



Joel Christensen receives Fuller Award



Joel Christensen

He joined M.U.D. January 9, 1975 as an engineer. He was promoted to assistant superintendent of the Florence Water Treatment Plant in 1980, and was named water supply engineer in 1983 and director of Major Water Plant Projects in 1989. He was promoted to manager of M.U.D.'s water operations department in 1996 where he supervises 100 employees. The utility serves 179,000 customers through 2,437 miles of mains.

Joel G. Christensen, manager, Water Operations, Metropolitan Utilities District, was named the George Warren Fuller Awardee at the 2003 Fall Conference for outstanding service to the water industry. This is the highest honor given by AWWA. The award will be presented to Joel at the National AWWA Conference June 13-17 in Orlando, FL.

A native of North Dakota and wheat farmer's son, Joel graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in civil engineering in 1974. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Nebraska as well as a Grade I water operator (1983) and a certified manager (1987).

He joined M.U.D. January 9, 1975 as an engineer. He was promoted to assistant superintendent of the Florence Water

Joel's staff operates two water treatment plants and maintains more than 24,220 hydrants and 49,670 valves in the distribution system.

Among the major projects built under his supervision:

- Skyline Reservoir and Pump Station, 213th & Pacific Sts., 25 mgd;
- Replace steam turbines at Florence Water Treatment Plant;
- Construction of high service Engine Building, Florence Water Treatment Plant, and
- Water treatment change to chloramines, 2003.

Joel was chairman of the Nebraska Section in 2000 and is incoming director. He and his wife, Colleen, have a daughter and three sons.

2004 officers



From left, back: Trustee John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates; Treasurer Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District; Vice-Chair Tony Bilek, Mc2, Inc.; Trustee and Past Chair Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk.

Front: Incoming Director Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District; Chair-Elect Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont; 2002 National AWWA President Lynn Stovall, and Chair Kristine Ranslem, City of Albion.



Trustee Dr. Bruce Dvorak,
UNL Civil Engineering



Secretary Mike Wentink,
Nebraska Health & Human
Services

Section Board Meeting: **March 15**

9:30 a.m., Columbus City Conference Room, 1369 25th Ave. • All members are invited to attend.

Chair's comments

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. A New Year has begun and now it's time to get back to work. In the last year we started to implement goals the board set in our strategic plan. Each goal includes a variety of activities and volunteers are needed to help make it a success! Our strategic plan is posted on our website. I encourage you to review it and consider volunteering in an area that interests you. With your involvement we can accomplish ALL the goals set.

Within the last couple of months we've had an opportunity to help support our youth education program. **Marty Stange**, Hastings Utilities, and **Dennis Watts**, City of Norfolk, will present sessions at the Children's Groundwater Festival in Grand Island on March 16 to 4th and 5th grade students.

Thanks guys, for volunteering!

In the last year, we established a development plan for the Young Professionals Committee. It outlines the goals and activities for the committee to become more involved in the Section.

Young Professionals generally are considered to be members under 35, including those working for utilities, regulatory agencies, consulting firms, or academic institutions. Our section formed a small group of Young Professionals about four years ago, however we continually struggled to get members involved.

The Young Professionals represent a diverse and energetic group of members. As our Section's membership ages, it's vital to increase the involvement of young water industry professionals in Section activities.

I strongly urge every water system and engineering firm to encourage their younger employees to join the committee. It provides an excellent opportunity for networking, education and leadership development. I, for one, have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge of how the Section can help me in my position and utility. The experiences of connecting with people in the industry to discuss the same problems we are all face is very rewarding.

I look forward to chairing the Section in 2004. If you have any ideas or comments to improve the Section or would like to volunteer please call me at 402-.395.2803 or email me at kris-utilityclerk@juno.com.



Kristine Ranslem

Officers and Trustees

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Kevin Tobin, *Budget*, 402.554.7808

Rich Koenig, *Cross Connection*,
402.370.3114

Mike Wentink, *Education*
308.535.8134 or 402.471.1005

Larry Andreasen, *Fall Conference*,
402.395.2803

John Miriovsky, *Fuller Award*,
402.441.8493

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Rich Robinson, *Membership*,
402.255.3840

Dennis Watts, *Nominations*,
402.844.2210

Kathleen Alexander, *Public
Information*, 402.399.1357

Mari Matulka, *Publications*,
402.449.8154

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, *Research*,
402.472.3431

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402.554.7855

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402.370.3404

Dr. Matt Morley, *Student Activities*,
402.472.2057

Glenn Dostal, *Water for People*,
402.399.1014

Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*,
402.441.5930

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

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Nebraska Section AWWA 2004 budget (January 15, 2004)

INCOME	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget
Section allotment	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,017.00	\$ 7,700.00
Association allotment	7,500.00	7,983.00	7,300.00
Multi-section allotment	600.00	456.10	500.00
Annual meeting	12,000.00	0.00	12,000.00
Director's allotment	800.00	806.50	1,150.00
Washington Fly-In Reimbursement			500.00
Interest on CD account			
Interest on T.A. Leisen CD	700.00	387.29	400.00
Interest on reserve CDs	1,100.00	501.16	500.00
Interest on Leisen savings	1.00	.78	0.00
Teleconferences	5,000.00	3,980.00	4,000.00
Advertising income	9,000.00	6,690.00	5,000.00
Water for People	1,000.00	1,708.00	1,500.00
SRF Education Funds	10,000.00	2,559.00	10,000.00
Miscellaneous	200.00	0.00	200.00
Total Income	\$55,401.00	\$32,088.83	\$50,750.00
EXPENSES			
Safety Committee	1,500.00	0.00	200.00
Cross Connection Workshop	500.00	500.00	300.00
SRF Reimbursable Education			10,000.00
Education and training	4,100.00	2,631.70	2,000.00
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	1,500.00	2,359.50	1,500.00
Public Information Committee/website	1,000.00	513.60	500.00
Teleconferences	3,000.00	1,741.84	1,500.00
Small Systems Committee	300.00	0.00	300.00
Director's board meeting	1,200.00	1,068.26	2,600.00
Publications			
Wise Water Words	7,500.00	7,811.15	7,800.00
Membership Directory	7,000.00	2,275.00	
Advertising	100.00	220.00	220.00
Student Activity	500.00	0.00	250.00
Membership	500.00	433.00	750.00
Awards	500.00	543.17	500.00
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Scholarship expense			
Operator Education & Training	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Other	3,000.00	3,200.00	2,000.00
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Regional officers' meeting/Washington Fly-In	2,000.00	1,377.64	2,000.00
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	300.00	339.50	600.00
Annual meeting	2,000.00	2,245.80	2,000.00
Training Coalition: Pre-Conference	2,180.60	2,180.60	
Publicity	2,500.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
Water for People	2,500.00	3,016.54	2,000.00
MAC Council	500.00	46.01	100.00
Paid staff			
Office expense	1,500.00	2,020.11	2,800.00
Paid staff — other	10,000.00	11,743.48	10,000.00
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	1,500.00	741.94	1,000.00
Young Professionals	250.00	0.00	250.00
Miscellaneous	300.00	927.59	300.00
Total Expenses	\$61,730.60	\$52,606.47	\$59,270.00
Net Income	-\$6,329.60	-\$20,517.64	-\$8,520.00



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Director's report by John Miriovsky

This is my last report to you as your Director since my term expires at the National Conference in Orlando in June.

We've had some interesting times (EfficientUtilities). The Association continues to grow with a membership of more than 57,000 strong. AWWA representation in Washington D.C. has begun to pay huge dividends.



John Miriovsky

AWWA coordinated a successful campaign to stop the Energy Bill as long as it contained the product liability immunity for MTBE. Although this issue has not gone away, AWWA will continue to monitor and lead the fight against its adoption.

AWWA's presence also has been felt by the Water Utility Council sponsored "Fly-In." The purpose of this program is for a representative of each Section to visit with Congressional delegation about important issue relating to water. **Jerry Obrist** represented the Nebraska Section during the program's first two years.

Joel Christensen and I attended the Winter meeting of the Board of Directors. Some of the highlights of the meeting were:

- Elected **Andy Richardson**, Arizona Section, President-Elect. His term as President begins in June 2005.
- Elected Vice Presidents:
 - Mari Garza-Bird**, Texas Section
 - Nilaksh Kothari**, Wisconsin Section
 - Mike Leonard**, Georgia Section
 - Gerald Samuel**, Western Canada Section
 - Curtis Truss**, Ohio Section
- Elected **Melissa Wisely**, Pacific Northwest Section, Director-at-Large.
- Elected **John Anderson** as AWWA Treasurer from June 2004 to June 2008.
- Approved the 2005 dues rate for individuals, utilities and service providers. Individual membership will increase from \$114 per year to \$130 per year.
- Approved the 2004 Budget of projected income of \$27,334,600 and projected expenses of \$27,089,800.

The Board spent considerable time reviewing and updating the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Planning Committee will take the results of this planning session and begin to finalize the plan. The proposed final document will be discussed at the Regional Meeting of Section Officers.

Finally, at the Fall Conference in 2003, members approved the proposed Section Bylaws. The 2004-2005 membership directory shows the proposed bylaws as final and approved, however this is not correct.

The National AWWA Board of Directors needs to approve the proposed bylaws before they are effective, which I anticipate will be in June or at the very latest, the Winter Board meeting next January.

Please continue to use the bylaws adopted in June 1996. They are posted on the Section website and are printed in the 2002-2003 Membership Directory.

In conclusion, I thank each of you for giving me the opportunity to represent you as Director. I have thoroughly enjoyed representing the Nebraska Section the last three years.

Joel Christensen will take over as Director at the Annual Conference in June. I have gotten to know Joel over the last couple of years and I know he will do an excellent job of representing us at the National level.

Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

The 98th Nebraska Legislature, second session, convened its 60-day session January 7, 2004 with plans to adjourn April 15. The Nebraska Section AWWA is following the proposals listed below. To see entire bill proposal, go the Unicameral's website: <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>

LB 183 (Natural Resources Committee) & **LB 527** (Louden, etc.) Allow the State to benefit from the transfer of its groundwater by imposing a transfer fee of 25 cents per gallon for water that is transferred outside a radius of 55 miles from the location of the well. **Status:** Both bills were killed February 3, 2004

LB 638 (Shrock) Provides funds for interstate water rights litigation. **Status:** Killed February 3, 2004

LB 738 (Baker) Review of title to property within a proposed wellhead protection area and provide abstract. **Status:** Killed February 3, 2004

LB 830 (Shrock) Provides technical changes to the Water Well Standards and Contractor's Licensing Act. Air sparge wells to be registered by July 1, 2005. **Status:** Hearing held January 29. The bill remains in Committee.

LB 833 (Natural Resources Committee) Provides that the Water Policy Task Force meet twice a year instead of four times a year; governor to appoint successor members to replace those who are unable to serve for any reason. **Status:** Hearing held January 21. The bill remains in Committee.

LB 962 (Natural Resources Committee; Shrock priority bill) Changes to the basic approach to water law in Nebraska. Currently, the statutes and rules regarding surface water and groundwater are generally separate. The hydrological connection between surface and groundwater essentially has been ignored.

This bill provides an integrated approach which recognizes the hydrological relationship. Surface water appropriations are recognized for their effect on groundwater. For example, the bill may have an effect on future well construction adjacent to a fully appropriated river basin.

Status: Hearing held January 21. The bill remains in Committee.

LB 1005 (Health & Human Services Committee) The annual "clean-up" bill requested by Nebraska Health & Human Services System. Amends the definition of "lead-free" under the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act to comply with applicable federal law. **Status:** Hearing held January 21. The bill remains in Committee.

LB 1203 (Brashear) Creates the "Special Commission on Public Assets," whose duty would be to compile a list of assets held by public entities which are capable of being owned and operated by private enterprise. The bill specifically includes "utility systems." The Commission is to perform a cost-benefit analysis of the potential for privatization. The Commission has no further authority.

Status: Hearing held February 19 in Natural Resources Committee.

Regulatory system dates

Operator Certification: February 2001

Unregulated contaminants (small systems): January 2001

IESWTR (SW >10,000): January 2002

D/DBPR (SW >10,000): January 2002

Public Notification Changes: May 2002

Radionuclides: December 2003

D/DBPR (SW <10,000 and GW Systems): January 2004

Groundwater Rule: November 2004*

LTI (Long-Term Enhanced SWT Rule), (ESWTR) (SW <10,000): January 2005

Sulfates: 2005*

Radon: 2005*

Arsenic: January 2006

*Exact date to be determined by the date of the final rule. These dates represent two years after EPA is expected to promulgate the rules, which is the amount of time EPA gives us to adopt them. It usually is when the maximum contaminant level (MCL) must be met, however, not always.



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MAC Committee

by Tony Bilek (402.333.9660) e-mail: tony.mc2inch@att.net

A record number of exhibitors participated at the 2003 Fall Conference. In all, 58 manufacturers, engineering firms and other service providers experienced another successful conference and exhibition.

Mark Ingalls of Ramco Innovations received the inaugural "Best of Show" Award. Congratulations, Mark, and many thanks to the participating vendors who helped make our Fall Conference a positive event.

Water for People

by Glenn Dostal, HDR Engineering, Inc. (402.399.1014); e-mail: glenn.dostal@hdrinc.com

A very successful fund raising effort was completed at the Fall Conference. The raffle sales went extremely well and all printed tickets were sold. A healthy competition between M.U.D. and HDR Engineering, Inc. aided in ticket sales. The winner of that side competition shall remain nameless.

The winners of the cash prizes were:

- **Jeff Sellby**, Fairbanks Morse Pump, won \$100 he donated back to the Water for People cause.
- **Dennis Hirschbrunner**, HDR Engineering, won \$150. He wasn't given a choice. His winnings also were donated to the fund. A special thank you to Jeff and Dennis for their support.
- The grand prize winner was **Diana Hilbrath**, Lincoln Water System. She won the \$250 prize. Congratulations!!!!

The raffle raised \$1,668 for the Water for People efforts compared to \$1,360 in 2002.

The Nebraska section generally participates in the Silent Auction at the National AWWA meeting in June in Orlando. Last year we donated a nice gift package of Omaha Steaks. Input on the item that Nebraska donates this year would be appreciated.

(The Nebraska Section AWWA has adopted the country of Guatemala in South America. See the story on the next page of how your dollars help.)

A moment in Guatemala

By Kenneth Mirvis / My View, January 16, 2004

Once in a great while, we get to experience things that either change us forever or utterly confirm who we are and what we believe.

A few days before Christmas, we traveled by van along a one-lane, rock-strewn dirt road high in the Guatemalan mountains to the small Mayan village of Viquola in the northern part of the state of Quiché. We parked the vans on the road and walked a few hundred yards to the village, which is home to a handful of families.

To get there, we had to cross a single wooden plank spanning a small creek. Just beyond the creek, we noted the water supply that the villagers had been using until now. A small spring filled a water hole that was perhaps 2 feet by 4 feet and a foot or so deep.

Although the spring ran clear, the water was contaminated from the droppings of the poultry, dogs and sheep, as well as the wild animals living in the mountains. The water hole itself was green with algae, well fertilized by years of clothes-washing.

As of that day, the villagers would no longer have to draw their water from or wash their clothes in that contaminated pool.

We were representing Water for People, a nonprofit organization funded by the water and wastewater industries in the United States

Water for People

Dear Sirs:

I am a sixth grade student, and like to study so that I will be someone important.

We are very grateful to you because you gave us the project of a sink, eight faucets, a well with a pump and a water deposit. We need the water to wash dishes, to brush our teeth, to wash vegetables, and to mop the floor.

Before we had to go to get water. It was difficult for us to go to the river. Now the water is of great use to us and it is important.

Hopefully, you can give this project to other schools. WE would be very happy knowing that you are helping other schools.

Thank you for your cooperation with us. Hoping that all is well with your friends and your family,

Thank you for the water that God has given us!

Sincerely,

Heman Hilcias Lopez Sales
Guatemala, C.A.



Heman Hilcias Lopez Sales

and Canada. It had worked with the villagers to engineer and help build a brand-new gravity-fed water system that tapped a spring high above the village on the mountainside. This new system now distributes water to outdoor washing stations at or near every home in the village.

We dedicated the new system that morning. Our translator, Sarah, was a volunteer from Spain, who had helped build it. The children loved being around her. The people of the village spoke to us, and their words inspired.

Nicholas Riveras Chavez related how all of the villagers had to leave or be killed during the civil war. When they returned after the war in 1996, the government promised them water and electricity, but it never delivered on its promise. Now they had water in the village despite the government.

“You didn’t know us, but we knew of you,” he said to us. “You didn’t know us, but you helped us anyway. We are poor farmers, and we have nothing to give you. But God knows what you have done, and God will bless you. You are welcome back here anytime. Gracias.”

Nicholas then gathered his wife and children and posed for a photograph. He told us about his family. His parents had been killed during the war.

His wife’s mother had tried to escape into the mountains, but the soldiers caught her, brought her back to the village, and murdered her in front of her daughter, who was then still a young girl. I told them of my stepfather, who was the sole survivor of his family in Nazi Germany. I thought of my Armenian neighbors in Watertown.

The Guatemalan civil war was especially hard on the indigenous Mayans of the western highlands. General Lucas Garcia, the country’s dictator, said, “If I have to kill every Mayan in the Highlands to pacify them, I will.”

There were 360 massacres in Mayan villages; 280 of them took place in northern Quiché, in the vicinity of Viquola. By some estimates, 150,000 to 200,000 Mayans were killed in a country the size of Tennessee.

But now, the villagers of Viquola were back home and growing corn again. Their spirit and strength had not been extinguished.

After the speeches and photographs, we strung a pinata between trees, and the children took turns whacking at it until the candy inside covered the ground. The children clamored for the prize, then shared it freely with the adults and the children who were too young to enter the melee.

There, in a village of open huts without indoor plumbing or sanitation, with free-ranging livestock, open-cook fires, clay pots and flat rocks for grinding corn for the day’s tortillas, we all started laughing. At first it was a giggle. Then it turned into ear-to-ear grins and hearty laughter.

It was a moment of shared humanity, a moment that transformed me forever and confirmed everything I know to be valuable on earth. It was a moment that fully revealed how similar we all are despite our differences.

Ken Mirvis can be reached at Ken@TheWritingCo.com

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8134) e-mail: mike.wentink@hsss.state.ne.us

As in past years, the Nebraska Section AWWA contributed to the production of the Nebraska Coalition Water Training Calendar, approximately \$400. If you did not receive a calendar, please contact me. Here are the water operator workshops for 2004:

March

- March 9 — Chadron (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- March 10 — Mitchell (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- March 11 — Ogallala (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- March 11 — AWWA Teleconference: Emerging Issues in Water Operations (Ashland, Hastings, Gering; contact section office, 402.476.2003)
- March 22-26 — Omaha (Grade 1; contact Mike Wentink)

April

- April 5-9 — Grand Island (Grade 3; contact Mike Wentink)
- April 14 — Callaway (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- April 15 — St. Paul (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- April 21-22 — North Platte (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)

May

- May 26-27 — Beatrice (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)

August

- August 11-12 — Scottsbluff (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)

September

- September 8-9 — Fremont (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)
- September 21 — Norfolk (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 22 — Fremont (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 23 — Nebraska City (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 27 — Beatrice (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 28 — Wayne (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 29 — Grand Island (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 30 — Ogallala (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

October

- October 4-8 — Lincoln (Grade 3; contact Mike Wentink)
- October 12 — Red Cloud (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- October 13 — Fairbury (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- October 14 — Falls City (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- October 27-28 — Grand Island (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)

November

- November 2-5 — Kearney WEF/AWWA/APWA Joint Conference
- November 4 — Teleconference (contact section office, 402.476.2003)
- November 17 — Columbus (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

December

- December 7 — Cozad (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- December 8 — Grand Island (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- December 9 — Ashland (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- December 13-17 — Lincoln (Grade 2; contact Mike Wentink)

Note: The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer scholarships to attend water operator seminars and workshops. To apply, complete the application on page 14. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

AWWA conferences

For more information about these conferences, go to the National AWWA website: <http://www.awwa.org/calendar>.

Arsenic Removal: February 26 — Phoenix, AZ

Annual Conference and Exposition

- June 13-17 — Orlando, FL
- June 19-23, 2005 — San Francisco, CA
- June 18-22, 2006 — San Antonio, TX
- June 17-21, 2007 — Toronto, Canada

AWWA/WEF Joint Management Conference

- March 14-17 — Phoenix, AZ

Continuous Water Quality Monitoring

- April 6 — Holland, MI
- July 28 — Toronto, Canada

Crisis Communication

- March 1-2 — Denver, CO
- April 18-19 — Fort Lauderdale, FL
- May 13-14 — Seattle, WA

Customer Service and Exposition

- April 4-7 — San Diego

Cyber Security

- March 16-17 — Apple Valley, MN
- July 14-15 — Middleton, PA
- October 7-8 — Peoria, AZ

Effective Compensation Management: March 4-5 — Glendale, AZ

Emergency Response Planning: March 30-31 — Glendale, AZ

Financial Management: Cost of Rate-Making

- May 18-19 — Charleston, SC
- October 13-15 — St. Louis, MO

Distribution and Plant Operations Conference and Expo

- September 26-29 — Chicago, IL
- August 16-22, 2005 — Tampa, FL

Gravity Filter Maintenance: April 1-2 — Springfield, IL

Information Management and Technology Conference

- April 19-21 — Baltimore, MD
- April 17-20, 2005 — Denver, CO

Membrane Technology Conference and Exposition

- March 6-9, 2005 — Phoenix, AZ

Research Symposium: Pathogen-Based Treatment Requirements:

Honing the Tools: April 18-20 — Baltimore, MD

Vulnerability Assessments for Small and Medium Utilities

- March 2-3 — Prescott, AZ
- March 24-25 — Oklahoma City, OK

Water Quality Technology Conference

- November 14-17 — San Antonio, TX
- November 6-10, 2005 — Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

Water Security Congress: April 25-27 — Charlotte, NC

Identity Theft

by Tom and Chris Christopherson (*Chris works with the Credit Bureau's on data reporting for a Fortune 500 company in Omaha, NE. Excerpts taken from the Federal Trade Commission's central web site for information about identity theft: www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheft.htm*)

I dentity... as a business owner you have worked hard to establish a positive identity for your business. Often this is a reflection of your personal identity. Your business exists due to an investment of financial support, personal guarantees, and personal presentation of yourself and your employees.

The 1990s spawned a new variety of crooks called identity thieves. Their stock in trade is your everyday transaction. Each transaction requires you to share personal information: your bank and credit card account numbers; your income; your Social Security number (SSN); or your name, address and phone numbers. An identity thief co-opts some piece of your personal information and appropriates it without your knowledge to commit fraud or theft. An all-too-common example is when an identity thief uses your personal information to open a credit card account in your name. The following is an example based on a true story.

'Mary' had worked for 'John' for five years as his company's secretary. She took care of the entries in the books, made out payroll and was great with the customers. John's business was growing and he decided that it was time to add another trencher to support the additional work.

John was completely surprised and angry when the loan officer at the bank turned down the loan for the trencher. The banker explained that although John had good credit with the Bank and some of his vendor charge accounts, John also had a personal credit bureau report containing several severely delinquent accounts.

Upon reviewing his credit report John found that he did not recognize the delinquent accounts in question. It was found that he was the victim of identity theft. Further, when his crews found out what had happened they had their credit reports pulled as a precaution and found that they also had similar 'surprises.'

An investigation found that Mary had opened these accounts in their names using their date of birth and Social Security numbers. She had provided erroneous addressees so they did not receive the bills. This kept them completely unaware that they had these accounts until they checked their credit report.

Despite your best efforts to manage the flow of your personal information or to keep it to yourself, skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods — low- and hi-tech — to gain access to your data. Here are some of the ways imposters can get your personal information and take over your identity.

What happens when someone steals your identity?

- Wallets and purses containing your identification and credit and bankcards are stolen and resold to identity thieves.
- They steal your mail, including your bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit offers, new checks, and tax information.
- They complete a "change of address form" to divert your mail to another location.
- They rummage through your trash, or the trash of businesses, for personal data in a practice known as "dumpster diving."
- They use personal information you share on the Internet.
- They get your information from the workplace in a practice known as "business record theft" by stealing files out of offices where you're a customer, employee, patient or student; bribing an employee who has access to your files; or "hacking" into electronic files.

Here is how it works:

- They call your credit card issuer and, pretending to be you, ask to change the mailing address on your credit card account. The imposter then runs up charges on your account. Because your bills are being sent to the new address, it may take some time before you realize there's a problem.
- They open a new credit card account, using your name, date of birth and SSN. When they use the credit card and don't pay the bills, the delinquent account is reported on your credit report.
- They open a bank account in your name and write bad checks on that account.
- They counterfeit checks or debit cards, and drain your bank account.
- They give your name to the police during an arrest. If they're released from police custody, but don't show up for their court date, an arrest warrant is issued in your name.

While you probably can't prevent identity theft entirely, you can minimize your risk. By managing your personal information wisely, cautiously and with an awareness of the issue, you can help guard against identity theft.

What You Can Do Today

- **Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus.** Your credit report contains information on where you work and live, the credit accounts that have been opened in your name, how you pay your bills and whether you've been sued, arrested or filed for bankruptcy. Make sure it's accurate and includes only those activities you've authorized. By law, credit bureaus can charge you no more than \$9 for a copy of your credit report.

CREDIT BUREAUS

Equifax — www.equifax.com.

To order your report, call: 800.685.1111. To report fraud, call: 800.525.6285/TDD 800.255.0056 and write: PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian — www.experian.com

To order your report, call: 888.EXPERIAN (397.3742). To report fraud, call: 888.EXPERIAN (397.3742)/TDD 800.972.0322 and write: PO Box 9532, Allen TX 75013

TransUnion — www.transunion.com

To order your report, call: 800.888.4213. To report fraud, call: 800.680.7289/TDD 877.553.7803; fax: 714.447.6034; e-mail: fvad@transunion.com or write: Fraud Victim Assistance Department, PO Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92634-6790

- **Place passwords on your credit card, bank and phone accounts.** Avoid using easily available information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your SSN or your phone number, or a series of consecutive numbers. Use a password instead.
- **Secure personal information in your home,** especially if you have roommates, employ outside help or are having service work done in your home.
- **Ask about information security procedures in your workplace.** Find out who has access to your personal information and verify that records are kept in a secure location. Ask about the disposal procedures for those records as well.

Maintaining Vigilance

- Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus once a year. By checking your report on a regular basis you can catch mistakes and fraud before they wreak havoc on your personal finances.
- Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you've initiated the contact or are sure you know whom you're dealing with. Before you share any personal information, confirm that you are dealing with a legitimate organization.
- Guard your mail and trash from theft.
- Deposit outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at your local post office, rather than in an unsecured mailbox. Promptly remove mail

from your mailbox. If you're planning to be away from home and can't pick up your mail, call the U.S. Postal Service at 800.275.8777 to request a vacation hold.

- To thwart an identity thief who may pick through your trash or recycling bins to capture your personal information, shred your charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, checks and bank statements, expired charge cards that you're discarding, and credit offers you get in the mail.
- Don't carry your SSN card; leave it in a secure place.
- Give your SSN only when absolutely necessary. Ask to use other types of identifiers when possible. If your state uses your SSN as your driver's license number, ask to substitute another number.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if your bills don't arrive on time. A missing credit card bill could mean an identity thief has taken over your account and changed your billing address to cover his tracks.
- Be wary of promotional scams. Identity thieves may use phony offers to get you to give them your personal information.

If You're a Victim

Sometimes an identity thief can strike even if you've been very careful about keeping your personal information to yourself. If you suspect that your personal information has been hijacked and misappropriated to commit fraud or theft, take action immediately, and keep a record of your conversations and correspondence. However, four basic actions are appropriate in almost every case.

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports.

Call the toll-free fraud number of any one of the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit report. This can help prevent an identity thief from opening additional accounts in your name.

As soon as the credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the other two credit bureaus automatically will be notified to place fraud alerts on your credit report, and all three reports will be sent to you free of charge.

Once you receive your reports, review them carefully. Look for inquiries you didn't initiate, accounts you didn't open, and unexplained debts on your true accounts. Where "inquiries" appear from the company(ies) that opened the fraudulent account(s), request that these "inquiries" be removed from your report.

You also should check that information such as your SSN, address(es), name or initial, and employers are correct. Inaccuracies in this information also may be due to typographical errors. Nevertheless, whether the inaccuracies are due to fraud or error, you should notify the credit bureau as soon as possible by telephone and in writing.

You should continue to check your reports periodically, especially in the first year after you've discovered the theft, to make sure no new fraudulent activity has occurred.

The automated "one-call" fraud alert process only works for the initial placement of your fraud alert. Orders for additional credit reports or renewals of your fraud alerts must be made separately at each of the three major credit bureaus.

2. Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Credit Accounts

Credit accounts include all accounts with banks, credit card companies and other lenders, and phone companies, utilities, ISPs, and other service providers. If you're closing existing accounts and opening new ones, use new Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and passwords. If there are fraudulent charges or debits, ask the company about the following forms for disputing those transactions:

- For new unauthorized accounts, ask if the company accepts the ID Theft Affidavit (available at www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/affidavit.pdf). If they don't, ask the representative to send you the company's fraud dispute forms.
- For your existing accounts, ask the representative to send you the company's fraud dispute forms.
- If your ATM card has been lost, stolen or otherwise compromised, cancel the card as soon as you can. Get a new card with a new PIN.

Checks

If your checks have been stolen or misused, close the account and ask your bank to notify the appropriate check verification service. While no federal law limits your losses if someone steals your checks and forges your signature, state laws may protect you. Contact your state banking or consumer protection agency for more information.

You also should contact these major check verification companies. Ask that retailers who use their databases not accept your checks.

TeleCheck — 800.710.9898 or 927.0188

Certegy, Inc. — 800.437.5120

International Check Services — 800.631.9656

Call SCAN (800.262.7771) to find out if the identity thief has been passing bad checks in your name.

3. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

Keep a copy of the report. You may need it to validate your claims to creditors. If you can't get a copy, at least get the report number.

4. File a complaint with the FTC.

By sharing your identity theft complaint with the FTC, you will provide important information that can help law enforcement officials track down identity thieves and stop them. The FTC also can refer victim complaints to other appropriate government agencies and companies for further action. The FTC enters the information you provide into our secure database.

To file a complaint or to learn more about the FTC's Privacy Policy, visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft. If you don't have access to the Internet, you can call the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline: toll-free 1.877.IDTHEFT (438-4338); TDD: 202-326-2502; or write:

Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

To obtain more information about Identity Theft contact the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov. This article contains information designed to inform you of this dreadful crime. Portions have been edited to fit in this newsletter. The story of Mary is true. The names were changed to protect identities.

Directory updates

Ty Abernethy: new e-mail address — cityadmin@charter.net

Chris Koenig: new e-mail address — chris.koenig@hgmonline.com

Ralph Naber: new phone number — 308.385.5225

Gene Divis, David City — retired

Substitute **J. Richard Kaufman** instead of Tracey Farley for CDM (Camp, Dresser & McKee) contact. Address and phone number are correct.

Michael Behrens is environmental engineer III instead of environmental engineer II.

Larry Steele is environmental engineer III instead of environmental engineer II.

Young Professionals Committee

by Ben Day, Olsson Associates (402.458.5693) e-mail: jday@oaconsulting.com

The Young Professionals Committee is looking for people (engineers, water operators) who want to get involved in the Section. The only requirement is that you are under age 35.

We are looking to sponsor three or four activities a year such as social activities, seminars and technical tours to help young people in the industry network and become more involved in Section activities.

It also is anticipated the Young Professionals also will partner with the Student Activities Committee to help mentor university students.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact me.

Gene Divis retires

by Eric Freeman, David City Banner-Press, January 15, 2004

Gene Divis began his career with the City of David City in the midst of a blizzard at 1:30 a.m., December 20, 1968. He officially retired Christmas Day after serving full-time in the city's water department for 30 years.

Before starting part-time, Divis was a soil conservation contractor, working with earth moving equipment, creating waterways, dams and cutting terraces. His friend Don McDonald, the city's street department supervisor, had been after him for years to help out part-time in the street department.

"He was a good friend and a good man," Divis said. "He called me on the night of the big blizzard and I couldn't say, 'no'."

After that first night, Divis worked part-time for the next several years plowing snow or helping with tree removal.

Then in 1973, Divis accepted an offer to work full-time in the David City Water Department.

"Back then, the water testing we did was pretty basic," Divis said. "We normally tested once per month, but up to four times per month if there was a problem. In 1971, we tested for 13 chemicals and coliform bacteria. Now the state mandates the testing of more than 100 organic and synthetic chemicals."

Divis was trained by Gene Grubaugh, David City's last utilities superintendent.

"Gene taught me everything I needed to know then," Divis said. The knowledge of that man was truly great. Back then we were trained in a few weeks and certified. Now, it would be hard to put in there without a college degree."

Divis was there in 1976 when the wastewater lagoon system was modified to include two new irrigation cells. The addition of the irrigation cells enabled the city to postpone the building of the wastewater treatment plant until 19989.

Over the course of his career Divis worked under the leadership of nine mayors, through the terms of six administrators and three city clerks.

"Gene was an outstanding city employee, a very dedicated individual who served his community well for many, many years," said Mayor Steve Smith. "I consider Gene a real community builder whose work improved the infrastructure of our city. He was a tireless worker and we all appreciate his many years of service."

Divis oversaw the construction of a 2.4 million-gallon-per-day lime softening water treatment plant in 1980. In the same year, Divis supervised the installation of 8.5 miles of water mains and 3.5 miles of sewer mains.

He received the Nebraska Health & Human Services water operator award in 1987 (*and Nebraska Section AWWA Water Industry Service Award in 2001*).

In 1988, he supervised construction of the new Sequencing Batch Reactor wastewater treatment plant.

"Before the treatment plant came in, this was a fairly easy job," Divis said. "Now, there's a lot more to it."

Divis remembers when there was no development north of O St.

"There's been a lot of expansion since 1973," Divis said. "Things changed with the expansion of Henningsen Foods."

Divis said the water department is an important part of planning for every large construction project. He remembered the work of setting up needed connections for St. Joseph's Villa, David Place, Butler County Health Care Center and Timpte.

He was responsible for developing annual budgets for the water plant, water distribution system, wastewater plant and sewer collection system.

"I remember one year in the mid-1970s when we installed 17 residential connections," Divis said. "When you think of the growth of David City over the years, you just have to marvel at all the ways it has changed."

Top Ops to compete at national

For the **FIRST TIME** in the history of the Nebraska Section, we have a team to represent us in the Top Ops Competition at the National AWWA Conference. The conference will be held in Orlando, FL, June 13-17.

Members of the team are: **Brian Bruce**, **Richard Heydenreich**, City of Papillion, and **Alan Slater**, City of Fairbury. They were the first place team in at the Section's 2003 Fall Conference last November. The Section will pay \$500 per person for their registration.

We are soliciting advertisers who would like to have their names printed on the backs of the t-shirts our team will wear. The cost is \$100. Proceeds from advertisers will help defray the costs of our team. The message on the back of the t-shirts will say, "Nebraska Section AWWA, sponsored by," and then list the names of the sponsors.

If your company is interested in being a sponsor, please send a \$100 check, payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA by April 30 to:

Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, Inc., 5022 S. 114th St., Ste. 200, Omaha, NE 68137.

2003 Fall Conference Award Winners



Lifetime Member Award

Orville Davidson
City of York

Gold Water Drop Award for 50 years of AWWA Membership

City of Crete

Charles W. Durham, HDR Engineering, Inc., Omaha, NE

City of Holdrege

Lincoln Water System

Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha, NE

City of North Platte

Joe Rossbach, retired, Metropolitan Utilities District

Safety Award of Excellence

City of Hastings

Water Operator Awards

Bob Smith, Grand Island Water & Light

Bill Taylor, City of Sidney

Joe Rossbach's comments upon accepting the Gold Water Drop Award:

The American Water Works Association and the Nebraska Section provide a great educational and technical stimulus for their members.

Their meetings, like this one today, provide members a good camaraderie and place to get to know others in the water industry. Their meetings provide an atmosphere where one can learn by listening, learn by discussing and learn from others who have similar problems.

I really enjoyed participating in the sessions at the national and state level, in the learning process and in meeting others in the field. **It was part of my life.**

My recommendation is to get involved! Be part of the organization and let it help you be better in your job, no matter what your job is. **Get involved!**

Joe is past chair and director of the Nebraska Section. He received the Fuller Award in 1979.

Water Industry Service Awards (WISA)

Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont

Ron Benson, JEO Consulting Group, Inc.

Bill Fish, Lincoln Water System

Richard Heydenreich, City of Papillion

Ron Mausbach, retired, Metropolitan Utilities District



Award winners, from left, front: Joel Christensen, Joe Rossbach, Metropolitan Utilities District; National AWWA Past President Lynn Stovall, City of North Platte, represented by Kevin Crosier; Lincoln Water System, represented by Jerry Obrist.

Back: Metropolitan Utilities District, represented by Jerry Gohr; Bill Taylor, City of Sidney; Bill Fish, Lincoln Water System; Ron Benson, JEO Consulting Group, Inc.; Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont; Richard Heydenreich, City of Papillion; Ron Mausbach, Metropolitan Utilities District.



2003 First Place Winners in the Top Ops Competition, from left, front: Tom Dittrick, Central District Department of Health, Grand Island; Richard Heydenreich, City of Papillion. Back: Brian Bruce, City of Papillion, and Alan Slater, City of Fairbury.



Third Place Winners, from left, Mike Nuttleman, Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk; Dan Freese, Kearney, and Steve Kelley, City of Beatrice.



2002 defending champions, Kirk Stocker, City of Kearney; Julie Frandsen, City of Grand Island; Matt Helzer, City of St. Paul; Connelley Rice, City of Kearney; Scorekeepers Craig

Scholarship Winners



Scholarship winners: From left, front: Doug Youngblood, Gina Rust, Laurel Kozimor (WEF Scholarship); Bill Taylor, water operator, City of Sidney. Back: Craig Reinsch, Kisham Ginige, Yun Hyum.

Doug Youngblood (\$350): Doug is working on a masters degree in environmental engineering at UNL. He earned an undergraduate degree in civil engineering last spring. He is president of the AWWA/WEF student chapter at UNL and plans to pursue a career in the drinking water industry.

Gina Rust (\$700): Gina, daughter of Milo Rust, City of Chadron, is an undergraduate student at UNL majoring in civil engineering. She plans to pursue a masters degree in environmental engineering. Gina currently works with Dr. Bruce Dvorak on a storm water-monitoring project and has working during the summer months for a consultant doing land surveys.

Bill Taylor (\$250): Bill is a water operator for the City of Sidney and received a water operator scholarship to attend the Annual AWWA Fall Conference.

Craig Reinsch (\$350): Craig is pursuing a masters degree in civil engineering at UNL. He plans to work as a consultant. His thesis focuses on the reduction of soil erosion that enters surface waters by using compost as a control measure.

Kisham Ginige (\$350): Kisham is working a masters degree in civil engineering. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Moratuwa-Sri Lanka. He plans to pursue a career in the water treatment, distribution and utilization field. He serves as vice-president of the AWWA/WEF student chapter at UNL.

Yun Hyun (\$700): Yun is pursuing a masters degree in environmental engineering. He earned an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from South Korean Military Academy. He plans to follow a career in the drinking water industry, improving water quality on South Korea's military bases. The government estimates 45 percent of the bases have poor water quality with ammunition plant waste as the major contaminant.

Wilson, Jon Harger, Vessco, Inc., and 2003 Second Place Winners: Masa Niiya, Mike Koenig, Jim Shields, George Reed, Metropolitan Utilities District.

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

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT 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 professional organizations and your activities:

Other significant contributions to your community, etc.:

TRAINING GRANT INFORMATION

Use of grant funds: _____ Amount requested: _____
Dates of workshop, courses: _____ Employer contribution: _____
Location of training: _____

Please indicate in the space below the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or other water industry-related positions.

I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Send completed application to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.554.7855; fax: 402.554.7709;
e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Please make copies of this order form as needed

Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael (402.255.3840)

Welcome to New Members: November 2002 to December 2003

Kenneth Anderson	City of Ravenna
Steve Bavelhymmer	City of Ponca
Ron Bortorff	JEO Consulting Group, Wahoo
David L. Burmeister	Village of Paxton
Jason Byler	Lincoln, NE
Ryan Duysen	Lincoln, NE
Amanda Fox	Lincoln, NE
Matt Frey	City of Gretna
Robert Fuller	Olsson Associates, Lincoln
Carolyn Gigstad	Nebraska Section AWWA
Gevinda K. De Sliva Ginige	Lincoln, NE
Kelly M. Guerrero	CAS Construction, Topeka, KS
George C. Haberman	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
John Hammer	Tyson Fresh Meats, Dakota City, NE
James M. Hicks	Village of Palisade
David Houghtelling	City of Cambridge
Yunsoon Hyun	Lincoln, NE

Stephen Ingracia	Olsson Associates, Lincoln
Nathan Johnson	Lincoln, NE
Jesse Jones	Village of Palisade
M.A. Kesselring	City of Crawford
Adam Kosmicki	Norland International
Mike Krietman	City of Bassett
Nicki Muhlbauer	HGM Associates, Omaha
Eric D. Musselman	Mellen & Associates
Ronald Nohr	Crofton, NE
Rick Plies	Lincoln, NE
Ken Pohlman	Midwest Laboratories
Craig Reinsch	Lincoln, NE
Gina Rust	Lincoln, NE
Tim Rutledge	Midwest Assistance
Gary Sasse	Nebraska City Utilities
Michael Schultes	Hastings Utilities
Alan Slater	Fairbury Light & Water
William J. Taylor	City of Sidney
Gary Thurlow	City of Atkinson
David Whitman	Columbus, NE
Doug Woodbeck	Nebraska Health & Human Services
Doug Youngblood	Lincoln, NE

Ad order form for 2004 publications

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

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- Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2004 (deadline for copy, etc. April 15, 2004)
- Wise Water Words, Fall/Winter issue, 2004 (deadline for copy, etc. August 1, 2004)

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National Drinking Water Week May 2-8, 2004



Governor Mike Johanns signed a proclamation April 21, declaring May 2-8 National Drinking Water Week in the State of Nebraska.

Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health and Human Services Department of Regulation and Licensure, Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities, and Doug Clark, Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha.

Water supply representatives attending the ceremony included, from left: Greg Bouc, City of Valparaiso, John S. Olsson, Nebraska Section American Water Works Association, Tim Rutledge, Midwest Assistance Program, Governor Mike Johanns.

Brief notes

Plan to attend the Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference November 4-5 in Kearney, including a National AWWA teleconference.

It's also not too early to get your Top Ops Team (*water operators only*) together. Contact **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates, for more information (e-mail: ckoenig@hgmonline.com).



Jerry E. Gohr, Metropolitan Utilities District, plans to retire August 1 with 35 years of service. Jerry joined M.U.D. as an engineer in 1969 after graduating UNO with a degree in industrial engineering. He

held seven positions in the operations area prior to his promotion in 1999 to assistant general manager of Operations.

Governor Mike Johanns recently appointed **Jerry G. Hain**, JEO Consulting Engineers, to the board of examiners for land surveyors. His term continues until February 2009. A registered surveyor in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Arizona, Jerry is CEO and president of JEO.

Directory updates

John Eriksen: new e-mail address — je@eriksenconst.com

Kristine Ranslem: new e-mail address — kranslem@frontiernet.net

Awards Committee

by *Steve Kelley* (402.228.5217)
e-mail: skelley@bpw.ci.beatrice.ne.us

The Nominations Committee has received three nominations for the WISA Award. We will accept nominations until June 1, 2004. The national awards all have different deadlines. I encourage anyone wanting to nominate someone to contact me as soon as possible.

Nominations Committee

by *Dennis Watts*, City of Norfolk
(402.844.2210)
e-mail: dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us

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

Chair **Larry Andreasen**, City of Fremont
Trustee & Past Chair
Kristine Ranslem, City of Albion
Director **Joel Christensen**, Metropolitan Utilities District

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 4, in Kearney.

Chair-Elect **Tony Bilek**, Mc2 Inc.
Vice Chair **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services
Secretary **Dr. Bruce I. Dvorak**, UNL Civil Engineering
Treasurer Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District
Trustee **John S. Olsson**, Olsson Associates
Trustee **Chuck Thomerson**, City of Columbus

In this issue

Water Utility Council report . . . 4

Bylaw changes 6

Regulation effective dates . . . 10

Support our advertisers, who help pay for the printing and mailing costs of this publication.

Chair's comments

We have been busy with several projects this year and have taken advantage of some exciting new opportunities. With the last few years of dry, hot summers, water conservation has been a constant topic at the top of people's minds. The current environmental circumstances facing Nebraska's water supply demands a new approach to educating the public.

The first project underway is promoting water conservation through 30-second commercials produced by NTV in Kearney. The coverage includes the major cities of Kearney, Grand Island and Hastings as well as Lincoln with the announcements running all year long.

With help from a matching grant administered by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources through the Bureau of Reclamation, we had the opportunity to partner with the League of Nebraska Municipalities, the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Nebraska Public Power District and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts to develop a 30-second commercial on water conservation.

With our focus on public education and the added exposure to AWWA, the board was excited about this opportunity and hopes that promoting water conservation will help to save our most precious resource.

The second project is developing a program for our annual fall conference. It will be held November 4-5, 2004 at the Holiday Inn, Kearney. **Larry Andreasen**, Fremont Utilities, is the program chair for the Fall Conference Committee. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend. It will be an outstanding conference packed full of interesting and informative sessions that will prove to be the best one yet! If you have any ideas or topics you would like to see included please contact Larry.

I would also like to congratulate the Small Systems Committee, who will be receiving an award at the annual national conference in Orlando, FL. They submitted an introductory video for small water system board members to give a very basic overview of the responsibilities a board member has pertaining to operation and maintenance of their water system.

This was a joint project shared by the Village of McCool Junction, League of Nebraska Municipalities, Nebraska Rural Water Association, Midwest Assistance Program and Nebraska Environmental Training Center.

The money was obtained through use of the state revolving loan fund. The Nebraska Section was awarded \$200 to be used specifically toward funding small system development. Hats off to the Small Systems Committee!

Have a great summer!



Kristine Ranslem

Officers and Trustees

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402.395.2803

e-mail: kransem@frontiernet.net

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Andreasen, 402.727.2621

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

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MAC Committee

by Tony Bilek (402.333.9660) e-mail: tony.mc2inch@att.net

Invitations and contracts will be forthcoming, via mail, to associate members and companies that are interested in exhibiting their products and services at the Fall Conference.

The FULL Joint conference dates are November 3-5, 2004. The AWWA program begins Thursday morning, November 4 and concludes at noon on Friday the 5th. NWEA kicks the conference off Wednesday the 3rd, concluding at noon on Thursday. As always, there will be "joint session" during the overlap period of the conference.

Last year we met the full capacity of the exhibit hall. We anticipate the same this year. I encourage you to get your contracts returned as soon as you possibly can to secure your exhibit booth space.

The Fall Conference program committee's are nearing completion on their respective programs. We expect another impressive conference this year.

Young Professionals Committee

by Ben Day, Olsson Associates (402.458.5693)
e-mail: jday@oaconsulting.com

The Young Professionals Committee is looking for people (engineers, water operators) who want to get involved in the Section. The only requirement is that you are under age 35.

We are looking to sponsor three or four activities a year such as social activities, seminars and technical tours to help young people in the industry network and become more involved in Section activities.

It also is anticipated the Young Professionals also will partner with the Student Activities Committee to help mentor university students.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact me.

In memoriam

Jerry Hart, 64, area sales manager-Nebraska for Griffin Pipe Co., died April 10 of a heart attack. He had 38 years with the company.

Jerry is survived by his spouse, Beverly; son, Russell Meyer, stepchildren, Cindy and spouse, Frank Vance; Cheryl and spouse Nick Ippolito; Sandra Adams; Brian Mercedes, Elizabeth Gentry, and mother, Rita Bierlein; four grandchildren.

Beverly Hart's address: 1313 S. 176th St., Omaha, NE 68130. Memorials may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association.



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Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

The 98th Nebraska Legislature, second session, adjourned its 60-day session April 15, 2004. The bills passed go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, except when they contain an emergency clause. Then they go into effect on the date the Governor signs the bill into law or otherwise noted in the legislation.

The Nebraska Section AWWA followed the proposals listed below. To see entire bill proposal, go the Unicameral's website: <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>

LB 183 (Natural Resources Committee) & **LB 527** (Louden, etc.) Allow the State to benefit from the transfer of its groundwater by imposing a transfer fee of 25 cents per gallon for water that is transferred outside a radius of 55 miles from the location of the well. **Status:** Both bills were killed February 3, 2004.

LB 638 (Shrock) Provides funds for interstate water rights litigation. **Status:** Killed February 3, 2004.

LB 738 (Baker) Review of title to property within a proposed wellhead protection area and provide abstract. **Status:** Killed February 3, 2004.

LB 830 (Shrock) Provides technical changes to the Water Well Standards and Contractor's Licensing Act. Air sparge wells to be registered by July 1, 2005. **Status:** Killed April 15. Portions of the bill were amended into LB 962.

LB 833 (Natural Resources Committee) Provides that the Water Policy Task Force meet twice a year instead of four times a year; governor to appoint successor members to replace those who are unable to serve for any reason. **Status:** Killed April 15. Portions of the bill were amended into LB 962.

LB 962 Changes to the basic approach to water law in Nebraska. Prior to passage of this bill, statutes and rules regarding surface water and groundwater generally were separate. The hydrological connection between surface and groundwater was ignored.

The passage of this bill directs the Department of Natural Resources to study the relationship between ground and surface water in all of the state's river basins. The first study report is due January 1, 2006.

If a river basin is preliminarily determined to be fully appropriated or over appropriated, the new law allows for temporary stays on the issuance of well construction permits or the construction of new wells even if permitted.

Status: The bill was passed April 13 with the emergency clause. It took effect upon the Governor's signature, April 15.

LB 1005 (Health & Human Services Committee) The annual "clean-up" bill requested by Nebraska Health & Human Services System. Amends the definition of "lead-free" under the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act to comply with applicable federal law. **Status:** Signed by the Governor April 15. Portions of LB 594, LB 929, LB 941, LB 942, LB 1054, LB 1139, LB 1155, LB 1159, LB 1198 and LB 1240 were amended into LB 1005.

LB 1203 (Brashear) Creates the "Special Commission on Public Assets," whose duty would be to compile a list of assets held by public entities which are capable of being owned and operated by private enterprise. The bill specifically includes "utility systems." The Commission is to perform a cost-benefit analysis of the potential for privatization. The Commission has no further authority.

Status: Killed February 24, 2004.

Washington D.C. fly-in

Representatives from more than half of the 40-plus AWWA sections attended the Washington, D.C. fly-in April 21-23. They visited with approximately 300 Congressional representatives. **Jerry Obrist**, Lincoln Water System, represented the Nebraska Section. Here are the issues AWWA representatives discussed with lawmakers.

Department of Defense Exemptions from Environmental Law

Stated

- Perchlorate — a component of rocket fuel has been found near Department of Defense (DoD) related sites across the country in water supplies.
- Exemptions would interfere with efforts of local communities and states in protecting public water supplies.

Asked for

- Opposition to proposed DoD legislation that would exempt DoD from environmental laws that protect local drinking water supplies from contamination.

Drinking Water Appropriations

Stated

- The vulnerability assessments that utilities have completed or are completing have shown where we need to upgrade or add hardware and training.

- AWWA has trained hundreds of utility managers to conduct security assessments of their systems.

Asked for

- Congress should appropriate an additional \$2 million for security and compliance-related training and technical assistance for community water systems.
- Appropriate \$3 billion for the drinking water state revolving fund for investments in security enhancements and infrastructure repair and replacement.

Farm Bill

Stated

- In the development of the 2002 Farm Bill, Congress recognized the importance of protecting drinking water sources in the Conservation Title.
- Conservation programs can do much to enhance the quality of America's waters.

Asked for

- Fund conservation programs at levels authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill.
- Establish a clear link between conservation spending and the protection of drinking water supplies.

Investing in Water Infrastructure and Security

Stated

- Much U.S. water infrastructure is reaching the end of its lifespan.
- AWWA estimates the immediate need for security upgrades to be \$2 billion and that does not include future needs that will be identified in vulnerability assessments.

Asked for

- Reform the existing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to provide at least \$15 billion over the next five years.
- Pass infrastructure legislation that makes security-related projects and repair and replacement of aging infrastructure eligible for SRF funding.

MTBE (Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether)

Stated

- "Safe Harbor" is in H.R.6, but not in the current Senate energy bill, S2095.
- MTBE contamination across the country is responsible for a number of municipal water wells being shut down.

Asked for

- Ensure the Congress does not approve "safe harbor" for MTBE in any legislation.
- Ensure that MTBE is phased out of use.

Lead and Copper Rule

Stated

- LWS is continuing to monitor the lead levels at the customer's tap.
- Our water system continues to be below the action levels.
- Lead levels are unique to each water system.

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Bylaw changes

The Section's board has suggested the following changes to the Bylaws which require an audit be conducted at least once every three years and an internal audit be conducted every year. The changes are specifically addressed in Section 6.4 and 8.5. If you have questions, please call John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System, 402.441.5932. These changes will be voted on by the membership at the Fall Conference, November 4-5, in Kearney.

BYLAWS OF THE NEBRASKA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I — NAME

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the NEBRASKA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION hereinafter referred to as the "Section."
- 1.2 In these Bylaws, the American Water Works Association is hereinafter referred to as the "Association."

ARTICLE II — OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of this Section ~~shall be the purpose of the Association as stated in the Articles of Incorporation as follows:~~ are to promote public health, safety and welfare through the improvement of the quality and quantity of water delivered to the public and the development and furtherance of understanding of the problems relating thereto as noted in the AWWA Articles of Incorporation.
 - a: ~~Advancing the knowledge of the design, construction, operation, water treatment and management of water utilities and developing standards for procedures, equipment and materials used by public water supply systems.~~
 - b: ~~Advancing the knowledge of the problems involved in the development of resources, production and distribution of safe and adequate water supplies.~~
 - e: ~~Educating the public on the problems of water supply and promoting a spirit of cooperation between consumers and suppliers in solving these problems; and~~
 - d: ~~Conducting research to determine the causes of problems of providing a safe and adequate water supply and proposing solutions there to in an effort to improve the quality and quantity of the water supply provided to the public.~~

ARTICLE ~~IV~~ III — HEADQUARTERS AND OPERATIONS

- 3.1 The headquarters of this Section shall be at the Office of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Nebraska, except as some other location may be specifically designated by the Section Governing Board. ~~In the event that office services are not contracted, the headquarters shall be at the Office of the Secretary.~~
- 3.2 All matters pertaining to the operation of the Section shall be in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association and with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE ~~III~~ IV — MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 The membership of this Section shall consist of those members of the American Water Works Association residing

in or having principle business activity in the Nebraska Section and those assigned to the Nebraska Section by the Executive Director of the American Water Works Association.

- 4.2 The boundaries of the Section shall correspond to the boundaries of the State of Nebraska.

ARTICLE V — ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

- 5.1 All members of the Section in good standing, except multi-section members, are eligible to vote.
- 5.2 Occasions where a vote of the membership is required include: the election of Section Officers and/or other members of the Section Board of Trustees as described herein; approval of a proposed amendment of these Bylaws; approval of a special dues assessment of the Section membership; or in any other event for which the Section Board of Trustees requires a vote of the Section membership.

ARTICLE VI — DUES AND FEES

- 6.1 Dues shall be assessed against members of this Section as required for membership in AWWA. ~~The Board may, at its discretion, assess each member and associate member a registration fee. Registration fees shall be sufficient to defray the costs of operating the Annual Conference, training sessions, seminars and other meetings. An additional Section dues assessment fee may be assessed if approved by a majority of the voting members of the Section following the Association Governing Documents, Article XI, Section 11.4.5.~~
- 6.2 The Section may, in accordance with the procedures defined in the Association Governing Documents, Article XI, Section 11.4.4, and established guidelines of AWWA, apply for permission to levy a Section dues assessment. The Section assessment would be levied annually at the time of membership renewal and the revenue collected would be used to increase the funds available for Section uses consistent with AWWA objectives and policies. Once approved, changes in the Section assessment can be authorized by a vote of the Section Board of Trustees for submission to and approval by the AWWA Board of Directors.
- 6.3 The Board may, at its discretion, assess each member and associate member a registration fee. Registration fees shall be sufficient to defray the costs of operating the Annual Conference, training sessions, seminars and other meetings. Such fees will be established in accordance with these Bylaws, the policies and procedures of the Section and Governing Documents and Bylaws of the Association.
- 6.4 All Section finances shall be managed in accord with these Bylaws, Section policies and procedures, the Bylaws and Governing Documents of the Association and all applicable financial rules and regulations of the State of Nebraska. The Section shall conduct, on an annual basis, an internal review of all Section finances. An audit shall be conducted, at least once every three years, by a qualified financial advisor, who is neither an employee of the Section nor a member of the Section Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE ~~VI~~ VII — SECTION OFFICERS AND GOVERNING BOARD

- 7.1 The Officers of the Section shall be as follows:
- a. ~~A Chair.~~
 - b. ~~A Chair-Elect.~~
 - c. ~~A Vice-Chair.~~
 - d. ~~A Secretary.~~
 - e. ~~A Treasurer.~~
 - f. ~~A Representative on the Association's Board of Directors, hereinafter called the "Director."~~
 - g. ~~Three Trustees — One of whom shall be the last living Past-Chair of the Section.~~
- 7.2 The above Officers shall constitute the Section Governing Board, hereinafter call the "Board," which shall be the governing body of the Section.
- 7.3 The Officers of the Section shall execute its business in accordance with the Bylaws of the Section and the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association.
- 7.4 The term of each of the Officers shall be approximately one year, beginning and ending at the close of the Section Annual Conference, except in the case of the Director, whose term shall be approximately three years as provided for by the Bylaws and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association.
- 7.5 Any member of the Section shall be eligible to hold Section elective office, except those ~~who are student members of the Association~~ or who are members of the Section via multi-section membership privileges.
- 7.6 ~~Two or more offices may not be held by the same individual, with the exception of the Offices of Secretary and Treasurer.~~

ARTICLE ~~VH~~ VIII — DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- 8.1 The duties of the Chair shall be to: a) supervise and coordinate all of the affairs of the Section; b) preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Board; and c) appoint all Committees of the Section with Board approval, except as may be otherwise specifically provided herein or directed by the Board.
- 8.2 The Chair-Elect shall: a) perform the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence; and b) perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the Board.
- 8.3 The Vice-Chair shall: a) perform the duties of the Chair or Chair-Elect in their absence; and b) perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the Board.
- 8.4 The Secretary shall: a) attend all meetings of the Section and of the Board, duly recording the proceedings thereof; b) prepare such records, reports, and correspondence as may be required by the Board or by the Association to properly record the Section activities; and c) perform other duties as the Board may direct. In the absence of the Secretary, the duties of the Secretary shall be performed by the Treasurer.
- 8.5 The Treasurer shall: a) be responsible for Section funds and shall establish and keep accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in accordance with the Association Uniform

System of Section Accounting; b) be responsible to collect all monies due the Section and shall promptly deposit the same to the credit of the Section in a depository approved by the Board; c) perform all the duties laid down in Article XI of the Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association; d) annually obtain an ~~independent audit or review~~ of Section finances ~~from a qualified auditing firm and/or certified public as specified in Section 6.4 accountant;~~ e) complete and file the appropriate tax forms and other tax-related information for the Section as required under State and Federal law; and f) perform other duties as the Board may direct.

- 8.6 The Director shall be a member of the Section's Board (and of the American Water Works Association's Board of Directors) in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association and shall represent each one of those bodies in the deliberations of the other and shall act to coordinate and unify their actions.
- 8.7 The Trustees shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair ~~or the Board, and have equal voting rights with that of other members of the Board.~~

ARTICLE ~~VIII~~ IX — THE SECTION GOVERNING BOARD

- 1: ~~Meetings of the Board shall be called by the Chair or his or her own initiative or at the request of any other member of the Board. There shall be at least one meeting of the Board during the annual meeting of the Section.~~
- 2: ~~A quorum of the Board shall consist of at least five of its members.~~
- 9.1 The Board shall have general supervision over all of the affairs of the Section and shall be its legal representative in all matters, except as this duty may be specifically delegated.
- 9.2 The Board shall prepare, as needed, and enforce the conduct of the business of the Section regulations not in conflict with these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association, and shall amend same as required.
- 9.3 All members of the Board, except the Chair, shall be entitled to one vote on all issues coming before the Board. The Chair may vote on issues to break ties which require a simple majority for passage.

ARTICLE ~~IX~~ X — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 10.1 Nominating Committee
- 10.1.1 Not later than March 1 of each year, the Section Chair shall appoint a nominating committee of three members one of whom shall be the Past Chair. ~~who are not officers of the Section.~~
- 10.1.2 The nominating committee shall select one nominee for each of the following offices: Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, three Trustees, one of whom shall be the last living Past-Chair of the Section who is a member of the Section; and, at three-year intervals, shall select one nominee for the Office of Director. The Section Chair-Elect shall automatically assume the Office of Section Chair.

10.1.3 The Committee's nomination shall be in the hands of the Secretary not later than July 31. Upon receipt of the nominations, the Secretary shall, within 20 days, mail to each member, a notice setting forth the nominations of the nominating committee and stating the date, time, and place of the next **general business** meeting, at which the elections will be held.

10.1.4 Should the nominating committee fail to act by July 31, the Secretary shall notify the members by mail, stating that all nominations will be from the floor at the Section's **general business** meeting, the date, time, and place of which shall be included in the notice to the members.

10.2 Election

10.2.1 At the Sections's **general business** meeting, the Chair shall read the notice as issued by the Secretary, after which he or she shall call for and receive additional nominations from the membership assembled.

10.2.2 Separate balloting shall be conducted for each office. The Chair may accept a motion for a unanimous ballot for such nominee. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect. All members of the Section in good standing are eligible to vote, except for multi-section members.

10.3 Vacancies

~~Should the Chair of the Section be unable to complete the term of office, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Chair-Elect.~~

~~Should the Chair-Elect be unable to complete the term of office, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Vice-Chair.~~

~~Should the Trustee who serves by virtue of being the Past-Chair be unable to complete the term of office, the Board shall appoint a previous Past-Chair to serve as Trustee or, if there is none able or willing to serve, a qualified member of the Section to fill the vacancy.~~

~~Should the Secretary or Treasurer be unable to complete the term of office, the Board shall appoint either:~~

- ~~a. One of their number to perform the duties of Secretary or Treasurer for the balance of the term, or~~
- ~~b. A qualified member of the Section to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term.~~

10.3.1 Should the Director be unable to complete the term of office, the Board shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the term, and the Secretary shall notify the Executive Director of the Association of such selection.

10.3.2 In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Chair, Vice-Chair or Chair-Elect, Trustee, and Secretary or Treasurer, the Section Board of Trustees shall appoint a suitable replacement to complete the term of the vacant position.

10.4 Removal from Office

10.4.1 An officer may be removed from office by the Board if the officer fails to carry out the responsibilities of elected office as so determined by the Board. Removal



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may be accomplished by a resolution supported by two-thirds of the Board.

ARTICLE XI — MEETINGS

- 11.1 The Section shall hold at least one ~~general business~~ meeting in each calendar year for the purpose of conducting the Section's business, electing officers, receiving reports of the various officers and committees, promoting the interests of the Association and advancing the technical and administrative knowledge of the members. The time and place of the ~~general business~~ meeting shall be ~~fixed by the Board~~: at the annual conference.
- 11.2 Meetings of the Board shall be called by the Chair ~~on his or her own initiative~~ or at the request of any other member of the Board. There shall be at least one meeting of the Board during the annual meeting of the Section.
- 11.3 A quorum of the Board shall consist of at least five of its members.
- 11.4 The Section may hold other meetings from time to time for the purpose of presenting technical papers on a subject of special interest, workshops, educational seminars, etc. The time and place of these meetings may be set by the Board or by a committee appointed by the Board for this purpose subject to the other provisions of this article.
- 11.5 It is the policy of this Section to endeavor to cooperate with other Sections of the American Water Works Association to prevent conflict of meeting dates with those of other Section's meetings and especially with those of the adjoining Sections.
- 11.6 The Section may, if deemed advisable by the Board, to hold joint meetings with other adjoining Sections or with other organizations having mutual interests, such as the Nebraska Water Environment Association, Nebraska Section American Public Works Association or the Utilities Section of the ~~Nebraska~~ League of Nebraska Municipalities.
- 11.7 If such joint meetings are held, any business meetings of the Section shall be open to all interested individuals, but only those holding membership in the ~~Section~~ Association shall have voting rights. Further, the Section's participation in such joint meetings shall be clearly identified and publicized, and the Section shall have an approximately equal share of the program. Additionally, the provisions of the Association's Governing Documents, Article XI, Section 11.7 will be followed.

ARTICLE XII — AMENDMENTS

- 12.1 Proposals for the amendment of these Bylaws may originate by a unanimous vote of the Section Governing Board or they may originate by the submission to the Secretary of a written petition signed by at least 10 members of the Section. Upon an amendment being proposed in either of these two manners, the Secretary shall furnish each member a copy of the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment shall then be voted upon by the members at the next annual meeting in a manner similar to that provided for the election of officers (Article ~~IX~~ X of these Bylaws), or may at the discretion of the Board be voted

upon by letter ballot, provided, however, in either case, all members shall have at least 30 days in which to consider the proposed amendment prior to a vote upon it.

- 2: 12.2 Upon favorable action having been taken as to an amendment in the forgoing manner, the Secretary of the Section shall then submit same to the Executive Director of the American Water Works Association for approval or disapproval by the Association's Board of Directors. Upon notification by the ~~Executive Director of the Association's Secretary~~ that the amendment has been approved by the Board of Directors, it shall thereupon become effective.
- 3 ~~Personal pronouns referring to either the masculine or to the feminine gender in the Bylaws shall be considered interchangeable where applicable and as the context requires or permits.~~

ARTICLE XIII — DISSOLUTION

- 13.1 In case of the dissolution of the Section, such portions of the funds or property thereof in the hands of the Treasurer as may have been derived from the general funds of the American Water Works Association shall be returned to the American Water Works Association.
- 2: 13.2 The balance of the Section funds or property shall be disposed of by transfer and distribution of any one or more corporations, funds, or foundations with like purposes or goals that is organized and operated in an area included in the Section, hereinafter referred to as the "receiving organization."
- 3: 13.3 ~~In order~~ To comply with Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code under which the Association is incorporated, any such receiving organization shall be organized and operated according to the following criteria:
- 13.3.1 Exclusively for scientific or educational purposes;
- 13.3.2 No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholders or individuals;
- 13.3.3 No substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and which does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- 13.4 Any such receiving organization(s) shall be selected by vote of the majority of the members of the Section at a meeting called for this purpose. If for any reason such disposition cannot be effected, then such funds shall be so distributed pursuant to the order, judgment or decree of a court having jurisdiction over the assets and property of the Section.

ARTICLE XIV — INDEMNIFICATION

- 14.1 Indemnification is provided by the Association as described in the Association Bylaws, Article VI, Section 6.01.

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8134) e-mail: mike.wentink@hhss.state.ne.us

Here are the remaining water operator workshops for 2004:

August

August 11-12 — Scottsbluff (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)

September

September 8-9 — Fremont (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)

September 21 — Norfolk (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

September 22 — Fremont (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

September 23 — Nebraska City (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

September 27 — Beatrice (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce,
402.476.2829)

September 28 — Wayne (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

September 29 — Grand Island (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce,
402.476.2829)

September 30 — Ogallala (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce,
402.476.2829)

October

October 4-8 — Lincoln (Grade 3; contact Mike Wentink)

October 12 — Red Cloud (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

October 13 — Fairbury (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

October 14 — Falls City (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

October 27-28 — Grand Island (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)

November

November 2-5 — Kearney WEF/AWWA/APWA Joint Conference

November 4 — Teleconference (contact section office, 402.476.2003)

November 17 — Columbus (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

December

December 7 — Cozad (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

December 8 — Grand Island (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

December 9 — Ashland (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

December 13-17 — Lincoln (Grade 2; contact Mike Wentink)

Note: The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer scholarships to attend water operator seminars and workshops. To apply, complete the application on page 11. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@munednebr.com

Federal Regulatory System Effective Dates (estimated*) as of November 6, 2003

Operator Certification: February 2001

Unregulated contaminants (small systems): January 2001

IESWTR (SW >10,000): January 2002

D/DBPR (SW >10,000): January 2002

Public Notification Changes: May 2002

Radionuclides: December 2003

D/DBPR (SW <10,000 and GW Systems): January 2004

Groundwater Rule: November 2004*

LTI (Long-Term Enhanced SWT Rule), (ESWTR) (SW
<10,000): January 2005

Sulfates: 2005*

Radon: 2005*

Arsenic: January 2006

AWWA conferences

For more information about these conferences, go to the National AWWA website: <http://www.awwa.org/calendar>.

Annual Conference and Exposition

June 13-17 — Orlando, FL

June 19-23, 2005 — San Francisco, CA

June 18-22, 2006 — San Antonio, TX

June 17-21, 2007 — Toronto, Canada

Continuous Water Quality Monitoring

July 28 — Toronto, Canada

Cyber Security

July 14-15 — Middleton, PA

October 7-8 — Peoria, AZ

Financial Management: Cost of Rate-Making

October 13-15 — St. Louis, MO

Distribution and Plant Operations Conference and Expo

September 26-29 — Chicago, IL

August 16-22, 2005 — Tampa, FL

Water Quality Technology Conference

November 14-17 — San Antonio, TX

November 6-10, 2005 — Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

Make networking work for you

Networking opens the door to all kinds of opportunities. Whether you are looking for a new job, want to advance your career, or would like to consult with other professionals, it's essential to know people in your own profession.

By sharing your skills and experience, you'll be remembered when it matters most. The common phrase, "it's not what you know, it's who you know," often applies when finding a new job; nothing is more valuable than word-of-mouth referrals. Get to know the water professionals in your community.

Your AWWA membership connects you to more than 57,000 other professionals who come from every facet of the water industry, and who understand the importance of keeping each other informed.

Meeting your colleagues is easy. AWWA provides convenient ways to connect with your colleagues through national and local conferences. There also are opportunities to serve on committees. Sharing your knowledge is an excellent way to get involved on matters important to you while you get to know others who share similar interests.

Networking also strengthens your career. Because AWWA members cover every facet of the water industry, you are connected to an unmatched resource of experience and expertise. It's like having your own team of consultants to build ideas and strategize solutions. You can connect with colleagues face-to-face, or through online discussion forums.

No matter what your professional needs are, networking is important for building a strong foundation. We bring together people who are dedicated to improving their careers, communities and profession. Let AWWA networking work for you!

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

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT 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 professional organizations and your activities:

Other significant contributions to your community, etc.:

TRAINING GRANT INFORMATION

Use of grant funds: _____ Amount requested: _____
Dates of workshop, courses: _____ Employer contribution: _____
Location of training: _____

Please indicate in the space below the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or other water industry-related positions.

I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____
Send completed application to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.554.7855; fax: 402.554.7709;
e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com
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Brief notes

Now's the time to get your Top Ops Team (*water operators only*) together for the competition at the annual conference, November 4. You receive 1.5 CEUs for participation. Contact **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates, for more information (e-mail: ckoenig@hgmonline.com).



To advertise in the 2005 Wise Water Words, complete the ad order form on page 19.



A total of 14,531 people visited the Section website between August 1, 2003 and July 31, 2004. This is 5,261 more visitors for the same period the previous year.

The highest visitor month was September 2003 with 1,557 visitors, followed by November, with 1,501 visitors. The most visited sections in September 2003 were the library and news story areas, followed by the mentor page.



Joe Baxter returned to Olsson Associates, however he is in the Denver office. His e-mail address is jbaxter@oaconsulting.com. **John Vaughn** succeeds Joe as public works director for the City of South Sioux City; e-mail: jvaughn@southsiouxcity.org. John is the former city administrator for the City of Plainview.

In this issue

<i>Fall Conference agenda</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Emergency planning</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Funds for certification</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Proposed bylaw changes</i>	<i>12</i>

Section Board Meeting September 16

9:30 a.m., Fremont Municipal Bldg.
400 E. Military St., Fremont
All members are invited to attend.

Fall conference highlight

National Director to speak at lunch

Curtis L. Truss, Jr., director-at-large of National AWWA, will be the featured speaker at the Fall Conference Joint AWWA-NWEA lunch, November 4 at the Holiday Inn, Kearney. A member of AWWA since 1983, he is the executive director of the Operator Training Committee of Ohio, the educational arm of the Ohio Section.



Curtis Truss

On the national level of AWWA, Truss is a member of the Product and Market Advisory Committee and Opflow Editorial Advisory Board, and past chair of the Student Activities Committee. He received the George Warren Fuller Award in 1998 and Tatlock Award in 1992.

On the section level, he has served as director, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer and small systems chair. He is a member of the National Rural Water Association, the Ohio Rural Water Association, the Water Environment Federation, the National Environmental Training Association, and the Association of Boards of Certification.

Truss and his wife, Wanda, live in Springfield, Ohio.

Nominations Committee

by *Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk (402.844.2210); e-mail: dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us*

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

<i>Chair</i>	Larry Andreasen , City of Fremont
<i>Trustee & Past Chair</i>	Kristine Ranslem , City of Albion
<i>Director</i>	Joel Christensen , Metropolitan Utilities District

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 4, in Kearney.

<i>Chair-Elect</i>	Tony Bilek , Mc2 Inc.
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Mike Wentink , Nebraska Health & Human Services
<i>Secretary</i>	Dr. Bruce I. Dvorak , UNL Civil Engineering
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kevin Tobin , Metropolitan Utilities District
<i>Trustee</i>	John S. Olsson , Olsson Associates
<i>Trustee</i>	Chuck Thomerson , City of Columbus

Chair's comments

This is my last article as Chair. I have enjoyed talking and meeting several of you over the course of being on the Board. It has been an honor to serve you and I thank you for all your hard work and support. When asked, you've stepped up to the plate to volunteer whether it was presenting topics to 4th and 5th grade students, planning and presenting sessions at the Fall Conference or simply sending us your comments or ideas. I am proud to be a part of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association and grateful that someone incorporated me into the fabric of the Section.

Getting involved is what it's all about! A perfect time to think about getting involved in a committee to help accomplish the goals we have set forth is right now! Committees are being set up and can use volunteers.

Just as everyone is dealing with budget cuts, the Section also was faced with trimming our budget. As of July 1, 2004, we no longer have paid staff as we are unable to support the services. As a result we rely more on you our volunteers for support and to help us with following through on our tasks and activities. We've had several projects throughout the year and they have been a success due to volunteers and our strong membership.

Please refer to the column on the right as a guide to contact any one of your board members or committee chairs for any questions you may have. We are always happy to hear from you!

- For access to the library, please contact **Bruce Dvorak** at UNL at 402.472.3431.
- For questions on the Teleconferences please contact **Mike Wentink** at 308.535.8134.
- For questions or registration to training events, please contact **Rob Pierce** at 402.476.2829 or **Mike Wentink** at 308.535.8134.
- For any changes, or additions to the website or Wise Water Words, please contact **Mari Matulka** at 402.449.8154.
- For any financial questions contact **Kevin Tobin** at 402.554.7808
- Any bills or invoices payable by the Section should be sent to **Chris Koenig** at HGM Associates Inc., 5022 S. 114 St., Omaha, NE 68137.

The Annual Fall Conference will be held November 4-5 in Kearney at the Holiday Inn. Thank you **Larry Andreasen** for developing an outstanding program for the Fall Conference. There are many informative and interesting sessions to attend. The agenda is on page 3.

This year the Young Professionals Committee will host a mixer directly following the Top Ops Competition. A door prize will be awarded. This is a terrific opportunity to meet new members and the Young Professionals within our Section. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.



Kristine Ranslem

Officers and Trustees

Chairperson Kristine Ranslem,
402.395.2803
e-mail: kransem@frontiernet.net
Chairperson-Elect Larry
Andreasen, 402.727.2621
Vice-Chair Tony Bilek,
402.333.9660
Secretary Mike Wentink,
308.535.8134
Treasurer Kevin Tobin,
402.554.7808
Director Joel Christensen,
402.554.7774
Trustees
Dennis Watts, 402.844.2210
Dr. Bruce Dvorak, 402.472.8934
John S. Olsson, 402.458.5661

2004 Committee Chairs

Kristine Ranslem, *Audit*, 402.395.2803
Steve Kelley, *Awards*, 402.228.5217
Kevin Tobin, *Budget*, 402.554.7808
Rich Koenig, *Cross Connection*,
402.370.3114
Mike Wentink, *Education*
308.535.8134 or 402.471.1005
Larry Andreasen, *Fall Conference*,
402.395.2803
John Miriovsky, *Fuller Award*,
402.441.8493
Tony Bilek, *Manufacturers/Associates
Council*, 402.333.9660
Rich Robinson, *Membership*,
402.255.3840
Dennis Watts, *Nominations*,
402.844.2210
Kathleen Alexander, *Public
Information*, 402.399.1357
Mari Matulka, *Publications*,
402.449.8154
Dr. Bruce Dvorak, *Research*,
402.472.3431
Rob Pierce, *Safety*, 402.476.2829
Lynn Wegehaupt, *Scholarship*,
402.554.7855
David Jundt, *Small Systems*,
402.370.3404
Dr. Matt Morley, *Student Activities*,
402.472.2057
Glenn Dostal, *Water for People*,
402.399.1014
Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*,
402.441.5930
Ben Day, *Young Professionals*,
402.458.5693

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

2004 Fall Conference — November 4-5, Kearney

Thursday, November 4

- 7:30 A.M. Registration
- Session I**
Moderator: **Dennis Watts**, City of Norfolk
- 8:30-9:15 A.M. Norfolk West Plant Upgrade
Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk
William Knoll, Black & Veatch, Aurora, CO
- 9:15-10 A.M. Nitrate Removal and Corrosion Control
City of Seward
Rod Kirkland, Olsson Associates, Lincoln, NE
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
Moderator: **Larry Andreasen**, City of Fremont
- 10:30-11 A.M. Pump Maintenance, Electrical
Rob Sanders, Northwest Electric Inc., Columbus, NE
- 11-11:30 A.M. Horizontal Drilling at Fort Robinson
Ben Day, Olsson Associates, Lincoln, NE
- 11:30 A.M.-noon Drug and Alcohol Testing
Roger Andersen, Alegent Health, Omaha, NE
- NOON-1:30 P.M.** **Joint AWWA and NWEA Lunch**
National AWWA Vice-President **Curtis L. Truss, Jr.**
- 1:30-3 P.M. AWWA Business Meeting (*board meeting follows business meeting*)
- 3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 3:30-5 P.M. Top OPS Competition (*New Member/Young Professional Mixer follows Top OPS Competition in same room*).
- 6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
- 7 P.M. Banquet
- Session II**
Moderator: **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln
- 8:30-9:15 A.M. Arsenic Reduction
David Gosselin, UN Conservation and Survey, Lincoln, NE
- 9:15-10 A.M. New Technologies for Arsenic and Nitrate Removal
Madalyn Epple, Ionics Inc., Minneapolis, MN
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
Moderator: **Rich Koenig**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Norfolk
- 10:30 A.M.-2 P.M. Teleconference—Sustainability: How to Balance Increase Demand with Shrinking Resources—see page 4
(*lunch served during the teleconference*)
- 2-3 P.M. Mentoring Program, **David Jundt**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Norfolk
- 3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 3:30-5 P.M. Top OPS Competition (*New Member/Young Professional Mixer follows Top OPS Competition in same room*).
- 6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
- 7 P.M. Banquet

Friday, November 5

- 7:15-8:30 A.M. Water Operator Breakfast, Water Conservation
- 7:30 A.M. Registration
- Session I**
Moderator: **John Olsson**, Olsson Associates
- 8:30-9:30 A.M. Vulnerability Assessments
Randy Fisher, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln
Ken Deason, Environmental Protection Agency, Lincoln
- 9:30-10 A.M. RISS Atix: Regional Information Sharing System—Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange
Bill Goodrich, RISS Atix Coordinator for MidStates
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
Moderator: **Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, UNL Civil Engineering
- 10:30 A.M.-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update
Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln
- Session II**
Moderator: **Tony Bilek**, Mc² Inc., Omaha
- 8:30-9 A.M. SCADA Upgrade, Winside Plant
Roger Protzman, JEO Consulting Group, Norfolk
- 9-9:30 A.M. New Technologies in Instrumentation
Robert Lagrange, Endress+Hauser, Greenwood, IN LB 962—Well Drillers
- 9:30-10 A.M. **Mike Allen**, Hastings Utilities
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
Moderator: **Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, UNL Civil Engineering
- 10:30 A.M.-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update
Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services, Lincoln

CEUs

- Nebraska Health & Human Services
Grades 1-4: AWWA Program = Up to 5.5 hours
Grades 1-4: Teleconference = 3 hours
Grades 1-4: Top Ops Participation = 1.5 hours

Fees

- Pre-Registration for AWWA
(includes Thursday lunch and banquet), \$70
- Pre-Registration for Full Conference
(includes all lunches and banquets), \$150
- Pre-Registration = Prior to October 22
AWWA Operator's Breakfast, \$10
Additional Banquet Tickets, \$20 each
- For more information, contact:

Kathleen Alexander, HDR Engineering, Inc.
8404 Indian Hills Dr., Omaha, NE 68114-4049
phone: 402.399.1357; fax: 402.399.4918
e-mail: kalexand@hdrinc.com

Lodging

Hotel reservations: 800.248.4460; reservations must be made by October 4 for the conference rate (Holiday Inn or Wingate Inn: \$66 single; \$75 double), plus tax.

Sustainability Teleconference in Kearney, Gering, Ashland

The teleconference at the Annual Fall Conference, November 4, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. CST, will focus on **Sustainability**, specifically long-term water supply issues and planning; water resources and efficiency; water reuse; water loss control; maximizing water capacity; source management, including optimization, groundwater, surface water and aquifers; and desalination technology for inland and coastal uses.

You'll get insight on how to balance increased demand with shrinking resources, how to do more with less, and role of life cycle thinking, overall building of systems, and sustaining cities. Your conference registration includes the fee to attend the teleconference.

The teleconference also will be shown in Gering and at the Lincoln Water System's Ashland plant. Fee at these locations is \$50 per person. To register at these sites, contact Mike Wentink (308.535.8134) e-mail: mike.wentink@hhss.ne.gov



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Director's report by Joel Christensen

I assumed the duties of Director from **John Miriovsky** in June. Since then, I have attended the New Director's orientation, July 21- 22 in Denver. Communication both ways between the



National AWWA Association and the Nebraska Section is the most important part of the Director's duties. As you did with John, please let me know if you have questions or suggestions relating to the Association. We also have **Nancy Sullivan**, our assigned Section Services representative, who can answer or give a referral to any AWWA question. Her phone number is 303.347.6155.

Joel Christensen

At the orientation we were reminded that the sections are part of the Association and not independent. All AWWA and section activities must serve the public interest, not just the members' interests.

The Association will approve a new Strategic Plan in January 2005. Section strategic plans should supplement and mesh with it. One issue that divided those drafting the plan was whether to drop the word "drinking" from the term "drinking water."

The draft plan uses only "water." This would more clearly allow AWWA to be involved in issues such as source water protection, water reuse for non-potable uses, disposal of brines and other treatment residuals as well as wastewater education. AWWA recently published 90 wastewater standards with ASTM. If you have comments about this or want to see a draft of the plan (it is only four pages), please let me know.

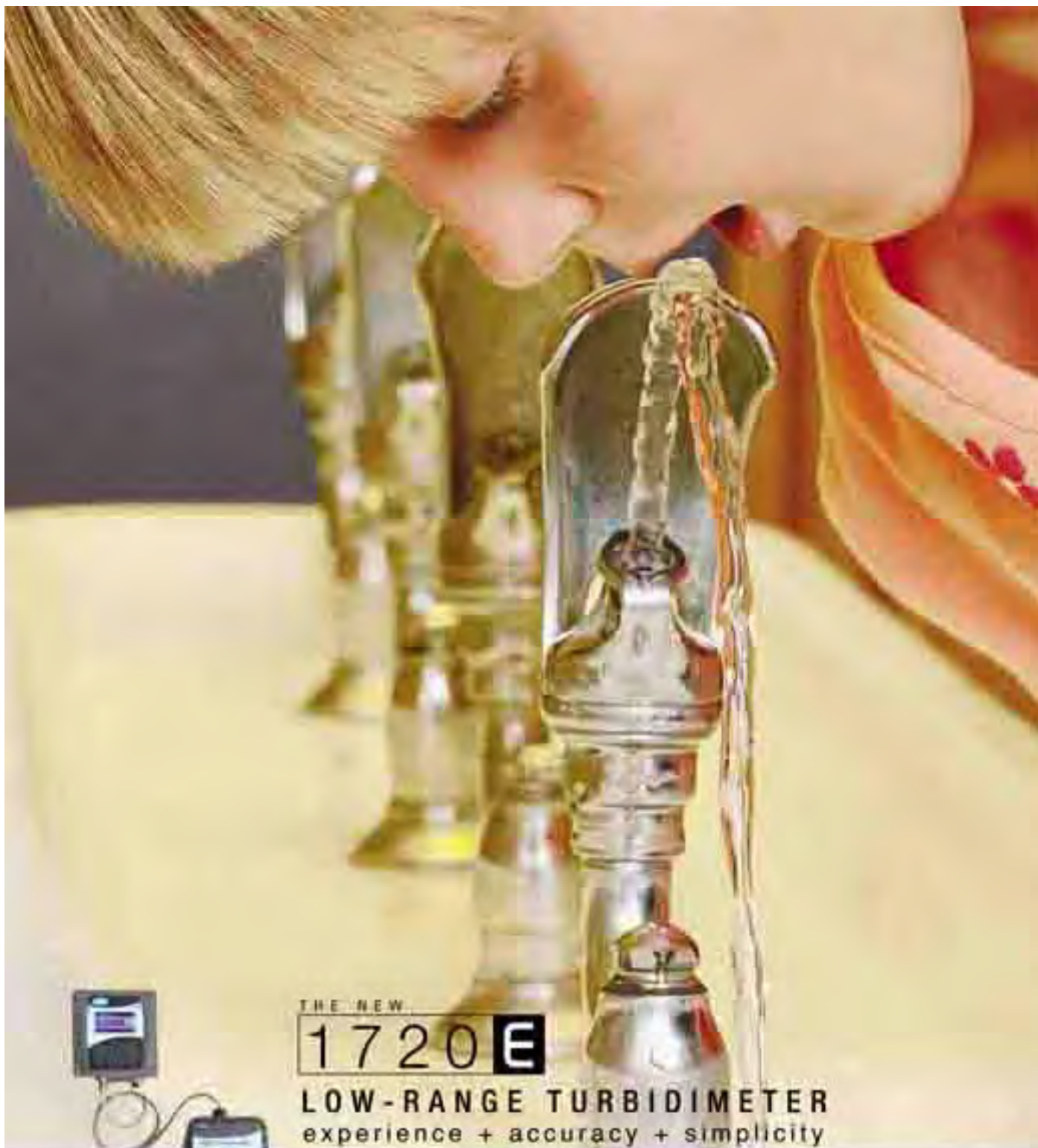
I look forward to representing the Nebraska Section as Director for the next three years. Please help me keep the lines of communication open. My phone number is 402.554.7774; e-mail: joel_christensen@mudnebr.com

Free seminar — emergency response planning

The Nebraska Health and Human Services, Regulations and Licensure is coordinating a FREE seminar on Emergency Response Planning. The seminar, to be presented by Tetra Tech Inc., a contractor of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will provide an outline of state, federal and local responsibilities in the event of a disaster.

The seminar will be held October 13 in Norfolk (Community College), and March 2, 2005 in Kearney (Ramada Inn).

Water operators, grades 1-4, will receive 5.5 CEUs. **Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required.** Call 402.471.0523. For more information, call **Randy Fisher**, 402.471.1007; cell: 402.416.2558.



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Money for Annual Fall Conference!

The Section will award eight \$250 grants for water operators to attend the Annual Fall Conference, November 4-5, in Kearney.

To apply, complete the application on page 16. Deadline for applications is October 22. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com



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Funds for certification

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has authorized Water Operator Reimbursement Grant funds for Nebraska water operator certification renewal fees.

Nebraska Health and Human Services, Regulations and Licensure (NHHS R&L) disburses the funds, available to eligible water systems and operators of those systems, for reimbursement of costs associated with water operator training and certification.

Eligible water systems are those community (CWS) and non-transient non-community (NTNC) public water systems serving 3,300 or less people. Closeout of the grant funds, including reimbursement of renewals, is scheduled for January 1, 2008.

Reimbursement of renewal fees for water operators of eligible water systems will apply to water operator certification grades I, II, III, and IV. This also is applicable to operators of two or more systems under agreement to share the services of a single certified water operator provided that one of the water systems being operated is an eligible water system, as defined above.

Applications for renewal will contain an identified section requesting information of the applicant. When this section is completed, complete the remaining portions of the renewal application. If you are eligible for reimbursement of renewal fees, mail the application in the pre-addressed envelope, however **DO NOT SEND ANY PAYMENT WITH THE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL**. If your application is complete and you have acquired the required minimum number of continuing education hours, your application will be processed.

Your efforts in maintaining a record of acquired continuing education hours and full completion of the renewal application will assist in making this system operate smoothly. For an update on your continuing education hours that NHHS R&L has recorded, contact **Patti Hicks** at 402.471.0156.

The Department maintains a record of your acquired continuing education hours as a service to minimize the volume of paperwork that otherwise would be experienced by water operators at renewal time.

If you have any questions on the reimbursement of renewals, or other elements of the Water Operator Reimbursement Grant, contact **Michael Wentink**, training and certification officer, at 308.535.8135, or e-mail: mike.wentink@hhss.ne.gov.

Nebraska Top Ops compete at national conference

Brian Bruce, City of Papillion, and **Alan Slater**, City of Fairbury, represented the Nebraska Section AWWA in the National AWWA Top Ops Competition, June 14, in Orlando.

Brian and Alan qualified to represent Nebraska by taking first place at the Section's 2003 Annual Fall Conference competition last November. On the national level, they placed 10th.

"We're extremely proud of Brian and Alan for stepping up to the plate to represent us, especially since this was the first year ever the Nebraska Section was represented," said Chair **Kristine Ranslem**. "Our heartfelt thanks to Brian and Alan, and to **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates, for helping to make it happen."

The following businesses donated a \$100 each to sponsor our team:

CH2M Hill
Electric Pump
HDR Engineering Inc.
HGM Associates Inc.
HTM Sales
Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers
Metropolitan Utilities District
National Waterworks
Olsson Associates
Technical Maintenance

Young Professionals Committee

by *Ben Day*, Olsson Associates (402.458.5693)
e-mail: jday@oaconsulting.com

The Young Professionals Committee will hold mixer at the Annual Fall Conference, November 4, following the Top Ops Competition. A door prize will be awarded.

The committee is looking for people (engineers, water operators) who want to get involved in the Section. The only requirement is that you are under age 35.

The committee recently sponsored a technical tour of the RO Water Treatment Plant in Seward. We are looking to sponsor three or four activities a year such as social activities, seminars and technical tours to help young people in the industry network and become more involved in Section activities.

It also is anticipated the Young Professionals also will partner with the Student Activities Committee to help mentor university students.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact me.

Promotions

The Metropolitan Utilities District Board of Directors promoted **Scott L. Keep** to senior vice-president of Operations, succeeding **Jerry E. Gohr**, who retired August 1 with 35 years of service. **Joel Christensen**, vice-president of Water Operations, reports to Scott Keep.



Scott Keep

A 24-year M.U.D. veteran, Keep began his career in the engineering department. He was named assistant superintendent of the Florence Water Treatment Plant in 1983; supervisor of the liquefied natural gas plant in 1985, and administrative assistant to the general manager in 1987.

Two years later, he was promoted to manager of marketing and corporate planning. In 1989, he advanced to manager of marketing and mechanical service.

A native of Shenandoah, IA, and a 1980 graduate of Iowa State University, Keep earned a bachelors degree in civil engineering.

The M.U.D. Board also promoted **Doug Clark** to vice-president of Governmental Affairs and Marketing. Prior to joining the District in 2002, Clark spent 10 years in state government and in the natural gas industry.

Welcome new members

by *Rich Robinson*, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers
(402.255.3840); e-mail: rlr@kirkham.com

Scott Aurit, HDR Engineering Inc.
Richard G. Belin, American Cast Iron Pipe Co.
Clint Carr, Village of Elm Creek
Lewis Carr, Wymore, NE
Sam Chamberlein, Adesta LLC, Torrance, CA
Cope Clark, Pierce Utilities
Ken E. Furrey, Village of Terrytown
Henry Gompert, Panhandle Geo Environmental, Scottsbluff
Bob Haubein, Neptune Technology Group
Richard Heydenreich, City of Papillion
Andy Jenkins, PPG Industries, Inc.
Nancy Jenny, Servi-Tech Labs
Dale Kaliff, City of Stromsburg, Water Department
John D. Keith, Lincoln Water System
Michael A. Koenig, Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha
Jim Kruse, City of David City
Melissa Landis, Lincoln Electric System
Craig Malesker, Huffman Engineering Inc.
Rockford Plettner, Nebraska Public Power District
David Preston, Lincoln, NE
Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk
Titan Industries, Paxton, NE
Julie Vales, Lincoln Water System

Corporate jargon

Corporate jargon and clichés are so pervasive that their use — or abuse — has yielded a buzzword of its own: “Deja Moo” (the feeling you’ve heard this bull before). Here are 25 of today’s most popular buzzwords and euphemisms making the rounds in boardrooms and cubicles everywhere.

Air Cover: When a senior manager agrees to take the flak for an unpopular decision, while someone lower in the chain of command does the dirty work. As in: “The CFO will provide air cover, while you reduce staff by half.” (A term borrowed from the military.)

Alpha Pup: A market research term referring to the “coolest kid in the neighborhood.” As in: “If the alpha pups go for it, we’ll sell millions of them.”

Bleeding Edge: Beyond cutting edge. So new, its creators aren’t entirely sure where it’s headed.

Business Ecosystems: When companies in the same markets work cooperatively and competitively to introduce innovations, support new products and serve customers.

Chips and Salsa: Refers to computers. Chips = hardware; Salsa = software.

Co-Evolution: A theory that a company can create new business, markets and industries by working with direct competitors, customers and suppliers.

Cookie Jar Accounting: An accounting practice where a company uses reserves from good years against losses that may be incurred in bad years.

Defenestrate: A 17th century word that means to throw someone or something out the window. As in: “Let’s defenestrate this marketing strategy.”

Dial It Back: To tone down. As in: “Your sales pitch is too aggressive. Dial it back.”

800-Pound Gorilla: A company that dominates an industry short of having a complete monopoly.

End-to-End: Used largely by technology vendors to imply that whatever they build for one part of your organization will work with whatever they build for another.

Future-Proof: To create a product that won’t be made obsolete by the next wave of technological advancements.

Ideation: Brainstorm session.

Living Document: A document intended to be continually revised and updated.

Market Cannibalization: When a company’s new product negatively affects sales of its existing, related products, i.e., it eats its own market.

Optics: How things appear.

Pain Points: A favorite of consultants used to describe places where an organization is hurting due to poor operating structure, technology or inefficiencies.

Pockets of Resistance: Another borrowed military term that describes a person or group who attempts to stall, block or kill a project.

Reaching Critical Mass: Having enough customers or market share to become profitable.

Repurposing: Taking content from one medium (books, magazine, etc.) and repackaging it to be used in another medium.

Reverbiagize: To reword a proposal with the hope of getting it accepted by people who didn’t like it the first time around. As in: “It’s the same concept, we’ve just reverbiagized it.”

Tsuj: (Pronounced “zhoozh”) To tweak, finesse or improve.

Value Stream: Six Sigma term that encompasses every step in the process of producing and delivering a product or service (whether it adds value or not).

Value Migration: Used in industries where there is little market growth, the term refers to the movement of growth and profit opportunities from one company to another.

White Space Opportunity: New growth possibilities that are related to but don’t quite match the capabilities and skills of the organization.

In memoriam

Joseph Sherrard

Services were held July 16 for Joseph Sherrard, distinguished professor of civil engineering and associate chair at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Peter Kiewit Institute. Sherrard, of Elkhorn, died unexpectedly July 12 at age 62. He apparently died in his sleep, but a cause of death is unknown, said his wife, Frances Sherrard.

Sherrard was recruited from Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS, to fill the distinguished professorship five years ago.

The son of a U.S. Army officer, Sherrard was born in Waynesboro, VA, and grew up in various locations, including Germany and Guatemala. He also served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967 and was honorably discharged as a captain.

Sherrard received several Fulbright-Hays Senior Lectureship Awards, which took him three times each to Ecuador and Guatemala over 20 years. While there, he taught classes on modern techniques in civil engineering.

His national awards included the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Wesley W. Horner Award in 1990 and the society’s Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize in 1987.

Money for Annual Fall Conference!

The Section will award eight \$250 grants for water operators to attend the Annual Fall Conference, November 4-5, in Kearney.

To apply, complete the application on page 16. Deadline for applications is October 22. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Sherrard was a dedicated parent, teacher and researcher, Frances Sherrard said. Outside of work, he enjoyed gardening, playing golf, reading military biographies, collecting stamps and coins from different countries and traveling. The couple this past spring traveled to Greece.

Other survivors include daughter, Stephanie Sherrard of Indianapolis, Ind.; son, Joseph H. Sherrard VI of Durham, NC; mother, Anne Sherrard of Fair Oaks, CA; brother James Sherrard of Bryson City, NC; and sister, Anne Bryson of Bend, OR.

Joseph H. Jensen

Services were held July 15 for Joseph H. Jensen, 53, who died July 10. His wife, Kathie, said he died of an embolism in the neck.

Jensen, graduated from Superior High School in 1968 and was named city utilities manager in 1998. Prior to his work with the city, he was a staff specialist with the Palo Verde Nuclear Generator Station in Arizona for eight years, followed by more than 20 years with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As utilities manager, he was responsible for managing employees and the operation of the electric, gas, water, wastewater and streets department. He managed a budget of more than \$3.5 million.

Superior Mayor **Billy Maxey** noted that "Joe was so good at his job, and it will take a long time to replace him. We all worked so closely with him."

"He was a good boss and a good man. He trusted his employees and was always available if we needed him when we got called out at night," said **Bud Purcell**, foreman of the electric department. "Frequently, he'd show up too, just to see how we were getting along."

Jensen was on the Joint Operating Committee of the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool, the Senior Executive Board of the National Public Gas Agency, and Nebraska Public Power District's rate review committee. He also was a member of the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association.

Bill Blauvelt, chairman of the Economic Development Council and publisher of the Superior Express, said Jensen played a vital role in the creation of the high speed Internet access to serve the community's schools, city offices and public library. He also was instrumental in helping to obtain a grant for a bio-diesel study.

Jensen is survived by his wife, a son, Shawn of Hastings, a brother, Theodore, of Grand Island, and two sisters, Eva Deterdig of York and Sally Jaworsky.

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8134) e-mail: mike.wentink@hhs.ne.gov

Here are the remaining water operator workshops for 2004:

September

- September 8-9 — Fremont (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)
- September 21 — Norfolk (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 22 — Fremont (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 23 — Nebraska City (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 27 — Beatrice (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- September 28 — Wayne (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829); Registration fee: \$25
- September 29 — Grand Island (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829); Registration fee: \$25
- September 30 — Ogallala (Backflow; contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829); Registration fee: \$25

October

- October 4-8 — Lincoln (Grade 3; contact Mike Wentink)
- October 12 — Red Cloud (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- October 13 — Fairbury (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- October 13 — **FREE**: Norfolk, Emergency Response Planning (call 402.471.0523)
- October 14 — Falls City (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- October 27-28 — Grand Island (Grade 4; contact Mike Wentink)

November

- November 2-5 — Kearney WEF/AWWA/APWA Joint Conference
- November 4 — Teleconference (contact Mike Wentink)
- November 17 — Columbus (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)

December

- December 7 — Cozad (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- December 8 — Grand Island (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- December 9 — Ashland (contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829)
- December 13-17 — Lincoln (Grade 2; contact Mike Wentink)

March 2005

- March 2 — **FREE**: Kearney, Emergency Response Planning (call 402.471.0523)

AWWA conferences

For more information about these conferences, go to the National AWWA website: <http://www.awwa.org/calendar>.

Annual Conference and Exposition

- June 12-16, 2005 — San Francisco, CA
- June 11-15, 2006 — San Antonio, TX
- June 24-28, 2007 — Toronto, Canada

Cyber Security: October 7-8 — Peoria, AZ

Financial Management: Cost of Rate-Making: October 13-15 — St. Louis, MO

Distribution and Plant Operations Conference and Expo

- September 26-29 — Chicago, IL
- September 18-21, 2005 — Tampa, FL

Information Management Conference and Expo

April 17-20, 2005 — Denver, CO

Membrane Conference and Expo: March 6-9, 2005 — Phoenix, AZ

Water Quality Technology Conference

- November 14-17 — San Antonio, TX
- November 6-10, 2005 — Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers
(402.255.3840); e-mail: rlr@kirkham.com

The coupons below help new members offset the cost of first year membership dues. 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 next page) and payment sent to **Kevin Tobin**, Nebraska Section AWWA treasurer, Metropolitan Utilities District. Kevin 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 Kevin 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**.

\$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: Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102.

Compliments of the
Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

New construction ensures Blair's water supply

Work is under way to improve the water supply to residents of Blair and southeast Washington County by building a new water tower and rural water system and instituting an emergency backup plan.

Construction of the water tower and distribution system will be overseen by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.

The Metropolitan Utilities District and Blair have agreed that M.U.D. will provide water to Blair in an emergency should Blair lose its own water plant.

"It's a pretty good thing that we will be able to help them out," said **Tom Wurtz**, president of M.U.D.

This is the first such emergency backup contract between M.U.D. and a neighboring community, Wurtz said. Others may be possible as M.U.D. expands its capacity on the western side of the metro area.

Blair and M.U.D. will be connected essentially via two rural water systems run by the Papio-Missouri River NRD. One of those systems already exists, and the other is the system soon to be under construction. A three-mile pipe between these two NRD water systems will have to be built to fully connect Blair with M.U.D. Blair and the NRD will pay for that pipe.

The new water system will serve southeast Washington County and will be supplied with water from the new tower. **Dick Sklenar**, NRD project manager, said a bid to build the water tower was approved at the district's August board meeting. The apparent low bidder, at \$1.38 million, was Landmark Structures of Dallas, TX.

The tower also will serve the community of Blair. Blair will pay 80 percent of the cost and the NRD will pay 20 percent, Dick said, with Blair assuming ownership of the tower.

In November, the NRD expects to let contracts for the pipelines that will serve the new water system. Called the Washington County Rural Water System No. 2, the system is expected to serve 265 properties and be on line by November 2005. Rural residents currently obtain water from domestic wells.

<p>Have you ever been a member of AWWA? _____</p> <p>When? _____ Member # _____</p>

Personal Information

Preferred mailing address: _____

Mr. Ms. Business Home

Mrs. Mrs. Dr.

Name: _____

Street address: _____

Address: _____

P.O. Box or mail stop: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Business phone: (_____) _____ Business fax: (_____) _____

e-mail address: _____

Company: _____

Title: _____

Is your company a current member of AWWA? No Yes Member # (if known) _____

Please furnish company mailing address if different from above:

Company address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Applicant's signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature of endorsing member (optional): _____

Endorsing member number: _____

Dues and Section Assessments

Active - \$114 (02) Student - \$36 (14) Operations/Administrative - \$57 (06) (will not receive Journal AWWA) International - \$150 (03)

Payment

Prepayment of one year's dues is required. No action on this application can be taken until payment is received. Dues are not transferrable or refundable. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

Annual Dues \$ _____

Multi-Section Option \$ _____

Total (U.S. funds) \$ _____

Prepayment of one year's dues required. No action can be taken on this application until payment is received.

Payment method Check enclosed, payable to AWWA

Mastercard Visa American Express Send invoice

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ (Credit card company will add Canadian exchange amount.)

Multi-Section Option

In addition to your section membership, you also may join other AWWA section(s). This allows you to receive information on events and activities from other sections of your choice. If you would like multi-section information and fees, call 800.926.7337, and then indicate your multi-section choice(s) and fee(s) in the space below.

All applicants must complete this section.

Circle the descriptions that best describe you. The information is used in audits of AWWA readership. Circle only ONE in each group.

- Business and Industry**
- A. Public Water Supply—Municipally Owned
 - B. Public Water Supply—Investor Owned
 - C. Government—Federal, State, Local
 - D. Consultant
 - E. Contractor
 - F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler
 - G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
 - H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
 - I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations
 - J. Fully Retired
 - K. Research Lab
 - L. Unreported

- Job Title**
- A. Executive—General Manager, Commissioner, Board Member, City Manager, Mayor, President, Vice-President, Owner, Partner, Director, etc.
 - B. Management—Division Head, Section Head, Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroller, etc.
 - C. Engineering/Non-managerial—Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System Designer, etc.
 - D. Scientific/Non-managerial—Chemist, Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.
 - E. Purchasing—Purchasing Agent, Procurement Specialist, Buyer, etc.
 - F. Operations—Foreman, Operator, Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.
 - G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial—Market Analyst, Marketing Representative, Salesperson, Sales Representative, etc.
 - H. Other: _____
 - I. Professorial — Teacher, Educator, etc.

Completion of this information is optional.
AWWA maintains profile data for use in developing additional programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our members.

Birth Date: _____

Race/Ethnic Identification (Circle one)

- 1. American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2. Asian/Pacific-Islander
- 3. African-American
- 4. Hispanic
- 5. White (Non-Hispanic)
- 6. Other

Gender (Circle One)

Female

Male

- Field Served**
- 5 Water Supply Only
 - 7 Wastewater Only
 - 9 Both
 - 3 Other

<p>Mail to: AWWA Membership 6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235 Phone: 800.926.7337; 303.794.7711 or fax to: 303.347.0804</p>
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Bylaw changes

The Section's board has suggested the following changes to the Bylaws which require an audit be conducted at least once every three years and an internal audit be conducted every year. The changes are specifically addressed in Section 6.4 and 8.5. If you have questions, please call John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System, 402.441.5932. These changes will be voted on by the membership at the Fall Conference, November 4, in Kearney.

BYLAWS OF THE NEBRASKA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I — NAME

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the NEBRASKA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION hereinafter referred to as the "Section."
- 1.2 In these Bylaws, the American Water Works Association is hereinafter referred to as the "Association."

ARTICLE II — OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of this Section ~~shall be the purpose of the Association as stated in the Articles of Incorporation as follows:~~ are to promote public health, safety and welfare through the improvement of the quality and quantity of water delivered to the public and the development and furtherance of understanding of the problems relating thereto as noted in the AWWA Articles of Incorporation.
 - a: ~~Advancing the knowledge of the design, construction, operation, water treatment and management of water utilities and developing standards for procedures, equipment and materials used by public water supply systems.~~
 - b: ~~Advancing the knowledge of the problems involved in the development of resources, production and distribution of safe and adequate water supplies.~~
 - e: ~~Educating the public on the problems of water supply and promoting a spirit of cooperation between consumers and suppliers in solving these problems; and~~
 - d: ~~Conducting research to determine the causes of problems of providing a safe and adequate water supply and proposing solutions there to in an effort to improve the quality and quantity of the water supply provided to the public.~~

ARTICLE ~~IV~~ III — HEADQUARTERS AND OPERATIONS

- 3.1 The headquarters of this Section shall be at the Office of the Secretary, except as some other location may be specifically designated by the Section Governing Board.
- 3.2 All matters pertaining to the operation of the Section shall be in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association and with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE ~~III~~ IV — MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 The membership of this Section shall consist of those members of the American Water Works Association residing in or having principle business activity in the Nebraska Section and those assigned to the Nebraska Section by the

Executive Director of the American Water Works Association.

- 4.2 The boundaries of the Section shall correspond to the boundaries of the State of Nebraska.

ARTICLE V — ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

- 5.1 All members of the Section in good standing, except multi-section members, are eligible to vote.
- 5.2 Occasions where a vote of the membership is required include: the election of Section Officers and/or other members of the Section Board of Trustees as described herein; approval of a proposed amendment of these Bylaws; approval of a special dues assessment of the Section membership; or in any other event for which the Section Board of Trustees requires a vote of the Section membership.

ARTICLE VI — DUES AND FEES

- 6.1 Dues shall be assessed against members of this Section as required for membership in AWWA. ~~The Board may, at its discretion, assess each member and associate member a registration fee. Registration fees shall be sufficient to defray the costs of operating the Annual Conference, training sessions, seminars and other meetings. An additional Section dues assessment fee may be assessed if approved by a majority of the voting members of the Section following the Association Governing Documents, Article XI, Section 11.4.5.~~
- 6.2 The Section may, in accordance with the procedures defined in the Association Governing Documents, Article XI, Section 11.4.4, and established guidelines of AWWA, apply for permission to levy a Section dues assessment. The Section assessment would be levied annually at the time of membership renewal and the revenue collected would be used to increase the funds available for Section uses consistent with AWWA objectives and policies. Once approved, changes in the Section assessment can be authorized by a vote of the Section Board of Trustees for submission to and approval by the AWWA Board of Directors.
- 6.3 The Board may, at its discretion, assess each member and associate member a registration fee. Registration fees shall be sufficient to defray the costs of operating the Annual Conference, training sessions, seminars and other meetings. Such fees will be established in accordance with these Bylaws, the policies and procedures of the Section and Governing Documents and Bylaws of the Association.
- 6.4 All Section finances shall be managed in accord with these Bylaws, Section policies and procedures, the Bylaws and Governing Documents of the Association and all applicable financial rules and regulations of the State of Nebraska. The Section shall conduct, on an annual basis, an internal review of all Section finances. An audit shall be conducted, at least once every three years, by a qualified financial advisor, who is neither an employee of the Section nor a member of the Section Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE ~~VII~~ VII — SECTION OFFICERS AND GOVERNING BOARD

- 7.1 The Officers of the Section shall be as follows:
- A Chair.
 - A Chair-Elect.
 - A Vice-Chair.
 - A Secretary.
 - A Treasurer.
 - A Representative on the Association's Board of Directors, hereinafter called the "Director."
 - Three Trustees — One of whom shall be the last living Past-Chair of the Section.
- 7.2 The above Officers shall constitute the Section Governing Board, hereinafter call the "Board," which shall be the governing body of the Section.
- 7.3 The Officers of the Section shall execute its business in accordance with the Bylaws of the Section and the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association.
- 7.4 The term of each of the Officers shall be approximately one year, beginning and ending at the close of the Section Annual Conference, except in the case of the Director, whose term shall be approximately three years as provided for by the Bylaws and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association.
- 7.5 Any member of the Section shall be eligible to hold Section elective office, except ~~those who are student members of the Association or who are members of the Section via multi-section membership privileges.~~
- 7.6 ~~Two or more offices may not be held by the same individual, with the exception of the Offices of Secretary and Treasurer.~~

ARTICLE ~~VIII~~ VIII — DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

- 8.1 The duties of the Chair shall be to: a) supervise and coordinate all of the affairs of the Section; b) preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Board; and c) appoint all Committees of the Section with Board approval, except as may be otherwise specifically provided herein or directed by the Board.
- 8.2 The Chair-Elect shall: a) perform the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence; and b) perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the Board.
- 8.3 The Vice-Chair shall: a) perform the duties of the Chair or Chair-Elect in their absence; and b) perform other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or the Board.
- 8.4 The Secretary shall: a) attend all meetings of the Section and of the Board, duly recording the proceedings thereof; b) prepare such records, reports, and correspondence as may be required by the Board or by the Association to properly record the Section activities; and c) perform other duties as the Board may direct. In the absence of the Secretary, the duties of the Secretary shall be performed by the Treasurer.
- 8.5 The Treasurer shall: a) be responsible for Section funds and shall establish and keep accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in accordance with the Association Uniform

System of Section Accounting; b) be responsible to collect all monies due the Section and shall promptly deposit the same to the credit of the Section in a depository approved by the Board; c) perform all the duties laid down in Article XI of the Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association; d) annually obtain an ~~independent audit or review~~ of Section finances ~~from a qualified auditing firm and/or certified public as specified in Section 6.4 accountant;~~ e) complete and file the appropriate tax forms and other tax-related information for the Section as required under State and Federal law; and f) perform other duties as the Board may direct.

- 8.6 The Director shall be a member of the Section's Board (and of the American Water Works Association's Board of Directors) in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association and shall represent each one of those bodies in the deliberations of the other and shall act to coordinate and unify their actions.
- 8.7 The Trustees shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chair ~~or the Board, and have equal voting rights with that of other members of the Board.~~

ARTICLE ~~VIII~~ IX — THE SECTION GOVERNING BOARD

- ~~1: Meetings of the Board shall be called by the Chair or his or her own initiative or at the request of any other member of the Board. There shall be at least one meeting of the Board during the annual meeting of the Section.~~
- ~~2: A quorum of the Board shall consist of at least five of its members.~~
- 9.1 The Board shall have general supervision over all of the affairs of the Section and shall be its legal representative in all matters, except as this duty may be specifically delegated.
- 9.2 The Board shall prepare, as needed, and enforce the conduct of the business of the Section regulations not in conflict with these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association, and shall amend same as required.
- 9.3 All members of the Board, except the Chair, shall be entitled to one vote on all issues coming before the Board. The Chair may vote on issues to break ties which require a simple majority for passage.

ARTICLE ~~IX~~ X — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

10.1 Nominating Committee

10.1.1 Not later than March 1 of each year, the Section Chair shall appoint a nominating committee of three members one of whom shall be the Past Chair. ~~who are not officers of the Section.~~

10.1.2 The nominating committee shall select one nominee for each of the following offices: Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, three Trustees, one of whom shall be the last living Past-Chair of the Section who is a member of the Section; and, at three-year intervals, shall select one nominee for the Office of Director. The Section Chair-Elect shall automatically assume the Office of Section Chair.

10.1.3 The Committee's nomination shall be in the hands of the Secretary not later than July 31. Upon receipt of the nominations, the Secretary shall, within 20 days, mail to each member, a notice setting forth the nominations of the nominating committee and stating the date, time, and place of the next **general business** meeting, at which the elections will be held.

10.1.4 Should the nominating committee fail to act by July 31, the Secretary shall notify the members by mail, stating that all nominations will be from the floor at the Section's **general business** meeting, the date, time, and place of which shall be included in the notice to the members.

10.2 Election

10.2.1 At the Sections's **general business** meeting, the Chair shall read the notice as issued by the Secretary, after which he or she shall call for and receive additional nominations from the membership assembled.

10.2.2 Separate balloting shall be conducted for each office. The Chair may accept a motion for a unanimous ballot for such nominee. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect. All members of the Section in good standing are eligible to vote, except for multi-section members.

10.3 Vacancies

~~Should the Chair of the Section be unable to complete the term of office, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Chair-Elect.~~

~~Should the Chair-Elect be unable to complete the term of office, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Vice-Chair.~~

~~Should the Trustee who serves by virtue of being the Past-Chair be unable to complete the term of office, the Board shall appoint a previous Past-Chair to serve as Trustee or, if there is none able or willing to serve, a qualified member of the Section to fill the vacancy.~~

~~Should the Secretary or Treasurer be unable to complete the term of office, the Board shall appoint either:~~

- ~~a. One of their number to perform the duties of Secretary or Treasurer for the balance of the term, or~~
- ~~b. A qualified member of the Section to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term.~~

10.3.1 Should the Director be unable to complete the term of office, the Board shall appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the term, and the Secretary shall notify the Executive Director of the Association of such selection.

10.3.2 In the case of a vacancy in the Office of the Chair, Vice-Chair or Chair-Elect, Trustee, and Secretary or Treasurer, the Section Board of Trustees shall appoint a suitable replacement to complete the term of the vacant position.

10.4 Removal from Office

10.4.1 An officer may be removed from office by the Board if the officer fails to carry out the responsibilities of elected office as so determined by the Board. Removal



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may be accomplished by a resolution supported by two-thirds of the Board.

ARTICLE XI — MEETINGS

- 11.1 The Section shall hold at least one ~~general business~~ meeting in each calendar year for the purpose of conducting the Section's business, electing officers, receiving reports of the various officers and committees, promoting the interests of the Association and advancing the technical and administrative knowledge of the members. The time and place of the ~~general business~~ meeting shall be ~~fixed by the Board~~: at the annual conference.
- 11.2 Meetings of the Board shall be called by the Chair ~~on his or her own initiative~~ or at the request of any other member of the Board. There shall be at least one meeting of the Board during the annual meeting of the Section.
- 11.3 A quorum of the Board shall consist of at least five of its members.
- 11.4 The Section may hold other meetings from time to time for the purpose of presenting technical papers on a subject of special interest, workshops, educational seminars, etc. The time and place of these meetings may be set by the Board or by a committee appointed by the Board for this purpose subject to the other provisions of this article.
- 11.5 It is the policy of this Section to endeavor to cooperate with other Sections of the American Water Works Association to prevent conflict of meeting dates with those of other Section's meetings and especially with those of the adjoining Sections.
- 11.6 The Section may, if deemed advisable by the Board, to hold joint meetings with other adjoining Sections or with other organizations having mutual interests, such as the Nebraska Water Environment Association, Nebraska Section American Public Works Association or the Utilities Section of the ~~Nebraska~~ League of Nebraska Municipalities.
- 11.7 If such joint meetings are held, any business meetings of the Section shall be open to all interested individuals, but only those holding membership in the ~~Section~~ Association shall have voting rights. Further, the Section's participation in such joint meetings shall be clearly identified and publicized, and the Section shall have an approximately equal share of the program. Additionally, the provisions of the Association's Governing Documents, Article XI, Section 11.7 will be followed.

ARTICLE XII — AMENDMENTS

- 12.1 Proposals for the amendment of these Bylaws may originate by a unanimous vote of the Section Governing Board or they may originate by the submission to the Secretary of a written petition signed by at least 10 members of the Section. Upon an amendment being proposed in either of these two manners, the Secretary shall furnish each member a copy of the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment shall then be voted upon by the members at the next annual meeting in a manner similar to that provided for the election of officers (Article ~~X~~ X of these Bylaws), or may at the discretion of the Board be voted upon by letter ballot,

provided, however, in either case, all members shall have at least 30 days in which to consider the proposed amendment prior to a vote upon it.

- 2: 12.2 Upon favorable action having been taken as to an amendment in the forgoing manner, the Secretary of the Section shall then submit same to the Executive Director of the American Water Works Association for approval or disapproval by the Association's Board of Directors. Upon notification by the ~~Executive Director of the Association's Secretary~~ that the amendment has been approved by the Board of Directors, it shall thereupon become effective.
- 3 ~~Personal pronouns referring to either the masculine or to the feminine gender in the Bylaws shall be considered interchangeable where applicable and as the context requires or permits.~~

ARTICLE XIII — DISSOLUTION

- 13.1 In case of the dissolution of the Section, such portions of the funds or property thereof in the hands of the Treasurer as may have been derived from the general funds of the American Water Works Association shall be returned to the American Water Works Association.
- 2: 13.2 The balance of the Section funds or property shall be disposed of by transfer and distribution of any one or more corporations, funds, or foundations with like purposes or goals that is organized and operated in an area included in the Section, hereinafter referred to as the "receiving organization."
- 3: 13.3 ~~In order~~ To comply with Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code under which the Association is incorporated, any such receiving organization shall be organized and operated according to the following criteria:
 - 13.3.1 Exclusively for scientific or educational purposes;
 - 13.3.2 No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholders or individuals;
 - 13.3.3 No substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and which does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- 13.4 Any such receiving organization(s) shall be selected by vote of the majority of the members of the Section at a meeting called for this purpose. If for any reason such disposition cannot be effected, then such funds shall be so distributed pursuant to the order, judgment or decree of a court having jurisdiction over the assets and property of the Section.

ARTICLE XIV — INDEMNIFICATION

- 14.1 Indemnification is provided by the Association as described in the Association Bylaws, Article VI, Section 6.01.

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

The Nebraska Section AWWA will award eight \$250 grants to water operators who attend the 2004 Annual Fall Conference in Kearney. To apply, please complete this application and send it to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.554.7855; fax: 402.554.7709; e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com. Winners will be announced at the awards dinner, 7 p.m., Thursday, November 4, 2004. Deadline to apply is October 22, 2004.

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

Name: _____ Home phone: _____
Home address: _____ Office phone: _____
_____ Years in water industry: _____
e-mail address: _____
Current position: _____ Years in current position: _____
(Attach a copy of your job description)
AWWA membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Employer: _____ Water system serves 3,300 or less
Address of employer: _____ Water system serves more than 3,300
Is your employer a member of AWWA? _____ If yes, indicate membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____

TRAINING GRANT INFORMATION:

Use of grant funds: _____ (attach agenda, if available at this time)
Itemized list of expenses: Registration: \$ _____
Lodging: \$ _____
Travel: \$ _____
Meals: \$ _____
Miscellaneous: \$ _____
Total Expenses: \$ _____

Dates of workshop, courses: _____ Employer contribution: _____
Location of training: _____

Please indicate in the space below the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or other water industry-related positions.

I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make copies of this order form as needed

Nebraska Section AWWA 2004 budget *(July 1, 2004)*

INCOME	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Actual
Advertising income	6,690.00	5,000.00	395.00
Annual meeting	0.00	12,000.00	0.00
Association allotment	7,983.00	7,300.00	7,269.00
Director's allotment	806.50	1,150.00	1,095.70
Washington Fly-In Reimbursement		500.00	0.00
Interest on CD accounts	889.23	900.00	144.36
Interest on T.A. Leisen CD	387.29	400.00	70.29
Interest on reserve CDs	501.16	500.00	74.06
Interest on scholarship savings	.78	0.00	0.01
Interest on T.A. Leisen savings	0.00	0.00	0.03
Miscellaneous	0.00	200.00	195.00
Multi-section allotment	456.10	500.00	232.05
Regional Officer Reimbursement/Washington Fly-In Reimbursement		500.00	0.00
Section allotment	\$ 7,017.00	\$ 7,700.00	\$7,731.00
SRF Education Funds	2,559.00	10,000.00	0.00
Teleconferences	3,980.00	4,000.00	2,545.00
Water for People	1,708.00	1,500.00	0.00
Total Income	\$32,088.83	\$50,750.00	\$19,537.14
EXPENSES			
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Annual meeting	2,245.80	2,000.00	47.70
Awards	543.17	500.00	230.03
Cross Connection Workshop	500.00	300.00	231.00
Director's board meeting	1,068.26	2,600.00	2,461.40
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	339.50	600.00	524.70
Education and training	2,631.70	2,000.00	0.00
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	2,359.50	1,500.00	0.00
MAC Council	46.01	100.00	0.00
Membership	433.00	750.00	26.00
Miscellaneous	927.59	300.00	98.53
Paid staff			
Office expense	2,020.11	2,800.00	1,814.26
Paid staff — other	11,743.48	10,000.00	4,472.00
Annual audit/review	0.00	2,800.00	0.00
Public Information Committee/website	513.60	500.00	256.80
Publications			
Wise Water Words	7,811.15	7,800.00	5,128.70
Membership Directory	2,275.00	4,817.25	4,817.25
Advertising	220.00	220.00	224.00
Publicity	3,000.00	1,500.00	0.00
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Regional officers' meeting/Washington Fly-In	1,377.64	2,000.00	717.59
Regional officers' training/other	0.00	0.00	530.86
Safety Committee	0.00	200.00	0.00
Scholarship expense			
Operator Education & Training	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
Other	3,200.00	2,000.00	0.00
Small Systems Committee	0.00	300.00	0.00
SRF Reimbursable Education		10,000.00	8,781.58
Student Activity	0.00	250.00	0.00
Teleconferences	1,741.84	1,500.00	891.21
Top Ops	0.00	0.00	100.00
Water for People	3,016.54	2,000.00	1,000.00
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	741.94	1,000.00	0.00
Young Professionals	0.00	250.00	0.00
Total Expenses	\$52,606.47	\$64,587.25	\$34,153.61
Net Income	-\$20,517.64	-\$13,837.25	-\$14,616.47



Section Awards at National Conference: Water for People President Jerry Smith presents a plaque to the Nebraska Section AWWA for its \$1,000 contribution. Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District, (Section director), and John Miriofsky, Lincoln Water System, (outgoing Section director) accept the award for the Section. The Section also received awards for \$1,000 contributions to the AWWA Research Foundation and the Abel Wolman Scholarship Fund.

City of Seward finds long-term solution to water quality issues

The City of Seward recently went on-line with a new treatment plant and process to assure its citizens excellent drinking water. The new treatment process achieves a 10:1 reduction in the dissolved minerals in the water, which meets standards of most hospitals and laboratories.

The city's water department has dealt with high nitrate levels since 1988. Other concerns included corrosive water and the need to comply with EPA's lead and copper rule. In addition, future state and federal regulations could become more stringent and additional contaminants could migrate into the water supply.

The city contracted Olsson Associates to assist in the evaluation of water supply and treatment options. Over the years, test hole drilling to locate new sources of water revealed increasing levels of nitrate contamination. Treatment was identified as the best long-term solution.

The city and consultant reviewed the following options: Wellhead protection, reverse osmosis, ion exchange, electrodiagnosis reversal and conventional lime softening. They chose reverse osmosis as the preferred water treatment method.

"We went into this project confident that reverse osmosis could address our water quality issues and restore public confidence in the water supply," said **Dan Berlowitz**, city administrator. "With the water supply under scrutiny for more than 10 years, our customers had questions about our water quality. The many applications of reverse osmosis address those concerns," he said.

In addition to treating nitrates, reverse osmosis can treat pesticides and herbicides. Although these are not current concerns, they may need to be addressed in the future. Arsenic also can be removed by reverse osmosis, a big concern for some communities.

"Besides addressing current concerns, we anticipated the future for high water quality, and where we could receive the most benefit from an investment in a treatment plant," said **Jim Condon**, Olsson Associates.

Additional improvements included installation of pre-treatment filtration equipment, an air-stripping tower, on-site hypochlorite generation, standby power generation and construction of a 750,000-gallon water reservoir.

The plant can generate sodium hypochlorite (for disinfection), which generally needs to be shipped from a separate production site. In addition, the new treatment plant acts as a built in "water softener" reducing hardness in the water, and providing for corrosion control in the city's pipe network.

"Current production capacity totals four million gallons per day of treated water and can be expanded to 12 million gallons per day," said **Paul Dammann**, water and wastewater superintendent. "This will accommodate residential, commercial and industrial growth for the next 10 to 20 years.

"After 19 years of operating the water department in Seward and many times being on the spot with water quality issues, I can now say we have good water — quality on tap," he said.

Nebraska Health and Human Services staff made several trips to observe construction and implementation of the plant as this is the only facility of this scale in Nebraska using the reverse osmosis process.

Rod Kirkland, Olsson Associates, will make a presentation about this project at the Section's annual fall conference, November 4, in Kearney.



As pressurized water is pushed through the reverse osmosis membrane, it is separated into two streams, one containing the high quality drinking water.

Ad order form for 2005 Wise Water Words

Price is for one issue unless noted. Black and Pantone 293 Blue are the ink colors. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.org. Paper circulation: 600, including all U.S. and state legislative representatives.

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Previous ads will be repeated according to contract if new ads are not received by the next deadline.

- Wise Water Words, Spring issue, 2005 (deadline for copy, etc. January 15, 2005)
- Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2005 (deadline for copy, etc. April 15, 2005)
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Please make a copy of completed order form for your files. Send with ad copy, artwork and dummy layout to: Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com.

Ads must be prepaid. Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA.

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