

2007 Annual Fall Conference Nebraska Section AWWA November 7-8, Kearney Holiday Inn



Nebraska Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy was the keynote speaker at the AWWA-APWA luncheon, November 7.

From left: Nebraska Section AWWA Chair Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services, and Sheehy.



Front row, from left: Trustee Eric Lee; Lincoln Water System; Director Chris Koenig, HDR Inc., Chair Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District; Trustee David Lathrop, City of Seward.

Back row: Secretary Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.; Treasurer Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities; Past-Chair Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Vice-Chair John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates, and Chair-Elect Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering.

George Warren Fuller Award

Tony Bilek, Mc² Inc.



From left: Tony, his wife, Laura, and daughters, Anna, 10, and Lauren, 8.

Tony Bilek, Mc² Inc., was named the George Warren Fuller Award recipient at the 2007 Fall Conference for outstanding service to the water industry. This is the highest honor given by AWWA. The award will be presented to Tony at the National AWWA Conference in Atlanta, GA, June 8-12, 2008.

Tony's grandfather founded a plumbing firm in the 1940s. As a child, Tony enjoyed visiting the plumbing shop and doing small chores for spending money. He worked in a drug store during high school.

His career with the water and wastewater began at Control Data in Omaha, where he was responsible for the operations and maintenance of a large scale ultra-high purity water system and heavy metals chemical waste treatment system.

After 13 years of service at Control Data, Tony joined Raines and Associates, Omaha. This was in 1992. He excelled in sales and service of water and wastewater equipment in both industrial and municipal markets. Tony accepted a similar position with Mc² Inc., Omaha in 1999, and is a partner in the firm.

Tony earned water and wastewater operators licenses in Nebraska. He joined the Nebraska and Iowa Sections AWWA in 1996, and is a member of NWEA, the Iowa Pollution Control Association and the Nebraska and Iowa Rural Water Associations.

He was elected to Nebraska Section board of trustees in 1998, and served as chair in 2006. He chairs the Manufacturers/Associates Council.

His hobbies include virtually anything outdoors — golf, fishing, fruit tree and vegetable gardening, biking, hiking. He "grows beautiful tomatoes," according to his wife, Laura. Woodworking, astronomy and photography are other interests.

Laura is an assistant professor at the UN Med Center's physical therapy department. She met Tony in a softball league, and they were married 12 years ago.

Tony has four children, Tony 23, a Creighton University graduate in graphic design; Tara 21, a student UNO, majoring in elementary education; Anna 10 and Lauren 8. The family lives on an acreage near Treynor, IA.



From left: Nebraska Section AWWA Chair Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Tony, National AWWA Vice-Chair Craig Woolard of Anchorage, AK, and Nebraska Section AWWA Director Chris Koenig, HDR Inc.



Water Industry Service Award recipients, from left, seated: Paul Reed, Metropolitan Utilities District; National AWWA Vice-Chair Craig Woolard of Anchorage, AK; Doug Woodbeck, Nebraska Health & Human Services.

Standing: Wayne Rickers, Beatrice Board of Public Works; Nick McElvain, Lincoln Water System; Kenneth Swanson, Auburn Board of Public Works, and Doug Pollack, City of Seward.



From left: Doug Allen, Nebraska Health & Human Services, and Steven Boeselager, City of Chadron, received water operator awards from the Nebraska Health & Human Services Public Health Division.



Award recipients, from left, seated: Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers (Lifetime Membership); Steven Boeselager, City of Chadron (Water Operator Award).

Standing: Kathleen Alexander, HDR Inc. (Outstanding Volunteer Award); Tony Bilek, Mc² Inc. (Fuller Award); National AWWA Vice-Chair Craig Woolard of Anchorage, AK, and Glenn Dostal, HDR Inc. (Ken J. Miller Founders Award).

Safety Awards



Safety award recipients, from left, seated: Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works; David Lathrop, City of Seward; Rollin Davis, City of Ord; Kenneth Swanson, Auburn Board of Public Works.

Standing: Gerardo Martinez, Lincoln Water System; Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District; Larry Andreasen, Fremont Department of Utilities; Robert Smith, Grand Island Utilities Department, and Jack Satur, City of Scottsbluff.

Unavailable for photo: Cities of Crete, Norfolk, Nebraska City and Village of Lyman.

Top Ops Winners



First Place Top Ops Team, from left: Herb Scott, Servi Tech; National AWWA Vice-Chair Craig Woolard of Anchorage, AK, and Kristen Ostdiek, Servi Tech.

Second Place Top Ops Team, from left: Mary Maher, Jon Zellars and Mike Koenig, Metropolitan Utilities District.

Third Place Team included Rollie Cederberg, Chad Roberts and Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk.



Non-Top Ops Winners



The National Top Ops Competition allows only water operators to participate. So, Chris Koenig, HDR Inc., organizer of the Top Ops Competition since 1996, developed a Non-Top Ops Competition for engineers and other professionals. The first place Non-Top Ops team included, from left: Brock Beran, Schemmer & Associates; Craig Wilson, Vessco Inc., and Allen Shoemaker, City of Blair.



Conference participants.

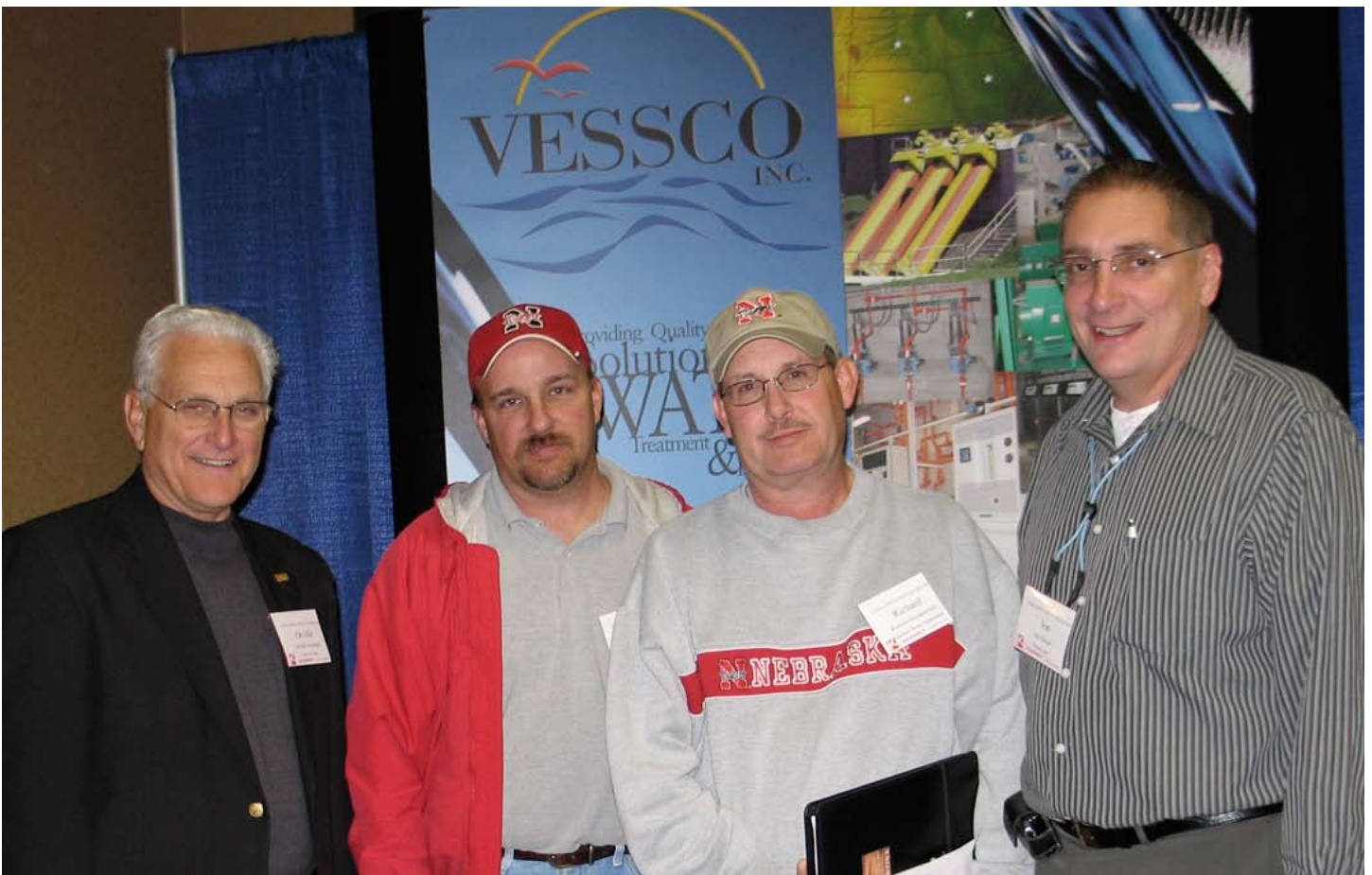
Vendors and Conference Participants



There was a total 52 vendors at the conference. Water Remediation Technology LLC won the “Best of Show” Award for their booth presentation. Other vendors included Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers. From left: Gary Thurlow, City of Atkinson; Connelly Rice, City of Kearney, and Michele Garwood, Kirkham Michael.



From left: Chris Rockwell, Mellen Associates Inc., and Mike Koenig, Metropolitan Utilities District.



From left: Orville Davidson, City of York; Glen Dolezal and Richard Heydenrich, City of Papillion, and Jon Harger, Vessco Inc.



From left: Gary Sasse, JEO Consulting Group, Nebraska City; Roger Protzman, JEO Consulting Group, Norfolk; Kirk Morgan Nucor, Norfolk.



Conference participants.



From left: Luca DeAngelis, Dan Freese, Layne Christensen; Jack Satur, City of Scottsbluff.



Conference organizers and workers, from left: Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.; Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District; Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services, and Tony Bilek, Mc² Inc.

Networking Opportunities



From left: Ron Bottorff, JEO Consulting Group, Lincoln; Andrew Hansen, Black & Veatch, Sidwell, KS; Jay Ringenberg, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.



From left: Chris Johnson, Bert Gurney & Associates, Omaha; Dan Larson, Bioway, Denver, CO, and Chris Jens, Veenstra Kimm, Sioux City, IA.



From left: Jim McFarland, Mc² Inc., Omaha; Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; Debra Leigh, Leigh Environmental Equipment Inc., Omaha, and Jerry Hughes, Degremont Technology, Granbury, TX.



From left: Ross Dimauro, City of Bellevue; Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human Services, and Ron Tekippe, HGM Associates, Omaha.

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November 6-7
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