

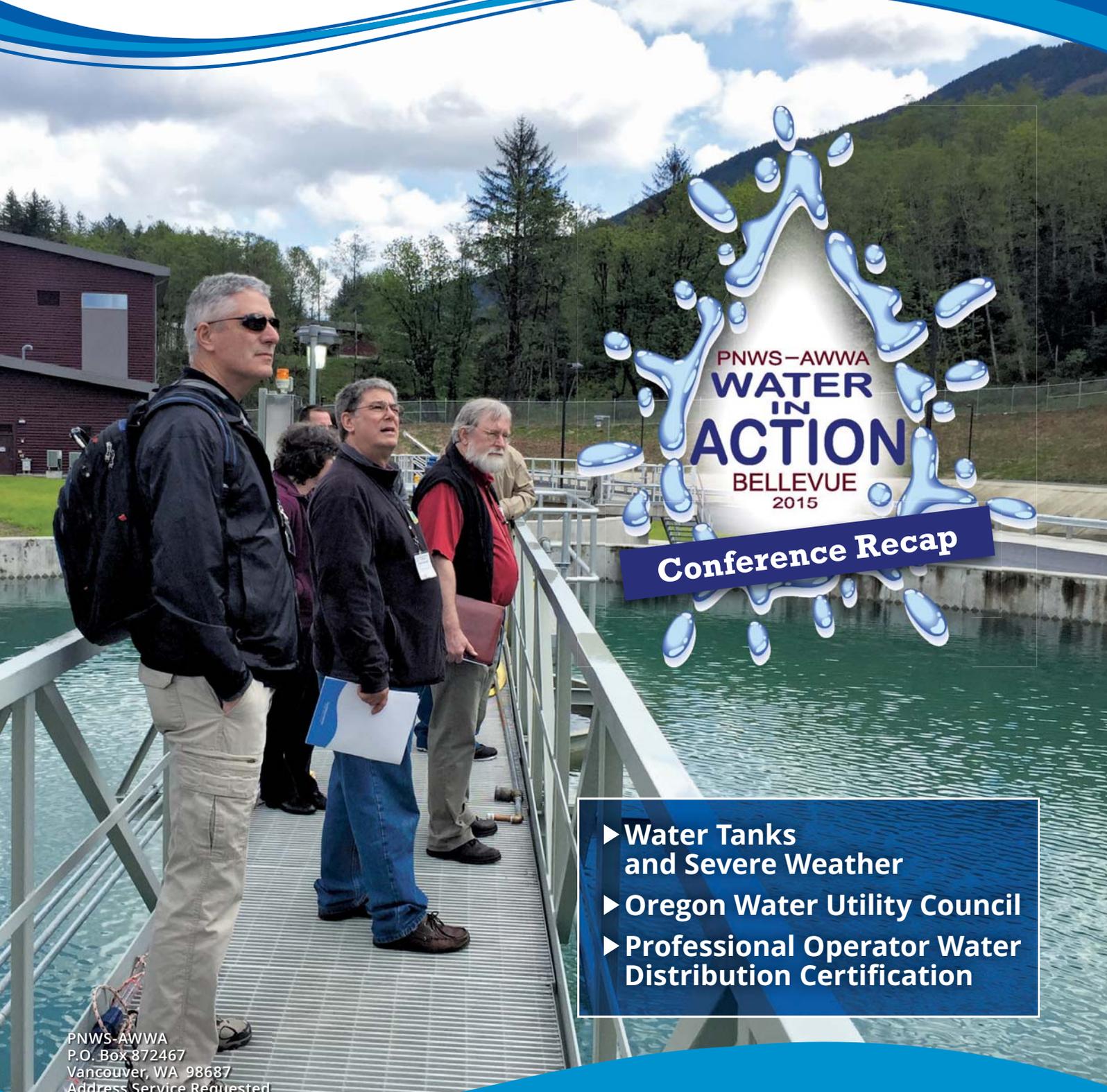


American Water Works Association  
**Pacific Northwest** Section

SUMMER 2015

# WATER *matters*

The Official Magazine of the  
Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA



PNWS-AWWA  
**WATER  
IN  
ACTION**  
BELLEVUE  
2015

**Conference Recap**

- ▶ **Water Tanks and Severe Weather**
- ▶ **Oregon Water Utility Council**
- ▶ **Professional Operator Water Distribution Certification**

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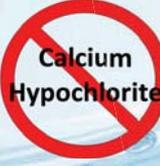
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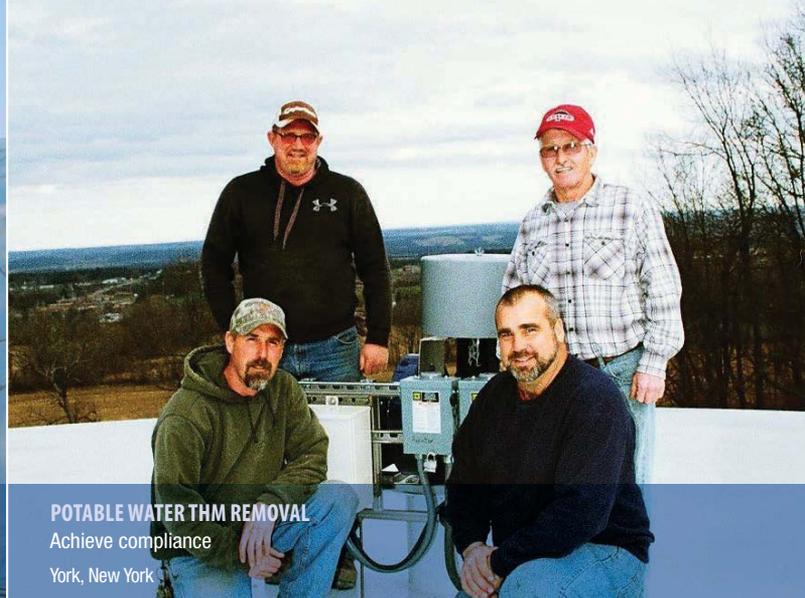
**Cover Photo:** 2015 Conference Attendees, including this year's George Warren Fuller Award Winner Bill Carr, on a Tour of the Green River Filtration Facility.





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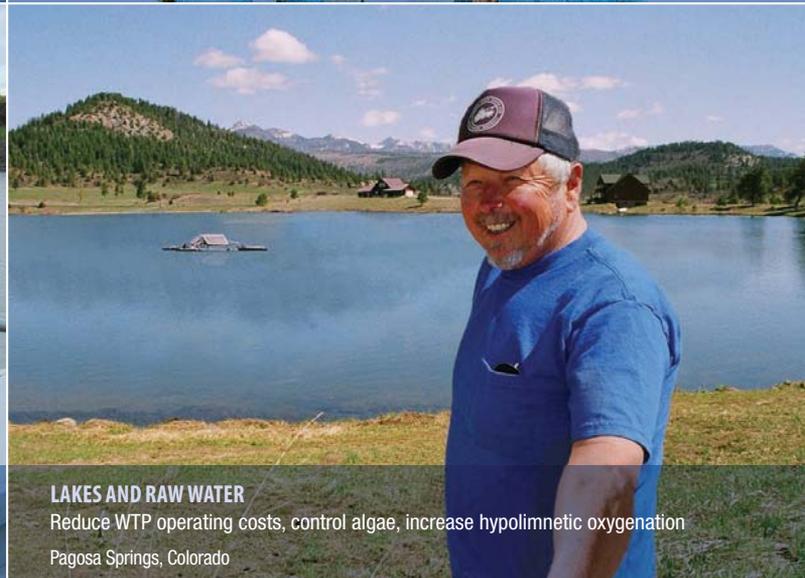
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## Our people make the difference

I am truly humbled and honored to be your Chair in the coming year. I am looking forward to working with this year's newest trustees and the entire Board of Trustees.

By all accounts, the Bellevue Conference was a success. Next year, the conference in Boise, Idaho promises to be a huge success as well; the Local Arrangements Committee has already been hard at work. They have selected the logo and the theme, "May the Source Be with You," no doubt one of the more memorable themes for our conference.

I have two goals; first, increasing membership and secondly, bridging the water/wastewater employment gap!

First, I would like to thank Jason Canady for his leadership and dedication to our Section over this last year. Because of his leadership, we are a stronger organization today than we were a year ago! Also, I wanted to thank John Roth, Todd Heidgerken, and Chuck Kingston (Past Chair) for their conscientious care and the professional manner in which they served as Trustees. I would like to welcome the newest trustees and Lacey Goeres Priest, our outgoing Trustee at Large and now Chair Elect. I am looking forward to working with this Board in the upcoming year.

One of my privileges as Chair is to share with you my vision for the Section for this year. I have two goals; first, **increasing membership** and secondly, **bridging the water/wastewater employment gap!**

As a Section, I think it is important to continue to think outside the box when it comes to meeting the needs of our industry, now and in the future. I am really focusing in on our subsections to be called upon to help with these two goals in the upcoming year! Our subsections are **OUR BOOTS ON THE GROUND!**

I know all of you would agree with me that the Pacific Northwest Section is a pretty special organization. For me, it is you—our members—that make our Section special, and not just in relationship to being members in the American Water Works Association. The Pacific Northwest Section is the face of our connection with AWWA. The PNWS is where we have water professionals coming together and connecting, working to the greater good of our communities we serve in providing safe, reliable drinking water (it is the people).

In one way or another, whether you are a consultant, vendor, state organization, or an employee working for a water/waste water utility, we are all connected by what we do, contributing to the success of our industry (again, it is the people).

For the many of you I have been privileged to come to know, I know we are like-minded. Like me, you are a passionate, dedicated, and caring water professional that works hard but also enjoys and has fun with the work you do.

I really believe we have a hidden gem here that we may not be sharing with other water/wastewater utility operators and professionals as well as we could. I know for me, I would assume that if you are working for someone

associated with our industry, then you must be a member of AWWA...but that is not always the case.

What we have to offer as a Section and as a member of AWWA is an organization that is involved with cutting edge research and design standards, offering periodicals on guidance, resources, and providing best management practices. Not to mention education, training, networking, building lasting friendships, and opportunities to get involved at whatever level you choose to take yourself.

So, keeping in mind the aforementioned benefits of being a member of AWWA, my **first goal is to have an outreach campaign and increase our membership by 5% or 130 members**. Over the past several months, I have been working with the Membership Committee to put together a Membership Kit that will be sent out to the subsections.

In the coming weeks, the subsections can expect to receive a packet containing:

- Draft Letters—that can be personalized by each subsection.
- A new brochure on membership, talking points regarding the benefits of being a member of AWWA, and other ways to help our subsections in this effort. I would like to encourage all members to begin to think of utilities or water professionals you don't see attending your subsection events or local training who could benefit from being a member of AWWA.

I will be personally calling quarterly to the subsection presidents to check in and see if they need anything else or if there is anything else they feel would help assist them with this goal.

Just think of the many ways we can offer the value of joining our subsections and what we would receive in return by having new members and their energy and desire to give back

once they feel comfortable. **I believe, with our like-minded commitment, we can grow our membership by 5% or 130 members!**

**My second goal is to fill the gap of employment needs of utilities and other water-related employers by connecting them with educated and trained water professionals.**

Did you know that every month, more than a quarter-million Americans turn 65? That is a trend with profound economic consequences. The great recession may have delayed the inevitable for a time, but the stock market has since rebounded, and there are signs that more Americans are at last feeling confident enough to leave the workforce.

Today, roughly 17% of baby boomers now report they are retired, up from 10% in 2010. Nearly a quarter of Americans were born between 1946 and 1964, the typical definition of the baby boom generation. That is more than 75 million people.

Research by economist Barry Bluestone, Dean of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University, predicts labor

shortages over the next eight years to the tune of more than 5 million job vacancies, including 2.4 million in the education, health care, **government, and nonprofit sectors.**

The Water Research Foundation, in its 2010 Water Sector Workforce Sustainability Initiative Report, estimated as many as 30–50% of the water workforce will be retiring within the next 10 years. My District is a clear example in support of these statements. Our District currently has 29 fulltime staff. Over the next 5–7 years, one third of our staff will be retiring. My research of surrounding utilities has also verified this fact. In looking at your employer, does this trend apply to where you work as well? Are you planning to retire in the next 5–7 years? How will utilities and other related water/wastewater employers go about filling the vast number of openings?

Today, the common way we communicate and stay connected is through technology and social media. Over 50% of the applicants applying for job openings are being submitted through the internet! And it is only going to increase. We as an industry must

This year we are thrilled to have AWWA Vice President Lela Perkins join us for our conference.

adapt to the ever-changing environment in attracting young professionals and other job positions we will have to fill over the next 5 – 7 years.

I am very excited to share my vision on how we as a Section can succeed in meeting this challenge. How? By expanding our job posting on our Section website and generating a **Career Dashboard!** This goal will be an investment and will take time to complete. However,

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# Without increasing our membership, how will we fill the membership losses as baby boomers retire?

the energy and enthusiasm for this goal is more than I could have imagined. Lacey Goeres Priest, our incoming Chair next year, is excited and committed to this goal, not to mention the Young Professionals Committee (YPs) is excited!!!

**Our Vision:** To become a model for AWWA on how to successfully bridge young talent with the water industry by 2020.

**Mission:** To seamlessly unite multiple generations of water industry professionals by helping employers attract and retain talent and to support students and YPs in finding fulfilling work.

Here is a brief outline:

## 1. Organizational Structure:

- Form a 2020 Vision Subcommittee for overseeing implementation (I am requesting a few volunteers,

seasoned professionals to contact me that would like to be a part of the subcommittee).

- Identify two YPs and one liaison from each subsection to coordinate with the 2020 Vision Subcommittee.
- The YPs will support local implementation of project goals. They will provide an annual calendar, vision document, and event ideas to each subsection.

## 2. Campaign Materials:

- The 2020 Vision Subcommittee will communicate the goals of this initiative to all stakeholders including utilities, professors, students, YPs, water professionals, and others.

## 3. Website:

- The YPs will design a page on the PNWS AWWA website that would serve as a central place for connecting YPs, students, and other water professionals.

On the website members can:

- a. Post job listings and Internships desired;
- b. Post resumes (students can too);
- c. Learn about upcoming local YP/ student events, career fairs, etc.

## 4. Contacts:

- YPs will work with the Membership Committee to develop contact databases for each subsection of YPs and students, expanding the YP's contact list for local colleges and to better connect with water operator training programs and invite their involvement in YP and AWWA events.

## 5. Career Fairs/Local Events:

- The YPs will support each subsection in participating in at least one career fair or educational event per year in partnership with other committees. Hopefully, I have made a case to you as to why our Section needs to take on these two very important goals as a way to address the needs of our membership. I'm very confident this will work, growing our membership by 5 percent or 130 members and bridging the employment gap.

Without increasing our membership, how will we fill the membership losses as baby boomers retire? By doing so, we address the needs of finding qualified staff and young professionals to fill the vacancies today and into the future. So you see, they both go hand in hand!

There will be challenges; this won't get done overnight, but there is no reason we can't accomplish what I have laid out here. All I ask for is your willingness to commit to helping me see it through! Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give!" I don't know of any other organization such as the Pacific Northwest Section that has as many willing volunteers do so much on behalf of so many in the industry they work in. So once again I say to you, why is our Section so special? It is because of you! 

Randy Black, Chair  
[rblack@lakewood-water-dist.org](mailto:rblack@lakewood-water-dist.org)



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In Brown and Caldwell's new online series, water leaders around the country are talking about ways we can all advance One Water thinking to secure water for generations to come.

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## Highlights from ACE and other Section news

**A**s I write this I am on my flight home to Seattle after spending a fantastic week networking with our members at ACE15 in Anaheim, California. For those of you who were unable to attend or are not part of the Section's Facebook group and missed my updates throughout the convention, I will share the exciting happenings.

The BIG news from ACE15 actually occurred prior to the start of the convention at the AWWA Board of Directors meeting. It was announced that Brenda Lennox our Section's Director and AWWA Vice President will be named AWWA President-Elect at next year's ACE16 in Chicago. She will serve a year as President-Elect and then at ACE17 in Philadelphia assume the leadership position for our international association. At ACE18 in Las Vegas she will fill the associations Past President position, thus completing a six year AWWA



Bill Carr being presented with his Fuller Award by then AWWA President John Donahue and Executive Director David LaFrance.

leadership cycle that only four others from our Section have ever completed: Fred Merryfield - 1957, Jerry Allen - 1964, Bob Wubbana - 1994 and Bob Willis - 2000. This is a wonderful opportunity for both Brenda and our Section. Congratulations Brenda!

ACE15's Opening Session Key Note speaker Wallace J. Nichols kicked off our convention with a very interesting presentation on the effects of water on the human psyche. Nichols is the author of, *Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On or Under water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected and Better at What You Do*. "We are beginning to learn that our brains are hard wired to react positively to water, and that being near it can calm and connect us, increase innovation and insight and even heal what's broken. Healthy water is crucial to our physiological and psychological well-being, as well as our ecology and economy. We have a "blue mind" - and it's perfectly tailored to make us happy in all sorts of ways that go far beyond relaxing in the surf, listening to the murmur of a stream or floating quietly in a pool." You can find *Blue Mind* for sale in the AWWA Bookstore.

Additional ACE15 highlights included:

- Visiting with 180 of our PNWS members at the Section Meet and Greet at the House of Blues in Downtown Disney
- Watching the United Water Idaho's Tapping Team just finish out of the medal round by just one second.
- Zach Swartzendruber and Chris Hicks competing in Meter Madness

- Valley Water District competing in Best Tasting Water
- Kristin Young receiving one of 22 Kenneth J. Miller awards for fundraising for Water For People

It was announced  
that Brenda  
Lennox will be  
named AWWA  
President-Elect at  
next year's ACE16  
in Chicago



Brenda Lennox, Section Director and AWWA Vice President

- And Bill Carr being presented with his Fuller Award by then AWWA President John Donahue and Executive Director David LaFrance.

Once again a great week at ACE and a great showing by the Pacific Northwest Section!

Moving a little closer to home, I want to remind everyone to take advantage of the many golf tournaments and Water For People fundraisers we have scheduled throughout the summer. These are great opportunities to network and support a great cause. Check out the events page on the Section website for more information.

Those of you interested in FREE training and CEU's we have two upcoming trainings in Washington in Lacey and Tacoma on The Clean Drinking Water Act and Asset Management. Look for more information on our training calendar on our Section website.

And finally, Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, mark your calendar for our Fall Trustee Meeting and Training October 7-9 at Sunriver, Oregon. We will be offering a half day of training on communication tools and membership and you will need

Without increasing our membership, how will we fill the membership losses as baby boomers retire?

to submit your committees budget request for 2016 to the Board. Look for budget worksheets to be emailed to you from the Budget

Committee in August. Enjoy your summer! 🏡

Kyle Kihs, Executive Director

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## Updates and reminders from AWWA

**I**t was great to see many of you at the Section Conference in Bellevue. In typical PNW style the Local Arrangements and Program Committees provided top-notch technical presentations for all attendees and a genuine great time! Thank you for your contributions, it was clear that a tremendous amount of effort went into planning and facilitating this professional conference for our members.

The PNWS was honored to host Lela Perkins who has spent her career with Black & Veatch helping water and wastewater clients plan for the future. I have had the privilege of serving with Lela as an AWWA Vice President for the past year and have come to appreciate the dedication she has to serving our water profession.

### Association Updates

- Over the past year, AWWA has been studying and building a philanthropic

program that is now branded 'The Water Equation.' Two new fundraising opportunities included a silent auction during the Annual Conference & Exposition and a recommendation for Sections and utilities to sponsor fun events during Drinking Water Week activities.

- AWWA2020 topics continue to be discussed with Section leaders and officers during Regional Meeting Section Officer (RMSO) meetings. Developments in all theme areas (Branding Communication, Education, Finance and Membership) are in process.
- Water Training & Education Resource Exchange effort has resulted in the final draft of the WaterX Education Catalog. This program is launching an exchange opportunity on the AWWA website for Sections to exchange training curriculum that has been developed. Through our Training Coordination Committee, PNWS has

submitted Arc Flash and Electrical training curriculum.

- The Community Engineering Corps (CE Corps) has received 26 community project applications to date including seven (7) new ones in 2015.
- AWWA will officially open the AWWA India office in Mumbai on July 1, through a partnership with MCI. Gaurav Sood will serve as AWWAIndia's Executive Manager. MCI is a global organization founded in Switzerland (1987) that today has 61 offices in 31 countries and specializes in helping organizations achieve their international goals. With AWWAIndia, MCI will provide a turnkey staffing and operations service where MCI staff will conduct business as AWWAIndia.
- DC Office – Long-time employee Tom Curtis, Executive Staff, has officially retired as of July 3. The process is underway to fill the vacant position.

There is a lot going on and many exciting opportunities as we realize our vision: 'A BETTER WORLD THROUGH BETTER WATER.' The direction AWWA set in 2014 toward one AWWA is gaining momentum. Like PNWS, most Sections have rebranded to create a consistent look. AWWA Board is working toward a restructure of the membership model to better serve member needs. We now have an office in India and are making progress with the Community Engineering Corps. I have found the more you become involved the more you and your organization receive from being an AWWA member. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there are any questions you may have or need help identifying the right direction for you.

As you are reading this article, summer is in full swing and many of you are spending much deserved quality time with your families. I look forward to catching up with you to share fishing (or barrel racing) stories! 

Brenda Lennox, Association Director

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### Water Treatment Committee

The PNWS-AWWA Water Treatment Committee (WTC) gathers and disseminates information and knowledge regarding the operation and design of water treatment facilities and the impact of the treatment facility operation on water quality in the distribution system. The committee's focus is to cover two areas, water treatment operations aimed at the operators and how they can improve their operations and how engineers design and build treatment facilities.

#### Committee Meetings

The 2015 spring meeting was held on Thursday, April 30 at HDR's Bellevue office and coincided with the 2015 PNWS AWWA Annual Conference in Bellevue. The WTC continued planning for Forum 15 and began planning for the 2016 PNWS AWWA Conference to be held in Boise. Thanks to HDR for providing coffee and breakfast for the meeting.

The 2015 winter meeting was held on February 6 at the Bear Creek House in the Portland Water Bureau's Bull Run Watershed. Thanks to CH2M for providing lunch for this meeting. The meeting was an all day event and included a tour of the Bull Run Watershed. Surprisingly the rain held off for most of the day and one of us even stayed dry!

Meeting minutes from both meetings are available on the committee's page of the PNWS-AWWA website.

Our next committee meeting will be in August 2015 in the Anacortes, WA area. Check the committee's page of the PNWS-AWWA website for details on location and time.

#### Officer Transitions

At the spring 2015 meeting, the WTC said farewell to Pierre Kwan after 6 years of enthusiastic leadership as a committee officer. Many thanks to Pierre for serving as a committee officer for the past six years! The WTC also welcomed a new secretary, Scott Johnston from Skagit PUD #1. Michelle Cheek transitioned from Vice-Chair to Chair and Enoch Nicholson transitioned from Secretary to Vice-Chair.

#### 2015 PNWS AWWA Annual Conference

The WTC had another successful conference in Bellevue. The committee sponsored three technical sessions one of which was a regulatory session co-sponsored by the Research and Water Quality committees. The WTC and the South Sound Subsection also sponsored a pre-conference session and tour of Tacoma Water's Green River Filtration Facility. The pre-conference was well attended and a huge success. Tacoma Water went above and beyond as host of the pre-conference. A huge thanks to the staff at Tacoma Water, especially Chris McMeen, Hilary Lorenz, Gary Fox, and Randy Krueger for their help organizing and planning the plant tour. The committee would also like to thank MWH for sponsoring the bus transportation between the conference center and the plant.

#### Training

The WTC is planning its 15th Water Treatment Forum. The goal of the forums has been to provide low cost alternatives for gaining CEUs, training, and the dissemination of treatment-related information and knowledge to operations staff in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Forum 15 is planned for August or September and will be held at two different locations, one in Washington and one in Oregon. Stay tuned for more details on this forum. Updates will be provided on the committee page of the PNWS-AWWA.

#### Become a Member!

The WTC is looking to recruit new, energetic members (including Manufacturer's and Equipment Vendors) to ensure continued growth and momentum in the WTC.



View from Dam 1 from Bear Creek House in Bull Run Watershed



Water Treatment Committee at Dam #1 in Bull Run Watershed



Green River Filtration Facility



Conference Attendees, including this year's George Warren Fuller Award Winner Bill Carr, on a Tour of the Green River Filtration Facility

## Membership Committee

### Bellevue Conference 2015

Your Membership Committee has been busy in the last quarter with more exciting initiatives to come. See below and stay tuned for details on how you can help achieve Section Chair Randy Black's vision to grow PNWS membership by 5% this year! The Membership Committee manned a booth at the conference to meet attendees and promote the benefits of membership. The Membership Committee also conducted a survey to find new ways to engage and better serve members. Two survey prizes were given away during the Friday luncheon. Richard Peckler won an iPad Air 2, and David Carlson won an iPad Mini 3. Congratulations! Thanks to everyone for participating in the survey! The Membership Committee also co-hosted a Meet & Greet for first time conference attendees. Many folks stretched their legs from the conference center to the Hyatt to make Meet & Greet a success. The event was strongly attended by students, YPs, PNWS VIPs, and the Association visiting officer, Lea Perkins from Denver, Colorado.

The Membership Committee also conducted its annual in-person meeting at the conference. Nancy Sullivan (from AWWA headquarters in Denver, CO) sat in with the Committee during the meeting. The Membership Committee is well on track to achieving 2015 goals for membership growth and retention by the end of the year. In addition, Andreu Ferrero outlined specific long-term strategies for membership growth in conjunction with Randy Black's vision. These strategies include: early engagement tools for event attendees, a comprehensive annual membership survey, and enhanced quarterly database reports to subsections. The Membership Committee will be implementing these new strategies over the coming summer and fall. We are looking forward to this challenge! For current information on these initiatives, please visit the

Stay tuned for details on how you can help achieve Section Chair Randy Black's vision to grow PNWS membership by 5% this year!

Membership Committee website at [www.pnws-awwa.org/membership](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/membership).

Lastly, the Membership Committee bid a fond thank you to exiting Chair Pat Van Duser for his long years of service. Pat has stepped into a Past-Chair

role and will still be actively involved with the Membership Committee. Former Vice-Chair Andreu Ferrero graciously accepted the role as the new Membership Committee Chair. Congratulations Andreu! 

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## Water For People



Thank you to all who supported the Water For People efforts at the Bellevue conference. \$7,500 was raised during the week.

We changed leadership roles during the conference. Cindy Foss, our dedicated Chair for the past few years, is stepping into the Past Chair position. The committee wants to recognize her incredible effort, giving of time and steadfast commitment. Thank you, Cindy!

Kristin Young is moving on up – into the Chair position. And, congratulations to our newest committee officers!

- John Roth, Vice Chair – Oregon
- Jolene Gibson, Vice Chair – Washington
- Erin Nishikawa, Secretary
- Katie Dillon, Auction Lead

Want to be in the know about Water For People events? Be sure to visit the Water For People committee website for all the latest throughout the Section – just visit the PNWS-AWWA site and find us under Committees. From golf tournaments, beer tastings and wine gathering, all our summer fundraising event are sure to please.

Interested in starting a Water For People event? Please contact one of the following officers:

- Kristin Young, Chair  
[kyoung@rh2.com](mailto:kyoung@rh2.com)
- John Roth, Vice Chair – Oregon  
[John.Roth@cityofwashington.gov](mailto:John.Roth@cityofwashington.gov)
- Jolene Gibson, Vice Chair – Washington  
[jgibson2@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:jgibson2@cityoftacoma.org)
- Erin Nishikawa, Secretary  
[enishikawa@aesgeo.com](mailto:enishikawa@aesgeo.com)

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The Young Professionals in King County held the second annual Pedal for Purpose event to raise money for Water For People. The team rode a cumulative distance of over 550 miles (Cindy Foss, her daughter, and Josh Kennedy represent 300 miles of that total - wow), and raised just over \$1,600 for Water For People. A special thanks to Eric Schey, Anh Quach, Dan Reisinger, and Andy Baker for organizing the event!

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Thank you Foremost Pump & Well Services for your generous donation to the 2015 Central Washington Subsection Beer for Water fundraising event to support Water For People!

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## Conservation Committee.

### PNWS – AWWA Conference in Bellevue, WA

The Pacific Northwest Conservation Committee selected several abstracts to be presented at this year's 2015 annual conference. Sessions included topics such as alternative water rate structures, financial risk & declining water sales, conservation investments with declining demands, improved irrigation scheduling, toilet rebate programs, water efficiency in the home and new smart metering options for utilities.

### Conference Committee Meeting

The Conservation Committee held a meeting on Friday, May 1 at the conference where members transitioned into new leadership roles. The new Committee Chair is Julie Smitherman and the Vice Chair is Mike Buettner.

During the meeting we discussed holding a commercial water audit training for conservation committee members. The committee also discussed the abstracts process for next year's conference in Boise, the upcoming summer meeting,

training options and how to create more member involvement in the water conservation committee.

### Summer Meeting

The Water Conservation Committee's summer meeting is usually held the third week in August. The exact dates have not yet been set. Please check our webpage on the PNWS website for updated information about this summer's meeting.

The committee is currently developing a survey to send out to committee members to help us identify which topics, in the field of water conservation, are of the utmost importance and what our members are looking for in water conservation training.

### Join Us!

Want to join the Conservation Committee or receive emails about upcoming meetings and events? Please contact Committee Chair, Julie Smitherman for more information [smithermanj@ashland.or.us](mailto:smithermanj@ashland.or.us) or Vice Chair Mike Buettner at [mbuettner@bendoregon.gov](mailto:mbuettner@bendoregon.gov)

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## Public Information Committee



### 2015 Winners Announced Public Information Committee Presents Nine Awards at Conference

The Public Information (PI) Committee had another successful year running the 'Excellence in Communication' award program. Utilities in the PNWS-AWWA Section submitted their best work from the previous year in various communication categories such as: Print, Electronic, Consumer Confidence Reports, Videos, and a

catch-all category for anything else called 'Wildcard.' This year, entries were judged by communication expert panels in Portland and Boise, and also evaluated by Portland State University (PSU) students. Agencies were provided the PSU student feedback as to how well the communication piece spoke to the millennial generation.

The winning agencies (see below) received awards at a special luncheon during the Bellevue Conference. They also received a '2015 PNWS-

AWWA winner insignia' logo to use on letterhead, or however else they wish, throughout 2015

This year's highest scoring entry was Portland Water Bureau, in the category of 'Print Communications.' Sarah Fine, Graphic Artist for Portland Water Bureau designed a brochure that included educational tips and tools for new customers. PWB also had a creative distribution method. They deliver the brochures by bicycle. PWB was presented a special award at the conference banquet, and joins Eugene Water and Electric Board on the PI Traveling Best-in Show Plaque for continued recognition in years to come.

### 2015 Excellence in Communication Winners

*Best in Show*

Portland Water Bureau

*Print Communications:*

Portland Water Bureau

*Electronic Communications:*

United Water Idaho

City of Bend

*Consumer Confidence Report*

City of Bend

*Strategic Communications Plan*

Eugene Water and Electric Board

*Best Video*

City of Meridian

Lake Oswego/Tigard Water Partnership

*Wild Card*

Eugene Water and Electric Board 

## Research Committee

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Workshops coming in August – Hillsboro, Kennewick, and Boise

With drought challenging water systems to meet demand without mandatory curtailment, many utilities in the Pacific Northwest are turning to Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) to increase the reliability of their water supplies. The Research Committee is hosting three workshops this August to

give attendees the opportunity to learn more about ASR.

Each workshop will provide a detailed review of ASR projects from design and permitting to water quality issues. The presenters, including national experts and utility managers, have many years of experience implementing ASR projects. If ASR is currently part of your water supply portfolio or it is merely something

that you are considering, the material presented at this workshop will serve you well.

Dates and locations are summarized below:

- Wednesday, August 5 – Hillsboro, OR
- Wednesday, August 12 – Kennewick, WA
- Wednesday, August 19 – Boise, ID

Registration cost is \$75 and 0.5 CEUs is expected. More details for registration will come out shortly. 

## Engineering Committee

The Engineering Committee is off to a great start this year following our annual meeting at the Bellevue conference. In her final act as Committee Chair Erika Murphy gave an overview of the Committee's activities for the previous year. Thank you Erika for all of your hard work and leadership this past year! Nick Robertson became Chair of the Committee and Wolfe Lange was elected Vice Chair for the coming year. Jim Konigsfeld was also elected as Secretary.

The main activities the Engineering Committee is working on this year include:

- Technical Trainings - After a series of successful pump trainings over the last year, the engineering committee has begun the process of creating a new training program. We are currently conducting a feasibility analysis on several topics including: pipeline corrosion, leadership and communication, trenchless applications, and alternative procurement methods. If you have interest in helping with any of these

topics, please contact Todd Perimon at [ToddP@tvwd.org](mailto:ToddP@tvwd.org).

- Activities and Site Tours – The engineering committee is planning to put on a number of exciting site tours in the near future including: A new pump station for the city of Gresham, An HDD pipeline in Richfield, WA, and a future tour of TVWD's Ridgewood View Reservoir. If you have an idea for another site tour or would like to help this group, please contact Jim Konigsfeld at [jim.konigsfeld@spwsd.org](mailto:jim.konigsfeld@spwsd.org).
- Conference Program – As in past years, the Engineering committee will be hosting both technical sessions and a pre-conference session at the 2016 annual conference in Boise. Potential topics include regional planning, drought related issues, contractor perspectives on construction, trenchless construction, and resiliency. Abstracts are due July 24, 2013. If you would like to make a presentation on one of these topics, or suggest other topics for consideration, please contact

Nick Robertson ([nrobertson@obec.com](mailto:nrobertson@obec.com)) or Wolfe Lang ([lang@mcmjac.com](mailto:lang@mcmjac.com)).

The Excellence in Engineering Awards recognizes excellence in engineering for water supply, treatment, or conveyance projects. The 2015 award winners are:

- **Best Small Engineering Works Project (Construction costs less than \$1M):** Slow Sand Treatment Facility: Spring Point Homeowners Association, Gray & Osborne, Inc.
- **Best Medium Engineering Works Project (Construction costs between \$1M and \$10M):** Portland Water Bureau Intertie: City of Sandy, Oregon, Murray Smith & Associates, Rotschy, Inc.
- **Best Large Engineering Works Project (Construction costs greater than \$10M):** Bull Run Dam No. 2 Tower Selective Withdrawal Improvements: Portland Water Bureau, Black & Veatch Corporation, Advanced American Construction

Congratulations to all the award winners!

The Past Chair, Erika Murphy, will lead the Excellence in Engineering Awards next year. Nominations will be due in January of 2016. 



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## YP Committee



### **Engage Your Local Young Professionals**

The Pacific Northwest Young Professionals (YPs) have been very busy organizing fun and educational activities this past spring and are continuing to plan for the upcoming summer and fall. YP events are a great opportunity to learn powerful skills to enhance your career and network with other like-minded professionals and students. Think about what you could do in your area to increase YP participation.

### **Annual PNWS –AWWA Conference in Bellevue, WA**

*Young Professionals Scavenger Hunt*

The 11th Annual YP Scavenger Hunt was held in Bellevue, WA on Thursday night of the conference. There were 34 Young Professionals who participated in this year's event! This was a great opportunity to get to know other Young Professionals as well as network with seasoned professionals in the water industry. The Young Professionals Committee would like to thank all of our sponsors this year. Without you, this event would not be possible.

### *Fresh Ideas Poster Competition*

Fresh Ideas is a student poster competition open to both graduate and undergraduate students to present on a topic

related to the drinking water industry. The Fresh Ideas competition was held on Thursday morning at the conference. Students were able to share their ideas with water professionals from around the Pacific Northwest and had the chance to present their posters to our judges! This year's judges were Mel Damewood, Alex Mofidi, Brad Taylor and John Roth.

Peiran Zhou is this year's 1st place winner! He received travel, accommodations and registration to attend the annual AWWA conference in Anaheim CA in June where they presented his poster in the national fresh ideas poster competition. Peiran is also from the University of Washington. Our 3rd place winner was Adam Ertur from Clackamas Community



College and Tessora Young and Huan He, both from the University of Washington, tied for 2nd place.

Thank you to our judges and congratulations to all of the students who participated in this year's event.

### *Pioneer Award*

Our 2015 Pioneer Award winner is Jennifer Garbely! The YP Committee received 11 strong nominations for this year's Pioneer Award. The Pioneer Award recognizes a Young Professional who excels in community involvement, leadership and technical expertise. Judges, including the past Pioneer Award winner and a few Board Members, selected the winner and announced it during the Friday banquet after the conference. Congratulations to Jennifer, you deserve it! Also, a big THANK YOU to Oregon Trustee Brad Taylor for facilitated this year's award process.

### *Scholarships*

This year we received an overwhelming response to the Conference Scholarship program. We awarded 16 scholarships for a total of \$2,400 to help YPs and Students attend the conference. Applicants were asked to write an essay on why they wanted to attend. A majority of responses expressed the desire/need to connect with seasoned professionals and find more ways to become involved.

### *YP Committee Meeting*

The YP Committee Meeting was held on Friday at the conference. We had 33 people attend this year's meeting. What a turn out! We discussed what the YP committee is all about and what activities we organize throughout the year. For more information on how you can get involved, contact the YP Chair Julie Smitherman at [smithermanj@ashland.or.us](mailto:smithermanj@ashland.or.us).

### **2020 Vision: Profoundly Uniting YPs and the Water Industry**

After receiving a request for support by the new Chair, Randy Black, the Young Professional's put their minds together on how greatly improve the connection between young professional's and the water industry. We will be focusing specifically on uniting multiple generations of water industry professionals by helping employers attract and retain talent and to support students and YPs find fulfilling work.

Our vision for this endeavor is to become a model for the nation on how to successfully bridge young talent with the water industry by year 2020. YPs are notoriously ambitious, but trust us, we're not delusional about how significant this undertaking will be. As such, we have defined very specific outcomes to strive for and have developed a 2020 Vision Committee for implementation.

Interested in getting involved? Below are two ways you can.

1. Contact Kevin, our Career Fairs Coordinator, at [kevinwycoff@gmail.com](mailto:kevinwycoff@gmail.com) to learn about hosting a career fair at your local high school or college.
2. Partner with your local YP Subsection Liaison to plan and host an event for students and YPs such as a site tour, trivia night, expert panel, and beyond.

Looking for more information? Contact 2020 Vision Coordinator, Meredith Noble at (509) 340-1714 or [Meredith.noble@stantec.com](mailto:Meredith.noble@stantec.com)

### **PNWS Sub-Section Events**

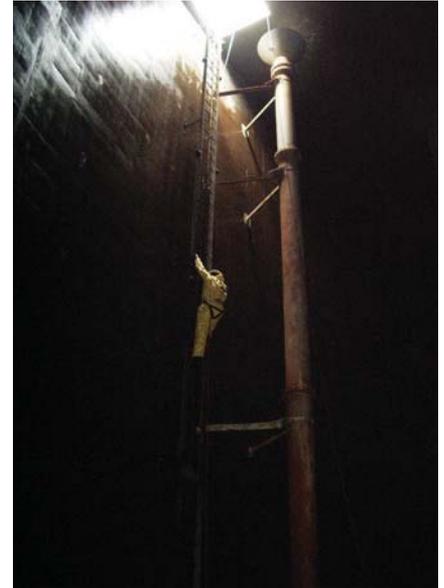
#### *Cascade to Coast*

#### *Young Professionals Photo Contest*

The Young Professionals Committee held a photo competition this past winter and spring and managed to

collect 75 great pictures related to the drinking water industry. After tight voting the winning photos were:

#### **1st place:**



Dean Hill of Rainbow Water District

#### **2nd place:**



Karen Kelly of the City of Albany

#### **3rd place:**



John Stephens of Eugene Water and Electric Board

Thank you to everyone who entered the contest and congratulations to the winners!

*Southwest Idaho Subsection Social*  
Approximately 25 people attended a spring social hosted by the young professionals in the Southwest Idaho Subsection on April 15. The event was held at The Barrelhouse in Boise. It was intended to bring members together to socialize and introduce upcoming events and activities sponsored by the Section and Subsection. The Subsection has been reaching out to Boise State University to increase student involvement so it was great to have some current BSU students in attendance. A great time was had by all and the YPs are looking forward to their next event, a fun run in June.

*Northwest Oregon Subsection Weeknight Water Walk:*  
Networking on Foot... in the Nearby Forest

Walking and talking was as natural as the setting: Hoyt Arboretum in Portland on May 20th. Ten YPs, other Ps and their husbands, wives, brothers and friends kicked off the season-opening Weeknight Water Walk (WWW) by exploring that diverse forest clothing the top of Washington Park. Afterwards they shared shepherd's pies and good Irish drink at the nearby Kells brew-pub. Look out for announcement

of the next WWW event... at Mt Tabor. Advocate for the following location or just make sure you don't miss a chance to stop sitting by e-mailing the organizer: Taylor Stockton [taylor.stockton@puralytics.com](mailto:taylor.stockton@puralytics.com).

*King County Subsection Pedal for Purpose*

The Young Professionals in King County held the second annual Pedal for Purpose event to raise money for Water For People. The team rode a cumulative distance of over 550 miles (Cindy Foss, her daughter, and Josh Kennedy represent 300 miles of that total - wow), and raised just over \$1,600 for Water For People. A special thanks to Eric Schey, Anh Quach, Dan Reisinger, and Andy Baker for organizing the event!

### Follow us on Social Media

The Young Professionals Committee has increased its presence on social media. With an active Facebook and Twitter account, we are working to reach more people in real time. By posting directly to the pages of colleges and universities around the section, we can extend our message to a wider student audience. We keep you up-to-date on YP events around the section, training opportunities, job opportunities, and relevant industry news. Also, check out our events calendar on the PNWS website for information on upcoming YP and

Student events. To submit information on events and/or pictures please contact Natasche O'Brien Legg at [nlegrrwc@gmail.com](mailto:nlegrrwc@gmail.com)

Follows us on Twitter @PNWSYP and visit our Facebook page PNWS of AWWA Young Professionals to stay connected!

### Participate!

Want to join the YP Committee in our efforts to connect students and YP's with PNWS-AWWA? There are lots of ways you can help, event planning, leadership roles, career fairs, scavenger hunt planning, helping get a student chapter going, and beyond! Contact YP Committee Chair Julie Smitherman for more information [smithermanj@ashland.or.us](mailto:smithermanj@ashland.or.us) 

With an active Facebook and Twitter account, we are working to reach more people in real time.



## Water Resources Committee

The PNWS-AWWA Water Resources Committee (WRC) is focused strongly on our mission to:

'Provide a forum for information exchange about water resources issues for drinking water supply in the Pacific Northwest.'

The WRC hosted three Technical Sessions at PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference in late April to May 1 in Bellevue, WA. The sessions addressed: (1) regional water resource project planning among stakeholders; (2) mitigation methods in water rights and water-rights transfers; and (3) source-water-protection program development.

We are hard at work this summer developing forums for 2015 to 2016 for sharing experiences and expertise and discover innovative solutions together. The WRC is actively engaged with other PNWS Committees to develop these forums around the themes of 'Drinking Water Supply Resiliency' and 'Building a Resilient Water Utility.' Three forums we have in mind are: (1) Lunch n Learn Webinar Ideas, (2) Ideas of Joint Workshops with Other Committees,

and (3) Boise PNWS-AWWA Annual Technical Session Topics. The Boise Conference theme of 'May the Source Be With You' feels like a great fit with the WRC's current focus on topics of interest for the region and we are excited to work forward on it.

### **How to Get Involved with the Water Resources Committee:**

**Monthly Water Resource Committee Meeting:** We meet every third Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, on-line and in-person. The monthly meetings are where topics of interest are discussed and explored for development into webinars, technical sessions and workshops.

**Quarterly Networking Socials:** The socials are opportunities to network and discuss personal perspectives around contemporary water resource issues.

**Lunch-n-Learn Webinars or Workshops:** Water resource professionals are invited to share their experience and expertise with PNWS-AWWA through our Water Resources Committee and its network. Webinar

technology allows us to bring the experts to your office. In some cases the topic is too broad or too complex for an on-line presentation and a workshop is organized. Past events and some presentations are posted under Workshops and Webinars on the Water Resource Committee website.

**Annual Conference Technical Sessions:** For many years the Water Resource Committee has assembled panels of regional and national experts to share challenges common to many of us and the unique solutions they discovered.

All interested parties are encouraged to join us, listen in, and provide input on water resource planning issues of interest to the region and its water purveyors. For more information on WRC events please visit the website <https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/water-resources-committee/home>. To join into the WRC or get onto our e-mail distribution list please contact John Lambie, Committee Chair, at [jlambie@e-purwater.com](mailto:jlambie@e-purwater.com). 



## Scholarship Committee

### 2015 PNWS-AWWA Scholarship Awards

The 2015 Pacific Northwest Section Scholarships were awarded at the Annual Conference Banquet in Bellevue.

The Pacific Northwest Section began providing scholarships in 1971. The Section Board formally established the Education and Training fund in 1985 to help provide a stable funding base for these scholarships. This year, E&T proceeds and additional direct contributions by Ameron International, the Section Board, Kelman Publishing (our Water Matters magazine publisher) and the NW Washington Subsection funded a total of \$24,500, for eight scholarships.

Almost everyone in the Section knows at least one student who received one of the 200 scholarships (\$462,350 total) that the Pacific Northwest Section has provided over the years. Awarding these scholarships start careers that can bear fruit not only for our organization, but also for the communities we serve, and the public health of future generations.

The students selected for scholarship awards are smart, work hard, are involved and lean forward into their professional lives. They all have strong academic achievement, clear life and career goals, and participate in professional organizations available to them.

In addition to the scholarships, all applicants who are not already AWWA members also receive a student membership in our association.

The PNWS-AWWA endowed scholarships honor Section members and friends who embodied generosity of spirit and commitment to drinking water and to this Section during their careers.

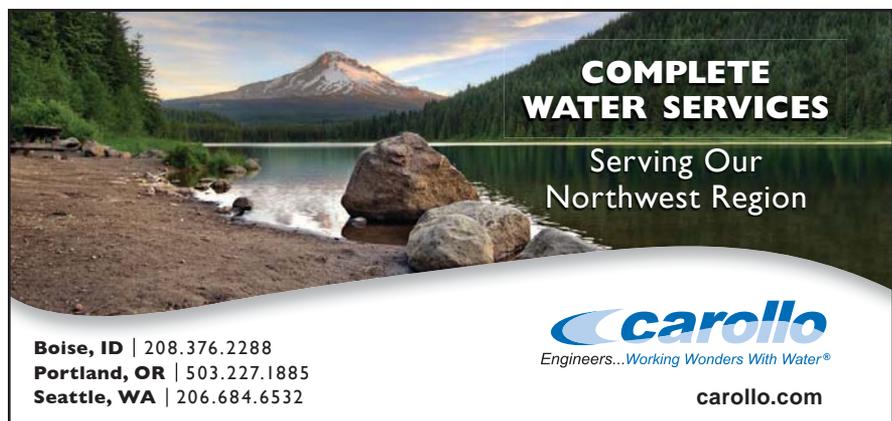
Al Alsing served the City of Ashland, Oregon for 36 years, starting as Assistant City Engineer and Water Superintendent. As Director of Public Works, he supervised and managed many infrastructure improvements still in service today. Al was an active volunteer and leader in his community, and served as an AWWA National Director. The Al Alsing scholarship was awarded to Logan Smesrud, who will use the scholarships to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering at Oregon State University.

Jim Doane worked as an Engineer for the Portland Water Bureau for 27 years including being their chief engineer. Jim continues his involvement with drinking water by serving as a commissioner at Tualatin Valley Water District. Jim received AWWA's Distinguished Public Service award in 2013. This year the Doane Family Scholarship awardee is Carina Zevely who is completing her Associates Degree in Water and Environmental Technology at Clackamas Community College.

Alan Jones was the General Manager of McMinnville Power and Light for decades, but professionally he favored water. He served as Section Chair and was a George Warren Fuller awardee. Cynthia Driscoll served the water utility industry as a spokesperson that managed her utility effectively, served on numerous state committees, and provided leadership to the Section. Cynthia's courage and commitment to drinking water was evident as she spent the last year of her life dedicated to the Section's success in her role as Section Chair. The Legacy Scholarship honors a number of individuals dear to the section. These individuals have had money donated toward a perpetual scholarship, but have yet to reach the threshold to have a single scholarship in their name. This list includes (alphabetically) Al Chevez, Katherine Goodman, Henry Grycko, Roger James, Kathy Merry, Fred Merryfield, Clayton Michael, Chuck Moore, William Mullen, Drew Seibel and Marlene Stiles. This year's Alan Jones, Cynthia Driscoll and Legacy Scholarships were awarded to Alexis Hepworth, who is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Portland.

The Sub-Sections are an essential foundation of the Section. The NW Washington and Southern Oregon Sub-Sections stand out as supporters of the next wave of water professionals. The Southern Oregon Subsection Scholarship awardee is Luke Fortcamp who is completing his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering at Oregon Institute of Technology.

Ray Pettie and Bob Stiles set the stage for cross-connection control and backflow prevention training in our region. They were the prime movers for the famed 'yellow manual,' which has been used as a model for many of the nation's CCC programs. This year's awardee of the NW Washington Sub-section and Pettie-Stiles Scholarships is Benjamin Porter, who is working toward



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his Associate's degree in Engineering at Lane Community College, and then will attend the Oregon Institute of Technology. Ben has interned at Rainbow Water for two years, and is the son of our colleague Jamie Porter, Rainbow Water District, and Treasurer of the Cascade-to-Coast Subsection.

The Past Chairs scholarship honors all past Section Chairs. This year's Past Chairs and RH2 Engineering scholarships were awarded to Bridget Garlinghouse of California Polytechnic University where she will complete her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering.

Bob Wubbena's sustaining efforts supported not only our section, but also the national AWWA and Water for People. Bob is a Life Member and Honorary member of the AWWA, served as Section Chair and AWWA President. His recognitions include the George Warren Fuller Award, Outstanding Service to AWWA Award and Distinguished Public Service Awards. Archie Rice served as Section Chair, received the George Warren Fuller Award, and earned the Golden Water Drop Award for 50 years of service to the AWWA. Archie was one of the original 'front-line' guys at CH2M Hill Engineers. This

year's Wubbena Family and Archie Rice scholarships were awarded to Staci Sherer, who is working on her Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at Oregon State University.

In its 23rd year of support this year, we continue to value Ameron's contributions and long-standing support for students and the scholarship program. This year's Ameron International Scholarship was awarded to Jack Mitchell, who is working on his Bachelors Degree in Civil Engineering at Oregon State University.

A new scholarship endowment in the name of Chris Uber was announced. The first scholarship in Chris' name will be awarded next year.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Education and Training Endowment Fund, please contact Bob Willis, the E & T Chair or Kyle Khis, Section Executive Director. Thank you all for supporting the future of the Pacific NW Section, our communities and in particular, these outstanding students.

Dave Leland, Scholarship Chair  
[david.e.leland@state.or.us](mailto:david.e.leland@state.or.us)



This year's awardee of the NW Washington Sub-section and Pettie-Stiles Scholarships is Benjamin Porter, who is working toward his Associate's degree in Engineering.

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## Personal Leadership Committee

The Personal Leadership Committee is comprised of several subcommittees that sponsor events in local areas. Our mission is to provide individuals with the tools to thrive, both personally and professionally within the water industry. One of these subcommittees is the Aqua Athenas. Aqua Athenas is comprised of women professionals from across the water industry and their core mission is to provide leadership training and networking opportunities in a fun, low key environment.

During the annual conference in Bellevue this year, the Aqua Athenas hosted an early bird session and HDR's Nicki Pozos conducted a personal branding workshop. Nicki led the group through a series of exercises and tasked each individual to articulate their skills and what makes them unique. Everybody brings something to the table, and the workshop aimed to help attendees identify and embrace their skills and uniqueness.

The next Aqua Athenas event in Washington is scheduled for

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at the Mercer Island Community Center.

There may be a Portland Aqua Athenas Portland event this summer, so keep an eye on the website calendar for future events.

For more information or to inquire about joining our committee, please contact our leadership team:

- Jim Meierotto (Chair)  
[Jim.meierotto@tvwd.org](mailto:Jim.meierotto@tvwd.org)  
503-848-3036
- Kristel Fesler (Vice-chair)  
[Kristel.fesler@hillsboro-oregon.gov](mailto:Kristel.fesler@hillsboro-oregon.gov)  
503-615-6735 

## Distribution System Committee

The Distribution System Committee (DSC) had an eventful Spring Conference season in Bellevue, hosting a full tract of classes and continuing our cooperation with other committees by co-hosting preconference seminars with the Small System Committee and the Water Loss

Control Focus Group. The DSC had our annual conference meeting on Wednesday afternoon the Tap House Grill, which was well attended by several existing and new members of the committee. We conducted elections for our bi-annual rotation of officers, where our intrepid leader of the past three years, Doug Schlepp of RH2 Engineering, stepped down and turned the reigns over to Bill Reynolds of PACE Engineers as Chair of the committee. Pat Everham from the City of Kennewick took on the role of Vice chair and long-time DSC member Jeff Austin of Utility Service Group in Portland stepped up to take on the duties of Secretary. The DSC would like to thank Doug for his notable service on the committee over the past seven years, particularly serving three years as Chair to allow time for others to learn their roles. Doug's diligent efforts and long hours in working for the committee are greatly appreciated, and we wish Doug the best in his continued service to the PNWS and the King County Subsection!

At the regular meeting of the DSC on June 2, the group re-capped the Bellevue Conference program and events, and started looking forward

to the upcoming year by discussing emerging topics to be considered for local training and 2016 Spring Conference themes. The relevant issues suggested include; drought preparedness, climate patterns in the Pacific Northwest, assessment management as it relates to water loss control, pressure zone management, and the desire for more hands-on training opportunities for operators and technicians. We will continue to look for teaming opportunities with subsections and other committees to support local training programs by facilitating presentations and speakers, and will start actively encouraging presenters to submit abstracts and develop presentations for the Boise Conference. If you, a coworker or associate has a great topic that would be suitable for next year's conference, submit your abstract soon! You can coordinate directly with any of our DSC officers regarding abstract submission: Bill Reynolds [billr@paceengrs.com](mailto:billr@paceengrs.com), Pat Everham [Pat.Everham@ci.kennewick.wa.us](mailto:Pat.Everham@ci.kennewick.wa.us) and Jeff Austin [jaustin@utilityservice.com](mailto:jaustin@utilityservice.com). If you have a presentation topic related to water system distribution, or tailored towards our mission, please contact us. 

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### Subsection Advisory Council

What a great conference in Bellevue this year! Thank you to the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) and everyone involved with making this conference a great success. Don't get me wrong, there were some challenges along the way. The LAC had to adjust the schedules this year and have the tapping, best tasting water and meter madness during lunchtime as well as in the vendor hall. This was different to a lot of people, but it turned out to be well promoted and well received with a good turnout for all of the events. This was also the first year that we had to cancel the Top Ops competition due to lack of entries. The Subsection Advisory Council (SAC) along with Doug Priest (the Top Ops Coordinator) will regroup for next year and promise to have enough teams involved to have a competition in Boise.

Overall, there was a lot of excitement during the meter madness and tapping contests and as always a lot of interest in the best tasting water and gimmicks and gadgets competitions. We also have a great group of people that help to make these competitions happen and they should be recognized.

**Doug Priest** – Top Ops

**Gerald Arredondo** – Meter Madness

**Loren Searl** (newly appointed) – Tapping contest

Thank you **Bryan St Clair** for your many years with the Tapping contest.

**Bill Beckman** – Gimmicks and Gadgets

Bill will be handing this over to **Mike McClenathan** starting next year in Boise. Thank you Bill!

We also could not make these competitions happen without the volunteers (the ones behind the scenes) whether it was being a time keeper, a judge, or an official, we want to THANK YOU!

As I mentioned earlier, the competitions were held inside this year in the vendor hall during lunch instead of outside during on Wednesday evening. This created a few challenges with the tapping and meter madness competitions as there is water needed for both events as well as runoff, leaks and water spraying. Everyone did a great job dealing with this and things ran smoothly.

The Meter Madness had five competitors and was very exciting at times. Thank you to all of the competitors and those involved. **Zach Swartzendruber** from MSA won the event with a time of 59 seconds and will be representing the PNWS

in Anaheim at ACE this year. **Chris Hicks** from Tacoma Water placed a close second with a time of 1:02. Both Zach and Chris travelled to Anaheim to compete at ACE. **Jesse Cowger** from Varela and Associates finished in third with a very respectable time of 1:18. Great job to everyone!

We only had two teams this year for the Tapping competition and there was a lot of camaraderie and fun had by all. The SAC wants to give kudos to both **United Water** and **Tacoma Water** for making this a very entertaining event. United Water won with a time of 1:31:37 and represented PNWS at ACE. Tacoma Water was a close second with a time of 1:36:07. It has been a few years since we have had a women's team compete. Let's see if we can get a team together for next year in Boise!

Best Tasting Water was the other event held in the vendor hall during lunch this year. There were seven teams entered in the event and Lynn Williams did a great job of getting a local celebrity or two as well as Chad Pregracke who was the key note speaker as judges. **Valley Water District** from Puyallup Washington won the event and took their samples to Anaheim at ACE. **Birch Bay** also from Washington placed second and

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**McMinnville Water and Light** from Oregon came in third place. Thank you to all of the companies that competed this year!

Gimmicks and Gadgets is always a fun time and a good time to see the ingenuity and innovation of some of the Section's operators. The room was packed again this year, but there were only two competitors competing for paid tuition for next year's conference in Boise. Bill Beckman added his normal comedy routine flair to keep the event moving along. **Mike Blake** from Central Point won first prize with his utility locating claw and will receive full tuition in Boise. **David Spencer** from Joint Water Commission came in second place and \$200 towards tuition in Boise for his torque indicating adapter. Great job to both of you!

As I mentioned earlier, the Top Ops competition had to be cancelled this year, but the SAC believes that we can get some involvement for next year and have a competition again in Boise. If you are interested in competing next year or have any questions about the event, contact Doug Priest at [dpriest@cityofsalem.net](mailto:dpriest@cityofsalem.net).

The SAC is also responsible for giving out the Subsection Activity Awards. One award is given to a person that has shown exceptional subsection support and effort from each of the three states in the Section. From the state of Oregon the winner was **Ken Johnson** from the Southern Oregon subsection. From Washington the award went to **Jesse Cowger** from the Inland Empire subsection. There was not an entry from Idaho this year.

Thank you Ken and Jesse for your time and service to your subsection and to the PNWS!

In closing, I would like to again thank all of the competitors, coordinators and volunteers for all of your hard work and making Bellevue a great success. Good luck to Zach, United Water and Valley Water District when they represent the PNWS at ACE in Anaheim. The SAC looks forward to a great year and lots of involvement in the competitions in Boise next year. We also want to remind all of the subsections of the Winter Meeting and SAC subsection officer training February 3-5 2016 in Vancouver, WA. We hope to see you all there! If you have any questions contact Max Woody (SAC Chair) [max.woody@centralpointoregon.gov](mailto:max.woody@centralpointoregon.gov). 



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## Northwest Washington Subsection

### Event Highlights

**Water Storage Workshop** – Held on February 25, 2015 @ Skagit County PUD No. 1 in Mount Vernon, WA.

The workshop included an overview of water planning basics of water treatment, distribution and storage facilities, including the City of Everett's operation and maintenance program of their water storage and distribution system. An overview of corrosion control methods and seismic design considerations for reservoirs. As well as information on small system steel, HDPE and cast-in-place concrete reservoirs, large system reservoirs and reservoir water quality. Participants earned 0.7 Water CEUs.

**Best Tasting Water Contest** – Held on February 25, 2015 @ Skagit River Brewery in Mount Vernon, WA.

Congratulations to Birch Bay Water & Sewer District for taking home the 1st place prize! A total of nine water samples were submitted and rated by a volunteer panel of judges. Birch Bay Water & Sewer District moved on to represent our subsection at the PNWS Section Conference held in Bellevue, WA.

A big thank you to our volunteer judges and Vanessa Hailey of Northwest Corrosion Engineering for her handmade quilt that was raffled off to raise \$245 for Water For People.

**Basic Waterworks Workshop** – Held on March 9, 2015 @ City of Everett's Public Works Office in Everett, WA. The workshop provided an orientation to water utilities and water quality protection for new employees to the utility including treatment plant staff, distribution crews, office staff, engineers and others. Attendees earned 0.6 Water CEUs

**Water Loss Prevention Workshop** – Held on March 18, 2015 at Brightwater Education & Community Center in Woodinville, WA.

The workshop was jointly sponsored by the Northwest Washing Subsection and the PNWS Distribution Committee.

Presentations covered an overview of the State of Washington Water Use Efficiency with discussion on system metering and information for water purveyors about international standard practices. Topics also included the method, techniques and tools for performing water audits and data validation, along with the management of apparent and real system losses, and an overview of leak detection equipment. Workshop participants earned 0.6 Water CEUs.

**2015 Western Washington Regional Short School & Trade Show** – Held on June 2-3, 2015 @ Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood, WA.



The two day conference was jointly sponsored by the Northwest Washington Subsection and the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association.

The short school offered five concurrent sessions on both days with presentations covering a variety of topics relative to both water and wastewater operators, including water supply, wastewater treatment, water quality, operations & maintenance, pumps, odor control, corrosion prevention, control valves, disinfection, and aeration & mixing. Attendees earned up to 1.2 Water/ Wastewater CEUs.

### Northwest Subsection Scholarship Winner!

Congratulations to Benjamin Porter for receiving the Northwest Washington Subsection Student Scholarship!

To sign up for email notification for future Northwest Washington Subsection workshops go to the subsection

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Benjamin Porter receiving the Northwest Washington Subsection Student Scholarship.

webpage on the Section's website ([www.pnws-awwa.org](http://www.pnws-awwa.org)) or contact Jeff Lundt at - [jeff.lundt@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jeff.lundt@kingcounty.gov) or 260-477-5582.

### Wine for Water

Save the Date for the 4th Annual Wine for Water on September 11, 2015 at Carpenter Creek Winery in Mount Vernon, WA. Enjoy a fun evening of wine tasting, live music, silent auction and networking!

For more information go to the subsection webpage on the Section's website ([www.pnws-awwa.org](http://www.pnws-awwa.org)) or contact Erin Nishikawa at [enishikawa@aesgeo.com](mailto:enishikawa@aesgeo.com).

### Training Schedule

The Northwest Washington Subsection will be sponsoring training for operators, engineers and managers in the Summer/Fall of 2015. Events scheduled so far include:

#### Reverse Osmosis Workshop –

Wednesday, September 30, 2015 in Anacortes, WA. Fee will be \$75/person for member (AWWA or WEF), \$95/person non-member. 0.6 CEUs. The workshop will cover an overview of RO technology, pre and post treatment options, ways to minimize RO plant energy consumption and Washington State requirement for monitoring and reporting. Registration will open in mid-August and a link will be posted on the Northwest Washington Subsection webpage.

#### Water Treatment Workshop –

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at

Alderwood Water & Wastewater District, Lynnwood, WA. Fee will be \$70/person for member (AWWA or WEF), \$90/person non-member. 0.6 CEUs. The workshop will focus on filter optimization, DOH Turbidity Data Verification Project, evaluating coagulation and flocculation processes, filter maintenance program, and dissolved air floatation pretreatment. Registration will open in late August and a link will be posted on the Northwest Washington Subsection webpage.

#### Basic Waterworks Workshop –

September 2015 in Bellingham, WA. Fee will be \$68/person for member (AWWA, WEF or Northwest Membrane Operation Association - NWMOA), \$78/person non-member. 0.6 CEUs. The workshop will provide an orientation to water utilities and water quality protection for new employees to the utility including treatment plant staff, distribution crews, office staff, engineers and others.

#### Basic Waterworks Workshop –

October/November 2015 in Port Angeles, WA. Fee will be \$68/person for member (AWWA, WEF or Northwest Membrane Operation Association -

NWMOA), \$78/person non-member. The workshop will provide an orientation to water utilities and water quality protection for new employees to the utility including treatment plant staff, distribution crews, office staff, engineers and others.

For additional information or to sign up for email notification for these or any Northwest Washington Subsection workshops go to the subsection webpage on the Section's website ([www.pnws-awwa.org](http://www.pnws-awwa.org)) or contact Jeff Lundt at - [jeff.lundt@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jeff.lundt@kingcounty.gov) or 260-477-5582. [FA](#)

The workshop will provide an orientation to water utilities and water quality protection for new employees to the utility.

## 4TH ANNUAL WINE FOR WATER



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#### For more information contact

Erin Nishikawa—[enishikawa@aesgeo.com](mailto:enishikawa@aesgeo.com) or register at <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=jub5msiab&oei=dk=a07eaisxocuc68ae67a>

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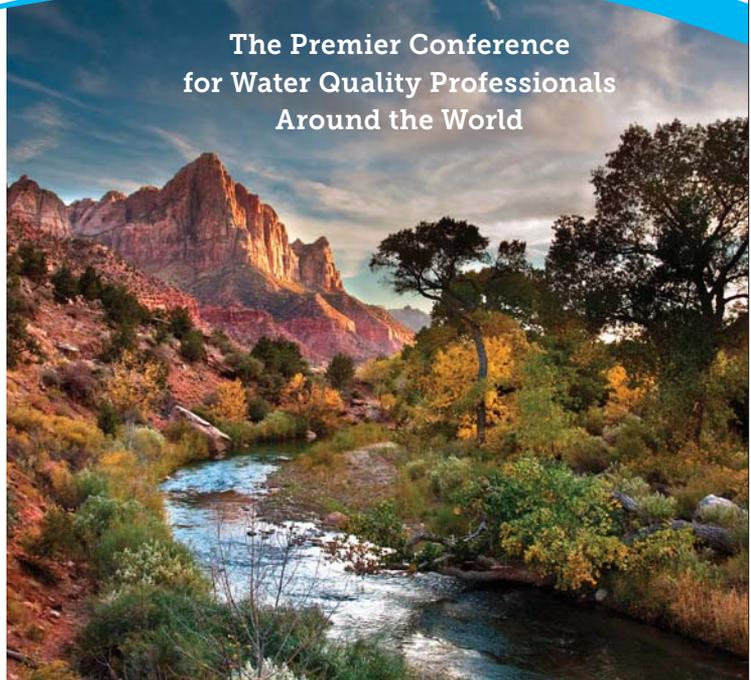
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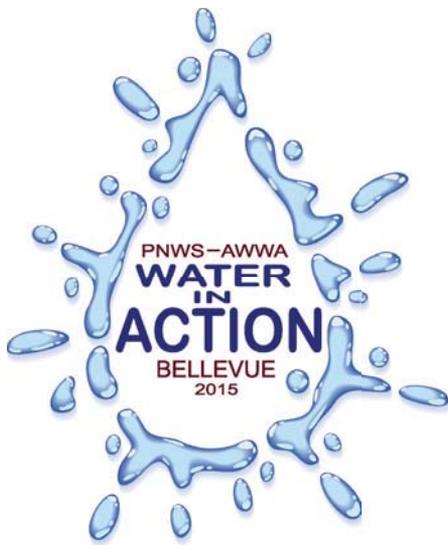
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# Water in Action: Success Story!

Approximately 900 conference attendees made their way to the Meydenbauer Convention Center in Bellevue, Washington to see **Water in Action**. As the combined membership for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho is 2,600 this means we had a turnout of about 1/3 of our membership!

The **Local Arrangement Committee (35 individuals strong)** had representatives from many local agencies and companies. These included: **City of Bellevue, City of Seattle, Sammamish Plateau Water District, City of Tacoma, King County, RH2, HDR, Carollo, Brown & Caldwell, MSA, MWH, and Black & Veatch.**

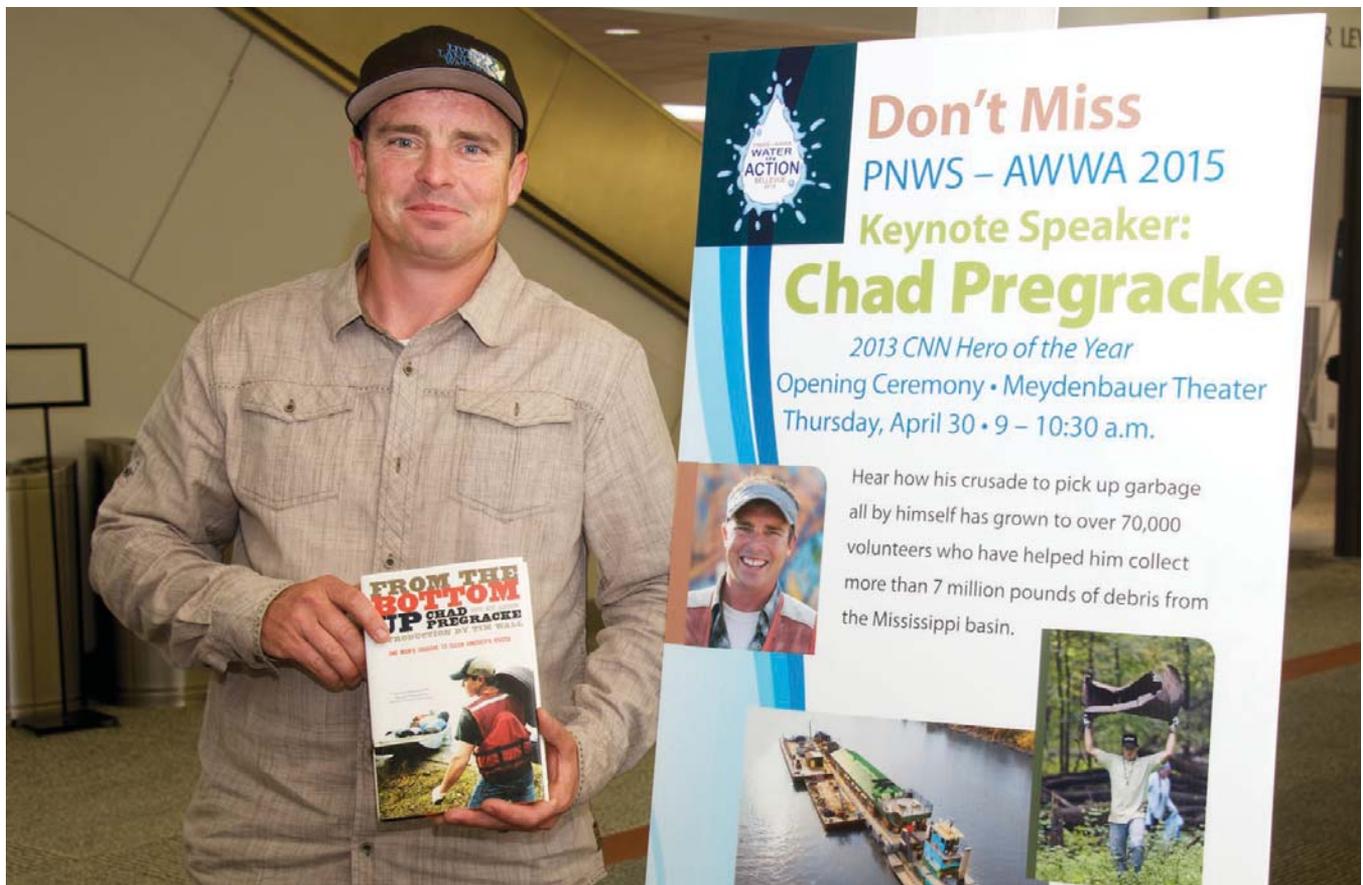
With the spike in attendance, the conference also saw increased engagement (some record-setting) for the key events: **Opening Ceremony, Fun Night, Young Professionals meet and greet, Golf tournament, Fun Run, and Closing Banquet.**

We were able to **successfully partner with the Bellevue Art Museum** to organize the Fun night event. In addition, there were a **record number of vendors and vendors' sponsorships**. There has never been two Platinum sponsors and free coffee stands sponsorships before this conference. Sponsors were also out in full force for the fun run, golf, and the Young Professionals' events.

Their support is critical to our success in making a great conference experience.

Water For People **donations were also very strong**. All Water For People proceeds go to a great cause, funding sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in countries all over the world. There were also, great do-nations received for the Education and Training fund.

For the first time in years we had a **keynote speaker** during the opening ceremony. It was Chad Pegracke the 2013 CNN Hero of the year. He did a great job inspiring us that we as individuals or together can make a difference one step at a time. *(In 1998 at the age of 23, Chad founded Living Lands & Waters. Today, the organization has grown to include a full staff and fleet of equipment. The crew averages nine states a year along the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio Rivers, as well as many of their tributaries. Since the project's inception, Chad, his crew, and over 87,000 volunteers have collected 8.4 million pounds of debris from our nation's greatest rivers. Most recently, Chad expanded the mission of the organization to include educational workshops, The MillionTrees Project, Adopt-a-River Mile, Invasive Species Removal, and The Great Mississippi River Cleanup.)* 



# 2015 Award Winners

Water Taste Test 'Best in the Northwest' Award:  
**Valley Water District**

Field Operations Innovations:  
**Mike Blake**

Tapping:  
**United Water**

Meter Madness:  
**Zach Swartzendruber**

Subsection Advisory Council Awards:  
**Jesse Cowger and Ken Johnson**

Public Information Best in Show Award:  
**Portland Water Bureau**

Kenneth J. Miller Award:  
**Kristin Young**

Heart and Soul Award:  
**Cory Baune and Hilary Lorenz**

Pioneer Award:  
**Jennifer Garbely**

MSC Award of Excellence:  
**Kristin Young**

AWWA Honorary Member Award:  
**Dean Fritzke**

Powell Lindsay Award:  
**Dave Leland**

George Warren Fuller Award:  
**Bill Carr**



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# 2015 Award Winners Continued





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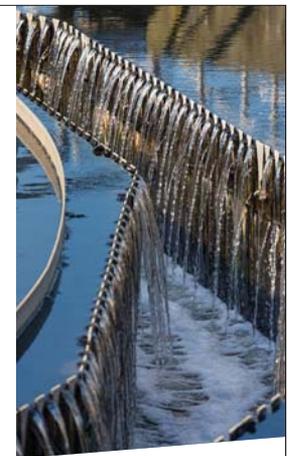
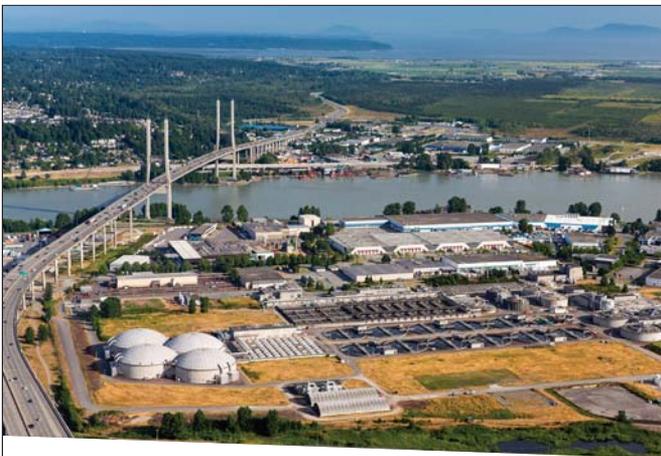
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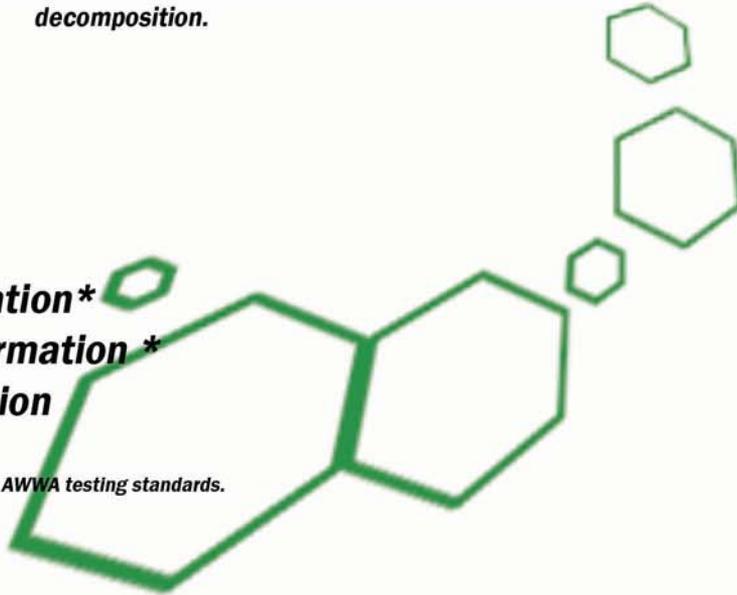
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# Fun Night



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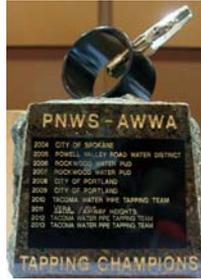
# Meter Madness



# Speakers



# Tapping Contest



# Technical Presentations



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# Water Tanks & Severe Weather

By Erika Henderson, Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group

**S**evere weather can be devastating, and according to numerous weather sources- is occurring more frequently and widespread. Tornadoes are now occurring anywhere from the Rockies to the east coast. Currently, the southern pacific coast is experiencing a severe drought,



many areas in the east coast are flooded, and thousands of people were killed in the Nepal earthquake.

Severe weather does not discriminate and it can damage or destroy everything in its path including water tanks. Necessary water supply for consumption, fire protection, and emergency needs is crucial to everyday well-being, and even more when a severe weather event occurs. Therefore, water tanks should be designed, constructed, maintained, and inspected to withstand severe weather.

Tanks that have experienced winter storms and freezing should obviously be inspected for damage, but seismic activity, high winds, lightning, droughts, and flooding also occur in the summer months and tanks are susceptible to damage from them as well.

## High Winds/Lightning Strikes

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) states, "Anchor bolts shall be arranged to securely engage a weight at least equal to the net uplift when the tank is empty and the wind is blowing from any direction (1)." Lightweight tanks definitely need to be anchored against high winds in areas that experience them, and elevated water tanks should have their windage rods inspected and tightened regularly to maintain winds of 150 mph, blowing from any direction.

Tanks not grounded are subject to lightning damage. Lightning strikes could cause power outages that could affect the ability to receive water. Water pumps and alarms could malfunction, or a complete tank failure could occur. NFPA 780 states, "Tanks shall be grounded to conduct away the current of direct strokes and the buildup and potential that cause sparks to ground (2)."

## Drought/Flooding

When a drought occurs, aggressive water conservation measures are often taken; but tanks still need to be inspected and cleaned. To conserve precious water, Robotic Operated Vehicles (ROVs) can be used to inspect and clean tanks without draining them, thus saving the water.

Foundation damage can easily occur if tanks are subjected to flooding for prolonged periods. Tank sites should have good drainage to minimize or prevent possible foundation damage from flooding. The site design should also include provisions for draining the tank and the discharge from the tank overflow without damaging the tank site or neighboring properties.

## Seismic Activity

Tanks are designed and constructed for resisting earthquake damage by complying with the earthquake design load provisions of American Water Works Association (AWWA), in accordance with its Seismic Use Group (SUG) and site class. The SUG is a classification assigned to a tank based on its intended use and expected performance; Tanks that serve multiple facilities use the highest SUG. Site class accounts for the effect of local soil conditions on the ground motion and are based on the soil present and their engineering properties as established by a geotechnical investigation. The SUG and site class help determine the appropriate freeboard and the number of anchor bolts needed. Freeboard is the distance from the Maximum Operating Level (MOL) to the lowest level of the roof framing and is determined by the sloshing wave height that could occur (3). Freeboard is taken into consideration to prevent a tank from overturning or causing roof damage due to sloshing.

The design of the piping system connected to the tank should consider the effects of foundation movements and potential movement of the connection points during earthquakes. Sufficient flexibility should be provided to avoid release of the tank contents due to failure of the piping system. The piping system and supports shall be designed so as not to impart significant mechanical loading on the attachments of the tank. Mechanical devices that add flexibility, such as bellows, expansion joints, and other flexible apparatus, may be used when designed for the seismic displacements and defined operating pressure (4).

### What to Look For

Water tanks should be inspected regularly for proper working order and stability before severe weather hits. Overhead obstructions, trees and overgrowth that could puncture or damage a tank during severe weather should be removed, and operators should routinely look for foundation, wind, and earthquake damage. Such damage on



tower-supported tanks may be indicated by cracked coating or welds at the tower connections; broken, bent, or sagging rods; buckled struts; dented or twisted columns; or missing or loose rod pins. If any of these conditions are observed, the tank should be professionally inspected. In addition, tanks in areas at high risk for wind or earthquake damage should be inspected more frequently than tanks in low risk areas (5).

### References

1. National Fire Protection Association, NFPA-22 Standard for Water Tanks for Private Fire Protection. 2013
2. National Fire Protection Association, NFPA-780 Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems. 2014.
- 3-4. American Water Works Association, D100-11 Welded Carbon Steel Tanks for Water Storage. 2011.
5. American Water Works Association, M42 Steel Water Storage Tanks. 2013. 

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# What is happening with the Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC)

OWUC has been very involved in this year's Legislative Session. Continue reading to find out what we have been up to.

## HB 3321 and 3322

OWUC members helped defeat two public contracting bills HB 3321 and 3322. These bills would have increased costs, created government waste of limited resources, and reduced flexibility and effectiveness in water

provider contracting as well as further limited our ability to effectively manage taxpayer dollars as our public officials were elected to do.

OWUC sent out a Legislative Alert asking members to contact their local representatives to voice their concern and inform their legislators of the impacts these complicated and costly bills would have imposed on municipal water providers. This input made a difference and prevented these two bills from moving forward.

## SB 712

In 2013, the Oregon Court of Appeals overturned OWRD's interpretation and implementation of permit extension statutes for certain municipal water use permits. An extension of time is a water rights administrative process to change the timeline to demonstrate full use of the permit. The court's opinion retroactively applies restrictive permit conditions for fish persistence to municipal water rights as part of the permit extension process, which could jeopardize municipalities' investments of public funds in municipal water supply systems.

OWUC has been working this session with the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) and the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) to get SB 712 passed. SB 712 draws a bright line for when fish persistence conditions apply and creates certainty for municipal water providers.

In order to alleviate the far reaching impacts of the court's decision on this small subset of municipal use permit holders from this retroactive application of permit conditions, SB 712 modifies and clearly defines what is meant by the "undeveloped portion of a permit." It also clarifies the effective date for applying fish persistence conditions in order to avoid potentially reducing the amount of water a community has developed and spent public resources to treat and deliver to its citizens.

To find out more about how you can get involved with the Oregon Water Utility Council and keep abreast of legislation that could impact municipal water providers contact Kim Swan, the current OWUC Chair at [kims@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:kims@clackamasproviders.org).



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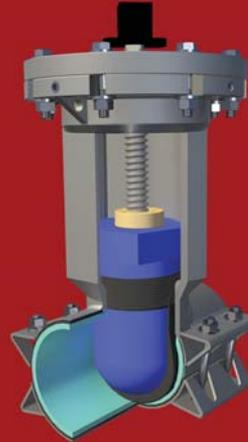
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# Professional Operator Water Distribution Certification Provides Validation

By Susan Parrish

**W**hen a new certification for water operators was offered last fall, Mike McClenathan was one of the first to sign up. He is one of only 28 in the world to attain the certification so far.

McClenathan is the Water Distribution Foreman for the Public Works Department, City of Central Point, Oregon, Southern Oregon Sub-section. Ultimately, he is responsible for the city's water system, from the meters and valves to the piping and reservoirs.

"Clean drinking water from the tap is taken for granted," he said. "I decided to get the designation because I think water operators are undervalued, under recognized, under paid, and underappreciated."

"What operators do often is taken for granted," said Gavin Moore, Certification Program Administrator, Association of Boards Certification. "This certification validates their work."

Moore explained how the process works. The operator creates an online profile and uploads various documents that vouch for what they've done in their career in terms of education and experience. Requirements can be met through college coursework, training and conferences, as long as the education is relevant. Then they go to one of 200 U.S. proctored examination centers to be tested. The rigorous exam is the only standardized exam for operators in the country.

It is an industry-developed, peer-developed program, said Megan L. Baker, Director of Operations, ABC. In all four classes of certification, eligibility criteria is set by operators. For class I certification, one year of operator experience and about 90 hours of class study are required. As operators attain a higher level certification, they are required to have increasing experience and course studies. McClenathan, who

## Professional Operator Certification & Designation



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attained class 4, the highest level, likely had attained about 1,000 hours of coursework, Baker said.

McClenathan emphasized that even if someone is brilliant and good at test taking or has an abundance of classroom time, an operator is not permitted to sit for the test unless a person has satisfied a number of hours on the job.

"That, to me, ensures a P.O. is worth their salt," McClenathan said. "A lot of other professions have fancy titles with letters after people's names, but I would put the knowledge required to be an operator against anyone," McClenathan said. "It's important to keep a record of every hour that I've worked and every class that I've attended. Learning is an ongoing process. I try to refresh and relearn things as well as staying hungry to learn something new every day."

The operators included a code of conduct and ethics and hold each other to a code of conduct in their work and in their lives, Baker said.

McClenathan summed up what he's gained from the rigorous certification process: "I would not say that getting the designation necessarily made me better at my job. However, all of the things that made me eligible to receive it, have."

He said he would like to see higher wages in the industry. He believes providing clean drinking water is just as essential as the work firemen, police officers and power company linemen do.

"Water operators may not have the daring rescues, but the decisions that we make on a daily basis can affect huge numbers of people in a short amount of time," McClenathan said.

Baker from ABC said, "As with any professional certification, it will be up to the decision makers in the utility as to whether the certification will mean a raise in pay. Research shows that voluntary education and certification will open those doors and lead to an increase in pay."

The program and exam will be used in the industry worldwide. Although at this point, the majority of those who have achieved certification are from the U.S., a number are from Canada and one is in The Philippines. At least 70 have applied. Many are still going through the process.

"We tacitly keep track of people who go through the program," Moore said. "People are definitely reaching that milestone. They're adding 'P.O.' to their name and posting on social media. It's a nice form of validation."

Moore said he worked with McClenathan closely to ensure his profile mentioned his volunteer activities, including using his vacation days to build water projects in Kenya.

"Mike embodies the spirit of the Professional Operator," said Paul D. Bishop, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, ABC. "He is a consummate professional. His service to the community and his volunteer work are emblematic of the dedication in the industry."

### Professional Operator Water Distribution Certification

**Fees:** \$145 for the application review fee and \$64 examination sitting fee.

**Organization:** The Certification Commission for Environmental Professionals (C2EP) of the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC)

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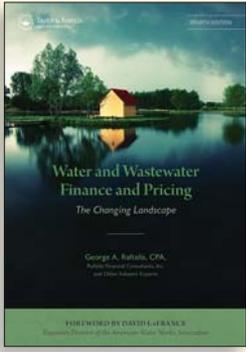
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## Water and Wastewater Finance and Pricing: The Changing Landscape, Fourth Edition

Prepared by: George Raftelis, CPA; Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.; and Other Industry Experts  
Commentary by: David LaFrance, Executive Director of the American Water Works Association and Ken Kirk, Executive Director of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies

*Water and Wastewater Finance and Pricing: The Changing Landscape, Fourth Edition* is a financial management guide for utility managers and executives, a compendium of best financial practices for utility financial leaders, a “how-to” guide for rate and finance technicians, and a reference point for policymakers.

Detailing utility financial plans and rate structures, and highlighting how they align with community sustainability goals and utility objectives, is a major focus of the Fourth Edition. Authored and reviewed by numerous financial leaders and executives in the water, wastewater, and stormwater industries, the book tackles complex financial management and pricing challenges confronting these

industries. It builds on the concepts used in the standard manuals of the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation, and offers additional insights into financial management and pricing approaches for water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities. Specifically, a major intent of the Fourth Edition is to expand, in a complementary fashion, many of the concepts in these authoritative manuals, and share additional real-world thinking and examples with water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities.

*Water and Wastewater Finance and Pricing: The Changing Landscape, Fourth Edition* is geared toward professionals assigned to develop water and wastewater financial plans and rates; senior managers with the responsibility for the long-term financial sustainability of the utility; investors and agencies evaluating the financial strength of utilities; engineers/consultants planning water and wastewater facilities; academics teaching financial and pricing principles as a part of public policy curriculum; regulators needing to understand the financial viability of utilities under their purview; and policy makers desiring to support effective financial and rate plans for their constituencies.

### Features of Fourth Edition

- Analyzes the processes for developing an **effective capital financing plan**, including detailed discussions of public sector and private debt, credit facilities, system development charges, interest rates, cost of debt issuance, and market conditions
- Presents all new coverage of **water reuse pricing, stormwater pricing, economic and rate structures with wholesale customers, computer modeling of financial systems, risk management, public outreach, and affordability**
- Contains **case studies** of utilities that have adopted effective finance and pricing approaches and systems
- Discusses delivery methods under **public-private partnership approaches** for designing, constructing, and operating of facilities as well as addressing complex legal, labor, and regulatory issues
- Provides **technical and policy insights** to utility governing boards

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## Overcoming challenges for 4000 years

A few years ago at a public meeting with the Portland Water Bureau, a rather agitated gentleman asked a question: "When are you going to get rid of the pipes?" There was a long pause, a very long pause ... before he was asked: "What is the alternative?" He didn't have one. Water has always been delivered through pipes and this is one of the most curious aspects of our industry. It is an ancient technology (over 4000 years old) that is continuously improving, but an alternative has yet to be invented. Because of this, many of the same challenges we are facing today have been faced over and over again throughout history.

I was recently reminded of this as I was sorting through the PNWS Historical Archives and found some AWWA Journals from the 1930s. Here is a partial list of articles:

- Consumers' Good Will - Its Value and Method of Promotion
- Consumers' Complaints and How to Meet Them
- Delinquent Water Bills in the Depression
- At War with the Depression in the Detroit Water Department
- A Modern System of Billing and Accounting in the Chicago Bureau of Water

- Value of Adequate Supply of Water for Fire Fighting
- Maps and Records of Existing Water Mains, Valves and Hydrants
- Coagulants Used in Water Purification and Why
- Distribution System Design and Upkeep

As you can see from this list, many of the same problems we face to day have been faced over and over. Even the ancient Romans faced the same challenges. It is good to remind ourselves of this as we face our current uncertainties. We know we will overcome all of our problems because we are the water industry and we have been overcoming difficulties for 4000 years. It is how we handle these challenges that makes our histories so compelling — the dedication of the people in our industry to bring water to our citizens in spite of the challenges. 🇺🇸

Catherine Howells  
 PNWS Historian  
[chowells@pdx.edu](mailto:chowells@pdx.edu)

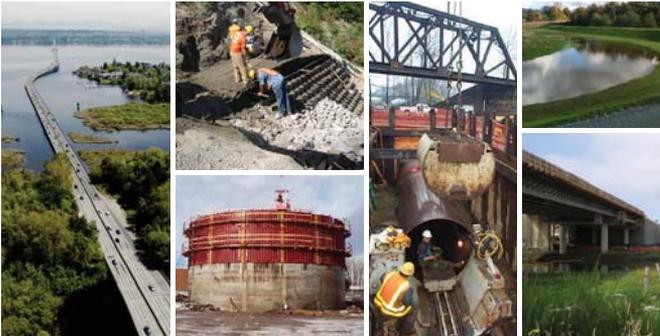


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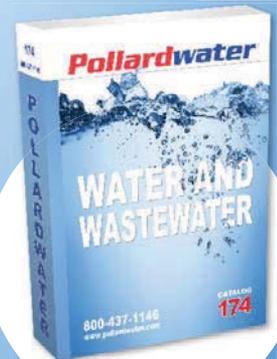


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