



## Report of Activities, Best Practices, and Areas of Focus August 2022 – Present

### MEMBERSHIP & CHAPTERS

APWA-MN membership continues to grow, with 1,097 chapter members as of December 2022. This is an increase of nearly 30 members from year-end 2021, when the chapter had 1,070 members. We understand the importance of providing members and potential members with opportunities to connect with others and to receive a return on their membership investment, including networking opportunities, community outreach events, conferences, educational programs and more, and work to create and communicate these opportunities to new and existing members. Additionally, our Young Professionals (YP) Committee sponsors events focused on younger members that provide an opportunity to connect with others within that demographic. We continue to support two student chapters at the University of Minnesota and the University of St. Thomas, encouraging student chapter activities both on campus and with the greater public works community.

### CHAPTER UPDATES

#### Community Service Projects

**STEM Day at the Fair** - Chapter members hosted a table at the 2022 STEM Day at the Fair event, held annually on opening day of the Minnesota State Fair in August. In 2022, visitors learned how water systems work with a focus on water pressure. A model on water pressure provided a visual learning aid for visitors.

**Prairie Seed Collection** - On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 18 APWA-MN members joined in the first-ever APWA-MN YP Prairie Seed Collection Event at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve in Savage. With less than 1% of Minnesota's natural prairies remaining, seed collection efforts are critical to maintaining and restoring prairie sites. Collected seeds will be used by the Three Rivers Park District to restore park land to native prairies. Over the course of 90 minutes, the group collected over five grocery bags full of valuable prairie seeds, including bottle gentian, hyssop, and round-headed bush clover. We capped off the fun afternoon with a happy hour and networking opportunity at Ineffable Brewing in Burnsville. The APWA-MN YP Committee coordinated this unique event in partnership with the Environment and Sustainability Committee.



**Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup** - The chapter has been actively involved in the Adopt-a-Highway service project since 2016. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 members gathered for the annual highway cleanup event. After clearing trash and debris from the roadside, the group enjoyed a social hour at Wicked Wort Brewing Company in Robbinsdale.

**Feed My Starving Children** - The Membership & Special Events Committee hosted a Feed My Starving Children community service event in October. Nearly 20 chapter members participated, packing 11,880 meals that will feed 33 children for one year.



### **Best Practice/New and Innovative Ideas**

- In its pursuit of providing a welcoming environment, the YP Committee began a mentor program at the chapter's spring and fall conferences. The program matches a young professional and/or a first-time conference attendee with an experienced professional, with the mentor introducing the mentee to others at the event, answering questions and making sure the mentee has a welcoming and fun experience.
- At the 2023 Fall Conference, exhibit opportunities were made available to organizations beyond chapter sponsors for the first time. As a result, the expanded exhibit hall nearly sold out, with more than 50 vendors participating.
- Sponsors continue to generously support the chapter and the sponsor program continues to grow, with 44 organizations currently sponsoring the chapter. The chapter's partnership with our sponsors is highly valued, with the chapter continually open to new ways to foster our sponsor relationships.
- The chapter continues to partner with [Success Beyond the Classroom](#) (SBC) especially with a STEM focus. The mission of SBC is to create powerful learning experiences that challenge students to explore interests, discover new perspectives, connect with professionals in the community, and visualize their success beyond the classroom.
- After many years of holding an annual fall workshop in conjunction with the annual fall conference, the two events were separated in 2022 to better accommodate the weather-dependent schedule of likely workshop attendees. The workshop was moved to mid-September, avoiding potential winter weather conflicts, while the conference remained in mid-November. Workshop attendance increased from 57 in 2021 to 269 in 2022.
- With the rollout of new onboarding communication messages from APWA, the chapter will revisit local onboarding messages and anticipates developing local communication to augment national messaging to engage, inform and welcome new members.

### **Chapter Key Issue(s)**

- After many years of hosting the chapter's annual fall conference at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, the event was moved in 2022 to the Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake. The new venue provided a nearly doubled exhibit space, an open and airy atrium for networking and larger rooms for education sessions - all of which will support the chapter as the fall conference continues to grow. The new venue was well-received by attendees and has been secured for the 2023 fall conference.

## Areas of Focus/Challenge

### Minnesota Infrastructure Alliance

- The Minnesota Infrastructure Alliance (MnIA), formerly MN2050, began actively meeting again in the fall of 2022. Working together, MnIA is a coalition of 17 professional organizations striving to provide and maintain sustainable infrastructure across Minnesota, with APWA-MN taking a leadership role in organization and administration of the coalition.
- MnIA has three main goals with three key audiences:
  - Increase *public awareness* about the importance and extent of our state infrastructure, why it's important and careers in public infrastructure.
  - Establish a platform to help *professionals* collaborate and advance our infrastructure management message.
  - Engage *policy makers* by educating, informing and influencing sound infrastructure investments via state and local legislators.
- MnIA is developing talking points that can be shared amongst the partners to speak with one unified voice. They are also pursuing creation of a website and are scheduling meetings with key legislators.
- Learn more: [https://www.apwa-mn.org/about/MN\\_Infrastructure\\_Alliance](https://www.apwa-mn.org/about/MN_Infrastructure_Alliance).

## VALUE

- **Awards**
  - 2022 Local Chapter Awards - Many applications for local awards were submitted to the APWA-MN Awards Committee. The chapter received 11 Project of the Year nominations, five Personnel award nominations and two Environmental Stewardship award nominations. One Project of the Year and two Project of the Year Honorable Mention awards were presented, along with four Personnel awards and one Environmental Stewardship award. All award recipients were recognized at the chapter's 2022 Fall Conference in November.
  - 2022 National Awards - The chapter submitted 12 nominations and received six national awards. The chapter also received APWA's PACE Award for 2022. The committee is currently finalizing 2023 national award submittals.
- Beginning with fall 2022 courses, the Public Works Certificate Program and Underground Utilities Construction Inspectors School offerings are now administered in-house by the chapter instead of via an outside entity.
- To encourage young professionals to attend PWX, the chapter annually offers a stipend to a selected applicant that provides a significant funding amount toward travel, accommodations and registration at the upcoming PWX event. After the event, the stipend recipient writes an article containing the highlights of his/her experience at PWX.

## Chapter Activities

The chapter continues to offer a variety of technical tours, networking events and community outreach opportunities throughout the year.

Date	Location	Event	Registrations
July 14, 2022	Bunker Hills Golf Club, Coon Rapids	40th Annual Summer Golf Classic	164
July 21, 2022	Centennial Lakes Mini Golf Course, Edina	Young Professionals Cmte. Annual Mini Golf Event	26

Aug. 25, 2022	Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul	STEM Day at the Fair outreach event	
Sept. 29, 2022	Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Savage	Prairie Seed Collection Event hosted by the Young Professionals Cmte. and Environment & Sustainability Cmte.	18
Oct. 26, 2022	FMSC Eagan Location	Feed My Starving Children	18
Oct. 27, 2022	Crystal, MN	Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup	10
Nov. 3, 2022	Park Tavern, St. Louis Park	Speed Networking Event hosted by the Young Professionals Cmte.	12
Nov. 10, 2022	Stub & Herbs, Minneapolis	U of MN Student Chapter Networking Night	50

## EDUCATION & CREDENTIALING

Below are education events and programs offered within the past six months.

Date	Location	Event	Registrations
Aug. 11, 2022	City of Fridley Public Works and Civic Campus	Technical Tour	13
Sept. 2022 - May 2023	Hamline University, Minneapolis	Public Works Executive Fellowship	9
Sept. 2022 - May 2023	Hamline University, Minneapolis	Human Resource Essentials for Public Works Professionals	7
Sept. 2022 - Nov. 2022	Plymouth Community Center	Public Works Certificate Program: PW Management & Communication	25
Sept. 2022 - Nov. 2022	Plymouth Community Center	Public Works Certificate Program: Office and Professional Skills for Public Works	25
Sept. 2022 - Nov. 2022	Plymouth Community Center	Public Works Certificate Program: PW Operations and Maintenance	25
Sept. 13-14, 2022	Plymouth Community Center	Fall Workshops - Winter Maintenance Operator Certificate	260
Oct. 2022 - May 2023	Plymouth Community Center AND Virtual	Underground Utilities Construction Inspectors School	15 in person, 17 virtual
Nov. 17-18, 2022	Mystic Lake Center, Prior Lake	Fall Conference	465