



American Water Works Association  
**Pacific Northwest** Section

SUMMER 2023

# WATER *matters*

The Official Magazine of the  
Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA

## PNWS-AWWA's Annual Conference May 3-5, 2023 | Kennewick, WA RECAP

- ▶ Conference Award Winners
- ▶ 2023 Excellence in Communications Awards

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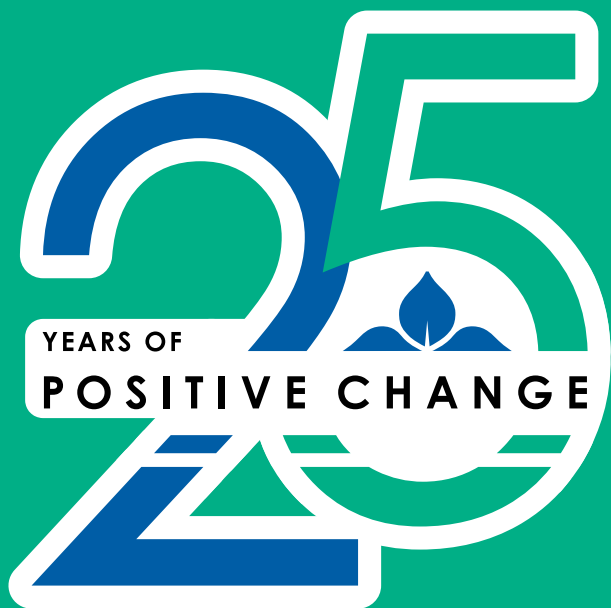


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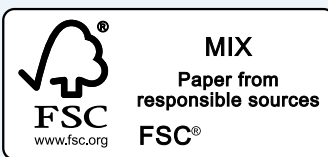
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## Working Together for the Greater Good

**I**t's an honor to step in as your next Section Chair. I want to thank Michelle Cheek for her service as Chair this past year, and Nick Belmont, our new Chair-Elect whom I look forward to working with over the next year. I would be remiss if I didn't take the time to thank the many folks who have been by my side during this incredible 37-year journey as a water professional. First and foremost, my wife, Caren, thank you for always being in my corner! TEAM SLEETH! To my employer Covington Water District for supporting me and providing the necessary time to meet the commitment. My family for never giving up on me, and my four amazing daughters for putting up with my terrible dad jokes.

A passion of mine, a topic that I believe is of the utmost importance for the long-term health of our organization and, quite frankly, the world we live in. That topic is serving the greater good. Throughout history, great leaders and ordinary people alike have dedicated their lives to making the world a better place for everyone. As professional water and sewer workers, we fit that mold; we work in public health, not for exuberant pay or lavish bonuses, but for the communities, we live in and work for.

But what exactly does it mean to serve the greater good? At its core, serving the greater good means putting the needs of others before your own. Sounds familiar, correct? Many of us in this industry do exactly that. It also means recognizing that we are all connected and that we have a responsibility to work together to build a better world. It means being willing to make sacrifices, to work hard, and to never give up in the face

of adversity. As water professionals, we are facing adversity right now in the form of water shortages and forever chemicals. PFOS, PFOA, and the long list of forever chemicals have forever changed how we perform our duties.




Water and sewer professionals around the world are the perfect example of working for the greater good. The men and women who work tirelessly 24/7/365 to provide safe, clean, reliable drinking water and sanitation to our communities often working long hours under incredibly difficult conditions. Their dedication to the well-being of others is truly inspirational and serves as a reminder that we are essential.

But serving the greater good is not just about heroic acts in times of crisis. It is also about the small everyday actions that we all take to make a difference in the lives of those around us. It could be as simple as volunteering on one of our many Section committees or serving on one of our Subsections, maybe even running for the Board of Trustees,

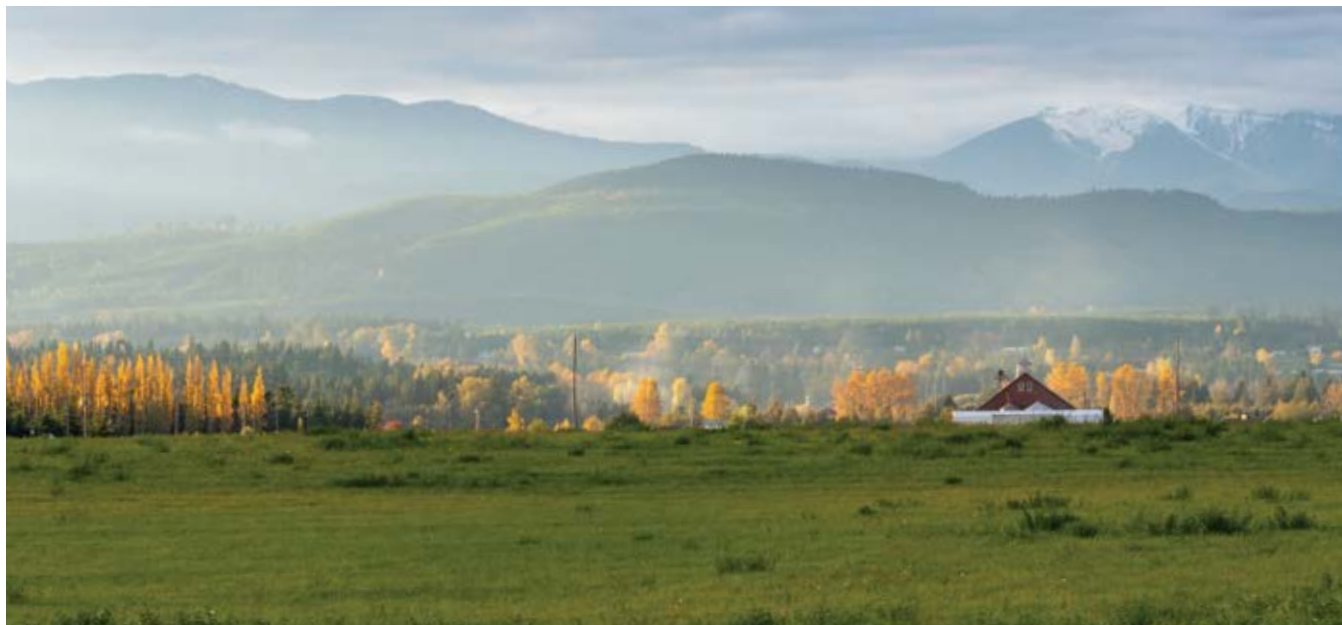
possibly even Chair. These actions may seem small, but they can have a ripple effect that extends far beyond their immediate impact. My journey at PNWS started by serving the Distribution Committee, then Small Systems, King County Subsection, Board of Trustees, and now Chair.

So how can we all serve the greater good? It starts by recognizing that we all have a role to play in making the world a better place. It means being mindful of the impact that our actions have on others and striving to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. Positivity breeds positivity. It means looking for the common good in someone regardless of race, creed, color, or political belief. It means working together towards a common goal and possibly even making some personal sacrifices for the common good.

I'm not saying this is easy, but I think it's a tangible and achievable goal we can all work towards. We are putting the needs of others before our own, recognizing our interconnectedness, and being willing to work hard and make sacrifices. We can build a better world for ourselves and future generations, whether in our personal relationships, our relationships with co-workers, the general public, or even our association members. So, lend a hand, pitch in where there is a need, and help your network. And if your network is rock solid and doesn't need any assistance, we would be happy to show you where you could assist this Section and our Association. So let us all commit to serving the greater good, creating a diverse and inclusive Section, and let us work together to create a brighter and more compassionate world for us all. 

Dan Sleeth  
PNWS Section Chair

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# Leading Water Associations Lobby Congress for a Permanent Water Utility Customer Assistance Program

**B**y the time you read this article, both the PNWS 2023 Section Conference held in Kennewick, Washington and the ACE23 Association Conference held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, will have concluded. I want to express how much I enjoyed both conferences and getting to visit with everyone.

Michelle Stockness, our visiting Association Vice-President, attended sessions in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion track at the Section Conference as this is one of the items that is at the forefront on the Association level. I applaud all who participated and helped organize this track. The track was exceptional and left us with a lot of points and information that Michelle was able to present to the Association Executive Committee, Directors, and staff. I will have more follow-up and information on strategies being implemented from the Association level to help address this critical topic in future articles.

As I mentioned in past articles, the Water 2050 initiative is one of the top priorities for the Association at this time. This is an effort, under the direction of AWWA, that is bringing people together with the sole purpose of understanding the water industry's long-term challenges and developing solutions to get ahead of those challenges before they become insurmountable. The first phase of this initiative has involved holding five 'Think Tanks,' with each focusing on a single point of the five core identified drivers: *Sustainability, Technology, Economics, Governance, and Social Demographics*. The last of the five 'Think Tanks' was held the last week of April in Birmingham, AL, and the theme was Social Demographics. The full reports from each of the 'Think Tanks' will be made available soon. Some of the topics explored include regionalized water authorities,

I want to express how much I enjoyed both conferences and getting to visit with everyone.

identifying funding sources for resilient systems, rebranding and emphasizing the value of water to reflect the need to prepare a sustainable future, assuring that equity and affordability are key considerations, and maximizing efficiencies through reuse and conservation measures. As this initiative that has a definite impact on all water and wastewater utilities evolves more, I will share information and ways to get involved.

AWWA has also joined with four other organizations, AMWA, NACWA, NAWC, and WEF, in lobbying Congress for a permanent water utility customer assistance program similar to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) or the temporary Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) that was piloted by the Department of Health and Human Services. The organizations released policy recommendations based on a detailed assessment study at a panel discussion in Washington, DC. The study was conducted between November 2021 and April 2023 and concluded that as many as 21 million households in America are facing challenges affording wastewater and water services, and the deficit amounts up to \$7.9 billion annually. AWWA and the other agencies are collaborating to show Congress the value of such a program.

AWWA is also working on developing comments on the proposed PFAS drinking water standard consumer confidence report rule and cybersecurity guidance.

Lastly, the summer workshop is scheduled for July 19-21, 2023, in Denver, Colorado. Attendance at the workshop is free, but registration is required. The workshop is great training for not only current Section leaders but for those interested in becoming future leaders.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to be your representative at the Association, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or needs from the Association. 📧

James Dean  
PNWS Association Director

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

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

#### D&I Subcommittee becomes a formal Committee

After establishing the Subcommittee in 2020 under the Membership, Engagement, and Development Committee, we're excited to share that the Board voted to formalize the D&I Subcommittee as a stand-alone committee, standing by the Section's dedication to fostering a welcoming and inclusive organization. This change is thanks to the leadership and volunteers over the past three years who have participated in the growth of the Subcommittee.

#### D&I Conference Track 2023 is a success!

The D&I Committee led the first D&I track at the Section conference, with a program featuring the industry's leaders in diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging (DEI&B) work. The sessions were packed, and you could feel the passion in the room!

The program included two special panels featuring panelists who were diverse in background – education, experience, cultural background, private vs. public sector, etc. The first panel, "Retaining Talent," focused on workforce retention. The panel speakers discussed the challenges of retaining diverse talent in the water industry and discussed paths to sustain an inclusive workforce. Panelists from various sectors discussed topics such as DEI workplace training, employee affinity groups, workplace culture, mentorship programs, etc. On the flip side of retention is recruitment. In the second panel, "Filling Your Bucket: Diverse Discussion Panel on Recruitment," speakers discussed the paths to creating a more diverse workforce



to promote a growing industry with representation from various sectors. Speakers discussed topics including the benefits of internships/apprenticeships, volunteering, and community outreach, using resources like local programs, partnerships, social media, etc. The sessions were interactive and engaging, so much so that we probably could have had a full day of discussions.

Special thanks to the session moderator **Randy Black (Lakewood Water District)** and panel organizers **Benedicte Diakubama (Jacobs)** and **Asa Reyes-Chavez (Parametrix)** for organizing the program.

#### Join Us for our Monthly D&I Call

The D&I Committee meets monthly on the first Wednesday of every month from 11 am-12 pm virtually. These calls are for us to get to know each other, plan out the Committee's activities, and set priorities. We always start the meeting with an opportunity to share and meet other Committee members, so don't feel you need to come with any specific background. Join the conversation at our next D&I call. All are welcome to join. Contact Chair Gina Hortillosa for the meeting information at [ghortillosa@pnws-awwa.org](mailto:ghortillosa@pnws-awwa.org).

#### Announcing this year's D&I Award Recipient, Mari Orama

We are thrilled to announce the second recipient of the PNWS D&I Award, **Mari Orama (Parametrix)**.



This award is to recognize an individual, group, or organization that has created, promoted, and maintained diversity and inclusion by establishing an environment that recognizes, encourages, and effectively utilizes each individual's talents.

Mari is extremely deserving of the D&I Award because of her incredible ongoing work bringing underrepresented youth into the water industry and other STEM fields. She does this work not because someone pays her to do it but because it is her passion. Mari is both an innovator and a collaborator – creating the SCOPE program to connect youth and industry, serving on the Board of Directors for the Association of Filipino-American Engineers of Washington, and bringing an equity lens as a new Advisory Board Member to the University of Washington Tacoma School of Engineering and Technology.

Mari is dedicated to the industry and her family and is uncompromising in her love of being a mother to her three beautiful daughters. Her compassion, unwavering support, and family values allow her to create a sense of belonging wherever she goes. Mari is definitely one of those people who you ask, "How do you do it all?" She is consistent, patient, kind, and authentic, and that is what this type of work takes. 🙌

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### Member Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC)

**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.

#### Member Engagement in Kennewick

It was great to be back together at the PNWS-AWWA Conference in Kennewick, WA, from May 3-5, 2023. The MEDC had a great time connecting with members at the First-Timers Meet and Greet Breakfast and the Membership Booth. The Meet and Greet provided an opportunity for first-time attendees to network and learn how to get the most out of the conference experience and their membership. We had a great showing, with over 40 first-time attendees showing up at 7:00 am to connect. And special thanks to our 16 Table Leads for the breakout table activity. We're already excited to plan for next year's conference in Spokane, WA.



#### Eddy Spotting at the Membership Booth!

The Membership Division Booth allowed attendees to connect with the MEDC, Young Professionals, and D&I Committee and get SWAG. We also had a special guest, Eddy! Eddy, the AWWA mascot, was welcomed with open arms for photo ops, shared on the conference app. Look out for Eddy next year if you didn't get a chance to meet. Special shout out to **Doug Schlepp (RH2)** for getting Eddy to and from the conference.



#### Mentorship Program Update


The 2022-2023 PNWS Mentorship Program launched last fall with 17 new mentor/protege pairs. Mentor pairs met about once a month over six months, with sessions on various career development topics. Look for the application to join the program this fall in the next cohort of mentorship pairs. If you are interested in learning more, please get in touch with our Mentorship Program Coordinator, Kyle Wong, at [kyle.wong@spwater.org](mailto:kyle.wong@spwater.org) with any questions.

#### Need Help with Reaching Your Subsection Members?

Let us know! We can pull member lists that are specific to your Subsection and renewal date to outreach to specific members. Please get in touch with the MEDC Chair, Joanie Stultz, at [jstultz@brwncald.com](mailto:jstultz@brwncald.com), or visit us at [www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/membership-committee](http://www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/membership-committee).

**Special thanks** to our outgoing Trustee Liaison, **Tyler Clary**, for all your support these past two years! We're excited to welcome **Chandra Hingston** as our new incoming Trustee Liaison to the Membership Division.

Thanks also to our current MEDC Committee Members: **Chris Young, Joanie Stultz, Kyle Wong, Natalie Reilly, Doug Schlepp, Randy Black, and DeEtta Fosbury.**

Are you interested in learning more about the MEDC? Attend our next monthly call. We meet on the second Friday of the month from 12 pm-1 pm. Contact [jstultz@brwncald.com](mailto:jstultz@brwncald.com) for the meeting invite. 

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### Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC)

The Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) has been active on several fronts in 2023 during the long Legislative Session. Key areas of focus included frequent legislative engagement as bills were being developed, introduced, and debated; informing policymakers about topics affecting water utilities; and 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). Both OWRD and OHA regularly attend OWUC's monthly meetings, which provide an excellent forum for discussing these matters that impact Oregon water utilities.

Three Representatives of OWUC, 2022/23 Chair Jessica Dorsey of Hillsboro, Vice-Chair Kari Duncan of Rockwood Water PUD, and Association WUC member Mike Grimm from West Slope Water District attended the 2023 AWWA Washington DC Fly-In. They successfully met with members and staff for six of the seven Oregon delegations to discuss national and state priorities


for drinking water providers. Topics discussed included advocacy for the Willamette Reallocation, Infrastructure Funding, PFOS/PFOA Regulation, Cybersecurity, and AWWA 2050.

OWUC transitioned officers in May for 2023/24. This year the officers are Secretary Rebecca Geisen, Portland Water Bureau/RWPC; Vice-Chair Adam Denlinger, Seal Rock Water District; Chair Kari Duncan, Rockwood Water PUD; and Past Chair Jessica Dorsey, City of Hillsboro.

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

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### Water Information Technology Committee

#### The Water Information Technology Committee is changing, and we need your help!


The Water Information Technology Committee started as a way to help the section make use of the technology that enables the collaboration of all other committees and Subsections. We have helped our members with Section email addresses, updates to the website, and AV equipment at events. And we will continue to do that.

However, information technology is the glue that connects every aspect of our industry, and we want to do a better job helping our members make good use of technology. So, we are pleased to announce a new

direction for the Committee. Our new principal mission is to be advocates and educators for the information technology used by water utilities. Information technology is a diverse field, so we are looking to recruit members to form subject matter subcommittees to work with the Committee to achieve this new goal. The new vision calls for creating groups to advocate and educate on topics such as cybersecurity, SCADA, GIS, data analysis, and other topics that folks are interested in. These groups will work to discuss challenges, define best practices, and create training content to benefit our members. Ultimately, we want to create a forum that is valuable for all involved. Through this work, we will

improve the content of technical sessions at the annual conference and provide training opportunities throughout the year.

To achieve this goal, we need members that want to help. Like many committees, our membership dwindled during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are now rebuilding the Committee to provide committee members and the section as a whole with a champion for improving how we use and share information. To achieve this new vision, we will hold monthly meetings starting in June 2023.

For more information, please contact Chair Kevin Wyckoff at [kwyckoff@pnws-awwa.org](mailto:kwyckoff@pnws-awwa.org) to get involved. 



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## Conference Program Committee

### Build your Spokane 2024 Technical Session Now! The deadline for Abstracts is July 31, 2023.

The 2024 Annual Conference is about a year away, but it takes a year to assemble a program and get it approved for CEUs. The process began with a call for abstracts, which opened around the first week of June. The deadline for submittal is July 31, 2023.

The way the program-building process works in our section, the Program Committee Chair Jill Hoyenga and Vice-Chair Michelle Johnson are responsible for managing the abstract collection process, assembling individual sessions, draft programs into

a full conference schedule, and doing the paperwork necessary to obtain continuing education credit.

If a committee would like to see presentations about a specific topic, it is up to the individual committee to solicit speakers to submit abstracts to fill out that topic. I strongly encourage each of your committees to plan your tracks out now and work your networks to get topics for your proposed tracks submitted with your committee's name on them.

In early August, the Program Committee Chair and Vice-Chair will sort through the abstracts and send them out to committees for review. Committees will have about a month to develop and submit their proposed sessions to us.

During September, we will populate the schedule, identify conflicting requests, and work with committees to resolve those conflicts. The draft program will be presented to the Trustees at the Fall Trustee meeting. We will then begin preparing the CEU application packages.

Go to the Conference Program Committee website to access the link to the abstract submittal form. Together, we can build another terrific conference in 2024.

For questions related to the Program Committee, please get in touch with Chair Jill Hoyenga at [jhoyenga@ci.the-dalles.or.us](mailto:jhoyenga@ci.the-dalles.or.us), or Vice-Chair Michelle Johnson at [mjohnson@pnws-awwa.org](mailto:mjohnson@pnws-awwa.org). 

## Utility Management Committee (UMC)

The Utility Management Committee (UMC) sponsored 17 presentations at the 2023 Annual Conference in Kennewick, with committee members moderating all three half-day sessions and participating in 8 of the 17 presentations. Great job, everyone,

and thank you to all the presenters and moderators!


The Committee also met during the Conference, along with our Trustee, Libby Barg Bakke, to discuss plans for the 2023/2024 new year. We agreed that there is a lot of interest in topics such

as *workforce, funding, and technology*. Specific topic examples include:

- Workforce development, recruiting and retention, and knowledge capture with videos and augmented reality
- Infrastructure funding for capital projects, innovative funding applications, and talking to stakeholders/decision-makers about rates and financial planning
- Technology integration and implementation – data acquisition and management, machine learning, small system support

With UMC membership spanning northern Washington to mid-Oregon, we are considering options for organizing half-day or one-day workshops at different locations around these topics that would be available to different PNWS geographies. We would love to include Idaho – Are any Idaho members interested in joining the UMC?

If you are interested in joining, please contact the Committee Chair, Ann Hajnosz, at [ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com](mailto:ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com).

Stay tuned for announcements later this summer regarding upcoming training workshops sponsored by the UMC. 



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## 5 Tips to Unlock the Power of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Asa Reyes-Chavez

Being passionate about DEI, I'm excited that more organizations are adopting DEI programs. But how do we ensure that DEI programs are making an impact? Here are a few ways we've made a difference at Parametrix!

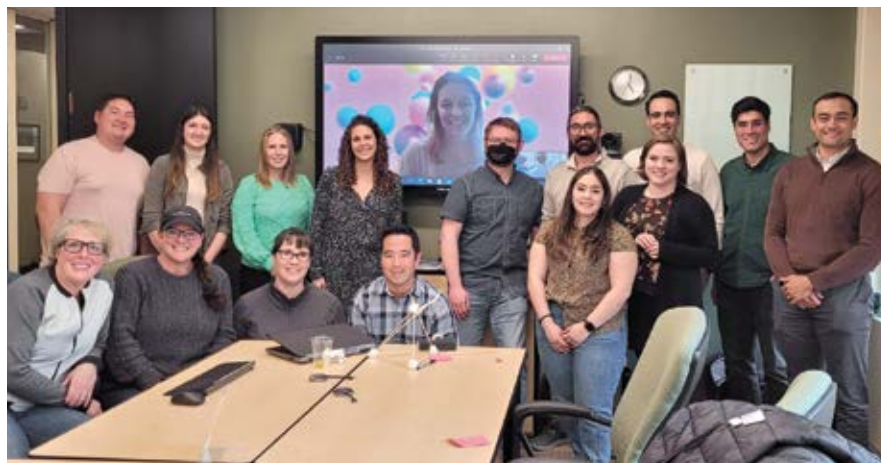
**1. Join forces.** Parametrix established our DEI Committee in 2019 with a goal of incorporating DEI into our strategic plan and policies. By collaborating across the company, we ensure that all voices are heard and that our initiatives are effective. We also have many passionate and experienced DEI supporters outside of the committee. As a 100% employee-owned firm, having employee-owner input is incredibly important.

Our initiatives focus on three pillars:

- Foundation: training, communications, and resource groups
- Internal: hiring, retention, promotion, and pay equity
- External: social responsibility, MSVWBE partnerships, and community outreach and engagement

**2. Invest in DEI leadership.**

A leader who champions these values at the highest level is essential. Parametrix hired Elisa Young as



*DEI Committee onboarding meeting in Portland, OR, in May 2022.*

our DEI Director and Enterprise Leadership Team member to lead the creation of an environment that welcomes and respects diverse perspectives, promotes workplace community, and drives lasting change.


**3. Make it a core value.** In 2020, we added 'Inclusion' as a core value and an integral part of our foundational beliefs. From our strategic plan to our daily activities, Parametrix prioritizes DEI. By embedding these values into our culture, we're creating a workplace where everyone can thrive.

**4. Put your money where your mouth is.** We've invested in a committee, hired DEI leadership, provided training, donated to organizations, observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a paid holiday, and engaged in external outreach.

**5. Take it beyond your organization.**

DEI must be reflected in how you do business and interact with the community. We're proud of our partnerships with MSVWBEs and the sponsorship of organizations and scholarships for underrepresented students.

We're also proud to have employee-owners committed to increasing DEI throughout the industry, like Mari Orama, who received the 2023 Diversity and Inclusion Award from the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA. Mari co-founded SCOPE (Supportive Community of Professional Engineers), supporting students by leveraging industry partnerships and finding mentors for traditionally underrepresented students in STEM.

DEI work is never done. We must continue to learn, grow, and shift. Just like our water engineering work, there are endless opportunities to make a positive impact and create a better world. 



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## PACE Is Here to Help!

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking action to reduce the amount of lead found in water systems. A major update to the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule (i.e., the Revised Lead and Copper Rule) strives to improve our drinking water by incorporating science-based testing protocols to identify and remove lead and effectively manage corrosion from water systems. Did you know that only 1% of utilities have replaced lead pipes since 1991? The goal of this new rule is to replace more lead service pipelines.

To comply with the new rule, all water system providers must identify and inventory the locations of their lead service pipes by October 16, 2024. The inventories will encompass the

service line materials, classifications, and information sources of public systems and customers' private service lines. The EPA has created and provided an example inventory spreadsheet for each system to utilize. PACE knows that inventorying all service lines, including portions outside of a purveyor's control, will be a big effort, and we are here to help!

Some key areas that PACE can aid in your inventory process:

1. **Efficient Data Collection:**


Streamlining collecting data on lead service lines by leveraging existing data sources, such as water main records and customer billing information. This automated process helps water service providers save time and resources.

2. **Advanced Mapping and Visualization:**

Providing an intuitive, interactive view of the lead service line inventory.

3. **Reporting and Compliance:**

Utilize the EPA inventory spreadsheet to ensure compliance with rules and streamline reporting.

Water is vital to keep us healthy. The goal of EPA's new rule is to decrease the risk of lead in our drinking water and create safer water for our communities. Although the effort will be big, the result will be even bigger. PACE is here to help! For more information or questions, please contact Eli Zehner at 425-827-2014 or [eliz@paceengrs.com](mailto:eliz@paceengrs.com). 

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# PNWS-AWWA's Annual Conference

May 3-5, 2023 | Kennewick, WA

## RECAP

### Tri-Cities Delivers an Awesome Conference!

What an incredible time was had by all who attended! After the return to Tacoma last year, it feels like we are back in full swing for our Section conferences. Networking was in full effect throughout the full event. Here are a few highlights from the event.

The conference opened on Wednesday with three concurrent pre-conference sessions on PFAS, HDPE pipe, hydraulic modeling, and reservoirs. Sessions continued through Friday with 132 individual topics to choose from. The Three Rivers Convention Center was full of informative speakers and engaged attendees.

The golf tournament was held at Canyon Lakes Golf Course, voted one of the top five courses in the State of Washington. We had 119 in attendance with some great scores posted with chances to win individual, team, and raffle prizes.

Wednesday evening, the festivities continued with the **Best Tasting Water** contest, with **The City of Vancouver** voted as the winner. **Tapping, Hydrant Hysteria**, and **Meter Madness** were also taking place, with a cigar tent and wine-blending contest happening.

Sponsors and vendors had a great showing surrounding the perimeter of the Exhibit Hall, with several booths out in the front lobby area also.

The Silent Auction ran for the whole conference with many awesome gift selections for attendees to place bids on to benefit the PNWS-AWWA's philanthropic efforts, including **Water For People**, **The Water Equation**, and the **Education & Training Fund**.

Thursday evening was a great opportunity for individuals new to the industry to learn about the Section and network with water professionals while seeing some of the area's amenities.

Attendees participated in various award presentations and recognition events throughout the conference, with the awards luncheon to witness the passing of the gavel from **Section Chair Michelle Cheek** to **Incoming Chair Dan Sleeth**. Thank you, Michelle, for all your work over the last year.

This successful event was all made possible through the support of many – a HUGE thank you to the committees, vendors, sponsors, speakers, volunteers, and attendees. We also want to thank our AWWA Conference Visiting Dignitary, **Michelle Stockness**, Board members, and supporting organizations. 🙌

*See you next year in Spokane!*





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# Conference Awards

The Section and AWWA present awards annually to some of our outstanding volunteers. Recognized by their peers, these awards are presented for either professional expertise or outstanding volunteer effort at the local and/or national level. The awards listed below were presented at our Friday Awards Luncheon at our 2023 Annual Conference in Kennewick.

## SUBSECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL AWARDS

Presented to individuals who have done an outstanding job promoting Subsection activities and provides an example of what involved participation looks like at the local Subsection level in our three states.

### Andrew Holmes from the Lower Columbia Subsection



A long-time Subsection member, Andrew has served as a Subsection officer since 2018. He is a dedicated volunteer who has made time during and after work hours to plan, attend and coordinate events. He even stores Subsection supplies at his home! He is a leader that is open to new ideas but isn't afraid to offer his opinion to the group. He has competed in both Hydrant Hysteria and Top Ops, where he represented our Section at ACE. Andrew works for Clark PUD as a Water Working Foreman.

### Ryan Withers from the Central Washington Subsection



Ryan serves as the secretary, keeping the Subsection on task with meetings and procedures. During his time as secretary, the Subsection has seen

an increase in membership, and Ryan's strong communication skills and commitment to our Association have a lot to do with that. He plays a crucial role in the Subsection golf tournament and 'Wine For Water' fundraisers. Ryan has prioritized the central Washington Subsection and the water industry, and all our members are better off because of it. Ryan works as a Project Engineer for RH2 Engineering.

## HEART AND SOUL AWARD

Recognizes outstanding service and exceptional devotion by either a member or an organization in the activities of the Section. Recipients of this award often put in many hours of behind-the-scenes contributions to make our Section great. This award is given at the discretion of the Section Chair.

### Joanie Stultz – Brown and Caldwell



"I first met this award recipient when she was supporting the planning of the Portland Water Bureau's filtration pilot plant. She impressed me then, but over my past four years on the Board, I have witnessed her devotion to our Section. Her love for this organization started when she was a student at the University of Washington. Her enthusiasm for this organization is infectious and warms my heart whenever I talk to her or get an email about all the great things the Member Engagement and Development

Committee is doing, especially the Section's membership challenge. Her list of contributions to our Section is long. I'm sure I've missed something, but in addition to chairing the Member Engagement and Development Committee, she is leading our Section's mentorship program; she has been a Subsection officer, served as the YP member of the E&T Board, she's helped champion the Section's 'We Walk' team, and last but not least, she's not afraid to put on the Eddy suit. I also hear she's amazing at karaoke, but I haven't had a chance to witness her karaoke skills yet. I am excited to present this award to Joanie Stultz of Brown and Caldwell."

## POWELL LINDSAY AWARD

This award is the highest award our Section can present. The Powell Lindsey Award is presented to someone whose service to the Section represents the extraordinary service of W.H. Powell and Alexander Lindsay and exceptional service to the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA.

### Jason Canady – The City of Grants Pass



Jason Canady has truly been a dedicated water/wastewater operator who started from very humble beginnings. Over the last 28 years, Jason has served one organization as a municipal servicer worker operating



pumps and wastewater treatment equipment, a Treatment Plant Specialist, Utility Plant Superintendent, Water Plant Superintendent, and today, their Director of Public Works.

Jason has been an AWWA member for over 23 years serving in many capacities, including the Subsection Advisory Council, Water Treatment Committee, and of course, the Southern Oregon Subsection. He is an active participant and leader in organizing training opportunities, including the Southern Oregon Short School, their local golf fundraiser, and he has served on the PNWS Board of Directors as a Trustee and Section Chair.

Jason is committed to developing and mentoring fellow water professionals and has been an active supporter and fundraiser for Water For People, Water Equation, and the Education & Training fund.

He enjoys many hobbies, including canoes, bikes, books, music, running, and beer brewing. If it has a motor and goes fast, he will watch it, and of course, due to the bad influence of those amazing AWWA friends, he is currently a cigar aficionado.

Happily married for over 34 years, Jason is a father of two delightful men and one awesome grandson. As his wife Tammy will attest, what drives our awardee is that he found a career that spoke to things he cared about and where he could use his unique skills to serve the community. He recently lost his mom, and I know she left this earth proud of the man she raised. He is a man of integrity who truly cares about the people he works with and the community he serves. He is our current Treasurer for our Section!

## OPERATORS MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

This award is presented annually to individuals for:

- Continuous compliance with all public health standards in treated drinking water
- Outstanding contribution to plant maintenance
- The development of new and or modified equipment or significant process modifications for more efficient treatment

- Special effort in training operators
- Special acts not directly related to treatment
- Consistent contributions to operations and maintenance of distribution systems

### Lance Yoppini – Modern Electric and Water Company

A Water Distribution Manager II, Cross Connection Specialist, and Backflow Assembly Tester, Lance has been working in the water industry since 2004. A mentor and advocate for other employees, he is always willing to help them advance their own careers. His attention to detail and outstanding work ethic was recently recognized by his peers in the Inland Empire Subsection as a past recipient of their Muddy Boots Award. Whether he is the first to jump in a ditch, organize the tools, or take over someone's on-call responsibility, Lance never tires of serving others or the water industry.

### Zac Smith – Lakewood Water District



Zac Smith is a Pumping Crew Lead from Lakewood Water District. Zac is a Water Distribution Manager 4, Water Treatment Plant Operator 2, and a Cross Control Specialist. Employed at Lakewood Water since 2001, Zac has developed preventive maintenance programs for the district's 30 wells, eight treatment facilities, and 13 storage facilities. In addition, he has developed training for district employees and field staff on water treatment, pressure zones, pumps, and customer questions and concerns. A great advocate for staff in furthering their careers, Zac can be counted on to come to work every day with a smile on his face and a passion for his work. A multi-year volunteer at

the Pierce County Children's Water Festival, Zac has been recognized numerous times by district management at its annual Employee Appreciation Day.

## THE GEORGE WARREN FULLER AWARD

The highest award given by AWWA. It is bestowed on individuals for:

- Distinguished service in the water supply field
- Brilliant diplomatic talent
- Constructive leadership as characterized by the life and work of George Warren Fuller

### Cheryl Capron



The 2023 George Warren Fuller Award winner is a person who has been involved with AWWA, the water industry, and the Pacific Northwest Section for their entire career. At work, as an Operator, she demonstrated how to serve the public and the utility. Cheryl was instrumental in identifying areas of the distribution system at risk during shutdowns and construction projects, resulting in GIS overlays that minimized the number of people affected by water outages.

Here's what Cheryl's boss had to say about her: "In 30 years of water utility work, I have never had an employee so self-disciplined, self-motivated, and capable of handling such a diverse set of duties with extreme precision and timeliness. Always quick to share knowledge and experience with others, a valuable team member on multiple projects and inter-departmental efforts. The volunteer work within the water industry has been extraordinary. If I were building a new team, I'd



want to start with Cheryl as a core member." She developed operational plans for major construction projects like tunneling through major parts of the distribution system. She was instrumental in moving the utility to cover their reservoirs on an accelerated schedule, upgrading the SCADA system, and even surviving Y2K!

A St. Louis native, she has provided great service to the Pacific Northwest Section serving on numerous committees and helping to streamline the process of organizing the technical program for the Section conference.

In 2015, Cheryl was recognized by the Department of Health as the Washington State Operator of the Year. In 2016 she received her Grade 4 Professional Operator pin in Chicago. In 2019, she earned the Pacific Northwest Section's Powell Lindsay Award, served on the Association of Boards of Certification, and was elected to the Pacific Northwest Section Board of Trustees in May 2020.

Cheryl has a mind for mathematics and a love of history and is an avid golfer, weightlifter, mentor, and very proud grandparent.

#### LECHNER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Lechner Award of Excellence is presented annually to recognize a Section Service Provider, such as a vendor or consultant, who has demonstrated exemplary service to the drinking water community and to AWWA's Mission and goals.

#### Alex Mofidi – Confluence Engineering



Alex Mofidi is a Senior Project Manager with 30 years of experience in water planning and process engineering for

treatment and distribution system improvement projects. His expertise has taken him all over the world as a Project Manager for projects with multiple sources. Our recipient has co-authored and been the lead reviewer of multiple publications for AWWA, IAPMO, and ASCE. An active member of the Association's Distribution System Water Quality Committee, his knowledge and expertise were in great demand in the wake of post-COVID-19 building shutdowns and decreased occupancy, which created increased risks of legionella. At the Section level, he has been active on many of our committees and has served as a past Trustee.

#### DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual, group, or organization that has created, promoted, and maintained diversity and inclusion by establishing an

environment that recognizes, encourages, and effectively utilizes each individual's talents.

#### Mari Orama – Parametrix



Mari is extremely deserving of the D&I Award because of her incredible ongoing work bringing underrepresented youth into the water industry and other STEM fields. She does this work not because someone pays her to do it but because it is her passion.

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Her unique background in community college education brings a new perspective to the work that is so needed in our industry. Mari is both an innovator and a collaborator – creating the SCOPE program to connect youth and industry, serving on the Board of Directors for the Association of Filipino-American Engineers of Washington, and bringing an equity lens as a new Advisory Board Member to the University of Washington Tacoma School of Engineering and Technology.

Mari not only contributes to these communities with her personal efforts but also connects and encourages others to get involved and spread awareness that diversity matters in its many forms. She's a mentor to many, whether you are a young professional, operator, or seasoned project manager – Mari always brings a unique perspective to her work and community that is objective and inclusive.

Mari is definitely one of those people who you ask, "How do you do it all?". She is consistent, patient, kind, and authentic, which is what this type of work takes. She is absolutely deserving of this year's PNWS-AWWA Diversity and Inclusion Award!

### PIONEER AWARD

The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual, group, or organization that has created, promoted, and maintained diversity and inclusion by establishing an environment that recognizes, encourages, and effectively utilizes each individual's talents.

### Mia Vijanderan – Brown and Caldwell

Our 2023 Pioneer Awardee, Mia Vijanderan, is very active in her community; organizing activities supporting Earth Day; planting trees with Friends of Trees; and grocery shopping for the elderly and disabled.

She served as the Lead Environmental Engineer on the



drinking water pilot test program for the Portland Water Bureau's new 145 MGD water treatment plant. She is now using her past experience working on the Willamette Water Supply program to design the filtration plant conveyance pipelines for the greater Portland metro area.

Mia is currently serving as the Secretary of the Water Quality Committee and an active participant in the Section Mentorship Program. [🔗](#)



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# 2023

## Excellence in Communications Awards Recognize Outstanding Communications Efforts

The 2023 PNWS-AWWA Excellence in Communications Award-winning entries and utilities were selected by a panel of judges who are PNWS-AWWA members working in communications. This year the contest entries were scored on the following categories: the goal of the communications efforts; the intended audience and how the entry was distributed to reach the audience; the message communicated; the idea; and the success of the effort. The awards program is merit-based, and all winning entries meet the award standard for excellence in communications.

### Audio

**City of Bend Utility Department –**  
Fall WaterWise Sprinkler Shutoffs

### Digital

**City of Newberg –** Our Secure Water  
**City of Salem Public Works –** North  
Santiam Basin Summit Goes Online –  
Participation Zooms!  
**City of Spokane Water Department –**  
Water Wise Spokane Website Revamp  
**Kitsap Public Utility District –**  
Website Rebuild  
**Skagit Public Utility District –**  
Water Quality Report and Water  
Efficiency Update  
**Tacoma Water, Tacoma Public  
Utilities –** What's in the Watershed

**Tualatin Valley Water District –**  
OMG Instagram Reel  
**Willamette Water Supply Program –**  
Monthly Project Update E-Blasts

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

**Kitsap Public Utility District –**  
Website Rebuild Accessibility

### Emergency or Crisis Communications

**Skagit Public Utility District –**  
Emergency Procedures Guide

### Integrated Communications

**Tualatin Valley Water District –**  
New Customer Information System  
Implementation  
**Willamette Water Supply Program –**  
PLM\_5.3/Res Construction  
Communications

### Internal Communications

**City of Bend Utility Department –**  
Annual Report 2020-21  
**City of Spokane Water Department –**  
Word from the Water Department  
**Skagit Public Utility District –**  
Style Guide and Visual Standards  
**Tacoma Water, Tacoma Public  
Utilities –** Waterline  
**Tualatin Valley Water District –**  
Water Week

### Photography

**Tualatin Valley Water District –**  
2022 Water Week Photos  
**Willamette Water Supply  
Program –** WWSP Photos of Night  
Work on Metzger Pipeline East

### Print

**City of Hillsboro –** Tree Grant  
**City of Lacey –** 2022 Water  
Quality Report  
**Medford Water Commission –**  
Medford Water – Water Efficiency  
Calendar Contest  
**Skagit Public Utility District –**  
Pipeline Newsletter  
**Tualatin Valley Water District –**  
Backflow Compliance A/B Testing

### Video

**City of Bend Utility Department –**  
Love the River  
**City of Lacey –** Odd Even Outdoor  
Watering Schedule  
**City of Spokane Water  
Department –** Landscape  
Conversion DIY  
**Tualatin Valley Water District –**  
2022 Water Week Video  
**Water Purveyors Association  
of Kitsap County –** WaterPAK  
Career Video

### Wildcard

**City of Spokane Water Department –**  
Water Wise Challenge  
**North City Water District –**  
Discover Our History: Celebrating  
90 Years of Excellence  
**Thurston Public Utility District –**  
2023 Rate Increase  
Communications Plan  
**Thurston Public Utility District –**  
Residential High User Advisory  
Notice and Communications Plan

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## New Leaders, Same Commitment to Service

BHC Consultants was established in 2006 by three civil engineers, Gary Bourne, Marty Harper, and Craig Chambers. Their vision was to create a locally owned and managed firm that delivers high-quality services to municipal clients throughout the Puget Sound region. This led **Ron Dorn, PE** to join BHC in 2006 and reunite with colleagues he had worked with at previous firms. In 2017 Ron was elected to be the third President of BHC. "My goal was to honor and respect the vision of the BHC founders and grow the company in a controlled and strategic manner," said Ron, who changed roles at the beginning of 2023 as a planned retirement move. He will continue to manage projects through the end of 2023. The Board of Directors has appointed James (Jim) Gross, PE, PMP, former Executive Vice-President and Director of Engineering, as the fourth President of BHC as of January 2023. "Having worked with Jim for many years, I know him to be thorough, conscientious, and dedicated. I am confident Jim will productively lead BHC during this next phase of our history."



**Jim Gross, PE, PMP** has more than 30 years of civil and environmental engineering consulting experience, primarily in drinking water and wastewater planning, design, and construction support. He joined BHC in 2012 because of his respect for its employees and reputation for excellent client service.

"Coming from a huge firm, I was excited that the leadership was located down the hall rather than in another state. I had also never had an opportunity to become an owner and have a say in the direction of a company." Under Jim's leadership, BHC will aim to continue its long-term growth while maintaining the vision established by the company's founders. "I know I have some big shoes to fill, but this company has attracted very talented individuals over the years, so I'm with good company. My goal is for BHC to continue being viewed as a firm that gives great service to its clients and attracts talented people, with opportunities like becoming an owner."



**Cameron Ochiltree, PE**, a senior engineer with BHC since 2016, has been named Executive Vice-President and promoted to Director of Engineering. Cameron has more than 25 years of experience in utility engineering consulting and came to BHC after working for a large firm and going through an acquisition. "A few people I had

worked with previously ended up at BHC and kept telling me how this firm was different. So, I decided to give it a shot. I am excited to join the leadership team that will take our firm into the future."



**William (Willie) Hill, CBO, ACO**, will retire at the end of 2023 after leading the building code and construction compliance for 14 years. Shane Daugherty, AIA, NCARB, has taken over the group as of January 2023. Willie had worked with BHC's founders at a previous US-based international company and determined he was "growing tired

and frustrated with working through big company bureaucracy." He continues, "I wanted to finish my career where I could focus on maintaining my business development and management style and delivering services to my clients. BHC has allowed me to do that. I am confident for the future of this group with Shane leading the charge."



**Shane Daugherty, AIA, NCARB**, is a licensed architect with over 20 years of experience in architecture, construction management, and building code and construction compliance. He leads projects through all stages from planning to completion for commercial, hospital, industrial, factory-assembled structures, and

residential projects. He will lead BHC's building code and construction compliance group, which includes eight in-house certified building inspectors and multiple certified building officials. Shane joined BHC in 2021 with the intent of becoming the successor when Willie retires. "I am excited about this opportunity with BHC. I want to pursue the clients that best align with BHC's culture to work collaboratively, so we can be responsive to their needs."

BHC is an employee-owned and locally managed professional services consulting firm with over 85 employees, primarily serving the public sector with offices in Seattle, Tacoma, Bellingham, and Spokane.

### King County Subsection

Summer is here, and we have much to reflect on over the past season. The King County Subsection Board is focused this summer on planning for upcoming training events and socials. We encourage folks to get out there, meet the amazing people who make up this industry, and get involved!

#### Events

##### Water Olympics

The King County Water Olympics was held on March 30 at the Sumerian Brewing Company in Woodinville, WA. Attendees enjoyed good conversation, food, beverages, and competitions. Eight water samples were submitted for Best Tasting Water, and nine people competed in the Meter Challenge.

Thank you all for participating and attending! Thank you to all of the sponsors: PACE, Victaulic, David Evans & Associates, HD Fowler, RH2, Core & Main, HDR, Brown & Caldwell, Stantec, Pape Machinery, and Water & Sewer Risk Management Pool for supporting this King County Subsection-AWWA event. This event wouldn't have happened without their support.



**Meter Challenge** – First place went to Adam Hendry (City of Bothell), and second place went to Jessica Bruce (City of Bothell). Congrats to our winners. Time to start practicing for next year!



##### Best Tasting Water Competition –

We had eight contestants submit water samples. The KCSS had two winners, one for best overall and one for best-untreated water system. The Best Tasting Water Overall went to the City of Bothell! Lake Forest Park Water District took home the prize for Best Tasting Water for Untreated Systems!



A special thank you to Brietta Carter, Katie Dillon, and Pat Kohlbrener, our wonderful judges representing various parts of the water industry and judging water samples from each contestant's distribution system.

For questions about King County Subsection competitions, please contact Ted Stonebridge at [tstonebridge@northbendwa.gov](mailto:tstonebridge@northbendwa.gov) or 425-888-7693.

#### What We Are Looking Forward To

##### New Members

Welcome new members! If you are a new member of the King County Subsection, we would love to get you connected and learn more about your interests. Join us at one of our monthly meetings to learn more, every third Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, contact the Subsection's Secretary, Beth Mende, at [elizabeth.mende@hdrinc.com](mailto:elizabeth.mende@hdrinc.com).

##### Future Training


The Subsection is committed to offering classes to help our members meet their CEU requirements. The goal of the Board is to offer at least four classes within the calendar year. Look out for further announcements and registration information. For questions about classes, ideas for a class, suggestions for speakers, or general information about training and CEUs, please contact our Program Director, Chris Guest, at [chris.guest@covingtonwater.com](mailto:chris.guest@covingtonwater.com) or 253-867-0947.

##### KCSS Board Recruitment

The Subsection Board has an opening and is looking to fill the following role:

- **Philanthropic Activity**

**Committee (PAC) Liaison:** We are looking for a KCSS PAC Liaison to help plan events and fundraisers to support the important work AWWA is doing with Water For People, Water Equation, Education & Training Fund, and other philanthropic programs.

Please contact the Subsection President, Caren Sleeth, if you are interested in the PAC Liaison role at [caren.sleeth@covingtonwater.com](mailto:caren.sleeth@covingtonwater.com). 

### Northwest Oregon Subsection

#### John Aho Memorial Golf Tournament

will be held Friday, July 21, at Gresham Golf Course. So, it's time to form your four-person team and scan the QR code to register.



If you're interested in helping with this event and/or want to sponsor, please contact Justin Ford at [justin.ford@consoreng.com](mailto:justin.ford@consoreng.com).

#### New Membership Chair Announcement



Welcome Mehrin Selimgir! Mehrin will lead the Membership Committee and is tasked with obtaining new members, maintaining a current Subsection member's

list, working closely with the Subsection Officers, and encouraging and retaining memberships not only for and within the boundaries of the Subsection, but for AWWA. Mehrin will also create and send out the monthly Subsection announcement.

Mehrin Selimgir is a water/wastewater engineer with WSP and has experience designing treatment plants for municipal and industrial drinking water and wastewater clients. She also has experience in distribution conveyance, pump station, and storage design. She holds a bachelor's and master's of engineering in civil and environmental engineering from Penn State and Cornell University, respectively. And she has a professional engineering license in Maryland, Washington, and Oregon. During her free time, Mehrin enjoys heading out to the OR/WA coast on the weekends or hiking along the gorgeous Columbia River Gorge.

Our Subsection was well represented at the Section Conference! We appreciate everyone's participation and look forward to next year's activities. The most successful team was the City of Hillsboro, competing in



the Hydrant Hysteria. Congratulations, Kody King and Brady Steinmetz, and best of luck at ACE23. Our Subsection Results were: Best Tasting Water – McMinnville Water and Light; Hydrant Hysteria – City of Hillsboro; Top Ops – City of Hillsboro/JWC; Meter Challenge – City of Hillsboro; and Gimmicks and Gadgets – City of Hillsboro.

#### Subsection Opportunities – Looking to get more involved? Check these out:

- Education and Safety Committee
- Waterworks School Committee
- Incoming Officer (May 2024)

Please contact Kyle Arnhart if you're interested in these opportunities at [kylea@tigard-or.gov](mailto:kylea@tigard-or.gov).

#### Thank you to our Past President, Laura Oxsen

– In May, after the Section Conference, the Subsection officers transition into their new positions. Laura Oxsen, who works at 3J Consulting as a Civil Engineering Lead, has completed her commitment and is now Past President. Laura has contributed many hours with the Subsection, provided great leadership and organizational skills, and even took on one additional year due to COVID-19. Best of luck in your future endeavors! Our 2023 Officers are Kyle Arnhart – President; Andrew Wentworth – Vice-President; Dawn Nolen – Treasurer; and Star Smith – Secretary. 



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**Join AWWA today and get access to the  
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### Southern Oregon Subsection

Cody Scoggins from the Southern Oregon Subsection staffed a PNWS-AWWA booth at a local event called Careers in Gears on April 27. This career fair is tailored towards high school students who live in Southern Oregon. Over 2,000 high school students attended the event, with 180 local businesses around the valley to help students learn about amazing career opportunities in Southern Oregon, including careers in the drinking water industry.



#### Subsection Competition

We held the Best Tasting Water and the Meter Challenge competitions at our March Subsection meeting. Roseburg, Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, and Medford Water competed, with Medford Water winning Best Tasting Water for the Subsection. Cody Scoggins won the Meter Challenge and took third place at the Section Conference in Kennewick. Congratulations to both!



#### PNWS-AWWA Kennewick, WA, May 3-5, 2023


Jason Canady was awarded the Powell Lindsay Award for his continued commitment and contributions to the Section. A big congratulations to Jason on this award!

#### Annual Golf Tournament – August 18-19

Save the date and have fun at our annual golf tournament on August 18-19. Friday we will have practice rounds accompanied by dinner. Saturday, we start at 8 am and end with lunch and raffle prizes. Don't miss out – to register, visit <https://docs.centralpointoregon.gov/Forms/1Vg1A>.



#### Short School – September 19-21

The Southern Oregon Subsection is hosting a short school in Grants Pass at the Rogue Community College Redwood Campus on September 19-21. Use the link below for more information: [www.roguecc.edu/dept/continuingEd/waterShortSchool.asp](http://www.roguecc.edu/dept/continuingEd/waterShortSchool.asp). 



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## South Sound Subsection



### Update

It was so great to see many of you at the PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference in Kennewick! The South Sound Subsection continues to meet virtually every month, which couldn't be easier to stop in and see what we're up to!

The South Sound was excited to bring back the Water Taste Test and Meter Challenge competitions in person. Shout out to our sponsors – Parametrix and Sybis, and a huge thank you to our judges, Steve Hulsman (DOH) and South Sound Board Members Jeremy Djajadi (Sybis) and Michael Lubovich (Kennedy Jenks). With ten entries, first place went to Silverdale Water District, second place to Kitsap PUD, and third to Mountain View-Edgewood. Carlos Camacho and

Robert Maurer, both from Tacoma Water, went head-to-head on the Meter Challenge. Robert took the lead, and Carlos moved forward to Kennewick to compete, where he received second place and will move on to ACE in Toronto. The Tacoma Water Men's and Women's Tapping Teams also advance to compete at ACE. Great job to all of our competitors; best of luck in Toronto!

In March, we welcomed back our first in-person/hybrid training at the Tacoma Public Utilities Auditorium, Waterworks 101, and Construction Management held in May. It's great to return to in-person while being flexible with hybrid options. Thank you to Jeremy Djajadi and Claire Litsky for such seamless sessions.

### Upcoming Events

Register now for the South Sound Subsection 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, benefitting Living Access Support Alliance (LASA) and PNWS-AWWA Philanthropic efforts on July 14 at the Oakbrook Golf Club in Lakewood, WA. Shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Join a team or be a sponsor – we're excited to see you!

Two more trainings are in the works for fall, and we hope to host a social as well. Keep an eye on our website or the e-news for registration links.

### Board Rotations

The South Sound is excited to welcome Shantel Broussard (Tacoma Water) as the new President and Ian Black (Lakewood Water) as Vice-President. Shantel steps in from Vice-President as Jolene Gibson (Tacoma Water) moves on to Washington Trustee on the PNWS Board. Are you in the South Sound and interested in finding out more? We would love for you to join us, either on the Board, volunteer, or just to listen in. Please contact Shantel for an invite to our next meeting (the third Wednesday of every month), which is held via Zoom – it couldn't be easier to join us! [📺](#)



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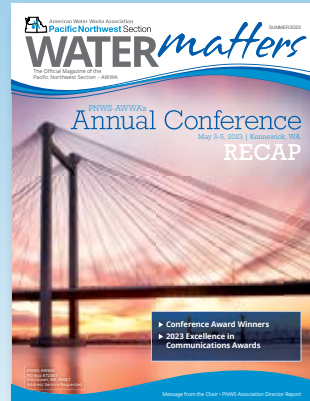
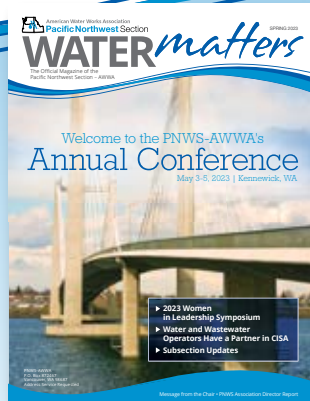
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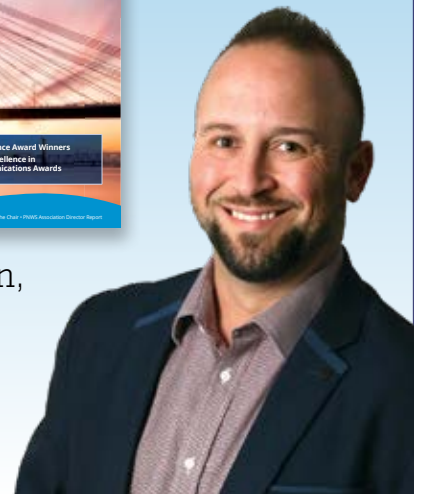
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