

## SAVE THE DATE



APWA of KS  
Fall Conference

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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Tod Salfrank

I am honored to be serving as the current President of the Kansas Chapter of APWA. I have had the good fortune to have been on the Executive Board for several years as part of my previous position at KDOT. In that time, I have had the privilege of working with groups of dedicated professionals year after year. It is safe to say that the people that serve APWA in Kansas care deeply about public works and the people they represent. I only hope that I can live up to the standards that have been set by the great leaders that have come before me.

As I was serving in the role of President Elect in 2025, one of my duties was to organize the Kansas APWA Fall meeting. After reviewing historic attendance for these meetings it appeared that we were only getting about 15 to 20 percent of our membership to attend. I have to confess that I did not do much better, only managing to attract about 25% of our membership.

As part of that journey, I learned that our organization was not as well-known as I had believed. When I invited the local City Manager to come to the meeting and welcome attendees to the community, I was informed that they did not know the American Public Works Association existed. We were fortunate that after doing a little research into our organization, they decided to join and we gained three new members. That really got me to thinking...if the city that I have lived in for over 35 years, had once been on the City Planning Commission, and had interacted with somewhat often through my role at KDOT did not know about APWA, how many other organizations across Kansas don't know who we are, and more importantly, know about all of the great resources that APWA has that could benefit them?

Events like this have really given me a compass for my goals for my term as your President. Working with the Executive Board, we are putting forth initiatives to increase our visibility to public works professionals and increase member participation in APWA events. We have already held a roundtable meeting in Salina to discuss KDOT BLP project schedules, and we have some volunteers looking into creating an APWA Kansas page on LinkedIn. Hopefully details will be coming in the next couple of months.

Where this is all leading, is that although I have set these as my goals for the coming year, this is not something that the executive board can accomplish

without your help. I would like to ask each and every member to consider attending meetings and events when possible, and when you do, bring someone new with you. Or if you can't attend, maybe send someone in your place that either has never been to an event, or rarely gets to. I would also ask everyone to look at your neighboring cities and towns. Have they been to an event recently or ever? Try giving them a call and letting them know about us and about the event. Most of the things we do have value in some form to just about every public works department across the State.

The end goal is not just to increase our size and attendance. It is my belief that members of APWA have access to resources that make them better at their jobs and are making their public works departments better. That is what we are after...making Kansas public works departments better, because every citizen in Kansas benefits from that. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any other ideas or suggestions to help improve public works across Kansas!



## CHAPTER DELEGATE'S REPORT

By Dave Cronin

Traditionally, the Winter Delegate Meeting for the nine chapters in Region 6 is held in Kansas City. This year, our Region 6 Director, Bill Stogsdill, suggested that we join the Region 3 and 4 co-meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida. While the warm Florida weather was certainly a perk, the greater benefit was the opportunity to participate in the biennial Roger Clark Leadership Conference.

The event included a full day of leadership training combined with the Winter Regional meeting. Leadership sessions focused on strategic planning, volunteer recruitment and retention, and succession planning—topics that are highly relevant to the Kansas Chapter's ongoing efforts to grow membership and expand committee involvement.

Participating in the leadership training served as a reminder that in our public works careers we often face challenges that extend beyond technical solutions. Many situations require adaptive leadership and solutions that push us outside our comfort zones. Employee retention is a good example. While compensation is often the greatest hurdle to recruiting qualified employees—and may be constrained by limited budgets—fostering a strong workplace culture and promoting work-life balance are factors that can be within our control and highly valued by employees.

A few notes from the APWA Winter Meeting discussions:

- American Public Works Association is updating its strategic plan for 2026–2029 and will be surveying members to ensure the new plan is meaningful, practical, and valuable for chapters.
- APWA recently launched the new Career Zone, a one-stop website that brings together job listings, career guides, and training resources to support professionals at every stage of their careers.
- APWA microcredentialing is a new training and certification program designed to provide smaller, skill-focused credentials that can be stacked toward full certification. The first program using this model will be the updated Certified Stormwater Manager program.
- PWX 2026 will be held in Houston. Our chapter may allocate one free registration to a Young Professional (age 35 or younger) who has not previously attended PWX. Limited travel expense reimbursement may also be available with approval from the Chapter Executive Committee. If you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity, please reach out to me or a member of the Executive Committee.
- There is a wealth of information available on the APWA website, and the national organization is currently working to improve navigation features to reduce excessive scrolling and make resources easier to find.

Overall, the meetings strengthened regional relationships and provided new ideas and tools to help advance our chapter's mission of supporting public works professionals across Kansas. I look forward to continuing to assist our Executive Committee as we move these efforts forward.

# SAVE THE DATE

**APWA OF KANSAS FALL CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 8, 2026**  
**DERBY, KS**

Chair: Tom Keil, Derby Assistant Public Works Director, [tomkeil@derbyks.gov](mailto:tomkeil@derbyks.gov)  
If you have a topic or presentation, please contact Tom.



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

The Kansas Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) is requesting applications for the Chapter's scholarship. Five \$2000 (\$1000 per semester) scholarships are available to two students each at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University, and one student at Benedictine College for the 2025-2026 school year. To learn more and/or apply, visit <https://kansas.apwa.org/education/scholarship> or scan the QR code.



### SELECTION PROCESS

The recipient will be selected based on the following:

- Academic performance
- Extracurricular activities, community involvement, employment, etc.
- Other information that may be submitted by the candidate
- Preference will be given to the candidate who:
  - Has a letter of support from an APWA member.
  - Is a non-traditional student.
  - Expresses an interest in a public works career.
  - Is a current Kansas resident.

### ELIGIBILITY

A student must be:

- Enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, or Benedictine College. In good academic standing with the School of Engineering. Classified as a junior or senior for the upcoming school year.
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## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Kansas Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) established its scholarship program in 1987 at Kansas State University, awarding its first \$500 scholarship (\$250 per semester). By 1999, thanks to continued fundraising efforts and the generosity of chapter members, the program expanded to provide \$1,000 scholarships to students at both Kansas State University and the University of Kansas. Today, the Chapter proudly awards five scholarships of \$2,000 each to students at three universities across Kansas: Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Benedictine College.

This program reflects the Kansas Chapter's unwavering commitment to fostering the next generation of public works professionals. It not only offers financial support but also serves as an investment in students who will go on to enhance Kansas communities through engineering, infrastructure, and civic service. The Chapter remains dedicated to growing this impactful program and supporting the future of public works.

Over the years, many past recipients have gone on to pursue successful careers in public works, contributing to infrastructure projects across Kansas and beyond. Their work in local governments, consulting firms, and public agencies reflects the ongoing value and purpose of the program.

Scholarship applicants and recipients are encouraged to engage with APWA through student chapters, mentorship opportunities, and networking events, further preparing them for impactful careers. These connections allow students to learn directly from experienced professionals, gain exposure to real-world challenges in the field, and develop a lasting sense of community within the industry.

The Chapter is proud to play a role in shaping the future, and will continue to strengthen the program to reach more students, amplify its impact, and leave a lasting legacy for public works in Kansas. To learn more about the Kansas APWA Chapter, please visit <https://kansas.apwa.org/>.            Apply            for            the            scholarship            at <https://kansas.apwa.org/education/scholarship/>.



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## CAREER AWARENESS UPDATE

*By Ron Nuessen, PE, Benesch*

List of the most recent APWA Career Awareness Presentations:

- KSU: 10/25/2024
- KU: 11/15/2024
- Benedictine: 11/24/2025

I plan to present to the KSU – ASCE Student Chapter in April.

I then plan to present to the KU – ASCE student chapter asap thereafter.

If you have a project or topic to present to the student chapters, please let me know!

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## APWA OF KS ROUNDTABLE ON MEETING KDOT SCHEDULES FOR CCLIP AND TA PROJECTS

*By Dawn Hueske, PE, KDOT Bureau of Local Projects Bureau Chief*

APWA hosted a Roundtable Event on February 24 in Salina to discuss hurdles in meeting KDOT project schedules for CCLIP and Transportation Alternative (TA) projects. A brief introduction into why schedule deadlines are important was followed by some history on past discussions and outcomes on the same topic. The group then dove into discussion including utility relocations, property appraisal and acquisition, LPA staffing, internal policies and processes, KDOT project agreement timeframes and consultant selection processes.

There were a number of ideas presented on possible improvements. A few of these that KDOT will be reviewing in more detail include:

- Clarify schedule terminology – organizations utilize the same terminology, but each may mean different things.
- Review/clarify QBS (qualification-based selection) forms for selecting consultants.
- Review/Update PPCP (Pre-Project Certification Program) – KDOT requires this certification to program a project. This is an opportunity for KDOT to provide enhanced training, information, and guidance on the KDOT project process.
- Provide schedule information on tasks that can be done concurrently versus consecutively.

Some of those in attendance commented that they appreciated the conversation and opportunity to discuss these challenges with peers and KDOT.

“I thought the open discussion was great and appreciated the takeaways for KDOT to consider moving forward. Communication and Education on these programs is key, especially to a new LPA. A list of responsibilities for LPAs and consultants with dates would be beneficial.” Karla Waters, PE, Schwab Eaton.

# APWA OF KS PAVEMENT PRESERVATION LUNCH



# KANSAS LTAP UPDATES



## BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS BY MAY 8, 2026

### ROAD SAFETY ASSESSMENTS TRAININGS



**Registration is now open for Round 3 Road Safety Assessment (RSA) Field Training!**

This hands-on training gives participants the opportunity to learn how to conduct a Road Safety Assessment through a combination of classroom instruction and a real-world field review.

Three training opportunities are available:

Ottawa, KS  
April 28, 2026

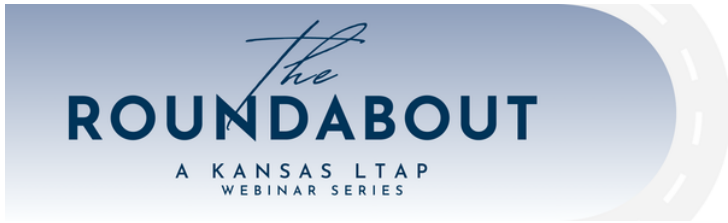
Salina, KS  
April 30, 2026

Great Bend, KS  
May 14, 2026

Each training is limited to 25 participants, so early registration is strongly encouraged.

Whether you are an engineer, planner, public works professional, or safety partner, this training provides valuable experience in identifying and addressing roadway safety issues.

[REGISTER](#)



**The Roundabout: Getting Grant Ready with the Kansas Infrastructure Hub**

The Kansas Infrastructure Hub (Hub) connects multiple state agencies to serve as a resource center for Kansas communities. The Build Kansas Fund (BKF) can provide state matching dollars for eligible entities applying for Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) grants for projects in Kansas. The Hub also offers technical assistance to help communities apply for any infrastructure-related grants and maximize the amount of IIJA funding in Kansas. The presentation will focus on the purpose of the Hub and the services offered, as well as the status of projects in Kansas already receiving Federal grants and BKF funding. Learn how the Hub is helping communities get project and grant application-ready.

[REGISTER](#)