

Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference, Kearney, November 6-7, 2008

The Nebraska Section AWWA Annual Fall Conference was held at the Kearney Holiday Inn Convention Center, November 6-7. Eighty-four people attended.

Fuller Award

Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services, received the George Warren Fuller Award for outstanding service to the water industry. This is the highest honor given by AWWA. The award will be presented to Mike at the National AWWA Conference in San Diego, June 14-18, 2009.

Nomination Speech by Joel Christensen, M.U.D.

This year's Fuller Award recipient is a dedicated member of the American Water Works Association and the Nebraska Section. He has been a member since 1978.

He was born in Lincoln and is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. His family includes his parents, one sister and one brother. He has been married for 31 years with a teenager and a two-year-old, also four nephews and four nieces.

He has three hobbies: Hunting, hunting and more hunting. He mostly hunts birds, but also has hunted moose in Canada with success, Elk in Colorado with no success, and has hunted deer and antelope in Nebraska. If there is no hunting season anywhere, he will fish. By the way, his teenager is a 13-year-old chocolate lab and his two-year-old is a yellow lab!

Our 2008 recipient has worked in Lincoln, Gering and North Platte. He has inspected public water systems and construction projects, trained and educated water operators, developed water operator regulations and examinations, coordinated the efforts of water operator training providers, and worked on the Nebraska Water Well Standards Program.

He has worked for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for 31 years and currently is the Operator Certification and Training Coordinator.

He is a 2004 Nebraska Section WISA Award recipient, a Registered Environmental Health Specialist, a member of the AWWA Disinfection of Facilities Committee, the AWWA Fluoride Standards Committee, and is on the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) Operator Certification Committee.

Our recipient has been the Nebraska Section Education Committee Chair since 1996 in addition to Trustee, Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair.

Please join me in congratulating our 2008 Fuller Award recipient, Mike Wentink!



Mike Wentink received the Fuller Award from National AWWA President Mike Leonard, Roswell, GA.

Lifetime Member Awards

Lifetime Members Awards were presented to **Jeff McDermott**, Union Pacific Railroad; **Dick Sklenar**, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, and **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services.



Lifetime Member Awards, from left: Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services; National AWWA President Mike Leonard, and Dick Sklenar, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. Jeff McDermott, Union Pacific Railroad, was unavailable for the photo.

Jeff McDermott

Jeff attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha and received a BS in Civil Engineering. He also earned a Masters in Engineering from UNL, and an MBA from Creighton University. Jeff is a Registered Professional Engineer in Nebraska, Colorado and Nevada.

He began his engineering career at The Schemmer Associates and completed projects in both civil and environmental engineering fields

Since 1981 Jeff has worked with Union Pacific Railroad where he serves as manager, Environmental Site Remediation.

His railroad career began as a design engineer where he managed the design and construction of all aspects of fixed facilities, in particular fueling facilities and utilities.

His current position involves management of investigation and remediation of Superfund, RCRA and petroleum contamination projects.

Jeff has been extensively involved in special projects such as the remediation and development of the former Union Pacific Omaha Shops property for construction of the Qwest Center and the environmental due diligence of Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico (FNM, the Mexican National Railroad) for acquisition of an operating concession of the FNM.

A lifelong resident of Omaha, Jeff enjoys outdoor activities in his time away from the office with his spouse, Lisa, and three children.

Dick Sklenar

After graduating from Omaha South High School, Dick attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His enrollment at the university was interrupted by the Vietnam War where he enlisted with the U.S. Navy and served in the Seabees 20th Naval Construction Regiment. Upon completion of his tour of duty, Dick finalized his education with UNO and received his bachelor's degree in 1974.

The following year, he was hired by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District as a project manager. He has been involved in the development and right-of-way acquisition of various flood control, drainage, water supply and recreational projects within the District.

As a part of his daily responsibilities, he currently manages four rural water systems in eastern Nebraska serving one town and about 1,500 rural households in a four-county area. Together, the four rural water systems comprise more than 300 miles of pipeline, three elevated reservoirs and two pumping stations.

Dick and his spouse, Vickie, have been married for more than 30 years. They have a daughter and a son. Dick enjoys a good beer, watching professional basketball and hockey, and a good beer.

Mike Wentink

Mike is the training and licensing coordinator for the Nebraska Public Water Supply Program within the Nebraska Health & Human Services, Division of Public Health.

His work has included inspection of public water systems and construction projects, training and educating water operators, developing water operator regulations and examinations, coordinating the efforts of water operator training providers, and early work in the Nebraska Water Well Standards Program. He chaired the Section in 2007 and currently chairs the Education Committee.

Mike and his spouse, Cathy, live in North Platte.

Water Industry Service Awards

Water Industry Service Awards (WISA) were presented to **Christy Christensen**, City of Papillion; **Glenn Dostal**, HDR Inc.; **Dean Hauptman**, Nebraska City Utilities; **Dennis Smith**, City of Norfolk; **Kirk Stocker**, City of Kearney, and **Peggy Young**, Beatrice Board of Public Works.

Christy Christensen

Christy joined the City of Papillion March 21, 1984 as a meter reader/repair person, and advanced to water plant operator.

She began the backflow prevention program for Papillion and works in all areas of the water system. She also carries the responsibility of meter technician and snow plow operator.

Christy is a Grade 1 and 6 water operator, and serves as vice president of American Backflow Prevention Association.

Christy and her spouse, Shorty, have four children. She is very active in the National Wild Turkey Federation and is a bow hunter. She hunts bear, turkey, deer and wild boars in her spare time.

Glenn Dostal

Glenn is a registered Civil Engineer in Nebraska and South Dakota. He received his Bachelor of Science from UNL in 1972. He worked with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control from 1973 until he joined HDR Inc. in 1977 where he serves as senior vice president.

Glenn is an experienced project manager with substantial environmental engineering experience that includes water and wastewater facilities studies, predesign reports, drawings, specifications and contract documents, construction administration and start-up services. His



WISA Awards, from left, seated: Kirk Stocker, City of Kearney; Glenn Dostal, HDR Inc.; Dennis Smith, City of Norfolk. Standing: Christy Christensen, City of Papillion, and Dean Hauptman, Nebraska City Utilities. Peggy Young, Beatrice Board of Public Works, was unavailable for the photo.

engineering expertise includes water and wastewater treatment facilities, residuals processing, interceptors, transmission mains, water supply, high-service pumping stations, Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance, and financial planning.

He has also been responsible for the development of implementation plans for phased projects and rate studies

Glenn is a member of AWWA, WEF and WEA. He is past chair of the Nebraska Section AWWA Water for People Committee. He also a member of St. Vincent de Paul Men's Club, Omaha, and the Dundee Section of Kiwanis International, Omaha.

Phillip Dean Hauptman

Dean joined Nebraska City Utilities April 17, 1972. He served as plant operator for 23 years before his promotion to water plant superintendent. Dean was responsible for plant and well maintenance as plant operator and superintendent.

In 1999 Dean was involved with the addition of two additional wells. He was responsible for the installation of a 3900 gpm High Service Pump and VFDs.

Dean has also been involved in several other upgrades to the system including on-line turbidity monitors, on-line chlorine analyzers, installation of baffles, and installation of a new filter backwash system, replacement of filter media and the replacement of the up flow clarifier.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Dean and his spouse, Cheryl, have two children and three grandchildren.

Dennis J. Smith

Dennis began his employment with the City of Norfolk engineering division June 2, 1975. He was promoted to public works director with supervisory duties in the water, wastewater, street and engineering divisions in 1980. The parks and solid waste divisions were added to his supervision in 1983. Dennis has been very active in all aspects of Norfolk's water system. He is well respected and viewed as a leader in the community.

Kirk Stocker

Kirk joined the City of Kearney in 1981 as an engineering assistant. He was promoted to public works superintendent in 1982, and director of utilities in 1991. He is a Grade 1 water operator.

Kirk has been a member of AWWA since 1987 and also is a member of APWA and SWANA. He also has chaired the Kearney United Way.

Over the years Kirk has demonstrated an ability to assure the community that his department is providing safe drinking water. He also has brought measurable improvements and vision to the water system of Kearney.

Peggy Young

Peg joined the Beatrice Board of Public Works in 1955. She worked as the secretary for the general manager until 1973. At this time she transferred to the Service Center and worked as secretary for the Water Department. She also answered all calls for the electric, street and sewer Departments.

Thanks to her, the department has excellent records of water tap locations, valve and fire hydrant exercise programs and backflow testing records. A lot of the work she did at home on her own time.

She always was there to enter time on paydays so the employees got their paychecks. She is probably the only employee who began work 15



Ken Miller Award: National AWWA President Mike Leonard presents John S. Olsson with the Ken Miller Award for his work as past chair of the Water for People Committee. John organized the first golf benefit for Water for People in 2005. The event, which he continues to oversee, has raised nearly \$9,500 for Water for People during the past four years.

to 20 minutes before starting time, worked the majority of the noon hour, never took a break, yet her time slips only showed eight hours.

Peg was a very dedicated employee and retired in February of 2008 with 53 years of service to the water industry.

Water Operator Award

Nebraska Health & Human Services presented a water operator award to Marlin M. Crouse, water operator for the Village of Haigler.

Marlin received his Grade 4 water operator certification in 1991.

Haigler participated in a grant funded study to determine the effect of varying pumping speeds on arsenic and uranium levels in a well.

Based on his appraisal of the proposed electrical work for this project, Marlin was able to save approximately one-half of the projected costs of the electrical portion of the project by requesting that a local electrician perform that work.

According to Nebraska Health & Human Services, "This type of concern about not spending more than necessary and still accomplishing the job is what makes this operator a very important asset to the community.

"He is a very conscientious and humble individual. He truly understands the importance of safe drinking water. That understanding is reflected by his vigilant maintenance of each component in the Haigler water system, and the improvements documented each time the water system undergoes a sanitary survey by the Department."

Volunteer Award and Backflow Challenge

Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works, received the Section's Volunteer Award for his work in coordinating and conducting the Section's water operator workshops throughout the State.

Steve Kelley, far left, Beatrice Board of Public Works, received the Nebraska Section AWWA Volunteer Award.

The Beatrice Board of Public Works team also won the Backflow Challenge. From left: Kelley, Dennis Langdale and Tom Rudder.



Safety Awards



The following systems received safety awards, from left, seated: Gerardo Martinez, Lincoln Water System; David Lathrop, City of Seward; Patrick Closon, City of Gering; Ken Swanson, City of Auburn.

Standing: Jim Shields, M.U.D.; Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works; Bob Smith, Grand Island Utilities; Dean Hauptman, Nebraska City Utilities; Jack Satur, City of Scottsbluff. Representatives from the cities of O'Neill and Norfolk were unavailable for the photo.



AWWA Heroism Award: From left Randy Jensen, Al Clark's supervisor; Al Clark, M.U.D., and National AWWA President Mike Leonard.

AWWA Heroism Award

National AWWA President **Mike Leonard** presented the Heroism Award to **Al Clark**, M.U.D., for actions he took to save a girl's life.

The morning of January 31, Al was working near 56th and Parker Streets when a 10-year-old girl ran to his truck and said she had been sexually assaulted inside a duplex.

Al helped her into his truck, turned on the heater and called 911. Al then resisted efforts by the suspect who wanted him to return the girl to him.

When the suspect got into his car to leave, Al pulled his truck to the end of the driveway to block his exit. Soon after, several police units arrived and took the suspect into custody.

According to police reports, the girl had been abducted near 27th and Burdette Streets walking to school. She said the suspect threatened her and forced her to take a ride to his home, where she was assaulted.

In addition to rescuing the girl from the situation, Al's actions helped police immediately apprehend the suspect. Al put his own life at risk.

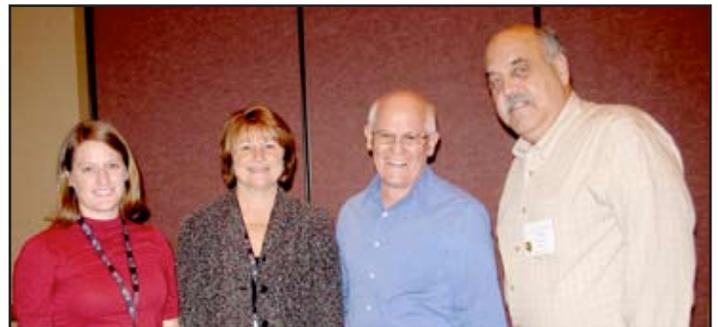
Al is a customer service technician who joined the District in 1997.

Michael Zimmerman, 52, was charged with the crime and sentenced to 55 to 70 years in prison. He won't be eligible to be released from prison until he is between 87 and 94 years old.

Non-Top Ops



First place, from left: Jeff Neemann, Black & Veath; Megan Rech, Gerardo Martinez, Lincoln Water System; Susan Franceschi, National AWWA Section representative.



Second place, from left: Teresa Konda, Kathleen Alexander, HDR Inc.; Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; Craig Wilson, Vessco Inc.

Top Ops



Scholarship winners, from left seated: William Alms, Jennifer Gitt. Standing: Lynn Wegehaupt, M.U.D. and Scholarship Committee; Rui Ma.

Scholarships

Since 1994, the Nebraska Section AWWA has provided \$29,550 in scholarships to 45 students. 2008 recipients included:

William Alms (\$1,400): As president of the Student Chapter of AWWA, Williams is a UNL graduate student majoring in environmental engineering. He earned a bachelor of science in bio-systems engineering from UNL and plans to serve his country in the Army National Guard as a pilot as well as pursue a career in environmental engineering.

Jennifer Gitt (\$800): A UNL graduate majoring in environmental engineering, Jennifer earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UNO. She plans to pursue a career in engineering.

Rui Ma (\$800): A UNL PhD student majoring in environmental engineering, Rui earned bachelor and master degrees in environmental engineering from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

His academic research involves reducing the amount of hormones that leach into the water supply from cattle feedlots. He hopes to further his research to the fate and transportation of nano materials, pharmaceutically-active and endocrine disrupting chemicals in the water supply and removal techniques.

He plans to pursue a degree in the water treatment and supply industry.



First place, from left: Marian Feltes, Lynn Wegehaupt, Mike Koenig, Metropolitan Utilities District.



Second place, from left: Eric Lee, John Keith, John Mirivosky, Lincoln Water System.



Third place, from left: Ron Nitz, Chad Roberts, Jerry Halsey, City of Norfolk.

2009 Board of Directors



2009 Board of Directors, from left: Trustee David Lathrop, City of Seward; Past-Chair Kevin Tobin, M.U.D.; Chair Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering; Director Tony Bilek, Mc² Inc.

Standing: Vice-Chair Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.; Trustee Doug Woodbeck, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Secretary Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System; Treasurer Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities. Unavailable for photo: Chair-Elect John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates.

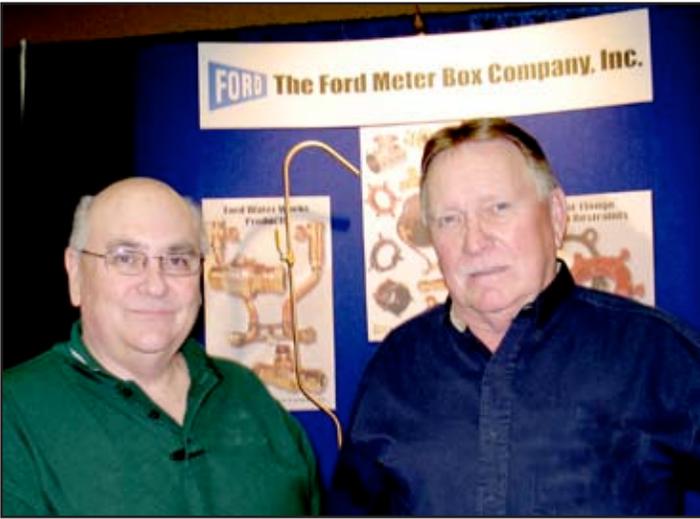
Vendor Best of Show



Fifty-eight vendors provided exhibits at the Fall Conference, and 14 vendors sponsored the social hour.

Siemens Energy and Automation received the Best of Show Award for their exhibit.

From left: Norm Jackman, Vulcan Industries; Russ Kaehler, Siemens Energy and Automation; and Terrance Pesek, Associated Technologies.



From left: Bill Batson, Willco, and Roy Keitel, Ford Meter Box Co.



From left: Dan Freese, Layne Christensen, and Mark Christiansen, City of York.



From left: Brock Beran, Schemmer, and Kris Thompson, Rinke Materials Concrete Pipe Division.



From left: Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol, and Allan Strubl, Municipal Supply.



From left: Tom Dittrick, Central District Health Department, Grand Island; Criag Haggerty, Rollin Davis, City of Ord.



From left: Howard Huffman, Dave Pletz, Huffman Engineering.

Roger Coffey, HDR Inc.



From left: Mike Sousek, Lower Platte N. Natural Resources District; Dick Sklenar, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District; Bill Podraza, Miller & Associates.



From left: Patrick Vrbka, City of Seward; Prem Arora, Midwest Laboratory, and Lynn Longmore, Village of Callaway.



From left: Chris Egger, Lincoln Williams, TMS; Andrew Hansen, Black & Veatch.



From left: Outgoing Nebraska Section Director Chris Koenig, HDR Inc., presents National AWWA President Mike Leonard with UNL fleece.



From left: 2008 Chair Kevin Tobin, M.U.D. hands over Chair's gavel to 2009 Chair Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering.



From left: 2008 Chair Kevin Tobin, M.U.D. receives Section appreciation award from 2009 Chair Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering.

Now is the time to place your advertising order for the 2009 Nebraska Section AWWA Wise Water Words -- three issues -- Spring, Summer and Fall.

Deadline for spring issue is January 15, 2009.

See attached order form.

Thank you for your continued support of the Section.

Ad order form for 2009 publications

Price is for one issue. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.org. Paper circulation: 500, including all U.S. and state legislative representatives.

Whenever possible, please submit advertisements electronically on a CD. Preferred document formats are: (1) Photoshop (psd file; layers included) or (2) pdf (high resolution). Publication is produced in InDesign CS3 for Mac.

- Wise Water Words, Spring issue, 2009 (deadline for copy, January 15, 2009)
- Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2009 (deadline for copy, April 15, 2009)
- Wise Water Words, Fall issue, 2009 (deadline for copy, August 1, 2009)

Size	One Color: Black ink or Pantone 293 Blue ink (please specify)	4-color
Business card size (3 1/2 x 2 3/8 inches):	_____ \$150 each issue	_____ \$275 each issue
1/4 page (3 1/2 x 4 7/8 inches):	_____ \$300 each issue	_____ \$400 each issue
1/2 page (7 1/4 x 4 7/8 inches):	_____ \$400 each issue	_____ \$500 each issue
full page (7 1/4 x 10 inches): <i>full page not available on back page inside cover or back page</i>	_____ \$600 each issue	_____ \$700 each issue

(Please print)

My name: _____

My company: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

e-mail: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Ads must be prepaid. Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA. Please make a copy of completed order form for your files. Send with ad copy, artwork and dummy layout to: **Mari Matulka**, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.504.7150; fax: 402.504.7020; e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com.

*Acceptance of advertising by the Nebraska Section AWWA does not constitute endorsements of the advertiser, its products or services, nor does **Wise Water Words** make any claims or guarantees as to the accuracy or validity of the advertiser's offer.*