

Dear APWA Illinois Chapter Members,

Most people aspire to make the world a better place but as public works officials we make our community a better place every day. From providing safe drinking water, to safe roads, to fixing leaking or broken sewer pipes, almost every aspect of public works have an effect on the day to day lives of our community. As the world changes and advances so does the public works. The new advancements in standards and technology APWA provides its members with the tools and knowledge to continue to make their community a better place.

The Illinois Chapter continues to help provide its member with several opportunities to become better public work officials and stewards of their community by offering a variety of opportunities and services. The annual Illinois Chapter conference will be held in Peoria again this year on May 2-4, 2018. This conference provides for great technical education sessions, a large equipment floor to see the advancement in equipment, vendor booths and an opportunity to connect with fellow members. New this year will be a competition between branches on a food drive with an award being presented to the top branch. Be sure to mark your calendars to attend this signature event for the Illinois Chapter. For more information please go to <http://illinois.apwa.net/>.

Also this past fall the Illinois Chapter reinstated the Snow Roadeo held at SIUE campus. This is a great opportunity for the great snow fighters in our Chapter to show off their skills or to get some additional training on snow removal as it is a custom skill. The Snow Roadeo will be at SIUE again this year on September 14<sup>th</sup> so please mark it on your calendars to continue to make this event great.

The Illinois Chapter continues to offer great educational and training for employees looking to advance their career as the chapter co-sponsor the Illinois Public Service Institute (IPSI) each spring and fall. IPSI provides managers or aspiring managers the basics in supervisory skills training that they will need to have or want to brush up on again this April 22 – April 27, 2018 and October 7 - October 12, 2018. Find more at [www.ilpsi.org](http://www.ilpsi.org).

For managers or supervisors that look to refresh or advance their skills they have learned at IPSI the Illinois Chapter partner with the Michigan Public Service Institute the Midwest Advanced Public Service Institute (MAPSI). MAPSI will be held this year April 15 through April 18, 2018. MAPSI information is available at [www.themapsi.org](http://www.themapsi.org).

For the front line workers the Illinois Chapter participated with the Chicago Metro Chapter for the Road Scholar Program this past year. The Road Scholar Program is designed to meet the training needs for front line public works employees. Watch for more information on this program in June.

Also this year is a great opportunity to attend National APWA events for our member. This year the Annual Snow Conference which is being held in Indianapolis, IN on May 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Then PWX will be held in Kansas City, MO on August 26-29<sup>th</sup>. Both of these Conferences is a great opportunity to see Public Works on a National stage.

Let's continue to make our communities a better place by helping advance public works. Help advocate the services we provide by celebrating Public Works Week, hosting a touch a truck event, or just getting involved with the Chapter or even your local branch. Make sure that you take advantage of the opportunities that APWA membership provides. Let's continue to make public works great in 2018.

Sincerely,

Michael Guerra, P.E.  
City Engineer  
Department of Public Works  
City of Pekin  
Illinois Chapter President