

# MARCH 2016

## President's Corner



Winter is almost over, but what a winter it was in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. In January, we experienced winter storm Jonas, which brought record setting snowfall totals across our chapter. In my county, Prince William County, VA, we had totals that ranged from 20" to 36" depending on where you were in the County. This was an epic three day storm with blizzard conditions.

While most people stayed home and watched the snowfall, the public works departments throughout our chapter were out in the weather pushing snow.

In Prince William County, our Public Works team and contractors pulled together to get the County open for business a day earlier than the rest of the jurisdictions in Northern Virginia.

The men and women of VDOT and their contractors did an incredible job opening up roads for the citizens of Prince William County.

Furthermore, I know that snowfighters in the rest of Virginia, DC, Maryland and West Virginia did an awesome job as well!

The end of winter means the [May 4-6 Mid-Atlantic APWA 58th Annual Conference & Equipment Show in Roanoke, VA](#) is just a couple months away. This regional conference brings together public works professionals from the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. These public and private professionals meet for educational seminars and classes, as well as to exchange ideas, information and insights. This is going to be an electrifying event and we want you to be part of the excitement! Please register to attend, exhibit and/or sponsor.

Also this spring, the Mid-Atlantic Chapter is providing an educational opportunity for personal development. If your department is like most, you may be looking for excellent leadership training for mid-level managers at a reasonable cost. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter provides this training through its [Public Works Institute \(PWI\)](#).

On [April 5th-7th at Virginia Beach, the PWI](#) is hosting its second session, which will focus on [Leadership and Management](#). The first session conducted by PWI received marvelous reviews from the attendees and instructors. The attendees appreciated the course content and networking that occurred between the attendees, instructors and public works directors that attended the social events. Employees will receive a certificate for completing all four sessions.

One final topic that I want to discuss from this winter is the [APWA Accreditation Program](#). In our chapter, we have seven agencies that have become accredited with APWA. This program is a powerful tool for departments to gauge their performance in relation to national standards developed by public work professionals.

My department successfully completed its first reaccreditation in February 2016. We received accreditation in 2012. I see great benefits for an organization as they step through the process. In Prince William County, we improved our team environment. It helped our staff see beyond their area of responsibility and grasp the big picture.

Have an awesome & safe Spring. I look forward to seeing everyone in Roanoke this May!

**Matt Villareal**  
**Chapter President**  
**APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter**