

Spring Conference Wrap-Up

Our first spring conference at the Iowa Events Center in beautiful downtown Des Moines was a success! This year's event featured four educational tracks and welcomed 277 full-conference registrants, 59 single-day registrants, 80 exhibiting companies, and 29 generous sponsors.

The conference kicked off on Wednesday with a meaningful service project followed by a social event at Smash Park. Thursday offered a full slate of educational sessions and networking opportunities, culminating in an evening of excitement that included delicious barbecue, fun games at Ricochet, and an impromptu Iowa/Nebraska basketball game watch party. The conference concluded on Friday with an inspiring keynote address and the always-anticipated door prize drawings.

We were honored to host several special APWA guests, including National President Vic Bienes; Technical Director for Engineering and Technology Wilf Nixon; Senior Government Affairs Manager Marty Williams; and Government Affairs Manager Leah Harnish.



APWA's Marty Williams helps with the Lasagna Love service project



APWA's Leah Harnish with President Bienes and Technical Director Nixon



A bird's eye view of the exhibit floor

APWA Iowa Chapter Young Professionals (YP)

Amazing Opportunity!



APWA is providing each chapter with one complimentary registration for a young professional to attend both the Young Professionals Summit and [PWX2026](#) in Houston, TX. To qualify, you must meet the following requirements:

- Must be an Iowa Chapter member, 35 years old or younger
- Must be able to attend both the YP Summit (August 29) and PWX (August 30-September 2) in Houston, TX.
- Must pay for their travel expenses either on their own or with the assistance of their employer or chapter.

If you would like to be considered for the Iowa Chapter's submission, please submit the following via [email Sara Kappos](#) **by April 27:**

1. Your name, agency/company, and email;
2. a letter or email from your employer verifying they support your attendance at these conferences; and
3. if you do or do not need financial assistance from the chapter for your travel expenses.

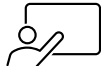


Social Event Recap:



The APWA Iowa Chapter Executive committee invited our chapter young professionals (and the young at heart) to attend a pre-conference social at Smash Park in West Des Moines on Wednesday, March 25. Approximately 24 people attended the event and a good time was had by all!

Ways to Get Involved:



The Iowa APWA Iowa Chapter is looking for a volunteer(s) to lead our effort to revive the APWA student chapters at the universities or technical institutes around the state. Interested? Please contact [Beth Richards](#).



Social event at Smash Park on March 25

Top 10 Award



One of the most prestigious public works awards is sponsored each year by APWA: the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year. The honorees are awarded this recognition for their professionalism, expertise, and personal dedication to improving the quality of life in their communities through the advancement of public works services and technology.

Kevin Hensley, City of Grimes Public Works Director, is one of this year's recipients of the award for all of his contributions to public works and the community. Congratulations to Kevin! Kevin's achievement marks **thirteen** Top 10 winners in a row for the Iowa Chapter (20 overall), maintaining our APWA record for the most consecutive Top 10 winners from one chapter!



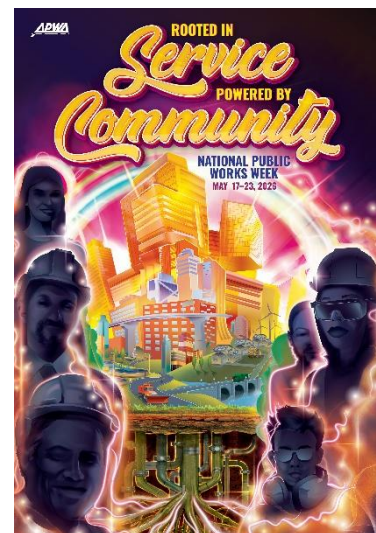
Kevin Hensley, Iowa's newest Top 10 winner

National Public Works Week (NPWW)



This year's theme "Rooted in Service, Powered by Community" acknowledges that the roots of service run deep in public works. It's what has propelled public works innovations that have helped our communities evolve into places where people can lead lives of purpose and possibility. Some work—like building roads and bridges—is highly visible, while other public works contributions—like maintaining water and sewer systems—are sometimes hidden from view. Together, these efforts form the foundation of thriving communities, reminding us that every project, seen or unseen, powers the connection between service and the people it supports.

NPWW is May 17-23. If your city is doing something to celebrate, the chapter wants to hear about it! Please [email Rob Kline](#) so we can highlight your activity on our website and social media.



2026 NPWW Poster

Iowa Chapter APWA Helping Our Community



The Iowa Chapter teamed up with [Lasagna Love](#) for their Service Project this year and made 140 lasagnas for families in need!

**LASAGNA
LOVE**



Upcoming Events



- [2026 APWA North American Snow Conference](#) - April 26-29, Cleveland, OH
- [APWA Mid-Am Expo](#) (hosted by the Iowa, Kansas, KC Metro, Missouri, and Nebraska chapters) - May 13-15, 2026 - Overland Park, KS
- [PWX](#) - August 30-September 2, Houston, TX
- APWA Iowa Chapter SPOT & Rodeo - September 23-24, 2026 - Cedar Rapids
- APWA Iowa Chapter Fall Conference - October 7-9, 2026 - Spark by Hilton - Ames

Upcoming Training Opportunities (through LTAP)



Webinars/Online Workshops

- [Cybersecurity for Non-IT Local Public Works and Secondary Roads Agency Staff](#) – 4/21/26, 9-11am
- [Using the Potential for Crash Reduction \(PCR\) Tool for Local Safety Project Funding](#) – 5/14/26, 12pm

Workshops

- [Excavation Safety Workshops](#) – 4/21/26-4/23/26, 4/27/26-4/28/26, and 4/30 (Independence, Clarion, Storm Lake, Sigourney, Osceola, and Atlantic)
- [Applying Section 4\(f\): Policy, Practice, & Documentation for Transportation Projects](#) – 4/28/26-4/29/26 (Ames) at 8:00 am;
- [2026 Motor Grader Operator Workshops](#) – 5/12, 5/13, 5/14, 5/27, 5/28, and 6/2/26 (Oelwein, Webster City, Holstein, Atlantic, Osceola, and Ainsworth)

For an updated list, check out [LTAPs event website](#). Please [email Keith Knapp](#) with any questions.

Mark Your Calendars



Speaking of events, the Iowa Chapter will be hosting the APWA North American Snow Conference in 2027; 10 years after we last hosted! The Snow Conference attracts over 2,000 attendees plus more than 500 exhibit representatives. Hosting such an event will include much planning and will need many volunteers. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities!

Hosting such a large event will also include some significant one-time expenses for the Iowa Chapter. An appeal to member firms and partner businesses for sponsorship opportunities will be sent out soon. If you already know you are interested in contributing, please [email Beth Richards](#).



APWA Iowa Chapter Apparel!



New Option!

Logoed Apparel has the option for individuals to order APWA Iowa Chapter apparel! If you are interested in personally purchasing some apparel, please contact Pam Johnson at pam@logoedapparel.us or 515-225-2365.

T-shirts

Don't forget to order these awesome RAYGUN t-shirts, developed based on ideas submitted by chapter members. [Click here to purchase](#). If your city would like to place a bulk, tax-exempt order (minimum of 25 of one design/color combo), please [email Beth Richards](#).



Public Works Service Bureau



The Public Works Service Bureau (PWSB) provides a resource for public works staff members from cities of all sizes to connect with and learn from others how best to improve work efficiencies, learn new techniques, and maximize available resources. If you haven't joined already, [check out their website](#).

Newsletter Content?



Do you have content you'd like to see in these newsletters? [Email our newsletter team](#).