

## Spotlight on new APWA-MN Board members

### Bryan Bjorgaard, APWA-MN Director (Outstate),



is director of public works for the city of Alexandria, a position he has held for five years. He joined APWA-MN four years ago. He serves on the Chapter's Conference Planning Committee. He received the Chapter's Young Member Stipend to attend the 2011 Congress in Denver. He is a graduate of Hamline's Leadership Academy and was selected to serve on the Minnesota GO Steering Committee for the League of Minnesota Cities. He

is a volunteer with the United Way, and...did somebody say GOLF?

### April Crockett, APWA-MN Director-State/County



**Agency**, is the west area engineer for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. She has been with MnDOT for three years. She joined APWA-MN nine years ago, and serves on the Chapter's Conference Planning Committee and Website Development Task Force. She is a member of the MN2050 Initiative. She enjoys being active with her 3 and 5 year-old kids, as well as running, golfing, snowboarding, traveling, and boating. She volunteers at Rum River Elementary

School and Faith Lutheran Church.

### Mark Hansen, APWA-MN Director-Consultant,



has worked at SRF Consulting since his graduation from college 11 years ago. He joined APWA-MN five years ago and has served as chair of the Chapter's Awards Committee for four years. He has coordinated and prepared the Chapter's PACE application since 2008. In 2009, Mark worked with the Environmental Committee to establish the chapter's Environmental Stewardship Award. He is a member of the

Communication Committee. In 2009, he received the first-ever Chapter Young Member Scholarship to attend the Congress. Mark and his wife, Andrea, have a 15-month-old daughter, Emily. Hobbies include playing guitar and banjo, and home improvement projects. He has volunteered numerous times with his church and the Chapter to package meals at Feed My Starving Children.

### Wayne Houle, APWA-MN Director-DPW/City Engineer,

has been with the city of Edina for 15 years. He is director of public works/city engineer. He has been active in APWA-MN for 17 years. He volunteered at the 2008 APWA Congress and with the St. Bernard project. Wayne is a member of CEAM and MSPE, and a past member of the CEAM Winter Conference Planning Committee. He enjoys spending time with his family, running, biking, and sailing.



### John Rodeberg, APWA-MN Secretary/Treasurer,

has been employed with SEH, Inc., for five years. Prior to SEH, John was the city engineer/public works director for the city of Hutchinson. He has been active in APWA-MN for 22 years. He has served as chair of the Communications



Committee, director (Outstate), and past chair of the Outstate Planning Committee. John was named CEAM Engineer of the Year (2002), is a Past President of CEAM, and past chair of the Municipal Screening Board. He has been heavily involved in research as a member of the LRRB, RIC, and LTAP Steering Committees. He was recognized with the Partnership MN Award and Governor's Commendation for HATS Facility, and named "Favorite Public Employee" by the local newspaper while employed with Hutchison. He is a professional musician, vice-chair of the RiverSong Music Festival Board, and sits on the Hutchinson Parks/Recreation/Community Education Board.

## Calendar of Events

March 29	Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Events
April 25	Executive Committee Meeting
April 26	Technical Tour: Lowry Avenue Bridge
May 9-11	APWA-MN Spring Conference
May 20-26	National Public Works Week
June 13	Executive Committee Meeting
June 14	Education & Training Committee Meeting
July 12	APWA-MN Summer Golf Outing

For the latest information or to register for training opportunities, visit the APWA-MN Chapter website at [minnesota.apwa.net](http://minnesota.apwa.net).

## APWA-MN volunteers



The mission of Feed My Starving Children, a non-profit Christian organization, is "feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit." The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and we ship the meals to nearly 70 countries around the world.

This is the fourth year APWA-MN will participate in packing meals for Feed My Starving Children. Volunteers will be helping at the Coon Rapids and Eagan locations on March 29.

Both locations are currently full, thanks to the generosity and involvement of APWA-MN members. Thank you for volunteering!

## Tour the Lowry Avenue Bridge site, April 26

The Technical Tour of the Lowry Avenue Bridge Site in Minneapolis is tentatively set for April 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Lowry Avenue Bridge is an important transportation corridor and neighborhood connection in Minneapolis. Hennepin County started the design process for bridge replacement in 2007. The bridge was closed in 2008 due to known structural issues and demolished in June 2009.

This exciting project involves the construction of a new cable-stayed, tied-arch bridge over the Mississippi River and the Canadian Pacific Railroad.



Artist rendering of the Lowry Avenue Bridge

The new, 1,575-foot bridge is supported by two piers in the river, steel cables running through the bridge deck, and 36 cables connecting the bridge's main span to 90-foot-high steel arches. The cable-stayed, tied-arch design relies on support from above and below.

Following the tour, the group is invited to network at Tony Jaros' River Garden located at the east end of the Lowry Avenue bridge.

**Submitted by Justin Messner  
Membership and Special  
Events 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 2012 issue may be submitted for consideration by May 25 to *Kathy Warren* at [kwarren@usinternet.com](mailto:kwarren@usinternet.com). The *Chalkline* is available in PDF format on the APWA-MN website at [minnesota.apwa.net](http://minnesota.apwa.net).



Jeannine Clancy  
APWA-MN President

## Message from the President

In December, the Executive Committee met at the Old Historic Courthouse in Stillwater for the Chapter's annual strategic planning session. The group included all of the incoming and outgoing officers and directors, as well as committee chairs. It was a really productive and enjoyable time. The Old Historic Courthouse, which is a wonderful facility managed by Washington County Public Works, has become the traditional setting for our Chapter's year-end meeting courtesy of our host, **Don Theisen**.

Bonnie Morey, a facilitator from SEH, worked with our group to identify some of the most important issues facing our Chapter, determine the tasks to go about addressing the issues, and assigned champions to help guide and steer a group who is committed to working on the issue.

In keeping with our Chapter's Vision Statement: The Minnesota Chapter is the recognized leader in public works education, advocacy, and building better communities. Here is our work plan for 2012:

**Identify and Develop a Plan to Meet the Chapter's Support Needs.** We have tremendous support from volunteers who make our Chapter the vibrant organization that it is. We currently contract for administrative support, conference planning, and bookkeeping services. This strategic planning group, led by **Lee Gustafson**, is identifying outstanding support needs and will formulate a plan to best meet those needs.

**Review Conference Structure and Make Recommendations for 2013.** **Jupe Hale** and **Bob Cockriel**, Conference Planning co-chairs, are working with a group of members who will evaluate our approach to planning conference topics, as well as the number of conferences and the location in which they are held. Given that our conferences are a primary opportunity for learning and networking, and revenue from the conferences helps sustain operations, this discussion is of significant importance to the Chapter.

**Expand and Enhance Educational Opportunities.** **Tom Montgomery** will be working with the Education and Training Committee to determine if there are additional training needs that are currently not being met, review methods of delivering training sessions using new technologies, look to increase opportunities for training in greater Minnesota, and review how our programs align with national certifications and accreditations.

**Enhance Chapter National Involvement.** Our Chapter is the eighth largest in the nation, and is recognized nationally for our local programs and activities. **Angela Popenhagen** will look into opportunities to once again host the APWA Congress and the Snow Conference, continue our successful national awards program, and work with our members to share ideas in APWA's publications.

**Continue to Support MN 2050.** This initiative, supported by the Chapter, is serving as a model of cooperation among organizations that support investment in public infrastructure. It is apparent that the initiative would benefit from being fully integrated into the Chapter's long-range planning. **Dan Gage** will work with the group to help keep the Minnesota Chapter involved in this important endeavor.

**Develop and Implement a Broad Communication Plan.** This group, led by **John Rodeberg**, **Brian Bourassa**, and **Eric Eckman**, will be working to evaluate and improve our website. They will also review the Chapter's existing email distribution system, the *Chalkline*, and look at the opportunity for tapping into social media to enhance communication.

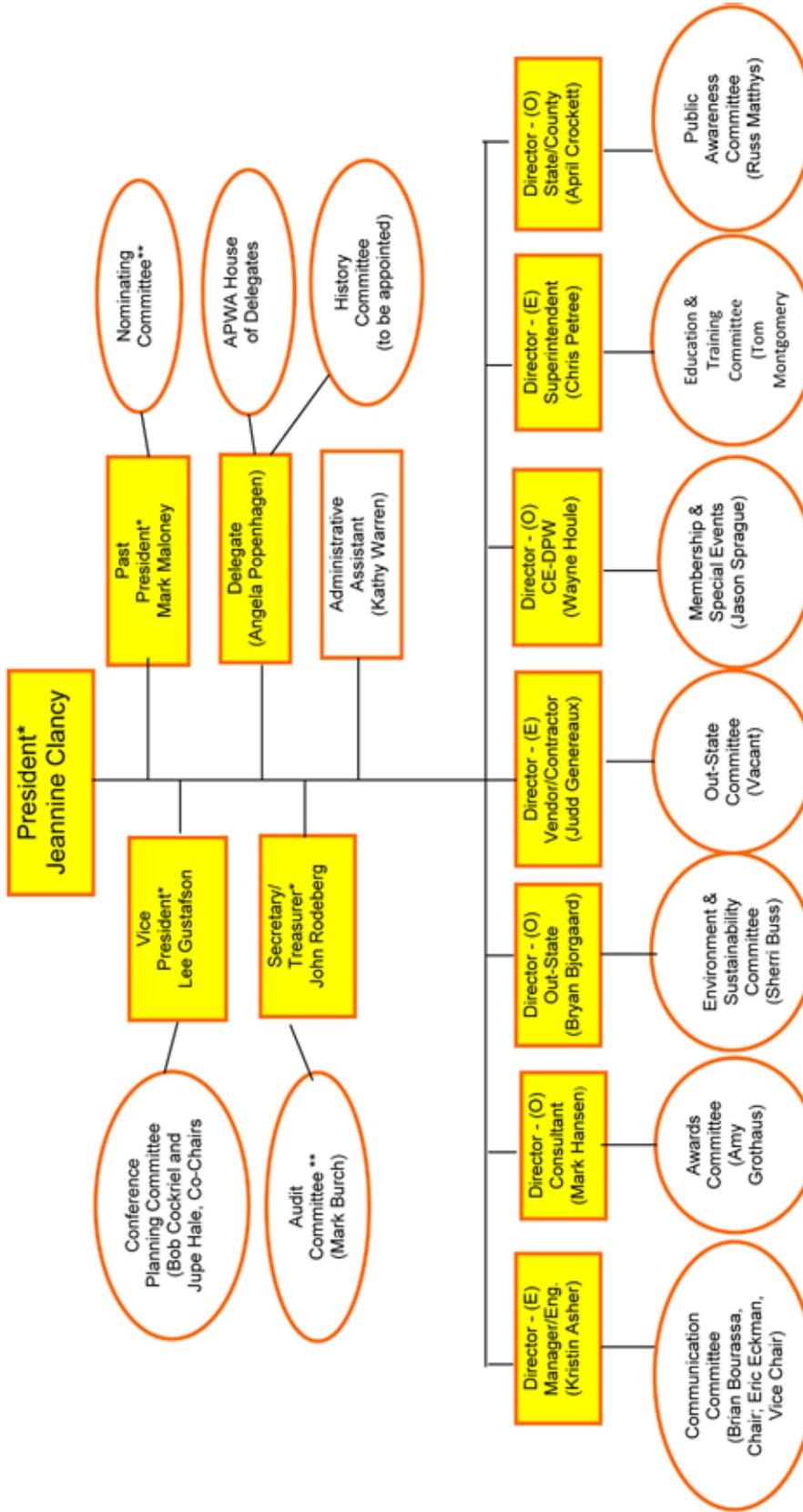
**Review Committee Structure.** Led by **Mark Maloney**, this group will be looking at succession planning within our committees and leadership development that will provide for beneficial volunteer opportunities for our members.

**Enhance Membership Involvement.** The Chapter currently has 919 members. The Membership Committee, led by **Jason Sprague** and **Wayne Houle**, will review how Chapter activities are reaching out to existing members, what additional activities could be developed to reach members currently not active, and look for potential areas of membership growth such as a Student Chapter.

Sound like a challenging work plan? It is, and we would appreciate your help in accomplishing it. Please take a look at our organization chart (see page 4). I am overwhelmed by the level of commitment from so many of you to the success of the Chapter, but we would love to have even more member involvement. If any of these topics pique your interest, contact an officer or a committee chair. We welcome your involvement!

*Jeannine Clancy, APWA-MN President*

**AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION  
MINNESOTA CHAPTER  
2012**



rev. 1/26/2012

(E) = Elected in Even years  
(O) = Elected in Odd years  
**Executive Committee**

Officers\*  
Standing Committees\*\*

## Delegate’s Report: APWA Board approves value-added membership proposal

### Changes to APWA membership coming in July.

The APWA Board has approved the “value-added” membership proposal. This new membership model will provide an Online 24/7 Education Library and significantly more educational and other content as part of the membership dues, as opposed to requiring separate registration and fees (i.e., for Click Listen and Learn webinars).

Membership dues will increase by \$15 effective July 1, 2012. Allowing unlimited access to these educational tools any time will be a major benefit of this change. It also allows for a greater reach into areas that don’t have convenient access to host-centers or conferences.

**Other items of interest.** APWA is continuing to work hard on the APWA Center for Sustainability and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI). The APWA Board is committed to this endeavor and is hopeful that the sustainability rating tool will be available soon.

The Spring House of Delegates meeting is coming up in May. Significant discussion items include sharing Chapter’s Best Practices, growing and strengthening membership, and revisions to chapter websites.

Submitted by **Angela Popenhagen**  
APWA-MN Delegate

## Welcome, new members!

APWA-MN welcomes the following new members:

- **Mark Baker**, City of Rochester
- **Jeff Becker**, Town & Country Fence
- **Peter Eakman**, St Louis County
- **Ken Frosig**, City of Bloomington
- **Dwayne Haffield**, City of Worthington
- **Robert Hansen**, City of Fergus Falls
- **David Hanson**, City of Bloomington
- **Ann Johnson**, University of Minnesota
- **Dale Johnson**, St Louis County
- **Tonya Klees**, City of Rochester
- **Duane Laurila**, City of Bloomington
- **Matthew Lemke**, City of Fergus Falls
- **Kevin McConnell**, St Louis County
- **Carl Michaud**, Hennepin County
- **Ed O’Brien**, City of Bloomington
- **David Preus**, Ceres Environmental Services Inc
- **Gregory Schneider**, Minnesota DOT
- **Brian Skoog**, Garland Company
- **Mark Wassink**, Town & County Fence

## Treasurer’s Report (Year-end 2011)

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>12/31/2011</b>
<b>Cash/Bank Accounts:</b>	
Cash	\$56,693
Operating Investments	\$567
Total Cash/Bank Accounts	\$57,260
<b>Investments:</b>	
Short-term	\$0
Long-term	\$102,032
Total Investments	\$102,032
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$159,292</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$159,292</b>

Submitted by **Lee Gustafson**  
APWA-MN Vice President

## Plan to attend upcoming training opportunities

As we begin to prepare our funding requests for 2013 budgets, think about your staff development, succession planning, and who will be your future public works leaders. In addition to spring and fall conferences, APWA-MN offers the following staff development opportunities.

**Leadership Academy.** The Leadership Academy is a mini-masters program that provides practical knowledge, tools, and skills public works professionals need to manage effectively. The academy is partnered through Hamline University and 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. Detailed information can be found on Hamline University's website at [www.hamline.edu/business/certificate/pwc.html](http://www.hamline.edu/business/certificate/pwc.html). The Academy runs from October to May, allowing the program's \$2,600 cost to be spread across two budget years.



**Public Works Certificate Program.** The Public Works Certificate Program has been in existence for over 30 years. Partnering with North Hennepin Community College, the program provides future supervisors with the broader picture of Public Works and its interactions with other departments and agencies. The program is a 22-credit program made up of four semesters of public works classes and two semesters of English classes; a total of 320 hours of classroom instruction. Detailed

information is available at [www.nhcc.edu/main/ProgramsAndMajors/ProgramsAndMajors/PublicWorks.aspx](http://www.nhcc.edu/main/ProgramsAndMajors/ProgramsAndMajors/PublicWorks.aspx). Tuition is about \$180 per credit or \$720 for each of the four-credit public works courses.

**Underground Utility Inspector School.** While MnDOT offers training and certification for roadway construction, there is a lack of available training for inspectors of underground utility construction. The Underground Utility Inspector School (UUIS) addresses this gap, along with providing training on project administration, communications, and record keeping. The 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.

New this year, our Chapter will be offering a webcast of the UUIS sessions to a location outside of the metro area. This webcast will include a facilitator and content expert to answer questions and get the presentation active for the students present. Look for an announcement in late Spring of the outstate location of the webcast and the number of spots available for registration.

If you have any questions or would like more information about these MPWA training programs, please contact Tom Montgomery at [tmontgomery@ci.hastings.mn.us](mailto:tmontgomery@ci.hastings.mn.us) or (651) 480-6188.

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

## An update on MN2050 activities

**Fundraising.** Letters have been sent to MN2050 members and Minnesota-based engineering firms. Next, we'll reach out to national firms, Minnesota-based corporations, and vendors. To date, we have received checks and/or commitments for more than \$12,000 towards our goal of \$150,000.

**Website is live.** Visit [www.mn2050.org](http://www.mn2050.org) for the latest information. We will be devoting additional time to improve the site over the next couple of months. Thank you to Joel Schilling and Paul Coone for their work on the website.

**TPT Update.** Work is progressing on the story boards for the various topics that will frame the documentary.

We're working on a couple of opportunities for mentors, so stay tuned.



**Presentations.** We shared information at the City Engineers Association of Minnesota Annual Conference in January. We will be sharing information with the Minnesota Council of Airports Board in hopes of giving an update at their annual conference in April. We will also be presenting information in May at the Center for Transportation Studies along with MnDOT 2030 and the Minnesota Transportation Alliance 2040 efforts.

**Submitted by Dan Gage**  
Chair, MN2050

## Committee focusing on National Public Works Week

As one of the newest members of the Public Awareness Committee, I am excited to be a part of such a passionate team dedicated to celebrating and bringing awareness to public works. This committee is motivated to not only spread the word about public works and what that means for the general public, but also to create a renewed spirit of involvement within the chapter.

Public awareness is a challenge and one that needs to be continually brought forward and kept in the forefront. Russ Matthys from the City of Eagan has an energizing spirit and leads this committee, sharing a common goal among these dedicated professionals of increasing awareness in the following ways:

- Advocate for public works safety.
- Enable a viable workforce (training opportunities for staff/promotion to students).
- Facilitate public advocacy/funding (marketing and legislative efforts).



APWA has selected “Public Works: Creating a Lasting Impression” as its theme for 2012’s National Public Works Week. This year’s poster by Robert Gantt Steele is a watercolor representing the theme.

One of my great passions is to understand the needs of others and then determine how those needs can be met. The committee is exploring ways to better

understand what current members intend to get out of the Chapter, but also to understand what those public works professionals who are not members would like to see from the Chapter that may peak their interest in joining our group of public works peers. By seeking out and understanding how to meet these needs, we will be better equipped to further empower the public works community.

As its main focus, the Committee is charged with bringing **National Public Works Week** (May 20-26)

to center stage. This colossal effort

fosters an environment where the confidence levels in our devoted public works employees are elevated to new heights. We hope that you will all take part in some way, to make this year’s National Public Works Week a success.

Submitted by April Crockett  
Director, APWA-MN

## APWA-MN continues outreach with University of Minnesota

APWA-MN’s New Membership Committee is continuing its outreach efforts with the University of Minnesota. To better promote APWA-MN and inform students of career opportunities within public works, the committee is hosting a three-part brown bag lunch series. The following sessions will be led by a number of young APWA-MN member, as noted.

- **Introduction: What is Public Works/APWA** (Feb. 1) *Mitchell Hoeft, City of Golden Valley; Nick Egger, City of Hastings; Justin Messner, WSB Engineering*
- **Structural Engineering in Public Works** (Feb. 1) *James Archer, Hennepin County*
- **Traffic, Transportation and Pavement Engineering** (March 1) *April Crockett, MnDOT; Erin Laberee, Ramsey County*
- **Water Resources and Water/Wastewater Engineering** (March 1) *Jake Newhall, WSB; Joe Ward, WSB*
- **Environmental Engineering** (April 12) *Eric Lund, Barr Engineering*

- **Geotechnical Engineering** (April 12) *Ben Hoefer, American Engineering and Testing*
- **Life as an E.I.T.** (April 12) *Mike Waltman, Bolton & Menk*

The first presentation on February 1 brought in 40-50 students. Students have been emailing us constantly since the presentation to inquire about jobs, internships, and scholarships. Many of the students also asked us to create an APWA-MN Student Chapter at the University similar to the ASCE Student Chapter. The committee is currently working with APWA on the implementation of a student chapter.

The Committee expects an even larger turnout and more interested students at the spring sessions. More updates will be provided as we continue to progress with this series.

Submitted by Mitchell Hoeft, Nick Egger,  
and Justin Messner  
Student Chapter Task Force

## A case study in appealing to a diverse population

*The APWA Diversity Committee heard of a special effort in diversity recruiting, taking place here in Minnesota, and asked Jon Rippke, P.E., president of Bolton & Menk, Inc., to write an article for an upcoming issue of Bridges, an APWA publication that is distributed nationally to chapter officers. Jon has agreed to serve as the Chapter's liaison with the APWA Diversity Committee and to create a APWA-MN Diversity Committee.*

We must continue to consider the various sources of our future employees. In the past, our firm has grown by attracting qualified people from within our service area. Looking ahead and considering the future work force, I researched the demographics of our service area. Many regions within the upper Midwest have a fair percentage of Latino population. Latinos have been a long-time source of labor for the agricultural industries of the area.

Since our firm had no Latino employees, I visited Minnesota State University-Mankato (MSU-M) for the purpose of hiring a Latino engineering student as a summer intern. I found that there were only two Latino engineering students enrolled in the entire College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) at MSU-M!

This was hard to believe, but after discussing this with Guadalupe Quintero, director of Latino Affairs at MSU-M, I came to realize that the goal for educational achievement in many Latino families, in our area, is the pursuit of a high school diploma. Advanced education is not encouraged because of the impact it is perceived to have on the "family unit." The desire is for Latino families to stay connected, but advanced education was thought to cause family members to move away for job opportunities.

There are a lot of concerns about where we're going to find our future employees, if our traditional base of engineers and technical experts continues to decline. With a regional Latino population that is not entering the technical education track in significant numbers, I worked with the MSU-M Office for Latino Affairs to introduce engineering opportunities and the engineering education process to the Latino population. In order to prepare high school students for enrolling in engineering programs, we needed to inform students that they need to be engaged in math and science classes throughout high school.

Initially, I thought that sponsoring an engineering career day for area high school students would be sufficient.

However, due to cultural influences, Latinos do not always search out opportunities in a multi-cultural environment.

Dr. Quintero explained that targeted events were most successful when addressing Latino issues. For that reason, we launched the Latino Education and Academic Day (LEAD) in 2010 where we invited Latino high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from Southern Minnesota to visit MSU-M and learn more about engineering education and opportunities.

With the launch of this initiative, we found that there was a lot of support for such an effort by many members of the engineering community. Sponsorships were received from a number of sources that helped defray the costs associated with LEAD.

Scholarship offerings were also identified that would help students offset some of their costs of education.

Our program was developed using Latino engineers as speakers and presenters to show the students that Latinos are achieving advanced education and their individual successes have helped them achieve many goals for their family members. Latino engineers were happy to volunteer to speak as they understood the challenges these high school students face.

In our first year, 2010, our half-day event drew 120 pre-registered students. On the day of the event, 170 students signed in! The response in 2011 was similar and we are planning for 180-200 students/participants in February 2012.

The success of this effort is yet to be judged, as student enrollments will be the ultimate barometer. One to two years is too short of a time to draw conclusions, but we have experienced incremental increases in overall Latino enrollment at MSU-M. Years three and four will be critical for measuring the effectiveness of our LEAD initiative.

The lesson learned for appealing to the many diverse populations that exist in your area, is that targeted career fairs may need to be considered. A direct invitation through targeted publications can help improve the attendance and effectiveness of the effort. Including representatives from the various groups will also improve the communication and the realization by attendees of the employment possibilities that exist.

**Submitted by Jon Rippke, PE  
Chapter Liaison, Diversity Committee**



## Where are they now? Maria D'Andrea

Maria D'Andrea (formerly Hagen) moved to Colorado from Minnesota in 2005. In Minnesota, she was most recently with St. Louis Park as the city engineer. In Colorado, she got a job with the Town of Castle Rock first as their engineering manager and then was promoted to assistant public works director within six months.

Castle Rock is located mid-way between Denver and Colorado Springs. It is growing quickly and is expected to exceed 100,000 in population at full build out. In 2005, the town issued more than 1,200 single-family building permits!

When she started at Castle Rock, the town (as did most other municipalities in the Denver metro area) had a snow-plowing policy that only required them to plow residential streets if 8 inches or more of snow had accumulated. That's because, most of the time, after it snows, the temperatures get above freezing and everything melts! After a really heavy snow season in 2006-2007, citizens demanded better service.

Maria was responsible for modifying the policy to increase plowing efforts. She also implemented a web-based snowplow tracking map on the Town's website. During a snow storm, the map is updated by public works staff on a continuous basis using automatic vehicle locating equipment (AVL) in the plows. The map allows citizens to see where the plows have been and when their neighborhood is expected to be cleared.

Maria recently changed jobs to become the traffic & transportation engineer for Jefferson County, Colorado. Jefferson County comprises most of the western suburbs of Denver and extends west up into the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Although she's not in charge of

plowing anymore (sadly), she made the change because she wanted to gain experience with a county and felt that this would help her achieve her ultimate career goal of becoming a public works director.



Maria said, "Having been on the engineering side for most of my career, I've found that what I really love is public works and pulling all of the pieces — planning, design, construction and maintenance — together."

One of the biggest differences she has noticed between Colorado and Minnesota, is the lack of opportunities to meet and interact with peers. The local APWA chapter is active, but doesn't have nearly the number or type of activities that are sponsored by the Minnesota chapter. There is no City Engineer's Association in Colorado. They also don't have State Aid — at least in the way that we know it in

Minnesota. Highway User Tax funds are distributed to cities and counties, but with little oversight or interaction from the Colorado DOT.

"State Aid was a terrific advocate for cities and counties and a great way to get to know more folks at MnDOT," she said.

She's also found that research, training, and technology transfer is so much more accessible and available in Minnesota through LRRB and the LTAP & CTAP programs.

Maria misses the great relationships that she formed in Minnesota and invites everyone out to visit her.

**Submitted by Angela Popenhagen  
APWA-MN Delegate**

## It's Spring Conference time

APWA-MN will hold its annual Spring Conference at Grand View Lodge in beautiful Nisswa, Minnesota, May 9-11.



In keeping with the redesigned agenda from last year's conference, this year's "management-focused" agenda will once again provide great training to members in an environment that is conducive to learning, and equally important, networking.

Our keynote speaker, Shari Harley, is a noted national speaker and presenter on leadership and customer service issues.

Shari provides a series of management leadership development programs to make leading and managing employees, volunteers, and organizations faster and easier. She will present two informative and entertaining sessions: How to Say Anything to Anyone, and Just Say It!

The keynote will be followed by a panel of experts and practitioners who are dealing with the North Dakota oil boom and many of its impacts to public works areas of responsibilities.

We are also very fortunate to have secured a technical tour for Thursday afternoon at the Brainerd International Raceway. Stay tuned for additional information about how to pre-register for this opportunity.

Please keep an eye out for additional information and registration materials, which will be distributed via the Chapter Administrators email in mid-March. We hope to see many of you at the conference at Grand View!

**Submitted by Bob Cockriel**  
Co-Chair, Spring Conference Committee

## Summer Golf Outing: July 12

Be sure and mark your calendars: the Summer Golf Outing is moving up two weeks in July. Based on favorable feedback from Chapter members after last year's event, we would like to keep the event on a Thursday at Bunker Hills. To do that, we had to move the date ahead two weeks from our traditional third week in July to July 12 to work around the State Pro-Am tournament also held at Bunker Hills.



Please put this new date on your calendar. You will see registration materials in early June. Hope to see you there!

**Submitted by Jason Sprague**  
Membership and Special Events Committee

## Writing seminar: April 11 & 18

APWA-MN is pleased to sponsor a one day Writing To Get Things Done® (WGTD) writing seminar presented by Stan Berry of the Berry Writing Group. This seminar focuses on improving productivity by using writing as a powerful tool for getting things done.

- April 11, in Lakeville at the Lakeville Water Treatment Facility, 18400 Ipava Ave.
- April 18, in the lower level of the Golden Valley Public Safety Building, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

The seminar costs \$250 per student, which includes a box lunch. Class size is limited to 25 participants. A registration form and testimonials from City of Richfield can be found on the APWA-MN website at <http://minnesota.apwa.net>. Information about the Berry Writing Group can be found at [www.berrywritinggroup.com](http://www.berrywritinggroup.com).

## Bernie Bullert thanks APWA-MN Chapter



*The APWA-MN Chapter received the following thank-you letter from Bernie Bullert, Water Treatment & Distribution Services director, City of Minneapolis:*

Dear Ms. Clancy:

I would like to thank the Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association for the Director of the Year award. I know there are many dedicated, hardworking individuals in the various public works departments in Minnesota — I personally know

quite a number of them — and it is an honor to be recognized among such an excellent group of peers.

I would also like to thank those that put in the effort to recommend this award, as well as those that were part of approving the award.

Again, this award is a great honor, and I deeply thank all for the recognition of my efforts. It is an honor and a privilege to work as the director of Water Treatment and Distribution for the City of Minneapolis

**Submitted by Bernie Bullert**  
City of Minneapolis

## News Around Town

**John Zgoda**, age 53, passed away on January 10th after a short but courageous battle with cancer. John was a devoted, life-long employee of the City of Hastings, where he worked as a superintendent with the public works department. He was an active member of the Sons of American Legion at the district, state and national levels.



John is survived by his wife, Julie; children, Dawn (Brian Tucker) Zgoda of Red Wing, Jim (Tara) Zgoda of Hastings, and Dan (Candace) Zgoda of Hastings; three grandchildren and extended family.

The public works community extends its deepest sympathies to John's family.

### **AE2S (Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.)**

**Ahamadou Alassani** has been hired as Instrumentation & Control Systems Technician in the firm's Eagan, Minnesota office. His primary assignments are working on PLC programming and design software to document and analyze water and wastewater system instrumentation and control system operations.

**Qigang Chang** has been hired as an Environmental Engineering Intern in the firm's Moorhead office. One of his primary assignments is working on the Fargo Water Treatment Plan Sulfate Removal Pilot Study Project.

Patrick Edmonds has been hired as an engineering technician in the firm's Maple Grove office. His primary responsibilities will be lighting design and power projects.

### **TKDA**

**Dennis Martenson** was recently awarded the **Charles W. Britzius Distinguished Engineer Award**. The award was presented by the Minnesota Federation of Engineering, Science and Technology Societies in February to coincide with National Engineers Week.

TKDA has signed a letter of intent to acquire **Duluth-based SJA Architects** in a strategic business move that broadens both firms' capabilities and better positions them for future growth opportunities. The new affiliation with SJA strengthens TKDA's position in the architectural

community and provides an avenue by which to pursue new opportunities in greater Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. SJA has led several high-profile projects in Duluth, including Amsoil Arena, and the Civil Engineering Building and the Swenson Science Building, both on the University of Minnesota-Duluth Campus — all LEED certified facilities. SJA is also the lead architect on the new University of Minnesota 4th Street Residence Hall and Dining Facility on the Minneapolis campus.

### **WSB & Associates, Inc.**

WSB has received several recent project awards:

- Its **CSAH 21 Roadway Extension in Scott County** received the 2012 **MnSPE Seven Wonders of Engineering Merit Award**, the 2012 **ACEC/MN Engineering Excellence Honor Award**, the 2011 **American Concrete Pipe Association (ACPA) Project Achievement Award**, and the 2011 **Minnesota County Engineers Association Project of the Year**.
- The **Princeton Bridges and Roundabout in Mille Lacs County** was recognized with the 2012 **MnSPE Seven Wonders of Engineering Merit Award**, the 2012 **ACEC/MN Engineering Excellence Honor Award**, and the 2011 **AGC/MnDOT Bridge Office Award, Medium Category**.
- The **Twin Lakes Parkway Improvements Project in Roseville** has been awarded the 2012 **MnSPE Seven Wonders of Engineering Merit Award**, and the 2012 **ACEC/MN Engineering Excellence Honor Award**.

#### **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](mailto:kwarren@usinternet.com).



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