November 5, 2011

Florida Chapter President’s Report

Accolades:

-The Florida Chapter was honored with six (6) members selected as 2011 Inaugural Public Works Leadership Fellows during the 2011 APWA International Congress and Exposition in Denver, Colorado. Please join me in congratulating Mark Juliano, Rick Keeney, George Recktenwald, Teresa Scott, Brian Usher, and Jeff Wilson! This talented and distinguished group will serve as mentors to other APWA members in the business of Public Works.

-The Florida Chapter was honored with seven (7) national awards, two (2) graduates from the Emerging Leaders Academy, one (1) Accredited Agency, one (1) Re-Accredited Agency during the 2011 APWA Awards and Recognition Ceremony in Denver, Colorado. Please join me in congratulating Ron Ribaric, Professional Manager of the Year Public Works Emergency Management; Mark Juliano, Harry S. Swearingen Award for Outstanding Chapter Achievement and Excellence in Chapter Service; Jim Proce, Community Involvement Award; Florida Chapter 50th Anniversary History Book and DVD, Exceptional Performance Award Chapter Journalism; Mark Massaro, Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year; Teresa Scott, Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year; Florida Chapter, Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE); Deborah Leistner, Class of 2011 Emerging Leaders Academy; Amanda Millirons, Class of 2011 Emerging Leaders Academy; Okaloosa County Public Works, 2011 Accreditation; and City of Miami Beach, 2011 Re-Accreditation!

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 members to become a Leadership Fellow in public works and participate in a mentoring program. Presently, the program is seeking 94 mentees who would be paired with a public works Leadership Fellow mentor. If you, or someone you know, are interested in working with a Leadership Fellow mentor, please contact Mabel Tinjaca at mtinjaca@apwa.net. Application deadline is November 7, 2011.
-The APWA International Affairs Committee is pleased to announce the call for applicants for the 2012 Jennings Randolph International Fellowship Program for study tours in Mexico and New Zealand. It is the intent of the International Affairs Committee (IAC) to award fellowships each year for APWA members to travel to countries with which APWA has formal international partnerships with other public works associations. Applications are now being accepted for 2012 for; ICLEI-Mexico – generally one national conference and two-three regional conferences during the year and the Association of Local Government Engineering New Zealand Incorporated (INGENIUM – New Zealand) – June 2012.

To be eligible for 2012 fellowships, applications must be received at APWA headquarters by midnight on November 15, 2011. The successful applicant(s) will be notified by the end of January 2012. For information regarding this program, please contact Gail Clark at 202-218-6732 or gclark@apwa.net.

-Kay Caldwell, APWA National has requested all chapters and branches enter all of their events, through 6/30/2012, into our chapter website. The updated information assists her in ensuring all of the chapter and branch events are accounted for and adequately insured.

-Brian Usher, the Public Works Director for the City of Largo, was elected to the APWA Board of Directors as the At-Large Director for Fleet and Facilities.

-Don Jacobavitz, the Florida Chapter Awards Committee Chairman, has been appointed as the National Awards Chairman.

Chapter News:

-Florida Chapter Members who attended 2011 APWA International Congress and Exposition in Denver, Colorado enjoyed a Colorado Rockies game during our Florida Chapter Dinner event. I would like to thank Tim Mooney, Florida Chapter Dinner Committee Chair for his time and effort in organizing this event, especially during a very busy storm season! I would also like to recognize and thank our event sponsors! AshBritt, Inc., Tim Mooney; VHB, Matt La Chance; CH2MHIll, Grega St. John; Cutler Repaving, Inc., Bob Hall; CrowderGulf, Amber Ramsey; Menzi USA, Paul Meadows; and HDR I CCC, Gary Downing!

-Jim Myers has been appointed as our representative to serve on the Florida Local Government Coalition steering committee as part of his role as serving as the Association Alliance Committee Chair for the Florida Chapter.

Committee Updates:

I have been working closely with our Membership and Social Media Committees. Now my focus will transition to the Education and Training Committee, which includes Public Works
Academies, Public Works Institute, Public Works Accreditation, and Education Outreach; and the Technical Committee Task Force, which includes the former standing committees of Leadership, Water Resources, and Emergency Management; and 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.

Ron Ribaric, our Immediate Past President, has agreed to chair a committee to perform an in-depth review of our show format and come back to the Executive Committee with some options to consider. There has been past discussions in the past about shortening the show, rearranging some of the events, or to consider rotating between a desktop and exhibit hall format each year. We want to maintain a quality show, but a full week can be expensive and it can be difficult to be away from work that long, especially with many of our member agencies experiencing shrinking budgets and shrinking staff.

I want to continue to ensure we fully develop our committee descriptions, document committee members, and establish realistic goals and expectations for our committees. I will continue to work with the Committee Chairs to have this completed by our January 2012 meeting.

REMINDER: Please send Don Jacobavitz information from your branches for the PACE Award submittal. The PACE Award recognizes chapters for contributions made, and for their dedicated efforts, in developing programs and services that result in a positive impact for APWA members, public works professionals, and their communities.

In closing, I am pleased welcome Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions Inc., Stephan Romanchak as regular sponsor for our Florida Chapter Executive Committee meetings! Special thanks to President-Elect, Chris Evers for bringing them on board.

Also, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to 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