

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~ DECEMBER 2014

There are a lot of exciting things going on in our chapter.

Our new [chapter website](#) is up and running! I think you will find this new website to be more user-friendly and informative. Many thanks to Association Builders, our chapter leadership support group.

The 2015 [chapter awards program](#) is open for nominations. Complete information is available on our chapter website. I encourage you to submit nominations for chapter and national awards to recognize special people in the field of public works as well as projects that contribute in a significant way towards your community. Please note that the deadline for submissions is February 9, 2015.

The 2015 conference committee has been very busy planning our annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland, May 6 -8, 2014. I hope you already have your calendar marked for this event. This is one of the best public works educational opportunities in the chapter region. Watch for conference registration and lodging information.

The Public Works Institute is definitely taking shape. The steering committee had their first meeting in November and will meet again in January. The target starting date for classes in the fall of 2015. This is going to be a great opportunity to develop the future leaders of your organization and our chapter.

There has been a lot of activity in the chapter during the last quarter. Educational workshops included a Spotlight on Recycling in Baltimore, Emerging Public Works Leaders in Fairfax, and Public Works Advocacy in Hampton. The successful 2nd annual fall scholarship golf outing was held in Richmond in October.

Congratulations to the Town of Smithfield Department of Public Works for achieving APWA accreditation on November 12, 2014! This is an extraordinary accomplishment and you should be very proud.

I also want to congratulate Chesapeake and Newport News for being re-accredited. The City of Chesapeake Department of Public Works achieved re-accreditation on December 4. Chesapeake was accredited in 2006 and this was their second re-accreditation. The City of Newport News Department of Public Works was accredited in 2003 and has now been re-accredited three times with the latest being on December 1. I know there are other agencies in our chapter currently going through the self-assessment process or well on their way to being accredited. I strongly encourage agencies to consider pursuit of accreditation. Accredited agencies find that the process enhances performance, increases productivity, clarifies budget needs, strengthens employee morale and keeps them on a course of continuous improvement. You can

learn more about [accreditation](#) from the APWA website and by talking to your colleagues in accredited agencies.

Watch for chapter scholarship application information to be posted soon.

I want to wish each of you a happy and safe holiday season.

Judi Hines