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Pacific Northwest Section

FALL 2023

WATER *matters*

The Official Magazine of the
Pacific Northwest Section – AWWA



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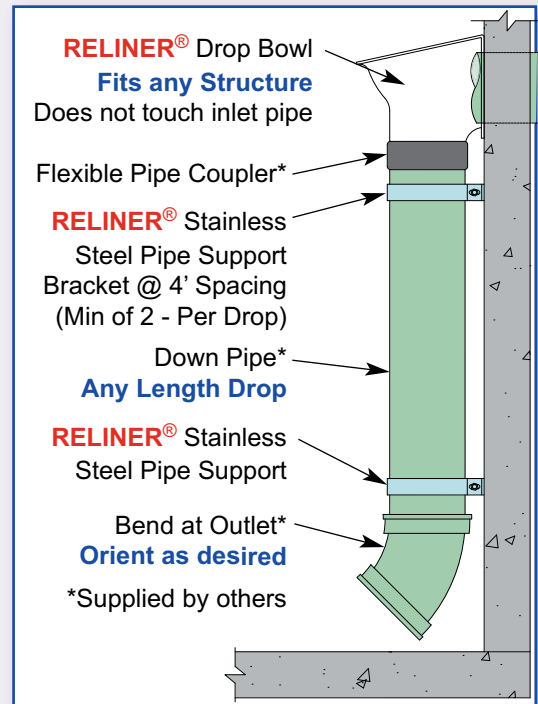
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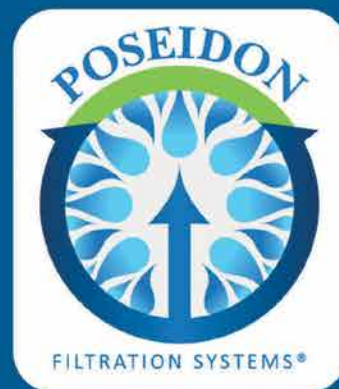
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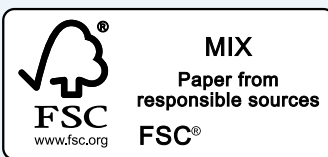
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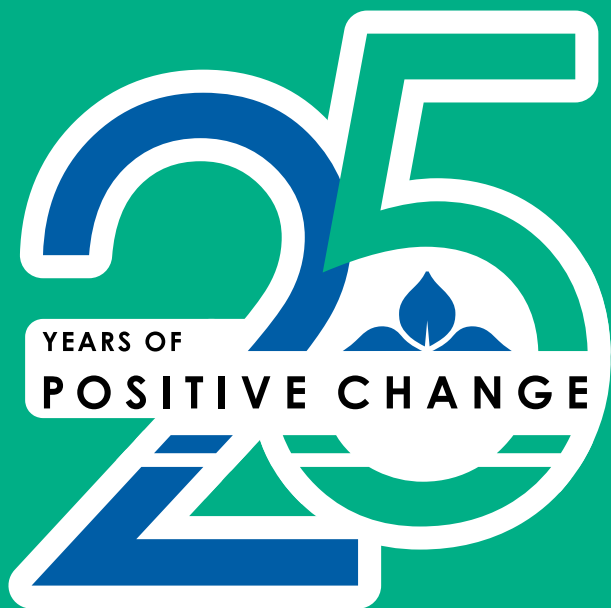
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Ensuring the Resilience of Our Water Systems

As we embark on the fall season, I hope this letter finds you all in good health and high spirits. In this edition of *Water Matters*, I want to emphasize the critical importance of emergency preparedness within the water industry. In an era of increasing environmental uncertainties and unforeseen challenges, ensuring the resilience of our water systems is paramount.

Water is undoubtedly one of the most essential resources for human survival, industry, agriculture, and countless other purposes. Any disruption in the availability or quality of water can have severe consequences on public health, economic stability, and overall societal well-being. Recent events, including the devastating fires in Maui, have highlighted the vulnerability of our water infrastructure.

Emergency preparedness in the water industry is not just a matter of compliance; it is a moral obligation to safeguard the well-being of communities and the environment. A well-crafted emergency plan, coupled with regular drills and scenario simulations, can significantly reduce the impact of emergencies. Such preparations can help ensure the availability of clean and safe water, maintain public trust in the system, and minimize financial losses.

Collaboration among stakeholders is essential; government agencies, water utilities, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations must work hand in hand to develop comprehensive emergency response strategies. Sharing information, best practices, and lessons learned can facilitate a more effective response to emergencies, enhancing the overall resilience of the water sector.

I urge all of you to consider incorporating these key principles into your organization's emergency preparedness efforts if you haven't already. By investing in robust contingency plans, continuous training, and state-of-the-art technologies, we can collectively ensure that our water systems remain functional and reliable even in the face of adversity.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter. Let us stand together to safeguard our most precious resource and build a more resilient water industry for the benefit of present and future generations. 🌊

Dan Sleeth
PNWS-AWWA Section Chair

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We all depend on the health of our water and our environment to survive and thrive. In fact, life

expectancy in developed countries nearly doubled over the past 200 years, largely due to improved waste management resulting in healthier food and water.

But what goes into the sewer doesn't disappear. And that's actually a good thing. Because in the natural world, one organism's waste is another's fuel. The nutrients we take out of our food chain must be restored. In nature, this happens naturally. But in modern society, the great cycle of growth, decay, death and re-application of manure has been disrupted so somebody has to protect the cycle of regeneration and that's Synagro.



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News from the Association

Since my last article, ACE 2023, held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, has concluded. Although it had a few challenges with logistics, the conference was overall a success, with over 9,000 attendees in total. The overriding theme for ACE 2023 was again focused on the Water 2050 initiative and the sustainability of water into the future.

I would ask the Pacific Northwest Section, "What role can our Section take in supporting this initiative?" and "What are some measurable practices that we as a Section can undertake in support of Water 2050?" Over the course of the next several months, there will be many opportunities to engage in conversations about this initiative. The final consolidated Water 2050 report was made available on August 30, 2023. This document outlines AWWA's insights and actionable strategies for a sustainable future of water. AWWA has also partnered with Uplift Collaborative to develop the next phase of this initiative.

Other items of interest from the Association are upcoming conferences, including the Council Summit on October 23-25 in Denver, the Water Quality Technology Conference on November 5-9 in Dallas, and the North American Water Loss Conference on December 5-7 in Denver. The YP Leader Training Day and YP Summit are scheduled for February 12-13, 2024, in Portland, Oregon, and the Membership Summit will take place January 24-24 in Denver, Colorado.


The Association is also continuing the efforts of reforming the New England Section of AWWA due to the current Section choosing to end its affiliation with AWWA – due to some conflicts with how the Section was operating under the existing affiliation agreement. The Executive Committee has begun the process of establishing by-laws for the

new Section and appointing an interim Board of Trustees to get the new Section up and operating as quickly as possible.

I also wanted to remind all of you that the Association offers numerous awards to deserving members. Award of Merit, Diversity Award, Heroism Award, Operators Meritorious Service Award, and the George Warren Fuller Award are just a few. A complete list of the awards and their submission deadlines is available on the AWWA website. As the Section's Board contact, I would be your point of contact for any information or questions. Please look at the list of available awards and consider

nominating one of your co-workers or Section members to be recognized for the service that they provide to our communities.

In conclusion, I would remind everyone to be on the lookout for the electronic ballots that will be coming soon and take the opportunity to have a voice in electing the next group of leaders for the Section.

As always, thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Association Director. 

James Dean
PNWS-AWWA Association Director

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Engineering Committee

Excellence in Engineering Awards

The project team of the City of Salem, Carollo Engineers, and Slayden Constructors won the Large Project category for 2023 for their outstanding work on the Geren Island Water Treatment Plant Ozone Improvements Project! This project had an aggressive design and construction schedule to reduce the risk of another possible cyanotoxin event. This project leaves the City well-equipped to handle potential future events.

The project team of the City of Redmond, Gray & Osborne, and T Bailey, Inc. won the Small Project category for 2023 for their excellent work on the Southeast Redmond Tank Painting and Seismic Upgrade Project! This project used innovative ideas to approach the project, reducing its impact on nearby businesses and residents. The work included resiliency aspects, which will help keep the reservoir online following a seismic event and keep the reservoir operational for many years to come.

In the coming months, we will be soliciting entries for 2024 Excellence in Engineering Projects. If you have

a recently completed (or soon-to-be-completed) project you would like to submit, we would love to hear from you. The deadline for submissions will be in January 2024.

2024 Conference

We are always amazed at the number of outstanding abstracts submitted for the Annual Conference. Thank you to all those who submitted. The Engineering Committee met in August to select presentations for the 2024 Conference Engineering Technical Track. We are looking forward to another great lineup at the conference next year.

Committee Meetings Schedule

If you're interested in joining the Engineering Committee, we are always looking for good people. Please reach out to one of the officers directly, and we will send you an invitation. Engineering Committee meetings are held from 12 pm-1 pm (PST) on the first Wednesday of each month. We handle Committee business in the first half of the hour and reserve the second half for networking and engineering education topics.

New Officers

Taylor Stockton – Chair RH2 Engineering

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Greg Loscher – Vice-Chair Bowen, Collins & Associates

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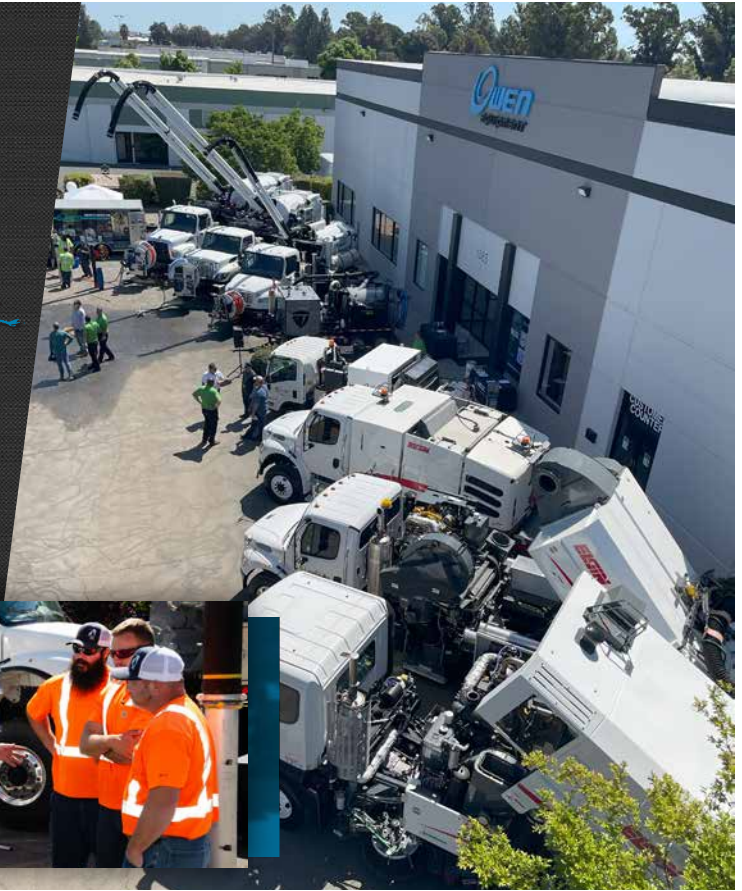
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Member Engagement and Development Committee (MEDC)

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.

Mentorship Program Launched – Applications OPEN: Due October 13, 2023

Are you looking for a mentor to talk to about your career or to provide feedback regarding your career path? Do you want to share your experience by mentoring a protégé?

The 6th Annual PNWS Mentorship program will kick off this fall! It involves a commitment of 5-6 meetings over a period of six months, meeting with your mentor/protégé to develop a relationship with a fellow AWWA member, networking, and gaining invaluable leadership skills. Mentor/protégé pairs will be matched in late October 2023.

If you are interested, please apply at the link (found by scanning the QR codes below) for the PNWS Mentorship Program before **October 13, 2023**.

If you have questions or want to learn more about the program, please reach out to our Mentorship Program team, Kyle Wong, kyle.wong@spwater.org, and Doug Schlepp, dschlepp@rh2.com.



Mentor Form



Protégé Form (looking for a mentor)





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Need Help Reaching Your Subsection Members?

Let us know! We can pull member lists that are specific to your Subsection and renewal date to outreach specific members. Please reach out to the MEDC Chair, Joanie Stultz, at jstultz@brwnncald.com, or visit us at www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/membership-committee.

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, Courtney Thomas, Randy Black, and DeEtta Fosbury.**

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@brwnncald.com for the meeting invite.

Conference Program Committee

By the time you read this, the technical sessions for Spokane 2024 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 quality 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. Moderators must bring or be able to borrow a laptop for their session. The conference center will provide projectors.
- Room assistants are needed to make sure 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 contact Ray Foster at rfoster@spokanecity.org.

For more information, please visit the Conference Program Committee webpage at www.pnws-awwa.org/member-groups/committees/conference-program-committee.

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

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Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Committee

Committee Mission: To foster a welcoming and inclusive AWWA culture that champions meaningful institutional and individual change regarding diversity and equity in the water industry. The Committee is supported by the National AWWA Diversity & Inclusion Committee, which provides support nationally for Sections.

Macro and Micro Goals

A Committee team met in August to identify macro goals and micro goals for the Committee going forward. Macro goals are major milestones, while micro goals are smaller activities that help achieve the larger goal.

Macro goals that were identified include:

1. Ensure that communication channels capture PNWS's commitment to


fostering a welcoming and inclusive culture regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

2. Ensure that the Section's activities and events capture PNWS's commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive culture regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Over the next few months, this team and the rest of the Committee will continue discussing macro goals and

identifying micro goals that support the Committee's mission.

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 on Microsoft Teams. These meetings start with introductions and an ice-breaker question to help us know one another better. All are welcome to join. Contact Chair Gina Hortillosa for meeting information at ghortillosa@pnws-awwa.org. 

Utility Management Committee

Planning Asset Management+ Training

The Utility Management Committee (UMC) is planning a day-long **Asset Management+** training session in the second half of January 2024. The exact location is still to be determined – we are targeting the South Sound, near Tacoma, WA. The plan is for UMC members to present various asset management topics, which include the traditional asset management fundamentals, in addition to more comprehensive topics around financial planning and community involvement around the implementation of asset management programs. A more detailed program will be coming out shortly.

Brian Spindor, the Public Works Director for the City of Enumclaw, WA, is leading this effort. This training will be similar to past committee training that has addressed **Emergency Planning** (City of Olympia, WA – 2020) and **Building Resilience in Your Organization** (Alderwood Water & Sewer, WA – 2019).

For more information on the Utility Management Committee, please reach out to the Committee Chair, Ann Hajnosz, at ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com. 



2024 Women in Leadership (WIL) Symposium Save the Date!

Planning is underway for the **Women in Leadership Symposium: Empowering Change** in early February of 2024 in the Seattle, Washington area.

This event will be led by another regional water organization, the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA), that partnered with our event in 2023. The hosting group is the PNCWA Women of Water (WoW). It will continue to focus on highlighting women leaders in water who inspire us at all levels of our careers. A significant benefit from this event is networking with women across the water industry – engineering, finance, sustainability, water quality, regulatory, planning, and public outreach – in addition to learning from women leaders in other related industries. All PNWS-AWWA members who have been receiving the WIL event notices will continue to receive the notices for next year's event via PNCWA so that you won't miss the details. For more information on the PNCWA Women in Leadership Symposium, please contact Lara Kammereck at lkammereck@carollo.com or Ann Hajnosz at ann.hajnosz@weareharris.com.

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Young Professionals Committee

The Young Professionals Committee hosts events that foster valuable leadership skills, provide opportunities to grow technical knowledge to enhance careers in the water industry, and encourage networking between seasoned professionals and YPs. Young Professionals are those who have been in the water industry for less than ten years.

New Leadership Team

Please join the YP Committee in welcoming two new board members!



Claire Litsky,
Communications
Coordinator
Tacoma Water
Claire is also the current YP Liaison for the South Sound Subsection.



Cole Benak,
Vice-Chair
City of Vancouver
Cole is also the current YP Liaison and Secretary for the Lower Columbia Subsection and the YP Chair-Elect.

What We've Been Up To

AWWA PNWS

Conference Scavenger Hunt

This spring, the Committee hosted its annual PNWS-AWWA Conference Scavenger Hunt in Kennewick, Washington. Over 40 YPs braved rain and wind to scour Kennewick for the answers to scavenger hunt questions/clues. The event culminated in sharing drinks, appetizers, and event photos at Proof Gastropub.

Thank you to our awesome sponsors: Consor, West Yost, HDR Engineering, Jacobs, Brown and Caldwell, and Ductile Iron Pipe Research – we certainly could not have hosted this event without you!



Networking Happy Hour

In July, the Committee hosted a joint networking happy hour with the emerging professionals' groups of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Public Works Association. The networking event was a smashing success, as more than 50 emerging professionals gathered at Rhein Haus in Seattle to chat with industry colleagues, make connections, and play some bocce ball. The event was sponsored by PACE and Sage Geotechnical. Thank you to our fabulous sponsors!



We Bowl

Cody Scoggins from the Southern Oregon Subsection organized a bowling social for YPs and seasoned industry professionals who attended the annual golf tournament in August. There was a good turnout, and Cody is excited to continue promoting the great benefits of being a YP!

The Royal Treatment

YPs from the Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington Subsections attended a tour of the Wilsonville Water Treatment Plant in June. YPs learned about the treatment process, past and present construction projects, and even got to witness an

air burst into the Willamette River. Thank you to the staff of Veolia Water North America for hosting!

Upcoming Events

The 2024 YP Summit will be hosted in Portland, Oregon, from February 11-13, 2024. This AWWA and WEF (Water Environment Federation) event is a skills development and networking workshop for emerging water and wastewater professionals. Registration opens in November. More information is available on the YP section webpage.

Participate and Stay Connected

The YP Committee meets virtually monthly, so it couldn't be easier to stop in and see what we're up to! Please send an email to Claire Litsky at clitsky@cityoftacoma.org or Annabel Irwin at annabeli@sagegeotechnical.com for questions or to be added to our contact list. 📧

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Water Conservation Committee

Our quarterly meetings continue to serve as a dynamic forum for collaboration and innovation while bringing together AWWA-PNWS Conservation Committee members. These gatherings have become a vital hub for discussing water efficiency practices throughout Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

Welcoming New Board Members


It is with immense pleasure that we welcome **Cody Scoggins** as the new Chair, **Brittany Contreras** as Co-Chair, and **Amy Meaut** as Secretary of the Conservation Committee. Everyone brings a unique perspective and a shared passion for water conservation to the PNWS-AWWA Section.

Source to Brewer to Sewer Tour

The City of Bend hosted a 'Source to Brewer to Sewer' tour at our summer meeting. The tour provided a behind-the-scenes look at Bend's infrastructure, including The City of Bend's surface water intake, water filtration facility,



Worthy Brewing Company for lunch, discussion and garden tour, and lastly, the City's reclamation facility.

For more information about the PNWS-AWWA Conservation Committee, please contact Cody Scoggins at cody.scoggins@medfordwater.org. 



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The Water Information Technology Committee



Strategic Planning

The Water Information Technology Committee (WITC) is developing a strategic plan focused on empowering its members and advocating for

technologies in the drinking water industry that improve efficiency and help utilities work smarter. As the demands on the industry grow and technology evolves rapidly, having a clear vision and plan is crucial.

WITC aims to provide resources, training, and networking opportunities to enhance the technical expertise and leadership skills of its members. The Committee will actively engage with stakeholders to raise awareness about emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and IoT, as well as long-term technology concerns such as cybersecurity and operational controls. Through these efforts, WITC aims to optimize operations and ensure a sustainable future for the industry.



This means providing resources, training, and networking opportunities to enhance technical expertise and leadership skills. WITC also recognizes the potential of technology to improve efficiency. The Committee will engage with stakeholders to promote the integration of best-fit technologies into water management practices, ultimately enhancing the overall resiliency of the industry. By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among its members, WITC aims to promote best practices and spur innovation in the use of technology in the drinking water industry. Through partnerships with industry experts, utilities, and educators, the Committee will work towards increasing the recognition of the advantages of industry-standard technologies and advocating for their widespread adoption. By shaping the future of the drinking water industry through its strategic plan, WITC seeks to ensure that water utilities can effectively address the challenges ahead and continue to provide safe and sustainable water to communities.

By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among its members, WITC aims to promote best practices and spur innovation in the use of technology in the drinking water industry. Through partnerships with industry experts, utilities, and educators, the Committee will work towards increasing the recognition of the advantages of cutting-edge technologies and advocating for their widespread adoption. By shaping the future of the drinking water industry through its strategic plan, WITC seeks to ensure that water utilities can effectively address the challenges ahead and continue to provide safe and sustainable water to communities. To succeed, we need engagement with our members.

We have created a survey accessible at <http://bit.ly/witcSurvey>.

Please submit your ideas on how this Committee can evolve to better meet the Section's needs.



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PUBLIC EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO AN EFFECTIVE CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM And Your Only Real Defense

By Mary L. Howell, Backflow Management Inc. (BMI)

The most practical way to have a cost-effective, time-efficient, defensible cross connection control program is through public education. A good cross connection control program will protect the drinking water from possibly becoming polluted or contaminated due to a backflow incident. It can assist in avoiding being held negligent in a lawsuit. More importantly, it will assist in assuring clean, safe drinking water to the last free-flowing tap.


Why is a public education program needed?

1. **Magnitude of job:** Implementing a program to eliminate or protect against cross connections can be overwhelming. When a task appears to be out of control, we have a tendency to put it at the bottom of the pile. It is important to establish clear guidelines and put mechanisms in place to cut down on the time this project can take. A cross connection program will take ongoing attention; it never goes away. Through a good public education program, many hours of work can be eliminated.
2. **Must have everyone's cooperation:** By educating the public to the importance of the cross connection control program, cooperation of the water users is enhanced and increased. BMI's experience has shown that no one cooperates with a program they do not understand. Stress the importance! This program benefits everyone and it is essential to provide safe water.
3. **Cross connections created daily:** Every time a hardware store opens its door for business, new cross connections are created because of the apparatus which are purchased (i.e., spray cans, radial flush kits, etc.) The only way to effectively protect against this problem is through public education.
4. **Liability:** A good public education program can assist in shifting some of the liability surrounding a backflow incident. A water district does not want to be held negligent.
5. **Positive versus negative:** Positive initial communication regarding the cross connection control program can greatly enhance the customer's attitude toward what could be an expensive endeavor. Remember, educate the end user on both the administrative expense costs and the direct costs surrounding the assemblies.

Who Needs to Be Educated?

1. **End user:** The program belongs to them.
2. **Mayor and council:** They cannot support something they do not understand.
3. **Meter readers:** They can assist in spotting cross connections.
4. **City attorneys:** Let them know what is required and by whom. Remember, if legal assistance is needed, they need to be educated.
5. **Building inspectors:** All departments need to work together.
6. **Fire marshal:** Involve fire marshals early in the game. Listen to and address their concerns; it will cut down on controversy.
7. **Parks department:** This department will be greatly affected by the City's cross connection control program. They will have several assemblies needing to be installed, tested, and maintained. They will need to set a budget.
8. **Phone personnel:** Answering questions with the first phone call makes for happier customers and a cost-effective program.
9. **Media:** Educate the media prior to an incident, not during the crossfire.
10. **Water department personnel:** Staff members can be the best advocates; the greater their knowledge, the more they can support the city's efforts.

How Can They Be Educated?

1. **Newsletters:** Routine newsletters sent to end-users are very helpful.
2. **Tri-folds:** Mail these with the water bill or have them available at local offices.
3. **Television:** Give reporters good stories explaining cross connection control programs.
4. **Local cable channel:** Work with the station to run an educational feature on the city's program. It is surprising what a ten-minute video, run every day for a month, will do for a program.
5. **Local newspaper:** Ask for a section in the local newspaper and submit articles on a regular basis.
6. **Brown bags:** Make presentations to community and industry organizations.
7. **Displays:** Set up informative displays at functions in local schools, shopping malls, etc.
8. **Youth groups:** Get involved with youth groups. 



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2024 CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

The Pacific Northwest Section Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for 2024. You will vote for one of the three candidates for Chair, one of the three candidates for Association Director, 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; the Chair will serve one year as Chair-Elect, one year as Chair, and one year as Past Chair; and the Association Director will serve a three-year term, representing the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association.



Association Director:
Susan Crowley Saffery
Alex Mofidi
Damon Roth

Chair-Elect:
Libby Barg Bakke
Joel Carey
Doug Schlepp

Oregon/Idaho Trustee:
Jeremiah Hunt
Andrew Nishihara

Washington Trustee:
Enoch Nicholson
Brian Wilson

Trustee-At-Large:
Jeremiah Djajadi
Joanie Stultz



CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR



Susan Crowley Saffery

Director, Government Relations and Legislative Affairs –
Seattle Public Utilities

It is an honor to be considered for the position of PNWS-AWWA Association

Director. My professional career has focused on public service, and I feel fortunate to work in an industry that provides such fundamentally important services in our communities. My many years working for Seattle Public Utilities have only heightened my admiration and respect for the talent and commitment workers in our industry show every day.

As the Legislative Chair and Executive Board Member of the Washington WUC, I engage with utilities across the state and appreciate the unique challenges they face. I'm grateful for my wonderful WWUC colleagues, and I would welcome the opportunity to work with AWWA members from water utilities across the Pacific Northwest.

With nearly 16 years of government relations and policy experience at Seattle Public Utilities and over

30 years at the City of Seattle, I have a deep understanding of issues that provide both challenges and opportunities for water utilities. My first job was working in Washington, DC, for a member of Congress from Southwest Washington, so I've long enjoyed engaging in issues at the national level. In my current role as Director of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs at Seattle Public Utilities, I work on policy, financing, regulatory development, and high-level negotiations at the local, state, regional, tribal, and national levels, including with AWWA.

I love being part of a team that comes together for the common good, and I believe impactful solutions require a diversity of experiences and perspectives. I would be thrilled to work with and learn from Section members and leadership to receive input and direction, and discuss issues that we would prioritize at AWWA. Utilities from the Pacific Northwest have unique voices in national-level discussions; we have issues that need to be

brought forward to support our important work.

I grew up (mostly) in the Seattle area and have deep roots in the Pacific Northwest – in Southwest Washington on my mom's side and in Eastern Washington on my dad's. I love this place we are fortunate to call home. When I'm not managing government relations for Seattle Public Utilities, I'm the mom of 16-year-old twins starting their junior year of high school, and you can find me walking my 10-year-old dog Cooper, playing soccer, swimming, reading, hiking, spending time with my husband and our kids, my large extended family, and friends.

My years of experience with all levels of government, along with my years of experience in the water sector, have prepared me to be a strong voice for the water utilities of the Pacific Northwest. I would welcome the opportunity to continue to build relationships with PNWS-AWWA colleagues in this role. Thanks very much for your consideration.



I love being part of a team that comes together for the common good, and I believe impactful solutions require a diversity of experiences and perspectives.



Alex Mofidi

Senior Project Manager –
Confluence Engineering Group

I'm honored and excited to be considered as the next PNWS-AWWA Association

Director, representing you at the 'national' AWWA table. Throughout my time in the Pacific Northwest, I have worked towards being an active AWWA member on many different levels and feel I have the experience needed to be a successful PNWS representative to AWWA on the national level. Some key parts of my background include the following: I currently live in Seattle, WA; I hold a Grade III water treatment operator license (CA), and I am a licensed 'PNWS' professional engineer (WA, OR, and ID); I am a past PNWS Board member (Section Trustee At-Large), I had a brief time as an Inland Empire Subsection Director, I am a Past Chair of PNWS Water Research and Information Technology committees (and active in many other PNWS committees), I am the current national AWWA Chair of the Premise Plumbing Committee; and, I am the 2023 PNWS Recipient of the Lechner Award of Excellence. My career has spanned a total of 13 years in the Pacific Northwest, three years based in Australia, and 16 previous years in California. I feel my PNWS and national AWWA volunteer history, coupled with my national and international professional experience, provides a great foundation to be your next Association Director. Lastly, I hold both BS and MS degrees in civil engineering (Cal Poly Pomona and Cal State Fullerton, respectively)



I will strive to strengthen our Section by supporting the active engagement of Section members.

and (as a fun fact) love to travel. I'm currently planning a multi-country, self-guided African safari for 2024 with multiple friends and family.

My career adds up to a 32-year volunteering history with AWWA. I have been active here in the PNWS since 2007 and have volunteered on the national AWWA side as well. Along with being active in multiple committees and currently chairing a national committee, I have supported AWWA at various levels since the 1990s. I have helped in the development of multiple recent AWWA technical and policy documents (maintaining building water quality, premise plumbing policy, lead service line management policy), and I have been part of AWWA groups that support regulatory-related items going back to 2000 when I was part of the FACA working group for the Stage 2 Microbial/Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products rules. This multi-faceted involvement in PNWS and AWWA national activities provides a great foundation for me to be a successful advocate for PNWS. I will make sure that PNWS's needs, ideas, and values are received and well-represented on the national level.

My career has also spanned many different 'technical' and geographical parts of the water sector. I spent half my career in utility operations and management (at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California) and half consulting. I am lucky enough

to have experience being a part-time lecturer at both Gonzaga and Cal Poly Pomona. At MWD, I started as a Junior Engineer and progressed through the ranks to be appointed as their Water Quality Purification Engineer prior to my choice to resign and pursue a path as a consultant. In consulting, I have been privileged to literally work around not only the country but the world. I have worked on very large to very small drinking water projects and have experienced what it takes to deliver successful water quality solutions in different cultures, including Australia (living in Brisbane, Queensland for three years), New Zealand, China, Korea, and elsewhere. While in Australia, I worked on many water system projects in the South Pacific and participated in Australian Water Association conferences and other activities. As AWWA continues to grow and become a more globally inclusive organization, I feel that my water industry experience that extends past our North American borders is highly advantageous.

Thank you for considering me to be your Association Director. If elected, I will do my best to be an effective and fair voice for PNWS at the national level. Because of my past varied experiences in operations, management, consulting, teaching, national AWWA issues, and my work in diverse cultural settings, I believe I am well prepared to be an effective PNWS-AWWA Association Director and meet the challenges of this new leadership position!



CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR



Damon Roth

Senior Principal, Environmental Engineering –
Brown and Caldwell

It's a privilege and an honor to be nominated to serve as the Association

Director of the PNWS-AWWA. I am so excited for the opportunity to give back to this organization that has been a cornerstone of my career through this role!

When I first joined the AWWA in 2007, I had no idea what impact this organization would have on my life, how many friends I would make, and how much I would learn through participating over the years. While a member of the Virginia Section in the late 2000s, I served as Chair of the Young Professionals Committee and was an active member of the Drinking Water Quality and Research Committee. Those experiences helped me understand how to effectively collaborate with committee members to achieve shared goals. Once I returned to Washington and joined the PNWS, I have been an active member of the Water Treatment and Research committees, including a term serving as Chair of the Research Committee. I've also had the opportunity to regularly present at the PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference and helped organize and present at workshops sponsored by the Research Committee and the Central Washington Subsection. At the Association level, I've been an active member of several committees, including a term as Chair of the Residuals Management Research Committee and my current role as Chair of the Lead-in-Water Subcommittee. I've worked on projects funded by AWWA's Technical & Educational Council (TEC),



Those experiences helped me understand how to effectively collaborate with committee members to achieve shared goals.

both as a member of the project steering committee and as a contractor executing the TEC-funded project. I am currently supporting updates of M37 – Operational Control of Coagulation and Filtration Processes, and M68 – Water Quality in Distribution Systems and have presented at AWWA conferences and in AWWA webinars. All these experiences have given me insight into how AWWA and the PNWS function as organizations and how they support one another. I am comfortable working and engaging with Association and Section leadership and staff, which will allow me to effectively represent and advocate for the Section at the Association level from the start of my term as Association Director. I have also developed a network of trusted partners at both the Section and Association levels that can provide support, if needed, when working on behalf of the Section's interests.

As Association Director, I will be representing the Section's interests when interacting with the AWWA Board; therefore, I believe it's more important to follow the priorities laid out by the Board instead of focusing on my personal areas of interest. Of course, we all bring our own unique perspectives to any position we fill. In addition to advancing the Section's priorities, I will strive to strengthen our Section by supporting the active engagement of Section members at the Association level and to grow our

Section through engagement with water industry professionals who haven't considered AWWA membership in the past. The PNWS-AWWA is seen as a leader among other AWWA Sections; to help maintain that position, I would like to facilitate increased involvement with our membership at the Association level to help spread the success we have with our Section activities and to cross-pollinate with other industry members. I would like to particularly encourage participation in TEC and Standards committees so that PNWS-AWWA members have a hand in developing the guidance documents and standards that are key to our industry.

Beyond my work with AWWA, I currently serve as Brown and Caldwell's National Specialty Leader for Drinking Water Process Engineering. I am a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer, as well as a Registered Professional Engineer in several states. When I'm not focused on drinking water work, I volunteer with the Ritzville Public Development Authority, Ralston Grange, and Wheat Land Communities' Fair. In my free time, my wife and I run a small beef cattle operation with my in-laws and shuttle our four kids between 4-H, basketball, and their Dungeons and Dragons club.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to be the Section's next Association Director! It is an honor to be considered for this position, and I look forward to continued service to the PNWS-AWWA.



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CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

CHAIR-ELECT



Libby Barg Bakke

Technical Director – Consor

I am honored to share my excitement about running for the Chair-Elect position. I have been an engaged

member of the PNWS-AWWA for 23 years and have a deep passion for the water industry and its vital role in creating healthy and vibrant communities. As a Trustee-At-Large and former Co-Chair of the Public Information Committee, I have gained valuable experience and a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our organization and our industry.

As the Technical Director at Consor – a national engineering firm with

“ I have been an engaged member of the PNWS-AWWA for 23 years and have a deep passion for the water industry and its vital role in creating healthy and vibrant communities.

70 locations across the US – I lead the Strategic Planning and Communications service line for the firm and am a member of the Western Region leadership team. I specialize in strategic communications for water infrastructure projects and programs to help communities fund and build facilities to deliver safe drinking water. This experience provided me with a strong base of leadership and organizational know-how.

If elected, I will focus on supporting our members with their effort to recruit and advance the next

generation of drinking water leaders, equity, public advocacy, training, networking, and education – and having some fun while we do that.

Nothing is as satisfying as being a part of an industry that delivers clean, safe water year-round, 24 hours a day, to homes and businesses for healthy communities and a thriving economy. I'm ready to serve you and our organization with commitment and respect as we collectively look to the future. I appreciate your consideration of my nomination.



Joel Carey

Water Resources Division Manager – Tualatin Valley Water District

Hello Pacific Northwest Section AWWA members! I'm excited for the opportunity to run for Chair-Elect of our

wonderful Section. Serving as a Trustee over the last year and a half has further highlighted what a truly amazing Section we have, largely due to all of you: our dedicated water professionals. If elected, it's my goal to continue supporting our diverse members in every way possible – through continued trainings, quality conferences, and active membership engagement. I believe it's the meaningful connections

“ I believe it's the meaningful connections we build with each other that make our careers and jobs truly rewarding, help us enjoy and learn from the conferences we attend, and at the end of the day, hopefully, bring a smile to everyone's faces despite any professional or personal challenges we face sometimes.

we build with each other that make our careers and jobs truly rewarding, help us enjoy and learn from the conferences we attend, and at the end of the day, hopefully, bring a smile to everyone's faces despite any professional or personal challenges we face sometimes.

I have over 23 years of experience in the water industry. I'm currently the

Water Resources Division Manager at Tualatin Valley Water District and the General Manager for one of our partnership agencies, the Willamette River Water Coalition. I genuinely love what I do, and along with an excellent team of staff, I help manage water quality and regulatory compliance, water rights planning and stewardship, watershed protection activities under

development, and protection of system water quality through cross-connection control. I also work with our executive leadership team in support of our various agency boards, providing updates to our elected officials on a variety of topics, which I also love – perhaps weirdly to some!

In my personal life, my wife, Alina, and I – along with our adored mini-Aussie, Sienna – live in the Mt. Tabor neighborhood of Portland, where we've

spent nearly ten years updating and restoring our house with the goal of being done someday (yeah right!). We also love to travel and camp, whether in our home state or taking 'epic road trips' to explore all the amazing scenery and experiences, such as the desert Southwest.

I have been involved with AWWA for the majority of my career, going back to my initial involvement with the Water Quality Committee 20 years ago (wow, how time flies). Most recently, I served

as the Chair of the Oregon Water Utility Council in 2020 and now as one of the current Oregon-Idaho Trustees, providing support to the awesome folks on the committees of the Water Science Division. All of these have been rewarding and humbling experiences. I hope to continue serving you all – our water operators, industry experts and engineers, elected community leaders, and anyone else who makes PNWS-AWWA so great – if fortunate enough to be elected as Chair.



Douglas Schlepp

Principal Engineer – RH2 Engineering

It is truly an honor to be your candidate for PNWS-AWWA Chair-Elect. If chosen, I would serve with humility,

enthusiasm, and integrity to realize the objectives and aspirations of the Section.

For more than 17 years, I have been involved in the PNWS-AWWA through various committees, the King County Subsection, and the Board of Trustees. In 2018, I was honored with the Heart and Soul Award for outstanding service and exceptional devotion to the Section. I truly value the opportunities I've had to serve, mentor, and lead within the Section, and I look forward to the opportunity to be your Section Chair.

For 34 years, I have had the privilege of working for RH2 Engineering, beginning as a Staff Engineer and now as a Principal, helping to build and sustain communities while developing lasting relationships throughout the Pacific Northwest.

I cannot think of a more impactful organization, both professionally and personally, than the PNWS-AWWA. As I have matured in my profession,



As an officer on the Distribution Committee, Subsection Advisory Council, King County Subsection, Membership Engagement and Development Committee, and as your past Trustee, I have championed the Section as the foremost industry organization in the dynamic environment of our waterworks profession.

including Section involvement, I have witnessed and participated in the development of the next generation of water professionals. I look forward to the opportunity to further promote the value of Section membership and involvement.

As an officer on the Distribution Committee, Subsection Advisory Council, King County Subsection, Membership Engagement and Development Committee, and as your past Trustee, I have championed the Section as the foremost industry organization in the dynamic environment of our waterworks profession.

As your Chair, I would endeavor to:

- Provide each member the greatest opportunity to realize professional development and maximize PNWS-AWWA benefits with the availability of resources and tools.
- Support and recognize opportunities to attract new members while meeting the

needs of our existing membership and valuing our volunteers who bring so much to the Section.

- Promote the unique position of Subsections to serve and support locally and encourage the diversity of committee involvement.
- Emphasize the increased availability of scholarships for operator training and young professional development, leveraging the AWWA Water Equation dollars to optimize this resource through matching funds.

For over 26 years, my wife, Susan, and I have been exploring the world together. You may have seen her artwork auctioned at AWWA fundraising events. Together, we have two beautiful daughters, Geneva (23) and Mya (18). Both are pursuing future careers in engineering.

Thank you for your consideration and support. Together, we can make the PNWS-AWWA stronger than ever.



CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

OREGON/IDAHO TRUSTEE



Jeremiah Hunt

Water Distribution Operations Supervisor –
Eugene Water and Electric Board

It is an honor to be nominated for election as a Trustee of the PNWS-

AWWA. I have been working in the water industry for over 27 years, with my primary focus on water distribution operations. My career started in 1996 in Arizona, where I fell into the utility field as a temporary employee. I worked for a private utility named Citizen's Utility. When the full-time position opened, I was hired as a meter reader and worked my way up amongst the ranks. I then moved to a public utility, the City of Goodyear, where I worked for ten years. At both Citizen's Utility and the City of Goodyear, I worked on the water and wastewater facilities. This is where I obtained my Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Distribution Grade 4 Certification, DEQ Water Treatment Grade 2 Certification, and DEQ Wastewater Collection Grade 4 Certification.

“ I have performed all aspects of the fieldwork, from reading meters and working water main breaks to repairing sanitary lines. If you add the fact that I have experience working in both public and private utilities, I believe that this experience will be valuable as a Trustee for the PNWS-AWWA.

In 2009, I moved to beautiful Oregon and was hired by the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB). I have been with EWEB for 14 years. I am currently the Water Distribution Operations Supervisor and am the current Direct Responsible Charge (DRC) for the water utility. I have focused my career on the operations part of the utility. I have performed all aspects of the fieldwork, from reading meters and working water main breaks to repairing sanitary lines. If you add the fact that I have experience working in both public and private utilities, I believe that this experience will be valuable as a Trustee for the PNWS-AWWA. Two of my passions as a utility worker are water distribution functionality and emergency preparedness:

- **Water distribution functionality:**

I love to learn how other utilities operate. I believe that we share the same passion and the same goal of delivering safe drinking water to our communities, so we do not have to do it independently. We can learn from each other. There's no need to reinvent the wheel. Building relationships amongst our peers and learning how we are all doing things is the key to success.

- **Emergency Preparedness:**

After moving to the Pacific Northwest, I had to learn about the natural challenges that face our utilities and our families. To help educate myself, I became a member of the Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN) Board. I've been on the Board for eight years, and for the last five years, I've been the Board Chair. I've also conducted several tabletop exercises at the local short-school conferences. I hold several ICS certifications, 100, 200, 300, 400, 700, and 800.

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.

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Andrew Nishihara

Engineer – Stantec

I've always felt every year, when it comes time to vote for Section leadership positions, it's like looking

at a list of 'Who's Who' in our water industry. It can be an agonizing choice to try and vote since all the candidates have done so much for our Section and have great plans for the future. To be included with all the fellow nominees this year has been a professional highlight and honor.

Professional Involvement

My first experience with our Section was attending NW Oregon Subsection monthly meetings with coworkers and my mentors. The meetings rotated around from utilities big and small, which gave me a great opportunity to meet new people and see a lot of water infrastructure in a relatively short amount of time. A volunteer opportunity opened in 2010 to help with the Subsection website, and having built web pages as a kid in the late 1990s, it seemed like a good way to continue to develop my network and learn more about our industry – people might not know, but the older Subsection web pages were updated by volunteers coding in HTML. I kept learning, attending meetings and events, and in 2014, I was nominated to be an officer for NW Oregon, where I served as the Treasurer, Vice-President, and President roles through 2018.

At the Section level, I was able to volunteer on the Planning Committee for the 2015 Bellevue Conference and was a room scanner/general volunteer at the 2016 Boise Conference. Since 2018, I've been an active member of the

“The way a lot of us work, engage, and learn has significantly changed, and for a lot of others who show up in the field every day, it has stayed largely the same. My observation is that this has resulted in a bit of a gap in needs. If elected as Trustee, my main goal would be to serve as a communication conduit for members' needs to Section Leadership.

Research Committee and will be its outgoing Chair at our upcoming Annual Conference in Spokane. I have also tried to present and share knowledge in at least two Subsection short-schools each year. All this to say that I've been able to fill a lot of different roles and needs, big and small, and I have a huge appreciation for everything everyone does to keep things running as smoothly as it may seem from the outside.

Vision

The new normal – hybrid or remote. Retirements. Engagement. There's a saying that the one thing that is constant and you can count on is change. The way a lot of us work, engage, and learn has significantly changed, and for a lot of others who show up in the field every day, it has stayed largely the same.

My observation is that this has resulted in a bit of a gap in needs. If elected as Trustee, my main goal would be to serve as a communication conduit for members' needs to Section Leadership. Do we have enough trainings? Are they accessible? How can we do better? What are the barriers to YP or general engagement? What can we focus on that moves the needle?

Closing Thoughts

As I've progressed through my career, I think what's attracted me the most to our industry is that it's truly service-oriented and filled with people who want to help, serve, and support others – mainly through the mission of providing safe and affordable drinking water. Thank you for your consideration to serve and support you.



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CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

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Enoch Nicholson

Senior Drinking Water Engineer –
Jacobs

The PNWS-AWWA is a truly unique family of professionals, and it is a blessing to be asked to run for Trustee. I've been fortunate to gain a broad range of experience volunteering across different parts of AWWA, and this experience provides a specialized perspective on what this organization has to offer and what more is possible.

It was 16 years ago that I went to my first YP Committee meeting and was asked to take on an officer role. After two years as Chair of the PNWS YP Committee, it was my joy to serve on the Association YP Committee for six years, including two years as Vice-Chair. From there, I turned my volunteer energy towards my technical focus and led the PNWS Water Treatment Committee for three years in various officer roles. I then took on the

AWWA M37: Coagulation, Clarification, and Filtration Manual Chair role, and this June, I completed three years as Chair of the AWWA Coagulation and Filtration Committee.

Volunteering throughout the AWWA has shown me how special our Section is compared to the 42 others in North America. The PNWS-AWWA has an unmatched passion for inclusion, technical excellence, and building a strong professional family. I'm excited for the chance to help lead this group and build on the legacy that has already been established. Moving forward, I'd like to see us maintain the momentum we have with some critical initiatives focused on the future of our industry. Additionally, I'd like to see us be the example of what it looks like to bridge the gap between the Association and our Section on a technical level by more formally connecting our Section committees to the Association level committees that cover the same topics.

Ultimately, I'm passionate about providing clean, affordable water to everyone and equipping operators to effectively use the tools they have available. My desire to share and leverage technical resources and knowledge stems from my role at Jacobs as a drinking water treatment subject matter expert, providing senior leadership to our teams and helping utilities across the world solve their water treatment challenges.

When I'm not solving water treatment challenges, I love spending time with my three young children, going on dates with my wife of 11 years, flying my drone, and golfing (sorry, Michelle – can we still be friends?).

To all of you, thank you so much for all you do for our industry, and I hope that you will consider allowing me the opportunity to help you make our Section even better.



The PNWS-AWWA has an unmatched passion for inclusion, technical excellence, and building a strong professional family. I'm excited for the chance to help lead this group and build on the legacy that has already been established.



Brian Wilson

Operations Superintendent, Water –
City of Vancouver

It is an exceptional opportunity to be selected as a Trustee candidate for

the PNWS-AWWA. This organization has many people that do great work, and I love being a part of that. I have been a part of Subsections and committees for many years and feel like this is an excellent time for me to transition to a board position, where I can focus my efforts to help support the Section and the water industry.

I started my career 24 years ago as an entry-level maintenance worker at Beacon Hill Water & Sewer District. My career has taken me to several organizations, including the City of Longview, the City of Washougal, and, currently, the City of Vancouver. I was allowed to grow at each location until I achieved my long-term goal of becoming a Water Superintendent.

I hold certifications as a Water Distribution Manager 4, Water Treatment Plant Operator 2, and Cross-Connection Specialist. I am actively working to complete my BS in business management.

I started volunteering with the PNWS-AWWA as a part of the Lower Columbia Subsection in 2011. I was honored to receive the Subsection Advisory Council Activities Award in 2013. 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 past several conferences.

I have a great support system at home consisting of my wife Alicia and sons Austin, Camren, and Easton. We enjoy vacationing, car shows, and enjoying the outdoors. We have two great pups, Boa and Sadie, who have filled the voids as our kids have grown up and moved out to start their own life journey.

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 honor them by sharing what I have learned in hopes of strengthening our industry.

Thank you for considering me as your next Trustee.

“ I have been a part of Subsections and committees for many years and feel like this is an excellent time for me to transition to a board position, where I can focus my efforts to help support the Section and the water industry.

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CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS

TRUSTEE-AT-LARGE



Jeremy Djajadi

Co-Founder & Partner, Operations –
Sybis, LLC

Greetings, fellow PNWS-AWWA members! I am humbled to be nominated as your Trustee-At-

Large candidate. My first experience with the PNWS-AWWA Section started in 2008 when I had the opportunity to attend my first Annual Conference. It was my first exposure to the water industry, not to mention the breadth and depth of the Section and the Association itself, which at the time seemed to be overwhelming.

Section Involvement and Progression

Throughout my journey with the Section, I have met many member-volunteers who have shown passion and gratitude toward the Association, and they are contagious! They inspired me to be involved in the areas that I can contribute to, but also have the opportunity to learn new things. This passion fueled me to be involved in baby steps, starting with the South Sound Subsection as the Technology

and Website Liaison. However, it didn't take long until I was involved at the Section level as an officer in the Water Information Technology Committee (WITC) and took on the Secretary role in the South Sound Subsection.

One of the main benefits of being involved in WITC is my exposure to almost all of the committees and Subsections officers, which quickly made me realize that the Section is not as large and overwhelming as it appeared. However, I saw many talents and knowledge gone unshared between the committees and the Subsection. I'm passionate about pursuing this further in my involvement with the Section, hoping to fulfill its mission to "advance a diverse and inclusive network of professionals to provide opportunities and leadership to the water industry in the Pacific Northwest."

Personal Life

I am originally from Jakarta, Indonesia, and I was born and raised there until I was 12 when I moved

to the PNW. I still recall my first jaw-dropping moment when I drank straight from the tap, which was impossible back in Jakarta. Drinking water infrastructure does not exist there, so we never had potable water. Everyone grew up with drinking water delivered in a container. When I first stepped foot here, I was appalled by the idea of drinking straight from the tap. When I became involved in PNWS-AWWA, I started to understand that a lot was happening behind the scenes to provide safe drinking water to the public, and 'it takes the whole village' to do it.

When not at work, I typically spend time outdoors with my wife (Agnes) and my kids (Joseph, Alena, Seth, and Aaron) in the great PNW, finding trails to bike or hike on or as simple as spending time in our backyard. When not outdoors, I love to tinker with electronics and cars, finding things to fix and improve, with the hope that the passion is passed on to my children.

“When I became involved in PNWS-AWWA, I started to understand that a lot was happening behind the scenes to provide safe drinking water to the public, and 'it takes the whole village' to do it.



Joanie Stultz

Environmental Engineer –
Brown and Caldwell

Hi PNWS-AWWA Members! I am honored to be nominated for the role of your Washington

Trustee. The PNWS-AWWA family has been a pivotal part of my professional and personal life, providing the opportunity to develop leadership skills and gain life-long friends. I am in awe of how our Section continues to adapt, finding new ways to provide research, leadership, and training opportunities, all through volunteer service. As a Board member, I look forward to the opportunity to support that work in a new capacity.

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 8+ 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 even taken on the special role of Eddy, our Section Mascot (possibly my favorite role yet). 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 several years have taught me anything, it's the importance of cultivating a peer group that I can empathize with through uncertain times. Those connections help me know I am a part of something greater and are key 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 would like

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-AWWA:

- Strengthen succession planning guidance from the Section based on learned experience from past and present committee members.
- Support bringing back a YP Summit event to recruit new YPs who are vital to the workforce and fill 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-AWWA 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 now and in the future.

In my free time, you can find me on 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?" 🍦



Overall, I've learned that establishing a welcoming and inclusive environment is key to our Section's growth and success.

5

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Water and Electricity DO Mix When It Comes to Street Sweeper Cleaning

BUCHER municipal

By Matt Starnes

WE'VE HEARD "WATER AND ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX" FROM CHILDHOOD.

As the electrification of vehicles in the private sector and construction business developed rapidly, it was only a matter of time before street sweeping moved from fossil fuels to electric power. Bucher Municipal North America, Inc. launched the all-electric CityCat V20e compact pure vacuum street sweeper with high-pressure water, which was only the beginning. Bucher Municipal debuted the mid-size all-electric CityCat VR50e at the PWX 2023 Expo in San Diego. The CityCat sweepers are purpose-built, highly thought-out, and engineered cleaning machines. Pure vacuum street sweepers are suited for street sweeping cleaning and porous pavement. The suction mechanism sucks the debris into the hopper container for disposal.

WHY STREET SWEEPING?

Street sweepers play a larger role than keeping things clean. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the PM-10 standard that regulates the number of particles in the air that are small enough to reach the lower regions of our lungs; therefore, street sweepers protect our streets and lungs. Sweepers also help protect our lakes, rivers, and other freshwater sources by preventing potentially harmful substances from entering storm drains.

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Study found street sweepers are more environmentally and cost-effective than other best management practices (BMPs) against water pollution. To learn more, visit https://www.florida-stormwater.org/assets/FSAEF/Research/MS4/UF%20FDEP%20MS4%20Maintenance%20Final%20Report_edited.pdf.

SO, WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF STREET SWEEPING WITH ELECTRIC POWER?

- Reduced parts in electric sweepers = lower maintenance costs and more time your sweeper is operating.
- Reduced noise in electrical sweepers compared to the diesel version. Sweep confidently in the early morning and night without waking up the neighborhood.
- Reduced pollution. Electric sweepers do not emit CO₂. Better for the environment and lungs.
- Reduced recharge time through recuperation through deceleration of regenerative brake system.

HOW DOES WATER FACTOR IN?

The CityCat VR50e's two parallel-mode electrical water pumps feed clean water to the spray jets fitted to the sweeping brushes, the suction nozzle, and the suction pipe. The water system has:

- Two jets to each side brush;
- Suction mouth (4 nozzles);
- Suction pipe (1 nozzle);
- Front brush (2 nozzles option); and
- All jets are individually adjustable from the cab for more precise water distribution and sweeping.

The VR50e has a service water recovery option that ensures a higher freshwater coverage and less service water is swept up. Additionally, all an operator has to do is simply activate the 'EasyClean' self-cleaning function. The blower, filter screen, dirty water tank, side walls, and other difficult-to-reach pockets of dirt are then sprayed by the cleaning nozzles. The machine is perfectly clean within a couple of minutes. The water source is a high-capacity, 232-gallon clean water tank that ensures long service times. An extra 295-gallon water tank can be installed to maximize operating time.

Bucher's CSense 10.1-inch display has an intuitive design for extended functions, a central overview of all settings, and visual diagnostic systems. The displayed vehicle set-up can be individually chosen by the driver/operator.

With the electric drive train and its specially designed Bucher Battery Pack, the CityCat VR50e excels in autonomy and zero-emission operation while keeping the power safely secured away from the high-pressure water of the sweeper. While water and electricity don't mix directly, when it comes to street sweeper cleaning, they can be used strategically as a valuable asset to your street sweeping program.

At Bucher Municipal, the most important thing to us is to ensure we understand your street sweeping application to see if we are a good fit for your street sweeping program.

We've created and offer a free industry report, *The Five Things You MUST Know BEFORE Buying a Street Sweeper*. This is a non-sales, purely educational report to help you make the most informed decision on your next street sweeper purchase. You can find The Five Things Report QR code in our ad on page XX and also when you visit our website at www.buchermunicipal.com.

Matt Starnes is the Manager (and founder) of the Sales Development Representative Department and Marketing Manager for Bucher Municipal North America, Inc. To learn more about Bucher Municipal, visit www.buchermunicipal.com.

To speak with us about your street sweeping application, please call us at 704-658-1333.



Highline Water Operator Invents Device That Makes Rolling up Fire Hoses a Breeze

Kali Kocdemir, PNWS Gimmicks & Gadgets Coordinator

Flushing water mains is an essential operation that public water systems perform to ensure clean, safe, and reliable water service. When using fire hoses for flushing, one of the final tasks of the project is rolling up the hose. Rolling up a hose involves kneeling, bending over, and rolling a heavy, muddy hose. Then, you have to lift it off the ground to put it back on the truck.

At Highline Water District, project inspectors and operators roll up fire hoses ranging from 50 to 1,200 feet in length. This work is often carried out in the cold, wet weather typical of western Washington. "If you have to do a cut-in or fix a main, for example, the last piece of the puzzle is rolling up the hose, and that's when everyone looks around with the same thought – who's going to roll the hoses?" jokes Nick Hoesel, Senior Utility Worker at Highline Water District. "Now, with The Hölē Roller, there is no more of that; it's a memory," he says.

With just a few pieces of scrap metal, some welding, and creative ingenuity, Nick invented The Hölē Roller. This device attaches to the hitch of a truck and has a crank to roll up the hose. Nick built the prototype for less than \$50 in about 20 minutes. It cuts the time it takes to roll up a hose in half and significantly reduces the physical strain on the body.

Nick has been a water professional for five years; he's also Highline's resident mechanic. "It's a fantastic job," he says with a smile on his face. Prior to working in water, Nick owned his own tree service business. Drawing on his entrepreneurial background, Nick has repaired equipment and created numerous in-house tools to make work more ergonomic at Highline. These include the valve key used by the entire crew and repaired pumps that have been put back into use. "It's helpful to have people from different backgrounds and industries on our team," says Nick. "Everyone contributes their strengths to the team; we're a pretty good outfit."

"With the amount of hose inspectors have to roll up, I wanted to find a solution that would be more ergonomic for them. When you own your own business, often you don't have the budget to buy an

off-the-shelf ready tool," says Nick. Sometimes, there is no existing tool available.

Highline Water District has two The Hölē Rollers, one for each inspector. "Rolling up the hose now only requires one person, which is good because you're often working alone," says Nick.

Dave Stanley presented The Hölē Roller at the Gimmicks & Gadgets contest during the PNWS-AWWA Spring conference in Kennewick, WA. Gimmicks & Gadgets is a national contest where water professionals enter their innovative tools or solutions to everyday problems that improve operators' work in the field.

— 66 —

With the amount of hose inspectors have to roll up, I wanted to find a solution that would be more ergonomic for them.

— 99 —

Highline won first place within the PNWS and subsequently entered The Hölē Roller into the AWWA national-level contest. In September, winners were announced, and Nick Hoesel won third place nationwide!

Dave recently retired as Highline's Construction Supervisor with over 37 years of service. He explains how The Hölē Roller has helped the district from a manager's perspective: "Now, there's no bending over, and we don't have to lift the hose off the ground when it's all rolled up. It improves speed, efficiency, and ergonomics, helping us avoid back injuries and reducing time loss or L&I claims."

"We don't leave a project until it's done, and I love that part of the job," says Nick. With The Hölē Roller, the last step of the project at Highline Water District is completed more safely and effortlessly.

To see a video of the The Hölē Roller in use, please scan the QR code. 📱





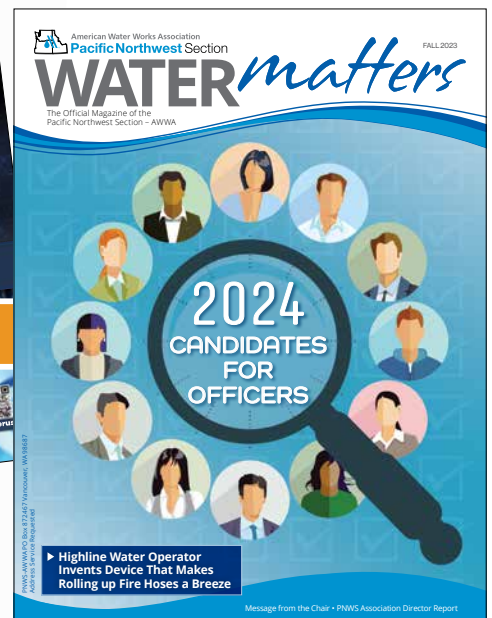
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FREE RESOURCES to Help Your UTILITY Be PROACTIVE with CYBERSECURITY

Cole Dutton, Cybersecurity Specialist US, EPA

As cyber-attacks against critical infrastructure facilities, including water and wastewater systems, continue to increase, so does the need for a proactive cybersecurity approach. The first step in building a cybersecurity program is to conduct a cybersecurity assessment to identify strengths, gaps, and vulnerabilities in current cybersecurity practices. EPA has two free cybersecurity assessment methods utilities can use to assess their cybersecurity practices: The Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool (WCAT) and the Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program.

WATER CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT TOOL (WCAT)

Water and wastewater utilities can use this tool to evaluate and self-assess their current cybersecurity practices. The tool utilizes EPA's Cybersecurity Checklist, which contains important cybersecurity controls needed for a strong cybersecurity program. Each question provides a utility with the option to provide a 'Yes,' 'No,' or 'In Progress' response, as well as an 'Explanation of Response' where more detail can be provided to support each response. After conducting the assessment, the tool creates a comprehensive Assessment Report, which includes all the information collected during the assessment. The tool also generates a Risk Mitigation Plan Template for each question answered 'No' or 'In Progress' as these controls are missing and represent potential cybersecurity gaps and vulnerabilities at the utility.

Moving forward, a utility can use the Risk Mitigation Plan Template to begin developing plans to mitigate these cybersecurity gaps. The Risk Mitigation Plan allows the utility to track its progress as it develops its cybersecurity program.


WATER SECTOR CYBERSECURITY EVALUATION PROGRAM

Water and wastewater utilities may prefer to undergo a third-party assessment led by a cybersecurity professional. To support this approach, EPA provides the Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program. Under this program, water and wastewater utilities can register and work with a cybersecurity professional to undergo an assessment of their cybersecurity practices. After registering, EPA will reach out directly to the utility and coordinate a date and time for a virtual assessment. During the virtual assessment, the cybersecurity professional will use the Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool to review each question with the utility, documenting the responses to each question. A benefit of receiving an assessment through this program is utilities can ask questions and engage with a cybersecurity expert during the assessment. Upon completion, the utility will receive its full Assessment Report and Risk Mitigation Plan Template through a secure file-sharing method to begin addressing its cybersecurity gaps and vulnerabilities. EPA will not receive a copy of any utility's assessment since this assessment is intended only for the utility.

CYBERSECURITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Along with cybersecurity assessment methods, EPA offers cybersecurity technical assistance resources to assist utilities in building their cybersecurity programs. These resources can be used throughout the entire cybersecurity assessment process and can be helpful when working through a Risk Mitigation Plan and mitigating vulnerabilities found during an assessment. Appendix B of EPA's Guidance Document features Checklist Fact Sheets for each question and control from EPA's Cybersecurity Checklist. The Fact Sheets cover these cybersecurity controls in more detail, including why the controls are important, tips on implementing the controls at a utility, and additional resources available to assist with implementing each control. Additionally, EPA offers direct technical assistance through the Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Program for the Water Sector. Utilities can submit cybersecurity questions through this program and receive remote assistance (phone or email) from a cybersecurity subject matter expert. EPA strives to respond to each request for technical assistance within two business days.

READY TO BUILD YOUR CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM?

Visit the EPA's Cybersecurity for the Water Sector website to learn more about these resources, and others, which can bring your utility one step closer to cybersecurity resilience. For more information, please visit www.epa.gov/waterresilience/epa-cybersecurity-water-sector. 



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Our goal is to provide members with the essential resources and water knowledge they need to optimize day-to-day operations and maximize growth opportunities in the profession. AWWA Standards and Manuals, industry reports, and a wide range of education and training options provide the necessary guidance and tools to enhance your operational performance and support your career advancement in the water industry.

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people and information you need to advance!**

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Northwest Oregon Subsection

New Officer Announcement!

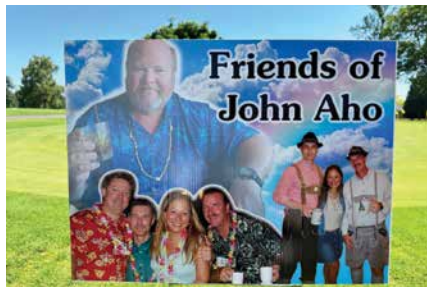
Welcome **DeEtta Fosbury** to the Subsection Board!



DeEtta was nominated and voted in by the members and will serve a four-year term as Secretary.

"I am a hydrogeologist with Summit Resources in Portland, where I help Pacific Northwest water providers with water supply planning, groundwater development, water quality, and resource protection. I am an active member of the PNWS section of AWWA because I love meeting people from our industry and learning about the diverse range of challenges involved in delivering clean, reliable drinking water to our communities. My introduction to the Section was through participation in the Water Resources Committee, where I have served in all the officer roles multiple times since 2012. Most recently, I served as Vice-Chair and then Chair of the Program Committee, helping to develop the Annual Conference program since 2020. I am eager to become more involved with the NW OR Subsection to connect with more of our local water professionals."

Annual John Aho Memorial and Golf Tournament



Friday, July 21st, was the Subsection's annual fundraiser golf tournament,

from which all proceeds are donated to Water For People and the John Aho Scholarship Fund. As usual, it was a gorgeous, sunny day at the Gresham Golf Course, and we had 120 golfers and 27 sponsors.

Thank you to our hole and cart sponsors.

The winning team of the scramble format came in at 14 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 \$8,000 for our sponsored charities**. This event was super successful, with the participants enjoying the great company of their teammates and industry colleagues.

We look forward to going all out for the 30th annual event next year!

Subsection Opportunities



Are you looking to get more involved? Check these out:

- **Activities Committee/Chair:**
Time commitment is three hours/month from January through April.
- **Waterworks School Committee:**
Time commitment varies, but school is typically in June. You get free CEUs for being on this committee.
- **Incoming Officer (May 2024):**
Time commitment varies throughout the commitment years, but this is a great leadership position to expand your network, learn budgeting, and speak in front of members.

Please contact Kyle Arnhart if you're interested in any of these opportunities at kylea@tigard-or.gov.

Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 15, 2023



The gathering is headed back to the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas. Registration will open in November!

Monthly Meetings

Rotating locations each month on the third Thursday at 11:30 am. We would love to see new members join us!

July: City of Oregon City hosted and sponsored the lunch meeting. GenPac presented on Drones, and members had the opportunity to fly them above Oregon City's new operations building. The Subsection presented our Past President, Laura Oxsen, with a plaque for her service.

August: City of Carlton hosted, and Core and Main sponsored this lunch. We honored retirees during this meeting. Members also had a chance to swing a golf club 90 yards out and try to get 'closest to the pin.' Emma Martin walked away as the winner – she was only 10.3 feet away!

Is your city interested in hosting? Want to highlight a fun project or a new reservoir? Please reach out to Andrew Wentworth at awentworth@pnws-awwa.org. 📧

Southern Oregon Subsection

Annual Golf Tournament – August 18-19, 2023

The fun never stops when you visit us down here in Southern Oregon. We had a tremendous turnout of 64 golfers for our annual Water For People golf tournament. This year, we were able to provide over \$1,500 in raffle prizes that were graciously donated for attendees of the tournament to enjoy. We want to thank all our sponsors and volunteers who helped us make this event great.

Overall, we raised over \$5,000 for Water For People.




Young Professionals Social – August 18, 2023

Cody Scoggins put together a bowling social for those who attended our annual golf tournament in August. There was a good turnout of people, and everyone had a great time networking!



Short-School – September 19-21, 2023

The Southern Oregon Subsection is hosting a short-school in Grants Pass at the Rogue Community College Redwood Campus on September 19-21, 2023. Use the link below for more information. Registration is now open at www.roguecc.edu/dept/continuingeducation/watershortschool.asp. 



South Sound Subsection

Update

The South Sound Subsection was excited to host our 10th annual charity golf tournament in July at the Oakbrook Golf Course to support several deserving charities. These charities included Water For People, Water Equation, the Education and Training Fund, and a local charity, Living Access Support Alliance (LASA). LASA supports local families struggling to afford their utilities and facing possible homelessness. A big thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers! It was a great time catching up with friends and colleagues; thank you to those who joined us!

Trainings

Watch our website! Final planning stages are coming together for some great trainings later this year. We plan to host a DIPRA hybrid training that will demonstrate to the attendees how to design, install, and maintain ductile iron pipe such that it meets or exceeds the design life. As well as an upcoming Day with DOH training!

It also 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.

ACE Competitions

Shout out to our competitors from the South Sound Subsection who represented the Pacific Northwest well at ACE in June! Congratulations to **Carlos Camacho**, Meter Challenge National Champion! His winning time of 41.78 seconds secured him the 2023 title and an automatic qualification for the national competition in Anaheim next year. Our men's tapping team, including **Carlos Camacho**, **Robert Maurer**, and **Zach Shoemaker**, and coached by **Troy Newman**, persevered through numerous challenges to complete their taps against a deep field of competitors. The women's team, consisting of **Jessa Messer**, **Sarah DeGidio**, and **Sami Pielak**, and coached by **Geff Yotter**, qualified for finals and set the mark for the finals with a time of 2:26 and secured second place (national runner-up), only falling to the two-time defending national champions on their final attempt! We are proud of our competitors for their hours of dedication to practice and prepare for the competitions. 🏆

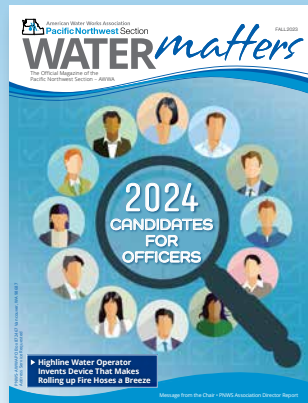


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American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section **WATER** *matters* The Official Magazine of the Pacific Northwest Section - AWWA



To reach water industry professionals in Washington, Oregon and Idaho through *Water Matters* magazine and its targeted readership, please contact me at:

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AMERICAN Flow Control	22	205-325-7701	www.american-usa.com
Backflow Management Inc.	21	503-255-1619	www.bmi-backflow.com
bhc consultants	31	206-505-3400	www.bhcconsultants.com
BioSafe Systems	6	888-441-1975	www.biosafesystems.com
Blue-White Industries, Ltd.	47	714-893-8529	www.blue-white.com
Brown and Caldwell	10	206-624-0100	www.browncaldwell.com
Bucher Municipal North America	37	704-658-1333 ext. 133	www.buchermunicipal.com/us/en
Carollo Engineers	30	800-523-5826	www.carollo.com
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A collage of 18 photographs arranged in a circular pattern around a central green circle. The photos depict various water utility activities: construction of a large water tower, field work with surveying equipment, office meetings, and maintenance of water infrastructure. The images are set against a background of green and blue geometric shapes. The word "Community" is partially visible at the top left, and "Water" is partially visible at the bottom right.

Years!



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