AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS
ASSOCIATION APWA—
ONE AMONG MANY

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Subtitle
How to Increase Citizens' Understanding of Public Works—The Problems Encountered, Professional Personnel Required, and the Importance of this Governmental Service to the Current Well-Being and Future Progress of the Cities, Counties, State and Nation.

INTRODUCTION
Since the beginning of time, people have banded together to provide common needs. From the most primitive communities, where the only public facilities were the dirt streets and the village well to our present day metropolis, there are many necessary facilities which provide for the basic needs of health, safety, commerce and general well-being.

These community facilities embrace a wide spectrum of activities that have to be expanded and procedures improved as the population increases. The city of Fort Wayne is presently completing a 34 million dollar water pollution control plant expansion that will allow it to treat the sewage needs of all of Allen County. Street engineers are constantly designing street and road improvements to allow construction of smooth, durable roads and contractors and street maintenance people work the year around to keep them open to traffic.

In the United States, millions of dollars are spent annually in removing snow. We all went through the blizzard of '78 and know that despite the fact that crews worked around the clock for days to get traffic to move normally again, there were many citizen complaints. We must look constantly for ways to improve our methods of snow removal. The APWA is having their annual North American Snow Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota on April 9-11 this year. It is an educational program for your professional improvement.
Water Supply

One of the basic human and community needs is an adequate supply of pure water. Water utilities supply an average 150 gallons per person every day of the week. And most of it is filter treated and tested for purity. After treatment, the water must be pumped through miles of water mains to the user. The city of Fort Wayne broke ground in January for their filtration plant expansion. The 18 million dollar project will increase the city's water capacity from 48 to 72 million gallons of water daily and will fulfill the needs of the city through the year 2000.

Because of the research and engineering of public works officials citizens can buy 1000 gallons of this precious commodity for less than the price of a bottle of pop. However, even with dams such as this one impounding billions of gallons of water, we must learn to conserve it. I'm sure you are all aware of the water shortage that occurred in the western United States in 1978.

Sewage

Most of the water coming into our homes and businesses must be taken away as wastewater. Enlargement of sewer systems can be a temporary nuisance, but improved handling of sewage has made plagues and epidemics things of the past.

Refuse

Not only must public works officials be concerned with liquid waste, but they must also dispose of the tons of solid waste generated daily in every community. Proper handling and disposal of refuse through modern resource recovery facilities or in sanitary landfills, has eliminated one of the primary health hazards of the past and in some cases, created a useful adjunct to community life—such as recreation areas built on reclaimed land over a sanitary landfill. Combined, these public works services and facilities contribute to the building of a better environment in which to live, raise, and educate our families.

THE APWA ORGANIZATION

Various associations and societies have been organized to help public officials meet the increasing demands of the tax-paying public. The American Public Works Association is one among many (ONE AMONG MANY), yet totally unique, serving as a common meeting ground for all individuals and organizations concerned with advancing improved practices and attaining excellance with economy in the field of public works. With frozen tax rates, limited funds
and the public knowledge of California's Resolution 13, plus the continued spiral of inflation, it is harder to meet the increasing demands of the tax paying public.

Despite all these handicaps, we have the largest public improvement program in the history of Fort Wayne under construction or ready to go out for bid. I attribute this unmatched record to several things: common sense management—a staff of public works professionals who know what they are doing, what they are talking about, and how to get a job done; and matching local funds with all the state and federal funds we can get.

A recent independent survey rated the American Public Works Association number two in transmitting information and transferring technology to its members to help accomplish this. I think that's terrific.

Headquarters and Membership

The APWA shares a handsome headquarters building on the campus of the University of Chicago with other public service organizations such as the American Society of Planning Officials, the Municipal Finance Officers Association, and the International Personnel Management Association.

A growing membership of over 25,000 individuals from all over the world is comprised of public officials, consulting engineers, educators, contractors, and utility company officials. In addition, hundreds of city, county, state and federal agencies, such as the Federal Highway Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, hold membership in APWA—(ONE AMONG MANY). Also involved are corporations and trade associations concerned with the development of better facilities, methods, equipment, and other products utilized in public works.

Administration

The APWA is governed by a 15-member board of directors, the president of the board is James J. McDonough, who is chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority. He will be in Indianapolis May 13-17 attending a meeting of the American Public Transit Association. He would like to visit the Indiana Chapter. As president of the Indiana Chapter, I am planning a one-day seminar on May 18, so that he may attend.

Administration of association affairs is handled by a permanent staff in Chicago, with a branch office in Washington, D.C. The head-
quarters staff provides a wide range of services to the membership. Prompt attention is given to hundreds of information requests that regularly flow into the office.

**Library**

The Joint Reference Library, maintained at the headquarters building by APWA and the other organizations housed in the center contains the most up-to-date information on public works administration to be found anywhere in the world. Access to these resources enables the staff to provide members the benefit of the experience of public works officials in other communities who have confronted similar problems.

**Information Exchange Service**

The APWA's information exchange service is regarded as one of the most valuable services. The membership is kept informed of significant developments, technological advances, and new management techniques through a monthly magazine, the APWA REPORTER, sent to every member of the association.

**Institutes for Professional Development**

Special interests of APWA members are served by the Institutes for Professional Development. Each group serves as a focal point for association activity in key public works' functions—equipment services, municipal engineering, building and grounds, transportation, water resources, solid wastes, and administrative management. They meet the specialized needs of their members through newsletters, technical reports and other programs.

**Utility Location and Coordination Council**

Another dynamic component of APWA is the Utility Location and Coordination Council. Established to fill a serious void. This council took the lead by bringing together all parties involved in utility construction and maintenance activities—public works officials, contractors, and utility companies into a close working relationship.

We organized our Utility Coordinating Committee in Fort Wayne in 1972. We meet in the city-county building cafeteria private dining room the first Wednesday of every month. It has been very successful. By updating our capital improvement projects every month and keeping everyone informed as to their progress, we have avoided many costly conflicts. Citizens, engineers, contractors, utility companies, the mayor, nobody is happy if a street project is completed one day and dug up for any reason the next day.
The council also promotes the formation of local coordinating committees, conducts research, and disseminates information in its efforts to reduce accidents and property damage and to minimize inconvenience to the public.

One-Call Number for Buried Utilities

The development of a network of one-call numbers—central telephone numbers to be called whenever excavations are to be made to prevent damage to underground utilities—will hopefully make, “call before you dig” as common a phrase as, “you deserve a break today.”

Why is it needed? Damage to underground facilities increased considerably following the building boom of the 50’s, 60’s and early 70’s when the trend was to go underground with utilities. Thousands of miles of underground facilities were vulnerable to excavating machines such as backhoes and the resulting damage interrupted utility service and threatened life, health and property.

In 1972, I had the honor of being asked to design a one-number call system for the Fort Wayne area. In 1973, we implemented HAD-HELP (423-4357). We choose that name because it would be easy to remember. You can dial it alphabetically H-A-D H-E-L-P or numerically 423-4357.

The one-number call system has reduced utility dig-ups in the Fort Wayne area by 72%. It has expanded and now serves all of Allen County and parts of DeKalb, Whitley, and Adams Counties. It is listed in the APWA-ULCC National Directory, and I am very proud to be executive secretary of HAD-HELP.

There are four other one-number call systems in Indiana listed in the APWA National Directory. They are: Utility Locations—Elkhart 294-7000; Be-A-Ware, Terre Haute, 232-9273; and United Utilities Protection Service—Cincinnati, Ohio, 397-4664.

Council of International Collaboration

Another constituent group of APWA, the Council on International Collaboration, fosters cooperation and information exchange among public works officials worldwide.

Education Foundation

The increasing cost and complexity of government, plus the growing demand for public works, point to the critical need for highly competent, trained personnel in all areas of public works operations. The APWA Education Foundation meets this challenge by offering a series of two-day workshops throughout the U.S. and Canada in
public works functional areas, as well as special topics such as management seminars for top public works officials, and in-service training programs for construction inspectors.

We have held three such inspector training programs in Fort Wayne since the APWA implemented this program. They are conducted in the winter months when inclement weather prevents or slows down construction work. The training of construction inspectors allows us to cross-train them so that they are capable of inspecting all types of construction work, sewers, water installations, street lighting, street construction, etc. Therefore, we can operate out of an inspector pool and get more productivity out of fewer inspectors.

In Fort Wayne we have also gone to the drafting pool concept and are accomplishing the same results—more productivity with fewer draftsmen. Or should I say drafting persons.

The education foundation also assists universities in developing programs in public works engineering and administration.

Public Education Program

For many years, APWA has sponsored a public education program to promote better understanding of the impact of public works on the average citizen, to recognize outstanding public service, and to encourage talented young people to pursue careers in public works. For example—in Fort Wayne the Mayor's Youth Commission, consisting of high school students, meets with the engineering department heads and spends a day learning how the engineering departments and city government operate. We also have Future Engineers Day and the city of Fort Wayne hires as many high school and college students interested in engineering careers as possible under its Youth Summer Employee Program. Endorsed by congress and the president of the United States, the program is conducted in cooperation with seven other public service organizations.

National Public Works Week this year will be held in both Canada and the United States, May 20-26, 1979. During this week, civic groups sponsor public works programs including tours of facilities to inform citizens of what is involved in providing the vital services so often taken for granted. President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said. "We have a tendency to forget the benefits occurring from the thousands of public works systems across the nation. But the very fact that these services are taken for granted is testimony to their efficiency and to the capability of those who build, maintain, and operate them."
Proclamations urging the observance of national Public Works Week are issued by governors and mayors. To emphasize the importance of highly competent personnel, the top ten public works men-of-the-year are selected annually, and presented with plaques in recognition of outstanding service to their communities.

Another program of national significance was a mammoth project undertaken in honor of the Bicentennial, culminating in the publication of the "History of Public Works in the United States, 1776-1976." The wealth of information uncovered led to the creation of the Public Works Historical Society, founded to carry on this important work by fostering the preservation of information and experiences as resources for the future.

**U.S. Chapters**

The APWA staff also maintains close contact with 60 chapters throughout the United States and Canada. These chapters engage in a wide variety of activities to serve the needs of their members. These include the development of standard specifications for municipal public works construction, uniform ordinances and practices, sponsorship of training courses, and other programs.

**Research Foundation**

The APWA Research Foundation is a special purpose organization which provides a practical means of developing solutions to difficult and costly problems facing public agencies. Research through cooperative financing various governmental agencies have pooled their resources to support a wide variety of projects in recent years. One such research project in which the city of Fort Wayne was a participant was titled "Accommodation of Utility Plant Within the Rights of Way of Urban Streets and Highways." I was the city right of way engineer at that time and had the pleasure of participating in the research that resulted in the publication manual of improved practice. It has been very helpful to the city of Fort Wayne and without the cooperative financing through APWA's research foundation no one city would have had the funds to do it on its own. There were 122 cities participating.

Another of the most important developments of the research foundation was the development of a swirl concentrator. This device offers promise of removing up to 50% of the settleable solids from combined sewage, thus greatly improving the quality of the overflow discharged to receiving waters. Studies supported by the Environmental Protection Agency have investigated pollution effects of storm water,
regulations of sewer inflow, and computer control of wastewater treatment.

Fort Wayne's Water Pollution Control Plants computer is about ready to go into service. It will not only be able to help control the sewage treatment at the plant, but will also monitor the operation of every sewage lift station and sewer regulator in the City of Fort Wayne. The telemetric system is almost completed. Other projects deal with mechanical pick-up of refuse, chemical control of even roots in sewers. Traffic engineering in small jurisdictions research results are published as manuals or special reports such as a comprehensive equipment management manual, and a report on rail transport of solid wastes.

*International Public Works Congress and Equipment Show*

Once each year, thousands of public works officials gather at the International Public Works Congress and Equipment Show to attend a myriad of technical sessions exploring new developments and analyzing common problems. I had the honor of being the Indiana delegate at the International Congress which was held in Boston, Mass. last October. The 1979 APWA International Congress will be held in Portland, Oregon September 22-27. In the exhibit hall, acres of space are occupied by the largest and most diversified display of public works equipment and supplies assembled under one roof. The exhibitions provide members with a unique opportunity to examine the latest developments in equipment technology, and to compare the merits and economies of various products.

Another highlight of the congress is public works inspection tours of facilities in the host cities. Other important forums during the year include regional meetings and the annual North American Snow Conference.

**SUMMARY**

The American Public Works Association thus serves as a unique organization whose basic purpose is to help today's professionals—particularly public works engineers and administrators—carry out their responsibilities to you and your community.

The role of public work in urban life is a continuing challenge. As cities and towns continue to grow, so do the demands of their citizens. Public works are the physical structures and facilities developed or acquired by public agencies to house governmental functions and provide water, waste disposal, power, transportation, and other services
to facilitate the achievement of common social and economic objectives. These facilities and services have assumed an increasing and critical importance to people in all parts of the world, particularly those in urban areas.

The kind of society and environment we shall have in the future depends upon both enlightened citizen interest and the active participation in organizations such as the APWA by those directly concerned with public works policies and programs.

The American Public Works Association is proud to be one among many—one among many fine organizations serving the dedicated professionals who protect and enhance the human environment.