

## EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE



### What is the value of being a MSA member?

By now, most people who are involved in the Public Works industry in the Western United States, knows or at least have heard of the Maintenance Superintendent Association (MSA). Since its formation in 1962 and incorporation on February 18, 1966, the MSA's mission has been to create a forum where like-minded maintenance experts could come together to meet and share experiences and solutions to mutual challenges. Almost 60 years later, the noble mission on which the MSA was formed continues to drive the association and its members. With ten local chapters throughout California and Arizona and nearly 2,000 active members, the MSA is the biggest association dedicated to public agency maintenance employees and vendors in California and Arizona. In fact, the MSA is one of only a few associations focused on the enrichment and enhancement of the Public Works maintenance sector in the Nation. Since its incorporation, the MSA has continuously strived to develop its members and facilitate learning opportunities in which members can learn about new technologies and processes. Below are only some of the benefits to being a MSA member:

- **General meetings** – General meetings in the MSA have served as the primary venue for members to network with other professionals. The opportunity to meet with public agency members within the same counties/areas and vendors that serve those areas, was and continues to be invaluable. General meetings create a forum in which members are face to face with other people that not only understand but continuously face similar industry challenges. This concept has expanded due to all the current technological advancements, where members can now take part in other local chapter's general meetings throughout California and Arizona, expanding their opportunities to network.
- **Educational workshops and trainings** – Throughout the year, MSA members can take advantage of multiple workshops and training. Some of these workshops and trainings offered include: Traffic Control Flagger Certification, Greenbook Training, Liability of Unmaintained Trees, and New Water Conservation Methods, just to name a few. MSA is constantly looking for new topics and areas of training ensuring that participating members are up to date with the latest technology and keeping up with the newest laws and regulations. Workshops and trainings usually happen on the same day as general meetings allowing for ease of networking. Moreover, MSA works closely with other organizations such as the American Public Works Association (APWA) and the California Water

Environment Association (CWEA), to make sure that members receive the latest and newest information in the field of Public Works.

- **Annual Conference and Equipment Show** – The pinnacle of all the events and activities that take place within the MSA. Every year, one lucky local chapter gets the opportunity to host the Annual Conference and Equipment Show and showcase the community that they serve. Members can take advantage of this event where members from all ten local chapters come together to learn, network and celebrate members that have performed exemplary within MSA. The event covers various days with multiple trainings courses, not to mention various networking activities such as golf tournaments, fishing trips, hospitality events and a themed Gala.
- **Educational Scholarships** – We recognize that MSA does not offer training in every professional field. Therefore, every year, local chapters have the opportunity to select qualified individuals to receive financial assistance who are currently enrolled in college courses. Scholarships are presented to members and their dependents as MSA continual commitment to further the education of its current and future members. For details and information, please visit your corresponding local chapter’s website. MSA Chapters have distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to deserving students of all levels and ages.
- **Foundation of MSA** – The Foundation is a separate organization from the MSA with their own set of by-laws, officers, and financials. The Foundation is a public charitable 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. It was developed so that individuals, as well as businesses, can donate directly to supporting the MSA’s goals and mission. The Foundation supports the activities of the MSA by encouraging, assisting, and funding scholarships, education, training opportunities and special projects. MSA members are encouraged to participate and join the Foundation as they look for opportunities to promote and grow.
- **Awards for Outstanding Leadership** – Every year, each local chapter recognizes an agency member and a vendor who throughout the year have demonstrated an exemplary commitment and service to their chapter. Members nominate and select the worthy individuals, which receive an award and are celebrated during one of the chapter’s monthly meeting. At the annual conference, the Association will honor one agency member and one vendor member for their achievement and accomplishments in the highest standards of the MSA. It is truly an honor to receive this award and join the ranks of many past individuals who had made it a mission to serve their community.
- **Website & Job Posting** – MSA’s website provides the perfect platform for public agencies and vendors to advertise career opportunities within their organizations. Agencies and vendors can benefit from advertising in the MSA knowing the information will be view by people with knowledge in the industry. MSA updates their website constantly to ensure members receive the latest information and are informed of all the events that are happening within the organization.
- **Online Training Education** – MSA robust Educational Program is dedicated to assure that current and future employees are prepared for advancement in the field of Public Works. Members can take advantage of the Public Works Specialist Certification Program and learn of basic and advanced necessary knowledge and skills in all aspects of Public Works; knowledge and skills that they can take to the field or in the administrative department. All course instructors are members of the MSA and are considered “Subject Matter Experts”, who will not only impart technical knowledge but they will also share their skills acquired through their many years of experience. Knowing that there are

some things in our industry that just can't be learned from a book, MSA's Educational Program provides an invaluable resource to fill that gap.

With the help of many dedicated members, MSA has become an organization that has positioned itself in the forefront of the advancement of the Public Works field. With the collective experience of 100's and 100's of years that comes from its members, MSA strives to develop the next generation of Superintendents, Managers and Supervisors. This development comes in many forms such as networking, educational workshops, trainings, scholarships and the MSA Educational Program. So the question becomes "*not what is the value of being a MSA?*". Instead the question should be, *WHEN will your agency take advantage of all the opportunities that MSA has to offer all its members?*