

DECEMBER 2015

## President's Corner



This past fall, the Mid-Atlantic APWA Chapter in conjunction with Virginia Tech successfully hosted the first [Public Works Institute](#) session at Blacksburg, VA. It was attended by over two dozen Public Works professionals. The attendees ranged from directors to front line managers. This diverse assortment of perspectives facilitated more learning between the attendees and with the instructors. Feedback received from the attendees and instructors was extremely positive. The next session is scheduled for April 5-7, 2016 in Newport News, VA. The PWI is a great opportunity for organizations to develop current and future leaders to take over the reins of their agencies.

In October, the Mid-Atlantic APWA Chapter Board held its annual strategic planning session. Brian Patterson, the national APWA Chapter Membership Manager, attended our session. Brian shared with us the different approaches used by other APWA chapters to achieve their goals. Also, he provided insight into the trends of APWA national. During our session, we worked on creating measurable objectives. We will focus on attaining our three identified goals of Recruiting Young Professionals, Membership Outreach and Education. The Board was able to come up with some measurable objectives that will be shared with the chapter in the near future via our website.

The [May 4-6, 2016 Mid-Atlantic APWA 58th Annual Conference & Equipment Show in Roanoke, VA](#) is just around the corner. This year's conference theme is "Public Works Gets Things Done." Registration for the [Spring Golf Scholarship Tournament](#), [Equipment Roadeo](#), [Attendees](#), [Exhibitors](#) and [Sponsors](#) are now open. Also, the [Call for Abstracts](#) to present at the education sessions has been issued. Furthermore, the chapter is currently taking nominations for the [Chapter Awards](#). The conference is a great education and networking event. I hope to see everyone there in May!

As 2015 is coming to a close, I am thankful to be a part of Public Works industry. Public Works professionals are 1st Responders but more importantly we are 1st Providers. Every day, the citizens and customers of our municipalities are impacted by the work completed by Public Works professionals. From the start of our residents' days when they take a shower, put out the trash or get on the road, their lives are touched by Public Works. Not everyone can definitively state that they did something today to improve the lives of others. Public Works professionals can emphatically make that statement. I hope everyone has a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous 2016.

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