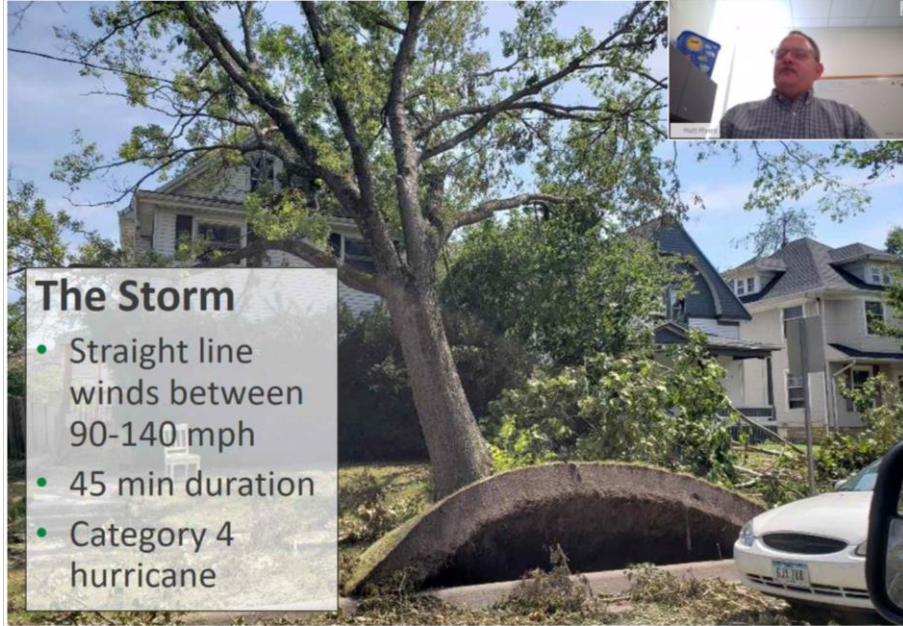


# Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence

Iowa Chapter Submittal for 2020



## The Storm

- Straight line winds between 90-140 mph
- 45 min duration
- Category 4 hurricane



City of Cedar Rapids



## Chapter Summary

The Iowa Chapter had another eventful year in 2020. While it was not what we had envisioned back in 2019, we successfully adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and were able to offer virtual educational opportunities for our members to share common and unique experiences via presentations, and ensure professional engineers had the opportunity to earn continuing education units. Partnering with Iowa's Local Technical Assistance Program, and further utilizing our event software for sending out emails and assembling event agendas, made these events possible and efficient.

The Iowa Chapter focused on maintaining as much "normal" as possible throughout 2020. When the spring conference was canceled, we pulled together four of the presentations from the agenda and hosted our first virtual conference, "Spring into Summer". When our annual proclamation for National Public Works Week signing at the Governor's office was canceled, we worked with them mail the signed document instead. When in-person public works promotion was challenging, we shifted to social media to share recognition and appreciation. When all our 2020 in-person events were canceled, our executive board got together via Zoom ("you are muted"), partnered with Iowa LTAP, and began planning the virtual fall conference, followed by a virtual winter maintenance workshop in December.

On August 10, 2020, Iowa experienced a derecho, which is essentially a widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm resembling a hurricane. Damage across the state was significant. Communities less impacted pulled together to help other chapter member communities when they needed it most. Examples included debris removal and hauling, traffic signal crews, and traffic sign crews.

Iowa Chapter members continue to play an important role in collaborating with Iowa DOT. The Iowa Chapter is recognized by the Iowa DOT as the group that represents the urban sector of the Iowa Local Systems Bureau. We are also seeing the reward of working together with Iowa DOT and Iowa County Engineers Association on a joint application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program when the state was awarded \$33.4 million for bundling bridge reconstruction projects, including five city bridges, all to be let prior to September 20, 2021. A similar partnership also existed on a technical advisory committee for the feasibility study to determine the need for a public works service bureau in Iowa. These are all great examples of how APWA members, counties, and the Iowa DOT work together towards common goals.

The Iowa Chapter continues to strive to the next level in achieving excellence, both locally and nationally. For the seventh year in a row, an Iowa Chapter member received the APWA Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year award. The Iowa Chapter has one member currently enrolled in the Emerging Leaders Academy, eight member graduates, and one of those graduates is now an ELA mentor.

Through it all, the Iowa Chapter stuck together and are eagerly looking forward to seeing each other in-person in 2021. Many of our initiatives previously planned for 2020 are now goals for 2021. One such goal is to expand on the roundtable events from 2019 hosted by the Iowa Chapter's Small Communities Committee by resuming the events and providing light lunches to participants. Another goal is to visit our local elementary schools to share the children's books written by our chapter members. We also plan to expand our young professional outreach and membership when we are able to resume in-person networking opportunities. Our final goals including resuming our public works promotion activities, volunteer events, and financial sponsorships to student organizations at Iowa State University and University of Iowa.



*Iowa's 2020 National Public Works Week Proclamation*

# I. Membership

## A. Net Membership Gain/Loss and Retention

The Iowa Chapter's membership **started the year with 577 members and closed at 557 members**. While it is never our goal to lose members, we consider maintaining 97% of our members a success given the nature of 2020.

## B. Membership Recruitment and Retention Efforts and Programs

Recruitment and retention efforts were honestly very minimal in 2020. Without in-person networking opportunities, we focused on retaining existing members by providing support and alternate opportunities, adapted for 2020. Examples include showing support and appreciation on Facebook and developing/hosting a virtual fall conference.

For retention efforts, the membership chair follows up with delinquent individual memberships and vacant agency positions to ensure they are aware of their membership options and the benefits provided by APWA National and the Iowa Chapter.



*Screenshot from Cedar Rapids' Presentation on the August 10, 2020 Derecho and impacts to the community during the virtual fall conference.*

## C. Innovative Membership Development and Retention Efforts

Pre-COVID-19, student chapter members were invited to attend our state conferences free of charge. Since all our virtual events were free in 2020, this was perhaps not the most enticing incentive. We plan to resume the free registration offer in 2021, when it will again hold appeal. The Iowa Chapter is also going to explore the option of hosting booths at upcoming career fairs as another method of outreach to students.



*Example Iowa Chapter Facebook posts, promoting APWA members and showing appreciation for the enormous time and energy they were using to help clean up our communities after the August 10, 2020 derecho, which left widespread damage and cut off power to thousands of residents and businesses for multiple days.*

## II. Service to Chapter Members and 2020 Impacts in Iowa

### A. Number of Members Attending Meetings and Events

Service to our chapter members is a primary goal for the Iowa Chapter. Each year, the Iowa Chapter typically holds various meetings and conferences. These are opportunities to educate and train our members, sharing both best practices and lessons learned. They are also opportunities to inspire (or let's be honest - sometimes commiserate) with other professionals and friends in the public works industry. As everyone knows, those efforts were significantly altered in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic. See the following pages for a summary of the meetings we either attempted to hold or were successful in hosting during the ongoing pandemic and a timeline of how COVID-19 impacted Iowa.

#### Spring Conference - Canceled

Our annual Iowa Chapter Spring Conference was scheduled for **April 2-3, 2020 in West Des Moines** with both conference attendees and vendors.

On **Thursday March 12**, in response to the evolving global health emergency that was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, and questions from registered participants, the statement to the right was sent on behalf of the Spring Conference Planning Committee. The event was still on, but refunds with a small administrative fee were offered to attendees.

On **Friday March 13**, board members had a conference call with the Sheraton Hotel to discuss options for the spring conference. If the chapter were to cancel the event at that time, we would have lost \$17,000. It was on this same day that President Trump issued a proclamation declaring COVID-19 a national emergency.

Then, on **Sunday March 15**, the C.D.C. advised no gatherings of 50 or more people in the United States over the next eight weeks in response to what was now considered a pandemic. On **March 16**, President Trump then advised U.S. citizens to avoid groups of more than 10 and many agencies across Iowa began what would become a significant shift in the way we do business and operate over the next year+. As a result, an updated notice was sent out, canceling our annual spring conference.



Just as many of you are working within your organizations to develop a policy on how to handle COVID-19, the APWA Iowa Chapter is working our way through the issue as well. Based on the knowledge that the Iowa Department of Public Health is **not** currently recommending a ban on mass gatherings, the Iowa Chapter Board of Directors has decided to hold the spring conference at this time. If the situation changes, the Board will provide updated information.

#### **Take Steps to Protect Yourself:**

[https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention-treatment.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fabout%2Fprevention-treatment.html)

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay home if you are sick

*We do understand if you are no longer comfortable attending the conference. Attendee cancellations will be accepted until March 27th with a \$10 administrative fee. Unfortunately we will not be able to issue refunds after March 27th. If you do wish to cancel, please contact Kim Pinegar, [Kimberly.Pinegar@wdm.iowa.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Pinegar@wdm.iowa.gov).*



**Based on the latest CDC recommendation to cancel or postpone events with 50 people or more for 8 weeks, the 2020 APWA Iowa Chapter Spring Conference has been postponed until further notice.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>

*(TOP): Update email sent to chapter members on March 12, 2020.  
(BOTTOM): Cancellation notice emailed to attendees, exhibitors, and speakers on March 16, 2020.*

## 2020 COVID-19 Impacts in Iowa

Little did any of us know, March was just the beginning of the impacts COVID-19 would have to both our personal and professional lives. But in classic public works response fashion, the Iowa Chapter and its members adapted and moved forward with public safety, employee safety, member support, and public service needs in mind. Below are some of the highlights of the statewide proclamations and recommendations we worked with in Iowa. As you can imagine, they help tell our 2020 story.

- **March 9, 2020:** Initial Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency. *Begin to coordinate the state of Iowa's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.*
- **March 15, 2020:** Iowa Governor Reynolds recommended all schools close for four weeks. *This required a scramble and shift for many employees and employers across the state.*
- **March 16, 2020:** Iowa APWA Board formally cancels the 2020 Spring Conference.
- **March 17, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation of Public Health Disaster Emergency. *Closed restaurants, bars, fitness centers, theaters, casinos and gaming facilities, mass gatherings (no more than 10), senior citizen centers and adult daycare facilities.*
- **March 19, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *Allowed electronic public meetings and hearings.*
- **March 26, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *No nonessential or elective surgeries or procedures that utilize PPE, expanded telehealth service options, extended previous business closures and expanded to include non-essential retail establishments.*
- **April 2, 2020:** Extended & Expanded Proclamation. *Ordered both public and nonpublic schools closed, waiving instructional time requirements.*
- **April 16, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *Employers in select counties ordered to evaluate whether any more of their employees can feasibly work remotely and to the extent reasonable, take steps to enable such employees to work from home.*
- **April 24, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *Temporary suspension requirements for distribution, receipt, opening, or recording of paper documents for construction bidding procedures.*
- **April 27, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *Encourage vulnerable Iowans to continue limiting activities, limited reopening of businesses in select counties, extension of closure in other counties, extend < 10 people gatherings in all counties, closed schools for remainder of regular scheduled school year, professional licensing relief.*
- **May 26, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *Additional business reopening, > 10 people gatherings allowed when comply with social distancing, hygiene, and public health requirements.*
- **July - August 2020:** Expanded Proclamations. *Schools were to provide face-to-face learning in addition to a remote option for parental choice, unless granted approval by Dept of Education.*
- **May 28, 2020:** Iowa APWA Board voted to cancel all face-to-face meetings in 2020.
- **August 27, 2020:** Iowa APWA Board voted to release the dates held by the Sheraton Hotel for the 2021 Spring Conference.
- **August 27, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *Use of masks or face coverings strongly encouraged.*
- **November 10, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *All employers shall evaluate whether any more of their employees can feasibly work remotely and enable to work from home if possible, expanded mass gathering requirements (>25 indoors or >100 outdoors prohibited unless all participants older than two are wearing masks at all times except while eating or drinking).*
- **November 16, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *Mask requirement when indoors expanded, mass gathering limits updated (Indoor >15 prohibited, Outdoor >30 prohibited).*
- **December 16, 2020:** Expanded Proclamation. *Gatherings allowed when comply with social distancing, hygiene, and public health requirements.*

### Spring into Summer Virtual Conference

In light of canceling the spring conference, the Iowa Chapter joined forces with Iowa LTAP to offer four of the sessions that were planned for the spring conference. The chapters first virtual conference, aptly named the “Spring into Summer”, was held on June 16 (from 1:00 - 3:00) and June 17 (from 10:00 - noon). The event was free of charge and had **69 registrants**. The presentations given included: the importance of communication, the Iowa City pedestrian mall project, 7 habits of highly defective leaders, and the Bolton & Menk Children’s Book Series.

### Virtual Fall Conference

In order to keep everyone engaged in APWA, and to assist engineers with professional development hours, the Iowa Chapter once again partnered with Iowa LTAP to host a virtual fall conference. To minimize screen fatigue, it was offered over two days: November 4 and 5 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM each day. The event was free of charge and had **159 registrants**. Sponsorship opportunities were offered and we were able to secure 2 general sponsors and 8 session sponsors. The sponsors were recognized on the event website, agenda, and before and between presentations. Among the presenters and topics were Mary Joyce Ivers, APWA President, providing a National APWA Update; Rich Benevento, New England Chapter Delegate, presenting on APWA - Public Works Awareness; and local experts/leaders presenting on salt reduction strategies, e-ticketing during construction, derecho impacts and recovery stories, and ethics and leadership.



*APWA President Mary Joyce Ivers presenting at the Iowa Chapter virtual fall conference*

### Winter Maintenance Operations Virtual Workshop

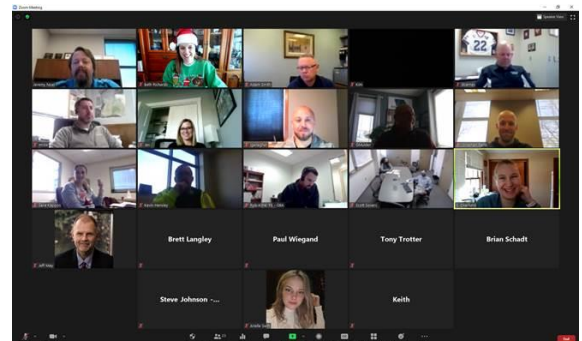
Missing our winter maintenance workshops, the Iowa Chapter again partnered with Iowa LTAP to host the 2020 Winter Maintenance Operations Virtual Workshop on December 15 from 8:30 - 11:30 AM. There were **97 attendees** and the following topics were covered: pre-inspection of snow removal equipment, winter maintenance city practices, snow removal on gravel roadways, pre-season preparation, snow policies, and levels of service.

### 2020 Public Works Expo (PWX) @ Home

Like many other conferences across the county, the annual PWX event was not held in person. Instead, the PWX at home experience was put together, allowing many of our members the opportunity to participate from their home or office throughout 2020 and continuing into 2021. Many of our members look forward to attending PWX in-person in the future.

### Executive Committee

During 2020, one Iowa Chapter Executive Committee meeting was held in-person, and five were held virtually. The **average attendance was 18 participants**. Three of the meetings were voting board members only to discuss and make time sensitive decisions on conferences, trainings, and venue contracts. The Iowa Chapter appreciated guidance from Diana Forbes, APWA Director of Meetings, when having to make some of these difficult decisions. During the other three meetings, various business was discussed such as officer reports, funding requests, upcoming conferences, delegate reports, committee reports, partner reports, etc.



*December 22, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting*

In 2020, the Iowa Chapter Executive Committee primarily focused on what we could provide to our members during the COVID-19 pandemic, with intentions of postponing some of our initiatives and goals until in-person meetings and activities could safely resume. That included the “changing of guard” for our Iowa Chapter leadership. As pointed out to us by Brad Patterson, APWA Chapter Membership Manager, a clause in our bylaws states: “In the event of extraordinary and extenuating circumstances, the Executive Committee shall have the power to declare the term of office of any or all Chapter Officers and Directors extended for one full term.” The voting members of the Executive Committee acted to extend the terms of all the officers and directors by one year at their May 28, 2020 meeting.

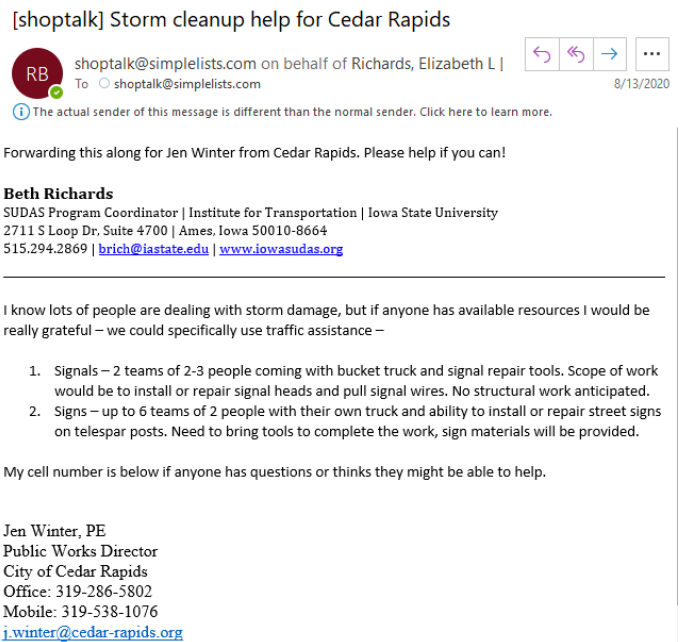
## B. Member-to-Member Outreach

### Shop Talk

The Iowa Chapter utilizes a unique form of communication to its members called Shop Talk. Shop Talk is an email group distribution list managed through a contract with the Iowa League of Cities. Utilizing a group distribution list is a quick and efficient way to get an email out to a large group, without having each sender create their own list of recipients. Members use this discussion forum as a way to inform their colleagues about various topics such as job openings, upcoming activities and training opportunities, national new legislation, etc. Another frequent use of this group distribution list is posing questions to others about how their community might handle a certain situation, or experience with products or materials. Shop Talk has proven to be a crucial form of member-to-member outreach within our chapter, including the example above after the August 10 derecho. **In 2020 alone, there were over 130 emails sent via Shop Talk.**

### Website

The Iowa Chapter website ([iowa.apwa.net](http://iowa.apwa.net)) includes information about upcoming local and national events, contact information for chapter leadership and committees, a chapter regions map, chapter newsletters, chapter award categories and criteria, chapter historical information, links to the chapter Facebook and Twitter feeds, advertisements for open city employment opportunities, and other announcements that need to be made to the members. We also made an update to our Chapter website this past summer to include and promote the Public Works First Responder logo. As will be mentioned later in this nomination, our chapter members across the state yet again illustrated the relevance of this distinction.



*Shop Talk example email sent August 13, 2020, relaying Cedar Rapid's request for help after the derecho.*



*Iowa Chapter Website*

## Meeting Notices

Notices for upcoming conferences, committee meetings, chapter-sponsored events, and any other meetings the chapter may hold are distributed via email. Information about various chapter events are also posted on the Iowa Chapter website and social media.

When planning our meetings, the Iowa Chapter uses Bizzabo, an online event planning software that can send automated emails and process registrations. In addition, Bizzabo offers a mobile option that we hope to incorporate into our 2021 fall conference. Event organizers have reported this extremely robust and easy-to-use software has been just as convenient for the virtual events, saving time when building and maintaining events, while giving it a more modern feel.

## APWA Reporter

Members of the Iowa Chapter frequently submit articles that are included in the *APWA Reporter*. In 2020, there were **20 APWA Reporter articles** submitted by our members, and many more highlighting our members on a variety of topics including leadership, technology, social media, winter maintenance, broadband, asset management, training, and diversity. This not only provides local member-to-member outreach, but also national member-to-member outreach.



*December 2020 Reporter article from Iowa Chapter member Jonathan Gano*



### Public Works Service Bureau

The Iowa Chapter has partnered with the Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) program to take on the daunting—but exciting—challenge of creating a new public works service bureau in Iowa to connect the state's more than 900 city agencies.

The Iowa Public Works Service Bureau (IPWSB) will provide a mechanism to establish much-needed communication between public works departments and be responsive to ongoing and emerging public works initiatives and concerns.

“Development of the Iowa Public Works Service Bureau will fundamentally change information exchange between cities of all sizes, as well as allow the Service Bureau to provide analysis of data to improve efficiencies and effectiveness of public works operations across the state,” said SUDAS Director Paul Wiegand, who is the principal investigator on the project.

Some of the anticipated benefits of the IPWSB are that it will provide the following:

- Invaluable tools and resources for public works departments that provide essential services
- Efficient use of public resources to maintain infrastructure, which is critical to long-term sustainability
- Specific data that helps public works staff and civic leaders make informed decisions and policies to improve quality of life
- Stable and sustainable communities through the in-depth understanding of the workings of public works departments
- Improved infrastructure operational efficiencies by cultivating communication between agencies

SUDAS conducted a feasibility study in 2019 that included a literature review to determine that no such similar organization existed, a survey of Iowa's public agencies that showed overwhelming support for a public works service bureau and laid out the steps to initiate implementation. The second phase of the project is a two-year effort to officially establish the IPWSB, which is expected to begin in 2021.



## Social Media (Facebook and Twitter)

One of the goals for 2020 that we were able to achieve was to increase the Iowa Chapter's social media presence and reach. There has been increased use of the Chapter's Twitter account. And now in year two, the Iowa Chapter Facebook page is also starting to pick up new followers. This has allowed us another avenue to get the word out and the potential to connect with the younger generation. We share our chapter's events, awards, and activities on the social media accounts.

We are also trying to use the chapter's Facebook page to increase promotion of public works here in Iowa. This was most notable in August 2020 when Iowa experienced a derecho, which is essentially an inland hurricane. (You know, because 2020 wasn't challenging enough.) With little to no warning, the derecho left a wide-spread path of destruction, including damaged crops, trees, electric lines, lights, traffic signs, and signals, clear across Iowa. In fact, Cedar Rapids was hit particularly hard and is still removing tree debris and exposing damaged infrastructure nine months later.



During a time when so much of the state was working remotely and relying on broadband to work from home, the lack of electricity and internet during the humid August heat was not only an inconvenience, but also a financial and safety concern for many of our citizens. Our public works employees worked tirelessly to clear streets for other first responders, and communities who were spared or experienced less damage packed up to help their neighbors.

As seems to happen in times of crisis, not everyone is patient when they are inconvenienced, especially in the heat of summer when they are without electricity for days. The Iowa Chapter wanted to add positivity to the conversations; therefore, we encouraged members to share pictures of their staff making a difference, and we posted them while tagging the cities' Facebook pages. This greatly increased our reach and gave a much-deserved shout-out to dedicated members and their teams from a third party. Our follower numbers on Facebook are still double digits, but we hope to continue promotion and use to increase hits, follows, and reach. We will also continue to discuss adding LinkedIn and Instagram accounts to our toolbox in 2021.

### Membership Engagement/Volunteer Plan and Efforts

Iowa Chapter members are some of the most active, “go-getters” in the association. Our chapter never shies away from a task! Many members are representatives on various national committees and subcommittees, some even holding chair positions over the years. It is not uncommon for executive committee meetings to include 20 or more people, all of whom frequently volunteer to help plan an event or develop new activities or programs for our chapter. In 2020, members of our chapter continued to volunteer for planning of the next Mid-America Conference and Exhibit show (which was sadly canceled due to COVID) and assisted with promotion of PWX at Home.

However, as with all volunteer organizations, we are always looking for additional hands to help carry the load. We continue to promote the Iowa Chapter at our events and look for ways for people who are interested to get involved. Our committees and contact information for the committee chairs are available on our website.

### Local Public Agency Stakeholder Partnering Team

Cities, counties, and other local public agencies (LPAs) build and maintain a significant portion of our country’s, and the State of Iowa’s, roads and bridges. When they use Federal funds for these projects, LPAs must follow a series of often complex procedures that may be unfamiliar to LPA staff and could impact the cost-effective use of the Federal-aid dollars. The mission of the LPA Stakeholder Partnering Team is to identify state and LPA program-level compliance and oversight issues, and to review and formulate improvements to processes and procedures within the confines of applicable Federal law, rules, orders, and policies, and to ultimately streamline the delivery of Federal-aid projects within the state. The members of the LPA Stakeholder Partnering Team include the FHWA Iowa Division, Iowa DOT, Iowa LTAP, and LPA representatives from the Iowa County Engineers Association and the Iowa Chapter of APWA.

### Chapter Delegate and Alternate Delegate

The Chapter Delegate, Ron Knoche, and the Alternate Delegate, Jeff May, attended the 2020 Winter Council of Chapters meeting in Kansas City. At the 2020 Winter Meeting, Ron was selected to serve as the Region 6 Representative on the Steering Committee for the Council of Chapters, which started in August 2020. They had both planned to attend the Council of Chapters meeting in New Orleans, but with the cancelation of in-person PWX, instead attended the 2020 Virtual Council Summer Meeting. Ron served on the Membership Task Force, which completed their work in 2020, and is currently working on the Public Works Awareness Task Force. Jeff serves on both the Government Affairs Committee and the Advocacy Task Force.



### Leadership Institute

We developed an APWA Nationally Accredited Public Works Institute in Iowa, which we call the Public Employees Leadership Institute. Our institute is a series of 15 online professional courses that help employees enhance their leadership skills and knowledge. **In 2020, 5 participants completed all 15 courses and received official APWA leadership**

**certificates.** There were also an **additional 24 open registrations from 2018 to 2020** for people still completing courses. Iowa’s Leadership Institute is one of the few APWA institutes completely available online. The Iowa Chapter will continue reviewing the current modules to see what enhancements and improvements need to be made, with the hopes of updating one to two modules per year, post-COVID.

### C. Chapter Best Practices

Overall, the Iowa Chapter is successfully meeting the Chapter Best Practices. Evidence can be seen on the attached completed form, as well as throughout this nomination. We recognize that brainstorming and collaboration are challenging in a virtual environment. However, in 2021, the Iowa Chapter plans to revisit the 2020 goals, including looking at the chapter's strategic plan, work with the Iowa Public Works Service Bureau to continue reaching out to the smaller communities, and challenge the Iowa Regional Directors to host a short educational opportunity in each of the six regions.

### D. Chapter-to-Chapter Outreach

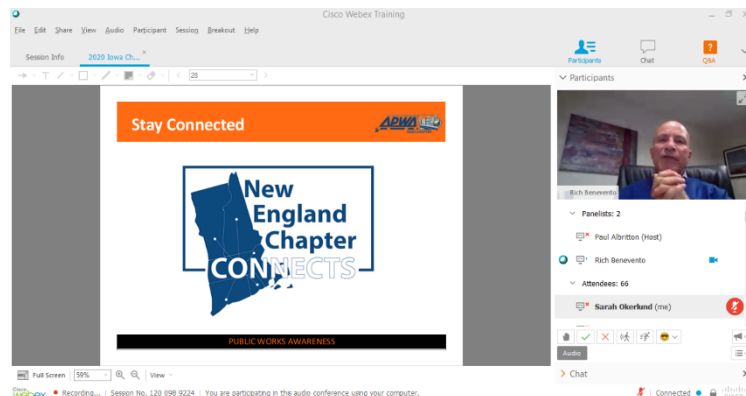
Every three years, the Iowa Chapter co-sponsors and participates in a Mid-America Conference and Exhibit show with four other APWA chapters. Prior to the actual event, Iowa Chapter members are part



of the planning committee, which involves a great deal of chapter-to-chapter outreach. The Iowa Chapter had two members who served on the Mid-America Conference Planning Committee. Sadly, the Conference did not happen in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Our Chapter Delegate and Alternate Delegate provided and shared semi-annual National activity reports and participated in the 2020 Winter Council of Chapters meeting, as well as the virtual 2020 Summer Council of Chapters meeting. As mentioned previously, we were also fortunate enough to have Mary Joyce Ivers, APWA President, provide a National APWA Update and Rich Benevento, New England Chapter Delegate, present on APWA - Public Works Awareness at our virtual Fall Conference.

Many of the Iowa Chapter members are very active at the national level by serving as national liaisons, writing articles for the *APWA Reporter*, and participation at APWA's PWX at Home and the virtual North American Snow Conference. Steve Johnson, Iowa Chapter member, continues to serve as an ELA Mentor. We also have several members who have been appointed to national committees and subcommittees as listed below. While participating in all these activities, our members were able to share their particular expertise in an area and in turn, able to bring back valuable lessons and information to the Iowa Chapter.



*Screenshot from 2020 Fall Conference during Rich Benevento's Presentation on New England Chapter's Public Works Awareness.*

**Iowa Chapter National Liaisons:** Young Professionals

**Iowa Chapter National Committee Appointments:** Diversity and Inclusion, Emergency Management, Government Affairs, International Affairs, Leadership and Management, Transportation, Utilities and Public Rights-of-Way, and Water Resources Management

**Iowa Chapter National Subcommittee Appointments:** Connected Vehicles, Right-of-Way Management, Road Safety, Utility Coordination, and Winter Maintenance

### E. Chapter Diversity/Inclusiveness Programs or Activities

Through our chapter's Young Professionals Committee, which includes both Student Outreach and Emerging Leaders Subcommittees, a main goal is to reach out and recruit more student members and young professionals. This committee is also charged with helping to grow members of all ages as they aspire to grow in the public works professions. Due to COVID-19, our Chapter did not make a lot of progress in this area, but hopes to resume efforts and outreach in 2021.

The Iowa Chapter also continues to gain and retain more female members. Throughout chapter history, the chapter demographics have been predominantly men. However, the past several years have brought more women into the organization. Many of the female members have taken on leadership positions within the chapter. Some 2020 examples include, a female secretary/treasurer of the Iowa Chapter APWA Board, a female director on the Iowa Chapter APWA Board, three committee chairs (Membership, Communications, and Sustainability), a National Liaison (Young Professionals), and three National Committee Appointments (Diversity and Inclusion, International Affairs, and Water Resources Management).

### F. Young/Emerging Professionals

Since its inception in 2008, the Iowa Chapter has had eight members graduate from the APWA Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA), and the chapter has invited the graduates to actively participate at the local level. As a way to further support our members, the Iowa Chapter sponsors members who are participating in the ELA to help offset the costs of attending PWX. In exchange for sponsorship, academy graduates are then asked to serve on one of the chapter committees for a minimum of one year. **The Iowa Chapter is being represented in the 2020-2021 ELA Class by Andy Wicks, Traffic Engineer with the City of Council Bluffs.**



And as mentioned previously, we have two Iowa Chapter members who are national liaisons for the Young Professionals Committee.

## III. Advancement of Public Works and Sustainability

### A. Awards/Recognition Programs

#### Chapter Awards

The Iowa Chapter has an honored (and often entertaining) tradition of recognizing chapter awards during the annual fall conference. The process to submit an award nomination was advertised in 2020; however, no submittals were received by the awards chair. The chapter hopes to resume our annual awards program tradition in 2021 with an in-person fall conference in Council Bluffs.

**We'll be back...**

Although today should have been the start of the Spring Conference, we have good news! 🎉  
Congratulations to Randy Krauel, one of 2020's Top 10 Public Works Leaders of the Year! That makes 7 in a row for the Iowa Chapter! 🏆



*Iowa Chapter announcement via Facebook, that Randy Krauel received the APWA Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year Award.*

## National Awards/Recognition

Randy Krauel was named a **2020 Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year**. Randy is currently the Public Works Director/City Engineer for the City of Carroll, a role he has held since 1979. Randy has devoted most of his professional career to the City of Carroll Public Works Department. During his tenure, Randy has worked with several city managers, mayors, and council members, always practicing professional decision-making and recommendations for the management of the city and public works department. His loyalty and dedication have provided a unique look into the impact of quality management and engineering on the community over time.

Over the course of his career, Randy has taken on a variety of statewide leadership roles in the field of public works, including the Council of Governments Technical Advisory Committee, Iowa's Statewide Urban Design and Specifications Corporation Board of Directors, and the American Water Works Association. He is an active member of the Iowa Chapter, having held various offices within the chapter's executive committee including serving as president in 1994. In recognition of his accomplishments, Randy has received Iowa Chapter awards, including Leader of the Year and the L.O. Steward Service Award. Randy is the 14<sup>th</sup> Iowa Chapter member to receive this award and the 7<sup>th</sup> in the past 7 years!

## B. Public Works Promotion

Many of our cities hold events promoting their public works activities, generally during National Public Works Week (NPWW), which include participation from various Iowa Chapter members. Unfortunately, all of those were canceled, or looked much different in 2020. In fact, many of our city offices were closed to the public making promotion even more challenging. As mentioned before, the Iowa Chapter switched gears and leaned on social media to spread recognition and appreciation for our Public Works employees and members, who were essential workers in more ways than normal in 2020. The image to the right captures one of our chapter's Facebook posts that shared a short video put together by our partners and friends at Iowa LTAP and InTrans recognizing city and county essential workers about a month after the August 10<sup>th</sup> derecho.

APWA Iowa Chapter is 🙏 feeling thankful.  
September 15, 2020 · 🌐  
Special thanks to Iowa LTAP and InTrans for recognizing City and County essential workers 🙏 We see you, we appreciate you, and we wouldn't be where we are without you! 🙏



VIMEO.COM  
**A Great Big Thank You**  
The Iowa LTAP and InTrans thank city and county essential workers for...



*Iowa Chapter member, Chadd Kahlsdorf, accepting Bolton & Menk's award at PWX.*

Another public works promotion and outreach effort is underway in Iowa. One of our local engineering consultant groups has developed a children's book series that was awarded the **2019 APWA's Exceptional Performance in Non-Chapter Journalism award**. This award recognizes the exceptional performance in presenting the story of a public works issue or event that projects a positive image of individuals or agencies in the course of their performance in either broadcast or print mediums. The series consists of **7 books on STEAM and A/E/C topics** including the water cycle, planning, civil engineering, landscape architecture, GIS, wastewater, and even a Christmas story. This book series was written by the professional staff at Bolton & Menk with the goal of getting young children introduced to STEAM fields at an early age, with the hopes of increasing the future hiring pool. Children are taught the information in an easy to understand story that they can relate to, broadening their perspective of the world.

The Iowa Chapter purchased copies of these books with the intention of reading and presenting them to local elementary schools in 2020. Those plans have now shifted to a 2021 goal since it was not an option in 2020 due to COVID. In fact, the City of Iowa City still has a stack of boxes in their main conference room - awaiting delivery to our volunteers. We are also exploring the opportunity to work together with Bolton & Menk to create a public works specific book.



As will be mentioned below under "Advocacy Outreach," the Iowa Chapter coordinated with the governor to sign a National Public Works Week Proclamation, and many cities within Iowa also have their mayor sign a National Public Works Week Proclamation. Some cities have turned to social media as another outlet for promoting public works and informing the public on current projects or events within their city.

### C. Professional Development

The Iowa Chapter strives to provide diverse agendas at our conferences to address a variety of public works topics. Our spring and fall conferences typically provide professional development hours for all attendees.

The Iowa Public Employees Leadership Institute, which is APWA-accredited, provides a series of online courses that can help employees enhance leadership skills and knowledge. The content is especially targeted to people who work for cities, counties, and state agencies.

Two cities in Iowa are APWA Public Works Accredited Agencies - the City of Bettendorf (since 2005) and the City of Davenport (since 2007). The City of Davenport was re-accredited in 2016. The City of Bettendorf was re-accredited in 2017. Achieving accreditation and maintaining certification as an accredited agency is quite an undertaking and accomplishment. Being accredited means the agency understands best management practices, is knowledgeable, examines its operations regularly, documents its policies



and procedures, and engages in continuous process improvement. The result of this process helps the city to not only demonstrate, but to ensure the services provided meet or exceed industry standards for the benefit of the city and its citizenry.

Several Iowa Chapter members have participated in APWA's certification programs. Iowa has 3 Certified Public Infrastructure Inspectors, 2 Certified Stormwater Managers, 1 Public Fleet Professional, and 2 Certified Public Works Professionals-Management. Participating in APWA's certifications programs is an excellent way for our members to demonstrate their expertise within a given subject matter in their field of knowledge.

Members of the Iowa Chapter are also appointed to represent APWA for various groups, such as the Iowa League of Cities, Iowa's Local Technical Assistance Program, Iowa's Statewide Urban Design and Specifications Program, Iowa Urban Tree Council, various committees for the Iowa Department of Transportation, LPA Stakeholder Partnering Team, and the Iowa Highway Research Board. Participation in these forums provides professional development, public works advocacy, and exchange of information. The Iowa Chapter is recognized by the Iowa DOT as the group that represents the urban sector of the Iowa Local Systems Bureau. The Iowa DOT relies on our expertise to help guide administrative direction, develop funding criteria and recommendations for funding splits.

#### D. Promoting Sustainability in Public Works Management

The Iowa Chapter's Sustainability Committee is investigating which issues should be addressed by the chapter. Potential activities include having a legislative advocacy presence, creating a volunteer bank, selecting a sponsored project, and dedicating speaker slot(s) within our semi-annual conferences. They want to include all aspects of sustainability, not just stormwater. Iowa Chapter member Amy Foster serves as the chair for this committee and is a current member of the National APWA Water Resources Management Committee. As of 2019, there were also 16 Envision Sustainability Professionals in the State of Iowa, and 2 Envision Supported Agencies demonstrating sustainability expertise and support statewide.



Richard "Rick" Fosse, Professor of Practice in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Iowa, teaches a class called Resilient Infrastructure and Emergency Response. The class is for juniors, seniors, and graduate students studying civil engineering, as well as urban and regional planning. Rick invites various Iowa Chapter APWA members to participate as guest speakers throughout the year, but especially when he covers the unit on sustainability. During his sustainability unit, Rick also discusses and utilizes the Envision rating system from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure, which was founded by APWA, ACEC, and ASCE.

The Iowa Chapter is committed to implementing sustainable concepts. As mentioned previously, the mobile app available with the Bizzabo event software has provided the chapter an opportunity to reduce the number of printed programs at in-person conferences. We also encourage recycling throughout the in-person conferences, from recycling beverage containers to name badge holders and lanyards. The Iowa Chapter Sustainability Committee plans to continue promoting these programs at our conferences in the hopes of even less waste in the future - you know, when we get together again.



## E. Advocacy Outreach

Another missed tradition during our annual spring conference, representatives from the Iowa Chapter were not able to meet with the Iowa Governor, Kim Reynolds, to witness the signing of a National Public Works Week Proclamation. However, she did still sign a proclamation for the Iowa Chapter in 2020; it was just mailed to the chapter instead of signed in person.

As mentioned previously, the Iowa Highway Research Board funded and completed the public works service bureau feasibility study in 2019. One of the goals for a potential Iowa Public Works Service Bureau (IPWSB) would be a single source of statewide communication and information in order to help present a unified and complete picture when state elected officials asks questions. When working through the successful gas tax increase in 2016, it was apparent that Iowa County Engineers Association, who has an established county service bureau, was able to pull together information much more effectively and efficiently. The second phase of the project is a two-year effort to officially establish the IPWSB, which will begin in 2021.

The Iowa Chapter's Government Affairs and Public Policy Committee utilizes Shop Talk to distribute vital information from various agencies and organizations, including the Water Environment Federation, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and of course APWA. The Government Affairs and Public Policy Committee has been monitoring and participating in discussions on the national infrastructure bill and APWA National priorities. The chair of the Iowa committee is also a member of the National APWA Government Affairs Committee, which meets at PWX and in Washington, D.C. on an annual basis.

## IV. Service to the Community

### A. Education Outreach Programs

The APWA ISU Student Chapter has suspended club activities due to low membership participation. We plan to review this more in 2021 to see how the Chapter can better collaborate with students at ISU. The Iowa Chapter discovered ISU reduced funding for student organizations and activities in 2019, which could have led to lower interest if food was unable to be provided during meetings. The Iowa Chapter will be exploring this more in 2021 to see if we can help ramp up participation. We also plan to examine options of creating University of Iowa and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) student chapters.



Iowa Chapter APWA members are appointed to serve on the Iowa Highway Research Board (IHRB) - two as regular members and two as alternates. The IHRB was established to provide guidance and oversight for the use of the secondary road

research funds, overseeing about 20 new projects each year involving transportation issues in Iowa. The value earned from this research is continually returned to Iowa taxpayers through cost savings of innovations, improved safety, and implementation of proactive technologies. The IHRB also serves as the Statewide Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) for the State of Iowa. They are able to set the direction not only for projects that would be funded for STIC, but also to foster innovation in the state and have a single source for communication with the Federal Highway Administration.



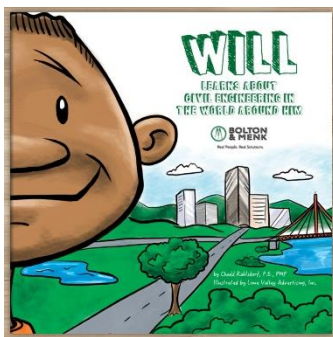
*Iowa's NPWW Proclamation signing by Governor Reynolds in 2019. A signed copy was mailed to us in 2020 instead due to COVID-19.*





Iowa has a Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) program that produces statewide design guidelines and standard specifications for urban public improvements. The SUDAS program is governed by a 38-member board of directors; six of those members are appointed by the APWA Iowa Chapter. Keeping the SUDAS manuals current is an ongoing, cooperative effort involving hundreds of government agency engineers, contractors, suppliers, industry representatives, and consultants who volunteer their time and expertise on various SUDAS committees. Many of these volunteers are also APWA members. SUDAS committee meetings provide a tremendous amount of education and outreach opportunities. In addition, the SUDAS Director also gives regular presentations to civil engineering and landscape architecture classes at Iowa State University.

The Iowa Chapter has always been very supportive of the Iowa Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Iowa LTAP is dedicated to providing technical and management assistance to Iowa's local governments through a variety of programs and resources. The Iowa Public Employees Leadership Institute (previously mentioned) is one of the many educational outreach programs LTAP manages and includes Iowa Chapter of APWA participation. Another program LTAP manages is the Iowa Streets and Roads Workshop and Annual Conference for the Iowa Streets and Roads Maintenance Supervisors Association, which was also canceled in 2020. The Iowa Chapter is one of the conference sponsors and appoints a representative to the conference planning committee. Iowa Chapter members also graciously donate their time to give various presentations at the Streets and Roads event. In 2017-2019, the Leadership Track presented at the Spring Conference is repeated live at this Streets and Roads event. While most of the workshops and conferences were canceled in 2020, Iowa LTAP played a critical role in maintaining training opportunities and hosting online conference options for the Iowa Chapter. This was a fabulous resource and partnership for our chapter.



As mentioned previously, the Iowa Chapter purchased Bolton & Menk's collection of children's books with the intent of distributing to kids in Iowa. Geared towards 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, these books introduce elements of engineering and the public works industry. One of the books (*Will Learns about Civil Engineering in the World Around Him*) is even authored by Iowa Chapter member Chadd Kahlsdorf. Iowa Chapter members are hoping to read and present some of these books to our local elementary students in 2021. In addition, the Iowa Chapter also hopes to collaborate with Bolton & Menk to develop a public works themed book.

Two active Iowa Chapter members have been appointed to the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual Board of Directors and Technical Committee. The manual was developed with Iowa Department of Natural Resources funding and is maintained by the technical committee through the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership. Through the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership, numerous APWA members are educated on stormwater topics every year. Several Iowa Chapter members serve on the Board of the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership.



**IOWA STORMWATER  
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

## B. Community Service Programs

Like many of our typical initiatives, our “normal” community service programs did not happen in 2020. We were unable to support funding requests for student organizations since we did not have conference profits coming in to pay forward. And in most instances, the student organizations were unable to participate in their normal activities anyway. Fingers crossed that will look different by the end of 2021.

Just prior to COVID, some Iowa Chapter members volunteered at a free will benefit concert on February 7, 2020. The proceeds supported foster and adoptive families through the Bring Love Ministry. The Iowa Chapter Executive Committee was also asked to bring donations to the February 14 meeting to benefit this organization. We were proud to fill the back of a truck with our various donations! Plans were also being made to have a box for donations at the 2020 spring conference.



One tradition we were able to continue in a modified fashion was our annual Toys for Tots donation in conjunction with our December Iowa Chapter Executive Committee meeting. Ahead of this virtual meeting, members were asked to donate to their local Toys for Tots drive in the Iowa Chapter’s honor. Or, they could use either an Amazon or Walmart link the Salvation Army of Ames and Story County established to order donations online! (Brilliant!) At least 9 Chapter members contributed toward the cause, helping Salvation Army of Ames and Story County support 567 children from 230 families, which was an increase from the previous year’s 492 children and 184 families. The Iowa Chapter is very proud to have contributed to a bit of that joy given to children during the holiday season, particularly in 2020.

In addition to community service programs initiated directly by the Iowa Chapter, individual chapter member communities worked to demonstrate the larger role of public works in their communities. Our member communities organized Arbor Day events, environmental cleanup activities, and recycling education events. Often partnering with other community source organizations, such as tree organizations, local waste agencies, and neighborhood cleanup task forces, Iowa Chapter members promoted and assisted with such efforts in their communities to the extent possible with 2020 restrictions and safety precautions in effect

The Iowa Chapter understands our function is to provide essential services to our communities, in addition to operating and maintaining infrastructure. Equally important is the need to support community service activities that enhance livability in our communities with a special emphasis on providing for those in need. We have experienced our share of disasters in Iowa, and we are dedicated to continuing our efforts to provide assistance through established community service organizations.

## V. Conclusion

Please accept this submission on behalf of the Iowa Chapter for the Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence. We thank you for your time and efforts!



*Modified, Annual Iowa Chapter Toys for Tots donation with some of the toys donated and the thank-you letter from the Salvation Army of Ames and Story County*