Tualatin Valley Water District

Taking Advantage of the Resources Around You

Young Professionals

How YP's can use Networking to Develop Their Careers in the Water Industry

Bill Richmond

Taking Advantage of the Resources Around You

- Why I'm Here – last resort??
- Not as 'recognizable' a man of the people
- One foot on dry land

WARNING: NAME DROPPING, EARLY AND OFTEN

A bit about my background…

- Education
- Meter reading
- Maintenance crew – 2 full weeks!
- Field Customer Service
- Water quality
- Re-education

Under the tutelage of Mr. Fritzke

Introduction to AWWA

Waterworks School

- Developing classes and scheduling speakers
- Meeting great speakers – I decide who I want to learn from! (This is not a plug for WWS!)

Doug Wise, Sherri Wantland, Troy Bowers, Mike Grimm, Chuck Kingston

- Free education
- Contacts through CCC

Coerced, at first, in the end – a great opportunity

Introduction to AWWA

- Hangin' w/ the VP meeting YP's/OP's drinkin' IP(a)'s
- Forming the Subsection YP Committee
- Not being intimidated but realizing my value attributable to my experiences and ideas that I bring to the table
- Other committees contacting me (the coveted YP list)

ADDED BENE'S

- SJWP – A special event w/ long term payback
  - John Aho – no fishing but… Subsection scholarship committee

- WWS – More than just great speakers
  - Doug Wise – guru, mentor, Section scholarship committee
  - 2nd year reminder

KEY ASPECTS THAT ARE OFFERED

- Increase your knowledge of the industry
  - Plant tours, presentations (e.g. Chris Uber – history of water in Portland)
- Opportunity for Leadership roles – see yourself in that role
  - Supervisors see you in a different light, promotions aren't as uncertain
- Networking (a great excuse to drink beer on a weeknight!)
- Exposure to other committees, utilities and companies
- Travel opportunities
  - Ronny's Meter Madness, Committee meetings at conferences
- Connecting w/ Co-workers
- Volunteering

KEY ASPECTS THAT ARE OFFERED

- Cohorts, not competitors public and private
- Technical Insight – staying ahead of the game
- Information (documents, tools, etc) sharing
  - Program development
  - WRF reports – Mark wants this STAT
  - pH probes and transducers
- Insight to what else is out there
- Future wife or husband!
- BOTTOM LINE – Your employer will benefit!
  - Customers, co-workers

COOL THINGS THAT MIGHT SURPRISE YOU

- Very friendly, easy going people
- Educationally non-discriminatory
  - GED's to PhD's
- Partial commitments
  - We all have full time jobs
  - Delegation is never a problem

In Summary…

- A long way to go, but I'm getting there
- First five years vs. last five years
  - More involvement
  - Increased my value
  - Having more fun

- Give something back

QUESTIONS?
LAKE OSWEGO
MUNICIPAL
WATER TREATMENT
PLANT
LOAD LIMIT
4,000 LBS.