

June 2014

Dear Mid-Atlantic Chapter Members:

I am pleased to report to you that our 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, held in Newport News, Virginia, was a complete success!! Over 400 attendees took advantage of interacting with 60 exhibitors and participating in the 39 technical sessions. Many people devoted their time and energies to provide our membership with a conference which was not only educational, but enjoyable as well. The technical sessions provided attendees with a menu of educational and professional development opportunities which will assist them in both their professional and personal development. Our final evening gala, held at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News, provided a relaxed setting where our Chapter members could explore the wonders of nature, while simultaneously networking with other conference attendees to share ideas, solutions, and problem sharing concepts to allow our membership to provide first class Public Works services to our neighbors and constituents. A conference like this would not be possible without the financial support from our wonderful sponsors (please see the long list in the side panel of this newsletter!). A big thanks to each of you! Last but not least, I especially want to thank all of our volunteers who made this conference such a success.

As I look forward to the coming year as president of this great chapter, I envision the following goals for our membership:

- Involvement
- Training and Education
- Membership Increase

**Involvement** – it is commonly said that you “only get out what you put in”. We want membership in APWA and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter to be beneficial to you. There are many ways to get involved – serve on a committee, write an article for this newsletter, lead a technical session next year at the conference, speak at a workshop, are a few ways to do this. Let me or any Board member know what your interest or passion is and we can find a way for you to be involved. There are many ways to be an active chapter member that do not involve a big time commitment. Your participation not only helps you but helps someone else learn and grow too.

**Training/Education** - The Board of Directors strives to provide educational opportunities for chapter members, assure financial solvency for the chapter, and facilitate educational and growth opportunities for our members. The Board made a decision in 2013 to dedicate all of the proceeds of our golf tournaments to college scholarships. At our conference in Newport News, we awarded \$7,500 in scholarships to children of chapter members pursuing higher education. We raised over \$2,300 at the conference golf tournament to add to scholarships awarded. We encourage all chapter members to support and encourage students to apply for our scholarship opportunities, because these young people are our future. Hopefully we can guide them in the direction of public service and continue our tradition of serving in the public works community.

APWA's [Members' Library](#) has a wealth of information and is a valuable membership benefit. Use this as a training and information resource for both you and members of your team. Watch for “Lunch and Learn” opportunities throughout the year, which will provide you with information and networking opportunities that may be applicable to your day to day public works role.

**Membership Increase** – Our goal is to increase our chapter membership by five percent this year. I encourage each of you to actively engage in recruiting new members to our chapter. As we all know, we are in an aging demographic environment. We need to find ways to identify and encourage young people to embrace a career in public works. Chapter involvement is one way to both mentor and learn from people in all stages of their public works careers.

Your input is essential to facilitate the growth of our Chapter. Your ideas are important and I welcome the chance to hear your suggestions as to how we can improve our chapter not only to make membership more beneficial but also to make the delivery of essential services better for all we serve.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Toronto in August at the 2014 APWA International Congress and Exposition.

Judi Hines  
Chapter President