

JUNE 2016

President's Corner



Greetings fellow APWA members!

As I write to you, it has been a month since the Chapter's 58th Annual Conference held in Roanoke, VA. I continue to receive positive feedback and want to thank everyone who helped make the event a huge success. Please take a moment to read the article about the conference in this edition of our newsletter. Before we wrapped up the 2016 conference, plans were well under way for the 2017 conference. Save the date May 10-12, 2017 and join us in Fredericksburg next year.

Plans for other Chapter events throughout 2016 are also under way.

- Lunch and Learn programs will be held in Hampton Roads, Richmond and Northern Virginia.
- The Public Works Institute is gearing up for another session this fall.
- We have many active volunteer members working to bring relevant topics to you. Please support these events and check our Chapter website often for details.
- Also, be on the lookout for the Chapter Works Weekly email. Recognizing the importance of disseminating electronic information in a timely and concise manner, we began sending out new weekly email messages in May.
- The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in August.
- The Board will convene for the annual strategic planning session in October.

During regular meetings of the Board, we strive to keep recurring events, programs and committees on task and on schedule by voting on required action items and ensuring necessary resources are provided. As part of the annual strategic planning agenda we reflect on membership recruitment and retention, the Chapter's finances and annual budget, and the Chapter's website and use of social media. We also review the committee structure and how we can strengthen committees. The Board welcomes input from members on any items you would like the Board to address or consider. Please send comments to the Chapter Administrator APWA@associationbuilders.com

As I was addressing the audience during the Annual Business Meeting at the conference in May, I challenged members not to just have a membership in APWA but to "be" a member. With that in mind, let me recap the benefits of your membership. Notice the first word is a verb because you have to be actively engaged to REAP the benefits:

- REACH out to the network of over more than 28,500 members throughout North America and share common goals, challenges and solutions with other public works professionals. Have you joined APWA's iRfO NOW communities? As a member of APWA, this email network of professionals is at your fingertips for no additional cost and can be accessed anytime you are faced with difficult questions concerning your community's public infrastructure. iRfO NOW communities are based on subject area and can be accessed within the APWA Connect platform. Subscribe to one or all, it's up to you.
- EDUCATE: Save money on education and training. In addition to Lunch and Learn programs and the Public Works Institute supported by the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, your

APWA membership includes free access to an online collection of educational resources. An online membership account is required to access this library and you can sign in via Member's Library. You also have free access to Live Click, Listen and Learn programs available by visiting the National APWA Event Site.

- **ADVOCATE:** Become an advocate and receive alerts on hot topics in public works, including important issues in Washington. Did you know that National APWA has a robust advocacy program? "APWA Advocates" is the network of APWA members committed to promoting APWA's legislative priorities to Congress through outreach and education. You can easily sign up at [ApwaAdvocates](#). You can also read the latest legislative updates at the [Legislative Action Center](#).
- **PARTICIPATE:** Look for opportunities closer to home and participate in local chapter programs, meetings and social functions. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter Works Weekly email and Chapter Works quarterly newsletter have event calendars and you can always visit the website for the most up to date event information.

I hope you found this recap of benefits helpful and encourage you to make the most of your APWA membership. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Dawn Odum
Chapter President
APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter