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## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER: PEOPLE, PURPOSE, & PRESENCE IN DPW**

*Shelly Billingsley*

As we welcome the arrival of spring, it's an exciting time for public works professionals across Wisconsin. The change in seasons brings new challenges and opportunities, and most importantly, a chance to come together to learn, collaborate, and grow. Our upcoming Spring Conference is the perfect occasion to do just that—network with fellow professionals, share best practices, and celebrate the incredible work being done in our communities.

Throughout my time as President, I have been continually inspired by the dedication and passion of those in the public works field. With this year's theme, I've reflected on the three key terms that define our work: **People, Purpose, and Presence.**

**People:** Public works is, at its heart, about people. Whether it's our teams working tirelessly to maintain infrastructure, or the communities we serve, people are the driving force behind everything we do. Building strong relationships within our industry ensures continued success and innovation.

**Purpose:** Every day, we commit ourselves to a purpose greater than any one individual—ensuring safe, sustainable, and efficient public services. Whether we're tackling snow removal, road maintenance, or water system improvements, our purpose keeps us motivated and mission driven.

**Presence:** As public works professionals, we have a lasting impact on the places we live and work. Our presence is felt in every street repaired, every park maintained, and every service provided. National Public Works Week, taking place May 18-24, is a time to recognize and highlight the incredible contributions of our industry. I encourage everyone to showcase their celebrations and appreciation for DPW professionals—send photos and stories to [president@wisconsin.apwa.org](mailto:president@wisconsin.apwa.org) so we can share them with our community!

As my term as President is coming to a close, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you. It has been an honor to serve and to witness the dedication and excellence that make Wisconsin's public works professionals some of the best in the nation. Thank you for your hard work, your commitment, and your unwavering support. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Conference and continuing to celebrate our shared mission.

See you soon, and happy National Public Works Week!

## COMING UP: 2025 SPRING CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for the APWA Wisconsin Chapter Spring Conference! Hosted in collaboration with the Stevens Point Public Works & Engineering department, we expect to see a great turnout between vendors, speakers, and attendees.

**When:** April 30th - May 2nd

**Where:** Sentry World, Stevens Point

**What to expect:** Equipment Roadeo, golf outing, educational sessions, the annual awards banquet, & more!

View the entire [conference program](#) and [register online](#) using the Whova website. **Early bird registration** ends at midnight on Friday, April 18th, so be sure to register soon!

Consider joining some of the special event offerings while you're at the conference! Some notable happenings include:

**Wednesday, April 30th:** Golf outing at Indianhead Golf Course in Mosinee, bike ride, technical tour, & get acquainted party

**Thursday, May 1st:** Exhibitor show & roadeo, educational sessions, & awards banquet

**Friday, May 3:** More educational sessions, chapter business meeting, lunch, & door prize drawing

A big thanks to conference chairs Chris Johnson, Eric Dundee, and Rick Eilertson for pulling together what is sure to be a fun, informative, and all around great time!

For more information, contact Eric Dundee by phone at 608-709-1867 or by email at [ericd@madsewer.org](mailto:ericd@madsewer.org).



## 2025 FUTURE CITIES COMPETITION

*Jim Hessling*

On January 18, 2025 the 2025 WI Regional Future City Competition took place at the Milwaukee School of Engineering Kern Center and WI APWA was there.

The Wisconsin chapter is an event sponsor along with being a special awards sponsor. This special award is given to a group of students who best identify how they handle waste and recycling in their community.

This year 50 teams competed at the competition, with the winner moving on and competing at the national competition in Washington DC February 15-20, 2025.

This competition, sponsored by STEM Forward, introduces middle-school students to engineering while they create a city of the future. The students build a to-scale model of their city using recycled materials and gave a five-to-seven minute presentation to a panel of STEM professionals.

For special awards like ours, Best Waste Management & Recycling Award, students give us a short presentation on how they handle waste and recycling activities in their city. Many of these presentations are well thought out and creative. The winner of this year's Best Waste Management & Recycling Award went to Star City (JR Team) of Mount Calvary School of Waukesha, WI. Congratulations!

Volunteers donate their time as judges throughout the competition to help select the winner and a handful of additional volunteers act as mentors for teams. Kamron Nash, WI APWA Vice President and Director of Public Works for the Village of Summit, volunteered as an essay reader.

This job entails the reading of various groups essays that in turn help promote and develop writing, public speaking, problem-solving, teamwork, project management, and time management skills.

Volunteer judges for the Best Waste Management Award this year were Kami Hessling and Jim Hessling. The Wisconsin APWA Chapter is proud to again sponsor this event along with presenting an award.

**We have to remember that these students will be our future and that they need support and encouragement to make the world a better place. Please consider mentoring students along with participating in next year's event to make their experience an even better one.**



Lastly, thank you to our 2025 event sponsors!

#### **Platinum sponsors:**

Centro Motion  
Rockwell Automation  
Brauer Engineering STEM Team  
Pieper Power  
We Energies Foundation

#### **Gold sponsors:**

Eaton  
Komatsu  
Harley-Davidson Motor Company  
MSOE  
Generac  
Milwaukee Tool

#### **Silver sponsors:**

Alliant Energy  
Astronautics  
APWA Wisconsin Chapter  
Ingeteam  
VJS Construction Services  
Sentry  
STEM Forward

# 35TH ANNUAL SNOWPLOW ROADEO

*Fleet Services Committee*

The Wisconsin Chapter is proud to support a great milestone - The 35th anniversary of the APWA Wisconsin Snowplow Roadeo, Training, and Equipment Showcase!

Spring in Wisconsin is getting closer, and while Winter may have been mild across the southern end of the state, the northern patrol workers are getting plenty of snow plowing practice for this year's upcoming Roadeo competition!

Great events are possible with great partners, including Truck Country, WI. who is stepping up strongly to support our great event again this year! A particular thank you goes out to all supporting Truck Country staff including Tony Bodway for helping us put on a great event for Wisconsin front line workers. The APWA's partnership with Fox Valley Technical College is back and stronger than ever, with the planned Roadeo, winter road maintenance training, technician training, and our equipment showcase being hosted at FVTC's great campus.

Planning for this year's event is like last year, with front line employee training, opening of the equipment showcase on August 13th, and the Roadeo competition occurring the next day on August 14<sup>th</sup>. 2025 is shaping up to be an interesting year with vehicle and equipment costs rising. However, we are proud to announce that we are keeping pricing locked in at \$40 for the driver competition which will include an official Roadeo hat, T-shirt, raffle ticket and lunch.

Last year's Winter Road Maintenance Operator certificate training was a success and will be back for this year. Mechanic training will again be led by Fox Valley instructors and the Winter Road Maintenance Operator certificate training is taught by some of the most experienced snow fighters in Wisconsin.

While this isn't our first Roadeo (no pun intended) we believe that with the Wisconsin chapters support is what elevates our event above others. We are surprised to find out that many states don't send their top two finishers to nationals - something that Wisconsin will proudly continue to do! 1st and 2nd place will take their shot at this year's Western Snow & Ice National Roadeo being held in Loveland, Colorado September 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

All vendors and manufacturers are invited 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. Last year's online vendor registration worked well and will continue for 2025. Pricing for booths will also stay locked in for this year with no increases for our 35th anniversary event:

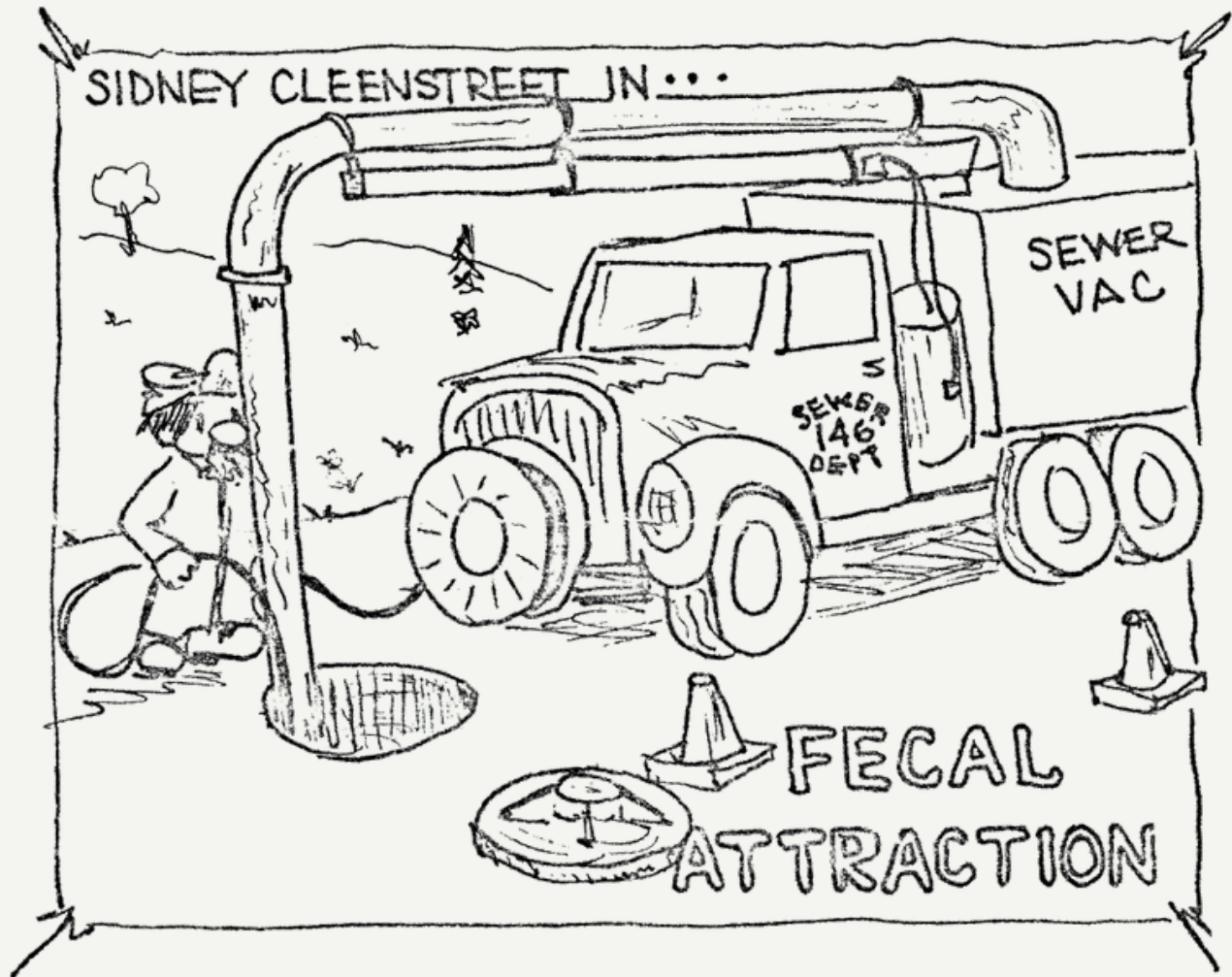
- 60 ft x 120 ft display area - \$600
- 30 ft x 60 ft display area - \$425
- 10 ft x 10 ft booth display - \$300
- Show date: August 14, 7:30 am - 2 pm

Tailgate Lunch: 12:00 p.m. Fox Valley Technical College. Lunch will be catered and served by FVTC adjacent to the vendor showcase and road course.

Don't want to drive and still be involved? There are plenty of opportunities to participate, including setup/take-down, and event judging. For details, contact Fleet Services Chair Nathan Wachtendonk.

## SIDNEY CLEENSTREET: FECAL ATTRACTION

Jim Blazek



## WISCONSIN SALT WISE & WINTER SALT WEEK 2025

Wisconsin Salt Wise continues to host its Wednesday webinars. These events happen via YouTube livestream and feature private contractors, facility managers, and more. Register in advance in order to receive more information about the event and a link directly to the livestream! Here's a glimpse into an upcoming webinar topic.

Additionally, be sure to visit the website to check out constantly updated information. Hope to see you at one of the webinars soon!

### WATER SOFTENING HACKS: MAY 7TH

Did you know that water softeners remove ALL minerals from water? While hard water can be a nuisance, water doesn't have to be completely mineral-free to reduce scale buildup. In fact, it's the norm in many places, including some European countries, to not soften down to zero hardness.

Blending valves are simple devices that divert a small portion of hard water around a water softener and mix it back into the water that has been softened, giving you the option to customize the level of hardness in your water. By using blending valves, you reap the benefits of softened water while reducing salt pollution in the local watershed.

## UPCOMING PUBLIC WORKS CLASSES

The Local Technical Assistance Program (formerly the Transportation Information Center) provides training, technical materials, and assistance to local agencies in Wisconsin and is part of the National Local Technical Assistance Program. LTAP is operated by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

### **PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISORY ACADEMY CERTIFICATE (PWSA)**

Offered in cooperation with APWA Wisconsin Chapter, this certificate is composed of 9, one day courses, for 54 class hours in total. By earning this certificate, you have the opportunity to learn more about and practice basic supervision and leadership skills in local public works organizations. You may enroll in individual classes without enrolling in the Academy or the Institute. Students may take Academy and Institute courses in any order, but the capstone course cannot be taken until all other courses have been completed. No academic experience is required to participate in either program.

### **PUBLIC WORKS MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE CERTIFICATE (PWMI)**

This certificate is composed of 90 class hours total, including 9 PWSA courses plus an additional 36 class hours that focus on more advanced management-oriented courses. The PWMI is an APWA approved Public Works Institute. To enroll, or get additional details about these programs, visit [our website](#).

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### Budgeting for Public Works

When: May 8

Where: Fond Du Lac, WI

(PWMI) Learn to prepare and analyze an operating budget and explore several alternative budget formats and their respective strengths and weaknesses. Review capital fund budgeting, including asset leasing and purchasing pools.

## BY THE WAY... MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2025 FALL CONFERENCE!

*Eric Dundee*

**Where:** University of Wisconsin-Platteville!

**When:** October 29-October 31, 2025

This conference will take us back to UW-Platteville after a successful conference a few years ago. We will again emphasize student and faculty interaction.

# APWA WISCONSIN CHAPTER OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| President                              | Shelly Billingsley<br>(262) 653-1870<br>shelly.billingsley@kenoshacountywi.gov |
| President Elect                        | Rick Eilertson<br>(608) 402-5862<br>rick.eilertson@aecom.com                   |
| Vice President                         | Kamron Nash<br>(262) 567-2757<br>pwdirector@summitvillage.org                  |
| Secretary                              | Genevieve Stollenwerk<br>(414) 768-8053<br>gstollenwerkasmwi.org               |
| Treasurer                              | Lee Igl<br>(608) 838-2387<br>lee.igl@mcfarland.wi.us                           |
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| Transportation, Utilities, & Right-of-Way | Pat Hawley<br>(262) 317-3204<br>pat.hawley@rasmith.com                 |
| Water Resources                           | Kristy Treichel<br>ktreichel@klengineering.com                         |

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## STANDING COMMITTEES CHAIRS, CONT.

|                            |   |
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