



APWA – North Carolina Chapter

Report of Activities, Best Practices and Areas of Focus

January 2015 – July 2015

Membership Update –

- A. **Membership Growth:** The NC Chapter membership has grown to 937 members through June 30, 2015 (+69 since June 30, 2014) a 7.41% increase. The Chapter was recognized as having the highest growth in the Association for chapters of similar size for the fiscal year.

Chapter Activities and Updates –

- A. **2015 – the 58th Annual Conference and Equipment Show** was held at the Hickory Convention Center, Hickory, NC, June 17-19, 2015. The event began with a golf tournament and a board meeting on the 16th. Approximately 123 people attended the conference. There were 19 education sessions offered, a young professional event, a newcomer’s session and a spouse/guest program. We also used this opportunity to recognize our past presidents, award winners and scholarship recipients. Our community service project tied to this event was a donation to the Connections Clubhouse (a local charity that provides opportunities for adults with mental illness in the Catawba Valley Region) and a school supply drive for Catawba county school children. The Chapter voted on two issues in the bylaws: the first issue removed voting rights from the Treasurer and Secretary, the second changed references from House of Delegates to Council of Chapters. Both issues passed.
- B. **2015 – NPWW** – The Chapter received a proclamation from the Governor’s office recognizing Nation Public Works Week statewide. Chapter members and member organizations held numerous events across the state in celebration. Events included: staff luncheons, equipment displays, school “show and tell” and numerous municipal proclamations.
- C. **National Awards:** The Chapter submitted 4 nominations for APWA national recognition. These included a Top 10, two projects of the year, and a professional manager of the year, public fleet. We were fortunate to have Mr. Jeb Blackwell (City of Charlotte) chosen as a Top 10 and Mr. Barry Lowry (Town of Chapel Hill) chosen as the Professional Manager of the Year, Public Fleet.



The Chapter was named a PACE recipient for 2017!

- D. **Chapter Awards:** Chapter Awards were presented to six deserving individuals during our Annual Conference in June. We will recognize our final award winner during our Stormwater Managers conference in Wilmington during September. In addition to our Chapter awards program, many of our divisions also recognize award winners in their specific disciplines.
- E. **Division Activities:**
- a. The **Facilities and Grounds Division** held their annual pesticides workshop on Wednesday April 15 in Raleigh with approximately 60 attendees. Their annual conference was held April 29 – May 1 in Clemmons, NC with more than 30 attendees. The division board received positive feedback from several attendees regarding the sessions and overall conference experience. During the conference canned food and toiletries were collected for the Clemmons Food Pantry. Over 132 lbs. of canned food and toiletries were presented to the pantry along with a check for \$250. Facilities and Grounds is also planning a one day session on October 22nd in Clemmons, NC to cover Electrical Safety and ARC Flash training. The 2016 Annual Conference is tentatively scheduled for May 4-6 in Nags Head, NC.
 - b. The **Administrative Management Division** conference is planned for Sunset Beach, NC on August 6th and 7th, 2015 with a Board meeting and golf tournament prior to the conference on Wednesday, August 5th. Attendance is expected to be over 100!
 - c. The **Stormwater Management Division** will hold their annual conference in Wilmington, September 13-15, 2015. The conference is traditionally one of the Chapter's largest. Annette Lucas of NCDENR, DEMLR requested the Division's assistance in implementing the requirements of Session Law 2013-82, regarding the Minimum Design Criteria and the associated pollutant removal rates for the various stormwater control measures in DENR's BMP Manual.
 - d. **The Solid Waste Division** - The 2015 conference is planned for August 19-21 at Atlantic Beach, NC. The Solid Waste Division continues to offer one day workshops throughout the year for front line and supervisory staff. Most of the one-day Solid Waste workshops are sell-outs!



- e. The **Equipment Services Division and the Streets Division** will host a combined conference September 29-October 2, 2015 in Greenville, NC. The conference agenda is set and a local charity will benefit from an APWA sponsored food drive. Our Equipment Services Division (ESD) continues to offer quarterly “shop tours” around the state. These half day events are very well attended and usually “sell out”. In addition, ESD offered a week-long Emergency Vehicle Technician training during April and plans to offer the same training again in the fall. The response to this training opportunity has been tremendous and sells out within a month of advertisement. ESD plans to expand this program to include County fleet operations.
- f. The **Technology Division** – has worked throughout the year to provide speakers and session topics to our other technical divisions.
- g. The Chapter’s Education Committee continues to sponsor lunch and learn opportunities for members and non-members. These events focus on a web based training opportunity and/or an instructor led training session. We offer these at minimal/nominal charge and the sessions have been very well attended. 2015 training opportunities include: Employee Performance Evaluation, Effective Leadership (3 sessions), Troublemakers, Whiners and Pessimists: Dealing with Personality in the Workplace. In all, there were approximately 300 participants and more than 47 organizations represented.

Please visit the NC Chapter website for additional details at www.northcarolina.apwa.net. Look under the “Events” pull down for “Calendar at a Glance”. You will also see additional one day workshops listed.

Chapter Capacity Best Practice/New and Innovative Idea

It’s all about education: in an effort to better serve our members and the various registration/renewal requirements for different licensures, the Chapter now works through APWA to offer CEU’s for our conference and training attendees. The process was launched this year and appears to be working well.

Furthermore, we formed a committee to begin work on our Chapter’s 60th anniversary year (2017) several innovative ideas for making this celebration a success are being considered!!

Chapter Key Issue and Area of Focus/Challenge



Chapter Website, Communication, Training and Advocacy – during most meetings, the Chapter Board enters into a discussion concerning the difficulty we have working with the national website template. Despite numerous efforts to correct/resolve the issues we still have problems.

Chapter Communication is an area of focus with additional emphasis being placed on our newsletter and consistent contributions to this publication from our technical divisions. Also, how do we effectively communicate with our membership about legislative issues, jobs, regulatory issues, chapter training and educational opportunities.

Training remains our first priority with an active slate of division conferences, workshops and one day training opportunities for our membership. We are also using these training opportunities as recruitment tools.

The Chapter also remains active in advocacy efforts through continued involvement with the NC League of Municipalities action committees. We will consider ways to actively engage more of our members in the APWA Advocates initiative and to address local issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Keith Pugh". The signature is stylized and cursive.

B. Keith Pugh, PE PWLF