
Mike Orth, Executive Managing Director, Water Americas, was recently recognized with the George Warren Fuller Award by the Kansas Section of the American Water Works Association (KsAWWA).

“I am honored to receive this award bearing the name of George Warren Fuller, who was an icon in the water industry,” said Orth, who also serves as a Black & Veatch Executive Vice President. “I’m also very proud to be included with past Fuller awardees, many of whom are mentors and peers that I have looked up to for years.”

Orth has been with Black & Veatch for 27 years and has held a number of key leadership positions within the company. He is widely seen as a subject matter expert on developments and trends in the water industry with a deep understanding of the Americas market. Orth directs Water Americas’ business unit leadership, growth, sales, client relationships and services. He also oversees the region’s growth in traditional water and wastewater treatment design services along with supply, storage, conveyance, asset management and energy solutions for water utilities through both traditional and alternative delivery capabilities.

Additionally, Orth is an active member of AWWA (American Water Works Association) and the Water Environment Federation. He is currently a member of AWWA’s Board of Directors representing the Kansas Section, an organization he also served as Chair and Trustee. He also serves on the University of Kansas’ School of Engineering Advisory Board.

The George Warren Fuller Award recognizes AWWA members, on recommendation of their sections, for distinguished service in the water supply field and in commemoration of the engineering skill, diplomatic talent and leadership that characterized the life of George Warren Fuller. Each awardee automatically receives national recognition by becoming a member of AWWA’s George Warren Fuller Award Society.

Congratulations Mike!
Hello Kansas Water Professionals. Welcome to the Winter Edition of Solution H2O.

Let me introduce myself to you again. My name is Lester Estelle Sr. I am excited to serve as your section chair. We have some great professionals serving with me this year. Many of them volunteer their time and effort to complete section objectives, serve as trustees, committee chairs, and in various other capacities. We are happy to have them on board.

We desire to promote and maintain a strong sustainable session. We encourage each member to get involved with section activities, serve on section committees and participate in educational opportunities. These activities are not successful without your involvement.

We will look at past successes and areas where we can make improvements to provide you with the best training and networking experience.

At our 1st board meeting this year, along with normal business, we reviewed the committee chairs roles and responsibilities. We revisited our strategic business plan with Susan Franceschi facilitating the session.

Here are a few accomplishments from 2016:

- Successful Joint Conference with KWEA
- Completed 2 grant programs with AWWA
- Provided exceptional Operator Training throughout the state. Last year OTC trainings reached approximately 100 individuals. Steven Craig from the City of Lawrence is this year’s Chair of the Operator Training Committee. They have already hosted a couple fall workshops and are now organizing new operator training opportunities for 2017.
- Partnered with KMU for additional small system training.
- Rolled out a mentoring and engagement program. We believe this will benefit the section and provide renewed energy.
- Partnered with WSU and KMU to promote an internship program for high school students to encourage them to get into the water/wastewater environmental profession. The first year’s intern was from El Dorado and interned at the El Dorado plant. She also participated in the Joint Annual Conference in August 2016 at Topeka.

Conference Update:

The 2017 Joint Conference will be in Wichita at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Martha Tasker (martha.tasker@salina.org) and Susan Pekarek (Susan.Pekarek@jcw.org) are busy planning. Get ready as they implement new ideas and act on your suggestions received from last year’s conference hotwash. Things are shaping up nicely. I think this year’s conference is one you won’t want to miss. Additional suggestions that you may have for sessions or activities can be directed to them. We know that we can count on your support for the Wichita conference.

At the National Level, the AWWA ACE is approaching fast. It will be held in Philadelphia, PA. June 11- June 14, 2017. Start making your plans now for an exciting conference. It is always a great event with a full schedule of technical presentations, networking and of course a large exhibition area full of new products, technologies and learning opportunities to support your utility.

KsAWWA is looking forward to an exciting year and welcome suggestions and participation from all of our members. “Have a safe and joyous Holiday season.”
I know that I say this every year BUT once again where has the year disappeared to? I remember how looong it took to get to Christmas in what doesn’t seem that far in the distant past. Now I would like things to slow down a little so we can all enjoy the ride.

Once again the Joint Conference Program Committee put together a tremendous technical program for the 8th Annual KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference in Topeka, KS on August 30 – September 1, 2016. Some of the comments in the surveys taken included things like “the technical sessions at this conference compare to AWWA Annual Conferences.” Those are the things that we like to hear and it makes the shoes even bigger for the next program committee.

Lester Estelle with WaterOne is the KsAWWA Chair for the coming year and if you haven’t met him or had the opportunity to spend any time with him you are in for a treat. Lester hit the ground running and hasn’t stopped since. He has lots of new ideas and is willing to work at incorporating some of them into our Section. He is looking forward to getting the Mentoring Program that KsAWWA adopted off the ground and get many new faces involved in the activities and training of the Section.

The 2017 Joint Conference is going to be held at the Wichita Hyatt/Century II facility in downtown Wichita. Already the program committee is looking to make this even better than previous years and some new things are going to be implemented. One of the new things is the Call for Papers is already on the Joint Website www.kansaswaterwastewater.com and what makes this different than in past years is you are only able to submit your paper for the 2017 Joint conference online. Once you have submitted your paper you will receive two e-mails confirming your submission and you will also receive acknowledgement from me as the one receiving the paper. This was done to help the program chairs as well as streamline the process and hopefully acknowledge those submitting papers in a more efficient manner than in the past. This is only one of the new things – you will have to attend the conference to see what other exciting things are going to happen. The committee is also looking at some fun and different social events at this conference. Starting January 1, 2017 you can start making your hotel reservations. Don’t be left out meet all of us in Wichita August 29 – August 31, 2017.

Also there are many training events planned for 2017 if your utility has new operators needing certification or seasoned operators needing to renew their certifications watch the workshop tab on the www.ksawwa.org website. The OTC committee is working hard to get the necessary training provided for the operators of Kansas. A workshop may be hosted by the NE Sub-committee but that doesn’t mean that people from Liberal or Hays can’t attend. These workshops will be open to all operators in Kansas. Also watch for the FREE workshops provided through grants from AWWA.

As you can see there are many new and exciting things happening throughout the Kansas Section. Be a part of the organization dedicated to the World’s Most Important Resource®.

In closing I want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New year in 2017. I will also be looking forward to seeing each of you at the 9th Annual KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference August 29-31, 2017 in Wichita, Kansas
At the 8th Annual KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference KsAWWA presented two students of Kansas University with a $1,000 scholarship each for the 2016-2017 school year. Jacob Schultze is a KU Civil Engineering student and Theresa Amante is a KU Environmental Engineering student. Congratulations to both of these students and KsAWWA wishes them well in their studies.

2016 Operator Meritorious Awardee

This year’s Operator Meritorious Award winner is the heart and backbone of the Ottawa Water Treatment Plant. He is passionate about the quality of water produced for those he serves and his keen understanding and insights make him an incredible mentor and friend to all. His forward thinking has served our community well for decades.

Our winner this year was heavily involved in the initiation and instrumentation of the Back Flow Prevention program within the City, and has recently aided in revitalizing and re-prioritizing this vital program. Acting as a laboratory supervisor, he has monitored all test results and made appropriate changes, as well as setting appropriate process control procedures and parameters. He has been the coordinator in fulfilling sampling for all KDHE & EPA requirements, including the triennial Lead & Copper sampling. He has coordinated seasonal operational changes, taking into account any effects on water quality and maintaining regulatory compliance. He handles customer questions and concerns adeptly and really enjoys showing off our facility on plant tours.

Keith McAdoo was hired by the City of Ottawa on March 15, 1990 as a Water Plant Operator. He was promoted to WTP Assistant Superintendent in December, 1993. In December, 2014, he was promoted to his current position of Water Treatment Plant Superintendent and serves in that capacity today.

Keith is also active in farming and enjoys working the land & producing a crop. He is an avid outdoorsman and loves to fish and hunt. He has taught Hunter Safety Courses and fostered a love of the outdoors in the youth of our community.

As a board member for Franklin County RWD #1, Keith has helped lend a professional, knowledgeable presence, helping them understand and meet new and existing KDHE & EPA regulations. He has also served on several City committees including Safety Committee and Christmas Committee.

Congratulations Keith!
I hope you enjoyed our 8th Annual KWEA/KsAWWA conference in Topeka as much as I did. Our chair-elect, Lester Estelle did a fantastic job in organizing the conference and aligning the presentations to current issues we are dealing with in the State. It takes a lot of time, effort, and planning to support our conference so we also need to thank Hank Boyer, our Section Manager, for all she does to make our conference happen. It was also a pleasure to host Mitch Kannenberg, our Vice Presidential Representative from the South Dakota Section and a Director classmate of mine. I hope you found some time to introduce yourself to Mitch and make him feel welcomed. I know Mitch had a great time at our conference and met many of you as he was very appreciative of the hospitality we provided him.

We are getting ready for our Winter meeting for AWWA in Scottsdale, AZ in early January where we will hear from our new slate of Vice Presidential, Directors-at-Large, and our Presidential candidate as we select a new slate of officers. In addition, we will hear an update on our plans to transition AWWA’s pension, our finances, and other business matters.

Have a great winter, be safe in your travels, enjoy the Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Richard Porter Section Service Award

This award was established in 2006 in memory of long time member Richard Porter. The award will be given to a Section member who has demonstrated support and commitment to the Kansas Section. The commitment could be represented by the following:
- an active role in one or more committees,
- by participation in Section conferences or training seminars,
- by demonstrating a friendly and welcoming attitude to new and current members of the Section,
- by serving as an example to others of the role of the Section as a leader in providing service and support to others in the water industry
- And by promoting a positive image of the Section.

The 2016 recipient of the Richard Porter Section Service Award was Dan Defore, City of Winfield. Dan has served on the KsAWWA OTC Committee, KsAWWA Board of Trustees and also as Chair-elect,Chair and Past Chair. CONGRATULATIONS DAN for making the Dr. list!

67th Annual KU Environmental Engineering Conference

The 67th Annual KU Environmental Engineering Conference is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at the Kansas Memorial Union at KU. Plenary session presentations will address topics of broad interest; and afternoon breakout sessions will address timely topics in the areas of water supply and treatment; wastewater treatment; and air and waste management. Participants will earn 6.5 PDHs. Program and registration information is expected to be available online by January at http://kupce.ku.edu/ee.
9th Annual Joint Conference
The Kansas Water Environment Association and the Kansas Section of American Water Works Association invite you to submit abstracts on any subject pertinent to wastewater issues or drinking water issues but are specifically looking for the following areas:

**Wastewater Topics**
- Biological and Advanced Wastewater Treatment
- Small and Decentralized Systems
- Industrial Wastewater and Pretreatment Systems
- Biosolids, Residuals, and Resource Recovery
- Collection Systems, CSOs, and SSOs
- Wastewater Technology
- Operation and Maintenance

**Drinking Water Topics**
- Water Utility Management
- Distribution Systems – Maintenance and Replacement
- Residuals and By-Products Management
- Water Conservation
- Advanced Treatment Technologies
- Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) / Cyanobacteria
- Water Technology
- Operation and Maintenance

**Joint Topics**
- Stormwater Management
- Legislative / Regulatory
- Laboratory Practices and Issues
- Asset Management / Life Cycle Costs
- Instrumentation / Automation / Controls Systems
- Disinfections and Public Health
- New Technologies, Emerging Issues
- Renewable Energy, Sustainability, Green Solutions
- Utility Management and Leadership
This is an award of excellence to recognize a Section Manufacturers/Associates Council member who has demonstrated exemplary service to the drinking water community and to AWWA’s mission and goals.

The recipients of the Section award are automatically eligible for the AWWA award.

The 2016 recipient of the John Lechner Award of Excellence for KsAWWA was Joe Maris, with Ray Lindsey Company. Joe has been active in both KsAWWA and KWWEA. He has been instrumental in developing and administering many of the training activities for both associations as well as being a manufacturer’s representative.

CONGRATULATIONS JOE!
Drizzly weather subsided in time for WaterOne’s dedication ceremony at the Wyss Pump Station and Reservoir on Friday, September 16th. The event was attended by members of the WaterOne Board and staff, representatives of the contractor partners, and family and friends of former WaterOne director and facility namesake Ralph G. Wyss.

“Our newest pump station, reservoir and transmission mains greatly expand WaterOne’s distribution capacity to a high-growth area of southern Johnson County,” said General Manager Mike Armstrong. “So it is fitting that the station be named in honor of a WaterOne director who steered our organization through the years of rapid growth that shaped our organization and service area into what they are today.”

Ralph G. Wyss (January 4th, 1925 - August 19th, 2015) grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, where he attended Central High School. He served in World War II as a mortar infantryman. After the war, Wyss began a 31 year career at Water District No. 1 of Johnson County, serving as Chief Engineer and Director of Operations until his retirement in 1993.

Naming the 7.5 million gallon reservoir, pump station and 13 mile pipeline after Ralph Wyss reflects his significant contributions to the organization. Wyss is credited with developing much of the “big picture” vision of where the distribution system would be today. The district went through a period of major mergers and expansion under his watch, including absorbing three neighboring water districts which essentially doubled the size of WaterOne’s service area.

“Ralph was instrumental in the original design of our distribution system, ensuring that it would support our rapidly expanding service area,” said Mike Armstrong at the dedication ceremony. “This pump station represents one of the last pieces of the puzzle in the long-term vision he helped shape.”
EXTRA OPPORTUNITY TO FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS AT ACE — DEADLINE DECEMBER 16, 2016

Beyond the Spec Book, a Sunday Workshop at ACE this year, has openings for nine ACE exhibitors to give small group presentations at no extra cost to exhibitors. This hands-on workshop taking place Sunday afternoon at ACE17 in Philadelphia, is geared toward Young Professionals (YPs) and those who are new to the industry. The program will allow attendees to see exhibitor equipment up close, talk specifically about what makes the products unique, and what the components within a product's specification really mean.

This workshop is a collaboration of the Water Treatment Plant Design and Construction Committee, the Young Professionals Committee, and the MAC. Attendance is limited to 50 workshop attendees so each exhibitor, like you, can have a brief yet close discussion with each group. Vendors presenting at the workshop are encouraged to bring small products to the workshop; will be given 15 minutes to discuss the range of product applications, industry language specific to his/her product; and will show the group his/her knowledge as a trusted advisor.

Categories include:
1. Valves: Ball, plug, check, gate, control, etc.
2. Chemical feed pumps: Peristaltic, mechanically driven, solenoid-driven, etc.
3. Chemical storage tanks: Fiberglass reinforced plastic, polyethylene, steel, etc.
4. Filter components: Filter material, air-scour systems, troughs, underdrains, pressure filters, etc.
5. Mechanical and static mixers
6. Pipe: Tubing, flexible piping, polyethylene, PVC, etc.
7. Chemical feed valves: Backpressure, antisiphon, pressure relief, 4-way, calibration columns, etc.
8. Flowmeters: Magmeters, venturi, turbine, etc.
9. Water quality analyzers: Lab equipment, particle counters, pH and TOC analyzers, chlorine residual monitors, turbidimeters, etc.

To apply to demonstrate your product at this workshop visit before Friday, December 16: www.surveymonkey.com/r/BeyondtheSpecBook. For more information, please contact Lindsey Olson at Lindsey.Olson@amwater.com or Meredith Quinn at Meredith.Quinn@ae2s.com.

HOW TO FORM A MAC

One of the common themes of 2016 has been making your opinions known! One of the great challenges to any volunteer organization is making sure the contributions and talents of all of the members are given a chance to shine. Getting more members active and involved is a challenge to most organizations. Service Providers, defined as manufacturers, suppliers, contractors, engineers, and distributors comprise approximately 28% of AWWA’s members. However, integrating all Service Providers into the local or state-wide chapters can be a challenge. AWWA national has developed some helpful guidelines for forming a local or state-wide MAC Committee. By giving Service Providers a greater voice and a place to contribute, the organization as a whole grows.

Organizing a Section MAC Committee can be a great place to start encouraging more involvement from Service Providers. Service Providers have a wealth of industry knowledge and can be instrumental in organizing local events. Members can help establish guidelines for conference exhibits, monitor and evaluate exhibits for future input, assist with site negotiations and assist with promotion of the conferences. However, Service Providers can also provide invaluable membership development because of their diverse business connections and structure. One activity that has proven effective is a casual “meet and greet” with other members of the association.

If a local Section has no MAC, creating one might be a driver for more Service Provider involvement and ownership. The Section board should take a formal action during a scheduled meeting to do the following:
1. Establish the name for the committee (Section MAC)
2. Define the scope, mission and purpose
3. Develop goals and objectives
4. Appoint a chair to lead the committee
5. Commission the committee chair to recruit new members

For those areas with existing MAC Section committees, consider new roles to recharge and rejuvenate the membership. Reach out and recruit newer members to get some new involvement in the committee. Task existing committee members with a new assignment, typically a short-term very specific task. Ask existing committee members to join the technical committees. Committee “cross-pollination” can be an effective way of getting Service Providers involved with some of the more technical aspects of the annual conference planning. This allows members to use their technical expertise while participating in a new aspect of the conference.

Encourage members who are interested to participate in research projects. Oftentimes, Service Providers have insight into pilot projects that are occurring or are being planned in your area. The Water Research Foundation and several Sections have very active research committees that should be considered.

Local Sections can provide complementary programs to AWWA webinars. Often, these programs can home in on more pressing local issues than the national webinar. Discussions can focus on local issues that stem from a national presentation. Consider having a panel discussion that includes Service Providers, researchers and regulators to discuss the latest webinar.

To assist Sections with the creation of new committees, AWWA has developed a “how-to” guide entitled “How to Organize and Manage a Successful Section Committee.” This guide is available online or by calling 303-347-6202. The guide can also be accessed at www.awwa.org under Section Resources, How to Guides.

To submit articles for the MACYAK, please contact jjohnson@awwa.org
## MAC Innovation Sessions at WIC16 & WQTC16 ARE WELL ATTENDED

The MAC Innovation Initiative created and moderated Special Topic Sessions at both the Water Infrastructure Conference (WIC16) in Phoenix and the Water Quality Technology Conference (WQTC16) in Indianapolis. Both Sessions were very well attended, and there was a great deal of positive feedback from attendees and Staff. Each session was created in collaboration with Barbara Martin, Senior Manager with the Partnership for Safe Water, and structured around the Partnership’s criteria for distribution system optimization. The goal of the Partnership is to work with utilities to optimize water system operation and help ensure public health protection. The Partnership provides self-assessment and optimization programs so that operators, managers, and administrators have the tools they need to improve performance above and beyond even proposed regulatory levels. These Sessions are designed to provide a showcase for utility managers, consulting engineers, academia/researchers, regulators and technology providers to present new innovations and technologies. At both Sessions there were presenters from each perspective with new innovations and technologies to talk about. Both Sessions were moderated by Randy Moore (VP Market Development, Pure Technologies) and Chair of the Innovation Initiative and Barb Martin who led the attendees in a lively discussion around the presentations in a panel discussion at the end of the Sessions. The Session agendas were as follows:

**WIC16: October 31, Phoenix, Ariz.**

- A Multi-Year Approach to County-Wide Water Valve Condition Assessment and Rehabilitation  
  Daniel Gilroy, CDM Smith, Joseph Cogswell
- Innovative Approach in Optimizing Water Quality in Large-Scale Water System  
  Benny Chi-Kong Wan, AECOM
- A New KPI for Valve Operability Optimization  
  Cliff Wilson, Wachs Water Services
- An Innovative Green Sustainable Technology for Continuous On-site Manufacturing of Pressure Pipes  
  Mo Ehsani, PipeMedic, LLC
- Panel Discussion: Randy Moore and All Presenters

**WQTC16: November 15, Indianapolis, Ind.**

- Streamlining Water Distribution System Field Testing Using Portable Parallel Analysis as a Data Source for Analytics  
  Dan Kroll, Hach Company
- Water Quality Data Drives Nitrification Controls and Action Plans  
  Eric Zhu, Louisville Water Company
- Active Chloramine Residual Control in Response to Nitrification and Water Pathogens: New Technologies and Results  
  Peter Fiske, PAX Water Technologies, Inc.
- Impact of Tank Mixing and Volume Turnover on Water Quality  
  Michael Duer, Red Valve Company
- Demonstration and Validation of an In-Pipe Water Quality Sensor  
  Ryan James, Battelle
- Aesthetics and Premise Plumbing: The Next Frontier for Innovation  
  Melinda Friedman, Confluence Engineering Group, LLC
- Panel Discussion: Randy Moore/Barb Martin and All Presenters

## Spotlight on the New York Section AWWA MAC

The NYSAWWA MAC was initially formed as an AdHoc Committee in the early 2000s by a small group of vendors. The goal was to improve member turnout at the Annual Conference and provide valuable input on future conferences. Within a couple of years, the MAC became an official committee of the Section and started implementing many of the suggestions it made to the NY Section Board of Governors.

In 2003, prior to the MAC formation, the Section’s Annual Conference had approximately 65 exhibitors and averaged 400 attendees. Today, the conference hosts approximately 100 exhibitors and over 750 attendees.

In 2005, the NYSAWWA MAC started an Operator’s Day at the Annual Conference. When an exhibitor registered for a booth, the Section gave them an “Operator’s Day Pass,” which the exhibitor could hand out to any operator. This pass was a free one-day registration for an operator to attend the conference. The goal of the Operator’s Day was to bring operators to the conference and let them experience a large exhibit area, to meet with the vendors face-to-face and expose them to the great training provided by the Section. Operator’s Day has proven to be very successful through the years, and as operators learned about the benefits of attending the Annual Conference, operator attendance grew. When the program was implemented in 2005, the Section had 120 operators use a free pass and only 55 paid their own way to attend; in 2016 the Section had over 150 paying operators and only 20 free passes were redeemed.

The MAC has also been instrumental in working with the Board of Governors to develop a successful sponsorship program. When the sponsorship program began in 2014, only 14 companies signed up. To date, the Section has almost 30 companies participating, which equates to over $80,000. Additionally, the sponsorship program has increased activity in the exhibit hall, as there are raffles held during the breaks to engage the attendees.

Other enhancements to the Section’s Annual Conference as a result of having a MAC include a MAC track at the Annual Conference and an interactive web-based exhibitor registration program that allows vendors to choose their own booth locations and see where other companies have selected. Payment is made by credit card, and add-ons are part of the program for other purchases.

The NYSAWWA MAC has been successful because of the dedicated individuals on the committee and the willingness of the Board of Governors to work with the MAC. To date, the MAC has had five different chairs, with the mandate for a three-year term. Currently, the committee has 15 members, with five being new over the last year.

## Reserve Your Table Now for the Water Industry Luncheon Featuring Amy Van Dyken

Join us in welcoming Amy Van Dyken, 1996 Summer Olympic 4-time Gold Medal winner at the Atlanta Georgia games. After experiencing much athletic success, in June of 2014 tragedy struck when Van Dyken was injured in an ATV accident that severed her spinal cord, leaving her paralyzed from the waist down. Although she endured grueling days in rehabilitation, her strong work ethic and positive attitude continues to inspire others to stay strong and accomplish their goals.

To purchase a table of 10 at $550 each, contact Karen Pacyga at kpacyga@awwa.org. For individual tickets at $60 each, register on the ACE registration form or call AWWA customer service at 800.926.7337.
**WaterOne Employees Recognized For Excellence**

By Jerry Koukol

*WaterOne is proud of the many talented personnel that work hard to make it the excellent organization that it is. Here are several examples of recognition that WaterOne employees have received for their hard work and dedication.*

**Joe Cribbs, Operations Tech IV**

Joe was recognized with the *Jim Current Award for Professional Excellence* on August 3rd by the Kansas Section of the American Water Works Association for his dedication to training others in the water industry. He’s a principle organizer for regular training classes for both new and experienced water plant operators. These classes benefit water professionals at WaterOne and many other water utilities in the region.

“As water regulations become more stringent, it’s increasingly important for operators to stay up on their training and learn new techniques,” Joe said. “It’s an ever-changing, dynamic field.”

**Rudy Holden, Meter Reader**

Rudy won the statewide *Meter Madness Competition* at the Kansas Section of the American Water Works Association Conference on August 30th. Meter Madness is a race against the clock to reassemble a functional water meter from a bucket of parts in the fastest time. Rudy assembled a meter in 1:04 minutes to clinch the title.

“Meter Madness promotes camaraderie and team-building,” said Brian Schade, Meter Services Manager. “Rudy’s victory brought a lot of excitement to the Meter Services department. It’s a reflection of the excellence and pride in our work that WaterOne employees show every day.”

**Jerry Koukol, Communications Specialist**

WaterOne Communications was recognized by the City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA) with an *Award of Excellence* for its video featuring WaterOne Safety & Security and the Shawnee Fire Department. The video “Water Tower Drills High Angle Rescue Training” followed fire fighters as they practiced rescue techniques on WaterOne’s Monticello water tower. The video was shot and edited in November 2015 by Communications Specialist Jerry Koukol with help from Safety and Security Manager Sean McGraw and Safety Specialist Brett Osborn. You can see this video and more at [youtube.com/ourwaterone](http://youtube.com/ourwaterone).
Career in Water

By Tonya Bronleewe

You work in the water industry. You provide services so vital that without them community life as we know it would grind to a halt. So, if water careers are so important…

- are you handing off your knowledge to the next generation of potential water workers?
- do young people have a way to learn where their wastewater goes after they flush?
- do young people know where their safe drinking water comes from?

Recently, a new program was developed to introduce Kansas high school students to careers in the water industry. The Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center in partnership with KsAWWA, KDHE, KWEA, Kansas Municipal Utilities and Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education created **Work in Water: Advancing Water Careers in Kansas**.

Baby Boomer retirements are creating large workforce gaps in the water industry. AWWA’s “State of the Industry Report” anticipates the loss to be 30-50% in the next ten years. Local governments already report difficulties finding qualified water treatment personnel. This workforce shortage directly impacts public health and safety as well as the quality and quantity of our water resources.

Through the Work in Water project eight high schools across the State of Kansas will learn from water industry professionals and have the chance to tour a water utility. Then, five students will be chosen, via a job application process, for paid summer internships at one of those water utilities.

In 2016, Work in Water successfully pilot tested the classroom session, field trip and intern program with El Dorado High School. During the classroom session and field trip, students increased their knowledge about:

- where their drinking water comes from
- what is “flushable”
- the different types of water careers

The first Work in Water intern was Lorraine Lowrey, and she spent her summer working at the El Dorado Drinking Water Plant and the El Dorado Wetlands and Water Reclamation Facility. Lorraine enjoyed her internship and highlighted what she learned and the work she did in a terrific breakout session at the 2016 Joint Conference.

During the 2016-17 school year, schools in Garden City, Ottawa, Pittsburg and Wichita will get a chance to take part in the interactive classroom session and the field trip to a water and/or wastewater facility. Then, this summer, water and/or wastewater utilities in these participating cities will host an intern. We are looking forward to an exciting 2017!

Funding for the Work in Water project comes from EPA’s Environmental Education grant program.
CONFERENCE COMPETITIONS:

As usual those in attendance are given opportunities to show their skills and test their knowledge on water/wastewater related activities and quizzes.

Winners of the **Meter Madness** competition were 3rd place – Kenny Chastain, Leavenworth Water; 2nd place – Manuel Ledesma, KCK BPU, and 1st Place Ruby Holden, WaterOne.

Winners of the **Backhoe Rodeo** were 3rd place Jim Fincham 42.22 seconds, City of Topeka; 2nd place Alex Schell 40.78 seconds, City of Topeka; and 1st Place Jason Drayer 39.52 seconds, City of Ottawa.

Winner of the **Environmental Minds** competition for 2016 was the City of Lawrence team. This team will travel to Philadelphia for ACE17 in June 2017 and compete at the National AWWA competition.

The **Water Taste Test** is always a hit and the excitement mounts as the judges sniff, swish and swallow the many samples of water placed before them. The winner of the 2016 competition was a first timer the City of El Dorado. Chair Estelle traveled to El Dorado and presented the award to Kurt Bookout and other utility members at the weekly City Commission meeting on November 7, 2016.
City of Olathe Sampling Gadget

By Denise Friday

The City of Olathe has a water treatment plant that is groundwater under the influence of surface water. KDHE Kansas Department of Health Environment requires us to pull water samples from the river.

The Operators pull water samples from the river and take them to the Lab, so they can be tested for Total Organic Carbon. TOC is a measure of the total amount of organic matter that is present in the water. The Lab runs test on the samples daily for a better average.

Olathe’s water plant operators were presented with the task of finding an alternative river sampling point that would be safer than going to De Soto’s boat ramp. In the winter time the ramp is slick and icy. People have injured themselves going down the boat ramp to pull samples. In the summer if there is a drought the river dries up and sand barges are formed. This makes the operator have to walk on the sand barges to the middle of the river to get the sample.

Operators took on this task and started putting their ideas on paper and presenting them to the supervisors. With the approval of our manager one idea was approved. Eva Webb, Process Operator II, began the process by scoping the river banks. She located a continuous running area with a flat safe walking area and the work began, clearing the brush and cutting a tree behind Collector Well 1, while making a path so that the 21’ swing arm could be installed. Then Eva customized a swing arm getting the idea from a gate. She ordered the material from a chain link fence company.

Ben Manning delivered the 21’ swing arm out to the river. Denise Friday, Control Operator, dug the hole for the base pole. Eva and Denise mixed and poured the concrete. The next day they installed the swing and discovered the trees at the edge of the river were getting in the way. Rick Spurgeon, arborist, and his crew from the Parks and Public Grounds Department came out and cut the trees.

The City of Olathe Water operators have been using the new location since November 23th 2016.
The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) recently honored the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) with a top water utility management award. BPU was recognized with the “Platinum Award” for Utility Excellence for exceeding the industry association’s Attributes of Effective Utility Management.

The AMWA awards spotlight advances and substantial achievements of public drinking water utilities like BPU that lead the nation in their efforts toward sustainability through innovative management practices, executive leadership and employee engagement. “Communities count on their drinking water systems for reliable and adequate supplies of clean, safe water, and those served by these award winners can take pride in their outstanding accomplishments,” said AMWA President Scott Potter.

BPU was recognized specifically for several water improvement initiatives including: valve, hydrant and customer leak detection programs; water treatment plant filter upgrades; water distribution facility maintenance and its Geographic Information Systems; water main and fire hydrant replacement projects; a new four-million gallon water reservoir; and a Maximo asset work order management program.

BPU has initiated a number of programs to ensure industry leading training and understanding of work processes and standards throughout the organization. Moreover, it works continually to improve water services to Wyandotte County and measures overall customer satisfaction by reviewing data from customer satisfaction studies, customer inquiry reports, a cost-of-service study and AEGIS risk assessment.
For years the word ‘GAMBLE’ was associated with construction excavations. By gambling on unknown soil conditions, ground water, adjacent structures, steep banks, etc., the job could move faster with less cost and less backfill. When banks caved in they had to be dug back out or worked around, and when workers were crushed or buried alive, it was an accepted risk. Lucky for all of you, those days are gone -- or are they?

A recent annual study shows that more than 100 Americans were killed in excavation cave-ins, 500 more died from other causes in and around excavations, and another 7,000 were left seriously injured. None of those killed or injured expected it to happen to them. They were simply victims who gambled and lost, or were not properly trained to identify the hazards.

Remember, gravity works on earth materials such as sand, clay, stone, etc. just as it does on other construction materials. When improperly stacked, it’s just a matter of time until the pile falls over, slides, or collapses. When a cave-in accident occurs, the likelihood of death is fifteen times greater than from any other type of serious construction accident, however, by following proper excavation procedures, nearly all cave-in accidents are preventable.

For your protection, OSHA’s Construction Standard (Subpart P) clarifies the requirements for the protection of employees, both in and around excavations, and requires that a ‘COMPETENT PERSON’ be present throughout the entire excavation process.

A ‘COMPETENT PERSON’ is one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has the authorization to take prompt corrective action to eliminate them.

By complying with the excavation standards, you can perform your excavation activities safely and efficiently, without...

‘TAKING GAMBLES’... or ‘DIGGING GRAVES’...
Whenever an accident occurs, someone always asks, “How did it happen?” Accidents do not “just happen”—they are caused. These events can almost always be traced to an unsafe act, an unsafe condition, or a combination of both. If we are going to eliminate accidents we must have some idea of what causes unsafe acts and conditions.

Unsafe conditions are usually created by poor housekeeping, improper storage, defective or broken equipment, removing guards from machinery, etc. Unsafe conditions are those things that can be seen by inspecting and looking for hazards in the work environment. This is the principle reason that safety inspections should be done on a scheduled basis.

However, even though unsafe conditions can be seen it must be remembered that unsafe conditions exist primarily as a result of personal behavior and personal choices.

Unsafe acts or unsafe practices follow poor habits and safety short cuts, just like reaching into a running machine, operating a machine without guards, using defective tools or equipment, or indulging in horseplay on the job. Experts estimate that up to 90% of all accidents are caused by such behavior. Unsafe acts are the careless things that people do— and often unobserved by others in the workplace.

Most companies have safety rules to prevent these unsafe acts, but if no one is watching, how do we find out when violations have occurred? Usually we do not, until an accident occurs. This is why all accidents must be investigated—even minor ones. You should also remember that the purpose of accident investigation is not to find fault or place blame, but to find out what needs to be corrected, so that future accidents can be prevented.

Never accept the old adage that accidents are unavoidable and are just a part of the work. All accidents are caused by unsafe conditions, unsafe acts, or both. By inspecting your work environment, and by thorough accident investigation, these conditions and unsafe acts can be identified and eliminated.

As John M. Hay observed, “Things do not happen in this world, they are brought about!” In this case we might inject, “…brought about by carelessness.”

A few questions to consider:

- What accidents or near misses can you think of that took place recently?
- Were they caused by an unsafe condition or by a workers unsafe act?
- How would you change the job task, so a similar incident does not happen again?
Happy New Year 2017
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Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel
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KsAWWA Board of Trustees Meetings
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August 11, 2017 Teleconference

AWWA Annual Conferences
June 11-14, 2017 – Philadelphia PA
June 11-15, 2018 – Las Vegas, NV
June 9 – 12, 2019 – Denver, CO
June 14-17, 2020 – Orlando, FL
June 13-16, 2021 – San Diego, CA
June 12-15, 2022 – San Antonio, TX
June 11-14, 2021 – Toronto, Canada

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