# Wise Water Words

http://www.awwaneb.org

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Spring 2001

## O'Brien receives Fuller Award for 35 years service

erry O'Brien, operations director, JEO Consulting Group, Inc., was named the George Warren Fuller Awardee at the 2000 fall conference for 35 years of outstanding service to the water industry. This highest honor given by AWWA will be presented to Terry at the National AWWA Conference June 17-21 in Washington, D.C. He served as Nebraska Section chair in 1998.

Terry has been a project engineer from literally hundreds of improvement projects during his career. Through his involvement in AWWA and his experience and expertise in the water supply, treatment and distribution fields, he has contributed to helping thousands of Nebraskans enjoy safe drinking water and a higher quality of life.

Terry joined the Nebraska Section in 1979 and served through the ranks of offices. He also is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, Water Environment Federation, American Consulting Engineers Council and Wahoo Lions Club. Other



From left seated: Val and Terry O'Brien. Standing: Marnie, Cory, Katelyn and Diane O'Brien.

awards include the Distinguished Service Award from the Consulting Engineers Council in 1982 and the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award in 1983.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering in 1966, and a masters in Civil Engineering in 1967, both from UNL. Prior to joining JEO, he worked at the Nebraska Department of Health from 1966 to 1971. Terry and his wife of 38 years, Val, have a daughter, Marnie, son, Cory, daughter-in-law, Diane, and granddaughter, Katelyn. The couple lives in Wahoo.

### **2000 Section Officers**



From left, front: John Mirivosky, Kristine Ranselm, Dennis Hirschbrunner, Joel Christensen, Scott Borman and Chairperson Chip Haas. Backrow: Dennis Watts, Tony Bilek, Pat Heath, Larry Andreasen, and Vice Chairperson Chris Koenig.

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### Chair's comments

am very privileged to be your Chairperson for 2001. At the start, the position appears awesome and overwhelming. However, the Section has outstanding Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs. Working together, we will have a rewarding year and will serve the Section to the best of our abilities.

Hopefully you are aware by now the Section has part-time paid staff. We are using the services of **Carolyn Gigstad**, Nebraska Consulting Engineers Council, Lincoln. Our official telephone



Chip Haas

number is 402.476.2003. Paid staff will provide the following services:

- Develop and maintain member database.
- Distribute Board of Directors meeting minutes.
- Maintain financial records.
- ♦ Help coordinate the annual fall conference.
- Provide a permanent address and telephone number for the Section.
- Provide permanent office space to store records and library.
- Coordinate AWWA teleconference.

The paid staff will enhance the service the Section provides and will be a tremendous benefit to all members. Also, paid staff should allow the smaller systems to become more actively involved on the Board. I think there has been some reluctance by some small systems (and justifiably so) to go through the chairs because they do not have the staff available to coordinate the annual conference.

owever, we must not forget that one of the major strengths of the Section over the years has been the willingness of members to volunteer their time to the organization. Paid staff will allow members to volunteer their time and efforts in areas that will maximize the benefit to the membership.

**Chris Koenig** and the Program Committee already are hard at work planning the program for the Fall Conference in Kearney. Contact him (402.346.7559) with topics you would like to see presented. The conference will be held November 6-9, 2001, so mark your calendars now!

The Officers and Committee Chairs are working on their budgets. The budget should be finalized at the next board meeting, March 21. Please contact any of the Officers or Committee Chairs with projects or ideas you have that need to be budgeted.

The meeting March 21 will be in Columbus. These meetings are open to all members and you are encouraged to attend and provide input.

Please call me (402.492.8472) or any of the officers with your ideas, comments, or suggestions. This is your organization and we are here to serve you!

### **Officers and Trustees**

Charles Haas, (402) 492-8472 Chairperson

Chris Koenig, (402) 346-7559 Chairperson-Elect

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Kristine Ranselm, (402) 395-2803

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Joel Christensen, (402) 554-7774

### **2001 Committee Chairs**

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**Trustees** 

Steve Kelley, *Awards* (402) 228-5217

(102) 220 3217 Kristine Ranselm, *Budget* (402) 395-2803

Rich Koenig, Cross Connections (308) 370-3114

Mike Wentink, Education

(308) 535-8134 or (402) 471-1005

Chris Koenig, Fall Conference (402) 346-7559

Joel Christensen, Nominations (402) 554-7774

Lynn Wegehaupt, Fuller Award (402) 554-7855

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Manufacturers/Associates Council (402) 333-9660

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Kathleen Alexander, Nancy Gruwell

Public Information

(402) 399-1357 or (402) 399-1367

Dr. Mohamed Dahab, *Research* (402) 472-5020

Rob Pierce, *Safety* (402) 476-2829

Lynn Wegehaupt, Scholarship (402) 554-7855

Bob Elston, Small Systems (402) 582-4928

Dr. Joe Sherard, Student Activities (402) 472-1578

Jim Shields, Water for People (402) 449-8182

Jerry Obrist, Water Utility Council (402) 441-5930

Joe Baxter, Eric Obert Young Professionals (308) 383-8750 or (402) 443-4661

### **Director's report** by Dennis Hirschbrunner

elcome to 2001, a space odyssey. Well maybe not a space odyssey, but the water industry is definitely on a regulatory odyssey. Come to think about it, maybe the regulators are on a space odyssey given the recent slate of rules and regulations that have come from EPA on drinking water. It would be one thing if they



**Dennis Hirschbrunner** 

were scientifically based, however the recent round of regulations appears to be more politically motivated as the Clinton Administration exits Washington, D.C.

Which brings me to the point of this article. In June, the National AWWA Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. The dates are June 17-21.

AWWA is organizing a Capitol Hill Day during the conference to allow attendees to visit their congressional delegations concerning drinking water issues. I hope all of you from the Nebraska Section, who are attending the conference, will join together to visit our congressional delegation. More information will be coming in the next several months regarding appointments and arrangements.

In regard to Association activities, I just returned from the AWWA Winter Board meeting. Our incoming director, **John Miriovsky** also attended. Having John attend a board meeting prior to assuming the director's position is an excellent way to introduce our new director to the workings of the board. I hope we will continue this practice in the future.



The Board meeting was fairly low key with election of officers and passage of the 2001 budgets as the main highlights.

The board elected **Lyndon Stovall** President-Elect beginning in June 2001. He will assume the Presidency in June 2002. Lynn is a Kearney native and UNL graduate. So we will have a Cornhusker leading AWWA in 2002.

Also elected were:

### **Association Vice-Presidents (one year term):**

Yasser M. AbouAish, Minnesota Section Kenneth J. Brothers, Canadian Section Dennis R. Leslie, Illinois Section Kathyrn L. McCain, Texas Section Terry Rolan, North Carolina Section **Director-At-Large:** Noel B. Grant

The 2001 Budget was approved with a projected invoice of \$32,030,600, projected expenses of \$31,675,600 resulting in a net income of \$355,000, and capital expenditures of \$1,921,600. The Association continues to grow to meet the needs of the membership.

I thank the Section for the opportunity to represent you at the Winter Board meeting and look forward to working with John as we transition to his role as Nebraska Section Director in June.

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### Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

The First Session of the 97th Nebraska Legislative convened its 90-day session January 3, 2001. Proposed laws, committee meeting dates, daily agenda, roster of Senators can be viewed on the Unicameral's home page at http://www.unicam.state.ne.us If you have any questions, please call me at 402.441.7571.

**LB 133** Exempts Natural Resources District (NRD) employees from complying with certification requirements of the Water Well Standards and Contractors Licensing Act to conduct chemigation inspections, measurements of static water levels in water wells, and to service flow meters during the course of the person's employment.

Status: General File

- LB 135 Proposed changes to the Groundwater Management Act:
  - Allows NRDs to limit or prevent the expansion of irrigated acres.

- Eases restrictions on closing management areas or portions of management areas to the issuance of additional permits.
- Eliminates the five-year limit on the time period for which NRDs could have different water allocations.
- Eliminates the five-year limit on the length of allocation periods.

Status: Signed by the Governor, February 6, 2001

LB 405 Requires that real property transferred (except real property for which water supply comes from a public water supplier) the deed or instrument contains a water resources disclosure, identifying any water rights or water wells associated with the property.

Status: General File

LB 457 Revises water well registration statutes. Water well contractors would be responsible for filing the registration, On-line registration would be provided by the Department of



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Natural Resources by January 1, 2002. Other provisions concerning water well registration are either identical or very similar to existing provisions.

Water wells completed before the effective date of the bill, but required to be registered under previous law, could be registered by either water well contractor or the well owner.

Status: General File

LB 472 Current Nebraska Groundwater Law provides for transfers off the overlying land for agricultural, municipal, industrial purposes and across state line. The law does not deal directly with transfers for purely domestic purposes. This bill authorizes the transfer of groundwater off the overlying land for domestic use, provided the wells collectively do not exceed 50 gallons per minute.

Status: Passed and presented to Governor for signature

LB 518 Amends two sections of statute which require irrigation wells drilled within 50 feet of the banks of a natural stream to be treated like surface water uses. This would require a permit from the Department of Natural Resources.

> The bill makes those statutes applicable only to wells within "50 feet of the bank of a channel of any natural stream."

Status: General File

LB 552 Requires the Metropolitan Utilities District (supplier to metro Omaha area) and the City of Lincoln to make annual payments to each county in which M.U.D. or Lincoln owns or operates water works, plants or wells and withdraws or diverts water.

> The payments would be an amount equal to 2% of the annual gross revenue derived from all sales of water withdrawn or diverted from that county.

Status: Killed

**LB 586** Describes how different livestock operations would fall under the groundwater preferences statutes. The use of ground water for domestic

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### **Water Utility Council Report**

From page 5

livestock as related to **normal farm and ranch operations** still would be considered **domestic use.** 

Status: Killed

LB 667 Adds a new authority to those granted NRDs under the Groundwater Management and Protection Act. The authority would be available only in basins where interstate water litigation had begun and where Nebraska was a defendant.

Status: General File

LB 836 Allows county commissioners of a county, which has wells, plants or other public supply property owned by M.U.D. or the City of Lincoln to levy a tax to pay for "public safety, police, flood, education, rescue and emergency services, road or street construction or maintenance services, and fire protection" for that property.

The tax would be a rate of up to the sum of \$2.052 on each \$100 of the taxable value of **all** the taxable property in M.U.D.'s service area or in the City of Lincoln, as applicable.

Status: In Committee

LB 837 Gives a county and the NRD in which a proposed well or other water diversion device was to be located "standing" in any proceeding before the Department of Natural Resources relating to that well or diversion device.

It also requires the department to publish notice of any amendments to the applications for either an induced recharge right for a public water supplier or a permit under the Municipal and Rural Ground Water Transfers Permit Act if the amendment to the application materially affects the quantity, location or timing of the water requested.

Status: In Committee

### Nebraska Section American Water Works Association **Leisen Memorial Education and Training Grant Application**

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOY Name:	MENT BACKGROUND	Home phone:
Home address:		Office phone:
		Years in water industry:
Current position:		Years in current position:
Current position.	(Attach a copy of your job description)	rears in earrent position.
AWWA membership number:		Type of membership:
Employer:		
Address of employer:		
Is your employer a member of	AWWA? If yes, indicate membership number:	Type of membership:
Your activities in the Nebraska	Section AWWA (committees, positions held, etc.):	
Membership in other profession  Other significant contributions	nal organizations and your activities:  to your community, etc.:	
TRAINING GRANT INFOR	MATION	Amount requested:
Dates of workshop, courses:		Employer contribution:
Location of training:		
Please indicate in the space bel	ow the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or	other water industry-related positions.
	ttach a letter of support from your employer.  upplied on this application is true and accurate.	
Applicant's signature: Send completed application by	September 1 to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harne	Date:

554.7709; e-mail: lynn\_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com



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# **Young Professionals**

by Joe Baxter, Olsson Associates (308.384.8750), and Eric Obert, JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (402.443.4661)

In 1999, the Nebraska Section AWWA established a Young Professionals Program to involve Young Professionals in the structure of the AWWA organization.

#### **Mission Statement**

The group develops programs of interest to young professionals in the drinking water industry, promotes benefits of AWWA membership by increasing opportunities for participation and career development, and identifies younger industry members who can be encouraged to take an active, leadership role in the Association.

### Who is a Young Professional?

AWWA considers any member or prospective member under the age of 35 and relatively new in the drinking water industry a Young Professional. Young Professionals include but are not limited to utilities, regulatory agencies, consulting firms, academic institutions, or manufacturers and suppliers. AWWA considers all members water industry professionals.

### Why should you get involved in the AWWA Young **Professional Program?**

The committee promotes involvement of Young Professionals in the existing AWWA structure and provides integration into the water industry. We plan activities to help Young Professionals develop professional contacts and promote participation of Young Professionals in the industry activities and committees.

### What does the Young Professionals group do?

- Social activities at section conferences
- Lunch or dinner seminars;
- Technical tours, and
- Career development workshops.

The Nebraska Young Professionals Program, currently in the development stage, is recruiting members and gathering input on the role of the program. The survey on the next page identifies activities that may be of interest to Young Professionals in the Nebraska Section. Please take a moment to complete and mail it.

### **Young Professional Program Survey**

Please complete and mail or fax to one of the following people. Thank you for your input.

Joe Baxter, 201 E. Second St., PO Box 1072, Grand Island, NE 68802; Fax: 308.384.8752; e-mail: jbaxter@oaconsulting.com Eric Obert, 142 W. 11 St., PO Box 207, Wahoo, NE 68066-0207; Fax: 402.443.3508; e-mail: eobert@jeo.com

Organization:								
Address:								
City:		State:		Zip:				
Phone:		Fax:						
e-mail:			Yea	ars memb	ership in	AWWA:		
Employment (please circle one):	Manufacturer	Professor	Con	sultant		Stud	ent	
	Federal Government	Utility	State	e Governi	ment	Othe	r	
As a young professional, do you fe	el that the services/activition	es provided by AW	WA could	l be impr	oved?	Yes		No
If services/activities were organize	d specifically for young pr	ofessionals, would	you find t	hese valu	able?	Yes		No
Would you like more information		,	•			Yes		No
Please indicate your level of intere		s (1 – vary interes	tad 5 - ne	ot interest	ed).	105		110
•		s (1 – very interes					_	
Lunch/Brown Bag Technical Semi	inars		1	2	3	4	5	
Technical Tours			1	2		4	5	
Social Events (e.g. Happy Hours)	(1)		1	2	3	4	5	
Sports Events (e.g. Golf Tourname	ent)		1	2	3	4	5	
Youth Education			1		3	4	5	
Career Development Workshops			1	2 2	3	4	5	
Networking Reception at Conferent Mentoring Program	nce		1 1		3	4 4	5 5	
	1119		1 1					
Please list any specific programs ye	ou would like to see in addi	tion to those named	l above.					

### 2000 Annual Conference

The 2000 Nebraska Section AWWA Annual Conference was held November 7-9 at the Holiday Inn, Kearney. This year's conference will be November 6-9 at the same site.

### **WISA Awards**



John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System, presented the 2000 Water Industry Service Awards Jerry Radek, left, and D.R. Correll.

Jerry Radek, general manager, Metropolitan Utilities District, began his 35-year career as a junior engineer and was promoted to design engineer in 1968. He advanced to administrative assistant to the General Manager, manager of Engineering & Construction, director of Engineering & Planning, assistant general manager of Administration and assistant general manager of Operations before being named General Manager in 1996.

He has a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering and a masters degree in Structural Engineering from UNL. He is a member of the Omaha Engineer's Club where he served as president, American Public Works Association, Midwest Energy Association serving on the board in 1998 and 1999, GRI (Municipal Gas System Advisory Committee in 1998) and AWWA. He has been a member of AWWA since 1973.

He also has been active in the United Way of the Midlands, Lutheran Family Services, Keep Omaha Beautiful, Rotary Club, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Omaha Health & Safety Council and Omaha Community Partnership for Drug and Alcohol Awareness.

Jerry and his wife, Judi, have two sons.



**D.R.** Correll, director of Public Works in Wallace, began his career in the water industry as a wastewater engineer for the city and county of Denver. He then went to Rangely, CO and Sarasoto, WY as the Public Works Director. When he came to Wallace in 1995, he did everything in pursuit of grant money to improve the infrastructure.

Once the money was in place, he was the project manager for the improvement, including a new distribution system, new well, new elevated storage tank, street improvements and new sidewalks.

While all these projects were going on, he also served as Water Operator III for three nearby communities. D.R. was instrumental in starting the Section's website in 1997 and served as designer and manager.

He has served the water industry for 28 and has been a member of AWWA for 17 years. He and his wife, Joleen, have a son, four daughters, and five grandchildren.

### **TOP OPS Challenge**

Taking first place in the 2000 TOP OPS Challenge were: Scott Borman, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Pat Heath, City of Gering; Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human Services, and Milo Rust, City of Chadron.

The Nebraska Section will pay their AWWA Conference registration fees to represent the Section at the national competition in Washington, D.C. June 17-21.

The second place team included: Jeff Brady, City of Wayne; Duane Grashorn, City of Valley; Roger Protzman, JEO Consulting Group, Inc., Norfolk; and Dan Zulkosky, City of Wakefield.

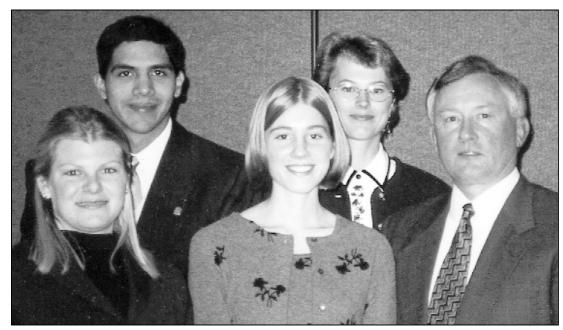
The Metropolitan Utilities District dropped to third place after taking the 1999 first place title. The team included: James Bartels, Jack Hatfield, George Reed and Jim Shields.

Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, and John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System, coordinated the event. Automatic Systems provided the timers.



From left, front row: Borman, Rust; back row: Koenig, Heath.

### Section awards \$750 scholarships to four UNL students



Four UNL students received \$750 scholarships. From left, front: Erin Callaghan, Elizabeth Hostetter, Committee Chair Lynn Wegehaupt. Back row: Rafael Rodriquez and Jodi Kocher.

Erin Callaghan is working on a masters degree at UNL in Environmental Engineering. She has an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Kansas and would like to become proficient in helping industry minimize pollution so fewer resources are needed in environmental cleanup.

Erin is a member of AWWA and WEF and would like to work for the State to learn about regulations.







Elizabeth Hostetter is pursuing a bachelors degree in Biological Systems Engineering at UNL. She is a member of the Society of Women Engineers, AWWA, WEF, ASUN Environmental Issues and President's Advisory Council, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Golden Key National Honor Society, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

She would like to work for a consulting engineering firm, focusing on hydrology and water quality projects.







**Jodi Kocher** earned a bachelors degree in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma, a masters in Health Education from the University of Arkansas and is now pursuing a bachelors degree in Civil Engineering at UNL. She is a member of AWWA and WEF.

After working as a nurse for several years, Jodi decided to enter the environmental engineering field to use her education and experience in the area of public health and safety. She is particularly interested in ground and surface water quality issues.







**Rafael Rodriquez** is pursuing a PhD in Environmental Engineering at UNL. He has a bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering, with a minor in Environmental Engineering, and a masters degree in Analytical Chemistry.

Rafael is president of the Student Chapter of AWWA/WEF and states, "You learn a lot when you have to try and explain something to someone else." He sees compliance issues resulting from more stringent EPA regulations as one of the greatest industry challenges.

Following graduation, Rafael would like to become a professor in Mexico or U.S.







Members of the Scholarship Committee were: Chairperson Lynn Wegehaupt, M.U.D., Chip Haas, HDR Engineering, and Chris Koenig, HGM Associates.

### **Membership Committee**

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael (402.255.3840)

We have coupons to help new members offset the cost of first year membership dues. A coupon with a \$20 value toward an AWWA individual active membership (or \$10 towards an operations membership) is on this page. Contact **Rich Robinson**, chair of the Membership Committee, for more coupons. Only one coupon per application and one coupon per person will be accepted.

The coupon needs to be signed by a recruiter, attached to the completed application (make copies of application on page 13) and payment and sent to **Kristine Ranselm**, Nebraska Section

\$20 (individual membership)

or
\$10 (operations membership)

This coupon, when attached to a completed application for membership in AWWA with payment of membership dues (*less the amount of this coupon*), entitles the bearer to a discount of \$20 (\$10 for operations membership) to be used towards the cost of that membership. To be valid, the following lines must be completed:

Name of applicant:

Name of recruiter:

Recruiter's membership no.

Mail coupon and application with payment to: Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 919, Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0919

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AWWA Treasurer, City of Albion, Albion, NE 68620. Kristine will remove the coupon from the application and add a check from the Nebraska Section for \$20 (\$10 for operations membership) before forwarding the application to national AWWA.

Only Nebraska Section members in good standing may sign a coupon. The recruiter should collect the application and payment (*minus the coupon amount*), attach the coupon and mail it for the applicant.

If the recruiter does not have a coupon handy, send the completed application with the payment (minus the coupon amount), to Kristine with a note requesting that a coupon be filled out and recorded for the Section books. This note must be signed by the recruiter to be valid. If you have any questions, please call **Rich Robinson**, 402.255.3840.

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Endorsing member number:				
Section 2: Dues and Section Assess	ments			
☐ Active - \$99 (02) ☐ Student - \$32 (1	4)	(06) (will not receive Journ	nal AWWA)   ☐ Internation	onal - \$145 (03)
Section 3: Payment  Dues are valid through December 31, 2001. No a income tax purposes. Dues may be considered on		yment is received. Dues ar	e not transferrable or refundable. Du	ues are not deductible as charitable contributions fo
Annual Dues	\$	Line 1 (enter amoun	at from annual dues in Section 2)	
Multi-Section Option	\$	Line 2 (enter amoun	at from annual dues in Section 4)	
•	\$eck enclosed, payable to AWWA. Canadian furstercard	nds−add 35% □	mounts and enter total here) Send invoice American Express	
Card Number:			Expiration Date:	
Signature:		(Cre	edit card company will add Canadia	n exchange amount.)
Section 4: Multi-Section Option				
In addition to your section membership, you also section information and fees, call 800.926.7337,				er sections of your choice. If you would like multi-
section information and rees, can 600.720.7357,	and their indicate your matti-section enoice(s)	and ree(s) in the space bei		
	If you decide to join other AWWA sections,	, enter the total multi-section	on fee in line 3 of Payment Section 3	3.
Section 5: Circulation Figures	12.		4 4 4 4 7	
All applicants must complete this section. For au  Business and Industry	Job Title	Interests	ow that best describes you.	Optional
A. Public Water Supply-Municipally Owned	A. Executive-General Manager, Commi	is- Please help us	serve you better by marking all	AWWA maintains profile data for use in
<ul><li>B. Public Water Supply–Investor Owned</li><li>C. Government–Federal, State, Local</li></ul>	sioner, Board Member, City Manage Mayor, President, Vice-President, Ov		eas of professional interest.	developing additional programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our members.
D. Consultant E. Contractor	Partner, Director, etc.  B. Management–Division Head, Section		evelopment r/Information Systems	Birth Date:
F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler	Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroll C. Engineering/Non-managerial–Civil		tion/Efficiency	Race/Ethnic Identification (Circle one)  1. American Indian/Alaskan Native
G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies,	Engineer, Mechanical Engineer,	□ Disinfect	ion	<ol><li>Asian/Pacific-Islander</li></ol>
including Representatives H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies,	Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System De	esigner,   Emergene	on System cy Planning	<ol> <li>African-American</li> <li>Hispanic</li> </ol>
including Representatives  I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and	etc. D. Scientific/Non-managerial-Chemist,	☐ Filtration ☐ Ground V		<ul><li>5. White (Non-Hispanic)</li><li>6. Other</li></ul>
Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations	Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.	☐ Hazardou	s Waste Management ry/Testing Sample	Gender (Circle One) Female
J. Fully Retired	E. Purchasing-Purchasing Agent, Procu	rement   Maintena	nce/Operations	Male
K. Research Lab L. Unreported	Specialist, Buyer, etc. F. Operations–Foreman, Operator,	Personnel	e Treatment I Management	
Field Served	Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.	□ Regulator	formation/Relations ry/Legislative	Mail to: AWWA Membership
5 Water Supply Only	G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial– Analyst, Marketing Representative,		sources Mgmt./Plan. st of Service	6666 W. Quincy Ave.
7 Wastewater Only 9 Both	Salesperson, Sales Representative, et			Denver, CO 80235
3 Other	H. Other:	☐ Water Re	use	800.926.7337 303.794.7711
Signature required:		☐ Youth Ed  ☐ Other:	ucation	
				or fax to: 303.347.0804

### Ad contract and copy regulations

Placement of advertisements generally will be at the back of each issue, and will be on a random basis, based on space and layout of each issue.

Advertisements must be provided 30 days before publication. A one time \$50 fee is charged to setup an ad. Artwork suitable for scanning must be provided by the advertiser. No allowance is made to advertisers for furnishing complete plates or camera-ready text and illustrations for their advertisements.

Cost per ad is on a per issue basis. Same copy and artwork may be used for each issue, however any change in copy and artwork will result in a \$50 setup fee. Advertising agency commissions are not deductible from advertising rates.

When change of copy, covered by an uncanceled insertion order, is not received by the closing date, copy run in previous issue will be inserted.

All advertising is subject to approval by the Nebraska Section AWWA. The Nebraska Section AWWA and publisher reserve the right to reject advertising which is not in keeping with the publication standard.

The forwarding of an order is construed as an acceptance of all the rate and conditions under which advertising is sold at the time. Advertisements must be prepaid before publication.

No conditions, printed or otherwise, appearing on the space order, billing instructions or copy instructions which conflict with the Nebraska Section AWWA's stated policies, is binding on the Section or publisher.

Failure to make the order correspond in price otherwise with the rate schedule is regarded only as a clerical error and publication is made and charged for upon the terms of the schedule in force without further notice.

Any deliberate attempt to simulate a publication's format is not permitted. The Nebraska Section AWWA reserves the right to place the word "advertisement" with copy which in the publisher's opinion resembles editorial matter.

Advertising agencies are entitled to only one copy of an issue regardless of the number of advertisements placed by the agency in the publication.

No fee will be charged to "announcement" type advertising, i.e., job opening announcements (job wanted announcements will be limited to available space).

No fee is charged for used or surplus equipment for sale (not applicable to vendors).

Fees are not to be charged for professional training seminar announcements sponsored by AWWA or an AWWA Section, the League of Nebraska Municipalities, Nebraska Water Environment Association or Nebraska Rural Water Association.

Advertiser and advertising agency assume liability for all content (including text and illustrations) of advertisements printed, and also assume responsibility for any claims arising therefrom made against the Nebraska Section AWWA and the publisher.

Every publication with advertisements will carry the following disclaimer: "The Nebraska Section AWWA and this publication do not accept responsibility for statements or claims made by advertisers for their products or services."

The Nebraska Section AWWA and publisher's liability for any error does not exceed the charge for the advertisement in question.

The Nebraska Section AWWA and publisher assume no liability if for any reason it becomes necessary to omit an ad.

All advertising agreements are subject to strikes, accidents, fires, acts of God or other contingencies beyond the Nebraska Section AWWA and publisher's control.

Contracts may be discontinued by either party on a 60-day written notice prior to closing date of affected issue.

Verbal agreements are not recognized.

### Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference November 6-9, 2001 in Kearney

### Advertisement rates for newsletter

Price is for one issue only. Include \$50 setup fee. Black and Pantone 293 Blue are only colors of ink printed. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.com

Black/White	
or Blue/White	Black/Blue
\$ 65	\$125
110	170
180	240
250	350
	or Blue/White \$ 65 110 180

### Advertisement rates for 2000-2001 directory

Include \$50 setup fee. No setup fee charged if the same copy and artwork is run in the newsletter. Black is the only color of ink printed. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.com

Size	Black/White
Business card size	\$195
1/4 page	330
1/2 page	540
full page	750

An ad in 200		2001 publication 002-2003 membership	ions directory gives you a link on our website t	to
☐ Wise Water	Words, Summer issue,	2000 (deadline for copy, etc.	. April 30, 2001)	
☐ Wise Water	· Words, Fall/Winter issu	ue, 2000 (deadline for copy,	etc. August 1, 2001)	
2002-2003	Membership Directory (	deadline for copy, etc. Nove	ember 15, 2001)	
		Black ink only		
	Size	or Blue ink only (please specify)	Black/Blue	
	Business card size:			
	1/4 page			
	1/3 page			
	1/2 page			
	full page			
Use same co	opy, artwork and design	for publications I marked abo	ove.	
(Please print)				
My name:				
My company:				
Address:				
City, state, zip:				
	Phone: ( ) _		Fax: ()	
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	Amount enclosed: \$50	) setup fee + \$	= \$	
Mari Matulka, M	Metropolitan Utilities Dis	strict, 1723 Harney St., Omah	n ad copy, artwork and dummy layout to: na, NE 68102; phone: 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.816	56;

Acceptance of advertising by the Nebraska Section AWWA does not constitute endorsements of the advertiser, its products or services, nor does **Wise Water Words** make any claims or guarantees as to the accuracy or validity of the advertiser's offer.

### Apply for scholarship

by Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District (402.554.7885)

The Nebraska Section established the Colonel Theodore A. Leisen Memorial and Training Endowment Fund in 1993 to encourage water industry professionals to obtain additional training and graduate students to choose the water industry as their field of work.

Water operators are urged to apply for scholarships to help offset the cost to attend seminars and workshops, including the National AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition. This is a great opportunity, especially for small system operators on very tight budgets!

Generally, the Section awards three \$500 scholarships at its annual fall conference. Deadline for applications is September 1. An application form is on page 7.

**Wise Water Words** is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.

Editor: Mari Matulka, APR, 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166;

e-mail: mari\_matulka@mudnebr.com

Wise Water Words
Nebraska Section
American Water Works Association
www.awwaneb.org
Metropolitan Utilities District
1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102-1960

**Education Committee** 

by Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works (402.228.5217)

The Fall and Winter Water Operator Training Workshops sponsored by the Nebraska Section AWWA and Utilities Section of the Nebraska League of Municipalities were well attended.

One hundred thirty-eight operators attended workshops in South Sioux City, Fremont, Seward, Stuart, Plainview, West Point, North Platte, Kearney and Lincoln. Each operator received five hours towards Water Operator Grades 1-4 and three hours toward wastewater recertification.

Topics covered included well maintenance/rehabilitation, pump maintenance, motor efficiency practices, well house safety, emergency plan programs and the updates on regulatory issues.

Instructors included: **Dan Freese**, **Brad Harris** of Layne Western; **Roger Fritz**, Northwest Electric, **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities; **Steve Kelley**, City of Beatrice Water Department, and the respective Field Representative from Nebraska Health and Human Services.

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID OMAHA, NE PERMIT #101

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# Wise Water Words M

Vol. 38 No. 2

Summer 2001

Published for members of the Nebraska Section, American Water Works Association http://www.awwaneb.org

### **Water Utility Council**

by Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System (402.441.5930)

The First Session of the 97th Nebraska Legislative adjourned May 31, 2001. New laws go into effect August 29, and can be viewed on the Unicameral's home page, www.unicam.state.ne.us. If you have

### **New Laws**

questions, call me.

LB 133: Exempts Natural Resources
District (NRD) employees from
complying with certification
requirements of the Water Well
Standards and Contractors
Licensing Act to conduct chemigation inspections, measurements
of static water levels in water
wells, and to service flow meters
during the course of the person's
employment.

- **LB 135:** Proposed changes to the Groundwater Management Act:
  - Allows NRDs to limit or prevent the expansion of irrigated acres.
  - Eases restrictions on closing management areas or portions of management areas to the issuance of additional permits.
  - Eliminates the five-year limit on the time period for which NRDs could have different water allocations.

(continued on page 3)

### Water industry rally in Washington, June 20

magine the power of more than 1,000 water professionals gathered at the nation's Capitol to advocate the interests of the drinking water community. With your support, it's a vision that will come true at 1:30 p.m. June 20, in Washington, D.C. AWWA is urging all the attendees at the annual conference in to join the rally on the west steps of the Capitol on Wednesday of conference week.

Numbers impress policy makers, who constantly watch the polls, tally letters and phone calls, and listen to the gatherings of constituents. So water professionals have the unmatched opportunity to impress Congress, the public, and the media with the message that "water matters!"

The rally also offers unusual access to top administration officials and legislators because the conference is in Washington this year. In addition to Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, US Environmental Protection Agency administrator, and influential members of Congress, AWWA has invited leaders in the water community to participate in the rally.

The rally will be a first for the drinking water community. The theme "Water Matters!" is aimed at grabbing Congress' attention and communicating how proper stewardship of drinking water matters in public health, the environment and in stability and development of communities. The rally gives water professionals a chance to demonstrate their commitment to public health protection.

Free shuttle buses to and from the Convention Center will provide transportation to the Capitol, which is a little more than a mile away. The site on the western side of

the Capitol, where presidential inaugurations are held, boasts a sweeping vista of the National Mall, with its reflecting pools, Smithsonian museums, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Up-to-date information on the rally is available on the AWWA website (www.awwa.org/ace2001) and will be posted at the convention center and conference hotels.

If you are planning to attend the national conference, please contact **Carolyn Gigstad,** Nebraska Section Office
(402.476.2003; e-mail:
nsawwa@alltel.net), for more information.

### In this issue

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Advertisers help pay for the printing and mailing costs of this publication. Acceptance of advertising by the Nebraska Section AWWA does not constitute endorsements of the advertiser, its products or services, nor does Wise Water Words make any claims or guarantees as to the accuracy or validity of the advertiser's offer.

### Chair's comments

he Nebraska Section has an excellent opportunity to discuss key water issues with our congressional representatives at the AWWA National Conference in Washington, D.C., beginning June 17, 2001. We've scheduled meetings with each representative to let them know our opinions and thoughts on water issues and explain their impacts on Nebraska. Briefly, some of the issues are:

- The National Academy of Science's (NAS) current review of the arsenic limit should be objective and based on sound science.
   Pressure may be put on NAS to set the MCL at 10 ug/l without good science basis. Whatever the final limit is, have a good basis for it.
- 2. The U.S. EPA should do a more complete and realistic job of estimating treatment/infrastructure construction costs as a result of its rule making. Typically, their costs are substantially low and do not give a realistic picture of the economic impact of regulations.

**Chip Haas** 

- 3. All EPA rule making should be based on sound science, which has not always been the case. Without sound science to back up an MCL, the limit lacks credibility.
- 4. Small systems may need grants to implement future EPA regulations. Where will the funding come from?
- 5. Since EPA enforces the rule making, should it also set the standard? The current regulation setting/enforcement process may not always be objective. Should an agency totally separate from EPA set the standard?

In addition to meeting with each Congressional representative, the Section will attend the Nebraska Congressional Delegation Breakfast, June 20. Again, this is an opportunity to let our representatives know our thoughts, opinions and concerns on drinking water. Your attendance at the breakfast is encouraged.

Finally, at 1:30 p.m., June 20, AWWA will conduct a Water Matters Rally at the Capitol Building. The purpose of the rally is to promote proper stewardship of drinking water matters in public health, the environment, and in stability and the development of our communities. I encourage everyone at the conference to attend the rally because Washington is the media capital of the world and they will notice a BIG crowd!

Do your section a big favor and let **Carolyn Gigstad**, section coordinator, know when and where you are staying if you're going to the conference. She will notify you of dates and times for the congressional meetings and other activities. We want you involved!

On another matter, six people from the Nebraska Section Board/Committee Chairs attended the Region V 2001 Meeting of Section Officer (RMSO) in Des Moines, May 18-19. All five states from the region participated. Some of the items discussed were:

- 1. Update on AWWA programs.
- 2. Round table discussions on student affairs and youth education.
- 3. What we all can do to help AWWA meet its diversity goals.
- 4. QualServe.
- 5. Government affairs.

I continue to be impressed with the excellent programs AWWA has to offer the sections. We need to take advantage of them.

Other sections attending the RMSO meeting were very impressed and envious of our Liesen Memorial Scholarship Program. We answered several questions as to how we fund it and who receives the scholarships. Our program has been supported by the Section for many years and is one to be proud of.

Wise Water Words is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.
Editor: Mari Matulka, APR

402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari\_matulka@mudnebr.com

Please note the scholarships are intended for operator training as well as university students. Your section will give scholarships totaling \$5,000 this year. See **Lynn Wegehaupt's** report on page 10. We encourage operators to apply. The application form is on page 12.

Have a great summer!

### Officers and Trustees

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Rich Robinson, *Membership* (402) 255-3840

Mari Matulka, *Publications* (402) 449-8154

Kathleen Alexander, Nancy Gruwell
Public Information
(402) 399-1357 or (402) 399-1367

Dr. Mohamed Dahab, *Research* (402) 472-5020

Rob Pierce, *Safety* (402) 476-2829

Lynn Wegehaupt, Scholarship (402) 554-7855

Bob Elston, Small Systems (402) 582-4928

Dr. Joe Sherard, Student Activities (402) 472-1578

Jim Shields, Water for People (402) 449-8182

Jerry Obrist, Water Utility Council (402) 441-5930

Joe Baxter, Eric Obert Young Professionals (308) 383-8750 or (402) 443-4661

### Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

continued from page 1

- Eliminates the five-year limit on the length of allocation periods.
- **LB 457:** Revises water well registration statutes. Water well contractors would be responsible for filing the registration, On-line registration would be provided by the Department of Natural Resources by January 1, 2002.

Other provisions concerning water well registration are either identical or very similar to existing provisions. Water wells completed before the effective date of the bill, but required to be registered under previous law, could be registered by either water well contractor or the well owner.

- **LB 472:** Current Nebraska Groundwater Law provides for transfers off the overlying land for agricultural, municipal, industrial purposes and across state line. The law does not deal directly with transfers for purely domestic purposes.
  - This bill authorizes the transfer of groundwater off the overlying land for domestic use, provided the wells collectively do not exceed 50 gallons per minute.
- **LB 667:** Adds a new authority to those granted NRDs under the Groundwater Management and Protection Act. The authority would be available only in basins where interstate water litigation had begun and where Nebraska was a defendant.

### In committee

**LB 837:** Gives a county and the NRD in which a proposed well or other water diversion device was to be located "standing" in any proceeding before the Department of Natural Resources relating to that well or diversion device.

It also requires the department to publish notice of any amendments to the applications for either an induced recharge right for a public water supplier or a permit under the Municipal and Rural Ground Water Transfers Permit Act **if** the amendment to the application materially affects the quantity, location or timing of the water requested.

### **Killed**

- **LB 405:** Requires that real property transferred (except real property for which water supply comes from a public water supplier) the deed or instrument contains a water resources disclosure, identifying any water rights or water wells associated with the property.
- **LB 518:** Amends two sections of statute which require irrigation wells drilled within 50 feet of the banks of a natural stream to be treated like surface water uses.
- LB 552: Requires the Metropolitan Utilities District (supplier to metro Omaha area) and the City of Lincoln to make annual payments to each county in which M.U.D. or Lincoln owns or operates water works, plants or wells and withdraws or diverts water.
- **LB 586:** Describes how different livestock operations would fall under the groundwater preferences statutes.
- **LB 836:** Allows county commissioners of a county, which has wells, plants or other public supply property owned by M.U.D. or the City of Lincoln to levy a tax to pay for "public safety, police, flood, education, rescue and emergency services, road or street construction or maintenance services, and fire protection" for that property.

### Interim studies

Various legislative committees will study the following issues between now and the beginning of next session in January, 2002.

These studies constitute some of the research for drafting of new bills. Public hearings generally are held on interim studies. Check the Legislatures's website (www.unicam.state.ne.us.) to see if and when hearings will be held.

### **Director's report** by Dennis Hirschbrunner

his is my last report to you as your director since my term expires at the national conference in Washington, D.C. I have thoroughly enjoyed representing the Nebraska Section the last three years.

We accomplished much in the governance of the Association. The Association continues to grow and prosper; adding new services, new publications, and a new computer system to better serve the membership.

We have representatives in Washington, D.C. to advance the water industry and the Association's new rules and regulations are continually being promulgated by EPA. The Association has never been stronger or more active in representing the interests of the water industry.

However, does this mean that the Association is perfect, that we can relax and let the Association do it for us?

Absolutely not! The Association is made up of many professionals representing constituencies across the country with different agendas. This has especially been brought home to me with the ongoing debate over the arsenic rule.



**Dennis Hirschbrunner** 

In fact, there are actually some association members who believe the final contaminant level should be set at 3mg/l. So, we are not unanimous on this issue.

That is why we need and will continue to need a strong representative from the Nebraska Section.

John Miriovsky will give us that

representation and I am happy to turn the reins over to him.

In conclusion, I thank all of you in the Section for giving me the privilege of representing you as the Director from Nebraska. We have accomplished many things together and will continue to do so in the future.



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### Water Utility Council

continued from page 3

- **LR 63:** Examine environmental and hydrological impacts of pumping water from the Platte River basin to the Missouri River basin.
- LR 81: Examine maintaining a contingency fund within or in conjunction with the Pesticide Administrative Cash Fund for extraordinary water monitoring activities.
- LR 166: Examine statutes regarding ground and surface water, including the transfer of water rights and use.
- **LR 169:** Examine whether to authorize natural resources districts to impose civil penalties for enforcement of the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act.
- LR 174: Examine whether a state-funded program for natural resources districts and communities to address nitrate contamination in public water systems.
- **LR 176:** Examine effects of the cooperative agreement on the Platte River basin.
- LR 217: Study the collective bargaining process for all public employees.

### **Public Information Committee**

by Kathleen Alexander and Nancy Gruwell, HDR Engineering (402.399.1357)

The Nebraska Section AWWA aired 11 public service announcements about safe drinking water on cable television during National Drinking Water Week, May 6-13. The announcements aired on 02TV, CNBC, Nick, TLC, Lifetime, ESP2, Family Channel, TNN, TBS and the TV Guide Channel. Cost of the project was \$2,045.

## Nebraska Section AWWA **Fall Conference** November 6-9, Kearney

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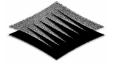
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### **Board Meetings**

July 26, 9:30 a.m.

HDR Engineering, 8404 Indian Hills Dr.

September 20, 9:30 a.m., Ashland Water Treatment Plant

All members are invited to attend the meetings.

### **Awards Committee**

by Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works (402.228.5217)

The Nebraska Section AWWA Awards Committee needs nominations as soon as possible for the following awards. Please contact **Steve Kelley**, Beatrice Board of Public Works, PO Box 279, Beatrice, NE 68310 for a nomination form. Phone: 402.228.5217; fax: 402.228.5181; e-mail: skelley@ci.beatr

### **Abel Wolman Award of Excellence**

An award of excellence to recognize those whose careers in the water works industry exemplify vision, creativity, and excellent professional performance characteristic of Abel Wolman's long and productive career. Submittal to AWWA Executive Director Approved by AWWA Board of Directors

### **Award of Merit**

To recognize achievement of those outside the water industry who have demonstrated outstanding service in support of the principles of AWWA in providing better water for people.

Submittal to AWWA Executive Director

Approved by AWWA Board of Directors

### **Exemplary Wellhead Protection Award**

To recognize water systems which have developed and are implementing exemplary wellhead protection programs. Submittal to AWWA Groundwater Committee Approved by AWWA Board of Directors

### **Outstanding Service to AWWA Award**

To recognize and honor a member of AWWA who has rendered outstanding service to the association.

Submittal to AWWA Executive Director

Approved by AWWA Board of Directors

### Public Communications Achievement Award (New)

To recognize and honor a member and organization of AWWA who displays excellence in communicating water issues to the public.

Award to be presented in 2002. Applications due October 1, 2001. For more information, contact Sabrina McKenzie, 303.347.6140.

# Nebraska Section AWWA 2001 budget

INCOME	2000 Actual	2001 Budget	2001 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 7.500.00	\$ 7.500.00	\$ 7.013.00
Association allotment	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,987.00
Multi-section allotment	503.40	600.00	183.60
Annual meeting	43,980.00	8,000.00	0
Director's allotment	1,429.44	800.00	937.80
Interest from accounts	3,661.05	2,500.00	430.85
Education seminar	0	300.00	0
Safety seminar	0	300.00	0
Cross connection workshop	0	300.00	0
Teleconferences	4,850.00	5,000.00	3,150.00
Advertising income	8,065.00	8,000.00	6,935.00
Water for People	525.00	1,000.00	0
SRF Education Funds	5,431.18	10,000.00	3,856.32
Scholarship Income	0	1,500.00	0
Miscellaneous	711.68	400.00	0
<b>Total Income</b>	\$84,156.75	\$53,700.00	\$30,493.57
EXPENSES			
Safety committee	4,092.20	2,500.00	0
Cross connection workshop	0	1,500.00	0
Education and training	0	1,500.00	0
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	1,699.00	2,000.00	3,856.32
Public Information Committee/website	991.23	3,000.00	460.37
Teleconferences	2,818.72	3,000.00	1,080.38
Small systems committee	337.98	500.00	0
Director's board meeting	1,218.82	2,000.00	2,327.81
Publications			
Wise Water Words	8,338.91	7,500.00	2,640.01
Membership Directory	4,875.01	6,000.00	0
Advertising	0	100.00	208.00
Student activity	353.64	600.00	74.92
Membership	55.00	300.00	20.00
Secretary/treasurer	3,231.80	200.00	0
Awards (Fuller)	384.19	500.00	3.95
Abel Wolman	600.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Scholarship expense	3,000.00	3,000.00	0
Research Foundation	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Regional officers' meeting	1,144.61	2,000.00	0
Director's spouse (meeting expenses)	300.00	300.00	0
Annual meeting	34,728.36	2,050.00	0
Publicity	2,364.93	2,500.00	0
Water for People	1,347.27	2,500.00	475.00
MAC Council	0	500.00	0
Paid staff	2,393.42	9,000.00	4,394.29
Water Utility Council (travel, etc.)	0	1,000.00	0
Young Professionals	0	250.00	0
Top Ops expense	0	2,000.00	0
Miscellaneous	96.23	100.00	25.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$74,871.32	\$56,900.00	\$17,566.05
Net Income	\$9,285.43	-\$3,200.00	\$12,927.52

### **Education Committee**

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health and Human Services (402.471.1005)

Two points set the Nebraska Section apart from other sections according to a 1998 survey by National AWWA.

First is the cooperative effort with other entities in areas of water operator education activities. Many other sections conducted educational activities primarily within the section only. Our section works closely with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, provides joint sponsorship of operator training seminars with the League of Nebraska Municipalities, and has an active part in the Water Operator Training Coalition.

Second, compared to other sections, Nebraska rates high in number of training opportunities available to water operators. Understandably, we do not have a high number of attendees compared to other sections, but we don't have the population. For example, an annual conference in Arizona (a Tri-State Conference) has 2,000 participants and 175 exhibitors.

Another education activity survey was conducted in late 2000. Information consistent with that found in 1998 include:

- Wide variation among section education efforts; some highly developed and comprehensive, others relying solely on AWWA teleconferences, and the majority falling somewhere in between.
- Variety in the approach to educational programs; some set up specifically to earn revenue and others focused on breaking even.
- Many sections have paid staff; some are strictly administrative, some are directly involved in organizing education programs.
- Committee roles vary; in many sections the Education
   Committee coordinates all section education programs and in
   others committees are responsible for their own education
   program.

Significant new information obtained in the 2000 survey:

- More sections are sponsoring more educational programs.
- CEUs or credit hours are a top priority.
- Operator certification requirements have increased the importance of reaching small water systems.
- Belief that teleconferences are not as successful as they once were, however some sections expressed strong support of the teleconferences.

### Reimbursement of operator certification expenses

General requirements governing the award and administration of expense reimbursement grants were published in the *Federal Register*, April 18, 2001. These grants reimburse the costs of training and certification for people operating community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer.

As cited in Section 1419(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. EPA is authorized to reimburse these costs and each state is to receive an amount sufficient to cover the reasonable costs for training all such operators in the state.

EPA determined that approximately \$134 million is needed for the expense reimbursement grants program between FY 1999 and FY 2003. This determination was based upon funding assumptions that include total number of eligible water systems, two operators per system, cost of training classes, mileage reimbursement, and other factors. Nebraska's potential total allotment is approximately \$1.5 million.

Requirements for grant eligibility include:

- A state has two years from the date of its initial operator certification program approval to apply for and receive its initial expense reimbursement grant. (This is based on the availability of funding. To date, EPA has reserved a total of approximately \$75 million from FY 1999, FY 2000, and FY 2001 DWSRF appropriations, and intends to reserve the remaining amount from FY 2002 and FY 2003 DWSRF appropriations.)
- Reimbursement will be for "reasonable costs" for training, including an appropriate per diem for unsalaried operators, and certification for persons operating systems serving 3,300 persons or fewer who are required to undergo training pursuant to EPA's operator certification guidelines (approved state water operator certification program).
   Generally, any costs associated with activities conducted to train and certify operators are considered "reasonable costs." The state determines and defines what is an appropriate per diem, and what requirements operators must meet to prove the need for reimbursement.
- The state is allowed to use a reasonable amount of the expense reimbursement grant for administrative purposes.
- The state must submit an annual or multi-year work plan
  on how the funds will be used to meet the requirements,
  and an annual progress report showing how funds were
  spent.

# Water operator charged with falsifying records

Sonoma County water treatment operator was charged last month with falsifying records on systems that included a mobile home park and a motel here.

Eric Miller worked under contract for 39 public water systems served by well water in Sonoma County. The charges are in connection with his work for the Mount Taylor Mobile Home Park and the Sun Plaza Resort Hotel, which is now a Days Inn.

He faces 26 misdemeanor counts following an investigation by the state Department of Health Services.

"Miller was supposed to disinfect water supplies, submit samples for testing, monitor flow rates and perform other tasks as a licensed operator," said Greg Jacobs, assistant district attorney for Sonoma County.

"Although an investigation by the State Department of Health Services did not find any adverse health effects as the result of Miller's actions, his conduct is considered to be very serious as the state must depend on water treatment operators to maintain accurate records as they go about their business," Jacobs said. "The regulatory scheme depends on honest self-auditing and self-reporting, which is crucial to ensuring safe water supplies."

Miller holds a water treatment operator's certificate issued by the state health services agency.

"We will take measures to see that Mr. Miller's certification is withdrawn, either through an administrative hearing or as a potential result of criminal prosecution," Jacobs said.

Miller faces arraignment 10 May. Each count carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$25,000 fine. —Santa Rosa, CA, May 3, 2001

Your Nebraska Section News Source www.awwaneb.org

### Manufacturers/Associates Council

by Tony Bilek, Mc2, Inc. (402.333.9660)

**Attention, Fall Conference Exhibitors!** You will receive formal invitations to exhibit your products and services at the upcoming 2001 Annual Fall Conference.

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney. The conference begins with the Nebraska Water Environment Program on Wednesday morning, November 7. The AWWA technical sessions begin November 8 and conclude at noon on Friday, November 9.

Raffles and door prizes will be awarded in the exhibit hall during the refreshment breaks to promote traffic in the area. Please bring door prize items such as hats, coffee mugs, golf balls etc. to the registration booth.

A short paragraph describing your company's products and services will be published in the final program.

Invitations and contracts will be forthcoming via mail in July.

### **Nominations Committee**

by Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District (402.554.7774)

These positions are not open for nominations and will be filled automatically by the following officers:

Position	Officer for 2002
Chair	Chris Koenig
Trustee & Past Chair	Chip Haas
Director	John Miriovsky

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference.

Position	Nominee for 2002
Chair-Elect	Dennis Watts
Vice Chair	Scott Borman
Secretary	Tony Bilek
Treasurer	Kristine Ranslem
Trustee	Larry Andreasen
Trustee	Pat Heath



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### **Scholarship Committee**

by Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District (402.554.7855)

The Section's board of directors has raised the level of commitment for training assistance and scholarships to \$5,000 for 2001. This level is up from \$3,000 last year. It was \$1,500 in 1999, and prior to that, it was \$1,000 per year.

In the past, less money was awarded for training than the originators of the education and training endowment fund had anticipated. It is not that money wasn't available, it's because there weren't many requests for training-related funding. Therefore, most of the money has been going to fund scholarships at the University of Nebraska campuses.

The funding of higher education is a good cause and the Scholarship Committee is not de-emphasizing that value. Instead, the committee wishes to re-emphasize the availability of funding for training for water industry professionals in the day-to-day water business. **If lack of funds is keeping you or** someone you know from getting needed water industry training, send a request!

In the past there was a specific time period for submitting applications for training funds. That restriction will be relaxed for the remainder of year 2001. For the rest of 2001, the committee will consider applications of all types related to training for water industry professionals.

Scholarship applications also will be accepted. However, the deadline for scholarship applications is September 28, 2001. The training grant application is on page 12.

### Safety Committee

by Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities (402.476.2829)

The committee is working with the Education Committee to provide "Fall Protection," "Safe Chemical Handling" and "Chlorine Safety" at 23 water operator workshops in 2001.

The safety workshops in 2001 will focus on "Trenching and Shoring," with an emphasis on trench rescue. These three workshops in Lincoln, Grand Island and Gering, will feature speaker Bob Hessler of Safetyline Inc. Bob brings 15 years of safety expertise to the industry with experience in construction, water works and sewer lines. He received his training

from the OSHA Training Institute, National Fire Academy and Federal Emergency Management Institute.

Participants receive five hours of recertification credit for attending.

Two videotapes were purchased for the 2001-2002 water operator workshops. The videos, "Improving Employee Safety Performance" and "Safety Basics III," will be added to the Nebraska-Section AWWA Library for members to borrow.

Eleven of 16 applications received safety recognition awards. For the calendar year 1999, the following water suppliers received an "Award of Excellence" at the 2000 Annual Nebraska Section-American Water Works Association Conference held in November.

City of Albion

Village of Bartley

City of Clarkson

Earth Tech, City of Scottsbluff

City of Hebron

City of Lexington

City of McCook

City of Ogallala

City of Ord Light & Water

City of Syracuse

City of Waverly

The "Award of Excellence" is defined in each of the following categories as:

- Category II (50,001 to 200,000 hours)—given to the utility for working a calendar year with out a lost time accident.
- Category III (200,001 to 500,000 hours)—50 percent of less of the national average for both lost time cases and lost days.
- Category IV (same as category III definition).

Managers/operators are encouraged to fill out the applications they receive from the National AWWA office, as a facility does not have to be accident free to receive safety recognition.

The Safety Committee for the year 2000-2001 includes: **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities; **Jack Satur**, Earth Tech City, Scottsbluff; **Steve Kelley**, City of Beatrice; **Pat Heath**, City of Gering; **Scott Borman** and **Tony Martinez**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, and **Milo Rust**, City of Chadron.



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# Nebraska Section American Water Works Association Leisen Memorial Education and Training Grant Application

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOY	MENT BACKGROUND	
Name:		Home phone:
Home address:		Office phone:
		Years in water industry:
Current position:		Years in current position:
	(Attach a copy of your job description)	
AWWA membership number:		Type of membership:
Employer:		
Address of employer:		
Is your employer a member of	AWWA? If yes, indicate membership number:	Type of membership:
Your activities in the Nebraska	Section AWWA (committees, positions held, etc.):	
Membership in other professio  Other significant contributions	nal organizations and your activities:  to your community, etc.:	
TRAINING GRANT INFOR	MATION	
Use of grant funds:		Amount requested:
Dates of workshop, courses:		Employer contribution:
Location of training:		
Please indicate in the space bel	low the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/	or other water industry-related positions.
I declare that all information su	applied on this application is true and accurate.	
Applicant's signature: Send completed application to: e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mud	Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, nebr.com	Date: NE 68102; phone: 402.554.7855; fax: 402.554.7709

**12** • Summer 2001

Please make copies of this order form as needed

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Section 1: Personal Informa Preferred mailing address:  Mr. Ms.	□ Business □ Mrs.	☐ Home ☐ Dr.	When?	Member #
Name:	D Mis.	B Di.		
Street address:				
Address:				
P.O. Box or mail stop:				
City, state, zip:				
В	usiness phone: ()	Busin	ess fax: ( )	
e-	mail address:			
Company:				
Title:				
Is your company a current member of a Please furnish company mailing address		□ No	☐ Yes Member # (if known)	
Company address:				
City, state, zip:				
Applicant's signature:				
Date:				
Signature of endorsing member (option	nal):			
Endorsing member number:				
Section 2: Dues and Section  ☐ Active - \$99 (02) ☐ Studer		ninistrative - \$50 (06) (will no	et receive Journal AWWA)	nternational - \$145 (03)
Section 3: Payment Prepayment of one year's dues is requi income tax purposes. Dues may be con			ived. Dues are not transferrable or refunda	ble. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for
Annual Dues				
Multi-Sectio	n Option \$			
Total (U.S. f	unds) \$  Check enclosed, payable to AW  Mastercard	WA	ess	
Card Number:			Expiration Date:	
Signature:			(Credit card company will add C	Canadian exchange amount.)
Section 4: Multi-Section Op In addition to your section membership section information and fees, call 800.9	, you also may join other AWWA sec			rom other sections of your choice. If you would like multi-
Section 5: Circulation Figur	res			
**		e one description in each of th	e 3 groups below that best describes you.	
Business and Industry A. Public Water Supply–Municipally B. Public Water Supply–Investor Ow C. Government–Federal, State, Local D. Consultant	ned sioner, Board Men Mayor, President, Partner, Director, e	ber, City Manager, Vice-President, Owner, tc.	Interests Please help us serve you better by marking appropriate areas of professional interest.  Backflow Career Development	developing additional programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our members.
Contractor     Private Industrial Systems or Wate     Wholesaler	er Manager, Chief En	gineer, Comptroller, etc.	<ul> <li>□ Computer/Information Systems</li> <li>□ Conservation/Efficiency</li> <li>□ Customer Service</li> </ul>	Birth Date:
G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Sup	pplies, Engineer, Mechani	cal Engineer,	□ Disinfection	<ol><li>Asian/Pacific-Islander</li></ol>
including Representatives H. Distributors of Equipment & Supp		gineer, System Designer,	☐ Distribution System ☐ Emergency Planning	3. African-American 4. Hispanic 5. White Objective Control of the
including Representatives  I. Educational Institutions, Faculty a		nagerial-Chemist,	☐ Filtration ☐ Ground Water	5. White (Non-Hispanic) 6. Other
Students, Libraries and Other Rela Organizations	Analyst, etc.		☐ Hazardous Waste Management ☐ Laboratory/Testing Sample	Gender ( <i>Circle One</i> ) Female
J. Fully Retired K. Research Lab	Specialist, Buyer, e	etc.	☐ Maintenance/Operations ☐ Membrane Treatment	Male
L. Unreported	F. Operations-Forem Maintenance, Crew	man, Service	☐ Personnel Management ☐ Public Information/Relations	Mail to: AWWA Membership
Field Served 5 Water Supply Only		Non-managerial-Market	☐ Regulatory/Legislative ☐ Water Resources Mgmt./Plan.	6666 W. Quincy Ave.
7 Wastewater Only 9 Both		Representative, etc.	☐ Rates/Cost of Service ☐ Safety	<b>Denver, CO 80235</b>
3 Other	H. Other:		☐ Surface Water ☐ Water Reuse	800.926.7337 303.794.7711
Signature required:			☐ Youth Education ☐ Other:	or fax to: 303.347.0804
				UI 18X IU: 3U3.347.U0U4

Date: \_\_

# FYI: Forwarded from Nebraska Health and Human Services

A few of you have asked about the Cynthia Dougherty memo that was referenced in the recent submetering memo. The document is available online in the EPA Water Supply Guidance Manual at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/wsg.html. Scroll down to the bottom and click on "by new WSG number" PDF. It is number 118, "Submetering Water Systems."



SUBJECT: Submetered Public Water Systems in Georgia FROM: Diane C. Regas, acting assistant administrator TO: A. Stanley Meiburg, acting regional administrator, Region IV

I am writing to follow-up on conversations between my staff and your staff on the subject of water systems, such as apartment buildings, that "submeter."

Submetered water systems purchase water from a "parent" water system and then charge residents of the building for the water they use based on metering. Recent programmatic changes in at least one of your states has impacted the state's ability to implement the drinking water program for submetered water systems. I agree with you that our first concern is protection of public health.

While most submetered water systems do not present a significant threat, and can even provide a benefit in the form of water conservation, some of these systems clearly can pose a risk.

Where submetered systems present a threat to public health, we must take action. At the same time, we should work with the states to ensure they have full authority to provide public health protection for all water systems, as intended by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Last year the State of Georgia changed their definition of a Public Water System (PWS), exempting the owner or operator of a building that submeters from responsibility under state law. By exempting owners and operators of submetered systems from responsibility, Georgia's PWSS program is now less stringent than the Federal program as defined under Section 1411 of the SDWA.

Section 1411 mandates regulation of systems that sell water, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has consistently interpreted "to sell" to include submetering.

This situation has the potential to impact primacy for Georgia's Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) program, the PWSS

grant, and the associated Drinking Water State Revolving Fund grant. Further, and most importantly, Georgia's changes impact the level of public health protection in the state.

We believe that measured action on the part of the Region is important to ensure continued protection of public health. While the risk to public health should not be significant for most submetering PWSs in Georgia, this risk could be significant where submetered water systems consist of a group of apartment buildings, or a building with a rooftop storage tank.

In some instances, back-siphonage, cross-connections, and improper maintenance of storage facilities could lead to acute illness in the population served.

In addition, Georgia's action sets a precedent for other states. Some actions that the Region may wish to consider in response include:

- Informing submetered water systems of their obligations under SDWA
- Requiring states, as a condition of their PWSS grants, to conduct an inventory of submetered PWSs,
- Withholding PWSS grants based on inventory quality, taking targeted enforcement action against any submetered systems posing a significant threat to public health, and developing a corrective action plan to ensure that the states amend their legislation concerning submetered systems.

### EPA should be flexible in responding

EPA believes that states—inside the scope of the regulations—should be encouraged to use creative techniques to implement the program and protect public health for the lowest cost. This is especially true when creative techniques result in secondary benefits, such as water conservation.

Toward this end, EPA provides flexibility to state drinking water programs and submetered PWSs. Under Federal Regulations at 40 CFR 141.29, states have the flexibility to modify monitoring requirements for submetered systems to avoid unnecessary compliance activities while still maintaining public health objectives.

### EPA retains enforcement authority regardless of state law

Changes to the PWSS program in Georgia do not affect EPA's enforcement authority, or EPA's obligation to ensure protection of public health through implementation of the law.

Federal law identifies submetered systems as PWSs, regardless of state law, and EPA has the responsibility and the obligation to enforce aggressively where threats to public health exist.

If you have any questions or comments or would like to discuss this issue further, please call contact Cynthia Dougherty, director of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, 202.260.5543.

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☐ Wise Water	Words, Fall/Winter	issue, 2001 (deadline for copy,	etc. August 1, 2001)	
2002-2003	Membership Director	ry (deadline for copy, etc. Nove	mber 15, 2001)	
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Vol. 38 No. 3

Published for members of the Nebraska Section, American Water Works Association

Fall 2001

### **Nominations Committee**

by Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District (402.554.7774)

These positions are not open for nominations and will be filled automatically by the following officers:

Position	2002 Officer
Chair	Chris Koenig
Trustee & Past Chair	Chip Haas
Director	John Miriovsky

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 8, in Kearney.

Position	2002 Nominee
Chair-Elect	Dennis Watts
Vice Chair	Scott Borman
Secretary	Tony Bilek
Treasurer	Kristine Ranslem
Trustee	Larry Andreasen
Trustee	Pat Heath

If you've had changes in your employment, address, phone, e-mail, etc., please complete the form on page 15 and mail to National AWWA.

You also can update your information by going to our website, www.awwaneb.org and clicking on the link on the front page.

This information will be used in the 2002-2003 Membership Directory, to be published by the end of this year.

### Water industry rally in Washington

early 1,500 AWWA members gathered at the west front of the U.S. Capitol June 20 as Governor **Christie Todd Whitman** annouced, "President Bush and I have stressed the importance of partnerships as we address environmental challenges. I'm delighted that the AWWA is one of our partners."

The WATER MATTERS Rally, held in conjunction with AWWA's annual conference, was an event to attract Congress' and EPA's attention to drinking water issues. Speakers included: AWWA President **Bob Willis**, Representatives **Sherwood Boehlert**, New York; **Robert Borski**, Pennsylvania; **Jimmy Duncan**, Tennessee, and Senator **Robert Smith**, New Hampshire. Twenty-four members of the Nebraska Section attended the conference. (*See photos on page 10*).

### **Brief notes**

**Bob Elston,** City of Plainview, has returned to the Nebraska Rural Water Association as program specialist for training. The Section needs a successor to Bob as chair of the Small Systems Committee. Call **Rich Koenig,** Nebraska Health & Human Services, **402.370.3114,** (e-mail: rich.koenig@hhss.state.ne.us) if you know someone who can assume this responsibility.



The Nebraska Section will hold a retreat for officers, committee chairs and others, October 11-12, at M.U.D.'s Florence Water Treatment Plant, 9100 John J. Pershing Dr., Omaha, to review bylaws and update the group's strategic plan. For more information, call **Chip Haas,** HDR Engineering, **402.399.1333** or e-mail: chaas@hdrinc.com



Now's the time to organize your team for the Annual Top Ops Challenge, November 8, 3:30-5 p.m., at the fall conference. Last year's winners were: **Scott Borman, Rich Koenig,** Nebraska Health & Human Services; **Pat Heath,** City of Gering, and **Milo Rust,** City of Chadron. Runners up included: **Jeff Brady,** City of Wayne; **Duane Grashorn,** City of Valley; **Roger Protzman,** JEO Consulting Group, and **Dan Zulkosky,** City of Wakefield.

Besides cash prizes, winners will have their registration paid by the Section for the 2002 national conference in New Orleans. For more information, contact **Chip Haas**, HDR Engineering, **402.399.1333** or e-mail: chaas@hdrinc.com



The winning team in the 14th Annual HDR Golf Invitational, held in August at the Elks Country Club, Columbus, included: **Brian Bakke, Chip Haas,** HDR Engineering; **Steve Kelley,** City of Beatrice, and **Merlin Lindahl,** City of Columbus.

### Chair's comments

In my last column to you as Chairperson, I want to discuss:

- 1. A possible financial commitment to drinking water research.
- 2. Budget reserve, and
- 3. The need for a strategic plan renewal.

UNL approached the Section last spring about committing funds for a drinking water research project. Your board decided to commit up to \$20,000 to this project, provided the project was Nebraska-based, for public water systems, small system-



Chip Haas

oriented, and UNL is the lead agency. A formal presentation will be made to the Board before the seed money is provided.

UNL is investigating several research ideas, the most promising of which concerns copper corrosion and the impact pipe scale type has on corrosion control treatment. This is exciting research and could be of tremendous benefit to Nebraska systems.

On another matter, your board decided to maintain a budget reserve to cover the risk in case our major income sources (*Fall Conference, Publications, Section Allotment*) fall short of projections. Our largest exposure to unexpected reduced income appears to be the Fall Conference. The Board set the budget reserve at \$35,000 in three certificates of deposits. Interest from the CDs will be transferred to the Liesen Scholarship Fund for operator education.

The Board feels it's time for a strategic plan meeting. The last one was in the early 1990s. We've set the meeting for October 11-12, at M.U.D.'s Florence Water Treatment Plant, 9100 John J. Pershing Dr.

The meeting, conducted by national AWWA, will focus on our mission statement, bylaws, goals and objectives to provide maximum benefits for our members. We plan to invite current Board members, current and future Committee chairs, and others. We can gain a great deal as a Section by having a strategy meeting.

Our Fall Conference is in Kearney, November 8-9. **Chris Koenig** and the Fall Conference Committee have put together an outstanding program, one that you will find enjoyable and beneficial. Thanks for your hard work, Chris!

It was a pleasure to serve you this year. The time went too fast and we still have much to accomplish. However, the Section will be in the very capable hands of Chris Koenig next year. As always, if you have any suggestions or questions, please call me at **402.399.1333** or e-mail: chaas@hdrinc.com

**Wise Water Words** is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.

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# 2001 Fall Conference — November 8-9, Kearney

Thursday, No	ovember 8	1:30-3 р.м.	AWWA Business Meeting
7:30 а.м.	Registration	1:30-3 р.м.	Backflow: Section 8 Update
Session I	Moderator: <b>Dennis Watts</b> , City of Norfolk		Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human
8:30-9 а.м.	M.U.D. Conversion to Chloramines	3-3:30 р.м.	Services, Norfolk Break and Tour Exhibits
	Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities	3:30-5 p.m.	Top OPS Competition
	District	6-7 P.M.	Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
9-9:30 a.m.	Time Travel of Surface Water into Drinking Wells (Lincoln)	7 P.M.	Banquet
	Ingrid Verstraeten, US Geological Society	Friday, Nov	ember 9
9:30-10 а.м.	Innovative and Emerging Technologies for Arsenic	7-8:30 а.м.	Nebraska Section AWWA Board Meeting
	Glenn Dostal, HDR Engineering, Inc.	7:15-8:30 а.м.	Water Operator Breakfast
10-10:30 а.м.	Break and Tour Exhibits Moderator: <b>Chip Haas,</b> HDR Engineering,	8:30-9:15 A.M.	Moderator: <b>Tony Bilek</b> , Mc2, Inc., Omaha Optimizing Corrosion Control: Control-
	Inc.		Treatment Alternatives
10:30-11 а.м.	Des Moines Water Works Design/Build —		Mark Duben, Howard Green, Howard R.
	Owner's Perspective  Randy Beavers, Des Moines Water Works		Green Co., Des Moines, IA
11-11:30 а.м.	Des Moines Water Works Design/Build —	9:15-10 а.м.	Radionuclides
11 11100 111111	Engineer's Perspective		Chris Catlin, Howard Green, Howard R.
	Mike Trotter, McClure Engineering, Ft.	10-10:30 а.м.	Green Co., St. Paul, MN Break and Tour Exhibits
	Dodge, IA	10-10:30 A.M. 10:30-noon	Drinking Water Regulatory Update
		10.30 110011	Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human
Session II	Moderator: <b>Rich Koenig</b> , Nebraska Health		Services, Lincoln
9.20.0	& Human Services, Norfolk	CEUs	
8:30-9 а.м.	UV Disinfection in Water/Wastewater Treatment		h & Human Services
	Mike Leach, Trojan Technologies, London,		: AWWA Program = 8 hours
	Ontario		ross Connection = 3 hours
9-9:30 а.м.	Sanitary Survey	Additional hours for Top Ops Participants = 1.	
	Scott Borman, Nebraska Health & Human	Fees Pre-Registration	n for AWWA
	Services, Lincoln		Vednesday lunch and banquet), \$65
9:30-10 а.м.	Well Records: How and Why?	· ·	n for Full Conference
	Rick Roberts, Lincoln Water System,	(includes a	ll lunches and banquets), \$130
10 10 20	Ashland	Pre-Registration = Prior to October 23	
10-10:30 a.m.	Break and Tour Exhibits Moderator: <b>Leroy Kramer</b> , City of North	AWWA Operator's Breakfast, \$10	
	Platte		quet Tickets, \$20 each
10:30 а.мnoon	Sanitary Survey: Cross Connection Control	For more inform	
	Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human		Sova, HDR Engineering, Inc. Indian Hills Dr., Omaha, NE 68114-4049
	Services, Norfolk		e: 402.399.1335; fax: 402.399.4918
Noov 1.20 p.	Joint AWWA and NWEA Lunch	•	il: rsova@hdrinc.com
1100N-1:30 P.M	JUINT AVV VVA ANU IV VV EA LUNCH	Lodging	
		<del> </del>	

Hotel reservations: 800.248.4460; reservations must be made by October 9 for the conference rate (Holiday Inn: \$56 single;

\$66 double; Wingate Inn: \$59 single; \$70 double)

### **Director's report** by John Miriovsky

s I succeed Dennis Hirschbrunner, I am both excited and scared to death. Excited because of the challenges the Association faces both in the technical arena and in the regulatory arena. Scared because of the huge shoes to fill following Dennis and the terrific job he did. We all thank you, Dennis!

You may have read about the game the House played with the arsenic rule. It seems the House Republicans caved in to the political pressure of finalizing the arsenic rule as signed by President Clinton during his last days in office. If the Senate vote follows accordingly, the arsenic standard will be set at 10 ug/l or less. So much for scientifically based regulations! (The Senate passed a resolution August 1 without specifying maximum contaminant amount. See story on page 11.)

The annual conference in Washington D.C. was another well attended event with attendance totaling 14,012. Twenty-four of us represented Nebraska. The highlight of the conference was the WATER MATTERS Rally (See story on page 1). More than 1,500 attended the rally.

While in D.C., six of us attempted to visit each of our five Congressional representatives. Our message was that we are an organization of water professionals representing utilities, engineers, manufacturers, suppliers and academia concerned

with providing good quality drinking water to the citizens of Nebraska. As issues come up in Congress concerning water, we are a resource to call for information.

With the help of Carolyn Gigstad, we visited with the staff of Senators

**Chuck Hagel** and **Ben Nelson** and Representative **Tom Osborne.** We missed seeing Representatives **Doug** 



John Miriovsky

**Bereuter** and **Lee Terry.** Those participating in the visits with me were **Chip Haas, Tony Bilek, Dr. Bruce Dvorak, Daryl Kottwitz** and Carolyn.

Thank you for the faith you have in me by allowing me to represent you. If there is anything I can do for you at either the section or national level, please call me at 402.441.5932 or e-mail: miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us

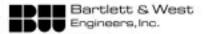


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#### **Education Committee**

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health and Human Services (402.471.1005)

My column this issue focuses on drought and water system records.

The summer of 2000 proved to be dry. The official term used is drought. That term has 15 to 18 different definitions depending on who or what is impacted.

Public water systems may be impacted by hot weather even if the static and pumping levels in wells remain at stable, normal levels.

Hot weather generally correlates with more lawn watering by water system customers. An insufficient source of drinking water and/or other inadequate water system components, can result in water use restrictions being imposed to maintain system pressures and fire protection.

Water levels in wells also can create limited pumping capabilities. As the depth to static water level increases, the depth to pumping level also increases. Variable displacement pumps being what they are, the increased depth of pumping normally means less water produced.

Based upon information collected by the Nebraska Health & Human Services from Nebraska water systems during the spring and summer of 2000, the following are recommendations regarding drought preparedness.

## 1. Collect and maintain water system component

Static and pumping water level records provide a means to monitor impact during the hot and dry season. In addition, using the draw down (pumping level minus static water level) in conjunction with the gallons per minute pumped will tell an operator other operational conditions of the well, such as specific capacity.

Static and pumping levels should be collected no less frequent than on a monthly basis. During the summer, at least on a weekly basis is recommended.

With these records, ground water level trends can be documented and cause of an actual problem experienced by the system may be determined.

(continued on page 6)

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#### **Board Meetings**

October 11, 9:30 a.m., Florence Water Treatment Plant, 9100 John J. Pershing Dr., Omaha

November 8, 1:30 p.m., and November 9, 7 a.m., Fall Conference, Kearney Holiday Inn

All members are invited to attend the meetings.

#### Drought and water system records

(from page 5)

2. Establish an ordinance or other enforceable instrument, in regards to issuance of water restrictions.

Be sure to address the who, what, when, how and penalties for non-compliance.

As a component to the enforceable instrument, the water system should create a water conservation/restriction plan. The plan should be developed, preferably by a committee of customers potentially impacted by water use restrictions, with necessary detail to impose water use restriction/conservation measures in a timely manner; the extent of use restriction based upon a series of triggers.

If the first level of water use restriction does not accomplish the expected reduction in water demand, proceed to level two, and so on.

Examples of triggers to use are water levels in well(s), storage tank levels, gallons per capita per day usage, etc. As with any plan, it may need to be modified or "fine tuned" from time to time.

3. Develop and maintain a short and long term plan related to the capability of the system to provide safe drinking water on a continuous basis.

Evaluation of water system components consists of reviewing performance and maintenance records.

An evaluation of the system by a consulting engineer will be very beneficial. However, a water operator will need to conduct a comparison of current data to data collected during the past should provide a general idea whether or not the components are capable of sustaining an adequate amount of water during dry periods.

Funding for improvements is always tight, however the important part of this "to do" item is identification of the inadequacies and weak points in the water system.

Knowledge of the weak points in a water system can be of a critical nature when emergency operations are necessary.

Prioritizing need for specific improvements, replacement, and repair also is very beneficial, and can provide a basis for funding.

## Nebraska Section AWWA 2001 budget

INCOME	2000 Actual	2001 Budget	2001 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,013.00
Association allotment	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,987.00
Multi-section allotment	503.40	600.00	275.40
Annual meeting	43,980.00	8,000.00	0
Director's allotment	1,429.44	800.00	937.80
Interest from accounts	3,661.05	2,500.00	615.70
Education seminar	0	300.00	0
Safety seminar	0	300.00	0
Cross connection workshop	0	300.00	0
Teleconferences	4,850.00	5,000.00	3,150.00
Advertising income	8,065.00	8,000.00	7,965.00
Water for People	525.00	1,000.00	0
SRF Education Funds	5,431.18	10,000.00	3,856.32
Scholarship Income	0	1,500.00	0
Miscellaneous	711.68	400.00	0
Total Income	\$84,156.75	\$53,700.00	\$31,800.22
EXPENSES			
Safety committee	4,092.20	2,500.00	0
Cross connection workshop	0	1,500.00	2,288.00
Education and training	0	0	58.50
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	1,699.00	2,000.00	3,856.32
Public Information Committee/website	991.23	3,000.00	475.32
Teleconferences	2,818.72	3,000.00	1,080.38
Small systems committee	337.98	500.00	0
Director's board meeting	1,218.82	2,000.00	2,327.81
Publications			
Wise Water Words	8,338.91	7,500.00	5,080.80
Membership Directory	4,875.01	6,000.00	0
Advertising	0	100.00	208.00
Student activity	353.64	600.00	74.92
Membership	55.00	300.00	20.00
Secretary/treasurer	3,231.80	200.00	0
Awards (Fuller)	384.19	500.00	3.95
Abel Wolman	600.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Scholarship expense	3,000.00	3,000.00	0
Research Foundation	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Regional officers' meeting	1,144.61	2,000.00	1,829.91
Director's spouse (meeting expenses)	300.00	300.00	0
Annual meeting	34,728.36	2,050.00	0
Publicity	2,364.93	2,500.00	0
Water for People	1,347.27	2,500.00	475.00
MAC Council	0	500.00	0
Paid staff	2,393.42	9,000.00	6,954.42
Water Utility Council (travel, etc.)	0	1,000.00	0
Young Professionals	0	250.00	0
Top Ops expense	0	2,000.00	0
Miscellaneous	96.23	100.00	25.00
Total Expenses	\$74,871.32	\$76,900.00	\$26,758.33
Net Income	\$9,285.43	-\$23,200.00	\$5,041.89



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## **Scholarship Committee**

by Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District (402.554.7855)

The Section's board of directors has raised the level of commitment for training assistance and scholarships to \$5,000 for 2001. This level is up from \$3,000 last year. It was \$1,500 in 1999, and prior to that, it was \$1,000 per year.

In the past, less money was awarded for training than the originators of the education and training endowment fund had anticipated.

It is not that money wasn't available, it's because there weren't many requests for training-related funding. Therefore, most of the money has been going to fund scholarships at the University of Nebraska campuses.

The funding of higher education is a good cause and the Scholarship Committee is not de-emphasizing that value.

Instead, the committee wishes to re-emphasize the availability of funding for training for water industry professionals in the day-to-day water business.

If lack of funds is keeping you or someone you know from getting needed water industry training, send a request!

In the past there was a specific time period for submitting applications for training funds. That restriction will be relaxed for the remainder of year 2001.

For the rest of 2001, the committee will consider applications of all types related to training for water industry professionals.

Scholarship applications also will be accepted. However, the deadline for scholarship applications is September 28, 2001. The training grant application is on page 12.

## **Safety Committee**

by Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities (402.476.2829)

Approximately 60 people attended three trenching and shoring workshops this year in Lincoln, Grand Island and Scottsbluff. The workshops were sponsored by the Nebraska Section AWWA and League of Nebraska Municipalities.

**Bob Hessler,** SafetyLine Consultants, Inc., explained the difference between a trench and an excavation.

Once it was established what defined a trench, then the types of trenches and potential cave-in situations were discussed. Soil analysis techniques and confined space concerns were

(continued on page 9)

#### **Safety Committee** (from page 8)

highlighted along with a variety of environmental factors that might affect the stability of a trench.

Bob also discussed the principles of worker protection, including proper shoring, sloping and shielding. Participants reviewed response guidelines for a cave-in emergency.

Emergency response training is essential as 60 percent of those trapped in cave-ins are the would-be rescuer.

- → Construction workers account for 4 percent of the American work force, yet they account for 26 percent of all worker deaths and injuries.
- → Of the 306 cave-in fatalities recorded in 1992, 115 were the would-be rescuers, who tried to assist trapped coworkers and became trapped themselves.
- The death rate of trench accidents is two and one-half times greater than any other construction related accident.
- Workers with less than three weeks' experience on the job are three times as likely to be injured or killed as their more experienced colleagues.
- → For every cave-in-related death, another worker is injured to such an extent that he/she cannot return to the work force, and two more are able to return to work however they cannot perform the same duties.

Every year approximately 400 workers die in trenches and 6,400 workers are seriously injured in cave-ins. Nebraska is not immune to this type of accident as nearly 5 percent of the 62 workshop participants had been involved in some type of cave-in incident.

Workshops such as these help provide insight and awareness on the dangers of construction work, with an emphasis on trenches.

Water operator grades 1-4 and 6 along with wastewater operators who attended one of these workshops received 5 contact hours of recertification credit.

#### Manufacturers/Associates Council

by Tony Bilek, Mc2, Inc. (402.333.9660)

We are looking forward to an impressive annual fall conference November 8-9, in Kearney. Vendors/exhibitors contracts have been mailed. The deadline for exhibitors' registration is October 12.

If you have any questions regarding the conference and/or exhibit arrangements, please call me, 402.333.9660; fax: 402.333.9663; e-mail: tony.mc2inc@att.net



# Mc<sup>2</sup>, Inc. Jim McFarland

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## Annual conference in Washington D.C.

Members of the Nebraska Section AWWA enjoyed breakfast with Nebraska's congressional delegation, June 20, 2001, while attending the National AWWA Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C.

Right: Jeff and Mary Loll, Joel and Colleen Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District. Below: Roger Coffey, Kirkham-Michael Consulting Engineers, and family. (Photos by Carolyn Gigstad, Nebraska Section AWWA Office)







Daryl Kottwitz, HDR Engineering, Inc., and Tony Bilek, Mc2, Inc.



Glenn Dostal, HDR Engineering, Inc., and family

#### **Arsenic vote aids Nebraska**

By Jake Thompson, Omaha World-Herald

The U.S. Senate on Wednesday (August 1, 2001) gave the Bush administration more leniency in imposing new arsenic regulations for the nation's drinking water systems. That wiggle room should help people in Nebraska's rural communities, Senator **Chuck Hagel**.

Last Friday (July 27), over objections from Nebraska's three congressmen, the House voted to bar President Bush from delaying stricter standards for arsenic. The House urged Bush to implement a rule issued by President Clinton just before he left office.

Clinton's rule lowered the acceptable level of arsenic in drinking water from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. When Bush took office, he and Environmental Protection Agency Director Christie Whitman began a process to reconsider the rule.

While the Senate's resolution, approved 97-1, prodded Bush to move ahead with the arsenic rule, it made modifications.

It didn't specify the maximum amount of contaminant allowed, but left that number to be determined by scientific research. It also calls for the rule to consider cost-benefit analyses on the impact on communities.

"The EPA has to use cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment where scientists will make decisions about what that standard needs to be, rather than bureaucrats," Senator **Ben Nelson** said.

In addition, the Senate amendment calls on the Bush administration to complete the process relatively soon, which Nelson said will give communities a longer time to try to meet the standard before a deadline kicks in several years from now.

Some cities and states, among them Nebraska, have sued to stop the Clinton rule.

The EPA had proposed setting the acceptable arsenic level for tap water at 5 parts per billion last year in response to a lawsuit by the Natural Resources Defense Council, then settled at 10 parts per billion. In 1999, the National Academy of Sciences found that arsenic in drinking water causes bladder, lung and skin cancer, and may cause liver and kidney cancer.

The five-member Nebraska delegation has worked together for a number of years on the arsenic issue. Hagel recalled that he and former **Senator Bob Kerrey**, a Nebraska Democrat, held town meetings across Nebraska four years ago to determine the potential costs of complying with "some of this nutty stuff Clinton was talking about."

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has determined that 68 public water systems have arsenic concentrations above the 10 parts per billion level. The total cost for scrubbing arsenic from all 68 water systems could exceed \$120 million, according to the state health department.

#### Senators add sense to water issue

By Harold W. Andersen, **Omaha World-Herald**, August 9, 2001 Let's hear it for those 97 U.S. Senators — including Nebraska's Republican **Chuck Hagel** and Democrat **Ben Nelson** — who injected some common sense into the debate over the allowable level of arsenic in the nation's drinking water systems.

A few days earlier, the House of Representatives had voted to bar

President Bush from delaying the implementation of the stricter standards for arsenic content proposed in the waning days of the Clinton administration. (Nebraska Republican Representatives **Doug Bereuter, Lee Terry** and **Tom Osborne** were among those opposing tying the hands of the Bush administration on the issue.)

In contrast to the House vote, the Senate left the maximum percentage of arsenic content to be determined by scientific research and also called for consideration of cost-benefit analyses of the impact on communities that would be required to modify their water systems. (In Nebraska, it has been estimated that modification necessary to meet the Clinton administration's proposed standards would cost 51 communities about \$97 million. Included would be 20 communities with populations of 500 or less. Anselmo, population 177, for example, would have to spend an estimated \$140,000.)

When the Bush administration took office, the Clinton administration proposal to reduce the allowable level from 50 parts to 10 parts per billion parts of water was suspended. Bush administration spokesmen stressed that delaying implementation of the proposed standards would not foreclose the possibility of approving stiffer standards after further scientific research.

But environmental activists argued against further research, charging or implying that the Bush administration is not really concerned about the safety of the nation's drinking water, a viewpoint now implicitly endorsed by a majority of the House of Representatives. What utter nonsense.

A recent **World-Herald** editorial pinpointed a basic weakness in the environmental extremists' argument for greatly reduced arsenic-level standards. The editorial pointed out that "the evidence of harmful effects at various levels depends on statistical probabilities rather than documented cases."

#### Water for People



Water for People Board President Gerald C. Smith presented the Nebraska Section with a plaque for a \$2,500 gift to support water projects, latrine systems, health and hygiene education in Guatemala. Dennis Hirschbrunner accepted the award on behalf of the Section, which was presented at the national conference.

## Nebraska Section American Water Works Association Leisen Memorial Education and Training Grant Application

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOY	MENT BACKGROUND	
Name:		Home phone:
Home address:		Office phone:
		Years in water industry:
Current position:		Years in current position:
•	(Attach a copy of your job description)	
AWWA membership number:		Type of membership:
Employer:		
Address of employer:		
		T
	AWWA? If yes, indicate membership number:	Type of membership:
Your activities in the Nebraska	Section AWWA (committees, positions held, etc.):	
Membership in other professio	nal organizations and your activities:	
Other significant contributions	to your community, etc.:	
TRAINING GRANT INFOR	MATION	
Use of grant funds:		Amount requested:
Dates of workshop, courses:		Employer contribution:
Location of training:		
Please indicate in the space bel	low the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/o	r other water industry-related positions.
•		
I declare that all information su	applied on this application is true and accurate.	
Applicant's signature: Send completed application to: e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mud	Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, nebr.com	Date: NE 68102; phone: 402.554.7855; fax: 402.554.7709;

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Company:						
Title:						
Is your company a current member of AV		□ No	☐ Yes M	lember # (if known)		
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City, state, zip:						<del></del>
Applicant's signature:	-					
Date:	-					
Signature of endorsing member (optional	<u> </u>					
Endorsing member number:	=					
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C. Government–Federal, State, Local D. Consultant	Mayor, President, V Partner, Director, et	/ice-President, Owner,	☐ Backflow ☐ Career De	velopment	meet the diver	se needs of our members.
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To update or make corrections to your record, please complete all applicable parts of this form. The information in any sections of the form left blank will remain in its current form in your record. Changes made to an Organizational or Utility Membership will be confirmed by phone with the Named Representative. Fax this form to 303.347.0804. You also may update your record on-line by going to our website: http://www.awwaneb.org

Note: It's essential we have the most current information for all of our members as this information will be used in the 2002-2203 Nebraska Section AWWA Membership Directory.

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Membership Number:
Company:
Street Address:
PO Box:
City:
State:
Zip or Postal Code:
Business Phone:
Business Fax:
Home Phone:
Email (required):
Named Representative:
Please put the name of the existing Named Representative first followed by his or her replacement.
Former Representative:
New Representative:
will replace him/her. Please separate the two names with a dash "—". Do this for as many Additional Active Positions as your Utility or Organizational membership entitles you to.
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