

Award winners recognized at APWA-MN Fall Conference

The 2012 Fall Conference Awards program was again extremely successful, and many thanks go out to the great nominations made by our members.

The *City of Robbinsdale*, *WSB & Associates, Inc.*, and *Belair Sitework Services* received the **Project of the Year Award** for the Crystal Lake Flocculation Treatment System. Accepting the award on behalf of their respective agencies was *Richard McCoy* (City of Robbinsdale) and *Pete Willenbring* (WSB & Associates, Inc.). This project demonstrated that active engineering and innovative solutions can lead to water-quality goals in a shorter timeframe than other approaches more commonly used and at a much lower lifecycle cost than other BMPs.



Selected for **Project of the Year, Honorable Mention** were:

- *City of Minnetonka*: TH 169 & Bren Road Interchange Project
- *Washington County*: Broadway Avenue Mega Project

Personnel Award recipients for 2012 were:

- Director of the Year: *Guy Johnson*, City of New Hope
- Supervisor of the Year: *Charles Perkins*, City of Golden Valley
- Superintendent of the Year: *Ken Seurer*, City of Lakeville
- Maintenance Person of the Year: *Joe Bailey*, MnDOT

Dan Gage, executive vice president, MacQueen Equipment, Inc., received the **Hugo G. Erickson Award for Excellence in Chapter Service**. Dan served as the chapter's first ever "vendor" president in 2009, and

was on the chapter's executive committee as a director from 2004-2006. Dan began and continues to lead the Minnesota 2050 initiative — a collaborative partnership comprised of 14 non-government and government organizations in Minnesota focused on public infrastructure. Many thanks to Dan for his significant contributions and years of service to the chapter and the public works profession in Minnesota.



2012 marked the fourth year of the highly successful **Environmental Stewardship Award**. The award is given by the Minnesota Chapter to groups, individuals, or organizations that demonstrate a sustained commitment to environmental conservation and protection. The chapter received a number of highly qualified nominations, but chose the City of Maplewood "Sustainable Maplewood" to receive this award. The city developed an integrated sustainable approach to all infrastructure management through numerous goals and initiatives. Furthermore, the city pioneered efforts in rain garden design, construction, and maintenance, and has become a leader in the banning of coal tar sealants.

National awards program. The beginning of 2013 leads our local chapter to now focus on the National 2013 APWA Awards program. Nominations for national awards are due to APWA on March 4. The Awards Committee is happy to provide assistance to any chapter member or agency interested in pursuing a National APWA award. Nomination forms and criteria can be viewed and downloaded from the APWA website at: www.apwa.net/awards.

Submitted by Amy Grothaus, Chair,
 APWA-MN Awards Committee
 Mark Hansen, APWA-MN Director

Calendar of Events

Feb 13	APWA-MN Executive Committee Meeting (Golden Valley)
March 13	APWA-MN Executive Committee Meeting (Golden Valley)
March 28	Feed My Starving Children (Eagan or Chanhassen)
April 10	APWA-MN Executive Committee Meeting (Golden Valley)
May 8-10	APWA-MN Spring Conference (Nisswa)
May 19-25	National Public Works Week

For the latest information or to register, visit: minnesota.apwa.net.

Save the Date: March 28 volunteer opportunity

Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit Christian organization committed to 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 fifth year our chapter will participate in packing meals for Feed My Starving Children. This year's date to volunteer is March 28. We have 30 spaces at the Eagan location and 20 spaces at the Chanhassen location. The time is 6-7:30 p.m. at both locations.

To participate, email *Justin Messner* at jmessner@wsbeng.com; or you may sign up online at: volunteer.fmssc.org (enter code 312693 for the Eagan location or code 312698 for the Chanhassen location).

Scholarship applications due June 14

Applications for the APWA-MN Scholarship program are due June 14. Each year, APWA-MN awards:

- One \$1,500+ college scholarship (Dewey Kasma Scholarship).
- Four \$1,000 college scholarships.
- Four \$750 technical school scholarships.

Applicants must be a junior or senior in a college's civil engineering or public works administration program; or going into 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).

For more information, visit the APWA-MN website at: minnesota.apwa.net.

Thank you, members!

A special thanks to members who participated in presentations at Congress!

John Scharffbillig (City of Minneapolis) facilitated an open forum on fleet services and served on a speaker panel regarding FEMA Resource Typing Definitions for Public Works Teams.

Mitch Hoeft (City of Golden Valley) participated in a speaker panel during the chapter's Leaders Forum on engaging young professionals.

Paul Pasko (Short Elliott Hendrickson) and *Mitch Hoeft* (City of Golden Valley) spoke about how three non-adjacent Minnesota cities utilized a cooperative agreement when opting for CIPP for trunk water main pipe rehabilitation.

It was great to see Minnesota Chapter members share their knowledge and expertise!

Submitted by *Angela Popenhagen*
APWA-MN Delegate

Chalkline is a quarterly publication of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA-Minnesota Chapter). The Winter 2013 issue is the final issue of the *Chalkline* newsletter. Previous issues of the *Chalkline* are available in PDF format on the APWA-MN website at minnesota.apwa.net.

President's Message

As we begin 2013, and my term as your chapter president, I find myself thinking about how lucky I have been to have met so many wonderful and dedicated public works professionals by being involved in the APWA-MN Chapter. Although I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to serve as your chapter president this year, I am even more grateful for the relationships I have developed with so many of you. These relationships have given me a better understanding of what people value in our chapter, and will help me provide direction and leadership as we continue growing our chapter and working on some fantastic initiatives that began last year under Jeannine's great leadership. Thank you, Jeannine (big hug too)!

These initiatives were developed and set into motion through a lot of hard work by many past and present chapter leaders with the goal of keeping the Minnesota chapter as the recognized leader in public works education, advocacy, and building better communities. Jeannine has an article within this issue that provides a great summary of many of these initiatives (see page 4). As you will note, some of the initiatives were obvious "things to do" and were implemented seamlessly. Others, however, took much more thought and will take longer to implement.

I'm writing with the realization that this "President's Message" is in the midst of one such initiative and change. Although there will be many more President's Messages to come long after I'm gone, this message will be the last one that's contained in a traditional *Chalkline* newsletter. The new communications plan or initiative calls for chapter news to be distributed in shorter doses, but more frequently through a new and improved email system, and a new website. Our new website will essentially be the new home for all of our news and stories. We're hopeful the new email system will be up and running by March 15, and the new website by April 15.

The *Chalkline* newsletter has had a long and rich history with our chapter. I still remember reading it my first year on the job (just a few years ago...) and being totally impressed with all the information that was in it. Whenever I received a new copy, I usually stopped what I was doing to read it. Well, as the old saying goes, "times have changed." The purpose of the *Chalkline* is not going away, just the format of it. The new "eChalkline" will be web-based and provide members with up-to-date information in a manner that's consistent with today's multi-media world.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks to all of you that helped create the *Chalkline* for the many decades that it served us. I'm certain the stories, the updates, the artificially low golf scores, and more importantly, the camaraderie it provided will live on for many more decades. Cheers to you, *Chalkline*!

Lee Gustafson, APWA-MN President



Lee Gustafson
APWA-MN President

Chapter accomplishments in 2012

The Minnesota Chapter has wrapped up 2012. So, what new and fun things happened?

Establishing the Student Chapter at the University of Minnesota. Thanks to the Membership Committee, especially *Mitch Hoefft*, *Nick Egger*, and *Justin Messner*, who developed a program that the students just couldn't resist. Thanks also to *Ann Johnson* at the U of M for supporting the Membership Committee's efforts and for being there (once again) to help the Minnesota Chapter with its efforts to advance the awareness of the field of public works.

Launching a New Chapter Website. Thanks to *Charlie Wild*, *Eric Eckman*, and members of the *Communications Committee* for their hard work on the chapter website. The Executive Committee just approved a contract for website development. Our new website, which will be in place by mid-2013, will serve as our chapter's virtual office and be the central point of our communication with our members.

Outstanding Conferences, Workshops and Technical Training. The Fall Conference and Workshop had near-record breaking attendance. Thanks to the *Conference Planning Committee*, *Education and Training Committee*, *Membership Committee*, *Awards Committee*, *Public Awareness Committee*, *Environmental Committee*, and the *University of Minnesota* for making these events an outstanding success! Special recognition goes to *Tom Montgomery*, chair of the Education and Training Committee, and *Bob Cockriel*, chair of the Conference Planning Committee, who have been outstanding leaders and contributors to the chapter. Both are stepping down as chairs of their committees, but have mentored *Chris Petree* and *Jupe Hale* to take on new leadership roles.

Development of a Chapter Diversity Committee. In August, *Jon Rippke*, was appointed to the position of out state director. Jon is completing *Bryan Bjorgaard's* term who moved to Idaho with his family in 2012. As a long-term member of the Minnesota Chapter and a resident of Mankato, Jon brings the greater Minnesota perspective to the Executive Committee. Jon is also the chapter's liaison to APWA's Diversity Committee, and is developing a chapter diversity committee. Jon has identified a lack of Latino representation in engineering and public works as an area that we can improve upon.

To that end, Jon is in the process of working with Minnesota State University to promote an outreach program to communities in southwestern and south central Minnesota.

Appointment of a Chapter Volunteer Coordinator. The Executive Committee has appointed *Beth Engum*, Ramsey County, to the position of chapter volunteer coordinator. The success of our chapter depends on the willingness of its members to help with programs and activities. Beth's newly-created position will work to help members direct their energies to the activity that best fits the time commitment that they can make. Whether it's work on a committee, being a chapter photographer, assisting with the chapter's membership, environmental awareness or public awareness activities, the chapter appreciates and welcomes the involvement of all of its members. Beth can be contacted at (651) 266-7115 or beth.engum@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Staffing Changes. The chapter wishes to thank *Kathy Warren* for her years of service to the chapter as administrative assistant. Kathy worked with the chapter and assisted in hosting Congress twice, as well as one Snow Conference. Kathy has been an asset to all of the members, and was especially helpful to those members in chapter leadership roles.

Pat Schutrop has been retained as the new chapter assistant. Pat will work closely with the Executive Committee, committee chairs, the University of Minnesota, and others to coordinate the many activities that the chapter has planned. You can leave a message for Pat by calling 1-888-407-2650 (toll free); email at pschutrop@mcg.net or APWAMinnesota@gmail.com. You can also mail items to the chapter at the following address: APWA-Minnesota, P.O. Box 27965, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

Thanks to everyone who made this a great year. All my best in 2013!

Submitted by *Jeannine Clancy*
APWA-MN Past President



Jeannine Clancy
APWA-MN Past President

New APWA-MN Chapter website to debut in mid-2013

Much like other print media in today's rapidly-changing world, the chapter's *Chalkline* newsletter is evolving into a web-based, multi-media experience. The *Chalkline* has served our chapter well for many years as countless members have contributed their time and energy to make it a success. But changes are afoot.

In 2012, as a first step in the evolution, the *Chalkline* was published as an electronic newsletter that was emailed to members four times a year. Although this process worked well and eliminated printing and mailing costs, it fell short in providing members with the expediency, technology, and resources they deserve. So the chapter decided to move the *Chalkline*'s collection of news and information to a new home on the new chapter website, currently being developed. It is bitter-sweet to say that this edition of the *Chalkline* will be the last of its kind.

At the Fall Conference, the Communications Committee presented a prototype of the new chapter website. In addition to the many new and exciting features that members said were important to them, the website will be home to the same quality and content that we've come to expect from the *Chalkline*.



The stories and information will be posted more frequently throughout the year, and photos, video, and links to additional resources will enhance the reader's overall experience. The chapter will send out one email per month to highlight what's new and direct members to the website. So it's extremely important that each member has a valid email address (see sidebar below).

Adapta Interactive, Inc., located in Plymouth, will host the chapter's new website. *Pat Schutrop*, chapter assistant, and *Erica Norris Perlman*, communications consultant, will maintain the website. Members of the Communications Committee will provide general content management and oversight. Adapta has begun to build your new website and the chapter is working hard to add content to get it up and running.

We're hoping to launch the site and "go live" before the Spring Conference. If you have any ideas or informa-

tion that should be included on the new website, please contact *Pat Schutrop* at pschutrop@mcg.net or 1-888-407-2650 (toll free).

Submitted by [Eric Eckman](#)
Vice Chair, Communications Committee

Members need to have valid email address

In order to enjoy the benefits of your membership and experience the new chapter website to its fullest, you need to have a valid, up-to-date email address. Having a valid email address will allow you to:

- Receive monthly email blasts highlighting new content on the chapter website
- Receive other important chapter emails in a timely manner
- Log in to the members-only area of the chapter website
- Register for events at member rates
- Post job openings
- Update your photo and Linked In button in your member details (all other member profile information is updated through your APWA National profile)

We will use the email address that you list in your APWA National profile, so please check your APWA National profile to make sure you list the email address that works best for you.

If you're not sure whether you have a valid email address, log in to your APWA National Profile or contact *Pat Schutrop* at pschutrop@mcg.net or 1-888-407-2650 (toll free).

Idea Center: City of Saint Paul's salt management plan

One of our plow drivers recently asked me, "Why don't you have the 'Lake Huggers' drive down our roads in the winter when we don't apply salt?"

We were having a training session discussing the steps we are taking to reduce salt usage. "Lake Huggers" was a new term for me, but I got the drift.

While expectations may differ from region to region, the expectations from citizens and public officials to have safe and passable roads are increasingly high. The new definition of safe and passable is now becoming bare and dry pavement within hours after a snow event. The most common tools that agencies use to provide bare pavement are plows and salt.

Most people understand the negative impacts that salt has on our lakes, streams, rivers, vehicles, and infrastructure. Additionally, most people in the salt business understand that there are steps agencies and private companies can take to reduce salt usage while maintaining safe roads and properties.

The City of Saint Paul is one of the largest users of road salt in Minnesota. About a year and a half ago after attending the APWA Snow Conference, Saint Paul Public Works developed a Salt Management Plan that would address objectives to help us use salt more efficiently and effectively.

The plan includes realistic goals for:

- Route optimization.
- Spreader control upgrades. Two years ago, Saint Paul had three electronic spreader controls. Next year we will have 25.
- Pre-wetting and anti-icing equipment. 90 percent of all spreaders have pre-wetting capabilities in 2012. Two 1,800 gallon anti-ice units are in service in 2012.
- Weather forecasting.
- Calibration program.
- Material storage and handling.
- Personnel training. Saint Paul has a pool of 125+ drivers for operating salt spreaders at any given time.

Saint Paul is not the first agency, and won't be the last, to change the way salt business is done. We are a year and a half into a long process and it seems like there are new challenges every day.

When asked, "What is the biggest challenge for reducing salt?" I ask, "How do you ask seasoned veterans to change the way they have done their job for years, if not decades?" A written plan helps.

Submitted by [Matt Morreim](#)
Civil Engineer III, City of Saint Paul

Welcome, new APWA-MN members!

- Dereck Asche, City of Plymouth
- Andrew T. Bethel, Titan Machinery Inc.
- Thomas A. Bethel, City of Edina
- Ross T. Bintner, University of Minnesota
- Laura Blonigen, University of Minnesota
- Thomas Borowicz, University of Minnesota
- Charles Butterworth, University of Minnesota
- Chad Davison, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
- Donald Doherty, Little Falls Machine, Inc.
- Nathan T. Drews, University of Minnesota
- Laura Dumke, 3M
- Benjamin P. Dzioba, Braun Intertec
- Eric M. Eckman, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
- Daniel J. Edgerton, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
- Jeffrey T. Evens, Carver County
- Joseph Finnegan, GCC of America
- Douglas W. Fischer, Anoka County
- Jeremy M. Flasch, FORCE America, Inc.
- Craig A. Gertsema, MnDOT
- John W. Griffin, FOCUS Engineering Inc.
- Jacob D. Guzik, City of Bloomington
- Tyler J. Hunt, University of Minnesota
- Adrian G. Jacobs, Heatwurx Inc.
- Benjamin Johnson, Olmsted County
- Torrey Keith, City of Plymouth
- Bob Kost, SEH, Inc.
- Charles M. Kremer, MnDOT
- Joel W. Kroening, MnDOT
- Larry W. Kruckeberg, MnDOT
- David Paul Langer, University of Minnesota
- Jeff LaPlante, Olmsted County
- Chris Larson, City of Oakdale
- Derek Lash, Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.
- Michael Legg, Carver County
- Luke A. Litteken, CenterPoint Energy Minnegasco
- Emily Lueth, SRF Consulting Group Inc.
- Jeremy Melquist, University of Minnesota
- Brent Mickolich, City of Maple Plain
- Kate Miner, Carver County
- Kevin Muellerleile, AECOM
- Kurt Nelson, Unique Paving Materials
- Neil C. Normandin, City of Lakeville
- Don Nosbisch, MnDOT
- Jon R. Pauna, KLJ
- Michael Payne, City of Plymouth
- Benjamin Perkey, University of Minnesota
- Jason Petersen, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
- Jim Sailer, Metro Council Environmental Services
- Brandon Schloegel, City of Hastings
- Corey Schweich, City of Elko New Market
- Brenda Shepherd, City of Minneapolis
- Ed Shockley, Cimline Inc.
- Kyle A. Skov, City of Owatonna
- Isaac Steinmeyer, University of Minnesota

Attendance record set at successful Fall Conference

The 2012 Fall Conference and Workshop, held November 14-16 at the Earl Browne Conference Center in Brooklyn Center, was attended by over 500 members, exhibitors and guests — a new record!

Attendees were able to obtain a Winter Maintenance Supervisor certification, attend several educational sessions on a myriad of technical and non-technical topics, hear about our award-winning chapter at a local and national level, be addressed by APWA National leadership, and above all network with our colleagues — forming and solidifying relationships across the metro area and state.

Featured sessions included:

- Keynote address on the Trust Edge by David Horsager, author and national speaker.
- A presentation on the Duluth-area flooding and public works response.
- Connecting Transportation and Quality of Life.
- The Vikings Stadium.

In addition, the program included announcement of the chapter Project of the Year, recognizing of Public Works

Professionals of the Year, and swearing in of the officers for 2013 (including the first-ever officers of the newly-formed student chapter at the U of M). And last, but certainly not least, there were many opportunities for interaction through between-session breaks and meals, highlighted by the now annual bowling event put on by the Membership Committee on Thursday evening. Bowlers and hecklers were once again out in force!

The Fall Conference and Workshop represents a combined effort of the Conference Committee, the Education Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Awards Committee. Credit for the success goes to many people, but mostly to those members that make the choice to attend and maximize the opportunity this gathering provides. Congratulations to all of you who were able to attend; we'll see you next year. And to those who were unable to make it — mark your calendar for the last full week before Thanksgiving.

Submitted by [Jupe Hale](#)
Chair, Conference Planning Committee

Latest news about Public Works Certificate program

I've written about the Public Works Certificate Program in the past, but I thought it was time to refresh everyone's memory about the program as some changes are occurring.

The Public Works Certificate program at North Hennepin Community College has been in existence for over 30 years and has seen hundreds of public works professionals complete the program during that time. The program is considered a "stepping stone" for many frontline maintenance workers by helping them to advance into public works supervisory roles.

The program consists of 23 credits, 16 of which are considered the core public works courses for the program with the remaining seven credits coming from an elective communications course and a writing course. The four public works courses that make up the core 16 credits of the program are: Public Works Management and Communication, Public Works Operations and Maintenance, Public Works Organization and Administration, and Technical Aspects of Public Works.

These core courses are taught by public works practitioners that have extensive knowledge and experience in their field. We are fortunate to have longtime instructors

Gary Brown and Paul Backer. We also added a new instructor this year as *Dave Hutton* took over the Public Works Management and Communication course. Also, we will be adding a new instructor for the 2013-14 school year as *Rod Pletan* retired after teaching the Public Works Operations & Maintenance course for the past 27 years. By Rod's count, he had over 440 students during his tenure teaching this course and many of his students went onto very successful careers in public works. In November 2012, Rod was recognized at the Fall Conference for his years of dedicated service to this program.

I started off this article by mentioning some changes to this program, the biggest two being the addition of *Dave Hutton* as an instructor this year and a new instructor that will be added for the next school year.

Furthermore, our Education and Training Committee plans to continue its work in 2013 to ensure this program remains a viable and highly-regarded training tool for our next generation of public works leaders.

Submitted by [Chris Petree](#)
Chair, Education & Training Committee



APWA–Minnesota
P.O. Box 27965
Golden Valley, MN 55427

[Address Service Requested](#)

APWA-Minnesota Chapter Board Members • 2013

Lee Gustafson,
President
City of Minnetonka
(952) 939-8239
lgustafson@
eminnetonka.com

John Rodeberg,
Vice President
SEH Inc
(651) 470-2448
jrodeberg@sehinc.com

Robert Cockriel,
Secretary/Treasurer
City of Bloomington
(952) 563-8774
rcockriel@
ci.bloomington.mn.us

Jeannine Clancy, Past
President
City of Golden Valley
(763) 593-8035
jclancy@goldenvalleymn.
gov

Angela Popenhagen,
Delegate
Stevens Engineers Inc.
(651) 436-2075
apopenhagen@
stevensengineers.com

April Crockett, Director-
State & County Agency
Minnesota DOT
(651) 563-8774
april.crockett@state.mn.
us

Melissa Girtz, Director-
Vendor/Contractor
RtVision
(320) 632-0760
melissag@rtvision.com

Mark Hansen, Director-
Consultant
SRF Consulting
Group Inc
(763) 475-0010
mchansen@
srfconsulting.com

Wayne Houle, Director-
City Engineer
City of Edina
(952) 826-0443
whoule@ci.edina.mn.us

Dale Reed, Director-
Superintendent
White Bear Township
(651) 747-2775
dale.reed@ci.white-bear-
township.mn.us

Jon Rippke, Director -
Outstate
Bolton & Menk
(507) 625-4172
jonri@bolton-menk.com

Matt Saam, Director-
Manager/Engineer
City of West St. Paul
(651) 552-4130
msaam@cityofwsp.org