

Brief notes

Now is the time to submit nominations for 2000 awards to be announced at the Fall Conference, November 7-8 in Kearney. See page 40 in the 2000-2001 directory for a list of categories. Submit nominations to **John Miriovsky**, 402.441.5932; fax: 402.441.8493; e-mail: miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us



Tony Bilek has joined Mc2, Inc. (phone: 402.333.9660). He previously was at Raines & Associates.

Scott Borman has joined the Nebraska Health & Human Services, Regulatory and Licensure, as Drinking Water Program Specialist (phone: 402.471.1010). He previously was Utilities Superintendent for the City of Chadron.

Scott's responsibilities include: Surface Water Treatment Rule, Interim Enhanced SWRT, Filter Backwash Rule and the Disinfection/Disinfection By-Product Rule.

Jeff Kohn has been promoted to superintendent of the Platte River Water Treatment Plant, Metropolitan Utilities District (phone: 402.449.8066). He succeeds Don Ryan, who retired October 1 with 39 years of service.

Gene Siadek has been named water supply engineer (phone: 402.554.7870) at M.U.D.

Rich Robinson has been promoted to Nebraska Office Manager at Kirkham Michael & Associates.



If you have a new e-mail address, please go to our web site, <http://www.awwaneb.org> and complete the "E-Mail Address Form." This will update your records at National AWWA. There's also a form to update address, phone, etc. changes. Please use it.



We need your help to keep our members updated with life happenings. Please send job changes, promotions, retirement and death announcements to **Mari Matulka**, fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com

Miriovsky receives Fuller Award

John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System, was named the George Warren Fuller Awardee at the 1999 fall conference for 22 years of outstanding service to the water industry. This highest honor given by AWWA will be presented to John at the National AWWA Conference June 11-15 in Denver. John served as Nebraska Section chair in 1997 and currently chairs the Awards Committee. He also is a member of the International Ozone Association.



John Miriovsky

A native of Dwight, NE, John graduated from David City Aquinas High School in 1968. He earned a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 1973, and a masters in Agricultural Engineering with emphasis in Hydraulics in 1977, also from UNL. His thesis was "The Effects of Limited Water on Corn Yields." He is a grade I water operator.

Prior to joining the utility, John held engineering positions with the Nebraska Department of Roads, Northern Petrochemical Co. of Morris, IL, Benjamin, Kasl and Associates of McCook, Boyle Engineering Corp. and Associated Engineers, Inc., of Lincoln.

He joined the Lincoln Water System in 1982 as superintendent of Water Distribution and was promoted to superintendent of Water Production and Treatment in 1991. John managed the start-up of the \$90-million expansion to the Ashland Water Treatment Plant, and the automation of the distribution system. He also implemented the On-Call System for water service technicians as first responders to after-hour emergencies as well as a computerized maintenance system.

John enjoys golf, softball and coaching. He and his wife, Barbara, have two sons, Ben and Dan.

2000 Section Officers



From left: Chairperson Joel Christensen, Rich Koenig, Tony Bilek, Chris Koenig, Dennis Watts, Larry Andreasen, Scott Borman, Dennis Hirschbrunner and Chip Haas.

Chair's comments

As we begin the Year 2000, the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association is in a good position for continued growth. Thanks to the efforts of **Rich Robinson** and the Membership Committee, we are at a record level of 351. Our education programs are many and varied, and our finances are strong.

The new mentoring program and the Young Professionals Committee, chaired by **Joe Baxter** and **Eric Obert**, will provide avenues for continued growth in our membership and service.

The next video teleconference will be March 9. The topic is "Taste and Odor." This conference is important for all of us who operate and maintain a water distribution system, in addition to covering treatment and source management issues.

Year 2000 educational opportunities already include 18 joint seminars with the League of Nebraska Municipalities, four backflow recertification classes scheduled for September, and two video teleconferences in March and November. Thanks to **Mike Wentink** for the excellent planning.

The Fall Conference will be held November 7-8 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney. It is co-chaired by **Chip Haas** and **Rich Koenig**. Ideas for programs are welcome.

Thanks to **Jerry Obrist** and **Mari Matulka** for the legislative update. The Nebraska Section does not participate in lobbying, however we help keep our members apprised of legislation that may affect them.

This is your section! Use the educational, library and mentoring resources. See page 11 for a current list of mentors. Call **Bob Elston, 402.582.4928**, if you'd like to volunteer for this resource group. For the most benefit, volunteer for one of the committees listed on this page by calling the chairperson.

Also check out page 13 in this issue for information on the Nebraska Water Conference, March 6-8, in Lincoln. The conference covers pertinent information for water suppliers.

As a reminder, members are invited to attend board meetings. The next two meeting will be March 16 and May 18, respectively, 9:30 a.m., Classroom A, at the Metropolitan Utilities District, 3100 S. 61st Ave., Omaha.

To get to the site, take I-80 to the 60th St. exit. Turn north to Grover St., which is the first set of traffic lights. Turn west (left) on Grover St. to 61st Ave. Turn north on 61st Ave. Go up the hill, about four blocks to the main entrance (last entrance at the top of the hill with the large Metropolitan Utilities District sign). Entrance is on the west (left) side of the street. If you have any questions, please call me at **402.554.7774**.

Wise Water Words is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association.

Editor: **Mari Matulka**, APR, 402.449.8154

Fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari@radiks.net

I look forward to serving you as we begin the Year 2000.



Joel Christensen

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Water Utility Council report

by Jerry Obrist

The Second Session of the 96th Nebraska Legislative convened its 60-day session January 5, 2000. Proposed laws, committee meeting dates, daily agenda, roster of Senators can be viewed on the Unicameral's home page at <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>. If you have any questions, please call me at 402.441.7571.

In committee

LB 567 (*Landis*) Allows cities or villages to condemn public utility properties within their zoning jurisdiction. Bill was introduced on behalf of the Lincoln Electric System.

Judiciary Committee. Hearing held February 25, 1999.

LB 903 (*Schrock*) Modifies statutes relating to pumping from irrigation wells within 50 feet of the banks of a natural stream. Grandfathers all wells installed prior to the effective date of the bill. **Natural Resources Committee.** Hearing held January 19.

LB 904 (*Schrock*) Modifies groundwater management statutes. Allow natural resources districts to limit or prevent the expansion of irrigated acres in a groundwater management area. Also modifies the current authority to implement a moratorium in all or part of the management area. Right now, the authority can be exercised only with the NRD determines that its water management objectives could not be met through reasonable application of other controls. The moratorium now has to be renewed once every five years. The bill eliminates those restrictions and simply lists a moratorium as one of the authorized controls.

Currently, groundwater users can use their water allocation on all or any part of the irrigated acres to which their allocation applies. The bill would allow the allocation to be used in any other manner approved by the district.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that a NRD review its allocation, rotation or acreage reduction controls at least once every three years. **Natural Resources Committee.** Hearing held January 20.

LB 1069 (*Baker, Schrock*) Extends cost share for surface water measuring devices in the Republican River Basin. Current program only for groundwater wells in the alluvial aquifer. Bill extends program to owner/operators of surface water systems. All measuring devices for

alluvial wells to be installed and operational by June 1, 2001 instead of April 1, 2001. **Natural Resources Committee.** Hearing held January 28.

LB 1112 (*Schrock and others*) Clarifies water well registration provisions. All water wells, except test holes, dewatering wells used less than 90 days and domestic wells built before September 9, 1993, would still have to be registered, but the registration would be a two-part process.

Includes provisions for (1) wells that are completed and pumped into a common carrier; (2) series of wells intended for ground heat exchange, and (3) wells built as part of a single site plan for monitoring groundwater. Prevents the decommissioning of water wells by other than licensed water well contractors, water well drilling supervisors, pump installation contractors or pump installation supervisors. **Natural Resources Committee.** Hearing held January 20.

LB 1220 (*Schrock*) Employees of NRDs will not be required to comply with certification requirements of the Water Well Standards Contractors Licensing Act for purposes of conducting chemigation inspections, measuring static water levels in water wells, and servicing flow meters during the course of their employment. **Natural Resources Committee.** Hearing held January 28.

LB 1205 (*Brashear*) Allows claimant two years in which to file a claim against a political subdivision. Current law cuts off tort claims after one year. This bill is opposed by the City of Omaha and other political subdivisions. **Judiciary Committee.** No hearing date scheduled as of January 28.

LB 1355 and LB 1356 (*Schrock*) Water Quality Cost Sharing Fund to prevent or cleanup groundwater contamination. **Natural Resources Committee.** Hearing scheduled February 16.

LB 1418 (*Wickersham*) Public Facilities Construction and Finance Act to allow political subdivisions to issue bonds to finance joint public projects such as recreational facilities, flood control and storm water drainage projects. **Revenue Committee.** No hearing date scheduled as of January 28.

General File

LB 900 (*Natural Resources Committee*) Merge Natural Resources Commission and Department of Water Resources.

LB 1040 (*Beutler*) Requires DEQ to conduct a comprehensive study of water quality and water quality monitoring in

Continued on page 4

Nebraska. First phase, assess current water quality monitoring efforts, to be completed by December 1, 2000. Second phase, detailed description of changes required in current system to establish a comprehensive, integrated statewide water quality monitoring system, including preferred alternatives if multiple options exist, to be completed by June 30, 2001.

Killed

LB 160 (*Brown, Brashear, Bromm, Coordsen, Raikes, Wehrbein*) and **LB 282** (*Stuhr, Bromm, Coordsen, Raikes, Wehrbein*)

This bill and others provide for a limitation of government liability for damages relating to Y2K. It's anticipated the Legislature will pass some type of bill limiting Y2K liability for the State and its political subdivisions.

Judiciary Committee.

LB 338 (*C Peterson, Bohlke, Bruning, Cudabeck, Jones, Kremer, Kristensen, Raikes, Schmitt*) Water Conservation and Banking Act which makes it possible for individual entities to create water banks as well as join with other entities under the Interlocal Cooperation Act. Two

additional ways to account for water savings could be banked. They are: (1) modify the operation of existing hydro power projects, and (2) modify points of diversion or points of return. What is referred to in the original bill as "drain areas which could have excessive levels," including management of surface water recharge.

Amendments also would provide that a water banking program could not create a net depletion of stream flow which would negatively impact an existing surface water use.

LB 488 (*Schrock*) Amend flood control improvement corridor statutes adopted in 1994.

LB 671 and **LB 672** (*Wickersham*) Provide for the lease of water rights by irrigation districts and other entities. Sets out criteria to be followed by the Department of Water Resources when applications for leasing of water rights appear before it.

LB 747 (*Beutler*) Adopt the Nebraska Protected Rivers Act.

LB 902 (*Schrock*) Modify surface water appropriation statutes.

LB 939 (*Baker*) Modify water well standards and contractors licensing act.

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Director's report by Dennis Hirschbrunner

Happy New Year to all of you. I trust you all survived Y2K and the beginning of the new millennium. Water industry profession-



Dennis Hirschbrunner

als can be proud of our collective performance in dealing with the Y2K bug. Contrary to dire predictions by the Natural Resource Defense Council and others, the water industry came through with flying colors. We again earned the respect and trust of our customers.

The new millennium offers both challenges and opportunities to our industry. The challenges will come from the continuing development of more stringent drinking water rules and regulations by EPA; competition from the private sector to own and operate public utilities, funding to implement the new rules and regulations to name a few.

The opportunities will be to find and implement more efficient ways to operate our water system, the development and implementation of new water treatment technologies and continuing to earn the public trust by providing an outstanding product. I believe we are up to the challenge and will grasp the opportunities.

Your Section officers already are hard at work for the New Year. The Fall Conference, which I thought was outstanding, set the stage for a very successful 2000. Our national representative, **Marlay Price**, was extremely impressed by the Section and our progressive leadership and active membership.

AWWA National also is hard at work. EPA continues to develop and publish new draft rules and regulations including the recently published radon rule and the soon to be released arsenic rule. The Association provides input on the rule and regulations as they are being promulgated and comments after publication. The Association also is active on Capital Hill helping with legislative issues as well as funding issues including research and state revolving loan fund seed money.

I attended the mid-year Board of Directors meeting of AWWA January 22-24, and will have a report for you in the next newsletter. Key issues were the election of new national officers and budget approval.

I look forward to a great 2000 and wish all of you the best.

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MTBE in Nebraska

On January 16, 2000 **60 Minutes** aired a story on MTBE. MTBE means Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether. It is a gasoline additive that has become a major drinking water contaminant in some states, especially California. The substance is added to gasoline to reduce air pollution.

MTBE generally is found in ground water near leaking gasoline storage tanks. It causes taste and odor problems in drinking water.

Since the substance has been used sporadically since 1995, it is not an EPA regulated contaminant, however it is on the Contaminant Candidate List for future regulation as early as 2001.

The following information was provided to Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services, by Fred Stone, executive director, Nebraska Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, Inc., (phone: 402.474.6691; fax: 402.474.2510), January 4, 1999.

The major supply terminals that supply most of the gasoline to the eastern part of the State of Nebraska are the Williams pipeline terminal located in Omaha and the cooperative terminal in Council Bluffs, IA.

Williams Pipeline System

In the Williams System, MTBE is not a product that is shipped through the pipeline system. MTBE, if available at the Williams terminal, is brought in by transport and blended upon request by the customer purchasing the product at the terminal.

The Williams pipeline terminals at Omaha and Lincoln have never carried MTBE as an additive. MTBE was carried at the Williams' Des Moines, IA, terminal up until approximately three or four years ago. MTBE was carried at the Williams' Iowa City terminal until early 1998.

It is possible, although highly unlikely, that in times of shortage, marketers from Nebraska may have traveled to Des Moines to obtain the product. If this was done prior to the Williams terminal discontinuing the stock of MTBE, a Nebraska marketer could have obtained this product.

Again, this is highly unlikely since a MTBE blend adds an additional cost to the price of gasoline. Typically, during times of a shortage, prices already have escalated so that most marketers would not want to pay an additional price for a MTBE blended product.

Cooperative Terminal, Council Bluffs, IA

Since the cooperative terminal in Council Bluffs is operated by Farmland, it is not believed this terminal would have ever

carried a MTBE product. Obviously, a farmer-owned cooperative would be in favor of making ethanol available rather than a product that is considered to compete with ethanol.

Kaneb Pipeline Company

The Kaneb Pipeline Company has pipeline terminals at North Platte, Geneva, Osceola and Columbus.

Western Nebraska

The proximity of western Nebraska to eastern Colorado makes it somewhat more possible for MTBE to come into Nebraska. The front range area of Colorado is an “oxy fuel” mandate area that requires oxygenated gasoline to be sold in the winter months.

The requirement may be met with either a 10% blend of ethanol or a 15% blend of MTBE. Although quite a bit of MTBE blended product was sold in the Denver area, no one could state that MTBE was imported into Nebraska.

It would appear that the only time a MTBE blended product might come in from Denver is during times of severe product shortages. Nebraska marketers might have to travel to Denver to obtain gasoline.

It is highly unlikely that Nebraska marketers would choose to purchase a MTBE blend since the cost of this product would be more than an ethanol blend. Also, since Nebraska is not an oxy mandated state, there would be no reason to purchase the more expensive MTBE blended product.

The Frontier Refining Company in Cheyenne, WY, that has sold the MTBE blended product, however the refinery said none has been sold for delivery in Nebraska.

Notes

There evidently was a release of MTBE into ground water in the Norfolk area. This occurred more than 10 years ago and coincides with the time Pester Derby Refinery of Eldorado, KS, was delivering fuel by transport to some of its retail outlets. Although the time frame is the same, it could not be determined conclusively that the MTBE contamination came from a Pester Derby Station or the Pester Derby Refinery.

Conclusion

The use of a MTBE blended product seems to be extremely limited. It could not be determined that MTBE was sold or stored in Nebraska for a sustained period of time. It also appears that the use of MTBE in Nebraska will not increase. In fact, the availability of MTBE seems to be on the decline in the Midwest.

Health Department to test for MTBE at no charge

Beginning March 1, the Nebraska Health and Human Services will test state public drinking water supplies for a gasoline derivative called MTBE (methyl tertiary-butyl ether).

The test will be added to a current scan for gasoline derivatives so water operators will not have to take any additional samples, said **Jack Daniel**, administrator of the Environmental Health Services Section. There will be no charge to water systems. The test will cost the state about 49 cents each.

“Communities will benefit from knowing if MTBE is present in their system,” said Jack. “This will put them in a position to get ready to act if MTBE is added to the EPA’s contaminant list in 2001.”

Testing for MTBE only upon request from concerned communities was considered, however the cost would have been about \$35 for each request. The benefit of testing all public systems for the gasoline derivative greatly outweighed the cost when it was figured across the board, Jack said. For more information, call Jack at **402.471.0510**.

Water operator training

Call **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, 308.535.8134 to register for the following water operator workshops, sponsored by the Nebraska Section and League of Nebraska Municipalities.

February 8	Ashland Water Treatment Plant, Hwy. 6
February 9	Blair Fire Hall, 218 16th St.
February 10	Beatrice Public Works, 501 Commerce St.
March 7	Chadron Council Chambers, 234 Main St.
March 8	Gering Fire Hall, 1025 M St.
March 9	Ogallala Fire Hall, 411 E. Second St.
October 10	South Sioux City
October 11	Fremont
October 12	Seward
November 14	Stuart
November 15	Plainview
November 16	West Point
December 5	North Platte
December 6	Kearney
December 7	Lincoln

For a complete list of workshops from the Section, Health & Human Services, etc., see the “Training” section on our web site, www.awwaneb.org



TOP OPS CHALLENGE: The Metropolitan Utilities District took first place honors in the 1999 Top Ops Challenge, after placing third in 1998. Pictured above with Event Coordinators Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, and Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk, are, from left: Koenig, Larry Morfeld, Jim Shields, George Reed, Jon Zellars, and Watts.

The second place team included: Bruce Dreessen, Uponor ETI; Dave Dunning, US Filter; Brett Hanes, Municipal Supply, and Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human Services.

Taking third place was the team of Chris Logue, Metropolitan Utilities District; Eileen Thaden, Diane Wagner, Lincoln Water System, and Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services.

John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System, also helped coordinate the event. He was unavailable for the photo.

1999 Annual Conference

A total of 156 people attended the Section Fall Conference in Kearney, November 4-5, 1999. There were 37 exhibitors.

The Section presented the **Water Service Industry Award (WISA)** to **Tom Michels**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, for 23 years of service to the water industry. A native of Chicago, he retired in January, 2000 as supervisor of Water Operations Field Inspections and Water Operator Training.

Prior to his employment with the State, he worked for the City of Kearney. He is past president of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Society of Professional Engineers, founder of Great Plains Engineering in Kearney, and a two-term member of the Nebraska Public Power District Board of Directors.

A licensed plumber and electrician and a certified street and highway superintendent, Tom has lived in Kearney since 1951. He and his wife of 47 years have four children.

Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human Services, received an **Admiralship in the Nebraska Navy** for recruiting volunteers and coordinating efforts last July to provide safe drinking water to the Santee Indian Reservation when their water source was contaminated after the flood.

Safety Awards

The **City of Hastings** received the **President's Gold Performance Award** for reducing their disabling injury frequency rate by 75% during the past three years.

The municipality also received the **Award of Excellence** for attaining a disabling injury frequency rate of one-fourth or less, and a severity rate of one-fourth or less than the water utility industry average for the previous year.

The **City of Crete** received the **Award of Excellence** for completing a calendar year without a disabling injury accident.

The **City of Norfolk** received the **Award of Merit** for attaining a recordable incidence rate of two-thirds or less than the water utility industry average for the previous year.

Thirteen public water supply systems received **Certificates of Commendation** for



WISA AWARD: Tom Michels is pictured above with his coworkers at Nebraska Health & Human Services. From left, seated: Administrator of Environmental Health Services Jack Daniel, Tom and Field Representative Mike Wentink, North Platte. Standing, Field Representatives Rich Koenig, Norfolk; Russ Topp, Lincoln; Doug Woodbeck, North Platte, and Ralph Naber, Grand Island. Tom Floodman, Lincoln, and Roger Rylander, Omaha, were unavailable for the photo.

completing 1998 without a recordable injury. They were: **Albion, Bartley, Bassett, Chadron, Clarkson, Crawford, Hebron, Oshkosh, McCook, Snyder, Seward, Tilden** and **Wausa**.

Manufacturers Association Council

by Tony Bilek, Mc2, Inc. (402.333.9660)

The Manufacturers Association Council (MAC) provides associate members representation on the Section Board of Directors. In addition to associate members, consultant and technical service members also are invited to join MAC activities.

We provide topics for the Annual Fall Conference in Kearney, as well as training topics that can be presented throughout the year for water system operators.

These are great opportunities to gain valuable marketing exposure for your products and services. Deadline for topics to me for the Fall Conference is February 17.

Topics for continuing education will be reviewed by the Nebraska Health & Human Services on an continuous basis to determine if the presentation meets criteria for education credits for licensed operators. Presentations will be given at state-sponsored seminars and/or locations of your choice.

Also, if you've participated in the Annual Conference and have suggestions for improvement, please give me a call.

Current MAC members include: **Brad Cutler**, Sensus Technologies; **Don Franklin**, Bert Gurney Associates; **Steve Hoambrecker**, Griffin Pipe Products; **Roy Keitel**, Ford Meter Box Co., and **Debra Leigh**, Leigh Environmental, Inc.

Education Committee

by Steve Kelley, Beatrice Public Works (402.228.5217)

A total of 204 water operators received training at nine workshops in 1999 sponsored by Nebraska Section and League of Nebraska Municipalities. **Rob Pierce** of the League, and I taught sessions on pipe tapping, disinfection, fire hydrant and valve maintenance.

There were many positive responses to the training as many systems do not have a fire hydrant or valve maintenance program. The majority of attendees saw a need for these programs and expressed interest in beginning their own training programs.

We also distributed 10 applications for AWWA membership.

Scholarship winners



From left: Wenxin Liu, Achintya Bezbaruh and Julie Fisher, pursuing degrees at UNL, received \$500 scholarships from the Nebraska Section.

Wenxin Liu is working on a PhD in Environmental Engineering. She earned her undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from East China Normal University, and a masters degree in Environmental Engineering from the National University of Singapore.

Liu worked six years for the Water Quality Division of the Environmental Monitoring Center of the Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau prior to earning her masters degree. She plans to teach and work as a consultant to prevent the spread of disease from waterborne pathogens.



Achintya Bezbaruh is pursuing a PhD in Environmental Engineering. He earned an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from Assam Engineering College and a masters from the Indian Institute of Technology. He was an assistant professor of Civil Engineering at Assam Engineering College from 1988 until August, 1999.

Bezbaruh belongs to numerous water industry and science organizations. He volunteers for community projects involving pollution prevention, wildlife monitoring and wildlife habitat improvement. After completing his PhD, Bezbaruh plans to continue teaching in India.



After earning her undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 1999, **Julie Fisher** began work on a masters degree in Environmental Engineering. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers, AWWA and WEF.

Julie plans to work in Nebraska upon completing her degree. She feels the greatest challenge we face is dealing with the changing regulations regarding water treatment, especially as it impacts small systems using well water.

Virtual Public Utilities

The following article appeared in the Site-Seeing Column of the January-February, 2000 issue of Up Link Magazine. It was written by Dave Prochnow. Up Link Magazine is a news magazine for users of online services, CD-ROM and the Internet. Their web site is <http://www.infoupdate.com>

Their Name is M.U.D.

What began 2 years ago with the goal of being better than a typical public utility company's Web site resulted in Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) of Omaha, Nebraska, creating a large corporate presence on the Internet (www.mudomaha.com).

House inside a three-frame, JavaScript-driven site, M.U.D. has expertly combined the flexibility of HTML with the publishing precision of a PDF (Portable Document Format) file distribution network. The result from this unlikely marriage is an economically viable system that even an accountant would love.

While the HTML pages handle the traditional grunt work of visitor hand-holding and customer service issues, the PDFs are reserved for delivering copies of the M.U.D. Annual Report to potential shareholders (sic. customer-owners).

This system not only saves on the printing costs associated with making a four-color annual report, but it also conserves precious postage for mailing an 8-1/2 x 11-inch, 24-page book to Abu Dhabi. Likewise, anyone wishing to see a copy of the M.U.D. Annual Report can obtain a copy instantly, day or night, without incurring postal system delays.

On the customer service side of the house, M.U.D. has littered its site with user-inputted forms and e-mail "mailto" tags for obtaining, routing and answering a mind-numbing array of customer issues.

From making reservations for appearances of "Sniffasaurus," the popular children's program, to filing a complaint about your bill directly to the chairman of the board, M.U.D. Web site visitors can virtually "paper" the utility's entire corporate boardroom with electronic missives.

Unlike many businesses that sponsor e-mail forms, however, the M.U.D. forms are answered by a dedicated staff of professional customer-service representatives. Even though you might not like the response, at least you will be secure in knowing that a human being looked at your message and formed a customized reply—no automated computer responses here. It is this feature that serves as a distinguishing characteristic between the M.U.D. Web site and other sites.

M.U.D. has been supply natural gas and potable water to the Omaha metropolitan area for 85 years. This type of reliable

service is exemplary. Not wishing to become complacent, M.U.D. is beginning to work on implementing a secure bill-paying section to its Web site.

This e-payment system will be the finishing touch for turning M.U.D. into a total virtual utility. "We might move slowly, but we are very progressive in the world of public utilities," **Mari Matulka**, director of Communications, recently told me. In fact, Mari was able to shed some light on the subject of why M.U.D. is able to succeed where other online services are failing.

"We don't want to rush into providing a capability to our customers, if we can't back it up with our brand of professional service," she said. This should be the mantra for all Internet start-ups.

Water Suppliers

During my site-seeing of M.U.D., Mari told me about another Web site that serves as a meeting place for drinking water suppliers of Nebraska.

The Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) stays in touch with its displaced membership via a small, tidy Web site (www.awwaneb.org). Serving as this site's Webmaster, Mari has cleanly organized this site into a great stopping point for anyone doing research on America's water supplies/suppliers.

In support of this statement, one of the best features of the AWWA Web site is its "Links" section. Here Mari has cataloged numerous Web sites that support the stated premise of the AWWA site, being "a communication tool for Nebraska's public water supply industry." From this springboard, you can travel to water resource districts, federal agencies, and private groups involved in making our water clean and safe to drink.

Much like the M.U.D. Web site, the AWWA site includes several electronic means for supporting its membership. Once again, each of these messages is directed straight to the electronic mailbox of the person responsible for dealing with the specific membership issue. With this method, you can expect a personalized response to your query versus an ambiguous, electronically generated reply that basically tells you to get lost.

Both M.U.D. and AWWA serve as models that all Internet start-ups should strive to emulate. Instead of automating an entire Web site into becoming a cold and impersonal experience, online start-ups need to put the customer back into customer service. And one of the best methods for achieving this goal is through less automation and more good, old-fashioned, personalized attention to every customer.

Nebraska Section AWWA Mentors

The members listed below are volunteer mentors. Please contact them if you need a resource. If you'd like to sign up to be a mentor, call **Bob Elston**, 402.582.4928.

Consumer Confidence Reports

Christensen, Joel
Metropolitan Utilities District
402.554.7774; fax: 402.554.7773
e-mail:
joel_christensen@mudnebr.com

Obrist, Jerry
Lincoln Water System
402.441.5930; fax: 402.441.8493
e-mail: jobrist@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Electrical & Motor Maintenance

Petersen, Wayne
Metropolitan Utilities District
402.554.7863; fax: 402.554.7790
e-mail:
wayne_petersen@mudnebr.com

Owens, Clarence
Lincoln Water System
402.441.7571; fax: 402.9441.8493

Equipment Loan

Elston, Bob
City of Plainview
402.582.4928; fax: 402.582.3939
e-mail: plains@plvwtelco.net

Planning—

Short and Long Range

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Metropolitan Utilities District
402.554.7774; fax: 402.554.7773
e-mail:
joel_christensen@mudnebr.com

Obrist, Jerry
Lincoln Water System
402.441.5930; fax: 402.441.8493
e-mail: jobrist@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Pump Maintenance

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Metropolitan Utilities District
402.449.8066; fax: 402.449.8099
e-mail: jeff_kohn@mudnebr.com

Roberts, Rick
Lincoln Water System
402.944.3306; fax: 402.944.3478

Small Systems

Dolesh, Steve
Pierce Utilities
402.329.1014; fax: 402.329.4035

Elston, Bob
City of Plainview
402.582.4928; fax: 402.582.3939
e-mail: plains@plvwtelco.net

Jundt, David
City of Creighton
402.358.3557; fax: 402.358.3715

Watts, Dennis
City of Norfolk Water Department
402.644.8712; fax: 402.644.8762
e-mail: dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us

Source Water Protection

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Metropolitan Utilities District
402.554.7774; fax: 402.554.7773
e-mail:
joel_christensen@mudnebr.com

Obrist, Jerry
Lincoln Water System
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e-mail: jobrist@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Water Distribution

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Metropolitan Utilities District
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McElvain, Nick
Lincoln Water System
402.441.5931; fax: 402.441.8493
e-mail: nmcelvain@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Water Production

Miriovsky, John
Lincoln Water System
402.441.5932; fax: 402.441.8493
e-mail: miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Shields, Jim
Metropolitan Utilities District
402.449.8182; fax: 402.449.8084
e-mail: jim_shields@mudnebr.com

Water Treatment

Kerekes, Zoltan
Metropolitan Utilities District
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Miriovsky, John
Lincoln Water System
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e-mail: miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Water Supply

Miriovsky, John
Lincoln Water System
402.441.5932; fax: 402.441.8493
e-mail: miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Siadek, Gene
Metropolitan Utilities District
402.554.7870; fax: 402.554.7874
e-mail: gene_siadek@mudnebr.com

Web Sites

Matulka, Mari
Metropolitan Utilities District
402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166
e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com



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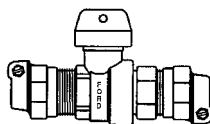
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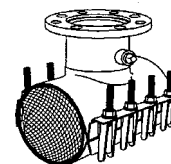
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Nebraska's water future conference, March 7-8

The Nebraska Water Conference will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, March 7-8, at the Burnham Yates Conference Center and Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

This year's participants will have a personal stake in preparing a water management agenda to be presented to the Nebraska Legislature's Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee.

The 29th Annual Nebraska Water Conference concludes a three-year look at challenges, concerns and opportunities in Nebraska's water future under the theme, "Nebraska Water 2000."

University of Nebraska President **L. Dennis Smith** will open the conference on Tuesday, March 7, followed by **Susan Seacrest**, president, Groundwater Foundation, who will explore "Leadership and Involvement: Who Should Manage Nebraska's Water?"

She will be followed by **Steve Oltmans**, general manager, Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District, who will speak on "Organization and Structure: How Should Nebraska be Organized to Manage its Water?"

W. Don Nelson, former chief of staff to former Nebraska Governor Bob Kerrey, will talk about "Policy and Decision-Making: Fundamental Consideration."

The Nebraska Water Conference Council's Pioneer and Progress Awards and The Groundwater Foundation's Kremer Award will be presented at the Tuesday lunch at the Cornhusker Hotel.

The afternoon session will include three panel discussions:

- Leadership and involvement (higher education, grassroots education and partnerships);
- Organization structure (federal primacy, state reorganization, state versus local control of water resources); and
- Policy and decision-making (marketing, conjunctive use, preferences, safe drinking water, resources development).

Following the afternoon panel discussions, participants will evaluate the list of issues developed.

Tuesday evening's events center around a buffet banquet at the Cornhusker Hotel and a variety of entertainment options on your own.

Governor **Mike Johanns** will address the group at a breakfast, March 8. The remainder of the morning will be devoted to presentation and discussion of the initial list of issues identified by participants on the previous day.

The second draft of the agenda will be prioritized by participants prior to lunch with invited State Senators, the Governor's staff,

agency directors and state political leaders. The conference will adjourn around 1:30 p.m.

The conference is sponsored by the Nebraska Water Conference Council, Nebraska Department of Water Resources, The Groundwater Foundation, Nebraska Public Power District, NU's Conservation and Survey Division, Water Center/Environmental Programs, School of Natural Resources Sciences, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the University of Nebraska.

For more information, call **Tricia Liedle, 402.472.3305**, or e-mail: sress1@unl.edu.

\$20 (*individual membership*)

or

\$10 (*operations membership*)

This coupon, when attached to a completed application for membership in AWWA with payment of membership dues (*less the amount of this coupon*), entitles the bearer to a discount of \$20 (\$10 for operations membership) to be used towards the cost of that membership. To be valid, the following lines must be completed:

Name of applicant:

Name of recruiter:

Recruiter's membership no.

Mail coupon and application with payment to: Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 919, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0919.

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Have you ever been a member of AWWA? _____

When? _____ Member # _____

Section 1: Personal Information

Preferred mailing address:

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms.

☐ Business

☐ Mrs.

☐ Home

☐ Dr.

Name: _____

Street address: _____

Address: _____

P.O. Box or mail stop: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Business phone: (_____) _____ Business fax: (_____) _____

e-mail address: _____

Company: _____

Title: _____

Is your company a current member of AWWA?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Member # (if known) _____

Please furnish company mailing address if different from above:

Company address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Applicant's signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature of endorsing member (optional): _____

Endorsing member number: _____

Section 2: Dues and Section Assessments

☐ Active - \$95 (02)

☐ Student - \$30 (14)

☐ Operations/Administrative - \$45 (06) (will not receive Journal AWWA)

☐ International - \$140 (03)

Section 3: Payment

Dues are valid through December 31, 2000. No action on this application can be taken until payment is received. Dues are not transferrable or refundable. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

Annual Dues \$ _____ Line 1 (enter amount from annual dues in Section 2)

Multi-Section Option \$ _____ Line 2 (enter amount from annual dues in Section 4)

Total (U.S. funds) \$ _____ Line 3 (add above amounts and enter total here)

Payment method

☐ Check enclosed, payable to AWWA. Canadian funds—add 35%

☐ Send invoice

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

☐ Diner's Club

☐ American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ (Credit card company will add Canadian exchange amount.)

Section 4: Multi-Section Option

In addition to your section membership, you also may join other AWWA section(s). This allows you to receive information on events and activities from other sections of your choice. If you would like multi-section information and fees, call 800.926.7337, and then indicate your multi-section choice(s) and fee(s) in the space below.

If you decide to join other AWWA sections, enter the total multi-section fee in line 3 of Payment Section 3.

Section 5: Circulation Figures

All applicants must complete this section. For auditing purposes, please circle one description in each of the 3 groups below that best describes you.

Business and Industry

- A. Public Water Supply—Municipally Owned
- B. Public Water Supply—Investor Owned
- C. Government—Federal, State, Local
- D. Consultant
- E. Contractor
- F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler
- G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations
- J. Fully Retired
- K. Research Lab
- L. Unreported

Job Title

- A. Executive—General Manager, Commissioner, Board Member, City Manager, Mayor, President, Vice-President, Owner, Partner, Director, etc.
- B. Management—Division Head, Section Head, Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroller, etc.
- C. Engineering/Non-managerial—Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System Designer, etc.
- D. Scientific/Non-managerial—Chemist, Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.
- E. Purchasing—Purchasing Agent, Procurement Specialist, Buyer, etc.
- F. Operations—Foreman, Operator, Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.
- G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial—Market Analyst, Marketing Representative, Salesperson, Sales Representative, etc.
- H. Other: _____

Interests

Please help us serve you better by marking all appropriate areas of professional interest.

- ☐ Backflow
- ☐ Career Development
- ☐ Computer/Information Systems
- ☐ Conservation/Efficiency
- ☐ Customer Service
- ☐ Disinfection
- ☐ Distribution System
- ☐ Emergency Planning
- ☐ Filtration
- ☐ Ground Water
- ☐ Hazardous Waste Management
- ☐ Laboratory/Testing Sample
- ☐ Maintenance/Operations
- ☐ Membrane Treatment
- ☐ Personnel Management
- ☐ Public Information/Relations
- ☐ Regulatory/Legislative
- ☐ Water Resources Mgmt./Plan.
- ☐ Rates/Cost of Service
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Surface Water
- ☐ Water Reuse
- ☐ Youth Education
- ☐ Other: _____

Optional

AWWA maintains profile data for use in developing additional programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our members.

Birth Date: _____

Race/Ethnic Identification (Circle one)

- 1. American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2. Asian/Pacific-Islander
- 3. African-American
- 4. Hispanic
- 5. White (Non-Hispanic)
- 6. Other

Gender (Circle One)

- Female
- Male

Field Served

- 5 Water Supply Only
- 7 Wastewater Only
- 9 Both
- 3 Other

Signature required: _____

Date: _____

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Advertisement rates for newsletter

Price is for one issue only. Include \$50 setup fee. Black and Blue are only colors of ink printed. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our web site: www.awwaneb.com Call for 402.449.8154 for quotes on more than two colors.

Size	Black/White or Blue/White	Black/Blue
Business card size	\$ 65	\$125
1/4 page	110	170
1/2 page	180	240
full page	250	350

Ad order form for 2000 Wise Water Words

- ☐ Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2000 (deadline for copy, etc. April 1, 2000)
- ☐ Wise Water Words, Fall/Winter issue, 2000 (deadline for copy, etc. August 1, 2000)

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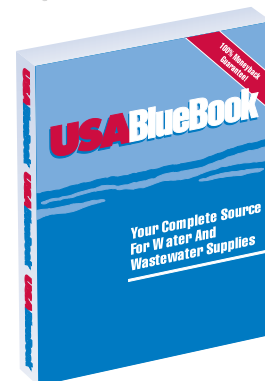
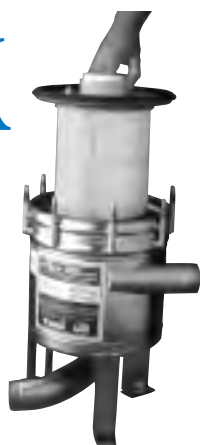
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Amount enclosed: \$50 setup fee + \$ _____ = \$ _____

Please make a copy of completed order form for your files. Send with ad copy, artwork and dummy layout to: Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari-matulka@mudnebr.com. Ads must be prepaid. **Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA.**

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Brief notes

Now is the time to submit nominations for 2000 awards to be announced at the Fall Conference, November 7-8 in Kearney. See page 5 for a list of categories. Submit nominations to **John Miriovsky**, 402.441.5932; fax: 402.441.8493; e-mail: miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us



Scott Borman has been promoted to manager of Field Services for Nebraska's Public Water Supply Program, Nebraska Health & Human Services System.

Scott will coordinate and oversee technical assistance activities, training and work closely in the public water supply system capacity development strategy area (phone: 402.471.0521; e-mail: scott.borman@hhss.state.us.ne).

Mike Wentink has been named environmental health program specialist, Nebraska Health & Human Services System.

Mike will manage the public water supply operator certification rule and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Drinking Water Program. He also will coordinate water operator training (phone: 308.535.8135 in North Platte, or 402.471.1005 in Lincoln; e-mail: mike.wentink@hhss.state.us.ne).



If you have a new e-mail address, please go to our Website, <http://www.awwaneb.org> and complete the "E-Mail Address Form." This will update your records at National AWWA. There's also a form to update address, phone, etc. changes. Please use it.



We need your help to keep our members updated with life happenings. Please send job changes, promotions, retirement and death announcements to **Mari Matulka**, fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com

Water Utility Council Report

by *Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System*

The Second Session of the 96th Nebraska Legislative adjourned its 60-day session April 12, 2000. For a full text of laws passed, go to <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us> If you have any questions, please call me at 402.441.7571.

New Laws

LB 628 Requires provision of public records and copies at actual costs. Signed by the Governor, April 10. Effective September 10.

LB 900 Merges the Nebraska Department of Water Resources and the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. Signed by the Governor with the emergency clause and became effective March 22.

LB 1234 Creates the Niobrara Council; creates a fund; provides for grants for wastewater treatment facilities; creates the Ethanol Pricing Task Force; provides duties and a termination date; prohibits the sale of methyl tertiary butyl ether as prescribed; provides for a study and findings relating to water quality monitoring; eliminates provisions relating to the Niobrara River and wastewater treatment facility funds; provides operative dates; provides severability. Signed by the Governor, April 12. (*See page 13 for sections relating to water quality monitoring.*)

Since this was the Second Session of the 96th Legislature, all bills not indefinitely postponed by previous actions automatically were killed. The content of some of these proposals appear in legislative resolutions, which will be studied by Unicameral's committees between now and next January.

These studies may become the basis of legislative proposals introduced in the first session of the 90-day, 97th Nebraska Legislature, which convenes January 5, 2001.

Check the Unicameral Website or contact the sponsors to find out dates, times and places for the public hearings on these studies.

Interim Studies

LR 339 (*Byars*) Study of issues relating to hazardous materials incidents.

LR 368 (*Hudkins*) Study of statutes dealing with ground water transfers.

LR 369 (*Preister*) Study to examine a plan to divert lead and other hazardous materials from landfills and the environment, and costs associated with the plan.

LR 370 (*Preister*) Study to examine a plan to prevent contamination from entering waters of the state and costs associated with the plan.

(Continued on page 3)

Chair's comments

Your officers met March 16. A balanced budget was approved and we remain financially capable of supporting our programs. Director **Dennis Hirschbrunner** reported that national AWWA is considering a merger with the Water Environment Federation.

Education Committee Chair **Mike Wentink** reported that nine joint training seminars have been held and a real life coliform problem scenario is being presented to the attendees with good interaction. The March 9 teleconference had good attendance.

The Safety Committee needs your suggestions for the Safety Meeting Topic. The Cross Connections Committee is looking for suggestions for the cross control seminars to be held in conjunction with the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

We plan to run a public service announcement 275 times on various cable networks, such as Home & Garden Television, Lifetime and ESPN, during Drinking Water Week, May 7-13, reminding viewers to protect their water source. **Mike May**, senior communications assistant, Metropolitan Utilities District, is coordinating this effort.

With the help of **Chris Koenig**, we continue to evaluate the use of paid staff. There is general agreement that we can improve our section by the selective use of paid staff.

Officers have been "assigned" to committees whose chairs are not officers to maintain better communications and help the committees to always have a report at the officers' meeting even if the committee chair cannot attend. The following are the year 2000 assignments:

Officer	Committee	Committee Chair
Dennis Hirschbrunner	Fuller Award Water Utility Council	Paul Dammann Jerry Obrist
Chris Koenig	Publications Public Information Scholarship	Mari Matulka Mari Matulka Lynn Wegehaupt
Dennis Watts	Membership Water for People	Rich Robinson Jim Shields
Tony Bilek	Research	Dr. Mohamed Dahab
Scott Borman	Awards Student Activities	John Miriovsky Bruce Dvorak
Larry Andreasen	Safety Young Professionals	Rob Pierce Joe Baxter, Eric Obert
Rich Koenig	Cross Connections Education Small Systems	Leroy Kramer Mike Wentink Bob Elston

Several officers plan to attend the Regional Officers' Meeting in Fargo, ND, May 18-19. If you have any questions you would like to ask other sections, please let me or one of the other officers know before May 18.

Wise Water Words is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association. Editor: **Mari Matulka**, APR, 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com



Joel Christensen

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(402) 554-7774
John Miriovsky, *Awards*
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Leroy Kramer, *Cross Connections*
(308) 535-6740
Mike Wentink, *Education*
(308) 535-8134 or (402) 471-1005
Chip Haas, *Fall Conference*
(402) 399-8134
Rich Koenig, *Fall Conference and Nominations*
(402) 370-3114
Paul Dammann, *Fuller Award*
(402) 643-3433
Tony Bilek
Manufacturers/Associates Council
(402) 333-9660
Rich Robinson, *Membership*
(402) 255-3840
Mari Matulka, *Publications and Public Information*
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Jim Shields, *Water for People*
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Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*
(402) 441-5930
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Water Utility Council Report

(from page 1)

- LR 372** (*Dw. Pedersen*) Study relating to extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities.
- LR 374** (*Schrock*) Study to review the need to provide authority to the Dept. of Environmental Quality to accept voluntary fees paid by applicants for processing of permits.
- LR 375** (*Schrock*) Study of the financial and environmental implications of the removal of environmental contaminants from buildings.
- LR 376** (*Schrock*) Study of the powers of the Dept. of Environmental Quality relating to protection of cold water class A streams in Nebraska.
- LR 377** (*Schrock*) Study to examine the environmental effects of air pollutants from agricultural processing facilities' wastewater treatment lagoons.

National Drinking Water Week May 7-13

- LR 381** (*Schrock*) Study to examine possibilities of developing a water banking program.
- LR 382** (*Schrock*) Study of the effects of the use of MTBE in Nebraska on the environment.
- LR 384** (*Schrock*) Study to examine the need to provide the Dept. of Environmental Quality with authority to assess administrative fines.
- LR 386** (*Schrock*) Study to examine creation of an environmental stewardship program.
- LR 387** (*Schrock*) Study to examine whether the goals of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Act have been reached.
- LR 440** (*Wickersham*) Study to examine alternate ways of distributing state aid to municipalities, counties and natural resources districts.
- LR 497** (*Natural Resources Committee*) Study of the individual components of gasoline, air and water pollution.
- LR 500** (*Appropriations Committee*) Study to examine whether the Nebraska Ethanol Board's emphasis on opening new markets and promoting ethanol is an effective use of state resources.



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Director's report by Dennis Hirschbrunner

The first three months of the New Year have been an extremely busy time for AWWA and the Nebraska Section. In January, the



Dennis Hirschbrunner

mid-year Board of Directors meeting was held in Kauai, HI. The three-day meeting was packed with activities including passage of the 2000 budget, election of a new treasurer, director-at-large, president elect and five vice presidents. Successful candidates were **Ronald Schwarzwald**, president elect; **Raymond Miller**, treasurer; **Cynthia Dietz**, director-at-large, and **Lyndon Stovall**, **Glen Anderson**,

Susan McCormick, **Katie McCain**, **Dennis Leslie**, vice presidents.

Lyndon is from the South Carolina Section but is a native Cornhusker. He graduated in 1970 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in Civil Engineering. We hope Lyndon will attend a Nebraska Section Annual Conference, which would be a great homecoming for him and his wife, Susie. Both are Kearney natives.

Marlay Price, the outgoing treasurer, who was with us last Fall, presented the 2000 budget. Revenues are projected to top \$27,300,000 with expenses slightly over \$27,000,000 resulting in a positive net income over \$250,000. The budget was reviewed and passed. You can see that the Association has become a big business.

Other issues addressed included directions for negotiating the Stage 2 Microbial/Disinfection By-Products Rule Package with EPA; expanding grassroots outreach on key telecommunication spectrum availability issues, and passage of a partnering agree-

ment with the Water and Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association (WWEMA).

We also reviewed background of the AWWA/WEF Cooperation and Coordination Committee and its charge to look at possible joint activities between AWWA and WEF. From the deliberations of the committee has come the subject of a merger of the two organizations. Stay tuned for more information on these hot topics!!

Since I returned from the mid-year meeting, we have had a section officer meeting, began planning for the Fall Conference and prepared for the Regional Meeting in Fargo, ND, May 18-19.

As you can see, it has been a really busy three months and it's only the beginning.

Alcohol, nitrates raise concerns of water suppliers: Who pays?

by Paul Dammann, City of Seward

The Clinton Administration recently announced its intention to phase out the use of the fuel additive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). MTBE, which makes gasoline burn cleaner, is added to gas as a means for states to comply with the Clean Air Act. However, MTBE also presents a significant threat to community water supplies because of its solubility in water.

MTBE does leak from gasoline storage tanks, spills, and even from boat motors. How did this happen? Actions of one governmental agency, resulting in a negative impact on ground water—the source for many public water supplies.

Who gets the job of monitoring and perhaps removing it? **Water suppliers.**

Sounds similar to the problem with carbon tetrachloride. It was used to keep insects from destroying grain in federal grain storage facilities, but ended up in public water supplies. Some of the cost was taken care of by the government, however local water supplies ended up with the headaches and additional costs.

Now some are promoting ethanol as a substitute for MTBE. Nebraska has a big stake in this with several facilities making ethanol from corn. Corn is a primary crop for many farms in Nebraska. It has a major economic impact on many communities in Nebraska.

(Continued on page 5)

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Could this be double trouble? Alcohol in drinking water—not as an ingredient but a contaminant from leaking storage tanks, or nitrates in drinking water from corn production.

High intensity corn production in Nebraska uses nitrogen fertilizer to produce more corn per acre than many other places in the world. Since the mid-1970s, at least 95 percent of the nation's corn acres have received nitrogen fertilizer each year.

In 1994, corn producers applied a total of 7.9 billion pounds of nitrogen to 62.5 million acres of corn, at an average rate of 129 pounds per acre (USDA 1995).

As many as 40 communities in Nebraska have nitrate contamination problems with their drinking water. Would promoting the use of ethanol increase the numbers? What about the cost of removing nitrates from drinking water? Who will pay?



Nominations needed

Listed below are awards given by national AWWA to recognize outstanding Section members. For more information about these awards or if you know of someone who may be a candidate, please contact **John Miriovsky**, Lincoln Water System, 2021 N. 27 St., Lincoln, NE 68503-1025; phone: 402.4441.5932; fax: 402.441.8493; e-mail: miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us

- Abel Wolman Award of Excellence
- Academic Achievement Award
- A.P. Black Research Award
- Archie E. Becher, Jr. Award
- American/Canadian/Mexican Water Landmarks Award
- Award of Merit
- Distinguished Public Service Award
- Division Best Paper Award
- Education Award
- Friendship Medal (by AWWA)
- Friendship Medal (by IWEM)
- George Warren Fuller Award
- Gimmicks & Gadgets Award
- Heroism Award
- Honorary Member Award
- Memberships Awards
- Operator's Meritorious Service Award
- Opflow Publications Award
- Outstanding Service to AWWA Award
- Publications Award
- Research Division Best Poster Award
- Recognition for Service to the Water Industry
- Safety Award
- Section Education Award
- Service to the Water Industry Award
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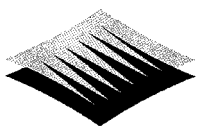


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Drought and drinking water

by Jack L. Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services
System, Regulation & Licensure

(reprinted with permission from the League of Nebraska Municipalities)

We know it's dry, but how dry is it? Nebraska's state climatologist indicates that the past six months are the driest on record for the past 105 years. The eastern two-thirds of Nebraska are considered to be in a "severe drought."

As a consequence, Governor Mike Johanns activated Nebraska's Climate Assessment Response Committee (CARC) to evaluate the situation and develop response mechanisms to minimize the negative impact of a drought. The CARC membership primarily consists of university, private sector and state agency representatives.

CARC created two subcommittees to address concerns associated primarily with agriculture and health-related issues. These two subcommittees consist of knowledgeable individuals having expertise in their respective fields.

The purpose of the subcommittees is to make recommendations to the full CARC, which reports directly to the Governor.

Mark Kuzila of the UN Conservation and Survey Division, and I co-chair the health-related CARC subcommittee, called the **Health, Drinking Water and Energy Subcommittee**. Both CARC and its subcommittees believe that once they are made aware of the issues and provided necessary facts, owners of Nebraska's public and private water systems will take actions to minimize the negative impacts of a drought upon their drinking water systems and publics served.

Given the fact that the last six months have been the driest on record, and that below normal rainfall is expected through at least July, the questions to be asked by public water suppliers are:

"Can my water system provide an adequate amount of safe drinking water on a continuous basis during this expected dry period? If not, what can I do to minimize the negative impacts or eliminate the problem?"

Answers to these questions are different from each water supply system, and deserve a thorough evaluation of the situation.

First, the water supplier needs to determine whether the problem is one of inadequate existing public water supply infrastructure or a lack of water supply itself.

Water system infrastructures

Aged water supply systems pressed to perform in times of drought are prone to break down. Having spare parts readily available will minimize down time and avoid inconvenience for customers.

Examples of activities water suppliers can do either in a voluntary or required format to reduce stress on an aging drinking water infrastructure are:

1. Develop short-term plans and long-term solutions.
2. Start now to encourage rotational watering schedules through the distribution system to lessen peak hourly water demands. This also will serve as a conservation measure.
3. Review historical data so peak demand periods can be identified and pump runs set accordingly to anticipate high demand periods rather than having to react to high demands.
4. Raise the well start level in storage tanks. While wells may run more frequently, they typically will run for shorter durations. This can help avoid a water deficit situation during peak hours and avoid attempts to play catch-up.

Water supply

Water quantity issues are much tougher to evaluate and resolve. Long-term solutions are needed and short-term survival techniques will require strong leadership, plus understanding and support from water customers. Examples of short-term relief activities include:

1. Develop short-term plans and long-term solutions.
2. If a system is not metered, install meters and set rates based on actual consumption rather than flat or blanket rates.
3. Start observing static and pumping water levels now. Keep accurate records and look for developing trends. Begin implementing conservation measures early rather than waiting to react to the situation once availability becomes a problem.
4. Adopt plumbing codes and encourage new and retrofit installations of plumbing fixtures with water conservation functions.
5. If large landscape projects for municipal parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc., are scheduled for this year, delay them or look at Xeriscape alternatives.

Water quality

A significant unanticipated problem associated with water supply systems operating in drought conditions is water quality.

Over-pumping a water well will result in reduced water quality. Of special concern is the acute contaminant, nitrate. Water wells normally pumping 5-7 parts per million (ppm) of nitrates, when pumped heavily, may start delivering water in excess of the nitrate maximum contaminant level of 10 ppm, putting the public water supply in violation.

This potential problem points out the necessity of addressing the issues of infrastructures and supply. Responding to the drought will present a challenge to communities and license holders.

To operate a public water system under the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act, license holders must recognize their responsibility to take whatever action is necessary to provide consumers with an adequate amount of safe drinking water on a continuous basis.

Resources

Up-to-date weather information and other information is available from the CARC Website: <http://www.carc.nrc.state.ne.us>

If you have questions about drought-related public water operations, please contact your Nebraska Health & Human Services representative, the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association, Nebraska Rural Water Association, League of Nebraska Municipalities, or Midwest Assistance Program.

State Field Representatives

Russ Topp	Lincoln	402.471.0519
Roger Rhylander	Omaha	402.595.2123
Richard Koenig	Norfolk	402.370.3114
Ralph Naber	Grand Island	308.385.5180
Roger Rhylander	Omaha	402.595.2123
Russ Topp	Lincoln	402.471.0519
Mike Wentink	North Platte	308.535.8135
Doug Woodbeck	North Platte	308.535.8216

Organizations

Nebraska Section AWWA	402.441.5930
Nebraska Rural Water Association	800.842.8039
League of Nebraska Municipalities	402.476.2829
Midwest Assistance Program	402.846.5123
	402.862.3227

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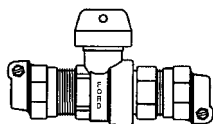


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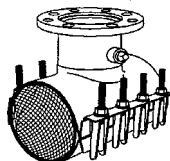
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Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8135)

The Section in cooperation with the League of Nebraska Municipalities offers numerous opportunities for continuing education. Call 308.535.8135 to register for the following workshops:

Water Operator Training

October 10	South Sioux City
October 11	Fremont
October 12	Seward
November 14	Stuart
November 15	Plainview
November 16	West Point
December 5	North Platte
December 6	Kearney
December 7	Lincoln

Backflow Re-certification

September 25	Beatrice
September 26	Neligh
September 27	Grand Island
September 28	Ogallala

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

Call 402.471.0520 to register for these water operator workshops:

May 8-12	Grade III, Norfolk
May 24-25	Grade IV, Beatrice
September 11-15	Grade III, Grand Island
October 18-19	Grade IV, Grand Island
December 11-15	Grade II, Lincoln

For a complete list of workshops from the Section, Health & Human Services, etc., see the "Training" section on our Website, www.awwaneb.org

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Nebraska Section 2000 budget

INCOME	1999 Actual	2000 Budget	2000 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Association allotment	4,000.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Multi-section allotment	620.50	600.00	102.00
Annual meeting	9,216.73	7,500.00	0
Director's allotment	781.46	750.00	1,429.44
Interest from accounts	2,212.71	2,000.00	134.38
Education seminar	0	500.00	0
Safety seminar	20.00	300.00	0
Cross connection workshop	266.62	300.00	0
Teleconferences	6,190.75	6,000.00	0
Advertising income	3,575.00	5,700.00	6,600.00
Water for People	15.00	2,000.00	0
SRF Education Funds	4,368.00	10,000.00	1,001.00
Miscellaneous	349.83	400.00	45.00
Total Income	\$35,616.61	\$51,050.00	\$24,311.82
EXPENSES			
Safety committee	\$ 1,824.42	2,500.00	0
Cross connection workshop	5,369.00	1,500.00	0
Education and training	0	3,000.00	0
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	3,303.00	2,000.00	0
Public Information Committee/Website	369.66	600.00	163.04
Teleconferences	2,674.15	3,000.00	0
Small systems committee	524.87	6,000.00	0
Director's board meeting	674.86	800.00	1,218.82
Publications			
Wise Water Words	6,315.77	6,400.00	2,454.30
Membership Directory	0	5,000.00	4,524.88
Advertising	0	100.00	0
Student activity	101.42	500.00	51.12
Membership	287.00	500.00	55.00
Secretary/treasurer	123.00	2,200.00	0
Awards (<i>Fuller</i>)	271.21	300.00	0
Abel Wolman	1,200.00	600.00	0
Research Foundation	500.00	500.00	0
Regional officers' meeting	1,119.83	2,000.00	0
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	0	300.00	0
Annual meeting	1,214.88	2,050.00	0
Publicity	0	2,500.00	0
Water for People	515.00	2,500.00	500.00
MAC Council	0	500.00	0
Paid staff	0	4,000.00	0
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	0	1,000.00	0
Miscellaneous	175.49	100.00	13.00
Total Expenses	\$26,563.56	\$51,050.00	\$9,280.16
Net Income	9,053.05	0	15,031.66

Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael (402.255.3840)

The Membership Committee is sponsoring a recruitment contest with prizes to be awarded at the Nebraska Section AWWA dinner, November 8, 2000, in Kearney. Here are the prize categories:

1. Top recruiter (*person who recruits the most new members*)—\$50
2. Drawing—two prizes of \$25 each

Drawing rules—The names of Nebraska Section members endorsing one or more new candidates between January 1-November 1, 2000 will be placed in a drawing. The number of new members a current member recruits determines the number of times his or her name is entered in the drawing. For example, if you sign up two new members, your name is entered twice in the drawing.

Coupons

The Membership Committee has a coupon program to help new members offset the cost of first year membership dues. A coupon with a \$20 value toward an AWWA individual active member-

ship (or \$10 towards an operations membership) is on page 11. Contact **Rich Robinson**, chair of the Membership Committee or **Chris Koenig**, treasurer, **712.323.0530** for more coupons. Only one coupon per application and one coupon per person will be accepted.

The coupon needs to be signed by a recruiter, attached to the completed application (make copies of application on page 15) and payment and sent to **Chris Koenig**, Nebraska Section AWWA Treasurer, HGM Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 919, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0919. Chris will remove the coupon from the application and add a check from the Nebraska Section for \$20 (\$10 for operations membership) before forwarding the application to national AWWA.

Only Nebraska Section members in good standing may sign a coupon. The recruiter should collect the application and payment (*minus the coupon amount*), attach the coupon and mail it for the applicant to Chris.

If the recruiter does not have a coupon handy, send the completed application with the payment (*minus the coupon amount*), to Chris with a note requesting that a coupon be filled out and recorded for the Section books. This note must be signed by the recruiter to be valid. If you have any questions, please call **Rich Robinson**, **402.255.3840**.

New Members

The Nebraska Section AWWA has 351 members, which ties a new record Here are our newest additions since August 1999:

Bilek, Tony, Mc2 Inc., 2320 S 156 Cir., Omaha, NE 68130-251; 402.333.9660

Botrous, Akram Elia Farag, UNL 2333 Lynn St., #2, Lincoln, NE 68503; 402.472.9048

Callaghan, Erin, UNL, 1107 L St., #10, Lincoln, NE 68508

Cordes, Jack, City of Scribner, Utilities Dept., PO Box D, Scribner, NE 68057-0542; 402.664.3123

Craiglow, John, Lincoln Water System, 2021 N 27 St. Lincoln, NE 68503; 402.441.5917

Demeritt, Dave, Chadron Water Plant, 234 Main St., PO Box 390, Chadron, NE 69337; 308.432.0522

Dierking, Paul B., UNL, 3235 N 66 St., Lincoln, NE 68507

Du, Xisomo, UNL, 2222 R St., #21, Lincoln, NE 68503; 402.472.5026

Emming, Michael G., UNL, 1105 N 33 St., #A, Lincoln, NE 68503



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Golian, John, HDR Engineering, Inc., 8404 Indian Hills Dr., Omaha, NE 68114; 402.399.1498

Heyen, James, Earth Tech, 1223 Broadway St., PO Box 205, Scottsbluff, NE 69361; 308.630.6258

Hicks, Jason D., Village of Palisade, PO Box 288, Palisade, NE 69040; 308.285.3320

Kinning, Rodney C., 205 John St., PO Box 213, Homer, NE 68030; 402.698.2008

Kohn, Jeff, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102-1907; 402.449.8066

Liu, Wenxin, UNL, 1025 N 23 St., #21, Lincoln, NE 68503; 402.474.0574

Marshall, Derril, Fremont Dept of Utilities, PO Box 1468, Fremont, NE 68025-1468; 402.727.2600

Melcher, Eric, City of Aurora Water Dept., 1404 Fifth St., Aurora, NE 68818-2409; 402.694.6992

Meyer, Doug, North Platte Water Dept., PO Box 490, North Platte, NE 69103-0490

Nielsen, Harold V., 1701 Silver St., Ashland, NE 68003; 402.944.3274

Pamperl, Anne, Nebraska Health & Human Services System, 301 Centennial Mall S, PO Box 95007, Lincoln, NE 68509-5007; 402.471.1009

Pickett, Rex, 12722 S 28 St., Bellevue, NE 68123-1986; 402.292.2461

Piper, Dennis L., 406 N Little St., PO Box 287, Walthill, NE 68067; 402.846.5581

Poppe, Robert G., 440 N Walnut St., PO Box 127, Shelby, NE 68662-0127; 402.527.5123

Reynolds, Harold D., City of Wayne, 205 Dearborn St., PO Box 8, Wayne, NE 68787; 402.375.5250

Richards, Allen C., Village of Riverdale, 104 First Ave, PO Box 85, Riverdale, NE 68870

Rodriguez, Rafael, UNL, 228 N 12 St., #411, Lincoln, NE 68508-1417; 402.472.2703

Schroeder, Eugene, Cedar-Knox Rural Water Project, PO Box 518, Hartington, NE 68739-0518; 402.254.6758

Schumaker, Gregory E., 516 Stewart St., PO Box 191, Bartley, NE 69020; 308.692.3106

Skipton, Sharon, UN, Sarpy Co Extension Office, 1210 Golden Gate Dr., Papillion, NE 68046; 402.444.7804

Towne, Michael H., Western Consulting, Inc., 421 S. 9 St., Lincoln, NE 68508-2245; 402.474.9241

Vaughn, Jerry, Nucor Steel, PO Box 309, Norfolk, NE 68702; 402.644.0200

And a final reminder, the National AWWA Conference is June 11-15 in Denver. **Mari Matulka**, Metropolitan Utilities District, and I will be making a presentation to the National Membership Committee on the Nebraska Section's recruitment program. Hope to see you there!!

\$20 *(individual membership)*

or

\$10 *(operations membership)*

This coupon, when attached to a completed application for membership in AWWA with payment of membership dues (*less the amount of this coupon*), entitles the bearer to a discount of \$20 (*\$10 for operations membership*) to be used towards the cost of that membership. To be valid, the following lines must be completed:

Name of applicant:

Name of recruiter:

Recruiter's membership no.

Mail coupon and application with payment to: Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 919, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0919

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Is your company a current member of AWWA?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Member # (if known) _____

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Applicant's signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature of endorsing member (optional): _____

Endorsing member number: _____

Section 2: Dues and Section Assessments

☐ Active - \$95 (02)

☐ Student - \$30 (14)

☐ Operations/Administrative - \$45 (06) (will not receive Journal AWWA)

☐ International - \$140 (03)

Section 3: Payment

Dues are valid through December 31, 2000. No action on this application can be taken until payment is received. Dues are not transferrable or refundable. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

Annual Dues \$ _____ Line 1 (enter amount from annual dues in Section 2)

Multi-Section Option \$ _____ Line 2 (enter amount from annual dues in Section 4)

Total (U.S. funds) \$ _____ Line 3 (add above amounts and enter total here)

Payment method

☐ Check enclosed, payable to AWWA. Canadian funds—add 35%

☐ Send invoice

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

☐ Diner's Club

☐ American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ (Credit card company will add Canadian exchange amount.)

Section 4: Multi-Section Option

In addition to your section membership, you also may join other AWWA section(s). This allows you to receive information on events and activities from other sections of your choice. If you would like multi-section information and fees, call 800.926.7337, and then indicate your multi-section choice(s) and fee(s) in the space below.

If you decide to join other AWWA sections, enter the total multi-section fee in line 3 of Payment Section 3.

Section 5: Circulation Figures

All applicants must complete this section. For auditing purposes, please circle one description in each of the 3 groups below that best describes you.

Business and Industry

- A. Public Water Supply—Municipally Owned
- B. Public Water Supply—Investor Owned
- C. Government—Federal, State, Local
- D. Consultant
- E. Contractor
- F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler
- G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations
- J. Fully Retired
- K. Research Lab
- L. Unreported

Field Served

- 5 Water Supply Only
- 7 Wastewater Only
- 9 Both
- 3 Other

Job Title

- A. Executive—General Manager, Commissioner, Board Member, City Manager, Mayor, President, Vice-President, Owner, Partner, Director, etc.
- B. Management—Division Head, Section Head, Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroller, etc.
- C. Engineering/Non-managerial—Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System Designer, etc.
- D. Scientific/Non-managerial—Chemist, Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.
- E. Purchasing—Purchasing Agent, Procurement Specialist, Buyer, etc.
- F. Operations—Foreman, Operator, Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.
- G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial—Market Analyst, Marketing Representative, Salesperson, Sales Representative, etc.
- H. Other: _____

Interests

Please help us serve you better by marking all appropriate areas of professional interest.

- ☐ Backflow
- ☐ Career Development
- ☐ Computer/Information Systems
- ☐ Conservation/Efficiency
- ☐ Customer Service
- ☐ Disinfection
- ☐ Distribution System
- ☐ Emergency Planning
- ☐ Filtration
- ☐ Ground Water
- ☐ Hazardous Waste Management
- ☐ Laboratory/Testing Sample
- ☐ Maintenance/Operations
- ☐ Membrane Treatment
- ☐ Personnel Management
- ☐ Public Information/Relations
- ☐ Regulatory/Legislative
- ☐ Water Resources Mgmt./Plan.
- ☐ Rates/Cost of Service
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Surface Water
- ☐ Water Reuse
- ☐ Youth Education
- ☐ Other: _____

Optional

AWWA maintains profile data for use in developing additional programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our members.

Birth Date: _____

Race/Ethnic Identification (Circle one)

- 1. American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2. Asian/Pacific-Islander
- 3. African-American
- 4. Hispanic
- 5. White (Non-Hispanic)
- 6. Other

Gender (Circle One)

- Female
- Male

**Mail to: AWWA Membership
6666 W. Quincy Ave.
Denver, CO 80235
800.926.7337
303.794.7711**

or fax to: 303.347.0804

Signature required: _____

Date: _____

Water monitoring section of LB 1234 signed into law April 11

Sec. 18. The Legislature finds that (1) existing monitoring of ground water quality performed by natural resources districts is excellent and deserves recognition, (2) substantial efforts have been undertaken by the Department of Environmental Quality to monitor surface water quality, and (3) it is within the state's capacity to develop a comprehensive, integrated statewide water quality monitoring system.

Sec. 19. The Department of Environmental Quality shall conduct a comprehensive study of water quality monitoring in Nebraska pursuant to section 20 of this act.

In preparing Phase I of the study, the department shall work with and consult an advisory committee consisting of a designee from each of the following: The American Consulting Engineers Council of Nebraska, the Department of Agriculture, the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, the Department of Natural Resources, the League of Nebraska Municipalities, the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, the Game and Parks Commission, the United States Geological Survey, and the University of Nebraska.

The advisory group for Phase II of the study shall include the members listed in this section for Phase I and be expanded to include all groups found by the Department of Environmental Quality to be significant stakeholders in the water quality area.

Phase I of the study shall be presented to the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature on or before December 1, 2000, and Phase II shall be presented to the committee on or before June 30, 2001.

Sec. 20. (1) The study required by section 19 of this act shall consist of two phases. Phase I of the study shall consist of an assessment of Nebraska's current water quality monitoring efforts and shall address, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) A detailed description of all current water quality monitoring efforts at the state and local levels, including scope, location, timing, procedure, number of personnel, state agency or local government involved, and funding; and
- (b) An analysis of current water quality monitoring efforts, indicating what the existing system does well and fails to do or does inadequately. The analysis shall address, but not be limited to, the following questions:

- (i) Is the current number of monitoring sites sufficient to provide accurate information on water quality in all regions of the state;
- (ii) Is the current frequency of monitoring efforts sufficient to provide an accurate measurement of changes in water quality over time;
- (iii) Are the current methods of sample collection and analysis scientifically sound and is the collection of samples and subsequent testing conducted in a manner which reasonably assures accurate measurements;
- (iv) Is the current reporting process timely and does it present information to policymakers in an understandable and usable form;
- (v) Is the current coordination of monitoring efforts between the Department of Environmental Quality, natural resources districts, and county or local governments sufficient; and
- (vi) Does the current system provide a mechanism ensuring statewide or regional coordination of water quality monitoring efforts when desirable.

(2) Phase II of the study shall utilize the information gathered during Phase I and shall consist of a detailed description of the changes required in the current system to establish a comprehensive, integrated statewide water quality monitoring system, including preferred alternatives if multiple options exist. The proposed monitoring system shall include, but not be limited to, the following

- (a) Recommended monitoring site locations;
- (b) A description of acceptable monitoring techniques;
- (c) The institutional flexibility to allow contaminants to be monitored on a statewide or regional basis as needed;

(Continued on page 14)



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Water monitoring section of LB 1234

(From page 13)

- (d) Procedures to determine when coordinated monitoring between state and local entities is needed and policies for directing such monitoring;
- (e) Provisions for the development of long-term trend lines for problem contaminants, for the inclusion of new contaminants, and for elimination of contaminants no longer requiring monitoring;
- (f) Mechanisms to determine the best locations to monitor water quality for different types of contaminants and how to define local or regional problem areas; and
- (g) An estimate of funding necessary to implement the recommendations of the study.

Sec. 21. Section 6 of this act becomes operative on July 1, 2001. The other sections of this act become operative on their effective date.

Sec. 22. If any section in this act or any part of any section is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.

Sec. 23. Original sections 23-373, 76-2,112, 81-1532, 81-15,152, and 81-15,153, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, section 19-902, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998, and section 23-114, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, are repealed.

Sec. 24. The following sections are outright repealed: Section 81-1533, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 72-2001 to 72-2004, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1998.

**Register for the
National AWWA Conference
June 11-15 in Denver
from our Website
www.awwaneb.org**

Apply for scholarship

The Nebraska Section established the Colonel Theodore A. Leisen Memorial and Training Endowment Fund in 1993 to encourage water industry professionals to obtain additional training and encourage graduate students to choose the water industry as their field of work.

The section awards three \$500 scholarships at its annual fall conference. Deadline for applications is September 1. An application form is on page 15.

About Leisen

Colonel Theodore Alfred Leisen was one of the incorporators of AWWA and served as president from 1917-1918. He also chaired several national committees on public health and pollution.

Leisen completed high school in his native Philadelphia and received only private engineering instructions. His father had been an engineer and his grandfather, an architect in England. The **Omaha World-Herald**, November 1, 1923, described him as "rather thick set and about five feet six inches tall." Soft-spoken and very dignified, he was all business.

Leisen began his involvement with the water industry in 1886, at age 21, as a chief engineer for a South American construction project. He later designed the Wilmington, DE waste water system and served as superintendent of the city's water department.

In 1908, Leisen was named superintendent of the Louisville, KY Water Department. Six years later he moved to Detroit, MI as superintendent of its water department where he supervised the construction of the world's largest filtration plant (350 MGD).

During World War I, he held the rank of a major in charge of construction and utilities officer at Camp Custer, MI. Leisen was named general manager of the Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha, in 1923 at age 59, at a salary of \$12,500 a year.

During his 16-year tenure at M.U.D., the water and natural gas utility also began the changeover from manufactured gas to natural gas. The process started November 5, 1934.

When he announced his retirement July 19, 1939, at age 74, both gas and water rates had been drastically reduced. Bonded indebtedness was down to \$1.6 million for the water department and \$1.5 million for the gas department. The District had improved its physical facilities as well as its financial standing.

Leisen returned to Detroit and died in 1944. In 1993, AWWA inducted him into the AWWA National Hall of Fame.

Nebraska Section American Water Works Association Leisen Memorial Education and Training Grant Application

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

Name: _____ Home phone: _____
Home address: _____ Office phone: _____

Years in water industry: _____
Current position: _____ Years in current position: _____
(Attach a copy of your job description)
AWWA membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Employer: _____
Address of employer: _____
Is your employer a member of AWWA? _____ If yes, indicate membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Your activities in the Nebraska Section AWWA (committees, positions held, etc.):

Membership in other professional organizations and your activities:

Other significant contributions to your community, etc.:

TRAINING GRANT INFORMATION

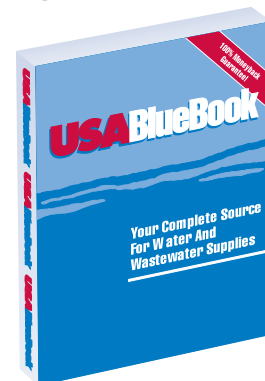
Use of grant funds: _____ Amount requested: _____
Dates of workshop, courses: _____ Employer contribution: _____
Location of training: _____

Please indicate in the space below the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or other water industry-related positions.

Unless self-employed, please attach a letter of support from your employer.
I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____
Send completed application by September 1 to: Chip Haas, HDR Engineering, 8401 Indian Hills Dr., Omaha, NE 68114-4049; phone: 402.399.1333; fax: 402.399.4918; e-mail: chaas@hdrinc.com
Please make copies of this order form as needed

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American Water Works Association
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Metropolitan Utilities District
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Brief notes

Plan to test your knowledge of the water industry at the Fall Conference, November 8 at 3:30 p.m., in the Top OPS Challenge!

The Top OPS Challenge, now in its sixth year, has been one of the highlights of the annual Fall Conference. Based on the JEOPARDY game format, the challenge includes questions about general water knowledge, maintenance and regulations.

Operators, engineers and suppliers are urged to form teams. Limit of eight teams. No entry fee. Lots of prizes for winners. Get 1.5 Grades 1-4 CEUs for participation. To register, call **Chip Haas**, HDR Engineering, 402.399.1333, or go to our Website (<http://www.awwaneb.org>) and click on the agenda link on the home page.



Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, has moved to a new office. Address is: 5022 S. 114th St., Ste. 200, Omaha, NE 68137-2330 (phone: 402.346.7559; fax: 402.346.0224; e-mail: ckoenig@hgmonline.com).



JEO has changed its name to JEO Consulting Group, Inc., (<http://www.jeo.com>)

Please see our Website
(<http://www.awwaneb.org>)
for advertisement order
form for 2001 publications.

Wise Water Words is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.
Editor: **Mari Matulka**, APR, 402.449.8154;
fax: 402.449.8166;
e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com

Fall conference, November 8-9

President-elect to speak at joint luncheon

Ronald Schwarzwald, president-elect of National AWWA, will be the featured speaker at the fall conference joint AWWA-NWEA lunch, November 8, 2000 at the Holiday Inn, Kearney. He joined AWWA in 1972, and is vice-president of Weda Water, Inc., Export, PA.

His service to AWWA includes: two terms as vice-president and a member of several AWWA Research Foundation project advisory committees.

He served as section chair and director of the Ohio Section and received the Fuller Award in 1997. He also has memberships in the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, International Ozone Institute and Cleveland Water Association.

Schwarzwald has three grown children and lives in Strongsville, OH.



Ronald Schwarzwald

Nominations Committee *by Rich Koenig*

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers for election at the Fall Conference business meeting. Nominations also will be taken from the membership.

Chair	Charles "Chip" Haas , HDR Engineering, Inc.
Chair-Elect	Chris Koenig , HGM Associates, Inc., Omaha
Vice Chair	Dennis Watts , Norfolk Utilities, City of Norfolk
Secretary	Scott Borman , Nebraska Health & Human Services
Treasurer	Kristine Ranselm , City of Albion
Trustee & Past Chair	Joel Christensen , Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha
Trustee	Larry Andreasen , City of Fremont
Trustee	Tony Bilek , Mc2, Inc., Omaha
Director	John Miriovsky , Lincoln Water System

Vote for one:

Trustee	Pat Heath , City of Gering
Trustee	Milo Rust , City of Chadron

Special meeting to develop comments
for EPA on proposed Arsenic Rule
Thursday, August 24, 1:30 p.m.
Lower Level F (LLF), State Office Bldg., Lincoln

Chair's comments

Plan to attend the Fall Conference, November 8-9, in Kearney. This year's program offers a great variety of operations and engineering programs, thanks to **Chip Haas** and other members of the conference committee. If you attend the wastewater portion of the conference, note that it begins on Tuesday, November 7. See the agenda for the AWWA meeting on page 3. The agenda for the wastewater meeting is posted on our Website, <http://www.awwaneb.org>. Room reservations need to be made by October 6 to get the conference rate.

Nebraska Health and Human Services needs water operators from all grades and areas of experience to assist in validation of exam questions. See **Mike Wentink's** article on page 15. This is a very important service we can provide to the operator certification effort.

At our July 20 meeting, your officers approved a contract for staff services. It gives us a permanent mailing address and will greatly assist with Fall Conference preparation. We also approved a motion to take a position on the proposed arsenic rule. **Jerry Obrist** and our water utility council will draft a resolution stating we are in favor of keeping the limit at 10 ppb or above which is in agreement with World Health Organization policy and the European Union standard.

Other highlights included preparation for the Top OPS Competition at the Fall Conference (we will pay registration at the national conference for the winning team if they participate in the national competition). A report was given at the national membership meeting by **Rich Robinson** and **Mari Matulka** on our Website (38 of 43 Sections have Websites. Our Website was judged one of the top two nationally).

Now is a good time to consider your involvement for the next year. Committee chairs are being sought and members also are needed. Talk to any officer from now through the Fall Conference.



Joel Christensen

Officers and Trustees

Joel Christensen, (402) 554-7774
Chairperson
Charles Haas, (402) 492-8472
Chairperson-Elect
Chris Koenig, (402) 346-7559
Vice-Chair and Treasurer
Dennis Watts, (402) 644-8762
Secretary
Dennis Hirschbrunner (402) 399-1032
Director
Trustees
Larry Andreasen, (402) 727-2621
Tony Bilek, (402) 333-9660
Scott Borman (402) 471-0521
Rich Koenig, (402) 370-3114

2000 Committee Chairs

Joel Christensen, *Audit*
(402) 554-7774
John Miriovsky, *Awards*
(402) 471-5932
Chris Koenig, *Budget*
(402) 346-7559
Leroy Kramer, *Cross Connections*
(308) 535-6740
Mike Wentink, *Education*
(308) 535-8134 or (402) 471-1005
Chip Haas, *Fall Conference*
(402) 399-8134
Rich Koenig, *Fall Conference and Nominations*
(402) 370-3114
Paul Dammann, *Fuller Award*
(402) 643-3433
Tony Bilek
Manufacturers/Associates Council
(402) 333-9660
Rich Robinson, *Membership*
(402) 255-3840
Mari Matulka, *Publications and Public Information*
(402) 449-8154
Dr. Mohamed Dahab, *Research*
(402) 472-5020
Rob Pierce, *Safety*
(402) 476-2829
Lynn Wegehaupt, *Scholarship*
(402) 554-7855
Bob Elston, *Small Systems*
(402) 582-4928
Bruce Dvorak, *Student Activities*
(402) 472-1578
Jim Shields, *Water for People*
(402) 449-8182
Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*
(402) 441-5930
Joe Baxter, *Young Professionals*
(308) 383-8750
Eric Obert, *Young Professionals*
(402) 443-4661

Director's report by Dennis Hirschbrunner



Dennis Hirschbrunner

It seems like only last week that we were in Denver for the National Conference. The year has been extremely busy with many activities and lots of meetings. The national conference began for me on Saturday, June 10, with a board workshop followed on Sunday by the regular board meeting. We had a full agenda and worked most of the day.

Highlights of the meeting included the Treasurer's report which continues to show a financially sound organization; president-elect speeches by **Marlay Price** and **Lynn Stovall**; passage of revisions to the Board Model and Membership; passage of Governing Documents revision, report from the AWWA/WEF Cooperation and Coordination Committee; approval of the AWWA Strategic Communication Plan and various committee reports.

Continued on Page 4

2000 annual conference agenda — Holiday Inn, Kearney

Hotel reservations: 800.248.4460; reservations must be made by October 6 to get the conference rate (Holiday Inn rate: \$53 single; \$63 double; Wingate & Hampton rate: \$56 single; \$66 double)

Wednesday, November 8

7:30 A.M. Registration

Session I Operations

8:30-9 A.M. Emergency Flood Response, Santee, NE
Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Norfolk

9-9:30 A.M. Crisis Communications: Working with the Media
Mari Matulka, M.U.D., Omaha
Marla Augustine, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln
Paul Dammann, City of Seward

9:30-10 A.M. Fluoride Spill
Pete Neddo, M.U.D., Omaha

10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits

10:30-11 A.M. Electrical Safety
Lonnie Lipsack, Hatten Electric

11-11:30 A.M. New Proposed Nebraska Operator Training Requirements
Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln

Session II Engineering

8:30-9 A.M. Next Generation Coating Systems for Water Storage Structures

Kevin Greteman, Schmit-Greteman

9-9:30 A.M. Geothermal Heat Loops
Dave Sizer, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln

9:30-10 A.M. Alternative Filtration Techniques: Natural Bank Filtration

Kirk Stocker, City of Kearney

Chris Miller, Miller & Associates, Kearney

10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits

10:30-11 A.M. Alternative Filtration Techniques: Membrane Filtration Case History in Erie, CO

Gary Fuller, **John Golian**, HDR Engineering

11 A.M.-noon Alternative Disinfection Process:
UV Disinfection for Drinking Water
Gail Sakommoto, Trojan Technologies
On-Site Mixed Oxidant Generators for Drinking Water Disinfection
Pat Wilson, MIOX Corp.

NOON-1:30 P.M. Joint AWWA and NWEA Lunch

Ronald Schworzwald, National AWWA president-elect

1:30-3 P.M. AWWA Business Meeting

3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits

3:30-5 P.M. Top OPS Competition

6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits

7 P.M. Banquet

Thursday, November 9

7 A.M. Nebraska Section AWWA Board Meeting

7:30-8:30 A.M. Water Operator Breakfast

Mentoring Program

Bob Elston, City of Plainview

Session I

8:30-9:15 A.M. Drinking Water Regulations
Ralph Flourney, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

9:15-10 A.M. Drinking Water Regulations
Alan Roberson, Regulatory Affairs

10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits

10:30-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update
Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln

CEUs

Nebraska Health & Human Services

Grades 1-4 AWWA Program = 6.5 hours

Additional hours for Top OPS participants = 1.5 hours

Fees

Pre-Registration for AWWA

(includes Wednesday lunch and banquet), \$60; on-site, \$70

Pre-Registration for Full Conference

(includes all lunches and banquets), \$100; on-site, \$120

Pre-Registration = Prior to October 20

AWWA Operator's Breakfast, \$10

Additional Banquet Tickets, \$20 each

For more information, contact **Chip Haas**, HDR Engineering, Inc.,

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Director's report (continued from page 2)

The AWWA/WEF Cooperation and Coordination Report developed into an interesting and lively discussion. As I reported to you earlier, AWWA and WEF offices and staff have been meeting to discuss areas of closer cooperation including joint sponsorship of events, workshops and conferences as well as the potential to merge the two organizations.

Your officers determined that, at the present time, the primary areas of cooperation would be joint activities that were mutually beneficial to both organizations and that no further discussion would be held regarding merger.

This decision generated several questions from some board members who were interested in keeping all options open for continued dialogue with WEF, including merger.

After much discussion, the association officers reiterated their position that the doors are open for further discussion between the two organizations.

The Thursday board meeting included the election of the nominating committee for vice presidents and director-at-large position; establishment of Ad Hoc Committees on Election of Officers, International Committee, Organizational Alliance and Internal Communication and a report on the current status of the Disinfection By-Products Rule.

In addition to the board meetings, I attended the Fuller Award Breakfast where **John Miriovsky**, Lincoln Water System, received his Fuller Award plaque. I also participated in the Water for People Fundraiser, along with **Tony Bilek**, Mc2, Inc. The conference was a great success with more than 14,000 attendees and record number of exhibitors. There was truly something there for everyone.

Since returning, the officers of the Nebraska Section have been very busy. We have successfully concluded negotiation with Nebraska ACEC for administration services as well as assistance at the fall conference. We also concluded planning for the fall conference and the committee has put together another outstanding agenda.

We look forward to seeing you all of in Kearney in November. Until then, keep up the good work.

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Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

The following major activities of the Water Utility Council continue with EPA and the Nebraska Health & Human Services, Regulation and Licensure, with regard to the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR): The mandatory CCRs were due July 1, 2000. Community water systems must publish and distribute this report every year.

Operator Certification: Significant changes are being made. I strongly urge all operators to contact the Nebraska Health & Human Services to determine what level of certification is required for their system and what the new deadlines are for certification.

Groundwater Rule: Significant comments were made by AWWA on this rule, which will have major impact on small systems throughout the State.

Arsenic Rule: EPA has published a proposed Arsenic Rule to lower the standard to 5 ppb. This will have a significant impact on all Nebraska communities and other states.

The Nebraska Health & Human Services, Regulation and Licensure, plans to hold a meeting Thursday, August 24, 1:30 p.m., Lower Level F (LLF), State Office Bldg., Lincoln, to develop comments on the proposed Arsenic Rule for EPA. I urge all of you to attend. More than 300 utilities or water systems in the State will be affected with a 5 ppb limit. We also are working with the AWWA Government Affairs Office to formulate comments on the Arsenic Rule.

Major issues are:

- The cost benefit analysis procedure used by EPA is significantly flawed.
- There is not sound science available yet to show that the limit should be set at 5 ppb. Preliminary analysis shows that it should be around 20 ppb. Within the next several years, additional health effects research will be available so an appropriate limit can be set.
- The World Health Organization and the European Union have a limit of 10 ppb.

I urge water utilities in the State to attend the August 24 meeting in Lincoln.

Continued on Page 16



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Nebraska Section 2000 budget (July 17, 2000)

INCOME	1999 Actual	2000 Budget	2000 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Association allotment	4,000.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Multi-section allotment	620.50	600.00	255.00
Annual meeting	9,216.73	7,500.00	0
Director's allotment	781.46	750.00	1,429.44
Interest from accounts	2,212.71	2,000.00	1,379.94
Education seminar	0	500.00	0
Safety seminar	20.00	300.00	0
Cross connection workshop	266.62	300.00	0
Teleconferences	6,190.75	6,000.00	2,625.00
Advertising income	3,575.00	5,700.00	8,065.00
Water for People	15.00	2,000.00	0
SRF Education Funds	4,368.00	10,000.00	1,001.00
Miscellaneous	349.83	400.00	45.00
Total Income	\$35,616.61	\$51,050.00	\$29,800.38
EXPENSES			
Safety committee	\$ 1,824.42	2,500.00	218.00
Cross connection workshop	5,369.00	1,500.00	0
Education and training	0	3,000.00	0
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	3,303.00	2,000.00	0
Public Information Committee/Website	369.66	600.00	427.35
Teleconferences	2,674.15	3,000.00	1,927.50
Small systems committee	524.87	6,000.00	337.98
Director's board meeting	674.86	800.00	1,218.82
Publications			
Wise Water Words	6,315.77	6,400.00	4,705.15
Membership Directory	0	5,000.00	4,875.01
Advertising	0	100.00	0
Student activity	101.42	500.00	51.12
Membership	287.00	500.00	55.00
Secretary/treasurer	123.00	2,200.00	159.80
Awards (<i>Fuller</i>)	271.21	300.00	0
Abel Wolman	1,200.00	600.00	600.00
Research Foundation	500.00	500.00	500.00
Regional officers' meeting	1,119.83	2,000.00	672.83
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	0	300.00	300.00
Annual meeting	1,214.88	2,050.00	0
Publicity	0	2,500.00	2,364.93
Water for People	515.00	2,500.00	500.00
MAC Council	0	500.00	0
Paid staff	0	4,000.00	0
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	0	1,000.00	0
Miscellaneous	175.49	100.00	96.23
Total Expenses	\$26,563.56	\$51,050.00	\$19,009.72
Net Income	9,053.05	0	10,790.68

Student Activities

by Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering, (402.472.8934)

During the last school year, the committee held five chapter meetings, three conferences and one field trip. They were:

- Panel discussion of young engineers. Speakers were: **Andy Melville**, **Chris Logue**, M.U.D., Omaha; **Jeff Peterson**, Miller Associates, Kearney; **Russell Wachter**, Camp Dresser & McKee, Kansas City; **Jennifer Ziegler**, Olsson Associates, Lincoln.
- Capt. **David Stanek**, Offutt Air Force Base, talked about bioenvironmental engineering.
- 15 students and three faculty attended the 1999 Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference in Kearney. Four students presented papers.
- **Roy McCalester**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, spoke to engineering students from UNL and UNO campuses February 9, 2000.
- Joint meeting with ASCE held March 11 to hear panel discussion of employment with consulting firms, utilities and regulatory agencies. Speakers included: **Greg McClain**, Olsson Associates, Lincoln; **Chris Miller**, Miller Associates, Kearney; **John Miriovsky**, Lincoln Water System; **Jay Ringeburg**, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Lincoln.
- In March, 19 students and six faculty attended the Great Plains Waste Management Conference in Omaha. Ten students presented posters.
- In April, 11 students toured the Metropolitan Utilities District Florence Water Treatment Plant in Omaha.
- In April, **Jim Condon**, Olsson Associates, Lincoln, spoke at a joint meeting with AIChE about project management of treatment plant design.
- In June, four students and one faculty member attended the national AWWA Conference in Denver. Students presented two papers.

Besides myself, other members of the Student Activities Committee are **Dr. Mohamed Dahab** and **Joe Sherrard**.

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There is more in that glass than just a drink of water

by Dan Hawthorne, *The Chadron Record*, May 15, 2000

West of the 100th meridian, which bisects the state north to south on a line just east of Valentine, water is a precious commodity. Its availability defines farm and ranch operations, and its purity is depended on for home use.

At present, we are accustomed to water's presence at the turn of a tap. Behind the scene, however, there must be a person or persons working to ensure that which we take for granted.

In Crawford, that person is **Ernie Degunia**. In fact, for more than 50 years there's been a Degunia operating the water plant which filters the water Crawford residents use for everything from drinking to washing their cars.

"My dad ran the plant from 1951 until 1976," said Degunia in a recent interview. "I used to come up here with him when I was in high school to help out, and learned how the system worked. When he had a heart attack in 1976, I took over. I've been here ever since."

There have been many changes in the rules and regulations governing water plants since the early days of Degunia's involvement, and constant testing is necessary not only to satisfy those regulations, but to ensure the safety of the drinking supply. By state regulations, daily tests must be run to monitor levels of chlorine, the temperature of the water being filtered, its Ph level, and turbidity—the clarity of the raw water prior to filtration.

The system in Crawford is one of only three in the entire state which must use such an extensive filtration system—the other two are in Chadron and Omaha. All are necessary due to the surface water classification of their supply sources.

Crawford draws its water primarily from an infiltration gallery located south of town.

Here a series of connected perforated pipes draw from the underground water table, directing it into a catch basin, where pumps in the wet well send the raw water to treatment. Two supplemental deep wells also add water to the system, but their flow alone would be inadequate for total supply. Water from these wells does not need to be treated, but flows with the surface water anyway.

"The price of routing water from those wells only would be prohibitive," said Degunia. "It's simpler to run it through the process, and use the same storage tanks all the way."

The city's source of water was for many years a dam on the White River, but "the flood we had in 1991 took that out," Degunia said. "The entire system back then operated by gravity flow. The only pumps we needed were for backwashing the system. Now we need to pump the raw water up to the treatment plant. After that it's all gravity flow down into town."

Two storage tanks, one with a million gallon capacity and one holding 750,000 gallons, contain the filtered water after treatment.

Raw water is pumped into a 500,000 gallon storage tank atop the hill south of town on which the treatment plant is situated. From there, the water is circulated through filtration beds composed of layers of rock varying in size from that of a "shooter" marble to beads of anthracite approximately the size of a pin's head.

Alum and polymers are added to bond with dirt particles and aid in removing them from the supply.

This water level must be monitored every two hours, as demand and entry flow both determine the rate of flow through the beds. Degunia anticipates the coming online of the city's new treatment facility, scheduled for opening in mid-May. "We got automatic controls for this old treatment plant back in 1983, but they haven't been working for the last two years," Degunia said. "Every two hours I have to be here to hand-operate them."

In the peak demand season, that can mean working from 6 a.m. until midnight to maintain enough water for users.

"In the winter, we average 160-260,000 gallons of water a day. In summer the average is from 8-900,000, and some days we use more than a million gallons."

In the old days, that meant that the elder Degunia's family would often spend the night at the plant. "We'd make a picnic out of it, bring blankets and cots, and all be here together so Dad could keep the plant going without having to be away from the family," Degunia said. "It was a pretty special time. My own family and I did that too, until the controls were automated."

The new plant will simplify life for Degunia. "This old plant's been here since 1946," he said. "We've made a number of improvements to it, but there just isn't anymore we can do here."

Degunia is the only state-certified Class 3 operator in Crawford and must be within telephone reach, and able to respond within an hour, at all times if needed. A vacation out of town is for now out of the question, but he downplays any difficulty he may have with the situation.

"I like my job and what I'm doing," he said. "I take pride in being able to supply this town with good, clean water. My family lives here and drinks this water too. I'll work day and night, if I have to, to take care of it."

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8135)

The Section in cooperation with the League of Nebraska Municipalities offers numerous opportunities for continuing education. Call 308.535.8135 to register for the following workshops:

Water Operator Training

October 10	South Sioux City
October 11	Fremont
October 12	Seward
November 14	Stuart
November 15	Plainview
November 16	West Point
December 5	North Platte
December 6	Kearney
December 7	Lincoln

Backflow Re-certification

September 25	Beatrice
September 26	Neligh
September 27	Grand Island
September 28	Ogallala

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

Call 402.471.0520 to register for these water operator workshops:

September 11-15	Grade III, Grand Island
October 18-19	Grade IV, Grand Island
December 11-15	Grade II, Lincoln

For a complete list of workshops from the Section, Health & Human Services, etc., see the "Training" section on our Website, www.awwaneb.org

National AWWA training

Call 800.926.7337 to register for these workshops:

September 10-12	Distribution Symposium, New Orleans
September 11-12	Management and Supervision for Water and Wastewater Operators Seminar, Harrisburg, PA
September 11-12	Competent Person: Training for Excavation Safety & Confined Space Safety Seminar Los Angeles
September 26-27	Competent Person: Training for Excavation Safety & Confined Space Safety Seminar Harrisburg, PA
November 5-9	Water Quality Technology Conference & Exhibition, Salt Lake City
November 28	Treatment Optimization Seminar, Fort Worth
November 30	Treatment Optimization Seminar, Atlanta
January 28-31	Source Water Protection Workshop Savannah, GA
February 4-7	AWWA/WEF Joint Management Conference Portland, OR
March 25-28	Customer Service Workshop, Norfolk, VA
April 8-11	Information Management and Technology Conference & Exhibition, Atlanta, GA
June 17-21	National AWWA Conference Washington, D.C.

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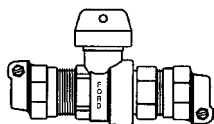


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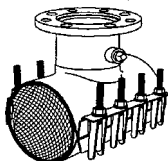
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Final drinking water public notification procedures

EPA 816-F-00-020, May 2000

What is public notification?

Public notification is intended to ensure that customers will always know if there is a problem with their drinking water. Public water systems must notify the people who drink their water:

- If the level of a contaminant in the water exceeds Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water regulations,
- If there is a waterborne disease outbreak or any other situation that may pose a risk to public health,
- If the water system fails to test its water as required, or
- If the system has a variance or exemption from the regulations.

Depending on the severity of the situation, water suppliers have from 24 hours to one year to notify their customers. EPA sets strict requirements on the form, manner, content and frequency of public notices.

Public notification is provided in addition to the annual water quality report (consumer confidence report or CCR), which provides customers with a more complete picture of drinking water quality and system operations. The annual CCR tells consumers what's in their water, where it comes from, and where they can obtain additional information.

In fiscal year 1998, there were more than 124,000 violations of drinking water regulations requiring a public notice, involving over 25 percent of the 170,000 public water systems. Over 90 percent of the violations were for failure to fully meet the monitoring or testing procedure requirements. Fewer than 1.5 percent of the violations posed an immediate risk of adverse health effects from short-term exposure.

What action is EPA taking?

EPA published final regulations in the **Federal Register** on May 4, 2000 (65 FR 25981) to revise the general public notification regulations. The revised regulations require faster notice in emergencies and fewer notices overall, and will result in notices that better communicate the potential health risks from drinking water violations and how to avoid such risks.

The new rule will enable water systems to better target notices to the seriousness of the risk and make the existing notification process less burdensome for water suppliers and make notices easier to read for consumers.

The revised regulations (under 40 CFR Part 141, subpart Q) are effective June 5, 2000. However, they do not apply to public water systems in states with approved primacy programs (**Nebraska**) until May 6, 2002, unless a primary state chooses to adopt the requirements earlier.

Public water supply systems where EPA directly implements the drinking water program (i.e., Wyoming, Washington, D.C., Tribal lands), must start complying with the new regulations on October 31, 2000. EPA proposed the public notification rule revisions on May 13, 1999 (64 FR 25963).

Copies of the final regulation may be obtained by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791 or by downloading documents from EPA's Website (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pn.html>).

What changes were made to the public notification requirements?

- **24-hour notice.** Water systems are required to distribute Tier 1 notices in 24-hours (instead of 72) for violations posing acute health risks due to short-term exposure.

The number of violations and situations requiring a Tier 1 notice were significantly expanded from the previous rule.

- **Consultant requirement.** Water systems must consult with the state or EPA within 24 hours of a Tier 1 violation to receive direction on subsequent requirements.

- **30-day notice for other serious violations.** The notice deadline for violations of maximum contaminant levels or treatment techniques which do not pose an immediate threat to human health is extended from 14 days to 30 days, with possible extension to 3 months (Tier 2).

- **12-month notice for non-serious violations.** The notice deadline for all other violations is extended from three months to 12 months, allowing a single annual report where applicable (Tier 3). Systems may choose to include this notice in their annual CCR.

- **Simplified standard language.** The existing standard health effects language is simplified, consistent with the CCR requirements. New standard language is now required for monitoring violations.

Recipients of public notices also are encouraged, through standard distribution language in notices, to further distribute the notices to people who may not receive a notice (such as tenants or hospital patients).

- **Streamlined distribution of notices.** Under the previous rule, water systems were required to use specific multiple deliver methods when distributing notices.

The revised rule requires water systems to select a single minimum method for each tier from a regulatory list to take additional steps of their own choosing that are reasonably calculated to reach all the other persons served.

The minimum required methods of delivery listed in the revised regulation include the media, hand delivery or posting for Tier 1 notices,

and direct mail, hand delivery or posting for Tier 2 and Tier 3 notices.

- **Certification of compliance.** The revised rule requires a water system to certify to the state or primary agency within 10 days that it has met all public notice requirements. The previous rule required only that copy of the notices be sent to the state.

How does the final regulation work?

The final regulation divides public notices into three tiers:

Tier 1 Public Notice for violations and situations with significant potential to have serious adverse effects on human health as a result of short-term exposure. Notice is required within 24 hours of the violation.

- Fecal coliform maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation or failure to test for fecal contamination after total coliform test is positive.
- Nitrate/nitrite/combined nitrate and nitrite MCL violation or failure to take confirmation sample.
- Chlorine dioxide maximum residual distribution level (MRDL) violation in distribution system or failure to take repeat samples in distribution system.
- Exceedance of maximum allowable turbidity level resulting in a MCL or treatment technique (TT) violation, when the state or EPA determines a Tier 1 notice is warranted.
- Special public notice for non-community water systems with nitrate exceedances between 10 mg/l and 20 mg/l, when allowed to exceed MCL (10 mg/l) by the state.
- Waterborne disease outbreak or other waterborne emergency.

10 required elements of notification

1. A description of the violation or situation.
2. When the violation or situation occurred.
3. Potential health effects.
4. The population at risk.
5. Whether alternate water supplies should be used.
6. Actions consumers should take.
7. What is being done to correct the violation or situation.
8. When the system expects to return to compliance.
9. Name, phone number, and business address for more information.
10. Standard distribution language.

- Other situations as determined by the primacy agency.

Tier 2 Public Notice for violations and situations potential to have serious, but not immediate, adverse effects on human health. Notice is required within 30 days, or as soon as possible, with extension of up to three months for resolved violations at the discretion of the state or primacy agency.

- All other MCL, MRDL and TT violations not identified as Tier 1 notice.
- Monitoring and testing procedure violations, when the primacy agency requires a Tier 2 (rather than Tier 3) notice.
- Failure to comply with variance and exemption (V&E) conditions.

Tier 3 Public Notice for all other violations and situations not included in Tier 1 or Tier 2. Notice is required within 12 months of the violation, and may be part of a single annual report, including in some cases the annual CCR already required by EPA.

- All other monitoring or testing procedure violations not already requiring a Tier 1 or Tier 2 notice.
- Operation under a Variance and Exemption.
- Special public notices (i.e., exceedance of the fluoride secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL); announcing the availability of unregulated contaminant monitoring results).

What are EPA requirements for the form, manner and content of the public notices?

The final rule sets minimum methods of delivery under each tier, but also requires that water systems take steps reasonably

calculated to reach others not reached by the minimum method.

Each notice must contain information addressing 10 elements, including the use of standard health effects language for maximum contaminant level (MCL) and treatment technique violations and standard language for monitoring violations.

Public water systems serving a large proportion of non-English speaking consumers also are required to include information in the notice in languages other than English.

Which public water systems are affected by the regulation?

Once the rule goes into effect in each state, it will require all the public water systems to make changes to their current public notification programs to incorporate the revised regulations.

The final rule will require states with primacy enforcement authority (**Nebraska**) to revise their approved primacy programs to adopt regulations no less stringent than the revised EPA regulations.

The final regulations gives states considerable discretion, at their option, to work with EPA to tailor public notification programs to fit unique needs, policies and programs.

How is EPA helping public water systems with the new requirements?

EPA and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) will issue a **Public Notification Handbook** to assist water systems in implementing the revised regulation. This handbook will provide templates for notices and other aids to help water systems develop notices for violation situations.

Drinking Water Warning

Springfield water has high levels of nitrate

**DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS
UNDER SIX MONTHS OLD OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA**

4. The population
at risk.

AVISO
NO USE EL AGUA PARA PREPARAR ALIMENTOS PARA BEBES
Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Hable con
alguien que lo entienda bien o llame al teléfono 555-11200 para hablar en español sobre
este aviso.

Information
for Spanish speakers

2. When the
violation or
situation
occurred.

Water sample results received June 22, 2000 showed nitrate levels of 12 milligrams per liter (mg/l). This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/l. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

What should I do?

DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS. *Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die.* Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.

1. A description of
the violation or
situation.

5. Whether
alternate water
supplies should
be used.

Water, juice and formula for children **under six months of age** should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice. Springfield Water Company and the Springfield Health Department are providing free bottled water to families with infants. Water is available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Health Department office at the Town Hall. Water will be provided until the nitrate problem is resolved.

Do not boil the water. Boiling, freezing, filtering or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.

Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they can't process nitrates in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can vary throughout the year. We'll let you know when the amount of nitrate is again below the limit.

3. Potential health
effects.

6. Actions consum-
ers should take.

7. What is being
done to correct
the violation or
situation.

We are investigating water treatment and other options. These may include drilling a new well or mixing the water with low-nitrate water from another source. We anticipate resolving the problem by July 15.

For more information, please contact John Smith of the Springfield Water Company at (602) 555-1212. This notice was prepared and distributed by the Springfield Water Company, 500 Main St., Springfield.

8. When the system
expects to return
to compliance.

10. Standard
distribution
language.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

9. Name, phone
number, and
business address
for more
information.

Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael (402.255.3840)

The Membership Committee is sponsoring a recruitment contest with prizes to be awarded at the Nebraska Section AWWA dinner, November 8, 2000, in Kearney. Here are the prize categories:

1. Top recruiter (*person who recruits the most new members*)—\$50
2. Drawing—two prizes of \$25 each

Drawing rules—The names of Nebraska Section members endorsing one or more new candidates between January 1-November 1, 2000 will be placed in a drawing. The number of new members a current member recruits determines the number

\$20 (*individual membership*)
or
\$10 (*operations membership*)

This coupon, when attached to a completed application for membership in AWWA with payment of membership dues (*less the amount of this coupon*), entitles the bearer to a discount of \$20 (*\$10 for operations membership*) to be used towards the cost of that membership. To be valid, the following lines must be completed:

Name of applicant:

Name of recruiter:

Recruiter's membership no.

Mail coupon and application with payment to: Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 919, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0919

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Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

of times his or her name is entered in the drawing. For example, if you sign up two new members, your name is entered twice in the drawing.

Coupons

We have coupons to help new members offset the cost of first year membership dues. A coupon with a \$20 value toward an AWWA individual active membership (*or \$10 towards an operations membership*) is on this page. Contact **Rich Robinson**, chair of the Membership Committee or **Chris Koenig**, treasurer, **402.346.7559** for more coupons. Only one coupon per application and one coupon per person will be accepted.

The coupon needs to be signed by a recruiter, attached to the completed application (make copies of application on page 17) and payment and sent to **Chris Koenig**, Nebraska Section AWWA Treasurer, HGM Associates, Inc., 5022 S. 114th St., Ste. 200, Omaha, NE 68137-2330. Chris will remove the coupon from the application and add a check from the Nebraska Section for \$20 (*\$10 for operations membership*) before forwarding the application to national AWWA.

Only Nebraska Section members in good standing may sign a coupon. The recruiter should collect the application and payment (*minus the coupon amount*), attach the coupon and mail it for the applicant to Chris.

If the recruiter does not have a coupon handy, send the completed application with the payment (*minus the coupon amount*), to Chris with a note requesting that a coupon be filled out and recorded for the Section books. This note must be signed by the recruiter to be valid. If you have any questions, please call **Rich Robinson**, **402.255.3840**.

New Members

The Nebraska Section AWWA has 339 members. Here are our newest additions:

Garwood, Roger, Orcom Solutions, 211 W. 39 St., Scottsbluff, NE 69341; 308.630.9657

Henderson, Ron D., City of Springfield, 8609 S. 235 Ave., Gretna, NE 68028; 402.253.2104

Neujahr, Mark, Utility Equipment Co., 9100 S. 96 St., LaVista, NE 68128; 402.331.8270

Sorensen, Doug, Nebraska Public Power District, Sheldon Station 88, Hallam, NE 68368; 402.787.2555

Vorderstrasse, Keith, State Building Division, 3000 Lincoln Blvd., Dock 2, Beatrice, NE 68310; 402.223.6165

Manufacturers/Associates Council

by Tony Bilek, Mc2, Inc. (402.333.9660)

Manufacturers, manufacturers representatives, engineers and service providers interested in exhibiting their products/services at the annual fall conference, November 7-9 in Kearney, should contact me. My fax number is 402.333.9663; e-mail: mc2inc.worldnet.att.net.

This is a good opportunity to showcase water and wastewater products and services. We have approximately 65 booth spaces available on a first come first served basis.

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services (308.535.8135)

Of particular interest in the coming months will be the validation process for Grades 1-4 water operator certification examinations. The Department of Health and Human Services, Regulation and Licensure/Drinking Water Program, needs assistance from the Nebraska Section AWWA in the form of "subject matter experts" for the examination validation process.

Although the process development is in the proposal stage, individuals interested in participating are encouraged to submit their names and qualifications to me. We're looking for individuals certified as a water operator, at the level appropriate for the system being operated, with at least two years experience in that role as operator.

Submit your name, address, and appropriate experience to:

Michael Wentink
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Regulation and Licensure
301 Centennial Mall So.
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, NE 68509
or e-mail: mike.wentink@hhss.state.ne.us

Plan to donate approximately 3-4 days (not consecutive) of your time. The validation process includes job tasks description for each grade of certification, assigning questions for each specified task, and determine a cut-score.

If things go as expected, plans to implement this examination validation process will begin in September or October.

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Public Information Committee

by Mari Matulka, M.U.D. (402.449.8154)

The following is a report of activity on the Nebraska Section AWWA Website from August 20, 1999 to May 31, 2000.

Number of users: 2,167 (average of 240 users per month, 7 users per day).

Most requested pages:

Officers (203)
Training (190)
News (189)
Library (184)
Links (178)
Table of Contents (174)

Number of pdf file downloads: 217

Most requested downloads:

2000-2001 membership directory (130)
September 99 issue of Wise Water Words (32)

Where users live:

United States (1,727)
Canada (12)
United Kingdom (9)
Japan (7)
Germany (3)
New Zealand (2)
Switzerland (2)
Australia (2)
France (1)
Mexico (1)

Types of organizations:

Companies (1,049)
Networks (533)
Education (43)
Organization (8)
Government (7)
Military (5)

Most active day: December 14, 1999

Least active day: October 2, 1999

Most active hour of the day: 2-3 p.m.

Least active hour of the day: 5-6 a.m.

How people find us:

Typing in exact address (518)
National AWWA link (117)
City of Lincoln link (37)
Google.com search engine (37)
Nebraska Rural Water link (19)
Prochnow & Co. web designer (17)



Safe Drinking Water Week: Governor Mike Johanns signed a proclamation declaring May 7-13 Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Week. Representatives from the water industry attending the ceremony May 10 included, left to right: John Mencl, Nebraska Rural Water Association; Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District; Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities; Richard Nelson, director, Regulation & Licensure, Nebraska Health & Human

Services; Thomas Goulette, Jr., Advisory Council on Public Water Supply; Governor Johanns; Coleen Seng, Advisory Council on Public Water Supply; Bob Catton, Advisory Council on Public Water Supply; Jack Daniel, Regulation and Licensure, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Nick McElvain, Lincoln Water System; Chris Koenig, Nebraska Section AWWA; and Tim Rutledge, Midwest Assistance Program.

Water Utility Council Report

(from Page 5)

The following are excerpts on arsenic from AWWA:

- Arsenic occurs naturally in the environment. It's the 20th most common element in the earth's crust. Arsenic also is the 12th most common element in the human body. Arsenic is added to the environment by weathering of rocks, burning of fossil fuels, smelting of ores and manufacturing. It is widely distributed in nature and is mainly transported in the environment by water.
- Arsenic exposure can cause a variety of adverse effects. The severity of the effect depends on the level of exposure. Acute high-dose oral exposure to arsenic typically leads to gastrointestinal irritations accompanied by difficulty in swallowing, thirst, abnormally low blood pressure and convulsions. Death may occur from cardiovascular collapse at very high dose.
- Evidence exists that long-term exposure to high arsenic levels increases the risk of cancer. When exposure is by inhalation, the primary effect is increased risk of lung cancer. When exposure is by ingestion, the clearest effect is increased risk of skin cancer. Evidence also exists that the risk of internal cancer (liver, lung, bladder and kidney) is increased through ingestion.
- For most people, the most significant route of exposure to arsenic is through food. It is a normal component of the diet. Studies by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have found that fish and seafood are higher in arsenic content than any other foods and account for the largest contribution to total arsenic intake in the typical adult diet.

- Ingestion of drinking water can be a source of arsenic exposure. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, 1 percent of water utilities have arsenic levels above the existing Federal standard of 50 ppb, 8 percent exceed 10 ppb and 14 percent exceed 5 ppb.
- Arsenic concentrations generally are highest in groundwater. Surface water concentrations, although generally low, also may be at levels of regulatory concern.
- Low levels of arsenic can be detected in ambient air. However, inhalation generally is not a significant source of exposure for the general public.
- A report by the AWWA Research Foundation and the Association of California Water Agencies projects an arsenic standard of 10 ppb would cost \$600 million annually with capital costs of \$5 billion. A standard of 5 ppb would cost \$1.5 billion annually, with capital costs of \$14 billion.
- In June, the EPA proposed an arsenic standard for drinking water of 5 ppb. EPA also has sought comment on levels of 3 ppb, 10 ppb and 20 ppb. The new standard is intended to be finalized by January 1, 2001.
- Members of the National Research Center have expressed concern that reducing the Federal standard below 10 ppb is unsupportable.

As utilities, we need to insure EPA obtains the sound science before setting MCLs. Adequate scientific research needs to be completed before MCLs are set. Statutory deadlines need to be adjusted to realistic time frames to use the scientific studies.

It has been a pleasure to serve as chairperson of the Nebraska Section AWWA Water Utility Council. I appreciate all the support and help, and look forward to serving you in the future.

Have you ever been a member of AWWA? _____

When? _____ Member # _____

Section 1: Personal Information

Preferred mailing address:

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms.

☐ Business

☐ Mrs.

☐ Home

☐ Dr.

Name: _____

Street address: _____

Address: _____

P.O. Box or mail stop: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Business phone: (_____) _____ Business fax: (_____) _____

e-mail address: _____

Company: _____

Title: _____

Is your company a current member of AWWA?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Member # (if known) _____

Please furnish company mailing address if different from above:

Company address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Applicant's signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature of endorsing member (optional): _____

Endorsing member number: _____

Section 2: Dues and Section Assessments

☐ Active - \$95 (02)

☐ Student - \$30 (14)

☐ Operations/Administrative - \$45 (06) (will not receive Journal AWWA)

☐ International - \$140 (03)

Section 3: Payment

Dues are valid through December 31, 2000. No action on this application can be taken until payment is received. Dues are not transferrable or refundable. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

Annual Dues \$ _____ Line 1 (enter amount from annual dues in Section 2)

Multi-Section Option \$ _____ Line 2 (enter amount from annual dues in Section 4)

Total (U.S. funds) \$ _____ Line 3 (add above amounts and enter total here)

Payment method

☐ Check enclosed, payable to AWWA. Canadian funds—add 35%

☐ Send invoice

☐ Mastercard

☐ Visa

☐ Diner's Club

☐ American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ (Credit card company will add Canadian exchange amount.)

Section 4: Multi-Section Option

In addition to your section membership, you also may join other AWWA section(s). This allows you to receive information on events and activities from other sections of your choice. If you would like multi-section information and fees, call 800.926.7337, and then indicate your multi-section choice(s) and fee(s) in the space below.

If you decide to join other AWWA sections, enter the total multi-section fee in line 3 of Payment Section 3.

Section 5: Circulation Figures

All applicants must complete this section. For auditing purposes, please circle one description in each of the 3 groups below that best describes you.

Business and Industry

- A. Public Water Supply—Municipally Owned
- B. Public Water Supply—Investor Owned
- C. Government—Federal, State, Local
- D. Consultant
- E. Contractor
- F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler
- G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations
- J. Fully Retired
- K. Research Lab
- L. Unreported

Field Served

- 5 Water Supply Only
- 7 Wastewater Only
- 9 Both
- 3 Other

Job Title

- A. Executive—General Manager, Commissioner, Board Member, City Manager, Mayor, President, Vice-President, Owner, Partner, Director, etc.
- B. Management—Division Head, Section Head, Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroller, etc.
- C. Engineering/Non-managerial—Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System Designer, etc.
- D. Scientific/Non-managerial—Chemist, Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.
- E. Purchasing—Purchasing Agent, Procurement Specialist, Buyer, etc.
- F. Operations—Foreman, Operator, Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.
- G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial—Market Analyst, Marketing Representative, Salesperson, Sales Representative, etc.
- H. Other: _____

Interests

Please help us serve you better by marking all appropriate areas of professional interest.

- ☐ Backflow
- ☐ Career Development
- ☐ Computer/Information Systems
- ☐ Conservation/Efficiency
- ☐ Customer Service
- ☐ Disinfection
- ☐ Distribution System
- ☐ Emergency Planning
- ☐ Filtration
- ☐ Ground Water
- ☐ Hazardous Waste Management
- ☐ Laboratory/Testing Sample
- ☐ Maintenance/Operations
- ☐ Membrane Treatment
- ☐ Personnel Management
- ☐ Public Information/Relations
- ☐ Regulatory/Legislative
- ☐ Water Resources Mgmt./Plan.
- ☐ Rates/Cost of Service
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Surface Water
- ☐ Water Reuse
- ☐ Youth Education
- ☐ Other: _____

Optional

AWWA maintains profile data for use in developing additional programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our members.

Birth Date: _____

Race/Ethnic Identification (Circle one)

- 1. American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2. Asian/Pacific-Islander
- 3. African-American
- 4. Hispanic
- 5. White (Non-Hispanic)
- 6. Other

Gender (Circle One)

- Female
- Male

Mail to: AWWA Membership
6666 W. Quincy Ave.
Denver, CO 80235
800.926.7337
303.794.7711

or fax to: 303.347.0804

Signature required: _____

Date: _____



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Apply for scholarship

The Nebraska Section established the Colonel Theodore A. Leisen Memorial and Training Endowment Fund in 1993 to encourage water industry professionals to obtain additional training and encourage graduate students to choose the water industry as their field of work.

The section awards three \$500 scholarships at its annual fall conference. Deadline for applications is September 1. An application form is on page 19.

About Leisen

Colonel Theodore Alfred Leisen was one of the incorporators of AWWA and served as president from 1917-1918. He also chaired several national committees on public health and pollution.

Leisen completed high school in his native Philadelphia and received only private engineering instructions. His father had been an engineer and his grandfather, an architect in England. The **Omaha World-Herald**, November 1, 1923, described him as "rather thick set and about five feet six inches tall." Soft-spoken and very dignified, he was all business.

Leisen began his involvement with the water industry in 1886, at age 21, as a chief engineer for a South American construction project. He later designed the Wilmington, DE waste water system and served as superintendent of the city's water department.

In 1908, Leisen was named superintendent of the Louisville, KY Water Department. Six years later he moved to Detroit, MI as superintendent of its water department where he supervised the construction of the world's largest filtration plant (350 MGD).

During World War I, he held the rank of a major in charge of construction and utilities officer at Camp Custer, MI. Leisen was named general manager of the Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha, in 1923 at age 59, at a salary of \$12,500 a year.

During his 16-year tenure at M.U.D., the water and natural gas utility also began the changeover from manufactured gas to natural gas. The process started November 5, 1934.

When he announced his retirement July 19, 1939, at age 74, both gas and water rates had been drastically reduced. Bonded indebtedness was down to \$1.6 million for the water department and \$1.5 million for the gas department. The District had improved its physical facilities as well as its financial standing.

Leisen returned to Detroit and died in 1944. In 1993, AWWA inducted him into the AWWA National Hall of Fame.

Nebraska Section American Water Works Association Leisen Memorial Education and Training Grant Application

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

Name: _____ Home phone: _____
Home address: _____ Office phone: _____

Years in water industry: _____
Current position: _____ Years in current position: _____
(Attach a copy of your job description)
AWWA membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Employer: _____
Address of employer: _____
Is your employer a member of AWWA? _____ If yes, indicate membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Your activities in the Nebraska Section AWWA (committees, positions held, etc.):

Membership in other professional organizations and your activities:

Other significant contributions to your community, etc.:

TRAINING GRANT INFORMATION

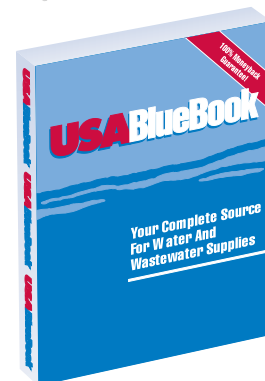
Use of grant funds: _____ Amount requested: _____
Dates of workshop, courses: _____ Employer contribution: _____
Location of training: _____

Please indicate in the space below the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or other water industry-related positions.

Unless self-employed, please attach a letter of support from your employer.
I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____
Send completed application by September 1 to: Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk Water Dept., 300 S. 49th St., Norfolk, NE 68701; phone: 402.644.8712; fax: 402.644.2588; e-mail: dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us
Please make copies of this order form as needed

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