



President's Corner

Wow, what a start to the Chapter's new year!

The 59th Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference and Equipment Show was a huge success thanks in large part to the volunteer Conference Committee. We are most grateful to the 2017 Conference Committee members who volunteered their time and talents to make the 59th Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference and Equipment Show enjoyable and worthwhile. Be sure to check out the links in this newsletter to see the many photographs taken during the Fredericksburg activities.

Everyone truly lived up to the conference theme - we all made sure that **Public Works Makes it Happen!** On a personal note, I am deeply indebted to Dave King, Chapter Past-President and Fredericksburg's PW Director, who served with me as this year's Co-Chair. Dave used City resources to create an amazing welcome. He truly created a friendly atmosphere for our visitors and participants that made the Fredericksburg Expo Center "home" for almost three full days.

Two of our participants were representatives from the National APWA. We were pleased to have **Brian Usher** APWA National Past-President (Immediate) and **Keith Pugh** APWA Region III Director join us this year. We also had a very thought-provoking keynote address that combined technology with humanitarian efforts. Karen Allen, Director of Development, Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF) gave the keynote address and spoke about sustainability challenges when fighting energy poverty in developing countries-providing a unique public works perspective.

Kudos to Doug Fawcett, Fredericksburg's Assistant City Manager for leading the Scholarship Golf Fundraiser at Lees' Hill Golf Club. Doug was assisted by Victoria Matthews, Fredericksburg's Tourism Manager, who helped with the early planning to ensure things fell into place.

The 59th Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference and Equipment Show featured two community outreach events. The first was the **Tree Planting** along Fall Hill Road, teaming with the Chapter's Sustainability Committee. Jennifer Privette of Newport News DPW coordinated the tree planting with Dave King. Special thanks to the City of Fredericksburg for covering the tree planting costs!

The second was the annual Road-E-O. This year, we were pleased to host 316 students from the City's **Hugh Mercer grade school**. These students were able to watch our 100 public agency contestants compete on an assortment of public works equipment. The Chapter provided volunteer guides to escort the classes around to the pre-determined observation sites. The students loved cheering and watching the big equipment. In addition, each child was given an APWA coloring book as a souvenir of their day with us! Close to 120 Road-E-O contestants participated this year and hope to have this many interested contestants next year!

New this year APWA is hosting a National Road-E-O at the Public Works Expo (PWX) in Orlando, FL. The event is being held August 29th inside Orlando's Orange County Convention Center. The Mid-Atlantic APWA chapter has offered its two spots at the Orlando National Road-E-O to the top two finishers from our 2017 backhoe event, representing their

agencies and the Chapter. Good luck to our contestants! More information about the National Roadeo can be found [HERE](#).

We extend a huge THANK YOU! to the equipment suppliers, vendors and consultants who serve as sponsors and exhibitors. With their financial contributions and continued support, we can keep Conference registration fees at affordable levels so that our members from Washington DC-Maryland-Virginia-West Virginia can participate. This ensures public works professionals have the chance to network and see the latest applications related to their areas of responsibility and interest.

The conference could not happen without the assistance of our volunteers, sponsors and exhibitors. Thank you all again for your support, enthusiasm and dedication to providing a meaningful event.

Looking back, it's been another great year for the Mid-Atlantic APWA. There have been many highlights this year and I would like to share a sampling with you.

- Congratulations to the first graduates of the Mid-Atlantic Public Works Institute (M-PWI). In April, 18 students completed the course work that spans a two-year training program. The M-PWI was established in 2014, by the Chapter and Virginia Tech. It offers public works staff with the opportunity to enhance their professional careers. Students receive a Certificate of Completion from Virginia Tech's Continuing Professional Education office. The Chapter developed the curriculum and used our network in providing a complete adjunct faculty made solely of public works practitioners.
- We have a Young Professionals committee. During this year's **National Public Works Week**, a New and Young Professionals forum was held in Fairfax, VA on May 23. Participants exchanged ideas and practices in technical public works maintenance, management, construction and engineering applications. Plus, VDOT presenters discussed their career paths and challenges they faced in their career.
- The Chapter continues to make membership education a priority. This year multiple lunch and learn events were held, which were very well attended. The Chapter held two "Look Ahead" forums in central Virginia and one is being planned tentatively for July in the Baltimore / Washington DC metro area.
- Our membership has remained strong and we are still one of the largest chapters in APWA. We continue to work on keeping our chapter relevant to Public Work professionals through education and networking events.
- Thanks to Board Member Sherry Earley for once again pulling together the **National Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence** (PACE), which recapped the Chapter's 2016 highlights and showcases the activities provided to our members. We trust we will once again be recognized at the National level for the PACE accomplishment based on the dedication, planning and execution of our Chapter collaborative activities that provide members numerous opportunities across the region. Fingers crossed for this year's awards competition in Orlando.

I had the opportunity to attend and speak at the City of Baltimore's Public Works Employee of the Year ceremony during ***National Public Works Week***. This is a prime example of national and regional programs to recognize Public Works professionals dedicated to providing service to their residents and tirelessly completing tasks for their community. It was a pleasure being back in Baltimore and spending time with APWA National President-Elect Bo Mills, DPW Director Rudy Chow and other City leaders to recognize and acknowledge the great service of their staff.

In closing, I am honored to represent the Chapter at many levels and look forward to another productive year. If you would like to chat with me, offer assistance or suggest ideas to improve our activities, please contact me at keyre@greeley-hansen.com

Ken Eyre
Chapter President
APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter