Chairman’s Message

I feel privileged to have been selected to serve as the Chairman of the executive board of the APWA Northeast Florida Branch. I want to thank our past chair, Norm Anderson for giving me the leadership of a well ran branch. Looking forward to next year, our business will likely continue to be challenged by hard economic conditions. We will continue to be called upon to do more with less, and providing the right information to our members will be one of our key goals next year. I have outlined the following three items that your board will work on:

1. Meeting Improvement
   a. Improve awareness of our meetings through advertising with other professional associations, such as FWEA and ASHE.
   b. Engage members from the other counties (Putnam, Nassau, Clay, St. Johns, Flagler and Baker) and promote more participation in the branch.
   c. Seek input from members as to topics that need to be presented at our meetings.

2. Membership
   a. Recognize new members at meetings and pair them with board members.
   b. Encourage member participation in our board meetings.

3. Education Funding
   a. Continue funding 5 scholarships per year at $1,000.

My overall goal is to increase the value of your membership, and improve on our best offering: our meetings. This in turn, I believe, will increase your participation in and appreciation of the association.

Our board of directors have entrusted me with a strong organization, and I look to increasing its value to you. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and serving as your Chairman. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have ideas as to how we can improve the services that we provide. I can be reached at victorpr@cdm.com or (904) 731-7109.

Patrick R. Victor, P.E., D.WRE
Congratulations to the 2009 APWA scholarship recipients! Each recipient received $1000 towards their education in the Public Works field!

Mark Your Calendars for the Upcoming APWA Luncheon
Thursday, June 25, 2009

Speaker: Irvin M. Weinstein
Roger Towers, P.A.
Irvin is a shareholder with the Jacksonville firm of Rogers Towers. He attended Emory University and graduated from the University of Florida with a BSBA with high honors. He received his JD degree from Columbia University School of Law where he served as a member of the board of editors of the Columbia Law Review. He’s been with Rogers Towers since 1975 and has practiced in the area of public finance since 1978.

Topic: Tax-exempt finance
Where: River City Brewery
835 Museum Circle
Time: 11:30 a.m. - Registration
12:00 p.m. - Lunch
12:30 p.m. - Speaker
Cost: $18
R.S.V.P: Email Jamie Brooks at jamieb@coj.net or 255-8747 by Tuesday 6/23/09

Not Pictured: Andres Boral, Florida Gulf Coast University/Civil Engineering
Marlene Russell, University of Phoenix/Business Management
Thomas Courtney, Florida A&M University/Architecture-Public Facilities

Thank you to our Luncheon Sponsor: CDM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Chairman, Patrick Victor, P.E., (904) 731-7109, victorpt@cdm.com
Vice Chairman, Greg Perrine, JEA, (904) 665-7952, perrgl@jea.com
Secretary, David K. Kemp, P.E., Ayres Associates, (904) 260-6288, KempD@AyresAssociates.com
District Representative, Lynn A. Westbrook, P.E., City of Jacksonville, (904) 998-5391, lynw@coj.net
Treasurer, Sherry Hall, Office of the Mayor, (904) 630-7581, sherryh@coj.net
Past Chairman, Norman Anderson, AECOM, (904) 279-7279, norman.anderson@aecom.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Audit, George Knecht, gknecht@comcast.net, (904) 268-3577
Awards, Don Jacobovitz, don.jacobovitz@putnam-fl.com, (386) 329-0346
Golf Tournament, Linnie Russell, City of Jacksonville, (904) 387-8822, lrusell@coj.net
Membership, John McDowell, HMTB, (904) 636-6755, jmcdownell@kingengineering.com
Nominating, Lynn A. Westbrook, P.E., City of Jacksonville, (904) 998-5391, lynw@coj.net
Newsletter, Deborah L. Ballard, Water and Sewer Expansion Authority, (904) 663-7024, balldl@jea.com
Scholarship, David K. Kemp, P.E., Ayres Associates, (904) 260-6288, KempD@AyresAssociates.com
Florida Chapter’s Annual Meeting & Trade Show
in West Palm Beach

Pictured are past State Chapter Presidents: (L to R)
Doug Layton, AECOM in Jacksonville, Mark Juliano,
Director of Public Works for South Daytona and
Rick Keeney, Director of Public Works for Punta
Gorda

Jerry Way-Director, Department of Transportation
for Sacramento, CA

Conference Exhibit Floor

Jacksonville contractor, J. B. Coxwell’s Disaster Recovery
Command Center

Equipment Rodeo Vacuum - Congrats to the Jacksonville employees who won the rodeo!
2009-2010 APWA Emerging Leaders Academy – Call for Applications

Starting Wednesday, July 1, APWA will begin accepting applications for its next class of the Emerging Leaders Academy. The year-long program provides ongoing leadership and management training within the context of public works, encourages professional growth through a strong network of peers, and offers an in-depth introduction to APWA at the national, chapter, and branch level. Qualified candidates are those public works professionals who have been working in the field for seven years or less, and have demonstrated an interest in advancing their career within the profession.

The program's format includes monthly conference calls, participation in APWA's quarterly Online Mentoring calls, a two-day leadership retreat in Kansas City, MO, attendance at the 2010 APWA Congress in Boston, MA, and timely completion of class assignments and projects. Applicants must secure a financial commitment from their designated sponsor to cover all expenses (registration fee, travel, accommodations, meals) associated with attendance at the 2010 APWA Congress.

The deadline for receipt of an application form and supporting materials (available at www.apwa.net/emergingleaders) via mail is Monday, August 10, 2009.

If you have any questions about the Emerging Leaders Academy, please contact Brian Sullivan at (800) 848-2792, ext. 5263 or bsullivan@apwa.net.

APWA Testifies Before Congress on Levee Safety During National Public Works Week

On May 19, APWA member Andy Haney, Director of Public Works, City of Ottawa, Kansas, testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee’s Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. The subcommittee met to discuss the National Committee on Levee Safety's (NCLS) recommendations on how to create and implement the National Levee Safety Program. As a representative of the Review Team for the NCLS, Haney spoke on behalf of APWA and provided input on the proposed strategic plan for the National Levee Safety Program.

Haney focused on the economic impact that the National Levee Safety Program will have on local governments and its taxpayers who may not be receiving the necessary attention that is warranted. Specifically, APWA’s recommendations concerning the NCLS report addressed the following: publicizing the anticipated costs to property owners for insuring properties against flood damage; modifying the threshold of lives at risk as a determinant of federal financial aid availability; placing a moratorium on the schedule relating to Provisional Accreditation Letters; charging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with overseeing the National Levee Safety Program; and reaching out to local elected officials organizations such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities and National Association of Counties so that they might also share their perspective.

In her opening remarks at the hearing, Subcommittee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX, 30) stated that “today is the first step on how we address flood risk.” It is anticipated that there will be additional congressional hearings as this issue moves forward and will continue to be a hot topic for the 111th Congress. Currently, lawmakers and stakeholders are waiting for the NCLS report to be released from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). It is expected that the report will be released from OMB this spring or early summer, and legislation to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program will also emerge shortly thereafter.

To view the webcast of the hearing, visit the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment’s webpage: http://transportation.house.gov.