



The Monona Terrace and surrounding isthmus from 1000' offshore. Kirby Wright.

## President's Message

*Nathan Wachtendonk*

2024 started off a little rough with the "Great Blizzard of '24," followed by two weeks of deep freeze. Other than a couple ice-covered roads for a short period of time, there was little inconvenience, which shows the hard work, dedication, and long hours put forth by the DPW Snow Fighters!

With the snow season behind us, the Chapter has some very exciting warm weather activities planned. Coming up quickly is the Spring Conference in Madison, followed by the Summer Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser, and lastly, the annual Snowplow Rodeo and Equipment Show in Appleton. Thank you to all the outstanding volunteers who work hard to make these events a success!

My time as Chapter President is winding down, and as I prepare to end my term, I can't help but reflect upon the new friendships formed and professional relationships strengthened over the past year. *continued on page 2*

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## President's Message, cont.

It has been an honor and I feel truly blessed to have led a group of extraordinary professionals who truly care about serving their communities and bringing awareness and recognition to DPW First Responders. I am looking forward to the continued success of the Chapter and I can say with certainty that you are in good hands with incoming President Elect Shelly Billingsley and the upcoming future chapter leaders.

## Spring Conference at Monona Terrace in Madison

Lauren Brandmeier

Hosted by the City of Madison Engineering Department, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, and the APWA Wisconsin Chapter, the 2024 Spring Conference is May 1-3 at the Monona Terrace in downtown Madison.

Notable events included with your full registration fee:

- Bike Technical Tour
- Emergency Management Training
- Get Acquainted Party
- Awards Banquet
- Friday Lunch



Sign up for educational sessions and social events (included with full registration) in the Whova app.

The golf outing is not included in the full registration fees. Register separately to secure your spot in this 80-person outing.

Register for the conference by midnight on April 19 for discounted registration fees.



## Golf Outing, Paddling Event, & Scholarship Fundraiser

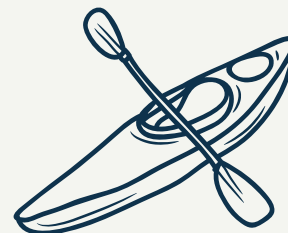
Aaron Jahncke

The Chapter's 14th Annual Summer Golf Outing and Scholarship Fundraiser is all set for Tuesday, July 30! This year's event includes two options for a day of summer fun.

The standard event is, of course, golfing, which will be held at Royal St. Patrick's Golf Course in Wrightstown.



Golf registration is \$100 and includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, giveaways, and prize drawings.



The alternate event is paddling on the Fox River (exact itinerary TBD). Participants are encouraged to bring their own boats and gear.

The \$25 paddling registration fee goes towards the fundraiser and boat lock fee.

Register for your preferred event to secure your spot. *continued on page 3*



## ***Golf Outing, cont.***

Additionally, an educational session on the Fox River Navigation System Authority's (FRNSA's) Locks is in the works, and CEUs may be available to participants. If you plan to attend, contact Rick Eilertson at [rick.eilertson@aecom.com](mailto:rick.eilertson@aecom.com).

If you can't attend this year's summer outing, you can still donate to the scholarship fund using the "Donation" option on the [registration page](#).



Royal St. Patrick's Golf Course

To donate:

1. Click "Register Now" at the top of the screen.
2. Login or create an account.
3. Select "Myself."
4. Select "Scholarship Donation."

All of the money raised through this fundraiser event, including registration fees, sponsorships, and donations go directly to the Wisconsin Chapter Scholarship Fund.

Shotgun start at 9 am. See you there!

## **Snowplow Roadeo & Equipment Show**

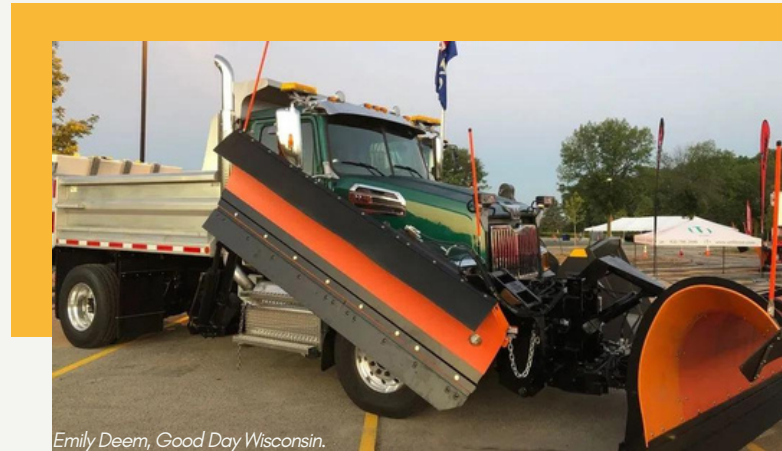
*Tom Zembruski*

The APWA Wisconsin Chapter is proud to announce its 34th Annual Snowplow Roadeo & Equipment Showcase on August 14 and 15.

It's officially spring, and planning for the 2024 Snowplow Roadeo is underway! Some may say, "You can't go back," but in this case, we certainly can, since we've partnered with Fox Valley Technical College to host this year's event.

So, what can you expect?

We are pleased to say that our prices will again remain fixed this year. The \$40 driver competition fee includes an official Roadeo hat, T-shirt, and lunch.



Emily Deem, Good Day Wisconsin.

We will also be bringing back some great training for this year's event, including Winter Road maintenance training, as well as mechanical training intended for mechanics and technicians. *continued on page 4*



Royal St. Patrick's Golf Course

## **Snowplow Roadeo, cont.**

All trainings will be hosted at Fox Valley Technical College. Mechanical training will be led by Fox Valley instructors and will focus on emissions and multiplex electrical systems.

I have been involved with the Roadeo for several years now, and I am always impressed with the level of competition exhibited during this event. Drivers are tested on their knowledge of vehicle safety and operations, mechanical knowledge of snowplow equipment, and driving ability, all while navigating our obstacle course.

We had a new champion last year, and the Chapter continues its commitment to sending the top two drivers in our local competition to compete at the Western Snow & Ice National Roadeo, which takes place September 25-27 in Loveland, Colorado.



*Jenny Sparks, Loveland Reporter Herald*

The registration deadline for this year's event is August 9.

We are sending an invitation to all vendors and manufacturers to display their

vehicles and equipment. We are so thankful for the exhibitors and sponsors who step up every year to help us put on this great event.

Two noteworthy updates to this year's logistics:

- Vendor registration has moved online
- Display booth pricing has been reduced

Don't miss this great opportunity to show off your equipment and services to public works staff and employees from across the state.

Display booth rates for 2024:

- 10 ft x 10 ft booth display - \$300
- 30 ft x 60 ft display area - \$425
- 60 ft x 120 ft display area - \$600

The Equipment Show portion of this event is August 15 from 7:30 am - 2 pm in the opposite parking lot across from the driving course. Come and see roughly 20 vendors showcasing the latest public works and snow-fighting equipment.



Equipment Showcase attendance costs \$20 and includes a hat, T-shirt, and a tailgate lunch.

Lunch will be served buffet-style at 12 pm adjacent to the vendor showcase and road course.

Don't want to drive? There are plenty of opportunities to participate, including set up/take down and event judging. For details, contact Fleet Services Chair Tom Zembruski by phone at (262) 896-8000 or by email at [tzembruski@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:tzembruski@waukeshacounty.gov).

## **Salt Wise Stories: Promoting Peer-to-Peer Knowledge Sharing**

*Allison Madison*

Are you curious to know what new winter maintenance technologies, policy changes, or communication efforts are working in neighboring municipalities or counties across the state? Maybe you're considering making a change in your community, or just want to stay informed. *continued on page 5*



## ***Salt Wise Stories, cont.***

We live in a constantly changing world. It's nearly impossible to stay up to date with the newest trends and improvements in cell phones, social media, pants width (are we even trying?!).

Let's be honest, public works is a relatively conservative world for good reason. Doing things the way we've done them has worked in the past. Why not stay the course? Plus, change is hard. Additionally, very few of us want to risk making mistakes.

The Salt Wise Stories webinar series aims to remove uncertainty from upgrading winter maintenance programs.

Join us for monthly livestreamed webinars with guest speakers like streets supervisors, highway superintendents, and frontline workers as they discuss their successes and how they're working to overcome a variety of hurdles in the world of winter maintenance.



Webinars are recorded and available for viewing on the [Wisconsin Salt Wise YouTube Channel](#).

Snapshots of topics that will be discussed in the upcoming months:

### **May 8: Barry Pierce, Walworth County**

Barry will describe Walworth County's use of route data in post-storm debriefing reports and individual conversations with operators. In the last several years, the County has gone big with brine and high pre-wetting rates that have drastically cut their granular salt use.

### **June 12: City of Sun Prairie**

Speaker and topic to be announced

### **July 10: Matt Wittum, Town of Linn**

If you haven't seen one of Matt's webinars yet, you're missing out! Matt joins us in July for his sixth Salt Wise webinar. In the heat of summer, he'll address the complexities of dealing with ice. Matt will discuss the Town's biggest highlights: upgrading their snowplow fleet and constructing their own brine-making and blending system.

### **August 7: Megan Hogfeldt, City of Superior**

Megan will discuss the City's annual trainings for public works staff on the true cost of road salt and salt reduction practices. She'll also detail the City's annual in-house Snow Plow Roadeo, complete with a seminar on the do's and don'ts of plowing, areas of concern, salt application, and forklift license renewal.

### **Did you know?**

**It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems.**



### **October 2: Shane Albers, Village of Bayside**

Shane will recount how the Village has transformed its snow and ice maintenance program in the last few years and detail the introduction of liquids and comprehensive staff trainings.

### **December 4: Nate Loper, City of Appleton**

Nate will give an overview of some of the changes the City has made, from bumping up pre-wetting rates to dialing down their trigger warning for plowing. For example, instead of plowing streets at 2"+ of accumulation, they now plow mains at 0.25" and residential at 1.5". This singular change has significantly reduced the City's salt use and provides a better conditions for all motorists.

Be sure to register for one (or all!) of these webinars on the [Salt Wise website](#).





# Transportation, Right-of-Way, & Utilities Committee Update

Pat Hawley

The committee is looking for new members and participants to provide guidance and generate conference topics. Please join us at the spring conference's committee meeting in Madison or email Pat Hawley (committee chair) at [pat.hawley@rasmith.com](mailto:pat.hawley@rasmith.com) with your topic suggestions.

WisDOT has recently reinstated their Local Program Advisory Forum, and APWA Wisconsin is one of their invited members. The forum's focus is to monitor, review, and identify improvements to WisDOT's local program.

**APWA Wisconsin needs your input to provide feedback to WisDOT!**

We are looking for specific examples of your experiences that can help improve WisDOT's local program. Consider things like:

- What have your experiences been with the local program?
- What has worked well and what hasn't?
- Where can the program improve?
- What help do you need to better understand and navigate the program?

Please email your reflections and suggestions to Pat Hawley at [pat.hawley@rasmith.com](mailto:pat.hawley@rasmith.com).



# National Public Works Week

ADVANCING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL

MAY 19 - 25, 2024



APWA is proud to announce "Advancing Quality of Life for All" as the theme for the 2024 National Public Works Week (NPWW) poster. This year's poster illustrates how public works professionals contribute to and enhance the quality of life in all the communities they proudly serve.

Every year, NPWW gets bigger and better. The number of participating municipalities continues to grow, which means that the number of citizens who are exposed to the value of public works grows.

APWA encourages public works agencies and professionals to take NPWW Week as an opportunity to tell their stories within their communities. Reference our [How-To Guide](#) to assist in the development and implementation of celebrations.

# Plan Ahead for the Fall Conference!

## When

October 30 - November 1, 2024

## Where

Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan

## What to Expect

Themed events in the spirit of the Halloween weekend & an opportunity for a short weekend getaway!

## One Last Thing...

### This Month's Updated Newsletter

*Lauren Brandmeier*

By now, you may have noticed the complete overhaul of your quarterly APWA Wisconsin newsletter.

As your new editor, I prioritize constant modernization and improvement, so I'm happy to say that with every edition, your news may look a little differently than the last. But the updates you look for, as well as the ones you need to know, will still be present in every issue.

One thing to note going forward is that hyperlinks for things like registrations and external websites will be embedded in the text. This means that instead of seeing a long, 3-line link, you're simply able to click on the underlined word to get to where you need to be.

As I continue to refine and grow in this process, I welcome feedback, comments, and questions! You can reach me by phone at (414) 208-8231 or by email (preferred) at [lauren@lobrandconsulting.com](mailto:lauren@lobrandconsulting.com).

Cheers!

# APWA WISCONSIN CHAPTER OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

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