I would like to congratulate members of the Southwest Florida Branch for bringing home 7 separate awards this year from the APWA Florida Chapter 2012 Awards Program.

Public Works Project of the Year
- Structures Category, Less than $5 Million – Harborwalk East Hardscape Project (City of Punta Gorda)
- Transportation Category, $5 Million to less than $25 Million – Coral Creek Bridge Replacement (Charlotte County)
- Transportation Category, $25 Million to less than $75 Million – Del Prado Blvd. (City of Cape Coral)
- Florida Chapter Contractor of the Year - Stormwater Category – DM Construction Corp. for San Rocco Drainage Improvements in the City of Punta Gorda
- The Presidential Award for Branch Excellence - SW FL Branch
- The President’s Award for Outstanding Service and Assistance - Tracy Quintana, City of Punta Gorda & SW FL Branch Member of the Year - Robert Garland

I look forward to working with each of you in the upcoming year and would like to encourage you to volunteer for various committee assignments and to take an active role in participating in our Branch.

One of the primary goals I have established this year is to conduct joint meetings with nearby branches to coordinate regional public works projects that will benefit our communities. Our first joint meeting was held on June 28th at 11:30 am at Laishley’s Crab House in Punta Gorda. Our guest speaker was Secretary Bill Hattaway, FDOT – District 1 regarding the work program. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet our new APWA Florida Chapter President, Chris Evers.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 Secretary Billy Hattaway, left, chats with members of the Southwest Florida and Suncoast branches of the American Public Works Association at a joint meeting of the two branches held on June 28 in Punta Gorda. The meeting was a great success with close to 90 members in attendance.

Implementation of the FDOT 2060 Transportation Plan and the FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad’s Vision for the 21st Century, which includes many projects within District 1, were among the topics of discussion along with the new FDOT procurement procedure that will include adjusted scoring.

Limited Availability for Guest Speakers
If you have a project you want to highlight, hurry and sign up now. Only three openings are available. E-mail Tracy Quintana at TQuintana@ci.punta-gorda.fl.us if you are interested.
Meet Jim Burch, Member-At-Large, Man About Town...

Jim now serves as the Vice President of Business Development for Wright Construction Group.

Between the current position and operating a business, Jim was a City Council member and Mayor of Cape Coral, Florida. That experience during the “Great Recession of 2007-2009” yielded accomplishments beyond expectation and an opportunity to interact with local, state and national media as well as leadership in those regions to attempt to resolve the many issues and problems that were created by this catastrophic economic downturn. The City of Cape Coral is fiscally sound and poised for future growth and prosperity as a result.

Jim has been involved in Land Surveying for more than 35 years and owned and operated a Survey business, Burch Surveying and Mapping.

Jim has been involved in a close working relationship with the State of Florida Division of State Lands (DSL), Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) over the course of the last 15 years. The special program of land acquisition by the State of Florida for the preservation of recreational lands and sensitive habitats has allowed him to prepare ownership maps, appraisal maps, and acquisition boundary surveys for the purpose of these acquisitions. In addition, he has been asked to review these same products as prepared by other survey firms for compliance with the State acquisition standards. This experience has allowed Jim to work closely with State government and the general public which has prepared him to interact with sensitive issues and situations. Many thousands of acres have been surveyed or reviewed by Jim over the course of these past 19 years.

Total Years of Experience: 35 years

With Wright since 2010

Education

- Bachelor of Science (BS), English and Secondary Education, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond Virginia, 1976
- Virginia Land Surveyors Apprenticeship Program (2 years)
- California Land Surveyors Apprenticeship Program (4 years)

Leadership Positions

Jim has served in many leadership positions within our communities. From economic development organizations to Metropolitan Planning Organizations to participation on the statewide Mayor’s Council, Jim brings an unprecedented amount of leadership experience and knowledge of local issues to our group.

APWA Southwest Florida Branch
2012-2013 Officers

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Click, Listen & Learn now free for members

Slight increase in dues covers additional costs

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 lead-

Daniels Parkway Clean Up

Join the crew for a dirty pleasure as we give back to the community through service. Check the calendar each month for in-service days clearing garbage from the chapter’s adopted stretch of roadway on Daniels Parkway.

The group gathers at 8 am. at the Church of the Cross, 13500 Freshman Lane Fort Myers, FL 33912. Coffee and doughnuts are provided.

Upcoming dates include:

August 11, 2012
October 13, 2012
December 15, 2012

“I can assure you, public service is a stimulating, proud and lively enterprise. It is not just a way of life, it is a way to live fully.”

Lee H. Hamilton
Scholarship winners

Recipients of awards from the Southwest Florida branch for the 2012 Scholarship Program of the American Public Works Association were recognized at the branch meeting on June 7. From 14 applications, five awards of $500 each were made to well deserving future public works leaders.

Pictured with our own Nicole Monahan, center, are from left Matthew Keeney (yes, Rick’s son), Nicholas Chrone who will be attending UF in the fall and planning to major in Engineering, Nicole, Andres Boral who has won multiple scholarships attending FGCU and pursuing a graduate degree in General Management, already has a BS in Civil Engineering and Joel Blikstad who is attending Florida Gulf Coast University. Not pictured is Dewayne Wallace who is attending FGCU pursuing a BS in Environmental Engineering.

State President Chris Evers addresses joint meeting

American Public Works Association (APWA) Florida Chapter President Chris Evers shared the four goals he will highlight for the Florida Chapter on June 28.

Evers, a member of the Suncoast branch, spoke to the gathered membership of the Southwest Florida and Suncoast branches at the joint meeting held at the Laishley Crab House. The four things the state chapter will focus on for the coming year are Marketing, Education, Leadership and Branding.

Marketing — Introducing APWA to new members will be a major focus as membership statewide has fallen from a high of 1,750 to 1,280 now. Florida, which has traditionally ranked first, has fallen to fourth in membership, and we are working to reclaim that top spot. The good news? Florida is ranked first in new member recruiting for the current quarter, with 60 new memberships.

Education — Increasing public awareness of not only the APWA, but also about what it means to choose a life in public service is among the top priorities for the Florida Chapter in the coming year. Providing scholarships to the youth pursuing a career in public works is just one facet of this goal.

Leadership — The Florida Chapter of APWA has traditionally provided leadership to the national group. Winner of 19 PACE Awards in a row, we are working on our 20th. Members are urged to advocate and lobby for those issues that are important to Public Works Professionals as you find opportunities to speak with elected officials.

Branding — Who we are and what we do — The fourth focus for the Florida Chapter will be to establish an easily recognizable identity for APWA chapters and members.

The joint meeting of the Southwest Florida and Suncoast branches was held on June 28 at the Laishley Crab House. Close to 90 members of the two groups enjoyed fellowship and lunch while listening to FDOT District 1 Secretary Billy Hattaway and Florida President Chris Evers. To see Secretary Hattaway’s presentation in full, please visit the Southwest Florida APWA website at www.apwaflorida.com
Charlotte County pets need your help

Ottis, the cat, and Gibson, a Labrador Retriever mix, are just two of the pets asking to be adopted at the Charlotte County Animal Welfare League. Each month, the Southwest Florida branch will provide donations for homeless pets in one of our counties. Lee County received donations last month, and is still in need of supplies for kittens including kitten food and litter.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:
- Wet Dog and Puppy Food
- Kitten Food
- Bleach

COMING EVENTS:
- June is Adopt-A-Cat Month — Get a chance to win with each adoption — You could get a cat blanket or a bag of food or even adopt one get the second kitty at half price!
- July 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. is the Bow-Wow, Meow-Meow Bake Sale at the facility. Buy human desserts and help the pets.

EMPLOYMENT news

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER. Sanibel, FL has a unique job opportunity for a highly motivated, proactive and experienced leader to administer all public works functions for the City and serve as the City Engineer. The mission of the Public Works Department is to economically provide safe, well-maintained and clean roads, shared use paths, parks, public buildings and vehicles, while improving surface water quality and protecting the natural environment, to provide reliable, high quality wastewater collection, treatment, and reclaimed water services in a cost effective manner to residential and commercial customers at the most prudent and most efficient cost and to manage contractual refuse collection, recycling and vegetative waste collection. The Director is responsible for the day-to-day public works operations but also the long-term infrastructure maintenance and capital works planning. Responsibilities include departmental operations; customer service and communications, budget management and preparation; oversight of contractual operations; capital improvement planning and project completion. Requires a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering or a closely related discipline from an accredited college or university and a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) in the State of Florida or in another state with the ability to acquire such certification within 6 months of employment. Applicant is required to demonstrate high proficiency in AutoCAD. A minimum of six years of progressively responsible related experience and three years of supervisory or management experience is required, primarily in a leadership capacity in a municipal public works environment. The City of Sanibel offers a salary range of $84,866 to $140,000 for a new hire and pay will be established commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate. The successful candidate will be required to participate in the City’s Defined Contribution 401(a) Plan and the Retirement Health Savings Plan. Closing date upon fill. Mail or fax cover letter, a City of Sanibel Application for Employment and resume with salary history to City of Sanibel, Administrative Services Director, 800 Dunlop Road, Sanibel, FL 33957, Fax (239) 472-3065. For more information concerning the duties and requirements for this position, please visit the City website, www.mysanibel.com/jobs. EOE
APWA Applauds Agreement on Two-Year Transportation Bill

Calling for Quick Congressional Approval

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Public Works Association (APWA) commended House and Senate conferees for reaching a final agreement on a long-overdue federal surface transportation bill, clearing the way for the Senate and House of Representatives to vote final approval before the bill is presented to the President for his signature. APWA is calling for swift final approval of MAP-21, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, which reauthorizes federal highway, transit and safety programs at current levels of funding through September 2014.

“APWA thanks Sen. Barbara Boxer and Rep. John Mica for their leadership in finalizing MAP-21, a bill to reauthorize our surface transportation programs,” said APWA Executive Director Peter B. King. “MAP-21 is critically important to local communities and their economies. It will create and sustain jobs, provide stable funding for state and local transportation programs, and it directs needed investment toward modernizing, improving, and repairing our roads, bridges and public transportation systems,” King said.

“MAP-21 also contains needed reforms aimed at cutting the amount of time it takes to complete transportation projects, saving money and making it possible for project benefits to be achieved sooner, such as improved safety and reduced travel times,” said King. “The legislation replaces the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which expired September 2009.

Mark your calendars now for the 2013 Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Jacksonville, Florida during the fourth week of April, 2013!

For information on exhibiting, speaking, or otherwise participating in the 2013 Annual Meeting and Trade Show in Jacksonville, Florida, please contact Corporate Events at: info@corporateevents-tampabay.com

Did you know?

- APWA was founded as an organization in 1937?
- The history of the Florida Chapter is quite extensive. A compilation of documents dating from 1960 to 1989 can be located and viewed on the Florida Chapter website under RESOURCES/DOCUMENTS/History of APWA FL Chapter 1960-1989.
- Florida Chapter Mission Statement: To be an active, unified Public Works organization, providing leadership, education, training, direction, and support on Public Works issues to its members, elected officials, and the public, everyday, as well as during times of natural disaster.

We’re on the Web!
Like us on Facebook ...
Look for APWA Southwest Florida Branch

First to Arrive
Last to Leave