

**President's Message ~ September 2014**  
**Judi Hines, Chapter President**

It is hard to believe that Fall is already here. There has been a lot going on both in our Chapter and our Association. The APWA Congress in Toronto was an exciting place to be last month. Toronto is a huge, beautiful, exciting, hospitable, diverse and eclectic city. As always, Congress was a great opportunity to network, see the latest in products and services, learn from our peers, and applaud the achievements of fellow members.

It was exciting to see Chapter members and agencies being recognized at the Awards & Recognition Ceremony for their achievements. Congratulations to the award winners from the Mid-Atlantic Chapter:

- Sustainability Practices Award - Program/Organization - City of Newport News, Virginia
- Professional Manager of the Year Award - Solid Waste - Harvey E. Howard, Superintendent of Waste Management, City of Norfolk, Virginia
- Donald C. Stone Award for Excellence in Education - Scott A. Smith, P.E., LS, Senior Design/Construction Project Manager, Norfolk Public Works, City of Norfolk, Virginia
- Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE) - Mid-Atlantic Chapter (9<sup>th</sup> year recipient)
- City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was recognized for becoming an Accredited Agency this year
- City of Alexandria, Virginia, and Richmond, Virginia, were recognized for being reaccredited



*Judi Hines, Chapter President, and Mike Mee with Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield*

A highlight of Congress for me was meeting Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield. Colonel Hadfield is a former commander of the International Space Station. He was the keynote speaker at the Monday General Session and was both entertaining and motivational bringing a powerful message about the importance not only of the importance of teamwork but also of empowering individuals and giving them ownership of projects.

Educational and networking opportunities are increasing here in our Chapter, too. Take advantage of the workshops being offered near you. If you have suggestions for workshop topics, please let me or someone on the Chapter Board of Directors know. We want to offer sessions that are timely and of value.

I am very excited to tell you that we are working with Virginia Tech's Office of Continuing and Professional Education to develop a Public Works Institute. There are currently 18 approved Institutes around the United States. These Institutes are designed to address the supervisory and management needs of current first-line supervisors and up, and those individuals aspiring to be better leaders and supervisors. This effort is being led by Scott Smith, City of Norfolk, and Matt Earnest, Assistant Director of Virginia Tech's CPE. After our plan is complete, it must be approved by National. Our goal is to offer the first classes in the fall of 2015. I believe that

the Institute will be an important part of developing future leaders of our chapter and public works agencies throughout our chapter area.

At the Board of Directors meeting in August, Sharyn Fox was appointed as Chapter Historian. Fred Whitley (now Chapter Treasurer), has served as our Historian for several years, and we appreciate his dedication.

Scarlet Stiteler, Accounting Technician with the City of Newport News Department of Public Works, is the new Chapter Diversity Committee Chair. Embracing diversity will help us move forward as a chapter.

It is almost time to nominate your colleagues and projects for chapter and national awards. Announcements will be made soon about the award process as well as scholarship applications.



*Bo Mills, Region III Director, and Judi Hines, Chapter President, at Chapter dinner in Toronto.*

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the 2nd Annual Chapter College Scholarship Golf Outing Fundraiser on October 15. There is still time to participate as a player or sponsor. Thanks to all who are supporting this event!