



WISE WATER WORDS

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Report from the Chair

I have served the section for many years through chairing committees and holding various positions on the Board. It has been a great experience that has allowed me to participate in the effort of protecting and conserving our most valuable resource which is, of course, water.

Through the years, the Section has helped me to learn and develop in my skills and career, network, and to make many great friends along the way. I'm honored and am looking forward to serve as Chair of the Nebraska Section AWWA.

I wanted to thank Doug Woodbeck for his hard work over the past year in keeping the Section moving in the right direction. As you all know, Doug is one of those guys that just gets things done. Doug is a great leader, very organized and to the point. Doug has been a great example for me to follow, and I will value his support over the coming year.

Congratulations to Jim Wells, this year's George Warren Fuller Award recipient, it is a well-deserved honor bestowed upon you.

I also want to congratulate Christian New, this year's Outstanding Section Volunteer Award recipient, you have done an outstanding job and dedicated a lot of time to the section. Thank you.

Marc Rosso has done a great job in membership over the past several years. It'll be important moving forward that we continue those efforts to increase section membership and provide member value. I also want to personally thank Chris New and his volunteer work with Water for People.

We have a lot of great committee chairs and committee members, thank you for your past efforts and I look forward to working with you in

the coming year. We also have some new folks stepping up to help lead committee efforts in 2016.

With current retirement trends of experts in our industry, we are experiencing a void of knowledge and volunteerism. This is a major challenge we'll continue to face. We must start to replace this expertise and the Nebraska Section AWWA can help to do that by increasing membership, offering assistance, and encouraging the next generation of water industry experts to become more involved.

With that, I encourage and challenge others in this audience to find a way to become more involved in this organization and to recruit new members.

With the help of this newly elected Board and our committees, we will continue to move the Nebraska Section and the water industry forward and offer assistance through training, mentorship, and resources. I'm looking forward to the year ahead and thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair of this organization.

Ben Day
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Submitted March 23, 2016

Help Us Recognize Your Friends and Colleagues

Dennis Watts
City of Norfolk
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Submitted May 19, 2016

The awards committee is asking you to take some time out of your day and recognize employees or coworkers who are eligible for awards, on both the state and national levels.

National awards are available to recognize professional excellence (Abel Wolman Award), distinguished public service, promotion of diversity, public health promotion (Dr. John L. Leal Award), outstanding service to AWWA, MAC excellence (John Lechner Award), and induction into the Water Industry Hall of Fame. The awards committee feels that there are a lot of very deserving individuals in the Nebraska water sector who should be recognized.

National awards are listed at awwa.org/membership/get-involved/awards.aspx and state awards are found at awwaneb.org/committees/awards/.

Thank you for your time in helping to recognize deserving water industry personnel.

Director's Report: Flint, Lead, and Copper

As water professionals, we are challenged every day to provide safe and sustainable water for Nebraskans. This is something we do with great care and passion and because we know the lasting impact it has on making our communities thrive.

We have also come to learn in the recent past how mismanagement of drinking water can ruin lives. Flint, Michigan, has become the recent poster child for things gone badly as they relate to drinking water. For any C-SPAN junkies that might be out there (like myself), we have witnessed first-hand the lambasting of several of the highest elected leaders and regulatory administrators in the country. The reasons behind the attacks are diverse, but most of them center on dereliction of duty.

It wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment on the legitimacy of the allegations that are being brought forth, but what can easily be inferred is how important safe water is to maintaining trust within a community for sure, but also within a state and even a country. The pure emotion and passion that is pouring from the public causes one to take pause and wonder...what if this were my water system, or what if one of my children were affected by elevated levels of lead in the water?

As an association of water professionals, times like this cause us to band together in support – and protection – of the consumer. Accordingly, in a March conference call, AWWA directors and leadership went on record to announce support of the Environmental Protection Agency's revising the Lead and Copper Rule in accordance with the report of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council.

The report is in keeping with the National Drinking Water Advisory

Council's December 15, 2015, letter report, which transmitted and incorporated the August 24, 2015, final "Report of the Lead and Copper Rule Working Group to the National Drinking Water Advisory Committee." Excerpts from the report say that there is no safe level of lead and that public water systems and state resources should be focused on actions that achieve the greatest public health protection.

Some of the identified measures include:

- Proactive lead service line replacements
- Requiring more robust public education about lead
- Strengthening corrosion control treatment
- Modifying monitoring requirements
- Establishing appropriate compliance and enforcement mechanisms

The impacts from this series of events have been devastating and will no doubt affect many water systems across the country. This likely will be manifested through regulations, and it is reasonable to assume that changes will be coming to the Lead and Copper Rule. What this may look like in Nebraska is unknown, but we can expect a heightened sensitivity and awareness about water. As a Section, we can use this situation to reinforce the great work we do and find solace in a Chinese proverb that reminds us, "The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials."

John S. Olsson
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Submitted March 28, 2016

Progress on the 2016 Membership Directory

Brian Gongol
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Submitted May 5, 2016

The Publications Committee is preparing for a 2016 membership directory, and we will use the AWWA's official database for the details. Please check your registration and membership status with the AWWA to make sure that your information is current. If you don't have the most recent renewal letter handy, visit <http://www.awwa.org/membership.aspx> to check your details online.

If you are interested in supporting the directory as a sponsor, please send a message to advertising@awwaneb.org and we will reach out to you when sponsorship options are finalized.

Membership Committee Report: What Membership Means

Hello from the Membership Committee!

We are hearing from our membership that the membership committee is doing a great job. While we might be doing some extraordinary things, it is because of the membership that we are a successful committee. So, thanks for supporting NE-AWWA with your time and effort.

In January, Marc Rosso attended the membership summit in Denver. The Thursday session included a great topic led by Sheri Jacobs, President of Avenue M Group, who discussed the AWWA messaging platforms. Each member grade has a specific set of talking points we can use as we discuss what membership means. It was very insightful and we already have implemented some of her strategies for the NE-AWWA.

Examples of the individual platforms follow:

DID YOU KNOW...92% of your colleagues and peers join AWWA because staying current with industry news and information matters?

DID YOU KNOW...many of your colleagues and co-workers join AWWA because membership provides a unique opportunity to network with peers at the local, regional and global level?

WHAT IF...the next time you faced an issue such as financing a capital improvement, you had immediate

access to data, information and solutions used by other utilities and firms similar to your organization?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO IMAGINE IT. AS A MEMBER OF AWWA YOU HAVE INSTANT ACCESS TO...10,000 articles, presentations, research reports, books, conference proceedings, training guides and videos on everything from water treatment and quality to infrastructure replacement and renewal.

If you would like to learn more, please contact Marc Rosso at mrosso@jeo.com.

We currently have 341 active members with 17 late. Last year at this time we had 348 members, so down slightly. Retirements and students account for almost all of our lost members.

Please be sure to look around your town or company and see if there is a potential member that you know. Tell them about AWWA and if you think they are interested in learning more, ask them to contact the Membership Committee. We are always happy to help with recruitment.

Marc Rosso
JEO Consulting Group
Nebraska Section AWWA Membership Chair
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Submitted March 30, 2016

Get Recognized for Safety

Rob Pierce
League of Nebraska Municipalities
Nebraska Section AWWA Safety Committee Chair
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Submitted March 30, 2016

Do you feel your water system has a good safety program? Does your water system have a good safety record? If so, let us help you recognize your water system's safety accomplishments by completing the safety award application using your 2015 data and returning it to Rob Pierce, Nebraska Section AWWA Safety Chair, 1335 L Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

Surveys need to be submitted no later than July 29, 2016. Completed surveys can also be turned in to Rob or any of the following Safety Committee members: Tom Menke (Chadron), Steve Kelley (Beatrice), Jack Satur (Scottsbluff), Pat Heath (Gering), Roger Coffey (HDR), Eric Melcher (Aurora), Gary Thurlow (Atkinson), Doug Pollock (Seward), or Eric Deters (Schemmer Associates).

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Rob Pierce at 402-476-2829 (office), 402-432-9172 (cell), 402-476-7052 (fax), or email (robp@lonm.org).

LB 19 changes lab certifications

Bill LB19 – "Change Provisions Relating to Laboratory Certification Under the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act" – was introduced in the latest session of the Nebraska Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Ricketts on March 3rd, 2016.

It will require the DHHS to set standards to certify independent laboratories for water parameter testing, including compliance testing. Previously, the law stated that DHHS may certify other labs. The bill now requires the director to set certification standards for these tests. In the past, DHHS had chosen not to certify other labs for several reasons

involving issues like funding and consistency of results. The bill passed 41-0.

The bill may lower overall testing costs in the future as more labs are certified and competition drives the price down. The effect of fewer tests being done by the DHHS lab (and thus less income) is uncertain. The legislature estimated the lab may lose \$100,000 in income as a result of passage.

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Submitted March 24, 2016

Jim Wells Recognized with Fuller Award

Congratulations to Jim Wells, who received the Fuller Award at the 2015 AWWA Fall Conference Banquet. Jim Wells works at The Wells Resource LLC with his wife Paula. He first joined AWWA while obtaining his master's degree in engineering and has been a member of AWWA for nearly 60 years.

Jim served as Chair of the Nebraska Section AWWA in 1980 while employed at Wells Engineering. He is

a Lifetime Member of AWWA and a 2009 Gold Water Drop Recipient. His many years of engineering and volunteerism has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to his profession and the water industry.

Ben Day
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Nebraska Section Chair
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Submitted March 23, 2016

2015 Section Awards

WISA:

- John "Mark" Wolff (Omaha MUD)
- Lash Chaffin (League of Nebraska Municipalities)
- Steve Kelley (Beatrice)
- Dave Olsen (South Sioux City)

These awards were presented at the 2015 Fall Conference in Kearney
Posted May 24, 2016

Section Volunteer of the Year:

- Chris New (Praxair)

Fall Conference Call for Papers

Chad Roberts
City of Norfolk
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Submitted March 28, 2016

To All Interested Parties:

The Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association is in the planning stages preparing for the upcoming Fall Conference to be held on November 3 and 4, 2016, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

If you or someone you know has a topic of interest that would be good to present at this conference, such as innovative drinking water projects, successful water conservation projects, water maintenance items, or any other drinking water-related topic, please submit your presentation via e-mail or other electronic media (PowerPoint is preferred) to croberts@ci.norfolk.ne.us.

All presentations must be related to the drinking water industry in some fashion and should be 3/4 to 1 hour in length. If you encounter any issues in sending your information, please call me so I may rectify the issues. Please submit your presentations by May 31, 2016, so work may progress on putting the conference agenda together.

Thank you, and I'm looking forward to having some very good topics for this year's conference.

From the Archives: Bazile Mills

George H. Brooks filed a Homestead claim in 1870, which became the Village of Bazile Mills. A mill was built on the Bazile Creek and ground flour for the surrounding countryside.

Water for drinking came from a spring creek that flowed into the Bazile. Some people built cisterns to hold rain water. Others dug wells, but the vein of water was not adequate and they would pump dry.

The big problem was how to bring a water supply from the Spring Creek up to the town, which was at a higher altitude.

Henry F. Saunders, a grandson of George H. Brooks, had been hearing and reading about a hydraulic ram.

He thought it could pump the spring water up the hillside to a water tank on top of a hill. Then, there would be enough fall to carry water through pipes where it was needed.

He talked his idea over with his father, Sanford Saunders, and aunt, Mrs. William Saunders. They both agreed to take care of the expense of the project if he took charge of it.

A surveyor at the county seat of Niobrara, by the name of Quimby, was sent for and he found the conditions were perfect for a hydraulic system. Therefore, in 1895 the project was completed to bring water to the three Saunders family homes.

The town itself was still without good

water. With some more studying and more surveying, Henry Saunders laid out a plan to pump water across the Bazile Creek, up Main Street, and then into a tank on the high hill in the west part of town. An uncle, George A. Brooks, agreed to finance this project and a larger ram was ordered.

There was no charge for the water, just the work and the expense of pipes and fittings. Each resident took care of his own water system from the main pipeline. Some of the business places were taken care of before the rest of the residents of town put water into their own homes.

The old hydraulic rams supplied water for Bazile Mills until a flood in June of 1957 silted in the rams. Also, impurities from different places, not existing in early years, had seeped into the Spring Creek so the water was unfit for human consumption. A well was put down in the Spring Creek area the same summer of 1957 and is in use at this time.

An electric pump was installed to force the water up to the supply tank. In 1961 and 1972 new pipes were laid. Also in 1972, a new supply tank was put up as the old one was cracking and leaking too much to repair since it was underground.

The new supply tank was bought at Fairfax, South Dakota, and installed further up the hill and on top of the ground. In 1978, a larger pipeline was laid so more water could be carried to the supply tank and in less time.

People on the Move

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Submitted May 6, 2016

If you have changed positions, or if your organization has brought new people on board, we'd be pleased to share those updates in Wise Water Words. Please send a note with the details by email to me at brian@gongol.net and we will incorporate them in future updates.

What should you include? Go with the "Five W's" of journalism:

WHO: Who made the move?

WHAT: What is their new role going to be?

WHEN: When did they move?

WHERE: Where are they now, and where did they come from?

WHY: Admittedly, you might want to leave this one out (especially if may be hurt feelings left over from departing a previous role). But do feel free to share a little about why they're in the industry – plus anything else that might be of interest, including where they've been educated and anything interesting about things like licenses or certifications.

A Word from the Editor

Thanks for taking the time to read this edition of "Wise Water Words". It has been an evolutionary process for the Nebraska Section AWWA to begin delivering our news updates in a "digital-first" format, but we think the right balance is shaping up.

Please bear in mind that you can get to our news updates in several different ways. Updates are posted upon receipt at awwaneb.org (the homepage always has links to the latest items). For most of the main stories, we will share updates on our Facebook and Twitter accounts

(facebook.com/awwaneb and twitter.com/awwaneb, respectively).

The weekly e-mail newsletter summarizes most of the updates from the preceding seven days and delivers links straight to your inbox. And, of course, if you'd like to get your news in print, there's always Wise Water Words. Thank you for reading!

Brian Gongol
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Submitted May 27, 2016

Are You On Both E-Mail Lists?

Please take note that there are two separate e-mail lists maintained by the Nebraska Section AWWA.

The official membership list – based upon your registration with the national AWWA organization – is used only for a handful of announcements a year. Messages are sent to the list only when absolutely necessary (like when we share the nominations for election prior to the Fall Conference), and they will only be sent to actively registered members of the Nebraska Section AWWA. If you are a current member, you do not have to do anything other than keep your e-mail address up-to-date with the national AWWA office.

Separately, we maintain an open list that is used for most of our regular announcements, including a weekly news update. This list is open to anyone – members and non-members alike – and is used to promote the events and interests of the organization. Because this list is voluntary and separate from your AWWA registration, you are responsible for keeping your own e-

mail address current to remain on the list. A link is found at the bottom of every message sent to the list (look under "The Fine Print"), or you can register anytime at awwaneb.org/maillinglist.

We strongly encourage you to share the open list with your friends and colleagues throughout the industry. We think there is no better tool for recruitment to the Nebraska Section AWWA than for people to see what we are doing and to get a personal invitation from a member.

That's all you need to know: If you're a member, keep your e-mail address current with the national office. And if you'd like to receive weekly updates on what's happening with the section, join our voluntary list at awwaneb.org/maillinglist – and share it with a friend!

Brian Gongol
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Submitted May 27, 2016

Upcoming Training Opportunities

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Submitted May 11, 2016

July 7, Ogallala, Fire Hall
October 4, Albion
October 5, Aurora, Fire Hall
October 6, Chester, Fire Hall
October 26, Lincoln
December 13, Hastings
December 14, York
January 18, South Sioux City
January 19, Norfolk
January 24, Kearney

Top Ten Safety Hazards

Adapted from an OSHA Publication
Data from Fiscal Year 2015
Publication dated January 5, 2016

The following is a list of the top 10 most frequently cited standards following OSHA worksite inspections:

- Fall protection
- Hazard communication
- Scaffolding
- Respiratory protection
- Lockout/tagout
- Powered industrial trucks
- Ladders
- Electrical - wiring methods
- Machine guarding
- Electrical - general requirements

Is your operation doing enough to focus on the hazards listed?

Village of Cortland Has Best-Tasting Water

The Village of Cortland had a water sample entered in the tasting competition at the 2015 Fall Conference for the very first time. Much to the surprise and delight of their water operator, Adam German, the newcomers ended up taking the top prize: The Best-Tasting Water in Nebraska.

The contest was inaugurated in 2008, and this marks the first time that an untreated water system has been voted the best-tasting. Chlorinated water systems have won every other year.

Cortland is only the third winner in the contest's eight-year history: Lincoln and Fremont have been the only other overall winners. Although Cortland was the overall winner, Metropolitan Utilities District (Omaha) was voted the best-tasting in the treated water category.

A panel of six tasters were asked to rate the samples on a 1 to 10 scale for appearance, scent, flavor, and aftertaste.

Cortland is now invited to submit a sample in the "Best of the Best" taste test competition at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) in Chicago in June.

Samples were submitted from the following public water systems: Aurora, Columbus, Cortland, Fremont, Hallam, Lincoln, Metropolitan Utilities District, Norfolk Iron and Metal, and Norfolk.

Mary Poe
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Submitted April 15, 2016



Mary Poe presents Adam German, Village of Cortland, with the 2015 Best Tasting Water award at the Cortland village office in December 2015

About Wise Water Words



"Wise Water Words" is published by the Nebraska Section - American Water Works Association

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