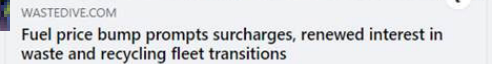
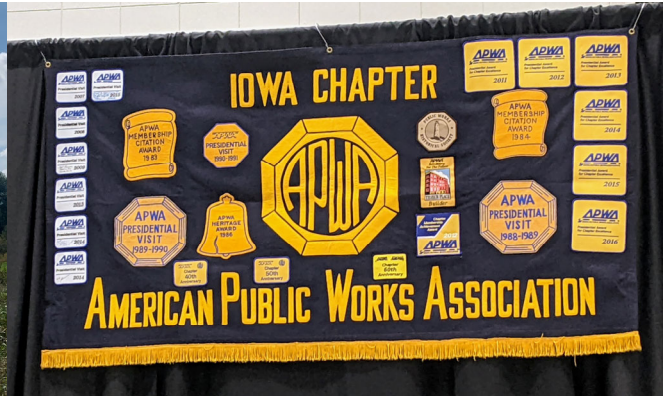


Tweet of the Week



Chapter Summary

The Iowa Chapter had an exciting year in 2022. We hit the ground running to offer great educational and networking opportunities to allow for the sharing of ideas and knowledge for our members, while striving to improve the experience and opportunities for 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 implemented and further developed many innovative programs in 2022. The Executive Committee worked on better supporting our small communities and partnering with the Public Works Service Bureau to create a place for anyone in public works in the State of Iowa to share ideas, gain insight on how other communities are doing things, and network with others in public service.

Iowa Chapter members continue to play a key role in collaborating with Iowa DOT as they transition the swap federal-aid program back to federal-aid and work towards improving the bridge funding programs in Iowa. The Iowa DOT partnered with the Iowa Chapter and the Iowa Country Engineers Association (ICEA) to present a united front and secure as much funding as the state could on the IJA funding to be distributed to local governments. Because of the influx of funding of the IJA bill, the Iowa DOT was forced to put the federal-aid requirements back on the cities and counties to manage with their current staffing levels. In addition to the coordination with the IJA discussions, the Iowa DOT also came to the Executive Committee for input on raising the award amounts for the bridge funding program and their approval of an update to the priority ranking system that is used to rate Iowa's poor bridges that is used to make funding offers. These are all notable examples of how APWA members, counties, and the Iowa DOT work together towards common infrastructure goals.

The Iowa Chapter's membership saw a very slight decline in membership in 2022 but is happy to report that we still retained 99.49% of our membership. We are excited for the plans the membership committee has to regain and add new members in 2023.

The Iowa Chapter continues to strive to the next level in achieving excellence, both locally and nationally. For the ninth year in a row, an Iowa Chapter member received the APWA Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year award. The Iowa Chapter had two members selected for the 2022-2023 program and have had nine members graduate from the Emerging Leaders Academy, with one graduate who has served as an ELA Mentor since 2017.

Providing donations or sponsorships was another goal accomplished by the Iowa Chapter this year. The chapter approved financial sponsorships to the Iowa State University American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for their concrete canoe competition. The Iowa Chapter also provided a sponsorship to Iowa Streets and Roads Workshop and Conference, and the Chapter president gave the welcome speech. At our annual golf outing, non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the Siouxland Food Bank in Sioux City. At their December Meeting, the Executive Committee conducted their 7th annual Toys for Tots donation drive.

In 2023, we plan to explore additional ways to encourage small communities to participate in our various events, visit more local elementary schools to share the children's books written by our chapter members, and author our own book about public works. We also plan to expand our young professional and student outreach and membership efforts. Our final goals include increasing our public works promotion activities (including increased social media activity), volunteer events, and financial sponsorships to student organizations or events at Iowa State University and University of Iowa.

I. Membership

A. Net Membership Gain/Loss and Retention

The Iowa Chapter's membership declined slightly by 0.51% in 2022. As the year wrapped up, we had **581 members**, down from 584 members at the end of 2021. While we are sad to see a few members go, we consider maintaining 99.49% remarkable and it makes our chapter proud.

B. Membership Recruitment and Retention Efforts and Programs

Retention and recruitment efforts have been slow to build back up as we continue to navigate the best ways to get in touch with potential new members that are working hybrid schedules or completely from home. We have found that many public agencies are mostly back to the office full time with some not ever being hybrid. As will be discussed in further detail under innovative membership development, the Iowa chapter is actively looking for new ways to reach out to potential new members.

For other retention efforts, the membership chair follows up routinely 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 incredibly happy to report that per APWA, our Chapter had a 91.6% retention rate of its existing members from 2021.

C. Innovative Membership Development and Retention Efforts

Iowa is made up of 99 counties and 947 cities. Of the 947 cities in Iowa, 98% have populations less than 50,000 and 95% are less than 10,000. Because of this, the Iowa Chapter has begun to push its directors and exec members to reach out to the small communities and voted to offer 10 free registrations for the fall conference in 2022 with a breakdown of 5 for the region hosting and then 5 for the other regions. We recognize that some communities are one-man shops and only have one person helping to run the community and want to make sure they are aware of the numerous benefits that come with being a member of APWA and the network of professionals that it connects you to. 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 more events similar to the Iowa State American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter (ASCE) Concrete Canoe Competition.

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. The Iowa Chapter held various meetings and conferences throughout the year and once again broke records in the process. See the following pages for a summary of those meetings and conferences.

Spring Conference

After a two-year hiatus, our annual Iowa Chapter Spring Conference was held on April 6th – 7th, 2022 in person in West Des Moines with a total of **275 full conference attendees** including **40 Thursday-only registrants** and **174 Vender reps** occupying 66 vendor booths. In 2022, we again offered three separate educational tracks the first day and two tracks the second day. While participants were asked to register for a main track for planning reasons, they were able to choose which individual educational sessions were of most interest to them. Participants were also given time to visit the exhibitor companies



ranging from consulting engineers to equipment manufacturers and were provided “bingo” cards that if filled out completely were eligible to win door prizes at the end of the conference.



Melissa Veenstra with V&K presenting on “Social Media for Municipalities.”

The main track was the APWA General Session. This track opened by a few words from the Iowa Chapter President, David Carney, and our honored guest and past National APWA president from 2020-2021, Mary Joyce Ivers. Thursday presentations included social media for municipalities, innovative technologies in winter maintenance, drone technology, 7 habits of Highly defective leaders, the planning and construction process of Iowa City’s new public works building, and updates from various agency and partners of the Iowa Chapter. On Friday, this learning track wrapped up with presentations on two Iowa Chapter 2021 Projects of the year, a discussion of railroad quiet zones, and updates from the Iowa Asphalt Paving Association and the Iowa Public Works Service Bureau.

The second track was geared towards operators and field staff, focusing on public works – operations. The Thursday portion of this track included presentations on pothole vs. point repairs, setting up a solid asphalt paving program, discussion on street maintenance in Council Bluffs, and building a good concrete program. On Friday, this track wrapped up with a tour of the new Wes Des Moines Public Services facility and the Metro Waste Authority’s Recycling facility in Grimes, Iowa.

The third track was a leadership module on leadership skills, a course from the APWA-accredited Public Employee Leadership Institute. This was developed in partnership with the Iowa Local Technical Assistance Program (Iowa LTAP) who maintains the institute. The topics included exploring elements of leadership, ethics and leadership, defining excellence, organizational self-assessment, and team development. These presentations were recorded and used to update the leadership skills module currently available online.

As is an Iowa Chapter tradition, Thursday night after the first day of the conference is networking within the exhibit area, followed by dinner at Rubes Steakhouse. At Rubes, Iowa Chapter members grill their own steaks, catch up with other Chapter members they know, and make new connections. It is something chapter members look forward to all year!



Chapter Members grilling their own steaks at Rubes

2022 Public Works Expo (PWX) in Charlotte

The 2022 Public Works Expo (PWX) was held in Charlotte, North Carolina August 28th – to August 31st, 2022, and 58 of our Iowa Chapter members registered to attend the conference. In addition to attending the conference, some of our esteemed chapter members also participated in National committee meetings and gave presentations during the educational sessions.



Chapter members receiving the PACE Award at PWX in Charlotte, North Carolina

On the last evening of the conference, an Iowa Chapter Social was held at a local restaurant where 75 Iowa Chapter Members and guests got the chance to catch up and to share their PWX experiences. As will be noted later in this document, the Iowa Chapter was also honored at the PWX awards ceremony.



Photos taken at the Iowa Chapter Social at PWX in Charlotte, North Carolina

Iowa Streets and Roads Workshop and Conference:

The Iowa Chapter provided a \$550 sponsorship to the Iowa Streets and Roads Workshop and Conference held on September 20nd – 22nd, 2022 in Ames. In addition to the sponsorship, David Carney 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 each year for public employees with educational sessions that discuss topics such as leadership skills, customer service, public relations, 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 Iowa State University's BioCentury Research Farm in Boone was offered to workshop and conference participants. This year's conference had 102 workshop registrants and 129 conference registrants.

Fall Conference

Following the Iowa Chapter tradition, this year's fall conference was hosted in the hometown 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 2022 Iowa Chapter President, David Carney, hosted the conference in Sioux City from October 5th through October 7th. There was a total of **112 conference attendees** and **14 sponsors**. In addition to our



Members lined up and ready to golf at the Whispering Creek Golf Course

sponsors, we were also fortunate to have vendor reps occupying **22 exhibitor booths**. The event was kicked off with a golf outing on October 5th at the Whispering Creek Golf Course. The **37 registered golfers** also brought non-perishable foods and monetary donations to the golf outing which were then delivered to the Siouxland Food Bank following the completion of the golf outing.

After the golf outing, attendees participated in a one-of-a-kind pub crawl through downtown Sioux City. The pub crawl kicked off at the historic Sioux City Orpheum Theater with additional stops for food and drink at the Warrior Hotel's rooftop bar, The Crown, Jackson Street Brewery, and finishing at Marto Brewing for the golf awards. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed this fun, unique opportunity to explore downtown Sioux City and its fun establishments!



The Crown Rooftop Bar in Sioux City

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 following the warm welcome from the City of Sioux City's Mayor Pro-Term, Dan Moore. Presentations at the conference included CDL In-house training programs, History of Slipform paving in Iowa, 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. Our conference speakers often must travel a great distance, but we were pleased to have six of the sessions lead by residents of the Sioux City area.

Winter Maintenance Training

In 2022, the Iowa Chapter offered two separate winter maintenance training events in preparation for the winter months.

The first training event, "Winter Operations: An Essential Day of Training," was held on October 5th, 2022, in Council Bluffs at the Hilton Garden Inn. The training had **130 participants from 8 different agencies in Iowa and 7 agencies in Nebraska** and was geared towards all levels of snowplow operators, managers, and anyone involved in winter maintenance. Participants learned about innovative technology and operational methods to save money and protect the environment by effectively treating pavement with reduced materials during winter events. In addition, they also learned about the importance of weather forecasting and management of snowplow equipment.



Photo of the "Winter Operations: An Essential Day of Training"

In conjunction with our fall conference, a winter maintenance supervisor certificate program was held on October 6th, 2022. This one-day training had **19 participants from 6 different agencies** and covered all aspects of operations that a supervisor needs to know to make good program decisions and improve the agency's practices. The training is ideal for not only supervisors, but also foremen, crew leaders, and veteran operator personnel. At the end of the training, attendees received a Certificate of Completion.

Snow Plow Operator Training / Iowa State Roadeo

On October 11th – 13th, the Iowa Chapter hosted the 2022 Snow Plow Operator Training (SPOT) and Iowa State Roadeo competition in Council Bluffs at the Hilton Garden Inn. The training and roadeo coemption are two different events geared towards operators. The first two days were dedicated to SPOT, which consisted of classroom and behind-the-wheel training and testing, geared toward newer snow plow operators. The event then wrapped up with the annual Iowa State Roadeo. This year's competitions and courses included single axle truck, skid steer, and loader. A total of **111 registered attendees, 4 sponsors, and 7 vendor representatives participated** in these events.



Executive Committee

During 2022, five Iowa Chapter Executive Committee meetings were held with **an average attendance of 22 participants**. A variety of 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 2022, the Iowa Chapter Executive Committee primarily focused on how we could get more small communities more active, providing additional content to members on our website, and what the chapter needs to work towards improving. The Executive committee's goals for 2023 include starting up our own local Utility and Public Right of Way (UPROW) committee with the goal to bring forth the issues that we have here in Iowa and to the National UPROW Committee, while also continuing to evaluate and meet the needs of our members.

President: David Carney
President-Elect: Scott Sovers
Past President: Jeremy Noel
Secretary/Treasurer: Beth Richards
Delegate: Ron Knoche
Alternate Delegate: Adam Smith

Director, Reg 1: Baylor Bestgen
Director, Reg 2: Justin Clausen
Director, Reg 3: Michael Duffy
Director, Reg 4: Matt Cox
Director, Reg 5: Kevin Hensley
Director, Reg 6: Nicole Gleason



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 used this discussion forum this year to inform their colleagues about diverse topics including upcoming trainings, job postings, Road Use Tax Fund utilization, Ash tree removals, pavement preservation, railroad coordination, swimming pool maintenance, Right-of-Way usage and permitting to name a few. Shop Talk has proven to be a crucial form of member-to-member outreach within our chapter. **In 2022 alone, there were over 90 emails sent via Shop Talk to members that have opted in to the service.**



Screenshot of the Iowa Chapter website for the 2022 Spring Conference

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 to develop and including additional relevant and helpful content to our website.

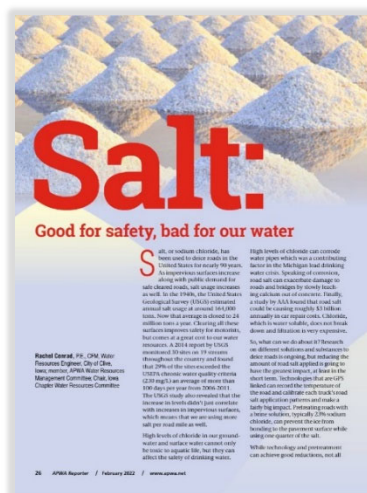
Meeting Notices

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

When planning our conferences, 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 future spring and fall conferences. 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 2022, there were **21 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.



Examples of member articles in the February 2022, September 2022, and December 2022 Issues of the APWA Reporter



Public Works Service Bureau

Public works staff everywhere are on the front lines facing the challenge of building and maintaining that infrastructure—they do not have the option of leaving a sewer line clogged, letting the water run from a broken water main, leaving the snow unplowed, or taking time off during an unprecedented storm.

The Iowa Chapter partnered with the Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) program to create the Iowa Public Works Service Bureau (PWSB). The PWSB was established to provide information to improve the connectivity, knowledge, and efficiency of these essential workers by opening much-needed communication lines and fostering productive discussions among city staff. The service bureau’s goal is to demonstrate the value of providing public works staff a platform to “communicate to innovate.”

The PWSB will provide the following benefits:

- Iowa PWSB staff possesses an in-depth understanding of the workings of public works departments, which leads to stable and sustainable communities
- Opens improved communication among public works staff across cities in Iowa, resulting in improved efficiency in operating and maintaining the state’s infrastructure
- Fosters dialogue between public works colleagues across the state who have experienced similar situations
- Provides cities specific data about what is working for other cities in Iowa to help make informed decisions and develop policies.
- Produces tools to help cities compare their operations (e.g., street maintenance cost per mile) with others of similar populations
- Offers a forum for cities to compare their public works policies (e.g., snowplowing, sidewalk inspection) with others
- Maintains a job board for city staff to post job opportunities directly with Iowa’s public works groups



PWSB display at their booth at the 2022 APWA Iowa Chapter Spring Conference

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

User contact information	Headlines
Video tutorials	Job board
Funding opportunities	Training and educational information
Bid tab database	Various interactive reports, addressing streets, finance, and bridge condition
Forums	

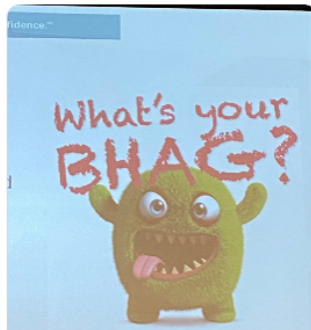
In 2022, the PWSB forums really started taking off with 7 categories that members can post to. Below are a brief overview of these categories and the number of discussions that chapter members and other public works employees took part in.

2 discussions regarding budgeting	2 streets and alleys discussions
17 open forum discussions	2 staffing discussions
0 recruiting discussions	1 training discussion
5 right-of-way management discussions	

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



Interesting discussion on Day 3 of the Iowa Concrete Paving Association Workshop...



Example tweet supporting the 2022 Iowa Concrete Paving Association (ICPA) Conference

Social Media (Facebook and Twitter)

One of our goals for 2022 was to expand on the Iowa Chapter’s social media presence and reach. While we still have some work to do in 2023, we have been fairly active on the Chapter’s Twitter account. And now in year four, the Iowa Chapter Facebook page is starting see more 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. In addition, we also help to promote other events that chapter members may be interested in or what our members are doing in their own communities. We will also continue to discuss adding LinkedIn and Instagram accounts to our toolbox in 2023.

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 2022, members of our chapter continued to volunteer for the planning of the 2023 Mid-America Conference and assisted with the 2022 PWX in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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

Five of our chapter directors attended the Chapter Leadership Training, in Kansas City December 8 - 9, 2022. The training brought together individuals from all over the country, and there was a real spirit of cooperation and sharing. Members discussed stories and examples of strategies, some successful and others not so successful. In addition, the training provided a terrific opportunity to interact individually with members of APWA staff and discuss specific topics facing the Iowa Chapter, from member retention to incorporating innovative technologies into the chapter.



Since five of our members were able to participate, the group participated in a variety of breakout sessions to get the most out of the training. One of our members said overall it is a worthwhile training. Another said the keynote speaker (Morris Morrison) provided a great cultural message and how it relates to public works. The Iowa Chapter has a good mix of diversity, but we are always looking to recruit more diverse backgrounds to help us better understand cultural pressures and what we can learn from them to make our teams stronger.

Local Public Agency Stakeholder Partnering Team

Cities, counties, and other local public agencies (LPAs) build and maintain a sizable 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.

A common topic of discussion within the LPA Stakeholder Partnering Team is the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that was adopted in November of 2021. Prior to IIJA, the Iowa DOT set up the SWAP program that allowed some Federal-aid dollars, previously administered by LPAs on our transportation system, to be Swapped with State Road Use Tax Funds (RUTF). The Iowa DOT then targeted the Federal-aid dollars on larger project where they would have used RUTF within their program. Due to the influx of money available with the IIJA bill, the Iowa DOT had no choice but to discontinue the SWAP Program and to put the administration of the federal funds back on the LPA's. Although this will increase the planning and review timeline and the cost of construction seen by the LPAs, the Iowa DOT is working towards making the process as streamlined as possible. To do so, the Iowa DOT held many meetings with the LPA Stakeholder Partnering Team in early 2022 to discuss how the distribution of funds will be split out and what levels the bridge funding should be at. To help make this transition smoother for cities and counties to utilize this surplus of funds, the Iowa DOT intends on hosting in person trainings across the state in the first part of 2023.

One of the outcomes that was a result of these meetings was raising the 1-million-dollar cap that has been set in Iowa since 1999 to 1.5-million-dollars for bridge funding to help smaller cities make afford the cost to fix their bridges that have more limited local dollars to spend. This recommendation to the Iowa DOT was voted on by the Iowa Chapter Executive Committee to implement the change.

Chapter Delegate and Alternate Delegate

During the 2022 calendar year, the Council of Chapters (COC) held two winter meetings. A combined winter meeting was held virtually in February. The Chapter Delegate, Ron Knoche, and the Alternate Delegate, Adam Smith, attended this meeting. To better align with the Board of Directors meetings, the 2023 Chapter Leaders Training and Winter COC Meeting was held in December of 2022 in Kansas City, MO. Adam and Ron attended this meeting. The COC summer meeting was held in conjunction with the 2022 PWX in Charlotte, NC. Adam and Ron attended this meeting as well. Ron serves as the Region 6 representative and is also the current Chair of the Council of Chapters Steering Committee in addition to his service on New Initiatives Committee representing the Council of Chapters. Adam serves as an Accreditation Evaluator.



Leadership Institute

We developed an APWA Nationally Accredited Public Works Institute in Iowa, which we call the Public Employees Leadership Institute. Our institute is one of 18 Accredited by APWA and consists of a series of 15 online professional courses helping employees enhance their leadership skills and knowledge. In 2022, 7 participants completed all 15 courses and received

official APWA leadership certificates. A total of 82 participants have graduated from the Leadership Institute since its inception. 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 2023, the Iowa Chapter plans to revisit the 2022 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 cancelation of the event in 2020, planning continued in 2022 for the 2023 Conference.



Mary Joyce Ivers and Joe Johnson with Iowa Chapter Members at the Spring Conference

Our Chapter Delegate and Alternate Delegate provided and shared semi-annual National activity reports and participated in both 2022 Winter Council of Chapters meetings, as well as the 2022 Summer Council of Chapters meeting in connection with PWX. As mentioned previously, we were also fortunate enough to have Mary Joyce Ivers, former APWA president, provide a National APWA Update at our Spring Conference and Joe Johnson APWA President-Elect, Region VI Director, provide an APWA National Update at our Fall Conference.

As mentioned earlier, the Iowa Chapter hosted a winter maintenance training "Winter Operations: An Essential Day of Training," in Council Bluffs that not only had participants **8 different agencies from Iowa** but also had participants from **7 different agencies from Nebraska**. We are ecstatic to see that other chapters are taking advantage of our training programs that we have to offer!

Many of the Iowa Chapter members are highly active at the national level by serving as national liaisons, authoring articles for the *APWA Reporter*, and participation at APWA's PWX and the 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. Our progress has been slow to ramp up our outreach from the halt of the efforts made prior 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic but our chapter is working hard to get things going again in 2023.

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 2022 examples include, a female secretary/treasurer of the Iowa Chapter APWA Board, a director on the Iowa Chapter APWA Board, four committee chairs (Government Affairs Membership, Communications, and Sustainability), a National Liaison (Young Professionals), and four National Committee Appointments (Certification Council, International Affairs, Water Resources Management, Young Professionals).

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 is excited to be represented in the 2022-2023 ELA Class by Katie Eickholt, Civil Engineer with the City of Sioux City and Jeremy Brill, City Engineer with the City of Decorah.

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 tradition of recognizing chapter awards during the annual fall conference. With great flare and fashion, the chapter was able to present another memorable and entertaining awards ceremony program at the 2022 fall conference.

- Members are recognized with a plaque for longevity as APWA members. For 2022, we recognized five individuals for **25-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 three recipients in 2022.



Make-up touch-up of our Awards Ceremony Emcees



*Dave Carney, recipient
Leader of the Year Award
& Past President Award*

- The **Leader of the Year Award** recognizes outstanding service to the Iowa Chapter. The recipient of this award for 2022 was Dave Carney (City of Sioux City).
- 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 2022 was Dave Carney (City of Sioux City).
- 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 Scott Sovers (Iowa 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 2022 was Paul Wiegand (Iowa State University).
- The **Chapter Service Award** recognizes chapter members for work in specific activity areas that bring recognition to the Iowa Chapter. For 2022, the recipient was Beth Richards (Iowa State University).
- The **Al Olson Excellence in Public Works Operations** recognizes an individual exemplifying leadership, dedication, and mentoring of public works employees and tireless behind the scenes efforts as embodied by Al's commitment to the public works profession. The recipient of this award for 2022 was Paul Wiegand (Iowa State University).
- 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 2022 was Steve Harris Construction.



*Beth Richards (right), Chapter
Service Award
Paul Wiegand (Left), Presidents
Award & Al Olson Excellence in
Public Works Operations*

- The **Consultant of the Year Award** is presented to a public works consultant for work on public improvements that demonstrate innovation, expertise, and achievements throughout the state. Nominations for this award are made by public agencies. The recipient of this award for 2022 was Bolton & Menk.
- The Iowa Chapter also recognized five projects of the year.
 - Environment (\$500K <\$1.0M) – S. 1st Parking Lot Improvements
 - Owner – City of Marshalltown
 - Primary Consultant – FOX Strand
 - Primary Contractor – Con-Struct, Inc.
 - Environment (\$1M>\$2.5M) – Waukee Public Library Stormwater Improvements
 - Owner – City of Waukee
 - Primary Consultant – Shive Hattery
 - Primary Contractor – Elder Corporation
 - Transportation (\$500k-\$1.0M) – Nathan’s Miles Glow-in-the-Dark-Trail
 - Owner – City of Vinton
 - Primary Consultant – Shive Hattery
 - Primary Contractor – Baker Enterprises
 - Transportation (\$1M>\$2.5M) – Prentiss Street Bridge Replacement
 - Owner – City of Iowa City
 - Primary Consultant – Origin Design
 - Primary Contractor – Portzen Construction
 - Transportation (>\$2.5M) – South Grand Avenue Extension
 - Owner – City of Ames
 - Primary Consultant – Shive Hatter/WHKS
 - Primary Contractor – Peterson Contractors

National Awards/Recognition

Jeff May was name **2022 Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year**. Jeff May, P.E., PWLF is the Public Works Director for the City of Clive, a position that he has held for almost 7 years. Jeff began his career in public service while still enrolled as a student at Iowa State University where he worked for the City of Ames. After graduating from Iowa State University with his degree in Civil Engineering, he worked for Omaha’s Metropolitan Utilities District. Between his beginnings as a plant engineer, to now being the Public Works Director for the City of Clive, Jeff has served in many different capacities within public works for the City of Omaha, City of Knoxville, and the City of Des Moines.



In addition to his accomplishments above, Jeff has been a member of APWA since 1985 when he was a first-year student in college and an Executive Committee member of the Iowa Chapter of APWA since 1999. He currently serves on the Advocacy Taskforce and Government affairs Committee for APWA, positions he has held since 2019 and 2020, respectively. Prior to serving in these national roles, he served as the Awards Chair, Chapter Historian, Director, Delegate, and is a Past President for the Iowa Chapter. One of his most notable contributions to the Iowa Chapter is that he was one of two city/APWA representatives on the state’s Time 21 Study. This small committee of city, county, state, and advocacy groups was tasked to develop a strategy for implementing a state gas tax increase and a workable formula for distributing new revenues among the three road system owners in the state. The plan was submitted to the state legislature and in 2015 the governor signed into law a gas tax increase that provided the state, counties, and cities much-needed additional road funding.

Jeff May believes staff is the most valuable asset you can have in public works. He is inspired to do things right and often says “if you don’t have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?” These philosophies and more are what have made Jeff a key asset and leader in the state of Iowa. In addition to his contributions to APWA, he has served as part of Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA), the Iowa Highway Research Board, and Statewide Urban Design and Specifications Program just to name a few. As part of the Statewide Urban Design and Specifications Program, Jeff served on several of the review communities between 1995 to the present and was active in helping to move forward specifications and design standards that were consistent across the state to ensure that our infrastructure across the state is consistent and is built to last. Jeff is the 16th Iowa Chapter member to receive this award and the ninth in the past 9 years!

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.

The City of Dubuque holds multiple events and activities during NPWW. Public works and engineering staff work with students at Dubuque Senior High School talking about the benefits of Public Works. In addition, they also bring their equipment to the farmers market at the end of the week to allow kids and their families to get an up-close look at the machines that help to maintain the cities infrastructure and keep the roads clear! Public works staff are also on standby to assist with explaining what all of the equipment does for anyone that is interested.



Ron Knoche, Public Works Director and Julie Seydell Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director in front of a quilt that was on display.

The City of Iowa City held a unique event during Public Works Week in 2022. The idea for the unique event came by way of the City’s Parks and Recreation Director, Julie Seydell Johnson. An avid quilter who has made quilts for 30 City departments and divisions, Julie saw in the public works facility an opportunity to showcase both the new City building and the work of area quilters. The public works facility opened without fanfare in January 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city did not have an opportunity to host an open house for the new building. The result of this crazy idea? Over 400 quilts were put on display throughout the 99,000 SF facility while still featuring many of Iowa Cities vehicles and equipment. Ron Knoche says no one really knew what to expect but the impact and success of the event was undeniable. “This partnership developed out of interest from the Old Capitol Quilters Guild



Jeff May in the background participating in Government Affairs Committee Meetings in Washington, DC March 2022

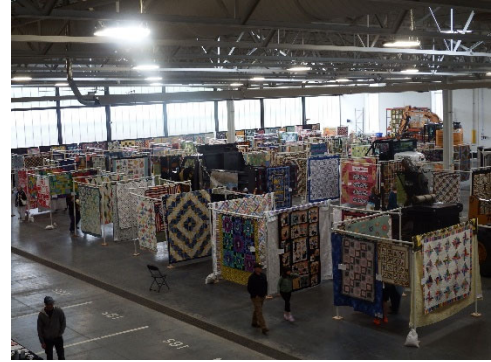


City of Dubuque engineering staff presenting to students at Dubuque Senior High School

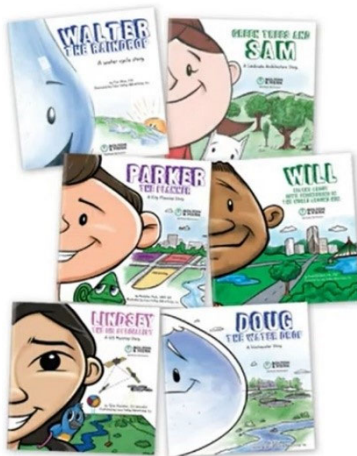
to find a community space to showcase their work, while bringing their energy and talents to provide a complimentary experience to an audience we might not otherwise reach,” Knoche said. “Visitors who might not have otherwise had an active interest in our services or facility got to learn something about us and they got to see all of these beautiful quilts, too.”

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 became a reality in 2022 with the goal to do even more in 2023. We are also exploring the opportunity to work together with Bolton & Menk to create a public works specific book.



An overlooking view of the Trucks and Quilt event set-up in the Iowa City Public Works Facility



City of Sioux City Public Works Department read “Will Learns about Civil Engineering in the World Around him” to 2nd through 4th graders.

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.



Photo taken from the City of Des Moines Website's video advertising the 2022 Tiny Tree's Program,

The City of Des Moines continues their Tiny Trees Program. The program first began in 2017 and has since distributed tens of thousands of free 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 https://www.dsm.city/departments/public_works-division/forestry/tinytrees.php. The pickup dates than occur in the spring. Additionally, the website also provides information for residents on how to plant their trees, how to properly care for them, and how to volunteer to help distribute trees. 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.

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 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 3 Certified Public Infrastructure Inspectors, 2 Certified Public Works Professionals – Management, 1 Certified Public Works Professionals – Supervision and 1 Certified Stormwater Manager. 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. In addition, Rachal Conrad is a member of the National APWA Water Resources Management Committee. As of 2022, there were 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

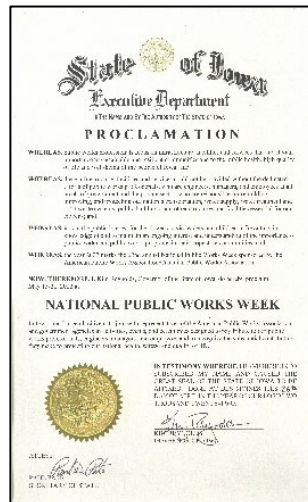
Iowa Chapter Sustainability Committee plans to continue promoting these programs at our conferences in the hopes of even less waste at our in-person events in 2023.

E. Advocacy Outreach

Representatives from the Iowa Chapter were able to meet with the Iowa Governor, Kim Reynolds on April 26, 2022, to witness the signing of a National Public Works Week

Proclamation. Governor Reynolds expressed her appreciation for all that public works personnel do for our communities.

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



Iowa Chapter members meeting with Iowa Governor, Kim Reynolds on April 26, 2022

an established county service bureau, was able to pull together information much more effectively and efficiently for the counties. The Public Works Service Bureau is now an invaluable 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



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 in 1949 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 sole source for communication with the Federal Highway Administration.

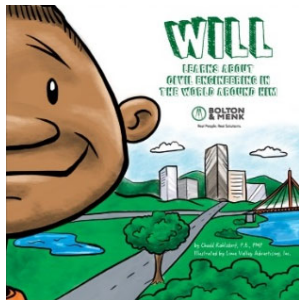
Iowa has a Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) program that produces statewide design guidelines and standard specifications for urban public improvements. The SUDAS program is governed by a 38-member board of directors; six of those members are appointed by the APWA Iowa Chapter. Keeping 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 incredibly 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. The Leadership Track was once again presented in 2022 at the Spring Conference. Iowa LTAP continues to play a critical role in not only offering training opportunities virtually but also hosting in person conference options for the Iowa Chapter. In 2022, Iowa LTAP was critical in helping to lead discussions regarding changes to CDL training requirements in Iowa and how do public agencies adjust to these changes. On November 17, 2022, Iowa LTAP held a Virtual town Hall for public works professionals in Iowa that had approximately **35 Attendees** prior to the National Town Hall meeting from the National APWA later that day that had over **300+ attendees**. They have 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 read, presented, and donated 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.

One active Iowa Chapter member has 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

For every speaker that we have at our fall and spring conferences, the Iowa Chapter gives them a gift to show our appreciation for giving a presentation to our members. Every year we look for speaker gifts that are serving a charitable cause. For this year's fall conference, we gifted our speakers *Love Your Melon* beanies. *Love Your Melon* was founded in October of 2012 in St. Paul Minnesota by two college students wanting to make a positive impact while also creating a small business. To date, the company has donated 9.4 Million dollars of their proceeds to help in the fight against pediatric cancer.



A few of our Fall Conference Speakers with their "Love Your Melon" hats.

At the Iowa Chapter Executive Committee meeting on December 2, 2022, committee members were invited to bring a Toys for Tots donation. Nineteen people were in attendance at that meeting and several people brought multiple toys. The Iowa Chapter's Toys for Tots donations were given to the Salvation Army Des Moines Service Center to distribute to children ages newborn through 18. Approximately 34,908 toys were distributed to approximately 21,595 local children received gifts thanks to the generous

donations received throughout the community. The Iowa Chapter was very proud to be a piece of that joy given to children during the holiday season.



Iowa Chapter members with the toys brought to donate to Toys for Tots

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.

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 outstanding with 156 pounds of non-perishable items provided and a combined monetary donation of \$312. Any golfers who brought a donation of non-perishable food or monetary amount 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 2022, the non-perishable donations were taken to a local food pantry in Sioux City.

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.



*Left Photo: Thank you Letter for the Iowa Chapters food donation made to the Food Bank of Siouxland
Right Photo: food donation collected during the golf event.*

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!