



TALKING POINTS

October 2024

US GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- » With the general election just around the corner, the US House and Senate will not be in session during October and the first week of November. As such, our APWA *Washington Report* will not publish during this time.
- » Even though there will be no *Washington Report*, it doesn't mean the news stops! Stay up to date on advocacy efforts and legislative movement on our social media platforms, [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Please remember to like and repost our updates.
- » October 28 is National First Responders Day. Government Affairs is working to present a public works townhall that week focusing on public works as first responders. Watch your email for more information.
- » The APWA Government Affairs Committee will soon present its new public policy priorities to the board for final approval. The committee has spent the past few months rethinking, revising, and rewriting the priorities for the 119th Congress. The Government Affairs team will hand-deliver the documents to all 535 congressional offices early next year.
- » The Government Affairs team is accepting invitations for in-person outreach and advocacy training. Contact Government and Public Affairs Director Andrea Eales with your invitation at aeales@apwa.org.
- » The Engineering & Public Works Roadshow is visiting the Sunshine State this month. The specific project has yet to be settled (either an amazing bridge transformation spanning Old Tampa Bay, Florida, or an important stormwater project to help Tampa protect against flooding). Whatever the Roadshow decides, watch at infrastructureroadshow.org.

APWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

September 6 and 11, 2024

For updates on actions taken during the APWA Board meetings held in Atlanta, Georgia in September, [click here](#) for a convenient, bulleted summary. If you have questions, please contact Teresa Hon at (816) 595-5224 or thon@apwa.org.

MEMBERSHIP

31,975

ACCREDITATION

- » El Campo, Texas Public Works Department. 2nd accreditation
- » Fairfax County, Virginia Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. 3rd accreditation
- » Farmington Hills, Michigan Department of Public Services. 3rd accreditation
- » Prince William County, Virginia Department of Public Works. 4th accreditation
- » Prince William County, Virginia Department of Facilities and Fleet Management. 4th accreditation
- » Buffalo Grove, Illinois Public Works Department. 6th accreditation
- » Columbia, Missouri Community Development Department. 7th accreditation
- » Columbia, Missouri Economic Development Department. 7th accreditation
- » Columbia, Missouri Public Works Department. 7th accreditation
- » Columbia, Missouri Utilities Department. 7th accreditation

WEBINARS & More

CLICK, LISTEN & LEARN



October 24, 2024—Dealing With Mixed Precipitation in Winter Maintenance

Winter maintenance professionals continue to handle difficult weather conditions beyond those anticipated for different times of the year. Recent challenges in winter maintenance include dealing with less predictable weather, like prolonged warm temperatures and mixed precipitation. Flexibility and a comprehensive response are essential for ensuring safety in mixed weather conditions. This program will focus on weather trends that complicate winter maintenance operations and the tools and technology available to help agencies maintain their level of service.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.

November 14, 2024—Tools to Enhance the Employee Experience

Creating a workforce environment where employees feel engaged and supported is more important than ever as organizations experience both retention and recruiting issues along with a large group of retiring employees. A positive culture of employee connectedness requires, in part, a highly intentional level of employee training and development. Ensuring that our employees feel they belong and are well supported is an investment in the employee, the organization, and the public works industry. Knowing where to start, how to develop a successful employee experience from onboarding to retirement, and why employee development and advancement opportunities are critical are all covered in this program.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.

ACCREDITATION

October 22, 2024—Accreditation Open Forum: “How to Achieve Buy-In Across Your Agency to Become Accredited”

You’ve got your team set up to begin the accreditation

process. You open your copy of the *Public Works Management Practices Manual* and the self-assessment software and notice chapters 2-9 involve human resources, finance, legal, communications, and information technology. All functions that are largely handled outside of your department. Now what?

This hour-long forum is designed to help you learn how to reach across your organization to other departments to achieve buy-in and gain assistance. Our panel of accreditation managers and evaluators will look at a few practices and provide suggestions on how to approach them.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Development Strategy and Roadmap

To support the American Public Works Association’s vision of advancing quality of life for all, the public works industry must continually develop strategies to prepare and adapt to the ever-changing workforce. The [strategy](#) and [roadmap](#) are used as a guide to advance the Workforce Development Committee’s strategic goals and activities associated with education, recruitment, and retention.

DEI Chapter Toolboxes Available

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is identified as a key strategic initiative within APWA’s Strategic Plan. The ideas suggested in the newly released toolboxes can be adapted and implemented by APWA chapters to effectively advance their DEI efforts in a manner that resonates with and benefits public works and their communities.

Click on a roadmap below to learn more.

- » [APWA DEI Roadmap: Overview](#)
- » [APWA DEI Roadmap: Education](#)
- » [APWA DEI Roadmap: Governance](#)
- » [APWA DEI Roadmap: Organization Culture](#)

CONFERENCES

Snow 2025 Call For Presentations Closing Soon

Share your knowledge, experience, and vision for the future by submitting a proposal to speak at the 2025 North American Snow Conference, which will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 6–9, 2025. This highly anticipated annual conference provides education and solutions for public works snowfighters and those who support them.



The deadline for proposal submission is October 4, 2024.

[Click here](#) to view the Call for Presentations web page.

PWX 2025 Call for Presentations

PWX 2024 may have just ended, but the call for presentations for PWX 2025 is already open! To submit a proposal, [click here](#).

The submission deadline is Friday, October 25, 2024.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Winter Maintenance Operator Certificate Program

This four-hour certificate program from October 8-9 is targeted toward those staff in the trucks performing winter operations, including operators, crew leaders, and forepersons. [Click here](#) to learn more and register.

Chapter Certificate Programs

Program openings for chapters to host winter maintenance certificate programs are sold out for 2024. Chapters interested in offering either the Winter Maintenance Operator and/or the Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate programs in 2025 should contact education@apwa.org.

CERTIFICATION



A reminder that Certification Resource Bundles are now available for purchase in the APWA store. We are in the process of notifying candidates currently in eligibility. For more information, please contact the certification team at certification@apwa.org or visit our [certification page](#).

APWA Reporter's Certification Corner

Since its inception in 2022, the Certification Corner section of the APWA Reporter has done a fantastic job of highlighting the value and benefits of APWA certification. Engaging certified individuals to share their experiences is a great way to encourage others to pursue certification. Recently we have seen an increase in article submissions. We want to continue to encourage others to share their success stories!

For more information, contact the certification team at certification@apwa.org.

EMERGING LEADERS ACADEMY

The 2024-2025 Emerging Leaders Academy, Class XVIII, will kick off with an introductory call on October 16. The class's in-person Kick-Off Retreat will take place in Kansas City, Missouri from November 7-9, 2024.

IMPORTANT LINKS

[Focus On Public Works](#)

[Tell Your Story](#)

[Education/Credentialing Calendar](#)

[Technical Committees—Your Public Works Experts!](#)

[Groups & Committees](#)

[Council of Chapters](#)

[Government Affairs](#)

• [Washington Report](#)

• [Legislative Action Center \(US\)](#)

• [Ottawa Report](#)

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Share APWA's New Video: "Advancing Quality of Life for All"



One of APWA's strategic initiatives is to increase the visibility of public works and promote its value and positive impact on society. You can build awareness in your own community by sharing our new "[Advancing Quality of Life for All](#)" video launched at PWX 2024. Many people don't understand how essential public works is to their daily lives because when everything is working right, they don't know you're there. This video is a great way to engage with your website users and social media followers and educate them on the vital role public works plays in advancing quality of life for all.

Watch the PWX TV 2024 Playlist



If you missed watching PWX TV this year in Atlanta, don't worry! We've got you covered with a comprehensive playlist available on APWATV. On this year's playlist you'll find three daily episodes that present interviews with public works experts on all the key issues the community is facing. You'll also see clips that cover the most exciting event held during PWX, and you can watch short vignettes featuring public works departments around the US. And, if you don't have time to view each full episode, you'll find shorter, individual clips available, too!

[Click here](#) to begin watching.

Recognize National First Responders Day This October With New Toolkit



APWA has created a [new toolkit](#) to help you celebrate National First Responders Day (NFRD) in your community on October 28, 2024 and recognize public works professionals as first responders. You'll find:

- » A customizable sample proclamation to submit to your governor's or mayor's office
- » A suggested schedule for social media posts for the week leading up to and on NFRD
- » Sample social media posts that you can customize for your own channels
- » Links to APWA's Public Works First Responder logo
- » And, coming soon, a video featuring APWA President Dominick Longobardi that you can use on your agency website or in social posts