as a discussion of issues in association management including attracting young members and the use of social media. Several of the international leaders have been attending this
CPWA-hosted discussion forum for several years—including Chris Champion of IPWEA who has been in attendance since this discussion was first launched by CPWA in 2006.

**Brock Carlton, CEO, Federation of Canadian Municipalities headlines CPWA Luncheon**

More than 160 Canadian, U.S. and international attendees at Congress gathered for the annual CPWA Luncheon and had the opportunity to hear from Brock Carlton, CEO, of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities regarding their approach to building better communities, the importance of infrastructure, and FCM’s federal election platform entitled “A Roadmap for Strong Cities and Communities.” The CPWA audience of municipal public works officials warmed to Mr. Carlton who is strongly committed to strong municipal government and to recognizing and supporting the role municipalities play in the health and prosperity of Canada. Mr. Carlton also spoke of the importance of changing the conversation on infrastructure investment at the federal level noting that federal investment in Canadian cities and communities are key engines of innovation and growth for the country and should be seen as such. More information is available in “FCM’s 2016 Election Platform: Strengthening Canada’s Hometowns: A Roadmap for Strong Cities and Communities” (http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/FCM_Roadmap_EN.pdf).

**CPWA 2015 National Public Works Week Awards**

During the recent CPWA Luncheon at the Phoenix APWA Congress, CPWA National Public Works Week volunteer Brock Carlton, CEO, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, spoke at the annual CPWA Luncheon during the 2015 Congress.
Paul Smeltzer from Niagara Region, ON had the honor of announcing the 2015 CPWA National Public Works Week (NPWW) award-winning municipalities for 2015.

The CPWA NPWW award is awarded to municipalities that excel in educating and informing the public with the National Public Works Week program. Celebrated annually in May, National Public Works Week is observed in both Canada and the U.S. and is an opportunity for public works to demonstrate and display how their services improve communities and lives. It is also an excellent opportunity to promote public works as a career of choice to students and others entering the workforce. Public works departments also use NPWW as an opportunity for staff recognition and team building.

This year’s entries came from towns across Canada and featured creative approaches to public education and events. Cities who participated in the awards program are listed below, with winning municipalities highlighted:

**First-Time Entries:**
- Town of Drayton Valley, AB (population: 7,000)
- City of Lethbridge, AB (population: 93,000)
- County of Newell, AB (population: 6,500) WINNER

**Small Centre Entries:**
- Town of Drayton Valley, AB (population: 7,000)
- County of Newell, AB (population 6,500)
- District of Squamish, BC (population: 17,000)
- City of Moncton, NB (population: 69,000)
- Town of Ladysmith, BC (population: 8,000)
- City of Port Moody, BC (population: 34,000) WINNER

**Medium Centre Entries:**
- City of Lethbridge, AB (population: 93,000)
- Town of Whitby, ON (population: 130,000)
- City of Burlington, ON (population: 175,000)
- City of Kitchener, ON (population: 234,000) WINNER

**Large/Metro Centre Entries:**
- Brampton, ON (population: 600,000)
- Mississauga, ON (population: 750,000) WINNER

CPWA would like to thank all participating municipalities for their efforts and events held for National Public Works Week. Winning municipalities will have their awards presented before their Councils in the fall.

CPWA also wishes to convey thanks to the volunteers who served as evaluators for the program entries: David Knowles, City of Dieppe, NB; Murray Steer, City of Vancouver, BC; and Paul Smeltzer, Niagara Region, ON.

**CPWA Education Session Highlights**

Canadians attending CPWA’s education session on Monday had the opportunity to hear from CPWA President Kealy Dedman, P.Eng., MPA, City of Guelph, ON, both on ongoing CPWA projects and recent issues and initiatives leading up to the election in October. A major project for CPWA is the 2015 update to the 2012 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card. The 2015 Report will update the water, roads, wastewater, and stormwater assets included in the 2012 Report Card but will also cover additional assets like public transport and parks. The 2015 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card is due to be released in the late October time frame. Kealy also outlined CPWA ongoing priorities which focus on the issues of dependable, flexible funding for infrastructure, capacity building in asset management, and promoting sustainability in infrastructure projects.

CPWA’s Ottawa-based government and public relations consultant Alan Young brought the audience up-to-date with the latest on the elections and noted that the race was a “legitimate three-way race.” Alan also outlined options on how the government will operate if no single majority party is seated. Investment in infrastructure is playing a big role in the races but Alan noted that there is also a new dynamic at play with the issue of the management of government finances. While Trudeau has said that he would run a deficit by borrowing now while he says that money is cheap, both Harper and Mulcair would keep the budget.
APWA’s Awards Program recognizes individuals, groups and chapters for their outstanding contributions to the profession of public works. Some of the awards presented include Professional Manager of the Year Awards, Young Leader, Public Works Project of the Year, and Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year, to name just a few.

Each award is listed on the APWA website. Criteria and nomination forms for the 2016 Awards Program are now available online.

Visit www.apwa.net/awards

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 1, 2016

CPWA members honored at APWA Congress Awards Ceremony 2015

Canadian members were pleased to be in the audience as two of their own received the APWA Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year Award.

Paul Smeltzer, Director of Water and Wastewater, Niagara Region, ON, Canada, and Darwin Durnie, Director of Business Development, Stantec Consulting in Alberta, ON, Canada are familiar names in both their provincial chapters and through their work with CPWA and other national organizations. The Top Ten Public Works Leader award, which is one of the most coveted and prestigious awards presented by APWA, formally recognizes them as two of the 550 men and women named (since 1960) from throughout the U.S. and Canada who reflect the highest standards of conduct for public works officials. The Top Ten Leaders award program inspires excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals from both the public and private sectors in North America.

CPWA Past President Darwin K. Durnie, PWLF, was also the recipient of APWA’s prestigious Presidential Leadership Award. 2014-2015 APWA President Larry Stevens, P.E., PWLF, presented the Presidential Leadership Award to Darwin K. Durnie, PWLF, citing his impact on the entire association and the public works profession across the U.S. and Canada. Stevens praised his intuitive leadership and management style in working with all levels—local, regional and national. Stevens noted that “Darwin is a person who sees a challenge as another opportunity, rather than a problem.” APWA’s Presidential Leadership Award is awarded at the discretion of the APWA President and is reserved for a member who has distinguished himself or herself with leadership in the public works profession.

balanced. Young noted that 71% of Canadians report being undecided and he believes many will make a decision “around the Thanksgiving table.”

2016

AWARDS PROGRAM

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NOMINATIONS ARE DUE MARCH 1, 2016

www.apwa.net  /  November 2015  /  APWA Reporter  39
Congress First-Timers Breakfast
Submitted by Clark Wantoch, P.E., Collins Engineers, Inc.; Diversity Committee Member
The First-Timers (FTs) breakfast, sponsored by the Diversity Committee, has become a tradition at Congress going on its 18th year. Cora Jackson-Fossett, an At-Large Director for Leadership and Management, did a superb job of emceeing the event. With her usual enthusiasm and wit, Cora went through the program highlighting key events to attend and guiding FTs to obtain the greatest value out of Congress. She emphasized the three main things to get out of Congress are educational sessions, a close look at state-of-the-art equipment (the exhibit floor is an EXPERIENCE!) and networking.

With attendance growing each year, many officers and past presidents who greeted the FTs graciously stood in the back so there would be enough seating. Attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast sponsored by ENVIROCERT International, Inc. and were welcomed by President Brian Usher and Interim Executive Director Larry Frevert along with Arizona Host Committee Chairs David Fabiano and Charlene Reynolds. Eric Dundee, a past graduate of the Emerging Leaders Academy and past Chair of the Young Professionals Network also welcomed the group, encouraged them to take an active role in APWA and reminded them of the events at Congress sponsored by the Young Professionals Network.

If you have attended Congress but have not taken part in the First-Timers Meeting, you are encouraged to do so in Minneapolis in 2016. The overall objective of this event is to let you know APWA embraces inclusiveness and that you are a welcomed member.

Diversity Brunch
Submitted by Patty Hilderbrand, MPA, P.E., City of Kansas City, Missouri; Diversity Committee Member
The Diversity Brunch was attended by over 120 people, who listened to Jennifer Toth, Transportation Director & County Engineer for Maricopa...
Jennifer noted that only 20% of staff in transportation are women and only 11% in highways specifically. Those statistics create unique challenges that professional organizations like APWA can help address by providing a safe place to encourage communication, relationships, team building and skills.

Jennifer encouraged attendees to promote the exciting opportunities that exist in the public works profession and continue to work to change the perception of our industry so our constituents can see the heart of what we do. She encouraged attendees to make a change in our industry by seeking out a mentor or giving back as a mentor. It doesn’t need to be anything formal, but the time invested is worth it. There is something you can learn from everyone and help
change the perception of who makes up the public works workforce and professionals.

**Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse Workforce Workshop**
*Submitted by Abdul Yahaya, BE Civil, City of Gardner, Kansas; Diversity Committee Member*

The Diversity Committee sponsored a workshop titled “Recruiting and Retaining a Diverse Workforce” which was presented on the last day of the Congress and was a fitting way to empower participants on their way home. Abdul Yahaya facilitated the workshop by sharing his personal story and experiences on the importance of diversity in the workforce, but also on how to embrace the concept in your work environment.

The workshop started by emphasizing the importance of diversity within APWA and throughout the communities the organization serves. There is an incredible value in workforce diversity and the crowd echoed this belief through their questions and interest to implement strategies presented in the workshop. After the workshop was concluded, there was open dialogue on the dynamics of workforce diversity in respective work environments. The goal of the workshop was to get people together and think about improvements and also solutions on implementing workforce diversity. The Diversity Committee strongly feels that our goal was met and exceeded at the 2015 Congress!

**Student Outreach Network**
*Submitted by Lauren Behm, Pierce County Public Works; Student Outreach Network Chair*

Members of the Young Professionals and Student Outreach Networks sported stickers at the 2015 Public Works Congress prompting attendees to “Ask Me” about the Student Outreach Network. Our main goal in Phoenix was to continue to spread the word about all the exciting things that are happening with student outreach. With the mission to educate students about public works and APWA, inspire them to get involved, and transform the future, the Student Outreach Network is here to help you grow student interest in public works careers and APWA membership.

The Millennial Generation is already predisposed to be interested in public works careers with their heightened desire to find jobs that make a difference in the world. All that today’s students and young professionals need are information and the chance to get involved! A member of my chapter reached their hand out to me to pull me into APWA and I’m sure many of you had similar experiences. Now is our turn to reach out to the next generation of public works professionals and APWA leaders. Here are some simple tips on how to involve students:

- Invite students to your chapter events.
- Offer to mentor or tutor students.
- Help them grow their résumé writing and interview skills.
- Support internship programs at your company or agency.
- Talk about the importance of student outreach programs with your chapter members.
- Ask students or young members to join your APWA committees.
- Participate in the monthly conference call for the Student Outreach Network.

If you want to “Ask Me” about the Student Outreach Network, contact

> “The true measure of an individual is how he treats a person who can do him absolutely no good.”

– Ann Landers (1918-2002), syndicated columnist
me at: Lauren Behm at Pierce County Public Works, (253)798-2421 or LBehm@co.pierce.wa.us.

Young Professionals Network
Submitted by Brad Patterson, APWA Chapter Membership Manager; Young Professionals and Student Outreach Network Liaison

The Young Professional (YP) and Student Outreach Networks conducted a steering meeting at Congress to review accomplishments and conducted a lively discussion on how to help all APWA/CPWA chapters put together YP committees and to help chapters reach out to college and university students. More than 30 young APWA members from 20 different chapters were in attendance. “It was great that so many different chapters were represented,” said Christopher Gallagher, Town of Foxborough, Massachusetts. “Hearing the success stories from them is very encouraging and should be a real motivator for chapters who are starting a young professionals group.”

The group discussed 2016 goals. Those goals include creating a web page for YP contacts and putting together a “Quick Guide” for programs and events that a YP group can undertake in the chapter. A related goal for the coming year is to have a great deal of interaction with the Public Works Leadership for the Future Committee, one of the Council of Chapters’ committees made up of chapter delegates.

Also in attendance were new APWA National President Brian Usher, President-Elect Ron Calkins, National board member Cora Jackson-Fossett, and New England Chapter President Rick Merson. “I think the fact that APWA National board members participated in the meeting is indicative of how much they support what we’re doing,” Gallagher said.

“The national board has always been a great help and we appreciate their continued support.”

For more information on the Young Professionals Network, contact Brad Patterson at APWA National, 1-800-848-2792 or bpatterson@apwa.net.

Special Reminder: Please make sure you update your personal membership profile, including answering the optional questions 13-16 (see page 10, November 2013 Reporter). Please refer to APWA’s 2013 Diversity Resource Guide 2nd Edition and the Diversity Toolbox for more ideas in celebrating the diversity in your chapter.

EXPLORE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS!

Travel, Discover, Experience Another Culture

Applications are now being accepted for the 2016 Jennings Randolph International Fellowship Program funded through the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute.

The Jennings Randolph International Fellowship Program supports participation at a public works conference of one of APWA’s international partners and a public works study tour in that country.

2016 Study locations: Australia, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, and Sweden.

Fellowships granted for travel to our partner countries are limited to a maximum of $2,500 (USD) to assist with travel costs and other expenses that may be covered by the award.

For guidelines and application go to: www.apwa.net/About/International or contact Lillie Plowman at 1-800-848-2792, ext. 5253, or lplowman@apwa.net.

Application deadline: November 15, 2015, midnight CST.
Emerging Leaders are a presence at 2015 Congress

Carys Lustig
Supervisor of Administration, Department of Public Works
Town of Needham, Massachusetts
Member, 2014-15 APWA Emerging Leaders Academy

At the 2015 APWA Congress (now known as PWX), the eighth session of the Emerging Leadership Academy (ELA) took a leading role in the event. Like the classes that have come before, we presented a topic of our choosing, but unlike other classes we also hosted a panel on emerging technologies at Monday’s General Session and presented another session on public works as public safety. These additional opportunities that were opened to the ELA in 2015 were a testament to the passion and leadership that the members of the class expressed throughout the year-long program and the openness of the 2015 Congress Planning Committee to allow some up-and-coming leaders to make their mark on the event.

I had met the other participants in this year’s program less than a year before. I and fifteen other professionals from around the country were selected and met in October 2014 for a three-day retreat in Kansas City to learn and explore our own management styles. We all came from a diverse set of backgrounds; many were engineers, some field staff, and other administrative staff like me. Our mentor for the program, former APWA Board member Sue Hann, provided guidance and leadership throughout the retreat and the year-long program that followed. This retreat served as an opportunity to meet, learn about how we worked as a group, and begin planning for our presentation. Having a group of self-selected leaders all work in a collaborative and supportive way, while living across the country from each other, proved to be challenging. It was due to the ability of some to step up, and others to step down, that we were able to produce our paper and participate so meaningfully in the Congress experience.

At the retreat after learning about each other, and hearing from many speakers about management and leadership styles, we had to pick our topic and create our plan of attack all within a few hours. We knew that we wanted to focus on innovation and began to narrow our topic from there. Inspired by new technology like Google’s driverless car, we decided to focus on roadway infrastructure, recognizing that with future needs, there is an even more pressing need to address the physical deficits on the roads that we all rely on for safe and efficient...
Now Accepting Applicants for the Leadership & Management Career Path

Take the next step in advancing your public works career!

- Become a more effective public works leader
- Strengthen your public works job skills
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The most comprehensive education, training and professional development in public works.

Visit www.APWA.net/DCS and get started today!
Application deadline is January 13, 2016.

transportation. We left the retreat with a vague plan and leader, and went back to our respective communities.

Throughout the year we worked on our presentation and a series of assignments. Some of our most adventurous colleagues volunteered for additional presentation opportunities. This program served as a new way to learn for many of us. For me and many of my colleagues who work in local government, working via phone conference, e-mail, and Google Docs was a completely new experience. We would meet on a monthly basis and break out into smaller groups to complete assignments in between. Our team leader would keep us moving forward on our project and collaboratively we were able to complete our paper in July and plan our presentation for the Phoenix Congress.

We met up at Congress where there were a myriad of events, including a President’s reception, Diversity Brunch, Awards Ceremony, and of course our presentation. We got to watch some of our fellow classmates on stage at the General Session, taking the lead at Congress as the only non-professional speakers to be featured in a General Session. The Congress went very quickly. We got to meet many other colleagues from across the country who were all interested in learning from us about ELA program. These professionals were interested in meeting those who presented themselves as the future of the organization, and to learn about the program for those in their organization that they thought might be strong candidates for future leadership roles.

I know I can write on behalf of all my colleagues about how appreciative we are of APWA, the 2015 APWA Congress Planning Committee, our own communities, and Sue and the rest of the APWA staff who assisted in the program for giving us the opportunity to learn and participate in Congress in such a profound way. We have learned life and professional lessons on how to work as a team. I was personally so inspired by the passion of all of my classmates. The opportunity to go outside of our organizations, and see the struggles and successes of our peers, and collaborate together was reinvigorating. Even though many of us are early in our careers, it is easy to get bogged down in the minutia of the day-to-day. This program allowed us to go beyond the day-to-day to take a look at the future of public works more broadly and work with really dedicated and passionate public works peers.

Carys Lustig can be reached at (781) 455-7550 or clustig@needhamma.gov.
The 2015 APWA Congress in Phoenix was the perfect stage for Tippmann Industrial Products/Tippmann Post Driving Equipment to launch the new Propane Hammer E.F.I. to the municipal market. A signpost driver, a fence post driver, a ground rod driver and a stake driver, the Propane Hammer E.F.I. with electronic fuel injection can do it all and can do it easier than ever before. No air compressors or hydraulic units are required to run this self-contained unit. All you need is a 14.1-ounce propane tank and you are ready to go. The tall skinny blue 14.1-ounce propane tanks are the same tanks used for welding and are available at all hardware stores, home improvement stores and most general retail stores.

The Tippmann Propane Hammer E.F.I. post driver, built in the U.S.A. by an American company, is a fuel-injected version of the Propane Hammer which was introduced in 2007. The Yellow Propane Hammer introduced on the market several years ago was basically a carbureted motor with a choke. The new Green E.F.I. electronic fuel-injected hammer with a rechargeable battery is a smarter version of the original Propane Hammer and runs with the simple touch of a button. No fuel adjustments, no pressure adjustments—just hit the button on the spring-loaded handle and the post goes into the ground. Whether you are driving a U-channel post, Telespar Post, T-post, chain link post, ground rod, etc., the Tippmann Propane Hammer E.F.I. with electronic fuel injection can do the job.

This unit will hit up to 8,000 times on a single 14.1-ounce propane tank, which allows you to put in up to 75 signposts or up to 300 T-posts before you need to change the tank. The number of
posts you can drive per tank will vary depending on ground conditions. When the tank runs out, it only takes a few seconds to pop a new tank in and you are back to driving posts.

The Tippmann Propane Hammer is in use all around the United States and on nearly every continent. The new Tippmann Propane Hammer E.F.I. with electronic fuel injection is readily available and can be brought in for a 30-day trial period. **All municipal agencies are automatically granted net 30 terms which allows for easy trial of this great tool.**

The Tippmann Propane Hammer E.F.I. electronic fuel-injected post driver which weighs less than 43 pounds is by far the simplest and most useful post driver on the market. Lightweight, single-button operation, self-contained and single-person operation makes this unit a simple choice.

**Product Specifications:**
- Power: Standard 14.1-ounce propane tank
- Battery: Rechargeable 9.6 volt (24 hours of operation on a single charge)
- Delivers over 180 blows per minute
- Weighs less than 43 pounds
- Over 8,000 hits per tank
- **1 year full parts and labor warranty and a 30-day money back guarantee**

**Can you upgrade the Yellow Propane Hammer to the E.F.I. system?**
Upgrading an existing Yellow Propane Hammer to the E.F.I. system is simple and fast. Tippmann offers an E.F.I. electronic fuel injection upgrade kit for any existing Yellow Propane Hammer. If you are interested in having the upgrade installed, simply give Tippmann a call and they can have the upgrade installed in as little as 48 hours and shipped back to you.

Shawnee County Public Works excited about new ClearSpan building

Challenge – Greater salt storage capacity
Solution – Hercules Truss Arch Building
Size – 54’ wide x 100’ long
Application – Salt storage

With the tough winter across the U.S. extra salt was needed to keep the roads safe, and due to this need Shawnee County, a county surrounding Topeka, Kansas, required a larger building for the county’s road salt storage. After researching several fabric tension storage buildings, Tom Flanagan, Deputy Director of Public Works Shawnee County, determined an engineered ClearSpan Hercules Truss Arch Building was the right solution for his Public Works Department.

Before their new structure was erected Shawnee County Public Works used smaller structures located throughout the county, but had limited storage capacity in each of those smaller structures. Flanagan chose to construct one large ClearSpan fabric structure capable of storing approximately 2,000 tons of road salt and use this site as the central distribution point for Shawnee County Public Works.

The Shawnee County Public Works is excited to use their building for the upcoming winter, which Flanagan articulated, “We’re very satisfied with our new ClearSpan building, as it gave us the ability to centralize our salt operation for this impending winter.”

He also had some advice for others who were thinking about making a similar purchase, “Make certain the company selling the building fabricates, delivers, erects and warrants the completed building, and ClearSpan checked all those boxes for us.”

Flanagan was impressed with the workmanship of the structure and explained, “The quality of workmanship on the fabrication and the materials used on the structure are superior.”

ClearSpan employees also left a positive impression on Flanagan, “ClearSpan employees exhibited first-class professionalism from our initial inquiry, to providing information through design, fabrication, delivery and installation.”

For more information about ClearSpan Fabric Structures, call 1-866-643-1010 or visit www.clearspan.com/ADAPWA.
The 2016 Snow Conference in Hartford will bring together more than 1,500 snowfighters from every corner of the winter maintenance community. Public, private, rural, metropolitan, domestic, international – they’re all sure to be there at the Show for Snow! The 2016 Conference features an exhibit floor packed with the newest equipment and products, quality education programs and technical tours, and opportunities to exchange ideas with manufacturers, distributors, consultants and other public works professionals. Its four days of winter training and networking you can’t afford to miss out on!

DONT’ FORGET!
Plan to attend the popular
Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate Workshop
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2016

The 2016 Snow Conference in Hartford will bring together more than 1,500 snowfighters from every corner of the winter maintenance community. Public, private, rural, metropolitan, domestic, international – they’re all sure to be there at the Show for Snow! The 2016 Conference features an exhibit floor packed with the newest equipment and products, quality education programs and technical tours, and opportunities to exchange ideas with manufacturers, distributors, consultants and other public works professionals. Its four days of winter training and networking you can’t afford to miss out on!

DONT’ FORGET!
Plan to attend the popular
Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate Workshop
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2016
Products in the News

Reduce your slip and fall liability this winter with STAND-UP Freeze Resistant Liquid Deicer

New STAND-UP helps facilities mitigate their slip and fall liabilities by completely clearing away slippery ice and snow pack from their steps, walkways and ramps. STAND-UP is a great alternative to salt around facilities since it keeps working even after the sun goes down. STAND-UP will not track into buildings, and it will not damage expensive stamped concrete and brick pavers like salt can. For more information, watch a short video of STAND-UP in action at www.rhomar.com or call (800) 688-6221.

Xzalt*: not your typical salt and sand spreader

The Xzalt* is not your typical salt and sand spreader. Hi-Way® Xzalt* delivers a 70:30 ratio of dry/liquid material, reducing salt usage while accelerating ice melt. The mixed material delivered produces less material bounce and improves adhesion to the road, virtually eliminating over-application on roadside shoulders. One of the Xzalt features is a precision directional spinner, which broadcasts mixed material on one, two, or three lanes to reduce time, fuel and miles. The maintenance-friendly features of the Xzalt also include sealed bearings, a one-piece conveyor belt and 304 stainless steel components. For more information, please visit www.highwayequipment.com.

The Schwarze A8 Twister high dump sweeper

For many years mechanical sweepers have had the capability to lift the debris hopper high enough to offload debris into a truck, but until now, similar technology for regenerative air sweepers has been lacking. The A8 Twister combines the benefits of regenerative air and high dump making it versatile in many applications. Applications previously relegated to mechanical sweepers are no longer a problem. Its 12-foot dump height allows for off-loading into the tallest trucks. And if trucks are not available, it can still low dump just as fast as any traditional sweeper. For more information, please visit www.schwarze.com.

SimpliCity by Operasoft

Smart cities already have IT solutions addressing their primary business processes. Our solution, however, addresses the niche of public works management which is a very complex, serious and generally manually-managed department. It can incorporate a state’s or province's MMS (Minimum Maintenance Standards) or compliancy standards for avoiding frivolous suits or risk of liability exposure. The #1 aspect that differentiates our solution beyond typical GPS systems is that we track/map positions in real time of mobile assets to a more minute level, or every five degrees of heading changeover and about the regular time-base positions (every 5, 10, 15 seconds, idle time, etc.). For more information, please call 1-888-986-7372.
Electric crane meets critical industry needs

Venco Venturo Industries LLC offers a newly engineered electric telescopic crane to provide necessary solutions for operators. The competitively priced ET6K—a 2,000 LB capacity (6,000 FT-LB Rating)—offers a small footprint and is one of the few cranes in the industry that can operate without certification with continuous, power rotation and power elevation. The standard features for the ET6K include a capacity overload shutoff system, 50 feet of 3/16” aircraft-quality wire rope, remote pendant with 20 ft. cord, load block with swivel hook and safety latch, a master disconnect switch and a 25 ft. battery cable. The ET6K crane is a lightweight, cost-effective choice for a variety of industries and general service applications on any truck with a GVWR of 8,000 LBS or more. For more information, please visit www.venturo.com.

Bosch BAT415 12V Li-on 2.5 Ah Battery Pack delivers more runtime at same weight

Maximum runtime is what trade professionals want from their power tool batteries—for every job. And when greater runtime comes in the same size package as batteries with less long-lasting power, it’s a win/win for everyone. That’s the story of the Bosch BAT415 12V Li-on 2.5 Ah Battery Pack—more power means 25 percent greater runtime, no increased weight and a cylinder shape that makes the battery easy to use anywhere. The BAT415 battery offers single cell monitoring, which maximizes the performance of each individual cell for longer runtime. Low-resistance cells deliver the performance increase versus standard 12V 2.0 Ah lithium-ion pack batteries. For more information, please visit www.boschtools.com or call 877-BOSCH-99.

Maintenance software designed for the needs of municipal and utilities operations and their dispersed assets

The eRPortal Software Group offers an integrated asset management solution that automates public works asset management: infrastructure tracking, repair work order management, preventive maintenance, cost of ownership, utilization tracking, and capital budget forecasting. Mobile functionality supports offline and connected operations on any device set. Interfaces to strategic systems, like SCADA and Industrial Control Systems, and ESRI ArcGIS platform, lets users perform utilization- and condition-based maintenance on critical assets. Two-way data exchange lets maintenance operations and GIS staff view maintenance/inspection history and results, create and review work orders for assets on the GIS map, and prioritize inspection routes and maintenance schedules. For more information, please visit www.erportalsoftware.com.

Underhill’s portable new Turf Gun Kit cools and cleans synthetic fields

Underhill International introduces the Turf Gun Kit, a manual alternative to an automated irrigation system for cleaning and cooling synthetic sports fields. The Kit consists of two parts: portable MTG-180 Turf Gun with specifiable nozzle and a stainless steel below-grade enclosure with internal mounting assembly. The enclosure includes all necessary quick connect components and a padlock to prevent unauthorized use. Weighing less than 12 lbs., the Turf Gun delivers up to 180’ of coverage and uses the same piston-drive technology found in Underhill’s Mirage M-160 long-throw sprinklers, which can cool or clean an entire field in minutes. For more information, visit www.underhill.us or call (866) 863-3744.
Thunder Creek launches FST Series trailers for fuel/DEF delivery, field service

Thunder Creek Equipment has introduced its all-new FST Series trailers, available in 500-, 750- and 990-gallon diesel capacities with a 100-gallon DEF tank and an optional field-installed rear utility box. The new FST Series combines the best of Thunder Creek’s fuel, DEF and service transportation technologies into a single design while retaining the company’s focus on craftsmanship with heavy gauge steel, patented/patent-pending designs and premium options that allow contractors to spec each trailer to meet the demands of their work. The rear utility box is 55 percent larger than previous designs and can be installed on any FST Series trailer at any time—allowing owners looking for basic fuel transportation to later build out their own mobile service trailer as their needs evolve. For more information, please visit www.ThunderCreek.com.

Subsite® Electronics unveils new website

Subsite® Electronics has unveiled its new mobile-friendly website. Guided by customer input, the site provides utility, pipeline, telecom and other underground construction professionals easy access to information regarding Subsite’s unique selection of Underground Awareness products for enhanced jobsite safety and productivity. The new responsive site is available via desktop, laptop, tablets and mobile devices, giving users convenient and quick access to information, whether they’re on the job site or at the office. The site also includes time-saving software updates for Subsite Electronics products. For more information on Subsite Electronics, visit www.subsite.com.

SmartCAT® RFID asset tracking offers time-saving solutions for public works

Save considerable time and reduce errors by replacing handwritten inspection reports, surveys and inventory forms with digital data! The ready-to-use, SmartCAT RFID Asset Tracking system helps you track a variety of assets including street signs, pole-top assets and water shut-off valves. It combines an automated data collection app, a handheld RFID reader with barcode and GPS capabilities, and durable RFID tags. SmartCAT integrates seamlessly with existing GIS or legacy asset management systems, and creates spreadsheet reports for analysis. For more information, contact us at (847) 918-3809 or visit www.smartcatrfid.com.

Smart lighting solutions from Acuity Brands

West Richland, Wash. recently completed the state’s first all-city LED lighting conversion, upgrading 1,097 streetlights to high performance Autobahn LED luminaires from Acuity Brands, improving the quality of lighting on city streets, reducing lighting energy use by more than 60 percent and reducing maintenance costs over time. Smart lighting that incorporates LED luminaires, sensors and networked controls will continue to play an important role as cities continue to invest in more sustainable futures. West Richland’s new smart-lighting infrastructure also uses Acuity Brands patented ROAM® wireless streetlight monitoring system to remotely monitor, control and measure luminaire performance. For more information, please visit www.acuitybrands.com.
DECKHAND® product line enhances safety on jobsites

The DECKHAND® product line by LaValley Industries of Bemidji, Minnesota, enhances safety on jobsites by keeping ground crews further from moving poles or pipe. Rather than requiring that personnel be in potentially dangerous situations loading or lining up utility poles or pipe, the excavator-mounted DECKHAND’s variety of arm attachments can safely and efficiently load or unload all kinds of pipe, utility poles, road mats, and other materials. The excavator’s auxiliary hydraulic circuit safely and efficiently powers the DECKHAND, even in adverse weather conditions. Interchangeable grab arms are used to pick up the pole or pipe and hold it securely as it is lifted, lowered, rotated, tilted and moved. More information is available at www.lavalleyindustries.com.

World Water Works announces Ideal Pre-Fab™ pre-engineered skid-mounted systems

World Water Works, a leading designer and manufacturer of wastewater treatment solutions, has announced the launch of its new Ideal Pre-Fab™ product line. The sustainable design incorporates core IDEAL™ products into pre-engineered skid-mounted systems, offering customers a “plug-and-play” option that greatly reduces onsite work. Ideal Pre-Fab arrives fully assembled, pre-wired and pre-plumbed, with little installation required, and is available for the Ideal DAF™ (Dissolved Air Flotation), Ideal MBBR™ (Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor) and the Ideal S-Select® bulking sludge management technology. The unique wastewater treatment technology with pre-calibrated instrumentation, chemical feed systems and control systems, minimizes concerns about safety, quality and schedule optimization while dramatically reducing overall project costs and delivery times. For more information visit WorldWaterWorks.com.

S15AB notebook from GammaTech

GammaTech introduces the latest addition to its DURABOOK lineup: the rugged S15AB notebook. With the new S15AB, utility workers will have a tough, dependable, cost-effective notebook featuring the latest rugged technology. Featuring a generous 15.6” HD LCD display, Intel's latest generation CPU, a Broadwell U series CPU platform, and the popular built-in DURABOOK toughness, these units are a perfect match for the most demanding requirements and harshest environments. Other features include up to 16GB memory; ample HDD/SSD and ODD storage; over 8.5 hours of battery life; and compatible with following operating systems: Windows® 10, Windows® 8.1 64-bit, Windows® 7 64-bit, and Windows® 8.1 32-bit. For more information, please visit www.gammatechusa.com.

Reduced operating costs from ROUSH CleanTech

ROUSH CleanTech designs, engineers, manufactures and installs dedicated liquid propane autogas fuel systems for a variety of light- and medium-duty Ford trucks and vans, including the F-250 and F-350 pickup truck series; the E-150, E-250 and E-350 van and wagon series; and the E-350 and E-450 cutaway van series. Propane autogas helps fleet managers lower their operating costs significantly while reducing their carbon footprint with this clean, domestic alternative fuel. Contact: Chelsea Uphaus, Marketing Manager, chelsea.uphaus@roush.com, (734) 466-6710.
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For more information, contact Brenda Shaver at (800) 848-APWA or send e-mail to bshaver@apwa.net.

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