



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- North Alabama Region  
Lunch & Learn with Cemex  
February 23, 2017  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
City of Huntsville  
Engineering Conference Rm  
Huntsville, AL
- BAMA Equipment Expo  
[www.bamaassociation.org](http://www.bamaassociation.org)  
March 2, 2017  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Gardendale, AL
- Alabama Chapter  
70<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary  
April 2017
- League of Municipalities  
2017 Conference  
May 20 – 23, 2017  
Birmingham, AL
- National Public Works Week  
May 21 – 27, 2017
- APWA/ASCE 2017 Summer  
Conference  
July 17 – 19, 2017  
Orange Beach, AL
- Public Works Expo (PWX)  
August 27 – 30, 2017  
Orlando, FL

## A NOTE FROM ERIC...

Got Time?

What happened to January? As I get older, it seems that time is going by faster. So what is time? According to Wikipedia, Time is the indefinite continued progress of existence and events that occur in apparently irreversible succession from the past through the present to the future. Notice the word, “indefinite”? In our fast paced lives, we never really seem to have ‘enough time’. We may spend extra hours in our work week to ‘make up some time’ or to ‘catch up’. Interesting, I would like to be able to ‘make up some time’ wouldn’t you? Or to ‘catch up’.

I was watching a television show recently. There were four contestants and they each had a task to forge a steel knife from scratch in a three hour time limit.



*Eric Bridwell*

Three of the contestants used the same technique to create their blades. The technique they used was a quicker way and would ‘save time’. The fourth contestant used a technique that would initially take longer, but the quality and strength of the final product would far surpass his competitors.

The judges commented that the fourth contestant has chosen not to cut corners and use the long process of forging his steel. The end result was the contestant that used the long process, beat his competitors. In some cases, it may not be a benefit to cut corners, or use the quicker way to ‘save time’. What kind of product are you wanting to achieve? What is your client or customer expecting from you? After all, what does it really mean to ‘save time’?

This year, the Alabama Chapter will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On April 7, 1947 the Alabama Public Works Association was formed. The membership was composed of 82 members representing 39 cities. As I looked at a members’ directory from that time period, and seeing the names of those founding

members, I started thinking about all of the men and women who have come before us. What were their expectations? What was their vision for the Alabama Chapter?

I am honored to serve the Alabama Chapter and look forward to working with the Executive Committee to continue building the legacy that has been laid before us. Thank you members and sponsors for supporting APWA. Thank you for your commitment to hard work and the time you invest in our communities. Let us all join together and work toward the common goal we each have to be the best we can be.

Thank you.

Eric Bridwell

Alabama Chapter President

## APWA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Did you know the Council of Chapters is comprised of one delegate from each of the 63 APWA chapters? Members of the council serve APWA as advisors to the board of directors, executive director, technical committees and staff in support of the mission of APWA. Delegates also act as a conduit in sharing the opinions and ideas of their chapters and serving as points of contact at the local, regional and national levels for the dissemination of information to and from members. For more information on the Council of Chapters, please visit <http://www.apwa.net>.



*Jeff Holliyan*

The Delegate for Alabama Chapter is Jeff Holliyan, Public Works Director for the City of Gardendale. Please feel free to contact him regarding any area of APWA at [jholliyan@cityofgardendale.com](mailto:jholliyan@cityofgardendale.com) or 205.631.9697.



**What You Need To Know About Road Diets**  
Thursday, January 19, 2017  
11 ET / 10 CT / 9 MT / 8 PT



APWA Click, Listen and Learn

**What You Need To Know About Road Diets**

January 19, 2017

**Recent Addition to Members Library**

**Click Listen and Learn**

**What You Need to Know About Road Diets**

<http://www.apwa.net>

## ACCREDITATION WORKSHOP

APWA-Alabama Chapter will soon be joining with the Birmingham Area Municipal Administrators Association (BAMA) to host a Self-Assessment and Accreditation Workshop in our state. This workshop will be an excellent way to examine and evaluate your agency's current management policies and procedures, while also learning about improving your operations. Currently, the State of Alabama does not have an accredited public works department or agency. Frequently Asked Questions regarding accreditation can be found at <http://www.apwa.net>.

It would be fantastic to become the first accredited department or agency in our state! Information regarding registration will be forthcoming and we look forward to seeing you soon.

## Next Click Listen and Learn – February 16

**Dynamic Employees — Programs to Recruit, Train, Develop and Retain Great Staff**

Thursday, February 16, 2017  
11 ET / 10 CT / 9 MT / 8 PT



[Register here](#)



*Participants in the 2016 APWA Golf Tournament and Equipment Expo*

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

In December 2016, the Executive Committee held a strategic planning session with Brian VanNorman, APWA National Director of Chapter Relations, and Doug Layton, APWA Region IV Director, in an effort to develop strategic priorities and goals, which will assist with membership recruitment, retention, education and engagement. One way we plan to engage the membership is with this quarterly newsletter. We hope you find it useful and informative. Be on the lookout for more information on what we are planning for 2017. Golf anyone?

### Want to recognize a Public Works project or employee?

Contact anyone on the Executive Committee with information regarding a project, employee or anything positive related to Public Works in Alabama and it could be featured in an upcoming newsletter. We want to shine a positive light on Public Works!

## CONTACT US

### Executive Committee

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### APWA Mission Statement:

*To be an active, unified Public Works organization, providing leadership, education, training, direction and support on Public Works issues to its members, elected officials, and the public, every day, as well as during times of natural disaster.*



*Executive Committee Members with Governor Bentley for 2016 National Public Works Week Proclamation Signing in Montgomery*

*We welcome your feedback! Please send ideas or suggestions to any member of the Executive Committee.*