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2024 FALL CONFERENCE DETAILS

The APWA Wisconsin Chapter fall conference is October 30 through November 1 and will be held at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. Thank you to our host Kevin Jump from the City of Sheboygan and our conference chairs Rick Eilertson, Eric Dundee, and Nathan Wachtendonk for all of their efforts in planning activities and programs!

The full conference program can be found via the Whova app or by clicking [here](#). Some notable events include:

October 30: Golf outing, water treatment plant tour, and get acquainted party

October 31: Breakout sessions, committee meetings, and scholarship awards banquet

November 1: Educational sessions, chapter business meeting, and door prizes

[Register here](#) for the full conference or specific events! And be sure to download the Whova app to stay up to date on daily happenings!

For registration tips and lodging information, visit the [APWA Wisconsin website](#).



UPCOMING PUBLIC WORKS CLASSES

Andi Bill

Take advantage of upcoming public works supervision and management classes! These classes will teach you and your organization how to build a more effective management team, enhance supervision skills and management practices, and prepare staff to grow in their career and take on new responsibilities.

Classes are part of two public works certificates offered in cooperation with APWA Wisconsin. The Public Works Supervisory Academy (PWSA) Certificate consists of nine 1-day classes for a total of 54 class hours. The Public Works Management Institute (PWMI) Certificate consists of 90 class hours (including PWSA hours) with a requirement of 36 additional class hours focused on more advanced management courses.

The PWMI certificate is recognized by APWA National to meet the requirements for Leadership Excellence in Public Works.

Classes can be taken individually without enrolling in Academy or Institute. Classes can be taken in any order; however, the PWMI certificate requires a Capstone course that must be the last course taken in the series. No previous academic experience is required to participate in these certificate programs.

Be sure to check out our [website](#) for more information on registration and class locations and dates.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Human Resources (HR) Basics for Non-HR Professionals

When: October 29

Where: Online & in person in Madison

Fundamentals of Public Works Operations

When: October 30 - November 7

Where: Online

Leadership Skills for Supervisors

When: November 5-12

Where: Online

Fearless Performance Management

When: December 3

Where: Online & in person in Madison

34TH ANNUAL SNOWPLOW ROADEO RECAP

Thomas Zembruski

With summer behind us and snow quickly approaching, now is a great time to look back and reflect on another successful APWA Rodeo Event for 2024! We were fortunate again this year to partner with Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) who graciously helped us with our event. Many thanks go to the staff at FVTC including Community Engagement and Event Planner Teresa Tuschl and all those involved with catering services who provided awesome customer service for our event.

I'm not sure if we set any new records for participation, but we must have been close with 120 drivers competing for the crown of Wisconsin State Rodeo champion. Our top two finishers attended the National Rodeo being held in conjunction with the APWA Western Snow & Ice Conference held in Loveland, Colorado September 24-25. I've mentioned it in the past, but it really is great to see the support from our Wisconsin APWA chapter in sending drivers to represent our great state on a national level!

Putting together a successful event comes down to thorough planning and great partnerships. I'm glad to say that Truck Country – Freightliner/Western Star stepped up big again for 2024 not only as our main sponsor, but also by sponsoring our vendor social which was held at Appleton Axe this year. Many thanks to Truck Country representatives, especially Tony Bodway and Jay Szymanski, for supporting our event for the third consecutive year.

We have a great list of vendors who support our event and provide staff for judging – many thanks again to Force America – Precise, who in addition to gift cards provides the resources and staffing to tally the winning results. I would also like to thank our vendors who continue to support our event by sponsoring the winners and/or supplying gift cards and prizes for our raffle. Many thanks to Jeff Shesler and RNOW Inc. for sponsoring our 1st place winner again for 2024.



I want to thank all our vendors who participate and volunteer their time – special thanks to GovDeals, Utility Sales & Service, Badger Truck Center, Stepp Manufacturing, Casper's Equipment, and Aring Inc. who went above and beyond with sponsorships and raffle prizes for this year.

FVTC has a large facility, and there is plenty of room for our road course and vendor display. Our course remained consistent with last year's including the sweeping curve, round-about, outside curve, slalom course, dead end/backing, and start-stop finishing line in addition to stopwatch timing for each competitor. In the end, 1st place, and bragging rights go to **Adam Weiss** – Patrol Worker from Dane County! An interesting side note for this year – 2nd place finisher, **Brian Burg** from Calumet County was unable to attend the National Rodeo which provided 3rd place finisher **Josh Borelli** from the City of Wausau an opportunity to compete in Loveland, CO this year.



Adam Weiss, 1st place



Brian Burg, 2nd place



Josh Borelli, 3rd place



Finally, I want to send a huge thank you out to all our volunteers, including our judges, admins helping with registration, and our vendors who support this great statewide event.



The supporting staff that helps plan and coordinate the Roadeo is second to none. Fleet Manager's like Jay Getka from Kenosha, Nathan Wachtendonk from Green Bay, Bruce Brazee from Appleton, and Jeff Tews (retired) from the City of Milwaukee work diligently behind the scenes to keep the Roadeo running smoothly. I also want to thank the patrol workers from the Cities of Green Bay, Appleton, and Milwaukee, as well as Waukesha County for their help in setting up the site, equipment delivery, and judging.

The Director's Cup driving competition is another great part of our event that allows Directors, Mayors, and other non-patrol workers the chance to compete and see how they stack up compared to professional drivers. We had another close competition this year with **Matt Stevens** from the City of Pewaukee coming out on top for 2024. Congratulations Matt – and make sure to safeguard that traveling trophy until next year's event!

We likely set a new record this year for overall participation, raffle prizes and gift cards which is truly appreciated by our team and all the competitors who attend. This is my final year as the Chair of Fleet Services, although I will still be involved in the planning of future Roadeo's – it's been a great three year run and I look forward to our 35th anniversary Roadeo for 2025!

CALL FOR 2025 AWARD NOMINATIONS, DUE JAN. 31

Jennifer Barlas

Acknowledging the difference people make in life is a powerful action. The APWA Chapter Awards program was established to recognize outstanding individuals, groups and organizations representing the best in the public works profession. By recognizing professional contributions, public works professionals promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and provide a way to grow and achieve.

APWA Wisconsin is pleased to present this call for award nominations. Nominees must be APWA members in good standing.

Additional criteria and nomination forms are available on the [chapter website](#).

Awards that chapter members may be eligible for include the following:

William J. Rheinfrank Public Works Impact Award

This award recognizes an individual or organization that has had a positive, far reaching impact on public works programs, services, or policies through distinguished public service and commitment to their community and the State of Wisconsin.

John W. Curtis Chapter Service Award

This award recognizes outstanding individual achievement through Chapter activity and service to the Chapter while supporting APWA's strategic plan, goals, and objectives.

Samuel A. Greeley Local Service Award

The purpose of this award is to give formal recognition of honorary character to those people who have continuously served a local public or private agency long term (minimum 30 years) in an official capacity and who have been members in good standing of the American Public Works Association for fifteen (15) or more years.

Outstanding New Member Impact Award

This award recognizes and encourages new or young APWA-Wisconsin members who have demonstrated an initial commitment to the profession and the association and show potential for future growth within the association.

The award promotes the concept that the length of a career does not necessarily indicate leadership abilities or potential for service.

Additionally, the award recognizes that becoming an active member of the association will not only strengthen the association but also grow stronger public works leaders.

Project of the Year Awards

The APWA Public Works Project of the Year Award was established to promote excellence in the management, administration, and implementation of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant, architect, and/or engineer, and the contractor who work together to complete projects.

Award nominations are eligible for both state and national recognition.

Awards are given to projects in four divisions:

- Less than \$5 million
- \$5 million to \$25 million
- \$25 million to \$75 million
- Over \$75 million

And five categories:

- Structures
- Transportation
- Environment
- Historical Restoration/Preservation
- Disaster/Emergency Construction Repair

Project of the Year Awards for Small Cities and Rural Communities

This award recognizes an individual or organization that has had a positive, far reaching impact on public works programs, services, or policies through distinguished public service and commitment to their community and the State of Wisconsin.

This award for agencies from cities or counties with a population of 50,000 or less is established to promote demonstrated excellence of creativity, ingenuity, and efficiency in the delivery of public works projects that have a profound impact on the community.

Awards are given in five categories:

- Structures
- Transportation
- Environment
- Historical Restoration/Preservation
- Disaster/Emergency Construction Repair

All nominations are due by January 31, 2025.

To see more about the APWA Wisconsin Chapter Award Program or to make a nomination, visit our [website](#).

WATER WEEK IN WASHINGTON, D.C. RECAP

Chris Tippery

In this article, Chris shares his experience in Washington, D.C. and information he learned as a part of Water Week.

Brandon Koltz, adjunct professor at Carthage College and owner of his own LLC firm, and I attended Water Week 2024 in Washington, DC, from April 8-10 on behalf of the following organizations: Central States Water Environment Association, Wisconsin Section, the Wisconsin Wastewater Operator's Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, the Municipal Environmental Group (MEG), Wastewater Division, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Water Works Association, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association, and the Wisconsin Rural Water Association.

Water Week provides an opportunity for professionals to engage with congressional elected and regulatory officials, discussing Wisconsin's needs and concerns. In preparation for Water Week, I reached out to all represented organizations and inquired of their discussion points with our congressional representatives. Wisconsin's needs are well aligned with those of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and consist of funding, PFOA / PFAS, workforce development, and chlorides.

While in DC, Michael Mucha of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, Brandon Koltz, and I met with staff from the offices of Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Gwen Moore (District 4), and Representative Scott Fitzgerald (District 5) to discuss national and Wisconsin-specific issues. This discussion highlighted the topics of additional funding, PFOS / PFAS, especially within biosolids and their disposal, workforce development, and chlorides.

Regarding the current and future alignment of Congress in the fluctuating yet equivalent political environment, the current slim majority for either political party within each chamber (Senate or House) will likely continue. For Wisconsin, the Supreme Court's newly redrawn Senate and Assembly maps may provide more equity within the State Legislature, but with the initial election occurring in November, the effect of these new maps remains to be seen.

We attended the Stormwater Policy Forum discussion focused on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation funding, which is expected to pass Congress this summer, and emerging regulatory issues. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to address PFAS for aquatic life after promulgating the drinking water standards released in April 2024. Funding has been provided for the EPA to create Stormwater Centers of Excellence, which will address environmental and regulatory concerns, technical assistance for communities, and funding equity. In addition, the EPA is considering water quality criteria for 6PPDQ-quinone, which is found in vehicle tires and has been discovered to be toxic to some species of fish, notably salmon.

In addition, there is a growing push for the Energy-Water Nexus, which is a term applied to the relationship between the water and energy industries. Water and wastewater utilities are encouraged to develop more energy efficient policies and practices, potentially in response to climate change concerns, but also to develop a collaborative approach with energy utilities to provide strategic services to communities, meaning to locally align demand with availability and plan regionally.

Funding

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, has greatly increased funding for water and wastewater projects nationwide with \$55 billion allocated, \$13 billion spent to date, and \$8.5 billion appropriated in 2024 with \$4.4 billion dedicated to combined sewer overflows (CSO). The Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding also provides \$19 billion for the water and wastewater industry.

In Wisconsin, the BIL funding is managed through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) known as the Safe Drinking Water Loan (SDWL) and Clean Water Fund Loan (CWFL) programs. Per the WDNR, there has been an increased demand for funding in Wisconsin, potentially for principal forgiveness (PF), but also due to aging infrastructure and ongoing operational, maintenance, and enforcement needs.



Chris Tippery, Chris Goldson of Rep. Gwen Moore's office, Brandon Koltz

The 2024 Wisconsin BIL funding has already been allocated, and the demand is expected to continue to exceed available funding through the duration of the BIL funding period, 2027. For that reason, we continue to advocate for more funding for the SRF programs.

Earmarks, or congressionally directed spending, directly appropriate federal funds to approved projects. This benefits the local community, but also reduces the annual federal capitalization of the SRF program. Congressionally directed spending is not being appropriated in addition to SRF funding; it actually erodes it. More private investment is needed in water and wastewater as approximately 26% of all funding comes from the federal government.

The Chevron Doctrine, based on the 1984 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, provided governmental agencies the leeway for interpretation of federal laws. The Supreme Court is now considering overturning the Chevron Doctrine. The concern is that each new federal administration may be able to interpret federal laws differently, which may usher in system shocks and implement massive environmental law change every four or eight years.

The court's ruling could have ripple effects across the federal government, where agencies frequently use experts to interpret and implement federal laws.

PFOS/PFAS

This contaminant may be the initial of

potentially many, harmful chemicals and pollutants for human consumption and the environment. The EPA standards for PFOA / PFAS in drinking water of 4.0 parts per trillion (PPT), or nanograms per liter (ng/L), were recently released. This supersedes the previous rule, passed by the Wisconsin DNR, of 70 PPT (or 70 ng/L). The EPA will be addressing national discharge limits, monitoring the public health and the environment, and addressing PFOS / PFAS in biosolids.

It is estimated that 20% of our PFOS / PFAS exposure is through water, and the remaining 80% is through other sources in our environment. The EPA will be conducting more research and development, as well as a risk assessment regarding the acceptable levels of PFOA / PFOS exposure in the environment.

For Wisconsin surface waters, PFOS was established at 8 ng/L in all waters without mixing zone dilution considerations. The Wisconsin surface water PFOA standard, which is based on drinking water protection, was tiered as follows: 20 ng/L (20 PPT) in waters that are public drinking water sources and 95 ng/L (95 PPT) in all other waters to ensure protection against the incidental ingestion of water by children during recreation.

The Wisconsin DNR was in the process of establishing groundwater standards, but the treatment costs exceeded the legislature-approved, allowable costs of \$10 million over a two-year period.

Therefore, the WDNR groundwater rule-making efforts were paused until the legislature approves the cost or process. Likely, the groundwater process may have to follow the EPA drinking water rule, but this has yet to be determined.

PFOA / PFOS in biosolids was also a prevalent topic. In August 2022, the EPA designated PFOA and PFOS as “hazardous substances” under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA, also known as the Superfund Law). Water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities are requesting that Congress provide a waiver for the transmission and presence of PFOA / PFOS within their flows, as these utilities merely convey or receive these products.

Private companies created these products, and they should be the ones held responsible for their treatment and removal from the environment. Notably, PFOA and PFOS reside within wastewater biosolids, and there are concerns regarding the acceptance of biosolids for land application.

Expanding upon this point, companies who create chemicals for public use should evaluate the lifecycle of their product, from its creation and manufacturing to its disposal and return to the environment. They should be responsible for all costs from the use of their product, and if these costs exceed their desired profit margins, then they should not bring the product to market. In this way, manufacturing will be held accountable, and we will hopefully prevent the next environmental concern.

Workforce Development

Nationwide, the concerns are regarding attracting more and diverse talent into our industry. The current push is for educated staff with a higher degree of flexibility and adaptability being able to perform more tasks with fewer staff, which will be a requirement for our industry’s future.

Chlorides

Especially in Wisconsin where winter snow and ice are prevalent for months, chlorides can end up in the waterways through stormwater or water softener discharges. Excessive chloride discharges can increase the salinity of our freshwater, which is harmful to the environment and animals. The EPA has developed acute and chronic water quality criteria, to be implemented into practice by each state as mandated by federal law. In many cases, states seek criteria variance requirements and develop their own site-specific criteria for less stringent standards, requiring EPA concurrence. Each state may establish water quality criteria more stringent than the EPA criteria, but routinely request less stringent standards due to the cost or complexity of compliance for a particular pollutant.

Congressional Visits

Informational material was available from WEF, National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and other water organizations regarding funding, emerging contaminants, and other issues. A stormwater informational brochure was prepared by WEF and the National Municipal Stormwater Association.

The DC Fly-In event provides an annual opportunity for Wisconsin's water and wastewater industry experts to advocate for our needs and express our concerns to our elected officials. If you are interested in attending next year's Fly-In event on behalf of Wisconsin, please contact Chris Tippery at either Chris.Tipper@raSmith.com or (414) 267-7335.

Brandon and Chris would like to thank the Central States Water Environment Association-Wisconsin Section for their continued support by allowing us to attend the annual Fly-In. In addition, we would like to acknowledge WWOA's financial contributions towards the 2024 Fly-In.



Jack Usher of Rep. Scott Fitzgerald's office and Chris Tippery

SALT WISE: SMART SALTING CLASSES

Allison Madison

Wisconsin Salt Wise is hosting several upcoming classes and events about smart salting.

These workshops focus on how using the right amount of salt can save time, increase profits, and protect our waters.

Class offerings are designed to discuss smart salting for either roads or parking lots and sidewalks.

Upcoming classes for each category include the following (* denotes a hybrid event with both a class and an open house):

Roads

- November 6 in Fox Valley
- November 13 in Baraboo

Parking Lots & Sidewalks

- November 7 in Oshkosh
- November 12 in Madison (Class full)
- November 15 in Fox Point (2 hour mini training)
- November 21 in Madison

Property Managers

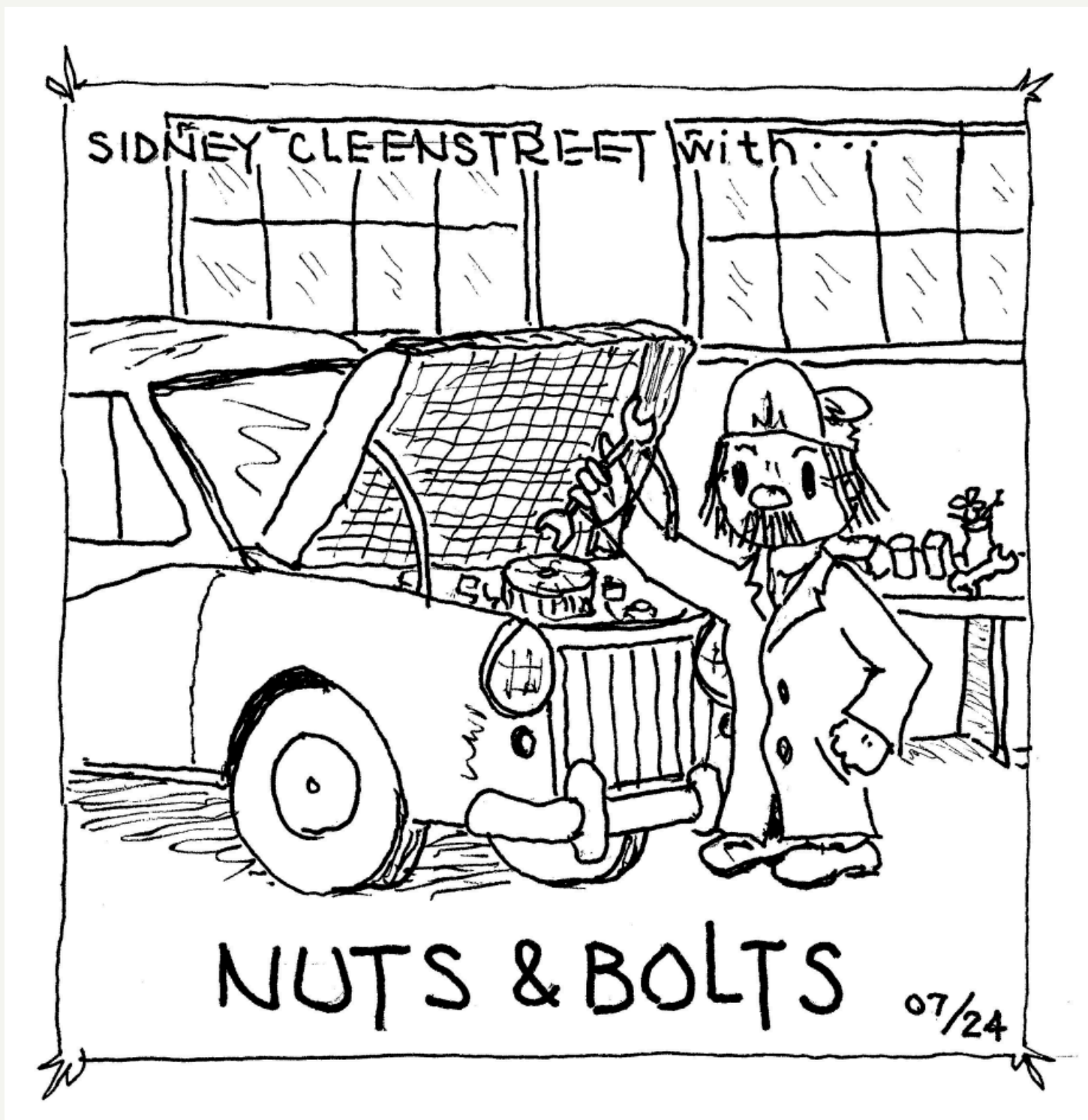
- November 15 in Fox Point

For more information or to sign up for classes, visit the [Wisconsin Salt Wise website](https://www.wisconsin-saltwise.com).



SIDNEY CLEENSTREET

Jim Blazek



APWA WISCONSIN PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Shelly Billingsley

As I reflect on my journey within the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA), I am compelled to share the profound impact this organization has had on both my professional and personal life. My tenure with APWA has been nothing short of transformative, a journey enriched by invaluable networking opportunities, continuous learning, and meaningful mentoring relationships. It is through these experiences that I have seen the true power of community and collaboration in the public works field.

Networking: Building a Stronger Community

One of the most significant benefits of being involved with APWA has been the unparalleled networking opportunities. Engaging with fellow professionals from diverse backgrounds and specialties has broadened my perspectives and deepened my understanding of the myriad challenges and innovations within our field. Whether it was through the Wisconsin chapter meetings and conferences, national conferences, or specialized committees, the connections I have forged have been instrumental in shaping my career.

These interactions have provided me with access to a wealth of knowledge and best practices that might otherwise have remained out of reach.

They have also fostered collaborations that have led to innovative solutions to complex problems, demonstrating the collective strength and expertise of our profession. The relationships built through APWA have not only advanced my career but have also enriched my professional life with a sense of belonging and purpose.

Learning: Embracing Continuous Growth

APWA's commitment to education and professional development has been a cornerstone of my personal growth. The association offers a multitude of learning opportunities, from workshops and seminars to webinars and certification programs. Each of these has contributed to my understanding of emerging trends, technological advancements, and best practices in public works.

The emphasis on lifelong learning within APWA has been a driving force in my professional development. It has encouraged me to stay abreast of industry changes, adopt new methodologies, and continually enhance my skills. This commitment to learning has not only improved my competence as a public works professional but has also inspired a culture of curiosity and innovation within my own team.

Mentoring: Guiding and Being Guided

Perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of my APWA experience has been the opportunity to engage in mentoring relationships.

Both as a mentor and a mentee, I have experienced firsthand the profound impact that guidance and support can have on professional growth. Mentorship within APWA has facilitated the exchange of knowledge and experience, helping to cultivate the next generation of public works leaders while also providing seasoned professionals with fresh perspectives.

The act of mentoring has reinforced my own understanding of the field and has enabled me to give back to the community that has supported me throughout my career. Similarly, receiving mentorship has provided me with invaluable insights and encouragement, helping me navigate complex challenges and achieve my professional goals.

A Lasting Impact

The positive impact of my involvement with APWA extends beyond my career; it has shaped my approach to leadership, problem-solving, and collaboration. The lessons learned and the connections made through APWA have been integral to my success and fulfillment in the public works profession. As I look to the future, I am excited to continue contributing to this dynamic and supportive community, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunities APWA has provided.

In closing, I encourage all members to actively engage with APWA's resources and opportunities.

Whether through networking, learning, or mentoring, your involvement will undoubtedly enrich your professional journey and enhance the impact you have within the public works field. Together, we can continue to advance our profession and build a brighter future for the communities we serve. So please come join us at the 2024 Fall Conference from October 30 to November 1, 2024 at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, WI. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Shelly Billingsley, MBA, PE
President, APWA Wisconsin Chapter

"I THOUGHT WE WERE ENGINEERS, NOT THERAPISTS"

Scott Brandmeier

If my parents had told me about 40 years ago that upon entering the field of engineering that I would have been doing a "side hustle" as a therapist, I would have thought they were crazy. After all, I was going to college to learn how to design and build things. If we are honest with ourselves, we exit college wondering "what is the coolest design I will be a part of in my career?" and not "what kind of 'therapy' will I end up rendering that may make a person's day?"

The reality is that many, if not most of us in public works, make someone's day without even trying. We are also "confronted" with circumstances that make you shake your head in disbelief or laughter.

Regardless of the situation, what I've learned (sometimes the hard way) is that every story has a human element to it. While there are segments of society that would like to put us into neatly defined little boxes, we all realize that life (and work) isn't that simple.

Throughout my career, I have documented a number of situations and interactions with residents - not to cover my rear (though that certainly has happened) - but to reflect on what may have been going through their heads or what may be happening in their life at that point in time.

Some of the encounters have been entirely humorous while others have had a serious slant that lend themselves to a little comedic relief. Nonetheless, everyone who reached out had a purpose for doing so - they needed help and, sometimes, it had nothing to do with engineering or public works.

Indulge me for a moment as I share a few stories with you.

A few years ago, I received a call from an elderly resident in the Village complaining about, frankly, some non- DPW related item. She is, as I refer to them, a frequent flyer on the calls to the Village. This resident is someone that I've dealt with for some time and, through the years, I learned that she is a retired Catholic school principal. Every time I went to her house, she seemed to find something to complain about and the whole time I was there I imagined being a student in her classroom years earlier thinking that she might be ready to use the yard stick across my knuckles.

My staff also knew one rule - if I wasn't back in about an hour, they were to call me with some emergency requiring me to leave.

As time went on, there were few people in the Village she trusted and I was one of them. That meant I would get most of her calls. One day - post Covid - I'm sitting in her living room as she is eating her lunch and puffing away on a cigarette when she looks at me and says, "You know, they say that omicron variant may be bad and, hey, you aren't wearing a mask."

Mind you, this was easily eighteen months after all the masking requirements and she was never one to wear a mask. I offered to get one and she said- nah, never mind, just stay on the couch as she continued to puff away on the cigarette. Needless to say, the irony wasn't lost on me - here was a person that was intentional inhaling carcinogens into her lungs asking about wearing masks.

That evening, I told my wife about what happened and a little more about this resident. To which my wife responded - she's lonely (which is exactly what I thought). Here was a lady who never married and really had no family and what we've realized is that sometimes she just wants to talk. Later that month, as my wife prepared plates of Christmas cookies for the neighbors, she made a plate for this resident. When I dropped off the cookies, it was clear she appreciated them (even though she still had to get in a snarky comment that she was diabetic as she was gobbling down one of the cookies).

In contrast to the lonely resident, I've dealt with a lot of angry residents ranging from those calling the police over 250 times in under a year to folks irritated that we are planting trees in a public green space. One resident, though, had his patience tested multiple times in a 24-hour period which led to his outburst.

Our contractor was installing new water main but had forgotten that this particular resident had two laterals. Well, they ended up tearing through one of the laterals (thinking it was dead) while the resident was in the middle of his shower. Then, about two hours later, the contractor hit a gas main that wasn't marked which resulted in the neighborhood being evacuated for a short time.

Then, to make matters worse, the next morning an unmarked telecommunications line was hit while he was in the middle of an international call (mind you, this resident owns a large distribution company that does work throughout the world).

Needless to say, this resulted in him screaming at me inches from my face about the incompetence of the contractor. Every swear word you can think of (and some you may have never even heard) we're leveled at us. Understandably, he was upset and I was able to talk him down out of his rage and explain the comedy of errors.

It became clear he understood because a few days later, he and his wife delivered donuts to the contractor in appreciation of their work under the circumstances.

Then there are the emotional residents - those that feel they have nobody to turn to, those that may be overwhelmed by the events in the world, those who, honestly, just need an ear to bend.

These include a lady who asked that we not remove the dying ash in front of her house until she could come home and hug it goodbye to the lady who was so concerned about Covid (even after all the vaccinations) that our water utility staff could only change the meter in her house by wearing a Tyvek suit, gloves, booties on the shoes, and three masks.

Another lady claimed that the dead squirrel in the right of way was from former colleagues in her Russian ballroom dancing group so she called the FBI to report it.

What's the common theme? None of this has anything whatsoever to do with engineering. It has to do with emotions and personalities and circumstances out of their control; in a nutshell, it boils down to the human element and nature of people wanting someone to talk to, needing someone to listen, assisting them even if it has absolutely nothing to do with Village services.

Why? Because we can relate.

We all have had experiences and most of us have someone to share those experiences with; some people do not. Don't ever think you are wasting time when these happen to you - you may have just made a person's day.

**FACILITIES & GROUNDS
COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Peter Nilles

The Chapter’s Facilities & Grounds Committee is currently welcoming new members! If you are interested in joining this committee, please reach out to Peter Nilles at Peter.Nilles@milwaukeecountywi.gov or (414) 278-4953.

**APWA WISCONSIN CHAPTER
OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**
JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

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Engineering & Technology	Vacant
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Leadership & Management	Joseph Komorowski (414) 266-9247 joseph.komorowski@graef-usa.com
Transportation, Utilities, & Right-of-Way	Pat Hawley (262) 317-3204 pat.hawley@rasmith.com
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