



# CORRIDORS

## NEWSLETTER

### Ohio Chapter of American Public Works Association

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## Message from OAPWA President Fred Stovall



I'm very proud to tell you our Ohio Chapter has been awarded the 2017 Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE). This is the third straight year that we have won the award, but it never gets old. The PACE Award recognizes APWA chapters for contributions made to positively impact their membership, profession, and community. Throughout Ohio, our branches have presented training sessions, held networking meetings, hosted Touch-A-Truck events to promote Public Works and public service careers, and helped our communities recognize National Public Works Week to honor the hard work of our devoted men and women serving on the front lines. Thank you, Shelby Ingle, for leading the Awards Committee and compiling all of those activities into another award-winning submittal.

The Ohio chapter will receive recognition at the annual Awards Ceremony at PWX. I encourage you to attend the Awards event, which starts at 5 p.m. on Monday, August 28 in the Orlando Orange County Convention Center. After all, we need a big cheering section when we call and respond *O-H... I-O!* And, while you are at PWX in Orlando, be sure to join us Tuesday night at the Chapter dinner to celebrate the win. We'll be at B.B. King's Blues Club, just 1.5 miles from the Orange County Convention Center. Register online for dinner at <http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/11797>

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2017 PWX Public Works Expo  
August 27 - 30, 2017  
Orlando, Florida

OHIO PUBLIC WORKS EXPO  
September 20, 2017  
Columbus, OH

## In Memoriam



Ollie T. Shaw, age 62, passed away May 30, 2017 in Cleveland. Ms. Shaw rose through the ranks of the City of Cleveland, beginning as a Payroll Clerk and eventually becoming Commissioner of the Division of Water Pollution Control. She retired in 2011 but returned when Cleveland needed her skills in the Water Division. She had recently achieved Life Member status in APWA.

“Ollie was a big picture thinker and she mentored key members of our staff to build the next generation of leadership,” said Cleveland Water Pollution Control Deputy Commissioner Ramona Lowery. “She was strong at identifying gaps in our organization and moving to fix them. Her leadership style was quiet yet so effective. Ollie made a huge impact on the business culture we appreciate today,” Lowery said.

Shaw was a member of the Mayor’s Efficiency Task Force and was known for finding best practices to replicate in the City of Cleveland, according to Lowery. In that effort, she was instrumental in establishing seven-day customer maintenance services in the department.

Mrs. Shaw is survived by her husband, John L. Shaw, two children and two grandchildren. We extend our condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues.

## Ohio PWX Preview

The Central Ohio Branch is hosting the 2017 Ohio Public Works Expo at the Franklin County Fairgrounds on September 20. The focus will be hands-on demonstrations to give attendees plenty of time to

- Check out the Latest Software and Equipment on the market
- Experience New Advances in Technologies, and
- Gather the Information to make Informed Purchasing Decisions. Lunch is included in the \$35 registration (\$45 after August 23.) For more information and to register: <http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/11891>

## Welcome New Members

The following people have recently become new members of APWA.

Mr. John R. Adams, City of Euclid  
 Mr. Osnium Azali, City of Cleveland-WPC  
 Mr. Alex Cancelliere, City of Cleveland-WPC  
 Mr. Joseph A. Carbonaro, City of Lorain  
 Mr. Jason Clapham, City of Westerville  
 Mr. Patrick S. Clark, CTL Engineering Inc.  
 Mr. Michael W. Dever, Cuyahoga County  
 Mr. Christopher Grant, City of Euclid  
 Ms. Seltenia Jones, City of Cleveland-WPC  
 Mr. Daniel Knecht, City of Euclid  
 Mr. Ryan Lopez, City of Cleveland-WPC  
 Mrs. Ramona Lowery, City of Cleveland-WPC  
 Mr. Edwin Rivera, City of Cleveland-WPC

## Diversity in the Workplace

### Part 2 of 3

By Sonja Simpson, Deputy Director, ODOT District 5

Why is Diversity important? Well, have you ever heard the adage that goes something like: “One of us is not as good/smart as All of us”? That really sums it up. The idea that persons all sourced from one similar life experience and background will come up with different ways to do things has been utterly and totally debunked. People are an assemblage of many things. Education, values, life experiences, and personal desires are some of the many things that guide what we decide. If you or your agency needs to brainstorm your way out of (or into) something, grabbing everyone who has the same or similar background may not net you the best or most innovative solution. You may find consensus on how to move forward, but does that mean that the direction that everyone agrees upon was considered from multiple angles? Or was the situation sized-up only from the one point of view which was already shared by everyone in that group?

Organizations are finding that diversity of the workforce can yield multiple benefits that can increase profits, save money, and/or create efficiencies. Creativity in problem-solving, process improvements, and innovation are just some of the many benefits to diversifying your workforce. Many agencies have begun to look at diversity more as a part of their toolkit for improving operations, and much less a human resources quality of work life metric.

And what about the quality of work life? Well, that can improve too, with increased diversity. If the workforce diversifies and becomes more reflective of the community’s population, the incidents involving discriminatory activities in the workforce may be greatly reduced. Conflicts due to cultural bias or a lack of understanding about



Sonja Simpson, Deputy Director  
ODOT District 5

disabilities, lifestyles, and religions can also be minimized when co-workers can share with one another about their own backgrounds and practices. Sexual harassment and systematic gender-based unequal pay status could be mitigated as well. However, this will only be the case if the workforce diversity is distributed throughout the agency hierarchy, and not fixed to one level or area within the organization. Diversity leadership MATTERS. Diversity IN leadership matters, too.

No matter the agency mission, collaboration from multiple perspectives can bring the most optimal results. Organizations are now understanding that diversity is greater than an artificial goal to attain – it is a necessary component for success and achievement. The APWA Diversity Resource Guide states: *“Diversity is neither an affirmative action nor an equal opportunity program. Through legislating equality we can fail to recognize the spectacular ways in which people are different. APWA is moving beyond affirmative action and is affirming diversity”*. What is your agency doing to affirm diversity? In part 3 of this series we will look at ways to improve upon diversity in your organization.

## Toledo Waterways Initiative Continues to Improve Our Area Waterways

In 2017, Toledo Waterways Initiative (TWI) continues to design and construct large projects that will reduce the untreated sewage entering our area waterways. TWI is the City of Toledo's 18-year federally-mandated program to clean our waterways and reduce sewage overflows through wastewater storage, sewer separation and improved wastewater treatment. The largest project in the program, Ottawa River Storage Facility at Joe E. Brown Park, is currently in its last year of a three-year construction duration. This facility will store combined sewer overflow (CSO) during a large rain event until it can be sent to the Bay View Water Reclamation Plant for treatment and released into the Maumee River. An additional benefit of the Ottawa River Storage Facility Project is that Joe E. Brown Park will be completely restored with a new lighted baseball diamond, tennis courts and a walking/bike path.

In addition, construction work is set to begin for two more TWI projects this August; the Downtown CSO Storage Basin Project and the Swan Creek North Sewer Separation Project.

The Downtown Storage Basin Project is the second largest project in the TWI program. It includes a 17 million gallon underground CSO storage facility, dewatering pumping station and connecting pipes and structures located near Summit and Magnolia Streets. The work also includes modifications to the existing Downtown tunnel system along Superior Street at Orange, Jackson, Adams and Jefferson Streets.



The Swan Creek North Sewer Separation Project will construct new storm sewers in the Junction Avenue neighborhood. This will separate the sanitary sewer flow from the storm water to reduce combined sewer overflows to Swan Creek. This project also involves construction of green infrastructure in several locations.

"The TWI program continues to make great progress and is on track to complete all projects by 2020," said Julie Cousino, Program Administrator for TWI with the City of Toledo's Department of Public Utilities. "We are coordinating with the businesses and residents affected by the projects to minimize the impact of construction."



At the conclusion of the Toledo Waterways Initiative, 80 percent of CSOs, which occur during heavy rain events, will be eliminated from our area waterways.

For more information on the TWI program, please visit [toledowaterwaysinitiative.com](http://toledowaterwaysinitiative.com).

## Undergraduate Scholars Recognition

The Ohio Chapter has several scholarship programs which it supports. Through its Undergraduate Scholarship program, the chapter awarded two scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year. The two recipients attended the state board's July meeting to express their appreciation for the help funding their educations.



Joe Tucker, Scholarship Chairman, Rob Schaffer, Maddie Krell, and Fred Stovall, OAPWA President

**Maddie Krell** is a Toledo native, and a graduate of Saint Ursula Academy. She has an older sister, and two golden retrievers who enjoy taking her for walks. The dogs inspired an early dream to be a veterinarian, but engineering won out. She is a senior at the University of Toledo, and will graduate in December 2017 with a BS Civil Engineering degree and a minor in business. She is interested in transportation and will complete her third co-op with ODOT this fall. As a student at UT, she was Vice President of the ASCE chapter, and also the Concrete Canoe Mix Captain. She was involved with the UT Engineering Council, Liftoff UT, and mentoring incoming freshmen in the Civil Engineering Department. Her ambition is a career in the transportation field.

**Robert Shaffer** is also a senior at the University of Toledo, where he is pursuing his Civil Engineering degree with a minor in business. He plans to graduate in May 2018, and then began studying for an MBA. He was born in Willard, Ohio and had thoughts of a career in medicine before discovering engineering. He is a student member of ASCE and Chi Epsilon and has co-oped with Lathrop Turner in Toledo. Rob wants to work in project management and is building a strong foundation for that path.

The Northwest Ohio Branch awarded its first scholarships earlier this year. The Black Swamp Scholarship is for Engineering Core or Administrative students. The Green Stewardship Award is a scholarship for students engaged in the studies of Environmental impact and Water Quality.



Don Nichols and Michael Melnyk, Green Stewardship Recipient



Amy Wood, NW Branch President, Jared Rediger, Black Swamp Scholarship Recipient, and Don Nichols, Scholarship Chair

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 3	Chainsaw Safety - Csaaw Level 1, Mansfield, OH	<a href="https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/">https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/</a>
August 4	Tree Diagnostic Workshop, Mansfield, OH	<a href="https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/">https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/</a>
August 8	Building Healthy Soils: It's All About Carbon! Stow, OH	
August 18	Miller Coors Trenton Brewery Tour, Trenton, OH	<a href="http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/12302">http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/12302</a>
August 23-24	Ohio Bridge Conference, Columbus	<a href="http://www.ceao.org/">http://www.ceao.org/</a>
August 24	Northwest Ohio Snow Plow Roadeo, Lucas County Engineer	
August 27-30	PWX Orlando, FL	<a href="http://www3.apwa.net/pwx">http://www3.apwa.net/pwx</a>
August 29	CHAPTER DINNER, Orlando, FL	<a href="http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/11797">http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/11797</a>
Sept 4-18	ONLINE VOTING FOR 2018 OHIO CHAPTER BOARD	
Sept 19-21	Farm Science Review, Columbus, OH	<a href="http://fsr.osu.edu/">http://fsr.osu.edu/</a>
Sept 20	2017 OHIO PUBLIC WORKS EXPO, Columbus, OH	<a href="http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/11891">http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/11891</a>
Sept 25-27	2017 Ohio GIS Conference, Columbus, OH	<a href="http://www.ceao.org/">http://www.ceao.org/</a>
Sept 26-29	OAWWA Annual Conference, Toledo, OH	<a href="http://www.oawwa.org">http://www.oawwa.org</a>
Sept 28	Southeast Ohio Tree Care Conference, Athens, OH	
Sept 30 – Oct 4	WEFTEC Technical Exhibition and Conference, Chicago IL	<a href="http://www.weftec.org/about_weftec/default.aspx">http://www.weftec.org/about_weftec/default.aspx</a>
October 10-11	OTEC, Columbus, OH	<a href="http://www.dot.state.oh.us/engineering/OTEC">http://www.dot.state.oh.us/engineering/OTEC</a>
October 11	Snowplow Roadeo with Public Works Officials of Southwest Ohio (PWOSO), Mason, OH	
October 18-19	Superintendents & Mechanics Conference, Deer Creek St. Park	<a href="http://www.ceao.org/">http://www.ceao.org/</a>
October 19	CHAPTER BOARD/ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Central Ohio	
November 1-3	Ohio Municipal League Conference, Columbus, OH	<a href="http://www.omloho.org/">http://www.omloho.org/</a>
November 16	2017 Watershed Workshop, Columbus, OH	<a href="mailto:info@ohiowea.org">info@ohiowea.org</a>

## Illegal Drugs: How to Stay Safe

Dwight Aspacher from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) recently gave a presentation to the Southwest Branch about "What to Do When Encountering Opiates or Meth in the Field." Dwight has been with BCI for 20 years in undercover narcotics operations and also processing clandestine drug labs. In his frank and detailed session, Dwight warned the participants to BE CAREFUL when working in the field. The current popular method to manufacture methamphetamine is now the "one-pot" process. Producers mix the ingredients in a small container, even as small as a soda bottle, and will often leave it in a garbage bag or backpack by the side of the road while it "cooks" for an hour or two. This presents a danger to the unsuspecting PW employee who is mowing the roadside, or supervising trash pick-up. Should the container break, anyone in the area is exposed to highly corrosive chemicals.

The synthetic opioids like fentanyl and carfentanyl mimic the effects of morphine in the human body; fentanyl is 50-100 times more potent and carfentanyl 10,000 times. Even casual skin contact can cause an overdose reaction and it can be lethal at very low exposure rates.



Dwight Aspacher, BCI Agent

To be safe, Dwight advised don't open any containers with unknown substances. If anticipating contact with synthetic opioids, use appropriate personal protection equipment including: nitrile gloves, eye protection, N95 respirator, and cover skin with a chemical barrier. If you find yourself at a potential Clandestine Lab Site, *Do Not* touch anything, *Do Not* sniff anything, and *Do Not* open anything. Call 911 and local law enforcement will contact the DEA/BCI who have the expertise and equipment to safely handle and cleanup the site. Everyone attending appreciated the tips. When we leave for work in the morning, we all want to come back home safe.