CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

It has been an exciting year so far and I am pleased the SW FL Branch continues to further the goals of the FL Chapter.

Over the next few months there are exciting events I hope each of you can attend and participate.

The FL Chapter President Chris Evers kicked off the Public Works Directors’ Roundtable at this year’s Annual Trade Show. The Southwest Florida Branch has scheduled its own Public Works Directors’ Roundtable for October 31st at the FDOT SWIFT Center in Ft. Myers. More than 10 Directors will attend this Roundtable and Jeff Wilson will facilitate the discussion with the Directors from our region.

One of the primary goals I established this year was to conduct joint meetings with nearby branches to coordinate regional public works projects that will benefit our communities. The first joint meeting was held on June 28th at Laishley Crab House in Punta Gorda with the Suncoast Branch. The guest speaker was Secretary Bill Hataway, FDOT – District 1 regarding the work program. More than 80 people attended this successful event. FL Chapter President Chris Evers also attended the event; it was an exciting time for all.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new members that have joined this past quarter; please give me a call or shoot me an e-mail if you have any questions about our Branch activities or about APWA. I can be reached at 239-898-1784 or daviessah@cdmsmith.com.

Membership Competition Under Way for Individuals, Branch

The Florida Chapter of APWA has implemented a new individual membership competition and a new way to calculate the quarterly branch membership winners.

Individuals who sign up a new member are entered into a quarterly drawing to receive an exclusive prize such as an I-Pad. The more members you sign up, the greater your chance to win.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION RULES

You must send membership information to the prospective member and copy Amy Blaida at amy.blaida@rsandh.com and Matt LaChance at mlachance@vhb.com. Then you must follow up with Amy and Matt via e-mail when the new member has joined APWA.

BRANCH COMPETITION

Since August, the winner of the quarterly branch membership competition is being calculated in a different way. Rather than counting the actual number of new members, winners will be chosen on the percentage of new members added that quarter.

A plaque and a monetary award of $200 will be distributed to the winning branch each quarter.
Jim Burch Shares His Thoughts on Regionalism

During my campaign in 2007 for Cape Coral City Council, I stated that during the next two years of my term, we would likely face the most difficult economic times that most of us had ever seen and may ever see. Neither I nor anybody else could have ever imagined the depth of difficulty that would ensue. And even though I spoke of the many tough choices that we would face, I was also convinced that hard times can bring communities together. The more I spoke with people around the region, the more I realized we all had the same basic “wants and needs” and that one person may unknowingly affect another. As I grow older, I see my world shrinking every day and the more I see the interconnectivity of our communities and how we all are impacted by one another, the more I believe in the time tested phrase: “It’s a small world”.

As the economy worsened, I realized that as a Council member and subsequent Mayor of the great city of Cape Coral, my role as a positive ambassador could be the most important responsibility that I had. Along with instituting austerity measures to maintain our core services and also reacting to shrinking revenues, I reached out to as many people locally, statewide and nationwide as I could to educate them on our unique characteristics along with the educated work force, abundance of affordable housing and diversity of life styles. In my great City, with over 400 miles of canals that lead to the Gulf of Mexico, water recreation is obviously an amenity that stands out and that marketability was always in the fore front of my mind. During this time I also came to understand that our city was not the only lifestyle worthy of investigation by those that were interested in the overall quality of life in Southwest Florida. After spending time on many boards and commissions that brought the leadership from Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties together, I realized that the importance of mutual cooperation and understanding of each other’s needs was essential to the future growth and prosperity of our region. I also understood that the people that supported many of our local branches of various boards, commissions and organizations were an essential component to resurrecting our region as a unified economic engine hitting on all cylinders. At the end of my term, I switched gears from political organizations to professional organizations and, thanks to the support of the firm that I am employed by, (Wright Construction Group), I was able to focus on several groups with the Leadership Hendry/Glades (LHG) and American Public Works Association (APWA) organizations at the top of my list. Both have diverse memberships ranging from professionals in the private sector, public employees that have worked for most of their life to sustain the public safety, health and welfare and leaders that develop the policies that are implemented by those public employees. The challenge is to educate one organization about the other so that we may share our resources and create true regional partnerships and success. With that diversity of membership in both groups I feel they had a good opportunity to interact and bring people from the entire SW Florida region together.

Continued on Page 8
Grab your clubs and come join us for our annual Southwest Florida Branch APWA Ben C. Pratt Scholarship Golf Tournament

November 9, 2012
12:30 Shotgun Scramble

- Eagle Ridge Golf Club, 14589 Eagle Ridge Drive, Fort Myers
- 11:30 Registration Starts
- $75 Per Person – includes green fees, cart, beverage tickets and BBQ dinner by Fully Involved BBQ
- Sponsors Needed
  - Hole Sponsors: $150 each – includes (2) 18” x 24” color signs
  - Tee/Green Sponsors: $75 each – includes (1) 18” x 24” color sign
  - Raffle Items, Goodie Bag Items, Drink Sponsorships needed
- Raffle, Tournament Games and the Yellow Ball Requirement
- Registration Deadline November 2nd
- Contact Nicole Monahan
  - 239.985.1211
  - nicolemonahan@hmeng.com

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Please make checks payable to: APWA Southwest Florida Branch
Mail registration forms and checks to: Nicole Monahan, Hole Montes, 6200 Whiskey Creek Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33919
Charlotte Harbor NEP Looking for Environmental Restoration Projects

The Charlotte Harbor, Sarasota Bay and the Tampa Bay National Estuary Programs (NEP) are assisting with coordination of a Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan and have extended the deadline for project submittals until November 1. The Regional Plan will develop a prioritized list of environmental projects that would restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, water quality and coastal wetlands of Southwest Florida, consistent with the federally-approved actions in the NEPs’ Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs), and the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Strategic Plan goals. The Restoration Task Force identified four overarching goals:

- Restore and Conserve Habitat
- Restore Water Quality
- Replenish and Protect Coastal and Marine Resources
- Enhance Community Resilience

This is an opportunity to have your environmental projects included. Environmental project proposal forms for inclusion in the Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan are due no later than November 1, 2012 to Lisa Beever at the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program by e-mail at lbeever@swfrpc.org.

Proposal form fields which must be filled out:

- Contact information
- Date of submittal
- Name of project
- Organization and rank
- Project description
- Project location
- Project cost (estimated)
- Dollars needed
- Status of project design and permitting
- What year could construction feasibly begin

You are asked to complete as many of the other fields as possible—the more complete a proposal is, the easier it will be to apply ranking criteria after they have been developed and approved by the three NEP Policy Boards later this fall. Please submit all proposals in Microsoft Word format.

Guidelines for submitting priority environmental projects, a blank submittal form (please use a separate form for each project submitted) and an example completed form are available by e-mail from Lisa Beever at the e-mail address above.

APWA Advocates Seeks Volunteers in Florida for Congressional Outreach and Education Program

Public works needs your help! Last November, APWA launched APWA Advocates, a growing network of your APWA colleagues who are taking an active role promoting APWA’s legislative priorities to Congress through outreach and education. To maximize the impact of APWA Advocates, we need at least one APWA Advocate for each U.S. Congressional District.

In Florida, we have 18 congressional districts that don’t have an APWA member who has volunteered to be an Advocate. As an Advocate, you will respond to APWA alerts to contact Congressional representatives at key moments to support APWA advocacy positions, receive timely updates on issues and get access to the latest information on proposed regulations and legislation and their impact.

If you live or work in any of the districts on the list at the end of this message, please sign up today! If you don’t know which district you’re in, click here and enter your address to find out.

You can join APWA Advocates in two easy ways. You can contact Tracy Okoroke at apwaadvocates@apwa.net or 202-218-6702 and give her your name, zip code, and e-mail address. Or, you can visit the APWA Advocates website at http://www.apwa.net/be_involved/APWA-Advocates to sign up.

We need your help to ensure the voice of public works is heard. Advocacy work is easy because APWA provides you with all the resources you need to be an effective advocate. Choose to make a difference and join today. Sincerely,

Peter B. King, Executive Director

Florida Districts in Need
1st District; Rep. Jeff Miller [R]
2nd District; Rep. Steve Southerland [R]
3rd District; Rep. Corrine Brown [D]
4th District; Rep. Ander Crenshaw [R]
5th District; Rep. Richard Nugent [R]
7th District; Rep. John Mica [R]
9th District; Rep. Gus Bilirakis [R]
11th District; Rep. Kathy Castor [D]
12th District; Rep. Dennis Ross [R]
13th District; Rep. Vern Buchanan [R]
14th District; Rep. Connie Mack [R]
16th District; Rep. Thomas Rooney [R]
17th District; Rep. Frederica Wilson [D]
19th District; Rep. Ted Deutch [D]
20th District; Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz [D]
23rd District; Rep. Alcee Hastings [D]
24th District; Rep. Sandy Adams [R]
25th District; Rep. David Rivera [R]
Lee County Animal Control wins Harvard “Bright Idea” Award

Lee County Domestic Animal Services has been selected as a recipient of the Harvard “Bright Ideas” Award for its Animal Euthanasia Reduction Program. The Bright Ideas Awards Program shines a light on noteworthy and promising government programs and practices so that government leaders, public servants, and other individuals can adopt similar initiatives in their communities.

LCDAS was one of 111 recipients selected to receive this prestigious award out of over 600 entries nationwide. The agency was chosen because of its proactive programs aimed at reducing taxpayer expenses, pet overpopulation, shelter intake, and euthanasia. Numerous programs and initiatives contributed to the success. Among them were the Community Pet Pantry, Trap, Neuter and Return for feral cats, no-cost public assistance spay and neuter and veterinary care through the Animal Care Trust Fund, and low-cost microchip ID clinics to return more pets to their owners. These programs are not funded by tax dollars but by pet licensing revenues and private donations.

Community Pet Pantry Needs Your Donations

This program is only available because of the generous donations of community members. One hundred percent of the food and supplies distributed through our Pet Pantry is donated by the public. We currently provide food for over 1,400 pets! Please consider making a donation on a quarterly basis to help us keep the Pantry stocked and pets in loving homes or consider doing a quarterly food drive at your work place, church, club, or community organization. There are many convenient drop off locations for donations throughout Lee County or donate food online with free delivery. For more information about making a donation contact brownra@leegov.com

Employment news

APWA National Small Cities/Rural Communities Town Hall Meeting

“Hiring the Right People”

Participants will identify effective selection methods, learn about the key elements in an effective selection system, conduct a legally defensible employment interview designed to select “A-Players”, and develop a set of employee interview guidelines that can be implemented in their organizations.

The call will be on October 19, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Pacific/10 Mountain/11 Central/12 Noon Eastern time and will run for one hour.

Speakers for this call will include:
Don Bruey; Director of Public Works, Retired; dbrueya4@gmail.com

If your agency needs this information, have everyone available join in listening to the session, either from their own office or as a group in a meeting space. Please submit your questions to mentoring@apwa.net. Questions can be sent before and during the call.

The call is FREE to anyone in public works. Dial-in information is follows: Dial in to: 1-866-953-9689; Participant Passcode: 862633# (Be certain to hit the pound key)

MP3 Download will be available within 72 hours after the events conclusion.
In memoriam ...

APWA Mourns the Passing of a Friend, Michael W. Morris

Morris-Depew Associates, Inc. is mourning the passing of Michael W. Morris, Former Chairman/CEO and Principal of the firm since its inception in 1989.

Mike was well known for his warm and friendly southern demeanor as well as his extensive experience of more than 40 years in the management of significant transportation, storm water, and public works engineering projects. Prior to founding Morris-Depew Associates, he successfully organized and directed the Planning and Permitting Division of Lee County Department of Transportation and Engineering. He also served in the following high-level positions: Director, Fort Myers Regional Office, South Florida Water Management District; Engineer Director, Lehigh Corporation and Land Resources Corporation; and City Engineer and Director, Public Works Department, City of Fort Myers.

As an engineering consultant, Mike successfully managed the planning, designing, and permitting of a number of significant transportation, stormwater, public works, and land development projects in Florida and throughout the South. Highlights of his work is represented in the Gulf Harbour Yacht & Golf Club DRI, Dunbar Middle School Reconstruction, Coca Cola Regional Distribution Center, Lee County Constitutional Offices Complex, Cypress Lake Center DRI/Costco Wholesale Store, South/CorkscREW Mine, FedEx Air Cargo Facility, Plantation Road Extension, International Center, and FlexBon Commercial Center.

Mike also was an acknowledged expert on regional transportation and bike/auto accident investigation and reconstruction.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made to the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering in memory of Michael W. Morris. Mike wanted to give back to the institution that gave him so much. To make a donation, please visit online at https://giving.vanderbilt.edu/or mail checks payable to "Vanderbilt University" designating "In memory of Michael W. Morris" to Vanderbilt Gift Processing Office, PMB 407727, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN, 37240-7727.

EDUCATION
Vanderbilt University, Bachelor of Engineering Cum Laude, Civil Engineering, 1967
Vanderbilt University, Master of Science - Environmental & Water Resources Engineering, 1969
Vanderbilt University Graduate School

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION
Registered Professional Engineer, Florida (1973)
Previously Registered Professional Engineer in Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, and West Virginia
Board Certified Professional Traffic Operations Engineer
Board Certified Professional Transportation Planner

AFFILIATIONS & HONORS
Past President & Founder, Transportation Professionals of Southwest Florida
Fellow, Institute of Transportation Engineers
Member, American Society of Civil Engineers
Member, Florida Engineering Society
Member, American Public Works Association
Arbitrator, American Arbitration Association

Member, Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society
Member, Chi Epsilon National Civil Engineering Honor Society
Former Member, Governor’s Charlotte Harbor Resource Planning and Management Committee, 1980-1982
Utilizing an Incident Command System for Public Works

Responding to an emergency or an incident has been something that Public Works has always done. We have worked on floods, tornados, hurricanes, blizzards, landslides, and a multitude of other emergencies or incidents. In the past, it has been the Police and or Fire Departments that have taken up the leadership role for Emergency Management within our communities. Public Works typically has taken on the support role in this planning and event situations. This needs to and is changing.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is part of the national emergency response and is intended to improve coordination of Federal, State, and local response to incidents. One NIMS compliance objective is to manage all incidents in accordance with Incident Command System (ICS) organizational structures, doctrine, and procedures.

This program will help Public Works professionals understand how to use the Incident Command System (ICS) for small incidents and typical situations – such as a water main break or a winter snow event – and how preparing for these events will lay the groundwork for utilizing the process when big emergencies occur.

The presentation will cover the basics of ICS organizational structure and how it relates to public works operations. The typing of equipment and events will also be reviewed and outlined.

The PW professional need to know when they will be in a support role and when they, due to the incident event needs, become the Incident Commander, Operations Chief, Planning Chief, Logistic Chief, or even the Public Information Officer if necessary. PW professionals need to know the responsibilities and duties for each of these leadership roles and when they are the best person to handle them in an incident.

Knowledge through training and knowledge through experiences is what all PW professionals need. Do not hesitate to become involved! Be it in exercises, training, and working on real incidents developing the skills and knowledge allows us all to serve our communities better.

After viewing this program, participants will be better able to:

- Prepare for being a leader in an Incident Command System to help their community.
- Discern the operational objectives of an incident
- Implement an Incident Control System for “common” emergencies such as a snow storm

This program has been approved for .2 CEUs or 2 PDHs. Please note there is a $5 fee per non-member individual requesting CEUs - there is no fee for members.

**WHEN:** Audio/web broadcast on October 18, 2012, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Eastern time

**REGISTRATION:** By October 17, 2012; Fax registration form: RECLL_regform2012.pdf ; questions to Raye LaViolet at registrations@apwa.net

**SPEAKERS:**

Brian G. Amundson, P.E.
Director of Public Works, City of Eau Claire, WI

As Director of Public Works for the City of Eau Claire, Wis., Brian G. Amundson has responsibility for major operating activities consisting of street maintenance, rolling fleet, engineering, mapping, stormwater management, emergency preparedness, flood control, parking utility, fixed-route transit system, wastewater treatment and collection, and water treatment with distribution to more than 66,000 residents and over 25,000 utility customers. Prior to his current position, Amundson served as Eau Claire’s City Engineer for 10 years. His career in public works operations and management has spanned more than 37 years.

Gene Putman P.E., PTOE, CEM
Transportation Manager, Office of Management and Budget, City of Thornton, Thornton, Colorado

**Moderator:** Hye Jin Lee, P.E.
City Engineer, City of Merriam, KS
That word “region” has resonated in my mind since the “great recession”. The importance of understanding your neighbors “wants and needs” and, indeed, their lifestyles, fears and favorites are paramount to any organizations mission as a community leader. To that end, I joined the Leadership Hendry/Glades program. The Hendry/Glades area of our region was one which I had spent far less time in and knew far less about than Charlotte, Collier and Lee. What I found was a diverse community of Native Americans, Hispanic, Asian, Black and White residents that were very proud of their communities, traditions and family values. Having descended from immigrants that farmed in rural Charlottesville, Virginia from the turn of the 18th century into the mid 20th century, I could relate to the pride in their communities and the willingness to reach out to virtual strangers as a neighbor even though I had not known those that I spoke with for more than days or weeks in most cases.

Having dealt with public utilities, private wells and septic fields in Cape Coral, a city of 160,000 contained in 120 square miles, I am always interested in what other parts of our region face with infrastructure. In comparison, Hendry and Glades encompassing an area of approximately 2,000 square miles, and containing one of the biggest lakes in the world (Okeechobee), the challenges of creating and maintaining infrastructure presents an ongoing challenge that will never abate. With about 62,000 inhabiting that 2,000 square miles with much of the land being used for agriculture the challenge of a sustainable tax base to provide the core services for this area is always present. The cities of LaBelle and Clewiston, the water sports industries of fishing and boating, and ecotourism, particularly in and along Lake “O” along with the Citrus and Sugar industries provide much of the revenue and lifestyle of this part of our region. The LHG was the perfect organization to meet the people, learn about the infrastructure, understand the community and establish a regional connection that I hope will last forever.

In our leadership class, I was pleasantly surprised to see that most agreed with me that our region must join together in overcoming the many economic challenges that we face and will continue to face. Building a partnership that will promote the lifestyles of all of our counties within the region and one that will bring jobs and industry to enhance the “regional” outlook was a theme that resonated within the Leadership class. As I look back on the people, (many of which were descended several generations) and the program just recently completed, I feel very fortunate to have met and interacted with some of the finest Americans that I can now call colleagues and friends. I am also just as certain, and confident, that they are as committed to a regional effort to promote SW Florida as I. The leadership program was organized professionally and efficiently by the Hendry Economic Development Council and encompassed business, health, environment, education and government to name some of the areas that we explored within the Hendry/Glades communities. The common thread amongst all of the programs many topics was the unwavering support and pride of the community in all of those areas explored. Upon completion of the program I had a far better understanding of the typical SW Florida rural community and what they share with urban and suburban communities and how they may differ.

I can safely say that Cape Coral, as a pre-platted and burgeoning community has its share of problems associated with that distinction of being one of the largest cities in Florida while Hendry and Glades have their unique problems associated with the rural nature and sparse population centers as well. As we know, Lee, Charlotte and Collier have some of the same rural concerns as Hendry/Glades as does Hendry with population centers such as Clewiston that struggle with the same infrastructure needs and lack of funding as Cape Coral. The challenge to us all is to put our minds together and bring these communities together as a regional economic force that is able to attract the kind of growth we long for and also maintain the quality of life and character of our past that we are accustomed to. To that end, the leadership class has enabled me to take part in many of the community activities throughout Hendry and Glades counties, which has given me the insight to continue that spirit of working together to realize the dream of a regional force here in SW Florida. The organization that I write this article for, the American Public Works Association, (APWA), can be an essential part of that team and I hope to reach out to those in Hendry and Glades to bring them closer to this organization so that the problems of pre-platted communities and rural communities can be weighed and analyzed with the expertise of the many professionals that are members. We all know that State level funding of utility infrastructure has been less each year over the past couple of years. By joining forces, locally, and sharing information we can provide fresh ideas as to how to develop such things as infrastructure that has sustainable and cost effective qualities so that the “skeleton” of all communities which could be considered the infrastructure is supported by the muscle, which could be considered the economic segment, all of which is enhanced by the body and soul which, of course, are the people that live, work and play in the region. To that end, I hope that we can see a mutually beneficial growth in both the LHG and APWA organizations that will lead to a partnership that will help to propel the SW Florida region into a sustainable and successful leadership role for all of Florida.

Did you know?

Ben C. Pratt was the driving force behind creation of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the American Public Works Association? Mr. Pratt passed away several years ago, but is fondly remembered by members of the chapter for his commitment both to public works and to his colleagues. A former employee of the South Florida Water Management District, Mr. Pratt also worked for Lee County Department of Transportation. The Ben C. Pratt Six Mile Cypress Parkway was named in his honor to memorialize his dedication to the communities he served. The SW Florida Chapter has named our scholarship program in his honor as well. Please come out to the Golf Tournament on November 9 to help raise funds for the scholarship program as we continue to honor Mr. Pratt’s memory.