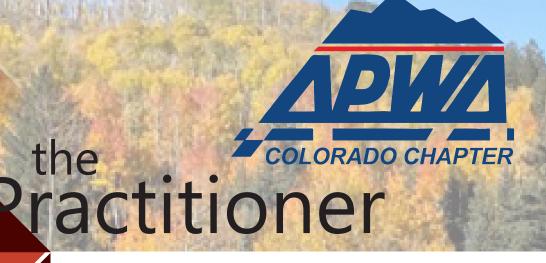
Fall 2023

Volume 24, Issue 4



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2023 Western Snow & Ice Conference and National Snow Roadeo is a Great Success!

The 43rd Annual Western Snow and Ice Conference and 37th National Snow Roadeo were held in Loveland for three days of beautiful September weather. The 2023 Western Snow and Ice Conference and National Roadeo set records for the highest attendance in its history. The conference had a record attendance of over 1,550 attendees. The National Snow Roadeo also saw record registrations, with the Loader competition hitting the 100 mark in registrants.

During the three days of the conference there were more than 48 speakers offering 46 educational sessions. The Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate Program had 102 professionals attend and were granted .7 continuing education units (CEUS) and 7 professional development hours (PDH). Additionally, there were 75 participants who completed the Winter Maintenance Operators Certificate class. 106 exhibitors displayed

equipment, products, and services inside and out of the event facility, Embassy Suites.

A very special thank you to our major sponsors, sponsors of the coffee and snack breaks, National Snow Roadeo water, and our Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate Workshop sponsors. Once again 4Rivers Equipment sponsored the "Blades Up Social", an annual event that needs to be experienced. A great time is had by all who attend!

This year's theme "Going the Extra Mile", recognizes the effort operators put forward to serve their agencies throughout the snow and ice season, and to prepare those operators for the upcoming winter season. It really gets you thinking about how prepared your agency is for the upcoming winter season. It seems there are always emerging technologies and a changing workforce. The APWA Western

Snow and Ice Conference and National Snow Roadeo is where these questions get answered.



2023 Western Snow & Ice Conference and National Snow Roadeo

Highlights from the event:

- National experts presenting opportunities to expand our knowledge and skillsets.
- Panel discussions with industry leaders holding open and frank conversations about de-icing materials and snow equipment.
- Discovering ideas creating actionable insights on operational procedures and technologies that attendees could take back to their agency.
- Conversations and ideas sparked between old and new acquaintances, bonding peers as they ask and answer questions, networking and creating lasting connections with others in the public works field of snow operations
- National Roadeo had more than 300 snow operators competing from all over the U.S.

The Opening General Session began with the Windsor High School Band performing the national anthem and a moving ceremonial flag presentation from Associated Veterans of Loveland. Opening remarks were delivered from Loveland City Manager Steve Adams and Colorado Chapter President Mark Jackson. The keynote speaker for the general session was Karl Mecklenburg, legendary Denver Broncos linebacker and outstanding speaker. Karl presented on "Teamwork and Leadership in a Changing World." He relayed life experiences from football, family and life after football that kept the audience focused for nearly an hour. Karl also joined attendees at the Blades Up Social on Wednesday evening and took photos and autographed items for over an hour after his session was completed.

Our closing speaker was Keith Reester, who is currently the Director of Public Works for the City of Littleton and a past Colorado Chapter President. Keith presented "It's All About the Journey", recountingd his experience of walking the entire Colorado Trail from Roxborough Park to Durango over five weeks in the summer of 2022.

The best equipment operators across the Nation competed in the National Snow Roadeo. We congratulate each and everyone. (See photos and final results on page 3.)

I cannot say how much we enjoy putting this conference together and that we can't wait until we can do it again in 2024! Please mark your calendars for next year's Western Snow and Ice Conference and National Snow Roadeo in Loveland on September 25-27, 2024. The conference planning committee thanks everyone from those sponsoring, presenting, and teaching, to all those who attended, for making the 2023 conference a success!

Pete Adler Chairman, APWA Western Snow & Ice Conference and National Snow Roadeo



2023 National Snow Roadeo Champions

First Place



Grader Winners:

First Place: Rusty Catlin, Montrose County Second Place: Dan Orcutt, El Paso County Third Place: Kyler Fullmer, Idaho Transportation Dept.

Second Place: Richard Langley, CDOT

First Place: Josh Roorda, City of Papillion, NE

Third Place: Spencer Esch, US Bureau of Reclamation



Loader Winners:

First Place



Second Place

Third Place



Second Place

Third Place

Top Agency: Idaho Transportation Department



Single Axle Winners:

First Place: Terry Thorsten & Mitch Anderson, Benton County & Chisago County, MN Second Place: Nate Sullivan & Bob Christensen, City of Greenwood Village

Third Place: John Prather & Dave Johnson, RTD



First Place

Third Place

Second Place



Second Place



Tandem Axle Winners:

First Place: John Prather & Dave Johnson, RTD

First Place

Second Place: Greg Phillips & Bob Christensen, City of Greenwood Village

Third Place: Brandon Santangelo & Nick Craig, City of Westminster



Third Place

Skid Steer Winners:

First Place: Anthony Maestas, Town of Pagosa Springs Second Place: Jed Henderson, Idaho Transportation Dept.

Third Place: Alec Brown, City of Lenexa, KS



Third Place





Karl Mecklenburg, former Denver Bronco, was the keynote speaker at the opening sesson on Thursday. He generously shared his time by coming to the Blades Up Social on Wednesday night and staying after his presentation to sign autographs for attendees.

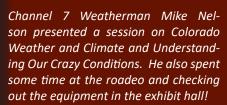


Loveland City Manager Steve Adams, APWA Colorado Chapter President Mark Jackson and Snow & Ice Committee Chair Pete Adler welcomed attendees at the opening session





2023 Western Snow & Ice Conference













The featured speaker at the Friday Awards Luncheon was Keith Reester. Keith shared stories from his 500 mile hike of the Colorado Trail.





2023 National Snow Roadeo





Conference and roadeo photos courtesy of Mike Kaufman and Pete Adler.



Message from the President Mark Jackson

Climate Events and Public Works

My wife and I sat in horror watching recent newscasts of wildfire engulfing the small historic town of Lahaina in Maui. We've visited Lahaina several times and knew exactly the places being shown on TV. The sadness and worry for those affected shook us and have stuck with us in the following days. It was then that I started thinking that, sadly, this really isn't new news. Cameron Peak, East Troublesome, Marshall, Paradise, wildfires in Colorado and the most recent Canadian wildfires all devastating urban and rural areas. Tropical Storm Hillary impacting Southern California and Nevada. Record snowfalls and rain/flood events. Heat indexes soaring around the world. Prolonged power grid failures leaving metro areas without electricity due to winter storm damage. Simply put, intense weather events have now become part of our life, including the world of Public Works. No matter your perspective or political leanings, the increasing frequency, duration, and devastation of climatic events can no longer be ignored.

It makes me wonder and worry about just how prepared we are for the impacts of climate change on our services, programs, people, and responsibilities as Public Works professionals.

I first thought about the impacts on our people and our communities. Have our employees been adequately trained in Incident Command protocols and are they prepared to mobilize and respond when emergency conditions are declared? How do we better protect our field crews during extended periods of extreme heat? Do we have feasible community evacuation plans and effective communication/notification technologies in place for disasters?

I next thought of the impact of extreme climate events on our infrastructure. How will our roads hold up to excessive prolonged heat; will we develop new asphalt formulations that can better withstand significantly higher temperatures? How will roads, bridges, and underground infrastructure withstand increased risk of flooding and washout; can we better engineer them for resiliency? Do we need to re-think what a "normal" snow season

looks like and requires for our plow team planning?

Finally, I thought about the financial impact these events have on public budgets. How do communities, especially smaller agencies, adequately fund necessary preparations, materials, and projects that make us more resistant and ready to respond? I know our City's snow budget has been over-taxed because of longer and more severe winters. Our fleet maintenance costs and demands on personnel have increased dramatically because of harsher and more frequent weather events. I'm grateful that Loveland's City Council recently agreed to a Big Thompson River Corridor Maintenance Fee allowing us to proactively address future flood risks along this major river corridor running through our community. How many communities can step up and invest more in public safety and climate resiliency actions? Will taxpayers support funding increases?

It seems certain we are living in a time where we need to re-think how we keep our communities and our Public Works teams safer from extreme climate events. We need to be planning now for how to adapt and become more resilient and prepared. Public Works can sometimes fall into the trap of only attending to busy day-to-day tasks and responsibilities. I'm not certain we have the luxury of putting off those resiliency plans and response preparation any longer. As Public Works professionals and as first responders, we have a responsibility to our employees and to our communities. Not just for now, but for the generations to come.

Mark Jackson, City of Loveland
Public Works Director







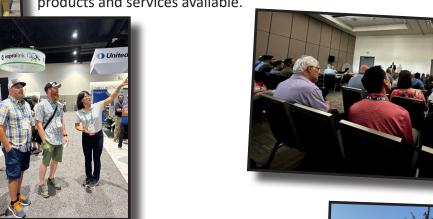
Kroeger and National APWA.



PWX 2023 was held in San Diego, California at the end of August. The conference was wildly successful with 6,271 conference attendees!

The opening speaker, Morris Morrison, was highly energetic and used humor and emotion to tell the story of his journey, relationships and being your authentic self. Throughout the conference, registrants had the opportunity to attend education sessions and the exhibit floor, network with other public works professionals, listen to expert speakers, experience interactive learning and find out about the latest trends,

products and services available.



The Get Acquainted Party, the large social gathering on Sunday evening after the first day of PWX, was held aboard the USS Midway, the longest serving aircraft carrier that is now a floating military museum. The sold out event allowed attendees to have a "Top Gun" experience with free aviator glasses, a chance to sit in the cockpit of a fighter jet and pretend your Maverick, experience a flight simulator, and docent led tours of the ship. The group was also surprised with two parachutists floating to the flight deck at sunset!











PWX National Equipment Roadeo



The 2023 National Equipment Roadeo was held along the waterfront in Embarcadero Marina Park. Competitors participated in the backhoe and mini excavator events.

There were 59 participants in the competition, including two from Colorado. The Colorado participants were **Dustin Wright** and **John Cerise**, both from Pitkin County. Dustin and John attended as the winners in the state backhoe competition held during the 2023 Spring Street Conference.

The 2024 National Equipment Roadeo will be held in conjunction with PWX in Atlanta in September. The first two finishers in the Colorado state backhoe competition, which will be held once again at the Spring

Street Conference in Grand Junction, will have their expenses covered by the Colorado Chapter to attend the 2024 event.



PWX National Awards



Monday afternoon of PWX is the Annual National APWA Awards Ceremony recognizing individuals and projects from across the nation. The Colorado Chapter received the PACE Award for chapter excellence for the sixth straight year!

Colorado was proud to have several agencies receive National awards this year:

Environment - \$5 million but less than \$25 million

27th Street Storm Interceptor, City & County of Denver

Small Cities/Rural Communities Projects of the Year
Disaster/Emergency Construction/Repair:

Superior Construction Activated Contact Projects Town of States

Superior Granular Activated Carbon Project, Town of Superior Exceptional Performance Award in Safety

Northwater Treament Plant Proejct Team, Denver Water APWA's Management Innovation

Town of Windsor Colorado Public Services Department <u>APWA Excellence in Snow & Ice Control</u> Town of Windsor

Reimagining the Future of Public Outreach Embracing Youth Inclusion in Public Works Projects

Preston Cho, Media Productions Director & Kris Sun, Project Director, Grassroots Leadership Opportunities (GLO) Ambassadors Program, The Greenway Foundation, Colorado



Let's set the scene.

Mile High Flood District Symposium, 2023. Ten presenters join the stage of Denver's Sheraton Hotel— just across an audience of 600+ stormwater professionals— to talk about how to conduct successful public outreach. Their message?

To interact with communities in a collaborative and personal way, and transform public outreach from a small room of frustrated complaints to a celebration of a community's ideas and identities.

Group photo at The Greenway Foundation's 2023 Reception on the River after a presentation by the GLO Ambassadors Program. Left to right: Willow Brown, Kris Sun, Susan Brown, Preston Cho, Norris Sun, Charlie Pajares, Sarah Rich, Janie Shin, and Ev Chen. The twist? Eight out of the ten presenters on that stage were just kids in high school.

The group on stage were the No Name Youth Ambassadors (NNYA), a youth-led team founded in June 2021 by industry veteran Susan Brown. Taking a

calculated risk, she recruited nearby teenagers for an ongoing stream restoration project and, just a month later, the team was already at work, gathering input, engaging on social media, and hosting community events.

Yet the idea of forming such a youth-led group was, admittedly, not novel. In fact, just four years prior, a similar group appeared from the Five Points community in Denver— the Five Points Youth Ambassadors (FPYA). In partnership with multiple professional firms, they planned, fundraised, and conducted renovations for the "run-down crackpot" St. Charles Place Park. By the end of 2019, the space had blossomed into a vibrant and colorful haven, made for the community, by the community.

Yet between the successes of FPYA and NNYA, a looming "why" emerged— why were these public outreach attempts so successful? Was it the youth? If so, what did they bring to the table? The answer requires a deeper exploration of the successes and hardships of these youth-based groups— an answer that ultimately reveals much broader implications for the relationship between governments, professional consultants, communities, and the future of the public works industry.

CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY

From the very beginning, NNYA had plans to host a large celebration centered around the Unnamed Creek Restoration Project, one where community members could come together to learn about and provide input on the changes happening. With a nimble dedication to the task (and between hundreds of calls and emails), NNYA eventually sourced an ample supply of free pizza and entertainment, all located at a school just alongside the creek. Armed with abundant flyers, they waded the hot summer sun to perform door-to-door outreach, spreading word of the upcoming event.

Fast forward to March 2023 and the first of two surprises came: over 120 people had shown up, taking tours, discussing improvements, and maybe eating a slice of pizza or two. Even more assuring, none of the attendees seemed interested in protesting the renovations, but rather in clarifying their desires and celebrating the establishment of a community project catered towards their actual interests.

The second surprise?

This type of event was repeatable.

In June 2018, FPYA had held their own community event, a similar commemoration filled with tricycle races and volleyball games that allowed them to open the door to an exciting future in the new space. Between NNYA and FPYA, the youth of Colorado had captured lightning in a bottle not once, but twice. But how?

One part of it could be the dedication youth groups have—they find ways to cut down on costs and reach people in inventive ways. But it also may be that the people and places these youth grow up with are, very often, their entire lives. This nurtures a deep connection between them and their communities which, when combined with the sort of creativity only kids can have, creates a powerfully infectious tide of enthusiasm to make positive change for their communities.



Norris Sun, Program Director, as he asks a local middle school for support in advertising the NNYA's next community event

PASSION, POSSIBILITY, AND PROGRESS

One of the most exciting things about involving youth in these projects is witnessing the journeys they take along the way. For some, youth ambassadorship is a logical continuation from their previous jobs or experiences. Sarah, one member of the NNYA, was a girl scout prior to joining, and her engagement with community service provided a natural gateway into the public outreach she would be performing. Janie, another NNYA member, had always planned the opportunity to build a website for the team, combining her love for art and design, and discovering a newfound passion for programming. Now, she is currently attending Vanderbilt University with a focus on computer science.

Each member of these groups has their own, individual story to tell. Whether it be applying their videography work to a film set in New York, or taking their newfound communication skills to study marketing in college, youth ambassadorship is a cyclic relationship of giving and receiving. In embarking on this journey, the youth receive an opportunity to learn and explore during some of the most important phases of their lives.

But by engaging youth in their projects, designers and engineers also lay a revolutionary framework for the future of the public works industry, one not reliant on a model of employment, but rather a model of succession. In partnership with groups such as the Greenway Foundation or the GLO (Grassroots Leadership Opportunities) Ambassadors Program, youth gain a consistent exposure to the field and industry, with many of them eager to join it professionally in the future. The youth of today, with enough nurturing and time, emerge as the future leaders of tomorrow.

NURTURING A CULTURE OF CHANGE

At a certain point during the St. Charles Place Park project, funds ran out completely. Construction froze, and the endeavor was stalled entirely. It was a devastating blow—years of planning, designing, outreach, and excitement, gone in just one conversation.

Was it all over?

Absolutely not! Through sheer dedication, FPYA decided to take it into their own hands to finish the park—literally! FPYA and the local community, under the scorching Colorado heat, joined together for honest, good change, performing the last steps of construction themselves. To the community, the park was more than just a park—it became a symbol for hope and solidarity in an ever-fracturing world.

There are no doubts that adults still play an essential role in the public works industry. Duh. But adults must not underestimate the visions, voices, and willpower of the youth. By arming them with professionalism and a clear goal, they can generate good change for their communities in unorthodox and surprising ways. And, in turn, they enter into a cycle of giving and growing, preparing a generation of future leaders that understand the values of empathy, drive, and community. They open doors and build bridges across even the largest gaps, acting as the connection between communities and their projects. Put simply, youth put the "public" into "public works", and while adults are the present, kids are the future.

Need one final example?

This entire article was written by those same youth.

Learn more about the GLO Ambassadors Program by visiting: https://thegreenwayfoundation.org/projects/glo-ambassadors/

The GLO Ambassadors Program can be reached at (303) 481-1974 or gloambassadors@greenwayfoundation.org



Kris Sun, Project Director, discussing renovation plans with local community members during the NNYA's project announcement event.

8th Annual Rockies Night Out

The Young Professionals hosted the Annual Colorado Chapter Rockies Night on Tuesday, September 12^{th.} It was an exciting win over the Chicago Cubs!

It was another great group this year with almost 60 attendees cheering the Rockies on!

The Chapter would like to thank the YP group, especially YP chair Ryan Garringer for organizing the event and Benesch for sponsoring the concessions ticket everyone received!







Photos courtesy of Renée Railsback, Colorado Chapter Alternate Delegate



Register Now!!

2024 APWA COLORADO **CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CONFERENCE**

Lone Tree Arts Center 10075 Commons Street Lone Tree, Colorado 80124

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 Check-in/breakfast 7:30am Sessions begin at 8:00am

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 8:00am-1:00pm



APWA COLORADO CHAPTER 2024 CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CONFERENCE

> Check out the registration website for more information and updates!

Registration is open!: https://cvent.me/eYqYbV

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Tour

APWA, APA and ASCE's sustainability committees visited NREL in Golden last September.

NREL is transforming energy through research, development and commercialization of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. NREL's research areas are bioenergy, geothermal, hydrogen, solar, transportation, wind, and water. Buildings are LEED certified, innovative materials were used to reflect natural light, reduce waste, and create less pollution. The campus displays different stormwater management techniques (pervious pavers, rain gardens). We also learned about research programs to reduce energy in homes and commercial settings. Why visit NREL? Because the latest emerging technologies can be found all in one place: Hydrogen fuel cars, portable solar charges for vehicles, agrivoltaics, movable solar panels, intelligent thermal windows, microor-

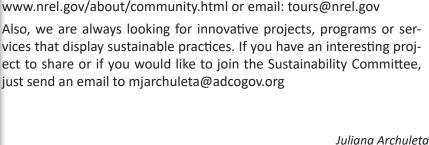
ganisms that gen-

erate energy, etc, etc, etc.!

Interested in visiting NREL South Table Mountain Campus? Visit: https://

Also, we are always looking for innovative projects, programs or services that display sustainable practices. If you have an interesting project to share or if you would like to join the Sustainability Committee,





Laura Kroeger
Mile High Flood District
Executive Director
National APWA Leadership &
Management Technical Director

The Great Resetting in Public Works



Have you recently had a conversation about the workforce? There is a lot of talk about the challenges in recruiting, retaining, and engaging employees, and it's time to take action. The American Public Works Association has updated its strategic plan to provide direction and clarity to its membership. During the process, three emerging themes developed as requiring attention in the next few years, and it comes as no surprise that the Workforce was among them.

The focused initiatives are interconnected, and they support and complement each other. For instance, by increasing the positive visibility of Public Works, more

people will be aware of it as a career choice, ultimately increasing the workforce potential. This increased awareness also contributes to a more diverse and inclusive workforce and association that can serve the public equitably.

The stormwater community is developing The Great Resetting framework to advance these initiatives in the Denver Metro area. This is a comprehensive approach to examining how Public Works delivers services that recognize the workforce changes and embrace them to establish a sustainable model for the future.

The Resetting Framework helps agencies see the bigger picture of how work and services are delivered, identify opportunities for improvement, and then effectively lead the transformation process. This approach recognizes that each system is unique, so there is no one-size-fits-all solution. However, the Framework provides a method for organizations to find the answers that work for their situation in a three-step process.

Step 1 – Systems Thinking

Public Works is a people-oriented industry requiring top talent to deliver reliable services successfully. To succeed, it's crucial to understand the broader system we're working within. This means identifying the groups of people involved and their specific needs and desires regarding recruitment, retention, and engagement. We must also investigate why people are leaving the industry, why they are quiet quitting, and why agencies are struggling to find skilled workers. Gathering relevant data and conducting additional research is essential to understanding the current workforce's driving factors and connections.

Step 2 - Continuous Learning

Once we have a comprehensive understanding of the system, we can use it to build a continuous improvement model that addresses the challenges and opportunities identified earlier. This model will help us rapidly learn from our experiences and translate that learning into action, providing a significant competitive advantage to adapt to this new working environment.

Step 3 – Leading the Change

It is important to remember that most change efforts fail because they are focused on managing the change instead of leading it. Therefore, we should adopt a leadership approach that creates a sense of urgency to do something different, builds a team of believers, and celebrates small wins along the way to maintain momentum. This will encourage people to remain committed to doing something different, ultimately anchoring in the change.

For our society to prosper, it's vital to have dependable public infrastructure. That's why the public works industry must adapt to the new workforce environment. To achieve this goal, we need to adopt a comprehensive approach to understanding the situation, constantly learn to discover solutions, and incorporate those changes through leadership. Instead of merely discussing the workforce challenges, we must adapt our systems and mindset to meet the current workforce's needs and desires to continue elevating the quality of life for all.

News & Announcements



Check out the APWA Colorado Articles in the Colorado Public Works Journal!

APWA Colorado contributes to each issue of the Colorado Public Works Journal with timely topics. *APWA Insights* articles are written by public works professionals from across the state. <u>APWA Awards</u> were recognized in the Fall 2023 issue along with articles from APWA Colorado Chapter Past President, **Mark Jackson**, City of Loveland, and the APWA Insights article was written by **Laura Kroeger**, Executive Director of Mile High Flood District and current National APWA Leadership & Management Technical Director. You can view the <u>2023 Fall</u> issue as well as archived issues on their <u>website</u>.

The Colorado Chapter would like to thank the *Colorado Public Works Journal* for putting together another great awards issue recognizing the APWA Colorado award winners. We appreciate the partnership and the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary projects, programs and individuals from around the state!

APWA Reporter

It's always exciting to see Colorado contributors/articles/recognitions in National's publication, APWA Reporter.

September 2023

Recognition of **Mick Schloesser,** CPFP, Pueblo County for his work on the Job Task Analysis Work Group and Item Writing and Item Congruency Work Group that defined the examination content for the new CPFP exam.

Recognition of **Shane Brandt**, CPFP, City of Montrose, for his work on the Standard Setting Work Group for the new CPFP exam. October 2023

Recognition of the following for receiving their certifications:

Tracy Teschner, City of Durango, CPII

Gus Brown, City of Loveland, CPFP

Charwon Walter, Town of Windsor, CPWP-M (recertification)

"Grass Roots" - That's Us, APWA Members, John T. Davis, Woodland Park, Colorado

November 2023

"Advancing the Quality of LIfe for All / APWA Strategic Plan Update", Laura Kroeger, Mile High Flood District

The Practitioner

Do you have information on an emerging topic of interest, project, or news that would be of interest to our members? All members are welcome to contribute to future newsletters. *The Practitioner* is published quarterly. The submission deadlines for the 2024 issues will be January 12, April 12, July 12 and Octoberr 11.

Email Scams

Unfortunately, APWA and the Colorado Chapter can be targets of email scams. These emails are sent by scammers impersonating as APWA or Chapter Board members claiming to have an association with APWA, PWX, or the Colorado Chapter and asking for gift cards or claiming to have access to APWA National or Colorado membership or attendee lists. Please delete these emails and do not respond.

Interested in Membership?

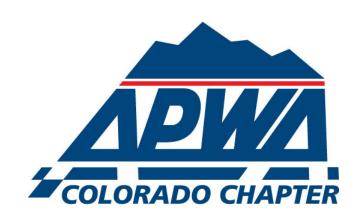
When you join APWA, you join a network of professionals dedicated to excellence in all aspects of public works. Discover the many benefits of APWA membership and options for joining by visiting the <u>Membership</u> page of National APWA's <u>website</u>.

American Public Works Association Colorado Chapter Pamela Weimer, Chapter Administrator 6540 South Tabor Street Littleton, Colorado 80127

Did you know that much of the information contained in this newsletter is also available on the Web? Go to the APWA Colorado Chapter website at https://colorado.apwa.org/







APWA Toll Free Membership Hotline 1-800-848-APWA

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