



American Water Works Association  
**Pacific Northwest** Section

FALL 2019

# WATER *matters*

The Official Magazine of the  
Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA



# 2020

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## A Fast Paced Summer with New Opportunities

**A**s I reflect back over the past few months it is hard to imagine that I am almost half way thru my time as section chair. The past few months have been focused on moving forward our vision; Be the Pacific Northwest's trusted resource for water professionals; and our mission; Foster a network of professionals to provide opportunities and leadership to the water industry in the Pacific Northwest; statements.

To ensure that we as a board are moving these values forward we spent some time at the recent board planning meeting discussing our current committee structure. As part of this discussion the board reaffirmed the need for the section to move away from the traditional committee structure and operate as divisions as opposed to individual committees. The advantage of moving to a division structure is it allows for more 'like' committees to be able to

operate together under one umbrella thus allowing for more opportunities for our members to get involved and lessening the burden placed on a small group. With the move to divisions the board was able to sunset several committees (History, Safety, Public Officials, Small Systems & MSC) as their function is already being performed by other committees within other divisions. The board also voted to give the Women in Leadership a permanent home. As the Women in Leadership was a program and not an actual committee it has been moved under the Utility Management Division. This move will give this program more exposure and provide an opportunity for the section members to tap into this amazing program.

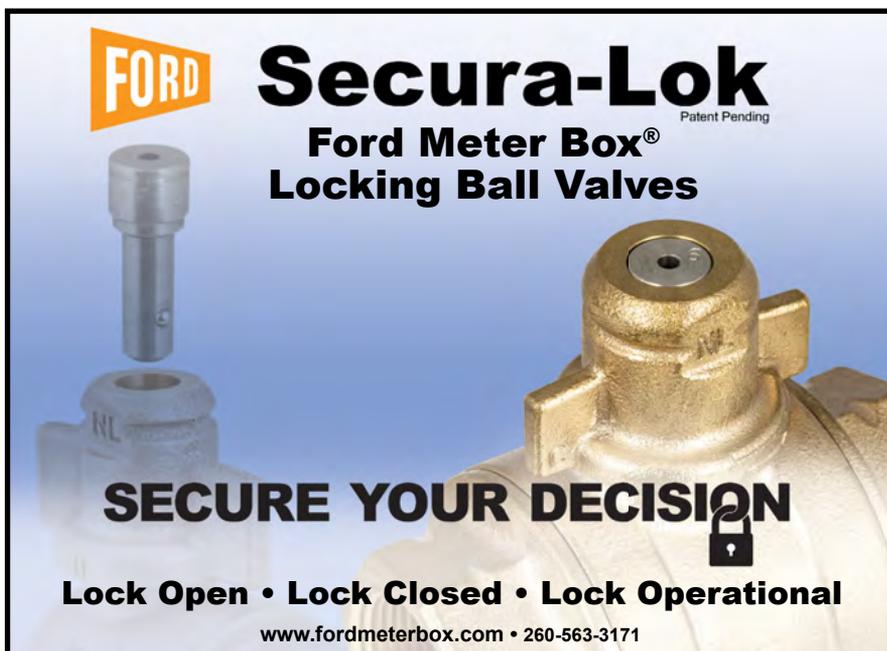
These past months were also filled with a new training opportunity. This fall the Section held its first Leadership Symposium in Yakima, WA. The event was held in conjunction with the annual

Young Professionals Summit and is a great example of how we are trying implement new and exciting training opportunities and bridge the gap for the next group of water professionals that will lead our organization. The symposium brought in not only some well sought after speakers and teachers but also showcased the immense talent we have right here in our section with the majority of the sessions being taught by our very own Pacific Northwest members. It was an honor to be able to host this event in Yakima and the tremendous opportunity to learn and network with everyone who was able to attend was invaluable and I want to take a moment to thank all those who were able to participate in this outstanding event.

Our wrap up to the fall of 2019 was the Committee Officer Training and Trustee Meeting held in Walla Walla, WA. As always this was a great event filled with lots of training, information and the opportunity to network with our water industry family. As we continue to look for new opportunities to grow together as a section the format for this training will be changing in 2020. It is exciting to announce that in 2020 at the Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, OR the Fall Committee Officers training will now be a joint Committee and Subsection Officers training. Combining these two events into one will help to enhance the opportunities for subsections to work closer with the various divisions in sharing ideas, pooling resources for training venues and topics and maximizing leadership and volunteer openings.

I am truly thankful and honored to be a part of the Pacific Northwest Section and a member of your board. I hope everyone had an outstanding summer and Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

Go Cowboys!  
James Dean, Chair 



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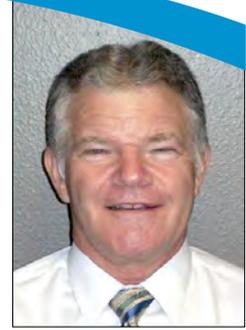


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# AWWA's Strategic Goals and Governance

I am so greatly honored to be your Association Director for the next three years. I am committed to working hard at representing the interests of the Pacific Northwest Section while furthering the mission and the strategic plan of the American Water Works Association.

As a Section, I know you join me in thanking Kari Duncan for the outstanding job she has done in her service to the Section over the past three years. Over the last year, Kari has been extremely generous with her time with me in sharing her perspective of the Association, how to navigate the inner workings of AWWA, and how best to contribute as an Association Director. Kari is highly regarded within the Association for her involvement and contributions as a Director. I also want to say thanks to Marshal Thompson as Director At Large, who has been a great resource as well in helping me prepare for the Director's position.

My job as your Director is to be the liaison between our Section and the Association, so if you have issues or items that need to be brought to the attention at the Association level, please do not hesitate to contact me. Be assured, I will do my very best to help resolve the issues or direct you to the resources to help.

In July, I attended the incoming Directors' orientation at AWWA's headquarters where I learned a lot as to the inner workings of the Association and was able to get acquainted with other in-coming Directors. I would like to take a moment to briefly describe the strategic goals guiding the Association as well as the Board structure and governance of AWWA.

The first strategic goal is **Member Engagement and Development**. AWWA will be the association of

choice for water utilities, professionals, and organizations by enhancing the value for members, strengthening the relationships of members with AWWA, and retaining and growing membership across all membership categories.

Second is **Organizational Stewardship**. AWWA will effectively and efficiently use its resources to sever its members and the water community. To do this, AWWA will:

- enhance the business relationship between the Association and its Sections;
- increase the long-term viability of AWWA by enhancing revenue growth;
- improve the alignment of the Association's program portfolios to meet the member's needs;
- increase the investments in the Association's drinking water and total water solutions offerings;
- improve the effectiveness of volunteer leadership in guiding the Association; and
- improve the use of technology to generate greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Third, **Knowledge Creation and Exchange**, upon which AWWA will be the authoritative resource on water. To accomplish this effort, AWWA will:

- advance and expand its knowledge of resources for drinking water and total water solutions;
- increase the coordination and collaboration of educational programs and services between the Association and its Sections;
- increase the variety of effective distribution channels through which members can access AWWA's knowledge and resources; and
- increase the relevancy of the Association's knowledge resources for all global water professionals.

I know you join me in thanking Kari Duncan for the outstanding job she has done in her service to the Section over the past three years.

Finally, **Water Policy and Leadership**. AWWA will be recognized as the valued and credible voice for water. Steps to reaching this goal:

- enhance AWWA's credibility with decision-makers;
- advance public awareness and clarity on water issues and the value of water to our communities;
- engage media and credible information to advocate for water;
- increase the Section's and membership's participation in advancing the Association's water policy and leadership; and
- strategically partner with appropriate outside organizations to advance AWWA's water policy and leadership.

So, what is the makeup of the AWWA's Board, charged with implementing and advancing the Strategic Plan of the Association?

The Association has three Presidential Officers – President, Past President, and President Elect. There is a Treasurer, and the Association's day-to-day operations are run by the CEO. Each of the Association's 43 Sections has one Director except for the Cal/Nevada and Texas Sections, which each has two Directors because of their membership size, for a total of 45 Section Directors. From the Directors' pool, there are six Vice Presidents who are elected. Next, there are three Directors-at-Large and one Service Provider Director-at-Large, bringing the grand total to 49. Also, there are six Council Chairs from the committees of, Technical & Education, Water Utility Standards, Public Affairs, Manufacturers Association, and International. Our Section is very fortunate to have Kristin Kihns on the Board who is Chair of the Manufacturers' Association Committee, as well as Mike Stuhr who is Chair of

the Water Utility Standards Committee. Finally, the last position on the Association's Board is the Chair of the Water Research Foundation.

As a Director, you are responsible for the governance of the Association, help with setting policy, and take seriously the fiduciary responsibility. You review and comment on the Strategic Plans and monitor the progress of the plans. A Director is involved with carrying out policy, implementing plans, and monitoring progress.

The Association is a very complex organization, and it can be challenging to navigate the many assets and tools available to you. I have found that I have a lot to learn as it relates to totally understanding how all the aspects operate in and around the Association. I would encourage you to visit AWWA website; it's very user friendly and very easy to navigate in looking for what you might need. I have been very

impressed with the Association's staff and their knowledge and willingness to help and answer questions. I know you'll feel the same should you have a need to talk with them.

I hope each of you will continue to be involved in our Section, striving to make it the best we can be, and causing it to continue to be highly regarded throughout the Association.

For those of you that haven't yet considered attending a Subsection meeting or an event, I encourage you to take advantage of such an occasion, because I believe you will find networking opportunities and ways to get involved with our Section that may someday propel you into the right set of circumstances that leads you to leadership possibilities in the future. 🙌

Randy Black  
PNWS Association Director

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## Off and Running

In Section Chair James Dean's inaugural address last May he made note that this would be a year of change for the Section. Decisions that had been made by previous Section Boards were coming to fruition this year. To that end, we are off and running with some new and different ways of doing business.

### The Leadership Symposium

Our Section's first Leadership Symposium was held September 26-27 in Yakima. Designed to provide leadership training to the next generation of water professionals this symposium offered three tracks for different levels of management. Great ideas were shared. We had some fantastic keynote speakers including George Hawkins formally of DC Water, Sam Davidson of Batch, Erick Kountz from the Oregon Lottery and our very own Marshall Thompson from Suez Idaho. We also experienced a couple of great panel discussions: one on innovation and evolving utility management styles and the second on intergenerational communications. As usual our consultants stepped up and supported our new symposium. I would like to thank RH2, Carollo,

Jacobs, Kennedy Jenks and Brown and Caldwell. Additionally, a sincere thanks goes out to all the different session presenters and moderators, we couldn't have pulled something of this size off without you.

### The Fall Committee and Winter Subsection Trainings

We just completed the annual Fall Committee Officer training this month in beautiful Walla Walla. Offering training for first time committee officers as well as seasoned veterans this annual event is always a great time. New this year, a breakout for seasoned committee officers on Leadership Skills for Non-managers.

This is the last year of this annual fall tradition for committee officers. Next year's training will be held simultaneously with subsection officers. Rather than providing two trainings a year: one for subsections in the winter and one for committee officers in the fall, we will be combining both groups at one large training in Sunriver next fall. Our objective is to get both of these groups working more closely together and this is a great first step. Look for more information coming over the course of the year.

### Section Election

It would not be fall without a Section election and this fall is no exception. Help us select the future leaders of our Section by completing the electronic ballot. AWWA individual members look for an invitation to vote that will be emailed to you in early November. The Section e-newsletter will also have a link for members to vote. This year we have a great list of candidates all of whom have been leaders at various levels of our Section and are looking to volunteer again and become a member of our Section Board of Trustees. Candidates this year include:

- **Chair Elect**  
John Roth – Clark Public Utilities  
Dan Sleeth – Covington Water District
- **Oregon/Idaho Trustee**  
Rob Barrett – Suez Idaho  
Jill Hoyenga – City of The Dalles  
Karen Kelley – Eugene Water and Electric Board
- **Washington Trustee**  
Cheryl Capron – Retired from Seattle Public Utilities  
Mike Pleasants – City of Port Orchard  
Loren Searl – City of Spokane
- **Trustee At-Large**  
Nick Belmont – DN Tanks  
Michael Lubovich – Kennedy Jenks  
Doug Schlepp – RH2 Engineering

To close, I would like to wish all of you a great fall and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends! Thank you for your membership with AWWA!  
Cheers! 🍷

Kyle Kihs  
Executive Director

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### Conference Program Committee

#### Annual Conference

By the time you read this, we should have a final technical program for the Spokane conference. We appreciate everyone on our committees who stepped up to solicit presentations, develop the tracks and find moderators. We still have a lot of work to do, and Maura Kegley will be in touch with the moderators (and others) after the holidays.

Beginning with the Boise conference in 2021, we will need a new champion for the wastewater track. We thank Jeff Lundt for an outstanding job in this area

over the past several years. Not only do we now offer 6 hours of wastewater CEUs to our operators who hold dual certification, much of the drinking water content also receives wastewater credit. If you are interested in taking on development of a wastewater track, please contact Cheryl Capron.

As of this writing (at the end of August), we are still looking for a vice-chair for the 2021 Boise conference, and as long as we are asking, we will look ahead to 2022 in Tacoma as well. Please contact Cheryl Capron if you're interested.

#### Leadership Symposium

The Program Committee will be managing the abstract collection process and assisting in putting together the schedule for the 2020 Leadership Symposium in Salem. If you are interested in joining the committee, but feel intimidated by responsibility for the annual conference, this could be the perfect way to learn.

If you are interested in learning more about the Program Committee, or in volunteering to help, please contact Cheryl Capron at [ccapron.po@gmail.com](mailto:ccapron.po@gmail.com). 

### Distribution Committee

Over the summer we welcomed the Safety Committee into the Distribution Committee (DC). It was determined by the Board that due to similar emphasis and focus, together with the desire to best utilize the volunteer efforts of the Section the two committees would merge.

The DC met twice during the summer and is engaged in the development of an eclectic and enlightening program for the 2019 Spring Conference in Spokane, WA.

We are looking forward to a full slate of Preconference and Technical Sessions.

In October Vice-Chair Doug Schlepp will be attending the Fall Trustee meeting in Walla Walla, WA to embrace the finalized slate of abstract selections for the Spring Conference and look for new committee recruits.

The DC is your resource for challenging questions concerning the operation of your water system. We have over 501 years of experience and can provide you with insights

based upon this wealth of experience and knowledge. If you have concerns or questions regarding your water system operation, please contact your DC representative as noted below.

DC meetings are held regularly via conference call and are generally focused and brief. If you are interested, motivated individuals should contact Chair Daniel Reisinger ([DReisinger@carollo.com](mailto:DReisinger@carollo.com)), Vice-Chair Doug Schlepp ([dschlepp@rh2.com](mailto:dschlepp@rh2.com)), or Secretary Rachel Lanigan ([rlanigan@rh2.com](mailto:rlanigan@rh2.com)). 



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## Membership Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC) and 2020 Vision Committee

The membership committee is in the process of being revitalized and given a new purpose, and new organization with the 2020 Vision and YP Committees! As a first step in that process, the committee was renamed as the Membership Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC) to better align with the committee and section's goals. The name coincides with the larger national AWWA MEDC and the name highlights a key element of the committee's purpose, which is engagement.

### In the Works! Join MEDC!

The MEDC and 2020 Vision Committees are currently working with the YP Committee to revamp our structure to serve the section more efficiently. As a part of the revamp, the MEDC is actively recruiting for new committee members. If you're interested in engaging new and

current members to learn more about what they want to see from the section, then the MEDC is the committee for you. We hold quarterly calls and meet at the Spring conference. If you're interested in getting involved contact Committee Chair, Chris Young, [Chris.Young@murraysmith.us](mailto:Chris.Young@murraysmith.us).

### Hosting a Career Fair and Need more AWWA SWAG?

- Reach out to [Chelsea.Hanna@murraysmith.us](mailto:Chelsea.Hanna@murraysmith.us) and we can ship you supplies for your next event. Giveaways help leave students with something to hold onto and remember AWWA as they consider future opportunities.
- PNWS Event Toolbox with "how-to" instructions and resources for event planning: (<https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/2020-vision-initiative-committee/events>)



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- Membership Video to share the PNWS story ([www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/awwa-membership](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/awwa-membership)).

### Mentorship Program:

The 2019-2020 mentorship application is LIVE. You can fill out the application anytime between now and the start of November, when the mentor and protégé pairs will be matched. To learn about the program and find the application, please see the Mentorship Guide at [pnws-awwa.org/mentorship](http://pnws-awwa.org/mentorship) and the QR Code to the right. Don't hesitate to reach out to our mentorship program coordinator Kevin Wyckoff with questions, [kwyckoff@pnws-awwa.org](mailto:kwyckoff@pnws-awwa.org)

**MEDC Purpose:** To support the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA (PNWS) in the engagement, retention, and growth of membership

**2020 Vision:** To align with AWWA's strategic initiative for a sustainable future by bridging young talent with the water industry.

**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.

Stay connected on YP and 2020 Activities by attending the Monthly YP Committee Calls: email YP Co-Chair Erica Rodriguez at [Erica.rodriguez@murraysmith.us](mailto:Erica.rodriguez@murraysmith.us) to get on the listserv.

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### Oregon Water Utilities Council

The Oregon Water Utilities Council (OWUC) monitors legislation, regulations, and court actions that could impact the water industry, giving members the ability to engage in and help shape these kinds of issues. In addition, it provides its members with the ability to network with other water utilities of all sizes across the state to share information, discuss issues of importance to drinking water providers, and to engage in solutions. The legislative activities are closely coordinated with policies of the AWWA when applicable. Here is an update of what OWUC has accomplished over the past few months:

#### State Legislation

The legislature concluded its session June 30, 2019. A big thank you and deepest appreciation goes out to any and all OWUC members who tirelessly wrote letters, visited with elected officials, and stood in the gap to testify in the Capitol on bills affecting water utilities. During this session, we were able to preserve the ability for utilities to charge appropriate system development charges to new customers without state or local interference, restore sampling capacity for cyanotoxins in compliance with state

regulations for small water systems through the DEQ laboratory, and preserve the certification requirement process for landscape contractors installing underground sprinkler systems and backflow prevention devices. We were not as successful with legislation on requirements for emissions on utility owned diesel trucks, a new 'tap tax' by the Oregon Health Authority that shifts a major portion of OHA-DWP's funding away from sanitary survey fees and general fund revenue to a new tax, and water rights transfers where months and months of discussions and proposals yielded no resolution to the water rights transfer stalemate (stay tuned). A promising move in the House this session was the creation of a new Water Committee at the end of the session chaired by Representative Ken Helm. OWUC is encouraged by the House's action to consolidate and refer future bills related to water to this committee hopefully creating opportunities for OWUC to work with one main committee during future sessions.

#### Looking Ahead in the Legislature for 2020

In February, OWUC will again host the 'Capitol Drive In' where OWUC

members will once again gather in Salem to meet with State agency heads as well as elected officials in both the Oregon House and Oregon Senate. Crafted around the national AWWA 'Fly In' in Washington, D.C., the 'Drive In' gives OWUC members a chance to meet their elected officials at the Capitol Building and share with them water utility concerns and perspectives from the drinking water industry. More about this opportunity in the coming months.

#### Committee Business

OWUC continues to work with several Oregon communities and their consultants on two important projects. The first one is establishing a process by which ozone can be approved for pre or post filtration and receive inactivation credit for giardia and cryptosporidium. The second is representing water utility interests in the Willamette Basin Review Study under development by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

To find out more about how you can get involved with the Oregon Water Utilities Council, please contact Michael Grimm, OWUC Chair, at [mgrimm@wswd.org](mailto:mgrimm@wswd.org) 

### ORWARN

Since November of last year, ORWARN has gained several new members (City of McMinnville; the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Marion County; City of Oakland; City of Lincoln City; and Prairie City) as well as adding the Shared Worker Addendum with the City of Gresham and an Associate Member through Delta Operations.

ORWARN has been dispatched at least three times within the last nine months including to Warm Springs as a result of a water loss in November 2018. During the spring months, ORWARN was dispatched for tools and supplies

to Warm Springs again as well as to ROW River Valley Water District who also needed supplies. The board is continually committed to getting the word out to all public utilities throughout the state to minimize any undo strain or hardship in the event of an emergency.

ORWARN, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Horsley-Witten will be holding a functional exercise and conference in Eugene at Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) on November 6-7, 2019. Preparations are currently under way and will focus on 'All Hazards.' This can,

should, and will involve all public utilities throughout the state. Day 1 will be a day of instruction and learning via speaker sessions and day 2 will provide attendees the opportunity for an interactive, functional exercise incorporating all that was learned during the day 1 sessions.

Currently, ORWARN is updating both our website and brochure. Both will be ready by the November conference – please stay tuned!

Chris Wanner  
[Chris.Wanner@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:Chris.Wanner@portlandoregon.gov) 

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### Utility Management Committee

We are underway with playing for our events this coming year. We have tried something new, setting up all monthly meetings dates and times until the April 2020 conference. Many of us are busy and want to help out with Utility Management, but we haven't found out soon enough when the meeting is. Check out our website for further information.

In late January, we are planning another Utility Management Training event in the Olympia/Tumwater area. Stay tuned as we are finalizing the date dependent on the location. Once the date and time is finalized, we will be asking speakers to help us hold another one-day workshop on a topic facing utility managers day to day. Once the

program gets confirmed, we will be sending out the details for the day, including CEUs.

We have made our preliminary recommendations for the Utility Management track at the 2020 Spring Conference and we hope to be finalizing the tracks this fall. New to Utility Management is the Elected Official Committee. There have been a number of requests for more training opportunities of our elected officials so we hope to have something for you, also at the spring conference.

If you want to get more involved in the Utility Management Committee, please send a note to Diane Pottinger at [dianep@northcitywater.org](mailto:dianep@northcitywater.org) to get added to the email distribution list or sign up yourself at on the Utility Management Home Page. [🔗](#)

### Water Conservation Committee

In August, the Conservation Committee held a virtual meeting to scholarly argue our way through some excellent abstract submissions for the 2020 PNWS-AWWA Conference. A huge thank you to those who submitted an abstract, we are all looking forward to your presentation! Our dual themes next year will be looking at developing conservation plans or programs and using stormwater as a resource and conservation measure. There are so many ways to use water wisely and it'll be fantastic to hear some ideas that are out of the box.

The group is scheduled to meet on October 17th in Spokane, Washington for our traditional mid-year meeting. We've lined up some excellent local guest speakers –

Frank Burns of Apana and Morgan Shimabuku with Pacific Institute. We will be touring Spokane's first waterworks as well as its newest water feature – the Blue Zoo Aquarium. The Committee Chairs are beyond excited to host the meeting in our hometown and show off all the wonderful hidden gems of the Inland Northwest.

If you are interested in getting more involved in the Conservation Committee, we encourage you to sign up for our newsletter and attend our track at the 2020 PNWS-AWWA Conference. See you there!

Kristen Zimmer, Water Conservation Committee Chair  
[kzimmer@spokanecity.org](mailto:zimmer@spokanecity.org), 509-625-6573 [🔗](#)

### Water Resources Committee

#### 2020 Session Planning

Supported by the general committee meeting in June and officer meetings in August and September, the WRC drafted two technical sessions for the 2020 Section Conference program. One session will focus on dry climate water resource management issues typical of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho communities and the other session will highlight broader water supply/water rights development topics. We also coordinated with the Inland Empire Subsection leadership to develop a pre-conference seminar on groundwater supply management, with talks and a field trip showcasing the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie aquifer, which is the sole source of drinking water for the region.

#### Other Committee Business

The WRC was contacted by the PNW Water Reuse

Committee looking for an opportunity to collaborate. We will be looking to coordinate on initiatives at the Fall Training meeting in Walla Walla and during our monthly meetings, so look for us there.

#### Committee Meetings

Our monthly committee meetings will resume October 17. Please contact one of the officers to get involved and be added to the e-mail distribution list. We are actively looking for new directions to expand the scope of the committee.

#### Summer Social

The WRC will host a happy hour gathering during the 2020 Spokane conference, right after the Thursday afternoon technical session, at a venue walking distance from the convention center. [🔗](#)

### Young Professionals Committee

The Pacific Northwest Young Professionals (YPs) are a dedicated group of young professionals and students who are excited to engage with all that AWWA offers. Check Facebook for the latest events providing powerful leadership skills and technical information to enhance your career, as well as network with professionals and students in the water industry.



#### In the Works!

You might be wondering what us YPs do as we hibernate until our next conference in Spokane?! Currently our committee is working with the 2020 and Membership committees to revamp our structure. Between the three of our committees there is a lot of overlap and to be more efficient and resourceful we are revamping our roles and responsibilities. We are also working to make each of our roles on our YP committee be more clearly defined and easy to pick up with little committee knowledge in hopes this will allow newly incoming YPs to easily be involved. Stay tuned!

#### PNWS YP Events

##### 4th Annual YP Summit

Our fourth annual PNWS-AWWA YP Summit was held on September 27th, 2019 in Yakima, WA in series with our first ever PNWS Leadership Symposium. This year's theme is "Soft Skills"! The full-day event was brought together by our PNWS's YPs day of career-building interactive workshops in communication, leadership, diversity and networking. Check our social medias for pictures.

#### 2020 Spokane Conference

We had a successful second ever full YP track for the 2019 PNWS AWWA Conference in Vancouver, WA. Join us next spring for our third YP track to learn more about leadership, public speaking, time management and many other skills. Of course, don't forget to attend our epic Scavenger Hunt Event! We hope to see you in Spokane.

#### PNWS Student Outreach, Career Fairs and Mentorship

Planning a career fair event or student outreach? Interested in connecting with any other industry professional through the PNWS Mentorship program? See the 2020 Committee website for more details here: <https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/2020-vision-initiative-committee/home>.

#### Participate and Stay Connected!

- **Monthly YP Calls:** Email YP Chair, Erica Rodriguez at [erica.rodriguez@murraysmith.us](mailto:erica.rodriguez@murraysmith.us) to get on the listserv.
- **Follow us on Social Media**
- **Events calendar** on the PNWS website for information on upcoming YP and Student events at [www.pnws-awwa.org](http://www.pnws-awwa.org).
- **Join the YP Committee:** There are lots of ways you can help, event planning, leadership roles, career fairs and beyond! Contact YP Committee Chair Erica Rodriguez for more information [erica.rodriguez@murraysmith.us](mailto:erica.rodriguez@murraysmith.us).



### WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP (WIL)

#### Save the Date! Planning is underway for the 2020 Women in Leadership Symposium 'Forge Your Future'

It will take place Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at The Mountaineers Club at Magnuson Park in Seattle.

#### 7th Annual Women in Leadership Symposium

Our symposium highlights local women leaders across industries, with speakers sharing their professional insight and experiences. Breakout sessions work through technical challenges and provide tools to develop leadership skills, considering career advancement and making a difference in our communities. We encourage women to take an active role in rising to meet the challenges ahead for the benefit of their career, the industry, and our community. [📄](#)



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## Central Washington Subsection



In May, the Central Washington subsection hosted a Chlorine Residual Testing and Lab Skills hands-on training class for water operators. The class's goal was to provide drinking water operators with a better understanding of chlorine measurement techniques and to increase water data accuracy and consistency through hands on training. The class was sponsored by Washington Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water and was taught by Steve Deem and Krista Chavez. The class was held at the Community Center in Richland, Washington and was well attended with a full room of 19 participants, including local water operators and DOH staff, who will teach future workshops. The Central Washington subsection worked with DOH to organize and market the event and provided Starbucks coffee and Spudnut Shop donuts, a popular local breakfast fare which the participants very much enjoyed. DOH intends to continue offering this workshop through AWWA-PNWS subsections. If you are interested in learning more about this training, reach out to your local subsection training coordinator for details.

In August, the Central Washington subsection hosted their annual Golf Tournament fundraiser. This year, the tournament was hosted at Canyon Lakes Golf Course in Kennewick, Washington. The event was sponsored by 12 companies: HLA, RH2, Carollo, Mueller, EZ Street Asphalt, Pump Tech, Kuo Testing Labs, JUB, HD Fowler, GeoEngineers, DN Tanks and Badger Meter. Sixty golfers signed up to participate in the scramble which was followed up by a lunch of prime rib and salmon, an awards ceremony and a prize raffle. The weather was perfect and much fun was had on the greens. The event raised over \$350 for Water For People through a 50/50 raffle as well as funds for the subsection's conference scholarship. Thank you



The goal of the class is to provide a basic understanding of emergency preparedness, and the response of water utilities.

to everyone who participated in this year's event! If you are interested in attending next year, watch your inbox for a survey of event location options!

On October 22nd, the Central Washington subsection will host a free Emergency Preparedness training class in Richland, Washington. The goal of the class is to provide a basic understanding of emergency preparedness, and the response of water utilities in the event of emergencies and disasters. Assessing risks, planning and preparedness will lead to utilities that function better in emergencies, work more efficiently to restore service to customers and are better able to maintain water quality. For details, please visit the Central Washington subsection website.

In November, the Central Washington subsection is planning to host a Day with Department of Health Technical Training. The training is currently being organized. For more information on this upcoming training opportunity, visit the Central Washington subsection website. [🔗](#)



## Inland Empire Subsection

We are fortunate to have an engaged, hardworking board of directors. Their efforts really show with the engagement we are seeing at all of our events and classes.



Inland Empire Subsection has had a busy summer, enjoying the sun and the season! We held our 4th Annual Golf Tournament in July, hosting a large group of golfers on a beautiful, sunny, Friday morning at the Indian Canyon Golf Course in Spokane. As in years past, the event was successful in raising scholarship funds, and a great time was had by all. This event has been selling out, so be sure to sign up early to join us next summer.

We also enjoyed our annual summer picnic in August. The subsection provides the drinks, burgers and hotdogs and members bring a potluck item to share and their families for an evening with friends at a local City park. We work with local vendors and consultants to provide door prizes for the adults and we provide a goodie bag and small toys for the kids. This no charge event is a great way to show appreciation to our members and provide some family fun.

Our No Water No Beer Event is being chaired again by Director, Seth McIntosh from the City of Spokane, and is scheduled for September 20th at a location called the Museum in Spokane. There will be a variety of beers and wine to try. If you are lucky, you can come away with one of the many items we will be auctioning off, both live and silent, to raise funds for water operator scholarships and Water For People.

We are looking forward to a great group of classes this fall and winter. One of the early classes will be on Geographical Information Systems, and another will be a workshop with the Washington Department of Health on Chlorine Residual Testing and Lab Skills for Water Operators.

We are fortunate to have an engaged, hardworking board of directors. Their efforts really show with the engagement we are seeing at all of our events and classes. 📷





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### King County Subsection

The King County Subsection of PNWS-AWWA is actively looking for ways to serve our members. From socials to educational opportunities, we encourage folks to get out there, meet the amazing people who make up this industry and get involved! If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please reach out to Charlie Sovacool at [Charlie.sovacool@consolidatedsupply.com](mailto:Charlie.sovacool@consolidatedsupply.com) or Sally Mohr at [sally.mohr@covingtonwater.com](mailto:sally.mohr@covingtonwater.com).

#### Past Events

##### Basic Water Works Class, July 25, 2019

KC held a Basic Water Works Class at the Bellevue Service Center on July 25, with over 30 participants. The course provided a basic understanding of water systems, sources, treatment, conveyance, and water quality protection. The intended audience was new utility workers, administrative staff and others who are new to the industry and would benefit from an understanding of basic concepts and terminology. Some of the topics discussed included:

- Overview of Water Systems
- Regulations & Contaminates
- Water Sources
- Hydrology & Hydraulics
- Treatment & Disinfection
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Water Quality Protection Practices
- Construction & Maintenance
- Disaster Response



##### Annual King County Charity Golf Tournament, September 13, 2019

The King County PNWS-AWWA Annual Golf tournament was held on Friday, September 13, 2019 at Druid's Glen Golf Course in Covington, WA. With about 100 registered attendees and 15 holes sponsors, the tournament was well attended by both private and public industry professionals. Golfers had beautiful greens, great company and ample time to network and stay up to date about the water industry. Participation in the event provided recognition and visibility for our sponsors, as well as an opportunity to support various philanthropic efforts within the water industry. Thank you to all the attendees, sponsors, volunteers, and subsection officers for making this event a success!

##### Day with Department of Health (DOH) Class, September 18, 2019

Day with DOH Workshop was held on September 18 and included presentations by and discussion with the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water staff on a variety of topics relevant to operating public water supplies. Topic covered included:

- Revised Total Coliform Rule – Three Years Later
- Arsenic Treatment Optimization Program
- Sallal Vandalism Incident
- Disinfection By-Products Review
- Drought Response
- Building Water Systems
- Lead & Copper Update
- Introduction to Surface Water Treatment Publication
- PFAS Update
- Needs Assessment

#### Competitions

##### King County Subsection Hydrant Team Takes Home a Win at National ACE Conference

The Covington Water District's Wet Bandits, made up of Jeff Greer, Steve Butcher and Tyler Howard, placed second at the regional conference in Vancouver, WA in May 2019 along with the first place team from the City of Hillsboro Oregon. Both teams advanced to represent the Pacific Northwest Section of the AWWA at the Annual ACE conference, held in Denver Colorado. The Wet Bandits advanced after day one to the finals where they finished with the best time of 1.32.15 minutes, earning them 3rd place nationally.

Great job representing the King County Subsection and the PNWS!

#### Upcoming Events

To sponsor an event, suggest future educational/networking offerings or to sign up for email notification for any upcoming King County Subsection events, please contact, King County Subsection's Program Director, Jim Konigsfeld at [jim.konigsfeld@spwater.org](mailto:jim.konigsfeld@spwater.org). Check the website, <https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/king-county-subsection/events>, for current and future event offerings.



## King County Subsection (cont'd)

### YP Fall Social (Date TBD)

The KC YP's plan to host a fall social and education tour. Location and time are still TBD, so look out for more information in the next issue!

### Classes

For 2019, the subsection plans on offering classes to help our members meet their CEU requirements. Below are some classes we plan on providing this upcoming year. Please visit <https://sites.google.com/a/pnws-awwa.org/king-county-subsection/events/training> to register. For questions related to classes, please contact Jim Konigsfeld at [jim.konigsfeld@spwater.org](mailto:jim.konigsfeld@spwater.org) or 425-295-3217.

### Water Loss Control Training Workshop (0.6 CEUs), November 7, Issaquah, WA

How much water is your utility losing due to leakage, customer meter error or water theft? This is a technical training workshop on AWWA M36 Water Audits and Loss Control methodology and free software. The Water Loss Control Training Workshop will be lead by a member of AWWA's Water Loss Control Committee, and will provide you with the opportunity to learn the methods and

technologies to economically control water and revenue losses by managing your system's leakage and pressure.

### 2020 Leadership Planning

The KC Board is planning a Fall Retreat to layout the sections goals and priorities for 2020. We are excited to jump into planning for the next year to help elevate King County's community impact and improve our offerings for subsection members. Look out for more updates in our Winter Article.



### Kudos

Several King County subsection members attended the 2019 PNWS Leadership Symposium in Yakima, WA on September 26-27. Our very own Caren Gillion spoke at the symposium for a Budget Process Overview session as part of the Moving into Mid-Level Management. Awesome contribution everyone!

If you'd like to provide membership accomplishments to be highlighted or have any questions, please reach out to Charlie Sovacool at [Charlie.sovacool@consolidatedsupply.com](mailto:Charlie.sovacool@consolidatedsupply.com) or Sally Mohr at [sally.mohr@covingtonwater.com](mailto:sally.mohr@covingtonwater.com).



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## South Sound Subsection

### 2019 Summer Events

South South Subsection 8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament  
 Huge success on our 8th annual charity golf tournament this year! Over 100 golfers got together on July 19th for a day round of golf at the Oakbrook Golf Club in Lakewood, WA. Special thanks to Nate Mozer and his team from KPG and Tim Wells from Spanaway Water Company in making this event a success! Also big thanks for our sponsors who contributed so much to this cause:

- Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
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- BHC Consultants
- RH2
- Madsen Electric
- Kamstrup
- Robinson Noble, Inc.
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- PumpTech NW
- Ferguson Waterworks
- Carollo Engineers

Proceeds from the tournament goes to LASA (Living Access Support Alliance). LASA is a local organization committed to the prevention of homelessness and recurrent homelessness. Services provided by LASA include transitional housing, rental assistance, permanent low-income housing, parenting education, financial education, and utility payment support, to name a few.

Our subsection looks forward to next year's tournament, in fact there is already an initiation to plan out next year's tournament in October of this year.

### Young Professionals Fall Social and Plant Tour

The YP committee will be hosting a fall social and plant tour on October 4. We will be touring the McMillin Reservoir facility, followed by a happy hour social. Come join us for a fun afternoon networking with both young and seasoned water pros!

### 2019 Fall Trainings

We have a couple of training scheduled for the rest of the year. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- October 24: Corrosion Control Class
- November 13: 21st Century Management Tools for Utilities

### Monthly Board Meetings

Join our monthly board meetings happening on every third Wednesday of every month. We welcome those who are passionate in growing together within the water industry.

Michael Lubovich (Subsection President), Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, [michaellubovich@kennedyjenks.com](mailto:michaellubovich@kennedyjenks.com)

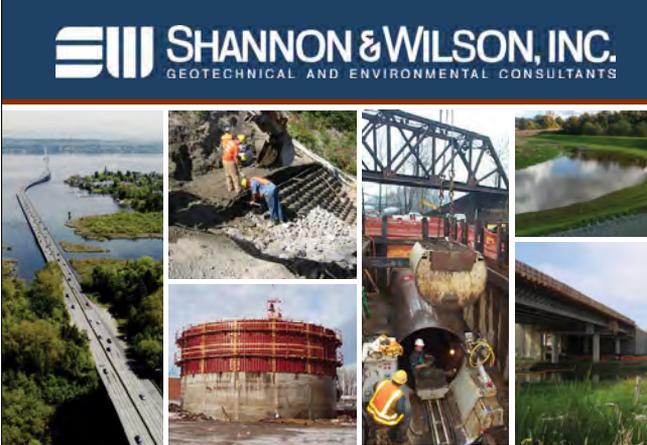


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## Southern Oregon Subsection



Grants Pass won the honor of Best Tasting Water for 2019. Competition was tough but our judges put their taste buds to the challenge.

The 8th annual golf tournament held in Eagle Point in August raised over \$5,300 this year for Water For People. There was a large turnout and the weather was almost perfect. SO Mafia made a solid appearance for support.

Now our focus turns to the 2019 Southern Oregon Water & Wastewater Short School held in September.

Cyndi Weeks, Secretary  
[Cyndi.weeks@centralpointoregon.gov](mailto:Cyndi.weeks@centralpointoregon.gov)

Grants Pass won the honor of Best Tasting Water for 2019. Competition was tough but our judges put their taste buds to the challenge.

## Thank You for Your Commitment

By Brenda Lennox

Imagine it is your first day on the job as utility Customer Service Manager and your agency is experiencing an unexpected freeze event. Customer calls are inundating your call center with frozen water meters and broken pipes. You've had to recruit staff from the construction and operations crew to assist field customer service staff. So far you've received hundreds of calls from customers and storm warnings are being issued for the next 72 hours. How are you going to respond to customer calls around the clock with your regular Customer Service staff without calling in back-up troops? Have you trained your staff to meet the challenge?

If you are in the water profession you undoubtedly have experienced unexpected events at your agency that requires all hands-on deck for a response. This could be in the form of boil water notices, weather events, natural disasters, regulatory requirements and the list goes on. Leadership during the event, customer response, outreach and communication is essential for the credibility of your organization. Today we have a much higher emphasis on a more diverse



Zig Ziglar said, "If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you."

and global customer base. Changing demographics and the need to be prepared to work with peers and customers who come from a global economy may require working with others who are quite a bit different than ourselves.

As I reflect on my water career, opportunities, commitments and experiences the constant was the impact that knowledge contributed to the success. Zig Ziglar said, "If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you." The skill sets you acquire, and master will set you apart as a great leader. It doesn't matter whether you are in the beginning, mid or near end of your career, your attitude to embrace change and approach learning as a lifelong process develop leadership and relationship skills that will serve you not only professionally, but also in your community and at home.

Emphasis on training, training, training to equip yourself, your colleagues, and employees to meet our educated customer base with increasing expectations is essential. Technical aptitude for the position is a given. Often overlooked are the communication and soft skills which are equally important not only for interactions with customers, but co-workers, regulatory and community outreach as well.

Entering the water profession as a customer service representative and ending my professional career as President of American Water Works Association, the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world that supply roughly 80 percent of the nation's drinking water and treat almost half of the nation's wastewater was an amazing journey. Along the way I never stopped learning from the best resources around... our water family. I found, if you engage yourself the result is that you always get back more than you give.

### Do you know who's been to your water sites lately?



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Seasoned professionals – share what you have learned. BUT don't ignore what younger generations can teach us!! You have a wealth of knowledge and skills from years of experience. Allow the years of experience to help guide our future leaders. I believe I fall in the "seasoned professional" category not only from my years of service, also from my varied professional background. Many times, I have learned about new tools and viewpoints shared by Young Professionals. The tools, perspectives and diversity

of thought has contributed to a successful outcome that would not be possible if we don't collaborate.

To share some of the things I have learned along the way. Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone. Challenge yourself to take on new duties, work with new people and explore new surroundings. If you want to be a great leader, get outside your comfort zone.

Develop relationship skills. As a professional, many are focused on developing professional skills. That's great, but equally important is our communication and relationship skills. Authenticity, positivity, and confidence – those are only a few of the soft skills that contribute to your success.

Volunteerism is a great opportunity to learn. This includes professional, community and personal passions. Working with diverse personalities, skill sets, professional backgrounds can present opportunities and resources you may not have known existed.

Building a network of resources is extremely important and will remain relevant the rest of your professional career and after.

Find your passion and be passionate about giving. It never ceases to amaze me the commitment water professionals share about making a difference in our communities. It doesn't matter what your technical training or expertise is, every single one of us and the job we do is mission critical to protect public safety and provide safe water. This includes meter readers, janitors, fleet management to the Chief Executive Officer, Elected Public Officials and everyone in between.

On behalf of AWWA, PNWS and the community, thank you. Thank you for your commitment to serving and protecting public health. This is a noble profession and I am proud to serve with you as a water professional. Most of all a PNWS colleague. Enjoy the holidays with your family and I look forward to seeing you in 2020! 🇺🇸

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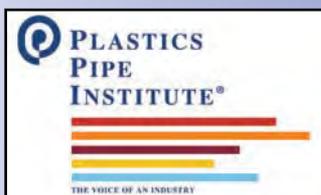


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# 2020 CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

**T**he Pacific Northwest Section Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for 2020. You will vote for one of the two candidates for Chair, as well as one of the candidates in each of the three Trustee categories: Oregon/Idaho, Washington and Trustee At Large. Each of the three trustee positions is for a two-year term. The Chair will serve one year as Chair-Elect, one year as Chair, and one year as Past Chair.

The successful candidates will take their place on the Pacific Northwest Section (PNWS) of the AWWA Board of Trustees in May 2020. They will vote on many issues that AWWA will face over the coming years. Please take the time to cast your vote for the candidates that you feel are most qualified to represent you on the PNWS/ AWWA Board of Directors.

## **Chair Elect**

**John Roth - Clark Public Utilities**  
**Dan Sleeth - Covington Water District**

## **Oregon/Idaho Trustee**

**Rob Barrett - Suez Idaho**  
**Jill Hoyenga - City of The Dalles**  
**Karen Kelley - Eugene Water and Electric Board**

## **Washington Trustee**

**Cheryl Capron - Retired from Seattle Public Utilities**  
**Mike Pleasants - City of Port Orchard**  
**Loren Searl - City of Spokane**

## **Trustee At-Large**

**Nick Belmont - DN Tanks**  
**Michael Lubovich - Kennedy Jenks**  
**Doug Schlepp - RH2 Engineering**



# CHAIR ELECT



## JOHN ROTH

*Clark Public Utilities,  
Water Quality and Production Manager*

I am honored to run for Chair of our Section. My name is John Roth and I am the Water Quality and Production Manager for Clark Public Utilities. I am passionate about the members and community of our Section, there is something for everyone and I enjoy communicating the value of being a member of our organization. We are a diverse group comprised of new and seasoned professionals from a variety of backgrounds, jobs, communities, and stages of our life however, we all have the water industry and this organization in common. Through the efforts of our membership and leadership we are purposely positioned to be the best resource for the water industry in the Pacific Northwest. It is important to me that the PNWS-AWWA remain a sustainable and trusted organization that continues to provide the opportunities that so many of us and our organizations enjoy and have benefited from. We must continue to reach out to all of our members, employers and future members to communicate the value of membership. I want to give back to the Section for the years of support that I have received from this organization and its members.



## DANIEL SLEETH

*Operations Manager,  
Covington Water District*

I am honored with the opportunity to run for PNWS-AWWA Chair and feel truly blessed to have received nomination. Over the past 20+ years volunteering for PNWS-AWWA I have been exposed to some of the most extraordinary people who share the same passion that I do for providing safe, reliable drinking water to our communities. During that time I found myself developing a true passion towards Leadership, Succession Planning and Workplace Culture. Part of that passion helped motivate the first annual PNWS-AWWA Leadership Symposium, this accomplishment is inspiring to me and something I am proud to say was accomplished during my tenure on the Board of Trustees.

### AWWA Background

- Washington Trustee
- Distribution Committee Chair
- Small Systems Chair
- Utility Management Chair
- Sub-Section Advisory Council Secretary
- King County Sub Section 2-year Director
- PNWS Competitions Coordinator
- Tapping Team Competitor
- Top Ops Competitor
- Meter Madness Competitor
- Hydrant Hysteria Coach

### Personal Life

In addition to my volunteer work I have 3 lovely children, Mason 16, Madison 12 and Morgan 10. My family and I enjoy Seahawks and Husky Football, Mariner Baseball, camping and visiting family in the Tri-Cities. My passion for golf is secondary to my family but a very strong passion nonetheless. You will find me at nearly all of the subsection golf tournaments throughout the year spending time with my colleagues and supporting the PNWS-AWWA philanthropic efforts. Wheels for Water, Wine for Water are also events that I enjoy supporting.

My background is as a Waterworks Operator with 18 years of experience. I am licensed in the State of Washington as a level 4 Water Distribution Manager, level 3 Water Treatment Plant Operator, Cross Connection Control Specialist and I am also a level 3 Professional Operator in Water Distribution. I volunteer with the Clark County Public Health Advisory Board serving as the representative of 'Public Water Systems.' I serve as 'AWWA member' on the Washington State Department of Health Waterworks Operator Certification Advisory Board and I am a member of Cape Horn Post 122 of the American Legion.

In our off time you will find Rosie and I cheering on our local youth at sporting events, camping and vacationing in various locations in the PNW. We love the holidays and spending time with our friends, family and with our dogs.

### Professional Life

After 25 years as a Water Professional I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and am currently the Operations Manager at Covington Water District.

### Section Vision

Having been elected to the Board of Trustees with a strong message of education and succession planning I am proud to say our Section is moving in a great direction. The addition of the Leadership Symposium, the changes made to the Spring Conference as well as our Committee and Subsection trainings are all positive improvements that the current Board of Trustees have made. Our Spring Conference will now provide more CEU opportunities that ever before and will also offer Conference attendees the opportunity to witness Section Award winners during a luncheon rather than at the conclusion of the Conference Dinner. These were tough decisions that I and your Board of Trustees made, but they reflect the ever changing landscape of our Section. Committee and Subsection Training will now be held simultaneously to improve communication, collaboration, training opportunities as well as a reduction to the overall bottom line. Again, these were tough decisions that had to be made for the long term benefit to our Section.

These topics are important to me as your Trustee and I will remain committed to supporting them as we move into 2020 and beyond. We need to continue to look for ways to maximize our trainings, providing value to our membership, and looking towards our future. Water is a precious commodity and so are the people responsible for providing it.

Having been a part of these exciting changes is a source of great pride and makes me a well-rounded choice to be your Section Chair and I humbly thank you for this opportunity.

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# OREGON/IDAHO TRUSTEE



## ROB BARRETT

*Suez Water Idaho, Project Manager*

My name is Rob Barrett and I have been employed with Suez Water Idaho for thirty-four years and have also been a member of the PNWS-AWWA for over twenty-eight years. During my tenure with Suez, I have worked in a cross section of departments that has given me a wealth of knowledge that will benefit my duties as a trustee for the PNWS-AWWA. I began my career at Suez in the T&D (Transportation and Distribution) group working on main line and service installation and repair. After three years in that department, I had the opportunity to move into a newly created department, Automated Systems. This group focused on computer and electronic tasks such as digital mapping, telemetry, SCADA, and PLCs. I specialized in the area of telemetry, SCADA and PLC programming, working closely with the Production department. Today, I am in the Engineering group as a project manager overseeing capital investment projects. Throughout my career working for Suez, a world-wide organization, I have been able to participate in many national and worldwide projects.



## JILL HOYENGA

*City of The Dalles,  
Regulatory Compliance Manager*

It is an honor to be invited to be nominated for Trustee of the Pacific Northwest Section AWWA. My participation in PNWS-AWWA has been a substantial contributor to my professional success. I feel like I am no longer in the building phase of my career and entering the mentorship phase. I am saying "yes" to opportunities that allow me to serve in that capacity. The invitation to serve as Trustee is such an opportunity.

### PNWS-AWWA Leadership Experience

- Water Conservation Committee Leadership Team 1999 – 2003
- Water Conservation Technician Sub-committee 2005 – 2010
- Local Arrangements Chair for Eugene 2013 Conference
- Public Information Leadership Team 2016 to the present as past chair

### Related Industry Experience

- Irrigation Association Smart Water Application Technology 2002 – 2010: served as Initial Chair



## KAREN KELLEY

*Eugene Water & Electric Board,  
Water Operations Manager*

I am honored to have been nominated as a candidate for the Oregon/Idaho Trustee position with the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association. AWWA has been a big part of the successes I have experienced in my 24+ year career in the drinking water industry. It has provided me with continuing education, skill building, and most importantly networking opportunities. The fact that AWWA is built upon sharing knowledge and helping others is what drives me to want to give back and contribute to ensure the same benefits continue for the younger generations coming into our industry.

### Background

I am a graduate of Oregon State University with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Health & Safety – Go BEAVS!!! The first couple years of my career were spent at Linn County Environmental Health where I learned about the many ways our environment can affect public health while I earned my registration as an Environmental Health Specialist. I knew at that time that my favorite environmental health topic was water/wastewater. I then moved to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), first in the Lead-Based Paint Program followed by the Drinking Water Program. In all, I have 19 years-experience as a regulator, seven years in regulatory management, and am proud to say I've been able to help more than 1000 Oregon public

I have participated in many capacities at the PNWS-AWWA sub-section and section levels. I have organized and taught basic operator training classes, overseen the registration process for the section conferences held in Boise. At the section level, I have presented many SCADA, telemetry, and IT related topics at conferences and quarterly meetings. In addition, I was instrumental in the creation of the yearly conference's Water Information Technology track, which has grown from a half-day session to a full day plus preconference track. During my involvement with PNWS-AWWA, participated in a Top Ops competition served as vice-chair and, chair of the Water Information Technology Committee.

If I am your choice for trustee, I would like to focus on:

- Increase training opportunities through use of online media. With all the available technology we could provide training or informational sessions using podcasts. This would allow

- Alliance for Water Efficiency WaterSense and Water Efficient Products Committee 2007 – 2016: served as a member, then as co-chair
  - International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials Green Code Supplement 2009 – 2014: served as a member, then as Irrigation Task Group Chair
  - American Water Works Association Standards Committee 2013 – 2016: served as a member
  - PNWS – AWWA Water Resources Committee 2014 – 2016: served as a member
  - Lane Community College Water Conservation Technician Degree Program Advisory Committee, served as initial member and still presently serving
  - Lane Community College Adjunct Professor for Water Conservation Technician Degree Program 2017 to the present
- After 27 years of service at Eugene Water & Electric Board I moved to the City of The Dalles, OR to be closer to my son's growing family.

water systems with Safe Drinking Water Act compliance. While I found this work very fulfilling, I also wanted to experience utility life, so I left OHA for a job as Water Superintendent at the City of Albany. What's that phrase... out of the frying pan and into the fire? After five years with Albany, I was approached by a colleague from the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), which I had met through AWWA, who asked me to apply for the Water Operations Manager position. I have been with EWEB now since June 2019.

### Industry Involvement

- American Water Works Association 2005 – present
- Oregon Water Utilities Council 2014 – present, Officer 2016 – present
- Cascade-To-Coast Subsection 2005 – present, Officer 2008 – 2011
- Cascade-To-Coast Subsection Short School Committee 2005 – 2014
- Regulatory Agencies Workgroup member 2009 – 2014
- American Public Works Association 2014 – present
- Oregon Environmental Health Association 2002 – 2014

### Vision for the Section

Way back when I was a young professional, some of the seasoned professionals in my area pulled me into the Section and helped

PNWS-AWWA members to present and or view a variety of topics from their PC, tablet, or smart phone.

- Collaboration of ideas and submittal of questions through an online group bulletin board. This would provide a means to ask or look at previously posted basic water industry related questions and answers.
- Succession planning for the next generation of operators, engineers, and water professionals. As more and more water professionals retire we need to work with high schools and community colleges to develop OIT and other water and wastewater certification classes. Actively promote employment opportunities in the water industry by way of increased visibility at career fairs and showing the rewards of a profession that provides a critical service to the public.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the PNWS-AWWA members for the opportunity to possibly serve as a trustee and for the years of building professional relationships which has advanced my knowledge of the water industry.

I currently serve as Regulatory Compliance Manager, responsible for ensuring that the City is in compliance with water, wastewater, stormwater and transportation regulations. I also serve as the Public Works Department Public Information Officer. I am thankful for the City's support for my continued involvement in the Section.

My goal in service as your Trustee will be to maintain the health of PNWS so that this valuable resource is available to the next generation of professionals. To this end I would like to sustain recent initiatives rather than start up a new effort (e.g. 2020 Vision Initiative).

I believe that a great strength of PNWS-AWWA is that committee work supports the diverse skill sets needed to manage and operate water utilities. I believe that fostering cooperative efforts between committees can create synergy that can drive innovation within our organization and utilities. If elected as your Trustee I hope to continue to foster a climate of success based on the diverse resources and potential synergy of our dedicated committee members.

me feel included. This small act has made a lasting impression on me. Given that I wouldn't be where I am today without the experiences I've had in AWWA, my interests lie in helping continue and perhaps advancing our inclusivity as a Section. Combining my background and industry experience, I believe I can bring a unique and well-rounded perspective to the Section. I would like to utilize this perspective within the board of trustees and assigned committees to help advance Association and Section goals, particularly in the 2020 vision and the next iteration.

### Personal Note

My husband Brad and I have been married for 19 years. We have a daughter Taylor (17), a son Porter (14) and a rescue dog Denali (1). When we aren't watching the kids in water polo, swimming, football, basketball and baseball (which is almost never at this stage), we love skiing, boating, camping, traveling and relaxing at Black Butte Ranch.

In closing, I would like to thank the folks in the Subsection, Short School Committee and OWUC who've done so much to help me along the way. I love knowing that there is a team of experts in AWWA that are always willing to help and advise me no matter the issue. I am grateful to be considered for this position.



## **CHERYL CAPRON**

*Seattle Public Utilities, Retired*

It is a privilege to have been nominated as a trustee of the PNWS. Since the day 35 years ago when I was plucked from the receptionist ranks to begin working as a clerk for a utility superintendent, I have always regarded working in the water industry as a public service. From long-time association with other members of the PNWS, I believe we all share the same public service ethic. My association with the PNWS has allowed me to expand the depth and breadth of my knowledge, from sources beyond my limited experience with one utility and location, and to help others learn from my personal knowledge and experience (much as that same utility superintendent taught me enough to move me from a clerk's job to an operator's job in less than three years). Becoming a trustee will allow me to give back to the community by further expanding the scope of my contribution to AWWA, and indirectly to the public at large.

I was a water system operator at Seattle Public Utilities for 31 years, with duties ranging from running (and later, supervising) the transmission and distribution system operations in the control



## **MICHAEL W. PLEASANTS, P.E.**

*City of Port Orchard, Assistant City Engineer*

It is a great honor to be nominated for the position of Washington Trustee for the PNWS-AWWA. I have been a member of AWWA for over ten years and a South Sound Subsection board member for the last six. I am proud of the development of our Subsection in these last ten years. It has been a pleasure to work with and learn from past and current Section board members. It would be a remarkable opportunity to follow in the footsteps of these great leaders.

As a high school senior, I was given the chance to intern for RH2 Engineering, Inc. After graduating in 1999 from the University of Washington I continued to work for RH2 as staff engineer, construction administrator, project manager, regional manager and other roles. This presented many opportunities to work with agencies across the State both as clients and peers



## **LOREN SEARL**

*City of Spokane Water Department, Superintendent*

It is an honor to be considered for a Trustee position. The opportunities I have had to meet the members of PNWS and see the quality of people involved has been inspiring. I look forward to being able to serve these members.

I began my career with the City of Spokane in 1995 as a laborer and have work my way up through almost every aspect of the department and have gained a lot of experience as well as a lot of friends across the region. I began to participate in AWWA almost immediately when the department wanted to start a Tapping Team. This introduction has led to many years of volunteering with some great people. This experience and the knowledge I have gained from AWWA has contributed to my successful career. I have served on the Inland Empire Subsection board for eight years, I am the current Past President and received the SAC Activity award this year. For the section I have served as the

center, to managing storage water quality protection programs, assisting in the creation of several IT applications related to O&M of the water system and water system data, providing technical assistance to project designers, analyzing distribution system operations, and planning major system shutdowns and start-ups.

### **AWWA Involvement**

I have been a member of AWWA for 25 years, and involved in the PNWS since 2005, when I joined the Distribution Committee and became an officer in the King County subsection. I served as a KCAWWA officer for 8 years, including a term as president. In 2013, I joined the Conference Program Committee as the Bellevue conference Vice-Chair, and have served as chair of that committee since 2016. During the last 14 years, I have worked collaboratively with hundreds of people to develop and produce successful educational workshops and conference programs. Since 2014, I have also volunteered in the area of operator

certification with the Association of Boards of Certification, and currently chair the committee overseeing the development of the (dreaded) ABC water distribution operator exams. Since retiring in 2018, I have continued my volunteer work with both of these associations.

### **Vision**

As an incoming trustee, I am hesitant to call for specific initiatives before I have an opportunity to observe and learn. But I am an operator forever, and I suspect I will be looking for ways to make AWWA more relevant to operators, particularly to operators in smaller systems and in remote areas.

### **Personal**

My husband Bill and I have been married for 34 years. We have two grown daughters and three grand-dogs. I enjoy golf, and spending time out on the Washington coast.

in several associations. In addition to my positions with PNWS-AWWA, I was on the board of directors for the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts from 2011 to 2015.

In the spring of 2017, I left RH2 after 23 years to take on my current role with the City of Port Orchard. As the Assistant City Engineer I am involved in all aspects of public works. My involvement includes leading the public works review of all private development and management of capital improvement project construction. Our City is currently experiencing one of the largest residential growths in the State. As such, we are in the process of designing or constructing several water and wastewater facilities. It's an exhilarating time for the City.

This has been a great transition for me and my family. I work close to home and am having an impact on my community.

My wife Leslie and I moved to Port Orchard in 2005. Since then, our family has become fully immersed in the community. We have a 13-year old daughter and an 11 year old son. We were involved in peewee football for five years. Our evenings have been spent on the fields for soccer, cheer, football, baseball, golf and on the basketball court. We spent this last winter traveling the State for my son's basketball tournaments.

Throughout the 25 plus years in my career, I have been passionate about public works with water projects consuming a good portion of my time. I look forward to continuing to support the water industry as part of AWWA. If elected to take the next step, I would feel truly privileged and be fully dedicated to helping with the ongoing improvements being made in the PNWS-AWWA.

chair for the Training Coordination Committee, Vic chair of the Subsection Advisory Council, tapping competition coordinator, and participated in conference coordination, and training events. As a veteran myself, I believe in the quality of our military members and what they can contribute to our industry. With this belief and the desire to continue to contribute I am also involved with the AWWA Veterans Liaison Network.

AWWA is important to me as a source of education for our members and has done an excellent job providing that training across the section, this has not only been great training but it is where we reach many of the local operators that have not been exposed to the organization. The section has also provided a community of professionals that have been mentors for me and given me insight on ways to improve myself and the system I

work for. The mentorship program and Leadership symposium are great examples of this being used as we all try to replace our aging workforce with skilled workers. I am extremely proud to be a member of the PNWS section and the work that is done every day by its members and I am always eager to give back to this community.

My wife Sheri and I have three kids, our oldest son who is now becoming active in AWWA as well is 26, another son who is 24, and our daughter who is 10. We love to spend time outdoors and can spend most of the summer camping and riding in the hills and the fall is spent hunting. I also enjoy building and fixing things and am often out helping someone with one of their projects. I was introduced to the best thing in life last year though with our two grandsons and enjoy spending time with them.



# TRUSTEE AT-LARGE



## NICK BELMONT

*DN Tanks, Pacific Northwest Regional Manager*

First off, I would like to truly say what an honor it has been to be considered for the Trustee at Large position. The members of the Pacific Northwest Section are some of the most inspirational and passionate people I have had the pleasure of knowing. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to work with so many of you as colleagues, but more importantly as friends.

It is hard to believe, but I have now been in the water industry 10 years! I started my journey with DN Tanks and currently still am. Throughout my career at DN Tanks, I have held the positions of Project Engineer, Regional Estimator and currently Regional Manager of the Pacific Northwest. My experiences with DN Tanks have moved me all across the country. Including Massachusetts, New York, Texas, Colorado, California, Oregon, and Washington... just to name a few.



## MICHAEL LUBOVICH

*Kennedy Jenks*

It is an honor to be considered to serve on the Board of Trustees. Being a member of this organization and having privilege to serve in a number of different capacities has been a significant catalyst to both my personal and professional growth. It was the energy of the Young Professionals that pulled me into this organization, but it has been both the people and the opportunity to positively contribute to the community that keeps me involved and engaged. I started my career over 11 years ago not knowing what was here for me in this industry, and now I can't imagine a future without it. The magic is in the people and the passion they have for the work they do every day to protect public health and improve the communities in which they work.

My involvement with the Pacific Northwest Section began when I was first invited to the South Sound Subsection monthly



## DOUGLAS SCHLEPP, PE

*RH2 Engineering, Principal*

I am truly honored to be selected as a PNWS AWWA Trustee candidate and look forward to the opportunity to further serve the Section.

### Family

My wife, Susan, and I have been 'living the miracle' for more than 20 years. She is an artist who has donated many works to various charities as well as to Section and Subsection events, benefitting Water For People. We have been blessed with two daughters, Geneva (20) and Mya (14). At a Water For Life event, Geneva was inspired to lead a 'Running for Clean Water' campaign, which raised over six thousand dollars to benefit Water For People. The exposure and involvement helped to affirm her desire to study Environmental Engineering at Washington State University. Mya, like her sister, loves math and science, but her eyes are on the University of Washington – our home will be divided for the foreseeable future!

### Education and Vocation

I am civil engineer, a generation removed from eastern Montana dry land wheat farmers, having graduated from Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Washington with BS degrees in both Engineering

When I am not working, you will often find my wife Maureen, our new baby girl Natalie and our faithful companion Bailey and I at the Oregon coast or on a hike. I am an avid golfer, skier, fisherman, and hunter and now father! Our baby Natalie was born this August, and it has truly changed my life.

I began my involvement in the Pacific Northwest Section as a Young Professional. Over the last 10 years, I have always done whatever I can to stay involved within the Section, helping with events, committees and whatever is needed. Most recently, I have been serving as Chair of the Philanthropic Advisory Committee and am a past Board Member on the E&T Board. Through these experiences, I have gained a unique perspective as to how to help better serve, grow and educate our community. I have also been

able to gain invaluable knowledge from my interactions with our Trustee Liaisons over the years, as well as other Board members.

As an E&T Board Member, I was able to gain experience and understanding of the importance of growing our industry's future leaders in both Operations and Engineering. As the Chair of the Philanthropic Advisory Committee, I have been able to help use that knowledge to help the Section's Philanthropic leaders and events thrive to better both our community, as well abroad. As a Trustee, I hope to use my past experience to help bring forth new ideas to our Board, as well as provide the support the past initiatives we need to succeed in order to continue to grow this great community of leaders in our Section and in doing so, the water industry.

meeting over four years ago. I was shortly, thereafter, nominated to serve as a Young Professional Designee for the subsection. My first major contribution to the Subsection was organizing a Construction Management workshop which was well attended and was a lot of fun. Since then, I have continued organizing new annual trainings for the Subsection. As important players in our subsection moved into retirement, I was asked to take on more responsibility in the subsection jumping to Secretary and now President. I'm currently in my second year serving as President of the South Sound Subsection and am excited about the future of the subsection and the new member we have participating in our board meetings.

Outside of the subsection, I continue to stay involved with the Young Professionals Committee and organized and let

the 3rd annual Young Profession Summit in 2017. I also contributed to the planning for the first annual 2019 Leadership Symposium and led a team of awesome and energetic young professionals to put on the 5th annual Young Professional Summit that was held in conjunction with the Leadership Symposium.

Through all of these experiences, I have learned a lot about myself and the interests and talents I possess. I am constantly looking for new ways I can contribute to the PNWS in ways that align with these interests and talents. I believe serving on the Board of Trustees and having the opportunity to provide leadership and guidance to the Section enables me to continue contributing in a meaningful way, where I can bring the most value to the organization.

Science and Civil Engineering. For the last 30 years with RH2 Engineering, I have been privileged to help build and sustain communities, and in the process have developed lasting relationships throughout the Pacific Northwest.

### **Vision and Passion**

Years into my career, my father, who had left the farm as a young man to pursue a career in accounting, confided in me that he had always wanted to be an engineer and was proud that I had become one. He cared deeply for people and knew the value of water; a precious resource that was not to be taken for granted – he instilled those qualities in me. I have dedicated my career to help build and preserve the vital infrastructure necessary for communities to grow and thrive.

### **AWWA Service**

Back in 2006, Dave Stanley and Tom Keown invited me to join the resurgent Distribution Committee, since then, I served within the Section and my local Subsection as an officer.

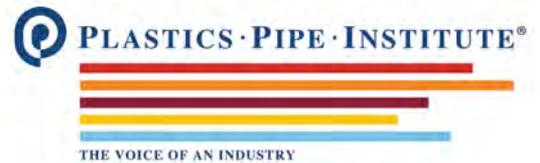
During this time, it has been my goal to engage with Section

members through local subsection events, classes, Section conferences and the AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition. This fall, I have been given the opportunity to participate in the inaugural Leadership Symposium, which I truly look forward to. Through my involvement on the Distribution Committee, King County Subsection, and Subsection Advisory Council, I have been able to sustain and improve upon the many facets of the AWWA. I have enjoyed sharing my expertise, in the process I have learned a great deal and made lasting friendships.

### **Gratitude**

I want to thank Dave and Tom for initiating my PNWS AWWA involvement, Dan Kegley for the recent Heart and Soul award in recognition of outstanding service and exceptional devotion to the Section, RH2 Engineering for the support and encouragement, and the nominating committee who recognized my potential as a trustee candidate. If elected, I would serve with continued enthusiasm and energy, bringing the experience I have developed over three decades as a professional engineer and PNWS volunteer, to realize the aspirations of the Section.

NEWS RELEASE



# Alaska City's Toxic Drinking Water Supply Solved

## Miles of New Pipe Brings Fresh Water and Stands Up to Arctic Freeze



Nearly 35 miles of HDPE pipe was used to construct the new potable water pipeline for North Pole, Alaska.

NORTH POLE, Alaska – August 27, 2019 – Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation discovery of Sulfolane and PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl & Polyfluoroalkyls) in the local drinking water wells of North Pole, Alaska led to two new wells being dug outside of the two by three-mile underground water plume. To deliver the fresh water to the nearly 2,200 inhabitants of the city 14 miles southeast of Fairbanks, a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) potable water pipeline was installed. The 181,000 feet of PE 4710 IPS DR 11 HDPE pipe with a pressure rating of 200 psi in various diameters from Pipeline Plastics, LLC (Westlake, TX) is providing a leak-free, seismic-resistant supply line. The project included both open cut as well as boring to install the

six, eight, ten, 12- and 16-inch diameter pipe. To ensure uninterrupted water service even during Alaska's harsh winters, the HDPE pipe was pre-insulated with polyurethane foam.

In all, the \$52.1 million project will consist of 35 miles of pipe, expansion of the North Pole water treatment plant and a 750,000-gallon potable water reservoir. Service connections at nearly 700 homes and businesses will be added once the system becomes operational. Two of the four zones had been completed by June 2019 and all work is expected to be done during 2020. The effort won the Project of the Year Award for the Plastics Pipe Institute Inc.'s (PPI) Municipal and Industrial Division. PPI is the major North American trade association

representing all segments of the plastics pipe industry. The North Pole project team also included, Wolseley Industrial Group/Ferguson (Distributor), Stantec (Design Engineer), Arctic Insulation (Fittings, Accessories) and Exclusive Paving of Fairbanks (Contractor).

Matt Theilken, national sales manager of Thermacor Process, Inc. (Ft. Worth, TX), the pre-insulator of the HDPE pipe, stated "The North Pole water distribution project went through a few iterations prior to the formal tender. We looked at a range of carrier pipe materials, but in the end, HDPE made the most sense for the project. When looking at the life expectancy of a system, HDPE provides the best value and the longevity one would expect from such a large capital expenditure.

“The goal of the project was to build and install the pipeline from Fairbanks to North Pole and have three inches of insulation and jacketing around it. This would protect the pipe and keep the water from freezing as it’s transferred from Fairbanks.

“HDPE pipe is the way to go for most municipal water systems,” he continued. “We use a lot of it because of its corrosion resistance and the fact that it will last a lifetime. Then of course we add the insulation and freeze protection. We use a high-density polyethylene jacket, manufactured from the same PE 4710 resin that the pressure pipe is made from.

“The pipe is preheated prior to the spray application of the polyurethane foam. It’s a reaction process, which makes the bonding of the foam to the pipe and jacket permanent. We use a side-head extruder to put the jacket directly on to the foam.

“At our factory, we leave about a 10- to 12-inch cutback at each end of the stick of pipe,” Theilken explained. “At the site, the crew will put one of the fusion machine’s clamps at one end of the pipe and one around the Thermacor jacket. The insulation and jacket have a compressive strength of 40-50 psi, so the clamp can be put around the jacket without damaging the insulation. Then, the joint closure kit is used to seal up the joint.

“Even though the pipe will be buried, temperatures could be as low as -30F. Even when temperatures change, any thermal expansion/contraction is restrained by the burial, as the jacket is bonded to the foam and the foam is bonded to the pipe.

“The integrity of the fused joint is critical in a situation where groundwater contamination is present and has shaken the confidence of the city’s inhabitants,” explained Camille George Rubeiz, P.E., F. ASCE, senior director of engineering, Municipal and Industrial Division for PPI. “The harshness of the weather with temperatures way below zero required a material that could



*At the Thermacor plant, polyurethane foam is spray applied to a preheated HDPE pipe, which insures a bond between the pipe and the insulation. The insulation is then protected by a PE 4710 high-density polyethylene jacketing. The jacket is corona treated and extruded directly onto the insulation, which eliminates any concern for voids in the system.*

provide a long service life even in this rugged Alaskan environment. The pipe is PE 4710, which is the highest performance classification of HDPE piping material for water applications. It is tough, durable and flexible, plus it meets AWWA C906 and ASTM F714 standards. PE 4710 HDPE pipes provide zero-leakage, conserving water and preventing infiltration of contaminated water as was found at the North Pole.”

The strong heat-fused joint between the 50-foot lengths of pipe plus the flexibility of the PE 4710 pipe helps to protect the entire pipeline from natural disasters, seismic activity and even earthquakes with enough magnitude to register on the Richter scale. On May 29, 2019, a 2.6 magnitude earthquake hit the area, some 60 miles from North Pole, Alaska. During the past 365 days, the area has had 232 earthquakes registering 1.5 magnitude or greater. “With nearly 34 miles of pipe being installed, it was imperative that each and every foot be able to withstand any seismic shift here at the North Pole,” Rubeiz stated.

“The City of North Pole, Alaska is in a sparsely populated, rugged environment with severe temperature swings, and unfortunately, contaminated water,” offered Tony Radoszewski,



*Plastics Pipe Institute President, Tony Radoszewski, CAE, presents the PPI Municipal and Industrial Division Project of the Year Award for the North Pole water pipeline to Mary Houston of Pipeline Plastics.*

CAE, president of PPI. “When both groundwater and the local lake test positive for action level contaminants, the community is in trouble. But the new HDPE pipeline system will provide complete isolation from the contaminants at the North Pole, insulate the water from the temperature and environment, be able to survive the annual freeze and thaw cycle of the ground, and even provide uninterrupted service after occasional seismic activity that is frequent in the area.”

For additional information, go to the Plastics Pipe Institute’s website at: [https://plasticpipe.org/municipal\\_pipe/](https://plasticpipe.org/municipal_pipe/)

#### **About PPI:**

The Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI) is the major North American trade association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry and is dedicated to promoting plastic as the materials of choice for pipe and conduit applications. PPI is the premier technical, engineering and industry knowledge resource publishing data for use in the development and design of plastic pipe and conduit systems. Additionally, PPI collaborates with industry organizations that set standards for manufacturing practices and installation methods. 

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