

# OUR HISTORY

## APWA MID-AMERICA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBIT SHOW

### BEGINNINGS OF A TRADITION!

*The APWA Mid-America Conference and Exhibit Show has been held every three years (with 2008 being one very understandable exception!) since its beginnings in 1983. As a joint effort of APWA Chapters located in the Heart of America, the triennial event has offered excellent opportunities for continuing education, professional training and networking amongst peers in the public works community. Below is a summary of the events that have contributed to the Mid-Am Conference tradition.*

### 1983

The first conference General Chair was Ron Norris. It was sponsored by the Kansas Chapter, Missouri Chapter and the Kansas City Metro Chapter. The theme for the conference was ***For Those Who Serve*** and was held on April 27, 28 & 29, 1983 at The Regency Park Resort & Conference Center, Overland Park, Kansas.

### 1986

The 1986 Mid-America Conference & Exhibit Show moved to the Park Place Hotel & Exhibition Hall, in Kansas City, Missouri. The General Chair was Ken Cardwell and the Co-Chair was Ed Wolf. The Kansas Chapter, Missouri Chapter and the Kansas City Metro Chapter sponsored the event held on April 2, 3 & 4, 1986. ***Serving with Excellence*** was the theme.

### 1989

This edition of the Mid-Am marked an exciting change, with the Iowa Chapter and Nebraska Chapter joining the other three Chapters as sponsors. The Conference was held on April 19, 20 & 21, 1989, and once again, the location was the Park Place Hotel & Kansas City Market Center (this would continue as the location in 1992, 1995 and 1998). John Stovall was General Chair, Ted Cambern was Co-Chair and the theme was ***Managing for the Future***.

### 1992

Michael Wilson was General Chair and Ed Wolf was Co-Chair in 1992. The theme for the Conference was ***"APWA/Environment-A Partnership for the '90's"*** and was held on April 1, 2 & 3, 1992.

### 1995

Weston "Wes" Goodnow was General Chair and Don Cleveland was Co-Chair for the 1995 Conference held on April 19, 20 & 21. The theme was ***Taking Pride in the Service We Provide***.

### 1998

The 1998 Mid-America Conference & Exhibit Show was held on April 22, 23 & 24. ***Infrastructure-Investment for the 21st Century*** was the theme of the '98 Conference. Don Cleveland was the General Chair and Mac Andrew was the Co-Chair.

### 2001

The 2001 Mid-America Conference & Exhibit Show was held April 18, 19 & 20. The host city location was changed for the first time, with the event being held at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri. The reason for this change was a good one...many of the individuals that had assisted with Mid-Am Conference planning in previous year were actively participating in the planning for the impending 2002 APWA International Congress in Kansas City. Given this, members of the other Mid-Am Chapters took on

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increased duties in the planning of this Mid-Am, in particular the Missouri Chapter. Mac Andrew served as the General Chair and Don Cleveland as Co-Chair for the Planning Committee, and **APWA@2001.IPW-Interactive Public Works** was the theme of the Conference.

2004

### APWA MID-AM 04

"Public Works in a Challenging Environment"

The 2004 Conference moved to the Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park, Kansas. It was held on May 12, 13 & 14, 2004. The theme was **Public Works in a Challenging Environment**. Greg Bolon and Lowell Patterson served as Co-Chairs for the Conference.

*In 2006 the Management Committee decided to change the tradition of holding the Conference every three years due to another Congress-related conflict. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana Chapter postponed hosting the 2006 Congress, which was to be held in New Orleans. The decision was made, on very short notice, to move Congress to Kansas City. It was agreed that holding the **2007 Mid-America Conference** just a few months after the International Congress would have a negative effect on attendance. There would be an extra year to wait for the next Mid-Am.*

2008



The 2008 Mid-America Conference & Exhibit Show was held May 7, 8 & 9 at the Overland Park Convention Center in Overland Park, Kansas. The theme was **Learn from the Past – Prepare for the Future**. Randy Mayden was the General Chair and Don Cleveland was the Co-Chair/Secretary.

2011



The *2011 Mid-America Conference & Exhibit Show* was held on May 18, 19 & 20. The theme was **Think ✦ Build ✦ Share**, and featured, among other things, a strong focus on public works operations that included presentations from a representative of the *National Truck Equipment Association*, and alternative project delivery with assistance from the *Design-Build Institute or America's Midwest Regional Chapter*. One outstanding feature of this Mid-Am was the shared annual luncheon celebration of *National Public Works Week* with the KC Metro Chapter. The May 19<sup>th</sup> event drew over 800 public works peers to recognize the importance of public works professionals in the lives of our communities. Randy Mayden and Don Cleveland served as the Co-Chairs for the Conference.

2014



The *2014 Mid-America Conference & Exhibit Show* was held on May 21, 22 & 23, at the Overland Park Convention Center in the Kansas City metro area. Building on the 2011 Mid-Am's success in scheduling the conference during *National Public Works Week*, we once again celebrated with a joint luncheon on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, that drew over 700 members of the public works community in our four states and five chapters

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to recognize to hear Frank White, former Kansas City Royals great and nominee for the Jackson County, MO Legislature. We also had an FHWA-sponsored pre-conference workshop for public works staff and emergency first-responders focused on *Traffic Incident Management* (TIM) training. Cynthia Mitchell and Steve Schmidt served as Co-Chairs for the Conference.

2017



The **2017 MidAMX** was held on May 24, 25 & 26 at the Overland Park (Kansas) Convention Center in the south Kansas City metro. Taking the lead from APWA National’s rebranding of the annual International Congress, the Planning Committee chose to transition the conference name from the traditional *Mid-America Conference & Exhibit Show* to the “**MIDAM EXPO**”, “**MIDAMX**”, or just plain “**MAX**”! A new logo was created to accompany the name change (see above). Highlights of the conference included the addition of a keynote address by Shelley Row, PE, a transportation engineer turned public speaker (who would have thought!) describing what she has learned as a “recovering over-thinker” and how to succeed by going with your gut, as well as numerous other insightful topics centered around public works management, operations, and infrastructure. We also continued the tradition of a fantastic regional exhibit show and one of the country’s largest *National Public Works Week* celebrations, with the annual KC Metro Chapter’s luncheon opened to all **MIDAMX** attendees and exhibitors, drawing hundreds of public works professionals from the five APWA Chapters. Patty Hilderbrand and John Frerking served as Co-Chairs for the **2017 MidAMX**.

2020



**MAX|2020** is scheduled for May 20-22, and will once again being held at the Overland Park Convention Center in the Kansas City metro area. The conference will once again include a joint *National Public Works Week* celebration, with the annual KC Metro Chapter’s luncheon opened to all **MIDAMX** attendees and exhibitors, which draws hundreds of public works professionals from the four-state, five-Chapter region. Patty Hilderbrand and John Frerking are reprising their 2017 roles as Co-Chairs for the **MAX|2020** Conference. \

**MAX|2020**