APWA ILLINOIS NEWSLETTER

November 2026 | illinois.apwa.org

2026 CONFERENCE

Another annual chapter conference is in the books! We had another great year at the Peoria Civic Center. Thank you to all of the attendees, exhibitors, speakers, sponsors, workers, and volunteers who made the event a success!

For presentations, a list of speakers and exhibitors, a photo gallery, and other resources, go to: illinois.apwa.org/conference

We hope to see you in 2027!



Breakfast at the annual conference

PUBLIC WORKS OVERALL PROJECT OF THE YEAR 2026

Congratulations to this year's Public Works Overall Project of the Year 2026, which was awarded to Candlewood Bridge! The managing agency is City of Washington, the engineer is Millennia Professional Services, and the contractor is Illinois Civil Contractors.

The City of Washington's Candlewood Bridge, a historic double-arch masonry bridge built in 1894 and carries Candlewood Drive over the south branch of Farm Creek. Designed by city engineer Fredrick Rickman in 1893 and built by Jacob Habluetzel, a Stone Mason from Washington, was built using locally sourced stone. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the only remaining stone arch bridge in Tazewell County supported solely by its arches.



Candlewood Bridge

After a wing wall failure closed the bridge in 2023, the city chose rehabilitation rather than replacement to preserve its historic character. The project repaired the wing wall using original masonry where possible, restored the bridge masonry, strengthened structural elements, improved scour protection, and upgraded the roadway and guardrails. The project was completed on time and within budget, reopening to traffic on August 17, 2025. As a result of the successful preservation effort, the City of Washington received an Illinois State Historical Marker.

All award winners were announced and presented with a plaque at the 2026 Annual Illinois Chapter Conference Dinner on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. Winners also received three tickets to the dinner.

A list of the award winners, project photos, and award photos are available at: illinois.apwa.org/awards.



Overall Project of the Year 2026 winners with Chapter President Stephen Letsky

EARLY CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Do you have a topic you'd like to present or do you know someone you'd like to see present at the 2027 APWA Illinois Chapter Conference scheduled for November 2027? Please email chapteradmin@illinois.apwa.org with the speaker's name, email address, and topic, and we'll reach out when we're looking for speakers next year!

2027 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / DIRECTORS

Congratulations to the 2027 Executive Committee and Directors who were elected during this year's annual meeting! Starting in January, Josie Esker with TERRA Engineering will become President, Mary Cave with Illinois Department of Transportation will remain as Vice President, Amanda Dioneda with Civil Design, Inc., will become Secretary, Sean Henry with Klingner & Associates, P.C., will remain as Treasurer, and Stephen Letsky, Illinois Department of Transportation, will become Past President.


Josie Esker
President


Mary Cave
Vice President


Amanda Dioneda
Secretary


Sean Henry
Treasurer


Stephen Letsky
Past President

Julie Shipp with Fuhrmann Engineering, Inc., Eric Williams with City of Edwardsville, David Chamness with Southern Illinois University, and Michael Hill with City of Bloomington will remain as Directors. A list of Executive Committee officers, directors, and committee chairs is available at: illinois.apwa.org/about/leadership

UPCOMING EVENTS

To view a list of upcoming events, visit: illinois.apwa.org/events

Prairie Branch

The Prairie Branch December Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at the Public Works Facility, which is located at 1155 East Voorhees Street in Danville, Illinois. The topic is to be determined.

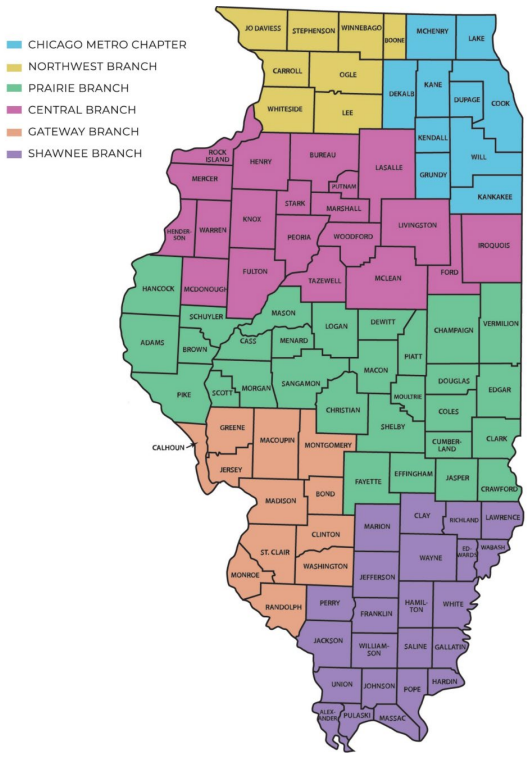
Gateway Branch

The Gateway Branch December Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (date subject to change) at Bella Milano, which is located at 1063 S State Rte 157 in Edwardsville, Illinois. The topic is Presentation of Scholarships, and the lunch is sponsored by EFK Moen.

ABOUT THE CHAPTER

The APWA Illinois Chapter is comprised of approximately 400 members throughout the state of Illinois, excluding Cook County, Lake County, McHenry County, Dekalb County, Kane County, DuPage County, Kendall County, Grundy County, Will County, and Kankakee County. The Illinois Chapter's members work largely for public agencies, consultants, and equipment/material suppliers.

APWA and the Illinois Chapter provide an outstanding value to anyone associated in the public works field. The education, networking, and camaraderie are invaluable. The chapter has five branches spread out across the state: Northwest Branch, Prairie Branch, Central Branch, Gateway Branch, and Shawnee Branch. For more information about these branches, including a larger map, visit: illinois.apwa.org/branches



Sign Up for Emails or Follow us on LinkedIn!

If you're interested in receiving regular updates from the APWA Illinois Chapter, and you're not already receiving them, please email the chapter at chapteradmin@illinois.apwa.org to be added to our mailing list! We also have a LinkedIn page at www.linkedin.com/company/apwail with more frequent updates, job postings, and other content from the chapter.

Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association will be hosting a Designing Concrete Pavement – Fall Seminar on Tuesday, November 24, 2026, in Mattoon, IL. Click here to register. This seminar is designed for engineers, specifiers, contractors, and industry professionals who want to expand their knowledge on the latest best practices, design methods, and innovations in concrete pavement. It will also provide valuable networking opportunities for those involved in shaping the future of concrete, and you receive 4 PDH's.



Battery Identification & Safety Guide:

Safe battery recycling starts with you.

Use this guide to identify common battery types and how to prevent sparks before you recycle.

Li-Ion



Lithium-Ion **Type:** Rechargeable **Name on battery:** Li-Ion

Excellent performance for high drain devices but can be expensive.

Commonly found in: Power Tools, Cellphones*, Power Banks

✸ **Always Protect Terminals** (Individually bag (preferred) or tape terminals)

Ni-MH



Nickel-Metal Hydride **Type:** Rechargeable **Name on battery:** Ni-MH

Reliable for high-drain, demanding devices and recharges up to 1,000 times.

Commonly found in: Power Tools, Digital Cameras, Gaming Controllers

✸ **Protect Terminals if over 9V** (Individually bag (preferred) or tape terminals)

Ni-Cd



Nickel Cadmium **Type:** Rechargeable **Name on battery:** Ni-Cd

Rechargeable up to 1,000 times; contains cadmium, a toxic metal that must be recycled.

Commonly found in: Power Tools, Digital Cameras, Gaming Controllers

✸ **Protect Terminals if over 9V** (Individually bag (preferred) or tape terminals)

SSLA/Pb



Small Sealed Lead Acid **Type:** Rechargeable **Name on battery:** SSLA/ Pb

Simple to manufacture. Lowest discharge rates of any rechargeable battery.

Commonly found in: Emergency devices, Ride-On Toys, Security Systems

✸ **Always Protect Terminals** (Individually bag (preferred) or tape terminals)

Primary (Single-use)



Primary (Single-use) **Type:** Non-Rechargeable

Name on battery: alkaline, lithium, zinc-air, carbon-zinc, zinc-chloride, CR/SR/LR (button batteries)

Cannot be recharged and must be disposed of after use. Examples include Alkaline (AAA, AA, C, D, 9V), lithium primary, and coin or button cell batteries.

Commonly found in: Flashlights, Remote Controls, Smoke Detectors

✸ **Lithium Primary & Coin/Button Batteries: Always Protect Terminals** (Individually bag (preferred) or tape terminals)

✸ **Alkaline or Other non-lithium primary over 12V: Protect Terminals** (Individually bag (preferred) or tape terminals)

✓ **Alkaline & Other non-lithium primary under 12V:** No terminal protection required

** Data removal is the responsibility of the device holder prior to drop-off.*

Damaged, defective, swollen, leaking or overheating batteries require special handling. Visit batterynetwork.org/safety

How to protect battery terminals (pick one)



Option A: Bag it (preferred)

Individually bag each battery in a clear bag, either The Battery Network's bag, zip-seal, or a produce/newspaper bag.



Option B: Tape it

Tape the terminals with clear packing, electrical, or duct tape. Don't use masking, painters, or Scotch tape. (It tends to peel off). If tape isn't clear, keep the brand and chemistry visible.

For more information:

CALL
1.877.723.1297

EMAIL
connect@batterynetwork.org

Find a battery drop-off location near you:
batterynetwork.org/locator

One small step helps prevent fires. Safe battery recycling starts with you.

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