



# APWA AT-A-GLANCE

The American Public Works Association (APWA) serves professionals in all aspects of public works—a fact that sets it apart from other organizations and makes it an effective voice of public works throughout North America. With a membership of more than 30,000 strong, APWA includes members from local, county, state/province, and federal agencies, and also private sector personnel who supply products and services to those professionals.



## CONFERENCES

APWA has two conferences annually, and both include large exhibit programs featuring a variety of service and equipment vendors. The largest conference—the annual PWX (Public Works Expo), provides education and training in all areas of public works and is also the association's annual business meeting. The North American Snow Conference is held each spring and focuses on winter maintenance activities, equipment, and materials.

By attending these conferences, public works professionals and others have access to Continuing Education Units (CEUs).



## MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTERS

Organized within nine regions, APWA's more than 30,000 members comprise 62 chapters, serving virtually every community, state/province, and region throughout North America. The association is a highly participatory organization with hundreds of opportunities for leadership and service. APWA is an open, flexible association with a varied membership mix and a reputation for quality services and products.

Chapters are the essential element in APWA's service delivery system for its members. They offer one of the most immediate and cost-effective opportunities to exchange information with colleagues and to keep up to date on the latest public works technologies and management trends.

The Council of Chapters is part of the overall governing structure for APWA. They serve as advisors to the board of directors, CEO, committees, and staff in support of the association's mission and strategic plan. Delegates serve various roles in support of the mission of APWA.



## APWA COMMITTEES

APWA relies on the expertise of our members to collaborate, create, and address the most important issues impacting public works. APWA has more than 30 committees, including Integrated Strategy Committees, Technical Committees, Common Interest Committees, Standing and Program Committees, and Credentialing Councils.



## ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

APWA is the voice of public works in Washington, DC. Our Government Affairs team builds relationships with key Congressional members, the US House Public Works & Infrastructure Caucus, federal agencies, and coalition partners in transportation, water, emergency management, and beyond.

By engaging in coalition-building and direct advocacy, APWA advances policies that strengthen communities, improve infrastructure, and elevate the role of public works professionals in public policy.

With member involvement, APWA focuses on three overarching public policy priorities: emergency management, transportation, and water resiliency.

APWA's Guiding Principles for Advocacy:

- Adequate investment in public infrastructure
- Local decision-making authority
- Reasonable regulations and relief from unfunded mandates
- Streamlined government processes
- Resilient and sustainable infrastructure

APWA keeps members informed through the *Washington Report*, issued weekly when Congress is in session, by sharing timely updates on X and LinkedIn, and by providing timely advocacy products. By bringing the expertise of our members into national policy debates, APWA ensures the voice of public works is heard and our communities benefit.



## CPWA AND ADVOCACY

The Canadian Public Works Association (CPWA), or Association Canadienne des Travaux Publics (ACTP), was founded in 1986 and is "the voice of public works in Canada." The eight-member CPWA Board of Directors, and a consultant in Ottawa work with Parliamentary leaders, Federal ministries, and like-minded associations to advocate for public works and adequate investment in public infrastructure. CPWA communicates public works-related matters being considered on Parliament Hill through the *Ottawa Report* sent out monthly to Canadian members of APWA.



## EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALING

With a wealth of leadership and technical resources, APWA offers extensive professional development opportunities through timely publications, eLearning courses, Click, Listen & Learn webinars, online and face-to-face chapter programs such as Public Works Institutes\*, and conferences. APWA keeps public works professionals up-to-date on trends and emerging issues with activities open to members and nonmembers. APWA offers certificate programs and five certifications: Certified Stormwater Manager (CSM); Certified Public Fleet Professional (CPFP), Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector (CPII), Certified Public Works Professional–Supervision (CPWP–S), and Certified Public Works Professional–Management (CPWP–M).

*\* Public Works Institutes are programs offered by APWA chapters throughout the US, which are designed to address supervisory and management needs through 10 core units of study, ranging from basic management skills to fundamentals of government. APWA's nationally sponsored educational programs provide Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and Professional Development Hours (PDHs) for time spent in the classroom during professional development and training activities.*



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

APWA, along with the Workforce Development Committee, has a workforce strategy to ensure the association's workforce development initiatives produce the outcomes to support a skilled workforce in the public works sector. APWA's workforce program focuses on two main areas: recruitment and retention.

For recruitment, APWA's national visibility and outreach efforts create awareness and enhance understanding of public works activities and career options. The Workforce Development Committee has developed tools and resources to promote public works as a career of choice and attract individuals new to the workforce, along with those re-entering the workforce from the military, post-incarceration, and retirement.

APWA increases employee retention in public works by conducting leadership training focused on topics such as improved decision making, effective communication, conflict resolution, and other professional development training for public works employees. Customizable tools and resources have been developed for onboarding and employee retention.



## PUBLIC WORKS ACCREDITATION

The APWA Accreditation program provides a means of formally verifying and recognizing public works agencies for their compliance with the recommended practices set forth in the *Public Works Management Practices Manual*. It is a voluntary, self-motivated approach to objectively evaluate, verify, and recognize compliance with the recommended management practices. The goals of the accreditation program are to create an impetus for organizational self-improvement and raising of standards, offer a voluntary evaluation and education program rather than government-regulated activity, recognize good performance and provide motivation to maintain and improve public works performance, increase professionalism, and instill pride among an agency's staff, elected officials, and local communities.



## ONLINE TOOLS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

APWA's Resource Center is a free, on-demand online resource for members that houses past APWA Click, Listen & Learn webinars, toolboxes, and other publications, podcasts, and presentations from prior years' PWX and NASC events. By removing some time, travel, and financial constraints involved in typical educational opportunities, the Resource Center opens the door for more people, agencies, and organizations to access the educational programs APWA provides.

Connect with APWA on the following social media networks: LinkedIn (American Public Works Association), Facebook (American Public Works Association), YouTube (channel: APWATV), Bluesky (APWA.org), Instagram (@apwagram), and X (@APWATWEETS).



## MONTHLY MAGAZINE APWA REPORTER

The *APWA Reporter* magazine serves as a communication link uniting the community of public works professionals who make up the association. A hard copy is mailed to members, and it is also available as a digital version. Each issue is themed, with most articles written by members who are subject matter experts on topics ranging from emergency management and water resources to transportation, fleet services, and winter maintenance for example. The articles contain information on advocacy, management techniques, research, training programs, and new technologies.