



FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Kurt Corey
City of Eugene*

A few days ago, I was driving to work listening to my favorite radio station which, on that particular day, was a remote broadcast from a “campout” downtown staged as a fundraiser for a local charity. The morning DJ, who had spent the night at the campout, began talking about all of the things that he observed going on downtown while everyone else was at home snuggled safely in their beds. In particular he mentioned one of our striping crews which was busy placing pavement markings on the downtown streets during the nighttime low-traffic volumes. He went on to comment on the efficiency of the work he saw going on while nobody was watching and marveled at all of the similar amenities we take for granted (and no, I don’t personally know the DJ and I didn’t pay him to say those things). This is the hallmark of public works professionals — just get the job done with little fanfare and often scarcer appreciation.

Recent events suggest there may never be a more appropriate or opportune time to stand up and be counted. The steam pipe

explosion in downtown Manhattan and the tragic collapse of the I-35 bridge in Minneapolis with the accompanying loss of life brings home the stark reality that our local and national infrastructure is in need of attention. The National Infrastructure Report Card prepared by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gives our nation’s transportation, drinking water, wastewater, aviation, building, and other infrastructure an overall grade of D and estimates an unfunded need of \$1.6 trillion over the next five years just to raise its condition to a rating of “good.” Closer to home, a recent report from the League of Oregon Cities that surveyed 19 Oregon municipalities found a backlog of deferred street maintenance in every community, ranging from \$10 million in the City of John Day to well over \$100 million in Eugene. We are all painfully aware that further delays in addressing the problem result in cost increases that become exponential over time. It isn’t a question of whether or not it’s acceptable to dodge potholes — the health

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**APWA FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 16–19
BEND, OREGON**

You’re Invited to a Public Works Gathering in Bend

by Jim Carnahan, Conference Co-Chair

We are having a public works “gathering” in Bend October 16-19. Why is it a “gathering” instead of a “roundup?” Because real cowboys gather cattle, they don’t say roundup (unless they’re talking about the Pendleton Roundup), and this is going to be a real event. So why don’t you ride on over and “gather” with us at the APWA Fall Conference? Along with typical technical sessions we plan to try a couple of sessions in an open, brainstorming style. If that strikes your fancy, come with ideas and a willingness to speak up about how things could be done in the public works arena if you made the rules. Cowboys don’t like a lot of rules and bosses so what if you could do your job without the old rules and bosses? How would you provide safe water and protect the environment for example?

Oh, and plan on having a little fun too! Along with “pasture pool” on the 16th, we may have some ropin’ and shootin’ during the vendor’s social and some dancin’ after the awards banquet. Like cowboys and cowgirls everywhere, ya gotta come prepared!

You don’t need to worry about dust at the corral. The conference will be in Bend’s brand spankin’ new convention center associated with The Riverhouse Resort where a block of rooms has been reserved. Call ‘em up and get your accommodations.

Western attire welcome at all times but the dancin’ might go better if ya don’t wear spurs that night. Shucks, wear whatever you’re comfortable in, as long as it’s decent. Just plan to gather with us in sunny Central Oregon and enjoy the wonderful fall weather along the Deschutes River. Hope to see ya then.

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Bend Achieves APWA Accreditation

By Ken Fuller

As Public Works Director for the City of Bend, Oregon, I am very proud to announce that we have achieved APWA accreditation.

The Public Works Department has been working for the last two years towards receiving accreditation, and on April 15 the APWA evaluation team came to Bend to assess our organization. We have met all the requirements to become only the 41st public works agency in North America to receive accreditation. Of 436 practices that were applicable to our organization, we received full compliance on 409 and substantial compliance on 27. This is a magnificent showing. Additionally, the City of Bend Public Works Department had eight model practices identified.

Public Works staff did a tremendous job of gathering information and documenting our processes, and we could never have attained this achievement without the outstanding support from other City departments. Many people outside Public Works volunteered their time to help with our mock

evaluations, as well as providing and creating documentation regarding practices that go beyond the public works sphere. This was truly a Citywide accomplishment.

I recommend to any public works agency that is considering embarking on the accreditation journey to go for it. It was a rewarding and knowledge-enhancing experience for me and my staff. We all had the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of how other divisions within Public Works operate and get better clarification of the practices in our own division. Accreditation helped us to identify areas in which we were lacking efficiency and correct those problems through a thorough review process.



Oregon APWA President Kurt Corey (left) presents accreditation plaque to Bend PW Director Ken Fuller

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, REVISED BYLAWS TO GET A VOTE

It's been 14 years since the bylaws of the Oregon Chapter APWA got a thorough review, but the chapter board has been hard at work and has a slate of revisions for the membership to consider.

According to chapter President Kurt Corey, most of the changes are housekeeping, designed to keep the chapter's bylaws in synch with National APWA requirements.

The changes proposed by the Oregon board have been approved by National APWA and will be put before the Oregon membership at the fall conference in Bend. To get a look at the revisions, go to the chapter's web site at www.oregonapwa.org and click on "board." At the top of the board page you'll find links to the proposed revised bylaws as well as a version showing the markups.



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City of Portland Fleet Manager Earns National Certification

KANSAS CITY, MO. – John S. Hunt, Fleet Manager for the City of Portland, recently earned certification through the American Public Works Association (APWA) Certified Public Fleet Professionals (CPFP) program.

Hunt was among the first 22 candidates certified under the new credentialing program, which was launched by APWA in September 2006. The certification is designed to ensure individual competency and promote excellence in fleet management by advancing the knowledge and practice of public fleet professionals. The certification process includes an eligibility application, an examination and a recertification process.

With more than 30 years of fleet management experience, Hunt began his career in the private sector managing large fleet accounts. He joined the City of Fresno, Calif., Fleet Management Division and used the city's tuition reimbursement program to study business at California State University Fresno. From mechanic to manager, Hunt advanced from working on public sector equipment to building the fleet budget. In 2004, his hands-on experience and administrative knowledge helped the City of Fresno complete the nation's most rigorous fleet industry certification. In 2005, Fresno received the Clean Cities National Partner Award for "City Fleet of the

Year" by the United States Department of Energy.

In June 2005, Hunt was designated the first-ever "Public Sector Fleet Manager of the Year." He joined the City of Portland and in less than a year, Portland advanced to have one of the "100 Best Fleets in North America." Hunt is a frequent speaker at fleet conferences and serves on the APWA Certified Public Fleet Professional Governance Council and the APWA Certified Public Fleet Professional Exam Committee.

For more information about the CPFP program or APWA's other professional development initiatives, contact Certification Manager Becky Stein, (816) 595-5212 or bstein@apwa.net.

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of the public infrastructure has a direct correlation to the overall health of the economy and serves as a key economic development driver. And the end game of ignoring these needs can be deadly.

As public works professionals and as an organization we simply need to do a better job advocating for the critical importance of adequate infrastructure funding. The American Public Works Association has firmly established itself as the recognized leader in public works education, public policy advocacy, and building better communities. I encourage you to get involved with the 750 members of the Oregon Chapter and the 29,000 APWA members across North America to see how APWA can help with your own advocacy efforts — we are all in this together.

I hope to see all of you in October in Bend for the upcoming Oregon Chapter APWA Fall Conference where an outstanding program has been planned. This will be a great opportunity to network with your peers and continue working on solutions to the challenges we share. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Kurt Corey



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CALENDAR

Oct. 16-19 Fall Conference, Bend (see page 1)

Oct. 24-26 Street Maintenance & C.S. Fall School, Florence Events Center

Nov. 13-16 PW Leadership, Surfsand Resort, Cannon Beach

Dec. 10-14 PW Essentials, Red Lion Jantzen Beach, Portland

Nov. 5-7, 2008 (Save the Date!), Street Maintenance & C.S. Fall School, Agate Beach Best Western, Newport

More information, including online registration, is available at www.oregonapwa.org/training or by contacting Cameo Management Solutions, 541-994-3201 cameomag@cameomgt.com

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