



## Mari Matulka receives George Warren Fuller Award

**M**ari Matulka was named the George Warren Fuller Award recipient at the 2006 Fall Conference for outstanding service to the water industry. This is the highest honor given by AWWA. The award will be presented to Mari at the National AWWA Conference in Toronto, Canada, June 27, 2007. She is the first woman from the Nebraska Section to receive the award since the initial award was presented in 1941.

A native of Dwight, Mari received a bachelor of science degree in Journalism from Kearney State College in 1973. She earned a master's degree in Journalism from UNL in 1986. She is recognized nationally as an accredited public relations professional.

Mari is director of Corporate Communications for the Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.). Prior to joining the District in 1984, she worked for the Nebraska Supreme Court, State Senator Don Dworak of Columbus, Nebraska Public Power District, Loup Power District and as a reporter for the Columbus Daily Telegram.

She has chaired the Section's Publications Committee for 18 years, served as webmaster since 1999, and is past chair of the Public Information Committee (1989-2000). She also served on the board of trustees in 1993.

Besides AWWA, Mari is a member of the Public Relations Society of America. She earned public relations awards for M.U.D.'s water conservation and chloramine conversion communication plans, and several annual reports, most recently the 2005 Annual Report, "Building Platte West."

She was elected to board of directors of SID 42 in 1991, and appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission for Sarpy County District and County Courts by Governor Mike Johanns in 2001 and 2005.

Mari is married to John E. Sidzyk. They live in Bellevue.



**Mari Matulka**

## 2007 officers

*(See conference report on pages 3 and 9-14)*



Front row, from left: Trustee Teresa Konda, HDR Engineering Inc.; Treasurer John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates; AWWA Vice-Chair Joe Mantua of Rockville, MD; Vice-Chair Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering; Trustee Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Back row: Chair Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health and Human Services; In-coming Director Chris Koenig, HDR Engineering Inc.; Chair-Elect Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District; Trustee Chuck Thomerson, City of Columbus; Past-Chair Tony Bilek, Mc2 Inc.

## Chair's comments

It is a great pleasure and honor to serve as your chairperson for 2007. I look forward to a productive and rewarding year. As with any successful organization, a key asset is active participation by its members. My initial active involvement with the Section began as a committee chair a number of years ago. When asked to chair a particular committee, I had some apprehension as probably most newly involved committee chairs do.

My observations during this initial active involvement were that the Nebraska Section operates smoothly due to continuity of the Officers, all suggested ideas are considered, that partiality does not exist in regard to water system size or other type of member representation and that active involvement in itself is a rewarding feeling.

The NSAWWA has many committees available for participation by volunteers. The activities, time commitment, and membership size of each committee do vary. The committees and their respective Chairs can be viewed on the NSAWWA website at: <http://www.awwaneb.org>. If you see a committee or scheduled activity that appeals to your interest, I would encourage you to contact the appropriate Committee Chair and ask how you can be involved.

The American Water Works Association is an international nonprofit scientific and educational society dedicated to improving drinking water quality and quantity through research and education. Being one of 43 Sections, NSAWWA provides the availability of education to benefit water system owners and operators.

On March 8, the Section will sponsor an AWWA video teleconference entitled "Pipeline Repair." Specific locations in Nebraska for viewing the video teleconference are being arranged and information will be distributed as the date draws closer. Contact **Chuck**

**Thomerson** at 402.562.4234 for further details.

The NSAWWA also partners with other organizations and one long lasting successful partnership has been the presentation of 18 to 21 water operator continuing education seminars in co-sponsorship with the League of Nebraska Municipalities. These co-sponsored seminars, and other training events scheduled for this year can also be found on page 5 and the website.

There will be various other NSAWWA activities to look forward to in 2007 including those developed by the Young Professionals Committee (**Ben Day**, chair), Water for People Committee (**Craig Reinsch**, chair), Safety Committee (**Rob Pierce**, chair) and Cross Connections Committee (**Rich Koenig**, chair).

It is the active participation by these people, other committee chairs, section members, and most notably the other NSAWWA Officers that will make 2007 a successful year.



Mike Wentink

## Officers and Trustees

Mike Wentink, 308.535.8135

e-mail: [mike.wentink@hss.ne.gov](mailto:mike.wentink@hss.ne.gov)

*Chairperson*

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Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829

Tony Bilek, 402.333.9660

## 2007 Committee Chairs

Mike Wentink, *Audit*

308.535.8134

Steve Kelley, *Awards*

402.228.5217

John S. Olsson, *Budget*

402.458.5661

Rich Koenig, *Cross Connections*

402.370.3114

Mike Wentink, *Education*

308.535.8134 or 402.471.1005

Kevin Tobin, *Fall Conference*

402.504.7560

Jack Daniel, *Fuller Award*

402.471.0510

Tony Bilek

*Manufacturers/Associates Council*

402.333.9660

Rich Robinson, *Membership*

402.255.3840

Tony Bilek, *Nominations*

402.333.9660

Mari Matulka, *Publications*

402.504.7150

Kathleen Alexander

*Public Information*

402.399.1357

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, *Research*

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Rich Koenig, *SRF*

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Dr. Bruce Dvorak, *Student Activities*

402.472.2057

Craig Reinsch, *Water for People*

402.458.5671

Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*

402.441.5930

Ben Day, *Young Professionals*

402.458.5693

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

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## Save the Date!

4-Person Golf Scramble  
to benefit Water for People  
May 11, noon shot gun start  
Quail Run Golf Course  
Columbus, NE

18 holes of golf, cart  
plus dinner

Registration forms will be mailed in  
April.

Hole sponsors needed.

For more information, contact Wendy  
Lohmeier, Olsson Associates, 402.458.5662.

## 2006 Fall Conference

### Minutes of general membership meeting, November 8, 2006

The Nebraska Section American Water Works Association (NSAWWA) held the General Membership meeting at 1:35 p.m., November 8, 2006 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney Nebraska.

**Jerry Obrist** motioned to approve the November 8, 2005 General Membership meeting minutes; second by **Chris Koenig** and approved by all. (November 8, 2005 minutes attached).

**Chuck Thomerson** motioned to approve the September 21, 2006 board meeting minutes; second by **Mike Wentink** and approved by all.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** — **John Olsson** presented an overview of the budget figures and statements of financial position provided through audit. Although the current 2006 balance is in the negative, anticipated revenue from the annual conference should lead the budget to balance. John suggested thinking about how to spend more funds to add value to the organization. Spending more funds on scholarships is one place to consider spending funds.

There was a discussion related to how to make the teleconferences more accessible. Webcasts are popular and should be considered. One concern with webcasts is that they will not be available to small systems. A way to involve small systems with webcasts is to have these operators go to specific locations, like done with teleconferences. **Rich Koenig** suggested using the scholarships to cover the teleconference fees, to allow small systems operators to attend at no cost. It is likely these fees could be reimbursed from the SRF fund. Rich also shared that he was disappointed with the technical and presentation quality of the last AWWA teleconference. Further discussion focused on how to provide access for the webcasts.

**Chuck Thomerson** motioned to approve the Treasurer's report; second by **Lynn Wegehaupt** and approved by all.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** — **Joel Christensen** related that he was pleased the section has found ways, such as the folios presented at the fall conference, to add value for the membership.

The Standards Council has expanded the scope of the Water Infrastructure Security Enhancement Project with the American Society of Civil Engineers and WEF. The Water Utility Council Regulatory Committee will review the final Groundwater Rule to consider problems and decide whether to recommend legal action. The Technical and Educational Council is planning 24 seminars, 14 webcasts and a teleconference for 2007.

**Teresa Konda** motioned to approve the Director's report; second by **Mike Wentink** and approved by all.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**AUDIT**— **Tony Bilek** has reviewed the books and all is in order. NSAWWA will need to have an outside audit during 2007.

**AWARDS** — **Mike Wentink** reported the committee will be presenting six WISA, one golden drop, and seven safety awards at the banquet.

**BUDGET** — The budget was provided in Treasurer's report by **John Olsson**.

**CROSS CONNECTIONS** — **Rich Koenig** stated that six workshops were held for 208 participants. **Lynn Wegehaupt** complemented **Rich Koenig** on the panel format used for the session at the fall conference.

**EDUCATION** — **Mike Wentink** reported the NSAWWA/LoNM (League of Nebraska Municipalities) seminars have been well attended (215 participants thus far). An AWWA video teleconference was held Novem-

ber. 2. A pipe design seminar was held earlier this year and was well attended and well received. The seminar was taught by volunteers from the City of Lincoln, Metropolitan Utilities District and many others. The committee is considering creating and distributing a flyer to high school counselors to encourage high school students to consider water/wastewater operations as a possible career. The NS-AWWA Board will set up an ad hoc committee to work with NWEA and other similar organizations to work on work force issues.

**FALL CONFERENCE** — **Mike Wentink** reported the Fall Conference has gone well. Preliminary attendance figures (443 – for all parts of the conference) are up from last year. A joint Fall Conference planning meeting was held November 8 at 9:30 a.m. NS-AWWA will be the lead organization next year. **The NS-AWWA Conference will be Wednesday, November 7, and Thursday, November 8, 2007.**

**FULLER AWARD** — A Fuller Award will be presented at the Banquet.

**MAC** — **Tony Bilek** reported that the exhibit hall was sold out for the fifth consecutive year. There were 52 vendors registered; had to turn away five vendors due to lack of space. Receipts from vendor contracts are \$23,400; rental fees are \$1,690, and six non-exhibitor sponsor contributions are \$100 each. Total net proceeds from vendor/exhibitors are \$22,310. A "Best of Show" award will be presented to the appropriate vendor; based on judging by the Young Professionals.

**MEMBERSHIP** — **Rich Robinson** reported that the Membership Committee will continue to focus on completing activities outlined in the strategic plan. Current membership is 375 compared to 346 last year. Note that part of the increase relates to how utilities are counted toward membership.

**NOMINATIONS** — The Chair and Past Chair (and Trustee) positions are not up for election, based on the section by-laws. Nominations for the other positions are listed below. These nominations were publicized in the last issue of **Wise Water Words**.

Director	<b>Chris Koenig</b> , HDR Engineering Inc.
Chair-Elect	<b>Kevin Tobin</b> , Metropolitan Utilities District
Vice-Chair	<b>Bruce Dvorak</b> , UNL Civil Engineering
Treasurer	<b>John Olsson</b> , Olsson Associates
Secretary	<b>Chuck Thomerson</b> , City of Columbus
Trustee	<b>Teresa Konda</b> , HDR Engineering, Inc.
Trustee	<b>Rob Pierce</b> , League of Nebraska Municipalities

**PUBLIC INFORMATION** — No report.

**PUBLICATIONS** — NSAWWA's publication committee published three issues of **Wise Water Works** in 2006. Total expenses for these publications was \$8,166, advertising income was \$5,800, with net income of \$2,366. The website had 22,016 visitors compared to 15,655 the previous year.

**RESEARCH**— **Bruce Dvorak** reported that a range of drinking water research projects are underway at UNL. One project of potential has been proposed for funding within the University. This project concerns detecting episodic contamination of drinking water by organic compounds. The committee also has a new member, **Tim Lindeen**.

**SAFETY** — There will be safety awards to be presented tonight.

**SCHOLARSHIP** — **Lynn Wegehaupt** reported the committee reviewed seven applicants for student scholarships. Three students were selected to receive scholarship awards of \$500.00 each.

**SMALL SYSTEMS** — No report.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES** — **Bruce Dvorak** reported the highlights from the past year 2005-2006 include:

- November 2005: Attended Annual Conference in Kearney (6 people)

*(continued on page 14)*



**Mc<sup>2</sup>, Inc.**  
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## Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

1. Major SDWA issues under review are changes in the Distribution Rule, the Total Coliform Rule, MCL revisions for triazines, and implementation of LTZSWTR.
2. We are working with the AWWA Telecommunications TAW, through the Critical Infrastructures Industry Coalition (CIIC) on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Spectrum Study, to identify radio spectrum needs of Critical Infrastructure Industries (CII) such as water, gas, electric, etc., for private internal communications

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) utilizes 900 MHz and 150 MHz spectrum for operation control and monitoring. Narrowbanding, changing from 25 KHz to 12.5 KHz in the 150 MHz and 450 MHz frequency band, is scheduled to occur in the next several years.

Nextel was successful in having the FCC completely revamp the 800 MHz Radio Communications Frequencies. A reallocation of the 800 MHz is in the phased implementation process, with relocation costs estimated at \$3.5 to 4.0 billion to be born by Nextel. Implementation is underway.

\* \* \*

The 100th Nebraska Legislature, first session, convened its 90-day session January 3, 2007. The Nebraska Section AWWA is following the proposals listed below. To see the entire bill proposal, go to the Unicameral's website: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov>.

### Support

LB 135 – (Fulton) Provides for confidentiality of certain municipality records, Government & Military Affairs Committee — Hearing not scheduled at press time.

LB 314 – (Louden, et al) Redefines well water for purposes of registration of water wells, Natural Resources Committee — Hearing held January 31.

LB 458 – (Carlson, et al) Requires vegetation management in steams, Natural Resources Committee — Hearing not scheduled at press time.

### Oppose

LB 387 – (Langemeir) Requires plumbing and water meter installation for new construction, Health & Human Services Committee — Urban Affairs Committee — Hearing not scheduled at press time.

LB 594 – (Kopplin) Limits the granting of water well permits, Natural Resources Committee — Hearing not scheduled at press time.

### Neutral

LB 295 – (Natural Resources Committee) Changes and eliminates provisions relating to irrigation and regulation of water and water wells — Natural Resources Committee — Hearing held January 31.

LB 493 – (Langemeir) Changes provisions relating to the Water Policy Task Force, Natural Resources Committee — Hearing not scheduled at press time.

\* \* \*

In March 2006, AWWA sponsored a Water Issues Fly-in to Washington D.C. to review water issues currently before Congress. Visits were made to the Nebraska delegation to ask for their support on:

- a. Investing in Water Infrastructure & Security
- b. Drinking Water Appropriations
- c. Chemical Facility Security
- d. Water Security

Chemical Facility Security exemption for water utilities was a major accomplishment on the national scene in 2006.

### SUMMARY OF MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSMEN (2006)

#### ISSUE: Chemical Facility Security

Stated:

- New legislation should NOT place any duplicative or inconsistent standards or requirements on drinking water utilities that are already subject to the Bioterrorism Act or the Clean Air Act.
- New legislation should NOT subject drinking water utilities to requirements or standards under more than one federal agency (for example, requirements set by EPA and by DHS for the same activity or risk).
- New legislation should NOT interfere with the technologies, techniques and operations necessary to treat drinking water by imposing any requirements relating to inherently safer technology.

Asked for:

- Any new legislation must avoid duplicative or inconsistent requirements and must ensure that new requirements on water utilities are effective.
- New legislation aimed at chemical security SHOULD accept existing vulnerability assessments and related plans rather than require they be done again, and SHOULD provide that they be reviewed and/or revised only when a facility makes changes that affect its security profile.

#### ISSUE: Water Security

Stated:

- Interoperability of telecommunications is critical in an emergency. Water utilities must be allocated bandwidth for emergency communications with first responders and other emergency responders.
- Water utilities and their staff must be considered to be part of the emergency response community for purposes of housing and relocation after natural disasters, inoculation during outbreaks of pandemic disease, etc.

Asked for:

Asked for:

- Make water utilities part of the first response/emergency response community for planning, interoperability of communications and federal programs.
- Ensure that federal homeland security assistance funds are available for water utilities.
- Encourage the creation and operation of mutual aid networks.

#### ISSUE: Investing in Water Infrastructure

Stated:

- Makes repair and replacement of worn-out infrastructure specifically eligible for DWSRF loans.
- Contains a number of improvements to the DWSRF program that AWWA has been seeking, such as encouraging the use of asset management and providing for a longer repayment

*(continued on page 6)*

## Young Professions tour Flowserve



Last August, the Young Professionals Committee organized a tour of the Flowserve Pump Foundry in Hastings, NE. Participants included, front row: Jeremy Walker, Owen Killham, Ben Day, Katie Ringland, Joel Jirak, Olsson Associates; Teresa Konda, HDR Engineering Inc.; Brent Soderlin, JEO Consulting Group; Ryan Kavan, Olsson Associates.

Back row: Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates; Mike Schultes, JEO Consulting Group; Jami Cerone, HDR Engineering Inc., Tory Kort, Chief Ethanol Fuels.

## Rich Robinson receives Lifetime Membership Award

**Rich Robinson**, manager, Municipal and Governmental Services, Kirkham Michael, recently received the Lifetime Membership Award from AWWA. Rich has more than 35 years of experience with civil engineering projects involving water, wastewater, storm sewer, transportation and construction administration.



**Rich Robinson**

Prior to joining Kirkham Michael 10 years ago, Rich was the transportation director for the City of Lincoln.

A 1989 Fuller Award recipient, Rich has served AWWA on the state and national levels for a number of years. He chaired the

Section in 1998 and currently serves as Membership chair.

He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in civil engineering from UNL and is a member of the American Public Works Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Water Environment Federation, Lincoln and Omaha Engineers Clubs, Society of American Military Engineers, and Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honorary.

## Pipeline Repair Teleconference March 8

Contact **Chuck Thomerson**  
402.562.4234 for details



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## Water Utility Council

(from page 5)

period for SRF loans.

- Modernize the CWSRF to incorporate many of the features of the DWSRF.

Asked for:

- Expands and modernizes both the water and wastewater State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) programs.
- Increases the authorization of appropriations for the drinking water state revolving fund (DWSRF) to a cumulative \$15 billion through FY 2010, and for the clean water SRF (CWSRF) to a cumulative \$20 billion over the same period.

**ISSUE:** Drinking Water Appropriations

Stated:

- The WaterISAC is an Internet-based, secure, rapid notification system and information resource about threats to America's drinking water and wastewater systems.
- To comply with the SDWA, Congress intended that EPA develop drinking water regulations and that the states implement and administer the program. States are best positioned to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- The massive demands on states arising from the SDWA have become increasingly apparent in recent years because of the dramatic increase in the number of regulated contaminants and the complexity of regulations that call for states to offer system-specific flexibility in compliance decisions.

Asked for:

- We are asking Congress to appropriate at least \$2.8 million for the WaterISAC in the EPA's appropriations accounts in the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.
- We are asking Congress to reverse last year's 80 percent reduction in funding for AwwaRF, and to appropriate at least \$5 million for AwwaRF in the FY 07 EPA Science and Technology Account of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.
- Congress should appropriate at least \$48 million for EPA drinking water research in the FY 07 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The 2007 Annual Fall Conference will be held November 7-8 at the Kearney Holiday Inn.

A pre-conference session on safety will be held Tuesday, November 6.

**Kevin Tobin**, Metropolitan Utilities District, is the planning chair. He is looking for agenda topics now. Please contact Kevin with your suggestions, 402.504.7560 or e-mail: [kevin\\_tobin@mudnebr.com](mailto:kevin_tobin@mudnebr.com).

## Brief Notes

**Roger Coffey** has been named senior project manager at HDR Engineering Inc., working on the Combined Sewer Overflow Project for the City of Omaha. His e-mail address is roger.coffey@hdrinc.com; phone: 402.926.7182. Roger previously was employed at Kirkham Michael.

**Chris Koenig** is a project manager at HDR Engineering Inc., responsible for water projects in Nebraska and Iowa as well as ethanol plant projects. His e-mail address is chris.koenig@hdrinc.com; phone: 402.548.5112. Chris previously worked at HGM Associates Inc.

\* \* \*

**Roger Protzman** has been promoted to manager of the Norfolk office of JEO Consulting Group. He succeeds **Ron Benson**, who retired in December. Roger has been project manager in the Norfolk office since 2000. He earned a master of science degree in environmental engineering for Iowa State University. His undergraduate degree is in geological engineering from the University of Missouri in Rolla.

\* \* \*

**William (Bill) Cole** of Nebraska City died January 23. He joined Nebraska City Utilities in 1969 as a water plant operator, advancing to water plant superintendent in 1975. He retired in 1995. He was appointed to the Board of Public Works in 1996 and served until his death.

## Water operator workshops

February 27	Falls City
February 28	Beatrice
March 1	Red Cloud
March 27	Chadron
March 28	Valentine
March 29	Burwell
April 26	Ogallala
July 27	Emerson
August 16	Holdrege
September 25	Cambridge
September 27	McCool Junction
October 10	Fremont
November 15	South Sioux City
December 4	Blair
December 5	Schuyler
December 6	Fairbury
December 12	Lincoln

### Safety Seminars

April 24	Scottsbluff
August 15	North Platte
September 26	Hastings

### Backflow Seminars

September 11	Ogallala
September 12	Grand Island
September 13	Wayne
September 14	Beatrice

For information about registration, etc., contact **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities, 402.476.2829; e-mail: [rob@lom.org](mailto:rob@lom.org) or **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, 308.535.8135; e-mail: [mike.wentink@hhs.ne.gov](mailto:mike.wentink@hhs.ne.gov).

## Director's report by Joel Christensen

On January 20 and 21, 2007, I attended the AWWA Board of Director's winter board meeting. **Chris Koenig**, Nebraska's incoming director who begins his three-year term in June, also attended. **Mike Leonard**, water operations manager for the City of Roswell, GA, was elected President-Elect. **Don Degen**, water and drainage manager for Kelowna, BC, and **Jerry Stevens**, general manager, West Des Moines Water Works, were elected Vice-Presidents. **Pam Marcland**, general manager for Pawtucket, RI Water, was elected Director-at-Large.



**Joel Christensen**

The Board approved the 2007 budget of approximately \$31 million with an estimated net income of about \$600,000. Net income for 2006 will be about \$3 million.

The Board voted to freeze the employees' defined benefit pension plan and to enhance the defined contribution pension plan. Since Water for People staff no longer are AWWA employees, WFP was added to AWWA and AWWARF as a participating employer to the pension plan.

The issue of directors' and officers' insurance for the sections moved closer to resolution with passage of a motion to obtain a separate master policy. The sections will have to furnish the Association with some basic financial information. The Association will clarify what section activities are indemnified.

The Public Interest Advisory Forum was removed as a voting member of the Executive Committee. The future of the Forum will be reconsidered after a two-year trial.

The AWWA Board of Directors agreed to pursue an ongoing dialogue with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) to achieve a more coordinated voice for the water community. The discussion followed a recommendation from the AWWA Executive Committee at its December meeting to compare business efficiency practices and explore partnerships between the organizations.

The AWWA Board of Directors also is pursuing the development of a Memorandum of Understanding and associated action plan with the National Rural Water Association (NRWA). The purpose of the MOU is to achieve closer cooperation between AWWA and NRWA on several items including education and legislation.

# Nebraska Section AWWA 2007 budget (January 11, 2007)

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2006 Actual</b>	<b>2007 Budget</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>
Section allotment	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Association allotment	0.00	0.00	
Multi-section allotment	588.15	500.00	
Annual meeting	140.00	52,000.00	
Washington Fly-In Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	
Interest on Accounts	1,174.89	1,400.00	
Teleconferences	420.00	1,000.00	
Advertising income	5,800.00	5,000.00	
Water for People	2,411.00		
Raffle — Fall Conference		1,400.00	
Golf Event	6,635.00	6,800.00	
SRF Education Funds	0.00	10,000.00	
Miscellaneous	3,220.00	750.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$35,389.04</b>	<b>\$93,850.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Safety Committee	45.15	1,500.00	
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	300.00	
Education			
Education Committee	2,020.47	2,000.00	
SRF Expenses	1,004.35	10,000.00	
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	2,776.00	2,700.00	
Website		650.00	
Public Information Committee	385.20	3,000.00	
Teleconferences	1,065.94	1,000.00	
Small Systems Committee	00.00	500.00	
Director's board meeting	0.00	1,500.00	
Director's spouse expense		200.00	
Publications			
Wise Water Words	8,066.84	9,000.00	
Membership Directory	4,295.79	6,500.00	
Advertising	0.00	0.00	
Student Activity	170.92	250.00	
Membership	62.00	500.00	
Audit	0.00	3,000.00	
Awards	396.80	500.00	
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Regional officers' meeting/officer training	2,097.41		
Summer Leadership Workshop		1,800.00	
Membership Summit		900.00	
WFP Workshop		700.00	
Regional meetings		1,000.00	
Annual meeting	5,854.21	40,000.00	
Water for People	3,841.93		
Raffle — Fall Conference		500.00	
Golf event	6,435.00	5,000.00	
Silent Auction		0.00	
Water for People — Payment to WFP	3,841.93		
Raffle — Fall Conference		900.00	
Sustaining Membership		1,000.00	
Golf event		1,800.00	
MAC Council	0.00	100.00	
Scholarships	3,250.00	2,000.00	
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Stockholm	500.00	500.00	
Top Ops	2,001.00	2,000.00	
Conference	0.00	0.00	
Students	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Young Professionals	0.00	250.00	
Water Utility Council ( <i>travel, etc.</i> )	0.00	1,000.00	
Miscellaneous	370.11	500.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$44,889.12</b>	<b>\$104,550.00</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$9,500.08</b>	<b>-\$10,700.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>



## 2006 conference

(Photos by *Chuck Thomerson, City of Columbus*)

The Nebraska Section AWWA Annual Fall Conference, held in conjunction with the Nebraska Water Environment Association and the American Public Works Association, was held at the Kearney Holiday Inn Convention Center, November 8-9.



Networking at the conference, from left: **Chip Haas**, HDR Engineering Inc.; **Steve Kelley** (back to camera), Beatrice Board of Public Works, and **Merlin Lindahl**, City of Columbus.

Overall conference attendance, including members, speakers and vendors totaled 400. **Brian Williams** of A.S.P. Enterprises, Omaha, received the Manufacturers Association Council Award for best exhibit.

### WISA Awards

The WISA award is presented to AWWA members or those whose facility is an AWWA member that has served the water works industry for a minimum of 20 years.

For information on the required criteria and an application form contact the Awards Committee Chair **Steve Kelley**, Beatrice Board of Public Works, or Committee Members **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities, and **Doug Woodbeck**, Nebraska Health and Human Services. Deadline for the 2007 WISA awards is June 1.

Six people received Water Industry Service Awards (WISA) at the Fall Conference. Several were described as “Walking History Books” by their supervisors as most began their careers from the ground up within their respect water departments. These six individuals represent more than 217 years of service and accumulated knowledge of their respective systems which is often irreplaceable. On behalf of the water industry, related associations and their customers we would like to congratulate and extend a big thank for the commitment and service provide by these individuals.



**Jerry Deal**

**Jerry Deal**, superintendent, Water and Wastewater, City of North Platte — Jerry joined the city in 1977 as a crew worker, advancing to storekeeper, wastewater technician before his promotion to superintendent in 1987. He is a Grade 1 water operator and also holds a well drillers certification. Jerry and his spouse, Marilyn, have three grown children. His passion is fishing, however he also enjoys processing smoked wild game and is known to play keno on occasion.



**Ted Hendrickson**

**Ted Hendrickson**, City of Broken Bow — Ted joined the city in 1966 and has provided its residents with dedicated service without wanting to be in the spotlight.

He only takes time from work to fix something around the house or spend time with his grandchildren. His hobbies are his family and work. Ted is a Grade 3 water operator.

**Milo Leslie**, City of Auburn — Milo joined the Auburn Board of Public Works Electric Department in 1951. In 1968, the City of Auburn transferred management of the water and wastewater operations to the Board of Public Works with Milo



## 2006 Fall Conference



Milo Leslie

at the helm. Milo is a Grade 2 water operator and a licensed pump installer. He also serves as the city's plumbing inspector.

During his tenure, Milo has overseen the expansion of a filter plant, a 1.5 million gallon reservoir and the installation of seven wells. He is the type of person who gets things done, no matter what the conditions may be.

**Arthur T. May**, director, Training Division, Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) — Art earned an undergraduate degree in civil engineering in 1956, and his masters degree in social work from UNL in 1962. He is certified as a Grade 1 water operator, Grade 2 wastewater operator and street superintendent. He has more than 30 years of instruction in college and workshop settings, with emphasis in civil engineer, water, wastewater, solid waste and community development.

Art has been a resident and volunteer of the Omaha and Winnebago Indian Reservations in northeast Nebraska. Within the past six years, he has presented 125 workshops to water and wastewater operators in MAP's nine-state region.

**Don Noonan**, customer service clerk, Builder and Contractor's Division, Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) — Don joined M.U.D. in 1960 as a meter reader, advancing to his current position in 1995. He directs seven clerks and performs administrative functions associated with installing new water services.

According to Senior Vice-President of Operations Scott Keep, Don is a walking history book. "He remembers every procedure change and why it was made. Don is a very detailed, thorough and accurate person who has a great rapport with plumbers, customers and co-workers," said Keep.

**Andrew Skorniak**, Village of Brule — Andy joined the Village more than 20 years ago and has been a member of AWWA since 1985. He was instrumental in the development of Brule's new water system which includes new wells, storage tank and a renovated distribution system.

Andy is dedicated to making steady improvements to a small system with very limited resources. He is a Grade 3 and Grade 6 water operator.

## Money for Seminars!

The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer grants for water operators to attend seminars and the Annual Fall Conference. To apply, complete the application found on the Section website: [www.awwaneb.org](http://www.awwaneb.org) or call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.504.7855.

## Golden Water Drop

**Joseph P. Laferla**, retired general manager, Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) received the Golden Water Drop Award at the Annual Fall Conference.



Joe Laferla

Joe retired from M.U.D. in 1992 with 40 years of service. He joined the District in 1952 as an engineer, advancing to operations manager in 1972. He was promoted to general manager in 1987.

A native of Omaha, Joe earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from UNL.

He held numerous positions on the Nebraska Section's board of trustees. He also served as Section director and on the Nebraska Advisory Council on Public Water Supply. Joe received the George Warren Fuller Award in 1971.

## The 2007 Annual Fall Conference will be held November 7-8 at the Kearney Holiday Inn.

A pre-conference session on safety will be held Tuesday, November 6.

**Kevin Tobin**, Metropolitan Utilities District, is the planning chair. He is looking for agenda topics now.

Please contact Kevin with your suggestions, 402.504.7560 or e-mail: [kevin\\_tobin@mudnebr.com](mailto:kevin_tobin@mudnebr.com).

## Water Operator Awards

Two people received water operator awards from the Nebraska Department of Health Regulation & Licensure.

**Monte Moss**, City of Wood River, has been a certified water operator for more than 20 years and the operator in responsible charge for six of those years. In addition to his “normal” water operator duties, he has participated in the replacement of one well, the addition of a new well and currently is researching the possible addition of three more wells to meet the current and future demands of the system. Monte keeps meticulous records of all aspects of the water system and has a top notch maintenance program to keep all equipment in running order.

**Dennis Schaardt**, Village of Table Rock, has been the designated operator (Grade 4) in charge of the water system since 1992, two years after he was elected to the board of trustees. Since that time, Dennis has been instrumental in getting new elevated storage, water mains, well controls, 90 percent of the village’s fire hydrants and 80 percent of the village’s main valves replaced as well as updating the water system maps.

In addition to his water operator duties, he serves as Board Chairman, a position he has held for the past 10 years. He also has been the Village Fire Chief for the last 14 years.

Dennis has a full-time business as a meat cutter and is highly regarded in this profession. He serves as president of the Nebraska Association of Meat Processors and the American Association of Meat Processors. He has numerous awards and plaques which attest to his expertise in this business. In 1996, he received the New Comer and the Small Businessman of the Year Awards .

His hobbies include volunteering for just about anything, hunting, fishing, coaching kids sports and, of course, time for his wife and three children.

## Top Ops competition



The first place Top Ops Team from 2005 defended their titled and captured first place at the 2006 competition. From left: Rick Melcher, City of Aurora; Doug Pollack, City of Seward; Ken Ekeler, City of York, and Dave Lathrop, City of Seward. The team is invited to represent the Section at the National Annual Conference Competition in Toronto, June 24-28. The Section pays \$500 towards each person’s registration. They received cash prizes from the Nebraska Section AWWA.

The second place team was from the UNL Civil Engineering Department. They were: Students Gina Rust, Pat Denning, Chad Cecrie and Dr. Bruce Dvorak.



The third place team included, from left: Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System; Milo Rust (father of Gina Rust), City of Chadron, and Allen Schoemaker, City of Blair. They also received cash prizes.

Special thanks to Chris Koenig, HDR Engineering Inc., for coordinating the event at the Annual Fall Conference.



More networking after the formal sessions. From left: Don Franklin, Gurney Associates; Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System, and Chris Jens, Veenstra & Kimm.

## Safety Committee

by Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities  
(402.476.2829) e-mail: robp@lom.org

Seven water systems received safety honors at the 2006 Annual Fall Conference. Water systems receiving the certificate of safety award plaques in their respective classes included **Class I-Aurora Water Department**, **Class II-Beatrice Board of Public Works** and **Class III-Norfolk Water Department**.

Water systems receiving the certificate of safety recognition certificates included **Class I-Ogallala and O'Neill Water Departments**, **Class II-Scottsbluff Water Department** and **Class IV-Metropolitan Utilities District Water Department**.

This is the first year the NS-AWWA Safety Committee issued awards and recognition certificates. The criteria for these awards are based on a point system with half pertaining to system performance and other half on the system's respective safety program.

For information on the required criteria and application, contact the Safety Committee Chair **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities-Utilities Section, or a committee member: **Roger Coffey**, HDR Engineering Inc.; **Pat Heath**, City of Gering; **Steve Kelley**, Beatrice Board of Public Works; **Anthony Martinez**, Nebraska Health and Human Services; **Pete Neddo**, Metropolitan Utilities District; **Milo Rust**, City of Chadron; **Jack Satur**, City of Scottsbluff, and **Doug Woodbeck**, Nebraska Health and Human Services.

The City of Aurora Water Department received a Class I Safety Award. From left: Rick Melcher, City of Aurora, and Milo Rust, City of Chadron, member of the Safety Committee.



The Beatrice Board of Public Works received a Class II Safety Award. From left: Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works, and Milo Rust, City of Chadron.



The City of Ogallala Water Department received a Class I Safety Certificate. From left: William Terry, City of Ogallala, and Milo Rust, City of Chadron.



The City of O'Neill Water Department received a Class I Safety Certificate. From left: Curtis Kizzire, City of O'Neill, and Milo Rust, City of Chadron.



The City of Scottsbluff Water Department received a Class II Safety Certificate. From left: Jack Satur, City of Scottsbluff, and Milo Rust, City of Chadron.



The Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) Water Department received a Class IV Safety Certificate. From left: Joel Christensen, M.U.D., and Milo Rust, City of Chadron.



## Scholarship Winners

The members of the 2006 Theodore Liesen Memorial Scholarship Committee were **Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, **Chip Haas** and **Lynn Wegehaupt**, chair.

The committee reviewed seven scholarship applications. While all were worthy applicants, the committee decided to award scholarships to three individuals. Prior to our final decision, we received notice that all of the applicants also applied for NWEA scholarships. We coordinated our scholarships with NWEA. The three applicants who received \$500 each were:

**Thomas Ferrell**, a graduate student at UNL, earned a bachelor of science degree from Saint Louis University in aerospace engineering. After working a year in a volunteer organization, he spent the next year as a teacher in Anchorage, AK. He returned to Omaha and attended UNO to complete the necessary courses for a degree in civil engineering and now is working on his masters in environmental engineering. Thomas competed in cross country at Saint Louis University.

Thomas wrote, "I have traveled and worked in countries such as Guatemala, Peru, Pakistan, and China and seen first hand the water quality conditions, especially in rural areas. We know there is a problem, and we have

the means to help. This is the reason I enrolled in an environmental engineering degree program."

**Joshua Melliger**, a student at UNL, plans to graduate in May 2007 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He plans to continue his education by attending graduate school. Joshua is particularly interested in water resource issues. This past summer he worked at Lincoln Water System on the Partners in Pollution Prevention Program.

Joshua wrote, "I feel the greatest challenge facing the water industry is increasing demands for water." Joshua current is president of the AWWA/WEF student chapter at UNL and is a member of several other academic and service organizations.

**Lindsey Miller**, a graduate student at UNL, is pursuing a master's degree in environmental engineering. Lindsey is a member of the Society of American Women Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers and several academic and service organizations.

Lindsay wrote, "My interests are focused in water treatment. The greatest challenges facing the water treatment/public works industry are money and public education. Improvements can not be made without the knowledge and support of the public."



Conference participants and coordinators, from left: Daryl Kottwitz, Kathleen Alexander, HDR Engineering Inc.; Lincoln Williams (back to camera), Technical Maintenance Service Co., and Dave Pletz, Huffman Engineering.

# Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers  
(402.255.3840) e-mail: rlr@kirkham.com

## Welcome New Members:

Bartels, James W.	Metropolitan Utilities District
Brekhus, Michael	Gurney Associates
Cerone, Jami	HDR Engineering Inc.
Christiansen, Mark	City of York
Ferrell, Thomas	UNL Student
Giddings, Jeffrey B.	Ductile Iron Pipe Research
Giesecke, Dr. Anne R.	A&D Polich Analysts Inc.
Graiver, David A.	UNL Student
Grant, Tony	EAI Central Inc.
Hehnke, John	City of Sidney
Hill, Edwin C.	City of Ogallala
Hunter, David A., Jr.	Auburn Board of Public Works
Jacobson, Nathan	Charles Sargent Irrigation Inc.
Kinter, John	Nucor Steel
Klug, Bill	Hydro Metering Technology
Martinez, Gerardo E.	Lincoln Water System
Millard, Don	City of Wayne
Miller, Lindsay A.	UNL Student
Mulinix, Brian	WLA Consulting Inc.
Nagel, Karen	Grand Island Water & Light
Nuttleman, Mike	City of Norfolk
Pappel, Vivian	HDR Engineering Inc.
Radloff, Arnold J.	Lincoln Water System
Rosso, Marc E.	HWS Consulting Group
Saunders, Samuel	UNL Student
Wimmer, Paul	Lincoln Water System

**\$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: John Olsson, Olsson Associates, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68508.

## Minutes of general membership meeting (from page 3)

- December 2005: Attended AWWA Education Session in Fremont on Ur and As in drinking water (5 people)
- May 2006: Assisted at Water for People Golf Benefit in Columbus (4 people)
- September 2006: Officer Elections, Panel Discussion: Finding a job: What state and private firms look for in young engineers and interns (10 people)
- October 2006: Joint meeting with ASCE: Scot Aurit of HDR "Omaha's Combined Sewer Overflows" (12 AWWA/WEF members), (50 people total)

The new Student President is **Josh Melliger**, a senior Civil Engineering major from Columbus.

**WATER FOR PEOPLE** — Committee activities in the past year included the raffle ticket sales at the last year's conference which raised approximately \$800 for the organization. Prizes were gift certificates in the amounts of \$250, \$150, and \$100. The major fund raiser was the second annual golf outing in Columbus. The event was held in May with proceedings going to Water for People. **John Olsson** did an excellent job of spearheading the effort. About \$2,000 was raised for Water for People. The Nebraska Section again donated a gift package of Omaha Steaks for the Silent Auction at the National AWWA meeting in San Antonio. The winning bid was \$175, the steaks cost the section \$150. The auction item was displayed on the exhibition floor in the Purafil booth. The silent auction has changed focus and now is mainly manufactures and only a few sections participate. The Board may want to consider a monetary donation in lieu of a gift package of steaks.

**WATER UTILITY COUNCIL** — **Jerry Obrist** reported the fly in was the main activity for the year. There were four main subjects: Water infrastructure, water security, chemical facility security, and drinking water appropriations. The water utilities were removed from the chemical facility security legislation. A new rule related to the "distribution rule" will likely lead small systems to need to disinfect their water. Jerry has been appointed to a three-year term on the AWWA Water Utility Council.

**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS** — No report.

Old Business:

2007 Regional Meeting: **Tony Bilek** described the options for the locations for the next meeting, which will be hosted by Nebraska in the spring of 2007.

New Business:

**Stockholm Scholarship** — **Todd Boling** described the Nebraska winner from 2006, and the costs associated with transporting her to Atlanta for the national competition (and prizes). Todd requested from NSAWWA a monetary contribution to this scholarship, such as the \$500 given this past year.

**Water for People memorandum of understanding (MOU)** — Most sections who raise money and send it to WFP nation, typically have no problem with the proposed MOU. **John Olsson** noted that more documentation is required associated with the donations, etc.

**SRF Funding update** — NS-AWWA's executive committee will need to include the new SRF funding oversight committee to the committee list.

**Election of New Officers and appointments of New Committee Chairs** — The Chair and Past Chair (and Trustee) positions are not up for election, based on the section by-laws.

Chair	<b>Mike Wentink</b> , Nebraska Health and Human Services
Trustee & Past Chair	<b>Tony Bilek</b> , Mc2 Inc.

**Tony Bilek** read the 2007 Officer nominations. No nominations were received from the floor. Jerry Obrist moved that nominations be closed. Nominations were approved by acclamation. Officers for 2007 are:

Director	<b>Chris Koenig</b> , HDR Engineering Inc.
Chair-Elect	<b>Kevin Tobin</b> , Metropolitan Utilities District
Vice-Chair	<b>Bruce Dvorak</b> , UNL Civil Engineering
Treasurer	<b>John Olsson</b> , Olsson Associates
Secretary	<b>Chuck Thomerson</b> , City of Columbus
Trustee	<b>Teresa Konda</b> , HDR Engineering, Inc.
Trustee	<b>Rob Pierce</b> , League of Nebraska Municipalities

**Joe Mantua**, AWWA vice-president, noted the issues he plans to take back to national.

Motion made to adjourn; seconded.

Submitted for approval November 9, 2006 by **Bruce Dvorak**, Nebraska Section American Water Works Association secretary.

# Health and Human Service, Department of Regulation and Licensure Contacts

Administrator **Jack Daniel**, 402.471.0510; Administrative Assistant **Janell Miller**, 402.471.6435

## Field Services and Training

Program Manager **Doug Woodbeck**,  
402.471.0521

Area 1 (Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster,  
Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson Counties):  
402.471.0519; cell: 402.440.4917

Area 2 (Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders,  
Washington): **Roger Rhylander**,  
402.595.2123; cell: 402.679.7214

Area 3 (Burt, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon,  
Knox, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, Thurston,  
Wayne): **Rich Koenig**, 402.370.3114;  
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Area 4 (Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Merrick,  
Nuckolls, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York):  
**Bob Byrkit**, 402.471.0517;  
cell: 402.432.4831

Area 5 (Adams, Buffalo, Franklin, Gosper, Hall,  
Harlan, Kearney, Phelps, Webster):  
**Ralph Naber**, 308.385.5225;  
cell: 308.390.2071

Area 6 (Antelope, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Brown,  
Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha,  
Loup, Nance, Platte, Rock, Sherman, Valley,  
Wheeler): **David Jundt**, 402.370.3404;  
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Area 7 (Chase, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier,  
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Lincoln, Perkins, Red Willow):  
**Tony Martinez**, 308.535.8387;  
cell: 308.530.4651

Area 8 (Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cherry,  
Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Hooker,  
Kimball, Logan, McPherson, Morrill, Scotts  
Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Thomas): **Doug Allen**,  
308.535.8216; cell: 308.530.3929

Water Operator training and certification,  
water operator reimbursement grant:  
**Mike Wentink**, 308.535.8135;  
cell: 308.530.3930

Water Operator training and certification,  
**Barb Eickmeier**, 402.471.0523

Water System Security Specialist **Randy  
Fischer**, 402.471.1007;  
cell: 402.416.2558

## Monitoring and Compliance

Program Manager **Howard Isaacs**,  
402.471.0930

Total coliform: **Sherry Wirth**,  
402.471.0932

Lead and copper, ground water rule:  
**Steve Drda**, 402.471.1008

Nitrate, synthetic organic chemical, source  
water/well head protection:  
**Ralph Pulte**, 402.471.0172

Volatile organic chemical, radon, radionu-  
clide rules:

**Anne Pamperl**, 402.471.1009

Inorganic chemical, fluoride, arsenic,  
asbestos

**Andy Kahle**, 402.471.2104

Surface water treatment, interim enhanced  
SWTR, disinfection/disinfection  
byproducts for large surface water  
systems, filter backwash rule,  
LT1ESWTR: **Elizabeth Esseks**,  
402.471.1010

Regulation review/writing, unregulated  
contaminant rule:  
**Jo Ann Wagner**, 402.471.0520

Regulation review/writing, public notifica-  
tion tracking, consumer confidence  
report: **Kristin Luebbe**, 402.471.6571

Safe drinking water information, consumer  
confidence report: 402.471.0785

Permit to operate, water operators, update  
information into SDWIS: 402.471.2713

Disinfectants/disinfection byproduct for  
ground water systems and small surface  
water systems, safe drinking water  
information system backup:  
**Mary Poe**, 402.471.1003

## Engineering Services

Plan review, optimal corrosion control  
technology, DWSRF O&M Manual  
Guidelines, CPE:

**Chin Chew**, 402.471.0522

Plan review, MHP issues, well sites,  
encroachment issues, regulation  
development: **Sharon Godfrey**,  
402.471.1004

Plan review, design memorandums,  
inspections, swimming pool issues,  
regulation development:  
**Steve Jillson**, 402.471.6448

Plan review, test well quality issues, CPE,  
swimming pools, regulation develop-  
ment: 402.471.0931

Plan review, DWSRF; regulation develop-  
ment: **Angel Lowery**, 402.471.0513

Plan review, engineering reports, inspec-  
tions, DWSRF, regulation development:  
**Steve McNulty**, 402.471.1006

## Research and Laboratory

Manager **Sandy Irons**, 402.471.8426

Operations Manager **Dalton Johnson**,  
402.471.8457

Lab Attendant, 402.471.2122

Customer Service (order sample kits, inquire  
about status of samples), 402.471.3935

Drinking water results, 402.471.8449

Billing questions, 402.471.8432

## Federal Regulatory System Effective Dates (estimated\*) as of January 19, 2007

Operator Certification, Unregulated Contaminants	January 2001
IESWTR (SW>10,000), D/DBPR (SW>10,000)	January 2002
Public Notification Changes	May 2002
Radionuclides	December 2003
D/DBPR (SW <10,000 and GW Systems)	January 2004
LT 1 (ESWTR), (SW<10,000)	January 2005
Arsenic (Attachment A)	January 2006
LT 2 (ESWTR), D/DBP 2	March 2006
Ground Water Rule	October 2006
UCMR2	January 2007
Revised Lead and Copper Rule (short-term revision, Washington, DC)	September 2007*
Effluent Guidelines for Water Treatment Plants	September 2007*
Radon	December 2007*
Revised TCR/Distribution System Rule	October 2012*
Aldicarb and MTBE	Unknown*
Sulfates	Unknown*
Perchlorate	Unknown*

The planet is about 70% water.



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# Wise Water Words

Vol. 44 No. 2

Published for members of the Nebraska Section, American Water Works Association  
<http://www.awwaneb.org>

Summer 2007

## Golf benefit hits record proceeds of more than \$2,500

by John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates  
(402.458.5661) e-mail: [jolsson@oaconsulting.com](mailto:jolsson@oaconsulting.com)

National Safe Drinking Water Week proved to be the perfect time for the Nebraska Section AWWA to host its third annual golf outing to benefit Water for People. With 56 participants and 20 hole sponsors, the Section raised more than \$2,500 compared to \$2,050 in 2006 and \$1,698 in 2005.

The event, held May 11, at the Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus, included an afternoon of golf followed by a Windsor Loin dinner and awards ceremony.

The first place team, sponsored by Mission Clay Products, included **Jeff Boschert**, Clay Pipe Institute; **Brooks Blackmer**, **Adam Darbro**, Olsson Associates, and **David Gill**, Mission Clay Products. The team carded a 57, 15 strokes under par.

Second place went to the Black & Veatch foursome (13 under par). There was a three-way tie for third place among Griffin Pipe Products, Gilmore & Associates and

*(continued on page 3)*



The first place team in the Water for People Golf Benefit was sponsored by Mission Clay Products, and included, from left: Jeff Boschert, Clay Pipe Institute; Adam Darbro, Olsson Associates; David Gill, Mission Clay Products, and Brooks Blackmer, Olsson Associates.



The second place team was sponsored by Black & Veatch, from left: John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System; Andrew Hansen, Black & Veatch; Jeff Selby, Fairbanks Morse, and Nick McElvain, Lincoln Water System. More photos on page 3.

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## Chair's comments

**D**uring a recent out-of-state trip, I met a colleague of mine from Iowa. Unknown to me at the time, this individual has been involved with recording the history of the Iowa Section AWWA and, to my surprise, recently provided me with several copies of a compiled history document. For those of you who are not aware, Nebraska was once a member of the Missouri Valley Section AWWA. Based on the history provided in 1919, the Iowa Section petitioned AWWA to extend Iowa Section membership to AWWA members residing in adjoining states that had no sections.

AWWA complied with the request and AWWA members in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Missouri and Wisconsin became members of the Iowa Section. In 1928, the Iowa Section was renamed the Missouri Valley Section. The Nebraska Section formally organized in 1947.

I found some very interesting excerpts from the early Iowa/Missouri Valley Section business meetings. For example”

“In 1926, the two members in western Nebraska asked to be transferred to the Rocky Mountain Section. This was approved by all the parties involved, including AWWA. The dividing line was later officially drawn at 100° longitude W (the famous 100th meridian).”

A policy was developed by the Missouri Valley Section in 1936 regarding annual meeting locations: “that it be the policy of the Missouri Valley Section to ask the State Department of Health for a report on the plumbing in the hotel where it was proposed to hold the meeting.” In 1937, the meeting was to be held in Omaha.

The document states “That policy was followed and **Ted Filipi**, public health engineer of the Nebraska Department of Health (*see his photo on page 6*), made an inspection of the Hotel Fontenelle several weeks before the meeting.”

The meeting in 1937 included a presentation of a paper on “...a new fangled approach to distribution system analysis, called the Hardy Cross Method,” said to greatly simplify the work.

There are more bits and pieces about Nebraska in the document. It makes interesting reading.

At present, the Nebraska Section has several individuals focused on developing a plan to help mitigate the potential water operator workforce retention problem due to baby boomer retirements. Statistical figures vary so let's just say that a large proportion of water and wastewater utility workers will be eligible for retirement in 5 to 10 years. That may result in a lack of qualified replacements. **Tony Bilek** and **Teresa Konda** are involved with this venture and will work with representatives from other organizations.

The Fall Conference Committee met April 30 to plan and schedule sessions and activities for that event. **Kevin Tobin** has compiled a proposed agenda of topics that will please many. The Joint Fall Conference is scheduled for November 7 – 9, with the Nebraska Section AWWA activities on November 7 and 8.

The Section is particularly proud of the activities organized and conducted by its committees. The Young Professionals Committee, chaired by **Ben Day**, and Student Activities Committee, chaired by **Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, arranged tours of water industry-related facilities to further educate all in attendance. Small Systems Committee Chair **Eric Melcher**, City of Aurora, and **Christy Christiansen**, City of Papillion, developed a workshop on water service components, held in Papillion during April.

The success of these activities is not due solely to the committee chairs, but also to the many committee members involvement in these activities, and for those volunteer efforts, the Section is grateful.



Mike Wentink

## Officers and Trustees

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402.458.5693

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

Editor: **Mari Matulka**, APR, 402.504.7150;  
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# Benefit hits record proceeds of more than \$2,500

(from page 1)

Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc. Griffin garnered the prize via a scorecard play-off (a birdie on the most difficult hole).

Thanks to all the generous folks who either participated, provided sponsorship, donated flag prizes or volunteered their time to make the event a huge success. Special thanks to the UNL volunteers: **David Graiver, Josh Melliger, Lindsay Miller, and Mahesh Pun.**

## Participants:

Bert Gurney & Associates  
 Black & Veatch  
 Gilmore & Associates Inc.  
 Griffin Pipe Products Co.  
 HDR Engineering Inc.  
 Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers  
 Layne Christensen Co.  
 Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.  
 Metropolitan Utilities District  
 Mission Clay Products  
 Northwest Pipe Co.  
 Olsson Associates  
 Schuyler Department of Utilities

## Hole and Flag Sponsors:

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 Sargent Drilling



The third place team was sponsored by Griffin Pipe and included: **John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates; Joe McLaughlin, HD Supply; Justin Eriksen, Bruce Dreesen, Griffin Pipe.**



One of the HDR teams, from left: Jeanne Nissen, Jill Wallschlaeger, Nancy Gruwell and Vivian Pappel.

## Flag and Hole Winners:

**Brooks Blackmer**  
 Olsson Associates  
**Bruce Dreesen**  
 Griffin Pipe Products  
**Jeff Forney**  
 Olsson Associates  
**David Gill**  
 Mission Clay Products  
**David Gilmore**  
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**David Reinecke**  
 City of Schuyler  
**Roger Winkler, Kirkham**  
 Michael Engineers  
**Jon Zellars, Metropolitan**  
 Utilities District



From left: Jeff Forney, Olsson Associates; Chris Koenig, HDR Engineering Inc.; Robert Pugh, Layne Christensen, and Tim Keen, Northwest Pipe.

Thanks to **John S. Olsson, Wendy Lohmeier** and the staff at Olsson Associates for organizing this event for the third consecutive year.

Story about Water for People on page 12.



**Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.**  
 Jim McFarland  
 Roger D. Gellhaus  
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---

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## Water Utility Council

by Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System

The 100th Nebraska Legislature, first session, adjourned its 90-day session May 31, 2007. The Nebraska Section AWWA followed the proposals listed below. To see the entire bill proposal, go to the Unicameral's website: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov>. Bills without emergency clauses become effective July 30, 2007.

### Passed

**LB 705** – Establishes a financial system to assist with paying for water shortages delivered to Kansas via the Republican River. The new law also establishes improvements to the river basin to assist in providing additional flows down the Republican River by reducing vegetation along streams and river banks within the basin. Public water suppliers are not in the new law.

### Killed

**LB 135** – (Fulton) Provides for confidentiality of certain municipality records.

**LB 314** – (Louden, et al) Redefines well water for purposes of registration of water wells.

**LB 493** – (Langemeier) Changes provisions relating to the Water Policy Task Force.

**LB 594** – (Kopplin) Limits the granting of water well permits, Natural Resources Committee.

### Carry-Over to 2008

**LB 295** – (Natural Resources Committee) Changes and eliminates provisions relating to irrigation and regulation of water and water wells. Select File, 3-5-07.

**LB 387** – (Langemeier) Requires plumbing and water meter installation for new construction. Hearing held 2-27-07.

**LB 391** – (Mines) Changes provisions relating to public records and meetings. Among other things, requires a public body to have a form available to allow citizens to recommend subjects for agenda items. General File, 3-13-07.

**LB 458** – (Carlson, et al) Requires vegetation management in steams. Hearing held 3-1-07.

**LB 622** – (Pirsch) Requires training courses in public records and the Open Meetings Act for all members of public body, public officers and public employees. General File, failed to advance 4-2-07.

\* \* \*

National AWWA's Fly-In (meetings with state Congressional representatives) was April 17-18. Representing the Nebraska Section AWWA at this year's fly-in were Water Quality Council members **Jerry Obrist**, Lincoln Water System, and **Jim Shields**, Metropolitan Utilities District.

## SUMMARY OF MEETINGS WITH NEBRASKA CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (2007)

**ISSUE:** Infrastructure: Reauthorize and significantly expand the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee recently approved a bill to reauthorize and expand the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for a total of \$14 billion through FY2011.

Democratic and Republican staff on the House and Senate committees with jurisdiction for drinking water, have told us they would like to reauthorize the SRF at the same level if there is support from the drinking water community. This level of funding is consistent with funding we have supported in the past and is easily supported by our estimate of the capital needs facing drinking water systems (\$250 billion over 30 years).

**ISSUE:** Farm Bill: Increase funding and better focus on protecting water sources.

The omnibus Farm Bill is up for reauthorization. It has a number of conservation programs that can be used to protect drinking water sources. It also has programs to facilitate partnerships in watershed protection activities.

We want to see conservation programs better funded within Farm Bill allocations and better focused on protecting sources of drinking water. We also want utilities to be eligible for grants to coordinate/facilitate watershed protection programs.

**ISSUE:** Appropriations: Support appropriations for AWWA Research Foundation, state drinking water programs, the drinking water SRF program, WaterISAC, EPA drinking water research and the wastewater SRF program.

In the past, the AWWA Research Foundation (AwwaRF) has received a modest federal earmark that is leveraged by foundation subscriptions to provide needed research on drinking water issues. Those funds were significantly reduced two years ago and should be restored.

Although this is technically an earmark, earmarks have not been made out of order in the new Congress, and there is no problem asking for one. Earmarks need to go through the Appropriations Committee process.

In addition to AwwaRF funding, AWWA supports appropriation to a number of regular appropriation accounts, including funds for state programs, the drinking water SRF, WaterISAC, EPA drinking water research and the clean water SRF.

We want full funding for AwwaRF's requested earmark (\$5 million); \$112 million for state drinking water programs; \$1 billion for the drinking water SRF; \$2 million for WaterISAC; \$48 million for EPA drinking water research, and \$1.35 billion for the clean water SRF.

## Nominations Committee

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc. (402.333.9660)  
e-mail: [tony@mc2h2o.com](mailto:tony@mc2h2o.com)

These positions are not open for nominations and will be filled automatically by the following officers:

*Chair* **Kevin Tobin**, Metropolitan Utilities District  
*Director* **Chris Koenig**, HDR Engineering Inc.  
*Trustee & Past Chair* **Mike Wentink**, Health & Human Services

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 7, in Kearney.

*Chair-Elect* **Dr. Bruce I. Dvorak**, UNL Civil Engineering  
*Vice Chair* **John S. Olsson**, Olsson Associates  
*Secretary* **Chuck Thomerson**, City of Columbus  
*Treasurer* **Teresa Konda**, HDR Engineering Inc.  
*Trustee* **Eric Lee**, Lincoln Water System  
*Trustee* **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities

## Governor seeks candidates

The Governor's office is looking for candidates to fill vacancies on the Advisory Council on Public Water Supply. These are three-year terms. The following vacancies will occur in July:

- Certified Water Operator serving less than 5,000 people. Current member is **Tom Goulette**, West Point.
- One consumer position. Current member is **Larry Cast**, Grand Island.

The Council meets four times a year, generally in Lincoln, for an afternoon meeting.

If you or someone you know wants to apply for a vacancy, please complete the application form at [http://www.gov.state.ne.us/bc/board\\_comm.html](http://www.gov.state.ne.us/bc/board_comm.html) or call **Peggy King**, Governor's office, 402.471.1971; e-mail: [pking@notes.state.ne.us](mailto:pking@notes.state.ne.us).

Questions about the position? Contact **Jerry Obrist**, Lincoln Water System, 402.441.7571; e-mail: [jobrist@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:jobrist@ci.lincoln.ne.us); **Tom Goulette**, 402.372.2466; e-mail: [tfgoulette@hotmail.com](mailto:tfgoulette@hotmail.com), or **Reed Miller**, 308.234.6456; e-mail: [reed@miller-engineers.com](mailto:reed@miller-engineers.com).



Officers and committee chairs met April 30 to plan the agenda for the 2007 Fall Conference. From left: Teresa Konda, HDR Engineering; Joel Christensen, M.U.D.; Chris Koenig, HDR Engineering; Dr.

Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering; Kathleen Alexander, HDR Engineering; Kevin Tobin, Mari Matulka, M.U.D. Not pictured: Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc., Mari Matulka, M.U.D., and Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health and Human Services.

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## Water operator workshops

July 27	Emerson
August 16	Holdrege
September 25	Cambridge
September 27	McCool Junction
October 10	Fremont
November 15	South Sioux City
December 4	Blair
December 5	Schuyler
December 6	Fairbury
December 12	Lincoln

### Safety Seminars

August 15	North Platte
September 26	Hastings

### Backflow Seminars

September 11	Ogallala
September 12	Grand Island
September 13	Wayne
September 14	Beatrice

For information about registration, etc., contact **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities, 402.476.2829; e-mail: robp@lom.org or **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, 308.535.8135; e-mail: mike.wentink@hhss.ne.gov.

## Nebraska Section AWWA History



Nebraska Governor Norbert T. Tiemann signs proclamation declaring August 11-17, 1968 Willing Water Week. From left: E.D. Ingram, City of Holdrege, Nebraska Section AWWA chair; Lee Blocker, City of Lincoln; Governor Tiemann; Dick Hawes, Metropolitan Utilities District; Ted Filipi, Nebraska Environmental Health Services; Ray McLeod, Electro Rust-Proofing Inc., Lincoln (August 1, 1968).

## Director's Report

by Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District

Planning for the Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) in Toronto June 24 to 28 is in full gear. We are at about 90 percent of the revenue budget and expect to



Joel Christensen

make budget. There are approximately 1,400 more registrants than at this time last year. The technical presentations are very strong with 17 tracks.

Informal communication continues regarding the idea of having "one voice for water" for AWWA and other agencies.

Other agencies, who may be interested, are the Water Environment Federation, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

At the March 2007 Standards Council meeting it was announced the Water Infrastructure Security Enhancement (WISE) Committee posted two physical security draft guidelines for review. They are under public review until June 30, 2007 at <http://www.awwa.org/science/wise/>. The WISE committee is a partnership of the American Society of Civil Engineers, AWWA and WEF.

The International Council of AWWA is considering the possibility of the Indian (India) Water Works Association using AWWA standards. We may be able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with IWWA at ACE.

The Board may discuss modifying the requirement that standing committees be required to have one-half of their membership made up of Board members. Some qualified candidates have reportedly been turned away even when there hasn't been a great deal of Board involvement.

This is my final column as your director as **Chris Koenig** takes the reins of responsibility at ACE. I thank all of you for giving me the privilege to represent you as the Director from Nebraska.

## Digger's Hotline now 811

On April 18, Governor **Dave Heineman** proclaimed the month of April as "Call Before You Dig" Awareness month.

This was because on April 13, 8-1-1 was established and implemented as a statewide three-digit number reserved for access to the Nebraska One Call Notification System. There are 700 members of the State One Call Notification Center known as Digger's Hotline of Nebraska.

The 1994 Nebraska Legislature passed the One Call Notification System Act to protect public excavators and underground utilities from damage. The revised statutes of Nebraska, sections 76-2301 to 76-2330, states that everyone who excavates (or otherwise disturbs the surface) must first call the state One Call Notification Center.

## Brief Notes

**Jeff Brannon** has joined Nebraska Health and Human Services as the Field Representative for Area 1 in southeast Nebraska. Jeff has many years of water system operation experience with wells, storage, distribution and treatment. His e-mail address is [jeff.brannon@hss.ne.gov](mailto:jeff.brannon@hss.ne.gov); phone: 402.471.0519; cell: 402.440.4917.



**"The Price of Water,"** a NET Television documentary, which features construction footage of the Platte West Water Treatment Plant, at 216th & Q Sts, airs June 21, at 9 p.m. on NET1, and June 27, at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on NET2.

The hour-long special explores where our water comes from, who uses it and for what purposes, and what people are doing to sustain Nebraska's water for the future.



Congratulations to **Pete Neddo**, director of Safety and Security, Metropolitan Utilities District, who received the "Public Servant Award" from the Greater Omaha Chapter of the National Safety Council, May 17, for his commitment to public safety and security, and for his volunteer efforts in safety efforts.

## Updates for 2008-2009 Membership Directory

The Section will print a 2008-2009 Membership Directory to be distributed in early 2008. It also will be posted on our website.

Advertising order form is on page 15.

Please check your listing in the current directory posted on our website, [www.awwaneb.org](http://www.awwaneb.org). E-mail or fax changes (*name, title, company, address, phone, fax, e-mail address*) to [mari\\_matulka@mudnebr.com](mailto:mari_matulka@mudnebr.com) (fax: 504.7020).

# Nebraska Section AWWA 2007 budget *(May 4, 2007)*

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2006 Actual</b>	<b>2007 Budget</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>
Section allotment	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Association allotment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Multi-section allotment	588.15	500.00	308.50
Annual meeting	11,367.64	52,000.00	0.00
Washington Fly-In Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest on Accounts	1,174.89	1,400.00	0.00
Teleconferences	1,550.00	1,000.00	730.00
Advertising income	5,800.00	5,000.00	5,375.00
Water for People	2,411.00		
Raffle — Fall Conference		1,400.00	0.00
Golf Event	6,635.00	6,800.00	0.00
SRF Education Funds	250.00	10,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	3,220.00	750.00	234.22
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$47,996.68</b>	<b>\$93,850.00</b>	<b>21,647.72</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Safety Committee	217.13	1,500.00	0.00
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	300.00	0.00
Education			
Education Committee	2,020.47	2,000.00	655.00
SRF Expenses	1,004.35	10,000.00	0.00
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	2,776.00	2,700.00	297.00
Website	385.20	650.00	171.20
Public Information Committee	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
Teleconferences	1,964.14	1,000.00	1,024.83
Small Systems Committee	0.00	500.00	0.00
Director's board meeting	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Director's spouse expense	0.00	200.00	0.00
Publications			
Wise Water Words	8,066.84	9,000.00	2,785.56
Membership Directory	4,295.79	6,500.00	0.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student Activity	170.92	250.00	0.00
Membership	62.00	500.00	720.52
Audit	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
Awards	396.80	500.00	127.53
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Regional officers' meeting/officer training			
Summer Leadership Workshop	0.00	1,800.00	0.00
Membership Summit	0.00	900.00	0.00
WFP Workshop	0.00	700.00	0.00
Regional meetings	2,097.41	1,000.00	389.12
Annual meeting	5,854.21	40,000.00	0.00
Water for People			
Raffle — Fall Conference	0.00	500.00	0.00
Golf event	6,435.00	5,000.00	0.00
Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water for People — Payment to WFP	3,841.93	0.00	0.00
Raffle — Fall Conference	0.00	900.00	0.00
Sustaining Membership	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Golf event	0.00	1,800.00	468.80
MAC Council	0.00	100.00	0.00
Scholarships			
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Stockholm	500.00	500.00	500.00
Top Ops	2,001.00	2,000.00	0.00
Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00
Students	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Young Professionals	0.00	250.00	0.00
Water Utility Council ( <i>travel, etc.</i> )	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	370.11	500.00	80.60
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$45,959.30</b>	<b>\$104,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,521.97</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$2,037.38</b>	<b>-\$10,700.00</b>	<b>\$13,125.75</b>



At a glance

# Nebraska Public Water Systems

by Mary Poe, Nebraska Health & Human Services (402.471.1003)  
e-mail: mary.poe@hhss.ne.gov

Nearly 2,300 certified water operators have a hand in the operation of 1,340 public water systems in Nebraska.

Collectively, these water systems draw from 2,780 groundwater wells and four surface water sources to provide Nebraskans with a continuous supply of safe drinking water. Some more facts:

- 91 Number of regulated drinking water contaminants
- 7 Number of PWSs treating for high arsenic concentrations
- 80 Percent of Nebraska's population being served by a community water system
- 145 Number of PWSs who continuously disinfect
  - 1 Number of PWSs with ozone disinfection
  - 2 Number of PWSs who disinfect with chloramines (chlorine + ammonia)
- 26 Number of nitrate MCL violations in 2006
- 65 Number of PWSs who add fluoride to drinking water
- 24,000 Number of routine coliform tests per year
- 20 Number of boil-water orders issued in 2006 (due to the presence of e-coli)
- 24 Number of new drinking water wells put into production in 2006

- <1 Miles of pipe in Nebraska's smallest community water system
- >2,200 Miles of pipe in Nebraska's largest community water system

Nebraska is very fortunate to have good quality water. We also are blessed to have such a dedicated group of individuals, such as yourselves, who work to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water in this great state.

Thank you.

## Student Activities

by Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering  
(402.472.3431) e-mail: bdvorak@unl.edu

Highlights from the past year '06-'07 include:

- November 2006: Attended NWEA Conference in Kearney (8 people)
- February 2007: Student meeting with two guest speakers representing Carollo Engineers presenting on the Steven's Creek Basin trunk sewer design (24 students, 4 guests)
- March 2007: Field trip to the LES Salt Valley Generating Station Water Treatment System (12 students)
- May 2007: Assisted at Water for People Benefit, Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus (4 people)

Vice President **David Graiver** was promoted to President after former president **Josh Melliger** graduated. David is a graduate student in Environmental Engineering.



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# Safety Committee Report

by Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities

Listed below are members of the Section's Safety Committee. The committee is conducting a safety survey, which can be found on the Section's website (<http://www.awwaneb.org>).

All utilities are asked to complete the survey and return it to me by July 27. If you have any questions, please contact me or a committee member. Thanks.

**Rob Pierce**, Safety chairman  
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waterdept@cityofaurora.org

**Pete Neddo**  
Metropolitan Utilities District  
1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102  
402.504.7880 Fax: 402.504.7929; Cell: 402.504.0420

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234 Main St., PO Box 390  
Chadron, NE 69337  
Milorust@yahoo.com  
308.432.0505 Fax: 308.432.0503

**Jack Satur**  
City of Scottsbluff  
1818 Ave. A, Scottsbluff, NE 69361-2976  
Jacksatur@act.com.net  
308.630.6258 Fax: 308.630.6294

The Young Professionals Committee provided an exhibit at the Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival in Grand Island, May 8.

Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk, and Teresa Konda, HDR Engineering Inc., presented the Groundwater Model exhibit to 1,244 fourth and fifth graders from 30 cities, who attended the festival.

From left, standing: Chad Roberts; seated: Jeffrey Seim, Heartland Lutheran High School.



*Nebraska Section hosts*  
**Regional officers meeting**

Seventeen people attended the AWWA Region IV Officers meeting, April 13-14 in Omaha, NE. The meeting was hosted by the Nebraska Section AWWA. Agenda items included: Changing Nature of Leadership; Fundraising and IRS Rules; Utility Management Standards; Section updates including the April Fly-In, Summer Workshop and ACE.

There are seven AWWA regions and Nebraska is in Region IV. The seven regions will be consolidated to five regions in 2008. Nebraska will continue to be in Region IV, however we will be joining Wyoming, part of Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mexico. Officers may attend whichever region meeting is more convenient.

**Susan Franceschi** will continue as Nebraska's section services representative.



Attending the meeting, front from left: Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.); Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Chris Koenig, HDR Engineering Inc.; Dean Sletten, Aqualogix, Moorhead, MN.

Back: Janice Skadsen, Camp Dresser & McKee, Ann Arbor, MI and National AWWA Vice-President; Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Engineering, Lincoln; Tim Wilson, Marshalltown Water Works, Marshalltown, IA; Teresa Konda, HDR Engineering Inc. Joel Christensen, M.U.D., was unavailable for photo.



Front from left: Jim Ginley, Utility Quality Program manager, National AWWA; Allan Erickson, HDR Engineering, Sioux Falls, SD; Jerry Stevens, West Des Moines Water Works and In-Coming National AWWA Vice-President; Cavin Nodding, Engineering Inc., Billings, MT.

Back: Mari Matulka, M.U.D.; Susan Franceschi, senior section services representative, National AWWA; Tony Bilek, Mc2 Inc.; Paula MacIlwaine, deputy executive director, National AWWA.

## Responding to the world water crisis with sustainable solutions

by John Kayser

As the North American water community debates parts-per-billion of one contaminant or another, the developing world is dealing with billions on another level—the staggering number of people without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

According to UNICEF, there are currently 1.1 billion people worldwide who do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion without adequate sanitation facilities. The result of these shortfalls is devastating.

Every day, 6,000 people on our planet die from waterborne illnesses, nearly 2.2 million each year, and the vast majority of these are children. Epidemics of cholera, dysentery and Hepatitis are commonplace in the developing world, diseases that can be traced directly to water or sanitation. Water is arguably the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time.

The water crisis is hitting the most vulnerable populations—the world's poor. Half the world—nearly 3 billion people—live in abject poverty on less than US\$2 per day. Water-related diseases are killing them at an alarming rate. Every 15 seconds, a child under the age of five dies from a preventable water-related illness.

It is with deep conviction and hope that **Water For People** is working to ensure that these people are not forgotten and that their basic long-term water and sanitation needs are met with dignity. **Water**

**For People's** vision is a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; a world where no person suffers or dies from a water- or sanitation-related disease.

Founded in 1991, **Water For People** is a Colorado-based private, nonprofit international development organization that supports safe drinking water and sanitation projects in developing countries.

The organization was founded by the American Water Works Association and is supported by the Water Environment Federation, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the National Association of Water Companies and the Water Quality Association.

**Water For People** relies on funding from individuals, utilities, and corporations, predominantly from the North American water community represented by these professional organizations.

To complete its mission, **Water For People** partners with communities, local government other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the local private sector to help people improve their quality of life by supporting sustainable drinking water, sanitation and health and hygiene projects.

**Water For People** supports projects with professional development advice, financial support and technical services. Typical projects include protected spring-fed community water systems, wells or boreholes with hand pumps, arsenic filtration systems in West Bengal India, latrine construction, operator training and health and hygiene education.

**Water For People** currently is working in Latin America, Africa and Asia and has funded more than 700 projects, providing more than 2 million people with safe drinking water and/or improved sanitation facilities since its beginning 15 years ago.

Sustainability is key to **Water For People's** success. What it builds, it builds to last. While it would be easy to enter a remote village in Africa and simply install a state-of-the-art water system and move on, the organization has learned that this model doesn't work for the long-term. What if the system breaks down? Who will repair it? Where will the parts come from?

Instead, **Water For People's** work focuses on partnerships and community involvement. The community must want the system and be willing to invest in its development. That means contributing in numerous ways.

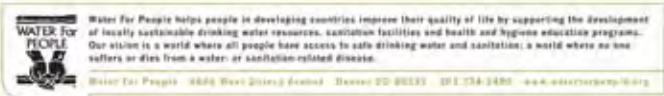
Communities make financial and labor contributions to their projects. They decide which technologies are most appropriate for them given their economic and technical realities. They decide how the system will be managed, what tariffs are required to finance the scheme over time, and what strategies will be employed to maintain and repair the system so that it continues to provide clean water over time.

To achieve this, considerable training support is provided with each project in the areas of financial management, maintenance, operation and community mobilization/conflict resolution. **Water for People** relies on local suppliers so critical spare parts will be

### drinking water?

For 1.1 billion people in the developing world, this might be as good as it gets. Unsafe water kills 5,000 people every single day. We can't go on letting people die this way. Find out how you can help.

[www.waterforpeople.org](http://www.waterforpeople.org)



easily accessible to the community in the future. A remote village in Africa would have difficulty accessing replacement parts for an American-made pump.

**Water For People** works to build long-term relationships in each of the countries in which it operates. Local governments are responsible for planning and coordination in their areas of jurisdiction. They also are responsible for quality control. Sometimes they are responsible for actually providing water and sanitation services although this responsibility is increasingly being shifted to the private sector. As such, working with local government is essential.

Other important players in the **Water For People** model include local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that already are invested in a given country or region and will help ensure the long-term viability of the work, and the private sector (formal and informal).

**Water For People** rarely funds projects in their entirety, but works to acquire funding from a variety of stakeholders, including local governments, NGOs and the communities that benefit. Without such buy-in from others, **Water For People** would simply be a charity offering goods rather than a developmental partner who encourages responsibility among all parties.

Projects are funded based on need in regions where the organization has an operational presence—currently Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, India and Malawi. **Water For People** has committed to expand into five additional countries over the next five years and is taking a more strategic approach to its work by targeting multiple villages and communities within clearly defined geographic areas to have greater regional impact.

Beyond solving a desperate need, water and sanitation projects can often result in a boost to local economies. For example, **Water For People** has been working in India's West Bengal region to remove arsenic from the groundwater supplies where hundreds of thousands of people have been exposed to dangerous levels of this naturally occurring contaminant.

Working with a local university, the organization has supported the installation of low-cost activated alumina filters at more than 120 tube well sites. The filter media must be regenerated or replaced on a regular basis, which has created a local business opportunity in the region and allowed West Bengali residents to allocate their scarce financial resources to other needs and opportunities besides hospital fees.

**Water For People** is making a big difference in people's lives in the communities in which it works. But there is much work to be done. The scope of the global water crisis is astounding and **Water For People** must build its own capacity to make a meaningful difference to these problems.

You can help. There are lots of opportunities to get involved—from offering your financial support to volunteering to fundraising to helping to spread the word.

#### *About the author*

*John Kayser is **Water For People's** communications manager. For more information about **Water For People** and its work to provide safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and health and hygiene education in the developing world, contact Kayser at 303.734.3476, e-mail [jkayser@waterforpeople.org](mailto:jkayser@waterforpeople.org) or visit their website: [www.waterforpeople.org](http://www.waterforpeople.org).*

## AwwaRF marks 40 years

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF) as the drinking water community's largest independent research organization. AwwaRF's core directives are to sponsor research, develop knowledge, and promote collaboration among U.S. and international research organizations.

Nearly 900 water utilities, 53 consultants, and 16 manufacturers subscribe to AwwaRF's research program, demonstrating their commitment to supporting research for the continued provision of safe, affordable, reliable drinking water, and has had a major positive impact on ensuring practical regulations.

Since 1987, AwwaRF has funded research with a total value greater than \$388 million, with 1,033 research studies completed or in progress. The total value of the research agenda for 2005 is \$28 million; the average dollar value per project is more than \$350,000.

AwwaRF-based research has dramatically changed water treatment and utility practices and has validated new technologies such as membranes, ozone, and ultraviolet disinfection. Water utilities, consulting firms, and manufacturers are encouraged to join AwwaRF in supporting research to ensure the continued development of applied knowledge that benefits consumers.



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*Mail coupon and application with payment to: John Olsson, Olsson Associates, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68508; (fax: 504.7020).*

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

To help with expenses for any training seminar or workshop, including the Nebraska Section AWWA Annual Fall Conference.  
Please type or print legibly in black ink.

## PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address: \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current position: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in water industry: \_\_\_\_\_  
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.

I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed application to: **Lynn Wegehaupt**, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.504.7855; fax: 402.504.7709;  
e-mail: lynn\_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Please make copies of this order form as needed

## Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers  
(402.255.3840) e-mail: rlr@kirkham.com

### Welcome New Members:

Bewley, Jim	Metropolitan Utilities District
Fries, Michelle	City of Bayard
Loll, Jeff	Metropolitan Utilities District
Otter, Ray	PL Brico LLC
Richtig, Tim	Farmland Foods Inc.
Sudbeck, Rory	Schmit Gretemean Association
Tiemann, Jeff	Cargill Corn Milling
Zellars, Jon	Metropolitan Utilities District

## Money for Seminars

The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer grants for water operators to attend seminars and the Annual Fall Conference. To apply, complete the application on page 14. Questions? Call **Lynn Wegehaupt**, 402.504.7855.

## Ad order form for 2007 publications

Price is for one issue. Black and Pantone 293 Blue are the ink colors. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.org. Paper circulation: 600, including all U.S. and state legislative representatives.

**The 2008-2009 Membership Directory will be published in early 2008. The directory is posted on the Section's website.**

Whenever possible, please submit advertisements electronically on a CD. Preferred document formats are (listed in order of highest preference): (1) Photoshop (layers included) or (2) pdf (high resolution) files.

- Wise Water Words, Fall/Winter issue, 2007 (deadline for copy, August 1, 2007)
- 2008-2009 Membership Directory (deadline for copy, November 15, 2007) — same rates as for one issue of Wise Water Words

Size	Black ink or Blue ink only (please specify)	Black and Blue
Business card size (3 1/2 x 2 3/8 inches):	_____ \$150 each issue	_____ \$225 each issue
1/4 page (3 1/2 x 4 7/8 inches):	_____ \$300 each issue	_____ \$375 each issue
1/2 page (7 1/4 x 4 7/8 inches):	_____ \$400 each issue	_____ \$475 each issue
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Ads must be prepaid. Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA. 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: 402.504.7150; fax: 402.504.7020; e-mail: mari\_matulka@mudnebr.com.

*Acceptance of advertising by the Nebraska Section AWWA does not constitute endorsements of the advertiser, its products or services, nor does **Wise Water Words** make any claims or guarantees as to the accuracy or validity of the advertiser's offer.*

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Fall conference, November 7-8

## National AWWA VP Craig Woolard to open conference

Craig Woolard joined AWWA in 1995 because of the quality of its technical products and services, but became active because of the personal relationships he developed. Craig is Alaska's representative on the AWWA Board and serves on the Young Professionals Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Certification. He's the Board representative to the International Council, and is one of three people running for National AWWA President in 2008.



Craig Woolard

Craig has chaired the Alaska Section's Research and Development Committee and Annual Conference and has been South Central Alaska Subsection vice-president, president, and past president.

He has served as president of the Alaska Water Wastewater Management Association and belongs to the American Society of Civil Engineers, Water

Environment Federation, and American Society of Engineering Education. Craig received the AWWA Fuller Award in 2003.

Craig has more than 12 years of consulting experience related to water and wastewater treatment services for Alaskan communities. Until recently, he was professor and chair of the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, where he specialized in research grants related to water, wastewater, and hazardous waste treatment. Craig is

now the Treatment Division Director of the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility.

He earned a BS and a PhD in civil engineering. He then did postdoctoral research at the Technical University of Munich, Germany, at the Institute for Water Quality and Waste Management. He also is a registered professional engineer.

Craig and his wife, Lisa, live in Anchorage, AK.

## Top Ops

It's not too early to get your Top Ops Team (*water operators only*) together for the competition, Wednesday, November 7, 3:30-5 p.m., at the Annual Fall Conference.

**New this year — three-person teams!** Contact **Chris Koenig**, HDR Engineering Inc, for more information (e-mail: [chris.koenig@hdrinc.com](mailto:chris.koenig@hdrinc.com); phone: 402.548.5112).

## Nominations Committee

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc. (402.333.9660)  
e-mail: [tony@mc2h2o.com](mailto:tony@mc2h2o.com)

These positions are not open for nominations and will be filled automatically by the following officers:

- Chair **Kevin Tobin**, Metropolitan Utilities District
- Director **Chris Koenig**, HDR Engineering Inc.
- Trustee & Past Chair **Mike Wentink**, Health & Human Services

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 7, in Kearney.

- Chair-Elect **Dr. Bruce I. Dvorak**, UNL Civil Engineering
- Vice Chair **John S. Olsson**, Olsson Associates
- Secretary **Chuck Thomerson**, City of Columbus
- Treasurer **Teresa Konda**, HDR Engineering Inc.
- Trustee **Eric Lee**, Lincoln Water System
- Trustee **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities

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## Chair's comments

The birth of the American Water Works Association began in January of 1881, when the superintendent of water works at Keokuk, IA, sent a letter to others in the water works industry, inquiring about interest in a "convention of western water works."

That inquiry resulted in a March meeting of 22 water works men in St. Louis, MO, of that year. From those humble beginnings, the organization has grown to more than 57,000 members.

The Association's mission is the promotion of public health, safety, and welfare through the improvement of the quality and quantity of drinking water delivered to the public.

This is accomplished by being proactive in the advancement of technology, science, management, and government policies relative to the stewardship of water. Without volunteers, that mission could not be accomplished.

The Nebraska Section AWWA is composed of various committees. Check the Section website at: <http://www.awwaneb.org>.

Look over the list of Section committees. If you see a committee that might interest you, contact the respective committee chairperson, discuss the activities of the committee and if that interest is still there or you have additional ideas for committee activities, ask to be placed on the committee.

The Annual Fall Conference grows closer. Currently under development for the conference this year will be a Past Chairs Roundtable. This will be hosted as a breakfast concurrent with the Operators' breakfast. Its purpose is to capture the thoughts and experiences of past Nebraska Section AWWA Section chairs in an informal setting. If you are a past Chairperson of the Nebraska Section, plan to attend. **Kevin Tobin**, chairperson of the Fall Conference Committee, is putting the final touches on this and other conference issues.

A workshop discussing the development of a Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) was held in Denver in mid-July. Representatives from Nebraska who attended this workshop included: **Rob Pierce, Pete Neddo, Dave Thurber, Randy Hellbusch, Rich Koenig, Rich Robinson, Eric Obert, Mike Smith** and others.

WARN is a program for mutual aid among utilities. Its potential for application in Nebraska will be discussed in further detail at a session during the Fall Conference. See other topics on page 3.



Mike Wentink

The Nebraska Section AWWA has a few scholarships for those who desire monetary assistance to attend the Fall Conference. For details on scholarships, please contact **Lynn Wegehaupt** at 402.504.855 or **Larry Andreasen** at 402.727.2821.

## Officers and Trustees

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e-mail: [mike.wentink@hhss.ne.gov](mailto:mike.wentink@hhss.ne.gov)

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Mike Wentink, *Education*

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Tony Bilek, *Nominations*

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

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# 2007 Fall Conference — November 7-8, Kearney

## Wednesday, November 7

### Session I

- 8:30-9 A.M. Opening session, **Craig Woolard**, AWWA vice-president, Anchorage Water & Wastewater
- 9-9:30 A.M. Concentrate Management in the Midwest  
**Jami Cerone**, HDR Engineering Inc.
- 9:30-10 A.M. Hastings Utilities Rejects Water Disposal Investigation: A Case Study  
**Chris Koenig**, HDR Engineering Inc.
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. Angle Well Analysis  
**Jack Wittman**, WHPA Inc.
- 11-11:30 A.M. Conversion of Lincoln Water CAD to ArcGIS Lessons Learned  
**Arnold Radloff**, Lincoln Water System
- 11:30 A.M.-noon M.U.D.'s Electronic O&M  
**Paul Trout**, HDR Engineering Inc.
- NOON-1:30 P.M. Joint AWWA and APWA Lunch**  
**Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy**
- 1:30-3 P.M. AWWA Business Meeting  
*(board meeting follows business meeting)*
- 3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 3:30-5 P.M. Top OPS Competition
- 5-6 P.M. Young Professional Mixer *(in Top Ops room)*
- 6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
- 7-9 P.M. Banquet

### Session II

- 8:30-9 A.M. Opening session, **Craig Woolard**, AWWA vice-president, Anchorage Water & Wastewater
- 9-9:30 A.M. Diggers Hotline  
**Susan Griess**, Consolidated Utilities Services
- 9:30-10 A.M. Lockout-Tagout Procedures  
**Bob Perry**, League Association of Risk Management
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. Operator Involvement in Design and Construction of Water System Improvements  
**Eric Obert**, JEO Consulting Group
- 11-11:30 A.M. Abandonment of a 100-Year-Old Well: Not Your Normal Process  
**John Keith**, Lincoln Water System
- 11:30 A.M.-noon Analysis of a Water Tower: Not Your Normal Process  
**Doug Whitfield**, Metropolitan Utilities District
- NOON-1:30 P.M. Joint AWWA and APWA Lunch**  
**Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy**
- 1:30-3 P.M. Grout Research Well Drillers Program  
**Tom Christopherson**  
Nebraska Health & Human Services
- 3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 3:30-5 P.M. Top OPS Competition
- 5-6 P.M. Young Professional Mixer *(in Top Ops room)*
- 6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
- 7-9 P.M. Banquet

## Thursday, November 8

- 7:30-8:30 A.M. Water Operator Breakfast — Capacity Development  
**Scott Sprague**, Nebraska Health & Human Services

- 7:30-8:30 A.M. Past-Chairs Roundtable Breakfast

### Session I

- 8:30-9 A.M. Arsenic Removal in Alliance  
**Mike Milius**, Olsson Associates
- 9-9:30 A.M. Uranium Removal in Bridgeport  
**Rod Kirkland**, Olsson Associates
- 9:30-10 A.M. Lead and Copper Issues for Small Systems  
**Dr. Lee Harms**, retired, Black & Veatch
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. Upcoming Rules  
**Ken Deason**, EPA, Region VII
- 11 A.M.-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update  
**Jack Daniel**, Nebraska Health & Human Services

### Session II

- 8:30-9:30 A.M. Response to the Ice Storm of 2006  
**City of Holdrege, City of Sheldon, NPPD, NEMA**
- 9:30-10 A.M. Emergency Planning Resources  
*To be announced*
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. Upcoming Rules  
**Ken Deason**, EPA, Region VII
- 11 A.M.-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update  
**Jack Daniel**, Nebraska Health & Human Services

### CEUs

- Nebraska Health & Human Services  
Grades 1-4: AWWA Program = Up to 7 hours  
Grades 1-4: Top Ops Participation = 1.5 hours

### Fees

- Pre-Registration for AWWA  
(includes Thursday lunch and banquet), \$70
- Pre-Registration for Full Conference  
(includes all lunches and banquets), \$140 (\$150 on-site)
- Pre-Registration = Prior to October 20
- AWWA Operator's Breakfast, \$10
- Additional Banquet Tickets, \$20 each
- For more information, contact:

**Kathleen Alexander**, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
8404 Indian Hills Dr., Omaha, NE 68114-4049  
phone: 402.399.1357; fax: 402.399.4918  
e-mail: kalexand@hdrinc.com

### Lodging

Hotel reservations: 800.248.4460; reservations must be made by October 8 for the conference rate (Holiday Inn: \$69.95 for single or double), plus tax.



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## Director's Report

by Chris Koenig, HDR Engineering Inc.

Approximately 13,200 people attended the Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) in Toronto June 24-28. Attendance and exhibit registration exceeded the previous year. More than 60 countries were represented with 16 international exhibitors.

Some key points and ideas:

**Association:** Revenue is running ahead of projections with the main increase in the area of sales. The Association is in a very solid financial position.

**Only Tap Water Delivers:** The "Only Tap Water Delivers" promotion has been very popular and has resulted in a positive image for the water industry. The promotion is available online from the Association and every utility is encouraged to use it.

**Water for People:** The Water Buffalos raised \$40,000 for Water for People during their motorcycle ride to the conference from all parts of the U.S. They were saddle sore when they pulled in on Saturday.

Last year, Water for People spent \$3,338,207 on 75 projects that benefited 98,032 individuals. The average cost is \$41.47/person. That's incredible. (*Our WFP May golf outing raised \$3,100. In other words, we helped 75 people receive clean, potable water!*)

**India:** A MOU was signed with the India Water Works Association. India has modeled their organization after AWWA with their sections set up around the major population centers. The potential for the Association is huge. India has the largest population of the English speaking countries and they have a substantial amount of drinking water problems. They are looking for standards and technology to properly develop their country.

**Mongolia:** The Asian Development Bank funded 15 engineers and general managers to attend the Alaska Section's annual conference.

The purpose of the trip was to learn about water and wastewater system design and operation in a cold climate. The trip included trips to water plants, tours, and meetings to exchange information. The Bank paid the Section \$40,000 to host the group.

The Section's representatives said the trip was extremely positive, and it allowed several of their members to showcase their plants. *Is there any interest in Nebraska hosting a trip?*

**Young Professionals:** The Young Professionals Committee is active and enthusiastic. One heavily attended activity at the Conference was a meet and greet between potential employers and students. Very well received. The following are some ideas from other Sections that were passed onto our YP Committee:

1. Hold monthly open conference calls to discuss ideas and plans;
2. Hold YP luncheon for operators at the annual meeting;
3. Survey utilities and vendors to find out if they have YPs;
4. Host a design competition;
5. Send delegates to the YP summit;



**Chris Koenig**

6. Encourage membership on the national YP Committee;
7. Joint YP meetings with WEA, and
8. Require YP involvement on the annual conference planning committee.

**Section Forum:** A Section Forum is held at ACE every year to allow Sections to share ideas with other Section representatives. Most of the discussion focused on membership. Some thoughts:

1. Survey utilities that are not members and ask them why they haven't joined.
2. Section funding of the Chair-Elect to ACE. The incoming chair would benefit from the ideas at National.
3. Past Chair round tables. These could be held at the Annual Conference either before or after the sessions with the National representative in attendance.
4. Breakfast at the annual meeting for new members.
5. Membership tracking – new, retention, involvement.
6. Assign new members to committees

I would like to thank **Joel Christensen** for his hard work on the Board. He is well-known and respected on the existing Board. I also appreciate his time and patience in preparing me for the position.

If you have any questions or comments, my phone number is 402.548.5112; e-mail: [chris.koenig@hdrinc.com](mailto:chris.koenig@hdrinc.com).

## Bottled water trend proves to be all wet

*By Tom Purcell, syndicated columnist living in Pittsburgh, published in the Omaha World-Herald, July 24, 2007 (reprinted with permission from the author)*

I sure do feel bad for the bottled water people. Maybe I better explain.

Back in the late 1980s, young upwardly mobile professionals — yuppies, if you recall the term — suddenly had cash to burn. This was the baby-boom generation, you see. It demanded the good life — the best of everything.

The baby boomers rejected the simple approach of their cost-conscious parents. To heck with Folgers; they demanded fresh-roasted specialty coffees (Starbucks). To heck with Budweiser; they wanted specialty beers (microbrews). And to heck with fresh water that poured right out of your kitchen tap; they wanted bottled spring water from exotic mountains

Older generations never could understand the concept of bottled water. My father (the Big Guy) surely couldn't.

Big Guy: You pay money for something that comes out of your kitchen tap?

Yuppie: That's right.

Big Guy: But you're paying \$10 a gallon for something you already have.

Yuppie: Only the best for me.

Big Guy: But water is free.

And so it was that the trendy crowd turned the bottled water market into a gold mine. By 2004, some 41 billion gallons were sold — that's upward of \$100 billion in revenue. But suddenly, the bottled water party is over.

You see, many of the same trendy folks who made bottled water hip have decided to stop drinking it because another trend is more hip.

According to Newsday, bottled water is bad for the environment. It requires some 50 million gallons of oil each year to produce the plastic bottles in which it is contained. Add to that the energy burned to produce and ship it, and you have the save-the-environment people breathing down your neck.

Suddenly, cities such as New York are spending big money on advertising campaigns that encourage people to forsake bottled water for the water that comes out of their kitchen tap.

Some restaurants are banning bottled water, too. "We don't look at it as losing money. We look at it as investing in the world," Del Posto co-owner Joe Bastianich said in Newsday. He said his restaurant will make and sell its own mineral water on site, using tap water.

That's right, tap water. Tap water is suddenly chic. And I can't think of a concept that better illustrates the nuttiness of our country.

Look, America's fresh, clean, safe water is the envy of the world. Throughout the history of mankind, civilizations have sought to pipe water into homes — remember the Romans — and many civilizations are still failing at it.

Any sane fellow knows you don't drink the water when you've visiting developing countries on two-thirds of the planet. You don't drink it because it's polluted and poisoned and all kinds of little living entities are swimming around, waiting to attack your intestines.

But in America, the water is pure. Virtually every home in every part of the country has a kitchen tap that offers an unlimited supply of it. You pull the tap, and out it comes — safe, clean, rigorously regulated water.

Our tap water is a reflection of our country — a reflection of how incredibly successful the American experiment has been. It's also a reflection of how lazy, ignorant and unaware so many Americans have become — because we take our water for granted.

Until recently, we demanded "better" water — the stuff that comes in bottles. And now that is bad for us, too.

The whole bottled water concept makes me wonder how many other things we're taking for granted.

Our freedom? In many places around the world (Cuba, for instance), the government runs everything and the people have nothing — because the government runs everything.

Yet some Americans are eager to dismantle the system that created our wealth, because they think the government can do better. These are some of the same people who used to think bottled water was better.

All I know is that the older I get, the wiser my father becomes. He knew 20 years ago or more that the bottled water trend was just that — a nutty trend. If only the rest of America were as wise as he.

# ACE 2007 June 24-28 Toronto, Canada

ACE attendees included HDR Engineering Inc. employees, from left: Bill Brinker, Sioux Falls, SD; Glenn Dostal and Daryl Kottwitz, Omaha.



The Section's Top Ops team competed against 19 utilities. They placed second in the first and third rounds, and third in the second round.

The team from left: Dave Lathrop, City of Seward, Eric Melcher, City of Aurora, Steve Ekeler, City of York, and Doug Pollack, City of Seward, along with Lash Chaffin, League of Nebraska Municipalities and Dick McCabe, City of Emerson.

Other Nebraska supporters included: Spouses of team members; Chris Koenig, HDR Engineering; Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers; Mari Matulka, M.U.D.

Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.), received the George Warren Fuller Award at the National AWWA Conference, June 27, 2007, in Toronto, for outstanding service to the water industry. This is the highest honor given by AWWA, and Mari is the first woman in Nebraska to receive the award.

Past Fuller Award winners at the presentation included, from left: Joel Christensen, M.U.D. (2003); Chris Koenig, HDR Engineering Inc. (2004); Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers (1989); Don Franklin, Bert Gurney & Associates (1997), and Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System (1991).



*The 2008 ACE is June 8-12 in Atlanta, GA.*

## Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers  
(402.255.3840) e-mail: rlr@kirkham.com

### Welcome New Member:

Wieckhorst, Larry Bert Gurney & Associates Inc.

### Nebraska Health & Human Services

## Reorganized and new name

by Mary Poe, Nebraska Health & Human Services (402.471.1003)  
e-mail: mary.poe@nhss.ne.gov

Effective July 1, Nebraska Health and Human Services gained a new structure. The former Health and Human Services System was comprised of three different agencies (*Regulation and Licensure; Services; Finance and Support*).

The new single agency, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is broken into six divisions.

The Drinking Water Program now falls under the Division of Public Health. **Jack Daniel** remains the administrator for the section now named the *Office of Drinking Water and Environmental Health*.

This restructuring is designed to make the state's largest agency more understandable, accountable, accessible, and efficient. The DHHS mission statement is "Helping people live better lives."

- New address: DHHS has a new post office box address — PO Box 95026 (which replaces Box 95007).
- New DHHS website address: [www.dhhs.ne.gov](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov)
- **Chin Chew** is the new Drinking Water Program Engineering Supervisor. He fills the position vacated by **Subhash Jha**. Chin has worked as an engineer for the Department for nearly nine years.
- New Drinking Water Program staff: **Dave Fox** is the new IT Business Systems Analyst, managing the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS).

**Fred Baumert**, formerly with the Nebraska Rural Water Association, is the new Drinking Water Program Specialist for the VOC and Radionuclides Rules.

**Angel Lowery** and **Kyle Tillinghast** have joined the Department as engineers.



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**\$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: John Olsson, Olsson Associates, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68508; (fax: 504.7020).

# Nebraska Section AWWA 2007 budget (July 6, 2007)

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2006 Actual</b>	<b>2007 Budget</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>
Section allotment	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Association allotment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Multi-section allotment	588.15	500.00	448.75
Annual meeting	11,367.64	52,000.00	0.00
Washington Fly-In Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest on Accounts	1,174.89	1,400.00	768.80
Teleconferences	1,550.00	1,000.00	1,660.00
Advertising income	5,800.00	5,000.00	5,375.00
Water for People	2,411.00		
Raffle — Fall Conference		1,400.00	0.00
Golf Event	6,635.00	6,800.00	6,300.00
SRF Education Funds	250.00	10,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	3,220.00	750.00	709.22
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$47,996.68</b>	<b>\$93,850.00</b>	<b>\$30,261.77</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Safety Committee	217.13	1,500.00	0.00
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	300.00	0.00
Education			
Education Committee	2,020.47	2,000.00	655.00
SRF Expenses	1,004.35	10,000.00	0.00
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	2,776.00	2,700.00	297.00
Website	385.20	650.00	256.80
Public Information Committee	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
Teleconferences	1,964.14	1,000.00	1,190.35
Small Systems Committee	0.00	500.00	319.98
Director's board meeting	0.00	1,500.00	1,301.81
Director's spouse expense	0.00	200.00	0.00
Publications			
Wise Water Words	8,066.84	9,000.00	6,584.09
Membership Directory	4,295.79	6,500.00	0.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Student Activity	170.92	250.00	0.00
Membership	62.00	500.00	720.52
Audit	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
Awards	396.80	500.00	127.53
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Regional officers' meeting/officer training			
Summer Leadership Workshop	0.00	1,800.00	0.00
Membership Summit	0.00	900.00	720.52
WFP Workshop	0.00	700.00	0.00
Regional meetings	2,097.41	1,000.00	838.26
Annual meeting	5,854.21	40,000.00	0.00
Water for People			
Raffle — Fall Conference	0.00	500.00	0.00
Golf event	6,435.00	5,000.00	3,199.62
Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water for People — Payment to WFP	3,841.93	0.00	0.00
Raffle — Fall Conference	0.00	900.00	0.00
Sustaining Membership	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Golf event	0.00	1,800.00	2,900.38
MAC Council	0.00	100.00	0.00
Scholarships			
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Stockholm	500.00	500.00	500.00
Top Ops	2,001.00	2,000.00	0.00
Conference	0.00	0.00	0.00
Students	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Young Professionals	0.00	250.00	0.00
Water Utility Council ( <i>travel, etc.</i> )	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	370.11	500.00	170.60
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$45,959.30</b>	<b>\$104,550.00</b>	<b>\$22,061.94</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$2,037.38</b>	<b>-\$10,700.00</b>	<b>\$8,199.83</b>



## Water operator workshops

September 25	Cambridge
September 27	McCool Junction
October 10	Fremont
November 15	South Sioux City
December 4	Blair
December 5	Schuyler
December 6	Fairbury
December 12	Lincoln

### Safety Seminars

September 26	Hastings
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### Backflow Seminars

September 11	Ogallala
September 12	Grand Island
September 13	Wayne
September 14	Beatrice

For information about registration, etc., contact **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities, 402.476.2829; e-mail: [rbp@lom.org](mailto:rbp@lom.org) or **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, 308.535.8135; e-mail: [mike.wentink@hhs.ne.gov](mailto:mike.wentink@hhs.ne.gov).

## Brief Notes

**Brian Daehling** has joined the Metropolitan Utilities District as a water plant engineer at the Platte West Water Treatment Plant. Brian previously worked at the Nebraska Health and Human Services Department of Public Health.

## Updates for 2008-2009 Membership Directory

The Section will print a 2008-2009 Membership Directory to be distributed in early 2008. It also will be posted on our website.

Advertising order form is on page 11.

Please check your listing in the current directory posted on our website, [www.awwaneb.org](http://www.awwaneb.org). E-mail or fax changes (*name, title, company, address, phone, fax, e-mail address*) to [mari\\_matulka@mudnebr.com](mailto:mari_matulka@mudnebr.com) (fax: 504.7020).



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

To help with expenses for any training seminar or workshop, including the Nebraska Section AWWA Annual Fall Conference.  
Please type or print legibly in black ink.

## PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address: \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current position: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in water industry: \_\_\_\_\_  
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.

I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed application to: **Lynn Wegehaupt**, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.504.7855; fax: 402.504.7709;  
e-mail: lynn\_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Please make copies of this order form as needed

## Ad order form for 2008 publications

Price is for one issue. Black and Pantone 293 Blue are the ink colors. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: [www.awwaneb.org](http://www.awwaneb.org). Paper circulation: 600, including all U.S. and state legislative representatives.

**The 2008-2009 Membership Directory will be published in early 2008. The directory is posted on the Section's website.**

Whenever possible, please submit advertisements electronically on a CD. Preferred document formats are (listed in order of highest preference): (1) Photoshop (layers included) or (2) pdf (high resolution) files.

- 2008-2009 Membership Directory (deadline for copy, November 15, 2007) — same rates as for one issue of Wise Water Words
- Wise Water Words, Spring issue, 2008 (deadline for copy, January 15, 2008)
- Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2008 (deadline for copy, April 15, 2008)
- Wise Water Words, Fall issue, 2008 (deadline for copy, August 1, 2008)

Size	Black ink or Blue ink only (please specify)	Black and Blue
Business card size (3 1/2 x 2 3/8 inches):	_____ \$150 each issue	_____ \$225 each issue
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1/2 page (7 1/4 x 4 7/8 inches):	_____ \$400 each issue	_____ \$475 each issue
full page (7 1/4 x 10 inches):	_____ \$600 each issue	_____ \$675 each issue
<i>full page not available on back page</i>		
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e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ads must be prepaid. Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA. 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: 402.504.7150; fax: 402.504.7020; e-mail: [mari\\_matulka@mudnebr.com](mailto:mari_matulka@mudnebr.com).

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