

Nebraska
Section



American Water Works
Association



volume 52, issue 2



Wise Water Words

awwaneb.org/words

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AWWA Officers and Board of Directors

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Ben Day	Chair-Elect
Chad Roberts	Vice-Chair
Eric Melcher	Treasurer
Jim Shields	Secretary
Milo Rust	Trustee (term ending November 2015)
Mary Poe	Trustee (term ending November 2016)
David Lathrop	Past Chair and Trustee (term ending November 2016)
Brittany Travers	Trustee (term ending November 2016)
John S. Olsson	Director



Back Row (left to right):
Milo Rust, Jim Shields, David
Lathrop, Brittany Travers, Ben
Day, Mary Poe

Front Row (left to right):
Rick Melcher, Chad Roberts,
Doug Woodbeck, John S. Olsson

From the Chair

submitted by Doug Woodbeck | Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

I wondered when I moved into the Chair's chair how much work there would be to do. Well, I find that because of the very intelligent, talented, and dedicated people chairing and working on the various committees, the Section Chair really doesn't have to do much, other than keeping abreast of what is happening and helping out when needed or requested. I forget who originally said it but, if you surround yourself with knowledgeable people, and use that knowledge, you don't have to know everything. That is really how the Chair's position, in my opinion, is run or handled. Giving people the latitude they need to run with any given program, encouraging and supporting them in their efforts, makes an organization run very smoothly.

Our upcoming meeting this Friday should be interesting. We'll be discussing what topics we would like the Environmental Finance Center from Wichita, Kansas to present at our Fall Conference. We have some revisions/clarifications to the Section By-laws to finalize for dissemination for general membership consideration. We also need to send these to National AWWA for their concurrence. I plan to have them ready to be voted on by the membership at the Fall Conference. There's really nothing earthshaking here. Just a few items that really needed to be clarified and fixed due to conflicts within the by-laws. These revisions have to do with elected positions on the board and who may hold them.

We have been discussing, on and off, what to do with archive material for some years now. What do we keep, how much of it do we keep, and mostly where do we keep it are all questions that really need to be answered so as to make the job of the Archive Committee much easier. Historically, we have received volumes of fliers, handouts, and other such materials from National. These materials never seem to be handed out or picked up by many people. When it's not picked up or passed out, it gets passed around from officer to officer, usually the chair, to do with what they will. It's like a game of who's got the button, but everyone knows who has it

and they're glad they don't. Anyway, we need to decide once and for all what we will keep and how much of it to keep, as well as where it will be kept permanently, so we can, without guilt, get rid of the extra stuff that we really don't need.

Another item we'll be discussing is a donation to the Water Buffaloes. This group consists of several AWWA members who ride motorcycles to various events throughout the year with the aim of raising money for water charities to benefit people. I've read a little about this group and do think it is worthwhile, so we'll be talking about whether we will give them a donation for their cause.

In closing, I'd like you all to think about the upcoming Fall Conference. I know it seems a bit far off to be considering it now, but, if you can arrange to bring a friend to participate in the conference, you may be able to open someone's eyes to the realization that AWWA is for everyone in the water industry -- not just for big cities and consultants. AWWA benefits even the smallest water systems, if they avail themselves of the opportunity.



**American Water Works
Association**

Dedicated to the World's Most Important Resource™

The World is Flat – and We Can Help

submitted by John Olsson | Olsson Associates | Nebraska Section AWWA Director

By mid-summer 2015, it is reasonable to expect AWWA will have an expanded international presence outside of North America. In addition to our Sections in Mexico and Canada, the Association will bring closure to a two-year due diligence process where we explored the opportunity to take our knowledge base overseas to the country of India.

This initiative is being done to fulfill the goals of the AWWA Strategic Plan, and for the primary purpose of increasing AWWA's presence to help water professionals improve health by providing solutions to effectively manage water in India.

AWWA has determined that we cannot easily achieve this goal without a physical presence. Secondly, a presence in India will allow North American AWWA members to learn from Indian water professionals and to share technological solutions to water problems.

While the challenges are steep, the opportunities to expand international membership and knowledge exchange are significant. To understand the water needs in India, one only needs to consider the following which is from a 2007 survey of 20 Indian utilities conducted by the Asian Development Bank:

Water availability = 4.3 hours per day
Unaccounted water = 31.8%
Connections metered = 24.5 %

Certainly these statistics are far cry from what we enjoy in Nebraska and it is difficult to even imagine what life might be like with such limited access to this precious resource.

So what does this International growth of our Association have to do with our humble little Section in Nebraska? How do we benefit or how is this good for our membership? How can we contribute? All good questions and ones that are top-of-mind for me.

As I think about the Association's growth, I draw an analogy to Lewis and Clark and the expedition of 1804. For them, moving across the Midwest and Western US in the discovery of new land and a surface water connection to the Pacific Ocean was about taking some risk to broaden our horizons. Meet new people, learn from them, share experiences and provide an overall deepening of the knowledge base. These are discoveries that may not provide immediate results or instant gratification, but over time, the information exchange becomes very powerful and everyone involved can find more robust and enduring solutions.

We've come a long way in more than two centuries: India, for instance, is accessible via an Internet connection in the blink of an eye, or via 23-hour journey by air. And our proximity and connectivity mean that interaction involves a two-way exchange, not just some Westerners planting a flag and telling the local population what to do. India has an extensive range of collegiate engineering programs. AWWA's presence on the ground in India will not only help the Indian water sector to learn from our experience, but also to help our representatives learn in return. Often, attacking an old problem under new constraints (like budget limitations, a workforce with a different educational background, or even shortages of electricity) can help us re-examine how we do things on our own and find better answers.

As with most growth initiatives, there is risk. The Association has done a good job of putting together a solid pro-forma budget which suggests AWWA-India can be self-sufficient in three years. We will monitor the operation and take corrective action as needed. In the meantime, we should all take pride in knowing that we are part of an organization that is having a worldly impact in the area of water.

Nominate Two Colleagues for Recognition

submitted by Chad Roberts | City of Norfolk | 2015 Nebraska Section AWWA Vice-Chair

Before you get too wrapped up with the activities of summer, take a moment to review the awards we as a section offer to honor and recognize the members who make a difference to the public water sector.

The Water Industry Service Award (or WISA) recognizes members of the Nebraska Section who, over the years, have untiringly served the waterworks industry.

Longevity awards acknowledge those who have served the industry for many decades. We recognize those who remain current operators well past the normal retirement age (ages 75 and up), who have at least 20 years of service to the industry.

We also recognize the individual cross-connection specialists who show dedication to compliance with existing rules and efforts to improve the state of the art with new ideas, training, and other achievements. A similar award is offered to the program that best demonstrates the same dedication at the utility-wide level.

Safety awards recognize efforts to make workplace safety a priority.

We also support national-level awards like the Operator's Meritorious Service Award and the Wendell R. LaDue Utility Safety Award.

These awards depend upon nominations from people just like you. Please consider nominating at least two people this year for recognition. Nobody knows better than the people actively serving in the industry who is most deserving of recognition. Nomination forms can be found at awwaneb.org/committees/awards.

Nominate a Safe Utility for Recognition

submitted by Rob Pierce
League of Nebraska Municipalities

Nominate a utility (including your own) for recognition of its safety efforts. Complete the 2015 safety award survey form on the Safety Committee page on the Section website and return it to Rob Pierce by July 31st.

Fall Conference Preview

submitted by Ben Day | Olsson Associates | 2015 Nebraska Section AWWA Chair-Elect

The Fall Conference is scheduled this year will be held on November 4th and 5th at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

A pre-conference workshop will be held on Tuesday the 3rd by Angela Buzzard with the Environmental Finance Center at Wichita Sate University, focused on small utility water systems. The pre-conference will be free of charge and lunch will be provided.

This year online registration will be available through the Nebraska Water Environment Association website as soon as the program is established and the registration form is distributed.

At this time, we are requesting presentations for the conference; anything related to the water industry is welcome. If you have something you would like to submit, please contact Ben Day at 402-458-5693 or at jday@olssonassociates.com. Once the list of presentations is prepared and selections made, we will inform those who have been selected to present.

The conference also features a large exhibit area. Those who wish to exhibit should contact Tony Bilek at 402-333-9660 or at tony@mc2h2o.com.

We look forward to seeing you there and to another successful conference.

Public Information Committee

Drinking Water Week was celebrated May 3-9. The committee sent letters to several mayors around the state inviting them to issue proclamations declaring Drinking Water Week in their communities, and the governor issued a proclamation. The City of Norfolk held a poster contest for 5th graders for Drinking Water Week. Winning entries will be submitted for the regular poster contest at the Fall Conference.

In other committee news, the Nebraska Section Facebook page has 204 fans (are you one of them yet?), and Chad Roberts has joined the committee. If you're interested in participating or contributing to our efforts, please contact Mary Poe.

e: mary.poe@nebraska.gov

Is your water the best in Nebraska?

Continuing a tradition started in 2009, the Public Information committee is again coordinating a water-tasting contest at the Fall Conference. Is your water the best-tasting in Nebraska? Bring a sample and find out if you can topple Lincon or Fremont, each of which have placed at the national level after winning in Nebraska.

Sample entries must be submitted by a Nebraska Public Water Supply System with no state or Federal drinking water violations in the previous calendar year. Each system is entitled to enter one sample in a one-gallon container of its own choosing (glass is preferred). Label the sample carefully and clearly with the name of your system. Collect it no more than 48 hours before the contest, and store it at 40°F to 70°F.

The samples will be served at room temperature to a panel of judges, who will rate them for taste, color, odor, and aftertaste.

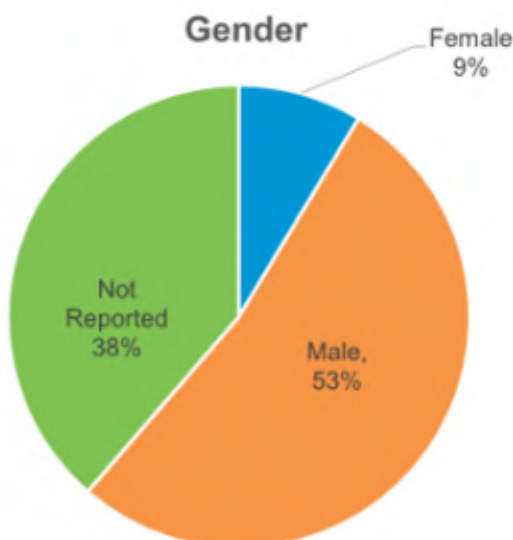
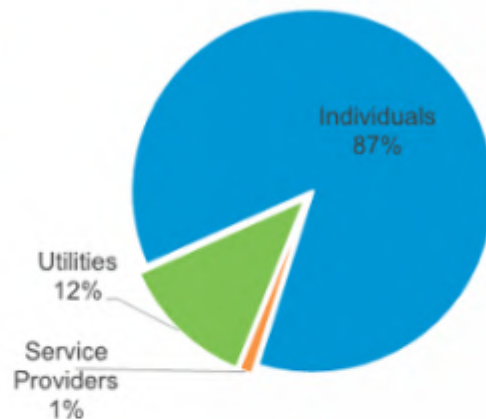
Membership Report and Demographics

submitted by Marc Rosso | JEO Consulting Group

Members by Grade		
02 - Individual Active	115	36%
04 - Additional Active	46	14%
06 - Operations/Administrative	37	12%
08 - Retiree w/o Print Pubs	4	1%
09 - Retiree w/Print Pubs	2	1%
10 - Life	14	4%
12 - Honorary	1	0%
14 - Student	16	5%
74 - Partner Agencies & Inst.	1	0%
76 - Named Representative	42	13%
80 - Utility: 0-5K CustSvc Con	30	9%
81 - Utility: 5-10K CustSvc Con	5	2%
82 - Utility: 10-25K CustSvc Con	2	1%
84 - Utility: 50-100K CustSvc Con	1	0%
86 - Utility: 150K+ CustSvc Con	1	0%
90 - SvcProvider: <\$1M Sales	2	1%
94 - SvcProvider: >\$20M Sales	1	0%
Grand Total	320	100%

2015 Membership Count		
Individual	277	87%
Service Provider	4	1%
Utility	39	12%
Grand Total	320	100%

Membership Count

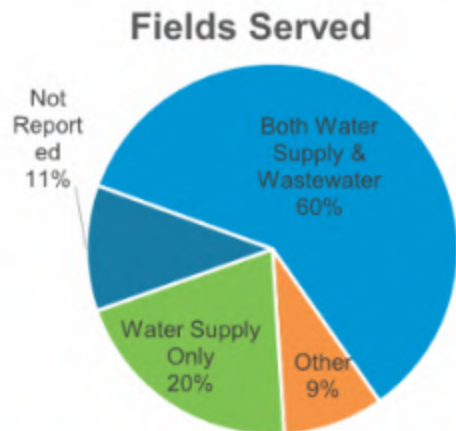


Gender		
Female	24	9%
Male	146	53%
Not Reported	107	39%
Grand Total	277	100%

Job Title		
Design & Engineering/Managerial & Nonmanagerial	66	24%
Executive	57	21%
Management/Non-Engineering	43	16%
Marketing & Sales/Non-Managerial	13	5%
Operations	32	12%
Other	17	6%
Professorial	5	2%
Scientific/Non-managerial	9	3%
Not Reported	35	13%
Grand Total	277	100%



Fields Served (89% Reporting)		
Both Water Supply & Wastewater	191	60%
Other	28	9%
Water Supply Only	66	21%
Not Reported	35	11%
Grand Total	320	100%

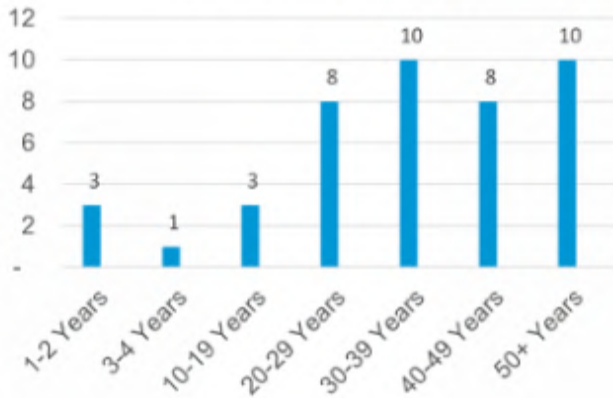


American Water Works Association

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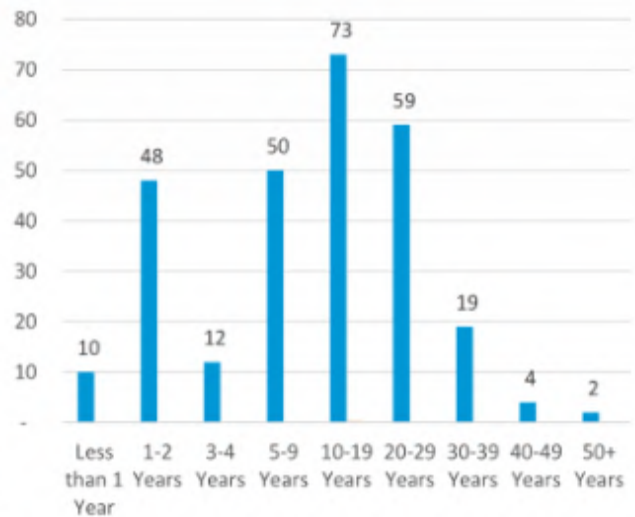
Age Defined by Generation		
Gen Y (under 31)	19	7%
Gen X (31-47)	44	16%
Boomers (48-57)	31	11%
Boomers (58-66)	39	14%
Silent Generation (67-87)	20	7%
Not Reported	124	45%
Grand Total	277	100%

Years as Members
(Organizations)



Years as Member (Organizations)		
1-2 Years	3	7%
3-4 Years	1	2%
10-19 Years	3	7%
20-29 Years	8	19%
30-39 Years	10	23%
40-49 Years	8	19%
50+ Years	10	23%
Grand Total	43	100%

Years as Member (Individuals)		
Less than 1 Year	10	4%
1-2 Years	48	17%
3-4 Years	12	4%
5-9 Years	50	18%
10-19 Years	73	26%
20-29 Years	59	21%
30-39 Years	19	7%
40-49 Years	4	1%
50+ Years	2	1%
Grand Total	277	100%



Board Election Nominations

submitted by Jim Shields
Nebraska Section AWWA Secretary | Metropolitan Utilities District

The Nomination Committee has submitted the following slate of candidates for election to the 2015-16 Nebraska Section AWWA Board of Directors:

Chair-Elect: Chad Roberts (Norfolk)
Vice-Chair: Rick Melcher (Aurora)
Treasurer (two-year term): Milo Rust (Chadron)
Director: Dr. Bruce Dvorak (University of Nebraska - Lincoln)
Trustee (two-year term): Gary Thurlow (Atkinson)
Trustee (two-year term): John Keith (Lincoln Water System)

The elections will be conducted at the Nebraska Section AWWA business meeting at the Fall Conference on November 4th, 2015. At that time nominations will also be taken from the floor.

The following positions require no elections due to 2 year terms or automatic progression:

Chair: Ben Day (Olsson Associates)
Secretary (two-year term): Jim Shields (MUD - Omaha)
Trustee (two-year term): Mary Poe (Nebraska DHHS)
Trustee (two-year term): Brittany Travers (WTG Midwest)
Past Chair: Doug Woodbeck (Nebraska DHHS)

Water for People Golf Results

On May 15, fifty golfers took to the Woodland Hills Golf course in a stiff competition vying for first place using the maximum number of four mulligans. We raised \$3,800 for Water for People!

Congratulations to the overall first-place winners: The Black and Veatch Team of Matt Richart, Nick McElvain, John Miriovsky, and Dave Nelson -- who graciously donated their winnings back to Water for People.

Flag prize winners were:

Closest to the Pin: Keith Kontor, who graciously donated his winnings back to Water for People

Longest Putt: Chip Haas of HDR, who graciously donated his winnings back to Water for People.

Longest Drive in the Fairway: Jake Smelby
Closest to the Pin in 2: Nick McElvain
Long Drive in Fairway: Jake Smeby

Many thanks to Patrick Harlan of Miller

Mechanical for coordinating this event.

Wine 4 Water

submitted by Teresa Konda | HDR | Water for People Committee



The Nebraska Section AWWA and Nebraska Water Environment Federation held the inaugural Water 4 Wine fundraiser for Water For People on March 2, 2015. The wine tasting event was held at Harvest Cafe in Omaha, Nebraska. Guests received four flights of wine served by sommelier Alex Adkin, specialty appetizers by Harvest Cafe, and live music by Donovan Johnson. The event attracted 20 attendees and was successful in raising \$700 for Water For People.

The Water For People Committee sincerely thanks the event attendees, Harvest Cafe, and event sponsors Bert Gurney and Associates, TD2, and HDR for making this a successful fundraiser for Water For People.

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If you do not want to receive a printed copy, please send an email to publications@awwaneb.org with the subject line "No print copy needed"

Keeping Antibiotic Resistance from becoming a Water Problem

University
of Nebraska
Lincoln

A team of researchers headed by UNL civil engineering associate professors Xu Li and Shannon Bartelt-Hunt has been awarded the 2015 Grand Prize for University Research by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists.

The team studied the environmental impact of antibiotics and antibiotic resistance genes (ARG) from swine manure that is used as a soil fertilizer or conditioner. The manure was applied to test plots through various methods and narrow grass hedges were planted downslope from those plots to measure how effective those grasses could be in reducing the transport of antibiotics and ARGs in runoff.

There was little known about how commonly-used agricultural practices influence the fate and transport of antibiotics and ARGs in the field, but the team's research showed that the injection and incorporation methods of manure application led to lower levels in the runoff.

Li said the award is good recognition for the team and the work that has been done, but he hopes it will lead to an increased focus of university research into environmental issues related to agriculture.

"I looked at the past names of the awardees, and it was such an honor to be given this award," Li said. "Different from the research of previous awardees, our project focuses on the agricultural environment.

"In the environmental engineering profession, people have heavily focused on municipal environmental issues, which makes sense because there is a large population in those settings. Environmental engineers increasingly recognize that agricultural settings could also be a potential source of contaminants in the environment. Hopefully, through our work people will recognize that a lot of work needs to be done and can be done for the agricultural sector, too."

The award, for a project titled "Influence of Selected Land Application Strategies on the Fate and Transport of Antimicrobials and Antimicrobial Resistance Genes in the Agricultural Environment," was given to the UNL Department of Civil Engineering, School of Natural Resources (Daniel Snow) and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (John Gilley and Bryan Woodbury).

Bartelt-Hunt attended the awards ceremony on April 24 at the National Press Club in Washington. She said the scope of the research done and the diverse group of people working on the project made receiving the award "even more gratifying."

"The recognition of the project as being beneficial to our field is important," said Bartelt-Hunt. "This award acknowledges the way we were able to cooperate as an interdisciplinary team across the two institutions –the College of Engineering, and USDA-ARS in both Lincoln and Clay Center."

Dan Linzell, chair of the department of civil engineering, said the AAEEES Grand Prize recognizes the work that Li and Bartelt-Hunt are doing to advance the fields of environmental engineering and science.

"Having Drs. Li and Bartelt-Hunt receive this prestigious award is certainly something I'm proud of," Linzell said. "The work they've done in relation to addressing fate and transport of antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistant genes in agriculture is certainly relevant to the state of Nebraska, the nation and the world, given the increased demand for food and food that is healthy.

"This organization (AAEEES) is the singular organization in the U.S. and the world focused on bringing together everybody involved in the process of engineering our environment and studying our environment to make sure it's safer and more sustainable for those people that use it. To have two of our faculty recognized with the grand prize for this year is amazing and well-deserved."

Vote on Bylaw Amendments Coming November 4th

Doug Woodbeck
2015 Section Chair

The Board of Trustees of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association have been working to revise certain portions of the Bylaws which govern the operation of the Section. The draft proposed amendments to the Bylaws have been posted on our website.

Please take the time to review these proposed amendments and be prepared to cast your vote either for or against the proposed amendments at the next Business Meeting to be held on November 4, 2015 at 1:30 PM at the Annual Fall Conference in Kearney, Nebraska. If the vote is affirmative at that time, these proposed amendments will be forwarded to National AWWA for their review and approval.

If you are aware of a current member who may not have received this notice, please be sure to pass the information on to him/her.

Welcome our New Members

submitted by Marc Rosso
JEO Consulting Group
Nebraska Section AWWA Membership Chair

Welcome to the new members who have joined the Nebraska Section AWWA over the last year:

- Sara Palmer - Foundry Services Co.
- Kevin Holcomb - City of Loup City
- Eric Gottschalk - Lower Platte North RWD
- Kevin Betlen - City of David City
- Ronald Perry - City of Alliance
- Ryan Schmitz - City of Grand Island
- Patricia Hurd - Koch Nitrogen Company
- Gary Kluthe - Bert Gurney & Associates Inc.
- Brent Burklund - T.C. Engineering, Inc
- Terrence Lage - Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
- Paige Schneider
- Corey Christensen
- Wes Olson - City of Red Cloud
- Ann Gensichen
- Chad Reifenrath - Cedar-Knox Rural Water Project
- Zach Schulz - JEO Consulting Group, Inc.
- Andrew Synhorst - JEO Consulting Group, Inc.
- Mark Miner
- Trevor Hinn
- Ryan Hurst
- Charlie Kraus
- David Blau - Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C.
- Dana Peterson - Frontwater Engineering, LLC
- Dave Dunning - City of Ravenna

What's New on the Website

Brian Gongol
DJ Gongol & Associates

A small sample of things that you may have missed if you haven't recently visited our Nebraska Section website at awwaneb.org:

- Job openings for duties ranging from entry-level assistant openings to full-time maintenance to superintendencies
 - Information on free webinars for small systems
 - Announcements of special events, including a YP-organized tour of the Grand Island WWTP in conjunction with the Fall Conference
- Remember:** Many announcements are also issued to our e-mail distribution list (sign up at awwaneb.org/maillinglist) and are also featured on our Facebook page (facebook.com/awwaneb) and Twitter account (@awwaneb).

From the Archives

The Nebraska Section AWWA produced a history in tandem with the celebration of AWWA's centennial. This book included histories of dozens of Nebraska's municipal water systems.

From time to time, we will reproduce some of those histories in Wise Water Words.

ATKINSON

An ordinance was passed on February 4, 1914, to establish regulations and rates for the Atkinson Waterworks. The rate for water taken through a meter was set at \$0.25 per thousand gallons, with a minimum of \$1.25 for each three months. Rates were also established for various businesses that used water that was not metered. Some of these rates for three months were:

Banks	\$10.00
Baker	5.00
Barbershop - First Chair	8.00
Bathrooms - Public Per Tub	10.00
Bar and Drinking Saloon	50.00
Dwelling House	25.00
Eating Saloons or Cafes	15.00
Hotels	40.00
Moving Picture Theater	15.00
Water Closets, Public, Per Bowl	2.50
Cream Stations	15.00

In 1925, the ordinance was revised to provide that all water use had to be metered. The rates were set at \$0.20 per thousand gallons and \$3.00 per quarter for use of the meter. In 1981 the rates were revised, with the new quarterly rates being:

Up to 9,000 gallons	\$11.00
9,000-45,000 gallons	\$1.30/1,000 gallons
45,000-90,000 gallons	\$1.20/1,000 gallons
90,000-150,000 gallons	\$1.10/1,000 gallons
Over 150,000 gallons	\$1.00/1,000 gallons

Register now for the Fall Conference

Register today at www.awwaneb.org/fallconference

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Preconference Event - November 3
- AWWA Sessions - November 4 & 5
- APWA Sessions - November 4
- NWEA Sessions - November 5 & 6

REASONS TO ATTEND

- Extensive opportunities to learn and earn continuing education hours (up to 9 hours for Grades 1-4)
- Attend the annual business meeting and elect the next board
- Enjoy the annual banquet
- Win big at the Texas Hold'em Tournament

MORE TO EXPLORE AND ENHANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- See dozens of exhibits with the latest in products and technology
- Network and exchange ideas with your industry colleagues
- Classroom sessions on board relations, pump maintenance and troubleshooting, well development and water studies, cross connections, chlorination, advanced hydraulics, rate-setting, backup power supplies, and more

Drinking Water Week 2015



From left: Doug Woodbeck, Chad Roberts, Howard Isaacs, and Mary Poe joined Governor Pete Ricketts in the Warner Chamber of the State Capitol as he proclaimed May 3-9 as Drinking Water Week in Nebraska.

(Photo credit: State of Nebraska)

STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Water is our most valuable natural resource; and

WHEREAS, Only tap water delivers public health protection, fire protection, support for our economy and the quality of life we enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Any measure of a successful society – low morality rates, economic growth and diversity, productivity and public safety – are in some way related to access to safe water; and

WHEREAS, We are all stewards of the water infrastructure upon which future generations depend; and

WHEREAS, Each citizen of our state is called upon to help protect our source waters from pollution, to practice water conservation, and to get involved in local water issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the week of May 3 – 9, 2015 as

DRINKING WATER WEEK

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen.



Attest:

John A. Goe
Secretary of State

Pete Ricketts
Governor