



MCAPWA News

CONNECTING PUBLIC WORKS PROFESSIONALS IN MAINE



FALL 2024 SUPERVISORY LEADERSHIP GRADUATES

27 public works employees from 20 towns, from all over the state - including as far away as Presque Isle and Calais - wrapped up 5 days of training that covered leadership skills such as motivation, culture, and accountability, to basic construction skills, blueprint reading, and the latest technologies in infrastructure maintenance. These students will bring their newfound knowledge back to their respective departments, improving their workplaces and providing better services to their residents.

Congratulations to all of them for their hard work and dedication!



AUGUSTA TRUNK-OR-TREAT

The Augusta Public Works crew participated in a Halloween event that turned out approximately 3,000 children! Deputy Director Mary Ann said the best parts included the excitement of the kids when they saw her dressed up as Elsa from the Disney movie, Frozen, and the fantastic live band that was playing that night. Thanks to Augusta PW for representing the Public Works profession!



HONORING RUSSELL K. LUNT

South Portland has re-named their municipal services building in honor of Russell K. Lunt who served the City of South Portland for 34 years in the Department of Public Works.

The dedication of the Russ Lunt Municipal Services Facility noted that Russ always celebrated the hardworking staff at Public Works who served their community well.



ROAD SCHOLAR AWARD

George Field IV, Town of Warren Public Works Department, was named a Road Scholar by Maine Local Roads Director, Peter Coughlan, during the MCAPWA Fall Meeting, held at the MMA Convention, October 3, 2024. Road Scholar designation is earned by attending 10 required courses and 3 elective courses related to municipal operations. Learn more, and see a list of Road Scholars at the Maine Locals Roads website,

<https://www.maine.gov/mdot/mlrc/roadscholar/>

“OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED”

Kennebunk Public Works Department was called on to remove the carcass of a dead whale that washed ashore on August 4th, 2024. This wasn't a fresh carcass, either. Marine Mammals of Maine said they were unable to determine cause of death due to significant decomposition of the carcass. Ooh, that smell...

I'm guessing that wasn't listed as a required duty on the job description, but fortunately, it was covered under that catch-all phrase, “Other duties as assigned.”



<https://www.wmtw.com/article/dead-humpback-whale-washes-up-kennebunk-maine/61804779>



Sponsors

The events MCAPWA hosts are meant to be educational, engaging, and entertaining for public works employees, but these are also designed to support our scholarship fund. We award a \$1,000 scholarship to a University of Maine student and \$500 to a Community College student each year to support their studies. The business sponsors listed below supported our mission in 2024. We thank them for their support and encourage you to support their businesses.



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets eleven times each year and all APWA members are invited to attend. Public Works officials who are interested in learning more about MCAPWA membership can contact any member of the Executive Board for more information and an invitation to the next meeting.

We have three members leaving the Board this year. We offer a big THANK YOU to **Matt Elwell** at the Town of Union, **Jaime Madore** of Sevee & Maher, and **Jeff Preble** of Wright Pierce for their contributions to MCAPWA. The Board voted in new members at the fall meeting. Effective Jan. 1, 2025, the new Executive Committee will consist of:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---|
| President | Scott Holland | Public Works Director, Auburn |
| Vice President | Aaron Huotari | Public Works Director, Bangor |
| Treasurer | David Cote | Public Works Director, Brewer |
| Secretary | Ryan Barnes | Project Manager, Gorrill Palmer |
| Past President | Ralph Norwood | Deputy Director, Maine Turnpike Authority |
| APWA Delegate | Eric Labelle | Principal Project/Process Eng., Kennebunkport |
| Director | Mary Ann Brenchick | Deputy Public Works Director, Augusta |
| Director | Ryan Carrigan | Vice President, Ray Labbe & Sons |
| Director (new) | Owen Chaplin | Project Manager, Wright Pierce |
| Director (new) | Robert Clark | Public Works Director, Easton |
| Director | Dennis Cox | Public Works Director, Topsham |
| Director (new) | Melissa Hutchins | Public Works Director, South Portland |
| Director | Dean Lessard | Public Works Director, York |
| Director | Dan Matchett | Sales, H.P. Fairfield |
| Director | Tom Martin | Owner, ANNACO Construction Services |
| Director | Mike Murray | Public Works Director, Portland |
| Director | Stewart Sevey | Owner, Allied Equipment |
| Director | Barry Sheff | Senior Principal, Woodard & Curran |
| Educational Liaison | Peter Coughlan | Director, MeDOT Local Roads Center |

Looking Ahead

- Dec. 5, 2024** *73rd Maine Transportation Conference at the Augusta Civic Center.* Regional and national leaders in the transportation field gather for learning, networking, and the bridge breaking competition. This year's theme is Safety For All: Reliable Mobility, Livable Villages, and Effective Transitions. Evening reception to be hosted by WTS-Maine.
- Apr. 3, 2025** *MCAPWA Spring Meeting.* This is the meeting where public works folks come together from all over the state to pray that winter operations are done for the year. Unfortunately, last year this event was cancelled due to a snowstorm... Educational presentations, networking, and good food make it an easy decision to attend this spring event.
- Apr. 6-9, 2025** *APWA Snow Conference in Grand Rapids, MI.* The annual APWA Snow Conference is THE place get together with other PW professionals to debrief from the winter's challenges and start developing new strategies that can be deployed for winter '25-'26!
- Jun. 5, 2025** *32nd MCAPWA Highway Congress in Skowhegan, ME.* This is the region's best municipal show. I have been told we outperform the other regional shows and vendors line up to meet the 1,000 or so municipal employees who come to Skowhegan for training, equipment demos, the Snowplow Road-eo, and the Lions Club BBQ chicken lunch!
- Aug. 17-20, 2025** *PWX Conference in Chicago, IL.* PWX is chock full of education, fun, and camaraderie. I encourage PW departments to send someone every year and witness the innovative ideas and positive energy that comes back.
- Sept. 24-26, 2025** *Western Snow & Ice Conference in Loveland, CO.* Home of the national Snowplow Road-eo competition. MCAPWA sends the winners of the state Snowplow Road-eo to this event every year. This could be your year to visit Colorado!
- Sep. 2025** *Annual MCAPWA Golf Classic.* Each fall we get 25-30 teams together for friendly competition on the golf course. Like most of our events, the proceeds benefit the MCAPWA scholarship fund.
- Oct. 2, 2025** *MCAPWA Annual Fall Meeting, at the MMA convention in Bangor, ME.* MCAPWA takes over one of the lecture halls on the 2nd day of the MMA conference to present informative and educational sessions relevant to public works and municipal operations. Oh yeah - and there's food!

What is MCAPWA?

The **M**aine **C**hapter of the **A**merican **P**ublic **W**orks **A**ssociation (**MCAPWA**) was formed in 1957. We are one of 62 **A**merican **P**ublic **W**orks **A**ssociation (**APWA**) chapters with 90 branches all over the United States and Canada.

The APWA was formed when the American Society of Municipal Engineers (AME) and the International Association of Public Works Officials (IAPWO) joined together under the APWA name in 1937.

APWA's mission is to support those who operate, improve, and maintain public works and infrastructure through advocacy, education, and member engagement.

At the Maine Chapter, we advance the APWA mission by representing a vibrant community of professionals in Maine. We are committed to fostering professional growth, facilitating meaningful connections, and promoting excellence within our industry.

But what does all this mean to the average Public Works employee and manager? It means that you have a network of professionals standing at the ready when you need help. We partner with industry professionals, like the Maine Local Roads Center, to offer very affordable training programs where you can learn industry standards and new ways to approach the age-old problem of “we’ve always done it this way.”

We offer opportunities for Public Works professionals to get together and share ideas. Networking and connection is one of the biggest strengths of the municipal infrastructure industry. You will never find a group of people more willing to share everything they know and offer to help you out however they can.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we also like to have fun! Our annual Highway Congress is widely recognized as the premier municipal infrastructure gathering in the Northeast. Sure, we get to talk with vendors, eat great food, and catch up with friends from all over the state, but we also offer opportunities to get into equipment and try it out. We let you compete in the State of Maine Snowplow Road-eo, with a chance to go to Colorado for the national competition. We are starting a new equipment competition this year, too, with a chance to go to the next PWX conference and compete against peers for all over the US and Canada! Like I said, when we have fun, we do it in a big way, with just a touch of learning thrown in to make it worthwhile.

MCAPWA currently has around 170 members. We could use your help in steering MCAPWA into the future of professional growth, meaningful connections, and industry excellence!