

Mankato Public Works Department receives inaugural Environmental Stewardship Award

In 2009, the APWA-MN Awards Committee, in conjunction with the Environment and Sustainability Committee, jointly developed a new award recognizing those who are working hard to protect the environment. Award criteria are:

- A sustained effort that demonstrates a commitment by a group, individual or organization to environmental conservation or protection.
- Benefits to the community and to the environment.
- Consideration of public works values, including cost-effectiveness and long-term operation and maintenance.

We recognized our first-ever recipient of the award, the Mankato Public Works Department, at the Fall Conference. Nominated by Public Works Director Mark Knoff, the city demonstrated a high level of commitment to the environment in a multitude of areas, including wastewater, drinking water, solid waste, and energy.

In 2007, the city received the Chapter's Project of the Year Award for constructing the state's first water reclamation facility. Reclaimed wastewater is pumped to the Mankato Energy Center to be used as cooling water in a four-pass cooling system. The water is then returned to the reclamation facility for final treatment and discharge, greatly reducing the impact on aquifers.

The city uses a regional approach to the treatment of wastewater, treating wastewater from a number of neighboring agencies. Through this process, area lakes, rivers, and streams are improved by removing discharge points and creating a single discharge point for better management.

Last fall, the city completed a National Biosolids Certification Program (NBP), making them the first NBP-certified facility in the state. They have implemented a solid waste program and a free, curb-side leaf pickup policy, where the leaf refuse is recycled and composted and used as a soil amendment. Both have significantly reduced the amount of waste that ends up in landfills.

Energy efforts include taking a common-sense approach to managing facilities. Starting with several low-cost improvements that included the installation of programmable thermostats, motion sensors, and insulation, each facility was evaluated for usage and operational neces-

sity. Heating was shut down in some facilities for several months with minimal impact, and a Solatube day lighting system was installed at the water treatment plant, completely removing the need for indoor lighting during daytime operations. All have contributed to some facilities seeing an energy reduction of 50 percent.

Mankato is building their streets narrower, in an effort to reduce needed resources both at the time of construction and later to maintain the street. Asphalt is being reclaimed from overlay projects for use as a base course and seal coat sweepings are reused for use in pothole patching, both of which are reducing additional needed resources.

Congratulations to Mark Knoff and the Mankato Public Works Department for their stewardship in protecting and conserving the world around us!



Left to right: Dan Gage, APWA-MN Past President; Mark Knoff, Mankato Public Works Director; Bernie Fasnacht, City of Mankato; Mary Fralish, City of Mankato; Sherri Buss, TKDA

Submitted by Amy Grothaus
 APWA-MN Director/Vendor-Contractor

Calendar of Events

March 30	Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Event (Chanhassen, Coon Rapids or Eagan)
April 18-21	APWA North American Snow Conference (Omaha, NE)
April 20-21	Spring Maintenance Training Expo (St. Cloud)
May 12-14	APWA-MN Spring Conference (Nisswa)
May 16-22	National Public Works Week
June 4	APWA-MN Scholarship Deadline
June 8-10	APWA Sustainability in Public Works Conference (Minneapolis)
June 25	Public Works Night at the Saint Paul Saints baseball game
July 19	Summer Golf Outing (subject to change)
Aug. 15-18	APWA Congress (Boston, MA)
Oct. 6-7	Minnesota Fall Maintenance Expo (St. Cloud)
Nov. 17-19	APWA-MN Fall Conference (Brooklyn Center)

For the latest information or to register for training opportunities, visit the APWA-MN Chapter website at minnesota.apwa.net.

Welcome new members

APWA-MN welcomes our newest members:

- **Joseph Dubel**, Bonestroo
- **Melissa Girtz**, RtVision, Inc.
- **Thomas Girtz**, RtVision, Inc.
- **Stan Hanson**, Bonestroo
- **Mitchell Hoeft**, City of Golden Valley
- **Matt Mohs**, Bonestroo
- **Joe Palen**, Bonestroo
- **Russ Stammer**, Bonestroo
- **Douglas Trangsrud**, Bonestroo
- **Keith Yapp**, Bonestroo

We've gone green!

Here it is, our first electronically-distributed edition of the *Chalkline*!

As we noted in the last issue, the Chapter has approved moving ahead with this effort to help both the environment and our budget. Although most other association newsletters are now distributed electronically almost exclusively, we are continuing to print and distribute hard copies of the newsletter to members who don't have current e-mail addresses noted with APWA.

Please update your APWA profile with an e-mail address if you would like to receive notification and a link when the *Chalkline* is posted on the APWA-MN website, or let **Kathy Warren** know if you would prefer to receive a hard copy in the mail.

We are also focusing our communication efforts on upgrading our website, as well as looking at social media options. The website will continue to develop as we work within the new APWA's web template, and we recommend checking in regularly with the site to see the improvements.

Also, please check out APWA's "We Are Public Works" social media site at www.wearepublicworks.org. Although we won't be moving quickly into Twitter or Facebook, we are supporting this APWA effort and would like you to consider joining with us.

Please let us know your thoughts about our communication efforts (email: jrodeberg@sehinc.com).

Thank you for supporting our communications efforts and this initiative to help the environment and our budget!



Submitted by **John Rodeberg**
Chair, Communications Committee

Chalkline is a quarterly publication of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA-Minnesota Chapter). Publication dates are March, June, September, and December. Articles for the Summer 2010 issue may be submitted for consideration by May 21 to **Kathy Warren** at kwarren@usinternet.com. Past issues of the *Chalkline* are available in PDF format on the APWA-MN website at minnesota.apwa.net.



APWA-MN President
Dave Hutton

Message from the President

As we close the calendar year on 2009 and begin the new decade, I am extremely honored and humbled to be elected as your president of the Minnesota Chapter of APWA, and I look forward to serving our almost 900 members. I would like to thank the past president, **Dan Gage**, for his strong leadership and guidance for the last year. Nice job, Dan!

I am writing this during another Minnesota blizzard and as I look out my window at the beauty of the new fallen snow on the tree tops, I am reminded that our dedicated public works professionals are the best in the country at moving snow and taking care of ice. These hardworking and dedicated men and women of public works work tirelessly to make sure businesses stays open, the economy keeps rolling, and folks are able to move around and be safe during some of the nastiest weather of the year. At every level — state, county, city, etc. — they do not hesitate to get out at all hours of the day, weekends, and holidays, to clear our streets and highways when other parts of the country would be paralyzed. It is truly amazing if you think about it. For that, I would like to thank all the unsung heroes of Minnesota winters — the public works snow fighters.

I look forward to another great year for the Minnesota Chapter and working with the new Executive Committee. We have big shoes to fill, as set by all the leaders who have come before us as we continue to be recognized as one of the strongest chapters nationally.

But our overriding goal is to serve you — our members. Our main mission is to train and educate public works professionals. And we have lots of opportunities for you to get involved and participate, such as:

- The Spring and Fall Conferences.
- Technical Tours.
- The many education programs our Education and Training Committee has developed, such as the Leadership Academy, the public works certificate program, and the underground utility inspectors school.
- Our outstate workshops, currently being held in Rochester and Mankato.
- Our social activities and volunteer opportunities, and our new social media efforts.

All of our various committees are working hard to provide members with opportunities to learn and grow, network with peers, and celebrate public works achievements. All we need is for you to pick one or two of those activities in which to participate.

The true strength of our organization is our members. Please stay active and stay involved. And, as Mike Veeck said at our Fall Conference, you have to have a little fun along the way or it's really not worth the journey.

It is shaping up to be a fun and exciting year for the Chapter. I hope to see a strong Minnesota presence at the national Congress in Boston in August. I know in today's economy and with all the budget cuts, professional organizations and training often compete with other organizations. But APWA and all its resources is one organization that truly encompasses all that we do to serve the public and maintain our quality of life.

Dave Hutton, APWA-MN President

APWA roundtable addresses media relations practices, needs

APWA in February held a Media Relations Roundtable Discussion at APWA headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. The meeting brought together public works directors and public works communications staff from around the country to formulate media training specific to the needs of public works officials.



APWA Media Relations Roundtable

Participants were from Olathe, KS; Kansas City, MI; Roswell, GA; Grants Pass, OR; Sioux Falls, SD; Cote Saint-Luc, Quebec, Canada; Los Angeles, CA; and Saint Paul, MN.

APWA staff included Peter King, executive director; Laura Bynum, media relations; Brian Van Norman, chapter relations; and Mabel Tinjaca, professional development director.

Prior to the discussion, APWA sent a media relations survey to public works directors asking how media inquiries are currently handled, their perceived effectiveness when dealing with the media, the types of methods currently used, and where they think they fall short.

The directors' primary response was that they deal with the media only when they have to, and that most agencies do not have someone organizing their media efforts, and, in fact, they dedicated less than 10 hours a month to media-related issues.

The meeting included discussion of traditional print and television media, as well as new forms of social media. There was no consensus on using social media. We learned from our survey that most agencies do not have a media policy, let alone a clause covering social media usage.

Formulating specific media training for public works officials was the goal of the meeting, and based on the outcome of the meeting APWA now has direction on what the need is and where it can provide training. Look for media training sessions, including videotaping of mock interviews with critiques from professional media consultants, at future APWA Congresses. Additionally, "Click, Listen and Learn" sessions will be offered where participants will get advice from other public agency communications specialists. APWA might also create and post press release and media alert templates on its website.

At the beginning of the meeting we were asked to tell where we were from, the size of our agency, and the population we serve. The communications director for Los Angeles Public Works, Cora Jackson, put everything in perspective when she said they serve 3.9 million!

**Submitted by Shannon Tyree
City of Saint Paul**



Left to right: Peter King, APWA executive director; Shannon Tyree, City of Saint Paul; Laura Bynum, APWA media relations

Delegate's Report:

Greetings from your new Chapter Delegate! The first House of Delegates meeting is not until April 17, so I'll do my best to update you on news from around the region and at the national level.

Big news! The 2012 Congress is in the process of being relocated from Indianapolis to Anaheim, California! So, if you've reserved your room in Indianapolis, I would suggest that you make other arrangements.

The 50th Anniversary of the North American Snow Conference is April 18-21 in Omaha, NE.

Members are encouraged to submit photos or stories of significant snow and ice events over the past 50 years for display during the conference. If you have items to submit, contact me for more information.

The "First Time Member" campaign will continue in 2010. Anyone who has not previously been a member can join APWA for \$70. This is a great opportunity to get others in your organization involved in APWA!

National Public Works Week is May 16-22. Members use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing, and operating the heart of our local communities and building the quality of life. This year's theme is "Public Works: Above, Below, & All Around You." The theme speaks to the all-pervasive effort of public works professionals and their projects, bringing quality of life and the necessities of community to the citizens of the world.

Get certified! APWA offers three certification programs: Certified Public Fleet Professional, Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector, and Certified Storm-water Manager. Being connected with and certified by APWA ensures competent, experienced, and well-trained employees. The pay-off is to the public works industry and, ultimately, to our communities by providing recognized hiring and promotion standards that will lead to an improved workforce and delivery of services. Paper and pencil exams are offered annually at APWA's International Congress and Exposition. Computer-based exams are offered quarterly at over 170 testing centers in the United States.

The APWA Sustainability in Public Works Conference will be held in Minneapolis, June 8-10. The conference is designed to explore and promote the evolving role of public works professionals in the creation of sustainable communities.

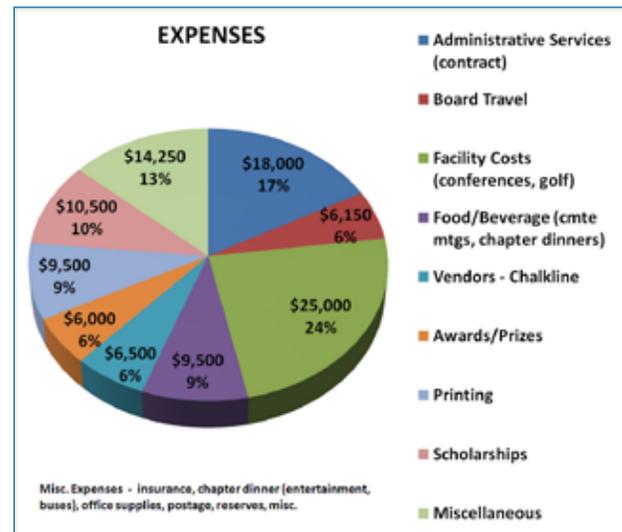
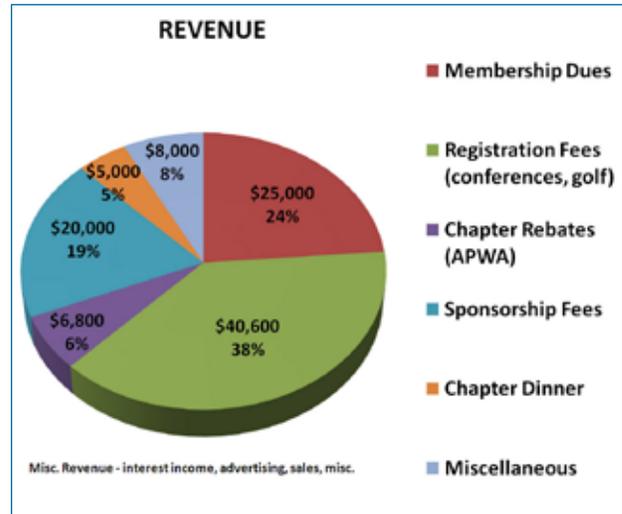
Please contact me if you have any questions or items that you would like me to take to the regional House of Delegates meeting in April. Email: apopenhagen@stevensengineers.com. Phone: (651) 436-2075.

Submitted by Angela Popenhagen
APWA-MN Delegate

Treasurer's Report:

Below is the APWA-MN Treasurer's Report dated Feb. 19, 2010, and two charts that break down the Chapter's expenses and revenue.

I. ASSETS	12/10/09	2/19/10
a. Cash/Bank Accounts		
HCFU Savings	\$5.05	\$5.06
MPWA Checking	\$2,311.99	\$6,319.97
MPWA Money Market	\$34,516.96	\$11,546.49
Petty Cash	\$292.76	\$0.00
Total Cash/Bank Accounts	\$37,126.76	\$17,871.52
b. Investments		
APWA Merrill Lynch Fund	\$67,013.91	\$75,274.06
Total Investments	<u>\$67,013.91</u>	<u>\$75,274.06</u>
Total Assets	\$104,140.67	\$93,145.58
II. LIABILITIES		
	0	0
OVERALL TOTAL	\$104,140.67	\$93,145.58



Submitted by Jeannine Clancy
APWA-MN Secretary/Treasurer

Public Awareness Committee to address safety issues

A Mn/DOT snow plow operator was rear ended by a semi tractor-trailer in February on Interstate 90 in Southeast Minnesota. He was clearing snow in the left lane and operating a tandem axle truck and using both his front plow and wing plow. The crash was the fourth in two days in the Rochester District and the tenth for Mn/DOT during the event.

The operator said, "I was checking my mirrors and saw the semi approach in the distance. I assumed he was in the right lane. I wasn't creating a snow cloud. The next thing I knew, my truck lurched forward and I was pushed 300 feet down the road into the median ditch."

All the high intensity strobe warning lights were on and functioning, and the operator was only doing his job and doing it well. The semi driver said he saw the truck and thought he had room to go around. Both trucks received heavy damage and the only injuries were to the Mn/DOT operator who suffered the effects of whiplash.

This story is similar to others that happen every day somewhere in Minnesota. Our operators are subjected to the dangers inherent with working on our streets and roadways such as passing motorists who are dangerously unaware of our existence and distracted by using cell phones or reading. One of our folks even saw a young lady balancing her checkbook while driving during this same event when our truck was damaged.



The APWA-MN Chapter has established a Public Awareness Committee led by Russ Matthys from the City of Eagan. The committee membership is made up of dedicated professionals from consulting firms and city, county, and state supervisors and managers who all share the same goal of making our roads safer on which to drive and to work. That is a pretty lofty goal, but any and all efforts we develop and implement will help us raise safety awareness.

The committee is planning to reach out to all who have a potential impact with educating the public, such as our AFSCME, 49ers, Teamsters, MAPE, and other labor unions; engineering organizations such as ASCE, ACEC, MSPE, and others; consulting firms; state agencies and organizations; and schools starting with Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and continuing through drivers education for seniors. We intend to reach the trucking industry, civic organizations, and clubs such as the Lions and Kiwanis through an already established Speakers Bureau. We also plan to work with lawmakers in the Legislature and Senate to garnish their support of changes in legislation. And we hope to get the safety message to the public through our efforts and that of the media.

It is a far reach to get to everyone who uses our public transportation system, but the committee will do everything it can to get the message out. We are committed to reaching the goal and helping to make a difference.

Submitted by Dave Redig
APWA-MN Director/Outstate

Batter up!

Ahhh, summer and baseball. They're both just around the corner.



Please join us **on Friday, June 25 at 7 p.m. for Public Works Night** at the **Saint Paul Saints baseball game** against the dreaded Wichita Wingnuts.

APWA-MN is working on a package deal that will include general admission, pop and a hot dog, souvenir items, fun and frolic, and support for our public works programs — all at an unbelievable price! We will be tailgating before the game in the parking lot of Midway Stadium.

We want to fill the stadium with public works folks and their families! More details to follow. Spread the word! Keep your eyes open for a formal invitation in your e-mail.

APWA-MN Scholarship applications due June 4

Yes, it's free money for college. But it's not just about the money. It's about jumpstarting a career.

Scholarship applications will be distributed in March to colleges and technical schools for the 2010-2011 school year. Deadline for application submittal is June 4, 2010.

If you know an interested student or intern, you can request an application by contacting: Daniel Fick, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101-1805. Phone: (651) 602-1061. Email: daniel.fick@metc.state.mn.us. (Please specify if you need a college or technical school application.)

Each year, APWA-MN awards:

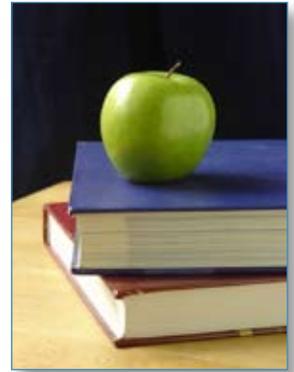
- One \$1,500 college scholarship (Dewey Kasma Scholarship).
- Four \$1,000 college scholarships.

- Four \$750 technical school scholarships.

Students must be a junior or senior in a college's civil engineering or public works administration program, or entering their second year of a technical school's public works related program (i.e. forestry, water treatment, waste water treatment, fleet management, engineering technician, or surveying).

Preference is given to APWA-MN members, their spouse or dependents.

**Submitted by Daniel Fick
Chair, Scholarship Committee**



Educational opportunities available for public works

As we begin to prepare our funding requests for our 2011 budgets, please think about your staff development, succession planning, and your future public works leaders. In addition to spring and fall conferences, the following staff development opportunities are available:

- **The Leadership Academy** provides practical knowledge, tools, and skills public works professionals need to manage effectively. Partnered through Hamline University, it provides 90 hours of training, meeting one and a half days a month for seven months. Class size is 25 students, and targeted toward emerging and current leaders in the public works field. It runs from October to May, allowing the program's \$2,600 cost to be spread across two budget years. Learn more at www.hamline.edu/business/graduate/mnwpa/index.html.
- **The Public Works Certificate Program** provides future supervisors with the broader picture of public works and its interactions with other departments and agencies. Partnering with North Hennepin Community College, the 22-credit program consists of four semesters of public works classes and two semesters of English classes; a total of 320 hours. Tuition is about \$180 per credit or \$720 for each of the four-credit public works courses. Learn more at www.nhcc.edu/mainProgramsAndMajors/ProgramsAndMajors/PublicWorks.aspx.
- **The Underground Utility Inspector School (UUIS)** consists of eight half-day classes held once a month from October to May. Class size is limited to 25 students. Tuition cost is \$490, which includes a copy of the APWA construction inspection manual.

In addition, the APWA-MN Education and Training Committee has been working with Hennepin Technical College to develop and support two new public works curriculum programs:

- **The Civil Engineering Technology Program** is a collaborative effort between Dakota and Hennepin Technical Colleges. Classes will be held at both the Hennepin County Technical College's Eden Prairie campus and the Dakota County Technical College's Apple Valley campus. Graduates of this two-year, 72-credit program will receive an A.A.S. degree in civil engineer technology. Tim Gillette is the program director. Learn more at www.dctc.edu/future-students/programs/civil-engineering.cfm.
- **The Public Works Maintenance Program** is offered at the Hennepin Technical College Eden Prairie Campus. This one-year, 32-credit program is intended to prepare students to enter a career in public works. Students can choose to specialize in parks and recreation, utilities, street maintenance, and general maintenance. Mike Colestock is the program director. Learn more at www.hennepin-tech.edu/future/programs/service/public.htm.

Please support these two programs by recommending them to individuals who are interested in the field of public works, and interviewing interns and graduates from the two programs for vacancies in your department.

**Submitted by Tom Montgomery
Chair, Education & Training Committee**

IDEA CENTER

MnWARN enhances recovery of utility systems from disasters

The Minnesota Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MnWARN) provides a forum for establishing and maintaining emergency contacts. It also provides a utility with access to specialized, certified, and knowledgeable utility personnel. The assistance afforded to member communities under the MnWARN agreement is provided across jurisdictional boundaries in the event of a declared emergency. There is no cost to participate and there is no obligation to respond to other members' requests for aid.

The effort to establish the system in Minnesota began over two years ago by a diverse group of state and local agencies. To date, almost 100 Minnesota cities have become MnWARN members. Minnesota is one of many states to have implemented such a network following the lead of Texas, Florida, California, and several other states.

Advisory member agencies that have played a key role in crafting the mutual aid agreement, bylaws, and standard operating procedures include the League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association, Minnesota Rural Water Association,

Minnesota Department of Homeland Security, Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association, and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association.



The backbone of MnWARN is the mutual aid agreement and protocols, which allows responders to expedite their arrival to provide aid in the event of an emergency, knowing that issues of indemnification, workers compensation claims, and compensation provisions to protect participating utilities are already in place.

The MnWARN website (www.MnWARN.org), hosted by the Minnesota Rural Water Association, contains detailed information, including membership applications, bylaws, the mutual aid agreement, district director contact information, a joint policy statement, current member list, and more.

If you have any questions about MnWARN, or would like to have someone contact you to discuss the organization further, please contact the Region Director closest to your city (for contact information, visit: www.mnwarn.org/directors.htm).

Submitted by **Bob Cockriel**
City of Bloomington

*Have a good idea to share with your colleagues? How did you solve a problem?
From simple fixes to complex solutions — please share your strategies.
Email your contributions to Kathy Warren at kwarren@usinternet.com.*

A note of thanks:

We received the following thank-you note from Steve Grossman, an APWA-MN Scholarship recipient:

Thank you very much for the \$1,000 scholarship. It will help a lot with the many costs of going to school!

Spotlight On: APWA-MN Board officers and members



Jeannine Clancy, APWA-MN Secretary/Treasurer, has been Golden Valley public works director for 12 years. Previously, she spent time in the New Hope Public Works Department and worked as a Project Manager for the Capital Projects Management Division for Scottsdale, Arizona.

Jeannine and her husband, Mark, will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary this spring. Their daughter, Shannon, attends Benilde-St. Margaret's and stays active in soccer, swimming, and track. With family located throughout the country, Jeannine enjoys travelling and trips to the cabin on Leech Lake. She also loves long walks with her dog, Gracie.

Jeannine has been active in Chapter activities since returning from Arizona 15 years ago. She's been involved in the 2005 Host Congress Committee, the Executive Committee as a past director, and the Conference Planning Committee.



Klayton Eckles, Director/Engineer-DPW, is currently employed with the city of Woodbury, having previously served the cities of Stillwater, Mendota Heights, and Maple Grove. His professional accomplishments include receiving the APWA Environmental Project of the Year, CEAM Project of the Year, and DNR Friend of the Environment.

He has also advocated for the creation of the NPDES Guide Plan by the League of Minnesota Cities.

Klayton is married to Joanna, "the Bird Woman" (you'll have to ask him what that means!). They have two children, ages 11 and 9. He enjoys rock climbing, board games, bird watching, and native plant gardening. He is a co-founder of the St. Croix Oaks Savanna Chapter of Wild Ones. He plays bike polo and says that you have to trade in the horse for a beater bike to play the game!



Jon Erichson, APWA-MN Outstate Director, has been employed with the city of Austin for the past 31 years. He ran for the Director position after many years of personally benefiting from the programs and educational benefits of the organization. He feels strongly that outstate program planning is beneficial for the public works employees who aren't able to attend our existing programs.

Jon and his wife, Jean, have been married for 29 years. They have two grown children who have graduated from college, and are gainfully employed and making their homes in Austin. Although his free time is stretched thin, he enjoys sports and many of his lunch breaks find him at the local gym. He also enjoys hunting and fishing, and looks forward to sharing these experiences with his first grandson, Noah.

On his list of adventures, Jon will complete his first RAGBRAI (Bike Ride Across Iowa) since turning 50, and has plans to pursue the Turkey Grandslam, which will take him hunting from Florida to Kansas to Nebraska and back to Minnesota this spring.

Susan Mason, APWA-MN Director, has been employed with SEH, Inc., for 24 years. She previously was with Mn/DOT.



Her family includes her husband, Mark; two teenagers, Lucas, 15, and Rachel, 17; and their black lab, Jett. This year they have a third teenager, Mathilde, 17, an exchange student from Norway. Sue likes skiing, hiking, gardening, cooking, and standing outside at kid's cross country ski and running meets.

Sue's chapter activities include serving on the Conference Planning Committee, volunteering at past local Congresses and Snow Conferences, and participating in the Feed My Starving Children volunteer event.



David Redig, APWA-MN Director/Outstate, has been with Mn/DOT since graduating from high school, some 40-plus years. Dave is a member of the Executive Committee for the Middle Management Association representing Mn/DOT, and

serves on the Parish Council of his church and as president of its Men's Club.

Dave has been married to his wife, Linda, for 38 years. They have a 32-year-old daughter, who is the mother of their one and only, fantastic 6-year-old grandson, and a 17-year-old son with a straight "A" average.

Dave started a pre-school t-ball organization and works with kids ages 3-6 teaching the basics of baseball. He says it's amazing how much a little person can learn over the course of a summer season.

Plow drivers hone their skills at 2009 MN Fall Expo

More than 2,300 maintenance workers, supervisors, vendors, and other inquisitive individuals attended the Minnesota Fall Maintenance Expo and Snow “Roadeo” competition held in October at the St. Cloud Public Works Facility.

Sessions started with a lively presentation by John McClellan, Mn/DOT Freeway Operations Supervisor on freeway madness and responder safety. John discussed the benefit of the RTMC traffic cameras that often “see it all,” as well as common crash causes and self-preservation when working near traffic.

Other educational sessions covered sign retro-reflectivity requirements, winter maintenance chemicals, and winter clean up, as well as information on managing stress and change, and “playing well with others” — a discussion of operator challenges presented by Gary Rankin and Matt Dolan with the City of West Des Moines, Iowa.

More than 115 vendors displayed the latest road machinery, plow blades, safety wear, and signage, materials for environmental challenges, and salt and road maintenance products.

The traditional Snow “Roadeo” competition included more than 100 talented snowplow operators who put their skills to the test on a course simulating snowplow challenges such as avoiding mailboxes, curbs, barricades, as well as backing and making tight turns while avoiding these objects.

The top 10 drivers for 2009 were: (1st) Judd Zellner, City of Waite Park; (2nd) Mark Weyer, City of St. Cloud; (3rd) Mark Meyer, City of White Bear Lake; (4th) Mike Dittel, City of Oakdale; (5th) Shannon Wolff, Wright County; (6th) Mark Hanson, City of Minnetonka; (7th) Bruce Bersie, Wright County; (8th) Kevin Snyder, City of Eden

Prairie; (9th) Bryon Rhode, Anoka County; and (10th) Mike Schmidt, City of Eden Prairie. The top two drivers are invited to compete at the Wisconsin Expo held in the parking lot of Lambeau Field in Green Bay each September. The top Wisconsin team is also invited to compete at the Minnesota Fall Expo.

The two lowest times for the ever-popular skid steer competition (a timed event) went to Eric Rydeen, City of Shoreview; and Doug Kolles, City of St. Michael.



The top four Roadeo drivers

Left to right: Judd Zellner, Waite Park; Mark Meyer, St. Cloud; Mark Meyer, White Bear Lake; Mike Dittell, Oakdale

All award winners were recognized at the annual MSSA Awards Luncheon in November.

The 2010 MN Fall Maintenance Expo will be held October 6-7. Vendor and registration information will be available in the spring at www.mnfallexpo.com.

**Submitted by Kathy Warren
MN Fall Expo**

CET Program is seeking internships, survey data, and completed infrastructure plans

The Dakota and Hennepin County Technical Colleges' Civil Engineering Technology (CET) program will have 18 students this summer looking to complete a required 96 hour internship program. Second-year students are required to complete capstone design projects.

The CET program is looking for electronic survey data for the students to work from and completed plans for the instructors to check the students' progress.

If you are able to help by providing internships or survey data and completed plans on of your infrastructure projects, please contact CET program instructor **Tim Gillette** at (651) 423-8308 or Tim.Gillette@DCTC.edu. Additional information about the internship and capstone project requests is available on the APWA-MN website at minnesota.apwa.net.

**Submitted by Tom Montgomery
Chair, Education & Training Committee**

News Around Town

Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.

Aaron Fornshell has been hired as an engineering intern in the Grand Forks, ND, office. Aaron earned his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of North Dakota (UND) and is currently completing his masters degree in civil engineering at UND, with an environmental emphasis.



Jordan Grasser has been hired as a design engineer in the Grand Forks, ND, office. Jordan earned his master of science and bachelor of science degrees in chemical engineering from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND. Prior to joining AE2S, Jordan worked for SUNSRISE Renewables, Inc., as a process design engineer where he performed process vessel sizing, process design, and process optimization.



Kristen Lotvedt has been hired as a design engineer in the Grand Forks office. Kristen earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from North Dakota State University. Prior to joining AE2S, Kristen was civil engineer for Leo A Daly in Omaha, NE.



Jason Schuler has been hired as an information technology (IT) intern in the Grand Forks, ND, office. Jason is a native of Grand Forks, ND, and is currently a junior at the University of North Dakota majoring in Information Systems. His work experience includes interning at the United States Border Patrol in Grand Forks, ND.



Sheryl Todd has been hired as an administrative assistant in the Bismarck, ND, office. Sheryl is a native of Boise, ID. Prior to joining AE2S, Sheryl worked as an administrative assistant for Ulteig Engineering.

Howard R. Green Company

Rob Choals has joined the St. Paul office as a technical advisor leading Instrumentation and Controls (I&C) projects from design through construction, including system construction assistance oversight, and developing process control narratives for the SCADA control system. Additional responsibilities include project management of Landfill Gas to Energy Projects.



Andrew McGovern has passed the professional engineer exam in the state of Minnesota. McGovern joined HR Green in 2005 and has experience in surveying, construction observation, stormwater modeling/design, road design and engineering services on a variety of projects.



Minnesota County Engineers Association

Don Theisen, P.E., Washington County engineer, is the 2009 County Engineer of the Year, as awarded by the Minnesota County Engineers Association (MCEA), at the 65th Annual Conference Awards Banquet held January 19, 2010. Theisen's experience previous to Washington County includes serving as county engineer in Chisago County and Dakota County. He is active in national, state, regional, and local transportation committees, including past-president of MCEA.

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.

Sue Mason, PE, was recently promoted to lead the firm's Municipal Engineering Practice in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota. With more than 28 years experience, Sue will lead the 82-person group from the St. Paul office. She will continue to serve SEH's clients as well as expand the group's reach into the upper Midwest.



Share your news in News Around Town

All APWA-MN member agencies, firms, and departments are welcome to share their latest news. Please contact *Kathy Warren* at kwarren@usinternet.com.



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