



Issue Highlight
Public works crews across the state respond to the January 2024 snow, ice, and wind storm



President's Message

By Tim Blackwood
Pali Consulting

Hello, APWA Oregon Chapter! I want to start my first president's message by thanking all those who volunteer their time and participate in APWA, making it the great organization it is. I especially want to thank the board and our Past President Ashley Cantlon, who did a great job for us last year. I will do my best to fill her shoes as your 2024 president, but she will be a tough act to follow. I also want to give a shout out to all those who volunteer on our many committees, and especially the committee chairs. The committees are where much of the work of APWA occurs, and we wouldn't be the same organization we are if it were not for the hard work of our committees.

In thinking of what would be most appropriate for this message, I considered what uplifting words I could offer, or inspiration I could impart. But I thought, "Naw, those I know in APWA are pretty practical and pretty inspired already." So I'm just going to start my President's Message with a good practical dose of useful information for you all. So please take a read through the topics of interest to you.

Strategic Plan

Each year, the board develops a strategic plan for the upcoming year. We meet in December to review our efforts and accomplishments for the previous year, discuss how we can improve the organization, and, most importantly, how we can increase the value all of you receive from APWA. We all believe our chapter is one of the best in the APWA organization, and we receive many accolades from National and other chapters. But we know we can always find areas for improvement. After some deliberation over these items, the board decided that our key efforts this year will revolve around:

- Increasing our involvement and cooperation with like-minded organizations;
- Supporting and facilitating our committees so they are empowered to increase their activities and provide even more opportunities for others in the organization, and;
- Increasing membership from both organizations and companies.

So stay tuned here and I'll update you on the success of our efforts in future president's messages.

Upcoming Events

You may not know it (hopefully you already do, firsthand), but we have an excellent program of short schools, conferences, and training opportunities throughout the year. We have several coming up this spring. You can find them [here](#)

(continued on next page)

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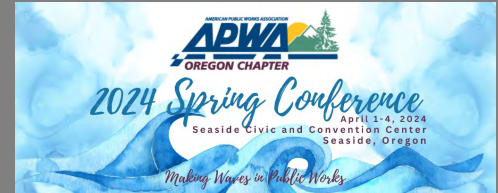
President's Message

*Thomas New
National Delegate*



Scholarship News

Get Involved, Part 1



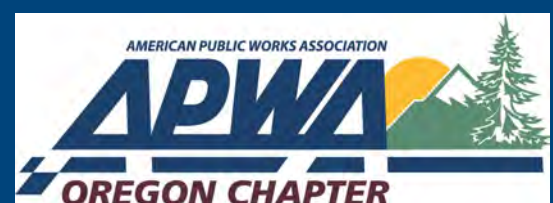
Ice & Snow Response



Get Involved, Part 2



Go directly to an article by clicking the titles above.



President's Message (Continued)

For your convenience, I've listed them below. Please check out any of interest.

- [Maintenance and Collections School](#) (March 19-21 in Bend)
- [5th Annual ROADeo](#) held in conjunction with Maintenance and Collections on March 20.
- [Spring Oregon Chapter Conference](#) (April 1 through 4, Seaside, OR) – The announcement is already out and the conference is filling up fast! So don't wait to sign up and be a sponsor if you are a company.
- [Developing Leader Series](#) (April 2-5 in Sunriver, OR)
- [More trainings and events](#)

Website Roll-out...oops

If you have had any problems accessing information online, you are not alone. APWA National rolled out our new website late last year and there have been a few speed bumps along the way. Much of the functionality has been restored and we are optimistic that we will be back up to full access and capacity shortly. Thank you for your patience!

Top 10 Leader Nomination

This year our chapter is nominating Russ Thomas for the National APWA Top 10 Leader award. I can't imagine many of you don't know Russ. He's been a staple at the conferences since I can remember and I always look forward to his passion for the Gizmo Award and the scholarship money it brings in for students each year. Russ' day job is Public Works Director for Newberg and he just replaced Dan Boss as our National Director this year!

New Faces on the Board

I wish to acknowledge all the returning board members from last year: Doug Singer, Shannon Williams, Krey Younger, Chase Welborn, Mark Willrett, and Leslie Finnigan, as well as our Past President Ashley Cantlon and new National Director Russ Thomas. And I extend my warmest welcome and appreciation to the new faces on the board this year! Please join me in welcoming our newest members: Maureen White with Mazzetti, Ryan Webb with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; and Nick Polenske with Kittelson Associates

We look forward to their fresh ideas and enthusiasm on the [board](#) this year!

What is the Gizmo?

In less than a month, those of you who will be at the Seaside Conference will hear all about the Gizmo! Most of

you know what that is, but to newcomers, it can be quite puzzling, maybe even a little cultish! But don't fear, the Gizmo is the award (or penalty, depending on your point of view) that we bestow on one of our beloved APWA members at each conference. To "win" Gizmo, you vote for your favorite Gizmo candidate, mostly by buying items at the auction, raffle tickets and other means. All of the proceeds from Gizmo go to the Scholastic Foundation to fund their annual scholarships and are tax deductible. This year the Foundation expects to award about \$35K in scholarships to students in almost every college and university in the state. Thank you, Foundation, for all your hard work awarding scholarships to our next generation of public works professionals!

Farewell



I will close this message with a heartfelt farewell. As they say, the only thing constant is change, and many of you have come to know and appreciate all that Cameo Management does for us. Maggie and Peggy are real staples of our conferences and schools, and they work closely with the board on many things. But after 18 years of service to APWA Oregon, Cameo is not renewing their contract with us for 2025. We have greatly appreciated all they have done for us and wish them well in their future endeavors. We hope to get a new event manager on board the second half of 2024 to learn the ropes from Cameo so we can have a seamless transition at year-end. To that end, please let anyone on the board know if you have a recommendation for a company who can take over for Cameo in 2025. And thank Maggie and Peggy for all their hard work over the years when you see them. They will be greatly missed!

And a big thanks to all of you for your continued participation in, and support of, APWA! You are truly what makes our organization great. I look forward to seeing you all in Seaside!

Thomas Appointed National Delegate

Russ Thomas, director of Public Works for the City of Newberg, has been appointed to a three-year term as the chapter's national delegate.

"I am honored to serve as the Oregon chapter delegate," Thomas said of his recent appointment. "With almost 45 years of experience in the public works field, and being active with the Oregon chapter for over 30 years, from attending APWA schools and leadership trainings and serving as chapter president in 2017, and now as chapter delegate, I hope my varied experience and knowledge of the chapter and its members will help me serve and represent the chapter with the support of our board and all of the members of our chapter."

Thomas' responsibilities include:

- Serving as an advisor to the National APWA Board through participation on the Council of Chapters;
- Serving as a liaison between the Council of Chapters and the Oregon Chapter Board; and
- Serving as a member on the APWA Oregon Chapter Executive Committee.



As national delegate, he will attend Council of Chapter regional and national meetings, participate in conference calls scheduled throughout the year, and prepare mid-year and end of year "Report of Chapter Activities" and submit it to National.

Thomas lists four major goals as national delegate:

- Working with the Oregon Chapters board and its members, to be an active and vocal advocate and champion of the Oregon chapter and its members by building and maintaining relationships with the other chapters in APWA region and with national, giving the Oregon chapter and its members a voice at the regional and national level.
- Providing feedback to national APWA and other regions' chapters of the Oregon chapter's activities, members, and views on proposals for initiatives and actions that could have a negative, or positive impact on the Oregon chapter and its members.
- Keeping the importance of education and training for all chapter members, both professional and field staff, as a priority at the national and regional levels.
- Ensuring that the Oregon chapter board and chapter members are kept informed and up to date on the information and other activities of APWA National.

Thomas is off to a quick start, participating in the Region 9 delegates monthly meetings. This year National is trying out a different model for the Council of Chapters, having regional meetings instead of the past practice of having meetings of all members of the Council of Chapters several times a year. He plans to attend the meeting of the western regions (regions 8 and 9) delegates in Las Vegas in late February, with a meeting of Council of Chapters including all the chapter delegates at PWX 2024 in Atlanta in September 2024. "While this may provide a more focused approach to the regions of APWA, I feel that this may also create a regional divide in the representation to National," said Thomas. "But I will wait and see if this approach provides advantages, or drawbacks to our chapter's representation at National."

Previous Oregon chapter national delegates include Dan Boss, Stephanie Reid, Hugh Kalani, Merle Langley, and Don Harwell.

Scholarship News

Passing of the Torch on the Scholarship Committee

For the past seven years, the Scholarship Committee was led by Laurie Allen. After joining the committee in 2016, she took over as chair in 2017 serving most of that time in a solo capacity. Over the years, Laurie developed and fostered productive relationships with educators and administrators across the state at community colleges and universities that benefit from these scholarships. Laurie's tenacity and perseverance was instrumental in helping the foundation award over \$206,000 to 120 scholarship recipients during her tenure as committee chair.

For the past couple of years Laurie was joined by Todd Watkins and Caleb Cox on the committee. While Laurie continued to work directly with the schools, Todd and Caleb worked behind the scenes focusing on technical elements such as the application forms, scholarship reference sheets, and scholarship tracking tools.

Nevertheless, all things eventually come to an end, and Laurie bid farewell to the committee at the end of 2023. The foundation is thankful for Laurie's long-standing service and her company's (ACMS NW) sponsorship of chapter conferences. Todd and Caleb are excited to continue Laurie's legacy of success. For additional information about the Scholarship Committee or to join the group, contact Todd and Caleb at oregonapwascholars@gmail.com

New School Joins Scholarship Program

*By Todd Watkins, P.E.
Co-chair Scholarship Committee*

At their January 12, 2024, meeting, Scholastic Foundation board members approved the scholarship campaign for the 2024/2025 school year with a total award amount of \$38,000. Once again, 22 scholarships will be offered to community colleges and universities across the state.

Additionally, Central Oregon Community College was designated as the latest school to join the scholarship program with a \$1,000 offering for the Les Lyle Memorial Scholarship.

Keep an eye out for students at the next Oregon APWA conference April 1-4 in Seaside! Award recipients will be offered a complimentary registration to attend and network with conference attendees.

Chapter Offers 22 Scholarships

- Clackamas Community College, \$750 - Civil Engineering/GIS
- Clackamas Community College, \$1,000 - Dan Boss Drinking Water or Wastewater Scholarship
- George Fox University, \$2,500 - APAO/APWA Civil Engineering
- George Fox University, \$3,000 - Civil Engineering
- Central Oregon Community College, \$1,000 - Lyle Memorial Scholarship
- Oregon Institute of Technology, \$500 - Vargas Memorial Scholarship
- Oregon Institute of Technology, \$3,000 - Civil Engineering
- Oregon State University, \$1,500 - Polvi Sustainability Scholarship
- Oregon State University, \$1,500 - Engineering Schut Scholarship
- Oregon State University, \$2,500 - Civil Engineering Alsing Scholarship
- Oregon State University, \$2,000 - Kurt Corey Tribute Scholarship
- Oregon State University, \$3,000 - Civil Engineering / Geomatics
- Portland Community College, \$1,000 - Langley Memorial Scholarship
- Portland Community College, \$750 - Public Works
- Portland State University, \$1,000 - Michael Lindberg Scholarship
- Portland State University, \$3,000 - Civil Engineering/Geotechnical
- Portland State University, \$2,500 - APAO/APWA Civil Engineering #2
- Portland State University, \$1,500 - Veterans Scholarship
- Southwestern Community College, \$750, Forestry/Natural Resources
- Southwestern Community College, \$1,500 - Past Presidents
- Umpqua Community College, \$750 - Civil Engineering
- University of Portland, \$3,000 - Civil Engineering

Get Involved



*Mark Your
Calendar!*



Save the Date
APWA/ASCE/AWWA Young
Professionals Happy Hour

Thursday, May 30th

5:00— 7:00pm

Birdie Time Pub
925 SE Main Street, Portland, 97214
Guests can enjoy appetizers, two
drinks, and putt putt golf!

2024 Awards

It's not too early to start thinking about your award nominations **DUE Thursday, August 15th, 2024**

The year is off to a great start and it is time to start thinking about awards to recognize our often undercelebrated projects and people. APWA Oregon wants to hear about the amazing public works projects that were substantially completed within the last two years, the outstanding young leaders in our community, any effective sustainability practices people are implementing, our Everyday Heroes, and who is excelling at communications in the Oregon Chapter (Bulldog).

In order for you to be honored for your work, we need a nomination form and supporting information. As the weather improves, remember to take some pictures to include with your application.

Guidelines & Nomination Forms: <https://oregon.apwa.org/resources/awards/award-applications/>

Questions? Reach out to Jennifer Garbely at garbelj@milwaukieoregon.gov

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

Snow and Ice Response in Action



Tree crews were instrumental in clearing trees and branches from Eugene's streets during the City's storm response.



Troutdale Public Works plow/sander working the Historic Columbia River Highway on a frigid night in front of the Troutdale Historical Society Barn Museum during the January 2024 snow, ice, and wind storm.



Public Works crew members assisted more than 300 water shut-offs in extreme conditions due to freezing or burst pipes in the City of Lake Oswego.



Snow plows quickly become "tree debris plows" for Springfield Operations crews dealing with thousands of trees damaged from heavy ice.

Snow and Ice Response in Action (continued)



A traffic signal pole was crushed by a tree falling in Washington County so a temporary span-wire repair was put in place to get the signal back up and running until crews are able to get a replacement pole.

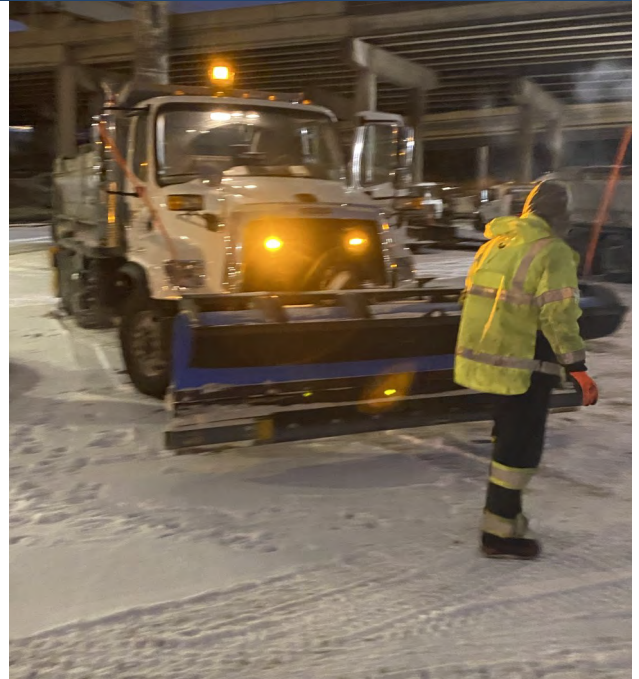


A snowplow operator with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) clears snow off NE Sandy Boulevard, a major thoroughfare in Northeast Portland on Sunday Jan. 14, 2024. Sandy Boulevard is an emergency transportation route that has some of the most popular public transit routes in Oregon.

Snow and Ice Response in Action (continued)



A City of Redmond Public Works road grader clearing snow to ensure public safety during the snowstorm on January 13, 2024.



A Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) snowplow operator inspects the snow chains and other parts of his snowplow as he starts a 12 hour shift during the January 2024 snow and ice storms. Photo by PBOT.



Using a tried and true method to clear ice and snow from sidewalks in the City of Dallas.



A downed utility line liquified and melted a section of pavement on one of Gresham's busier arterials. After the line was made safe and removed, City of Gresham Transportation Operations crews patched the pavement to re-open the road to traffic.

Snow and Ice Response in Action (continued)



In Lake Oswego, two water crew heroes put their bodies on the line hand digging a 4 ft. deep trench with a pick ax to repair a broken water main in 15F temperatures.



An ambulance with a patient slid off a steep road during icy weather. City of Gresham Transportation Operations staff assisted in pulling the ambulance out of the ditch so that the ambulance could make it to the hospital.



An early morning crew meeting for The City of Dallas Operations team as they make plans to respond to the continuing ice and snow storm.



Big trees down: Thousands of Eugene's city trees were damaged or destroyed, including some massive ones.

Snow and Ice Response in Action (continued)



Plow/deicer heading out: One of Eugene's 13 snow plows heads out the maintenance yard.



Fill 'er up! City of Springfield Operations staff load more sand, ready to treat ice covered streets.



City of Gresham Transportation Operations crews set up a traffic closure to remove a tree that had fallen on the road. Dozens of trees blocked streets and downed utility lines during the storm.



Small but mighty crews of 8-10 Lake Oswego Public Works staff worked 12-hour shifts, 24/7 for more than a week to clear roads and apply sand for traction.

Snow and Ice Response in Action (continued)

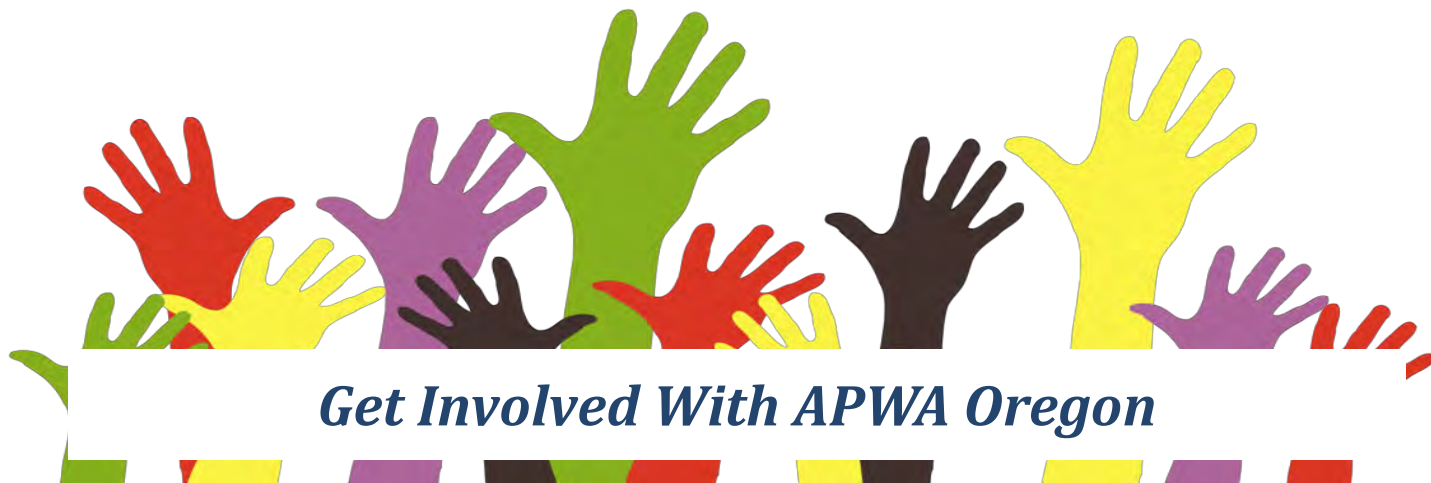


A Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) snowplow operator inspects the snow chains and other parts of his snowplow as he starts a 12-hour shift during the January 2024 snow and ice storms.

City of Dallas maintenance workers worked through the storm to clear roadways.



City of Springfield Operations workers use a backhoe to stabilize and remove a large branch from a City street tree that landed on the roof of a house.



Get Involved With APWA Oregon

The Oregon Chapter is an association of more than 800 professional engineers, technicians, operations staff, public works directors, business people, contractors, consultants and many others who join together to exchange ideas and information, promote education and training, and work as a team to meet professional and community needs.

The 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 to see all the Chapter's committees. Contact the Chair to get plugged in.

Street Maintenance & Collection Systems Schools need you!

APWA Oregon Chapter offers Street Maintenance & Collection Systems Schools twice a year; one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring school includes an Equipment ROADeo. Our "School Committee" strives to put together a technical program that offers a minimum of 2.0 CEUs for full attendance at each of the schools. These schools utilize a 20- to 25-member committee for all three disciplines that help in recruiting appropriate speakers and topics for the schools. ODOT T2 is a huge support for these schools and offers Roads Scholars programs for one of the tracks.

We currently have some committee member spots to fill; specifically for the "streets" and "safety" committee. If you are interested or know someone who would be a great asset for us, consider sending them our way! If you need additional information, please email Maggie Vohs, APWA Events Director, at cameomag@gmail.com.

Know someone who would exceptionally serve the Chapter? Nominate them for the Chapter Board. Contact John Lewis, former Chapter President, for more details (jmlewis@orc.org).

Have more questions?

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

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