



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (GAC) CHARTER

MISSION STATEMENT

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) identifies, drafts, and advocates for APWA's public policy/legislative priorities to the U.S. Congress and Federal Agencies.

OBJECTIVES: The principal objectives, of equal importance and in no particular order, of the GAC are to:

- Identify APWA's top public policy priorities for each U.S. Congressional cycle and recommend those priorities to the APWA Board of Directors for approval every two years;
- Draft public policy statements to advocate on behalf of APWA's primary issue areas (Transportation, Water, Emergency Management/Response, and financing mechanisms for maintenance and enhancement of infrastructure) and ensure those policy statements are consistent with the state and local government principals of:
 - a. Respect for local authority;
 - b. Reasonable regulations and protection from unfunded mandates;
 - c. Support for streamlining government oversight;
 - d. Support for sustainability and environmental stewardship;
- Lead and seek to increase APWA's organization-wide member participation in advocacy activities—with special attention toward engaging APWA Chapters;
- Lead the effort to increase APWA's name recognition before the U.S. Congress and federal agencies and become a relied upon resource for all branches of the U.S. government;
- Promote the importance of advocacy within their respective chapters;
- Serve as spokespersons promoting APWA's public policy priorities to the organization as well as to all branches of the U.S. government and the general public.

ORGANIZATION

To be comprised of 12 members, including the Chair, with diversity of backgrounds and experience in APWA's above mentioned primary public policy areas, geographic diversity, and be representative of APWA's broad membership. Members will serve two-year terms to best align with Congressional cycles, and may serve a maximum of three two-year terms.

COMMITTEE MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

GAC members are expected to actively contribute to public policy drafting, review, and the advocacy of the policies. Will consistently participate in monthly conference calls, attend the GAC Spring meeting in Washington, DC each year, and attend the GAC meeting at PWX each year. In addition to policy drafting, committee members will rotate drafting the monthly "GAC Insight" column for the *APWA Reporter*.



Chair: The Committee Chair shall be appointed by the APWA President-Elect. The Chair is responsible for overall direction to and management of the Committee. The term of office for the Chair shall be two years. The Chair may serve for no more than four years of their potential six-years of serving on the GAC.

Members: The President-Elect shall appoint (in addition to the Chair) up to eleven members to serve on the Committee for a term of two years and up to three consecutive terms.

Corresponding Member: Subject matter experts may be added to the GAC as corresponding members at the discretion of the Chair. Corresponding members would provide input to policy discussion and drafts of policy statements. These experts would primarily be pulled from APWA technical committee membership, kept apprised of activities and be invited to submit comments/suggestions for GAC consideration. Corresponding members would not have voting privileges and would not be reimbursed by APWA for travel to attend committee meetings.

COORDINATION OF APWA REVIEWS

The APWA Board of Directors or Executive Committee may request specific reviews of policy and activities in which GAC is involved. An ad hoc review committee may be appointed and following guidelines established for conduct of reviews, a report assessing the effectiveness of the GAC and/or drafted policies may be reviewed and recommendations made towards improving the effectiveness of the GAC and the identified public policies.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

The primary staff support to the GAC is the Director of Government Affairs, with support from the Government Affairs staff. Within the parameters of APWA's finance structure, the Director of Government Affairs will be responsible for proposing, implementing and managing the financial support and budget needed for the GAC to be successful.

REPORTS

The GAC Chair and the Director of Government Affairs shall provide an annual report at PWX to the APWA Board of Directors about the activities of the GAC, the identified public policy priorities, and the progress made towards achieving the goals of the GAC.

Approved: February 17, 2017