



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (2024-25 Board Members)

### 2024-25 Board Members

#### Board Member

#### **Charles Smith**

Director of Civil Engineering, Reid Middleton

Charles has spent his entire career working on Public Works projects in Washington State. Born and raised in Western Washington, Charles enjoys finding solutions for our local communities and being a part of preserving, maintaining, and improving our valuable infrastructure. A problem solver by nature, Charles demonstrated 'enginerdish' tendencies at a young age. Those same traits persist after 25 years in the industry.



Charles is the Director of Civil Engineering at Reid Middleton. He has led the Surface Transportation group at Reid Middleton since 2019 and is now overseeing the overall Civil Engineering practice. His ability to build relationships and foster collaborative team environments are strengths well-suited for supporting APWA efforts. After 20 years of participation in APWA, he is honored to have been asked to serve.

When he is not managing Public Works projects, Charles enjoys spending time with his family. He also coaches baseball and has been a volunteer for Little League for the past 17 years. He has coached every level of Little League from tee ball through teen baseball. His favorite aspect of coaching is getting to see players develop and grow. It is a joy to watch a high school baseball game with multiple players he has coached since they were in tee ball. He loves that there are twenty-somethings that still call him coach.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (2024-25 Board Members)

### Board Member

#### **Sara Meilandt**

Assistant Vice President PM/CM, Senior Construction Engineer, WSP



I am honored by the opportunity to run for the Chapter's Board of Directors. In 2004 I became active in APWA as a young member in Reno, Nevada, and became a professional member in 2009 to this very chapter. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve APWA Washington as it is the BEST chapter in the country!

While having been a member of the Construction Management Committee, within the last year I stepped in as committee co-chair. It has been fun rebuilding the committee and setting plans for future success. Within my company, I am also now the WSP liaison for APWA. I find a lot of joy in coordinating with people and contributing to the growth and spread of knowledge for our chapter with my co-workers and colleagues.

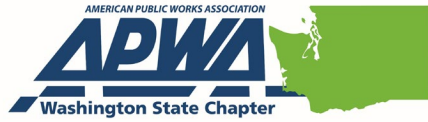
I started my career in public works as an intern in 2004, and my love for the industry grew from my college days and continued as I relocated to Seattle. In 2008 I reestablished my APWA membership in the State of Washington. Of the many roles and three states I've experienced since my first position at Perteet, my focus has always been to provide the best service possible to the public. These roles include:

- SDOT as a resident engineer (RE) and supervising the office engineering team.
- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency as a senior quality assurance inspector and assistant RE where I focused mainly on light rail transit facility additions, retrofits, and ADA compliance projects, coordinating with an average of 9 other jurisdictions on construction projects.
- At the Nevada Department of Transportation, I took a leap into another industry as I managed the Environmental Engineering team in their efforts and represented FHWA through a programmatic agreement.

With a few consulting gigs sprinkled in my time back in Nevada, I have happily found myself back at a consulting firm in Washington working with some of the best mentors I could ask for. It is through APWA that I met or bonded with these people. Our chapter truly brings a fun, motivating energy to the community we have established together.

When it was suggested that I put my name forward to serve on our chapter's Board of Directors I jumped at the opportunity. My work history has created a well-rounded outlook from many different areas of public works, and I look forward to using that experience to promote diversity and growth in our chapter. I believe that my core values align with the chapter's vision: APWA Washington Chapter is the organization of choice in providing public works education, advocacy, expertise, and public awareness for its diverse community of members.

As a member of your Board of Directors my focus will be to continue supporting, growing, promoting, and diversifying the APWA Washington chapter. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as an APWA Officer. Thank you for your consideration.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (2024-25 Board Members)

### Board Member

#### **Dan Ireland, PE**

Wenatchee Office Principal – SCJ Alliance

Sharing ideas and experiences so we can learn and develop better services for our communities, while building relationships, is important to me. APWA has provided me with opportunities to develop new relationships and strengthen existing ones, which has allowed me to expand my career and better serve others. That's why I have been actively involved with APWA for 10 years. I aspire to be an APWA Board Member so I can help others cultivate relationships and experiences that have been invaluable to me.



On a personal note, I am married and have four children ranging in age from 18 to 3 while living in Wenatchee. Throughout my 20+ year career, I have had the privilege of working in both the public sector (WSDOT) and the private sector (SCJ Alliance). I am immensely grateful for the breadth of experiences I have encountered, as they have shaped me into the person I am today.

I have actively engaged with APWA by consistently attending conferences and volunteering my time in various committees, including Div 1 and the Scholarship Committee. Since 2017, I have been the 'Golf Tournament Guy' for APWA Conferences. The tournaments provide funding for the Scholarship Program but also provide a place for fostering new relationships. If elected, I intend to continue organizing the golf tournament because it brings me joy to see everyone come together for such a great cause. For this effort, I was graciously presented with the APWA Empowering Teams Award in 2023.

As an APWA Board Member, I aim to provide support to fellow committee leaders. I want to be your best liaison, cheerleader, or partner in implementing your next crazy idea. My goal is to be that friend and supporter that can help others succeed, just as others had graciously supported me.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (2024-25 Board Members)

### Board Member

#### **Stephanie Forman, PE**

CEO / Project Manager, Forman Consulting Services

I am very grateful to be nominated to serve on your 2024-25 WA Chapter Board. APWA has grown my knowledge of public works, provided opportunities to give back to our industry, and introduced me to many of the close colleagues that I work with today. Over the past 20 years I have been involved in our Chapter and have had the pleasure to participate in many conferences, networking events, educational sessions, and fun athletic teams. My career focuses on transportation design solutions centered on mobility improvements within the Puget Sound. I currently leverage my professional experience and my passion for public works by serving as the co-chair of the APWA WA Chapter's Transportation Committee.



Four years ago, I founded Forman Consulting Services, a W/DBE firm that specializes in project and design management of roadway and transit projects. We partner with agencies and firms to develop transformative public infrastructure projects to address transportation demand and growth within the Puget Sound while also providing access to equitable and high-quality transportation solutions. As the owner of a small woman-owned business in our industry, I believe that I have a unique perspective to offer the APWA WA Chapter Board. Our public works industry serves a broad and diverse community, and it is important to have similar representation on our board including a variety of sectors, work experience, gender, and age. I am honored to have the opportunity to be elected to serve on our chapter's board where I can provide a diverse and underrepresented viewpoint in our industry. As a board member, I would look forward to supporting our Chapter in continuing to provide opportunities for our members to grow connections, learn best practices and cutting-edge skills, and celebrate the public works industry.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (2024-25 Board Members)

### Board Member

**Kiva Lints, PE, SE**

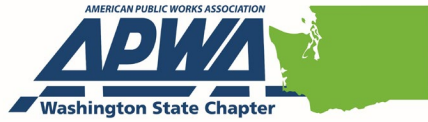
Project Manager, HNTB Corporation



I am thrilled to be given an opportunity to serve on the board of the Washington State Chapter of APWA. APWA is an organization that is vital to providing public works professionals the networking, advocacy, mentorship, and training they need to perform their job and serve their communities. I am looking forward to doing my part to ensure that the Washington State Chapter continues to provide these services while striving to achieve the chapter goals laid out in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. One of the strategic goals that I am interested in, is advocating for the failing public works infrastructure via sharing more about public works with the general public. It is important for the public to understand what we do in order to garner their support and for them to trust with their public dollars.

My involvement with APWA began in 2007 and since that time I have taken an increasingly active role in the organization beginning with conference attendance to gather technical knowledge and foster relationships. In Wenatchee I have given two presentations at APWA conferences, one on Geofoam and another on the recent APWA award winning City of Seattle Fairview Ave. Bridge. In 2009 I joined the Management and Public Administration Committee (MPAC) and have been serving on the committee ever since. I have coordinated multiple MPAC presentations and served as the MPAC chairman. I have also served as the conference sponsorship coordinator and as a result the outreach at that time we nearly doubled the conference sponsorships dollars from previous years. Now, I am ready to take on a larger role within APWA and would welcome an opportunity to serve on the Board.

My career began, after graduating from the University of Washington Civil Engineering Department, when I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Kingdom of Tonga (in the South Pacific) from 1996 to 1998. In my role as a high school math and science teacher I worked with students and teachers to go beyond text books and to incorporate actual science experiments into their lessons. Upon returning home, I obtained my Masters from the University of Washington in structural engineering and began my career in 2000 as a bridge engineer. Since that time I have worked to design replacements and repairs for numerous failing bridges throughout Washington from Ocean Shores to Bellingham. Currently I am a project manager for HNTB Corporation where I have taken on a role of managing projects as well as training and mentoring junior staff to grow into the public works professionals we need for the future.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (2024-25 Board Members)

### Board Member

#### **Mike Helgeson**

Assistant Public Works Director, City of Ellensburg

I am very grateful to be When I was asked if I would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Washington State Chapter of the APWA, my initial thought was that I am too busy, too inexperienced in my new role as an Assistant Public Works Director and wouldn't have much to offer to this organization. After some careful contemplation I had a change of heart. I have attended several APWA conferences in recent years and have benefitted greatly from the classes provided as well as the opportunities to network and build relationships. I realized it would be rewarding to serve in an organization like the APWA.



I have been an employee of the City of Ellensburg for 23 years, but my path to my current position was a little bit different than most. I began as a Collections Serviceperson at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. I then spent six years as a Senior Pipeperson in the Water Division where I became a Water Distribution Manager II. My next stop was in the Natural Gas Division where I successfully completed an apprenticeship and became a Journeyman Mainfitter. I also served for eight years as Shop Steward for the Local Teamsters Union that represented us. Finally, I moved into the supervisory position of Assistant Public Works Director in January of 2021 where I am tasked with the management of the Wastewater, Water, Street, Shop, and Warehouse Divisions.

I have spent the majority of my career in a manhole, in the ditch, or in an excavator, which I feel gives me a somewhat unique perspective now that I am on the management side of Public Works and Utilities at the City of Ellensburg.

It would be an honor to serve on the Board of Directors for the Washington State Chapter of the APWA and I am grateful to be considered.





## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (2024-25 Board Members)

### Board Member

#### **Alyssa Ardourel, PE**

Associate Civil Engineer/ Project Manager, Huitt-Zollars, Inc.



I am honored to have been nominated to run for the 2024 – 2025 APWA Washington State Chapter Board of Directors.

I have 9 years of experience as a Civil Engineer with Huitt-Zollars, Inc. where I have performed a variety of roles, most recently as Project Manager, design team lead, and construction administration support lead. I have worked on projects ranging from small scale utility restoration projects, to K - 12 School Modernizations with full site retrofits, to large scale transit maintenance base improvements. Large or small I love how Public Works projects can directly improve communities.

I have grown quickly to take on greater responsibilities and leadership roles both at Huitt-Zollars and within APWA. I was fortunate to have started my involvement with APWA early in my career. APWA has had an invaluable impact on my professional development and career growth and I am passionate about passing that on through mentoring and encouraging young talent in Public Works.

I attended my first APWA Conference in Fall of 2015 and was hooked. In 2016 I joined the Emerging Professionals Committee and served as Co-Chair from 2018 – 2022. We embraced the APWA Washington Chapter Board initiative to invest in emerging professionals and encourage their participation in APWA. In 2021 the Emerging Professionals Committee began planning a formal Mentorship Program for the APWA WA Chapter and I stepped up to serve as Chair for a new Mentorship Committee. Over the last two years I have worked hard with my amazing Committee members to establish and launch the inaugural APWA WA Mentorship Program to kick off in September 2023.

In 2022 – 2023 I had the privilege to participate in the APWA National Emerging Leaders Academy. This experience challenged and strengthened my approach to leadership and invigorated my passion for continuous learning. Our class project focused on Workforce Development, and I believe that APWA has a vital role in supporting a talent pipeline to sustain the growth of the Public Works industry. I would be thrilled for the opportunity to continue to promote and lead efforts to attract and mentor talent in Public Works as an APWA WA Board Member.

My personal life is just as active as my professional life. I enjoy playing volleyball (to which I attribute my passion for teambuilding and leadership), hiking, gardening, spending time with my family and cats, Sage and Lily, and riding my horse, Mollie (some of my greatest and most humbling leadership skills I learned from her). I also find fulfillment in sharing my time and talents with my community through volunteering at my church as a Catechist for the Youth Faith Formation program.

I strive to perform with professionalism and integrity in all that I do and I hope to continue to serve the APWA Washington Chapter community as a member of the Board of Directors.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIO (2024 Secretary)

### Secretary

**Caroline Barlow, PE**

Interim CMOM Program Manager, Seattle Public Utilities



I have been actively involved with the Washington State Chapter of APWA since 2009. I have been a committee member and co-chair of the Chapter's Wastewater Committee. I also served as charter member and helped form our Emerging Professionals committee. We helped build membership by encouraging young professionals to join APWA and actively participate in chapter events. I am proud that the Emerging Professionals will celebrate the 10-year milestone last year. I am currently participating in Mentorship Program and excited to strengthen our members experience by offering this great opportunity to connect and grow as professionals.

In 2011, I was greatly honored to receive recognition as our chapter's Young Leader Award Recipient. Following that opportunity, I served as a Chapter board member and on the National Diversity Committee as a Young Professional Liason. Currently I am completing my final term as chair of the Utilities and Public Right-of-Way (UPROW) National Committee. I have also organized sponsorships, obtained volunteers, and coordinated workshops when Nationals Public Works Expo (PWX) came to Seattle. I hope this demonstrates my commitment and passion for Public Works and to our great organization.

I received my BS degree in Civil Engineering from Gonzaga University. Go Zags! I have also served as a volunteer secretary and treasurer for my son's baseball organization and a local toastmasters club. Professionally, I have over 20 years experience in consulting, engineering, and public works management. I currently serve as the interim Capacity, Maintenance, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM) Program Manager for Seattle Public Utilities' Drainage and Wastewater Line of Business, overseeing a large capital improvements portfolio and building strategies for our conveyance system.

If elected, it would be my goal to be transparent and inform our membership of key decisions made by our board members. It will also be important to me that we are tracking the chapter's strategic plan to prioritize what is important to our chapter and our members, determine elements that we need to work on and report out on how we are tracking against our performance goals. I want to encourage continued growth of our committees and membership and continue to reach out to and encourage active participation of our frontline staff and crews, emerging professionals, and students. I appreciate your consideration and I look forward to my continued service to this great organization!





## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIO (2024 Secretary)

### Secretary

**Paki D Perala, PE**

Senior Project Manager, HNTB

As a Senior Project Manager for HNTB, my 35 plus years working with and for WSDOT, large and small municipalities, government agencies, contractors and consultant engineers statewide would bring a unique background to the Executive Board. My experience includes small to large multi phased projects encompassing scoping, design development, program, project and construction management of all levels, involved multiple delivery methods. Some of my convictions include strong and effective communication, mentoring others including young engineers.

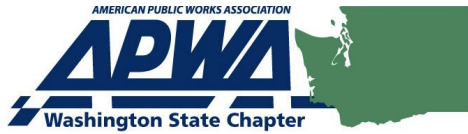


Recently, I have been honored to provide project and construction management services on some challenging bridge projects working as a team with owners, designers, contractors, and other agencies for the successful completion of the projects. One being the award-winning Fairview Ave Bridge Replacement for SDOT.

Since attending my first Fall Conference in 2004, I have been actively involved with APWA. Serving as a member of the Construction and Division 1 Committees is exciting and challenging. As a speaker for sessions during the 2022 Spring Conference covering sections of Division 1 and the Fairview Avenue Bridge Replacement it was a pleasure to be a part of. I have enjoyed volunteering to help with conferences as well as being an attendee.

As mentioned, I am excited to be a member of APWA and am humbled to be nominated for Secretary. My goals are aligned with the chapter goals, a few include seeing our membership grow, our committees thrive, integration of new technology and World Class conferences. These conferences allow us all (public works, , engineers, designers, construction management, technicians, and don't forget about the maintenance individuals and teams operating equipment and working in the dirt) to network, socialize, attend, and provide training. I want to give back for all the opportunities to network, build relationships, attend and take part in training opportunities I have benefited from. I'm very grateful for the hard work and tireless hours provided by our APWA Staff, Members and Volunteers. My promise is to work tirelessly to be worthy of your vote for Secretary.

Thank you.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (For 2024 Officers – Confirmation Voting)

### President

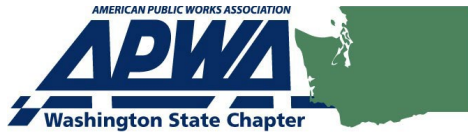
**Tara Davis (Olsen), PE**  
Assistant Vice President  
WSP, USA



When I became an engineer I was excited to start solving problems and contribute to public works. Little did I know my understanding of engineering and public works would expand so much. My eyes were opened that it wasn't just about calculations and creative ideas, but a team that can communicate and collaborate; people willing to work hard to find a solution and even harder to implement that solution; and a continual dedication to keep our communities running smoothly.

Throughout my career I have been a part of many different professional organizations, but it wasn't until I became active in APWA 17 years ago, that I truly found my home. I immediately became involved in the Transportation Committee which I co-chaired for a few years and remain an active member. I had the pleasure to serve as a board member from 2011-2013 learning about the behind the scenes workings of APWA Washington and the large number of volunteers it takes to keep our chapter operating at high standards. I was involved with the 2010 strategic planning efforts and co-chaired the Organization Partnership Committee. I joined the Education Committee (K-12) which was truly rewarding and I had the honor of sharing in the June Rosentreter Spence award for our efforts. I have helped represent APWA at the Puget Sound Engineering Council and was on the Volunteers Committee for PWX 2019.

I am currently a Project Manager, District Mobility Lead at WSP USA. Through my career I've had the opportunity to work with many different clients and get the greatest satisfaction knowing that I helped an agency achieve their goals. I believe continual communication, honest collaboration and hard (smart) work are keys to success. I look forward to continuing to applying these same traits to help APWA Washington grow, improve and continue to diversify. It's with pride that I've been able to serve on the executive board for the last 3.5 years and appreciate your vote to continue the journey serving this wonderful organization.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (For 2024 Officers – Confirmation Voting)

### Vice President

**Jeff Brauns, PE**  
Public Works Director  
City of Newcastle



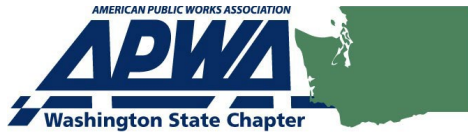
I have been an active member of APWA since 2004 and look forward to the opportunity of being a member of the Washington State Chapter Executive Board. Since becoming an APWA member I've served on Board of Directors (2017-2018), been an active member of the Transportation Committee, acting as Committee Chair until 2016, and served on the Sports and Workshop Committees for PWX in Seattle. I value and appreciate the many opportunities APWA membership has provided me such as professional networking, professional development, and long-lasting friendships.

I have been the Public Works Director at the City of Newcastle since 2015. In addition to leading the Public Works Department I am also responsible for Emergency Management, IT, Parks, and Facilities. My previous position was the City Engineer at the City of Sammamish. Prior to working for the City of Sammamish for eleven years, I worked at CH2M Hill, AECOM, WH Pacific, and WSDOT.

I received my Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Minor in Geology from Washington State University. For the past twenty-nine years I have worked in both public and private sectors focusing primarily on the design and construction of transportation improvement projects. Having worked in both sectors has afforded me the ability to see the perspective from both the owner and consultant point of view which has contributed to my professional growth and success.

As a member of the Chapter's Executive Board, I would be committed to not only maintaining our chapter's position as one of the best in the country but continuing to improve our chapter. I will do my best to serve the membership and give back to APWA for the benefits I have received during my seventeen years of membership. If elected to the board, my primary interests are to further strengthen resources within the Chapter for peer networking and to expand awareness of Public Works' role as a first responder.

Thank you for your consideration.



## 2023 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOS (For 2024 Officers – Confirmation Voting)

### Treasurer

#### **Jim Rioux**

Project Manager, Public Works Engineering  
City of Olympia



I am honored by the opportunity to run for the Chapter's Board of Directors. I have been an active member of the Chapter since 2009 and would feel privileged to continue to serve in this capacity.

Shortly after becoming a member of APWA, I was invited to join the Chapter's Government Affairs Committee. I have been serving in the capacity of Chair or Co-Chair of that committee since 2013. In addition, I served on the Board of Directors in 2014/2015. I am particularly proud of being part of the effort to retain the services of a professional lobbyist giving APWA a voice at the state legislature. My work with the Government Affairs Committee has given me the opportunity to build relationships with a broad range of organizations and individuals that share our concerns for our communities and the people of Public Works whose efforts ensure communities across the state continue to thrive.

While I did not start my career in public works it is where I found my home. After a fascinating 14-year career in Marine Engineering working as an operating engineer on merchant ships and a test engineer at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, I moved to a career where I could be of greater service to my community. Since 2006 I have had the privilege of serving the citizens of Olympia, Washington, as part of the city's Public Works team, currently as an engineering Project Manager. I am energized by the people that I work with, the people I meet throughout the community and what we accomplish together.

When it was suggested that I put my name forward to serve as Secretary I took another look at our chapter vision.

APWA Washington Chapter is the organization of choice in providing public works education, advocacy, expertise, and public awareness for its diverse community of members.

In order to realize that vision, I feel that we must be the model of an organization that is truly open and welcoming to everyone in that diverse community, we must be recognized for credibility and excellence, and we must possess long-term financial stability. As a member of your Executive Board this will be my focus.

It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as an APWA Officer. Thank you for your consideration.