

## JUNE ROSENRETER SPENCE AWARD

Recognizes efforts to recruit individuals into Public Works, including those members and organizations, or programs, who recognize and are active in helping women, minorities & people with disabilities, pursue careers in the public works field.

June Rosentreter Spence (as of August, 2017) lives in Hammond, Oregon. Her life has been one of service to local and state governments in Washington and Oregon AND one of APWA *FIRSTS*.

- First woman recipient of the James Robertson Award - 1978
- First woman Washington State Chapter American Public Works Association President – 1982
- First woman National APWA Executive Board Region IX Director
- First woman President, National APWA - 1987

June was born in Seattle and graduated from high school in Vancouver, Washington. One of her memorable childhood highlights is that her father was a road construction contractor and for 3 years they lived in La Push on the Quillayute Indian reservation where she learned to make Indian baskets. She attended Clark College, Oregon State University and Portland State University.



June worked at the City of Vancouver for 26 years in various capacities, including being the Administrative Division Manager before retiring from the city in 1988 (EG) and moving to Hammond, Oregon. She remained active in APWA in the Oregon Chapter and attained Life Member status there.

Following is an edited excerpt from June's *Building Washington* write-up:

June Rosentreter Spence has functioned as the Manager of Administrative Division/Public Works Contract Officer for the City of Vancouver, combining public works experience with an interest in the problems of municipal management, she could be described as a "Renaissance Woman" in the public works profession.

Ms. Spence has been in the center of a series of sweeping changes that have taken place in Vancouver's Public Works Department. Her own contributions to that change have been recognized not only in Vancouver but also by her peers in the profession. She was the first woman to serve as President of the Washington Chapter of APWA, as well as the first woman to serve on the APWA Executive Board as Region IX Director, and in 1986 was elected to the top office in the organization, President of National APWA.

Ms. Spence's early achievements in Vancouver's Public Works Department grew out of a concern that engineers were spending valuable time performing tasks that could be handled more cost-effectively by the staff. In 1972, she set up a word processing system—the city's first experiment in office automation—to speed up the processing of construction specifications and contracts. She also established a records management system which eliminated much of the duplication in files.

Building on these successes, Ms. Spence consolidated many of the previously separate elements of contract administration. Under this program, the engineering staff prepared specifications and monitored construction progress, while Ms. Spence's staff handled the various legal and administrative requirements of approximately five million dollars in public works contracts each year.

Impressed with the savings that had taken place in the Public Works Department, in 1977 the City Manager directed that these services be available city wide through the creation of the Administrative Division. Working under the motto "We can do anything!" Ms. Spence's team took on central services, established centralized dictation and word processing (with satellite word processing stations in other departments), as well as contract administration and other support services targeted to public works. Ms. Spence also served as coordinator for handicapped requirements and minority business enterprise liaison officer. She was instrumental in establishing a one-stop citizen service center in the City Hall lobby.

In addition to APWA, June led a very busy and fulfilling life. Following is a list of her affiliations and positions over the years:

- Commissioner, Oregon State Parks Commission
- Commissioner, Port of Astoria
- Commissioner, Clatsop County
- Councilmember, Hammond Town Council
- Governor's Bi-State Columbia River Water Quality Steering Committee
- Member, Interstate Columbia River Improvement Project
- Various engineering/management committees
- Co-convenor with Senator Betsy Johnson - Fort Clatsop To Sea Trail
- President, Columbia River Maritime Museum Friends
- Port of Astoria design review committee and strategic planning task force
- Board of Trustees, Columbia River Maritime Museum Columbia River Society
- Steering Committee, Astoria Bicentennial
- 2011 cruise host - welcome visitors, tours, etc.
- Mayor's Leaders Roundtable (Astoria)
- President, Point Triumph Condominium Assoc.
- Columbia Memorial Hospital physician recruitment task force, development council special prospects

