August 20, 2011
Florida Chapter President’s Report

Accolades:

-Congratulations Florida Chapter, this year we were again honored as a recipient of the Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE). Several of us will be on hand to accept the award on behalf of the Florida Chapter. The PACE Award will be presented to our chapter at the APWA Awards Recognition Ceremony, which is held in conjunction with the 2011 International Public Works Congress and Exposition in Denver, Colorado, on Monday, September 19, 2011 at the Colorado Convention Center. Special thanks to Jim Proce, former Awards Committee Chair, and also to those within our Branches that contributed information in support of this effort.

-Congratulations to Mark T. Juliano for being honored with the Harry S. Swearingen Award. This is a APWA National Award, awarded for outstanding chapter achievement and excellence in chapter service. This award was established in 1958 to perpetuate the memory of Harry Seller Swearingen (1900–1957), an active member of the Southern California Chapter, who worked on behalf of APWA and its purposes. This award recognizes outstanding individual achievement through chapter activity and achievement in support of the Association’s strategic plan, goals and objectives, as well as outstanding service to APWA as a public or private sector member at the chapter level.

-Congratulation to Mark V. Massaro, P.E., Director of Public Works, Orange County and Teresa Scott, P.E., Public Works Director, City of Gainesville for being selected as two of the Top Ten Public Works Directors. The honor is among the most coveted and prestigious presented by APWA.

-Congratulations to members of our Florida Chapter who have been called to serve on National Committees at the request of President-Elect, Dianne Linderman: Charles “Chas” Jordan, Diversity Committee, John Dunton, Chairman of the Certified Stormwater Management Committee, and Donald Jacobovitz, Awards Committee.

-Tracy Quintana will represent the Florida Chapter on the Chapter Website Template Redesign Advisory Committee with APWA National.
- Okaloosa County Public Works was recognized for achieving APWA Accreditation. I joined Tommy Brown, APWA Region IV Director, for a presentation to John Hofstad, Public Works Director and Jim Curry, County Administrator during the Okaloosa County Commission Meeting on June 21, 2011

**National News:**

- APWA’s new comprehensive education and credentialing program – the Donald C. Stone Center for Leadership Excellence - was rolled out this year. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for senior members of chapters to become a Leadership Fellow in public works and participate in a mentoring program. Acceptance into this program will carry a professional designation of Public Works Leadership Fellow (PWLF). To qualify, candidates must have at least 20 years of relevant senior leadership experience in public works by September 19, 2011, the date of the APWA Congress in Denver. We have three (3) applicants from the Florida Chapter; Mark Juliano, Rick Keeney, and Doug Layton.

- APWA Board of Directors Election Ballot is available on line through August 26, 2011. You may request a paper ballot from Brian Van Norman at 800-848-2792, ext 5260. As an APWA member you have the opportunity to vote for members of the APWA Board of Directors: APWA President-Elect, At-Large Director in the functional area of Fleet and Facilities Management, and Regions I, II, V, VI and VIII Regional Directors (by APWA members in those respective regions).

- APWA National has initiated the, “We want you Back Campaign”. This campaign offers a reduced membership rate for those whose membership ended November 30, 2001 or earlier.

**Chapter News:**

- Florida Chapter members Chris Evers, Chas Jordan, and Jim Myers participated in the Local Government Summit along with seventeen other associations from throughout the State of Florida. We will learn more details about this Summit from them.

- Daryl C. Walk has been awarded Life Membership by APWA National.

- Presidential Goals:

1) Committee Restructuring:

One of my goals as President is to work on our committee structure. I am doing this in partnership with past and future presidents. Presently, we have 27 committees down from 29 last year. Some of the changes include:

- Some former standing committees now serve as sub-committees; Education and Training now includes Public Works Academies, Public Works Institute, Public Works Accreditation, and Education Outreach; Membership now includes Recruitment and Retention, Records, and a newly developed Young Professionals Group.
- Association Alliance remained but will focus more on strategic alliances with other professional associations. A Governmental Affairs Committee has been established to work on legislative and government issues.

- A Social Media and Technology Committee has been created, and a Technical Committee Task Force has been created which includes the former standing committees of Leadership, Water Resources, and Emergency Management; and will also include other public works disciplines such as Facilities and Grounds, Fleet Services, Engineering and Technology, Solid Waste, Transportation, and Utility and Public Rights-of-Way.

I want to ensure we fully develop our committee descriptions, document committee members, and establish realistic goals and expectations.

Partly, the changes were made to mirror National’s committee structure, but more importantly the goal is to balance responsibility among members, engage more members at the Executive Committee level, foster succession planning, and improve efficiency in conducting the business of the Florida Chapter.

I would also like to propose that our Friday afternoon meetings begin earlier, as we are doing with this one. The goal is to provide more time for discussion and presentations and ending earlier in the day to provide for more networking opportunities among our Executive Committee members and our sponsors. I know this may create a travel issue for some, so I want to ensure we have a consensus on this. Please provide your input and guidance here.

At the end of my term we will evaluate these changes. I want your honest comments, suggestions, and recommendations on what works and what doesn’t, so moving forward we can make adjustments that not only best serve this Executive Committee, but also our membership.

2) Develop a District Representative Roundtable:

This could be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Trade Show, and would provide a forum for mentoring and discussion among those tasked as liaisons between our Chapter and our Branches.

3) Explore the possibility of providing Branch Leader Training (modeled after the Chapter Leadership Training National provides each year):

This could be held during a quarterly Executive Committee meeting. Brian Van Norman, Chapter Relations, with APWA National has offered to assist us in developing this.

4) Membership:

- Membership remains one of our most critical challenges. I am proud to announce that APWA National is adding a position that will work with Chapters exclusively on Membership Recruitment and Retention. Brian Van Norman anticipates having the position filled in time for the International Congress, in Denver. I have already requested Brian put our November 2011 meeting date on their calendar.
Lastly, I want to challenge each of you, as I did during the Annual Meeting and Trade Show, go back to your Branches and challenge each member to bring a guest to your next Branch meeting. We need to promote and share the benefits of APWA!

In closing, I also want to thank each of you for your time and commitment. The service you give to our association is valuable and appreciated! Thank you for all you do to make our Florida Chapter the best it can be!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Kirby
Florida Chapter President