

# APWA NEWS

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

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## *From the President*

As I reflect back on this last spring, I am reminded of the many Chapter endeavors that have culminated in a final work product. It was exciting to be able to hold the newly printed joint ODOT/APWA Specifications in my hand. This is a culmination of years of work by both ODOT and our Chapter. Paul Klope, Ken Stoneman and the other members of the Specifications Committee deserve recognition for their efforts in providing us with this fine publication. The joint specifications are in dual units consisting of both English and metric. The standard drawings are also complete and available in both English and metric.

The much-needed updated Chapter membership directory was made available at the spring conference. It boasts a new, easy-to-read format with a beautiful cover photo of Mount Hood. Barbara Duda spent many hours of her own time to create our directory. Thank you, Barbara, for all your efforts in providing us with this fine directory.

Speaking of the spring conference, it was a joint conference with the Washington Chapter at Skamania, Washington. It was a huge success. The facilities at Skamania were wonderful, as were the program and the participation by exhibitors. There was plenty of time to renew and make new acquaintances with the members of the Washington Chapter. I want to especially thank Terry Chamberlin and Rick Olson and their committees for a job well done. Our

Chapter Board of Directors recently elected to revise our future conference event schedules using the Skamania conference as a model. The fall 2002 conference in Pendleton will reflect the event schedule changes, which will include opportunities to attend additional technical sessions with full hour credits. I encourage you to plan on attending the conference in October.

Ron Polvi and Stephanie Reid have been diligently working on the National APWA PACE award application for chapter excellence. We intend to continue making application for this annual award each year. If you or your company or agency did anything special to recognize National Public Works Week in May 2002, please let Ron Polvi know so he can include it in the application for next year's PACE award application.

We are proud to announce that the Portland Airport MAXLRT Extension has been selected as one of National APWA's Public Works Projects of the Year for 2002 award. Congratulations are also in order to Steve Baker and Giriesh (Frank) Tiwari for receiving APWA life memberships.

As you can see, this past quarter has been quite eventful for our Chapter. I am happy with our progress towards this year's Chapter goals and thank each of you for your help in making these achievements possible.

*Bob Deuel*

## **What's Inside**

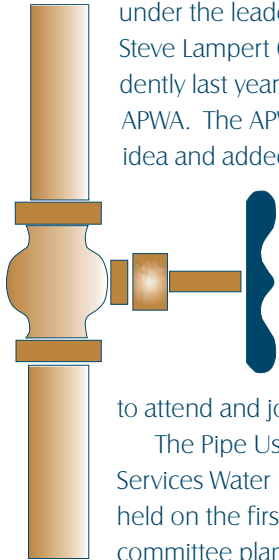
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# Chapter In Action

## Pipe Users Group Joins Oregon APWA

By Gordon Merseth

A new committee has joined the ranks of APWA. A group of pipeline designers in the Portland metropolitan area began meeting last year, with the intention of furthering knowledge about pipeline analysis, design, and construction. Begun under the leadership of Mark Hutchinson (City of Portland, BES) and Steve Lampert (CleanWater Services), the group began meeting independently last year and decided they could benefit by aligning with Oregon APWA. The APWA Board listened to their proposal, decided it was a good idea and added this committee to the organization chart.



Typically a technical presentation is followed by discussion. Attendees are invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Topics have ranged from traditional issues such as materials selection and I/I controls to new technologies like pipe bursting and micro tunneling.

APWA members and potential members are invited to attend and join in the discussion.

The Pipe Users Group met June 6th at the Bureau of Environmental Services Water Pollution Control Laboratory. Subsequent meetings will be held on the first Tuesdays of September and November. The steering committee plans to hold meetings bimonthly except in the summer

when workload may interfere with attendance.

## Les Lyle Memorial Scholarship Established

A new \$500 scholarship has been established in memory of Oregon Chapter Past President Les Lyle. Les attended Blue Mountain Community College, obtained a degree in civil engineering from Oregon State University, became registered as a professional engineer in Oregon, and went on to become City Engineer of Eugene, Oregon. The purpose of the scholarship is to financially assist Blue Mountain Community College students who are interested in pursuing a career in civil engineering or in the field of public works.

Full-time students who are enrolled in the BMCC Civil Engineering Technology Program, and who have completed 45 credits at the beginning of the academic year of the award will be considered for the scholarship. In addition, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must have completed the first three quarters of the Civil Engineering Technology program with a grade point average of 3.0 or better.
- Demonstrated financial need.
- United States citizen.
- Four-year resident of the State of Oregon.

To receive the scholarship, an applicant must be recommended by the Civil Engineering Technology faculty, and approved by the Oregon APWA Chapter Executive Board.

The first Les Lyle Memorial Scholarship winner will be announced during the 2002 Fall Conference in Pendleton. In addition, the Oregon Chapter offers three engineering scholarships (\$2700 each) to civil engineering students at Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon State University, and Portland State University; and the Michael Lindberg Scholarship (\$2000) to a student enrolled in the Public Administration Program at PSU's College of Urban and Public Affairs.

Oregon APWA members and their employees may also apply for a \$250 in-service training scholarship to cover tuition and book expenses for public works courses taken at a community college or 4-year college, if these expenses would not otherwise be paid by the employer. Application forms are available from Scholarship Chair Dave Vargas in Portland at 503-771-9074 or E-mail: [vargasd@oit.edu](mailto:vargasd@oit.edu)

## 2002 Board Members

**Bob Deuel**, President  
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**Ron Polvi**, Immediate Past President  
(503) 585-6611 x8140

**Stephanie Reid**, President Elect  
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**Greg Miller**, Treasurer  
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(503) 632-4982

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**Kurt Corey**, Director  
(541) 682-5241

**Rick Olson**, Director  
(541) 689-5523

**Ken Stoneman**, Director  
(503) 986-3023

**Dave Haskell**, Director  
(503) 861-2233

**Terry Kelsey**, Director  
(503) 823-1751

## Thanks, Members!

The Gizmo "competition" at the Spring 2002 Conference raised more than \$1,330 for the Chapter's Scholastic Foundation

## New Members

**Steve Adams**, Sr Engr Tech  
City of Wilsonville, 503-570-1564

**Gerald Fisher**, Sr Engr Tech  
City of Wilsonville, 503-570-1564

**Kelli Grover**, Associate Engineer  
City of West Linn

**Mark Lago**, Director of Public Works  
City of Hood River, 541-386-2383

**Jim Mitchell**, Transp Division  
City of Corvallis, 541-757-6916

**Steve Munsterman**, Road Crew Chief  
City of Wilsonville, 503-570-1564

**Jeffrey Nelson**, LB Engineering  
Redmond, 541-390-3690

**Floyd Peoples**, Operations Manager  
City of Wilsonville, 503-570-1564

**Steven Templin**, Civil Engineer  
City of Springfield, 541-726-3670

**John Thomas**, General Manager  
Sunrise Water Authority, 503-761-0220

**Rick Thrall**, AMEC Earth & Environmental  
Portland, 503-639-3400

**Ray Wilson**, Engineering & Survey Mgr  
Benton County

**Mark Winstanley**, City Manager  
City of Seaside, 503-738-5112

**Benjamin Wright**, Balzhiser & Hubbard,  
Eugene, 541-345-530

## New ADA Rules for Sidewalk Access Ramps

Access ramps to public sidewalks now require coloring to clearly differentiate the bottom two feet of the ramp from the sidewalk, and texturing using truncated domes, per a federal Americans with Disabilities Act rule that went into effect July 26, 2001.

ODOT and APWA were notified of the implementation of the rule change by the Federal Highway Administration last month. Since the new 2002 ODOT/APWA Standard Drawings did not include these requirements, modifications are being made to revise them.

For more information visit the Chapter website at [www.oregonapwa.org](http://www.oregonapwa.org)

## Students Win Oregon State Math Competition

*Al Pierce, Oregon MATHCOUNTS Coordinator*

Four middle school students won the Oregon state MATHCOUNTS competition on March 9 in Corvallis. The four will represent Oregon at the national competition in Chicago in June. The four team members and one alternate were: Matt Rognlie of Rosemont Ridge Middle School in West Linn, Chris Fallin of Valley Catholic School in Beaverton, Peter Caday of Santiam Christian Schools in Corvallis, Andrew Freer of Athey Creek Middle School in West Linn, and Ari Ettinger (alternate) of Portland Jewish Academy in Portland.



*From left to right are Matt Rognlie, Chris Fallin, Kimie Carroll (team coach), Peter Caday, and Andrew Freer. Not shown is Ari Ettinger (alternate).*

A team of "mathletes" from Meadow Park Middle School in Beaverton took the team award at the Oregon state MATHCOUNTS competition. The coach from Meadow Park, Kimie Carroll, will be the coach of the Oregon team. The second through sixth place teams were: Athey Creek Middle School in West Linn, Roosevelt Middle School in Eugene, Valley Catholic School in Beaverton, Waluga Junior High School in Lake Oswego, and Portland Jewish Academy in Portland, respectively.

Dmitri Vaintrob of Roosevelt Middle School in Eugene won the "countdown round", a fast-paced oral competition with mathletes competing against each other and the clock to solve problems.

MATHCOUNTS is designed to improve math skills among U.S. students. The Oregon program was organized by the Professional Engineers of Oregon (PEO). The competition was sponsored by the College of Engineering at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Major supporters of the Oregon MATHCOUNTS program are Intel, Bend Research, Portland General Electric, and Ron Polvi, PE.

At the national level, MATHCOUNTS's founding sponsors are the CNA Foundation, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. National sponsors also include The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, General Motors Foundation, Lockheed Martin, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Phillips Petroleum Company, Texas Instruments Inc., 3M Foundation, and Toyota USA Foundation.

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# Spring 2002 Joint Conference Photos

## New Schedule Unveiled for Fall 2002 Conference

The Fall 2002 Oregon APWA Conference will be held in Pendleton October 8-11. In a change from previous Oregon Chapter conferences, this will be a four-day conference. Golf will be on Tuesday, with no competing technical sessions. The board will meet Tuesday evening. Workshops, a technical tour, committee meetings, the opening luncheon and afternoon technical sessions will be offered Wednesday. Technical sessions will be offered all day Thursday, with the banquet Thursday evening, and Friday will wrap up with technical sessions and the awards luncheon. Technical sessions will be one hour in length with 30-minute breaks in between.

The board approved the schedule changes based on feedback from the conference attendees in the past few years and especially from the 2002 Spring conference. The intent is to create a conference pace that allows more time to network and visit exhibitor booths, provide more flexibility to the exhibitors, provide a standing time for chapter committees to meet at conferences, offer members more attractive one day registration packages, offer increased professional development hours, and eliminate the conflict between golf and workshops/technical sessions and the board meeting.



*Relaxing in the Skamania Lodge lounge.*



*Stephanie Reid and Eric*



*Registration was a breeze.*



*Happy delegate: Stu Cato*

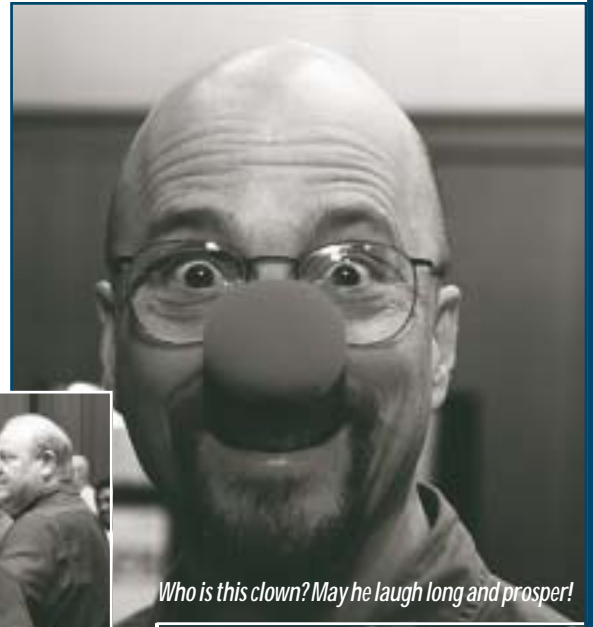


*The views on the links are way above par.*





*Jim Gilmer, Catherine Mirkin, and Frank Lippert were among the many exhibitors at the conference.*



*Who is this clown? May he laugh long and prosper!*



*Nikki Johnson displays a fun run teeshirt.*



*Bob and Shirley Deuel pose for photographer Andy Hofer.*



*Les Miller knows a delegate can't survive on sessions alone.*



*Already planning the the next conference.*



*Terry Chamberlin, proud Gizmo winner, with Stephanie Reid, previous award holder.*



*Richard Ridings with Bob and Shirley Deuel.*

# Tech Talk

## Portland Finds Energy Savings in LED Traffic Signals

By Curt Nichols, Portland Office of Sustainable Development

In a project completed late last year, the City of Portland has replaced nearly all red and green incandescent traffic signal lights with new signal lights featuring highly-efficient light emitting diodes (LEDs). The new LEDs will save the City more than \$315,000 per year. After the incentives received are factored in, this project has a net payback of 3.1 years - a net return on investment of 32 percent!

In just a few years, LED traffic signal conversion has gone from not being cost effective in the Pacific Northwest to being an extremely good investment. When Portland looked at this option a few years ago, green LEDs were not even available and the red LEDs were quite expensive.

LED traffic signal lighting provides the same level of light output while using only a small fraction of the energy used in incandescent traffic signal lamps. The new LEDs allow Portland to cut its signal energy use by about 85 percent. And, on top of that, LED signal lamps last much longer. Even with long-life incandescents, the old signal lamps needed to be changed out every two years at least. Now, the new LEDs are expected to last at least three times as long. So, on top of sizable energy savings, Portland is also cutting its signal system maintenance costs too.

The retrofit included more than 7,200 red and nearly 6,800 green signal lamps. These lamps included a mix of 12" balls, 8" balls, and turn arrows in both colors. Also included in the retrofit were more than 140 flashing amber beacons and a few light rail transit signals.

Before the retrofit, these signal lamps used about 6.1 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year. At the current electric rates of \$.06/kWh, that adds up to an electric cost of \$366,000

per year for the City. After the retrofit, the new LED signal lamps draw less than 850,000 kWh per year - an annual electric cost of about \$51,000. That makes the City's annual energy savings add up to \$315,000 per year.

In spite of LED prices coming down, the entire cost for the retrofit was still a large amount. Because of the energy crisis the western US was facing in 2001, Portland didn't want to wait. And, neither did the two local electric utilities. Both PGE and Pacific Power were offering additional incentives for energy efficiency projects completed before 2002. That bonus coupled with significant electric rate increases in gave the project some urgency.

The dilemma for Portland was finding the nearly \$2.2 million for the LED signal purchase and installation in its budget. With no capital allocated for this kind of project; we turned to a leasing company for funding. This allowed us to spread the capital costs out to more closely match the energy and maintenance costs that the new signal lights are helping to reduce. The lease option also allowed the City to get some benefit from Oregon's Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC).

It's logical to assume that a City, which doesn't pay income taxes, wouldn't be able to use a tax credit, but that's not entirely true. In selected lease arrangements, the tax credit can be taken by the leasing company and then shared with the other party. Since BETC is worth 35 percent of an energy project's total cost, it made the lease

option all that more attractive. In Portland's case, the leasing company gets a 35 percent tax credit taken over time and the City gets a LED lease that has costs that are about 22 percent lower than they otherwise would have been.

Twenty-two percent of \$2.2 million is nothing to sneeze at. In fact, coupled with the state tax credit this lease

arrangement is saving the City more than \$480,000. Since the City's project was completed the state has revised its administrative rules to allow for the tax credit's benefits to be shared without using a lease arrangement. Now, any equipment supplier or installation contractor can provide a tax credit "pass-through" equal to 27 percent of the project's cost.

With the prices of LED signals coming down, electric rates going up, and the state tax credit now easily shared with state and local governments with traffic signal systems, Portland's example is something others may wish to follow. Even where the red signal lights have been done, it might be time to look at the benefits of doing the greens too.

Learn more about LED traffic signals by visiting the following web sites:

[www.yosemite1.epa.gov/estar/consumers.nsf/content/traffic\\_signals.htm](http://www.yosemite1.epa.gov/estar/consumers.nsf/content/traffic_signals.htm)

[www.cee1.org/gov/led/led-main.php3](http://www.cee1.org/gov/led/led-main.php3)



# Public Works Celebrates Public Works

Each spring, public works agencies are invited to show their stuff during National Public Works Week. Here's how two Oregon communities used the opportunity to engage citizens of all ages in fun and educational events.

## Gresham Celebrates Our "Everyday Heroes"

By Brenda Drake

On Wednesday, May 22, the City of Gresham and the Multnomah County Transportation Division celebrated APWA's Public Works Week theme, "Everyday Heroes; Committed to our Community" with an exhibition of equipment for hundreds of local school children. Each child was presented a Department of Environmental Services bag filled with a yellow hardhat, a "Celebrate Public Works" pencil, a hero badge, and an APWA comic book donated by Operations Management International, Inc. Cookies were donated by Quality Food Centers, Inc.

In keeping with the theme, the exhibition was followed by a presentation of a hero medal and certificate to 30 city and county employees who were nominated by their co-workers for acts above and beyond the call of duty. The nominees ranged from life-saving events to others who give 110% on an everyday basis. Gresham City Councilor Chris Lassen and Multnomah County Commissioner Lonnie Roberts presented the awards with introductions by Dave Rouse, DES Director and Rob Fussell, Gresham's Interim City Manager.

In addition, displays increasing public awareness of public works contribution to our communities were placed in the Gresham Post Office, Multnomah County Library, and the Gresham City Hall lobby.



*The equipment line is always a hit.*

## "Working for a Safer Eugene" Draws 1,500 to Public Works Day Open House

By Eric Jones

More than 1,000 schoolchildren flocked to the Eugene Public Works yard on Thursday, May 16, to celebrate Public Works Day. The annual community open house also drew hundreds of adults, including local elected officials, neighborhood leaders, staff from other City departments, and retired Public Works employees.



*What would Eugene be without a tree stump?*

In keeping with this year's theme from National APWA, Eugene's event was focused on "Working for a Safer Eugene." Participants got hands-on opportunities to learn about emergency preparedness, the department's spill response van, airport security systems, and many other examples of the ways Public Works protects the community during severe storms and other emergencies. The all-employee lunch included table-top cards with news clippings of actual events in which Public Works was called out to safeguard the community.

There were lots of fun events as well, including the always-popular "Transportation Tiny Town," in which youngsters learn how to recognize traffic signs and signals by their shapes. Everyone at the event received a "goody bag" with pencils, rulers, erasers, magnets, pins, and even a chip clip from the Airport Division ("It's a Snap — Fly Eugene").

Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey signed a proclamation declaring Public Works Week in Eugene, and Eugene Public Works Director Kurt Corey declared this year's Public Works Day event a success. "Once a year we get to really tell the whole story of what we do for our community, and everyone, including our own employees, learns something new."



*Youngsters get a lesson in hazardous spill cleanup.*



## Emerging Leaders Invited to 2002 Congress

Registrations are currently being accepted for the Third Annual Emerging Public Works Leaders Forum which will be held in conjunction with the 2002 International Congress and Exposition, in Kansas City. The program is designed to provide an introduction to the field of public works, networking training and opportunities, career development, and an opportunity for those with less than five years in the field of public works to attend this great meeting at a greatly reduced registration fee.



**2002 Congress  
September 22-25  
Kansas City, MO**

This year's registration fee for participants in the Emerging Public Works Leaders Forum is \$195. That's a savings of \$300 from the full registration. Activities are scheduled, informally, beginning on Sunday, September 22, and concluding with attendance at the Annual Banquet on Wednesday, September 25.

Mentor/coaches are also welcome to apply. Each Emerging Leader will be paired with a mentor who will help guide them through the week at Congress and who will maintain contact with them to provide answers to questions.

Apply now by sending a request to Ann Daniels, Professional Development Program Manager, at [adaniels@apwa.net](mailto:adaniels@apwa.net). The materials can be sent immediately by email. For more details check out the APWA web site at [www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net).

Don't wait too long! The first 50 will be accepted. Registration deadline is June 28. After that, it will be first come, first served until the 50 slots are filled.

## 2002 Calendar

October 8-11  
**Fall Conference - Oregon Chapter  
APWA, Pendleton**

October 23-25  
**Street Maintenance Short School  
Canyonville**

November 20-22  
**Safety in Public Works, Springfield**

Date TBA  
**Public Works Leadership Skills**  
Location TBA

For more information or to register online visit [www.oregonapwa.org/training](http://www.oregonapwa.org/training).



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