

Greetings fellow APWA members!

I have just returned from PWX in Minneapolis and for those of you who also attended, I am sure you agree with me in saying the event had a very positive vibe. The APWA Minnesota Chapter and the City of Minneapolis were great hosts to the first ever PWX. APWA recently re-branded the annual conference that has been around for more than 120 years to enhance the experience with new education formats, new innovations and technologies, and more networking opportunities. The goal of PWX is to provide a learning experience for all generations and all levels of public works professionals.

PWX is also a great opportunity to spend time with our National leaders (even some friendly Jenga). We congratulate our new National President, Ron Calkins. We are also excited for Region III's William (Bo) Mills who was elected President Elect and will take the helm of APWA in 2017.

While gathered at PWX, Mid-Atlantic Chapter members enjoyed fellowship at the annual Chapter Dinner. John Herzke is credited for once again finding a great venue and organizing the event. We chose this occasion to also celebrate our Top Ten Award winners, Ken Eyre and John Herzke. We also recognized John for his service to APWA. It was my honor to present John with his Life Membership pin.

I am pleased to share with you, that once again, the Mid-Atlantic was presented the Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE). At PWX, the Chapter received the PACE Award certificate and patch to add to our Chapter's banner. The PACE Award was established to recognize chapters for their positive impact on their membership, their profession, and their community. Chapters are judged on membership, service to chapter members, advancement of public works, and service to the community.

Sherry Earley coordinates the award submission and is credited for keeping track of all the Chapter's accomplishments throughout the year. This is no small task and her efforts are greatly appreciated. In short, PACE encourages chapters to adhere to best practices in managing chapter functions and resources. We do this by completing a self-assessment as we compile the award submission. In recent years, this annual PACE assessment has led to a renewed focus on educational and community outreach.

Next on our Chapter's agenda is the annual strategic planning session in October. As part of the annual strategic planning, Chapter leadership will 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](mailto:APWA@associationbuilders.com).

I look forward to hearing your ideas for our strategic plan and seeing you at our upcoming events.

**Dawn Odom**  
**Chapter President**  
**APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter**