

2010 Fall Conference November 4-5, Kearney

Andreasen receives George Warren Fuller Award

Larry Andreasen, Fremont Department of Utilities, was named the George Warren Fuller Award recipient at the annual fall conference November 4, 2010, in Kearney. This is the highest honor given by AWWA, and is presented for outstanding service to the water industry. The award will be presented to Larry at the National AWWA Conference in Washington DC, June 12-16.

A native of Fremont, NE, Larry graduated from Fremont High School in 1971 and joined the Fremont Department of Utilities as a weed eater. He was promoted to water and wastewater superintendent in 1996.

He received the Water Industry Service Award in 2003, served as Section chair in 2005 and received the Lifetime Member Award in 2009.

As a young employee, Larry was very slim and easy to put into small tight places, like a water tank, meter pits and sewer lift stations. He always had (has) a positive attitude about his duties.

In those days, it was not unusual to lower Larry into a meter pit head first, and he would change the meter while standing on his head. Today, he still is using his head to serve his community.

Larry and his spouse, Janice, have a son, daughter and two grandchildren. He enjoys Husker football, traveling and playing in snow and dirt.



Larry Andreasen receives the Fuller Award from National AWWA Vice-President Debra Kaye, president, Kayeability of California.



From the left: Jordon Bang, Fremont Utilities, Jan, Larry's spouse, and Larry Andreasen; Marilyn Thilges, Larry's sister; Derril Marshall, Fremont Utilities, and his spouse, Carol.

2011 board of directors



Front, from left: Vice-Chair Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System; Chair Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.; National AWWA Vice-President Debra Kaye; Past Chair John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates, and Treasurer David Lathrop, City of Seward.

Back row: Trustee Eric Melcher, City of Aurora; Chair-Elect Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities; Secretary Doug Woodbeck, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Director Tony Bilek, Mc² Inc.; Trustees Ben Day, Olsson Associates, and Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk.

WISA

The WISA (Water Industry Service Award) recognizes Section members who have untiringly served the water works industry. Awardees or utilities must be current members and have been continuous AWWA members for at least five years. Awardees must have served the water works industry a minimum of 20 years.

Six people received WISA awards. They were: **Daniel L. Freese**, Layne Christensen Co.; **Dennis C. Hirschbrunner**, retired, HDR Inc.; **Howard P. Isaacs**, Nebraska Health & Human Services; **Tim Lineweber**, Beatrice Board of Public Works; **Jeffrey G. Loll**, Metropolitan Utilities District, and **Dennis Watts**, City of Norfolk.

Daniel L. Freese

Daniel L. Freese earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business and economics from Kearney State College in 1977. He joined Layne & Bowler, Inc. as a district manager in 1974. The company became Layne Christensen in 1985. Dan is a sale engineer/account manager in the Kearney office.

Dan holds a Grade 1 water operator license as well as a Nebraska well driller/pump installer license.

Dennis C. Hirschbrunner

Dennis C. Hirschbrunner retired in 2010 as executive vice-president and national director of Marketing, HDR Inc. with 24 years of service.

Dennis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from UNL in 1970. He is a registered engineer in Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota.

He worked for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and Nebraska Department of Roads from 1970 to 1972 before joining Gilmore Associates, Columbus, in 1973. After he moved to HDR Inc. in 1986, he worked on water and wastewater projects in Columbus, Fremont, Tilden, Hartington, Lincoln and Omaha as well as numerous projects in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and Virginia.

He managed the renovation of the Dakota City water system, M.U.D.'s Platte West Water Treatment Plant, Omaha, and the water treatment plant in St. Cloud, MN.

Dennis has been a member of AWWA for 37 of his 40-year career. He chaired the Nebraska Section in 1993 and later served as the director. He was responsible for establishing the Section's Colonel Theodore A. Leisen Memorial and Training Endowment Fund in 1993. Dennis received the George Warren Fuller Award in 1994.

Howard P. Isaacs

Howard P. Isaacs Howard began his career with the Nebraska Health & Human Services in 1972 and held various positions at the laboratory prior to his promotion to supervisor in 1981.

As supervisor he was responsible for the integrity of the water testing procedures and made sure procedures used were within the parameters set in the Safe Drinking Water Act. After staff cuts at the laboratory, Howard joined the Public Drinking Water Program as a Health Program Manager II where he supervises the Monitoring & Compliance Section staff.

Howard personally checks into trouble issues for public water systems and helps them get an understanding of where they are with compliance water sampling issues. Howard's duties are much more than being a regulator. He has a very good understanding of what it takes to run a water system and will do as much as he can within guidelines to help all water operators.

Timothy Lineweber

Timothy Lineweber joined the Beatrice Board of Public Works in 1981 as a laborer, advancing to utility maintenance worker that same year. He was promoted to utility maintenance worker III in 1991.

Tim is responsible for the Beatrice backflow program. He tests and repairs, if necessary, nearly 400 backflow devices every year. He also is the lead for the annual fire hydrant flow testing and flushing programs. As a crew leader for 20 years, Tim helps with water main construction, water main and water service leaks. He also serves as backup foreman.

Tim holds Grades 3 and 6 water operator licenses.

Jeffrey G. Loll

Jeffrey G. Loll joined the Metropolitan Utilities District 40 years ago as an engineer, advancing to assistant superintendent of the Florence Water Treatment Plant in 1985 and to director of Plant Engineering in 1994. He was named director of Engineering Design in 1998.

Prior to joining M.U.D., he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from South Dakota School of the Mines in 1970. He received his professional engineering certification in 1976 and has been a Grade 1 water operator since 1986.

Jeff supervises 34 employees and his division is responsible for the design of more than 2,818 miles of water mains and 2,645 miles of gas mains.

According to his supervisor Jeff is a dedicated employee with a wealth of engineering experience and has greatly contributed to the growth of the district's water distribution system. He also has helped initiate the district's infrastructure replacement efforts which involve replacing more than 1,200 miles of cast iron water mains over the next 30 to 40 years.

Dennis Watts

Dennis Watts, water and sewer director, City of Norfolk, began his career in the water industry in 1988 as a water operator, advancing to water supervisor in 1993. He was promoted to his current position in 1995.

Dennis was instrumental in the development of a wellhead protection plan for the city, and has been involved with the design and construction of numerous projects over the years.

He chaired the Nebraska Section AWWA in 2003 and was one of the key members in getting the Nebraska WARN system up and running.

Dennis is a Grade 1 water operator.

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

National AWWA presented the 2010 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award to **Mari Matulka**, Metropolitan Utilities District. Mari has served as chair of the Publications Committee and editor of Wise Water Words for the past 23 years. She has maintained the Section's website since 2001. Mari also chaired the Public Information Committee from 1989 to 2000. She received the WISA Award in 2004 and the Fuller Award in 2006.

Mari earned a bachelor of science degree in Journalism from Kearney State in 1973, and a masters degree in Journalism from UNL in 1986. She is recognized nationally as an accredited public relations professional and is a member of the Public Relations Society of America.

Lifetime Member Awards

Lifetime Members Awards were presented to **Jim Condon**, Olsson Associates, and **Merlin Lindahl**, retired, City of Columbus.

Jim Condon

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from UNL in 1970, Jim joined Procter and Gamble in Green Bay, WI. He enlisted with the U.S. Army Military Intelligence in the fall of 1970 as a second lieutenant and was stationed at Ft. Lewis, WA with an aerial reconnaissance unit. He also served as an environmental protection officer.

Following his military commitment, he returned to Procter and Gamble. In 1975, Jim joined the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control where he reviewed plans for wastewater treatment plants. He moved to Olsson Associates in 1977, and has been involved with numerous water and wastewater projects in Nebraska and the Midwest.

Jim continued to be in the U.S. Army Reserves and National Guard and retired as a lieutenant colonel. He and his wife, Shirley, have two children and two grandchildren.



From left, front: Jeff Loll, M.U.D., and Howard Isaacs, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Water Industry Service Awards; Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont, George Warren Fuller Award; Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk, and Tim Lineweber, Beatrice Board of Public Works, Water Industry Service Awards.

Back: Mari Matulka, M.U.D., Outstanding Volunteer Award; Merlin Lindahl, City of Columbus, and Jim Condon, Olsson Associates, Lifetime Member Awards, and Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk, Operator Meritorious Service Award.

Dennis Hirschbrunner, retired, HDR Inc., was unavailable for the photo.

Merlin Lindahl

Merlin earned Bachelor of Science and Master degrees from UNL in Civil Engineering in 1968, and joined Humble Oil & Refining Co., Kingsville, TX. He took a position with Powers-Wills & Associates, Iowa City, in 1970, and in 1975, joined the City of Columbus as city engineer. He retired in 2009. As city engineer, he was responsible for the design and construction of the public works projects, and he supervised the maintenance and street departments.

Merlin was very active in the Nebraska Section of AWWA. He chaired the Section in 1990 and received the George Warren Fuller Award in 1993.

He also retired from the Army National Guard as a lieutenant colonel, is the past commander of the American Legion Post 84 and is a life member of the American Legion.

Merlin and his wife, Sharon, have three children and three grandchildren.

Meritorious Operator Award

2010 was the second year the Section presented this award. The recipient was **Chad Roberts**, water plant supervisor, City of Norfolk.

Chad began his career in the water industry in 1997 as a water plant operator. He transferred to the water distribution division in 2000 and returned to the water plant as an operator II in 2002. He was promoted to his current position in 2009.

Chad's duties include training and assisting plant operators in the operation of two water treatment plants. He also is responsible for the city's backflow prevention program. In addition to his everyday duties Chad works very close with an engineering group to complete the water and sewer master plans for improvement projects.

Some of Chad's accomplishments include the RS logic programming of SCADA computers, vulnerability assessment of the water system, development of a lock out-tag out safety program and wellhead protection program. Chad also gives educational lectures to the area schools on water related topics.

Chad holds Grades 1 and 6 water operator licenses. He also serves on the Section's board of directors and Awards, Cross Connection, Nitrates Source Protection and Young Professionals Committees.

Nebraska Health & Human Services Water Operator Awards

Shane Gruber

Shane Gruber, City of Gothenburg, first joined the utility in 1982 as a part-time employee while he was in high school. He earned a bachelors degree in Industrial Technology from Kearney State in 1992, and was hired by the water and sewer department. His career includes positions as administrative assistant, water/sewer assistant foreman, water/sewer foreman and his current position, city services director. Shane is a certified Grade III and Grade VI water operator.

Shane's attention to detail and his commitment to the city is evident not only in spotless inspections, but in every aspect of his job, said Tony Martinez, Nebraska Health & Human Services.

David L. Lathrop

Prior to joining the City of Seward in 2004, David L. Lathrop held positions of lab technician, field technician, research assistant and process engineer. He was promoted to superintendent of Water and Wastewater in 2005.

David was instrumental in the construction and start-up phases of the city's reverse osmosis treatment plant. He is a Grade 1 water operator, Grade IV wastewater operator, and a registered professional chemical



Nebraska Health & Human Services Water Operator Awards, from left, front: Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk; Shane Gruber, City of Gothenburg; David Lathrop, City of Seward.

Back: Tony Martinez, Doug Woodbeck, Nebraska Health & Human Services.

engineer in Nebraska. He earned a bachelor of science degree and a masters degree in Engineering from UNL.

He joined the Section board of directors in 2008 as a trustee and currently serves as treasurer and is a member of the Small Systems Committee, providing workshops for licensed water operators.

Chad Roberts

Chad Roberts, water plant supervisor, City of Norfolk, began his career in the water industry in 1997 as a water plant operator. He transferred to the water distribution division in 2000 and returned to the water plant as an operator II in 2002. He was promoted to his current position in 2009.

A Grade IV water operator, Chad serves on the Section board of directors as trustee. He also serves on the Small Systems and Cross Connection Committees as well as NEWARN.

According to the Nebraska Health & Human Services, Chad is always willing to help others. He currently is a shared operator for two NTNC water systems.

During the flood of spring 2010, Chad received a call from the City of Stanton, asking to borrow 550 feet of five-inch fire hose and two fire hydrants. Stanton had lost their transmission line crossing the Elkhorn River.

Chad called the Norfolk fire department to get the fire hose and pulled fire hydrants from the City of Norfolk's stock. The next day, the supplies were on the way to Stanton, enabling them to get their system back on-line.

Through his involvement with NEWARN, Chad knew the right people to call to make it happen.

Ken Miller Award



National AWWA Vice-President Debra Kaye presented Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates, with the Ken Miller Award for his work as chair of the Water for People Committee. Craig has served as Water for People chair since 2007. In 2010, the committee raised a record \$12,000 for the organization.

Other committee members included: Ben Day, Olsson Associates; Glenn Dostal, Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.; Christian New, Terracon, and Arnie Radloff, Lincoln Water System.

From left: Craig, Debra and Past Chair John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates.

Theodore Leisen Scholarship

The Section's Theodore Leisen Scholarship Committee, chaired by **Jon Zellars**, Metropolitan Utilities District, presented three \$1,000 scholarships.

Also serving on the committee were: **Larry Andreasen**, Fremont Utilities Department; **Chip Haas**, **Chris Koenig**, HDR Inc.; **John Miriovsky**, Lincoln Water System, and **Lynn Wegehaupt**, Metropolitan Utilities District. Scholarship recipients included:

Jake Fisher, a UNL graduate student majoring in Civil Engineering. He earned his undergraduate degree from UNL in Civil Engineering with distinctions in December 2009, and received several other scholarships including Tau Beta Pi – Alford Scholarship and the Union Pacific Foundation Scholarship.

Jake is a member of the AWWA student chapter, National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the national engineering honor societies, Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi. He plans to work as a civil or environmental engineer within the water distribution industry, and would like to help developing countries provide clean potable water to their people.

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A UNL graduate student majoring in Civil Engineering, **Zhongtian Li** earned his undergraduate degree in Environmental Science in 2008 from Shandong Agricultural University in China. He serves as vice-president of UNL's AWWA student chapter and is a member of the Water Environment Federation, Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors and American Chemical Society.

Zhongtian was instrumental in the organization and planning of the "Fresh Ideas" poster contest held at the Section's fall conference. Following graduation, he wants to work as an environmental engineer specializing in innovative design on decentralized water treatment facilities.

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Benjamin Stewart, a UNL graduate student majoring in Environmental Engineering, earned his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 2009. He is a Regents Scholarship recipient.

Benjamin serves as president of the UNL AWWA student chapter and is a member of the Water Environment Federation. He would like to work with an engineering firm that would allow him to work nationally and internationally or he would like to join the Peace Corp for a couple of years.

Safety Awards

The Nebraska Section AWWA Safety Awards are based on survey application data submitted by a water system. The data is scored by the committee using a point grading system which focuses 50 percent on safety performance and 50 percent on their safety programs.



From left, front: Tom Menke, City of Chadron; Tim Lineweber, Beatrice Board of Public Works; Larry Andreasen, Fremont Utilities Department.

Back: Jack Satur, City of Scottsbluff; Tim Mailahn, Metropolitan Utilities District; Bob Smith, Grand Island Utilities; and Gerardo Martinez, City of Lincoln. Unavailable for photo: Representatives from the Cities of Gering, Gordon and Norfolk.

Top Ops



First place in the Top Ops Competition, from left: John Keith, Meagan Pratt and Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System.

Top Ops



Second place in the Top Ops Competition, from left: Bob Frahm, City of Blair; Tim Mailahn, Metropolitan Utilities District, and Allen Schoemaker, City of Blair.

Non-Top Ops



First place in the Non-Top Ops Competition, from left: Jack Daniel, Mary Poe, Howard Isaacs, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates.



Second place in the Non-Top Ops Competition, from left: Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; David Lathrop, City of Seward; Teresa Konda, Erin Hunt, HDR Inc.

Ultimate Backflow Challenge



First place in the Ultimate Backflow Challenge for the third consecutive year, from left: Eric Melcher, City of Aurora; Steve Kelley, Mike Lohmeyer, Dale Rickers, Beatrice Board of Public Works.

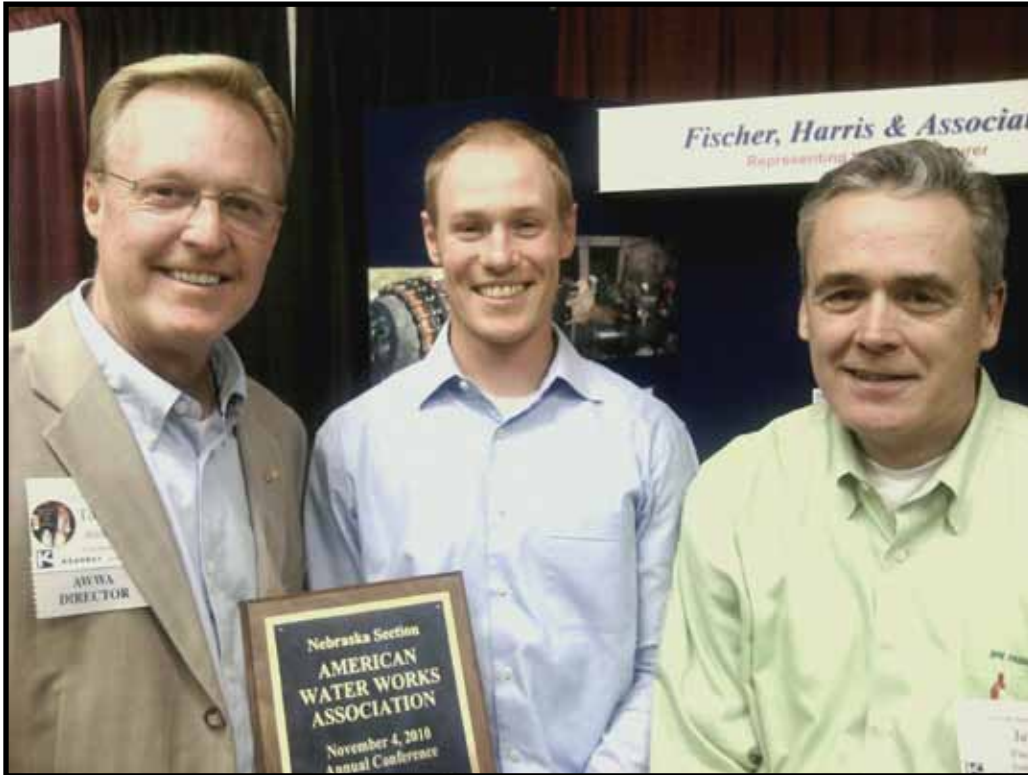


Second place, from left: Harley Slater, City of Auburn; Tim Lineweber, Beatrice Board of Public Works; Kirk Beguin, Village of Rushville, and Ken Swanson, City of Auburn.



Third place, from left: Deb Ecklund, Olson Industries, Atkinson; Jim Fogerty, Jason LeMay, John Dehlgren, Lincoln Water System.

MAC report



A total of 58 vendors participated in the Annual Fall Conference. The Exhibitors' Best of Show Award went to Fischer, Harris and Associates.

From left: Tony Bilek, Mc² Inc. and chair of the MAC Committee; Joe Zauner and Jeff Fischer, Fischer Harris and Associates.

Water Tasting Contest



The City of Fremont won the Drinking Water Contest. Other contenders were: Dismal River Golf Club, Muller; Lincoln Water System; Metropolitan Utilities District; City of Papillion and the City of Seward.

Judges were, from left: John Miyoshi, Lower Platte NRD; John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates; Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Stan Clouse, mayor, City of Kearney; Debra Kaye, National AWWA vice-president, and Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Group photos



From left: John Dehlgren, Lincoln Water System; Glenn Dostal, HDR Inc.; Debra Leigh, Leigh Environmental Equipment Inc.; Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District; Merlin Lindahl, retired, City of Columbus;

Gerardo Martinez, Lincoln Water System; Roger Coffey, HDR Inc.; Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District; Jim Fogarty, Bill Fish, Lincoln Water System.



From left: Jeff Hubby, Gurney and Associates; Matt Richart, Black & Veatch; Nick McElvain, Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; Erin Hunt (standing), HDR Inc.; Jeff Neeman (seated), Andrew Hansen (standing), Black & Veatch;

Chip Haas, HDR Inc.; Rod Kirkland (seated), Carlos Medina (standing), Olsson Associates; John Velehradsky, Metropolitan Utilities District; TJ Stroebel (orange shirt), Tonka Equipment Co; Joe Baxter (green shirt), Olsson Associates; Brent Bailey, Vogelsang USA, and Chris Johnson, Gurney and Associates.



The Nebraska Section presented National AWWA Vice-President Debra Kaye with a basket of Nebraska grown products.

From left: Kaye and Chair John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates.



Outgoing Chair John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates, presents gavel to incoming Chair Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.