



Suncoast Branch Newsletter

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Chairman’s Message

Welcome to 2012. Hard to believe. We’ll re-elect or elect a new President this year. The Olympic Games will be held this summer in the UK. All economic factors suggest another steady, below-normal construction environment, which casts a questionable future in the upcoming year. However, one thing is for sure: the needs in PUBLIC WORKS have never been greater! When I told Mom & Dad I wanted to be an environmental engineer, I assured them that as long as folks were drinking water, creating wastewater, and generating garbage, I’d have a job for life. This is more the case than ever. While many projects have been delayed due to the lack of funding, there has never been a greater need for reinvestment in the country’s public works infrastructure. We must remain confident and positive about the upcoming year. Identifying “problems” as opportunities for improvement, learning, and sustainable success.



R. Christopher Sharek
Chairman

As a reminder, the cost of our monthly breakfast will be increased beginning in February due to the increases we have seen from the restaurant over the past several years. Members will pay \$10 and Non-members will pay \$13 per person. We value everyone’s attendance – members and non-members alike; but considering the long-term sustainability of our branch, the Board felt this course of action was necessary.

A Good Read: An Engineer’s Alphabet by Henry Petroski. If you like to read and work, live, or play with these pesky engineers, this book may help you. This book is an A-Z encyclopedia/dictionary of sorts to better understand some of the softer side of the profession. I received my copy at Christmas from my father-in-law, who happens to be one of those pesky engineers.

**Please remember to renew your APWA National Membership!
The Suncoast Branch benefits from your renewal!**

APWA 2011 - 2012 Suncoast Branch Board of Directors

<p>R. Christopher Sharek, PE, BCEE, PMP Chairman ATKINS chris.sharek@atkinglobal.com</p>	<p>Bill Steves, PE Treasurer Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc. bill.steves@rsandh.com</p>	<p>DIRECTORS:</p> <p>John Brown City of North Port jbrown@cityofnorthport.com</p>
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Contact Carolyn Steves,
Newsletter Editor,
to add content:
Carolyn.Steves@rsandh.com

APWA Suncoast Breakfast Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Time: 7:30 am

Location: Dutch Heritage (3713 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, FL)

Cost: \$8.00 per person

RSVP to Carolyn Steves at Carolyn.Steves@sandh.com or call (941) 365-8539 by January 19, 2012

This Month's Speakers



Valerie Ciudad-Real, President / CEO: Valerie has more than 20 years experience providing public involvement, public information, community outreach, marketing and business development services. Valerie has developed and implemented public participation programs for both the public and private sectors with a focus on the transportation industry. During her career, she has worked on projects for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Districts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority, and city and county agencies. Currently, she serves as a public information officer and spokesperson for numerous transportation projects. Valerie also provides community outreach and marketing support services to large engineering firms on contracts for the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) and City of Tampa, just to name a few.



Christie Klammer, Communications Specialist: With over 13 years of experience in project management, public communications, and marketing, Christie has a diverse resume rich in public project experience. She has served on many projects for the FDOT (Districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise), OOCEA, Sarasota County, Pinellas County, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, and City of Orlando. Christie is trained in media relations, plans reading, maintenance of traffic and has completed "Public Involvement in Transportation Decision Making Training" with the National Transit Institute (NTI). She also has extensive experience with crisis communications, and is an approved partnering facilitator for the FDOT.

Meeting Photos December 7th, 2011



THANK YOU to the "Spotlight Kids" troupe and Cynthia Ashford, from Booker Visual and Performing Arts High for their superb Holiday Season performance.

Suncoast Branch/Westcoast Branch Joint Meeting



Wednesday, March 28th, 2012



Rosedale Country Club - 5100 87th Street East • Bradenton, FL 34211

Member: \$12

Non-Member: \$15

Speaker: Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Administrator



Ed Hunzeker's tenure at Manatee County has been an unprecedented period of change for local government. During the peak years of Florida's real estate boom, the County Commission and Hunzeker had the foresight to save heightened property tax revenues, rather than spend them on expanded government. Their frugal policy has helped Manatee County Government maintain public safety while avoiding massive service reductions to the public during the current economic slump. Under the Board's direction, Hunzeker has instituted a new era of scaled-down government focused on economic development efficiently delivering services to the community. On Hunzeker's watch Manatee County Planning and Building and Public Works departments have all adopted a more customer-friendly way of doing business, meaning better response time and less expense to the public.

Over the past two years, under the direction of the Board and Hunzeker, Manatee County has renewed its focus on economic development, business retention and job creation. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Manatee Chamber of Commerce and on the Advisory Board and Executive Committee of the Manatee Economic Development Council. Hunzeker serves on the United Way of Manatee County Board of Directors and is a member of the Manatee County CEO Roundtable. Hunzeker is also a member of the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce and the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance.

Suncoast Public Works Academy

The Suncoast Public Works Academy is now a Florida Approved Provider of continuing education units (PDH) for Professional Engineers. The Florida Board of Professional Engineers approved the Academy's provider status at their December meeting. Six classes offered by the Academy were included in the approval:

- Project Management
- FDEP Stormwater, Erosion and Sedimentation Control for Inspectors
- Pump and Lift Station Control Panel Design
- Common Level Control Technologies
- Modern Motor Control Technologies
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)



For more information about these classes and other scheduled classes, call Karen Johnson, (941)924-1365, ext 62473, or go to www.SCTI.edu.

Click, Listen, Learn

Jan 19, 2012 - Self Assessment: A Checklist for Improvement - <http://www2.apwa.net/events/eventdetail.asp?ID=5326>

Jan 23, 30, & Feb 6, 2012 - Public Infrastructure Inspector Study Guide (Rebroadcast) - <http://www2.apwa.net/events/eventdetail.asp?ID=5341>

Jan 24, 31, & Feb 7, 2012 - Public Fleet Professional Study Guide (Rebroadcast) - <http://www2.apwa.net/events/eventdetail.asp?ID=5344>

Jan 25, Feb 1 & 8, 2012 - Stormwater Manager Certification Study Guide (Rebroadcast) - <http://www2.apwa.net/events/eventdetail.asp?ID=5347>

Feb 2, 2012 - Low Cost Safety Improvements - <http://www2.apwa.net/events/eventdetail.asp?ID=5339>

Feb 14, 2012 - Small Projects - Big Results: Facilities & Grounds Sustainability Projects - <http://www2.apwa.net/events/eventdetail.asp?ID=5350>

To see a list of all upcoming Click, Listen & Learn Programs go to:
<http://www.apwa.net/Education/CLL/>

Current Job Openings

In and around the Suncoast Branch - Provided by APWA Workzone

General Services Manager - Sarasota County

Salary Range: \$69K - \$100K

Job Description:

Management of Facilities Services, Fleet Services, and Materials Management. Qualifications Bachelor's in Public/Business Administration or related field. Eight years of experience or Masters and six years of experience. Applicants must apply at www.scgov.net/Careers. (941) 861-5742