

FALL 2025

# NEWSLETTER

WISCONSIN CHAPTER APWA



Photo Courtesy: [www.uwplatt.edu](http://www.uwplatt.edu)

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Chapter President  
Rick Eilertson—AECOM  
Member since 2002

### Community Engagement

I've been excited to see the boundless energy from our Community Engagement Task Force over the couple months. Being able to help out with the Kids' Event at the August 14<sup>th</sup> APWA WI Snow Plow Roadeo was super thrilling for me. Check out Heidi Jeninga's great article in this newsletter edition for more details.

Just last week, I was able to participate in another Kid-friendly event at the Verona Public Library to promote the City's new Leaf-free Streets Program. Over 45 kids, teenagers, and adults came out to check out one of the City's brand new leaf vacuum trucks and try their hand at coming up with a snazzy name for the two new trucks that will start picking up leaves this month. Families were encouraged to take Leaf-free Streets yard signs and post them at their homes to help advertise the City's new collection program. Previously, residents were asked to rake leaves into the street for collection. With the new program, residents that want leaves collected are asked to place them on the terrace for



Zach Topel (left) and Rick Eilertson (right) staffing the Leaf-free Streets table

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER (Continued from Page 1)

collection and encouraged to rake leaves out of the street if they can do so safely.



*Verona residents brainstorming names for the new Leaf trucks*

Kids had their choice of Public Work's-themed takeaways (e.g. public works equipment stickers and temporary tattoos, pencils, crayons, and wristbands). We also had 26 names provided for the two new leaf vacuum trucks. Almost half of those came in the last ten minutes of the event, when these two young women and their father arrived and had a blast brainstorming up creative names.

Some of the favorites so far are: "Leaf Erickson", "Suck Norris", and of course, "Gerald".

Events like this give me 😊 hope that we in the Public Works sector can strive to be seen as a fun and integral part of our community fabric. I encourage everyone reading this newsletter to think about ways you can integrate enthusiasm about the work you do in your community and share your stories with me

and our Community Engagement Task Force members. I'd love us to be able to add content to our web site and/or future newsletters about the community activities that our Chapter members are engaging in throughout the state.

### Thank you!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for making it to the end of my second President's Corner message, and for being a valued APWA WI Chapter member. Thank you for your time, and for your service to the public works profession!

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, likely of Rick Eilertson.

Rick Eilertson, PE, ENV-SP  
608-402-5862  
[rick.eilertson@aecocom.com](mailto:rick.eilertson@aecocom.com)



*Two toddlers and their Dad enjoy their first view from the driver's seat of the new Leaf Vacuum Truck*



## Mark Your Calendars for the 2025 Fall Conference

October 29-31, 2025

City of Platteville and UW-Platteville Campus

[Find Out More Here](#)

The APWA Wisconsin Chapter Fall Conference will be held Oct. 29-31 in Platteville. It will take place on the UW-Platteville Campus. The Chapter has put great effort into creating fun and engaging conferences that include various educational sessions and technical tours that inspire further exploration within the field of public works and this conference will be no different. The conference planning committee has been thoughtfully crafting this event and is excited to welcome you to Platteville in the fall! Many long-standing activities will return, such as the golf outing, the get-acquainted party, YP networking event (held at the iconic *Steve's Pizza Palace!*), and scholarship banquet. The fun will continue with unique pieces of the conference like the educational technical tours, Wednesday evening's Truck and Treat festivities hosted by the Community Engagement Task Force (previously the Diversity Committee), followed by Thursday's student design presentations and UW-Platteville Civil & Environmental faculty presentations.

UW-Platteville students and faculty are welcome and encouraged to attend at no charge. This conference is an excellent opportunity to invite the next generation to explore a career in public works, a

field that is essential in advancing the quality of life for all.

Below are a few helpful reminders when you prepare for the conference:

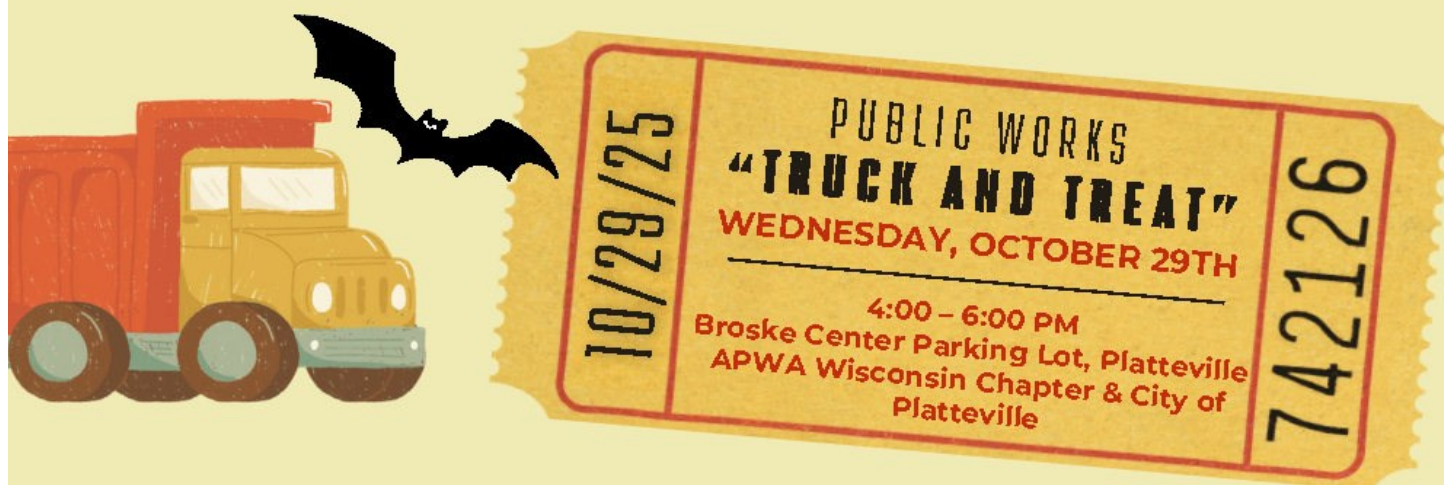
- Remember to wear shirts displaying your agency or company logo so you can easily be recognizable to students (your possible next hire).
- Having plenty of business cards and company/agency profile information to hand out.
- Making a connection and giving the students something to remember you by is important.
- Do not miss the chance to promote APWA and the important and thankless job we all do. What we do is exciting and better the world every-day—share your story!

For all the details on the conference, registration, or reserving a room, contact the Conference Planning Chair Eric Dundee at (608) 709-1867 or [ericd@madsewer.org](mailto:ericd@madsewer.org), or check out the [Wisconsin Chapter APWA website](#)



- Eric Dundee and Kamron Nash





## TRUCK AND TREAT

We're excited to invite your team to participate in Truck and Treat, a fun and educational Halloween event to expose children and families to the world of Public Works! This hands-on experience aims to spark curiosity and appreciation for the people and equipment behind essential city services.

### What's involved:

Each booth will take up 2–3 parking stalls and showcase a Public Works vehicle or piece of equipment. We're encouraging booths to be decorated in Halloween spirit and to hand out candy or giveaways. APWA WI will be supplying candy, and APWA National is contributing APWA swag for distribution.

### Why host a booth:

- Promote the public works profession to kids and families
- Engage your community in a fun and positive way
- Show off your equipment and team!
- Compete in the "Best Decorated Pickup Truck" contest

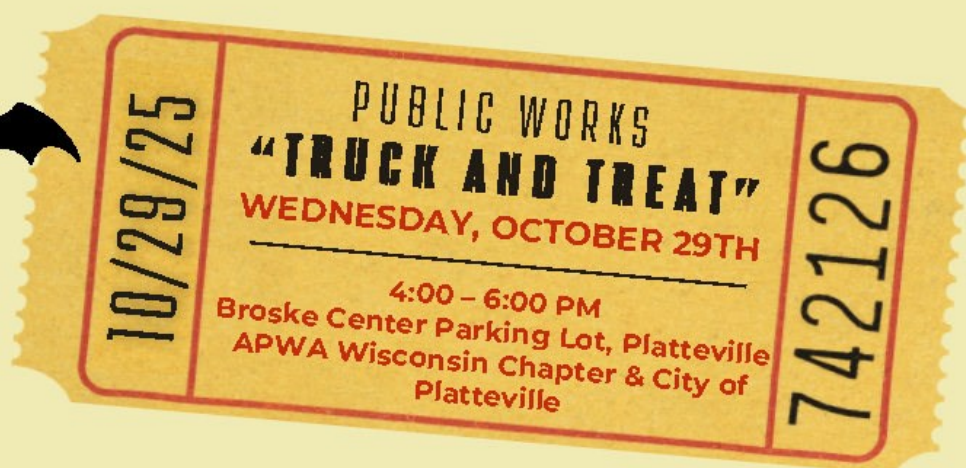
### Want to get involved?

Contact Genevieve Stollenwerk from the City of South Milwaukee at [gstollenwerk@smwi.org](mailto:gstollenwerk@smwi.org).

Thanks in advance for helping make this a great event!







The APWA Wisconsin Chapter & City of  
Platteville invite you to

## **TRUCK AND TREAT**

We're excited to invite you to Truck and Treat, a fun and educational Halloween event to expose children and families to the world of Public Works! This hands-on experience aims to spark curiosity and appreciation for the people and equipment behind essential city services.

**Wednesday, October 29**

**4:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Broske Center Parking Lot**

**Platteville, WI**

### **Public Works Equipment Exploration:**

Kids can sit in real vehicles like plow trucks, loaders, and sweepers, with staff on hand to answer questions and share fun facts.

### **Best Decorated Pickup Contest:**

Pickup trucks decorated for Halloween will compete for prizes in categories like:  
Most Creative | Funniest | Spookiest

### **"Truck and Treat" Passport:**

The first 100 kids will receive a themed passport book to collect stickers at each equipment booth.

Completed passports may be turned in for a raffle drawing prize.





## GENERAL SESSION—DISC PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT

### DISC PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT

Quick, Accurate Test Shows Your Team Personality and Work Style



To fully participate in this General Session, the Leadership & Management Committee requests that all Fall Conference attendees complete the below link for their DISC Personality Assessment. The Chapter would also appreciate it if EVERY member attending the Fall Conference could complete the survey and provide us with your personality type for use as part of the General Session:.

#### DISC Assessment - Free Personality Test for Business

The DISC personality assessment is a free tool that helps individuals understand their behavioral differences in the workplace. It categorizes behavior into four primary personality types: Dominance (D), Influence (I), Steadiness (S), and Compliance (C). These types represent different ways of thinking, talking, and behaving, which can impact communication, teamwork, and leadership styles. By understanding these differences, managers can create a more effective work environment and improve team performance. The assessment is based on the work of psychologist William Marston and has been used by millions to enhance productivity and communication in various settings.

The Chapter's Goal in having everyone complete this assessment is for all to understand their personality type, that of their coworkers from the same organization or other Chapter members that they may interact with, whether that be neighboring communities or consultants. The benefits of understanding yours, and your co-workers' personality, are that you may be better equipped to understand their drivers, motivations and fears regarding collaboration, conflict, leadership and management. Better understanding these personality aspects will make you a more effective communicator and will enhance your organizational influence, both at your employer and any contributing organizations where you donate your time.

Each Fall Conference attendee will be asked to display their personality type on their name badge. We'll have stickers at the registration table for everyone to place on their badge. The presentation will describe each personality individually and then allow group discussions across all four personality types to understand different styles, approaches, aims and fears associated with workplace scenarios. This is an expansion of the Spring Conference presentation and is intended to be an interactive opportunity for everyone to learn a little bit about themselves and the other members of our Chapter!





# THANK YOU SPONSORS!

## 2024-25 APWA WI CHAPTER SPONSORS



Thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting the Wisconsin Chapter !

# Snowplow Roadeo

Nathan Wachtendonk -Fleet Manager, City of Green Bay

**35th  
Annual**

With Summer behind us and snow quickly approaching, now is a great time to look back and reflect on another successful APWA Roadeo Event for 2025!

We were fortunate again this year to partner with Fox Valley Technical College 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.

The top two finishers will attend the National Roadeo being held in conjunction with the APWA Western Snow & Ice Conference held in Loveland, Colorado September 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. 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 took part as our main sponsor and sponsor of the vendor social which was held at Appleton Axe. Many thanks to Truck Country representatives, especially Tony Bodway and Jay Szymanski for supporting our event for the fourth 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



## Snowplows Rodeo (continued from page 8)

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.

Fox Valley Technical College has a large facility, and there is plenty of room for our road course and vendor display. The newly redesigned course tested the skill of the drivers including the sweeping curve, slalom, offset curve, left/right hand curves, and start-stop finishing line in addition to stop-watch timing for each competitor. In the end, 1<sup>st</sup> place, and bragging rights go to Derek Naibert from the City of Manitowoc, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Jason Loppnow from the City of Green Bay, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Keith Verbeten from the Village of Wrightstown, 4<sup>th</sup> place, Josh Razutis from the City of Green Bay, 5<sup>th</sup> place, Pdraig Fahey from the City of Green Bay. Special thank you to the City of DePere and City of Neenah for supplying this year's trucks.

New this year was the addition of a backhoe course. Special shout out to Brooks Tractor who sponsored the backhoe course and supplied the backhoes for the competition. Competitors had the chance to play mini golf and chase around remote controlled alligator heads in a swimming pool. Special thanks to the DPW workers from the City of Green Bay and Stevens Point for developing the challenging obstacles. 1<sup>st</sup> place, Adam Kernz from Calumet County, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Michael Konik from the City of Manitowoc, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Derek Naibert from the City of Manitowoc.

The supporting staff that helps plan and coordinate the Rodeo is second to none. Fleet Manager's like Jay Getka from Kenosha, Tom Zembruski from Waukesha County, Nathan Wachtendonk from Green Bay, Bruce Brazee from Appleton, Jeff Tews (retired) from the City of Milwaukee, and Dylan Rollo from the City of Oshkosh who work diligently behind the scenes to keep the Rodeo running smoothly.



## Snowplows, Smiles & Community: Community Engagement Task Force Kicks off Kids Outreach

Heidi Jeninga

The Community Engagement (CE) Task Force (Previously Diversity Committee) has been hard at work. In August, we kicked off our first CE Event with a Kids' Event at the Snow Plow Rodeo! We had 9 kids join us from the Fox Valley Technical College Daycare for a time of fun, learning, and snacks!



Allison Madison sharing with the kids about Wisconsin Salt Wise and the benefits of "Shovel More, Salt Less!"

Special thanks to Allison Madison who led the kids around with her decorative snow shovel and shared all things snow removal with them!



Kids taking turns getting to sit in one of DePere's snow plows.

Also thank you to Jake Brunoehler, Ela Lodzinski, Rick Eilertson, and all the other APWA members who stepped in to educate and share about Public Works, snow removal and salt reduction. Your time and dedication were critical for making our first kids' outreach event a success!



Following Allison and the snow shovel to learn more about public works and snow removal!

Up next, we have the Fall Conference in Platteville where we are planning our next kids' outreach event. A special thank you to Howard Crofoot and The City of Platteville who will be providing staff and equipment on Wednesday evening from 4-6PM at the Broske Center during our Get Acquainted Party for our first ever Truck and Treat event! We hope to share the love of public works with kids and members in the community. Feel free to spread the word or bring your kiddos along to partake in the fun! We are still looking for volunteers, both to hand out goodies to the kids, but also those willing to decorate trucks too! If you or your municipality want to bring one of your fleet vehicles (pick-ups/SUVs very welcome!) and participate in the fun, please reach out to Genevieve Stollenwerk ([gstollenwerk@smwi.org](mailto:gstollenwerk@smwi.org)) if you are interested in participating!



## APWA Wisconsin Chapter PWX Dinner

John Edelbeck



### ★ APWA Wisconsin Chapter PWX Dinner Attendees take a Deep Dive! ★

Over 50 APWA Wisconsin Chapter members and friends attended the PWX Chapter Dinner on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 while attending the 2025 APWA PWX in Chicago. In true Chicago style, the dinner was at the famous Pizano's Pizza Restaurant. While the appetizers, salad and pasta served were good, the Chicago style deep dish pizza was the main attraction, and it didn't disappoint. Some Chicagoans claim that Pizano's serves the best deep dish pizza in the Windy City!

While this year's PWX Chapter dinner didn't include an exciting water taxi ride like we took in 2013 in Chicago, it was within walking distance of the conference hotels. A good time was had by all that attended. We were fortunate to have 7 sponsors that helped defray the costs of the Chapter Dinner for all.

### Thank You to our Sponsors:



# CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATION



PROJECT OF THE YEAR, MEMBER, AND SNOW & ICE CONTROL

**Jennifer Barlas, Awards Chair; Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers**

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.

## **2026 APWA CHAPTER SUBMITTALS**

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association is pleased to present this call for award applications for chapter consideration. Nominees be APWA members in good standing. Awards are listed below.

Additional criteria and nomination forms are available by visiting [Awards – APWA Wisconsin Chapter](#).

## ***EXCELLENCE IN SNOW AND ICE CONTROL – DUE November 7, 2025***

The Wisconsin APWA Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award was established to promote the best practices in snow and ice removal while minimizing environmental impacts.

One award will be given per population tier. The population tiers are as follows:

- Under 10,000 population
- Between 10,000 and 25,000 population
- Over 25,000 population

For more details on this award, please go to: [Awards – APWA Wisconsin Chapter](#)

## ***MEMBER AWARDS – DUE January 31, 2026***

### **William J. Rheinfrank Public Works Impact Award**

This award recognizes a person 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**

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.



## Award Nominations (Continued)

### ***PROJECT OF THE YEAR – DUE January 31, 2026***

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/engineer, and the contractor who working together to complete public works projects. Award nominations are eligible for both state and national recognition.

Awards are given in four divisions:

- Projects less than \$5 million
- Projects of \$5 million, but less than \$25 million
- Projects of \$25 million to \$75 million
- Projects more than \$75 million

And five categories:

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

### ***PROJECT OF THE YEAR - Small Cities/Rural Communities – DUE January 31, 2026***

The APWA Public Works Project of the Year Award for agencies from cities or counties with a population of 50,000 or less is established to promote excellence in demonstrating 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 or Emergency Construction Repair

To review the APWA Wisconsin Chapter Award Program, please go to: [Awards – APWA Wisconsin Chapter](#).

## 2025 PACE AWARD



# 2025 SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING RECAP

On August 12, the APWA Wisconsin Chapter hosted its 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing at the beautiful Washington County Golf Course in Hartford, Wisconsin. We were thrilled to welcome 48 registered golfers for a day of friendly competition and camaraderie.

Mother Nature, however, had other plans in the days leading up to the event. On August 9–10, the Milwaukee metro area was hit by an unprecedented rainfall, with some locations receiving 10–14 inches of rain. Several municipal engineers and DPW staff were understandably unable to attend as they worked to respond to the resulting damage in their communities.

Despite a bit of lingering rain on Tuesday morning, the course remained open—though play was limited to cart paths only—and participants made the most of the day. Thanks to everyone's support, the outing successfully raised **\$4,200** for our scholarship fund.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all who participated and to every company that generously sponsored a hole. Your continued support makes a lasting impact on the future of public works professionals in Wisconsin!

A special thanks to the Chapter Sponsors who also sponsored the golf outing:



## Swag Bag Sponsor



## Drink Cart Sponsors



The 2026, 16th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing will be returning to Washington County Golf Course!





The chapter's new fiscal year started July 1<sup>st</sup> and with the new year comes a new annual chapter sponsorship term. These sponsorships are vital to the chapter's business and provide opportunities for Wisconsin public works professionals to continue to lead APWA and public works initiatives within the state. The Wisconsin APWA Chapter's Sponsorship Program was initiated in 2002 and is a key funding source for the Chapter. Thank you to our past sponsors!

The Wisconsin Chapter offers many educational opportunities and networking activities. All opportunities and events can be found on our website, <https://wisconsin.apwa.org/>.

Some highlights include:

- Annual **winter and summer events**
- The annual **Snowplow Roadeo**
- Regular sponsor and vendor **Lunch N Learns**
- **Periodic special educational symposiums** and training events
- An active **educational scholarship program**
- **Young Professional** events
- And more!

We need your time, talent and contributions to continue improving these events. Please consider these sponsorship opportunities. To support the chapter and be a 2025-2026 sponsor, please go to the chapter website at <https://wisconsin.apwa.org/about/sponsors/>. You can also contact Lee Igl, Wisconsin chapter Treasurer at [lee.igl@mcfarland.wi.gov](mailto:lee.igl@mcfarland.wi.gov) or Rick Eilertson, Wisconsin Chapter President, at [rick.eilertson@aecom.com](mailto:rick.eilertson@aecom.com).



## Call For Submissions

Share Your Story in Our Quarterly Publication



We're now accepting article submissions for the upcoming edition of our quarterly professional publication! This is your chance to showcase projects, share insights, highlight team achievements, or offer helpful tips and lessons learned in your area of expertise.

Whether you've recently completed a major project, launched a new initiative, or have a perspective that others in our field could benefit from—we want to hear from you. Articles can be brief or in-depth, and photos are always welcome.

Deadline for submission for next Newsletter: **December 3, 2025**  
Submit to: [newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org](mailto:newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org)

Help us continue to highlight the great work being done across our organization and profession. Your story could inspire and inform others—submit today!

**FROM OUR DESK TO YOURS**  
**NEWS THAT MATTERS ...**

Check out our website  
[Wisconsin.apwa.org](http://Wisconsin.apwa.org)

Join the WI APWA's Social  
Media on LinkedIn





J.D. Adams & Company  
(Indianapolis, Indiana)

“Circa late 1800’s to early 1900’s. Road Graders such as this one required two men to operate, one in the rear to raise, lower and steer the blade, and one in the front to control the various horse power needed to pull this grader. (Horses, oxen, mules). Later tractors replaced the need for the front operator and the animal power to pull the grader.”

- Hole 'N' The Rock  
Moab, Utah



## HONORING OUR PAST...

### ON THE CALENDAR

October TBD	Executive and Technical Committee Meeting (TBD)	Virtual
October 29—31	Fall Conference	UW-Platteville
November 14	Executive Committee Meeting (9:00am)	Virtual
December 12	Executive and Technical Committee Meeting (9:00am)	Virtual





SHOWING THE POWER OF PUBLIC WORKS!



Harvesting Success in Public Works!

[CONTACT ME](#)

[newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org](mailto:newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org)