



## APWA GEORGIA CHAPTER AWARDS PROGRAM

APWA's Georgia Chapter Awards Program was established to recognize outstanding public works employees, individuals groups and projects, representing the best achievements in the public works profession in Georgia.

### ***We want your nominations!***

The Georgia Chapter's Award Program offers an excellent opportunity to recognize individuals and firms for a job well done. Each year the Georgia Chapter recognizes award winners at the Annual Meeting.

The nomination submittal deadline for awards is February 20, 2026 (*Note: This allows time for Chapter review and endorsements prior to the March 2 deadline for nomination submittals to National*).

All award nominations must be submitted to the Georgia Chapter Awards Committee via email at **[apwageorgiaawards@gmail.com](mailto:apwageorgiaawards@gmail.com)**.

Materials submitted will not be returned and may be used in APWA newsletters, website, or other marketing and promotional APWA uses. Nomination submittal provides implied and expressed permission for said use by APWA. Any nominations that are suitable for National submittals will be endorsed by the Chapter. All decisions by the committee are final and not subject to appeal.

For additional information about the Chapter Awards Program, please see the Chapter webpage at <http://georgia.apwa.org/>

### **PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR CHAPTER EXCELLENCE (PACE)**

For the Georgia Chapter to qualify for the Annual **APWA Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence (PACE)**, the Chapter must submit a nomination for the **APWA Top Ten Public Works Leaders Award** and **at least three other National Award nominations (with Chapter endorsement)**. For descriptions and criteria for the **APWA Top Ten Public Works Leaders Award**, and other national awards please see the national APWA website, <http://www.apwa.org/resources/apwa-awards/>.

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For consideration for an **APWA Georgia Chapter Award**, online nominations must be submitted to Chapter Awards Committee as directed on the Chapter webpage, <http://georgia.apwa.org/> , no later than February 20, 2026 . The online application will be open for nominations on November 01, 2025 .

For nominations seeking **National APWA** consideration, in addition to applying for the APWA Georgia Chapter Award, please review the National Award forms, criteria, and submittal information located at <http://www.georgia.apwa.org/events/awards-program/>. Although nomination or selection for a Georgia Chapter Award and Georgia Chapter Endorsement are not required to submit a nomination for national recognition, both are highly recommended. For a Georgia Chapter Endorsement for a National Award nomination, please contact the Chapter Awards Committee as directed by the Chapter webpage at <http://georgia.apwa.org/> well in advance of the National submittal deadline of **March 2nd**. If a nomination is submitted to National without obtaining a Georgia Chapter endorsement, an endorsement cannot be added to the nomination due to the fact that the file is locked once received by National.

The three major categories of APWA Georgia Chapter Awards are **Project of the Year**, **Leader of the Year** and **Public Works Awareness**.

## PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARDS

For project nominations, include detailed information on the project results, any unique aspects of the project, budget information and funding sources, grants, partnerships, schedule data, and high resolution photos. Attachments such as photos, charts, graphics, are strongly encouraged.

These awards are divided in categories and cost ranges aligned with equivalent National awards and are intended to recognize the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who, working together, completed the nominated public works projects.

The five Project of the Year Award categories (have equivalent National Award) include:

- Structures—to include public structure preservation/rehabilitation, municipal buildings, parks, etc.
- Transportation—to include roads, bridges, mass transit, etc.
- Environment—to include treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, sewer projects, etc.
- Historical Restoration/Preservation—to include historical restoration, preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings and structures and facilities, etc.
- Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair—to include the techniques and timing for safety, community relations, environmental protection, adverse conditions and additional considerations.

Project of the Year Awards are further divided into these cost categories:

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- Under \$1,000,000,000 (no National equivalent)
- \$1,000,000,000 up to \$5,000,000,000
- \$5,000,00 up to \$25,000,000
- \$25,000,000 up to \$75,000,000
- Over \$75,000,000

To be eligible for nomination, a project must have been “substantially completed” and available for public and/or agency use within two calendar years prior to nomination. If a project has multiple phases or segments, then “substantially completed” will be construed as that point when the final phase or segment is 90% completed and available for public and/or agency use. Criteria to be used in the selection process include:

1. Use of good construction management techniques and completion of the project on schedule;
2. Safety performance and demonstrated awareness of the need for a good overall safety program during construction;
3. Community relations as evidenced by efforts to minimize public inconvenience due to construction, safety precautions to protect public lives and property, provision of observation areas, guided tours, or other means of improving relations between the agency and the public;
4. Demonstrated awareness for the need to protect the environment during the project. This includes any special considerations given to particular environmental concerns raised during the course of the project;
5. Unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions including, but not limited to age or condition of the facility, adverse weather, soil or other site conditions over which there is no control; and
6. Additional conditions deemed of importance to the public works agency such as exceptional efforts to maintain quality control and, if value engineering is used, construction innovations as evidenced by time and/or money-saving techniques developed and/or successfully utilized.
7. Use of sustainable infrastructure rating system or the equivalent such as the Envision rating system to ensure the project is sustainable.

## **Project of the Year – Small Cities/Rural Communities** (have equivalent National Award)

These awards recognize the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who, working together, complete public works projects in small cities and rural communities (population of 75,000 and less). The criteria and categorizes are the same as Project of Year, but there are no cost or funding categories. Consult the national APWA website at <http://www.apwa.org/resources/apwa-awards/> for the specific requirements for these national awards.

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## LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

For individual nominations, describe the reason why the nominee should be considered. Include accomplishments, recommendations, results of a specific action or project, or any information to help the Awards Committee make their decision.

**Professional Manager of the Year – Administrative Management** (each of these manager awards have equivalent National Awards)

The Professional Manager of the Year Award in Administrative Management seeks to recognize outstanding achievement in the area of administration within the public works department and to inspire excellence and dedication in the public sector by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of administrative professionals.

Any APWA member whose primary responsibility is in the area of public works administration management is eligible. Fields of employment for a nominee include, but are not limited to, human resource professionals, financial/business operations managers, information technologists, procurement services specialists, safety officers, and office management administrators. Candidates with a minimum of ten years qualifying experience may be nominated.

Agency Candidates may be employed by either the public or private sector. However, their career service must be in the public works field of administrative management. Candidates must manage and make significant contributions in the field of public works and the discipline of administrative management.

The criteria used in the selection process include:

- **Profession:** Significant contributions to the advancement of administrative management.
- **Leadership:** Outstanding leadership and vision evidenced by employing progressive management techniques in the area of administrative management.
- **Innovation:** Employment of new and innovative ideas and technology in advancing the effectiveness of administrative management.
- **Agency Service:** Implementation of effective methods to optimize fiscal management of administrative services.
- **Customer Service:** Maintenance of a high degree of satisfaction among customers and other stakeholders.
- **Community Service:** Promotion of the field of public administrative management in the community, agency or customers served.
- **Sustainability:** Supporting the advancement of sustainable contributions in public works.

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In this same category of Professional Manager of the Year Awards, there are other awards presented to managers in the following fields; the criteria for each of these is the same as listed above:

- **Engineering and Technology**
- **Facility and Grounds**
- **Public Fleet**
- **Public Right-of-Way**
- **Public Works Emergency Management**
- **Solid Waste**
- **Transportation**
- **Water Resources**

See the national APWA website, <http://apwa.org/resources/apwa-awards/> for descriptions of each of the other Professional Manager of the Year Awards.

## **Young Leader Award** (has equivalent National Award)

This award is to recognize and encourage young APWA members who have demonstrated an initial commitment to the profession and the chapter and show potential for future growth within the chapter. The award promotes the concept that length of career of the nominee does not necessarily indicate his/her leadership abilities or potential for service. Candidates must be active members of APWA for five consecutive years and not exceed 35 years of age as of the award deadline.

Please include candidate's birth date in nomination materials. The candidates must have demonstrated an ability and eagerness to act at the chapter or branch level by serving on committees, as an officer, heading projects, or contributing in general to the well-being of the chapter.

The candidate should have also accomplished one or more of the following:

- contributed in some significant manner to his/her public agency or company by implementing new ideas, overcoming problems, controlling costs, etc.;
- helped to advance the cause of the public works profession either with leadership commitments to significant community projects or as an advocate for public works issues at the legislative level in local, state, or federal governments; and/or
- demonstrated an ongoing commitment to continuing education in the public works field (i.e., related educational degree(s), attendance at workshops, seminars, or CEU credits, etc.).
- demonstrated an ongoing commitment to advancing sustainability within the profession.

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**Chapter "Public Works Employee of the Year" Award** (no equivalent National Award) – This award is presented to line employees (non-supervisory) with exemplary work record, longevity, and volunteerism in the field of public works.

**Chapter "Public Works Supervisor of the Year" Award** (no equivalent National Award) – This award is presented to supervisors with exemplary work record, longevity, and volunteerism in the field of public works.

**Chapter "Contractor of the Year" Award** (no equivalent National Award) – This award is presented to contractors with documented success in the field of public works to include, but not limited to, projects related to building and grounds, roads and highways, solid waste, wastewater/water, and stormwater.

**Chapter "Consultant of the Year" Award** (no equivalent National Award) – This award is presented to contractors with documented success in the field of public works to include, but not limited to, projects related to building and grounds, roads and highways, solid waste, wastewater/water, and stormwater.

*Note: Contractor and Consultant of the Year Award nominees are not required to be APWA members. Supporting documentation for these nominees should include project successes, as well as client/customer/public agency endorsements.*

**Chapter Award of Excellence** (no equivalent National Award) – This award is presented to a service provider, vendor, contractor, sponsor, or organization that has significantly promoted and supported the Chapter.

**Chapter Meritorious Services Award** (no equivalent National Award) – This award is presented to individual(s) who have volunteered services or assistance under special conditions, as representative(s) of the Chapter.

**Elected Official of the Year Award** (no equivalent National Award) – This award is presented to the elected official who best supports the programs and activities of Public Works in Georgia. Candidates for this award must show legislative leadership (at the local, State or Federal level) for Public Works through legislative actions, personal guidance or support, championship, or otherwise active involvement in Public Works.

**Michael T. Joyner "Service Above Self" Leadership Award** (no equivalent National Award) - This award is presented to recognize outstanding individuals for their career achievements, well-established preeminence in the field of public works, and acknowledged service and support of the Chapter's strategic plan, goals and objectives. This award is the highest honor bestowed on an individual by the Chapter.

*Note: Michael T. Joyner "Service Before Self" Leadership Award recipients are selected by the Chapter Executive Committee.*

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## PUBLIC WORKS AWARENESS AWARDS

### **Community Involvement Award** (has equivalent National Award)

This award is to recognize public works leaders who are also leaders in their community and who endure public trust in public works professionals through recognition of outstanding community leadership.

Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be an active member of APWA.
- Be an active leader in the community, demonstrated through volunteering significant time and/or personal resources to work with charitable organizations, educational organizations, health organizations, community service groups, and/or has participated in significant community projects or programs which improve the quality of life in the community.
- Address how the candidate's community service contributions had an impact on implementing sustainable solutions, environmentally, economically, and/or socially. (Service to community groups that do not encourage multi-cultural, gender, or religious diversity—or are politically oriented, are not deemed appropriate for meeting the purpose of these criteria.)
- Provide a positive role model for other public works professionals.

### **Diversity Exemplary Practices Award** (has equivalent National Award)

This award is to recognize individuals and or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to diversity. The American Public Works Association defines diversity as follows: Value of all individuals and different perspectives of those individuals, and providing the process for all to feel included as part of the whole. Diversity includes race, gender, creed, age, lifestyle, national origin, disability, personality, educational background, and income level. Diversity is not an affirmative action or an equal opportunity program. The award may be presented annually in the following categories: 1) individual 2) program/organization. A chapter, entity, individual member, or nonmember may nominate.

Criteria include:

- A cover letter stating the name, address and telephone number of the nominee and the nominator, with three letters of reference that specifically identify accomplishments that attest to the nominee's positive performance in the area of diversity and that are relevant to the criteria for the award.
- A narrative explaining the basis for the nomination in the following areas:
  - Complexity and severity of the challenges addressed and organizations directed.
  - Use of original/innovative/effective approaches.
  - Impact of contributions to diversity (i.e., extent of long-term or lasting benefits of the nominee's accomplishments).

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- How diversity is integrated into all facets of the program or the efforts by the individual.
- How efforts brought about inclusiveness and facilitated communication.
- Determination of the award recipients will depend (in large part) on the information provided in the narrative section of the nomination. Emphasis will be on achievement and results, not simply effort.

## **Technical and Management Innovation Award** (has equivalent National Award)

This award is to recognize an individual, team, or organization for the development and implementation of a creative idea, device, process or system that enhances the goals of public works in serving the public and protecting the environment. The award is open to anyone actively involved in the public works profession.

The following criteria are used in the selection process:

- Each nominated innovation is judged on its effect upon the provision of goods and services to the public. It can be an innovation in the process itself or in the materials, design, equipment, administration, management training, procurement, etc., that improves, informs, or educates the delivery of public services and improves the quality of life. A project can be nominated for its innovative concepts or methods.
- The innovation must be a proven success. It must have had a positive and important effect on, improve the quality of, or reduce the cost of the delivery of public works goods and services. Innovation is the implementation of new methods and new technologies. It is not merely an idea that has merit and may be successful in the future.
- The innovation must be a significant advance, not just a natural evolution of existing methods, common sense or good practice.
- The innovation must be documented and presentable. Innovators, their teams and/or their agencies/employers must disclose sufficient information about the innovation to allow documentation for the Awards Committee.

*Note: There are other awards that are given at the national level, but not within the Georgia Chapter. Many of these awards are for individual service to APWA at the national level. Other national awards include recognition for Sustainability Practices, Excellence in Snow and Ice Control, Exceptional Performance, and Exemplary Service to Public Works. See the national APWA website, <http://apwa.org/resources/apwa-awards/> for descriptions of each of the other awards presented at the National level.*