

As the year draws to a close, many of us look back on the accomplishments and challenges encountered. We draw from the successes and glean lessons learned from the “bumps in the road” we encounter along the way. With the New Year just around the corner, many of us take time to hit the "re-set" button and set new goals for the New Year. With this busy time with family and friends to celebrate holiday traditions and enjoy fellowship, the Chapter leadership extends good wishes to all our public works colleagues.

At the Chapter level, we are fortunate to have dedicated leaders and members. They are busy planning and conducting numerous opportunities for public works professionals to network and share insights. For instance, Steve Yob, Chapter President-Elect has been busy formulating plans for this year’s annual regional conference and equipment show, being held again at the Fredericksburg Expo Center. Read further in the newsletter for more details on the 2018 Fredericksburg WRX. We recently selected WRX as our branded title for this annual gathering.

Some of the recent Chapter activities include:

A. *APWA's Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) - Sherry Wright* (City of Newport News DPW) and *Lia Rogers* (DC DPW) have been selected to participate in APWA's ELA. We will hear about their experiences and the academy in an upcoming Chapter newsletter. Sherry recently completed and received the Certificate of Completion from the Mid-Atlantic Public Works Institute (M-PWI). Lia is presently enrolled in the M-PWI.

B. *Jeff Wilkerson*, City of Martinsburg, WV Public Works Director and recent graduate of the Mid-Atlantic Public Works Institute, is developing plans to network and share resources with the leadership of *West Virginia LTAP*. The WV LTAP annual winter maintenance conference is being held in Charleston March 20th and 21st. Look for additional details from Jeff.

C. Chapter Past-President *Matt Villareale* is pleased to report that *Prince William County and Northern Virginia Community College* have partnered to offer heavy equipment operator training at the County landfill. This training will be extended to our APWA Chapter members. More details will be forthcoming, stay tuned.

D. The *Hampton Roads Activity Committee* hosted a Leadership lunch-n-learn this past October. Many thanks to the Committee for continuing to offer meaningful educational venues.

E. Steve Yob has coordinated another *Public Works Projects Look Ahead* educational forum to be held at Henrico County. Check the Chapter website and the weekly Chapter Works Weekly for additional details.

F. The *Mid-Atlantic Public Works Institute's* (M-PWI's) next session is set for April 4-6 2018. Work is underway to finalize volunteer instructors and set the agenda for the 3-day program.

We welcome new Steering Committee members *Staci Hopkins-Reynolds*, City of Lynchburg, VA DPW, and *Jeff Wilkerson*, City of Martinsburg, WV, both recently completed the M-PWI program. *James Jackson*, Deputy Director, DC DPW Operations has taken over for me as the M-PWI Curriculum Chair. Kudos to the M-PWI Steering Committee for continuing to facilitate and coordinate our unique collaboration with Virginia Tech University. This is a unique career and workforce development program for our members.

G. The Chapter's *Sustainability Committee* is pleased to announce that the *APWA National Sustainability Committee* has chosen to hold their annual 3-day winter meeting at George Mason University's (GMU) Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC). The meeting will be Feb. 28-March 2. GMU PEREC is located in Woodbridge, VA.

The Chapter's Sustainability Committee is also holding a lunch-n-learn on March 1 at GMU PEREC. The session, titled "**Town and Gown Partnerships: Solving Sustainability Issues Together**" features an impressive panel including members of the Chapter and National Sustainability Committees, GMU professor Chris Jones and college students. Member registration details will be released soon so check the Chapter Weekly Works. Event sponsorships are available.

H. Also on March 1, Chapter representatives will be working with Fairfax County leadership and GMU's water quality research team of students and faculty will host a special session on Sewer Science lab and outreach for students from Chantilly High School. This outreach is being held at GMU's Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC) in Woodbridge, VA. Special thanks to **James Patteson**, Fairfax County Public Works Director and APWA National Sustainability Committee member, **Juan Reyes**, Assistant Public Works Director and **Judy Finchman**, Outreach Coordinator for stepping up. We will be looking for sponsors hosting the students. Contact me for details.

News of members:

- ✓ **Reed Fowler**, Director of Public Works, City of Newport News was recently recognized (at the Oct. 12th Leadership lunch-n-learn) with APWA's Life membership for his untiring dedication and involvement with APWA and with the Chapter. Reed is a Chapter Past-President. Please join me in congratulating Reed for his APWA Life membership achievement.
- ✓ **Phil Davenport**, Director of Public Works, City of Virginia Beach, has retired and we wish him well in his new "career". Phil is also an APWA Life member.
- ✓ Congratulations to **Amy Linderman**, Fairfax County Stormwater Maintenance, she was chosen to represent the Chapter and Region III, as a member of the National APWA **Young Professionals (YP) Committee**. We will be learning more from Amy and how YPs are integrated with the public works industry. The National APWA YP Committee will develop and host a content-rich web-page. See more on Amy and her YP colleagues in the December issue of APWA's **Reporter**.
- ✓ Join me in recognizing **Deb Oliver**, the Chapter newsletter editor, for her dedicated and masterful job of getting the articles proofed and ready for publication. She works for the Prince William County DPW. Thank you Deb for your excellent efforts!

The Chapter Board and leaders met in October to update the **Mid-Atlantic Strategic Plan**, where changes are being made to align with the recently issued National APWA guidelines. Stay tuned for related information through the **Chapter Weekly Works** and other communications from your Chapter leadership.

In closing, be sure to celebrate safely over the holidays, and most important, take time for yourself and enjoy life with family and friends! Wishing you all the best this holiday season, safe travels as you head out to visit family and friends.

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