



2024  
*Awards Winners*  
*Special Edition*



# President's Message

By Tim Blackwood  
Pali Consulting

This is my last president's message, and first and foremost, I want to thank you all for what you do every day; design, build, operate and maintain the critical infrastructure that makes our lives run smoothly every day. One of the ironies of your profession is that when you are great at your job no one notices because everything works! But although they don't say it often, people genuinely appreciate all you do every day. Thank You!

As I am writing my last president's message, the Oregon APWA Board, just wrapped up our annual planning meeting. In December of each year, we meet for a couple of days to conduct our final board meeting for the year, welcome our new director(s) and officers, and plan for an even greater year following. This year the board welcomed Dawn Easley (City of Medford) as our newest director, as Ashley Cantlon finished her tenure on the board as our past-president. Your officers for 2025 will be Doug Singer as President, Shannon Williams as President-Elect, Chase Welborn as Secretary (2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2-year term) and Krey Younger as Treasurer (1<sup>st</sup> year of a 2-year term). Russ Thomas will continue to be our National Delegate for 2025. So you can see you are in good hands for 2025!

Highlights of our planning meeting were:

- The board chose Nancy Kraushaar as our Top 10 applicant for this year. Congratulations Nancy!
- We reviewed your evaluation from the Pendleton Conference. We really appreciate the feedback and heard some great compliments, areas needing improvement, and good suggestions. Highlights of the positive feedback were rave reviews of the technical sessions, while the greatest room for improvement was the size of the exhibit hall: way too small! We listened to these comments as well as a number of other great suggestions, many of which we will be trying out at the Spring Conference. I won't detail them here so as not to steal any thunder from President Singer, but stay tuned!
- Doug developed some great goals and plans for 2025, including some conference changes and a focus on committee involvement. Again, I won't provide any details here, as I'm sure he'll be rolling them out in his first President's Message for you.

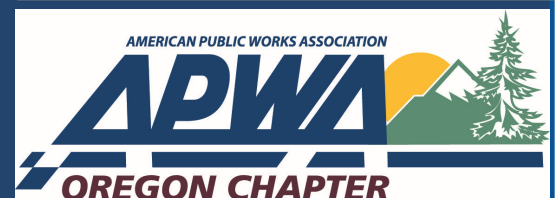
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# President's Message Continued

We saw some great successes in 2024:

- Russ Thomas received a Top 10 Public Works Leader of the Year award,
- The Oregon Chapter received its 24<sup>th</sup> PACE Award (Presidential Acknowledgement for Chapter Excellence),
- Oregon APWA celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> chapter anniversary,
- Our YP Committee co-chairs, Brittney Weinberg and Alyssa Loveday, attended the first ever national YP summit in conjunction with PWX in Atlanta,
- Pulled off two great conferences, two short schools, an equipment training school, a Rodeo, and three Public Works Leadership Institute classes,
- Brought in funding for the Scholastic Foundation from our conferences (amount TBA), and
- Smoothly transitioned to Meetings, Management, and More (MMM) to take over for Cameo Management, our long-time management company and friends!

We again want to say farewell and thank you to Cameo Management, and wish the best to Maggie and Peggy! We also say farewell and thank you to Bob Patterson and Eric Jones, who have served the organization selflessly for many years.

In my last message, I'd hoped to report that the website is complete. Well, it's getting better, but it's still not quite there. I fully expect that President Singer will be able to report to us that all is complete and functional early into his term!

Thank you all again for all you do. It has been an honor serving as your president this past year and I wish you all the happiest of holidays!

## INTERESTED IN RECEIVING LEADERSHIP FROM OR PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TO ONE OF YOUR FELLOW APWA MEMBERS?

### *JOIN AS A MENTEE OR MENTOR!*

The program involves a one-on-one style mentorship pairing that will help mentees establish goals and optionally prepare a career development plan.

Topics being discussed...

- Goal setting
- Formulating and implementing policy
- Leading an organization or team
- Communicating using effective strategies
- Building relationships and partnerships
- Networking with peers
- Managing and investing in staff
- Managing information
- Engaging in crucial conversations
- Navigate career growth



Interested in learning more?

Use this QR code.



# Eugene, Salem achieve American Public Works Association re-accreditation this summer

*By Marion Sutor Barnes, City of Eugene*

Two of the three Oregon Public Works departments that are accredited by the APWA achieved reaccreditation in recent months. Eugene (originally accredited in 2004) successfully navigated the process in June, and Salem (2020) was reaccredited in September. West Linn was originally accredited in 2018.

The reaccreditation process is strenuous, requiring months of cross-divisional cooperation to gather documents and share updated procedures, policies, programs and other indications of excellent service provision. However, city employees understand the importance of self-auditing to ensure efficient and effective delivery.

“The APWA re-accreditation process has been a unifying activity for the City of Salem’s Public Works Department. By taking an honest look at the policies that underpin our operation, we’ve identified not only the processes that contribute to our organizational success but also those that can create confusion, conflicts and disjointed responses,” said officials with Salem Public Works. “The process of routinely looking at our active policies with a fine-tooth comb, testing them against nationally recognized standards, and guiding our agency in a positive direction has been invaluable.”

Another key outcome of the reaccreditation process is the potential for increased trust for local community members who know their Public Works department is working hard to improve their lives each day. The Eugene reaccreditation came with the designation of two “model practices”: the use of GIS Story Maps to tell stories about the city and recognition of safe behavior that PW safety programs created.

City of Eugene Public Works Administration Director Lacey Risdal thanked everyone involved in the successful application for reaccreditation. “Our team of program managers who spent hours and hours reviewing and updating our policies, procedures and practices did an exceptional job at preparing us for [the audit week]! This week highlighted the continual innovation, improvement and striving for excellence that is evident across our department.”



## 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](mailto:oregonapwa@gmail.com)

# Meet the 2025 Board

*As 2024 draws to a close, it's time to look ahead to the chapter's 2025 leadership team*

## 2025 OFFICERS



### President

#### Doug Singer

Development Services Manager  
City of Eugene  
DSinger@eugene-or.gov



### President-Elect

#### Shannon Williams

Senior Project Manager  
Keller Associates, Inc.  
swilliams@kellerassociates.com



### Secretary

#### Chase Welborn

Project Manager  
3J Consulting  
chase.welborn@3j-consulting.com



### Treasurer

#### Krey Younger

Vice President, Operations  
Central Geotechnical Services  
krey@centralgeotech.com



### National Delegate

#### Russ Thomas

Director of Public Works  
City of Newberg  
russ.thomas@newbergoregon.gov



### Immediate Past President

#### Tim Blackwood

President/Principal Engineer  
Pali Consulting  
tim@pali-consulting.com



### Position #1

#### Maureen White

Associate Principal, Project Mgr.  
Mazzetti  
mwhite@mazzetti.com



### Position #2

#### Ryan Webb

Engineering and Planning Mgr.  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org



### Position #3

#### Mike Willrett

Director of Public Works  
City of Klamath Falls  
Willrett@klamathfalls.city



### Position #4

#### Dawn Easley

Public Works Operations Mgr.  
City of Medford  
dawn.easley@cityofmedford.com



### Position #5

#### Nick Polenske

Senior Transportation Engineer  
Kittelson & Associates  
npolenske@kittelson.com



### Position #6

#### Leslie Finnigan

Western Regional Manager  
Universal Field Services  
lfinnigan@ufsrw.com

## 2025 DIRECTORS

# 2024 Oregon APWA Fall Conference Recap: Farewells, Highlights, and Celebrations

**60**  
**60 YEARS**  
**STRONG**  
*and Bob says, "So long"*



## Oregon Chapter Fall Conference

*October 15-18, 2024*  
*Wildhorse Resort & Casino*  
*Pendleton, Oregon*

*By Michael McGillivray, City of Springfield*

The 2024 Oregon APWA Fall Conference, held at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, was a remarkable gathering of public works professionals, blending education, networking, and heartfelt farewells to some of the chapter's most beloved contributors.

This year's conference marked a turning point for the Oregon Chapter, as attendees bid farewell to four iconic figures:

**Bob Patterson**, the multi-conference SUPER HOST and past chapter president, retired from his role as Pendleton's Public Works Director and is preparing for a new chapter with his family in Australia.

**Maggie Vohs**, President of Cameo Management Solutions, wrapped up over three decades of leadership and event management expertise, retiring to Central Oregon.

**Peggy McCormick**, Maggie's longtime partner, is embracing partial retirement, dividing her time between family, friends, the outdoors, and wine ventures.

**Eric Jones**, a longstanding contributor to the Oregon APWA communications committee, will forever be known as the original "Bulldog" award winner. We

honor his tenacity and dedication and know his impact will be remembered for years to come.

The conference featured two dynamic keynote speakers who brought unique perspectives to the event. Joseph Wyno, Executive Director of the Oregon UAS Accelerator, delivered a thought-provoking presentation on how Oregon is leading the way in unmanned aerial and robotic systems innovation. He highlighted the accelerator's comprehensive support for startups, including mentorship, funding, and access to top-tier testing facilities, showcasing how these efforts position Oregon as a hub for cutting-edge UAS advancements.



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Pendleton's Mayor-elect, McKennon McDonald celebrated the city's public works achievements over the past 60 years. Her keynote, "Building on Tradition, Growing with Vision," reflected on the city's progress while offering forward-thinking insights for future growth, inspiring attendees to apply these lessons to their communities. Together, their presentations underscored the importance of innovation, community progress, and collaboration in public works.

The High Roller Exhibit Hall was a highlight of the conference, debuting a themed scavenger hunt encouraging attendees to engage with vendors, while the photo booth added a fun, creative way to capture memories and enhance the festive atmosphere.

As always, the conference celebrated excellence through its coveted awards: Projects of the Year, the Everyday Hero award, and the Young Leader award. The legendary Gizmo Award added its signature fun to the proceedings and helped raise money to support the scholarship program.

A robust lineup of technical sessions covering a wide range of topics were presented enhancing attendees' professional knowledge and skills. From exploring cutting-edge advancements in public works to diving into innovative solutions for infrastructure challenges, these sessions were tailored to address the pressing needs of the industry. Thank you to all those who shared your knowledge and we encourage others to consider submitting presentations for future conferences.

In addition to the awards, exhibit hall, and technical sessions, attendees strengthened their connections through activities like golf, disc golf, and a spirited after-hours bowling tournament. These events complemented the conference's aim to foster community and collaboration among public works professionals.

The 2024 Oregon APWA Fall Conference was a fitting tribute to the resilience, camaraderie, and vision that define public works. It not only looked toward the future but also honored those who have laid the foundation for its ongoing success. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this unforgettable event!

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## Public Works Luncheon Committee Update

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The Public Works Luncheon Committee has continued to grow and has expanded to Eugene!

In October a luncheon was held in Portland that gave insights into new products and applications of pavement markings. That same month, a luncheon was held in Eugene that included a Q&A panel discussing FEMA disaster recovery.

Want to get involved? Have thoughts on how to make our future luncheons better? Our luncheons committee is always looking for speakers for future luncheons in Portland and/or Eugene, raffle sponsors, and feedback on previous luncheons. You don't have to be a member to participate – all are welcome!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Portland: March 2025 (Details to come)

Eugene: Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Have more questions?

Contact Eric Germundson  
([egermundson@kittelson.com](mailto:egermundson@kittelson.com)) for  
information on the Portland luncheons.

Contact David Covey  
([David.Covey@consoreng.com](mailto:David.Covey@consoreng.com)) for  
information on the Eugene luncheons.





## Mark Your Calendar!

Please continue to check the website and social media channels for upcoming events, registration, sponsorship, and more! [APWA Oregon Chapter](#)

## Oregon Chapter Spring Conference

Salem Convention Center

April 29th—May 2nd 2025

*More information including sponsorship opportunities coming soon!*

## Save the Date

Public Works

Essentials 2025

March 4th—7th 2025

More information coming soon!

## Looking to fill a position?

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- Wide range of positions in the public and private sectors.

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Oregon APWA Listings



## OREGON ROAD & HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Road and highway work zones involve unique safety concerns because the tension between mobility and safety does not apply in other industry segments.



### Key Discussions & Sessions

- ✓ Driver behavior
- ✓ Effective traffic control measures
- ✓ Mechanisms for law enforcement
- ✓ New technologies
- ✓ Mental health
- ✓ Impacts of day versus night work
- ✓ Innovative design and management techniques

There is no better local opportunity to learn about promoting roadway work zone safety in Oregon.

SAVE THE DATE

FREE

February 20th, 2025  
Salem Convention Center

For questions or concerns contact John Hickey at [jhickey@apao.org](mailto:jhickey@apao.org)

## Save the Date

Street Maintenance & Collection Systems Spring School 2025

March 18th—20th 2025

More information coming soon!



# *2024 Awards Winners*

## *Special Edition*



*Oregon APWA recognizes the hard work performed by the women and men throughout Oregon who are designing, building, maintaining and operating the public works infrastructure and facilities that are vital to the success of our communities.*

***Congratulations to the 2024 award winners!***

# 2024 EVERYDAY HEROES AWARD

**CHRIS POKORNY**  
**CITY OF EUGENE PUBLIC WORKS**



As the CDL & Equipment Training Lead for The City of Eugene Public Works, Chris has been pivotal in the success of the CDL program. Chris developed the classroom training and began getting behind the wheel with staff who had their CDL permit, teaching them how to operate and inspect their vehicle. Since June 2022, Chris has provided training for 46 employees and all who have trained with Chris obtained their Oregon CDL. Chris has since expanded the program to include coordination of other equipment training.

Chris is truly an EVERYDAY HERO!

# 2024 “BULLDOG” COMMUNICATION AWARD

## CREATIVE SERVICES TEAM CITY OF EUGENE



The team, comprising Kim Mast, Becky Nickell, Jake Savelich, Kathy Eva and Marion Suitor Barnes, has won the Bulldog award for a series of outreach materials that convey the importance of Public Works programs to the citizens of Eugene for both children and adults. Some of these materials include an explainer video for public and media about how Public Works responds during a storm, a monthly newsletter informing constituents about what's happening in all six Public Works divisions, and Public Works Day as a virtual, weeklong series for children.

Great work Creative Services Team!





# *Projects of the Year*

The Projects of the Year Awards were established to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who, working together, complete public works projects. Although it has evolved over time, awards are currently given in four divisions:

- Projects less than \$5 million
- Projects of \$5 million, but less than \$25 million
- Projects of \$25 million to \$75 million
- Projects more than \$75 million

And five categories:

- Structures—to include public structure preservation/rehabilitation, municipal buildings, parks, etc.
- Transportation—to include roads, bridges, mass transit, etc.
- Environment—to include treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, sewer projects, etc.
- Historical Restoration/Preservation—to include historical restoration, preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, etc.
- Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair—to include the techniques and timing for safety, community relations, environmental protection, adverse conditions and additional considerations.

# 2024 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Environmental  
Less than \$5M



*AGENCY: City of Newberg*

*CONTRACTOR: City of Newberg  
Public Works*



## City of Newberg Public Works Maintenance Facility Improvement Project

# 2024 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Environmental

\$25M to less than \$75M



*AGENCY: City of Gresham*

*CONTRACTOR: Raimore  
Construction*



**City of Gresham**  
**Hogan Drive Widening and Multi-use Path,  
Powell to Burnside**



# 2024 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Structures

\$5M to less than \$25M



*AGENCY: City of Wilsonville*

*CONTRACTOR: Emerick  
Construction*

*CONSULTANT: Scott  
Edwards Architecture*



## City of Wilsonville Wilsonville Public Works Complex

# 2024 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Transportation

\$5M to less than \$25M



**AGENCY:** *City of Milwaukie & Clackamas County*

**CONTRACTOR:** *D&D Excavation & MEI Group*

**CONSULTANT:** *HHPR, Inc.*



## City of Milwaukie & Clackamas County Linwood Avenue Corridor Improvements Project

# 2024 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Transportation

\$25M to less than \$75M



**AGENCY:** *City of Tualatin*

**CONTRACTOR:** *Brown Contracting, Inc.*

**CONSULTANT:** *Conсор*



**City of Tualatin**  
**Tualatin Moving Forward Program**