



APWA-NC President's Message

Dear APWA-NC Members,

I hope that your new year is off to a great start! It is my privilege to serve as your chapter president. My focus in 2013 will be utilizing chapter resources to give back to the membership. We have seven strong technical divisions and they work hard to provide some of the best networking, training and educational opportunities for you and your employees. In order to keep the membership up to date on chapter activities, the APWA-NC website now includes a Calendar at a Glance. By clicking on the Events Tab and then Calendar at a Glance, you can see a



complete listing of all APWA-NC planned activities. At the same time, send Scott Whalen notification of any and all chapter activities to include on the calendar.

At the chapter level we also offer great opportunities such as the *Construction Inspection Workshop* that is being held on March 11-13 in Raleigh. The *State Chapter Annual Conference and Exposition* will be held June 10-12 in Wilmington and I know that President Elect Russell Byrd is planning an excellent technical program. I encourage you to check the events section of our webpage and take advantage of the tremendous opportunities offered!

The NC Chapter will also be hosting the *2013 North American Snow Conference* on April 7-10 in Charlotte. This is the second largest public works conference and equipment show held in the country, topped only by APWA's Annual International Congress. This is a unique opportunity for our chapter and our state. More than 1,200 attendees are expected along with 350 vendors and exhibitors. I want to say a big thank you to Keith Pugh and Ken Martin who are coordinating our Chapter efforts for this conference.

For those who may not be able register and attend the entire conference, your city or town can become an Agency Sponsor for a minimal cost and obtain equipment show passes for the day. The Agency Sponsorship program allows your organization to send multiple staff members to the Snow Conference at a fraction of the regular cost. Your staff will have a full day access to

the exhibit floor displays, vendors and suppliers without having to register for the full conference. Contact Linda Collier at linda_collier@ncsu.edu for Agency Sponsorship registration forms. The following levels of sponsorship are available:

Levels of Agency Sponsorship:

5 passes for \$100
(\$20.00/each)

15 passes for \$250
(\$16.67/each)

35 passes for \$500
(\$14.29/each)

75 passes for \$1,000
(\$13.33/each)

I hope to see and meet many of you throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me or any members of the Executive Board if we can be of any assistance. Thank you so much for all that you do for public works in North Carolina.

Best,

James B. Martin,
APWA-NC President

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Join APWA-NC at The Show for Snow!

The 53rd Annual North American Snow Conference
April 7 - 10, 2013 |
Charlotte, North Carolina!



That's right, the 2013 APWA North American Snow Conference is coming to Charlotte !! This provides all of us with a unique opportunity to be involved in the premiere snow and ice control conference in North America while it's in our own backyard! This conference is a four day showcase of education programs, technical tours and opportunities to interact and exchange ideas with manufacturers, distributors, consultants, public works professionals and other snow and ice fighters. The exhibit floor is 100,000 square feet filled with everything from innovative equipment and technology to ground-breaking new products and services focused on snow & ice removal and winter operations.

To learn more about the show or to register for the event, visit APWA's website at: www.apwa.net/snow

To learn about exhibiting at the show, contact national APWA directly: Ms. Diana Forbes at (816) 595-5242 or via email at dforbes@apwa.net

To volunteer your time to help the North Carolina host chapter during the show contact: Mr. D. J. Señeres at (336) 434-7344 or via email at: dseneres@archdale-nc.gov

To learn about Agency or Business Sponsorship Opportunities, contact Snow Conference co-chair, Mr. Keith Pugh at (336) 883-3197 or via email at keith.pugh@highpointnc.gov or find the sponsor forms through links at: <http://northcarolina.apwa.net/>

If you want to improve your agency's winter maintenance program, the APWA Snow Conference is the place to be

- Acquire* insight into the latest snow equipment and technology
- Discover* new ways of interpreting weather forecasts
- Explore* other agencies' best practices
- Interpret* the snow and ice alphabet soup
- Learn* how to plan for effective snow and ice removal
- Network* with top snow and ice experts from across North America



Conference committee l to r: Tony Bartlett, D.J. Señeres, Mike Clark, Ken Martin, Keith Pugh, Dale James, James Martin. Not shown, Ray DeGreef, Tom Shabani, Chris Trull.

RETIREE'S CORNER by Stewart Sykes

As the Fall Retiree's Corner article indicated, decisions to grant Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA's) for Local Government retirees are the responsibility of the Retirement System's Board of Trustees. They have been charged by the General Assembly to consider three issues in considering whether to grant a COLA, and if so, how much. Inflation, based on increases of the Consumer Price Index is one while investment gains or losses during the preceding three years is another. The third is the annual actuarial valuation report. The report is a "snapshot" of the actuarial position of the pension plan at a given point in time. In our case, the report is always as of the end of the preceding year, December 31, 2011 for the report presented October 8, 2012 at the Retirement System's Board of Trustees meeting.

This year's actuarial report indicates an investment return on market value of 2.14% while the assumed investment rate of return was 7.25%. While our pension fund is rated in the top 25 for those pension funds valued in excess of \$1 billion, last year's rate of return needed to exceed the assumed value, the amount needed to keep

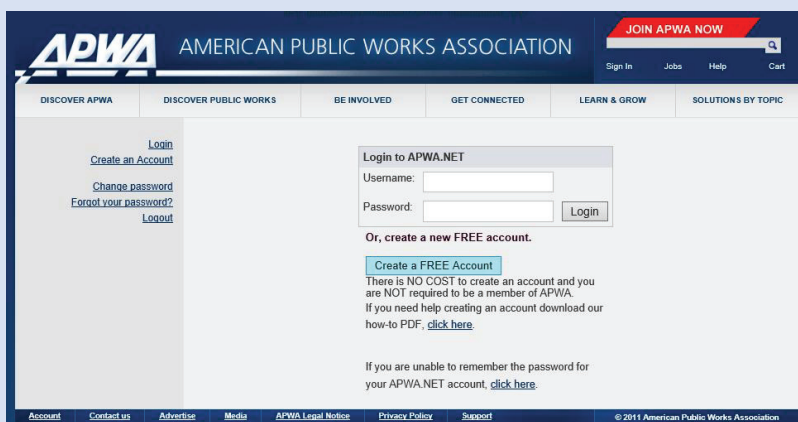
the retirement system solid, in order for the actuary to recommend a COLA. In addition, the payroll for active employees remained flat compared to the assumed 3%. I mention this to remind us that agency contributions are based on a percentage of their payroll. With payroll remaining flat, contributions do not increase. Taking all information into consideration, the actuary has provided a preliminary Annual Required Contribution (ARC) from the contributing agencies back up from the current 6.74% to 7.07% of payroll. Unfortunately, the recommendation does not include funding for a COLA.

Putting the lack of a COLA aside, we must keep the issue of protecting the current Defined Benefit plan in the forefront. While there have been volumes of information made available, even some from the legislative research staff, indicating Defined Benefit plans, like we have now, are better for both the retirees and the employers, some discussion continues at the General Assembly on converting to a hybrid or Defined Contribution plan. With the General Assembly meeting on January 9th to elect officers, adopt rules, and organize the session, and then reconvene on January 30th to

officially start business (according to their Web site), it will be in our best interest to stay informed on any discussion regarding possible retirement system modifications. Changes to our current plan could be as damaging as moving to a different plan. We may need to remind our elected officials there are two sides to every issue. The wise seek both and, for a retirement system, carefully weighs both long term as well as short term impacts.

Lastly, I wanted to remind everyone that there are three classes of retirees. The national office maintains the membership records of the first two classes, Life Members and Retired Members who pay National and Chapter dues. For those who pay dues, you are invoiced from the National Office. The third class of membership is called the Retired Former Member, and the Chapter is maintaining your membership records. Mr. Will Wigal, retiree from the town of Garner, is taking over the awesome job of keeping up with Retired Former Members. If you have questions on this classification of retirees, you can contact either me at ssykes3@nc.rr.com or Will at wwigal@nc.rr.com.

Link for First-time APWA Members



The screenshot shows the APWA (American Public Works Association) website. The header includes the APWA logo and the text "AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION". There are navigation links for "Sign In", "Jobs", "Help", and "Cart". Below the header, there are several menu items: "DISCOVER APWA", "DISCOVER PUBLIC WORKS", "BE INVOLVED", "GET CONNECTED", "LEARN & GROW", and "SOLUTIONS BY TOPIC". The main content area features a "Login to APWA.NET" section with fields for "Username:" and "Password:" and a "Login" button. Below this, there is a section for "Or, create a new FREE account." with a "Create a FREE Account" button. A note states: "There is NO COST to create an account and you are NOT required to be a member of APWA. If you need help creating an account download our how-to PDF, [click here](#)." Another note says: "If you are unable to remember the password for your APWA.NET account, [click here](#)." The footer contains links for "Account", "Contact Us", "Advertise", "Media", "APWA Legal Notice", "Privacy Policy", "Support", and a copyright notice: "© 2011 American Public Works Association".

<http://www2.apwa.net/membersonly/membertools/firstTimeMembers.asp>

NEW Training Topic Resource by Magda Holloway, City of Sanford

With all the conferences, training sessions, and workshops that we have each year, brainstorming on session topics is a constant reoccurrence. Now we have a resource set up on our website to collect and maintain topics for everyone's use.

I've been asking for help from each board to send me your lists of topics that you collect from your surveys, board discussions, etc. to be incorporated in this "TRAINING TOPIC" resource. The list is now located on the NC Chapter website under the Resource tab, then click on Training Topics.

<http://northcarolina.apwa.net/resources/trainingtopics/>

Topics ideas include "Stress in the workplace", "Emergency vehicle training", "Signal light technician training", "The Basics of GIS", "Health & Nutrition in the workplace", and much more. If you have any ideas on topics that you would like to see at an upcoming conference, please forward your ideas to magda.holloway@sanfordnc.net. Thanks in advance for your input.

New 24/7 Online Library Available

By Brad Patterson Chapter Membership Manager

Beginning July 1, all APWA members will see a significant increase in the value of their membership. On that date, APWA members will be able to participate in live Click, Listen & Learn presentations without a registration fee, access previously recorded Click, Listen & Learn programs at no charge, access content from past International Public Works Congress and Exposition sessions at no extra charge, read downloadable versions of select books from the APWA Store at no charge, view select podcasts and track Continuing Education Units and Professional Development Hour credits without an administrative recording fee.



Members will be able to access this content at any time, making scheduling and the approval process no longer necessary.

The APWA board approved a dues increase of \$15 per member (excluding retired and student members) to fund this new benefit. For example, an individual membership will be \$164 (up from \$149 a year) ago, beginning with the July 1, 2012 membership renewal cycle. However, the cost for just ONE Click, Listen & Learn program is \$175 for members and \$300 for non-members. Taking advantage of just one of the resources in the 24/7 online library more than pays for the increase in your individual membership.

The renewal cycle will remain the same. As an example, a member whose membership does not expire until January, will be able to take advantage of the new 24/7 online resource library for six months without incurring any additional cost.

For more information, contact your Chapter leaders or call APWA at 1-800-848-APWA (2792).

SAVE THE DATE !!!

**56th Annual APWA-NC Equipment Show and Conference
June 9-12, 2013
Hilton Riverside, Wilmington, NC**

**For event information and to register:
<http://northcarolina.apwa.net/events/8406/>**

Employment Opportunities

Traffic Engineer (Entry Level), Raleigh, NC

AECOM's Traffic Engineering Group-Southern States is growing again!

Job Location: Raleigh, NC

Please read the detailed job description and apply online at the careers section of the AECOM's website (www.aecom.com); Requisition Number: **82638BR**).

ITS Engineer, Raleigh, NC

AECOM's Traffic Engineering Group-Southern States

Job Location: Raleigh, NC

Please read the detailed job description and apply online at the careers section of the AECOM's website (www.aecom.com); Requisition Number: **82636BR**).

Town of Knightdale Employment Opportunity - Construction Inspector

<http://www.knightdalenc.gov/index.aspx?page=124>

AECOM's Traffic Engineering Group

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Newsletter Submission Dates

By D. J. Señeres, Newsletter Chair

Please mark your calendars with the newsletter deadline of February 15, 2013 for the Spring issue.

Thanks for the past submissions from Division Presidents. Please remember to attach your article text and any supporting photographs. Include below the title of the article who the author of the article is and the organization he or she represents as shown below:

Article for Newsletter

By John Doe or Jane Doe, Name of Organization



The American Public Works Association is dedicated to education in the related areas of public works. We help our members, the public, and policy makers work together to provide the public works services needed to keep our communities operating smoothly and safely in concert with the latest environmental and public health standards. Through the national association and our 63 chapters in the US and Canada, we offer a comprehensive array of services to meet this educational mission.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Thanks to all who have contributed to APWA-NC News.
Please send your news to:

D. J. Señeres
Stormwater Program Manager
City of Archdale
PO Box 14068
Archdale, NC 27263-7068
(336) 434-7344
dseñeres@archdale-nc.gov

APWA-NC 2013 Officers

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APWA-NC 2013 Division Presidents

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