



CAMPING
CONFERENCES
PURE GAS
AND SO MUCH MORE!

Issue Highlights
Focus on Women in Public Works
Awards Information
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Chapter Earns PACE Award



President's Message

By John Lewis / City of Oregon City

Summertime is here, and what a welcome change. Were you starting to wonder if those April showers occurring in June were ever going to stop? Regardless, Oregon forests must be feeling well hydrated, which is long overdue.

Besides the summer weather, I'm encouraged by the success of the Chapter's 2022 events. The Street Maintenance and Collection Systems Spring Extended School was not back to pre-pandemic registrations but had a good showing, and the Oregon APWA Equipment ROADeo was super popular. Leadership and Maintenance Training and the record-breaking attendance of the Spring Chapter Conference in Seaside has really put the Oregon Chapter back in full swing with in-person events.

As the Chapter continues to thrive, it's also encouraging to see committee functions re-engage. Oregon APWA is a volunteer organization and our success continues to be through engagement with talented and professional members. It's been my experience that committee work is fun, challenging, and—if done right—it comes with positive returns. The Oregon Chapter has a slate of active committees, and yet each of our committees would benefit from additional participation. I've been encouraged by recent conversations with many of you who have asked how to get more involved. Committee participation is always my first recommendation.

I see and hear about Committee chairs who would like more support and participation. This can come from participation at a Public Works luncheon, or attending a Transportation Committee educational tour, or helping the Awards Committee find the top award submittals. The fun part comes in the form of interaction with your peers in what are typically casual conversations on familiar topics.

This week, our Past President Tony Roos convened a Nominating Committee for a Board Director position vacated by none other than the infamous Tony Roos. In this effort, it was important to the committee that participation on the Board include a history of involvement with the Chapter committee work. While the nomination process also looks at other factors, a record of Chapter participation is one of the more important considerations.

So I hope you get out and enjoy this 2022 Summer. While contemplating your future, consider helping the Oregon APWA Chapter by getting involved and sharing your life and professional experiences. I know the 2022 Board of Directors and I are interested in more professional and social interactions with **YOU!**

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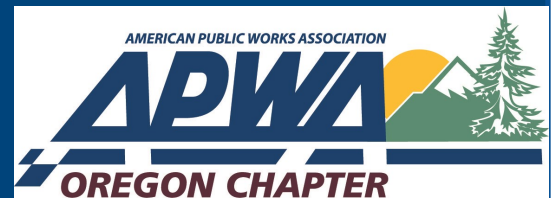
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Get Involved With APWA Oregon

The Oregon Chapter is run almost entirely by volunteers. To keep doing the great things our chapter does – events/luncheons, newsletters, announcements, contributing to specifications standards, etc. – volunteers work together to plan and execute.

Ways to Get Involved

Step 1. Become an APWA member. More information on becoming a member is on the [Chapter website](#).

Step 2. Find the right spot to plug in. What's your passion? What's your level of availability? There's a spot for you! Here are some options:

Join a Committee! Check out Committee Central webpage ([link](#)) to see all the Chapter's committees. Contact the Chair to get plugged in.

Street Maintenance & Collection Systems Schools need you! Have more questions?

Contact Leslie Finnigan (lfinnigan@ufsrw.com) to find out more about joining APWA and getting involved.

Chapter Earns National PACE Honors

For the 21st year in a row, Oregon APWA has earned national recognition.

"Congratulations! The Oregon chapter has been selected as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE)," APWA National President Stan Brown, P.E., PWLF, wrote in a July 6 letter to Oregon Chapter President John Lewis. "In recognition of the chapter's impact on APWA's membership, professional development, and the advancement of public works, thank you for what your chapter is accomplishing."

"Yet another amazing accomplishment for the Oregon Chapter for our 2022 PACE nomination," Lewis said. "A lot of people are involved in making sure we do great things as a chapter to accomplish qualifying for this award."

The Oregon Chapter consistently has earned the APWA National PACE award, which was established to recognize chapters for contributions made to positively impact their membership, profession, and community.

The PACE Award recognizes the Oregon Chapter's contributions made to positively impact its membership, profession, and community. In order to receive this award, the Oregon Chapter has to meet criteria in four categories: membership, service to chapter members, advancement of public works and sustainability, and service to the community. The PACE award is awarded by a panel comprised of APWA's current president, president-elect, and the three most recent past presidents.

The award will be officially presented to the chapter at PWX in Charlotte, North Carolina, on August 29.

[View the award-winning nomination.](#)

SPRING CONFERENCE RECAP – BACK IN PERSON AFTER TWO YEARS

Returning to an in-person conference after two years of a pandemic and virtual options only was no joke. A lot of long hours and hard work was put in by the conference committee, board of directors, and Cameo Management Solutions so attendees could gather again in the quaint community of Seaside. As one of the highest attended conferences, we captured 179 delegates and 109 exhibit representatives for 2-1/2 days of camaraderie, technical sessions and social /networking. As a wonderful bonus, we received over \$15,000 in donations for the Scholastic Foundation. We look forward to gathering again in Pendleton, October 18-21 ([link!](#))

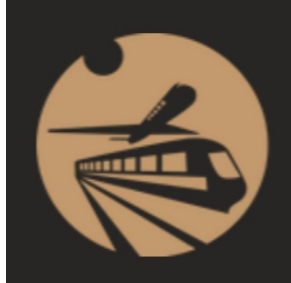


"Being on the conference committee this year gave me a new-found respect for the time and effort that goes into putting these conferences on. I felt a lot of pressure to make sure attendees had a good time and that the decisions we made were going to be well received, especially since this was the first time in two years that we met in person. Thanks to everyone involved who helped make the conference possible. I had a great time and it was great to see everyone again. Looking forward to Pendleton!" - Aaron Clodfelter, Washington County



"This was such a great venue and Seaside did a great job of hosting this event. It was nice to see everyone in person and attend a technical session with other people." - Mark Willrett, City of Klamath Falls

"As a first timer at the Conference, it was a wonderful experience. The community at APWA is welcoming and willing to connect you to the right people. I had so much fun at all the events and walked away with several new connections. The technical sessions were very informative, and I loved learning about Gizmo." - Krystal DeHerrera, RS&H



Award Nominations

Celebrate Success

The Awards Committee needs your help finding outstanding public works projects and awesome individuals we can all celebrate at the Fall Conference in Pendleton.

Nominations are due Monday, August 15, 2022. See the [Award Forms webpage](#) for more information. Here are the various types of awards for which the Awards Committee is seeking nominations:

Project of the Year Award

Have you wrapped up a construction project and would like to share your accomplishment with other APWA members or just want to show off your firm's/agency's awesomeness? If so, the Awards Committee would like to see and hear about these awesome public work projects, the challenges that were encountered, and/or the creativity and uniqueness.

Awards are given in four project dollar divisions and five different project type categories. Find the division and category that best fits your project so we can celebrate your hard work this fall in Pendleton (rumor has it, there may be some whiskey involved). More information on the award divisions and categories and previous awardees can be found on the [Projects of the Year webpage](#).

Communications Award

Is there a "Bulldog Award" nominee in your agency or firm? If so, let us know so that this person can be officially recognized. The Awards Committee is looking to recognize those individuals who are outstanding in the public works field for their communications skills or techniques that bring educational awareness to public works and related projects. More information on the award can be found on the [Communications Award webpage](#).

Everyday Heroes Award

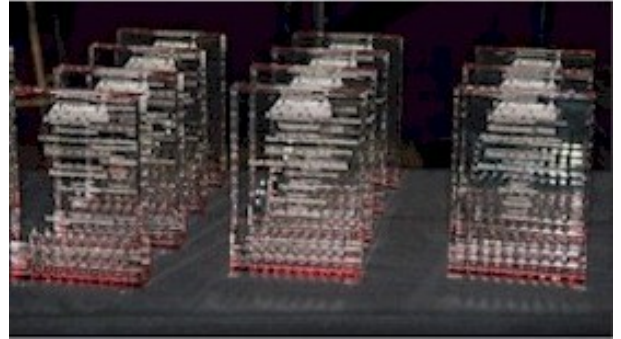
As we emerge from the pandemic over the last two years, and with all the challenges that we have dealt with, each of our organizations had that certain staff member who stepped up and was instrumental in getting us all through these challenging times. The Everyday Hero award recognizes an employee or group of employees who are identified by their friends, co-workers, and even the public in providing good customer service (responsive, consistent, courteous), making the best use of public resources (efficient, innovative), helping co-workers succeed (mentoring, assistance, cooperation, solution oriented), and being a great person to work with (friendly, respectful). More information on the award can be found on the [Everyday Heroes Award webpage](#) .

Young Leader Award

Do you work with a young (under the age of 35) APWA member who has demonstrated a commitment to either the public works profession or our association? Someone who has demonstrated the potential as a future leader, contributed to their public agency or company by coming up with innovative ideas, identifying solutions to complex design issues, or instituting cost-saving measures? This award promotes the concept that length of career does not necessarily indicate leadership abilities or potential for service. If you know someone who fits this description, the Awards Committee would like to celebrate these Young Leaders! More information can be found on the [Young Leader Award webpage](#).

Sustainability Practices Award

With rising material costs, fuel prices, and supply chain issues, consultants and agencies are increasing their sustainability practices and lessening the impacts on the environment. The Awards Committee would like to hear from you and learn about your goals and objectives, short- and long-term design practices, and green infrastructure that will sustain our society in the years to come. More information can be found on the [Sustainability Practices Award webpage](#).



From the Scholastic Foundation

Thanks to everyone who supports the chapter's scholarship program. And congratulations to Leslie Finnigan for taking home Gizmo at the spring conference in Seaside. Leslie was a good sport and helped raise more than \$15,000 for scholarships.

Each year the chapter awards scholarships totaling more than \$30,000 to students in public works programs at colleges and universities throughout the state. And this year, with the addition of the Dave Vargas Scholarship at the Oregon Institute of Technology, the chapter will fund up to 21 scholarships totaling \$36,500.

We'll soon be announcing the scholarship recipients for the 2022/2023 school year, but for now, meet several of our 2021/2022 scholarship recipients.



Autumn de la Cruz
Oregon State University
Ron Polvi Sustainability Scholarship

My name is Autumn de la Cruz. I am a senior at Oregon State University studying Civil Engineering and Sustainability. I graduate in just three weeks!

I am very involved in ASCE and I served as the social chair, executive chair, and the president. I have accepted a job and I will be working at the Washington State Department of Transportation, working on estuary restoration.



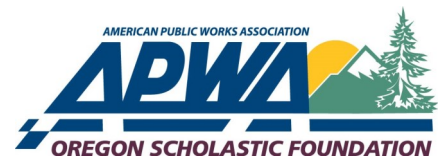
Grace Wallace
University of Portland
APWA/APOA Joint Scholarship

My name is Grace Wallace and I am a senior civil engineering major at the University of Portland, where I plan on graduating in May 2022.

I am currently the vice president of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) chapter at my school, and I will be working on events and projects for the club conference as well as my capstone project for the year. My capstone project includes assisting Oregon Department of

Transportation (ODOT) in replacing a bridge that spans the Columbia Slough on Portland Avenue. I'm excited to close out my senior year with these projects and gain experience with the help of my peers, professors, and organizations like the APWA.

More Foundation news on next page



More From the Foundation



Karoline Hercamp
Oregon Institute of Technology
Civil Engineering Scholarship

I am a senior pursuing double majors in civil engineering and environmental science at the Oregon Institute of Technology. I am also working on my master's degree in civil engineering. I am set to graduate in June of 2023. My interest in civil engineering was sparked when I first saw how infrastructure could impact people's lives, especially in times of tragedy and natural disasters. As I continued in school, I discovered that I also enjoyed the academic material which would allow me to actually pursue a career in engineering. Civil engineering was particularly appealing be-

cause it would allow me to help the public and solve engineering problems.

When I actually entered college, I found that civil engineering was a better fit for me than I could have hoped. To expand my academic knowledge outside of my classes, I have also been heavily involved with in academic clubs. Particularly, the American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, and Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society have allowed me to expand my knowledge, network with professionals, and build my leadership skills. In these clubs, I have been fortunate enough to serve in a variety of leadership roles including concrete canoe captain, steel bridge captain, vice-president, treasurer, and cataloger.

I became interested in working publicly through my summer internships with the Oregon Department of Transportation, Marion County Public Works, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. All of these internships have allowed me to see the firsthand impact that infrastructure projects can have on the public's safety and access. During school, I have also been able to expand my civil engineering skills by serving as a teacher's

assistant for Engineering Mechanics: Statics and Hydrology classes. For my master's degree, I am working with the Oregon Department of Transportation to look at fish passage and sediment travel in steep-slope stream environments. In the future, after my graduation, I hope to work on water and environmentally focused infrastructure projects, hopefully with an emphasis on accessibility and restoration.

When I'm not in school or working, I love to hike, bake, explore the outdoors, and spend time with my family and friends. One of the things I am most excited for in my schooling right now is the opportunity for me to study abroad in Denmark and Sweden this summer to look at sustainable transportation infrastructure. Hopefully, this opportunity will allow me to build a new set of knowledge that I can apply to projects in my future career.

I want to thank APWA for supporting my educational journey. It is truly humbling to have received support from an organization such as APWA.



They're all winners (of the Gizmo). [View the Gizmo honor roll](#) for details on who's taken home the Gizmo since the proud tradition began in 1987

Committee Spotlight

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CONNECT

Committees are at the heart of Oregon APWA. From Awards to Young Professionals, the chapter's 17 committees serve the needs of the members, the community, and the profession. In this issue of the newsletter, YP Chair Nicholas Polenske highlights the Young Professionals Committee.

What is the YP Committee – Overall, the YP Committee is an avenue for professionals (generally 35 and younger) in the public works industry to connect and stay involved with one another while we grow in our respective careers. Both the public agency staff and consultants who are involved in this committee are usually growing together, and those relationships can help foster long-term success on both sides of the industry. There are about 40 to 50 committee members involved at varying levels. The conferences are where the majority of the membership involvement takes place (we had over 50 people participate in the YP social at the spring conference in Seaside).

Overview of 2020/2021 in the YP Committee – Although we tried, we were not able to hold any meetings/events the last two years. We had two social events planned, one in February 2021 and one in August, but both were cancelled last minute due to a spike in COVID-19 cases. The hope is that our events will start happening quarterly in 2022 with the first one slated for this summer, so keep an eye out for an email with more details.

YP Committee accomplishments – While we didn't have specific committee activities take place, the

YP committee was very involved in conference participation with the two virtual conferences in 2021 both in speaking/presentation roles and in facilitation/moderator roles by our committee members. The committee also made it a priority to get involved with a more established YP committee (the SoCal chapter) to understand how they were navigated the COVID-19 environment and how they were using their committee resources to plan events moving forward.

Other YP Committee Information – Both 2020 and 2021 were difficult years for the YP committee overall as the majority of our involvement is in a social manner. As the chair of the committee, I used 2021 to really focus in on who I can get involved at a more specific planning level and how to start focusing on how to increase participation outside of the conferences. I'm very optimistic that 2022 will be a huge growing year for the Oregon YP group and will be looking forward to the



Nicholas Polenske

upcoming events we have planned. We actually just had a successful event working with a local organization in the Portland area cleaning up the beaches at Kelley Point Park. That being said, this can be your call to action! We are definitely looking for more people to help get directly involved with event planning and origination across the state. So if you are interested please to reach out to me at npolenske@kittelson.com.



YP members worked with local groups to clean up Kelley Point Park in Portland

New Members

Please welcome the new members who have recently joined Oregon Chapter APWA. For additional information, email Oregon APWA Membership Chair Leslie Finnigan at lfinnigan@ufsrw.com.

Maryna Asuncion, Associate Engineer, City of West Linn, (503) 722-3436, masuncion@westlinnoregon.gov

Craig Beaver, Administrator for Transportation, Beaverton School District, (503) 356-4221, craig_beaver@beaverton.k12.or.us

John Blackham, Civil Engineer Floodplain Manager, City of Eugene, (541) 731-3873, jblackham@eugene-or.gov

Kimberly Bogert, Engineer II, City of Gresham, (503) 509-7684, kimberly.bogert@greshamoregon.gov

Eric Cariaga, ArcGIS Online Administrator, City of Eugene, (541) 682-4818, ecariaga@eugene-or.gov

Peter Craig, (503) 407-8043, peter.craig@kpff.com

Ben Daughdrill, Raymond West, (971) 288-7450, ben.daughdrill@raymondwest.com

Jacqueline Gulczynski, Engineer, Kittelson & Associates Inc, (541) 639-8617, jgulczynski@kittelson.com

Cliff Harrell, Transportation Maintenance Supervisor, Beaverton School District, (503) 356-4271, clifford_harrell@beaverton.k12.or.us

Lindsi Hammond, GRI, (503) 464-9676, lhammond@gri.com

Mike Herring, Fleet Program Supervisor AIC, City of Eugene, (541) 682-4863, MHerring@eugene-or.gov

Matt Knudsen, Marion County, (503) 365-3187, mknudsen@co.marion.or.us

Khoi Le, City of Beaverton, (503) 412-9646, kle@beavertonoregon.gov

Alyssa Loveday, Engineer, Kittelson & Associates Inc, (541) 639-8618, aloveday@kittelson.com

Justin Loveland, Senior Project Engineer, City of West Linn, (503) 722-3437, jloveland@westlinnoregon.gov

Gary Marks, City of Dallas, Oregon, (503) 831-3555, gary.marks@dallasor.gov

Jeffrey McConnell, City Engineer, City of Corvallis, (541) 766-6916, jeff.mcconnell@ci.corvallis.or.us

Brandon McCullough, brandoncolemccullough@gmail.com

Russell Montgomery, Senior Engineer, Kittelson & Associates Inc, (503) 535-7511, rmontgomery@kittelson.com

Chris Negelspach, City Engineer, City of Scappoose, (503) 543-7184, cnegelspach@cityofscappoose.org

Brent Potts, Bend Streets and Operations, (541) 647-8671, bpotts@bendoregon.gov

Erin Reed, (503) 522-6270, erin.reed@murraysmith.us

Jean Root, (503) 973-5151, jvonbargen@mwaarchitects.com

Heike Shipton, Senior Associate Engineer, City of Lake Oswego, (503) 697-6510, hshipton@ci.oswego.or.us

Casey Thompson, Associate Engineer, City of West Linn, (503) 722-3435, cthompson@westlinnoregon.gov

Edward Van Buren, Ops Mgr Deputy PW Dir, City of Lake Oswego, (503) 635-0293, evanburen@ci.oswego.or.us

Thomas Wilcox, Sr Project Mgr Business Ops, Emerio Design, (503) 746-8812, twilcox@emeridesign.com

George Wood, Sales Director, SealMaster Portland, (503) 289-6696, george@sealmasterportland.com

Oregon APWA Listings



Looking to fill a position?

Look at what Oregon APWA offers.

- Free listings for public works jobs in the Pacific Northwest.
- Wide range of positions in the public and private sectors.

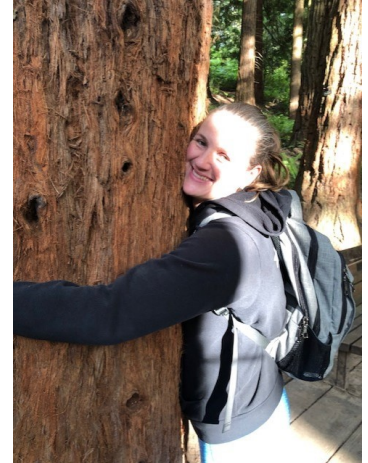
More information [online](#) or email oregonapwa@gmail.com

Women in Public Works

Women play an important role in the engineering, maintenance and management of public works systems. Here are the stories of four Oregon women in this evolving workforce, sharing their experiences and offering their thoughts on what the future holds for women in public works.

Melodie Abrook, Senior Water Treatment Operator, City of Hillsboro Water Department/Joint Water Commission

Melodie has been a Senior Water Treatment Operator for a little over three years. Before joining the JWC she worked for Veolia North America. She has a BA in Communications and an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Water and Environmental Technology.



Q: What was your career path?

A: My original path was personal training in New York for 12 years, but as I got older I realized I couldn't really retire there and the pay was never consistent. Since my sister was over here in Portland, I decided to take the leap of faith and move across country. I worked for IKEA for a couple of years and while there I went back to school to obtain my AAS. I already had my BA so it sped up the process a bit. I knew before coming out of school that I was mostly interested in working in the water industry. I got a temp job at the Oak Lodge Water Reclamation facility for about five months and while there I applied for a job at Veolia North America in Canby and was hired. While working on my second year there, City of Hillsboro had a job opening. I originally was not going to apply but my sister insisted that I should. So I did and that's where I have been since. It was one of the best moves I could have made. I love the job and the people are great.

Q: What led you to a profession in public works?

A: My sister works in the wastewater industry and told me about Clackamas Community college and the W.E.T. program. I knew I did not want to do wastewater but water was right up my alley. I've always loved science growing up. I wish that high schools would talk more about these essential jobs that are in a great need right now for employees. They didn't talk about trade schools - only college - and this leaves a gap in the work force

Q: Who was your mentor?

A: My dad and sis. My dad for urging me to be highly independent, to be a go getter and not look back. He has shown me that starting over is a change and change is good no matter how hard. My sister because she has built a pathway and carved out a place for herself in a male-driven profession. I have seen her struggle with some of the everyday dealings in her profession and she has done it with grace and dignity. She is an independent, strong, intelligent, highly self-motivated woman who impresses me daily. I have seen what she has gone through in her industry and it makes me proud to be her sister for how much she fought for and standing her ground all while exceeding in her career.

Q: What is the most important piece of advice you've ever received?

A: Just go for it. The worst they could say is no. If you don't know how to do it, you'll learn. There is no shame in not knowing.

Q: As more and more women have earned leadership positions in public works, how have you noticed the communities benefit?

A: I believe that there is more empathy within the workforce. Women have a particular way of thinking and it allows for a different dynamic to be brought to the table.

Women in Public Works (Continued)

Nicki Pozos, PhD, PE, Principal, The Formation Lab

Nicki is a principal (and co-owner) at The Formation Lab. The Formation Lab is focused on integrating social equity into the public infrastructure lifecycle.



Q: What was your career path?

A: I've been in public works my whole career and I've always been a consultant, but I've done a lot of different roles. I have a PhD in Civil Engineering and started my career in the research group of a consulting firm. I took a brief hiatus into the world of life coaching, then returned to consulting to focus on water master and supply planning. In my next phase I was a marketing manager for a large firm and had the opportunity to learn more about wastewater and stormwater systems. I then spent a couple years in strategic communications, then started my own firm 2 ½ years ago.

Q: Why are you passionate about public works?

A: I always tell my kids that if you want to have a good life, you must serve something beyond yourself. I get great satisfaction from serving my community through public works—without public works, nothing else would be possible in our communities. I also really enjoy the people who are drawn to serving their communities through public works and am honored to work with them every day.

Q: What advice would you have for other women considering a profession in public works?

A: Come join us! Public works has so much to offer people of all different identities and backgrounds. There are still inequities, but we have come so far in representation and there are many people (both women and men) working to continue to make things better. My most important advice would be to think beyond gender—equity only works when it works for everyone.

Q: What don't people in the community understand about public works?

A: Public works has suffered from diminishing public trust—a lot of people just don't trust government anymore. I wish people understood how hard public works professionals work to support their communities and the integrity they bring to acting in the public interest.

Q: What would you say to your 10-year-old self?

A: I would share the life philosophy I developed in my 30s. When I am making a big decision or wondering what to do next, I always ask myself—what would I do if I were fearless? And that is always the right answer!

Dayna Webb, PE, City Engineer, City of Oregon City

Dayna is the City Engineer for the City of Oregon City and has served in that position since May 2019.



Q: What was your career path?

A: I've spent nearly my entire engineering career in public service. After college graduation, I started my career at a consulting firm. It was when I joined the City of Tualatin in 2002 that I found my passion for public service. After nearly 14 years at the City of Tualatin and having completed some exciting projects, I took on a new adventure and joined the City of Oregon City in the Public Works Engineering Department. I've been at the City of Oregon City for over seven years and have enjoyed taking some amazing projects through design, construction, and completion. I also had the opportunity to take on a leadership role within the engineering division when I became the City Engineer.

Q: What led you to a profession in public works?

A: In high school, I worked at Coral Sales Company, assisting with office tasks, accounting, and even rolling up my sleeves during the quarterly inventory of the yard. My original career plan was to become an accountant, because of my love of data analysis and spreadsheets. The owner, Doug Daniels, was an engineer and suggested I think about going to school to be an engineer. If it weren't for his suggestion, I would likely be crunching numbers in a cubicle and missing out on all the incredible projects I've worked on as an engineer in public works.

Q: Why are you passionate about public works?

A: When the community can turn on the faucet, flush the toilet, and travel along a road with no issues, that is the greatest reward of working in public works—making others' lives easier and better because of what we do.

Women in Public Works (Continued)

Q: What advice would you have for other women considering a profession in public works?

A: You've got this! Build your network and learn from the women who blazed the trail before us. There are amazingly talented women in all facets of public works. Reach out, find them, learn from them, learn with them, and then share your knowledge with the next generation. I've got an amazing group of women that get together every month—we talk work, we talk life, we share our journeys, we give and get advice, and we walk away every month knowing that we are there for each other, no matter what.

Q: What would you say to your 10-year-old self?

A: I love this question. My 10-year-old daughter and I regularly talk about picking a career that you love, and that doesn't feel like work. When we go places or meet people, we talk about what their jobs are like and if it would be a job we would like or not. If I was able to give my younger self advice, it would be to not sweat the small stuff, explore more, and when those inevitable mistakes happen, learn from them and keep going.

Michelle Parkins, PW Ops Supervisor, City of Eugene

Michelle has served as the Public Works Operations Supervisor for the Stormwater Crew for 15 months. Her crew keeps the public right-of-way safe and clean by operating street sweepers, completing vegetation removal, picking up of debris.



Q: What was your career path?

A: I served in United States Navy right out of high school and then returned to the University of Illinois to finish my B.S. Natural Resources and Environmental Science (GO ILLINI). Then I headed back west to do an internship with the BLM and Chicago Botanic Garden, then landed a temporary position with the U.S. Forest Service during various research studies. Living in Eugene and traveling around the Pacific Northwest for the U.S. Forest Service was a great experience. I was drawn to the great park system in Eugene. I interviewed for a Park Specialist Position and was not selected. However, the hiring supervisor took the time to talk with me about the seasonal job opportunities and the various ways this could give me more experience within Public Works. I

worked as a seasonal employee for the City of Eugene for a couple of years increasing my skill set, then the recession hit. So I decided to go to graduate school. I mean why not! I applied to the Landscape Architecture Master's Program at the University of Oregon (GO DUCKS) and was accepted. I completed my master's degree and had my own landscape design and maintenance business for about two years, but something was missing. So I went and work for the City of Eugene Adaptive Rec program where I was reminded how great the organization was. While I was working part time, I was the successful applicant for a full-time Park Specialist position. I have been at the city for more than 10 years now both as a seasonal and full-time employee. My various roles include park specialist, vegetation code enforcement, trees and natural volunteer coordinator. This diverse work background led to me to where I am today as a PW Operations Supervisor.

Q: Why are you passionate about public works?

A: I've always found the diversity of PW to be inspiring, including the way the staff and crews work together to get things completed while support each other along the way.

Q: Who was your mentor and what was the most important piece of advice have you received?

A: Unbeknown to her, Jackie Hallett (PW Parks and Open Space Green Infrastructure Supervisor) is a mentor. She has provided me with a great opportunity and some very constructive feedback and advice. In short Jackie has mentored me along the way and in her own way reminds me not to close a door before you even know if it is open.

Q: What is the most important piece of advice you've ever received?

A: Be open minded about opportunities that cross your path and do not be so quick to close the door.

Q: What challenges have you faced being a woman in a traditionally male-driven profession?

A: The ability to be provide constructive feedback and supervision and not coming across as a negative or mean person.

Q: What advice would you have for other women considering a profession in public works?

A: Listen, learn, and be able and willing to have the hard conversations and take chances. Also, while it's important to advocate for your staff/colleagues, do not forget to advocate for yourself and what you want and need.



City of Tualatin



City St Helens



North Bend Celebrates National Public Works Week

City of North Bend

City hosting ROADeo to celebrate National Public Works Week

City employees who operate heavy machinery on Oregon City's streets may make it look easy, but doing so requires significant training and skill. On May 23, employees from the City of Oregon City, Clackamas County, and other agencies, will have the chance to show off their skills as they compete in the First Annual, Oregon American Public Works Association Equipment ROADeo.



City of Oregon City



National Public Works Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, public works services provided in our community are an integral part of our citizens' everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, the support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of public works systems and programs such as water, sewers, streets and highways, public buildings, and solid waste collection; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and comfort of this community greatly depends on these facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the quality and effectiveness of these facilities, as well as their planning, design and construction, is vitally dependent upon the efforts and skill of public works officials; and

WHEREAS, the efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff public works department is materially influenced by the people's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Scott Burge, Mayor of the City of Scappoose, do hereby proclaim the week of May 15- 21, 2022, as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Scappoose, and I call upon all citizens and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with the issues involved in providing our public works and to recognize the contributions which public works officials make every day to our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Scappoose, to be affixed this 2nd day of May, 2022.

CITY OF SCAPPOOSE, OREGON

Scott Burge
Mayor Scott Burge

Attest:

Susan M. Reeves
City Recorder Susan M. Reeves, MMC

City of Scappoose

Agencies Get Creative Celebrating National Public Works Week

May 15-21 marked the 2022 celebration of public works professionals during National Public Works Week. This year's theme "Ready and Resilient" highlighted the ability of these professionals to perform regular public works duties and be ready at a moment's notice to react as first responders during natural disasters and overcome trials seen in the field. With hybrid work and connection opportunities more abundant, many APWA Oregon members got creative with their festivities. Check out a few highlights!

Many cities made proclamations recognizing the importance of the week including the [City of Scappoose](#) and the [City of North Bend](#).

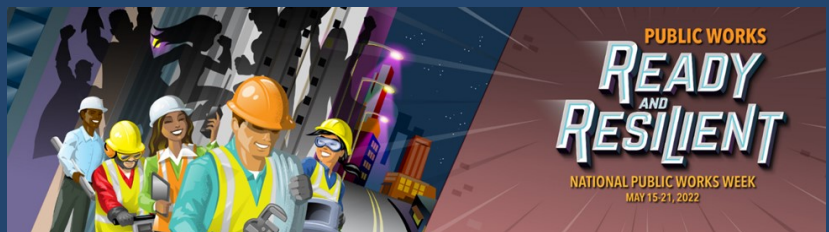
Others such as the [City of Oregon City](#) hosted a first annual "ROADeo" as a part of their National Public Works Week activities, giving public works employees a chance to show off their heavy equipment operating skills. Additional competitors included the City of Bend, City of Eugene, City of Gladstone, City of Lake Oswego, City of Oregon City, City of Roseburg, City of Tigard, City of West Linn, Clackamas County, Crook County, Lane County, and Water Environmental Services.

The [City of St. Helens](#) produced a compelling video with accolades from many other City agencies.

The [City of Tualatin](#) organized an infrastructure scavenger hunt, where participants were encouraged to locate items on a worksheet in their neighborhoods, complete the worksheet, and submit it to the City for the chance at a raffle prize.

Social media brought a flurry of recognition from municipalities, consultants, and teaming partners alike. 3,898 APWA LinkedIn followers were encouraged to share and tag #NPWW or #readyandresilient throughout the week, resulting in a stream of recognition and celebration across the state and other regional chapters.

Thank you to all the public works professionals who are always ready to serve their communities and resilient as ever in their abilities to pick themselves up off the ground after encountering challenges!



Wastewater Plant Harnesses Power of Natural Gas

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC), the regional wastewater treatment provider for Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County, recently celebrated the launch of a renewable natural gas facility with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, March 30, 2022. Commissioners, staff, and project partners along with invited guests were in attendance to celebrate the occasion and learn about the planning and construction of the facility. Attendees were given a tour of the project and saw the inner workings of the facility.

Through this project and new facilities installed at the regional wastewater treatment plant, the MWMC is purifying biogas from anaerobic digesters, which stabilize and treat solids, to produce renewable natural gas. The new equipment installed as part of this project "scrubs" the biogas to strip carbon dioxide and other contaminants. Then, the pure methane/natural gas is injected into NW Natural's system.

The MWMC is the first public agency in Oregon to complete a project of this kind. Their mission is to protect the community's health and environment, and this project aligns closely with that goal. Producing renewable natural gas allows the MWMC to beneficially use 100% of what would be a waste product as a sustainable energy source.

Partners working on this project included the City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Lane County, NW Natural, Kennedy Jenks Consultants Inc., and DSL Builders.

Learn more about the science behind this project and its environmental and community benefits,



MWMC staff and officials at the March 30 RNG launch celebration



Birds-eye view of the RNG facility at the wastewater treatment plant



Watch a [video](#) about the RNG project

Upcoming Events

October 18-21, 2022—Let'er Buck at Fall Conference in Pendleton

Pendleton packs in many activities for attendees to enjoy. The theme is “Public Works - Embracing Clean Energy in the Real West.” Local programming includes a Clean Energy Symposium coordinated with Sustainable Northwest on Tuesday as a preconference activity option, along with ball and disc golf activities, and of course the infamous “pre-party” lasting into the late evening at the Let'er Buck Room, located in the Round Up South Grandstand. Wednesday includes a preconference clean energy tour, unmanned aerial systems tour, opening luncheon with guest speaker Pat Reay, Round Up Publicity Director, speaking about the history and future of Round-Up, and after the exhibitor social, the downtown activities Pendleton is known for: Pendleton Underground and Shamrock Bar tours, pub crawl, and special event venue with live music. Thursday is your chance to recover with our guest speaker, Steve Chrisman, City of Pendleton Economic Director, speaking about the development of the unmanned aerial systems test range at the airport and the economic activities in our community, followed in the evening by the Chapter's Award Banquet and after-banquet entertainment, and then further downtown activities for the hardcore socializers. Friday's activities are concentrating on recovery from the prior days events and support of the Gizmo award and Scholastic Foundation fundraising. The local committee is also putting together a community outreach / work party project for either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.



[More information](#)

In addition to the core activities at the conference, the local arrangements committee is developing a list of activities for spouses that include local shopping, wine tasting venues, local history options, and a possible group tour option. After-conference activities could include booking Pendleton Underground Tours and local wine tasting. And for those that may be able to stay another day or two to explore the area, possible participation in the Eagle Cap Train Ride from Elgin to Joseph, return, with lunch included.

August 16-18, 2022—GTSE22 "Accelerates to ZERO"

The 2022 Green Transportation Summit & Expo (GTSE) will be held at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center. The GTSE 2022 program is organized around four tracks: transportation, infrastructure, innovation, and impact. The event features a technology showcase, more than 20 virtual tech talks, nearly 2500 attendees, over 40 cutting-edge vehicles, 70 industry booths, and 135 industry speakers.



Oregon APWA has helped co-sponsor GTSE for a number of years, and this year Oregon APWA former President Russ Thomas has worked with Brian Trice, Executive Director of the Columbia- Willamette Clean Cities Coalition, to obtain a limited number of first-come first-served "scholarships" to help offset the registration cost for staff from Oregon APWA members agencies. These scholarships are aimed at those agencies that may not have the full funding for attendees but would send someone if they got a free registration. If you would like to request a scholarship, contact Russ Thomas (russ.thomas@newbergoregon.gov) and he will send you a registration code. For more information about registration for this year's event, [visit GTSE](#)



Also on the Calendar:

- Oct 25-27, 2022 Street Maintenance & Collection Systems Fall School
- Nov 15-18, 2022 Public Works Leadership 2022
- Dec 6-9, 2022 Public Works Essentials 2022
- Check the [training calendar](#) for details

First Event Camping Trip a Hit!

“The First Ever APWA Oregon Summer Camping Trip was a hit! We had a very nice time relaxing and getting to know one another. The story time was a highlight and the weather was perfect. Looking forward to doing again next summer.”
- John Lewis, City of Oregon City



“The First Annual APWA Oregon Camping Trip was a success! 15 people and 4 dogs converged on Foster Lake on the first warm weekend of 2022 to enjoy a pot luck, boating, kayaking, fishing and reconnecting with our APWA counter parts. It was so much fun that we’d like to do it again next year and hope that more of the Oregon Chapter membership join us.” - Shannon Williams, Keller Associates