

## Glenn Dostal receives George Warren Fuller Award

Glenn Dostal was named the George Warren Fuller Award recipient at the annual fall conference November 4, 2009, in Kearney. This is the highest honor given by AWWA, and is presented for outstanding service to the water industry. The award will be presented to Glenn at the National AWWA Conference in Chicago, June 20-24.

A native of Howells, NE, Glenn graduated from UNL in 1972 with a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering. He worked for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control from 1973 until 1977 when he joined HDR Inc. where he serves as senior vice-president. He is past-chair of the Section's Water for People Committee and received the WISA Award in 2008.

Glenn has worked on water and wastewater facilities for the cities of Bellevue, Blair, Columbus, Fremont, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, Nebraska City, North Platte, Plattsmouth, Seward and the Metropolitan Utilities District.

He is a registered professional engineer in Nebraska and South Dakota who has published numerous articles on water and wastewater operations. Besides AWWA, Glenn is a member of Water Environment Federation and Water for People.



AWWA Vice-President Charlie Anderson attaches the Fuller pin to Glenn's lapel as Glenn's son, Matt, and daughter, Amy, observe.

## 2010 officers



2010 Board of Directors, from left, standing: Chair-Elect Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.; Director Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.; Vice-Chair Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities; Trustee Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk and Past-Chair, Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering.

Seated: Treasurer David Lathrop, City of Seward.; Trustee Doug Woodbeck, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Chair John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates, and Secretary Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System.

## Chair's comments

**A**s we embark on a new decade, it is appropriate to acknowledge the work done by the Nebraska Section in 2009. Under **Dr. Bruce Dvorak's** leadership, we accomplished many initiatives over the past year, which have created some positive momentum that will jettison us into a successful year ahead. Several of the notable accomplishments include the following:

- Updated the bylaws (approved by the association on January 17, 2010) which, among other things, allows for the addition of two trustees to the board;
- Added an operator's track and a water taste-testing competition at the annual conference;
- Received funding for and implemented a membership survey of the Nebraska Section;
- Received funding for and implemented a Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) program, and
- Developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for officers and committees (work in progress).



John S. Olsson

As we look ahead at the current year, the Section has the benefit of the results from our Summer Retreat, held August 14 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This information is useful in that it can suggest items we should be working on to add value to the membership. The top five priorities will be:

- Provide a continuing education training program and assist Nebraska public water systems to improve all facets of public water system operations;
- Promote confidence and understanding to the public about public water systems;
- Promote activities to retain current members and recruit new members;
- Provide small system support through a continuous outreach program, and
- Increase Nebraska Section impact on legislative, regulatory and policy issues at all levels of government.

One of the most intriguing opportunities for us may, in fact, be the last item—increasing our impact on legislative and policy issues as they relate to AWWA and Nebraska. We need to “Make Some Noise” about the importance of protecting public water systems. One example of where we are losing ground is nitrates. Since 2001, at least twice as many public water systems are being required to do quarterly monitoring. This suggests that nitrate levels are increasing in drinking water systems, and new burdens are being placed on Nebraska communities. Can the Nebraska Section AWWA serve as an educational resource or an advocate to help reverse trends such as this one?

The last thing I'd like to mention is my appreciation for allowing me to serve as your chair for 2010. In the same way that my father did in 1975, I will work hard to help the Section promote quality drinking water in sufficient quantity for all Nebraskans. Collectively, we can make this happen through active involvement in the various committees listed to the right.

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e-mail: jolsson@oaconsulting.com

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402.458.5671

Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*  
402.441.5930

Justin Stine, *Young Professionals*  
402.435.3080

## Water Utility Council

by Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System

The Nebraska State Legislature convened its 60-day session January 6. Adjournment is scheduled April 23. 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>.

LB 682 — (Executive Board) Repeals section governing the Department of Natural Resources Interstate Water Rights Cash Fund that terminated June 30, 2003. *Final reading, 1.21.*

LB 689 (Langemeier) — Changes Water Resources Cash Fund, Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund, and ethanol excise tax provisions. *Natural Resources Committee, hearing January 29.*

LB 725 (Fisher)— Defines fertilizer and agricultural chemical application and distribution equipment. Changes applicability of certain federal motor carrier rules relating to an accident occurrence involving a commercial motor vehicle operating on a highway in interstate or intrastate commerce which results in a fatality or bodily injury to a person. *General file, 1.27.*

LB 734 (Gay)— Eliminates the requirement that when utility shut-off notices are sent to welfare recipients, the notice be sent by certified mail and notice also be given to Nebraska Health & Human Services. *Health & Human Services Committee; hearing February 4.*

LB 742 (McCoy)— Provide requirements for settlement agreements involving public entities and provide that such agreements are public records. *Government & Military Affairs Committee; hearing January 21. (Oppose. The bill was intended to deal with major claim settlements, however as written, covers minor details of operation and contains burdensome requirements.)*

LB 755 (Direks) — Requires certain oil and natural gas pipeline companies to hold landowners harmless for pipelines crossing through their property, meet certain requirements, and pay and distribute an annual pipeline fee. *Natural Resources Committee.*

LB 764 (Fischer) — Authorizes a natural resource district in a river basin not fully appropriated to choose to develop an integrated management plan with the Department of Natural Resources. Currently, there is no authority to establish an integrated management plan in a river basin that is not fully appropriated. *Natural Resources Committee; hearing February 3. (Support)*

LB 782 (Fischer) — Requires vehicles owned or leased by a political subdivision be issued a distinctive license plate; expands the definition of a governmental unit. *Transportation & Telecommunications Committee; hearing January 19.*

LB 785 (Carlson) — Provides an exception to required approval for certain water transfers. *Natural Resources Committee*

LB 917 (Rogert) — Exempts municipal water from sales and use taxes. *Revenue Committee; hearing February 25 (Support)*

LB 925 (Conrad) — Requires employment of Nebraska laborers for public works projects when state unemployment rate is more than five percent. *Business & Labor Committee; hearing February 1. (Oppose. The bill is unconstitutional and violates current state law on bidding. Requires public entities to use a methodology other than low bid for projects.)*

LB 932 (Christensen) — Changes provisions relating to repayment of financial assistance by natural resources districts. *Natural Resources Committee; hearing February 3.*

LB 952 (White) — Exempts certain public utility income for infrastructure replacement and sewer programs from sales tax. *Revenue Committee; hearing February 11 (Support)*

LB 980 (Wallman) — Changes personal services contract requirements and provide restrictions on privatization contracts; applies to state agencies. *Government & Military Affairs Committee; hearing February 4.*

LB 993 (Carlson) — Changes permissible uses of the Water Resources Cash Fund. *Natural Resources Committee.*

LB 1016 (Christensen) — Creates the Nebraska Statewide Water Planning Commission composed of seven people appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. Its task would be to develop a statewide plan for future use and management of water. This is a new commission based on a recognized need for water planning. The Commission is limited to planning. Authority over water remains with the Department of Natural Resources and the natural resources districts. *Natural Resources Committee. (Oppose because there is no guarantee there will be any water experts appointed to the commission.)*

LB 1025 (Avery) — Change provisions relating to stays on new water appropriations. Grants instream flow rights after a basin has become fully appropriated or overappropriated. *Natural Resources Committee.*

## Save these dates!

**May 7** — Water for People Golf Benefit, Miracle Hills Golf Course, 1401 N. 120 St., Omaha.

**July 15** — Water For People Trap Shoot in conjunction with the NWEA Heartland Operator's Conference in Kearney.



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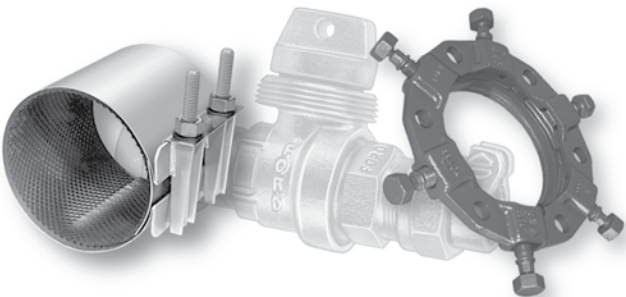


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## Director's Report

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

Someone please tell me that Spring IS just around the corner! As I write this report, my children's school has again been canceled and the drive home will be another



Tony Bilek

white knuckle adventure. By the time we make up snow days, the school year will be sure to run well into June..... paybacks.....

It has been a very busy year already with AWWA activities in our Nebraska Section and on the national level. With this being the first publication since our annual Fall Conference

I would be remiss not congratulate **John Olsson** on the fine job of preparing and executing an excellent conference. Our visiting dignitary, National AWWA Vice-President **Charlie Anderson** of the Texas Section, was very complimentary of the conference, our Board and committee involvement as well as the hospitality we extended to him and his wife Cindy. Charlie said the technical sessions were of high quality in content, pertinence and delivery. He commended the activity and energy that the Board and committees displayed last year and in the plans for the upcoming year. Charlie and Cindy thank the Section for making them feel welcome and comfortable during their visit.

Congratulations to everyone and all the utilities who received awards at the annual awards ceremony. It is your hard work and dedication that make our association a success. Thank you for your commitment to the association.

Only Tap W

The National Board of Directors Annual Winter Board Meeting was held in Saint Petersburg, FL, January 15-17. Unfortunately, there wasn't much time to enjoy the balmy 70-degree weather with all of the meetings and activities. We managed to get some very significant business items accomplished.

1. Nebraska Section bylaw changes were approved.
2. New president-elect, vice-presidents and director-at-large positions were elected.
3. 2010 Budget approved.
4. Strategic Plan approved.
5. Program analysis updated.
6. Section/National Publication alliance report.

## Bylaw Change

With the approval of our bylaw changes, our section will be able to elect up to four trustees to serve on the Executive Board. The Board currently consists of two trustees. The addition of two trustees will allow for more representation on the Board and will hopefully increase involvement and diversity from throughout the state and throughout the various disciplines in our industry.

## New Officers

Vice-President **Jerry Stevens**, Iowa Section, was elected president-elect. He begins his term at AWWA-ACE in June and will become president at the AWWA-ACE in 2011.

Vice-Presidents elected to office include: **John Donahue**, Illinois Section; **Jim Chaffee**, Wisconsin Section; **Don Broussard**, Southwest Section, and **Robert Walters**, North Carolina Section. **Gary McCoy** was elected director-at-large.

## 2010 Budget

The 2010 budget was approved with income revenue of \$29,694,400 and expenditures of \$28,745,000 — a net income of \$950,400. Faced with lower than expected income due to flat publication and membership growth, as well as the overall sluggish economy, the executive board worked with National staff to reduce expenditures

to balance this year's budget. Pay increases were put on hold, positions weren't filled, and office and computer equipment purchases were suspended. The estimated net income surplus will be used as follows:

1. \$300,000 of net income to cover bond covenants;
2. \$300,000 of net income set aside as a cushion, and
3. \$300,000 of net income for new programs as approved by the Executive Committee.

## Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan was approved after discussion of final word crafting of vision and mission statements.

## Program Analysis

This program will provide the Executive Board a tool to measure the success of existing programs and new programs under consideration. The Program Analysis Committee developed a matrix with key program factors. Factors such as program benefits, accessibility, cost per member etc. are entered and tallied to determine if programs are doing well, need assistance or should be sunsetted. This will not only provide valuable data in evaluating existing programs, but will assist the Executive Board in evaluating proposed programs.

## Publications

The National Publications Department is offering sections the opportunity to use their publishing facilities. The offer allows sections the opportunity to have National produce their newsletters. National will solicit advertising both locally and nationally, offer newsletter topics and papers and work with sections on basic layout and content. The caveat is that they will share in profits from producing the newsletter. Our publications committee and Board will investigate this resource to see how it may benefit our section.

A full report on the Winter Board Meeting items are posted on the website.

The search for an executive director has been narrowed to two candidates. The Executive Director Search Committee worked very hard to find the best possible individual to serve in this important position. There may be a special session (perhaps during the Washington Fly-in) to confirm the new director. Keep an eye out on the website for further developments.



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## Nebraska Section AWWA 2010 budget (January 8, 2010)

INCOME	2009 Actual	2010 Budget
Section allotment	\$11,050	\$11,050
Association allotment	3,950	3,950
Multi-section allotment	650	650
Annual meeting	12,304	10,800
Interest on Accounts	1,219	1,500
Advertising income	12,575	6,550
Water for People		
Raffle — Fall Conference	2,285	1,500
Golf Event	7,670	8,000
Trap Event	1,422	2,000
Education-Pipe Workshop	0	3,000
Special Projects—Survey	5,500	0
WARN	5,000	0
Small Systems	190	250
Safety Committee	0	0
Preconference	2,250	0
SRF	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$64,846</b>	<b>\$49,250</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Safety Committee	118.98	200
Cross Connection Workshop	1,810	2,100
Education		
Education Committee	288.22	750
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	4,000	5,000
Special Project Expense/Pipe Workshop	9,000	2,500
Website	0	0
Public Information Committee	387.52	750
Small Systems Committee	679.12	850
Director's spouse meeting expense	0	250
Publications		
Wise Water Words	9,667.67	9,667.65
Membership Directory	4,162.06	0
Advertising	248	0
Student Activity	75	150
Membership	182	150
Tax preparation	700	500
Audit	0	2,100
Awards	338.99	600
Research Foundation	0	1,000
Regional officers' meeting/officer training	0	1,500
Summer Leadership Workshop	0	0
Membership Summit	0	0
WFP Workshop	1,107.88	0
Regional officer meetings	2,484.24	1,000
Annual meeting	1,318.07	1,500
Water for People		
Raffle — Fall Conference	691.81	700
Golf Event	3,596.18	4,000
Trap Event	0	200
Water for People — Payment to WFP		
Raffle — Fall Conference	1,593.19	800
Sustaining Membership	0	0
Golf Event	4,073.82	4,000
Trap Event	1,422.20	1,800
MAC Council	63.14	0
Preconference	1,334.08	0
Scholarships		
Abel Wolman	0	1,000
Stockholm	500	500
Top Ops	0	3,000
Conference	0	0
Students	2,000	3,000
SRF	0	0
Young Professionals	0	50
Water Utility Council (travel, etc.)	0	750
WARN	3,573.13	250
Washington Fly-In	1,755.92	1,500
Board conference calls	381.04	500
PO Box	0	50
Bonds for treasurers (2)	0	250
Miscellaneous	37.60	650
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$57,589.86</b>	<b>\$53,567.65</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$7,256.41</b>	<b>-\$4,317.65</b>

## Brief notes

Congratulations to Nebraska Section AWWA member **Hunter Flodman** of Columbus, for receiving the Othmer Fellowship. He was awarded an assistantship at UNL Civil Engineering, plus an additional \$8,000 for three years for his degree.

Hunter is pursuing a Ph.D. in chemical and biomolecular engineering. He received the Nebraska Section AWWA Theodore Leisen scholarship in 2007.

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**John S. Olsson** has been promoted to senior vice-president, Olsson Associates, Lincoln. John joined the firm in 1989 as part of the civil municipal team. He will lead office operations and local business development.

\*\*\*

**Larry Wieckhorst** has joined Mellen & Associates Inc., Council Bluffs, phone: 800.635.5367. He previously was with Gurney & Associates.

## Water operator workshops

February 9	Fremont
February 10	Aurora
February 11	Beatrice
March 10	Bayard
March 11	Ogallala
April 27	McCook
April 28	Alma
April 29	Burwell

### Backflow Seminars

February 18	Grand Island
April 7	Columbus
May 13	York

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

## Section Retreat



Participants in the Second Annual Nebraska Section AWWA Retreat, August 14, at UNL included, back row, from left: John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates; Marc Rosso, HDR Inc., Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates; David Lathrop, City of Seward; Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System; Doug Woodbeck, Mary Poe, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District; Teresa Konda, HDR Inc., and Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering.

Front, from left: Christian New, UNL grad student; Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District; Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers; Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities, and Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

The group revised the Section's strategic plan; reviewed standard operating procedures for officers and committees; discussed membership recruitment, leadership succession, the DOT survey and new initiatives.

## Membership Committee

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

### Welcome New Members:

Bob Absalon	City of Ravenna
Timothy Adams	UNL student
Aaron Beauclair	UNL student
Robert Brauer	UNL student
Zhang Chiqian	UNL student
Tyler Doane	JEO Consulting Group
Zhe Du	UNL student
Mustafa Elhag	UNL student
Jeff Elliott	E&A Consulting Group
Shannon Killion	UNL student
Christopher Langan	Lamp Rynearson & Associates
Erick Leatherman	Lincoln WinWater Works Co.
Zhongtian Li	UNL student
Mary May	Village of Wallace
Matt McCann	Graham Construction Co.
Ron Morearty	City of Albion
Eric Sorensen	Graham Construction Co.
Benjamin Stewart	UNL student
Zack Tucker	EAD Control Systems

## Water and Sewer Job Openings

The City of Crawford is taking applications for a grade 3 or higher water operator and grade 2 or higher wastewater operator. Will be part of a rotating weekend on-call. Salary and benefits are negotiable depending on experience. Please send letter of interest and resume to City of Crawford, 209 Elm Street, Crawford, NE 69339 or e-mail [cityclerk@bbc.net](mailto:cityclerk@bbc.net).

## Directory updates

### Raymond H. McLeod

6315 O St. #204, Lincoln, NE 68510-2237

### Jackie Peterson

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## Archive and History Committee

by John Miriovsky (402.441.5932) e-mail: [jmiriovsky@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:jmiriovsky@lincoln.ne.gov)

The Archive and History Committee, the brain child of **Rob Pierce**, was created by the board in 2009. He and I are the only two members on the committee.

There are two things I would like to ask of the members. First, we need more committee members! We need your help to decide what kinds of information to include; how we want to make it available to members. Do we want stories about the history of a community water system; stories about past members; an accounting of how the Section came into existence? No matter what we decide to do, much work is involved. The more volunteers we have, the faster and easier this project will come together. And besides, I think this could be fun digging up old stories!

The second thing I need is stories and information. Not knowing at this point what kinds of information will be included, any stories, tales, lies, 'remember when' incidents will help us decide what to include. An example of a story is the one of how the Water Wheel Award came about.

This award is presented to the visiting National AWWA dignitary at the Fall Conference. As I recall the story, (Joel, I need your help) **Dick Hawes** was with a group of Boys Scouts. They were in the woods talking about the environment, including water. One of the Boy Scouts asked Dick what he did. Dick explained that he worked for a water utility and was in charge of Engineering. The young lad was impressed and declared Dick to be a pretty big wheel. Dick agreed. The young lad then went on to say because Dick worked in the water field he could be considered a 'Water Wheel' and a pretty big water wheel at that. As a result, Dick came up with the idea of making a wooden water wheel and presenting it to the visiting dignitary.

Mari publishes three **Wise Water Words** annually. I would like to include a story in each issue. Some may be funny, some serious. But the stories will be yours.

So, one final plea! Please help! Any and all volunteers and stories are welcome.

## Water for People Committee

by Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates (402.474.6311) e-mail: [creinsch@oaconsulting.com](mailto:creinsch@oaconsulting.com)

Save the date for the Water For People golf fundraiser, scheduled for May 7 at Miracle Hills Golf Course, 1401 N. 120 St., Omaha — details to follow.

The tentative date for the Annual Water For People Trap Shoot is July 15, in conjunction with the NWEA Heartland Operator's Conference in Kearney.

We raised more than \$1,400 at the annual fall conference bringing the total of 2009 donations to approximately \$6,500 for the organization. The raffle winners were **David Lathrop**, City of Seward; **Elsie Steinman**, Olsson Associates, and **Jim Wathen**, EA Engineering. Thank you for your support.



The Section's Water for People Committee includes: **Ben Day, Glenn Dostal, Jimmy Harding, Teresa Konda, Christian New** and **Arnold Radloff**. If you would like to join this great group, please contact me.

In light of the recent earthquake in Haiti, I would like to share things that Water For People and their contact partners are doing. Here's an excerpt from their news release:

"As a supporter of Water For People, you know that we are not a relief organization set up to respond to an event of this type... It's our recommendation that those who would like to help in the current crisis direct their donations to these organizations. We do, however, work closely with several organizations that are well-prepared to provide exceptional aid and support during disasters."

Healing Waters International is working to treat water in the Dominican Republic and ship it across the Haitian border as part of a two-phase project. Phase 1 is for immediate response, and includes transporting one-gallon water bottles across the border. Phase 2 includes on-site "plug and play" treatment systems that can be deployed on-site in Haiti.

More information and donation opportunities are available at <http://www.healingwatersintl.org/>. Other Water For People in-country contacts working on the relief effort and rebuilding process include Engineers Without Borders, FilterPure, Water Missions International and others.

## In memoriam

**Bryan E. Andersen**, 54, water operator, Village of Ong, was killed in a car accident December 18, 2009.

Survivors include his parents Gene and Gloria Andersen of Ong; wife, Rebecca of Ong; sons, Kelly Andersen of Hebron and Brent Andersen of Kearney; daughter, Nicole Andersen of Red Cloud; brother, John Andersen of Lincoln; sisters, Vickie Schoenholz of Bruning and Crystal Andersen of Lincoln.

\*\*\*

**Emil Adrian Daugherty**, 60, water plant operator, City of Crawford, died December 5. He was born April 17, 1949 in Ekalaka, MT. Emil graduated from Crawford High School in 1968, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1971.

Emil worked on several different ranches in the area and drove truck for Marvin Rising. On July 29, 1979, he married Theresa Guggenmos.

Emil spent several years working for Crow Butte Resources and most recently served as the Water and Sewer Superintendent for the City of Crawford. He spent 20 years on the Crawford Volunteer Fire Department where he served as chief for the last six years.

He is survived by his daughter, Misty Lemmon and husband John; son, Chad Daugherty, and fiancée Sara Reed of Pagosa Springs, Colo.; daughter, Denee Limbach and husband Zane, of Crawford; five grandchildren; father-in-law, CJ Guggenmos, sisters Dodi Meints, and Alma Barker, and brother, Kenny Daugherty.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 23 years Theresa; parents, Arthur and Pearl (Homringhausen) Daugherty; aunt and uncle May and George Powell, and mother-in-law Shirley Guggenmos.

\*\*\*

**Joseph P. Laferla**, 79, died December 6. He joined the Metropolitan Utilities District in 1952 as an engineer. He was promoted to manager of Engineering and Construction in 1968, to assistant general manager of operations in 1972 and to general manager in 1987. He retired in 1992 with 40 years of service

Joe was a lifetime member of the Nebraska Section AWWA. He chaired the Section in 1970, and received the Fuller Award in 1971. He received the Gold Water Drop Award for 50 years of membership in 2006.



Joe Laferla

Joe headed the St. James Catholic Church school board, parish council and building committee. He led the St. James choir for 35 years, said his son Dave.

"He had a variety of charitable activities he was involved with," including serving funeral dinners at the church, even in the last several years when his health was going, his son said.

Joe also was on the board of Roncalli High School, Metro YMCA, the Cathedral Arts Project, Immanuel Hospital and then on the Alegent board after Immanuel and Bergan Mercy merged.

He was president and served on the board of the then-Omaha Safety Council, the group now called the Safety and Health Council of the Midlands. Joe also was a 35-year member of Suburban Rotary.

Other survivors include daughter Kathy Strawhecker of Omaha; sons Dan and Tom of Omaha, Mike of Valley, and 13 grandchildren.

Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Patsy, and granddaughter, Anastasia Laferla.

## 2009 Fall Conference November 4-5, Kearney

### Gold Water Drop Awards

Gold Water Drop Awards for 50 years of AWWA membership were presented to **Joseph L. Gerlt**, retired manager of Water Operations, Metropolitan Utilities District; **Raymond H. McLeod** and **W. James Wells**, Gonzales Co.

#### Joseph L. Gerlt

**Joe Gerlt** joined the Metropolitan Utilities District in 1956 and retired in 1996 with 40 years of service. He began his career in the water industry after receiving his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University.

Joe held several positions at M.U.D. including the assistant superintendent of the Florence Water treatment Plant, superintendent of the Platte South Water Treatment Plant, manager of Services, and manager of Engineering and Construction prior to his promotion to manager of Water Operations in 1989.

Joe chaired the Section in 1982, and received the Fuller Award in 1982.

#### Raymond H. McLeod

**Ray McLeod** attended Northwestern University where he earned a degree in Chemical Engineering. After serving in World War II, he joined Dow Chemical Co. in Chicago.

Later on he moved to Wallace and Tieman's Electro Rustproofing Division where he did work in corrosion control. The company became Pennwalt Corp. Ray was very active in the National Association of Corrosion Engineers.



**Jim Wells, Gonzales Co.,** receives the Gold Water Drop Award from AWWA Vice-President Charlie Anderson for 50 years of AWWA membership.

When he moved to Lincoln, Ray joined the Nebraska Section AWWA and held various chair positions including Director. He chaired the Section in 1969, and received the Fuller Award in 1970.

#### W. James Wells, Jr.

**Jim Wells** earned a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 1954, and a master degree in Sanitary Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1958. He is a registered professional engineer in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. He chaired the Section in 1980.

Jim's career has taken him to Kirkham & Michael Consulting Engineers (1958-1969); Bell, Galyardt and Wells Inc. (1969-1978); Wells Engineering Inc. (1978-1988); Wells Engineers Environmental Inc. (1988-1997); HDR Inc. (1997 to February 2009), and to Gonzalez Co. from March 2009 to present.

He has experience in both water and wastewater and has managed several projects with packing plants industrial wastewater. He also published numerous publications from 1991-2006.

### Lifetime Member Awards

Lifetime Members Awards were presented to **Larry Andreasen**, Fremont Department of Utilities; **Thomas Fuenning**, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality; **Dale Jacobson**, Jacobson-Satchell Consultants, and **Ron Woracek**, The Schemmer Associates.

#### Larry Andreasen

**Larry Andreasen** joined the Fremont Department of Utilities in 1971 as a service worker, and was promoted to superintendent of Water and Wastewater in 1996.

He was involved in the development of the first well field, and supervised the planning and development of the water treatment plant and 5-million-gallon water reservoir, which went on-line in December of 1997, plus the completion of the 30-inch transmission line to the City of Fremont. Larry also oversees the sewer collection system and its 22 lift stations.

Larry chaired the Nebraska Section AWWA in 2005 and received the Water Industry Service Award in 2003. Although he really enjoys his time at work, Larry also likes to get away and be outdoors hunting and fishing.

#### Thomas S. Fuenning

**Tom Fuenning** began his career with the City of St. Louis Water Division and has spent the last 24 years working for Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. He works primarily with the State Revolving Fund and is very active in the use of these funds to help communities achieve their needs. Tom is registered as a professional engineer in Missouri and Nebraska.

#### C. Dale Jacobson

**Dale Jacobson** is the president of Jacobson Satchell Consultants, Omaha and Denver. He is a registered professional engineer with 39 years of environmental engineering experience in municipal water and wastewater, ground water, solid waste, hazardous waste and low level radioactive waste.

In the 1980s, Dale served on the Section's fall conference committee and chaired the membership committee. He served as president of the Water Environment Federation in 1998 and board member of its



**Larry Andreasen**

research foundation. He has served on committees for the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). He is president of EWRI and serves on the Board of Civil Engineering Certification. Dale represents WEF on the Founders Council of the Stockholm International Water Institute, and chairs the UNL Civil Engineering Advisory Board.



**C. Dale Jacobson**

Dale is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army Reserve. His career includes work with Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers (1971-1979); HDR Inc. (1979-1989) and Jacobson Satchell Consultants (1989-present).

**Ronald Woracek**

Ron is principal/PM of The Schemmer Associates, Omaha, NE.

**Meritorious Operator Award**

2009 was the first year the Section presented this award. The recipient was **John Gawart**, foreman, Water Distribution, Nebraska City Utilities.

John began his career in the water industry in 1973. During the past 36 years, he has acquired a vast knowledge of the system and is role model for the new employees, taking the time and effort to explain different situations. John is a Grade 3 water operator.



**John Gawart, Nebraska City Utilities, receives the Meritorious Operator Award from AWWA Vice-President Charlie Anderson.**

**WISA**

The WISA (Water Industry Service Award) recognizes Section members who have untiringly served the water works industry. Awardees or utilities must be current members and have been continuous AWWA members for at least five years. Awardees must have served the water works industry a minimum of 20 years.

Six people received WISA awards. They were: **Orville Davidson**, retired director of Public Works, City of York; **Derril Marshall**, general manager, Fremont Department of Utilities; **Rick Melcher**,



**Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc., received the Outstanding Volunteer Award. From left: Charlie Anderson, National AWWA vice-president, Tony and Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering, 2009 chair, Nebraska Section AWWA.**

utility superintendent and zoning administrator, City of Aurora; **Meredith C. “Clint” Schaff**, president, M.C. Schaff Associates; **Albert Wood**, utility superintendent, City of Red Cloud, and **Thomas A. Wurtz**, president, Metropolitan Utilities District.

**Orville Davidson**

**Orville Davidson** retired May 31, 2009 as public works director for the City of York after 37 years of service. He chaired the Section in 1991 and is a lifetime member. Orville received the Fuller Award in 1992.

Orville also was president and a house delegate of the American Public Works Association. He served as president of the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section from 1993-1994. In addition, he served on the Board of Examiners for County Highway and Street Superintendents.

**Derril Marshall**

Following graduation from Iowa State University in 1971 with a degree in Civil Engineering, **Derril Marshall** began his career as a civil engineer tech at Joliet, IL, and moved to Fremont in 1975 as city engineer. He was named public works director and city engineer in 1979 and promoted to general manager in 1999.

Derril and his wife, Carol, have two children and three grandchildren.

**Rick Melcher**

**Rick Melcher** has served the water industry for 26 years. He chairs the Small Systems Committee and is involved with NeWARN. Rick also serves on the boards of the Nebraska Planning and Zoning and Diggers Hot Line of Nebraska.

Nebraska Health & Human Services recognized him as an outstanding water operator in 2007, and he received the outstanding public service award from the Aurora Area Chamber of Commerce in 2006.

**M.C. Schaff**

**M.C. “Clint” Schaff** is president of M.C. Schaff Associates of Scottsbluff. He is a registered civil engineer in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and Kansas and also is registered as a land surveyor in Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota. He received his



**WISA Award winners, from left, top:** Orville Davidson, retired, City of York; Tom Wurtz, Metropolitan Utilities District; Rick Melcher, City of Aurora. **Front:** Derril Marshall, City of Fremont; Clint Schaff, Scottsbluff.

**Lower right:** Jerry Obrist represents Lincoln Water System for winning the Water Tasting Contest. Also competing in the contest were Aurora, Hastings, Metropolitan Utilities District, Norfolk, Scottsbluff and Seward.

engineering degree from what is now Georgia Tech University in 1957.

Clint has vast knowledge on water issues and great expertise in designing, implementing and vision for solutions to water and wastewater issues.

Clint is a Lifetime member of the American Water Works Association.

### **Albert Wood**

**Albert Wood** began work for the City of Red Cloud in 1971. He worked his way up the ranks to the utility crew and then in 1989 he was named utility superintendent. Albert is a Grade 4 and 6 water operator.

Albert was awarded “The Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award” in 1998 and also received the Rudy Hultgren Award in 2007. Albert and his wife, Dorothy, have three sons and six grandchildren. In his spare time Albert likes to go hunting.

### **Tom Wurtz**

**Tom Wurtz**, president of M.U.D., has a bachelor of science degree in political science, Latin American studies and law degree from UNL. He joined the Metropolitan Utilities District in 1980 as an attorney. He advanced to assistant general counsel in 1983, general counsel in 1992 and president in 2001.

Tom was responsible for all the state and federal permits required to build the Platte West Treatment Plant. He also handled all the lobbying functions regarding water law at the state and federal levels. All this was done before he was named president of M.U.D. Since he has been president he has been involved in the following improvements.

- \* In 2003 the switch to using chloramines for water treatment
- \* In 2005 the State Street Pump Station went on-line

- \* In 2006 the issuing of \$196 million of 25-year tax-exempt bonds.
- \* Completed project to increase water pressures to Elkhorn.

## **NHHS Water Operator Awards**

**Jack Stevens**, Villages of Elsie and Venango

**Jack Stevens** works for two villages. The first village had unrelenting total coliform violations. Through his investigative efforts, he identified the problem caused by the water tower breathing in airborne dust that contained bacteria from the local grain elevator. He speciated the bacteria from the air and from the positive samples and found it was the same. The violations seemed to occur when the elevator was operating. Following his advice, the village sealed the water tower and the violations disappeared.

The second system had a long history of violations and non-compliance with the regulations. An administrative order was issued

## **2010 Fall Conference**

**Teresa Konda**, HDR Inc., is the planning chair for the 2010 conference, November 4-5, in Kearney. She is looking for agenda items especially topics pertaining to water operators.

Please contact Teresa with your suggestions, 402.926.7063 or e-mail: [teresa.konda@hdrinc.com](mailto:teresa.konda@hdrinc.com)).

against the system and the Department revoked the then water operator's license for unprofessional conduct. Within six months of taking over operation of the system, Jack had the system back in compliance with the regulations. The coliform violations had slowed considerably. Although still working through a few kinks, Jack has brought the system a long way forward from where it was a year ago. The Department is confident the village will be in full compliance in the very near future.

**Ronald A. Morearty**, City of Albion

**Ron Morearty** began his career with city government in 1990 with the City of Plainview. He moved to the City of Albion in 1997, and holds Grade I and VI Water Operator Licenses, plus a Class 2 Wastewater Operators License.

Ron works diligently to insure the city water system is not negatively affected either by man-made or natural disasters. He strongly supports wellhead protection and cross-connection control/backflow prevention. Ron is working on developing a new water source, and has worked tirelessly, gathering pertinent information so that the City may make informed intelligent decisions regarding its future.

## Safety Awards

### Certificate of Safety Achievement:

Class

I = City of Aurora

II = Auburn Board of Public Works

III = Beatrice Board of Public Works

IV = Lincoln Water System

### Certificate of Recognition:

Class

I = None

II = Cities of Chadron, Crete, Scottsbluff, Gering and Seward

III = City of Norfolk

IV = Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha

The Nebraska Section AWWA Safety Awards are based on survey application data submitted by a water system. The data is scored by the committee using a 1,000 point grading system which focuses

## Non Top Ops



The first place team winning the Non Top Ops Competition included, from left: Shawn Ovenden, HDR Inc.; Mark Christiansen, City of York; Allen Schoemaker, City of Blair, and Mary Poe, Nebraska Health & Human Services.

Capturing second place were: Charlie Anderson, National AWWA vice-president; Doug Asche, Jeff Kohn and Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District.

50 percent on safety performance and 50 percent on their safety programs.

A score of 600 is needed to receive a Certificate of Recognition Award. The Certificate of Safety Achievement requires a minimum score of 750 out of 1,000 points and is selected as the top system by the committee in their respective operator class. The respective classes are Class I (1-4 operators), Class II (6-10 operators), Class III (11-15 operators) and Class IV (more than 15 operators).

Safety performance grading looks at accidents, injuries and time lost due to injuries. The committee scores the past year's time loss accidents, the comparison of the past year and the last three years' average along with the overall record of the past five years.

Safety program's grading pertains to the systems overall safety program and related activities. Items such as safety committee activity, periodic safety meetings and the topics discussed the tracking of accidents along with repairs, purchased and procedural changes made to eliminate or at least minimize future incidents. This area also looks at personal protective equipment usage, availability, handling, and care along with the systems training programs.

## Top Ops



Top Ops first place team included, from left: Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont, and Greg Vacha, Michael Foods of Wakefield. The Lincoln Water System captured second place honors. The team included: Bill Fish, Eric Lee and Julie Vales.

## Ultimate Backflow Challenge



The first place team winning the Ultimate Backflow Challenge included, from left: Eric Melcher, City of Aurora; Kevin Petersen, Steve Kelley and Bryan McAllister, Beatrice Board of Public Works.

Capturing second place were: Jane Hemberger and Kelly Schade, Thermal King of Hastings; Arnold Radloff, Lincoln Water System, and Greg Hinrichsen, Midwest Assistance Program.



Christian New, UNL Civil Engineering (right) sells Water for People raffle tickets to Bruce Dreesen, Griffin Pipe Co. The Water for People Committee collected \$2,250 for the cause.

## 2010 Fall Conference

**Teresa Konda**, HDR Inc., is the planning chair for the 2010 conference, November 4-5, in Kearney. She is looking for agenda items especially topics pertaining to water operators.

Please contact Teresa with your suggestions, 402.926.7063 or e-mail: [teresa.konda@hdrinc.com](mailto:teresa.konda@hdrinc.com)).

## Theodore A. Liesen Scholarships



From left: Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering, 2009 chair, Nebraska Section AWWA, and scholarship winners Shannon Killion and Aaron Beauclair.

Since 1994, the Nebraska Section AWWA has provided \$31,550 in scholarships to 47 students. 2009 recipients included:

**Aaron Beauclair** (\$1,000): A UNL graduate student majoring in environmental engineering, Aaron holds a BS degree in civil engineering from UNL. He is a member of AWWA student chapter, U.S. national civil engineering honor society and Chi Epsilon. He plans to own his own firm, specializing in water and wastewater for small municipalities.

**Shannon Killion** (\$1,000): A UNL graduate student majoring in environmental engineering, Shannon earned a BS degree in biological systems engineering from UNL. She is a member of the AWWA student chapter, Society of Women Engineers and the national engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi. She plans to pursue a career with an environmental engineering firm.



Conference attendees, from left, standing: Arnold Radloff, Lincoln Water System; Jennifer Hoevet, Olsson Associates; Mary Poe, Nebraska Health & Human Services.

Seated: Harold Reynolds, Midwest Assistance Program; Chuck Schmid, City of St. Paul; Scott Winfield, Village of Arnold.

## Fluoridation Award

Sixty-five public water systems in Nebraska adjust the fluoride level in the water they deliver to customers

Forty-one systems received the fluoridation quality award from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at the Nebraska Section's annual conference in Kearney, November 5.

The award was presented to the utilities for their consistent and professional adjustment of the water fluoride content to the optimum level for oral health for 12 consecutive months during 2008.

Public water suppliers who received the Fluoridation Quality Award included:

Village of Adams  
 City of Albion  
 Village of Allen  
 Village of Arlington

City of Auburn  
 City of Bassett  
 Beatrice State Developmental Center  
 City of Blair  
 City of Blue Hill  
 Cedar-Knox Rural Water Project  
 City of Columbus  
 City of Emerson  
 City of Fairbury  
 City of Falls City  
 City of Fremont  
 City of Gering  
 City of Gordon  
 Village of Hallam  
 City of Hartington  
 City of Holdrege  
 City of Kearney  
 City of Laurel  
 Lincoln Water System  
 City of Lyons  
 Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha  
 City of Nebraska City

City of Ogallala  
 City of Osmond  
 City of Papillion  
 Village of Pender  
 City of Plattsmouth  
 City of Red Cloud  
 City of Scribner  
 City of South Sioux City  
 City of Springfield  
 City of Syracuse  
 City of Tilden  
 Village of Valparaiso  
 Village of Wausa  
 City of Waverly  
 City of Wayne

Nebraska Health & Human Services extends congratulations to the systems listed above for their diligent efforts in maintaining fluoride at the optimum level for protection against tooth decay and protecting public health.



Water Tasting Contest judges, from left: Stan Clouse, mayor, City of Kearney; Charlie Anderson, AWWA vice-president; Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc., and Kathleen Alexander, HDR Inc.

The conference attracted 57 vendors and 12 sponsors providing a total gross profit of \$25,560.

From left: Greg Hope, Utility Equipment Co.; Craig Stephens, Mueller Co.; Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works, and Ryan Kieckhafer, Utility Equipment Co.



National AWWA Vice-President Charlie Anderson, right, presents "Best Water Tasting" Award to Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System.





Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services, gives attendees an update on regulatory issues.



The Top Ops second place team included, from right: Bill Fish, Eric Lee and Julie Vales, Lincoln Water System.



Conference attendees.

**Water System Design  
Workshop, April 1  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Mahoney State Park, Ashland**

**Cost: \$40 before March 19**

**\$50 at the door**

5.5 CEUs for water operators  
PDH for professional engineers

Topics: Asset management; surge pressure and water hammer; thrust restraint; retrofitting old plants; infrastructure rehabilitation; no-dig technology, etc.

Go to <http://www.awwaneb.org> for agenda and more information or call Steve Owen, Lincoln Water System, 402.441.5925; e-mail: [sowen@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:sowen@lincoln.ne.gov)

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

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Dave Ornduff, Regional Manager

Shown: 3.0 MG Natgun water storage tank for the Council Bluffs, IA Water Works.  
Engineering by Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, MO.

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# Wise Water Words

Vol. 47 No. 2

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

Summer 2010

## Nominations Committee

by Dr. Bruce Dvorak  
UNL Civil Engineering  
(402.472.3431)

The National AWWA Board of Directors approved changes to the Nebraska Section bylaws in January. In accordance with the revised bylaws, two trustee positions were added to board.

At their March 22 meeting, the board appointed **Ben Day**, Olsson Associates, and **Milo Rust**, City of Chadron, to the vacancies.

Ben and Milo will serve the remainder of the two-year trustee positions which end at the 2011 fall conference.



Milo Rust



Ben Day

## Golfers raise \$4,200 for WFP

The Water for People golf benefit, Friday, May 7, at Miracle Hill Golf Club, Omaha, raised \$4,200 for the organization, according to **Craig Reinsch**, Olsson Associates, event chair. A total of 88 golfers and 19 sponsors and donors participated in the annual event.

Since the golf benefit was initiated in 2005, the Section has raised approximately \$18,200 for Water for People.

The first place team with a score of 59, included: **Andrew Hansen**, Black & Veatch; **Nick McElvain**, **John Miriovsky**, Lincoln Water System, and **Jeff Selby**, Fairbanks-Morse.

Sponsors and donors included: Black & Veatch; CH2M Hill; EA Engineering; Electric Pump; Engineering Design Consultants; Garney Construction; Gurney & Associates; Griffin Pipe Co.; Hanson Pressure Pipe; HD Supply Waterworks; HDR Inc.; HTM Sales, Inc.; JEO Consulting Group Inc.; Metropolitan Utilities District; Midwest Labs; Mission Clay Products; Northwest Pipe Co.; Olsson Associates; Olmsted & Perry Consulting Engineers, Inc.; Terracon, and Vessco, Inc.

Also helping with the event were: **Christian New**, Terracon Consultants; and UNL Civil Engineering students, **Tim Adams** and **Ben Stewart**. (Photos on page 5)

## Drinking water week proclamation



Governor Dave Heineman signed a proclamation April 7, declaring May 2-8 Drinking Water Week in Nebraska. Attending the proclamation signing were: from left: Lash Chaffin, League of Nebraska Municipalities; Jeff Kohn, Metropolitan Utilities District;

Larry Cast, consumer member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Public Water Supply; Governor Heineman; Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; David Houghtelling, City of Cambridge, and Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health and Human Services.

## Chair's comments

If someone were to ask me what our Section's single largest asset is, I would pause for about a tenth of a second before boldly replying, "Our membership."

The hard work and dedication of our team is simply remarkable and can be witnessed through the dialogue that occurs at our Board meetings and the independent work that occurs between meetings.

The "heavy lifting" that makes our Section move forward occurs at the committee level. Even though the Nebraska Section has 20 committees, they are not sitting on their hands. Each has a purpose and is actively working to accomplish a host of goals.

Every year, the Board reviews the committee list to make sure they still are applicable and have value. In some circumstances, new or temporary (ad hoc) committees are formed to focus on a specific initiative, such as the new Nitrate/Source Water Protection Committee. Committees also are a great way for the membership to get involved. If you are interested in joining one of the committees, please contact the Committee Chair ... and you will be put to work.

Another way to get involved with the Section is to attend our annual summer retreats. Quite honestly, I consider these events to be one of the most vital activities we conduct each year. This is where we plan for the future and identify, if I may paraphrase a sound bite from Microsoft, "where do we want to go today."

This year, the retreat will be August 13 at UNL's East Campus, 9th Floor, Hardin Hall. More details will follow as the agenda for this event is crafted under the leadership of Vice Chair **Rob Pierce**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

My final comment comes in the form of a request. Could you identify someone who would be a good addition to our water community? Perhaps it is someone you work with or someone in a neighboring utility. Would you tell them about AWWA and ask them to join?

If each one of our 368 members recruited one new member, we could double our size and increase our ability to provide quality drinking water in sufficient quality for all Nebraskans practically overnight. Please consider recruiting one new member ... for their benefit and ours.

Have a great summer and stay safe as you travel about enjoying the tap water from each of our public water systems.



John S. Olsson

## Officers and Trustees

John S. Olsson, 402.458.5661

e-mail: jolsson@oaconsulting.com

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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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## Water Utility Council

by Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System

The Nebraska State Legislature adjourned its 60-day session April 14. The Nebraska Section AWWA followed the proposals listed below. To see the entire bill proposal, go to the Unicameral's website: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov>.

New laws go into effect July 13, unless they have an emergency clause. If they have an emergency clause, the law goes into effect upon the Governor's signature.

LB 682 — (Executive Board) Repeals section governing the Department of Natural Resources Interstate Water Rights Cash Fund that terminated June 30, 2003. *Signed by the Governor February 11.*

LB 689 (Langemeier) — Changes Water Resources Cash Fund, Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund, and ethanol excise tax provisions. *Signed by the Governor March 17.*

LB 725 (Fisher)— Defines fertilizer and agricultural chemical application and distribution equipment. Changes applicability of certain federal motor carrier rules relating to an accident occurrence involving a commercial motor vehicle operating on a highway in interstate or intrastate commerce which results in a fatality or bodily injury to a person. *Signed by the Governor March 3.*

LB 734 (Gay)— Eliminates the requirement that when utility shut-off notices are sent to welfare recipients, the notice be sent by certified mail and notice also be given to Nebraska Health & Human Services. *Contents of this bill were amended into LB 849, which was signed by the Governor April 13 with the emergency clause.*

LB 742 (McCoy)— Provide requirements for settlement agreements involving public entities and provide that such agreements are public records. *Signed by the Governor March 30.*

LB 755 (Direks) — Requires certain oil and natural gas pipeline companies to hold landowners harmless for pipelines crossing through their property, meet certain requirements, and pay and distribute an annual pipeline fee. *Killed April 14.*

LB 764 (Fischer) — Authorizes a natural resource district in a river basin not fully appropriated (Lower Platte River Basin) to choose to develop an integrated management plan with the Department of Natural Resources. Currently, there is no authority to establish an integrated management plan in a river basin that is not fully appropriated. *Signed by the Governor March 17.*

LB 782 (Fischer) — Requires vehicles owned or leased by a political subdivision be issued a distinctive license plate; expands the definition of a governmental unit. *Killed April 14.*

LB 785 (Carlson) — Provides an exception to required approval for certain water transfers. *Killed April 14.*

LB 917 (Rogert) — Exempts municipal water from sales and use taxes. *Killed April 14.*

LB 925 (Conrad) — Requires employment of Nebraska laborers for public works projects when state unemployment rate is more than five percent. *Killed April 14.*

LB 932 (Christensen) — Changes provisions relating to repayment of financial assistance by natural resources districts. *Killed April 14.*

LB 952 (White) — Exempts certain public utility income for infrastructure replacement and sewer programs from sales tax. *Killed March 24.*

LB 980 (Wallman) — Changes personal services contract requirements and provide restrictions on privatization contracts; applies to state agencies. *Killed February 23.*

LB 993 (Carlson) — Changes permissible uses of the Water Resources Cash Fund. *Signed by the Governor April 12.*

LB 1016 (Christensen) — Creates the Nebraska Statewide Water Planning Commission composed of seven people appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. Its task would be to develop a statewide plan for future use and management of water. This is a new commission based on a recognized need for water planning. The Commission is limited to planning. Authority over water remains with the Department of Natural Resources and the natural resources districts. *Killed April 14.*

LB 1025 (Avery) — Change provisions relating to stays on new water appropriations. Grants instream flow rights after a basin has become fully appropriated or overappropriated. *Killed March 2.*

### Washington D.C. Fly-In

**Jim Shields**, Metropolitan Utilities District, and I attended the Washington D.C. Fly-In, March 24. We visited with representatives of U.S. Senators Mike Johanns and Ben Nelson and U.S. Representatives Jeff Fortenberry and Lee Terry.

We lobbied congressional staff on the chemical facility security bill and infrastructure bank concept.

#### *Chemical facility security:*

- Exclude public water systems from orders to use "inherently safer technology.
- Not provide sensitive information to people who should not have that information.

#### *Infrastructure bank concept:*

- Legislation that would create a national water infrastructure bank.
- S.1005 which would boost funding for the SRF program and make needed administrative improvements;
- Similar legislation is being drafted in the House.



**Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.**  
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 Roger D. Gellhaus  
 Tony Bilek

---

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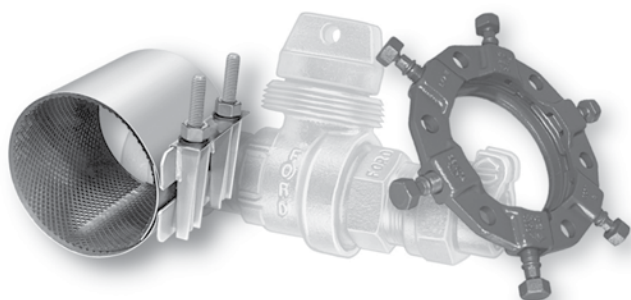


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## Director's Report

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

**David LaFrance**, 46, is the new AWWA National Executive Director. He brings a wealth of experience in the water industry and should serve the association very well.

David served as director of finance for Denver Water Authority for the past 12 years and is a respected industry leader in the areas of utility economics and water rates. David was selected by the AWWA



**Tony Bilek**

Board of Directors after unanimous recommendations from a Transition Committee and the Executive Committee, both comprised of AWWA volunteer leaders. He succeeds Gary Zimmerman, who resigned in March 2009.

Prior to being named director of finance at Denver Water in 1998, David served as the utility's manager of rate administration for five years. From 1988 to 1993, he was a utility rate economist with CH2M Hill in Denver and Portland, OR, and from 1986 to

1988 he was a natural resources economist with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers in Portland.

David earned an MBA in finance from the University of Colorado—Denver in 1992 and a BS in economics from Lewis and Clark College in Portland in 1986.

**ACE** — I will attend the AWWA-ACE in Chicago, June 20-24 where I look forward to getting to know **David LaFrance**. I encourage any member to seek resources that will allow attending ACE. This is a world-class event that has something to offer for anyone in the water industry.

**Annual Fall Conference November 4-5** — Chair-Elect **Teresa Konda** of HDR Inc., and the conference committee have laid the groundwork for what should be another excellent fall conference in Kearney. Keep your eye out for the registration and information on our website. The Fall Conference provides a great opportunity for expanding your professional abilities, networking with other operators, engineers and vendors and hopefully having some fun in the process.

### AWWA VP Debra Kaye featured speaker at the fall conference —

Debra began her career in the water industry as a meter reader. She also worked as an assistant water plant operator, water plant operator, and foreman while attending the University of Nevada, Reno where she earned a BS degree in Civil Engineering.

After completing her degree, Debra was an engineer, designing pump stations, tanks, a sodium hypochlorite system, and some electrical substation structures.

She also designed a ventilation/cooling system for pump stations that became a company standard.



**Debra Kaye**

Debra is the president of Kayepability Consulting, and serves as a client services manager for Black & Veatch.

Debra joined AWWA in 1990. She serves on the Board of Directors as a director from the California-Nevada Section, and is a George Warren Fuller Award recipient. She also has been recognized for revisions to Nevada Administrative Code Operator Certification Regulations, and in 2006, was named one of 200 extraordinary women engineers by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

When you see Debra at the conference, please let her know any issues you'd like to see addressed either on the Section or National level.

**Wise Water Words** — **Wise Water Words** will have a new design in 2011. National AWWA has offered to share production costs of the newsletter which should lower expenses. There will be more advertising plus National AWWA articles in the new design, however we will maintain many of the same articles specific to our section.

**Mari Matulka**, who has done an outstanding job as editor the past 23 years, writing, designing and producing **Wise Water Words**, plans to resign as chair of the Publications Committee. She has been very helpful in the transition period and will continue to serve on the committee. **Brian Gongol**, DJ Gongol & Associates Inc., has graciously agreed to chair the committee in 2011.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Conference. Have a safe and happy summer.

## Heroism Award



From left: Sam Barlean, Steve Kelley of Beatrice, chair of AWWA Awards Committee, and Mike Sousek.

The Nebraska Section AWWA presented national heroism awards to **Mike Sousek**, rural water manager, and **Sam Barlean**, operations and maintenance specialist, Lower Platte North Natural Resources District, for saving the life of **Bob Heimann** last November.

The two saved the life of Bob, the NRD's operations and maintenance manager, who was drowning in a pond near Wahoo. The three had waded into the water to clear mud and tree branches packed by beavers into an 18-inch drain pipe, used to regulate the pond's water level. Bob lost his footing and fell into the pond during the maintenance procedure and was sucked towards the pipe.

The awards were presented May 7, at Miracle Hills Country Club, Omaha.

## WFP Golf Benefit *(continued from page 1)*



The Black & Veatch team captured first place with a score of 59. From left: John Miriovsky, Nick McElvain, Lincoln Water System; Andrew Hansen, Black & Veatch, and Jeff Selby, Fairbanks-Morse. Two teams tied for second place with a score of 63 — Griffin Pipe Co. and Olsson Associates. They had a hole play-off and the Olsson Associates team was named second place winner.



The Olsson Associates Team 1, second place winners included, from left: Matt Larson, Olsson Associates; Keith Kontor, City of Fremont, and Dennis Rinkol, Jeff Schovanec, Metropolitan Utilities District.



The Griffin Pipe Co. third place team included, from left: Bruce Dreesen, Griffin Pipe Co.; Adam Rutjens, Rutjens Construction, Tilden; Rad Dobson, Dobson Brothers Construction, Lincoln, and Joe McLaughlin, HD Supply.

# WFP Golf Benefit *(continued from page 5)*

Other teams:



**Combo Team**, from left: Jeff Kohn, Metropolitan Utilities District; Jim Wathen, E & A Consulting; Jeff Forney, Electric Pump, and Chris Westegard, West-E-Com, Valley.



**Bert Gurney Associates Team 2**, from left: Jeff Hubby, Bert Gurney Associates; Keith Gilmore, Gilmore Associates, Columbus; Steve Hergert and Amit Shrivastava, HDR Inc.



**Bert Gurney Associates Team 1**, from left: Kathleen Alexander, HDR Inc.; Keith Alexander, Metropolitan Utilities District; Bob Stubbe, City of Omaha, and Chris Johnson, Bert Gurney Associates.



**HD Supply Waterworks Team**, from left: Dave Dunning, Nick Martin, HD Supply; Troy Compston, Shane Wagner, Midlands Contracting, Kearney.



**HDR Inc. Team 1**, from left: Marc Rosso, Kent Prior, HDR, Inc.; Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District, and Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System.





HDR Inc. Team 2, from left: Glenn Dostal, HDR, Inc.; Kevin Tobin, Jim Shields, Metropolitan Utilities District, and Chip Haas, HDR Inc.



HTM Sales Team 1, from left: Tom Thierolf, Roger Pike, HTM Sales; Zack Lane, Russell Westegard, West-E-Com, Valley.



HDR Inc. Team 3, from left: Daryl Kottwitz, HDR, Inc.; Al Schoemaker, City of Blair; Chris Koenig, HDR Inc., and Erv Portis, City of Plattsmouth.



HTM Sales Team 2, from left: Kevin McGill, HTM Sales; Jody Digilo, Galaxy Motors, Omaha; Jay Borman, ConAgra, and Don Wilmes, Rising Star Studio, Minneapolis.

## Flag and Hole Winners

- Eric Obert (closest to pin, Hole 2)
- Steve Rutjens (longest drive in fairway, Hole 4)
- Dave Beyersdorf (longest putt, Hole 5)
- Chris Johnson (closest to pin on first shot, Hole 6)
- Troy Compston (longest drive in fairway, Hole 9)
- Mike Sousek (longest putt, Hole 13)
- Shane Wegner (closest to pin on first shot, Hole 15)
- Kent Prior (longest drive in fairway, Hole 17)



Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers Team, from left: Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael; Charlie Krajicek, City of Omaha; Blake Birkel, Kirkham Michael, and Joe Soucie, City of LaVista.

## WFP Golf Benefit *(continued from page 7)*



Lower Platte NRD Team, from left: Mike Sousek, Sam Barlean, Lower Platte NRD; Eric Obert, JEO Consulting Group, and Steve Rutjens, Rutjens Construction, Tilden.



Mission Clay Pipe Team, from left: David Gill, Mission Clay Pipe; Shayne Huxoll, Olsson Associates; Monty Habrock, Roloff Construction, Omaha, and Troy Lagasse, North Core, Springfield.



Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc. Team, from left: Dan Roberts, City of Fremont; Dave Beyersdorf, City of Lincoln, and Jordan Bang, City of Fremont.



Olsson Associates Team 2, from left: Ben Day, Ray Schroeder, Olsson Associates; Tim Lineweber, Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works.



Olsson Associates Team 3, from left: James Burroughs, Olsson Associates; Jim Hrouda, Steve Noren, City of Hickman, and Kent Rohren, Olsson Associates.



PeopleService Team, from left: Loren McKown, Chad Meyer, Duane Grashorn and Al Meyer, PeopleService.



City of Schuyler Team, from left: Jim McGowen, City of Schuyler Utilities; Phil Christensen, Shine, Shag & Service; Steve Bailey, Folda & Company Insurance, and Dave Reinecke, president of the City Council.

## Water for People Committee

**Craig Reinsch**, Olsson Associates, chair

**Ben Day**, Olsson Associates

**Glenn Dostal**, HDR Inc.

**Teresa Konda**, HDR Inc.

**Christian New**, Terracon Consultants

**Arnold Radloff**, Lincoln Water System

If you would like to join the committee, contact Craig Reinsch, 402.458.5671; e-mail: [creinsch@oaconsulting.com](mailto:creinsch@oaconsulting.com)

## Raffle Prize Winners

Jody Diglio, Jim Fogarty, Monty Habrock, Andrew Hansen, Jon Harger, Jim Hrouda, Chris Koenig, Daryl Kottwitz, Charlie Krajicek, Nick Martin, Jim McGowen, Loren McKown, Steve Noren, Adam Rutjens and Jim Wathen.

Raffle prizes provided by: EDC, Electric Pump, Midwest Laboratories, Terracon Consultants and Upstream Brewing Co.



Vessco Team, from left: Jon Harger, Vessco; John Eriksen, Eriksen Construction, Blair; Dane Simonsen, JEO Consulting Group, and Scott Schmoker, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers.



Water Production Kemosabes (WPKs), from left: Avery Quakenbush, Lincoln Water System; Jim Fogarty, James Moore, Lincoln Water System, and Ricky Greene, Kids Planet Inc. Child Development Center, Lincoln.



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## Nebraska Section AWWA 2010 budget (May 6, 2010)

INCOME	2010 Actual	2010 Budget
Section allotment	\$11,050.00	\$11,050
Association allotment	3,950.00	3,950
Multi-section allotment	252.45	650
Annual meeting	14,623.21	10,800
Interest on Accounts	178.49	1,500
Advertising income	900.00	6,550
Water for People		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0	1,500
Golf Event	0	8,000
Trap Event	0	2,000
Education-Pipe Workshop	0	3,000
Special Projects	0	0
WARN	0	0
Small Systems	0	250
Safety Committee	0	0
Preconference	0	0
SRF	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$30,954.15</b>	<b>\$49,250</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Safety Committee	0	200
Cross Connection Workshop	0	2,100
Education		
Education Committee	0	750
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	0	5,000
Special Project Expense/Pipe Workshop	0	2,500
Website	0	0
Public Information Committee	0	750
Small Systems Committee	0	850
Director's spouse meeting expense	258.90	250
Publications		
Wise Water Words	5,712.53	9,667.65
Membership Directory	0	0
Advertising	0	0
Student Activity	165.58	250
Membership	0	150
Tax preparation	0	500
Audit	0	2,100
Awards	114.28	600
Research Foundation	0	1,000
Regional officers' meeting/officer training	0	1,500
Summer Leadership Workshop	0	0
Membership Summit	0	0
WFP Workshop	0	0
Regional officer meetings	1,270.35	1,000
Annual meeting	0	1,500
Water for People		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0	700
Golf Event	100.00	4,000
Trap Event	0	200
Water for People — Payment to WFP		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0	800
Sustaining Membership	0	0
Golf Event	0	4,000
Trap Event	0	1,800
MAC Council	0	0
Preconference	0	0
Scholarships		
Abel Wolman	0	1,000
Stockholm	0	500
Top Ops	0	3,000
Conference	0	0
Students	0	3,000
SRF	0	0
Young Professionals	0	50
Water Utility Council (travel, etc.)	750.00	750
WARN	0	250
Washington Fly-In	0	1,500
Board conference calls	79.91	500
PO Box	46.00	50
Bonds for treasurers (2)	100.00	250
Miscellaneous	54.65	650
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,652.20</b>	<b>\$53,667.65</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$22,301.95</b>	<b>-\$4,417.65</b>

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## Brief notes

The Awards Committee will accept nominations for the WISA Award until June 1. The nomination form is posted on the Section's website: <http://www.awwaneb.org>.

Send nominations to **Steve Kelley**, Beatrice Board of Public Works, 500 N. Commerce St., Beatrice, NE; e-mail: [skelley@beatrice.ne.gov](mailto:skelley@beatrice.ne.gov).

\*\*\*

Congratulations to **Craig Reinsch**, Olsson Associates, who was selected as one of five national recipients for the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) 2010 Young Professional of the Year Award.

Craig was the Nebraska ACEC Young Professional winner in 2009, and advanced for national consideration. He will receive his award at the national ACEC conference in Puerto Rico this fall.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to **Tracey Christensen**, **Mari Matulka** and **Kevin Tobin** of Metropolitan Utilities District; HDR Engineering Inc. and Alberici Constructors for receiving the 2009 Award of Excellence from the Nebraska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

The award was presented in the special event category for the Platte West Water Treatment Plant dedication and open houses held in October 2008.

\*\*\*

The City of Norfolk recently completed an upgrade to its East Water Treatment Plant. The iron and manganese filtration plant for ground water used a standard surface wash backwash system. The City upgraded to a backwash system using air scour.

The upgrade was implemented because "we were getting incomplete backwashes which caused mudballs," said **Dennis Watts**. "DEQ also told us we either had to stop sending chlorinated water to the North Fork of the Elkhorn River or chose an air scour to divert the washwater from the North Fork of the Elkhorn River to the sanitary sewer.

"This project encountered a unique problem when we removed the media to install the wash arms," he said. "After the water was drained for the media removal the media turned into a concrete like material."

\*\*\*

Black & Veatch opened an office at 15th and Farnam Streets, Omaha, in part because of upcoming work on city's sewer separation project. **Matt Schultze** is the office leader for the Omaha location.

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## Water operator workshops

October 5	Falls City
October 6	Nebraska City
October 7	York
November 3-5	Annual Fall Conference, Kearney
December 1	North Platte
December 7	Norfolk
December 9	Lincoln

### Backflow Seminars

September 14	Ogallala
September 16	Beatrice
September 28	Wayne
September 29	Grand Island

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

---

## MAC Committee

by *Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.*

(402.333.9660) e-mail: [tony@mc2h2o.com](mailto:tony@mc2h2o.com)

### Attention potential Fall Conference vendors!

Invitations and contracts will be mailed in July to vendors interested in exhibiting at the annual Fall Conference in Kearney, November 3-5. Invitations and contacts also will be posted on our website at [www.awwaneb.org](http://www.awwaneb.org). Please feel free to call me with any questions.

---

## Membership Committee

by *Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers*

(402.255.3840) e-mail: [rlr@kirkham.com](mailto:rlr@kirkham.com)

### Welcome New Members:

Pren Arora	Midwest Laboratories
Doug Luedtke	City of Lincoln
Stephanie Henn	Metropolitan Utilities District
Tim Mailahn	Metropolitan Utilities District
John Velehradsky	Metropolitan Utilities District



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Dave Ornduff, Regional Manager

Shown: 3.0 MG Natgun water storage tank for the Council Bluffs, IA Water Works. Engineering by Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, MO.

## Annual Fall Conference

**November 4-5**

**Holiday Inn, Kearney**

Tentative topics include: RSS data, shoring safety, salmonella outbreak challenge, contamination of water supply through wells, groundwater modeling, arsenic and uranium issues, pipe joint restraints, pump maintenance, SCADA and GIS studies. *Plan to attend.*

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## National AWWA Vice-President to speak at fall conference



**Debra Kaye**

Debra began her career in the water industry as a meter reader. She also worked as an assistant water plant operator, water plant operator, and foreman while attending the University of Nevada, Reno where she earned a BS degree in Civil Engineering.

After completing her degree, Debra was an engineer, designing pump stations, tanks, a sodium hypochlorite system, and some electrical substation structures. She also designed a ventilation/cooling system for pump stations that became a company standard.

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She also has been recognized for revisions to Nevada Administrative Code Operator Certification Regulations, and in 2006, was named one of 200 extraordinary women engineers by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

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## MAC Committee

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

Fall conference invitations and contracts were mailed the first week in August. These documents also are posted on the Section website: <http://www.awwaneb.org>.

The AWWA portion of the conference begins Thursday, November 4, and concludes Friday, November 5 at noon. NWEA and APWA technical sessions begin on Wednesday November 3.

Exhibitor fee remains at \$450. Fee includes one set of lunch and dinner tickets and two social hour drink tickets.

There are 52 booths available in Loper Hall where the exhibits traditionally are on display. We will offer a limited number of booth spaces in the registration area near the west entrance if Loper Hall sells out. All exhibits are available on a first-come first-served basis.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

## Nominations Committee

by Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering, (402.472.3431)

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

*Chair* **Teresa Konda**, HDR Inc.

*Trustee & Past Chair*

**John Olsson**, Olsson Associate

*Director* **Tony Bilek**, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

*Trustee (term ends November 2011)*

**Ben Day**, Olsson Associates

*Trustee (term ends November 2011)*

**Milo Rust**, City of Chadron

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 4, in Kearney.

*Chair-Elect* **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities

*Vice Chair* **Eric Lee**, Lincoln Water System

*Secretary* **Doug Woodbeck**,  
Nebraska Health & Human Services

*Treasurer* **David Lathrop**, City of Seward

*Trustee (term ends November 2012)*

**Chad Roberts**, City of Norfolk

*Trustee (term ends November 2012)*

**Eric Melcher**, City of Aurora

## Chair's comments

This past week, I had an opportunity to enjoy some time away. Our travels took us across the State of Nebraska with some dry air in the mountains of Colorado as our final destination. Our journey west was done at a leisurely pace, and so we made frequent stops at several of our notable Nebraska landmarks. Green fields with tall and lush crops dominated much of the landscape above, while we could imagine the Ogallala Aquifer passing beneath our feet. The last stop was Lake McConaughy, where vast quantities of water from abundant snowmelt and precipitation have greatly improved water levels.

While green fields and a full reservoir may sound relatively benign, it means optimism and promise for many Nebraskans. These small things make people feel good about life and bring stability and comfort in a time where that is not the norm. As simple as it is, water has the ability to excite and make people feel good. It balloons the psyche.

And then when drinking water from our state is deemed to taste good, as judged by a panel of experts from across the country, we can say that we are doing our part to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Congratulations to the Lincoln Water System for a third-place finish at the Drinking Water Taste Competition conducted at the Annual Conference.

Changing subjects, and in closing, I would like take a moment to recognize **Mari Matulka** for her dedication to NeAWWA over the years. Mari will be stepping back from her role as Publications Chair and editor which she has been doing since 1988. In this capacity, Mari was the driving force behind **Wise Water Words**, as well as the directory.

With this change, and in the interest of being opportunistic, the Board has voted to begin outsourcing our tri-annual publication beginning January 2011. We will be taking advantage of this service from National. Under the leadership of **Brian Gongol**, incoming Publications Chair, we spent considerable time reviewing the proposed product and getting an agreement in place that was in the best interest of our readership.

Enjoy the day, and I hope to see you at the fall conference, November 4-5.



John S. Olsson

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Dr. Xu Li, *Research and Student Activities*

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Rob Pierce, *Safety*

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Craig Reinsch, *Water for People*

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Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*

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Justin Stine, *Young Professionals*

402.435.3080

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

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# 2010 Fall Conference — November 4-5, Kearney

(as of July 22, 2010)

## Thursday, November 4

### Session I

- 8:30-9 A.M. Opening Session  
**Debra Kaye**, AWWA vice-president
- 9-9:30 A.M. Field Services Issues Including RSS Data, First-Year Submittals — **Doug Woodbeck**  
Nebraska Health & Human Services
- 9:30-10 A.M. Marketing Your Water System to the Community  
**Brian Gongol**, DJ Gongol & Associates
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. Digger's Hotline of America  
**Susan Lynch**, Digger's Hotline
- 11-11:30 A.M. Shoring Safety  
**Cheryl Treptow**, Midwest Fire Training Associates
- 11:30 A.M.-NOON Salmonella Outbreak: Re-creation Using Hydraulic Modeling — **Craig Reinsch**, Olsson Associates
- NOON-1:30 P.M. Joint AWWA and NWEA Lunch**
- 1:30-3 P.M. Ultimate Backflow Challenge  
**Rich Koenig**, Nebraska Health & Human Services
- 3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 3:30-4:45 P.M. Top OPS and Non-Top OPS Competitions
- 4:45-5:15 P.M. Young Professionals Mixer
- 5:15-6 P.M. Water Tasting Contest
- 6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
- 7-9 P.M. Banquet

### Session II

- 8:30-9:30 A.M. Opening Session  
**Debra Kaye**, AWWA vice-president
- 9-9:30 A.M. Groundwater Modeling for M.U.D. Platte West Plant  
**Luca DeAngelis**, HDR Inc.
- 9:30-10 A.M. Contamination of Public Water Supply Through Wells  
**Rick Wilson**, USGS Water Science Center
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. AWWA Research Foundation Small System Simultaneous Compliance Tool  
**Justin Stine**, JEO Consulting Group
- 11-11:30 A.M. Lakin Water Treatment Uranium Remediation and Underground Injection Well Applications  
**Blake Birkel**, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers
- 1:30 A.M.-NOON Groundwater Rule — **Sarah Clark**, HDR Inc.
- NOON-1:30 P.M. Joint AWWA and NWEA Lunch**
- 1:30-3 P.M. AWWA Business Meeting and Board Meeting
- 3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 3:30-4:45 P.M. Top OPS and Non-Top OPS Competitions
- 4:45-5:15 P.M. Young Professionals Mixer
- 5:15-6 P.M. Water Tasting Contest
- 6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
- 7-9 P.M. Banquet

### Lodging

Hotel reservations: 308.237.5971; reservations must be made by October 4 for the conference rate (All three hotels: \$81.95 for single or double), plus tax.

## Friday, November 5

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

### Session I

- 8:30-9 A.M. Pipe Joint Restraint Applications and Installations  
**Jeff Fischer**, Fischer Harris & Associates
- 9-9:30 A.M. Packing and Split Seals on Horizontal and Turbine Pumps — **Billy Czapl**, Modern Dynamics
- 9:30-10 A.M. EPA Dashboard  
**Angela Buzard**, Wichita State University
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30 A.M.-NOON Drinking Water Regulatory Update  
**Jack Daniel**, Nebraska Health & Human Services

### Session II

- 8:30-9 A.M. Stream Discharge Issues  
**Dennis Kahl**, UNL Extension Service
- 9-9:30 A.M. GIS — Implementing Asset Management for Prioritization of Improvements  
**David Lathrop**, City of Seward  
**Owen Killam**, Olsson Associates
- 9:30-10 A.M. Upgrade to East Water Treatment Plant  
**Dennis Watts**, City of Norfolk
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. Regional Water Systems vs. Treatment  
**Jack Baker**, Baker & Associates
- 11-11:30 A.M. Uranium Study at Grand Island  
**Amit Shiristava**, HDR Inc.
- 11:30 A.M.-NOON SCADA Virtualization  
**Warren Humphrey**, Olsson Associates

### Nuts and Bolts Water Operator Session

- 8:30-9 A.M. How to Navigate Nebraska WARN Website  
**Rick Melcher**, City of Aurora  
**Dennis Watts**, City of Norfolk
- 9-9:30 A.M. Chlorine and Fluoride Safety  
**Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services
- 9:30-10 A.M. Home Treatment Facts  
**Sharon Skipton**, UNL Extension Service

### CEUs

- Grades 1-4: AWWA Program = Up to 7.5 hours  
Grades 1-4: Top Ops Participation = 1.5 hours  
Grade 6: Ultimate Backflow Challenge = 2 hours

### Conference Fees (pre-registration = prior to October 20)

- Pre-Registration for AWWA (includes Thursday lunch and banquet), \$70  
Pre-Registration for Full Conference (includes all lunches and banquets), \$140 (\$150 on-site)  
AWWA Operator's Breakfast, \$10  
Additional Banquet Tickets, \$20 each

### Cancelations not accepted after October 29, 2010

For more information, contact:

**Kathleen Alexander**, HDR Inc.  
8404 Indian Hills Dr., Omaha, NE 68114-4049  
phone: 402.399.1357; fax: 402.399.1111  
e-mail: kathleen.alexander@hdrinc.com



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

2320 S. 156 Cir.  
 Omaha, Nebraska 68130-2511

402.333.9660  
 fax: 402.333.9663  
 e-mail: info@mc2h2o.com

## Director's Report

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

Greetings fellow AWWA members and water professionals! I hope this report finds you all healthy happy and enjoying the summer. Although we are experiencing a very hot season, we can all appreciate the abundance of rainfall and continued trend of replenishing our lakes and reservoirs. We are truly blessed with an ample supply of quality water in this state. This is an



Tony Bilek

attribute that shouldn't be taken for granted.

### AWWA ACE

AWWA ACE was held in Chicago, June 19-24. Highlights of the Executive Board meeting held Sunday, June 20, are posted on the Section website. Attendance was up 3.6 percent from last year at 11,800. There were 1,090 booths in the exhibit hall which offered products and services on virtually all aspects

of water treatment. It was a pleasure and honor to attend the Fuller Award breakfast and join **Glenn Dostal**, HDR Inc., in celebrating the receipt of his Fuller Award.

### NEBRASKA FALL CONFERENCE

As you may know our Section's annual conference will be held in Kearney, November 4-5. Program Chair **Teresa Konda** and the planning committee have put together another outstanding program. I hope to see you all in Kearney. National Vice-President **Debra Kaye** of the California-Nevada Section will be our visiting dignitary for the Fall Conference. Please welcome Debra and feel free to strike up a conversation. Debra is very personable and certainly will welcome discussion on AWWA matters, golf, sports or just about anything.

### INVOLVEMENT

Our annual business meeting includes the election of new officers to the executive board. Being an active member of the association brings countless rewards. You can be a voice that guides this association by being involved. Please take time to review the list of committees and consider being a member of one that you may be of interest to you.

### MEMBERSHIP

Our Section membership numbers remain fairly consistent. The trend nationally hasn't been so fortunate. Please encourage friends and associates that are in the water industry, to become members of this respected association. Provide your AWWA Board members with constructive feedback that will allow for a stronger and more valuable association. The success of our association is in the value we bring to our members. Please help us bring this value to you.



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# Dostal receives Fuller Award at National AWWA Conference



From left: Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc., Section director and 2006 Fuller Award recipient; Glenn Dostal, HDR Inc., 2009 Fuller Award recipient, and Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District, 2000 Fuller Award recipient, at the 2010 ACE Fuller Award Breakfast in Chicago, June 23.

## Brief notes

Congratulations to **Glenn Hawks**, Lexington Utilities, who marked 60 years of service to the community. “When you work for the public, you have a lot of bosses,” said Glenn. In this case, he has more than 10,000.

As community services director, Glenn is responsible for drinking water, wastewater, streets, parks, cemeteries and city vehicles and equipment. He supervises 22 employees.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to the **Lincoln Water System** which tied for third place in the National AWWA drinking water contest June 23 in Chicago. First place went to Stevens Point, WI Water Department; second place, New York City Department of Environmental Protection; third place, Lincoln and Silverdale Water District of Washington.

\*\*\*

**Steve Kelley**, Beatrice Board of Public Works, reports the Section’s awards committee will present six WISA awards, plus an outstanding volunteer award, a meritorious award and two lifetime members awards at the fall conference, November 4, in Kearney.

## Membership Committee

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

### Welcome New Members:

Richard Andrews	City of Gretna
Roger Barr	Omaha
Shane Gruber	City of Gothenburg
Ivan Hansen	City of Imperial
Larry Hathaway	Union
Erin Hunt	HDR Inc.
Larry Kelly	Grand Island
Eric Lehman	Rapid City, SD
Richard McCabe	Village of Emerson
Lance Olerich	Papio-Missouri River NRD
Greg Vacha	Michael Foods

**\$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 (make copies as needed).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of recruiter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recruiter’s membership no.

*Mail coupon and application with payment to: David Lathrop,  
City of Seward, PO Box 38, Seward, NE 68434-0038.*

**BEST** drinking Water in NEBRASKA

The “Best Drinking Water in Nebraska” **TASTE TEST** will be held **Thursday, November 4, 5:15 p.m.** at the Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference in Kearney.

The winning public water supply will be presented a plaque and nominated to compete in the National AWWA Water Taste Test.

Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

For more information, contact Eric Obert, JEO Consulting Group Inc., phone: 402.443.8006 or e-mail: eobert@jeo.com



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## Nebraska Section AWWA 2010 budget (July 19, 2010)

INCOME	2010 Actual	2010 Budget
Section allotment	\$11,050.00	\$11,050
Association allotment	3,950.00	3,950
Multi-section allotment	280.50	650
Annual meeting	14,623.21	10,800
Interest on Accounts	264.46	1,500
Advertising income	900.00	6,550
Water for People		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0	1,500
Golf Event	9,665.41	8,000
Trap Event	0	2,000
Education-Pipe Workshop	3,341.98	3,000
Special Projects	0	0
WARN	0	0
Small Systems	0	250
Safety Committee	0	0
Preconference	0	0
SRF	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$44,075.56</b>	<b>\$49,250</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Safety Committee	0	200
Cross Connection Workshop	0	2,100
Education		
Education Committee	0	750
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	5,000.00	5,000
Special Project Expense/Pipe Workshop	2,301.76	2,500
Website	0	0
Public Information Committee	0	750
Small Systems Committee	0	850
Director's spouse meeting expense	258.90	250
Publications		
Wise Water Words	9,247.51	9,667.65
Membership Directory	0	0
Advertising	0	0
Student Activity	165.58	250
Membership	0	150
Tax preparation	520.00	500
Audit	0	2,100
Awards	114.28	600
Research Foundation	0	1,000
Regional officers' meeting/officer training	0	1,500
Fall Leadership Workshop	0	0
Membership Summit	0	0
WFP Workshop	0	0
Regional officer meetings	1,270.35	1,000
Annual meeting	0	1,500
Water for People		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0	700
Golf Event	5,454.37	4,000
Trap Event	0	200
Water for People — Payment to WFP		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0	800
Sustaining Membership	0	0
Golf Event	0	4,000
Trap Event	0	1,800
MAC Council	0	0
Preconference	0	0
Scholarships		
Abel Wolman	0	1,000
Stockholm	0	500
Top Ops	1,165.00	3,000
Conference	0	0
Students	0	3,000
SRF	0	0
Young Professionals	0	50
Water Utility Council (travel, etc.)	750.00	750
WARN	0	250
Washington Fly-In	0	1,500
Board conference calls	543.57	500
PO Box	46.00	50
Bonds for treasurers (2)	100.00	250
Miscellaneous	202.88	650
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$27,140.20</b>	<b>\$53,667.65</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$16,935.36</b>	<b>-\$4,417.65</b>

## Dennis Hirschbrunner retires

**Dennis C. Hirschbrunner**, executive vice-president and national director of Marketing, HDR Inc., retired in March with 24 years of service.

Dennis earned a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 1970 and has certifications as a professional engineer in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska.

He worked for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Nebraska Department of Roads from 1970 to 1972 before joining Gilmore Associates, Columbus, in 1973. After he moved to HDR Inc. in 1986, he worked on water and wastewater projects in Columbus, Fremont, Tilden, Hartington, Lincoln and Omaha as well as numerous projects in Illinois,



**Dennis Hirschbrunner**

Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and Virginia.

Dennis chaired the Nebraska Section in 1993 and later served as the Section director. He was responsible for establishing the Section's Colonel Theodore A. Leisen Memorial and Training Endowment Fund in 1993. Dennis received the George Warren Fuller Award in 1994.

In addition to AWWA, Dennis also served in leadership positions for the following organizations: American Academy of Environmental Engineers; American Council of Engineering Companies; American Public Works Association; American Society of Civil Engineers; National Society of Professional Engineers, and Water Environment Federation.

Dennis is an avid Huskers fan and golf enthusiast. Dennis' new address: PO Box 99, Columbus, NE 68602-0099; e-mail: huskers947@gmail.com.

## Water operator workshops

- October 5 Falls City
- October 6 Nebraska City
- October 7 York
- November 3-5 Annual Fall Conference, Kearney
- December 1 North Platte
- December 7 Norfolk
- December 9 Lincoln

### Backflow Seminars

- September 14 Ogallala
- September 16 Beatrice
- September 28 Wayne
- September 29 Grand Island

For information about registration, CEUs, 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@dhhs.ne.gov.

## In memoriam

**Paul A. Baburek**, 86, president of Baburek Metal Preserving Co., Plattsmouth, died May 22, 2010. Paul joined the Nebraska Section AWWA in 1984.



**Paul Baburek**

He is survived by his spouse, Patricia; son, Steven; daughters, Dixie Greenberg and spouse, Bob Bahde, Papillion, and Linda and Brian Ruisinger, Scottsdale, AZ; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Clarence G. Owen**, 76, died June 15. He was a supervisor for the Lincoln Water System Water Production and Treatment Department when he retired with 44 years of service.



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Dave Ornduff, Regional Manager

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## Section Retreat

The Section retreat will be held Friday, August 13, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 901 Hardin Hall, UNL East Campus. Use entrance at 3310 Holdrege St. We will walk to lunch (Valentinos on Holdrege).

If you want to park on campus, please contact **Bruce Dvorak**, 402.472.3431, by noon, Wednesday, August 11, to reserve a parking permit.

The retreat is open to all interested Section members.

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