



American Water Works Association  
**Pacific Northwest** Section

FALL 2022

# WATER *matters*

The Official Magazine of the  
Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA



## 2023 Candidates for OFFICERS

- ▶ Oregon Water Utilities Council
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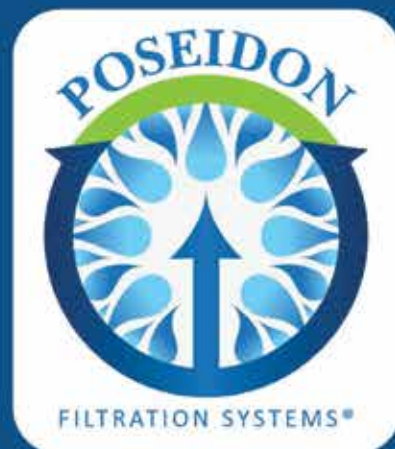
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## Highlights from Summer

I'm not sure where this summer went, but here we are in October. Happy fall y'all! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and for those of you that have kiddos, I hope back to school was a success. Fall is probably my favorite season. Fall means cooler and less crowded days on mountain bike trails and the start of college football. War Eagle! May the best team win, and hopefully, it's not Alabama.

It's been a busy summer for your Board members and me. It feels like Association and Section activities are finally getting back to normal. I'll use this message to share some brief highlights from this summer.

### ACE 2022

In June, Dan Sleeth, James Dean, Kyle Kihs, and I attended ACE in San Antonio, TX. This was my first ever ACE, and I was overwhelmed by the size of the conference and impressed with the quality of the technical sessions. The competitions were especially entertaining, and I was truly bummed that our Section wasn't represented in the competitions. The good news is that we're planning competitions at the 2023 Section Conference and plan to send the Section-winning teams to ACE in 2023. Get your teams together and start practicing!

Two of our members were presented with awards on the national stage. Corianne Barnett received the John Lechner Award of Excellence and was awarded by our very own Kristin Kihs at the Water Industry Luncheon. Melinda Friedman received the A.P. Black Research Award. It was so awesome to see our members recognized at the national level!

### Summer Workshop

In late July, Tonya Reiss and I attended AWWA's summer workshop in Denver, CO. Summer Workshop is a 1.5-day training for Section leadership focused on training and development for AWWA volunteers in leadership roles. At the summer workshop and our Board planning meeting in mid-August, we talked about our own AWWA story and how we might use it to excite and motivate fellow water industry professionals to join AWWA or volunteer their time to support all the important work we do as water industry professionals. I encourage you to reflect on your own AWWA story and the impact it has had on your career and personal development and find opportunities to share your story with a non-member. I know we all have a unique story to tell.



### Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO)

In late August, Tonya Reiss, Jamie Porter, Kyle Kihs, and I attended the Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO) in Oakland, CA. This year's RMSO was sponsored by the California-Nevada Section of AWWA and included attendees from the California-Nevada, Arizona, Intermountain, Rocky Mountain, Hawaii, Texas, British Columbia, and Western Canada Sections. It was great to meet volunteer and staff leadership from other Sections and hear about some of the challenges and successes of each Section. At RMSO, Sections had the opportunity to share highlights from the past year. Jamie Porter shared our Section highlights which included a return to an in-person conference, recognition and celebration of our national award winners, our first diversity and inclusion track at the 2022 Section Conference, and our first annual D&I award, which was given to Nicki Pozos.

### Fall Training and Trustee Meeting

After two years of virtual training and trustee meetings, the Fall Subsection and Committee Officer Training and Trustee Meeting was held in person in Sunriver, OR. Thank you to all that attended. It was great to see all of you in person, and hopefully, you're re-energized to support the Section over the next year. The Fall Trustee Meeting was held on Friday, September 30. The main event of the Trustee Meeting was the 2023 Budget approval. The approved budget sets the Section up for success after a few challenging years. Thank you to our Trustees, committee, and Subsection officers for supporting the budget development process.

It's time for our annual election of Section officers. This issue includes bios on our great slate of candidates. I encourage you to review the bios and participate in our Section elections.

### Diversity and Inclusion (D&I)

At the summer Board planning meeting, the Board approved a change to the Section's Mission to put more emphasis on diversity and inclusivity and to align with the Association's 2025 Strategic Plan, which added emphasis to diversity and inclusion. The Section's Mission was changed from "**Foster a network of professionals** to provide opportunities and leadership to the water industry in the Pacific Northwest" to "**Advance a diverse and inclusive network of professionals** to provide opportunities and leadership to the water industry in the Pacific Northwest."

The 2022 D&I Survey closed on September 2, 2022, and had over 100 respondents this year. This is definitely an improvement over last year. Thank you to everyone that responded to the survey! Survey results will be posted on the Membership Engagement and Development Committee's (MEDC) web page. They will be used to understand the demographics of our membership better and identify areas where we can better promote an inclusive environment for our members. One of the raffle prizes for survey respondents was a homemade pasta dinner with me at my home. Congrats to the winner – I look forward to cooking for you soon!

One of my initiatives for this year is to provide more inclusive networking and fundraising activities. During the Board planning meeting, the Board brainstormed ideas for alternative networking activities and developed a gigantic list of ideas, including but not limited to bowling, bingo, all kinds of tournaments (poker, cornhole, video game, and more), and putt putt. The September newsletter also included a brief survey to get member feedback on

alternative networking activities. The Board's ideas and survey results were shared at the Fall Subsection and Committee Officer Training, and officers were encouraged to consider some of these ideas for future events. I look forward to supporting and participating in some of these new events!

### Section Membership Challenge

Our Section's success is based on the hard work of our many dedicated volunteers. We always love welcoming new members, but we have an added incentive with the PNWS Membership Challenge this fall. The MEDC has launched a friendly competition between the Subsections to see which Subsection can recruit the most new or reinstated members between September 1 and December 31. The winning Subsection will get a free lunch catered for their next Subsection meeting. So, get out there and tell your AWWA story with fellow water industry professionals. Speaking of sharing your own experiences, the 5th Annual PNWS Mentorship Program kicks off this month. Thank you to all that signed up to be a protégé or mentor for this impressive program sponsored by the MEDC.

### Section Elections

Last but not least, it's time for our annual election of Section officers. This issue of *Water Matters* includes bios on our great slate of candidates. I encourage you to review the bios and participate in our Section elections. Best of luck to all our dedicated and deserving candidates! 🗳️

Michelle Cheek  
PNWS Section Chair

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## Greetings from the Association

**A**s I began thinking about my column for this edition of *Water Matters*, I came to the realization that I should make sure that I am focusing on providing the information that is important to our Section members. To that end, I invite you to reach out to me and let me know what information you would like to see in future columns.

A couple of months ago, the Transformative Issues Symposium was held in Cincinnati, OH. The symposium brought together water sector personnel from across North America to discuss how a diverse and engaged workforce benefits both our utilities and the communities we serve. Topics included diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and best practices in recruitment and retention. A final report on this well-attended symposium will be available to our members within the next few months.

In other news, AWWA has been working to broaden its global presence, particularly in Korea. AWWA has developed strong relationships with water organizations in South Korea, including Korean Water and Wastewater Works Association, Korean Water, and Korea Water Partnership and was invited to attend the Korea Water Conference that was held in September.

On the financial front, income for the year is forecast to come in higher than budgeted. AWWA continues to be very fiscally sound, with membership holding steady at 50,000 members worldwide.

I want to encourage all of us to share what our Association means to us with our co-workers who may

not be AWWA members. Personal stories are the best way to engage new members. Our Association has so many benefits for members, and we shouldn't be discouraged from spreading the word. AWWA offers a wide variety of in-person and online resources. We even have a video streaming channel that gives members easy access to several programs, including operator training and certification. Make sure

to take advantage of the vast resources that are available to you as an AWWA member.

Lastly, just a few quick reminders, the Water Quality Technology Conference is being held November 13-17 in Cincinnati, OH, and ACE 2023 will be in Toronto, Canada, June 11-14. 📅

James Dean  
PNWS-AWWA Association Director

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# Oregon Water Utilities Council

**OWUC** has been active on several fronts in 2022 as the short Legislative Session came to a close at the end of February this year. Key areas of focus included frequent legislative engagement as bills were being developed, introduced, and debated; informing policymakers about topics affecting water utilities; and



“Members of OWUC attended the 2022 AWWA Washington, DC Fly-In.


They successfully met with members and staff of all seven of Oregon’s delegations to discuss national and state priorities for drinking water providers.”

outreach for rulemaking and budget development activities by various state-level agencies, including the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). OWRD and OHA regularly attend OWUC’s monthly meetings, providing an excellent forum for discussing these matters that impact Oregon water utilities.

Members of OWUC attended the 2022 AWWA Washington, DC Fly-In. They successfully met with members and staff of all seven of Oregon’s delegations to discuss national and state priorities for drinking water providers.

Representatives from the League of Oregon Cities and Special Districts Association of Oregon will continue to help us engage with legislators and the Governor’s office as the lead-up to the 2023 Session begins and potential work groups are formed. Several areas of ongoing focus include but are not limited to:

- PFAS regulation
- Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) implementation
- Water rights transfers
- Water management in the Willamette River basin
- Funding for infrastructure needs through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other opportunities

If you have questions, please contact Jessica Dorsey, OWUC Chair, at [jessica.dorsey@hillsboro-oregon.gov](mailto:jessica.dorsey@hillsboro-oregon.gov) or 503-615-6579. 



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### Conference Program Committee

Jill Hoyenga, Chair & DeEtta Fosbury, Vice-Chair

By the time you read this, the technical sessions for Kennewick 2023 will have been presented to our Board of Trustees. A draft program will be posted to the meetings section of the Conference Program Committee webpage soon. A huge thank you to everyone who submitted abstracts. We have a history of strong programs at our conferences, and that's due to the hard work the committees put in developing and finding content to present. The Program Committee chairs are now hard at work applying for continuing education units (CEUs).

#### Volunteers Needed

Many volunteers will be needed in addition to speakers.

Moderators are needed to coordinate the speakers and

presentations for each technical session. A task list for moderators is available in the resources section of the Conference Program Committee webpage. Please visit <https://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/conference-program-committee>. Moderators must bring or be able to borrow a laptop and projector for their session.




Room assistants are needed to ensure that all session attendees are checked in and out so that attendance is recorded for the CEU certificates. Training for this task is provided at the conference.

#### Complimentary Registration

Speakers, moderators, and room assistants are eligible for complimentary registration on the day that they volunteer. If you are interested in moderating a session, check the draft schedule and contact the sponsoring committee chair. If you are interested in volunteering as a room assistant, please get in touch with Pat Everham at [teverham@ci.richland.wa.us](mailto:teverham@ci.richland.wa.us).

We look forward to seeing you in Kennewick next year! 📅



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### Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Subcommittee

The D&I Subcommittee aims to foster a welcoming and inclusive AWWA culture that champions meaningful institutional and individual change regarding diversity and equity in the water industry.

#### Chair Position Open

The Subcommittee is looking for a new chair. The role requires a commitment of between 4 hours/month and interest in running monthly meetings, providing overall guidance and direction to the Subcommittee, and delegating tasks to the Subcommittee members. Most importantly, you must have a passion for D&I. If you're interested, please contact the MEDC Chair at [jstultz@brwncaid.com](mailto:jstultz@brwncaid.com).

#### Special thanks to our Past Chair, Esther Chang!

Special thanks and a moment of gratitude to Esther for her service and dedication to the D&I Subcommittee! As past Chair, Esther Chang led the D&I Subcommittee since its inception, offering her passion for D&I issues and leadership to motivate and inspire the Subcommittee these past two years. Esther stepped into the role of D&I Chair in 2020 and charted the path forward. She spearheaded the development of a new demographics survey to provide an opportunity for PNWS members to share how they view the Section's diversity and inclusivity. Esther also led the planning for the Section's first D&I conference track and D&I Award. Thank you, Esther!

#### Membership Survey - How Inclusive is PNWS?

Thanks to everyone for participating! We had a great turnout this year for the Annual Membership Survey, with over 100 responses. This anonymous survey helps the PNW Section better understand the demographics of our membership and identify areas of improvement to promote an inclusive environment where all members feel welcome. This annual voluntary data is used by the D&I Subcommittee and MEDC to help plan for recruiting and retention efforts and strategize around areas of growth. Survey responses were collected until September 2, 2022, and results were reported at the trustee meeting on September 28th. Look for a summary of the takeaways in the next issue of *Water Matters*.

This survey helps the PNW Section better understand the demographics of our membership and identify areas of improvement to promote an inclusive environment where all members feel welcome.

#### D&I Conference Track 2023 - Planning Underway

The D&I Subcommittee is excited to be planning a special panel for the PNWS 2023 Conference on retention and recruitment. The panel will include two sessions with speakers from the PNWS. The first panel will focus on recruitment and will discuss the path to creating a more diverse workforce to promote a growing industry with representation from various sectors. Speakers will discuss topics such as the benefits of internships/apprenticeships, volunteering, and community outreach, using resources like local programs, partnerships, social media, etc. On the flip side of recruitment is retention. The second panel on retention will discuss the challenges of retaining diverse talent in the water industry and discuss paths to sustain an inclusive workforce. Panelists from various sectors will discuss topics such as DEI workplace trainings, employee affinity groups, workplace culture, mentorship programs, etc. If you have interest in attending or participating as a panelist, please reach out to Benedicte Diakubama at [benedicte.diakubama@jacobs.com](mailto:benedicte.diakubama@jacobs.com) for the retention panel and Asa Reyes-Chavez at [areyeschavez@parametrix.com](mailto:areyeschavez@parametrix.com) for the recruitment panel. 

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### Engineering Committee

#### Anodes and Cathodes

Our August 2022 Corrosion Symposium was a great success, with more than 70 attendees. Regional experts educated us on corrosion mechanisms and enlightened us on the dark arts of protecting municipal systems from corrosion. We thank the Tualatin Valley Water District office in Beaverton, OR for hosting.

#### Excellence in Engineering Submittals

Now is the time to start thinking about recently-completed (or soon-to-be-completed) water supply, treatment or conveyance planning, and design projects you would like to submit for Excellence in Engineering. The submission deadline is January 2023, but if the fall is anything like this summer, it will come and go in a hurry.

#### Looking Forward to the 2023 Conference

Thanks to all those who submitted abstracts for next year's conference. The Engineering Committee met in September to select presentations for the engineering track, and we look forward to an outstanding lineup at the conference next May.

#### Committee Meetings Schedule

Engineering Committee Meetings are held from 12 to 1 pm (PT) on the first Wednesday of each month. If you'd like to join the committee, please reach out to one of the officers directly, and we will send you an invite.

#### New Officers

**Chair – Nicholas Augustus** Tualatin Valley Water District  
1850 SW 170th Avenue, Beaverton, OR 97003  
Phone: 971-327-6292 | [nick.augustus@tvwd.org](mailto:nick.augustus@tvwd.org)

**Vice-Chair – Taylor Stockton** RH2 Engineering  
5335 Meadows Road, Suite 420  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
Phone: 503-278-5356 | [tstockton@rh2.com](mailto:tstockton@rh2.com)

**Secretary – Greg Loscher** Bowen, Collins & Associates  
776 East Riverside Drive, Suite 250, Eagle, ID 83616  
Phone: 208-939-9561 | [gloscher@bowencollins.com](mailto:gloscher@bowencollins.com)

**Past Chair – Joelle Bennett** Tualatin Valley Water District  
1850 SW 170th Avenue, Beaverton, OR 97003  
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### Member Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC) and 2020 Vision Subcommittee

**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.

#### Membership Challenge Launched! September 1 – December 31

The challenge is on! PNWS is launching a friendly competition between the Subsections to see who can recruit the most new members from September 1 to December 31 to help PNWS reach our annual recruitment goal of 293 new members in 2022. The Subsection with the most new or reinstated members over that time will get a free lunch catered for their next Subsection meeting, social, or in-person training. The MEDC will send out monthly updates on the competition and how close we are to meeting the PNWS goal. It's time to put your networks to use and invite new members to join the AWWA community! Share the AWWA membership link far and wide (<https://www.awwa.org/membership-volunteering/join>), and let's meet our goal! Questions about the challenge, membership benefits, or how to join? Contact the MEDC chair at [jstultz@brwnccald.com](mailto:jstultz@brwnccald.com).

#### Mentorship Program Update


The PNWS Mentorship Program is open for applications for the 2022-2023 session. The initial deadline is October 7, 2022, but if you miss that date, reach out, and we can find a match for you! If you would like to pass along your knowledge and experience to others and help them grow and succeed in our profession, please apply as a

mentor today! If you have questions, want to network, or learn more about our/your profession in the water industry, apply as a protégé, and we will pair you with a mentor from the industry. The PNWS Mentorship Program benefits the young and the old, the new engineer and the experienced PE by providing the opportunity to share, guide, support, and learn from others. Please visit the MEDC website for the application (<https://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/membership-committee>), and reach out to Kyle Wong at [kyle.wong@spwater.org](mailto:kyle.wong@spwater.org) with any questions.

#### Are you interested in learning more about the membership?

Attend our next monthly call. We meet on the first Friday of the month from 12 to 1 pm. Contact [jstultz@brwnccald.com](mailto:jstultz@brwnccald.com) for the meeting invite.

Need help with reaching your Subsection members? Let us know! We can pull member lists specific to your Subsection and renewal date to outreach specific members. Please reach out to the MEDC Chair, Joanie Stultz, at [jstultz@brwnccald.com](mailto:jstultz@brwnccald.com), or visit us at <https://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/membership-committee>.

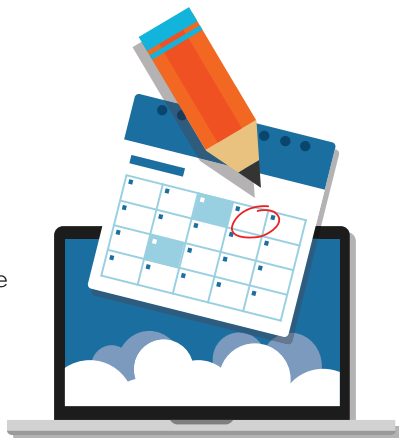
Special thanks to our current MEDC Committee Members: Chris Young (Outgoing Chair), Joanie Stultz, Esther Chang, Kyle Wong, Natalie Reilly, Doug Schlepp, and DeEtta Fosbury, supported by Trustee Tyler Clary. 

### Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN) Committee

Gina Johnson, ORWARN Board Secretary

#### ORWARN Webinar – Save the Date!


ORWARN is bringing its membership another exciting training opportunity. This will be virtual training with the focus on safety training for utilities. Watch for more information in the near future, and mark your calendars to save the date!



#### ORWARN Website

Please remember to keep your organization's information up to date on the website. If you need help logging in or have questions, please email [info@orwarn.org](mailto:info@orwarn.org). One of the Board members will respond.

#### Membership

ORWARN's membership continues to grow. We are up to 165 members and associate members. If you know of a utility that is not yet a member of ORWARN, please ask them to contact us at [info@orwarn.org](mailto:info@orwarn.org) for more information. 

## Utility Management Committee



Carter Mason, O&M Technician at Willamette River Water Treatment Plant, Wilsonville, OR.

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### Water Workforce Revolution

It's no surprise that our water workforce is undergoing a generational shift. Between the retirement of the Baby Boomers, the digitalization of the industry, and the many other challenges that a water manager faces on any given day, we are in for a 'water workforce revolution!' These challenges and more are regularly talked about, debated, and learned from during the Utility Management Committee's (UMC) monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month. The changes in our water workforce have certainly occupied a lot of that time, in addition to the other hot topic – infrastructure funding.

Past Chair of the UMC, Kim Reid, mentioned a few months ago that at the Willamette River Water Treatment Plant in Wilsonville, OR, Veolia is undertaking a pilot project to test augmented reality (AR) technology to train operators, one of the positions that has been especially hit hard by workforce vacancies. Using the AR platform, operators will have access to annotated training videos specific to their equipment. Also, plant staff will be able to initiate merged reality service calls (two superimposed videos) with technician experts in real-time using smart glasses and a tablet – a great example of meeting the challenge of the 'water workforce revolution!'

If you are interested in joining the UMC monthly call, please contact the current chair, Ann Hajnosz, at [ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com](mailto:ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com). 



# 2023 Candidates for OFFICERS

The Pacific Northwest Section Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for 2023. You will vote for one of the three candidates for Chair and 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, and the Chair will serve one year as Chair-Elect, one year as Chair, and one year as Past Chair, representing the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association.

## Chair-Elect:

Nick Belmont  
Jamie Porter  
Doug Schlepp

## Oregon/Idaho Trustee:

Chandra Hingston  
Tyler Palmer

## Washington Trustee:

Jolene Gibson  
Joanie Stultz  
Brian Wilson

## Trustee-At-Large:

DeEtta Fosbury  
Michelle Johnson  
Erika Murphy





### Nick Belmont

Pacific Northwest Regional Manager, DN Tanks

It is truly an honor to be nominated to run for the position of PNWS-AWWA Chair-Elect. As a member of AWWA and this Section for over 13 years, I cannot express my gratitude for giving back to the organization that has given me so much.

The relationships, knowledge, and true friendships I have developed within this Section have been invaluable to shaping the professional and the person I am today. There is not a group of people I am more grateful and proud to represent than those who work so diligently to provide safe, reliable drinking water to our communities.

As the Pacific Northwest Regional Manager for DN Tanks, I have had the privilege of getting to know our membership across Oregon, Washington, and Idaho on a daily basis. Through this experience, I have come to understand the needs of each Subsection. I believe that this unique perspective will allow me to serve our entire Section as a collective whole. While I travel throughout the Section, I live in Redmond, OR, with my wife Maureen, beautiful daughter Natalie (3), new son Finn (born June 29, 2022) and the glue that holds us all together, our dog Bailey. When not at home or in one of your communities, you will often find me golfing, fishing in a river, or mountain biking down a trail.

Within PNWS, I have served as a Board member of the Education and Training Fund, Chair of the Philanthropic Advisory Council, and currently, I am serving as your Trustee-At-Large. From these experiences, I have seen the hard work and passion our volunteers and membership pour into making this Section a leader in training, networking, and fundraising within AWWA. My goal as your Chair is to ensure that PNWS stays at the forefront of each of these areas of focus. This is to provide you, our membership, with the best training and opportunity possible in this incredible field of drinking water. Additionally, I want to focus on the importance of growing our industry's future leaders in both operations and engineering. With the challenges that face our industry over the next several years, we will need both to thrive for us all to be successful.

For me, the last two years have shown a spotlight on how important PNWS-AWWA is to our community, as every training and networking event seems to be more of a family reunion than a work event. Rest assured, our current leadership has set us on a path for success to bring this family of water professionals back together and to provide the resources you need to grow professionally and personally. As your Chair, I will look to build on these successes and, most importantly, be here for you, our members.



### Jamie Porter, PE

Superintendent, Rainbow Water District

AWWA is an amazing collection of water professionals. In my last two years as Trustee, I have had the opportunity to meet with Section officers from across the United States, and I am greatly encouraged by the top-notch people we

have working together to address challenges in our water industry. The Pacific Northwest Section is a gem within our larger Association, and it is both humbling and a privilege to be considered to lead this fine group.

My career has revolved around water. I operated a US Navy nuclear submarine steam plant, turning seawater

into industrial process water. As a young engineer, I worked for consultants on groundwater remediation projects. I sampled digester sludge and worked with the business community to maintain the health of a city's storm and wastewater systems. I served eight years as a non-profit business administrator, managing church volunteers, facilities, and finances. For the last twelve years, I have proudly managed a groundwater utility in Springfield. Rainbow is both a wholesale provider to the city's water utility and contracts to provide support to five rural water utilities in the county around us. Due to my utility's size, my duties are diverse. I am both competent and comfortable working with accountants and Board members, customer service representatives, operators, and engineers.

I have been married to Cheryl for 35 years. We have five kids, three married and out of the house and one on the way. Two of our kids are making a career of serving in the US Air Force. My wife cares for relatives and continues to raise and homeschool our youngest daughter on our small farm while supporting my water habit. For fun, I am a gamer, and I enjoy running a tractor, pruning fruit trees, or taking care of our livestock.

For the last decade, I have been active with Cascade to Coast Subsection (Treasurer and President) and various Section committees (Audit, Budget, Distribution, History, Conference Local Arrangements). As Oregon/Idaho Trustee,

I have been able to work with other committees and connect with Board members and AWWA staff from other Sections. I have a good understanding of how our volunteer organization operates and enjoy the opportunities to connect people and resources. I have a passion for developing people and supporting small systems, and beyond maintaining the good things we are already doing, I would strive to rebuild and strengthen our connections and support for small systems and student chapters as we seek the next generation of water professionals.

I am excited for the chance to serve you as Chair-Elect, and I thank you for your consideration!

*"I am greatly encouraged by the top-notch people we have working together to address challenges in our water industry. The Pacific Northwest Section is a gem within our larger Association, and it is both humbling and a privilege to be considered to lead this fine group."*



## Douglas Schlepp, PE

Principal, RH2 Engineering

It is truly an honor to be nominated for the PNWS-AWWA Chair. I look forward to the opportunity to further the goals of the Section. My purpose in serving is to help the next generation of young operators and professionals within the PNWS by instilling

the values of the Section and advancing the objectives and vision both now and into the future.

After graduating from Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Washington, I have enjoyed working for RH2 Engineering for the last 33 years. It has been a privilege to help build communities and develop lasting relationships throughout the Pacific Northwest.

My involvement in the PNWS began in 2006 when I was invited to join the resurgent Distribution Committee. Since then, it has been an incredible journey at all levels of service throughout the Section – holding trainings, presenting classes, hosting events, and actively participating in meetings, short schools, and conferences.

- Distribution Committee from 2006-18 and 2019-20, serving as Secretary, Vice-Chair, Chair, and Past Chair.
- King County Subsection from 2014-18, serving as Secretary, Vice-President, President, and Past President.
- Subsection Advisory Council from 2014-18, serving as Secretary, Vice-Chair, Chair, and Past Chair.

- PNWS-AWWA Board from 2020-2022, serving as your Washington Trustee-At-Large.
  - Membership Engagement and Diversity Committee from 2022 to present, promoting the Mentorship Program and helping members get the most value from the PNWS.
- The PNWS-AWWA has truly been a notable part of my family. For 25 years, my wife Susan and I have been 'living the miracle.' Our oldest daughter Geneva, a recent graduate of Washington State University, has begun her master of science degree in civil engineering at the University of Washington. She has benefitted greatly from her AWWA involvement as a student member, a PNWS scholarship recipient, and a protégé in the PNWS Mentorship Program. Over the years, Susan has donated many artistic works to Section and Subsection events, supporting the PNWS PAC's philanthropic endeavors. Our youngest daughter, Mya, is a senior in high school and, like her sister, is also planning to pursue a degree in engineering.

I want to thank all those in the PNWS whom I have served alongside, allowing me to gain experience and develop as a professional in the water industry. I am appreciative of the nominating committee who recognized my desire to serve as the Chair and my potential as a candidate. If chosen, I will serve with enthusiasm and energy, bringing the experience I have developed over the years, both professionally and as a PNWS volunteer, to realize the aspirations of the Section.

5

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# COMBINED APPROACH TO PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES

BY MATT STARNES

**BUCHER**  
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When thinking about conserving and keeping our limited freshwater supplies safe, two types of solutions spring to mind. Street sweepers and sewer cleaning tanker trucks are good solutions. **Why not use them both to turn good into extraordinary?**

## STREET SWEEPERS

Street sweepers fall into two major categories: compact sweepers and truck-mounted sweepers. Both are the best at keeping the streets clean and preventing freshwater supply pollution.

### COMPACT STREET SWEEPERS

The compact sweepers' primary advantage is maximum maneuverability that ensures perfect directional stability and safety for everyday work while also safe for city dwellers. Compacts' agility shines through in municipal streets, bike lanes, and even sidewalks. Advantages are narrow design, more economical to operate, diesel fuel options (and electric), and quieter operation. The reduced noise emissions make compacts ideal for mixed-use business and residential areas and are much appreciated by neighbors. More and more electric street sweepers are coming onto the market, providing environmentally friendly alternatives to fossil fuel units.

### TRUCK-MOUNTED STREET SWEEPERS

Heavy-duty truck-mounted sweepers made for broad surfaces consist of three different sweeping technologies.

### MECHANICAL STREET SWEEPERS

Designed in the Industrial Revolution, mechanical street sweepers predate the automobile. Today, municipalities will often hire contractors to take care of heavy road construction material, such as broken pavement, chunks of asphalt, concrete millings, mud, and various construction debris. Mechanical sweepers use a series of brushes to sweep debris into a hopper. The sweepers then dump the waste into a dumpster or dump truck bed.

### REGENERATIVE AIR STREET SWEEPERS

Regenerative air provides cost-effective, efficient road sweeping. Regenerative air circulation allows for large forward-facing digger gutter brooms and a full-width suction to maximize sweeping speed. Combined with ergonomic operator controls and low running costs, regenerative air sweepers provide an ideal solution for airports, long, low cambered roads, and urban environments.

### PURE VACUUM STREET SWEEPERS

Vacuum sweepers are suited for catch basin cleaning, general street sweeping, and porous pavement. The suction mechanism will suck the debris into the hopper container for disposal.

Truck-mounted sweepers come in a wide range of dependably configured options from single-engine hydrostatic truck-mounted sweepers to twin-engine sweepers.

Like the compact sweepers, truck-mounted sweeper manufacturers are also introducing electric powered zero-emission machines.

Street sweepers' role in our ecosystem is much more than to keep things clean.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the PM-10 standard. PM-10 regulates the number of particles in the air at 10 microns (.0004 inches) or smaller. Why that small? Because the particles are small enough to reach the lower regions of our lungs. So the PM-10 street sweeper removal standards protect not only our streets but also our lungs.

Sweepers pick up chemicals, construction debris, dirt, motor oil, trash, and other contaminants, but they do so much more. When street sweepers remove potentially harmful substances from construction sites, parking lots, roadways, and other paved surfaces before they go down storm drains, they are less likely to end up in our lakes, rivers, and other freshwater sources.

## Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Practices Assessment Phase III – Reclaimed Water Areas – University of Florida Study

The MS4 study found street sweepers far more effective and cost-effective than all other best management practices (BMPs) against water pollutions. BMPs are structural, vegetative, or managerial practices used to treat, prevent, or reduce water pollution BMPs for stormwater runoff pollutant removal.

The study looked at the cost per pound for separation and recovery in regards to Total Nitrogen (TN), Total Phosphorus (TP), and Particulate Matter (PM).

Cleaning via street sweeping came in at the lowest cost. The cost per pound for TN? \$189. TP? \$294. PM? \$0.11, the most economical choice.

The next least expensive alternative? Catch basin cleaning, which vacuum compact and truck-mounted street sweepers can accomplish via a power boom hose. Catch basin cleaning comes in at a cost of \$1,016 per pound for TN; \$1,656 for TP, and \$0.70 for PM. In comparison, BMP Treatment Trains come in at \$1,068 per pound for TN, a whopping \$37,243 for TP, and \$29.70 for PM.

Reference: [www.florida-stormwater.org/research/MS4](http://www.florida-stormwater.org/research/MS4)

### SEWER CLEANING TANKER TRUCKS

So what happens if the threat to freshwater is an unseen enemy? Unseen is usually the case with clogged sewer lines or catch basins. Unfortunately, sewer problems are not "un-smelled." Likewise, when residents call their municipalities for help, usually a stinky situation or backup into their homes is an emergency.

### COMBINATION UNITS AND REMOTE REELS

One use of flexible sewer cleaning units is as a first responder type of tool. These vehicles are especially useful to get in tight and densely populated metro areas as they have a smaller footprint than a recycling or supersucker truck. Combo units provide powerful preventive cleaning, emergency cleaning of mains, septic and collection tanks, and transport of dangerous goods.

The advantage is the low maintenance costs, increased capabilities, low noise levels, and high quality. If you need even a smaller approach, a remote or easement reel is perfect for jetting in parking decks, inside buildings, and to navigate stairs with its mini-tank like treads.

### SEWER CLEANING RECYCLING TANKER TRUCKS

Recycler sewer cleaning trucks equipped with fully automatic water filtration systems clean the toughest blockages, even the dreaded fatbergs. The advantage of sewer cleaner tankers is that they automatically and continuously separate water from the sludge to use the cleaned water to clean the sewer. This technology is not only right for the environment because of the water recycling aspect, but the longer job-site time means less fuel used. Additionally, compressed natural gas (CNG) fueled trucks provide a cleaner working experience. It is also healthy for the bottom line and the sewer cleaner operator.

The benefits of using street sweepers and sewer cleaning tanker trucks in unison is a smart offense in protecting and conserving freshwater. I ask again, could this combined approach help your DOT, municipality, or contracting business save your freshwater supplies? Some food for thought.



### Chandra Hingston

WTP Laboratory Coordinator, Joint Water Commission

Wow, it was such a compliment to get the phone call that I had been nominated to run for a PNWS-AWWA Trustee position! As a dedicated Subsection volunteer over the last 14 years, an opportunity at the Section level is an exciting prospect. AWWA has been

an important part of my career development. It has allowed me to meet so many great people while learning about the collaborative effort involved in providing safe drinking water to the public. Having served as a committee member and chair and having moved through the officer positions, all at the Subsection level, the transition to a role within the Section feels like a great way to continue my support of AWWA. If elected, I will help to sustain the Association's mission and priorities so that other water professionals continue to have opportunities to benefit from participation.

I have been an active AWWA member since attending my first NW Oregon Subsection meeting back in 2008. I was immediately pulled in by a friendly and enthusiastic group of members serving on the Subsection level Membership Committee (you know who you are). I was given the role of content provider for the PNWS *Water Matters* publication, and I diligently handed in an article every quarter from 2008-12. In 2011, I took over as chair of the Membership Committee and, still in that role today, continue to send monthly emails through Constant Contact to keep our Subsection members informed and connected. I also served the Subsection as an officer from 2012-16. In this capacity, I was able to experience the roles of secretary, treasurer, vice-president, president, and past

president of the NW Oregon Subsection. Over my years of involvement, I've judged Best Tasting Water competitions, helped to organize an Oregon Operators Conference, presented at the PNWS Conference, and been a leader in the NW Oregon Subsection. For my volunteer efforts within the Subsection, in 2019, I was honored to receive a PNWS SAC Activities Award.

I attended Portland State University, earning a bachelor of science in micro/molecular biology with a minor in chemistry. Sixteen of my seventeen years working in laboratories have been focused on drinking water quality, and like all AWWA members, I take the responsibility of providing a clean and safe resource to the public very seriously. Association members have such a wide variety of roles to play in the industry, and as the premier water professionals' organization, AWWA is remarkable in that it allows this diverse group of specialists to come together and learn from each other. That is a huge advantage to membership! Relevant training, networking and volunteer opportunities, and the chance to perform in a leadership capacity are all important aspects of AWWA involvement that help our members grow within their chosen fields.

If elected, I would be an engaged Board member and would strive to successfully perform the duties required of a PNWS Trustee. I would continue to tout the benefits of membership and focus on outreach to bring more young people into the industry. I would also be an effective liaison between the Board and the Section committee chairs. If given the opportunity, my experience working in a similar capacity at the Subsection level would be very advantageous to my success in the role of Trustee. Thank you so much for considering me to serve on the PNWS Board!

*"If elected, I will help to sustain the Association's mission and priorities so that other water professionals continue to have opportunities to benefit from participation."*





## Tyler Palmer, MPA

Deputy City Supervisor-Public Works and Services, City of Moscow, ID

### Water Me:

I am humbled to be nominated as a Trustee for our Section. There truly is no more important work than the work done by the members of the AWWA, and the Pacific Northwest Section has some of the best in the industry.

Ours was the first job that existed as cities formed.

The question of 'how are we getting water?' is the most fundamentally human and tells the story of humanity as it flows back through the ages.

I stumbled into this field 21 years ago while running away from a career in law. My first AWWA meeting was with the Intermountain Section shortly after that. I remember the immediate feeling of belonging and camaraderie as I became increasingly aware of the scope and importance of our work and the inherent bond between the people who accept the sobering charge of supplying our communities with the most basic of life-sustaining services. I started my career in water as a seasonal employee for a city in the Salt Lake metro area. I worked my way through the trenches and reluctantly took a desk job many years ago. Through it all, I have not forgotten my operator roots, and I love being in a position to advocate for the critical people who keep these critical systems running.

### Personal Me:

I am left-handed and color-blind, but don't hold that against me. I have a wife of over 20 years, two daughters, and a chubby little pug named Betsy. I love to travel, read, drink good Scotch and Mezcal, and listen to good music. I speak fluent Spanish and okay Italian. I am a horrible dancer, but I still try to dance.

### Accomplishments & Volunteer Me:

- American Water Works Association (AWWA); Past-President, Blue Mountain Subsection.
- Jennings Randolph International Public Works Fellow; awarded by the Eisenhower Institute.
- International Affairs Committee, American Public Works Association (APWA); Past-Chair.
- Government Affairs Committee (APWA); Member.
- Association of Idaho Public Works Professionals; Board member.
- Inland NW Streets Maintenance CO-OP; Chair. This regional body, created by the applicant, helps generate economies of scale for a relatively geographically isolated area, keeping costs down and providing access to services that otherwise were not available.

- Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) Member and Past Chair. PBAC is a regional organization tasked with assuring a sustainable water supply for the Palouse region.
- Rendezvous in the Park; Board Member and Chair of Operations Committee and Showcase Committee. Rendezvous is a music and arts festival.
- Poverty on the Palouse; Past Board Member and Chair of Communication Committee.
- Latin America Task Force (APWA); Past Chair
- Lecturer – presenting at a number of conferences both domestically and internationally.
- Multiple published articles; *APWA Reporter*, *IMPLAN* (Mexican planning publication), ICLEI Sustainable Mobility newsletter, and *AWWA Journal*.

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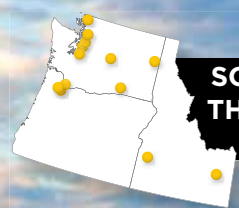
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## Jolene Gibson

Operations Manager, Tacoma Water

It is an honor to be nominated for Washington Trustee for the PNWS-AWWA. I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to be involved, the great people I've met, and the leadership skills I have developed. I look forward to contributing to moving the Section forward

and being a support role as others get involved and grow.

My career began 16 years ago at Tacoma Water as an office assistant. I gained experience from entry level through a few different roles to where I am now, as an operations manager in our maintenance and construction group. I was first introduced to the Section in 2009, where I shadowed at the Salem Conference in preparation for the 2010 Tacoma Conference. I was hooked! Most of my

involvement over those years was on LACs as the Water For People Auction Chair, then to the Water For People Committee, and recipient of the Kenneth J. Miller award in 2017. I was co-chair of the 2018 Tacoma Conference, local liaison of the 2021 Water Quality Technical Conference, and for the past three years as the South Sound Subsection President. It has been a hard couple of years, but the South Sound Subsection continued to meet each month and host virtual trainings over the pandemic; we even put on two in-person events this summer!

I'm a PNWS native, growing up in the Puget Sound. My husband Chris, daughter Cora, son Jack, and our pup Ollie and I can be found boating in the South Sound (of course), gardening, and enjoying any beach we can visit. I love the Pacific Northwest and am passionate about helping others grow; I look forward to continuing to build relationships and move the Section forward.



## Joanie Stultz, PE

Environmental Engineer, Brown and Caldwell

Hi PNWS-AWWA members! I am honored to be nominated for the role as your Washington Trustee. The PNWS-AWWA family has been a pivotal part of my professional and personal life, grounding me through the pandemic and providing the

opportunity to develop leadership skills and gain life-long friends. I am in awe of how our Section pivoted during such uncertain times, finding new ways to provide research, leadership, and training opportunities, all through volunteer service. I look forward to the opportunity to support that work in a new capacity as a Board member.

My introduction to the PNWS-AWWA started from a simple hallway flyer for a networking event at the University of Washington, where I was studying for my master's in environmental engineering. Getting involved as a student was a launching point for my continued involvement with the Section and led to my now over seven-year career with Brown and Caldwell as an environmental engineer focused on drinking water treatment and water system planning. To this day, I have been continuously involved with the PNWS-AWWA either as an active Subsection Board member or in a committee position. I've developed a deep appreciation

for the PNWS and the value the organization brings to the drinking water industry, as well as to my own life. If the past two years have taught me anything, it's the importance of cultivating a peer group whom I can empathize with. Those connections help me know I am a part of something greater and are crucial to staying motivated when times get tough.

I've served the past five years as part of the 2020 Vision Committee, which transitioned to the Membership Engagement Development Committee (MEDC). Through my time with the MEDC and 2020 Vision, working closely with the YP Committee, I have seen the benefit of the Trustee role as a liaison to the Board and support arm. Overall, I've learned that establishing a welcoming and inclusive environment is key to our Section's growth and success.

I think we can all agree that it can be challenging at times to fill open roles when folks who are already engaged are overloaded. I want to focus on ways to fill the pipeline with new members. As your Trustee, I see the following priorities as key to building a thriving PNWS:

- Strengthen succession planning guidance from the Section that is based on learned experience from past and present committee members.
- Support bringing back a YP Summit event to recruit new YPs, who are key to the workforce, and for filling future Section leadership roles.

- Cultivate partnerships between MEDC, Section committees, and Subsections to promote AWWA through our networks. I am prepared and ready for a new challenge and would wholeheartedly welcome the opportunity to serve the PNWS community as a Trustee. As your Trustee, I will bring my passion for AWWA and experience with Board leadership to help the Section committees thrive and continue the

important work necessary to keep the taps running. I once wore the Eddy suit for the day at an educational event, so there isn't much I won't do for the Section.

In my free time, you can find me out for a run, gearing up for the next WeWalk challenge, or planning my next trip to see another slice of the world. In the words of Jerry, founder of my favorite ice cream, Ben and Jerry's, "If it's not fun, why do it."



### Brian Wilson

Operations Superintendent, Water City of Vancouver, WA

It is an honor to be selected as a trustee candidate for the PNWS-AWWA. This organization has been one of the great turning points in my career. Volunteering, collaborating, and networking have brought so many diversified learning opportunities to improve

me as a colleague, leader, and water operator.

I started my career in 1999 as a maintenance worker with Beacon Hill Sewer District. We took over a water system from Cowlitz PUD in 2008. Shortly after, I was promoted to maintenance worker lead. My first experience volunteering with an organization was with the Cowlitz Utility Coordinating Council as President.

It was 2011 when I decided to attend a meter class offered by the Lower Columbia Subsection and ended up winning the Meter Madness competition. I was sent to my first PNWS-AWWA Conference in Salem, OR. This provided me with the opportunity to experience the PNWS family for the first time. After this event, I made the decision to join the Lower Columbia Subsection.

In 2014, I moved to the City of Longview as a utility supervisor, working with the water and sewer teams. I stayed a couple of years before I knew I wanted to gain experience as a manager in a water utility. The City of Washougal gave me the opportunity to fill their water manager position in 2016. I thank them for this great opportunity, but I had one more step to achieve my goals.

That opportunity came in 2018 when I joined the City of Vancouver as the operations superintendent (water). I wanted experience with a larger organization and chose a great place. I currently hold my Water Distribution Manager IV, Water Treatment Plant Operator II, and Cross Connection Specialist certifications.

In 2013, I attended the PNWS-AWWA Section Conference and was given the Subsection Advisory Council Activities Award. This was a recognition that I wasn't expecting. Since then, I have maintained my presence within the Lower Columbia Subsection. I joined the Subsection Advisory Council Committee as the webmaster in 2018 and have been the chair since 2020. I assisted with the competition planning, as a part of the LAC, for the 2019 Vancouver Conference.

I am excited to learn more about the internal business of the Section and feel that I can use my skills to collaborate with other Board members to focus on re-establishing and improving opportunities for our members.

On the personal side, my wife Alicia and I have been together for 17 years. We have four boys, Easton (19), Camren (21), Austin (25), and Tyler (28). We have two wonderful dogs, Boa and Sadie, who are always waiting by the door like it's the first time they saw us in a week. We enjoy travelling, camping, hunting, fishing, and cruising in our 1964 Ford Fairlane 500 Sports Coupe.

I am very thankful for the people that have influenced my career. They taught me how to respect, lead, and always reach for my goals. I feel that I honor them by sharing what I have learned in hopes of making our industry stronger.

Thank you for considering me as your next Trustee!

*"Volunteering, collaborating, and networking have brought so many diversified learning opportunities to improve me as a colleague, leader, and water operator."*




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### DeEtta Fosbury, RG

Senior Hydrogeologist, Summit Water Resources

It is an honor to be nominated for election as a Trustee of the PNWS-AWWA. I am an experienced hydrogeologist and project manager passionate about helping communities develop and maintain clean, resilient drinking water supplies.

I enjoy working with people from diverse backgrounds, and I am excited about the opportunity to direct my problem-solving skills toward organizational management as a member of the Board of Trustees.

I was introduced to the Section over a decade ago when I began attending Water Resources Committee meetings and eventually volunteered to serve as Secretary of the Committee. I served as an officer for seven years, and during that time, I gained experience collaborating with other committees to develop technical conference sessions and got to know many of the volunteers in leadership at Section conferences and other events. I served as Chair of the Program Committee for 2020 and 2021 and worked with the Committee to develop our virtual training series after the Annual Conference in Spokane was cancelled due to the pandemic. I am currently helping to develop the program for the 2023 Annual Conference in Kennewick as Vice-Chair of the Program Committee.

I have grown to appreciate the value our member-volunteers bring and the important role the organization plays in our industry. I know first-hand how rewarding

participation in this organization can be and have embraced the challenge of recruiting others to engage in rewarding leadership positions. I value the role that the Section has played in my own professional development, and I am deeply committed to creating opportunities for other water professionals to help foster their careers, leadership skills, and passion for public service. This has led me to participate in the Member Engagement and Development Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee in the past year.

If elected, I am eager to contribute my experience and perspective to support the Section and its members and to use the opportunity to listen and learn more about the organization from the more experienced Board members. As a water resources consultant, I have technical knowledge of the water industry, a history of working closely with water providers across the region, and a personal interest in education and mentorship. I enthusiastically support the Association's efforts to identify barriers to inclusion in our industry and find ways to invite and welcome members of diverse backgrounds to our ranks. I would also like to explore new ways to help our members leverage this robust network of professionals to share knowledge and develop strategies to address shared technical challenges, such as evolving regulatory requirements and water supply resiliency issues. Thanks for your consideration – I look forward to bringing my personal skills and experience to the Trustee role to advance the Section's goals and continue to serve the Section and its members into the future.

***“Thanks for your consideration – I look forward to bringing my personal skills and experience to the Trustee role to advance the Section's goals and continue to serve the Section and its members into the future.”***





### Michelle Johnson, PE

Project Manager, J-U-B Engineers

It is an honor to be nominated to run for a PNWS-AWWA Trustee position. The Section has been such an asset and support network for me during my career, and I am excited about the opportunity to have a bigger role in developing and promoting

the organization. I have worked for J-U-B Engineers as a civil engineer for 17 years and have been fortunate to focus a large portion of my work on drinking water, which is what I love to do. My first exposure to AWWA was through my father and grandfather. My grandfather was a civil engineer and a lifetime member of the Section, and my father, also an engineer, continues to regularly attend the Section Conference. My first hands-on experience with drinking water was operating a camp water system that my father, grandfather, and uncle had designed in McCall, ID, where I worked during the summers while I was in college. This experience taught me a lot about the day-to-day operation of a new system and the criticality of providing safe, reliable drinking water. It was a big driver in my decision to work in this field.

My personal involvement with AWWA began almost ten years ago when I joined the Inland Empire Subsection Board. My tenure on the IESS Board provided many

leadership opportunities and great friendships. I have had the opportunity to serve on the Local Arrangements Committee for the Section Conference, host a number of trainings to provide CEUs and networking, help coordinate the IESS Subsection golf tournament and other philanthropic events, and coordinate the very first virtual IESS Truck Rodeo this past spring.

Through my involvement on the IESS Board, I have had the opportunity to attend a few Trustee meetings and understand the expectations of the Board members and the role they play in directing the Section. I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of that Board and participate in the process. The friendships and connections that I have made have been so rewarding and beneficial to me in both personal and professional ways. I look forward to the potential opportunity to serve the Section in a role that can help find ways to continue providing critical educational development to our members and equally important networking resources.

On a personal note, my husband, Ryan, and I live and play in the inland northwest with our two daughters, who, at 11 and 14, really keep us on our toes. We enjoy skiing, mountain biking, camping, and other activities that get us outside and can do together. One of the favorite pastimes of my youngest daughter on our road trips is to count water tanks – maybe another generation of water engineering in the making.

***"The Section has been such an asset and support network for me during my career, and I am excited about the opportunity to have a bigger role in developing and promoting the organization."***





## Erika Murphy, PE

Associate, Carollo Engineers

It is an honor to be nominated for the position of Trustee for the PNWS-AWWA. I have been an active member of the Northwest Oregon Subsection for eleven years and look forward to the opportunity to provide leadership and passion at the Section level.

When I joined the AWWA in 2011, I immediately became a member of the Engineering Committee and, within a few years, became the committee chair. As chair of the Engineering Committee, I focused on recruitment. Enlisting new members and ensuring that all members feel welcome and useful is critical. People are the strength of the AWWA, and the more voices and ideas in the room, the richer our organization is. The PNWS-AWWA is valuable in providing networking opportunities and a place to build relationships in the industry. Between conferences, training, Water for People fundraising events, and golf tournaments, there are ample opportunities to engage with other professionals in the industry, regardless of job position, workplace, or experience level. There is value in getting to know each other on a personal level and building relationships that aren't always focused around water conversation or our jobs. When presented with a question or challenge at work, I often reach out to someone with whom I have shared laughs (and maybe an adult beverage) to talk through possible solutions. As we adjust to life 'after' the pandemic, now is a crucial time

to reengage members of committees and Subsections. Many colleagues have felt isolated and disconnected from others during the past two years, and it will take a focused outreach to bring people back together and rebuild the strong, active membership of the PNWS-AWWA.

I have worked in the engineering field for 20 years, with my last 11 years focused solely on drinking water. Throughout my career, I have worked in both the private consulting and public service sides of the water industry. My passion is being an advocate for drinking water, and I would love the opportunity to continue my service as a PNWS-AWWA Trustee. I have learned different skill sets as a municipal water provider and a consultant. There are often multiple technical solutions to any problem, but the solution is usually much more complex than just engineering. Public perception, finances, politics, partnerships, and stakeholder commitments must also be considered as part of any solution to a problem. I plan to take this multi-faceted approach to the Trustee position to find effective ways to lead the PNWS. Since I transitioned my career to focus on drinking water eleven years ago, I have received so much from the PNWS-AWWA. I look forward to giving back and ensuring that the section remains strong and that the members are passionate about our mission.

When not working, my husband Aaron and I, with our dog Kinta, can be found in Pacific City. We will either be frolicking at the beach, paddleboarding or kayaking on the Nestucca River, or planning our next vacation.

***“As we adjust to life ‘after’ the pandemic, now is a crucial time to reengage members of committees and Subsections. Many colleagues have felt isolated and disconnected from others during the past two years, and it will take a focused outreach to bring people back together and rebuild the strong, active membership of the PNWS-AWWA.”***

### Subsection Advisory Council

Brian Wilson, City of Vancouver

It has been a very odd couple of years for the Subsection Advisory Council (SAC). We haven't been able to support competitions, officer trainings, and at times Subsections. COVID-19 made it a very quiet time for us, but WE'RE BACK!

#### Subsection Engagement

The SAC has started holding quarterly meetings with Subsection chairs to promote communication, coordination, training, events, and general ideas. The goal is to get neighboring Subsections to work together and promote each other's events and trainings. Maybe even collaborate on some trainings to improve membership engagement. Our first meeting was on June 22, 2022, and it was a very productive meeting. Everyone had the opportunity to hear from the MEDC and share

Subsection activities during a roundtable. SAC shared our mission and how we support the Subsections and competitions.

We will be developing the next agenda for the December meeting soon and expect some great info to be shared. We will invite members from other committees to discuss their goals and how Subsections can work with the committee.

#### Competitions

We are looking forward to getting the competitions back for the 2023 PNWS-AWWA Conference in Kennewick, May 3-5, 2023. We have been monitoring the AWWA website to see what materials will be used during the 2023 competitions and when the practice materials will be available to order. If help is needed to understand the events or develop teams within

your Subsection, feel free to reach out at [brian.e.wilson@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:brian.e.wilson@cityofvancouver.us).

#### Opportunities to Join

I would also like to take this opportunity to reach out to potential SAC members. I have been the Chair through the pandemic, and Loren Searl has been the Vice-Chair. During this time, we have lost several committee members and are looking for replacements. If you are interested, please reach out to one of us; this is a fun and exciting committee. We are looking for a Secretary, Meter Challenge Coordinator, Field Operations & Innovations Coordinator, Western Oregon Coordinator, & Eastern Washington/Idaho Coordinator. For more information, please visit <http://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/subsection-advisory-council>. 

### Northwest Oregon (NWOR) Subsection

#### Annual Golf Tournament was a Success!

On Friday, July 15, 2022, we held our annual NWOR Subsection fundraiser golf tournament, from which all proceeds are donated to Water For



Kyle Kihs and Justin Ford.

People and the John Aho Scholarship Fund. It was a gorgeous, sunny day at the Gresham Golf Course. We had 120 golfers and 29 sponsors (which is as many as we have ever had of both). The winning teams of the scramble format came in at 11 under par – pretty impressive! Due to the great turnout and the generous donations by all the sponsors and the participants, we were able to raise just over \$10,000 for our sponsored charities! This event was super successful, with the participants enjoying the great company of their teammates and industry colleagues. The Water For People Committee would like to thank the dedicated volunteers for all their hard work both leading up to and at the event, as well as all the raffle prize donors and corporate sponsors.

We're looking forward to an even better showing next year! July 21, 2023!

#### Competent Person Training

**Tuesday, October 11, 2022**

**8:00 am-12:00 pm**

Training will be held in Wilsonville and approved for 0.4 CEUs.

A competent person is defined as one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees and who has the authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them. This training is designed for field staff,



supervisors, engineers, foremen, and laborers so everyone can ensure a safe job site.

Contact Kyle Arnhart at [kylea@tigard-or.gov](mailto:kylea@tigard-or.gov) or 503-209-4476 to get registered.

### 2022 Holiday Party at the Oregon Zoo

**Friday, December 16, 2022, 11 am**

It's never too early to hunt for that perfect 'ugly sweater'!

Registration will open in mid-October.



### Holiday Party Sponsorship:

The NWOR Subsection is excited to reconnect with everyone after a long period of social isolation, event cancellations, and endless Zoom meetings. We are thrilled to have the 2022 Holiday Party at a new venue: the Oregon Zoo. In order to make this event a success, we need your support. Sponsorship of the 2022 Holiday Party is an opportunity for companies and individuals to show support for the Northwest Oregon Subsection. If you are interested in being a sponsor for this year's holiday party, please contact Laura Oxsen at [laura.oxsen@3j-consulting.com](mailto:laura.oxsen@3j-consulting.com).

### Welcome, Elissa Poulsen, as NWOR Secretary!



The secretary prepares monthly meeting minutes and submits them to the appropriate person to be included in the announcements for upcoming meetings. The secretary also takes meeting minutes at Subsection Board meetings and compiles them for occasional submittal to the bank.

Elissa is a driven woman who strives to create and maintain positive relationships between customers and the public. She currently works as an Automated Meter Reading/Advanced Metering Infrastructure

(AMR/AMI) Product Specialist for Core and Main (CNM), where she maintains and profitably grows sales in the Pacific Northwest. She prides herself on educating CNM's sales force and customers on AMR/AMI technology. She supports customers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Wyoming and helps manage their system's needs and resolves any issues that come up. She is consistently developing and implementing plans to expand market share and bring awareness to the industry's diversity, equity, and inclusion culture and beyond. She is most known as a dependable employee recognized for communication, complex problem solving, critical thinking, customer service, and time management skills. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time hiking, paddleboarding, reading, writing, trying new food places, and playing with her dog. She moved to Oregon in 2016 and has developed a deep love and appreciation for the various ecosystems in the state. Most often, she travels the coast, finds hikes with waterfalls that she can go to with her dog, or finds a lake she can throw her paddleboard onto. She still has so much of Oregon left to explore and is looking forward to meeting more people who share a deep love for water and the outdoors like she does.

### Subsection Opportunities



#### Incoming Subsection Office

This opportunity would start in May 2023. You'll gain organization, public speaking, and budget management skills.

#### Activities Committee Lead

Ready to bring your enthusiasm? The Activities Committee organizes, promotes, and recruits participants where necessary for Subsection competitive events such as Meter

Challenge, Best Tasting Water, Hydrant Hysteria, Gimmicks and Gadgets.

Interested in either of those? Contact Subsection President Laura Oxsen at [laura.oxsen@3j-consulting.com](mailto:laura.oxsen@3j-consulting.com) or 503-946-9365 ext. 225

### Short School Committee

We want your fresh ideas! Planning for the 2023 in-person Short School will start in December. The Committee organizes the annual 3-day waterworks school, which is normally held at Clackamas Community College. The Committee is responsible for soliciting speakers and vendors for the 3-day event, working with the college regarding logistics, as well as classroom monitoring and other functions during the waterworks school. Contact Christine Hollenbeck at [christine@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org).

### Monthly Meetings Are Back!

In June, we held our first lunch meeting after a two-year pause. Monthly meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 am.



L to R: Joe Rogers (North Clackamas County Water Commission) and Matt Kaatz (City of West Linn) hand off the famous golden boot, which signifies they've completed their duties as a subsection officer.

### Social Media

Send us your photos! We'd love to see what your city or company is doing. Visit us on our social media accounts! 📷



### Northwest Washington Subsection

Hello PNWS members, and happy fall! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are enjoying the return to cooler weather, cozy sweaters, and all things pumpkin spice.

Fall also means the beginning of a new school year, which is a great time to start thinking about your own education and training needs. You might ask yourself, "Where are we in the CEU cycle? Do I need to catch up on CEUs? Am I in great shape for CEUs and can sit back and relax the next few months?" Whether you need CEUs now or in the future, we are here to help. And if you are all set for CEUs – congratulations! The NWWA Subsection is committed to bringing you high-quality, affordable training. Please head to our website at [www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/subsections/northwest-washington-subsection](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/subsections/northwest-washington-subsection) to check out our upcoming virtual and in-person workshops.

#### Training

##### *Re-cap – 2022 Western Washington Short School and Trade Show, June 7-8, 2022*

The NWWA Subsection and Western Washington Region of PNCWA jointly hosted the Western Washington Short School and Trade Show on June 7-8, 2022. PNCWA has been a long-standing partner when it comes to the Short School, and we appreciate the time and dedication of the Joint Planning Committee to make this event such a success. This year's Short School was 'Live in Lynnwood' at the Lynnwood Convention Center and was our first in-person Short School since 2019. Thanks to the technical wizardry of our program Co-Chairs, Eric Schey and Jeff Lundt, we were also able to provide two virtual tracks per day. Subsection Vice-President Dave Price organized the Trade Show with over 20 vendors. We want to thank all the Short School organizers and participants and a special thanks to our sponsors; AESI, ASHAI/America,

BHC Consultants, Carollo Engineers, Confluence Engineering Group, GeoEngineers, Gray & Osborne, HDR, Jacobs, Kenney Jenks, Murraysmith, Parametrix, RH2, and Wilson Engineering.



#### Upcoming

We have a full slate of training opportunities already planned or in development for late 2022 and early 2023, including:

- Basic Waterworks
- Chemical Storage and Feed
- Chemistry for Operators
- Chlorine Residual Testing
- Day with Department of Health
- Emergency Preparedness
- Groundwater Basics
- How to Read Process and Instrumentation Diagrams
- Math for Operators
- Water Distribution
- Water Quality Basics
- Water Storage Basics

The complete training schedule will be posted to the PNWS Section website at [www.pnws-awwa.org/training/training-opportunities](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/training/training-opportunities) and shared via Constant Contact. For training-related questions, please contact our Program Co-Chairs: Jeff Lundt and Eric Schey, at [jeff.lundt@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jeff.lundt@kingcounty.gov) and [eschey@kingcounty.gov](mailto:eschey@kingcounty.gov).

#### Events

Please join us at our NWWA Subsection Meet-and-Greet this fall. More information and registration will be available soon. For event-related questions, please contact our Subsection Secretary, Bridget August, at [baugust@geoengineers.com](mailto:baugust@geoengineers.com).

#### New Members

If you are a new member of the NWWA Subsection, we would love to connect with you! Please reach out to our President and New Member Chair, Kenneth Packard, at [kenneth.packard@hdrinc.com](mailto:kenneth.packard@hdrinc.com).

We encourage new and existing members to contact any of our Subsection officers if you want to learn more about the Subsection and get involved. We would love to have you join us! Our current Board is:

- **Kenneth Packard**, HDR, President
- **Dave Price**, Carollo Engineers, Vice-President
- **Mark Semrau**, Skagit PUD, Treasurer
- **Bridget August**, GeoEngineers, Secretary
- **Hanna Lintukorpi**, City of Everett, Director 3
- **Dan Bannier**, Retired (formerly RCAC), Director 2
- **Nick Leininger**, City of Bellingham, Director 1
- **Jeff Marrs**, City of Everett, Past President
- **Jeff Lundt**, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, Program Co-Chair
- **Eric Schey**, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, Program Co-Chair

#### Monthly Meetings

The NWWA Subsection holds monthly virtual meetings, and we would love to 'see' you there! To be added to the monthly meeting invite, please contact our Subsection Secretary, Bridget August, at [baugust@geoengineers.com](mailto:baugust@geoengineers.com). 

### South Sound Subsection

#### Update

The South Sound Subsection was excited to host two in-person events this summer! In July, we held our 9th annual charity golf tournament to support Living Access Support Alliance (LASA) at the Oakbrook Golf Course, and it was a huge success. LASA supports local families struggling to afford their

utilities and who are facing possible homelessness. We raised about \$4,000 to help this great cause! A big thank you to our sponsors and volunteers! In August, we also hosted a 'Summer Social' at Dystopian State Brewing. A great time was had as we caught up with friends and colleagues; thank you to those that joined us!

#### Trainings

Watch our website! The final planning stages are coming together for a couple of great trainings later this year. It can't be any easier to join us as we continue to hold our Board meetings virtually. Feel free to reach out to grab a meeting link – we meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 am. 📧



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### Southern Oregon Subsection

Cyndi Weeks, Secretary

We just held our 10th annual golf tournament for Water For People. The weather was nice for the first time in years, and there was no smoke in the air. Attendance was high, with 56 golfers and 17 very generous sponsors. Between raffle drawings,

auctions, and a fun putting contest, we raised \$6,888 for Water For People! Mark your calendars for next year – August 18-19, 2023.

As we get back into the swing of things post-COVID-19, we are seeing our meeting attendee numbers

dwindle as people retire. Our focus will be to recruit new members and get some 'fresh blood' into our Subsection.





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#### Upcoming Events

We don't have dates yet, but our biennial Short School will be sometime in 2023. Usually held in September, we are looking to see if that timeframe still works for our area. No matter when it is, it will be fantastic as always.

#### Current Board

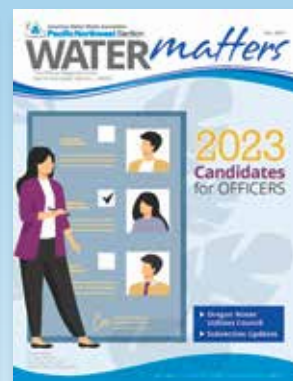
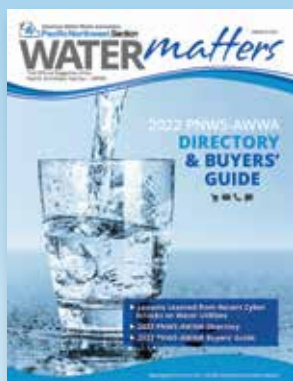
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**Rachel Lanigan**, Vice-President  
**Cyndi Weeks**, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Cody Scoggins**, Director 1  
**Brooke Barry**, Director 2  
**Adam Smith**, Director 3



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Carollo Engineers	16	800-523-5826	<a href="http://www.carollo.com">www.carollo.com</a>
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Force Flow/Halogen Valve Systems	9	925-686-6700	<a href="http://www.forceflowscales.com">www.forceflowscales.com</a>
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Garney Construction	10	303-791-3600	<a href="http://www.garney.com">www.garney.com</a>
GSI Water Solutions, Inc.	14	503-239-8799	<a href="http://www.gsiws.com">www.gsiws.com</a>
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