

It is with excitement that I write this message to you for this September edition of our the Chapter's quarterly newsletter, having just heard at the Orlando PWX national President Bo Mills accept his term of office serving all APWA members in the U.S and Canada. We heard of his roots starting as an equipment operator with the City of Germantown, TN, where he now is the City's public works director. Prior to being elected as APWA's national President, Bo was the Region III Director, which includes the Mid-Atlantic, North and South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee chapters. We are extremely proud to have another of our Region III Directors be recognized for their commitment and leadership, serving us all as APWA's national President. We congratulate Bo on his many and futures successes.

Bo has been busy appointing APWA members to national committee positions. The Mid-Atlantic Chapter is pleased to announce that James Patteson, Director of Fairfax County Public Works & Environmental Services (DPWES), is now serving on the Sustainability Committee and Amy Linderman has been appointed to the Young Professionals committee. Congratulations to James and Amy!

Much has happened around the Chapter since our last newsletter. We received notification from national APWA President Ron Calkins that the Chapter is once again recognized internationally with our 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive Presidential Award For Chapter Excellence (PACE), due in part to the energy and many hours committed by our dedicated volunteers in developing and successfully executing the outstanding programs which we are able to offer to our members. Hats off to Board Member Sherry Early for leading the effort to pull together the supporting PACE award submission information capturing the various Chapter activities.

This year as I set my goals for the presidency, a priority will be to update the Chapter's Strategic Plan to ensure the Plan aligns with the mission, vision and values of national APWA's framework. It is imperative the Chapter's initiatives are guided by national APWA's strategies. Together with the Chapter Board members and Officers, other Chapter strategies will include making sure that continued inclusion is offered to our members for all Chapter activities. The Chapter's educational opportunities, being able to offer effective and beneficial training using our extensive pool and network of subject matter experts, is a core practice touching many of the Chapter services including the Mid-Atlantic Public Works Institute, the numerous lunch-n-learns (similar to the Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> Leadership Lunch-n-Learn being held

in Hampton, VA), and of course our annual conference and equipment show. Learn more in this newsletter about the branding of the Chapter's annual conference and equipment show.

Just having returned from the Orlando PWX, where for the first time a backhoe competition was held, our representatives did not fare well, but it was the spirit of being challenged that made this a fun event, won by City of Charleston, SC. Special thanks to Jason Justice and Alexis Zambarano, Western Virginia Water Authority and Arlington County, respectively, for competing and representing not only their agencies but the Chapter as well, in the Orlando PWX backhoe event. We look for continued Road-E-O participant equipment operators at the 2018 Chapter Road-E-O in Fredericksburg, VA next May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Watch for more details from President-Elect Steve Yob of Henrico County, Chair, regarding the 2018 Fredericksburg Conference and Equipment Show and Road-E-O.

Speaking of heavy equipment operators, the Chapter has been approached by the Northern Virginia Community College to collaboratively develop a heavy equipment operator training course. Stay tuned for additional details from the Chapter leadership.

In closing, how did your agency celebrate this year's National Public Works Week? We are hoping that your agency had a picnic, touch-the-truck event, barbeque or some employee recognition ceremony. We also would love to see examples of proclamations issued by your local elected officials to recognize public works at the local level. Please send photos of your events or snap a photo of your proclamation and send it to the newsletter editor's (Deb Oliver) attention. We will run a collage in the next issue.

Enjoy the upcoming autumn season!

Ken Eyre  
Chapter President  
APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter