

President's Message

By Johnathan Doyel, PE- 2015 APWA Central California Chapter President

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One of the largest challenges of the American Public Works Association and the Central California Chapter is to bring attention to the significant contributions that the Public Works profession brings to each of our communities and the lives of the people we serve. Whether it's collecting garbage, cleaning and maintaining parks, designing new infrastructure, maintaining buildings and streets, or delivering water and collecting wastewater, every person in the Public Works profession makes an impact on their communities each and every day.

National Public Works Week, May 17-23, 2015, is the APWA's attempt at recognizing our profession on a national and local level each year. Each year, your chapter executive committee prepares a package for each agency within the chapter that includes

- NPWW poster
- Letter from the local chapter asking for their support of their public works staff
- Resolution and proclamation template
- Annual awards program information

We should all take this opportunity to encourage the people we come in contact with in the public works field about their huge impact on our community and our way of life.

If you would like more information about National Public Works Week or want to order posters for you or your organization head to the APWA website at <http://www.apwa.net/discover/National-Public-Works-Week>

New Website for the Central Valley Chapter

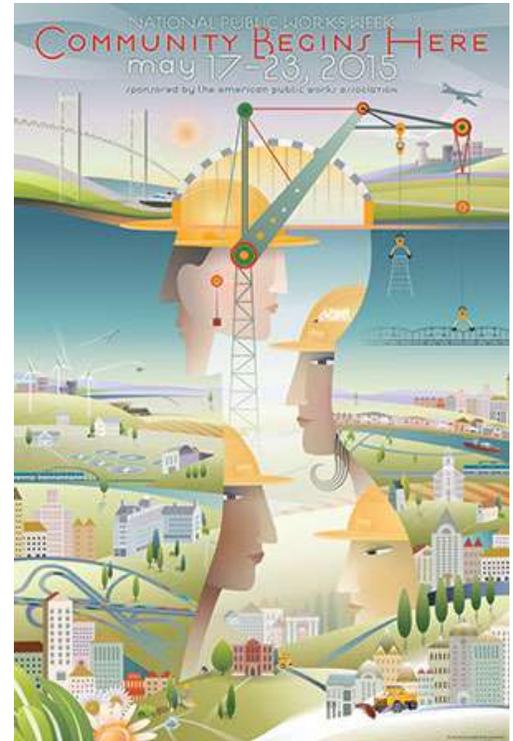
By Greg Gross – 2015 APWA Secretary

The new website is your go to place for information about upcoming local and national events, APWA resources, photos, and information about your Chapter. The Kern Branch will also be using the website to provide event and Branch information.

Check out the new Central Valley Chapter website at <http://centralca.apwa.net/>.

In the future, the website will be used to register for events and you will have the option to make your registration payment.

Please contact Greg Gross at ggross@trcsolutions.com for comments or suggestions.



**NATIONAL PUBLIC
WORKS WEEK
MAY 17-23, 2015**



Students Gain Meaningful Experience with Internship

By Vaughn Melcher

Our Chapter is working with CSU-Fresno students who are interested in careers in the Public Works field. The APWA Student Chapter, recently formed at the campus, already has a growing membership. Students are learning what the public works field is all about and its broad diversity in academic backgrounds BUT, academics are not enough for students to gain a true and meaningful experience in the field.

We have a number of students who desire to gain a work experience during the summer or part time thru the semesters. Now, all we need are agencies and firms who would be willing to employ one or more students and allow them to gain that meaningful experience. This has always been a WIN-WIN situation as the students gain the experience and the employer gains an employee.

Although State law requires private firms to hire a person seeking an internship, the value that a firm will acquire will far exceed the costs. Local agencies on the other hand, can offer an intern a position with no compensation, as a volunteer. Due to hiring policies, budgets, etc., a local agency can gain a valuable employee without all of the personnel procedures it would take to hire an employee.

Please consider hiring a student from the Public Works field for summer work or part time during the semesters. Students are from all parts of the valley and beyond, so, no matter what part of the Chapter area you are from, if you want to consider this more, please contact either Vaughn Melcher at Vaughn.melcher@ci.visalia.ca.us or Isiah Quintanilla at isiahq@mail.fresnostate.edu.



Fresno State Student Chapter Officially Recognized

By Isiah Quintanilla – 2015 APWA Student Chapter, President



It is with great honor to announce that on April 8, 2015 the APWA student chapter was finally officially recognized. Being officially recognized means the chapter can now reserve rooms, set meeting times and charge dues. The executive board, which consists of a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and marshal, has met several times over the last few weeks preparing for the decision. Knowing that the decision of recognition was coming we have laid out a plan of action for the chapter.

Taking a step back to October 9, 2014 when Dan Gibbs and Vaughn Melcher came to Fresno State to introduce the possibility of the chapter and to see the interest we had, 30 students participated at the initial meeting. I followed up with a survey to those 30 students, asking what they wanted out of the chapter. The overwhelming response was INTERNSHIPS. For this to be a successful chapter at Fresno State, this membership needs to offer something that other organizations do not have. Exclusive internships, even if unpaid, will allow the students to get hands on experience and know if this is the field they want to go into before they are three years into the program. This will allow APWA to offer something that students clearly desire and no other organizations offer.

I know that if we provide the students internship opportunities, this organization will be successful and prosper from here on out. This is where I ask for YOUR help. If you want to provide opportunities to the students or be involved in any way, please contact me isiahq@mail.fresnostate.edu.

I look forward to bringing updates of the student chapter's happenings to each newsletter. Until next time!

International Public Works Congress & Exposition

2015 APWA Congress will be held in Phoenix, AZ from Aug 30th to Sept 2nd.

Each year at Congress, one of the California Chapters is responsible for coordinating the State dinner for all of the California Chapters to attend.

This year our branch will be coordinating the State dinner and we are currently looking for volunteers interested in helping put on this exciting event.



In addition to needing volunteers for the State dinner, we are always looking for people interested in helping with our other various committees, which include:

- * Annual Awards
- * Membership
- * National Public Works Week
- * Programs/Education
- * Social
- * Scholarships/Internships
- * Newsletter (Communications)
- * Young Members

If you are interested in learning more about any of these opportunities, contact John Doyel, City of Hanford, JDoyel@cityofhanfordca.com

The State dinner is a great opportunity to network and market your company, the best way to do that is by sponsoring the event. If your company is interested in being a State dinner sponsor, please contact Tom McCurdy, Quad Knopf, TomM@quadknopf.com.

APWA Scholarship Award Recipient Announced



In a letter to Vaughn Melcher, Caty Perez, Director of Development at CSU Fresno, Lyles College of Engineering wrote, *“A university education has the ability to change the course of a person’s life for the better. When you support scholarships at the Lyles College of Engineering, you are affording hard-working students the opportunities they deserve to maximize their potential to make a positive, transforming influence on our community.”*

We are proud to announce that this year’s scholarship recipient is **Ricardo Rodriguez**, a junior at Fresno State working on his bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. Ricardo’s goal is to work in the Robotics field and aspires to “build better machines so that we can have a better world.”

Ideas for the Newsletter

Please let us know if you would like to author an article for our next newsletter. We would like to hear from you. If you have something you would like to see in the newsletter please email Amber Adams, ambera@quadknopf.com. If you are interested in sponsoring the next issue of the newsletter or including your event or job posting in our newsletter, please contact Amber Adams.

APWA/ASCE Joint Lunch Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2015
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Old Spaghetti Factory



Scott Mozier, PE
City of Fresno,
Public Works
Director

Leading a
HSR Discussion

Central Valley Chapter – Kern Branch 27th Annual Gold Classic

Friday, May 15, 2015
Riverlakes Ranch Golf Club

JUNE Central Valley Chapter Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2015
City of Hanford

Speakers: Dennis Mills – Groundwater Sustainability Act & John Doyel – New Water Conservation Guidelines

JULY Central Valley Chapter Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 9, 2015
Toledo's Mexican Restaurant
Speakers: TBD

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Mark Gonzalez, PE
Senior Project Engineer

1322 E. Shaw Ave, Suite 190
Fresno, CA 93710
Office: (559) 492-3016
Cell: (661) 342-0552
Fax: (559) 492-3539
mark.gonzalez@ncmcivil.com

Civil Engineering

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Walt Plachta, PG
Department Leader

7543 N. Ingram Avenue, Suite 107
Fresno, CA 93711
Office: 559.447.3119
Cell: 559.240.0244
Fax: 559.447.3129
Email: wplachta@ceieng.com

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Remember: APWA is your primary resource for public works related knowledge!

