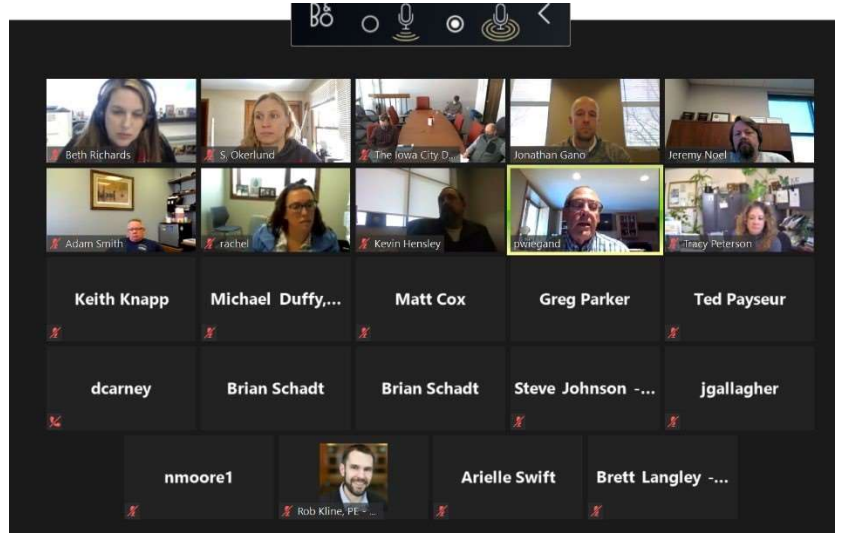


Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence

Iowa Chapter Submittal for 2021



Cisco Webex Training

Think about risks

FEMA Flood Maps

National Risk Index

- GIS Style Maps
- 18 Different Risks
- Calculates expected annual lost, social vulnerability and community resiliency

Participants

Panelists: 6

Attendees: 114

- Sarah Okerlund (me)
- Aaron Granquist
- Abby Urbanek

Recording... | Session No. 120 500 5504 | You are participating in this audio conference using your computer.

Chapter Summary

The Iowa Chapter had another memorable year in 2021. We continued to persevere through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and were able to offer a combination of virtual and in-person educational opportunities to share common and unique experiences for not only our members but to everyone. 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 returning things to "normal" as much as possible in 2021. The Executive Committee expanded on what it could offer its members during the continued COVID-19 pandemic and how to transition back once in person activities could resume. Although 2021 proclamations were not held in person by the governor's office, the Iowa Chapter was still honored to receive a National Public Works Week Proclamation signed by Governor Kim Reynolds in the mail and a copy by email. Again in 2021, public works promotion was challenging so we continued to utilize social media to share recognition and appreciation. While most of our events were held virtually in 2021, we were able to have a successful in-person fall conference once such events were permitted to resume.

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 continue to see 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 of which had been let by October 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 and to help with the process of getting one started. These are all great examples of how APWA members, counties, and the Iowa DOT work together towards common infrastructure goals.

The Iowa Chapter's membership saw an exciting growth of 4.8% in 2021! This was due in part to the continuous efforts of the membership committee reaching out to delinquent members and chapter outreach to non-members for both virtual and in-person events. Ultimately, as the year ended, we had 584 members, up from 557 members in 2020.

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

The Iowa Chapter continues to strive to the next level in achieving excellence, both locally and nationally, despite setbacks from the global pandemic by sticking together and finding ways to move forward when meeting in person was not a safe option. Many of our initiatives previously planned for 2020 are now goals for 2022. In 2022, we plan to explore additional ways to encourage small communities to participate in our various events. Another goal is to visit our local elementary schools to share the children's books written by our chapter members, as well as to write our own, new book about public works. We also plan to expand our young professional and student outreach and membership when we can resume in-person networking opportunities. Our final goals include resuming our public works promotion activities (including increased social media activity), volunteer events, and financial sponsorships to student organizations at Iowa State University and University of Iowa.

I. Membership

A. Net Membership Gain/Loss and Retention

The Iowa Chapter’s membership increased by 4.8% in 2021. As the year ended, we had 584 members, up from 557 members at the end of 2020 and breaking the previous Iowa Chapter record of 577 members at the end of 2019.

B. Membership Recruitment and Retention Efforts and Programs

Recruitment and retention efforts were honestly very minimal in 2021. With in-person networking opportunities still not encouraged with the ongoing pandemic, we continued focusing on retaining existing members by providing support and alternate opportunities, as adapted in 2020. Examples include showing support and appreciation on Twitter and developing/hosting a virtual spring 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. We are very happy to report that per APWA, our Chapter had a 91.6% retention rate of its existing members from 2020.

C. Innovative Membership Development and Retention Efforts

Pre-COVID-19, student chapter members were invited to attend our state conferences free of charge. Due to lack of income from in person conferences in 2020 and easing our way back into in person events in 2021, our chapter did not offer free registration to our state conferences. We plan to resume the free registration offer in 2022, when we are back to our normal in person events. The Iowa Chapter is also going to explore the option of hosting booths at upcoming career fairs as another method of outreach to students or sponsoring events such as the Iowa State American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter (ASCE) Concrete Canoe Competition.



Examples of the APWA Iowa Chapters support and Appreciation from the APWA Iowa Chapter Twitter Account Celebrating Public Works Week 2021

II. Service to Chapter Members

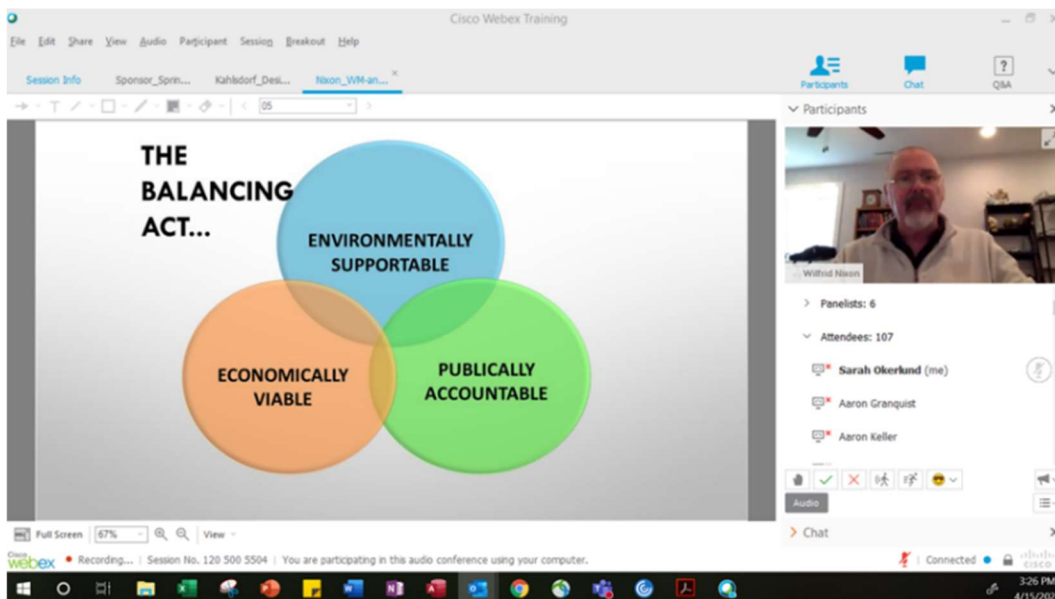
A. Number of Members Attending Meetings and Events

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 2021 by the COVID-19 pandemic. See the following pages for a summary of the meetings we held virtually and once again in person during the second half of 2021.

Spring Conference

The Iowa Chapter partnered with Iowa LTAP for our annual Iowa Chapter Spring Conference that was held virtually on April 15 – 16, 2021, with a total of **158 Attendees** and **21 Sponsors**. Sponsorship for the conference looked a little different than in the past for our in-person conference. Companies and organizations were given the option of being a general sponsor, session sponsor, or a conference sponsor. General Sponsor's got to display their company/organization logo on the event website and during the event. Session Sponsor's also got the bonus of getting additional time for the company/organization to be recognized during the start of one of the sessions with a 2-minute commercial. The next level of Conference Sponsor included all the great things of the previous levels but gave participating companies even more recognition by having a 2-minute commercial at the start of BOTH days of the conference.

In 2021, the virtual conference was opened by a few words from Chapter President, Jeremy Noel from the City of Council Bluffs followed by a brief update on National APWA from Stan Brown, APWA President-Elect. A couple highlights of the conference were learning about converting organic waste into "liquid gold" (how Muscatine's Organic Recycling Center has effectively reduced the strain on local landfills and lowered methane emissions), design resiliency, winter maintenance and sustainability, change management, and how to measure morale.



Screenshot from Spring Conference April 15, 2021 of Wilfred Nixon with the Professional Snow Fighters Association presentation "Winter Maintenance and Sustainability"

2021 Public Works Expo (PWX) in St. Louis

The 2021 Public Works Expo (PWX) was held in St. Louis, Missouri August 29 – to September 1, 2021, and 81 of our Iowa Chapter members registered to take the opportunity to once again attend the conference in person after attending the 2020 PWX virtually. An Iowa Chapter Social was held at a local restaurant where 87 Iowa Chapter Members and guests got the chance to catch up again in-person to share their stories of the 2020 pandemic and their PWX experiences. As will be noted later in this document, the Iowa Chapter was also honored to receive awards at the PWX awards ceremony.



Iowa APWA Chapter Members with Mary Joyce Ivers, National APWA President 2020-2021

Iowa Streets and Roads Workshop and Conference:

The Iowa Chapter provided a \$500 sponsorship to the Iowa Streets and Roads Workshop and Conference held on September 21 – 23, 2021. In addition to the sponsorship, Jeremy Noel gave a quick welcome at the beginning of the conference as the current Iowa Chapter President. The Iowa Streets and Roads Workshop and Conference is held for public employees and includes educational sessions that discuss topics such as leadership skills, agricultural super load impacts on pavements, winter maintenance, and excavation safety just to name a few. In addition to the educational sessions, a group tour of the Ziegler Cat Center in Altoona was offered to workshop and conference participants. This year's conference had 74 Workshop registrants and 94 conference registrants.

Fall Conference

The Iowa Chapter was excited to host their fall conference once again in person. Following the Iowa Chapter tradition, this year's fall conference was hosted in Council Bluffs, home of the current chapter president. Rotating the conference each fall allows for regional participation for people who might not be able to travel across the state. This also brings the opportunity for new, local speakers to give educational presentations and is another way to promote public works in various communities. The 2021 Iowa Chapter



Photo of the conference presentation room set-up at the Iowa APWA Chapter Fall 2021 Conference

President, Jeremy Noel, hosted the conference in Council Bluffs from September 30 through October 1, 2021, in Council Bluffs. There was a total of **134 conference attendees** and **21 sponsors**. In addition to our sponsors, we were also fortunate to have vendor reps occupying 7 different vendor booths. The event was kicked off with a golf outing on September 30 at the Bent Tree Golf Course, followed by a welcome reception for all registered participants at the Full-Fledged Brewing Company. As part of the golf event, the **54 registered golfers** also brought non-perishable foods to the golf outing which were then delivered to a local food pantry at the completion of the conference.

The next day was filled with numerous educational sessions, the election of chapter officers, and an awards banquet. Our Chapter was honored to have Joe Johnson, our Region VI Director, give a national APWA update at the beginning of the conference. Presentations at the conference included creative public outreach via “Tiny Trees-Big Impact”, various agency and partner updates, and lessons learned via several project overviews that involved roundabouts, modern bike trail connections, highway system improvements, and traffic signal timing.

[Snow Plow Operator Training / Snow Roadeo](#)

On October 7, 2021, the Iowa Chapter sponsored a limited version of the statewide roadeo competition in West Des Moines Iowa. This year’s event consisted of a one-day competition for the snowplow truck course only and included defect testing for the snowplow truck. A total of **30 teams** of two participated in the event from **13 different agencies** across the state. The APWA Iowa Chapter will provide \$1,000 to the winning team to use towards registration and travel expenses for the 2022 Western Snow and Ice Conference held in Colorado in late September 2022. Although this event was scaled down as compared to previous years, we were happy to see that there was still an interest coming out of the pandemic.



Prior to COVID-19, this event was much larger scale and geared towards operations over the course of 3 days. The first two days were dedicated to the Snow Operator Training (SPOT). The event then wraps up with Iowa’s Annual Snow Roadeo, which included competitions and courses for a single axle truck, skid steer, and a mini excavator course. The plan is to offer the full event again in 2022.

[Winter Maintenance Training](#)

After a break from holding a winter maintenance training event in 2019 and opting for a virtual winter operations workshop in 2020, the Iowa Chapter again partnered with Iowa LTAP to bring this event back in person for 2021. On November 2-3 and November 16-18, six training events were held in different parts of the state to encourage local attendance and were open to adjoining state chapters. This year’s training events were held in Storm Lake, Hampton, West Union, Atlantic, Knoxville, and Washington. They were geared towards snowplow operators and others associated with winter maintenance operations. The presentations ranged from pre-season planning, how city and county snow and ice control practices vary across the state, inspecting snow removal equipment, and “The Importance of Nutrition and Health for Snowfighters”. There were **29 registrants from 9 agencies** for Storm Lake, **55 registrants from 12 agencies** for Hampton, **49 registrants from 10 agencies** for West Union, **39 registrants from 10 agencies** for Knoxville, and **27 registrants from 6 agencies** for Washington.

[Executive Committee](#)

During 2021, one Iowa Chapter Executive Committee meeting was held in-person, and four were held virtually. The **average attendance was 21 participants**. Countless business was discussed at these meetings such as officer reports, funding requests, upcoming conferences, delegate reports, committee reports, partner reports, etc. In addition, chapter members who served on National APWA committees were invited to give national committee reports.

In 2021, the Iowa Chapter Executive Committee primarily focused on improving the opportunities we could provide to our members during the continued pandemic. Later in the year, we were able to

transition into some in-person meetings where implementing our initiatives and goals were more realistic. In 2022, the Executive Committee will resume focus on increasing outreach efforts to small communities, engaging with young professionals and student members, and finding more creative ways to use social media to promote public works and our events.

President: Jeremy Noel
President-Elect: Dave Carney
Past President: Adam Smith
Secretary/Treasurer: Beth Richards
Delegate: Ron Knoche
Alternate Delegate: Jeff May

Director, Reg 1: Brett Langley
Director, Reg 2: Tony Trotter
Director, Reg 3: Jennifer Winter
Director, Reg 4: Matt Cox
Director, Reg 5: Kevin Hensley
Director, Reg 6: Scott Sovers



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
April 8, 2021

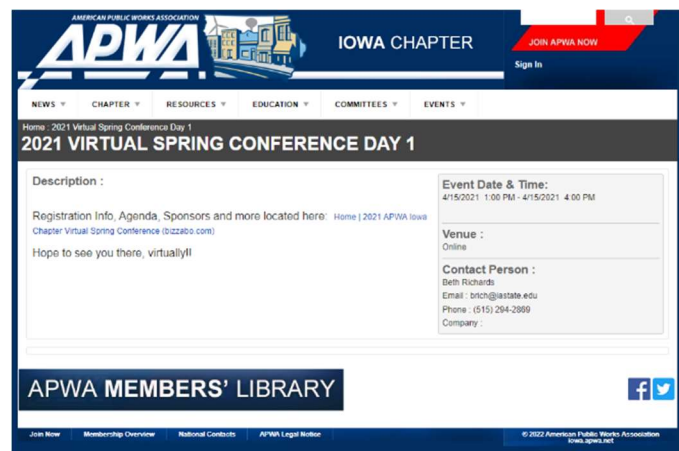
B. Member-to-Member Outreach

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. **In 2021 alone, there were over 87 emails sent via Shop Talk.**

Website

The Iowa Chapter website (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's Facebook and Twitter feeds, advertisements for open public works employment opportunities from Iowa and surrounding states, and other announcements that need to be made to the members. Our Chapter also includes links to register for our conferences and events that are managed through Bizzabo. In 2022, we plan on developing additional relevant and helpful content to our website.



Screenshot of the Iowa Chapters Website for the 2021 Spring Conference

The PWSB will provide the following benefits:

- 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 about what is working for other Iowa cities to help you make informed decisions and develop policies
- In-depth understanding of the workings of public works departments, which leads to stable and sustainable communities
- Better communication among public works staff across Iowa's cities, which results in improved efficiency in operating and maintaining our infrastructure

The PWSB website launched in August of 2021. The site contains a plethora of valuable information for public works professionals. Some of the key features include:

- User contact information
- City policies
- Interactive street reports
- Member forums
- Headlines
- Job board
- Training information
- Video tutorials

The Iowa Chapter is excited to take part in this new adventure of connecting our public works communities across Iowa.



Example of a post on our Facebook page promoting the Fall 2021 Conference

[Social Media \(Facebook and Twitter\)](#)

One of the goals for 2021 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 three, 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 our social media accounts. We will also continue to discuss adding LinkedIn and Instagram accounts to our toolbox in 2022.

[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 2021, members of our chapter continued to volunteer for the planning of the next Mid-America Conference and assisted with the 2021 PWX in St. Louis.

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.

Leadership Training

After being canceled in 2020, National APWA hosted the 2021 Chapter Leaders Training virtually. We had 1 Executive committee member, 2 Chapter officers, and 1 national liaison from our chapter attend at least one day of the virtual event that was held on January 26, January 28, February 2, and February 4. The training brought together individuals from all over the country in a safe a virtual capacity. According to APWA, there were over 200 participants. Members participated in sessions discussing education and credentialing, advocacy, events, outreach, and how APWA and the chapters can work together to inform new chapter leaders of available resources through the national office.

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 2021 Winter Council of Chapters meeting which was held virtually. Jeff and Ron attended the Council of Chapters meeting held in conjunction with the 2021 PWX in St. Louis. Ron is the Region 6 representative on the Council of Chapters Steering Committee. Ron serves as the Vice-Chair. Ron 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 2021, 5 participants completed all 15 courses and received official APWA leadership**

certificates. A total of 75 participants have graduated from the Leadership Institute since its inception. 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.

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 2022, the Iowa Chapter plans to revisit the 2021 goals, including looking at the chapter's strategic plan, working with the Iowa Public Works Service Bureau to reach the smaller communities, and challenging 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. After the cancellation of the event in 2020, planning began in 2021 for the 2023 Conference.



Our Chapter Delegate and Alternate Delegate provided and shared semi-annual National activity reports and participated in the 2021 Winter Council of Chapters meeting, as well as the virtual 2021 Summer Council of Chapters meeting. As mentioned previously, we were also fortunate enough to have Stan Brown, APWA President-Elect, provide a National APWA Update at our virtual Spring Conference and Joe Johnson, Region VI Director, provide an APWA National Update at our 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 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 expertise in an area and in turn, able to bring back valuable lessons and information to the Iowa Chapter.

Iowa Chapter National Liaisons: Young Professionals

Iowa Chapter National Committee Appointments: Certification Council, 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, Road Safety, and Winter Maintenance

Iowa Chapter Other Committee Appointments: Iowa Highway Research Board (IHRB), Local Public Agency (LPA) Stakeholder Partnering, Mid-America, and Statewide Urban Design and Specifications District 1-6 (SUDAS)

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 2022.

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 has brought more women into the organization. Many of the female members have taken on leadership positions within the chapter. Some 2021 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 nine members graduate from the APWA Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA), and the chapter has invited the graduates to actively participate at the local level. 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 did not have any participants in the 2021-2022 Academy.



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. After a hiatus from the annual awards program in 2020, the chapter was able to once again present this entertaining program at the in-person 2021 fall conference. This awards program included both 2020 and 2021 awards; see the summary below.

- Members are recognized with a plaque for longevity as APWA members. For 2020, we recognized five **25-year memberships** and two **40-year memberships**. For 2021 we recognized two **25-year memberships** and three **40-year memberships**.
- The **LO Steward Service Award** recognizes Iowa Chapter members who have served the same governmental agency for 15 years in continuous employment and have been a member of APWA for a minimum of five years. There were 13 recipients in 2020 and 9 recipients in 2021.
- The **Samuel A. Greeley Service Award** recognizes Iowa Chapter members who have served the same governmental agency for 30 years of continuous employment and have been a member of APWA for a minimum of 15 years. There were 2 recipients in 2020 and 1 recipient in 2021.
- The **Leader of the Year Award** recognizes outstanding service to the Iowa Chapter. The recipient of this award for both 2020 and 2021 was Jeremy Noel (City of Council Bluffs).
- The **Past President Award** is given to a past chapter president for continuing to support the Iowa APWA Chapter and being instrumental in the success of the chapter. The recipient of this award for 2021 was Jeremy Noel (City of Council Bluffs).
- The **Past Director Award** is given to a past regional director for continuing to support the Iowa Chapter and being instrumental in the success of the chapter. The recipient of this award for 2020 was David Carney (City of Sioux City).
- The **President's Award** is given at the current chapter president's discretion for supporting the Iowa Chapter President and being instrumental in their success resulting in success to the chapter. The recipient of this award for 2021 was Kim Pinegar (City of West Des Moines).
- The **Chapter Service Award** recognizes chapter members for work in specific activity areas that bring recognition to the Iowa Chapter. For 2021, there were two recipients, Dale Harrington (retired) and Sarah Okerlund (Iowa DOT).

- The **Contractor of the Year Award** honors a public works contractor for outstanding achievement as reflected in the construction of a completed public works project. The recipient of this award for 2021 was Hawkins Construction.
- The most prestigious Iowa Chapter Award is the **Stan Ring Award**. This award recognizes Iowa Chapter members who have demonstrated exemplary, long-term service and commitment to the Iowa Chapter and to public works profession. The recipient of this award for 2021 was Adam Smith of (City of Des Moines).
- The Iowa Chapter also recognized four projects of the year.
 - Environment (>\$2.5M) 2020: Coral Ridge Avenue Green Infrastructure Project (City of Coralville, HR Green, Peterson Contractors, Inc.)
 - Environment (\$1M>\$2.5M) 2021 Muscatine Organic Waste Recycling (City of Muscatine, Stanley Consultants, Leander Construction)
 - Transportation (\$1M-\$2.5M) 2021: Elkhart Main Street Reconstruction (City of Elkhart, Bolton & Menk, Absolute Concrete)
 - Transportation (>\$2.5M) 2021: Sioux City Military Bridge Reconstruction (City of Sioux City, JEO Consulting Group, RP Constructors)



Photo of Wilfrid Nixon used in his nomination submission.

National Awards/Recognition

Wilfrid Nixon was named a **2021 Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year**. Wilfrid is currently the President of the Professional Snowfighters Association (PSA) and is the President and Owner of Asset Insight Technologies in Iowa City, IA. Wilfrid started out his career as a research professor when he moved to the United States from the United Kingdom, 1984 at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. Between his beginnings as a professor to now a business owner, Wilfrid has had extensive experience and involvement in many aspects of highway maintenance as a researcher, teacher, and consultant. As President of the PSA, a position he has held since 2019, he is responsible for building and maintaining membership, primarily corporations and agencies; recruiting new members and helping engage existing members; and managing the interaction between the PSA and many other professional groups, such as APWA, TRB, SICOP, AASHTO, and various international groups, establishing a global presence for PSA in the winter maintenance community.

On top of his involvement above, Wilfred has also been an active member of APWA since 2001 and currently serves on 4 subcommittees as a member and has participated on the APWA Snow Conference review committee. As a member of the APWA Winter Maintenance Subcommittee, Nixon has been instrumental in developing and delivering highly successful training programs. He has been involved since inception with growing APWA's eight-hour Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate program, which now has trained over 5,000 individuals. In 2008, a four-hour Winter Maintenance Operator Certificate program was envisioned, with Nixon being a champion charged with maturing the content and format. The success of this program since being finalized has been tremendous, and both trainings are a testament to Nixon's drive to provide quality education.

Nixon has also made sure that his knowledge is shared by presenting at conferences and has written numerous articles for publications and scholarly journals. He began this somewhat tentatively, with a summary article ("Winter Highway Maintenance: A Look Forward") included in the Transportation

Research Board Publication Transportation in the New Millennium. He then started to publish articles in a variety of trade magazines, including the APWA Reporter. In recent years, Nixon has had a monthly column in the APWA Reporter entitled “Open Your Winter Toolbox.” This approach has proven very effective at circulating information on new approaches, methods, and technologies to end-users. In total, Nixon has written more than 60 articles for the APWA Reporter since 2000, all relating to winter maintenance. Wilfrid is the 15th Iowa Chapter member to receive this award and the 8th in the past 8 years!

The City of Iowa City was the recipient of the structure’s category Small Cities/Rural Communities Projects of the Year for their Iowa City Public Works Facility – Phase 1.



Photo of the new Iowa City Public Works Building featured in The Journal of the American Institute of Architects

The City of Des Moines was the recipient of two national awards in the Exceptional Performance award categories of Diversity and Journalism. The Exceptional Performance Award for Diversity recognized the City of Des Moines Equitable Services Team for its efforts to beautify the city’s historically and currently underrepresented and marginalized communities by hiring youth in those very communities to participate in the effort it takes to plant and maintain the trees. The Exceptional

Performance Award for Journalism recognized the City of Des Moines Public Works Department for its efforts in communicating with the public to clean up the mess that was left behind by the derecho that tore across Iowa on August 10, 2020. They utilized innovative GPS-enabled photo tracking tools that were developed on the fly to help residents visualize the progress through the department's website and see

when it would be their turn while simultaneously equipping call center staff to rebut false claims that late debris had been skipped.



B. Public Works Promotion

Many of our cities hold events promoting their public works activities, generally during National Public Works Week (NPWW), which includes participation from various Iowa Chapter members. Unfortunately, all of those were postponed until 2022 or looked much different in 2021. Although City offices were reopened to the public, for most of the year it was still encouraged to keep gatherings small and wear a mask. 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 2021 as we continued to deal with the effects of the pandemic that started in 2020. We are excited to see the events that didn't happen due to COVID-19 return in full force in 2022!

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 2022 goal since it was not an option in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID. 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.

One amazing event that did occur in 2021 was the City of Des Moines Tiny Trees Program. The program first began in 2017 and has since distributed tens of thousands of trees to the residents of Des Moines for planting on private property to help Des Moines grow its urban canopy. By growing the urban canopy, residents will see lower heating and cooling costs, increased stormwater retention, increased property values, and more park-like neighborhoods. Des Moines residents are eligible to request up to five FREE trees in the winter months of varying species from the Forestry Division on the Des Moines website. The pickup dates then occur in the spring. The Iowa Chapter is exploring ways to volunteer for the tree distribution event or even find ways to implement this program in other communities in the state.



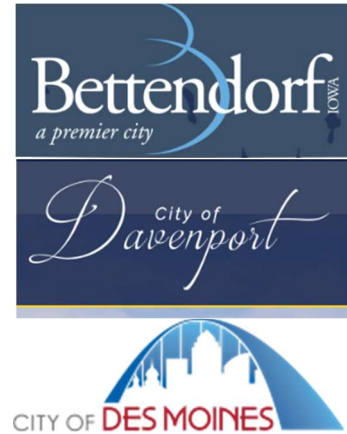
Photo posted on the July 20, 2021 in the Des Moines Register Article "Our Des Moines: As the city works to grow its urban canopy, could tiny \$10 trees be a part of the answer?"

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.

Three cities in Iowa are APWA Public Works Accredited Agencies - the City of Bettendorf (since 2005), the City of Davenport (since 2007), and new to the ranks, the City of Des Moines (since 2021). 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. Des Moines Public Works staff have volunteered to mentor other cities who are interested in pursuing accreditation in the future.



Several Iowa Chapter members have participated in APWA's certification programs. Iowa has 1 Certified Public Infrastructure Inspectors and 1 Certified Stormwater Managers. 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 of this committee and is a current member of the National APWA Water Resources Management Committee. As of 2021, there were also 15 Envision Sustainability Professionals in the State of Iowa, and 1 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 at our in-person events in 2022.



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 still signed a proclamation for the Iowa Chapter in 2021; it was just mailed to the chapter instead of signed in person.

As mentioned previously, the Iowa Highway Research Board is funding the startup of the Public Works Service Bureau. 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 for the counties. The Public Works Service Bureau will be the source of statewide communication and information for cities in Iowa. In the future, when elected officials ask how their tax dollars are being used in cities, the PWSB will be able to provide that information.

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 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) 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 had planned to review this more in 2021 but the continuing pandemic made outreach and support efforts to students difficult. We plan to review this more in 2022 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 2022 to see if we can help ramp up participation and eventually get a student chapter up and running again. 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

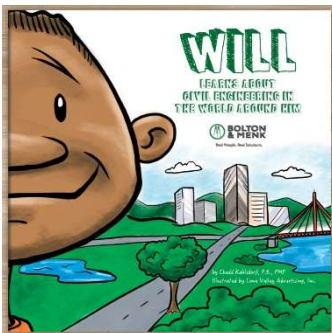
technologies. The IHRB also serves as the Statewide Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) for the State of Iowa. They are able to set the direction not only for projects that would be funded for STIC, but also to foster innovation in the state and have a single source for communication with the Federal Highway Administration.



Iowa 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. 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. It is the plan and hope the Leadership Track will be presented once again in 2022. Iowa LTAP played a critical role in not only making training opportunities available virtually but also hosting online conference options for the Iowa Chapter. This has continued to be 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 3rd and 4th 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, present, and donate some of these books to our local elementary students in 2022. 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



**IOWA STORMWATER
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

educated on stormwater topics every year. Several Iowa Chapter members serve on the Board of the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership.

B. Community Service Programs

Like many of our typical initiatives, our “normal” community service programs did not happen in 2021. 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. However, the Iowa Chapter plans to resume funding requests in 2022.

Our one in-person Iowa Chapter Executive Committee meeting in 2021 happened just in time for our favorite tradition - our annual Toys for Tots donation in conjunction with our December meeting. Twenty-one members were present at the December meeting, many bringing multiple toys to donate and others donating money to the cause. The Iowa Chapter is very proud to have contributed to a bit of that joy given to children during the holiday season.

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 2021 restrictions and safety precautions in effect.

As mentioned briefly earlier, it is an Iowa Chapter tradition to hold a golf outing in conjunction with the Chapter’s fall conference. It is also tradition to invite participants to bring non-perishable food items as a donation. This year’s response from golfers was great. Any golfers who brought a donation were eligible to receive up to two mulligans during the outing. While we do have a few in the group that may choose not to use these mulligans even when they have the vast majority appreciate them! In 2021, the non-perishable donations were taken to a local food pantry in Council Bluffs.

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 aid 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!