

WISE WATER WORDS

Volume 53 • Issue 2 • Summer 2016



Inside:

Philanthropy and Education (page 3)

Nominations for Election (page 7)

Fall Conference 2016 (page 13)

Wise Water Words

Summer 2016

Volume 53, Issue 2

In This Issue

3	Director's Report
4	Report from the Chair
5	Call for Award Nominations
5	What History Can You Share?
5	Exhibit at Fall Conference
6	Membership Report
6	Poster Contest
6	Enter the Water-Tasting Contest
6	Texas Hold'Em Returns
7	Nominations for Election
8	Operators Scholarship
8	Washington Fly-In Report
9	Security Grants
9	Pre-Conference Workshop Registration
10	WARN
11	Water For People Update
11	Water Operator Training Calendar
12	Top Ops at ACE 2016
13	Pre-Register for the Fall Conference
14	Drinking Water Week Proclamation
15	Drinking Water Week Signing Ceremony
16	Golf Outing Raises \$4,800 for WFP

About This Publication

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

Publications committee members:

Laura Hardesty
Marc Rosso
Teresa Konda
Mike Wentink

Board liaison:

Mary Poe

Committee chair:

Brian Gongol

Online:

www.awwaneb.org/words

Comments:

publications@awwaneb.org



American Water Works Association
Nebraska Section

2015-2016 Officers

Chair	Ben Day	Trustees	Mary Poe
Chair-Elect	Chad Roberts		Brittany Travers
Vice-Chair	Rick Melcher		Gary Thurlow
Secretary	Jim Shields		John Keith
Treasurer	Milo Rust		
Past Chair	Doug Woodbeck		
Director	Bruce Dvorak		

On the Cover

Birds flying over the Platte River at the Bassway Strip Wildlife Management Area, in Buffalo County between Kearney and Gibbon

Director's Report: Philanthropy and Education in the Water Sector

It is an honor to be selected by the Nebraska Section to serve as your Director for the next three years. I started my term at the end of the Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) in Chicago in June. I want to thank the outgoing Director, John Olsson, for his advice and guidance as I have transitioned into this position. John has provided strong leadership during the past three years. I am especially impressed by his efforts to engage the Nebraska drinking water industry in being a proactive leader in the state to find Total Water Solutions, through the ad hoc committee by that name. I know that John will continue to provide leadership for the section into the future.

The Nebraska Section served as the host to an AWWA Regional Section Officers Meeting (RMSO) on May 13 and 14 in Omaha. We had twenty-five participants, with six of the nine sections in our region represented. I want to recognize Ben Day, Mary Poe, Jim Shields, and Tony Bilek for their hard work in finalizing the preparations to host the RMSO. Our colleagues from Wyoming commented upon the warm Omaha weather, while those from Texas bemoaned the cold. We had highs in the 70s and a low of 38°F.

At the RMSO, a range of topics were discussed including topics such as Membership Model Changes, AWWA's Philanthropic Initiative

(more on this below), and Community Engineering Corps. The most valuable aspect of the meeting was the conversations and sharing of ideas between sections.

The Nebraska Section AWWA has long been aware of the tremendous importance of operators to the success of the water industry, and the need to continue to recruit and train operational staff. In 2009, Mike Wentink provided leadership for a joint Nebraska Section AWWA and Nebraska Water Environment Association survey which found that the median age of operators in Nebraska was over 51 years old, and 45% planned to retire within 10 years.

AWWA has started a new philanthropic initiative called the Water Equation to address the critical shortage of skilled water professionals. Plants need skilled workers to operate increasingly complex controls of water and wastewater systems. Nationally, the water industry faces a critical shortage of operators, and the need is expected to increase by 6% in the next decade.

Thus, to help attract talented new people and to retain and enhance the skills of our current membership, AWWA wants to double the number of scholarships awarded annually. These scholarships will be for all levels, bachelors and graduate degrees and

continuing education for operators. AWWA national is providing matching funds to Sections that create new scholarships, like the Nebraska Section has recently done. Scholarships for degree-students normally can only be spent on an accredited degree program.

With the One AWWA Operator Scholarship, there is more flexibility as to how it is used. These funds could be used for certification/licensure, two-year community college water programs, professional training programs, books and manuals, and even to send a Section's meritorious service award winner to ACE. Please watch for more announcements related to the Water Equation and the associated scholarships.

In closing, I am looking forward to representing the Nebraska Section as your Director for the next three years. As always, I encourage you to get involved with the Association in some manner. Your feedback and involvement are critical to the success of our Association. This is an exciting time to become involved in AWWA and the organization has with abundant resources available to help you with your job.

Bruce Dvorak
UNL
Nebraska Section AWWA Director
bdvorak1@unl.edu
Submitted July 4, 2016

Report from the Chair: RMSO Recap

In the last issue of Wise Water Words, I encouraged attendance at the Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO) which our Section had the honor of hosting in Omaha. I would like to say it was a real success. The following Nebraska Section members attended and assisted with the event:

- Ben Day
- Bruce Dvorak
- John Keith
- Mary Poe
- Jim Shields
- Gary Thurlow
- Doug Woodbeck

There were 25 total attendees from six AWWA Sections and from states including Colorado, Utah, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wyoming. In addition, we were honored by the attendance of Jon Eaton (AWWA Vice Chair) from Minnesota.

The RMSO was very insightful for me to gain an understanding of the goals of AWWA, how membership works and how statistics are tracked and used to increase membership, new initiatives, an update on government affairs, the Community Engineering Corps, and Section Sharing.

A presentation was given on the Community Engineering Corps along with an interactive exercise to give folks an idea of what the initiative is all about. The Nebraska



Section left the RMSO agreeing to learn more about the Community Engineering Corps and ready to organize a committee within our Section to identify communities in need of infrastructure improvements and offer assistance to them to study and design projects with volunteer help from the Nebraska Section of AWWA as well as others across the nation. More to come on this initiative as the Section starts to develop this committee.

Section Sharing was also very intriguing. We learned how other sections operate and I was somewhat surprised to find out that the Texas Section is so large, it is broken into chapters – many of which are as large as Nebraska's entire Section. While we are a small section, you all should be pleased to know that the other larger sections were very interested in how we operate, in particular, they were interested in the card-reader system for operator credits and the training calendar.

The evening meal on Friday night

was organized by Jim Shields at Omaha Prime. Our out-of-Section guests were impressed by the Old Market and the great food that Omaha has to offer. As for me, I left the RMSO regretting that I had not attended earlier in my AWWA service career. I encourage all who become active on the Board and even at the Committee Chair level who are interested in future Board involvement to attend an RMSO early in in your service. You will gain a great wealth of knowledge about how AWWA operates and how we can work to provide even more benefit to our members.

A big thanks to the Section for helping to host and fund this event and to all the volunteers from the Section who assisted in preparing and running this year's Region IV RMSO.

Ben Day
Olsson Associates
Nebraska Section AWWA Chair
jday@olssonassociates.com
Submitted August 2, 2016

Don't Wait for Someone Else to Say "Thank You" -- Recognize Your Colleagues

There are a lot of hard-working employees in the water/wastewater area who day after day go above and beyond in their job duties. Some people would say these workers receive a paycheck and say that is enough. We can do better.

Please take a few minutes to recognize these workers who continually put forth extra effort because they take PRIDE in the work that they do. The Awards Committee is asking for nominations of individuals for a variety of different awards.

The awards committee added some new awards in 2013 and very few of these awards have been utilized. These are the Water Treatment Plant Operator Award, Cross Connection Control Program Award, Cross Connection Specialist of the Year Award, Longevity Award, and Outstanding Supervisor/Operator Award. We

also have many other awards that are listed on the Nebraska Section website and other awards are listed on the National AWWA website.

There are many deserving individuals who should be nominated for other awards such as the Operators Meritorious Service Award, Volunteer Award and the WISA Award. We are always busy but I hope we take a few minutes to recognize individuals who truly deserve these awards and should have their efforts recognized.

Dennis Watts
City of Norfolk
Nebraska Section AWWA Awards Committee Chair
dwwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us
Submitted August 2, 2016

What Water History Can You Share?

The Archives Committee is requesting historical data from anyone serving in the water industry.

Old photos, engineering data, advertisements, etc. would be greatly appreciated. Items will be highlighted in Wise Water Words editions, online, and at the annual conference.

Please contact Tony Bilek, Rob Pierce, or Jim Wells with any questions.

Tony Bilek
Mc2, Inc.
Nebraska Section AWWA Archives Committee
tony@mc2h2o.com
Submitted August 1, 2016

Invitation to Fall Conference Exhibitors

Attention Fall Conference exhibitors!

Invitations, contracts and sponsorship forms have been mailed out and are posted on the Nebraska Section AWWA website for the Annual Fall Conference in Kearney. We encourage registering online; however, checks will be accepted. The conference will be held in Kearney, November 2-4 at the Younes Center.

Please feel free to offer feedback on how we might enhance the exhibit area. We are looking forward to another successful exhibition with your support.

Tony Bilek
Mc2, Inc.
Nebraska Section AWWA MAC Committee Chair
tony@mc2h2o.com
Submitted August 1, 2016

340 and counting! Please welcome our newest members

Hello NE-AWWA members! We are just over halfway through 2016 and wanted to recognize those new members who have joined us this year. Thanks for joining AWWA and we hope to see you at an event or in a committee soon.

Debra Ecklund
Timothy Thares
Jennifer Thompson
Tony Jelinek
William Harpole
Tim Renken
Marty Ostransky
Melissa Polito
Deanna Ringenberg
Rick Wilson
David Tafolla
Jared Slavin
Scott Speicher
Lee Dunn
Rod Biestel
Matthew Garder
Ryan Brandt
Jake Dugger
Matthew Thompson
Dennis Rinkol
David Beyersdorf

Craig Aldridge
Corbin Harms
Paul Selivanoff
Thomas Shafer
Robert Taylor

As an update, we recently completed our 2016 membership drive. Several membership committee members called potential members and we recruited two people. We currently have 340 active members which parallels the past few years.

Fall Conference is right around the corner and we could have the Eddy costume if someone is interested in being Eddy for a day. (We are not sure if he's climate-controlled, but being a water drop for a day sure sounds interesting).

Marc Rosso
JEO Consulting Group
Nebraska Section AWWA Membership Chair
mrosso@jeo.com
Submitted August 1, 2016

Poster Contest and Water-Tasting Call for Entries

The Public Information committee is busy planning the children's poster contest and the water-tasting contest for the Fall Conference. We hope that you can get involved in both of these, by viewing and voting on the posters and by submitting a water sample in the tasting contest.

We are looking for one or two more people to join our committee. Please contact Mary Poe if you are interested. Current members are Mary Poe, Brian Gongol, and Chad Roberts.

Mary Poe
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Nebraska Section AWWA Public Information Chair
mary.poe@nebraska.gov
Submitted August 5, 2016

Texas Hold'Em Returns

As in previous years, the Young Professionals committee will host a Texas Hold'Em tournament at the Fall Conference.

Prospective sponsors are invited to contact Paula Cooper at HDR, and anyone interested in participating as a dealer or volunteer should contact Ryan Hurst at the City of Minden. Enter simply by showing up at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday, November 2nd at 9:00 pm.

Nominations Committee Report: Who is on the Ballot at the November Business Meeting

The Nomination Committee has submitted the following slate of candidates for election to the 2016-17 Nebraska Section AWWA Board of Directors:

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016/2017 - POSITIONS REQUIRING ELECTION

Chair-Elect

Rick Melcher
Small Utility, Licensed Operator

Vice-Chair

Milo Rust
Small Utility, Licensed Operator

Secretary

Mary Poe
Regulator (2-year term)

Trustee

Marc Rosso
Engineer (2-year term)

Trustee

Jack Satur
Medium Utility, Licensed Operator
(2-year term)

If elected to Vice-Chair, Milo Rust will be leaving the position of Treasurer mid-term. The Nominating Committee recommended that Brittany Travers be appointed to replace him for the remaining year of his term as Treasurer.

COMPLETE 2016/2017 OFFICERS AND NOMINEES ROSTER (IF ALL RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES ARE ELECTED)

Chair

Chad Roberts
Medium Utility, Licensed Operator

Chair-Elect

Rick Melcher
Small Utility, Licensed Operator

Vice-Chair

Milo Rust
Small Utility, Licensed Operator

Secretary

Mary Poe
Regulator
(Nov. 2016 through Nov. 2018)

Treasurer

Brittany Travers
Mfgs. Rep.
(appointment to replace Milo Rust
as Treasurer if elected)

Director

Dr. Bruce Dvorak
Academic, Engineer

Past Chair

Ben Day
Engineer

Trustee (2-year term)

Marc Rosso
Engineer
(Nov. 2016 through Nov. 2018)

Trustee (2-year term)

Jack Satur
Medium Utility, Licensed Operator
(Nov. 2016 through Nov. 2018)

Trustee (2-year term)

Gary Thurlow
Small Utility, Licensed Operator
(Nov. 2015 through Nov. 2017)

Trustee (2-year term)

John Keith
Large Utility, Licensed Operator
(Nov. 2015 through Nov. 2017)

* * *

The elections will be conducted at the Nebraska Section AWWA business meeting at the Fall Conference in Kearney NE on Thursday, November 3rd, 2016. At that time nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Jim Shields
Metropolitan Utilities District
Nebraska Section AWWA Secretary
jim_shields@mudnebr.com
Submitted July 21, 2016

Operators: Apply now for a \$1,000 scholarship

The Nebraska Section AWWA is cooperating with the AWWA Water Equation Campaign to award two scholarships for \$1,000 each to water operators for training and education. The "One AWWA" operator scholarship can be used for certification or licensure, a two-year water related associate's degree, or other forms of training. The scholarship also comes with a one-year operator membership in AWWA.

Applicants must be current water operators or those seeking to enter the profession, and must be pursuing a license, certification, or degree related to the water industry in Nebraska.

The scholarships will be awarded at the Fall Conference, and the Nebraska Section AWWA will require a follow-up report from the recipients about their pursuits for reporting at the following year's conference. Scholarship committee chair Craig Reinsch (creinsch@olssonassociates.com) can offer additional information to interested applicants. The full application form is available at awwaneb.org/committees/scholarship and applications are due no later than September 15th.

Brian Gongol
DJ Gongol & Associates, Inc.
Nebraska Section AWWA Publications Chair
brian@gongol.net
Submitted August 4, 2016

Washington Fly-In Recap: Talking About WIFIA, SRF Funding, and Lead



L to R:
Jim Shields,
Chad Roberts,
Milo Rust

On April 13th and 14th more than 130 AWWA members from 47 states blanketed Capitol Hill with the association's message that the nation must invest more in water infrastructure during the 15th annual AWWA Water Matters! Fly-In. Nebraska was represented by Milo Rust from Chadron, Chad Roberts from Norfolk, and me. We had meetings with all five congressional offices and we focused on infrastructure needs and the lead problem. We distributed two position papers at each meeting: One on lead and the other on funding for water infrastructure.

Our meetings went well and we were received positively by all of the offices. All of the offices seemed to be supportive of continuing to fund the SRF program and recognized the program's importance to Nebraska. Senator Fischer's office seemed especially well-versed about the Water Infrastructure Finance

and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and they are hoping to find uses for the money in Nebraska. Another highlight from the visit to Capitol Hill was that Congressman Adrian Smith attended our entire meeting at his office.

Here is a list of those we met at each office:

Rep. Ashford: Chris Kelley,
Legislative Director
Rep. Fortenberry: Alan Feyerherm,
Deputy Chief of Staff
Rep. Smith: Congressman Adrian
Smith and Matt Reynolds,
Legislative Assistant
Sen. Sasse: Joel Wellum, Senior
Legislative Correspondent
Sen. Fischer: Jessica Clowser,
Legislative Aide

Jim Shields
Metropolitan Utilities District
Nebraska Section AWWA Water Utility Council Chair
jim_shields@mudnebr.com
Submitted April 27, 2016

Help Us to Help You Get Eligible for Security Grants

Pre-Conference Workshop Registration

Operators from several water systems have asked recently about whether water system security grants are available, and what to do to get them. The short answer starts with "Yes, but..."

In the early 2000s, DHHS started the security grant program using funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). We looked at the description of uses in Federal guidance that the funds could be used for, and received approval from US EPA Region 7 for the program.

We first had to develop a set of rules to implement the program. At first, they were pretty simple, but over the years they have grown more complicated. However, one requirement has been a constant for the life of the program: At least one licensed water operator for a system had to have successfully passed the Incident Command System/National Incident Management System training, or ICS/NIMS.

At first, it was just two modules: ICS-100 and ICS-200. Later, we added ICS-700. The requirement for ICS/NIMS 100, 200, and 700 training still exists today in order for a public water system to qualify to get one of our security grants.

More than a few systems are running into the obstacle that a lot of licensed water operators have retired or will retire soon. Many

systems took it for granted that they had at least one licensed operator with ICS/NIMS training and didn't worry about getting anyone else trained. As the ranks of ICS/NIMS trained staff have thinned out, systems are finding themselves ineligible for grants.

Let your DHHS field representative know if you need to have someone go through the ICS/NIMS training. I am trying to schedule this training in Western Nebraska through NEMA Region 23. Other field representatives can help do the same thing, but we need to be able to show sufficient interest.

Another viable option systems have is to complete the training online. In my opinion, the online training is not ideal, but it is an option if you are disciplined enough to dedicate yourself to it – but take note: the online training is a timed event, so you must complete it in the allotted time or be forced to start over.

DHHS wants to help your water system achieve maximum eligibility for water-security grants, and we would like to help you achieve the required certifications. Please get in touch with your field representatives if you need ICS/NIMS training to get moving in the right direction.

Doug Woodbeck
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Nebraska Section AWWA Past Chair
doug.woodbeck@nebraska.gov
Submitted August 2, 2016

REGISTRATION FORM 2016 WORKSHOP – MANAGING WATER RESOURCES

Registration is free. Lunch is provided free of charge by Nebraska Section AWWA.

Register directly at: <http://www.ne-wea.org/events/conferences/2016-joint-fall-conference/preconference-registration>

Web registration is preferred. If needed return this form for mail or fax registration:

Mike Wentink
Nebraska DHHS DPH
200 Silber Ave
North Platte, NE 69101
FAX: (308) 535-8366
Phone: (308) 535-8135

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Employer _____

Please Pre-Register by October 23rd

(Registration also available at the door)

Workshop size limited to 80 seats!

Details on the Pre-Conference Workshop tied to the November Fall Conference can be found at awwaneb.org/fallconference

Utilities Helping Utilities Through WARN, the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

NEWARN began with a steering committee formed back in 2007 and has since grown to 177 members. When board members give presentations about NEWARN, the audience usually includes many folks who are not familiar with NEWARN. The current NEWARN board is working hard to change that and get the word out.

What is NEWARN?

NEWARN is a statewide Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) of utilities helping utilities. The network supports communication and cooperation among member utilities that provides many benefits including:

- Preparation for natural or human-caused emergencies
- Establishment of mutual assistance agreements and processes for sharing emergency resources among members statewide
- A forum for developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships
- The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a disaster
- Training to assist utilities to be better prepared for disaster response and recovery

Why do we need NEWARN?

Water and wastewater systems provide our communities with life-sustaining resources that are vital for maintaining public health, sanitation and safety. A community's well-being quickly deteriorates when water and/or wastewater service is interrupted for extended periods of time. And without an adequate water supply, our communities are vulnerable to devastating fires. NEWARN supports efficient restoration of water and wastewater

“The core of the NEWARN website is the emergency equipment database”

service, which provides hope to communities for quick recovery from those disasters.

Why should you join NEWARN?

Who is likely to have a specialized pump or valve your system needs to get back on line in a hurry? Another water or wastewater system! So join your colleagues in NEWARN and become part of the network dedicated to keeping our communities healthy, sanitary and

safe.

Our mission is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance to water and wastewater utilities. The NEWARN website does this by providing members with emergency planning, response, and recovery information before, during, and after an emergency.

The core of the NEWARN website is the emergency equipment database that matches utility resources to a member's needs during an emergency. Members may locate emergency equipment (like pumps, generators, chlorinators, and evacuators) and trained personnel (like treatment plant operators, field crews, and other staff) that they may need in an emergency.

If you have any questions about NEWARN please visit www.newarn.org or contact any board member.

Dennis Watts
City of Norfolk
Nebraska WARN Board Chair
dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us
Submitted August 4, 2016

Support of Water For People Really Adds Up! Thousands of Dollars Raised in 2016

Your support for Water For People really adds up! The Water For People Committee has completed two fundraising events, sent one person to the national Water For People Committee Workshop, and hopes to conduct two additional fundraising events this year.

The first event of the year was the Wine 4 Water wine tasting held at Vino Mas in Omaha on February 25th, chaired by Teresa Konda. The wine-tasting event grew considerably in its second year. Thirty-four people attended and five sponsorships were received, and in total you helped us raise \$1,200 for Water for People.

The Water For People golf outing was held on May 13th at the Woodland Hills Golf Course in Eagle, and was chaired by Joe Roberts. 72 golfers braved the chilly spring winds of the day, and, with the help of 20 sponsors and multiple pin-prize donors, raised over \$4,800 for Water For People.

The Nebraska Section AWWA provided support to allow the committee sent Darshan Baral to the Water For People Committee Workshop in Denver on July 21st and 22nd. Darshan reported back information including additional fundraising ideas, use of social media for outreach, and resources available to the local committees.

The remaining fundraising activities planned for the year include a

Shotgun Benefit in October and a raffle at the Fall Conference in Kearney in November. Tim Mundorf chairs the Shotgun Benefit, which will be held at the Oak Creek Sporting Club near Brainard on Friday, October 14, at 1:30 pm. Cost is \$65 per person.

Water For People's mission is to promote the development of high-quality drinking water and sanitation services, accessible to all, and sustained by strong communities, businesses, and governments. The Nebraska AWWA Water For People Committee thanks the Nebraska Section AWWA for the support to conduct the fundraising events and thanks all who sponsor, donate, and attend the events to allow the committee to continue to support the mission of Water For People.

Teresa Konda
HDR
Nebraska Section AWWA Water For People Chair
teresa.konda@hdrinc.com
Submitted August 10, 2016

Water Operator Training Calendar

September 1
Grand Island (backflow training)
(Borders Inn & Suites, 3333 Ramada Road)

September 13
Wayne (backflow training)
(Fire Hall, 510 Tomar Drive)

September 14
Beatrice (backflow training)
(Risky's Bar & Grill, 2317 N. 6th, Suite #1)

October 4
Albion
(Fire Hall, 216 South 5th Street)

October 5
Aurora
(Fire Hall, 906 13th Street)

October 6
Chester
(Fire Hall, 621 Thayer Avenue)

October 26
Lincoln
(Holiday Inn, 141 North 9th Street)

December 13
Hastings
(Utilities Building, 1228 North Denver)

December 14
York
(Kilgore Library, 520 Nebraska Avenue)

January 18
South Sioux City
(Fire Hall, 1501 1st Avenue)

January 19
Norfolk
(DHHS Office, 209 North 5th Street)

Nebraska Top Ops at ACE in Chicago: A Top-1/3 Finish

Top Ops participants from the Nebraska Section AWWA competed in Chicago at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) in June.

The Nebraska Section Top Ops team, represented by Steve Kelley (Beatrice Board of Public Works), Ken Swanson (Auburn Board of Public Works), and Eric Lee (Lincoln Water System), finished in 6th place out of 19 teams that competed.

The top four finishers in the competition were:

- 1st - Palm Coast Water Buoys of Palm Coast, Florida Section
- 2nd - Fort Worth Panthers, Texas Section
- 3rd - Birmingham Prime Movers, Alabama/Mississippi Section
- 4th - Aquitards, Illinois Section

Although the Nebraska Section team got off to a slow start during their first of three preliminary rounds, during the second round of preliminary competition the answers to questions posed seem to come their way. During the third round however, answers to the questions became a bit more elusive to the competitors from Nebraska. Only the top four teams in the preliminary competitions advance to the semi-finals.

As currently formatted for the ACE Top Ops competition, this "Quiz Bowl" style of game allows more participation from all the competing teams without the additional burden



L to R:
Ken Swanson,
Eric Lee,
Steve Kelley

of being first to the buzzer.

Two or three teams compete with questions generated for each round that are randomly selected from a secured question bank. Each competing team is provided with an erasable white board. On one side of the board are the words "No Response". Once the question is shown on the screen, the competing teams have 25 seconds for which to determine the answer and write it on the white board. At the 25-second mark the competing teams show their answers. If a team has no answer, the "No Response" side of the board is displayed.

Correct answers are awarded 2 points, math questions are awarded 3 points, and a "No Response" answer is worth 0 points. If a team answers incorrectly, 1 point is deducted from their score. At conclusion of the round competition points are awarded based on how a team placed in the round (3, 2, or 1 point). Each team competes in three preliminary rounds. The four teams with the highest numbers of

competition points, advance to the semi-final rounds. As teams advance into the semi-final and championship rounds the question content becomes more difficult.

Success in the sport at that level necessitates having a team members with well-rounded knowledge of treatment, distribution systems, regulatory issues, natural sciences, and more. The Nebraska Top Ops team had that knowledge, but even so, some luck is involved with the random selection of questions for each round.

The Nebraska Top Ops team finished in the top third of the competing teams, and missed the semi-final eligibility by only a couple of slots. That is a respectable finish. Congratulations to our competitors for representing Nebraska well!

Mike Wentink
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Nebraska Section AWWA Top Ops Committee
mike.wentink@nebraska.gov
Submitted June 22, 2016

Fall Conference 2016: Pre-Register and Save!

APWA, NWEA & AWWA 2016 Registration Information		
Program	Pre-Registration	On-Site Registration
APWA	\$100*	\$110*
NWEA	\$100*	\$110*
AWWA	\$100*	\$110*
Full Conference	\$180*	\$195*
Additional Banquet Tickets		\$40
Additional Lunch Tickets		\$25

* Includes Wednesday Lunch and Banquet
 * Includes Wednesday Lunch, Banquet and Thursday Lunch
 * Includes Thursday Lunch and Banquet
 * Includes all Lunches and all Banquets

Conference Hotel Information
 To guarantee a room at the conference rate, make your reservation prior to October 7, 2016. You must tell the hotel you will be attending this conference to receive the conference rate.

La Quinta Inn -
Reservations Number: (308) 237-4400
 Per contract room rates are \$99.95 (suite \$139.95) for one - four persons. Tax not included.

New Hampton Inn -
Reservations Number: (308) 234-3400
 Per contract room rates are \$109.95 (suite \$159.95) for one - four persons. Tax not included.

Fairfield Inn -
Reservations Number: (308) 236-4200
 Per contract room rates are \$99.95 (suite \$139.95) for one - four persons. Tax not included.

Comfort Inn (Formerly Hampton Inn) -
Reservations Number: (308) 236-3400
 Per contract room rates are \$99.95 (suite \$139.95) for one - four persons. Tax not included.

Continuing Education Hours
NDHHS Water Operator CEU Hours:
 Grades 1-4 = Up to 9 hours
 Grade 6 = Up to 5 hours (backflow challenge attendance)
NDEQ Wastewater Operator CEU Hours:
 9 Hrs

Register Online
 You can register online and pay by credit card through the NWEA website (www.ne-wea.org) or mail your payment (check made payable to NWEA) to Scott Bundy.

**2016 FALL CONFERENCE
Pre-Registration Only**

Membership: APWA NWEA AWWA

Name: _____
 Title: _____
 Organization: _____
 Email: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

New Member Yes No
 Young Professional (Age 35 and under) Yes No

Pre-Registration Options	Check Selection	Banquet Selection
APWA Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> APWA
NWEA Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> NWEA
AWWA Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> AWWA
Full Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> \$180	
Extra Lunch Tickets:	\$25 each X _____ = \$ _____	
Extra Banquet Tickets:		
APWA	\$40 each X _____ = \$ _____	
NWEA	\$40 each X _____ = \$ _____	
AWWA	\$40 each X _____ = \$ _____	
NWEA Lapel Pin (WERF Fund)	\$5 _____ = \$ _____	

Optional Scholarship Fund Donation
 (Suggested Minimum \$5) \$ _____
 Organization: APWA NWEA AWWA

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to NWEA
 Deadline to return registration form with payment is:
 October 14, 2016

Attn: Scott Bundy
 HDR
 8404 Indian Hills Drive
 Omaha, NE 68114

For further information contact Scott Bundy at:
 Email: scott.bundy@hdrinc.com
 Phone: (402) 926-7028 or Fax: (402) 399-4918

No refunds after Wednesday, October 26, 2016

6th ANNUAL TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT



Presented by:
 NSAWWA/NWEA Young Professionals Committee
 at the Nebraska 2016 Fall Joint Conference

To Benefit:  water for people

Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2016
Location: At the Holiday Inn
 (Following the Banquet, 9:00 pm to Midnight)

1st Place: \$200 **2nd Place:** \$150
3rd Place: \$100 **4th Place:** \$50
5th Place: \$25 Plus Consolation Prizes!
 Prizes will be awarded to all tournament players!
 3 Raffles during the Tournament!

Suggested Tournament Donation: \$20
 Make checks payable to NWEA (Texas Hold'em)

Walk in Night of the event to play!

To Sign-Up to Volunteer as a Dealer Please Contact:
Ryan Hurst
 Email: rhurst@mindennebraska.org
 Phone: 308-830-3824

See awwaneb.org/fallconference for complete details of the event, including schedules and links for online registration.

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 mortality 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 1 – 7, 2016 as*

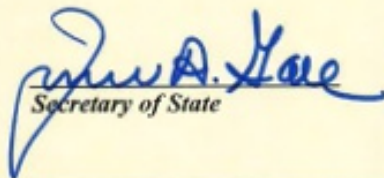
DRINKING WATER WEEK


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 Fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Sixteen.



Attest:


Secretary of State


Governor

Drinking Water Week Proclamation Signed by the Governor Honors Our Industry

On May 4, Governor Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation declaring May 1-7, 2016 as Drinking Water Week in Nebraska.

The following individuals attended on behalf of the public water sector in Nebraska (pictured left to right):

Roger Figard, City of Lincoln
Howard Isaacs, DHHS
Jim Shields, MUD
Mary Poe, DHHS
Ben Day, Olsson Associates
Governor Pete Ricketts
Chris Jewett, MAP
Mike Brownfield, MAP
Donna Garden, City of Lincoln
Pat Petersen, NeRWA

Mary Poe
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Nebraska Section AWWA Trustee
mary.poe@nebraska.gov
Submitted July 22, 2016



Golf Outing Raises \$4,800 for Water for People

With the help of 72 golfers and the support of 20 hole sponsors, the Nebraska Section AWWA raised over \$4,800 for Water for People at our annual golf outing.

The winning team in Flight 1:

Keith Kontor
Kathleen Alexander
Keith Alexander
Chris Sacco



Second place in Flight 1:

Amit Shrivastava
Tim Papstein
Adam Wilmes
Kent Papstein



The winning team in Flight 2:

Derek Gardels
Chris Koenig
Zach Nelson
Chris Cain

Second place in Flight 2:

Ryan Brandt
Dave Beyersdorf
Pat Gates
Al Romine

First in the water on Hole 6:

John True



Joe Roberts
HDR
Nebraska Section AWWA Water for People Committee
joseph.roberts@hdrinc.com
Submitted June 2, 2016