

President's Corner



Good day colleagues, friends and fellow professionals. Whew, the WRX conference in Fredericksburg is over. Many, many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it an outstanding success. I heard very positive reviews all the way around. A few things bear mentioning.

Our membership really came through on the technical sessions. We had so many great topics that Kelly Mattingly, technical program chair, suggested a 5th technical track. There was something for everyone. From Millennials in the Work Place to Working Bee Hives and from Flooding to a Sustainability Hike, we had it all. There was so much wonderful stuff to learn that I was

conflicted on where to spend my time!

The Roadeo went off without a hitch and we finished at lunch time, great turnaround for such an event. Many thanks to Ray Bass of Baltimore County and his staff for setting things up and running it so smoothly. Thanks to Matt Villareale of Prince William County for his quarterbacking the equipment donations and gift cards. The winners were pleased with their cash prizes! And they deserve recognition so here they are:

Event	Place	Name	Employer
Backhoe	1	Mike Mills	Western Virginia Water Authority
Backhoe	2	Jeremy Snyder	Blacksburg
Backhoe	3	Nate Plonski	Arlington
Bucket Truck	1	Jordan Mooney	Fredericksburg
Bucket Truck	2	Chris Stone	Fredericksburg
Bucket Truck	3	Jason Ogle	Fredericksburg
Front End Loader	1	Donnie Rowan	Western Virginia Water Authority
Front End Loader	2	Lou Richards	Newport News
Front End Loader	3	Jermain Patterson	Washington DC DOT
Knuckle Boom	1	Candido Rivera	Chesapeake
Knuckle Boom	2	Tony Wharton	Newport News
Knuckle Boom	3	Richard Kelly	Virginia Beach
Refuse Truck	1	Luther Owens	Virginia Beach
Refuse Truck	2	Paul Springe	Newport News
Refuse Truck	3	Marvin Thomason, Sr.	Roanoke
Snow Plow	1	Mike Kinette	Fredericksburg
Snow Plow	2	Bryan Palmer	Maryland DOT
Snow Plow	3	Thomas Paine	Fairfax
Street Sweeper	1	Jeff Nolan	Roanoke

Street Sweeper	2	Monysco Davis	Virginia Beach
Street Sweeper	3	Kenneth Jackson	Washington DC DOT

The Awards ceremony went well and Travis Davis of Arcadis did a stellar job putting them together – the trophies looked great too! We also had a great slate of scholars to give some money to, they are our future leaders. Best of luck to each of them in their studies.

Thanks as well to Doug Fawcett of Fredericksburg and Don Cole of Brown and Caldwell for organizing the golf tournament, the golfers looked tired, sunburned and happy with the event. Many thanks to Jennifer Sanford-Caples of Whitman Requardt Associates for helping with marketing, to Dave King and Diane Beyer of Fredericksburg for local logistical help, to Chief Tweet Denise Nelson and to Past President Ken Eyre of Greeley and Hansen for mentorship during the organization of the event. And of course, thanks to Jennifer Cook of Association Builders for working tirelessly at the front desk.

We were very honored to have Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation give our keynote address. Ms. Mitchell’s agency has a manifest responsibility to provide and enable us to provide public transportation throughout the commonwealth. It is a very big job and the packed house listened attentively to her presentation. There is lots of work to be done, and together with our partners at the Department of Rail and Public Transportation and VDOT, we will get it done.

Our chapter is devoted education and advocacy for our profession and these are valuable services to our members. We provide many opportunities including Continuing Education Credits for licensed professionals, Lunch and Learn sessions, the Public Works Academy and advocating for our work with elected officials and our regulatory agencies.

A couple of recent and upcoming events should be highlighted. We just held the third version of “The Year Ahead” in Henrico County. Attended by 55 members, all heard from Public Works and Public Utilities Agencies throughout central Virginia on the next year and what it holds. Thanks to Jennifer Sanford-Caples and Tracy Fee of Brown and Caldwell for doing a great job organizing the event and lining up guest speakers. By show of hands, those in attendance voiced their support for this to continue as a yearly event.

Coming up on June 21, Dr. Brian Deifenderfer will be speaking in Hampton on Green Paving practices. Dr. Deifenderfer is an expert in this area and works for the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville. I know you won’t want to miss this one.

On the advocacy front, I attended the Baltimore City Public Works Employee of the year awards ceremony last week. Together with the Mayor’s office and other luminaries, I was able to help recognize the winner. It was a great event put on by Director Rudy Chow and his staff. The winner, representing his 2,800 employee agency, is Rollin Weeks. Rollin has been Sanitation Worker for 20 years and is active in his community and his church. He takes enormous pride in keeping his city clean. If that is not enough to warrant his award, he and his crew saw a lady in distress, apparently contemplating leaping from a bridge on to the Baltimore Washington Parkway. Rollin talked the lady down from the bridge. He and his crew comforted her and prayed with her until help arrived. When I heard this story, it brought a tear to my eye and Rollin was equally choked up when he made his acceptance speech. He clearly is proud of his career keeping his city clean.

There are many great stories like Rollin's that happen every day. I wish that I knew them all. Time however does not allow all the unsung heroes and heroines to be recognized so let me say ... thanks. Thank you all for making civilized life clean and safe for everyone.

Society depends on you.

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