

OCTOBER 2026

NEWSLETTER

WISCONSIN CHAPTER APWA



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President's Corner—Charting Our Course and Building Wisconsin's Public Works Future

Chapter President, July 2026 to June 2027
Kamron Nash — Village of Summit

As we navigate the tail end of another busy construction season here in America's Dairyland, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible resilience and dedication of our Wisconsin Chapter members. From our smallest villages to our largest metropolitan areas, public works professionals across our state have spent the year transforming challenges into opportunities, upgrading vital infrastructure, and ensuring our communities remain safe, clean, and vibrant.

This summer marked a pivotal moment for our chapter's leadership. In **July 2026**, our Executive Committee and dedicated members gathered for our **Strategic Planning Retreat** in Elcho, WI. This focused session allowed us to step back from our daily operations, evaluate our impact, and build a proactive roadmap for the next chapter of [APWA Wisconsin](#). Through collaborative brainstorming and tough conversations about the landscape of public works, we solidified our operational vision and re-aligned our priorities to better serve you.

A direct and exciting outcome of our retreat is the official creation of our new **Government Affairs Committee**. Public works departments are heavily impacted by legislative changes, regulatory updates, and funding opportunities at both the state and federal levels. This committee was established to give our chapter a more proactive voice. It will be tasked with tracking key policy shifts, breaking down complex legislative updates, and advocating for the critical infrastructure investments our Wisconsin communities rely on. We want to ensure that public works professionals have a seat at the table when decisions are made, and this committee is a massive step forward in building that bridge.

Alongside legislative advocacy, our core pillars remain fixed on workforce development and fostering the next generation of leaders. We all know the challenges of the current labor market. Recruiting and retaining skilled talent in public works is one of the defining issues of our time. That is why the Wisconsin Chapter will work to find new ways to showcase public works not just as a job, but as a deeply rewarding lifelong career. We are also focused on promoting our [Emerging Public Works Leaders Program \(EPWLP\)](#) to ensure our rising professionals have the mentorship and concrete tools they need to step confidently into future leadership roles.

Innovation continues to drive us forward. Whether it is adapting to changing winter maintenance strategies, managing evolving stormwater regulations, or leveraging new technology for asset management, Wisconsin's public works departments are at the cutting edge. Our upcoming chapter conferences and technical sessions will focus heavily on these emerging trends, offering a space to share best practices and lessons learned from peers across the state.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in July's retreat, whether in person or by submitting critical feedback, as well as our committee members, event organizers, and corporate sponsors. Your volunteer hours and unwavering support are the engine of this chapter. To all our members, thank you for the vital work you do every single day, often behind the scenes, to keep Wisconsin moving forward.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming chapter events, including the [2026 Fall Conference in Onalaska, WI at Stoney Creek Conference Center](#). Let's keep building, collaborating, and leading the way.

Proudly serving as your Chapter President,

Kamron Nash, P.E.

President, APWA Wisconsin Chapter

262-567-2757

pwdirector@villageofsummitwi.gov



2026 FALL CONFERENCE



2026 Fall Conference Host: City of Onalaska

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28 TO
FRIDAY, OCT. 30**

**STONEY CREEK
CONFERENCE CENTER**

Hotel Rooms

Hotel rooms at Stoney Creek Hotel have been reserved for attendees. There are 80 rooms that were blocked under the block name "APWA". The Wisconsin Chapter goes to great lengths to ensure our conferences are of high quality and affordable. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.





October 28-30, 2026 2026 Fall Conference

The APWA Wisconsin Chapter Fall Conference will be held Oct. 28-30 in Onalaska. It will take place at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Onalaska. The Chapter has put great effort into creating a fun and engaging conference that includes various educational sessions and technical tours (Bike Tour and Mathy Lab Tour) that inspire further exploration within the field of public works. The conference planning committee has been thoughtfully crafting this event and is excited to welcome you to Onalaska in the fall!

Many long-standing activities will return, such as the golf outing, the get-acquainted party, YP networking event (held at the Crooked Pint), and scholarship banquet. The get-acquainted party will be held at the Omni Center where the local curling club will be providing lessons and the chance to get on the ice. There will also be a chance to play bingo at the Omni Center if that is more your speed. A shuttle will be provided from Stoney Creek to the Omni Center and back. On Wednesday, the first shuttle will leave Stoney Creek at 4:45p and the last shuttle will leave the Omni Center at 8:15pm and will run on a 20–30-minute loop.



For any details on the conference, registration, or reserving a room, contact the Conference Program Planning Chair Aaron Jahncke at (608) 849-6469 or ajahncke@waunakee.com, or check out the Wisconsin Chapter APWA website at [APWA Wisconsin Chapter Fall Conference – Onalaska, WI – APWA Wisconsin Chapter](#).

City of
Onalaska





M E E T O U R

EMERGING LEADER

Zach Topel

The Wisconsin Chapter of APWA is excited to introduce Zach Topel, PE, one of our newest participants in the 2026 Emerging Public Works Leaders Program and a member of the Wisconsin delegation attending PWX 2026.

Zach is a Civil Engineer with AECOM in Middleton, Wisconsin, where he has built a strong reputation for technical excellence, collaboration, and leadership. Since beginning his career with AECOM as an intern, Zach has grown into a key contributor on municipal and transportation projects involving stormwater management, utility infrastructure, roadway drainage, construction services, and water resources engineering.

Throughout his career, Zach has taken on increasing responsibility as a project leader, technical reviewer, construction coordinator, and mentor to younger staff. He is passionate about helping communities by delivering infrastructure improvements that enhance public safety, environmental stewardship, and quality of life. His work with municipalities across Wisconsin has allowed him to develop strong partnerships while gaining a broad understanding of public works challenges and opportunities.

As an Emerging Leader, Zach hopes to expand his leadership skills, strengthen his professional network, and learn from experienced public works professionals across the state. He is particularly interested in finding new ways to engage young professionals and support the next generation of public works leaders.

Please join us in welcoming Zach to the APWA Wisconsin Emerging Public Works Leaders Program. We look forward to seeing the positive impact he will make within our Chapter and the public works profession.

Communicating with Elected Officials: Understanding Their Side of the Equation

Keith Pugh — Former National APWA President (2022-2023)



If you've spent any amount of time in public works, you already know this truth: **technical competence alone isn't enough**. You can have the data, the analysis, and the best professional recommendation—and still walk away from a council meeting frustrated, confused, or disappointed with the outcome.

The disconnect usually isn't about intent. Most elected officials genuinely want to do the right thing for their community. More often, the challenge is **communication**—understanding how they receive information, what pressures they face, and how decisions look from their side of the dais.

As public works professionals, part of our job—whether we like it or not—is learning how to effectively communicate complex, long-term infrastructure needs to people who live in a very different decision-making world.

Start with trust, or nothing else matters

Effective communication with elected officials begins with **trust**. Without it, even the best technical analysis won't land.

Trust is built through transparency, consistency, and honesty—especially when the news isn't good. Elected officials don't expect perfection. They *do* expect timely, complete, and truthful information. Once trust is broken, it is incredibly difficult to restore.

That means sharing information early, not managing surprises at the council table, and being just as forthcoming with bad news as good. Over time, this builds confidence—not just in individual staff members, but in the public works organization as a whole.

Options, involvement, and ownership

One common mistake staff make is arriving with a single recommended solution and defending it at all costs. That approach often puts elected officials on the defensive.

Instead, effective communication is about **bringing options**.

Elected officials are ultimately accountable to the public for how money is spent and which priorities move forward. Providing clear alternatives—*do nothing*, *do something*, *do more*—respects that role. It allows them to weigh tradeoffs between cost, risk, service level, and timing.

When elected officials are involved early and given the opportunity to shape the decision, something important happens: **they gain ownership**. And ownership leads to better support, stronger advocacy, and more durable decisions when public pressure inevitably shows up.

Understanding how councils really work

Every council is different, but some realities are nearly universal.

Most council members live in a world of **executive summaries**, not technical reports. Few will read a full staff memo cover to cover. Many decisions are largely formed **before** the meeting begins. The council meeting itself often functions more as a public performance than a working session.

That’s why early communication matters so much.

One-on-one or small-group briefings—outside the public spotlight—give elected officials a chance to ask questions, admit confusion, and test their understanding. These conversations are invaluable. They reduce assumptions, prevent misunderstandings, and lead to more informed votes at the table.

And yes, councils will ask questions that are already answered in the staff report. That’s not a sign of disrespect. It’s a sign of how information is processed in a political environment.

Election cycles and “quiet time”

Election cycles matter—sometimes more than we want to admit.

During campaign seasons, even sound infrastructure decisions can become perceived “wedge issues,” especially if they involve cost, disruption, or long-term investment. Outside the election window, those same proposals might face little resistance.

Understanding this reality doesn’t mean compromising professional ethics. It means being strategic. Many agencies intentionally avoid controversial decisions during what some call “quiet time” around elections. Others reframe how options are presented to make them easier to explain and defend publicly.



Photo AI Generated

Either way, the takeaway is simple: **context matters**, and timing can be just as important as content.

Public pressure and human nature

Newly elected officials often arrive with high confidence, a strong sense of mandate, and limited appreciation for how complex infrastructure decisions really are. Some may make commitments they can’t keep. Others may take early positions before all the facts are available—the classic “ready, shoot, aim” approach.

Over time, most develop thicker skin and a better understanding of governance. Some never do.

Regardless of experience level, staff can help by meeting early, presenting balanced information, and creating space for learning before public positions harden. That preparation benefits everyone—elected officials, staff, and ultimately the community.

When councils underperform

Not every council functions at its best. Some are fragmented. Some are dominated by personalities. Some struggle with misinformation, power imbalances, or inconsistent direction.

Underperforming councils create real challenges for staff, particularly when long-term infrastructure planning requires alignment, discipline, and follow-through.

In these situations, clarity becomes essential. Summarizing direction quickly, documenting decisions, and clearly outlining costs, timelines, and impacts are critical. And whenever possible, these conversations should happen away from the public arena. Public embarrassment rarely produces better outcomes—and often carries career consequences for staff.

Information is power—use it wisely

Information can be empowering, or it can be weaponized.

For councils to function effectively, information must be shared **consistently and equitably** across all members. When some receive details early and others don't, mistrust grows and dysfunction follows.

Regular briefings, coordinated through the manager's office, help ensure everyone is working from the same set of facts—especially during election periods where communication must be handled carefully.

Municipal size matters

Communication dynamics change dramatically based on municipal size.

In smaller communities, mayors and council members often have closer relationships with residents—and closer involvement in operations. That proximity can blur roles, especially when staff wear multiple hats and elected officials become the first stop for service complaints.

In these environments, communication with elected leadership—particularly mayors—becomes even more important. Done well, it strengthens alignment. Done poorly, it creates confusion and conflict.

The power of storytelling

At the heart of all of this is storytelling.

Public works professionals are the subject-matter experts, but expertise alone doesn't move decisions. We have to translate complexity into stories that make sense—stories about outcomes, consequences, and community values.

Good infrastructure stories:

- Are brief and focused
- Avoid jargon and acronyms
- Use visuals instead of spreadsheets
- Show future impacts, not just current conditions
- Present consequences of action *and* inaction

Elected officials need stories they can retell—to constituents, to the media, and to themselves.



Photo AI Generated

Equity and the long view

Infrastructure decisions are fundamentally about **equity**.

Every time we defer maintenance, delay investment, or choose short-term savings over long-term responsibility, we shift the burden forward—to future residents, future leaders, and future taxpayers. That is a generational equity issue.

Communicating this clearly is part of our responsibility as public servants. Good infrastructure stewardship isn't just about today's budget—it's about fairness across time and across communities.

Closing thought

Effective communication with elected officials isn't about winning arguments. It's about building trust, fostering understanding, and helping leaders make informed decisions that serve the whole community—today and tomorrow. That responsibility doesn't end at the council table. It extends to the next generation of professionals who will inherit the systems we manage.

As my dad used to say—and as public works professionals should strive to live by:

Leave Things Better Than You Found Them.

New Chapter Government Affairs Committee Amplifies the Voice of Public Works

Eric Dundee — Committee Chair



The Wisconsin Chapter is proud to introduce its new **Government Affairs Committee**, created to advance APWA's mission of promoting the value of public works to government leaders, community stakeholders, and the public.

The committee is dedicated to **being the voice of public works for policymakers and decision-makers** at the local, state, and federal levels. Open to both APWA members and non-members who share a passion for advocacy, the committee serves as a non-partisan forum focused on educating leaders and strengthening support for the public works profession.

To help ensure strong communication across the Chapter, each technical committee is encouraged to appoint a liaison to the Government Affairs Committee. These liaisons will help identify emerging legislative and regulatory issues affecting their respective areas and keep members informed of advocacy efforts.

Meeting quarterly, the committee will work to identify and advance public policy priorities while encouraging members to actively participate in the legislative and regulatory process. A key focus will be building and strengthening relationships with elected officials throughout Wisconsin and in Congress to ensure public works perspectives are heard and understood.

The committee is already looking forward to supporting and expanding several important initiatives, including:

- Promoting the Governor's Proclamation recognizing **National Public Works Week**
- Coordinating with partner organizations and associations on federal legislative activities
- Organizing a **Wisconsin Public Works Lobby Day**
- Collaborating with allied organizations on policy and advocacy efforts impacting public works, including the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, Wisconsin Salt Wise, the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and many others.

Whether you are interested in legislation, advocacy, public policy, or simply helping tell the story of public works, the Government Affairs Committee offers a new opportunity to make an impact. Together, we can strengthen the voice of public works and ensure our profession remains at the forefront of conversations that shape our communities.

If you would like to be a member of this committee, please reach out to Eric at ericd@madsewer.org.



MESSAGE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!
ericd@madsewer.org



SNOW PLOW ROADEO

What better time to think about snow plowing than a sunny, 80 degree day in the form of the 36th annual APWA Snow Plow Rodeo!

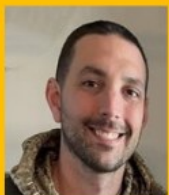
Fox Valley Technical College has graciously allowed us to hold our event there for the last handful of years and they did not disappoint for 2026! Many thanks go to the staff at FVTC including Community Engagement and Event Planner Teresa Tuschl and all those involved who provided awesome customer service for our event.

The top two finishers will attend the National Rodeo being held in conjunction with the APWA Western Snow & Ice Conference held in Loveland, Colorado. Being able to send people to represent our fantastic public Works first responders in this state is one of the biggest drivers for us to put on this event year after year!

Putting together a successful event comes down to thorough planning and great partnerships. We want to thank Lakeside International who was our main sponsor this year. Many thanks to all the vendors involved that were able to participate, and we can't forget the countys and municipalities that are able to send operators for the day of fun and friendly competition! We have a great list of vendors who support our event and provide staff for judging including 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.

Fox Valley Technical College has a large facility, and there is plenty of room for our road course and vendor display. This year, the use of an added patrol wing 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

RESULTS ARE IN



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stop watch timing for each competitor. The final results for the Snow Plow Competition are:

- 1st Place and Bragging Rights—Brian Burg (Calumet County)
- 2nd Place—Steve Allen (Village of Ashwaubenon)
- 3rd Place—Matthew Didiee (City of Port Washington)
- 4th Place—Jason Bartz (Ozaukee County)
- 5th Place—Brandon Roffers (City of DePere)



Special thanks you to the Lakeside International who supplied newly built Casper's Equipment single axle trucks. Special Shout out to Brooks Tractor who sponsored the backhoe course and supplied the equipment for the competition.

Backhoe 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 for developing challenging obstacles. The results for the Backhoe Competition are:

- 1st Place—Adam Kernz (Calumet County)
- 2nd Place—Nathan Ginter (Calumet County)
- 3rd Place—Jake Klopp (City of Port Washington)

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



Honoring Public Works

PUBLIC WORKS *Pride*



From left to Right: John Brunner and Greg Brunner

When John began planning his woodworking project for the Racine County Fair, he wanted to create something that was both challenging and meaningful. His finished project became a thoughtful tribute to the men and women who work in Public Works—especially his dad, Greg Brunner (Kenosha County—Highway Division—APWA Member since 2023).

Using careful craftsmanship and attention to detail, John created a patriotic American flag display featuring a dark, charred wood field with raised white stars and alternating natural and stained wood stripes with the orange stripe symbolizing Public Works. His project reflects both creativity and pride, while also recognizing the hardworking employees who keep roads, facilities, equipment, and essential County services operating every day.

For John, the project was more than a woodworking entry. It was an opportunity to honor the kind of work he sees firsthand through his dad's career in DPW. Public Works employees often work early mornings, late nights, weekends, holidays, and difficult weather conditions to respond to community needs. Whether they are maintaining roads, supporting snow and ice operations, repairing equipment, caring for County facilities, or assisting with emergency response, their work makes a difference throughout the year.

Greg was proud to stand beside John and his project at the fair, where the display represented the dedication of DPW employees and the family support behind the work they do. The project also serves as a reminder that public service has an impact beyond the workplace. It inspires the next generation to appreciate hard work, craftsmanship, community service, and the people who help keep local government operations moving.

Congratulations to John on a well-crafted First Place Racine County Fair project and on the recognition he earned for his work. Thank you to Greg and all DPW employees for the service, commitment, and pride they bring everyday.

Wisconsin Public Works Responds: A Call for Help Answered

When the APWA WI Chapter issued a request for assistance following the tornado impacts in the Fox Valley, public works professionals across Wisconsin responded immediately.

The need was clear: impacted communities required additional collection trucks and staff to help remove storm-related garbage from neighborhoods. What followed was a powerful example of the public works profession at its best—municipalities stepping forward to support one another, sharing equipment and personnel, and focusing on the residents who needed help.

Within minutes of the outreach being distributed, Oshkosh began receiving commitments of trucks and staff. Although several Fox Valley communities had already been contacted individually, the broader APWA request quickly expanded the response. In approximately two hours, commitments were secured for at least 20 trucks and supporting staff.

During a Friday morning planning session, some of the affected communities were understandably uncertain whether a coordinated collection effort of that scale could be assembled so quickly. When the group reconvened just a few hours later, the response from communities across Wisconsin exceeded expectations.

Ultimately, the plan was refined to just under 20 trucks from eight communities. The City of Menasha and the Village of Fox Crossing provided staff at the rally point to coordinate incoming crews and equipment, while the Volunteer Resource Center organized volunteers to assist with collecting bagged material from curbside locations and loading it into the trucks.

The collection effort was a success. According to James Merten of the City of Menasha, crews were able to collect garbage throughout the planned service area—and extend collection beyond it to assist additional residents.

The Village of Fox Crossing also expressed its appreciation. Jeff Sturgell, Village Manager, was extremely complimentary of the response and expressed amazement that the public works community was able to mobilize the resources needed so quickly.

This effort demonstrates what makes public works unique. Our work is local, but our commitment to one another extends well beyond municipal boundaries. When a community is faced with an emergency, public works professionals understand the operational challenges, recognize the urgency, and respond with the equipment, staff, experience, and determination needed to make a difference.

APWA's call for help was answered by communities throughout Wisconsin. The result was more than a successful collection event—it was a reminder that the public works profession is built on service, collaboration, and a shared responsibility to help communities recover.

James Rabe, the City of Oshkosh—Director of Engineering and Utilities wanted to thank every municipality, public works employee, volunteer, and partner organization that contributed to this successful effort. Your response made an immediate and meaningful difference for the Fox Valley communities affected by the tornado.

*Thank
you* 





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



16th ANNUAL SUMMER GOLF *Outing* 2026 RECAP



On July 22, APWA WI hosted our 16th annual scholarship golf outing at Washington County Golf Course in Hartford, WI. We had 60 registered golfers for the event. The outing ended up raising \$3,170 for the scholarship fund. APWA WI would like to thank everyone who attended this event in support of the scholarship fund and every company who sponsored a hole. A special thanks to Jennifer Barlas of Baxter and Woodman for attending and running a golf game at the turn that raised an additional \$275 for the scholarship fund.

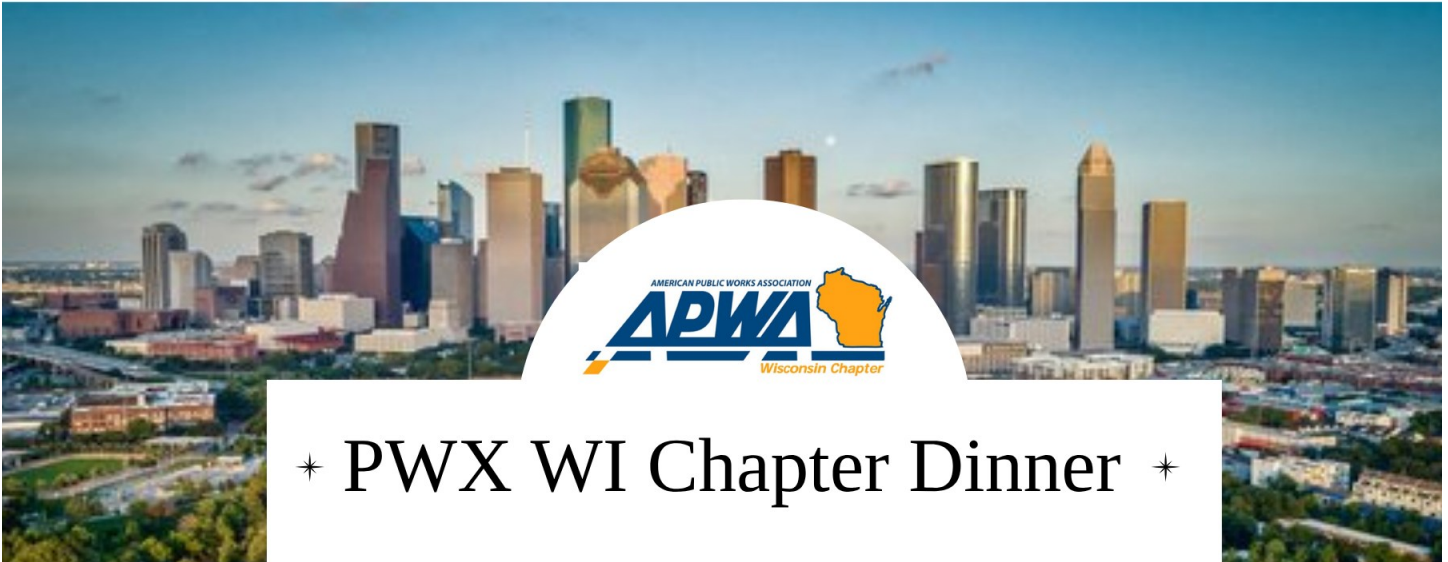


2026 Golf Sponsors



2026 Drink Cart Sponsors





* PWX WI Chapter Dinner *

The APWA Wisconsin Chapter enjoyed a great turnout for its annual dinner during PWX in Houston, with approximately 28 members and guests attending. The gathering took place at Osso & Kristalla, just a few blocks from the conference center, providing a perfect setting to connect with colleagues and friends from across the state.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious Italian meal while sharing conversations, networking, and catching up on industry news and chapter activities. The event was made possible with the generous support of drink sponsors Trotter and Associates, Baxter & Woodman, and MSA.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening an enjoyable and memorable part of the PWX conference experience. We look forward to seeing you at future APWA Wisconsin Chapter events!



2026 Sponsors





7TH ANNUAL YP BASEBALL & TAILGATE OUTING

Ela Lodzinski—YP Committee Chair

8

BREWERS

VS

6

CUBS

AMERICAN FAMILY FIELD

On Wednesday, September 9, 2026, the APWA Wisconsin and Chicago Metro Chapter YP Committees hosted their 7th Annual Brewers vs. Cubs Game and Tailgate at American Family Field. The event brought together 104 APWA members and their families for an evening of tailgating, baseball, and, as always, plenty of friendly Brewers-Cubs rivalry.

The evening kicked off with tailgating, featuring plenty of great food courtesy of our grill master extraordinaire, Jake Brunoehler, cold beverages, and great company. Once everyone was fueled up and ready for the game, the group headed into the stadium for first pitch.

The Brewers came out swinging, securing an early 8-1 lead thanks to home runs from Jackson Chourio and William Contreras, along with a strong start from pitcher Logan Henderson. Just when it looked like Milwaukee had the game comfortably in hand, the Cubs scored five runs in the ninth inning, turning the game into a real nail-biter. With the tying run at the plate, the Brewers secured the final out to escape with an 8-6 victory and completed the series sweep of Chicago.

We could not have made this event such a success without the generous support of our sponsors. A huge thank you goes out to the APWA Wisconsin Chapter, Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers, Casper's Truck Equipment, Ferguson Waterworks, HMG Engineers, PaveDrain, and Trotter Associates for helping make this evening possible.

Seven years in, this event continues to be a great tradition for the Wisconsin and Chicago Metro Chapters. We look forward to keeping the friendly rivalry alive and doing it all again next year!



Help Preserve APWA WI Chapter History for our 75th Anniversary Yearbook

As the APWA Wisconsin Chapter prepares to celebrate its **75th Anniversary (2029)**, we are creating a commemorative yearbook to recognize the people, projects, events, and accomplishments that have shaped our Chapter and the public works profession.

We are looking for **photos, newsletters, event materials, and other historical items from 2000 through 2026**. Whether you have pictures from a Chapter conference, awards banquet, snow conference, golf outing, committee meeting, equipment demonstration, public works project, or a candid photo of members working together, we would appreciate the opportunity to consider them for the yearbook.

We are also seeking copies of the following Wisconsin Chapter newsletters:

- April 2006
- January 2006
- April 2007
- January 2007
- July 2008
- July 2012
- October 2012
- April 2014
- October 2014
- July 2014
- July 2015
- April 2015

Your contribution can help tell the story of the APWA Wisconsin Chapter—from the dedicated professionals who have served our communities to the projects, partnerships, and friendships built over the past 75 years.

Please look through your office files, personal collections, old photo albums, and electronic records. Even if you are unsure whether an item is useful, please submit it. Historic photographs and newsletters are often the best way to preserve the details, faces, and milestones that may otherwise be lost.

Thank you for helping us celebrate the APWA Wisconsin Chapter's 75 years of service, leadership, and commitment to public works.

If you have any items, you are willing to share, please email them to:

Shelly Billingsley at newsletter@wisconsin.apwa.org.



CALL FOR

Nominations

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.

2027 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 must 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, 2026

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](#)

2027

MEMBER AWARDS – DUE January 31, 2027

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.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR – DUE January 31, 2027

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, 2027

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](#).

Stronger Together: Support the Wisconsin APWA Chapter through 2027 Sponsorships

Kamron Nash, P.E. — Chapter President



The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) is officially launching its annual sponsorship campaign, inviting member organizations and industry partners to invest in the future of public works.

As our communities grow and face new infrastructural, environmental, and budgetary challenges, the need for robust professional development and collaboration has never been greater. Wisconsin APWA serves as the backbone for local public works professionals, providing the education, networking, and advocacy needed to keep our state moving forward. However, we cannot do this work alone.

Why Your Sponsorship Matters

Sponsorship is more than a charitable donation; it is a direct investment in the local public works community. Your financial support directly funds:

- **Education and Training:** High-quality technical workshops, leadership academies, and CEU-eligible seminars that keep our workforce skilled and compliant.
- **Scholarship Programs:** Financial assistance for the next generation of civil engineering and public works students attending Wisconsin universities and technical colleges.
- **Networking Events:** Spring and Fall conferences that bring together hundreds of municipal leaders, contractors, and consultants to share best practices.
- **Chapter Advocacy:** Supporting initiatives that raise awareness of the critical role public works plays in daily life across Wisconsin.

2027 Sponsorship Activities and Benefits

The Wisconsin Chapter offers the following sponsorship opportunities, each designed to maximize your visibility and impact:

- **Annual Chapter Sponsor (\$1,000/year):** Sponsorship of all chapter events, including all the benefits of conference sponsorship; website exposure for entire year.
- **Conference Sponsor (\$500/event):** Poster display at conference as an event sponsor; conference program and website acknowledgement for two months after conference.
- **Rodeo Sponsor (Various):** Includes poster display at the event as a sponsor; conference program and website acknowledgement for two months after the Rodeo. Other sponsorship opportunities available on sponsorship enrollment form.
- **Summer Outing Sponsor (Various):** Includes recognition at the event (sponsor boards, cart flyer) along with recognition on the event webpage. Summer event sponsor also includes one-hole sponsorship. Other opportunities available on sponsorship enrollment form.
- **Special Events (Event Specific):** Recognition at special events. Opportunities include YP events, Chapter Dinner at PWX, etc.

Secure Your Sponsorship Today

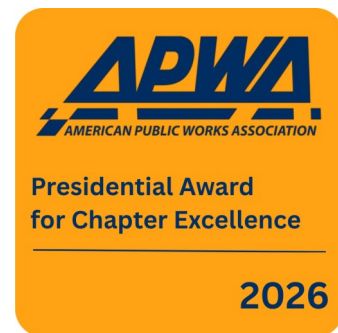
By becoming a Wisconsin APWA sponsor, your organization demonstrates a clear commitment to the infrastructure and safety of our local communities. You also position your brand directly in front of key decision-makers, municipal engineers, and public works directors across the state.

To view the complete benefits package and submit your registration, please visit the [Wisconsin Chapter website](#) or contact Rick Eilertson, 2026-2027 APWA WI Chapter Past President, at rick.eilertson@aecom.com

Let's continue to build a stronger, more resilient Wisconsin together.

Celebrating Excellence: APWA Wisconsin Chapter Wins 2026 PACE Award

Many Wisconsin APWA members had the opportunity to celebrate the Wisconsin Chapter's 2026 Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE) at PWX in Houston. The national recognition reflects the Chapter's continued commitment to professional development, member engagement, advocacy, and advancing the public works profession throughout Wisconsin. It was a proud moment to share with colleagues from across the state and the country. This is the Chapter's 21st consecutive year in securing this award!



APWA NATIONAL HONORS

**PROJECT OF THE YEAR:
TRANSPORTATION - LESS THAN \$5M
CTH DD BUFFALO LAKE CAUSEWAY RESTORATION
MARQUETTE COUNTY**



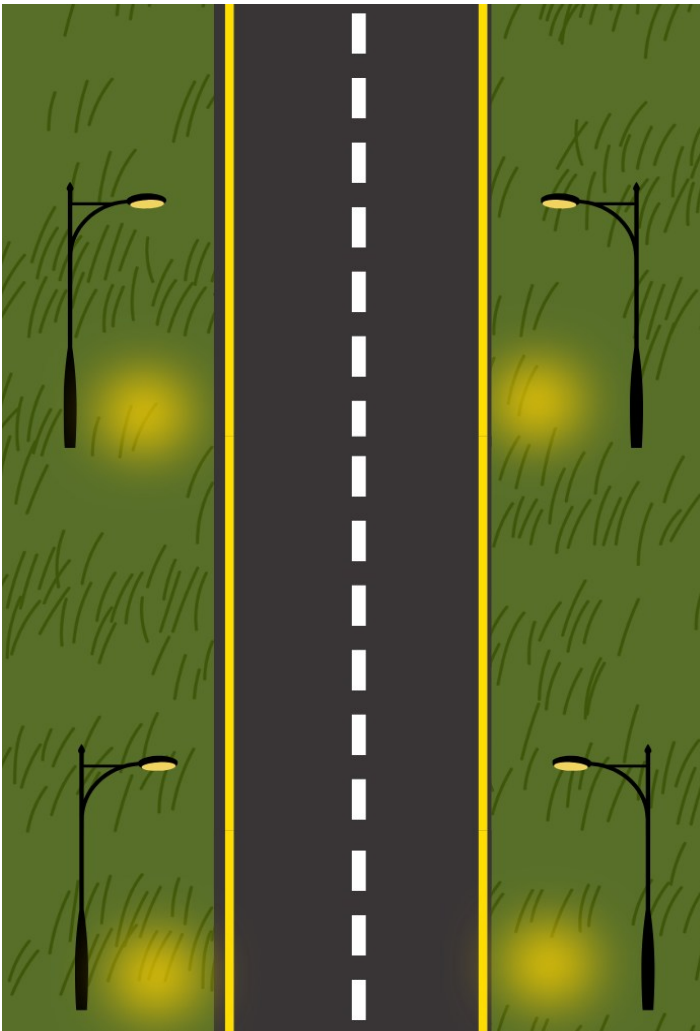
From left to Right: Scott Grayson (APWA CEO), Brian Trebiatowski (Marquette County), Brad Domasky (KL Engineering), Bill Biesmann (KL Engineering), Mike McConnell (Kopplin & Kinas Co. Inc) and Vic Banes (APWA President)

**PROJECT OF THE YEAR:
SMALL CITIES / RURAL COMMUNITIES- DISASTER
BUCKLEY PARK CRITICAL STORM SEWER REPAIR
VILLAGE OF WHITEFISH BAY**



From left to Right: Scott Grayson (APWA CEO), Maxine Miller (Village of Whitefish Bay), and CJ Beyer (Clark Dietz, Inc.) and Vic Banes (APWA President)

Announcements



NATIONAL MOVE OVER DAY

Saturday, October 17

Men and women were recognized throughout the state who are dedicated to Public Works while working inches from moving traffic every day to keep our roads safe, clear and connected.

When you see flashing lights, safety vests or stopped equipment please remember

Wisconsin Move Over Law:

SLOW DOWN. MOVE OVER. GIVE THEM ROOM.

#MoveOverWI

SNOWPLOW DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

TBD - early December



To the snowplow drivers working through the night, in every storm: thank you for keeping our roads clear, our families safe, and our communities moving. We appreciate your skill, stamina and service.

Today we celebrate the men and women behind the plows. Your early mornings, late nights and careful passes make all the difference.

Thank you for your dedication!

#ThankAPlowDriver

photo courtesy of istockphoto



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 4, 2026**
Submit to: 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

Join the WI APWA's Social
Media on LinkedIn



1886

From Horse-Drawn Blades to Modern Road Maintenance

This historic photograph shows the first Champion road grader, introduced in **1886**. Early road graders emerged in the late 1800s as a practical way to shape and maintain unpaved roads. The earliest designs, introduced around **1879**, consisted of a steel blade suspended from a wooden farm wagon.

The Champion grader advanced that concept by incorporating lever controls that allowed the operator to adjust the blade while working. Pulled by a team of horses or mules, the grader helped road crews crown roadways, move material, smooth ruts, and improve drainage—essential tasks for maintaining safe and passable roads before modern motorized equipment.

This equipment represents an important chapter in the history of public works: the innovation, skill, and commitment to roadway maintenance that laid the foundation for today's highway operations.



Image obtained from Public Works Historical Society

HONORING OUR PAST...

ON THE CALENDAR

October 28—30	2026 Fall Conference	Onalaska
November 7	Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award Application Deadline	

2027

January 31	Chapter Awards Application Deadline	
April 18—21	APWA North American Snow Conference 2027	Des Moines, Iowa
April 28—30	2027 Spring Conference	Green Bay
TBD	Golf Outing	
TBD	Snow Plow Rodeo	
August 24— 25	APWA PWX 2027	Phoenix, Arizona
TBD	WI APWA Chapter Dinner at PWX	
TBD	WI Chapter Baseball Outing Brewers vs. Cubs	

2028

April 23-26	APWA North American Snow Conference 2028	Spokane, Washington
August 27-30	APWA PWX 2028	Minneapolis, Minnesota

JULY 2026—JUNE 2027

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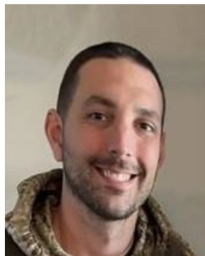
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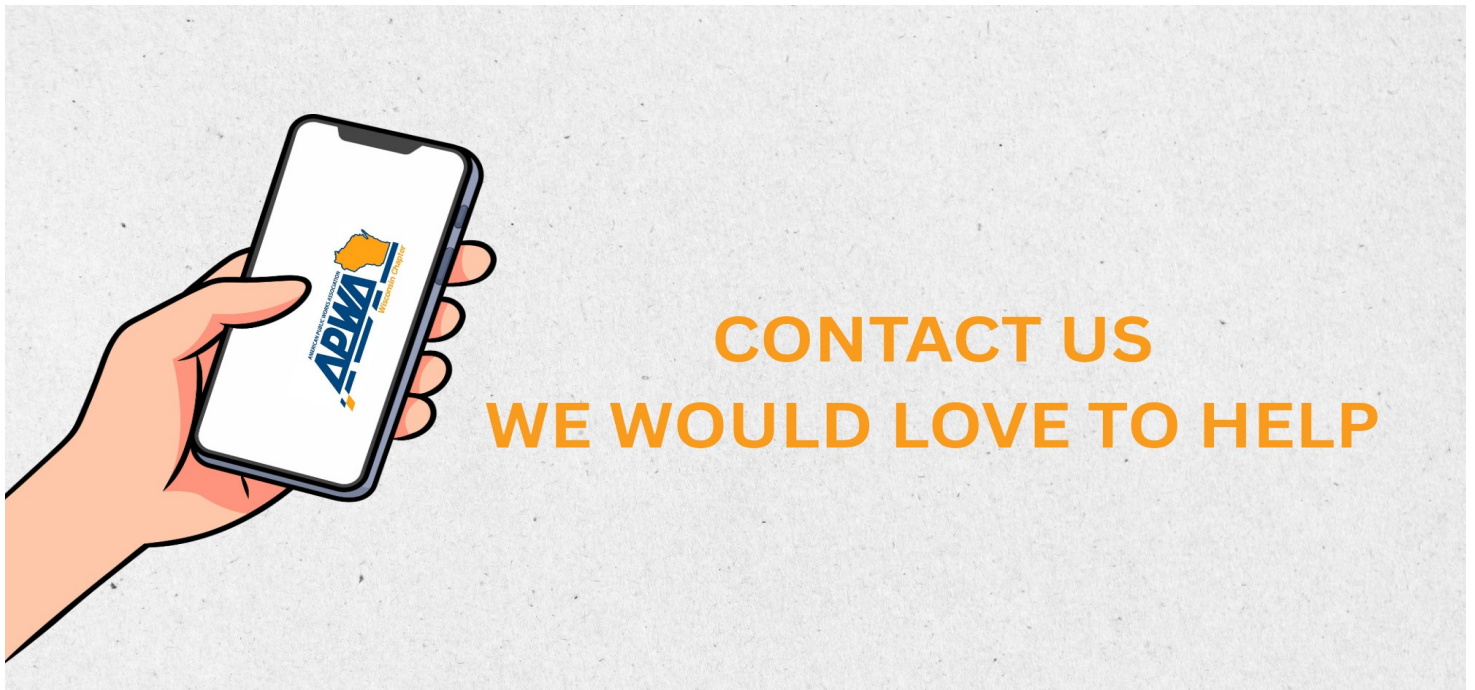
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TAKEAWAYS

- The roles and expectations matrix builds

WI APWA NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2026

(workflow aids, follow-up sessions, etc.)

PWX

APWA WISCONSIN TAKES ON HOUSTON!



FROM MADISON TO HOUSTON: SHARING SEWERAGE DISTRICT SUCCESS

(Eric Dundee presented at the PWX Conference in Houston)

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