



# CORRIDORS

## NEWSLETTER

Ohio Chapter of American Public Works Association  
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## Greetings from OAPWA President Bob Myers

Seemingly appropriate to the record-setting winter the Buckeye state is experiencing, the Ohio Chapter of the American Public Works Association is busy making ready the May 2014 North American Snow Conference in Cincinnati.

Public works departments throughout the state are battling record cold and snow accumulations through snow and ice control operations, maintaining fleets and keeping buildings warm, treating our state's drinking water and treating waste, hauling solid waste, and

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**NORTH AMERICAN SNOW CONFERENCE**  
**MAY 4-7, 2014**  
**CINCINNATI, OHIO**

## Take Notice: Upcoming APWA Awards Deadlines

APWA's Awards Program was established to recognize outstanding individuals, groups and chapters representing the best in the public works profession.

Think you can't win? Think again. This year two Ohio APWA members were recipients of national awards.

- Sonja Simpson, the Deputy Director, Division of Operations at ODOT received the Professional Manager of the Year Award – Administrative Management. Sonja was recognized for her outstanding achievement in the area of administration within the public works department.
- And ODOT was one of three recipients of the Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award - the only state department of transportation in the country to receive this distinguished honor. APWA recognized ODOT's best practices in snow and ice removal, while minimizing environmental impacts.



Ohio APWA at 2013 Congress

Immediate Past President Diana Clonch, Director at Large David Pratt and Southwest Ohio Branch President Angie Weber staff the Ohio booth for the 2014 North American Snow Conference in Chicago in August 2013



### How to Submit an Award Nomination

Submit your nominations on APWA National's website. Directions are available on the site and technical support is provided during normal business hours Monday-Friday. Contact Shelby Ingle at (937) 259-5089 or via e-mail at [SIngle@LJBinc.com](mailto:SIngle@LJBinc.com), Awards Committee Chair, if you have any questions.

## APWA Award Submission Deadlines:

**March 3, 2014 award application deadline for:**

Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year  
Public Works Project of the Year  
SC/RC Project of the Year  
Information on other awards available at <http://awpa.net>

**June 2, 2014 award application deadline for:**

PACE Award (Chapters must first be notified they qualify to submit for this award)

## Diversity Committee Mission Statement

The Ohio Chapter of the American Public Works Association Diversity Committee is dedicated to promoting and placing value on all individuals and the different perspectives for the entire variety of human experience through our membership. By working toward an environment that values diversity and maintain activities and programs which further our understanding of diversity within the Public Works Community.



*Mark Riley  
OAPWA Board Member  
Diversity Committee Chair*

## APWA Diversity: Simply put, diversity is good for business

Diversity is generally defined as acknowledging, understanding, accepting, and valuing the differences among people with respect to age, class, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, and religions.

In the workplace, diversity brings people of different backgrounds together and with them, different ideas and different strengths. Studies have shown that workplace diversity increases both employee creativity and productivity. But as of today, some agencies have not moved as quickly towards creating diverse workforces that include individuals of varying cultures which would further ensure their compliance with anti-discrimination laws.

Workplace diversity has become a tool that is used to recruit or produce the best in today's competitive labor market. Many governmental and private businesses are constantly looking at their diversity policies, and staying up-to-date on the ever-changing legal regulations and requirements.

Employees should be mindful and understand that diversity can strengthen an organization as a whole. Managing diversity in the workplace through training will reinforce and encourage employees to work together to achieve departmental common goals.

The net effect of a diversity focus can develop a greater pool of ideas from employees; more teamwork; better recruitment, selection and retention of employees; fewer unproductive staff interactions; increased receptivity and adaptability to changes; and better service delivery through awareness of community needs.

Issues concerning workforce diversity will remain a hot topic for years to come. Even with the controversy, the benefits of creating both diverse business practices and a diverse workforce are clear; an employer must and should struggle to sort through the legal issues to successfully implement diversity in the workplace.

Many governmental agencies could greatly benefit from a focus on diversity. Corporate America is doing it—why shouldn't your Agency?

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With the closing of the ballot for the State Board we proudly welcomed our newly elected officers and directors at the December 6, 2013 State Board meeting.

As we work our way through winter we can all reflect back on the many accomplishments of the organization over the past year and know that outreach, educational, and networking opportunities have been abundantly supplied across the state to our membership and to those looking to become involved with APWA. The numerous Branch educational sessions and presentations, program outreach during regular State Board meetings, formation of the new NW Branch, the Central Ohio Branch hosted Ohio Public Works Expo, and the SW Branch Snow and Ice Workshop have offered opportunity for such on a statewide basis.

The work of the planning committee for the 2014 National APWA North American Snow Conference continues as well with strong momentum. While much has been accomplished in this area there remains still more to do. A call is going out to all Ohio APWA membership to show your support and commitment to this event through participation, volunteer efforts, and agency sponsorships. Please do not hesitate to get involved and help to make this event a huge success.

The State APWA website at [ohio.apwa.net](http://ohio.apwa.net) will be undergoing construction to bring a more dynamic and reliable tool to both the membership and others looking to gain information on the State Board, Branches, newsletters, events and historical information. We are excited to work with the National APWA on this migration and look forward to providing this updated version.

As we continue to grow and evolve into that which better serves our membership we do so with our sights on set on the strength found in the sharing and exchange of knowledge and information and the power found in community. In moving forward the message remains the same, encouraging all to become actively involved and experience firsthand the advantages afforded through the APWA community.



## Board Member Spotlight

**Shelby R. Ingle, P.E. - 2014  
President, Southwest Ohio Chapter**

As a principal and project manager with LJB Inc. for more than 15 years, Shelby specializes in municipal engineering, dedicating her career to helping communities improve their infrastructure by stretching each dollar without sacrificing quality.

Shelby has been actively involved in APWA since 1999 at both the Ohio chapter and Southwest Ohio branch levels. She has served as a Director of the Ohio Chapter since 2008 and will serve as the President of the Southwest Ohio branch in 2014.

As a testament to her commitment to APWA, she has been the chair of the Awards Committee for the Ohio Chapter since 2009 and has helped the chapter gain recognition by winning two national awards in the past two years.

# THANK YOU to our sponsors:

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# 2014 Ohio Public Works Expo September 11-12, 2014

Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg, Ohio

Presented by Northwest Ohio Branch Chapter

The Ohio Chapter of the American Public Works Association has been supporting the Ohio Public Works industry for more than 60 years.

In 2013 a Northwest Branch was established to better serve the local constituents in that region of the state.

Ohio APWA has been providing valuable Public Work Expos and Snow & Ice Workshops for more than 20 years. Each event has been well attended and supported by public works.

Registration Opens May 2014  
Register & Visit us on-line at [ohio.apwa.net](http://ohio.apwa.net)



## Informative Technical Sessions

Ohio APWA has prided itself on bringing to you the latest in topics, technical aspects and peer interaction.

CEUs available for most sessions.

## Attendees

Our low cost gives you full access to the equipment display area and all technical sessions. Breakfast and lunch are included.

**Just \$65 per person**

Registration will start at 7:00am with the opening session beginning at 8:00am.

Rodeo drivers...participate in the Snow Plow Truck Rodeo presented by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Compete against the best drivers in Ohio!

## Vendors

Booth space starts as low as \$300 for the length of the event. Breakfast and lunch are included for one. Also included is one skirted table & two chairs.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to give you maximum exposure at the event and show your support for Ohio APWA.

## Impressive Equipment Displays



Second to none equipment displays, demonstrations, hands-on and vendor booths.