



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 Conference Heading Downtown in 2003

Exhibits will be at Convention Center; headquarters at The Renaissance

The 72nd annual conference of the Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association will move to downtown Springfield next September. Outgoing president Richard Alwood told a record crowd at the awards banquet on Sept. 12 that the event has outgrown the available exhibitors space at the Crowne Plaza, so exhibits next year will be set up at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, a few blocks from the state capitol. The hotel headquarters will be at The Renaissance, where the recognition banquet will be held and a block of rooms for participants will be available at the adjacent Springfield Hilton as well as the Renaissance.

"Downtown Springfield offers a variety of lodgings and eating places, across a broad range of prices," Alwood told the group in announcing the shift from the southeast side of Springfield where the conference has been held for years. "Outside conference events, the Old State Capitol and the current state capitol are within easy walking distance." The



Outgoing president Rich Alwood and his wife, Trudy, display the plaque he received in recognition of his service to the Illinois Potable Water Operators Association.



Rich received the plaque after he passed the gavel to incoming president Darrell (Whitey) Swanson, Geneseo water superintendent.

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IPWSOA Conference (Continued)



The record crowd nearly filled the combined Diamond and Sapphire ballrooms at the Crowne Plaza for the recognition banquet.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is now under construction in Springfield, and the library portion is scheduled to be dedicated in November of 2002. It is also near the Renaissance and Hilton hotels.

During the 2002 banquet, three Operators of the Year and six runners-up were recognized and presented with plaques and trophies. (Story and photos on page 3.)

Business sessions Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and on Friday morning covered a wide variety of subjects important to water plant operators. Vincent H. Lombardi was the keynote speaker, urging operators to become “coaches” for teamwork to create the kind of environment that successfully builds from the bottom up to generate motivation, accountability and resiliency.

The rest of the afternoon was devoted to a panel on financial operations, discussions of an e coli outbreak, an update

on the status of groundwater rules, and a new protocol for determining turbidity.

Thursday’s events continued with sessions on equipment, record keeping, various monitoring and compliance procedures and security assessments, interspersed with what has become a tradition of the conference—the noon barbeque lunch prepared by the award winning Great Boars of Fire.

Following the banquet, attendees lingered to dance or just listen to the music of Kittie Moller & Fan Fare, from St. Louis.

A special spouses program included a seminar on wines, visits to antique and craft malls, lunch at a renovated Civil War era mansion, and a hands-on craft session to create a gift basket.

Those who participated for the full conference were eligible to earn up to 12 continuing education credits.

Good food, good company—what more could anyone ask?

Digester/Over the Spillway

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Top Professional Awards To Three Water Plant Operators

Drinking water plant operators in Zion, Gurnee and Collinsville were named Operators of the Year during the annual recognition banquet of the Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association (IPWSOA) during the group's annual conference. The 71st annual conference closed a three day run on September 13 in Springfield.

Michael J. Darrow, Beach Park; Gary Gramhofer of Lindenhurst; and Robert Frank of Collinsville were honored for their work in providing plentiful, safe drinking water to users. The annual conference is cosponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees operations of approximately 1,800 public water supplies serving Illinois.

"Operator of the Year" is the highest professional honor operators can receive in recognition of service and performance in the waterworks industry. The professional organization selects an Operator of the Year in groundwater, surface water and distribution categories each year, and usually designates two runners-up in each category.

Nominees are interviewed by a selection committee during a fly-around of the state. Nominees are rated according to a numeric system by committee members, and results are then tallied, and winners selected, by computer. Darrow was recognized in the surface water category, Frank for supplies using groundwater; and Gramhofer took the award for distribution-only systems operation.

Runners-up were Donald White, also of Zion, and Steve Shoultz, Highland, in the surface water division; Barbara Waddell, Sullivan, and Donald Kublank of Fox River Grove in the groundwater classification; and Kevin B. Johnessee, Glen Carbon, and Lawrence O'Bryant Jr., Mount Sterling, in the distribution-only category.

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

The conference opened on Wednesday and concluded with the election of officers on Friday.

New officers include Darrell Swanson, Geneseo, president; and Larry Coloni, Forsyth, first vice president.

New officers include Darrell Swanson,

Swanson, Geneseo, president; Larry Coloni, Forsyth, first vice president; Robert Frank, Collinsville, second vice president; Patti Schaaque, Edwardsville, third vice president; Pat Langon, Peoria, treasurer, and Stan Sayre, Metamora, secretary.



Gary Gramhofer, of Lindenhurst, was named Operator of the Year for distribution-only drinking water operations. He is operator for the Gurnee water supply. Flanking him are runners-up Kevin H. Johnessee, Glen Carbon, left, and Lawrence O'Bryant Jr., Mt. Sterling.



Mike Darrow, of Beach Park, was named Operator of the Year for surface water supplies. The runners-up in that category were Steve Shoultz, of Highland, left, and Donald White, Antioch. Darrow and White make up the entire staff of the water treatment plant at Zion.



Robert Frank, Collinsville, displays the Operator of the Year trophy for the groundwater category. With him are Barbara J. Waddell, Sullivan, and Don Kublank, Algonquin, the runners-up in the groundwater category.

Fluoridation Award Additions

Earlier this year, we ran a list of community water supplies that had achieved perfect records for their fluoride levels for an entire year. Apparently the computer gremlins were having a bad day and the names of some supplies didn't successfully make the trip from the Department of Public Health, which compiles the list, to the IEPA that oversees the systems' operations. Some were listed, but showed up as honorable mentions instead of award winners. Some just didn't get included at all.

Our apologies to all the supplies who didn't get timely and correct recognition for their outstanding accomplishments in protecting the dental health of their consumers by consistently maintaining optimum levels of fluoride in their drinking water. We're happy to publish them now.

Supplies are listed by county, followed by the number of consecutive years they have received this award.

County	Facility	Years
Bureau	Lake Arispie Water Co.	2
Coles	Mattoon Water Dept.	12
Cook	Richton Park Water Dept.	11
DeKalb	Sandwich Water Dept.	3
Hancock	Warsaw Water Dept.	2
Henry	Oak View Estates	
	Oscos Mutual Water Supply Co. Inc.	2
Iroquois	Crescent City Water Dept.	2
Lake	Brooks Farm Subdivision	2
	Village of Island Lake	7
LaSalle	Rutland Water Dept.	5
Lee	Dixon Correctional Center	7
McHenry	Algonquin Water Dept.	2
	McHenry Water Dept.	
	Richmond Water Dept.	4
	Woodstock Water Dept.	7
Rock Island	Moline Water Dept.	9
Wayne	Fairfield Water Dept.	7
Williamson	Marion U.S. Federal Penitentiary	
Winnebago	Alliant Energy	6
	Bradley Heights	6
	North Park Public Water Dist.	9
	Rockford Water Dept.	17

SYLVANUS JACKSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

As many of you know, the Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) maintains a scholarship fund named in honor of Sylvanus Jackson who lost his life in a job-related accident in 1977, trying to save three co-workers who also perished. The scholarship fund is to establish an avenue for professionals to further their education and training in the field of water reclamation.

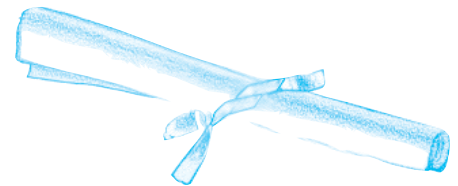
Recipients of the award shall be selected on the basis of their expressed interest and potential for advancement in their field of expertise. The criteria for eligibility shall include:

1. The candidate must be actively employed in the field of wastewater treatment, related pollution control areas or be enrolled in a training program with the objective of obtaining employment in the water reclamation field.
2. The candidate must possess a minimum of a high school education or GED.
3. The candidate or sponsor must submit a letter or resume stating:
 - a. The candidate's professional position.
 - b. Reasons for need of financial assistance.
 - c. Information as to the specific use of the award.
 - d. The need for a specific educational requirement for further professional development.

The recipient of the award must be enrolled in an educational institution providing courses acceptable to the Public Education Committee. The award shall be used for courses, workshops and/or seminars provided by, but not limited to:

Community Colleges
Environmental Resources Training Center
University Programs
Professional Operators Organizations Seminars
Manufacturer's Training Programs

The candidate or sponsor must submit a completed application to the chairman of the Public Education Committee by Dec. 31. Awards are announced at the Annual Conference each spring. For further information and an application package, contact Fred Dale, Public Education Committee chair at 1-630-832-3411.



Renewal Training Credit:

What Does "RTC" Mean?

There has been some confusion expressed recently about the various terms used for the training required to renew drinking water certificates. It is hoped that this article will resolve that confusion.

We are now using the phrase Renewal Training Credit (RTC) to describe the renewal credit assigned/earned for drinking water related training. One hour of drinking water related training equals one RTC. We accept the terminology used by different organizations and convert it to Renewal Training Credit. If you take a correspondence course from the Environmental Resources Training Center or California State University and get a certificate showing 4.5 CEUs of credit, that is counted as 45 hours of Renewal Training Credit (RTC). If you take a water treatment related class at a community college for one semester of credit, we know that is 15 hours of

Renewal Training Credit (RTC). If you take a water treatment related class at a college on the quarter-hour schedule, and receive one-quarter hour of credit for completing that course, we give you 10 hours of Renewal Training Credit (RTC). We encourage the operator groups offering training to advertise the amount of "Renewal Training Credit" listed on their mailers.

We have been receiving Operator Training Submission forms from operators for the last two years. We encourage operators to send in their Operator Training Submission forms as they complete training. Doing so serves an important function. The operator will know quickly if something is not going to be accepted for renewal training credit, allowing adequate time to take additional training.

An "Approved Drinking Water Training" list is available by calling 217-785-0561. Attending local operator

meetings every month or a few times a year is a great way to obtain an hour or two of credit. Your Illinois EPA regional office usually knows when the next meeting is scheduled since they actively participate in these operator groups.

If you have not visited our Agency website, <http://www.epa.state.il.us/>, we encourage you to do so. We link with the Illinois Pollution Control Board, which allows you to see copies of the latest legislation governing public water supplies and our operators including the certificate renewal requirements.

Please remember that all required training must be completed before the certificate's expiration date. There are no exceptions. Operators failing to take the required training in time will be required to reapply and retake the certification exam in order to be certified again.

U.S. EPA's Water Protection Task Force Offering Security Training Assistance

Editor's Note: Determining your operation's security needs and how to meet them can seem an overwhelming task. Fortunately, several governmental and professional groups have been working to provide assistance. Below are some links to help that have been identified by U.S. EPA.

U.S. EPA's Water Protection Task Force (WPTF) and the federal agency's regional offices are taking actions to improve the security of the nation's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The WPTF is focusing on five major areas:

- Financial assistance;
- Development of tools;
- Training and technical assistance;
- Information sharing; and
- Research.

For updates on drinking water and wastewater security activities, visit the WPTF's web-site at www.epa.gov/safewater/security.

Wastewater agenda financial assistance:

U.S. EPA has provided funding to state environmental training centers to provide no-cost on-site technical assistance and classroom training activities to municipal wastewater treatment plant operators and local elected officials. Outreach will begin in late fall of 2002. A list of grantees and guidance on this security related outreach can be found online at www.epa.gov/owm/mab/smcomm/104g/104secur.pdf.

Tools:

The Vulnerability Self Assessment Software Tool (VSAT[®]) is now available. It provides a comprehensive, intuitive system for wastewater utilities seeking to analyze their vulnerability to both intentional threats and natural disasters. This software tool includes reference libraries of both potential threats and countermeasures, and provides a method for managing the information generated by vulnerability assessments. Developed by the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) - in collaboration with PA Consulting Group

and SCIENTECH, Inc. - the software is available free of charge to all public wastewater utilities. Visit AMSA to request a copy of the VSAT wastewater software at www.amsa-cleanwater.org/about/about.cfm.

For technical assistance regarding this software visit www.VSATusers.net or call 1-888-340-8830.

AMSA is also in negotiations with U.S. EPA to create a vulnerability assessment tool for municipalities that jointly service both drinking water and wastewater utilities, and is also working with West Virginia University's National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities on their proposed vulnerability assessment checklist for small wastewater utilities.

The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, in association with EPA Region 1, has created training materials for a general security training workshop for small wastewater systems.

Two checklists have been created by AMSA to help large wastewater utilities start assessing their vulnerabilities. *The Asset Based Vulnerability Checklist for Wastewater Utilities and the Legal Issues in a Time of Crisis Checklist* can be obtained at www.amsa-cleanwater.org/pubs/publist.cfm.

Model Emergency Response Guidelines is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/er-guidance.pdf.

This document provides uniform response, recovery and remediation guidance for water utility actions in response to man-made technological emergencies. The guidance was developed as an initiative of the Water Protection Task Force with input from water utilities and associations, EPA Regions, EPA Office of Water and other federal agencies. The intent of this guidance is to provide the minimum actions that EPA recommends be carried out by a water utility for the events described.

Strategy for Small Systems - www.epa.gov/safewater/security/med-small-strategy.pdf

U.S. EPA is coordinating with utility organizations and government officials to better understand small sys-

tem needs and tools currently available. U.S. EPA support for tools, training and technical assistance for small drinking water and waste water utilities will be provided this year.

Training and technical assistance:

Wastewater General Security Training - The Water Environment Federation offered six workshops from March through May featuring AMSA's Asset Based Vulnerability Checklist for Wastewater Utilities, and providing general security information, and an overview of AMSA's VSAT software. The slide presentation of this training is available at www.wef.org/publicinfo/WEFsecurity.jhtml.

Upcoming training:

U.S. EPA is providing the Water Environment Federation (WEF) with funding to focus on facilitating the understanding and application of tools and resources, including the new wastewater security training software or VSAT, and the development and upgrade of emergency response plans.

This training will expand on the WEF's general wastewater security training and consist of the following three elements:

1) Twelve 2-day training sessions workshops with representatives from up to 30 POTWs per location (two people per facility) to receive hands-on training based on their facilities vulnerability assessment and emergency response plan development, upgrade, and implementation needs with a focus on the new wastewater security training software. Focus will be on wastewater treatment plants that discharge greater than 15 million gallons per day (mgd).

2) Two web-based "Click, Listen, and Learn" training sessions co-sponsored by WEF and the American Public Works Association. The first session will both summarize the principles covered in the general security training, introduce the AMSA VSAT software, and raise awareness of EPA's Water Utility Response, Recovery and Remediation Guidance for Man-made

U.S. EPA's Water Protection Task Force Offering Security Training Assistance (Continued)

and/or Technological Emergencies. Following the initial training session, a second session will be held to provide more detailed training on the VSAT and provide case studies from use of the software;

3) Ten "train the trainer" sessions that will briefly summarize the general security training materials before dedicating the majority of the session to training utilities on the VSAT software and emergency response plan development and upgrade. Each session would train 15-20 individuals per site who would then be a resource for

smaller to medium size utilities in need of hands-on training to conduct vulnerability assessments with the AMSA VSAT tool.

You may visit WEF at www.wef.org or the WPTF security page at www.epa.gov/safewater/security in the very near future for detailed information on this training.

Information sharing:

In partnership with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies and the FBI, EPA is developing a secure Information Sharing and Analysis Center. The prototype of this system is an email-tree system that has provided EPA alerts and notices to drinking water and wastewater utilities.

Research:

U.S. EPA works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the FBI and the Department of Defense to develop information for the Homeland Security Office on biological, chemical and radiological contaminants, and how to respond to their presence in drinking water and wastewater. The WPTF is working with the Water Environment Research Federation on a specific wastewater research security agenda. This information builds the state of knowledge on technologies to detect contaminants, monitoring protocols and techniques, and treatment effectiveness.

Operator News

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Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators

One hundred thirty operators and guests attended a meeting of the Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators Group on Aug. 22. The picnic style meeting was held at the Rend Lake North Marcum Recreation Area.

Guest speaker was Daniel Higgins, Midwest Regional Manager, RDP Technologies, who discussed various lime addition processes. Lime addition

was reviewed for both water and wastewater treatment plants. The batch lime slaking system was introduced and compared to those of continuous paste and detention types. In addition, EnVessel Pasturization for lime stabilization of wastewater treatment plant residuals and incorporation of water treatment plant residuals into the process as a means to improve the end product and

facilitate recycling was reviewed.

The presentation was followed by a BBQ rib and chicken dinner catered by "Great Boars of Fire" from Anna, Ill. In addition, a drawing was held and door prizes donated by various vendors were given away.

The next meeting of the Southern Illinois Wastewater Operators will be in March of 2003.

Central Illinois Professional Wastewater Operators

On July 31, 2002, the Central Illinois Professional Wastewater Operators (CIPWO) had a Summer Cookout and plant tour at the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD). Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

David Robson, University of Illinois Extension Educator, provided an interesting and informative talk on *Landscaping at Wastewater Treatment Plants*. Operators kept Robson busy with lots of questions.

Afterwards, chefs Dave Miller, Jeff Hoste, and Don Jordan fired up the grill and served up delicious burgers and brats. Then, coordinator Tony Hall and president Dave Sullivan awarded 11 lucky CIPWO members door prizes that were provided by several generous sponsors.

J. Michael Callahan of BNWRD gave an overview of their 45 MGD (daily max flow) state-of-the-art facility. He arranged for two main groups to lead the afternoon plant tours: operation

staff for those more interested in operation and maintenance staff for those more interested in maintenance. BNWRD has three secondary treatment plants and tertiary sand filters. It served as a great location for the plant tour and was a good example of proper landscaping. Some of the plant effluent feeds a koi pond surrounded by trees in a park-like setting.

CIPWO's Winter Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2003, in Champaign.

Candidates Successfully Pass Potable Water Operator Exams

The following candidates successfully passed the examination for certified water treatment operators in exams given on June 3, July 24, Aug. 5, and Sept. 9.

Class A

Anderson, Matt A., DeKalb
Blanchette, Craig L., Manteno
Coleman, Timothy, North Chicago
Hensley, Carl V., Country Estates Assn.
Hosfeldt, Herbert R., Vienna
Kahl, Barry G., Moline
Karau, Dennis P., Kewanee
Keith, Stephen E., Ill. American
Water - Cairo
Preston, Raymond D. Jr., Hartford
Smith, William D., Huntley
Wallace, Nicky (Dale), Effingham

Class B

Ellington, Richard D., Martinsville

Self, Mark L., West Dundee
Wirch, Steven R., McHenry

Class C

Beaty, Greg, Nokomis
Anderson, Ryan T., Morris
Andrews, Kyle D., -0-
Blaylock, Steve C., Northbrook
Carter, Christopher, Lindenhurst
Conant, Gary L., FMC Water Co.
Congoran, Matthew, Romeoville
Elstner, Brian F., Lisle
Ferguson, Timothy D., -0-
Grenchik, Tom W., New Lenox
Hood, John S., Sparta
Jones, Geoff K., Carlyle
Jones, Lucas C., -0-
Kruse, Eric J., -0-
Lanning, Adam L., -0-
Lappe, Steven J., Carlyle
McFadden, Christopher L., Normal
McGuire, Robert E., Romeoville

Moore, Gary S., Melvin
Palm, Jeffrey, DesPlaines
Rice, Shawn A., DuPage Water Comm.
Russ, Justin S., Lisle
Schneider, William R., -0-
Shetley, Nathan P., Fosterburg
Sisson, David A., -0-
Stasch, David, DesPlaines
Stewart, James L., -0-
Stone, Todd E., Warren
Voelkel, Brian W., Sandwich
Walker, Jonathon D., -0-
Winkleman, David A., Fountain
Water Dist.
Wright, Theodore S., Romeoville

Class D

Andrews, Kyle D., Central Lake
County JAWA
Grinnell, Michael K., -0-
Hildinger, Michael L., Lindenhurst
Sullivan, Amy M., -0-

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