



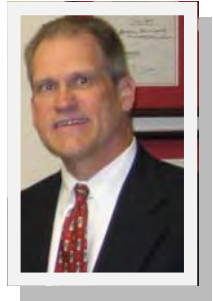
*APWA-NC President's Message*

Dear Chapter Members,

The APWA North Carolina has a busy summer planned for you. One of goals is to give back to the membership. Educational meetings and conferences provide excellent opportunities for you to learn and network with you peers.

I encourage you to check the website calendar often so that you will be aware of these opportunities.

<http://northcarolina.apwa.net/events/chapter/>



Below are some of the upcoming events that you should consider:

APWA-NC State Chapter Annual Conference	Jun 10, 2013 to Jun 12, 2013	Riverside Hilton 301 North Water Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
APWA NC Stormwater Management Division - How to Do Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (for Phase I and II Permittees)	Jun 19, 2013	1921 West Lee Street, Greensboro, NC 27403
2013 AMD-Technology Conference - Asheville, NC	Aug 7, 2013 to Aug 9, 2013	Crowne Plaza Asheville, NC 28806
Stormwater Management Division 2013 Conference	Sep 16, 2013 to Sep 17, 2013	Wilmington, NC
APWA-NC Combined Equipment Services and Streets Conference	Sep 23, 2013 to Sep 25, 2013	203 South Front Street, New Bern, NC 28560

I hope to see you at one or more of our conferences. Best wishes for a safe and productive summer!

  
James Martin  
President APWA-NC

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## North Carolina 811 Smart Device App is Here

On January 15th North Carolina 811 released its new app for Android and Apple devices. The app includes many helpful items to assist you in safe digging. There is an about section, general contact info, the North Carolina State Statute and even a listing of color codes used in marking underground utilities. One of the more popular features is the calendar of events, which will keep you up to date with everything going on inside NC811. The Update Lite section assists you in updating any locate requests you have sent in either through RTE or by calling 811 directly. You can also access our Positive Response system from the app and check who has marked what utilities on your locate requests. Another very helpful feature is DIRT Lite. Using DIRT Lite you can report utility damage information directly to NC811. Also included are links to other safe digging websites, an interactive RSS news feed and even a link to informational videos posted on NC811's YouTube channel. In the second week of its release 3 new functions were added to the app including a link to the Remote Ticket Entry calendar, access to our County Notification database and the ability to use our Near Ticket application, which will show you any active tickets in your area via your GPS location. The app is supported on all Apple devices running OS 5.0 or higher and Android handsets with OS 2.3.3 and up. (not supported on android based tablets yet) Many people have asked if Remote Ticket Entry will be a part of the app. Plans are being made to incorporate RTE into the app but no scheduled release date has been given yet. North Carolina 811 is the first one-call center in the U.S. to release an app for both smart device platforms. In just the first three weeks since its release 200 people have downloaded the app. 2/3 of all current users are those with Apple devices. If you would like to download this free app, visit NC811's app page at the link below.

<http://nc811.org/nc811app.html>



### THE NC811 APP

#### Safe Digging at your fingertips



Includes:

- About info on NC811
- Contact Information
- North Carolina State Statute
- Color Codes
- NC811 Events Calendar
- Update Lite (update your dig tickets)
- Positive Response (check the status of your dig tickets)
- DIRT Lite (report utility incidents)
- Remote Ticket Entry Calendar
- Near Ticket Access
- County Notification Information
- Safe digging informational links
- RSS interactive news feed
- Other industry links



#### Near Ticket

Access live ticket information via your GPS location with the Near Ticket section of the app. Then you'll know who is digging around you.



#### Positive Response

See who has already marked your lines and check the status of your locate requests by using positive response.



#### Update Lite

Use update lite right on your phone and update live locate requests where ever you are.



#### DIRT Lite

Use DIRT lite to report an incident involving underground utilities.



#### County Notification

Click on the County Notification button to access utility contact information for your area.



#### Scan this QR Code

Download the app now by scanning this QR code with your smart device.

### Upcoming . . . .

2013 Administrative Management and Technology Conference: *Leadership in the New Normal*

As the pace of change accelerates and complexity increases, it is harder for leaders to know everything they need to navigate in the "new normal". Your workplace environment is changing, are you ready to lead in the "new normal"?

Crowne Plaza Resort, One resort Drive, Asheville, NC 28806

August 7-9, 2013

## *Sustainability in Public Works: Asheville Case Study*

*By Natalie Bouchard*

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with the City of Asheville's McCray Coates, Stormwater Services Manager, and Maggie Ullman, Energy Coordinator. In 2007 Asheville recognized that their citizens wanted and demanded a sustainable community; therefore the Asheville City Council passed a resolution to reduce their carbon footprint by 80% in 2050. To accomplish this lofty goal, under the direction of Maggie Ullman the City developed a Sustainability Management Plan.

The City created a brand new position, an Energy Coordinator, which ensured someone would wake up every morning thinking about energy, sustainability, and green infrastructure. With a position dedicated to these issues the Sustainability office really took off. When green initiatives, like switching conventional streetlights to LEDs, began returning money on investment the City reinvested the savings into a capital improvement fund dedicated to green improvements. Oftentimes lack of funds hinder sustainable public works projects from moving forward. With Asheville's capital improvement fund, this safeguards sustainability projects poised to provide the most benefit move forward.

Five years after the City agreed to get serious about sustainability, Asheville has seen huge improvements. McCray and Maggie agree that the collaboration among the various departments strengthens their ability to implement lasting change. A short list of a few of the sustainability projects are:

- ◆ Four day work week (10 hour days) reduce commuter and facility greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ Resident recycle pick up is free of charge
- ◆ Increased recycle capacitance from 18 gal. to 65 gal., which increased recycle tonnage by 75%
- ◆ Increased public transit frequency
- ◆ 6% of fleet vehicles run on compressed natural gas - the cleanest burning fuel

In Asheville the improvements to sustainability and greenhouse gas reductions are impressive. However, it is clear the City remains committed and focused to implement future green initiatives.

### *NEW Training Topic Resource on NC Chapter Website*

*By Magda Holloway, City of Sanford*

With all the conferences, training sessions, and workshops that we have each year, brainstorming on session topics is a constant reoccurrence. Now we have a RESOURCE set up on our website to collect and maintain topics for everyone's use.

I've been asking for help from each board to send me your lists of topics that you collect from your surveys, board discussions, etc. to be incorporated in this "TRAINING TOPIC" resource. The list is now located on the NC Chapter website under the Resource tab, then click on Training Topics. (<http://northcarolina.apwa.net/resources/trainingtopics/>)

Topics ideas include "Stress in the workplace", "Emergency vehicle training", "Signal light technician training", "The Basics of GIS", "Health & Nutrition in the workplace", & much more. If you have any ideas on topics that you would like to see at an upcoming conference, please forward your ideas to [magda.holloway@sanfordnc.net](mailto:magda.holloway@sanfordnc.net). Thanks in advance for your input.

## *RETIREE'S CORNER* *(Includes Active Employee Information)* by Stewart Sykes

We'll cover the decision on a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), retirement for future retirees, and upcoming major accounting practice changes dictated by the Government Accounting Standards Board.

So, let's get the bad news over first. As reported in the winter edition, the annual actuarial report presented at the October, 2012 Retirement Board of Trustees meeting indicated retirement system assets grew 2.1% versus an assumed 7.25% for 2011. This resulted in a recommendation to increase the employer's contribution rate from 6.74% of payroll to 7.07% to meet the Annual Required Contribution (ARC), the funding required to keep the retirement system in a position to cover accrued liabilities. The Board of Trustees met on January 17 and after review of the report voted to approve the actuary's recommendation to be effective July 1, 2013. Included in their vote was a zero COLA for local government retirees for the fourth straight year, with their primary goal being to assure financial stability of the pension system.

The retirement staff in the State Treasurer's office has been busy with the General Assembly in session. Regarding the retirement system, one of their primary goals is to protect the Defined Benefit (DB) plan that has worked so well for the last 70 plus years, keeping long term financial sustainability in the forefront. Unlike many other retirement systems, North Carolina's is strong. We don't have unfunded liabilities like so many other states.

But, times change and in today's world with its fast pace, one issue that keeps coming up is the possibility of a Defined Contribution (DC) retirement plan. While it's unfortunate, those who want to delve into this arena don't have time

(1,769 bills have been introduced this Legislative session) or the inclination to learn of and consider all the negatives other agencies have already experienced, they have a point when they show that less than 40% of new hires for the State system will actually make their job a career with 30 years of service.

To deal with the lack of longevity issue, the Treasurer's office is first recommending the vesting time be changed back to 5 years in lieu of the 10 year period put in place last year. Secondly, for the short term worker the DC plan *may* be better suited. To pursue answers for the multiple questions tied to a DC plan, House Bill 381, the Retirement Fiscal Integrity Act of 2013, was filed on March 20 and as of May 1 was in the Committee on State Personnel. The bill, written by the Treasurer's office, has 3 of 8 sections calling for the Department of State Treasurer to propose a legal and administrative *framework* by May 1, 2014 for an *optional* retirement plan that may be elected in lieu of participation in the Teachers and State Employees Retirement System (TSERS). The plan would be the sole alternative plan available to employees eligible for participation in the TSERS. A total of \$4,000,000 is requested in the bill for "start-up" costs over the 2013-2015 biennium. Presumably, the choice of which system to elect would only apply to newly hired teachers and state employees, on or after August, 2016.

Again, I am reminded that a DC plan will cost the state more to administer over a DB plan if similar benefits are offered. Will they be? In addition, studies show employer's with DB plans have a lower personnel turnover rate. It is very important to note that we as local government employees or retirees are not included in House Bill 381, only State employees. It is unclear at this point

as to how a DC plan could be put in place for the 800 plus municipal, county and other entities who are members of the LGERS.

Currently, with the DB plan, retirement after 30 years provides about 55% of what an employee makes while employed. Most people have a goal of around 80% (yes, it actually costs less to maintain the same standard of living as a retiree). Studies indicate that 58% of North Carolina's Public Servants are on track to replace 80% of their pre-retirement income in retirement. Are you one of the remaining 42%? If you are working now, do you have a plan to make up for the other 25% (55% vs. 80%)? Supplemental retirement plans being offered by the state are a good option. If you start young, it doesn't take near as much money because of the time the money will be invested. If you wait until you can "afford it", it'll either be too late or you'll have to invest a much higher amount of money to make up for the lost time and interest you would have gained by starting young. Will Social Security still be a meaningful factor in your ability to retire?

Lastly, changes in the funding policies from the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) are underway and we must make adjustments. Currently we operate under GASB Statement Numbers 25 and 27. Statement No. 25, being replaced by No. 67 pertains to financial reporting for pension plans with the new standards to be met beginning June 15, 2013. Statement No. 27, being replaced by No. 68 addresses accounting for pensions by employers and must be met by June 15, 2014. The biggest change deals with asset values being based on fair market value rather than actuarial value. Thus, the Net Pension Liability (NPL) will likely be volatile from year to year with the changing

*Continued next page*

## RETIREE'S CORNER *continued*

market value of assets. What does this mean? Well, to us as retirees, this means "messaging" with the method of accounting changes the current funded ratio from 99.8% to 90.0%, while we are just as well funded as we have ever been! Don't let this disturb you. It just means we must adjust the way we think, sort of like the changes we almost had to

make back when we were suppose to change from the English method of measuring to the metric system.

The Treasurer's office has set up a select committee to study the proposed changes and to write a new funding policy as required by the new standards. Our pension plan has always been in accordance with

GASB; however, with the proposed changes the committee will also look at staying with what has worked for the last 70 years.

As indicated in our last issue, we must stay informed on any discussion regarding possible retirement system modifications. Nothing remains constant but change!

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## 2013 APWA North America Snow Conference a Success!



The Snow & Ice Conference was held in Charlotte in April. The weather was perfect! The technical tours were entertaining and educational. The NASCAR Hall of Fame event was a blast. The exhibit floor was filled with material, software, and equipment suppliers ready to answer questions and show off their products.

So, thank you all from the Host Committee! We certainly enjoyed our opportunity to show the rest of the world some good ole Southern Hospitality and we appreciate your trust and support while planning the event.

## New 24/7 Online Library Available

*By Brad Patterson Chapter Membership Manager, APWA*

Beginning July 1, all APWA members will see a significant increase in the value of their membership. On that date, APWA members will be able to participate in live Click, Listen & Learn presentations without a registration fee, access previously recorded Click, Listen & Learn programs at no charge, access content from past International Public Works Congress and Exposition sessions at no extra charge, read downloadable versions of select books from the APWA Store at no charge, view select podcasts and track Continuing Education Units and Professional Development Hour credits without an administrative recording fee.



Members will be able to access this content at any time, making scheduling and the approval process no longer necessary.

The APWA board approved a dues increase of \$15 per member (excluding retired and student members) to fund this new benefit. For example, an individual membership will be \$164 (up from \$149 a year) ago, beginning with the July 1, 2012 membership renewal cycle. However, the cost for just ONE Click, Listen & Learn program is \$175 for members and \$300 for non-members. Taking advantage of just one of the resources in the 24/7 online library more than pays for the increase in your individual membership.

The renewal cycle will remain the same. As an example, a member whose membership does not expire until January, will be able to take advantage of the new 24/7 online resource library for six months without incurring any additional cost.

For more information, contact your Chapter leaders or call APWA at 1-800-848-APWA (2792).

***WE HAD THE CELEBRATION!***  
*By Magda Holloway, City of Sanford, NPWW Chair*



National Public Works Week (NPWW) is a celebration of the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works.

APWA-NC has officially submitted for a Proclamation from Governor Pat McCrory proclaiming May 19-25, 2013 as "*Public Works Week*" in North Carolina. This year's theme is "*Because of Public Works . . .*". The theme is about the quality of life brought to communities around the world. We are able to have clean water, safe streets and neighborhoods, efficient traffic and safe clean communities "Because of Public Works..."

Over the years the observances have taken many forms, including parades, displays of public works equipment, high school essay contests, open houses, programs for civic organizations and media events. National Public Works Week is observed each year during the third full week of May. Through NPWW and other efforts, APWA seeks to raise the public's awareness of public works issues and to increase confidence in public works employees who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for present and future generations.

It is in the public interest for citizens to understand the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities. APWA encourages public works agencies and professionals to take the opportunity to make their stories known in their communities. You can start by having a proclamation approved by your city council a few weeks before *Public Works Week*.

We have set up a page on the APWA-NC website under the events tab (Public Works Week).

<http://northcarolina.apwa.net/events/publicworkweek/>

I encourage you to take a look and see what you can do to get your local agencies involved in spreading the word. There you will find helpful information including:

- ◆ History of this week
- ◆ What it stands for
- ◆ Samples of proclamations from several municipalities
- ◆ Ideas to help you celebrate Public Works (meals, visits to schools, displays at city hall, press releases, flyers, etc)
- ◆ Pictures from previous celebrations

Working together we can help energize and educate the public on the importance of the contribution of public works to their daily lives. However you choose to celebrate NPWW this year, APWA is proud to be a resource for you. You deserve the recognition.

## *2013 Membership Summit and Chapter Leadership Training Provides a little magic for APWA members*

*by Brad Patteron, Chapter Membership Manager, APWA*

APWA hosted the biennial Chapter Leader Training in Kansas City on February 28-March 2. This year APWA hosted a half-day Chapter Leaders Membership Summit in conjunction with the Leadership Training "Putting Magic into Your Leadership Style." Despite a record snowfall occurring a few days prior to the start of the Summit and Leadership Training, 107 chapter leaders and administrators from 50 chapters participated in the training programs.

"We appreciate the efforts of all those who attended and the support of our chapters in sending leaders to these training opportunities," said Brian Van Norman, Director of Chapter Relations for APWA.

The biennial event provides chapter leaders—many of them new to their positions—a chance to understand the workings of APWA, how National works with chapters, services provided and resources available to chapters.

"There is so much in the way of information and resources available to chapter leaders," said Van Norman. "The Summit and Leadership Training provides an opportunity for leaders to gain insight while meeting other leaders from across the United States and Canada to exchange ideas, best practices and chapter challenges. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. The Summit and Leadership Training were beneficial and helped provide a greater understanding and foundation for leaders to take what they learned and share it with their chapter colleagues."

The Membership Summit was facilitated by Sarah Sladek, a sought-after presenter on generational issues. Her focus was providing insight on how to recruit and engage younger members.

"Whether it's \$5 or \$500 that I pay for my membership, I demand a return on investment," she said, describing what a new member expects from any sort of dues they pay to an organization now.

Enticing the younger member to join an organization like APWA is certainly a different challenge than it was, say, thirty years ago. Ms. Sladek gave the Chapter Leaders a number of ways to recognize and embrace the generational differences between the Baby Boomer Generation and Generations X & Y.

David Sandy had a motivational message for those in attendance and also wowed them with some illusions. Sandy's main point was the real "magic" for an APWA Chapter Leader is to utilize their skills to build an effective team, an effective board, and an effective group of volunteers. Using "volunteers" from the audience, he underscored his points by demonstrating his prowess as a magician to encourage volunteers to work together in putting magic into their role as chapter leaders.

During the three days, APWA National President Elizabeth Treadway, Past President Diane Linderman and President-Elect Ed Gottko all spoke to the leaders and encouraged them to take back to their chapters what they learned during their time in Kansas City and hit upon key themes such as networking and building on chapter capacity for the future. Strengthening chapters has been a focus and emphasis of Ms. Treadway during her term as APWA President.

Peter King, APWA Executive Director, provided a thorough overview on how APWA is structured, reviewed the strategic priorities of the association, and highlighted some of the "big picture" undertakings of APWA such

as membership, supporting and strengthening chapters, professional development and advocacy for public works at the state and federal levels, and how that impacts the perception of public works and the public works profession.

"It is always good for the volunteer leaders to hear what is going on at all levels of APWA," said Van Norman. "Understanding the relationship between National and the chapters is important for leaders; the chapters through the efforts of our chapter leaders are the connection point to APWA for much of the membership."

The Chapter Relations staff explained the services available to chapters including personalized membership maps, member survey tools and resources to assist with leadership, management and guidance through the strategic planning process.

Melynn Sight was the lead speaker on March 1. Ms. Sight presented on the "Lifecycle of the APWA Volunteer" and how organizations such as APWA are made up of members of different life experiences and how that can be embraced in order to make the organization better.

One of the most popular activities of the session was the networking opportunities. Through both facilitated and impromptu sessions, the chapter leaders had a chance to interact with their peers from other chapters, many of whom they had never met, and exchanged ideas and questions. There were also scheduled regional sessions when attendees met with their APWA regional director.

Breakout sessions included tips on membership recruitment and retention, building effective chapter committees, K-12 and National Public Works Week outreach, APWA Awards

*Continued next page*

Program, credentialing and professional development opportunities through the Donald C. Stone Center, and overview of the soon-to-be-released new chapter website template.

A panel discussion that included former chapter presidents and Bo Mills, Region III Director, provided insight for those in attendance on what they might expect during their time as leaders.

The evening was about chapter leaders continuing to build

relationships with colleagues through fun and relaxed networking. A local bowling alley was the venue for the Bowl-A-Rama where chapter leaders and APWA Board of Director members squared off in a friendly bowling competition.

The last day provided more opportunities for leaders to network by region as well as impromptu group sharing sessions. Additional breakout sessions were offered on membership recruitment and retention, chapter financial and risk/insurance management as well as chapter

strategic/operational planning. APWA President Elizabeth Treadway closed the Leadership Training by encouraging and challenging attendees to take the information and ideas learned and to share these ideas and implement opportunities to build and strengthen their chapters.

APWA's Brian Van Norman can be reached at [bvannorman@apwa.net](mailto:bvannorman@apwa.net). APWA's Brad Patterson can be reached at [bpatterson@apwa.net](mailto:bpatterson@apwa.net);

## *APWA Stormwater Management Division Workshop with 92 in attendance*

The Stormwater Management Division (the Division) has undertaken a new initiative for the 2013 calendar year to better serve our members that are focused all or in part on stormwater as part of their daily responsibilities. Specifically, the Division is holding two Educational Seminars this year and in future years to help train and equip NPDES Phase I and Phase II permittees to better understand the requirements of their permits, communicate with their peers trying to meet the same requirements, hear from state stormwater auditors, learn creative ways to meet permit requirements, and in general to foster open discussion among the permitted community about current and future stormwater regulatory requirements.

The first of this year's educational sessions was held on March 27th at the Greensboro Coliseum and had nearly 100 in attendance (see photograph). The subject of the session was "Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping", which is one of 6 minimum measures that NPDES Permittees are required to implement in order to comply with their permits. Several municipal staff members spoke about their experience with meeting this requirement and being audited with respect to this requirement. Following municipal presentations, Mike Randall with NCDENR gave a presentation outlining state expectations of a municipal stormwater program with respect to Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping.

The next Educational Session is scheduled for June 19th, also at the Greensboro Coliseum, and will address another of the NPDES minimum measures: "Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination."



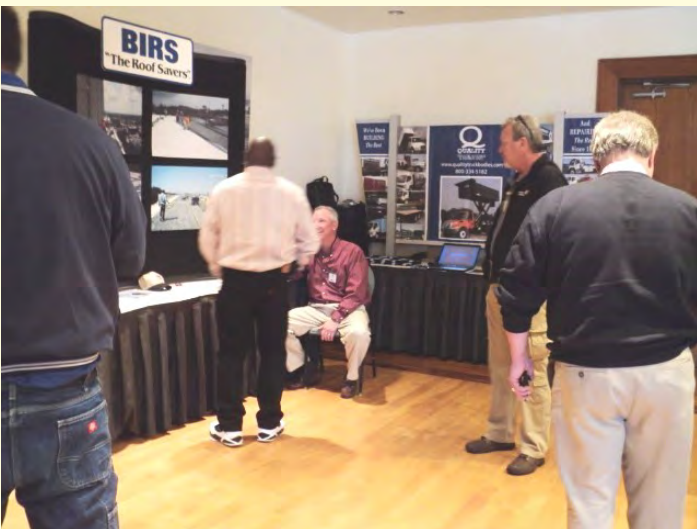


## *Buildings & Grounds Annual Conference in Wrightsville Beach*

By Gary Smith, City of High Point

The Building and Grounds Division held their annual conference in Wrightsville Beach on April 3-5. The topics presented covered lighting, energy, and audit management with a segment on facility access control and security, ADA and the building code, HVAC management, tree planting, asbestos and mold remediation, employee management and pesticide training. The Blockade Runner, provided an excellent facility for the conference with outstanding meals and attention to detail. Even though the weather failed to cooperate, this conference saw much improved participation from last year and exceptional interest in the information provided.

The board was able to provide free registration to twenty attendees with the support of one of our vendors. This was received very well and contributed to the overall success. A total of six PDH hours were offered with two contact hours for a pesticide class. This was a real success for our division and we hope to continue to build based on what we learned.



## *Buildings & Grounds Division Pesticide Training*

By Will Wigal

The APWANC Buildings & Grounds Division held its annual pesticide training session in conjunction with the ODB Show at the J B Hunt Horse Complex, State Fair Grounds, Raleigh NC on April 17, 2013. Michele Wallace with the Durham NC Cooperative Extension gave a one hour presentation on Integrated Pest Management followed by a one hour presentation by Amie Newsome with the Johnston County NC Cooperative Extension on the Top 10 Insect pest.

We had 71 people attend this training for two hour pesticide credits for their pesticide license. The extension agents gave a very good session and we received a lot of positive feedback on the presentation.

We would like to thank Carl Brewster of ODB for providing us the use of this facility in conjunction with his show and providing donuts and beverages.



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*Employment Opportunities Listed on APWA website*

<http://northcarolina.apwa.net/resources/employment/>

***Newsletter Submission Dates***  
By D. J. Señeres, Newsletter Chair

Please mark your calendars with the **newsletter deadline of August 15, 2013** for the Fall issue.

Thanks for the past submissions from Division Presidents. Please remember to attach your article text and any supporting photographs. Include below the title of the article who the author of the article is and the organization he or she represents as shown below:

Article for Newsletter  
By John Doe or Jane Doe, Name of Organization



The American Public Works Association is dedicated to education in the related areas of public works. We help our members, the public, and policy makers work together to provide the public works services needed to keep our communities operating smoothly and safely in concert with the latest environmental and public health standards. Through the national association and our 63 chapters in the US and Canada, we offer a comprehensive array of services to meet this educational mission.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Thanks to all who have contributed to APWA-NC News.  
Please send your news to:

D. J. Señeres  
Stormwater Program Manager  
City of Archdale  
PO Box 14068  
Archdale, NC 27263-7068  
(336) 434-7344  
[dseñeres@archdale-nc.gov](mailto:dseñeres@archdale-nc.gov)

### APWA-NC 2013 Officers

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