A Message from the President

Welcome to the second ever issue of the APWA Upstate Branch Quarterly Connect. As fall turns quickly to winter, our thoughts are turned towards the completion of goals before we see the end of the year 2015. In our inaugural year for the Upstate Branch of South Carolina Chapter, APWA, we set several aggressive goals including publishing a newsletter, developing a local training calendar, planning a multi-equipment Public Works rodeo, planning a social event, developing strategic partnerships with other sister agencies in the Upstate, creating a Branch website, developing criteria for annual Branch Awards, planning the 1st Annual APWA Branch Conference, and developing a non-profit / Student Outreach partnership for the Branch. As 2015 draws to a close, I am pleased to report that we have hit each of these aggressive goals and have seen a very successful first year of the APWA Upstate Branch. Our Branch is committed to advocating on behalf of the exciting and rewarding field of Public Works, supporting and strengthening our member organizations, and facilitating professional development among our peers. Please help us to introduce others to the APWA Upstate Branch as a resource for networking and promoting our profession. I am pleased to announce that Hesha Gamble, PE, Greenville County Engineer, will be taking over the role of President of the Upstate Branch on January 1st, 2016. Hesha is a dear friend and an amazing advocate for Public Works and I have no doubt that under her leadership, the Branch will grow to great new heights. This year seems to have flown by, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as your President. I want to thank the City of Greenville for allowing me to serve in this capacity. Thanks for all that each of you do for our great profession. Enjoy the Holidays and time with friends and family. I look forward to seeing you soon at one of our upcoming Branch events. God bless you all.

Matthew “Oni” Maxey, PE – Upstate Branch President
Newsletter Spotlight

A special congratulations goes out to one of our Upstate Branch Directors. Mr. Charles Pinson was recently recognized in the APWA Reporter, which is a nationwide magazine going out to all APWA members in the United States. Below is Charles’ amazing story of success. Great job Charles.

The year was 1978 and I was a “Young Whippersnapper,” as the seasoned managers would call anyone between 22 and 35 years old. (Today, the term has been upgraded and redefined as “Young Professional”). I had just finished college, and was entering into my company’s management training program. I was ready to take the world by storm.

After completing the program my first supervisor assignment was as a Department Manager. Eighty percent of my employees were older than I. The first challenge was to find what my responsibilities were. Normal procedure would be that the previous manager would conduct a two week training session. The previous manager, who had just retired due to health reasons, refused to come back and train me. I spent a lot of long hours after work, at no pay, to figure out what reports I was responsible for and when they were due. I depended heavily on my first-line supervisor’s experience, loyalty, and commitment to help me. My entire crew was very respectful and went out of their way, as well. I will never forget how great they were to me. The Finance Manager was a godsend who took me under his wing and coached/mentored me. Due to his impeccable reputation and solid credibility, I gained access to a lot of key people. It is important to mentor and pay it forward when the opportunity becomes available. As a result of my experiences, I became very loyal, protective, and supportive of my employees, as long as they were operating within the rules and regulations. Being the first African-American Department Manager at that facility, I faced a lot of resistance. I was taught you overcome evil with good. I won them over with kindness and professionalism. I acquired some lasting friendships, including some who did not embrace me in the beginning. On December 21, 2014, I was blessed to celebrate my 60th birthday. I am now reporting to a boss who is eight years younger! When I interviewed with him for my job, I found out very quickly he knew his craft, embraced diversity, and had his employees’ best interest at heart. He loves technology and that concerned me because I was going to have to get out of my comfort zone. He prefers to text and e-mail instead of face-to-face communication (which is my personal preference). I had to accept and get on board with his management style to be an effective employee and manager. Thankfully, I was taught never to turn down an opportunity to learn something, and as a result, I am learning and experiencing things I had never dreamed about, especially in the way of technology. John Pierce once said, “It is the spur of ignorance, the consciousness of not understanding, and the curiosity about that which lies beyond that are essential to our progress.” My younger supervisor encourages and recommends courses that are beneficial and make me a better manager. His recognition and respect of my 37 years of managerial experience is obvious, appreciated, thus reciprocated.
**Upcoming Events**

Upstate APWA and ASCE mini-conference December 15 10:45am-4:30pm more info coming soon

**In The News**

Greenville’s Assistant Public Works Director, David Derrick,

**Named APWA Public Works Leadership Fellow**

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Greenville’s Assistant Public Works Director, David Derrick, was recently designated a national Public Works Leadership Fellow (PWLF) by the American Public Works Association (APWA). Derrick received the APWA senior designation in recognition of the highest level of commitment to the public works profession. The APWA PWLFs have been designated to mentor other public works professionals in three of the APWA Donald C. Stone Center for Leadership Excellence professional development programs, including Public Works Executive (PWE), Public Works Manager (PWM), and the Public Works Supervisor (PWS).

“The APWA Public Works Leadership Fellows have pledged to assist those who aspire to become public works directors, executives, managers, and supervisors through a focused mentoring program. The PWLF is a senior executive service designation from APWA’s Donald C. Stone Center,” said APWA President Brian Usher. “All of the Public Works Leadership Fellows have many years of experience in public works, and they have committed their time and talents to advise public works professionals who are enhancing their professional skills and careers.”

For acceptance into the program, candidates must have at least 20 years of relevant public works experience to be eligible for the PWLF designation. The APWA Donald C. Stone Program Council determines acceptance to the program. Each PWLF will provide at least 40 hours of mentoring each year to develop capstone projects, or plan for the execution of the personalized professional development plan, and record mentoring activities.

Throughout his 28-year public service career, Derrick has held numerous roles in public works, which included programs involving engineering, construction inspection, stormwater, wastewater, streets/sidewalks, traffic operations, sanitation, and a fleet/welding/machine shop. He also leads planning-recovery efforts associated with weather-related emergency management. As Greenville’s Assistant Public Works Director, his primary responsibility is to oversee the department’s field operations with over 200 employees and management of the $30 million budget. He is directly responsible for overseeing Building Maintenance, Fleet Services, Wastewater Operations, Streets/Sidewalks, Stormwater Operations, Solid Waste/Recycling and Parking Services. Derrick also
facilitates the Public Works Construction Coordination meetings, and develops performance standards, policies and procedures. Great Job Dave!

**Ben Carroll of Greenville Accepted into APWA’s Emerging Leaders Academy**

Congratulations to Ben Carroll for getting selected to attend the National APWA Emerging Leaders Academy. There were 16 individuals selected from around the United States and Canada to participate in this year-long national program. The Emerging Leaders Academy provides intensive leadership and management training within the context of public works. It encourages professional growth through a strong network of peers, and offers an in-depth introduction to APWA at the national, chapter and branch levels.

The candidates must be professionals who have been working in the field of public works for ten years or less and those who have demonstrated an interest in advancing their careers within the profession.

Many agencies and organizations recognize the importance of professional leadership training when hiring and/or promoting managers and supervisors within public works-related disciplines. The Academy’s intensive training in core leadership and management skills also prepares individuals for roles in their respective APWA chapters and branches.

**Upstate Branch is Well Represented at the State Conference**

Last week’s State Conference was a huge success in Myrtle Beach. The State Chapter did a great job at putting together the event. With many different sessions to choose from, the 4 day event was a great learning experience for all participants.

The event kicked off Sunday with the State Backhoe tournament. From the Upstate Branch, Edward Sampson of Anderson placed 2nd, and Greenville’s Eric Washpon placed 3rd. Great Job guys.

In the Awards Category, the City Of Greenville received the Project of the Year Award for their West End Project. Representatives for the project included: Oni Maxey, Tim Guerin, and Richard McClure. They did a great job presenting the project at the closing ceremonies.
APWA SC Upstate Branch Meet and Greet

On August 21st, Our Upstate Branch hosted its first ever meet and greet. It was an evening of fun as members and their families met in downtown Greenville for Music on Main St. We had a good turnout for the first event and we look forward to hosting more of these events. Thank you to those who made it out.

PWX: Not just a new look – a new vision

With more than 100 years of annual meetings to its credit, the American Public Works Association has hosted its last “Congress & Exposition.” Now the association’s annual meeting will be known as PWX, APWA officials announced at Congress in Phoenix. Recognizing monumental changes in the makeup of the workforce in the last decade, APWA is launching PWX, the new brand name for the APWA International Public Works Congress and Exposition.

Upstate Awards

The deadline for our Upstate Awards is quickly approaching. The categories are: Manager of the Year, Employee of the Year, and Project of the Year. Please contact Charles Pinson to submit your nominations.

Upcoming Bridge Competition

The APWA Upstate Branch is joining ASCE this year to help with the Upstate Bridge Competition. This event is the culmination of a 3 month study on bridges for the Greenville Challenge Program (students selected based on high scores on academic testing). The 4th grade students construct and test bridges made from popsicle sticks and white craft
Volunteer Opportunity: Many volunteers are needed in order for our event to be successful each year. Anyone interested in volunteering for this event on event day or the afternoon before, please contact Chrissy Gernon at Christine.Gernon@fluor.com. We require event greeters, raffle ticket sellers, bridge testers, etc. We strongly encourage engineering students and professionals to volunteer, however volunteers do not need to be engineers or ASCE members to help out. Volunteers will receive event t-shirts, breakfast and lunch following the event.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY: The ASCE SC Upstate Branch is also inviting companies to register as a sponsor for the 8th Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition. The company name / logo will appear on signage in exhibit areas, volunteer t-shirts, event flyers, and announced during the ASCE Upstate Branch Meetings. Anyone interested in sponsorships can also contact Chrissy Gernon.

Tentative Volunteer Agenda:
- 7:45am – Volunteer arrival and registration
- 8:00am – Final setup and preparation for event
- 9:00am – Bridge Testing Begins  Best Craftsmanship
- 11:30am – Approximate testing completion
- 11:45am – Approximate awards presentation

Upcoming Training

Improving Public Relations  Nov 18, 2015 Clemson, SC
This workshop explores ways to minimize the public’s irritation during road and bridge maintenance activities while enhancing public backing for projects. Click here for more info.

Winter Weather Planning & Maintenance  Dec 10, 2015 Seneca, SC
Participants will learn the importance of a snow and ice maintenance plan, management of the program, snow and ice control procedures, properties of snow and ice, and appropriate treatments, common deicing chemicals and alternative materials, winter storm preparation, and storm removal equipment and operations. Click here for more info.

Membership

Envision having an additional 28,500 staff members to help you examine and resolve problems and advanced processes. APWA membership brings you this and more. For over 75 years APWA’s goal has been to promote professional excellence and public works awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. Your membership and participation help attain that goal. Tap into a
network of thousands of public works experts from the U.S. and internationally to share on-the job experiences, to request information on public works issues, discuss local and national topics of concern, to work together to improve processes and to discover new job possibilities. By networking with other public works practitioners, APWA members receive valuable and useful information for their immediate informational needs in every facet of public works including emergency management, right-of-way issues, solid waste disposal, waste water treatment, snow and ice removal, operations issues and more. Get support from your peers. Meet the new faces entering the profession. Get sound professional advice from those who deal with the same challenges as you do.

APWA offers professional development opportunities via online, face-to-face, and on-demand programs. As well as Public Works Institutes and graduate studies programs. And APWA offers IACET CEUs for all of its national events, Click, Listen, & Learn webcasts, and for pre-approved chapter events. And, members get reduced pricing on most APWA publications, videos, training manuals, conference registrations, exhibits, and both national and local training courses PLUS free registrations to live Click, Listen and Learn programs and free unlimited access to over 300 pre-recorded educational programs via the Members' Library. Members also save time and money by using our infoNOW communities to share information or instantly get insight on a public works issue.

Special offer price:

Individual membership $90 for your first year
(regularly $179)