

*The American Public Works Association (APWA) serves professionals in all aspects of public works—a fact that sets it apart from other organizations and makes it an effective voice of public works throughout North America. With a worldwide membership over 28,500 strong, APWA includes not only personnel from local, county, state/province, and federal agencies, but also private sector personnel who supply products and services to those professionals.*

## Membership & Chapters

Organized within nine regions, APWA's 28,500 members comprise 63 chapters, serving virtually every community, state/province and region throughout North America. The association is a highly participatory organization with hundreds of opportunities for leadership and service. Governed by a 17-member Board of Directors, elected at both the regional and national levels, APWA is an open, flexible association with diversified membership and a reputation for quality services and products.

Chapters are the essential element in APWA's service delivery system for its members. They offer one of the most immediate and cost-effective opportunities to exchange information with colleagues and to keep up to date on the latest public works technologies and management trends.

The Council of Chapters is an advisory body to the APWA Board of Directors, Executive Director and staff, and is comprised of delegates and alternate delegates from each of the 63 chapters in APWA. The Council of Chapters has eight working committees addressing key strategic priorities for the association.

## Advocacy and Government Affairs

APWA empowers public works professionals to be the voice for adequate investment in public infrastructure among local, state and federal policymakers. APWA's Government Affairs Committee, the APWA Advocates, and other active APWA members create partnerships with key stakeholders, establish new lines of communication with decision makers and extend outreach into the center of public policy discussions. The Government Affairs Staff in the Washington, D.C. Office work with Congressional leaders, Federal agencies and like-minded Coalitions, such as water, transportation, and emergency response organizations, to achieve APWA Advocacy objectives. APWA public policy advocacy priorities are as follows:

- Support for adequate investment in public infrastructure
- Respect for local authority
- Reasonable regulations and protection from unfunded mandates
- Support for streamlining government oversight
- Support for sustainability and environmental stewardship

APWA communicates public works matters considered on Capitol Hill through the APWA Washington Report that is sent out to subscribers each week Congress is in session. Working in the public interest, APWA members bring their experience, expertise and unique perspective to policy debates impacting public works and our communities.

## Professional Development

With a wealth of management and technical resources, APWA offers extensive professional development opportunities through timely publications, webinars called Click, Listen and Learn, on-line and face-to-face chapter programs such as Public Works Institutes\*, and conferences. APWA keeps public works professionals up-to-date on trends and emerging issues with activities open to members and non-members. APWA offers certificate programs through Chapters and three certifications: Certified Storm Water Manager (CSM); Certified Public Fleet Professional (CPFP); and Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector (CPII). APWA also has partnerships for on-line MPA degree programs through the University of Nebraska Omaha and Norwich University. The Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA) is a fast track program for early and mid-level professionals seeking an in-depth introduction to leadership. APWA's largest educational conference is the annual APWA International Public Works Congress and Exposition. Through all of these professional development and training courses, public works professionals have easy and affordable ways to access Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

*\* Public Works Institutes are programs offered by APWA chapters throughout the U.S. which are designed to address supervisory and management needs through 10 core areas of study, ranging from basic management skills to fundamentals of government. APWA's nationally sponsored educational programs provide Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and Professional Development Hours (PDHs) for time spent in the classroom during professional development and training activities. The APWA Public Works Institutes provide the educational portion of the program, and the credentialing portion seeks to help candidates "gain relevant" public works experience for the credential they are seeking.*

# APWA AT A GLANCE

## Donald C. Stone Center for Leadership Excellence in Public Works



The APWA DCS Center's Leadership and Management credentialing program provides the most comprehensive leadership credentialing program for public works professionals in North America. Participants gain valuable and relevant public works experience as they develop products that are reviewed by experienced leaders in the field. It is a personalized career growth experience at all levels: Public Works Supervisor (PWS), Manager (PWM), and Executive (PWE). Each candidate selects a mentor with 20+ years of experience in the field, who guides them through the program. These established public works professionals and executives, who join the program as Public Works Leadership Fellows (PWLs), experience the satisfaction of mentoring and coaching future leaders in the public works profession. This leadership and management credentialing program inspires public works professionals to reach new heights in their careers through enrichment and advancement experiences. It provides candidates with the knowledge, confidence and networking they need to make major decisions and deal with the ever-increasing challenges they face on a day-to-day basis. DCS transforms individuals and revolutionizes change within communities, and is also the only personalized public works leadership credentialing program that seeks to help candidates gain relevant public works experience for each credential.

## Public Works Accreditation

The APWA Accreditation program provides a means of formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for their compliance with the recommended practices set forth in the Public Works Management Practices Manual. It is a voluntary, self-motivated approach to objectively evaluate, verify and recognize compliance with the recommended management practices. The goals of the accreditation program are to create an impetus for organizational self-improvement and raising of standards, offer a voluntary evaluation and education program rather than government regulated activity, recognize good performance and provide motivation to maintain and improve public works performance, increase professionalism, and instill pride among an agency's staff, elected officials and local communities.

## Center for Sustainability

**APWA CENTER FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY**

The APWA Center for Sustainability builds the skills, knowledge and tools for APWA members to exercise sustainable leadership in their communities. The Center, guided by a twelve-member Leadership Group, develops sustainability resources that are shared with the membership through Click, Listen & Learn opportunities, professional development training, educational sessions at APWA's annual Congress, and the Center's website.

## Online Tools and Communications



APWA's infoNOW Communities give members the opportunity to email questions to other public works professionals, share real-life experiences, discuss current issues and trends related to the field, or conduct their own research using the library of past online conversations. There are currently 15 topic-driven infoNOW Communities. APWA's Members' Library is a free, on-demand online resource for members that houses all past APWA Click, Listen & Learn webinars, e-books and other publications, podcasts and presentations from prior years' Congress events. By removing some time, travel, and financial constraints involved in typical educational opportunities, the Members' Library opens the doors for more people, agencies, and organizations to access the educational programs APWA provides.

## Monthly Magazine

**APWA-REPORTER**

The award-winning *APWA Reporter* serves as the prime communication link uniting the community of public works professionals who make up the association. Most articles are written by member-experts on subjects ranging from emergency management and water resources to transportation, fleet services and winter maintenance. The articles contain information on management techniques, research, training programs and new technologies.

For more information on APWA, please visit the website at :  
[www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net). For media inquiries, please contact APWA Media Relations  
and Communications Manager Laura Bynum at [lbynum@apwa.net](mailto:lbynum@apwa.net).