



D i g e s t e r

o v e r t h e s p i l l w a y

"for optimum operation/maintenance of all water and wastewater facilities"

IPWSOA's 70th Annual Conference Sets a Record – Again

Enrollment for three day event again tops 1,000

A record 1,058 members and guests signed up to attend the 70th annual conference of the Illinois Public Water Supply Operators Association at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield Sept. 12-14. Outgoing president Kim Albers presided at the event where the usual outgoing cheeriness of those attending was dampened by concerns about the previous day's events in New York and Washington, D.C.

During the three days of the conference, attendees had a chance to visit vendor displays and talk with



Addressing the record crowd attending the 70th IPWSOA conference's awards banquet, outgoing president Kim Albers praised the growth of professionalism among water plant operators in recent years.

company representatives about the newest in technology.

Professional sessions covered a wide range of topics of interest to water treatment plant operators. Subjects included whether a consortium might be the way to go to provide safe drinking water in some areas, the benefits of capacity development for new and existing public water supplies, and liabilities and risks for public utilities. Other speakers discussed consumer perceptions of the need for "additional personal treatment" of drinking water such as point of use and point of entry devices and super-market dispensers. A panel assessed regulatory requirements for filter assessment and IEPA staffers covered a variety of topics including compliance, source water assessment, and the availability of source water data on the Agency's website.

Recent or upcoming regulatory requirement changes were the focus of attention of several speakers including a representative of Region 5, U.S. EPA, who presented an overview from the federal perspective.

Did we mention the food?

In what is becoming a tradition, those attending were treated to a special barbeque lunch on the conference's second day, prepared by the award winning Great Boars of Fire barbeque team.

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New IPWSOA president Rich Alwood, left, poses with Roger Selburg, manager of the IEPA's Division of Public Water Supplies.

The Diamond and Sapphire Ballroom at the headquarters hotel was the site of the annual banquet. Albers discussed the changing role of operators, whom he said must “constantly work to keep abreast of changes in the industry. Amid changing regulations and improved analytical methods, our job is to comply.” He cited a growth in professionalism among operators, and

urged those attending to participate as often as possible at training sessions to be sure their operations are current with state and federal requirements.

The banquet was highlighted by presentation of trophies and plaques to the Operators of the Year, and introduction of officers for the coming year. High winds and the threat of rain ruled

out the planned adjournment to the rooftop sundeck and pool area for the evening’s finale. Instead, a dance floor was erected in an adjoining ballroom where The Sectors presented a show featuring humor, audience participation and hits ranging from the ’50s through the ’70s.

Special events for spouses

Spouses attending were offered a program that featured talks on home safety, craft demonstrations, a Christmas display and hands-on instruction on how to craft a decorative swag using herbs and flowers. On Thursday the spouse program included a tour of Lincoln’s New Salem village and lunch in Petersburg followed by shopping.

The annual breakfast, a final trio of presentations and drawing for attendance prizes wrapped up the event.



Rich Alwood takes the podium as the new president of the IPWSOA, prior to presenting a plaque to outgoing president Kim Albers.



Lou Allyn Byus, executive director of the operators group, was presented with a “thank you” for her work in organizing the annual conference.



Golden Oldies from the ’50’s, ’60’s and ’70’s were spotlighted by the Sectors as the 70th annual conference wound down following the awards banquet.

Top Three Water Plant Operators Named During 70th IPWSOA Meet

Olney, Elwood and Woodlawn Operators Honored

Drinking water plant operators in Olney, Elwood and Woodlawn were recognized by their fellow operators as the outstanding professionals in their individual categories of service during the 70th annual conference of the Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association (IPWSOA) Sept. 13-15 in Springfield.



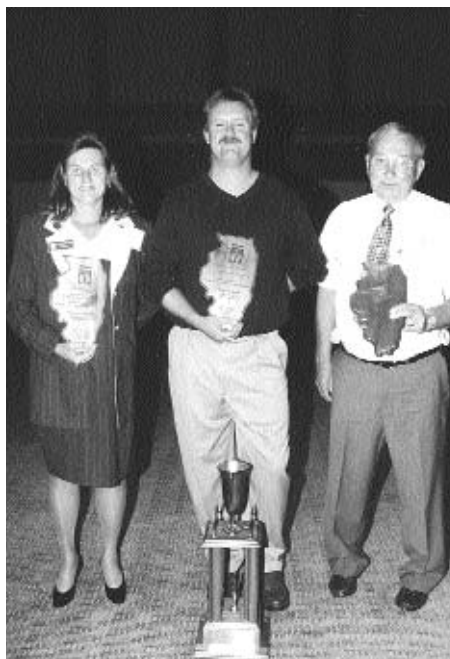
Tom Umfleet, Olney, center, was named Operator of the Year for surface water supplies. Runners-up were Jerry Connolly, Westville, left, and Ray Weller, Litchfield.

Tom Umfleet, of Olney; Paul Burris, Elwood; and Gary Tinsley, Woodlawn, were named Operators of the Year in recognition of their work in providing plentiful, safe drinking water to users.

The 70th annual conference closed a three day run on Sept. 15 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. The event is co-sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees operations of approximately 1,800 public water supplies serving Illinois.

Nominees who are interviewed by a selection committee during a fly-around of the state are rated according to a numeric system by committee members, and winners are selected by a computer evaluation.

Umfleet was recognized in the surface water category, Burris for supplies using groundwater; and Tinsley took the only award presented this year for distribution-only systems operation.



Paul Burris, New Lenox, stands behind his Operator of the Year trophy in the groundwater category. Runners-up in that category were Patti Schaake, Edwardsville, and John McBride, Gilman.

Runners-up were Jerry Connolly, Westville, and Ray Weller, Litchfield, in the surface water division, and Patti Schaake, Edwardsville and John McBride, Gilman, in the groundwater classification.

Honorees were recognized and presented with plaques and trophies during the conference banquet Thursday night.

In addition to the trophies and recognition the Operators of the Year receive during the annual banquet, their names are added to permanent plaques that are on display in the IEPA's Division of Public Water Supplies.



Gary Tinsley, Woodlawn, appears pleased to have been named Operator of the Year in the distribution-only category.

Digester/Over the Spillway

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Editor.....Joan Muraro

American Water Works Being Acquired by RWE

\$4.6 billion cash transaction expected to take a year to complete

American Water Works Co. Inc., that serves 757,000 consumers in 90 Illinois communities, is being acquired by RWE, a leading international provider of electricity, gas, water and wastewater management services, a \$4.6 billion cash transaction expected to take at least a year to complete. American Water Works Co. Inc. is the largest publicly traded water services company in the United States. The

company employs 5,000 associates providing water, wastewater and other water resource management services to more than 10 million people in 1,300 U.S. communities.

Upon completion of the transaction, announced in mid-September, American Water will be combined with the U.S. operations of Thames Water, RWE's London-based international water services business.

Thames Water has more than 14,000 employees in 44 countries providing water and wastewater services to approximately 43 million customers. It is the third largest water company worldwide.

Additional information about American Water can be found at www.amwater.com and information on Thames Water is available at www.thames-water.com.

IEPA holds four compliance meetings for operators.

Revisions to the 1976 radionuclide regulations were finalized by U.S. EPA on Dec. 7, 2000, retaining the existing MCLs of five picoCuries per liter for combined radium, and 15 picoCuries per liter for gross alpha particle activity.

Supplies in noncompliance with the MCLs are expected to achieve compliance as soon as possible. The IEPA is providing an opportunity for supplies to demonstrate a "good faith effort" for achieving compliance by submitting a signed radionuclide compliance commitment (RCC) that basically identifies activities needed to achieve compliance and offers a tentative schedule with interim milestones for completing these activities.

Whether or not a supply submits a RCC, compliance by Dec. 8, 2003, is required to avoid possible sanctions for failing to meet the regulations.

More supplies are expected to exceed the standards

The new rule changes the sample collection location from the distribution to the entry point. As a result, even some supplies currently in compliance are likely to exceed the standards when the new rules go into effect.

To familiarize community water supply operators with the requirements, a series of four meetings was held around the state during October. In addition to IEPA staff, a representative of Region 5, U.S. EPA was on hand to discuss the U.S. EPA's perspective. Other topics included a summary of the regulations and compliance monitoring requirements; radionuclide compliance commitments, enforcement and consent decrees after Dec. 8, 2003, treatment options and permit issues, and financial assistance programs. Question and answer sessions followed the formal program.

Meeting dates and places included:

Oct. 16: DeKalb City Hall council chambers

Oct. 17: Joliet Junior College, 1215 Houbolt Road, main campus theater

Oct. 23: Fireplace Lounge at Illinois Valley Community College, 815 N. Orlando Smith Ave., Oglesby

Oct. 24: Knox County Health Department, 1361 W. Fremont St., Galesburg.

New Video Learning System Targets Small System Operators

Operators of small public water systems are being offered a new information video series by California State University, Sacramento. Available online or as a mail correspondence course, the 10 video series is priced at \$100 including one copy of the Learning Booklet for the course. The booklet, without the videos, is available for \$33.

Enrollment in the course costs \$40 and successful completion earns the operator 30 contact hours, or 3 continuing education units (CEUs)

The system was developed to meet the need of small systems to deliver, in a cost effective manner, safe drinking water to their consumers. It is geared to help small system managers and operators develop the knowledge, skills and judgment necessary to safely operate and maintain their facilities while using appropriate financial strategies.

Operator News

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Central Illinois Professional Wastewater Operators

The summer meeting of CIPWO was held July 25 at Equistar Chemicals, near Tuscola.

Following registration and opening announcements, approximately 60 members and guests heard a discussion of "Weed and Brush Control: Effective Solutions and Alternatives with Environmental Consciousness," by Loretta M. Ortiz-Ribbing, visiting extension educator for the University of Illinois Champaign extension center. Her talk focused on proper use and licensing for herbicide applications.

Tony Hall, operator of the Westville-Belgium Sanitary District plant and new CIPWO coordinator, presided as "chef" at the grills for the annual cookout lunch. In addition to burgers, brats, cookies and "extras," there was a drawing for door prizes. In addition to an assortment of tools that were donated as prizes, CIPWO offered two cash prizes.

Following lunch, Chris Bland, HSE manager for Equistar Chemicals, gave an overview of the firm's ethanol manufacturing process, as well as its industrial wastewater treatment process. The group then boarded two school buses chartered by Equistar for a tour of the plant where ethanol is manufactured from natural gas, and the plant's



Members and guests learned about the creation of ethanol during a July session at the Equistar Chemicals plant near Tuscola.

processes for handling and treating high carbon wastewaters generated by the process. The buses were required as safety measures.

Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators

One hundred twenty operators and guests attended a meeting of the Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators group on August 23, for a picnic style meeting at the Rend Lake North Marcum Recreation Area.

First guest speaker was Barb Liebman of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency who spoke on "Changes in the Drinking Water Program" and later during the meeting presented a "Continuing Education Update." Her presentation was followed by Bob Voss of the IEPA who discussed "How to Prepare for a Certification Exam."

The final speaker was Chuck Corley, from the IEPA's Rockford regional office, who gave a presentation on the use of barley straw in lakes, ponds, and wastewater lagoons to improve color, clarity, and lower suspended solids. The presentations were followed by a barbecued rib and chicken dinner catered by Great Boars of Fire from Anna, Ill. Drawings were held for door prizes donated by various vendors.

The next meeting of the Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators will be in March of 2002.



Tony Hall, new CIPWO coordinator, displays casual finesse at the grills during the annual cookout lunch at the July meeting.



Rend Lake's North Marcum Recreation Area provided a summery setting for the August picnic meeting of the Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators.



Showing their appreciation of the lunch are, from left, in the front row, Dale Jones, vice president; Brian Davis, president; Phil Brandenburg, secretary-treasure and Jay Godt, of Ressler & Associates. In the back from left are Jerry Kee, Johnston City; Bob Lyerla, Municipal Equipment and Byron Marks, Illinois EPA.

Candidates Successfully Pass Potable Water Operator Exams

In drinking water operator certification tests given April 25, May 7, May 23, June 4, July 2, July 10 and August 6, these candidates successfully completed the examinations. Where known, their facilities are identified. Since some operators may have tested for more advanced ratings, some names may appear more than once.

Class A

Burris, James R.	Wood River
Cass, Jerrold C. Jr.	St. Charles
Eisenmenger, Thomas J.	Elgin
Freund, Jamie E.	Lake Barrington Shores
Hackett, Jo Allen	St. Charles
Harper, John T.	-0-
Howard, Ronald D.	Otter Lake Water Comm.
Hughes, Michael L.	Winnetka
Kindermann, Jeffrey L.	Itasca
Melchi, Robert J.	Hanover Park
Mighell, Samuel Q.	Lake of Egypt
Naugle, Paul C.	Barrington
Scott, Randal J.	St. Charles
Skinner, Randy L.	Mendota
Smith, David W.	-0-
Soucie, William J.	Central Lake Co.

Stone, James A.
 Straub, Randy J.
 Taylor, Michael L.
 Torman, Roger D.
 West, Jeffery K.
 White, Steven M.

Young, Gale L.

Class B

Bergmeier, Ronald E.
 Falzone, Nicholas F.
 Harper, John T.
 Holmes, William J.
 Horner, Anthony T.
 Hyde, Russell .
 Littell, Larry L.

Melton, Janice E.
 Michalczyk, Frank J. Jr.
 Naugle, Paul C.
 Stabler, Ronnie E.
 Sunderlage, Bryan R.

Class C

Acord, Carl H.
 Allen, David A.

Anderson, Tony R.
 Barclay, Andrew S.
 Blair, Scott A.
 Blanchette, Craig L.

JAWA
 Ottawa
 Staunton WTP
 DeKalb TWkP
 Earlville
 Batavia
 Illinois American-
 Champaign
 North Chicago

Mahomet
 Rockford
 -0-
 Northbrook
 Riverton
 Princeville
 Spin Lake
 Homeowners Assn.
 Genoa
 Richmond
 Barrington
 Tuscola
 Algonquin

Fosterburg Water Dist.
 Illinois American/
 E. St. Louis
 Stronghurst
 Energy
 Downers Grove
 Manteno

Boeing, Bradley -0-
 Bortke, Steven -0-
 Breasaw, William E. Knoxville
 Brinkman, Kristine M. Barry
 Burkirk, Phyllis A. Mound Public
 Water Dist.
 Culver, Kevin M. Consumers Ill./
 Kankakee
 Dabney, Donald R. Mackinaw
 DeRose, Anthony L. Harvard
 Dixon, James R. DesPlaines
 Doretti, Michael J. Romeoville
 Dorris, John T. Peotone
 Doyle, Gary Hampton
 Duckett, Mary L. Mt. Carmel
 Edmonds, Kenneth A. Highwood
 Eipers, Ben P. Sandwich
 Evans, Charles A. Batavia
 Gaynes, June H. Utilities Inc.
 Gray, Joyce Y. -0-
 Harding, Jeffrey T. Highwood
 Harper, John T. -0-
 Hauman, Brad D. Moline
 Heberling, Samuel R. White Hall
 Hubbard, Curt L. Nebo
 Janssen, Kevin R. Morrison
 Johnson, Michael L. New Windsor
 Knepler, Robert C. Jacksonville
 Langan, Chris J. Park Ridge WTP
 McCarthy, Patrick J. Crystal Lake
 Michell, Samuel Q. Lake of Egypt PWD
 Morse, John C. Lyndon
 Mossman, Rachel R. Charleston
 Nicholson, John K. PawPaw
 Otley, Thomas J. Sr. Walnut
 Politsch, Terry L. -0-

Price, Roger D.	Dorchester	Bowermaster, Karl J.	Hartford	Peters, Kirk D.	Rantoul WTP
Rand, Richard T.	Lawrenceville	Clendaniel, Frank B.	Rantoul WTP	Rauch, Tim G.	Sullivan
Regner, William J.	McHenry	Differding, Christopher J.	Harvard	Riechers, Matthew A.	Beecher
Ricci, Joseph R.	Bethalto WTP	Greene, Rodney B.	Fairfield	Schmoll, Robert A.	Baldwin
Schaefer, Elmer L.	Bloomington	Harvey, John W.	Braceville	Spoon, Brenda M.	Momence
Scott, Jackie R.	Hodgkins	Heitzman, James A.	Northern Illinois	Stanford, Blake A.	-0-
Smith, Timothy S.	Xenia		Water Corp.	Stockton, Clifton L.	-0-
Vaughn, John E.	Consumers Ill./Kankakee	Holloway, Chris J.	-0-	Thomas, William R.	Central Lake Co.
Wallis, Kyle S.	Sandwich	Lacy, Johnnie L.	-0-	Waddell, Barbara J.	JAWA
Whitford, Reed D.	Cambridge	Lang, Jesse M.	-0-	White, James A.	Sullivan
Williams, Brian L.	New Lenox	Maranto, Patrick	Bloomington	Wibben, Michael L.	Lawrenceville
Winter, Steven C.	Scales Mound	Milano, Julia A.	FMC Water Co.	Yates, William R.	-0-
		Packenham, Michael J.	Riverton		Marissa

Class D

Ohio River Sweep Still Raking in Debris

More than 500 volunteers turned out for the 13th annual riverbank cleanup

Supported by sunny, clear weather and normal to high pool conditions, the 13th annual Ohio River Sweep drew more than 500 volunteers on June 16 for the Illinois leg of the river-long riverbank cleanup. More than 1,000 bags of trash were picked up, ranging from beer bottles and bar bells to a bowling ball. Actually, it was only part of a bowling ball, adding a new definition of the term “split.”

Volunteers worked out of sites along the 133 miles of Ohio River shoreline rimmed by six Illinois counties—Alexander, Pulaski, Massac, Pope, Hardin and Gallatin. Each county has its own coordinator for the Sweep, which is organized along the entire length of the Ohio by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), based in Cincinnati, Ohio.

At the designated cleanup sites, volunteers of all ages were issued gloves and trash bags. In addition to the usual beverage containers, tow ropes and tires, the booty this year included tennis shoes, and a coffee pot as well as the ball. Volunteers each receive a free t-shirt to mark their participation. The Pepsi bottling operation in Marion provided soft drinks, and the state Department of Natural Resources give workers “Illinois Rivers Appreciation Month” pins. In Massac

County, workers were treated to a pizza party sponsored by a group of local river industries, and at the Golconda site, members of a retiree’s organization served sandwiches to volunteers.

Though ORSANCO organizes the river-length cleanup, states along the river oversee activities within their borders. In Illinois, coordination is handled by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency with Byron Marks, Marion regional office, serving as state project coordinator.

“Illinois citizens are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of our rivers as habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, for recreation, as scenic resources and the clean drinking water,” Marks said. “In addition to keeping the riverbanks clean, it is hoped that the increased public exposure to the river will foster greater environmental concern for its future.”



A young volunteer holds the “Catch of the Day” – a partial bowling ball – during last June’s Ohio River Sweep. When this ball was thrown, it was the ball and not the pins that “split.” Some of the 1000 bags of debris collected are behind her.

New Surface Water Rules Will Kick In for Large Systems

Jan. 1, 2002, deadline for surface water systems serving 10,000 or more

New Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts and Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment rules, required under final rules published by U.S. EPA in December of 1998, will become effective next Jan. 1 for large surface water systems—those serving a population of at least 10,000. Small surface water systems—those serving fewer than 10,000—will have to comply with the disinfectant/disinfection byproduct rules by Jan. 1, 2004. These small supplies eventually will have to meet the new surface water treatment rules as well, but that deadline has not yet been set.

Under the rules becoming effective next Jan. 2, large systems will be required to monitor for chlorine or chloramines residual levels at the same time and location that total coliform samples are taken. The running annual average of disinfectant residuals cannot exceed 4.0 parts per million.

The systems will also have to monitor for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and for haloacetic acids (HAA5), with the number of samples needed based on the size and type of system. The new maximum contaminant levels for TTHMs is 80 ppb. For HAA5, it will be 60 ppb.

Surface water systems will also be required to monitor monthly for total organic carbon (TOC) in raw and finished water, and for raw water alkalinity, and will have to show the TOC levels are low in both raw and finished water, or that specific percentage removals of the TOCs is being achieved.

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