



## CHAPTER *Works* E-Newsletter - Winter 2012-2013 Edition



William E. "Chuck" Henley, PE  
Chapter President

# President's Message

### Season's Greetings APWA Mid-Atlantic –

I hope by now you are getting in the holiday mood and making spirits bright. We'll soon find out who's naughty or nice, won't we? Naturally, this is the time of year to reflect upon the closing year and to look forward to the promise of the next.

#### **Notable Events and Accomplishments in 2012**

The year brought sad news of the passing of Robert Thompson, Past President. In addition, Hurricane Sandy had a huge impact on members and their localities. However, 2012 also brought positive change for the chapter. Notable accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

- The chapter's service area was expanded to include West Virginia and the chapter's name changed to signify the expansion
- Chapter members formed teams to plan and accomplish well-attended, successful events
- Membership appears to have stabilized and now seems to be returning to growth
- Turnout for chapter and national events continues to slowly improve with the economy
- Sitting officers and directors welcomed new leaders who are bringing lots of energy and new ideas to the chapter

But for the committed efforts of the many volunteers and participants who volunteered their time and talent, positive changes would not have taken place. I salute them and their dedication to the chapter.

Before I recount the past and elaborate on the future, I want to mention that this issue of the newsletter is the chapter's first in an e-mail format. In an effort to bring down costs, the board decided to stop printing and mailing the chapter newsletter several years ago. The new format takes full advantage of the power of the internet and is one of the initiatives to further reduce costs while enhancing service. I believe the new format will allow the chapter to reach out to more members and to make it easier for the newsletter team to produce and distribute. In addition, an email newsletter allows direct links to other online information by just pointing and clicking. Joe Kroboth, Board Director, Washington County, MD, is managing the newsletter. EA Enterprises, VA, the chapter's contract administrator provides support.

Since the depths of the recession, attendance at the annual conference has steadily increased. Clearly, the annual conference in Ocean City, MD was a success, as evidenced by the number of people who participated and by the financial results. The return of the conference to Ocean City reflects the board's desire to reach out to chapter members in the northern region.

The chapter hosted quarterly luncheon seminars in Hampton Roads in partnership with the Virginia Water Environment (VWEF) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Seminar topics presented were nitrogen removal in Biological Nutrient Reduction programs, recovery operations at the World Trade Center and construction of the Laskin Road Gateway in Virginia Beach, VA. In October, members of the chapter activities committee sponsored and hosted its own luncheon seminar in Fairfax, VA, which was well attended by members from the northern region of the chapter's service territory. The seminar focused on performed-based management in public works.

The chapter had a strong presence at this year's APWA International Congress in Anaheim, CA – the land of Disney. The chapter dinner was well attended. Board officers and directors attending were pleased to welcome Baltimore City's team and the chapter's special guest from New Zealand. Needless to say, a good time was had by all. At the annual awards ceremony, the chapter received the prestigious Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE) Award. Several board directors and officers were there, accepting on its behalf.

In October, the board conducted its annual planning meeting in Richmond. Participants discussed the outlook for next year and developed the board's service plan for next year and beyond. Brian Van Norman, APWA Director of Chapter Relations, traveled all the way from Kansas City, KS to provide perspective on the national scene and to help facilitate the group discussion. Diane Linderman, APWA Past President, (Richmond, VA) dropped by to provide her take on national initiatives. Brian, Diane and her husband, Curt, joined board members and committee chairs at the social hour and the evening dinner.

Finally, I would be remiss in giving an account of this year's memorable events without including Hurricane Sandy. As you know, Superstorm Sandy wrecked havoc and left devastation from the Mid-Atlantic to New England. Our thoughts are with the members of the chapter's sister organizations, many of whom experienced personal loss and are still dealing with Sandy's aftermath. To aid the relief effort, the Board approved making a donation to the American Red Cross in the amount of \$1,000.

### **Upcoming Events in 2013**

January 30 and 31, 2013, the chapter will be participating in the largest energy and sustainability conference in Virginia. The event is being hosted by Virginia Commonwealth University at the Greater Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, VA. Over forty organizations will showcase their sustainable products, services and programs and attendance is projected to exceed 600.

Members of the sustainability committee and others will be hosting a booth on the floor of the exhibit hall. With support from the national center for sustainability in DC, the chapter will be publicizing APWA's sustainability programs and the national sustainability conference in San Diego, CA, May 13-15. This is also a good opportunity to promote the chapter's 2013 conference in

Virginia Beach. For those who want to learn how sustainability is changing organizations, this is the event for you. The chapter is excited about participating in this event and invites you to join us. You can find more information and register at: <http://www.vsbnet.org/vcu-esc2013/>.

The Chapter's 55<sup>th</sup> annual conference will take place May 8-10, 2013 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, VA. The beach always draws a crowd, so it's not too early to make plans and to register for the conference. Hotels tend to fill up fast so make accommodations soon. The conference's call for papers has already been issued. Invitations to register, exhibit and sponsor are now posted on the chapter website at: <http://vadcmd.apwa.net/>. Planned events include, but are not limited to the golf outing at the Virginia Beach National Golf Course, equipment rodeo and the social event at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach, VA.

At its Fall planning meeting, the board gave final approval to hosting an accreditation workshop in the summer of 2013. While the specific location and date are yet to be determined, the board approved holding the event in the greater Washington, DC area around June 2013. If your organization has an interest in achieving recognition by APWA or improving management practices, you'll want to plan on attending. Invitations will be announced in Spring 2013, so keep a look out.

The International Congress, a.k.a. "The Best Show in Public Works" will be held in Chicago, IL, August 25-28, 2013. APWA Mid-Atlantic will again host its annual chapter dinner the night of August 27, 2013 at a local establishment yet to be announced. Invitations and registration information will be forthcoming on the chapter website after the dinner venue is selected, which should be booked by mid-year. I look forward to your joining us at McCormick Place in the Windy City.

Finally, as you may know President-Elect Herzke has been in the hospital due to a serious health condition. I'm pleased to report that John is now back at home, resting and recovering nicely. He expects to return to work and to his active participation on the board by Spring. He is very appreciative of all the well wishes he has received and thanks everyone for keeping him in their thoughts.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year! I hope this season brings each of you and your family and friends all the joy and happiness you deserve – as well as a victory for Notre Dame in the 2013 BCS National Championship Game in Miami, Florida.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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