

## 2026 Executive Board

### *President*

**Forrest Jones, Town of Garner**  
fjones@garnernc.gov

### *President-Elect*

**Steve Lander, Pavement Navigators**  
slander@pavementnavigators.com

### *Vice President*

**Rick Sanderson, City of Charlotte**  
Rick.Sanderson@charlottenc.gov

### *Chapter Administrator*

**Kate Davison, ITRE NCSU**  
apwancadmin@ncsu.edu

### *Secretary*

**Jacqueline Thompson, Bolton & Menk Inc.**  
secretary@northcarolina.apwa.org

### *Treasurer*

**Christina Vanderzee, City of High Point, (retired)**  
apwanctreasurer@outlook.com

### *Past President*

**Chip Vanderzee, Summit Design & Engineering**  
sammy.vanderzee@summitde.com

### *Council of Chapters Delegate*

**James Martin, Retired**  
jbm@ncsu.edu

### *Directors*

**Caroline Kone, City of Hickory**  
ckone@hickorync.gov

**Kevin Rogers, City of High Point**  
kevin.rogers@highpointnc.gov

**Dennis Stanley, Town of Cary**  
dennis.stanley@townofcary.org

**Michelle Podeszwa, McAdams**  
podeszwa@mcadamsco.com

**Taylor Keith, TELICS**  
taylorkeith@telics.com

### *Division Presidents*

**Equipment Services**  
**Neal Hall, Town of Garner**  
nhall@garnernc.gov

**Facilities and Grounds**  
**Steve Gearren, Village of Clemmons**  
sgearren@clemmons.org

**Leadership and Management**  
**Andrew Parker, Bohler Engineering**  
aparker@bohlereng.com

**Solid Waste**  
**Griffin Hatchell, City of Greensboro**  
griffin.hatchell@greensboro-nc.gov

**Stormwater Management**  
**Rob Hopper, Resource Environmental Solutions**  
rhopper@res.us

**Streets**  
**Steve Robbins, Town of Huntersville**  
srobbins@huntersville.org



To: APWA-NC Members

Date: 01/21/2026

Subject: Herman Drake Award (Solid Waste Employee of the Year)

The Herman Drake Award is given each year by the Solid Waste Division of the North Carolina Chapter of APWA to recognize an employee in Solid Waste services in a non-supervisory role. This is your opportunity to nominate an outstanding person from your organization to compete for this prestigious award.

The Award is named after Herman Drake, who was associated with the City of Rocky Mount and was very active in the practice of Solid Waste Management in North Carolina for over 50 years. As an ongoing tribute to his contributions, we select one individual from the nominations received that best exemplifies the character and contributions of Mr. Drake.

Positions of Crew Leaders/Chiefs are considered non-supervisory. Enclosed is an application for your candidate. This winner will be presented with a monetary gift and a plaque at the Annual Conference in Cherokee N.C on July 28, 2026 during our Herman Drake Award luncheon and celebration. Please take the time to respond and recognize your employee. We all have special individuals within our Solid Waste organizations who make us look good every day. Now is the chance, as Managers, to give them the recognition they deserve.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE IS May 31, 2026.**

If you have any questions, please call me at **(336) 209-6998**. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming APWA Solid Waste Division Conference in Cherokee, N.C, July 27-29, 2026.

Sincerely,

Griffin Hatchell  
APWA-NC Solid Waste Division President – 2026

**A P W A**  
**AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION**  
*North Carolina Chapter*  
**2026**

***Herman Drake Award***

Nominees' Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Time in Service with the Organization: Years \_\_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE SECTIONS 1-6 ON A SEPARATE DOCUMENT TO INCLUDE WITH THIS FORM.**

1. Extent of self-improvement (to include but not limited to: Job history, promotions, citations, certificates, organization growth, personal accomplishments, etc.)
2. Extent of taking advantage of training offered by employer and others (list courses complete, interest in training others, awareness of training offered by organization or other agencies, and willingness to take advantage of any other means to improve job skills).
3. Achievements/accomplishments while employed in the field of Solid Waste Management (i.e., efficient utilization of equipment/vehicles; improved methods; pride in tasks completed; recognition from citizens served).
4. Service contributed to the best interest of the community (i.e., awareness and concern for public relations with the citizens; awareness of safety precautions required to protect the community and fellow workers; ability to communicate with the public in a positive manner.)
5. Character.
6. Supporting material and/or information and other qualifications.

Submitted by: _____	Organization: _____
Title: _____	Date: _____
Endorsed by: _____	Organization: _____
Title: _____	Date: _____

Please E-mail to:  
Griffin Hatchell  
336-209-6998  
[Griffin.hatchell@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:Griffin.hatchell@greensboro-nc.gov)