

Chip Haas receives George Warren Fuller Award

Charles “Chip” A. Haas was named the George Warren Fuller Award recipient at the 2005 Fall Conference for outstanding service to the water industry. This is the highest honor given by AWWA. The award will be presented to Chip at the National AWWA Conference in San Antonio, June 11-15, 2006.

Chris received a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 1971. He earned a master’s degree in Environmental Engineering from UNL in 1975. He is a registered professional engineer in the states of Nebraska and Iowa.

Chip is a project manager for HDR Engineering Inc. in Omaha. He began his career in 1971 with Bell, Galyardt and Wells Engineering in Omaha and Douglas, Wyo. From 1978 to 1997, he worked with Wells Engineers Inc. and Wells Engineers Environmental in Gering, Denver, Phoenix and Omaha. He joined HDR Engineering in 1997.

Throughout his 30-plus years in the water industry, Chip has completed many water-related studies, evaluations and designs for water systems.

In addition to serving as past-chair of the Section, Chip is a member of the Water Environment Federation and a diplomat in the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. His father, Clarence “Chuck,” also was an engineer and member of AWWA. Chip is an avid fan of Nebraska Cornhusker and Creighton basketball. He also enjoys golf.



From left: Chip’s brother-in-law Bob Luhrs, Chip Haas, and Chip’s sister, Susan Lohr.

2006 officers



Front row, from left: Trustee Teresa Kub, Past Chair Larry Andreasen, Chair Tony Bilek, National AWWA Vice-President Janice Skadsen. Back row: Director Joel Christensen, Vice-Chair Kevin Tobin, Trustee Chuck Thomerson, Chair-Elect Mike Wentink and Treasurer John S. Olsson.

Secretary Dr. Bruce Dvorak was unavailable for the photo.

Save the Date!

4-Person Golf Scramble
to benefit Water for People
May 12, noon shot gun start
Quail Run Golf Course
Columbus, Neb.

18 holes of golf, cart
plus Windsor loin steak dinner
\$65 individual
\$260 per foursome

Registration forms will be mailed in
April.

Hole sponsors needed.

For more information, contact Wendy
Lohmeier, Olsson Associates, 402.458.5662.

Chair's comments

It is a great pleasure and honor to serve as your Chairperson for 2006. I look forward to a productive and rewarding year. As with any successful organization, the backbone and strength of AWWA is diversity and communion of its members. From the Executive Board and Committee Chairs to each individual member, the Nebraska Section AWWA is an organization we should all be proud to be a part of.

Although spring is right around the corner, this is the first issue of Wise Water Words since our annual Fall Conference. The feedback from the Fall Conference was overwhelmingly positive. The conference summary can be found on page 8 of this issue. My sincere gratitude to everyone who assisted in the organization and execution of another very rewarding conference.

National AWWA celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. Preparations are being made for celebrating this momentous occasion at the Annual Conference & Exhibition in San Antonio, June 11-15. There have been significant advances in the water industry through these 125 years. The focus and mission statement of AWWA remains constant: To advance public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of the drinking water community.

The Nebraska Section offers an abundance of resources to enhance our knowledge of this respected industry. I encourage everyone to utilize the website, (www.awwaneb.org) and information in our publications, to assist you in your respective field of practice. The most recent AWWA standards are available through our technical library and section website. The section website is updated frequently and posts both training and employment opportunities. You also can find information on the mentoring program online. The mentoring program offers members free consultation with qualified individuals who have enlisted in the program. The current list of mentors is posted on the Nebraska Section website and in the Nebraska Section directory.

The Nebraska Section membership stands at 346. We won the national membership retainage award in 2006 for retaining 95 percent of our members. This is a testament to an organization that offers true value to its members. Thanks to all of our members who renew memberships each year. We also warmly welcome new members who have joined the association over the last several years.

The upcoming year offers opportunities for our members to grow professionally and to serve the association. We will continue our commitment to fundraising for Water for People. The Water for People golf outing will again be held at Quail Run golf course in Columbus in May. The Young Professionals Committee is active in arranging field trips, training opportunities and social functions for anyone who is interested. There is always a place for an interested volunteer to serve on a committee. You will find many professional and personal rewards being actively involved in the association. I encourage everyone to experience the satisfaction "of making a difference" by serving on a committee.

On the National Government Affairs front we will be sending our Water Utility Council Chairperson, **Jerry Obrist** and second year trustee, **Chuck Thomerson** to the fifth annual Washington D.C Fly-In. Jerry and Chuck will meet with Congressional and House Representatives to discuss various legislative bills. Of paramount interest to the section is the Coliform Rule. We look forward to Jerry and Chuck's report on the direction of this legislation.

Wise Water Words is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.
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In closing I want to thank the past and current Board members and Committee Chairs who have served the association. I look forward to fulfilling the duties of your Chairperson in 2006.



Tony Bilek

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Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*

402.441.5930

Ben Day, *Young Professionals*

402.458.5693

Nebraska Section AWWA 2006 budget (January 27, 2006)

INCOME	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	2006 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 8,703.00	\$ 8,700.00	
Association allotment	6,297.00	6,300.00	
Multi-section allotment	668.85	500.00	
Annual meeting	58,525.00	12,000.00	
Washington Fly-In Reimbursement	0.00	500.00	
Interest on Accounts	853.99	1,000.00	
Teleconferences	795.00	3,000.00	
Advertising income	6,725.00	5,000.00	
Water for People	1,138.00	1,250.00	
SRF Education Funds	2,089.00	10,000.00	
Miscellaneous	360.00	750.00	
Water for People Golf Tournament	7,251.00	7,200.00	
Total Income	\$88,405.84	\$56,200.00	0.00
EXPENSES			
Safety Committee	0.00	1,500.00	
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	300.00	
Education			
Education Committee	0.00	2,000.00	
SRF Expenses	2,950.00	10,000.00	
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	2,205.00	1,500.00	
Public Information Committee/website	470.80	1,500.00	
Teleconferences	1,011.35	1,500.00	
Small Systems Committee	125.31	300.00	
Director's board meeting	0.00	0.00	
Publications			
Wise Water Words	7,911.98	8,400.00	
Membership Directory	0.00	6,500.00	
Advertising	228.00	375.00	
Student Activity	70.00	250.00	
Membership	1,235.45	750.00	
Audit	0.00	2,000.00	
Awards	415.04	500.00	
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Regional officers' meeting	930.65	2,000.00	
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	245.89	0.00	
Annual meeting	42,080.83	1,500.00	
Publicity	621.87	0.00	
Water for People	1,806.99	1,500.00	
MAC Council	0.00	100.00	
Scholarships	3,250.00	2,000.00	
Young Professionals	128.22	250.00	
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	617.56	1,300.00	
Miscellaneous	107.80	500.00	
Water for People Golf Tournament	7,251.00	7,200.00	
Total Expenses	\$75,663.74	\$55,725.00	
Net Income	\$12,742.10	\$ 475.00	\$0.00

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Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

The 99th Nebraska Legislature, second session, convened its 60-day session January 4, 2006 with plans to adjourn April 12. The Nebraska Section AWWA is following the proposals listed below. To see the entire bill proposal, go to the Unicameral's website: <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>

LB 843 – Requires an employer to provide an employee with a reason for the employee's termination and an opportunity to present the employee's position. This is intended to be a "minimum standard" due process right, but does not change any other protection. — Neutral — Hearing held January 23.

LB 898 – Amends the Open Meetings Act in the following manner:

1. Requires a motion to hold a closed session to state the session is clearly necessary to either protect the public interest or prevent needless injury to the reputation of an individual.
2. Requires notice to the individual whose reputation may be injured within 24 hours before the meeting and allow the individual to request a public meeting.
3. The motion must identify the specific subject matter and reason necessitating the closed session.
4. The chairperson must restate for the record the limitation to the specific subject matter.
5. The chairperson must confirm on reopening from the closed session that no other subject matter was considered nor any vote taken.

All items in a meeting agenda are required to be detailed enough to give reasonable information regarding proposals, projects or "other issues." — Oppose — General File, February 21, amendments pending.

LB 899 – Expands the definition of the entities subject to investigation by the Public Counsel (state ombudsman) to include political subdivisions for purposes of enforcement of the Open Meetings Act and Public Records Act. This bill would require the employment of a specific staff member to investigate violations of the Open Meetings and Public Records statutes.

The office of public counsel was created in 1969 and always has been limited to state administrative agencies. It is a fundamental change in philosophy to expand the public counsel's role into overseeing political subdivisions. Currently, the Attorney General's office performs this function in a satisfactory manner. — Oppose — Killed February 7.

LB 900 – The Open Meetings Act specifically excludes entities “conducting judicial proceedings.” To the extent that the District’s Boards may conduct judicial proceedings during a termination hearing, this bill may add undesirable results. — Oppose — Killed February 7.

LB 933 – Assures that natural resource districts cannot limit the allocations of a municipal water supplier in their integrated management plants to the extent that the supplier has a municipal transfer permit. — Support — General File, January 23, 2006, amendments pending.

LB 1098 – Redefines “chemical,” for purposes of chemigation. Chemical would mean any substance other than water that is intentionally injected into irrigation distribution systems that are directly connected to waters of the state. Livestock waste water and other products applied directly to a field and not connected to a groundwater source, would not need a chemigation permit and related equipment. — Neutral — General File, February 6.

LB 1099 – Clarifies that groundwater irrigation reuse pits are not subject to a surface water right. Replaces interpretive language on intermittent streams with a standard used by the U.S. Geological Survey in topographic maps. — Neutral — General File, February 13, amendments pending.

LB 1121 – Appropriates \$3 million for an environmental study of the impact of a hydroelectric dam on the Platte River “near the Interstate 80 corridor.” — Killed, February 8.

LB 1164 – Makes changes to replacement well statutes. Allows an old well to be converted to a monitoring, observation, livestock well or other non-consumptive use less than 50 gallons per minute.

The conversion must be approved by the local NRD and remain consistent with the Groundwater Management Act and well construction standards. Shortens the timeframe from one year to 180 days to properly decommission a well or convert to the new uses. Allows NRDs to further define replacement wells under the Groundwater Management Act. — Support — General File, February 7, amendments pending.

LB 1226 – Changes water laws relating to concerns and problems in implementing LB 962.

1. Requires water for instream flow to be in the public interest if the flow rate is available 85 percent of the time. Changes made with LB 962 in 2004 allow NRDs to manage for instream flows. Flow rights granted that are only there 20 percent of the time would be difficult, if not impossible, to manage as all other water uses could be shut down and still not make the flows available 85-100 percent of the time.

2. Allows NRDs to request the Dept. of Natural Resources to call for a stay on issuance of surface water rights in an area, basin, subbasin or reach of a ground water management area that has controls authorized under subdivision (1)(a), (e), (f) or (m) or section 46-739. These subdivisions refer to (a) allocations, (e) reduction in irrigated acres, (f) limit or prevent expansion of irrigated acres or (m) closing an area to permits.
 3. Requires data used in reports from the department on determinations of a basin’s fully appropriated status to ensure the conclusions and results contained in the report are accurate to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty. No requirement exists in current law.
 4. Clarifies that an evaluation be done rather than a determination of the department on existing uses to determine fully appropriated status. Also eliminates the term, “reasonably foreseeable future,” and replaces it with a specific 10-year timeframe for the evaluation period. Evaluation results would have to ensure all results and conclusions be verified and are accurate to a reasonable degree of certainty.
 5. Requires the department to notice districts by certified mail of determinations made.
 6. Clarifies that well permits existing prior to a determination could be completed, but would be subject to conditions imposed by the district. Wells would have to be completed within the existing one-year timeframe allowed under the permit (46-738).
 7. Water not hydrologically connected would be exempt from regulations unless required by a compact or the local NRD chooses to add all users within the district boundary to the management plan. Clarifies that an area water use would be subject to only one management plan.
- Oppose — Hearing held February 9 (Langemeier priority bill).

Money for Seminars!

The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer grants for water operators to attend seminars and the Annual Fall Conference.

To apply, complete the application on page 13. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.504.7855.



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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:

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Recruiter's membership no.

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 Olsson Associates, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68508.

Director's report by Joel Christensen

I attended the winter board meeting February 11-12 in Austin, Texas. Major items included governance of the association, elections, membership dues, the Spring DC fly-in, the MTBE campaign and utility quality programs. There also was a



Joel Christensen

session about trends in the water industry and impacts on AWWA and sections.

Governance of the Association:

Each section will continue to be represented by a Board member. Policy and finance will remain the responsibility of the Board. There was a strong consensus for these two items. One additional vice-president also will be elected by the Board.

AWWARF, Water for People and Public Interest Advisory Forum representatives on the executive committee will be allowed to vote except for election of officers. They currently vote on the Board of Directors, except in elections. Some of us questioned the additional authority of un-elected representatives from organizations we deal with and provide contributions. There was a strong consensus that outside representation on a Board is healthy and decisions will be balanced.

Elections: **Nilaksh Kothari** will be the next President-Elect and then President. He is general manager of Manitowoc, Wis. public utilities. He received his bachelor of science in Civil Engineering in India and has worked for engineering consulting firms in Montana and Wisconsin. He holds a master's degree in Sanitary Engineering from South Dakota University. I believe he will be a very good leader.

Five Vice Presidents and a Director-at-large also were elected. **Janice Skadsen**, the Association representative to our Fall Conference was again elected Vice-President.

Standards: Nearly 20 standards were approved, mostly revisions. It also was decided to proceed with the creation of wastewater standards. During discussion about this item, it was pointed out that WEF does not write standards and we have many members with wastewater responsibilities.

Board Communications: The Association now sends minutes from the executive and other committees on a much more timely manner. A website, called Directornet, was created to "post" these and other information. I asked that the Board be given updates during the budget preparation process.

Brief Notes

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, chair of the Student Activities Committee, reports the winner of the student papers presentation at the Fall Conference was **Steven Stephans** with his paper, "Preventing Pollution from Waste Brine Disposal in Water Softening."

Runner-up was **Andy Young** with his paper, "Evaluation of Stormwater BMP Implementation and Maintenance." Both are UNL students in the MS Environmental Engineering Program.

* * *

HDR Engineering Inc. acquired Jordan Architects, a planning and architectural firm based in Minnesota. The staff of 20 will continue working from offices in St. Paul and Rochester.

* * *

Bob Stubbe, 52, formerly vice-president of Engineering and Construction at M.U.D., has been named public works director for the City of Omaha. He is responsible for the city's street construction and maintenance, snow removal and wastewater treatment.

Omaha Mayor **Mike Fahey** said Stubbe impressed him and others with his background and knowledge of both the utility business and construction.



Bob Stubbe

"We were very familiar with Bob, and the timing was perfect for both of us," Fahey said. "What better experience than having someone who is very familiar with one of the utilities."

Stubbe, whose salary is \$130,000, succeeds **Hank Vieregger**, who retired in September.



Paul Reed

A native of Sioux Falls, S.D., Stubbe received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D. He also earned a master's degree in engineering from UNL.

Stubbe worked at M.U.D. for 29 years. He is a past superintendent of water distribution and construction. His former duties also included overseeing the district's emergency response to water and gas problems.

Paul Reed succeeds Bob Stubbe at M.U.D. as vice-president, Engineering and Construction. Reed formerly was vice-president of Support Services and has been with M.U.D. for 40 years.

Federal regulatory system effective or proposed dates as of November 9, 2005

Operator Certification	January 2001
Unregulated Contaminants	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 & GW System)	January 2004
LT 1 (ESWTR) (SW<10,000)	January 2005
Groundwater Rule	Early 2006*
LT 2 (ESWTR)	Early 2006*
D/DBP 2	Early 2006*
Arsenic	January 2006*
UCMR2	June 2006*
Revised Lead and Copper Rule	December 2006*
Effluent Guidelines for Water Treatment Plants	September 2007*
Radon	December 2007*
Revised TCR/Distribution System Rule	October 2008*
Aldicarb and MTBE	Unknown
Sulfates	Unknown

Christensen receives award

Joel Christensen, vice-president, Water Operations at M.U.D., recently received an award from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for 10 years of service on the Governor's Advisory Council for Public Water Supply.

Joel was a member of the council from 1996-2006, serving as chair since 2001. He represented the water operator position for water systems serving more than 5,000 people. He is a professional engineer and holds a grade 1 water operator license.

The council, established under the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act, includes three water operators, two consumers, a professional engineer and a licensed physician. The group meets quarterly.

"Joel has been very loyal in attending meetings and an active participant," said **Jack Daniel**, administrator, Nebraska Department of Health Regulation and Licensure. "Nebraska is lucky to have individuals like Joel!"

2005 conference

by Tony Bilek (402.333.9660) e-mail: tony.mc2inc@att.net

The Nebraska Section AWWA Annual Fall Conference, held in conjunction with the Nebraska Water Environment Association and the American Public Works Association, was held at the Kearney Holiday Inn Convention Center, November 7-9.

Overall conference attendance, including members, speakers and vendors totaled 440.

Conference highlights included an address by Nebraska Governor **Dave Heineman** at the joint AWWA-WEA luncheon. The Governor discussed issues regarding water rights, infrastructure funding and sustaining water quality. The address was extremely well attended and well received.

National AWWA Vice-President **Janice Skadsen** of Ann Arbor, Mich., opened the AWWA technical program with an address that focused on the role each member plays in the everyday function of providing safe drinking water to our customers, the aging of the water profession workforce and the ever-changing quality standards that systems and operations must uphold. At the AWWA-APWA luncheon, Janice presented an entertaining story about a successful Water for People funded project in Ecuador.

The 2006 slate of officers were elected and announced at the annual business meeting. Annual committee reports were presented and can be found on the section website.

Congratulations to **Chip Haas** of HDR Engineering Inc., on receiving the coveted George Warren Fuller award and to all of the individuals and systems who received awards at the conference.

A special thanks to **Kathleen Alexander** of HDR Engineering Inc., for her perennial assistance in preparing and participating in registration and other logistical duties for the section, to **Chris Koenig** of HGM Associates, for hosting the Top-Ops challenge as well as performing accounting duties for the section, and to **Teresa Kub** of HDR Engineering Inc., and **Ben Day** of Olsson Associates, for their help in arranging audio visual equipment for the conference presenters.

The 2006 Conference planning chairperson is **Mike Wentink** of Nebraska Health and Human Services. He is looking for agenda topics now. Please contact Mike with your suggestions (phone: 308.535.8135; fax: 308.535.8366; cell: 308.530.3930; e-mail: mike.wentink@hss.ne.gov).

WISA Awards

Six people received Water Industry Service Awards (WISA) at the Fall Conference. They were:

Paul Dammann, retired superintendent, Water and Wastewater, City of Seward — Before joining the City of Seward, Paul worked for the municipalities of Wymore and Waverly. He retired in 2005 with 30 years in water and wastewater operations. In retirement, he



WISA Awards winners, from left: Jim Haywood, Metropolitan Utilities District; Paul Dammann, City of Seward; Leroy Kramer, City of North Platte; Awards Chair Steve Kelley, Beatrice Public Works; Mike Hulquist, City of Alliance; Monte Moss, City of Wood River. Gary Janssen, City of Waverly, was unavailable for the photo.

plans to polish rocks, fish and spend time with his grandchildren.

Jim Haywood, biologist, Water Quality, Metropolitan Utilities District — Jim joined M.U.D. in 1972 as an operator in Gas Production. He moved to water operations in 1973, working at the Florence Water Treatment Plant as a water laboratory technician. He advanced to water analyst in 1980, and was promoted to biologist in 1999. Jim is a grade 1 water operator.

Jim oversees the biology aspects of the laboratory at the Florence Plant, including the continued compliance with the Total Coliform Rule. He also assisted with development of the parasite monitoring program, which began in 1994, using the EPA Information Collection Rule methodologies. He adapted the program to keep it in line with the current accepted methods.

Jim earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from Alcorn State University, Alcorn State, Miss., in 1969. He also pursued graduate work in chemistry at the University of Mississippi.

Prior to his District career, Jim was a science teacher and served two years in the U.S. Army. He plans to retire August 1 with 33 years of service.

Mike Hulquist, superintendent, Water and Sewer, City of Alliance — Mike joined the city in 1975 as an operator for the power plant. He advanced to plant manager in 1984 and was promoted to his current position in 1989.

As superintendent, his tireless leadership and dedication have provided employees with goals and a sense of direction. He also promotes education for all his employees and urges their advancement of knowledge in their jobs.

Mike and his spouse, Joyce, have a son. Mike enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening and riding his Harley.

Gary Janssen, water superintendent, City of Waverly — Gary has 28 years of service with the city with 25 of those years as a certified water operator. Gary has seen many changes in the industry, and was very instrumental in the addition of a water tower and five new wells. He has fixed many water leaks and more recently, became involved with the tapping of plastic water mains.

Leroy Kramer, water protection specialist II, City of North Platte — Leroy joined the city's water crew in 1979, and advanced to the service department in 1982. He was promoted to his current position in 1991 where he enforces the cross connection control program for the city.

Leroy holds certifications as a grade 1 and 6 water operator. He is very active in Region 12 of the American Backflow Association, and has held several offices in that organization. Contractors in North Platte call Leroy the "water cop."

Monte Moss, utilities director, City of Wood River — Monte grew up on a farm and joined the city in 1985 at which time he was certified as a water operator. He was promoted to his current position in 2004.

He serves as the city's representative on MEAN, and was elected chairman of the board in 2005. Monte earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1999.

Lifetime Awards

Three people received Lifetime Membership Awards at the Fall Conference. They were:

Reed A. Miller, president and CEO, Miller & Associates — Reed was born and raised in Pilger, Neb. He earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from UNL and then continued to graduate school where he received a master's degree in Environmental Engineering.



National AWWA Vice-President Janice Skadsen presents Reed Miller a Lifetime Membership Award. Other Lifetime Members, George Reed and Brian Sweeney, were unavailable for the photo.

Water Supply. His son, Christopher, is a professional engineer and manages the McCook office. His daughter, Lindsay, is an engineering graduate student at UNL.



National AWWA Vice-President Janice Skadsen presents Ben Day, Olsson Associates and chair of the Young Professionals Committee, an award for his outstanding volunteer work in leading the committee and its activities.

Reed founded Miller & Associates of Kearney in 1976. The consulting engineering firm has grown steadily over the past three decades with a diverse staff of engineers, registered land surveyors, geologists, grant administrators, computer programmers and technicians. The firm also has offices in Lexington and McCook.

Reed is a registered professional engineer in the states of Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. He also holds Class A city street superintendent and county highway superintendent licenses. Besides AWWA, he is a member of the Water Environment Federation. The firm is a member of the Nebraska and Kansas Rural Water Associations.

Reed also is a member of Sertoma, Rob Morris Lodge and Tehama Temple. He serves on the Civil Engineering Board for UNL and on the Advisory Council for Public Water Supply. His son, Christopher, is a professional engineer and manages the McCook office. His daughter, Lindsay, is an engineering graduate student at UNL.

2005 Fall Conference

George Reed, system controller, Energy Acquisition, Metropolitan Utilities District — George joined M.U.D. in 1960 as a meter reader. He moved to water operations in 1972 as a water plant operator at the Platte South Water Treatment Plant, advancing to stationary engineer and water plant engineer. He was promoted to his current position in 1995.

George joined AWWA in 1973 and earned his grade 1 certification in 1976. He holds a bachelor's degree in technology from Peru State College, and has done considerable work towards a master's degree in business administration.

As a system controller, George and his four colleagues provide 24/7 monitoring and control of the water distribution system. This system includes two water treatment plants, five reservoirs, 14 pump stations and 2,506 miles of mains for more than 180,500 water customers.

George has attended national AWWA conferences and the Section's annual fall conference since 1979 at his own expense. He received the AWWA WISA Award in 2004.

"George is a dedicated employee with a strong appetite for learning," said his supervisor, **Joel Christensen**. "His dedication and knowledge make him an invaluable member of our water operations team."

When his family was young, George coached girls' softball. He also spent 27 years in the Army Reserves. He and his spouse of 42 years, Nancy, have three daughters. In his spare time, George enjoys traveling and reading.

Brian Sweeney, city engineering, City of Gering — Brian is a registered professional engineer and registered land surveyor. He earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D. in 1971.

His career includes seven years with private consultants in Chicago and Denver, 10 years as an owner of a consulting engineering firm in Scottsbluff, and 17 years as city engineer for Gering.

Scholarship Winners

Members of the Theodore Liesen Memorial Scholarship Committee for 2005 were **Dr. Bruce Dvorak, Chip Haas, Joel Christensen and Lynn Wegehaupt**.

The committee reviewed 10 applications for scholarships. While all of the students were worthy applicants, the committee decided to award \$500 scholarships to three individuals. They were:

Julie Jameson, an undergraduate student at UNO, is completing her bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. She plans to pursue a master's degree in Environmental Engineering and intends to work full-time at a consultant engineering firm as she pursues her graduate work. Julie is a member of the Society of Women Engineers and enjoys participating in the UNO Trap and Skeet Club activities.

Michael Schultes, a graduate student at UNL, plans to complete his master's degree in Civil Engineering in the fall of 2006. He currently works for a consulting firm and finds one of the greatest challenges facing potable water systems in central Nebraska communities is the need for improving their systems with limited financial resources. Michael is a member of the Society of Civil Engineers and a member of AWWA.

Nicholas Sutko, a graduate student at UNL, is pursuing a master's degree in Environmental Engineering. He is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers and Golden Key Honor Society. He plans to work in the field of water environmental engineering.



From left: Scholarship winner Julie Jameson receives a \$500 check from National AWWA Vice-President Janice Skadsen. The other two scholarship winners were Michael Schultes and Nicholas Sutko.

HGM Associates wins vendor award



HGM Associates won the "Best of Show" Award for exhibit displays. From left: Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, and Nebraska Section AWWA Chair Tony Bilek, Mc2 Inc.



From left: Shawn Ovenden and Chris Koenig of HGM Associates.

Conference photos



Top Ops competition



First Place Top Ops Team was from left: Doug Pollack, Dave Lathrop, City of Seward; Eric Melcher, City of Aurora, and Ken Ekeler, City of York. The team is invited to represent the Section at the National Annual Conference Competition in San Antonio, June 11-15. The Section pays \$500 towards each person's registration.

The second place team included: Tom Henderson, Michael Foods; Tim Albrecht, City of Wausa; Gary Thurlow, City of Atkinson; Shawn Ovenden, HGM Associates. Finishing third was the team from M.U.D.: Doug Asche, Mike Koenig, Kevin Tobin and John Velehradsky.



From left: AWWA Chair Tony Bilek, Mc2 Inc., and AWWA Past-Chair Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont; Governor Dave Heineman; WEF President Fred Scarpello, Jacobson Helgoth Consultants; and National WEF Vice-President Adam Zabinski.

The 2006 Annual Fall Conference will be held November 8-9 at the Kearney Holiday Inn. **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health and Human Services, is the planning chair. He is looking for agenda

topics now. Please contact Mike with your suggestions (phone: 308.535.8135; fax: 308.535.8366; cell: 308.530.3930; e-mail: mike.wentink@hss.ne.gov).

Water Operator Awards

Two people received water operator awards from the Nebraska Department of Health Regulation & Licensure. They were:

Franklin Nicholson, utility superintendent, Village of Lebanon — A grade 1 water operator, Franklin is a very dedicated worker, and strives to assure the operation and maintenance of his water system is accurate.

Jack Satur, water department supervisor, City of Scottsbluff — A grade 2 operator, Jack goes the extra mile to assure continued service to his customers, plus his quick response to water system issues.

Safety awards



Safety awards: The Beatrice Board of Public Works received an award of honor and the City of Scottsbluff received an award of excellence. From left: Steve Kelley, City of Beatrice; Rob Pierce, chair of the Safety Committee, and Jack Satur, City of Scottsbluff.

Safety Committee

by Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities (402.476.2829) e-mail: robp@lom.org

A total of 431 certified water operators from 120 water systems attended 29 water operator, backflow and safety workshops in 2005. The workshops were sponsored by the Nebraska Section AWWA and the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Topics included: Corrosion control, sampling procedures, records in daily operations, water treatment technologies, chemical safety, two and 10-year plans, current water issues and regulatory updates.

A workshop on pipe tapping and line stopping procedures also was held in Ogallala.

Speakers at these workshops included: **Steve Kelley**, City of Beatrice; **Ron Rappard**, **Brad Harris** and **Dan Freese**, Layne Western; **Todd Speth**, **Bruce Kingston** and **Kevin Stiegemeier**, Municipal Supply Inc.; **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities, and field representatives from the Nebraska Health and Human Services.

Water Operator Workshops

April 26	Loup City, City Hall, 134 S. 8th St.
April 27	Hastings Utilities Bldg., 1228 N. Denver St.
June 8	(Backflow) Alliance Utility Bldg., First St. & Cody Ave.
June 9	(Backflow) Broken Bow City Auditorium, 314 S. 10th St.
September 12	Chappell
September 13	North Platte
September 14	McCook
September 18	(Backflow) Ogallala
September 19	(Backflow) Grand Island
September 20	(Backflow) Wayne
September 21	(Backflow) Beatrice
October 11	Ord
December 5	Grand Island
December 6	Norfolk
December 7	Fremont
December 12	Lincoln
December 13	(Backflow) Fremont

2006 workshop information also can be found in the Coalition Water Calendar, League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Newsletter and the following websites: www.lonm.org; www.hhs.state.ne.us; www.awwaneb.org.

Contact **Rob Pierce**, 402.476.2829, for more information.

Directory updates

Add:

Brooke Hay
JEO Consulting Group Inc.
PO Box 1424
Norfolk, NE 68702-1424
tel: 402.371.6416
fax: 402.371.5109
e-mail: bhay@jeo.com

John H. Waldron
GE Water & Process Technologies
5667 Chatham St.
Johnston, IA 50131

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

The Nebraska Section AWWA awards grants for water operators to attend seminars and the Annual Fall Conference in Kearney (November 8-9, 2006), plus other workshops. To apply, please complete this application and send it to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.504.7855; fax: 402.504.7709; e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com.

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

Have you ever been a member of AWWA? _____

When? _____ Member # _____

Section 1: Personal Information

Preferred mailing address: Business Home
 Mr. Ms. 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: _____

Section 2: Dues and Section Assessments

Active - \$130 (02) Student - \$25 (14) Operations/Administrative - \$62 (06) (will not receive Journal AWWA) Utility (0-5,000) - \$250 Utility (5,001-10,000) - \$1,400

Section 3: 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. Go to <http://www.awwa.org> for more information.

Annual Dues \$ _____

Multi-Section Option \$ _____

Total (U.S. funds) \$ _____

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.)

Section 4: 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.

Section 5: Circulation Figures

All applicants must complete this section. For auditing purposes, please circle one description in each of the 3 groups below that best describes you.

Business and Industry	Job Title	Interests	Optional
A. Public Water Supply—Municipally Owned	A. Executive—General Manager, Commissioner, Board Member, City Manager, Mayor, President, Vice-President, Owner, Partner, Director, etc.	Please help us serve you better by marking all appropriate areas of professional interest. <input type="checkbox"/> Backflow <input type="checkbox"/> Career Development <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/Information Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation/Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Service <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfection <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution System <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Filtration <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Water <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste Management <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory/Testing Sample <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance/Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Membrane Treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Management <input type="checkbox"/> Public Information/Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory/Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources Mgmt./Plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Rates/Cost of Service <input type="checkbox"/> Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> Water Reuse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	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
B. Public Water Supply—Investor Owned	B. Management—Division Head, Section Head, Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroller, etc.		
C. Government—Federal, State, Local	C. Engineering/Non-managerial—Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System Designer, etc.		
D. Consultant	D. Scientific/Non-managerial—Chemist, Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.		
E. Contractor	E. Purchasing—Purchasing Agent, Procurement Specialist, Buyer, etc.		
F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler	F. Operations—Foreman, Operator, Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.		
G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives	G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial—Market Analyst, Marketing Representative, Salesperson, Sales Representative, etc.		
H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives	H. Other: _____		
I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations			
J. Fully Retired			
K. Research Lab			
L. Unreported			
Field Served			
5 Water Supply Only			
7 Wastewater Only			
9 Both			
3 Other			

Signature required: _____

Date: _____

Mail to: AWWA Membership
 6666 W. Quincy Ave.
 Denver, CO 80235
 800.926.7337
 303.794.7711

or fax to: 303.347.0804

Membership Committee

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

The Nebraska Section recently received the Membership Retention Award from National AWWA for a 95 percent overall retention rate.

Welcome New Members:

Absolan, Robert	City of Crawford
Barlean, Sam	Lower Platte North NRD
Chatman, Steven	Chatman & Associates
Christiansen, Christy	City of Papillion
Gurnsey, Ross	City of Bassett
Hay, Brooke	JEO Consulting Group
Hynie, Derek	Asphalt Zipper Inc
Mertz, Jim	Tech Systems Co.

Miyoshi, John	Lower Platte North NRD
Prasai, Gyanendra	UNL
Pun, Mahesh	Lincoln
Sousek, Mike	Lower Platte North NRD
Steele, Susan	City of Ravenna
Stine, Misty	Adesta LLC
Sutko, Nick	Omaha
Sweetser, Jeff	City of Fairbury
Thorson, Wayne	Todd Valley Farms Inc.
Thurber, David	Lincoln Water System
Tibbetts, Kenny	Village of Palmer
Wagner, Jeromi	City of Superior Utilities
Waldron, John	GE Water & Process Technologies
Walker, Jeremy	Lincoln
Wardwell, David	Sensicore Inc
Ziska, David	Olsson Associates

Ad order form for 2006 publications

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.

Whenever possible, please submit advertisements electronically on a CD. Preferred document formats are (listed in order of highest preference): (1) Pagemaker for Mac files, (2) pdf files. (3) .eps files or tiff files. Include all screen and printer fonts as well as logos and other artwork used to create the ad.

- Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2006 (deadline for copy, etc. April 15, 2006)
- Wise Water Words, Fall/Winter issue, 2006 (deadline for copy, etc. August 1, 2006)

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Ads must be prepaid. Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA. 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: 402.504.7150; fax: 402.504.7020; e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com.

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Nominations Committee

by Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont (402.727.2621)

e-mail: l_andreasen@fremont.net

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

Chair **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services

Trustee & Past Chair

Tony Bilek, Mc² Inc.

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

Chair-Elect **Kevin Tobin**, Metropolitan Utilities District

Vice Chair **Dr. Bruce I. Dvorak**, UNL Civil Engineering

Secretary **Chuck Thomerson**, City of Columbus

Treasurer **John S. Olsson**, Olsson Associates

Trustee **Teresa Kub**, HDR Engineering Inc.

Trustee **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities

Director **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates

Golf benefit raises \$2,050 for WFP

by John Olsson, Olsson Associates

(402.458.5661) e-mail:

jolsson@oaconsulting.com

National Safe Drinking Water Week proved to be the perfect time for the Nebraska Section AWWA to host its second annual golf outing to benefit Water for People. With 76 participants and 19 hole sponsors, the Section raised \$2,050 compared to \$1,698 in 2005.

The event, held at the Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus, included an afternoon of golf followed by an incredible Windsor Loin dinner and awards ceremony.

The first place team, sponsored by Black & Veatch, included **John Miriovsky**, **Nick McElvain**, Lincoln Water System;

continued on page 3



First Place Team in the Water for People (WFP) Golf Benefit was sponsored by Black & Veatch, from left: John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System; Andrew Hansen, Black & Veatch; Jeff Selby, Fairbanks Morse, and Nick McElvain, Lincoln Water System. Jeff Selby was on the second place team in 2005. More photos on page 3.

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

Chair's comments

With our Nebraska summer approaching, it is nice to see winter and spring precipitation has blessed us and given our state some much needed relief from the drought conditions of seasons past. Lakes, streams and reservoir levels are on the increase and we can only hope that this trend continues. My hopes are that this busy season finds you healthy, happy and safe.

Last April, the Iowa Section hosted the AWWA Region 5 meeting in Des Moines. Region 5 includes the Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana Sections. The regional meetings allow section leaders an opportunity to share issues that concern their respective section, how other sections are managed and learn from the other sections experience.

Incoming AWWA President **Nilaksh Kothari**, Nebraska Section Services Representative **Susan Francheschi**, AWWA National Services Representative **Mark Grace** and AWWA National Deputy Executive Director **Tom Curtis** presented on topics including legislation/regulation, disaster response and governance. I thank **Mike Wentink** and **Larry Andreasen** for their participation in the Regional Meeting.

A topic of concern with virtually any organization is one of aging workforce. As an association we need to collectively, and individually, encourage youth in our utilities operations, engineering community and in our Nebraska Section of AWWA. We also seek the transfer of knowledge from our "seasoned" workforce to the youth and future of our utilities and section. Please reach out and encourage younger people to get involved in our industry whenever possible.

The Second Annual Water for People Golf Outing was held in Columbus after our May 12 board meeting. We had a nice (little windy) day and a very successful outing, raising over \$2000 for WFP. Congratulations to **John Olsson**, **Wendy Lohmeier**, Olsson Associates and **Kathleen Alexander**, HDR Engineering Inc. for putting together another super event.

The AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) will be held in San Antonio June 11-15. AWWA is celebrating its 125th anniversary and has many activities planned along with the perennially solid technical program. I look forward to seeing our Nebraska contingent in San Antonio.

Before you know it summer will pass and our Annual Fall Conference will be here. The planning committee has begun preparations for the technical programs November 8-9 at

the Kearney Holiday Inn. If you have any suggestions for the planning committee, please contact a board member or conference committee chair, **Mike Wentink** at 308.535.8135.

Until next time, have a safe and happy summer.



Tony Bilek

Officers and Trustees

Tony Bilek, 402.333.9660

e-mail: tony.mc2inc@att.net

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Mike Wentink, 308.535.8134

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Kevin Tobin, 402.504.7560

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2006 Committee Chairs

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402.333.9660

Steve Kelley, *Awards*

402.228.5217

John S. Olsson, *Budget*

402.458.5661

Rich Koenig, *Cross Connections*

402.370.3114

Mike Wentink, *Education*

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Tony Bilek

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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,
402.504.7150; fax: 402.504.7020
e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com

Golf benefit raises \$2,050 for Water for People

(from page 1)

Andrew Hansen, Black & Veatch, and **Jeff Selby**, Fairbanks Morse. The team carded a 59, 13 strokes under par.

Second place went to the Kirkham Michael foursome (10 under par) followed by the Schuyler Dept. of Utilities in third place at 9 under par.

The highlight of the event occurred on Hole No. 14 when **Jim McGowen**, Schuyler Department of Utilities, “lost” his ball in the cup off the tee-box...a hole in one. Fortunately for Jim, this hole happened to be a flag prize hole for closest to the pin. Needless to say, he won that too.

On behalf of the Section Officers and the Water for People Committee, thank you to all the generous folks who either participated, provided sponsorship, donated flag prizes or volunteered their time to make the event a huge success. Special thanks goes to the following UNL student chapter members who spent the afternoon at the course working the “fund raising” hole: **Chad Cercle**, **Patrick Denning**, **Josh Melliger** and **Gina Rust**.

Participants:

Bert Gurney & Associates
Black & Veatch
Electric Pump
Fluid Technology
Gilmore & Associates Inc.
Griffin Pipe Products
HDR Engineering Inc.
HGM Associates
HTM Sales
Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers



The second place team was sponsored by Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers (KM).

From left: Hank Pangelina, City of Council Bluffs Wastewater Department; Amit Shrivastava, KM; Keith Kontor, City of Fremont Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Norm Jackman, KM.

Keith Kontor was on the second place team in 2005.



The third place team was sponsored by the City of Schuyler Department of Utilities.

From left: Ron Steenbock, Sapp Brothers; Steve Bailey, Folda & Co. Insurance; Jim McGowen, Schuyler Department of Utilities, and Dave Reinecke, mayor of the City of Schuyler.

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Mc² Inc.
Mellen Associates
Mission Clay Pipe
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Flag and Hole Winners:

Kathleen Alexander,
HDR Engineering Inc.
Scott Aurit, HDR
Engineering Inc.
Dave Gilmore, Gilmore
& Associates
Andrew Hansen, Black
& Veatch
Jim Hrouda, mayor of
Hickman
Steve Kelley, Beatrice
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of Utilities (*Hole in
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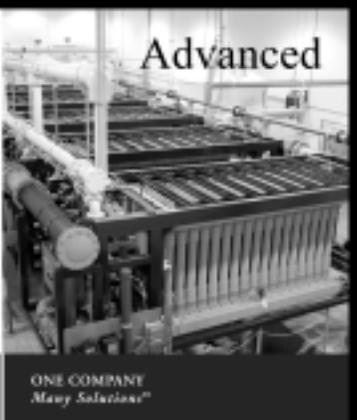
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Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

The 99th Nebraska Legislature, second session, adjourned its 60-day session April 13. To see laws as passed, go to the Unicameral's website: <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>. The 100th Legislature, first session, will convene at 10 a.m., January 7, 2007.

Signed into law, effective April 13, 2006

LB 1226 – Changes water laws relating to concerns and problems in implementing LB 962.

In 2004, the Legislature passed LB 962 which required natural resources districts (NRDs) and the State Department of Natural Resources to develop integrated water management plans for all river basins in the state. NRDs are authorized to establish controls, including water allocations on groundwater users, for irrigators, industries and municipalities.

The Governor's Water Task Force and municipalities raised concerns regarding potential NRD control over their water supplies. After negotiations that lasted a year, LB 1226 includes provisions to protect municipal water supplies.

Municipalities, who have groundwater transfer rights, are guaranteed their total permitted amounts are not subject to NRD control under integrated management plans.

LB 805 – Creates the interrelated water management plan program to fund projects under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act.

The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission will administer the grant program and the Department of Natural Resources will disburse the \$2.5 million appropriated to the fund. A minimum of 20 percent local matching funds is required.

This bill was amended into LB 1226 with the emergency clause, which was signed by the Governor April 13, 2006.

Signed into law, effective July 12, 2006

LB 508 – Changes the cost-share provisions for decommissioning illegal water wells. The law provides that any natural resources district which has had a cost-share program under the Water Well Decommissioning Act for three or more consecutive years shall have its allocation based on a three-year average.

The law allows single year calculations for districts that have not been in the program for three consecutive years. It also increases the maximum amount of cost-share from \$300 to \$500 for decommissioning wells for the 60 percent cost share.

It allows local natural resources districts to establish maximum cost-share assistance amounts based on well depths and diameters to insure landowners will be compensated for at least 60 percent of the cost of well decommissioning.

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LB 140 – Adds a tenth member to the Water Well Standards & Contractors’ Licensing Board by including a natural resources ground water technician. The bill was amended into LB 508, which was signed by the Governor April 13, 2006.

LB 822 – Allows a licensed pump installer to wire pumps and pumping equipment at a water well location to the first control. Also, the breaking of a seal of a water well may be carried out by a state electrical inspector. The bill does not change the provision to allow an owner of a water well to open or break the seal of a water well. The bill was amended into LB 508, which was signed by the Governor April 13, 2006.

LB 898 – Amends the Open Meetings Act. The bill was directed at allegations of fairly common violations in rural counties and the Omaha Public Schools’ closed sessions. The changes require additional description to agendas and motions to go into closed sessions.

1. A motion to enter into closed session must identify the “subject matter” and “reason necessitating the closed session.” For example, stating “personnel matters” as a reason for a closed session is inadequate.
2. If a motion to close a session passes, the chairperson must state in the public session the “limitation of the subject matter” to be taken up in closed session.
3. An agenda item must be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matter to be considered.
4. A copy of the Open Meeting Act must be “posted in the meeting room” and accessible to the public.
5. A citizen no longer has to object to a violation of the Open Meetings Act during a meeting before having standing to file a court action.

LB 1164 – The bill allows the old well being replaced to be converted to a monitoring, observation, livestock well or other non-consumptive use less than 50 gallons per minute.

The conversion must be approved by the natural resources district and remain consistent with the Groundwater Management Act and well construction standards.

The proposal also shortens the time frame from one year to 180 days to properly decommission a well or convert it to the new uses listed.

The bill also allows natural resources districts to further define replacement wells under the authorities granted in the Groundwater Management Act as long as it is not inconsistent with the replacement well statutes (46-602). The bill was amended into LB 508, which was signed by the Governor April 13, 2006.

Brief Notes

Burton A. (Nick) Johnson, 71, died March 6 of cancer. He was the son of JEO Consulting Engineers founder, Wilmer Johnson. Nick served as CEO and project engineer at JEO for 40 years, retiring in 2003. Nick was a 1990 Fuller Award recipient and lifetime member of the American Water Works Association.

His son, Chris, works for Bert Gurney & Associates.



Website report: A total of 22,016 people visited the Section’s website in 2005. This compares to 15,655 in 2004, and 14,553 in 2003. The most visited pages included: Job openings, training, water alert plans and membership.



The Section’s AdHoc Committee for SRF funding includes:

Larry Andreassen, Fremont Utilities; **Tony Bilek**, Mc2 Inc.; **Rich Koenig**, **Doug Woodbeck**, Nebraska Health and Services, and **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities.



Harley “Alan” Slater has joined the Nebraska Health and Human Service Regulation and Licensure as a field representative for area 1 (Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee and Richardson Counties). He succeeds Rob Williams. Alan’s responsibilities include: Routine sanitary surveys; follow-up inspections; technical assistance to public water systems, emergency response; assistance to Health Department engineers on final construction inspections as well as numerous other tasks.

The Department feels Alan will be an invaluable asset to the public water suppliers in his area. He previously worked for the City of Fairbury. Alan is based in Lincoln; phone 402.471.0519; cell: 402.440.4917; e-mail: alan.slater@hhss.ne.gov.



Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers earned the “Crew 2006 Deal of the Year Award” at the 17th Annual Commercial Real Estate Workshop, April 21, in Omaha, for their design project, “Sorensen Park Plaza” at 72nd St. & Sorensen Pkwy. The award is based on what the selection committee deemed the most exciting and innovative commercial project in the Omaha area.

The 80-acre commercial development includes more than 600,000 sq. ft. of commercial space with an additional 14 pads. Construction began in 2005 and a major portion of the site will be completed by this fall. Tenants include: Marshalls, PetSmart, Great Escape Theatre (16 screens), Dress Barn, Target, Famous Footwear, Linens N Things, Factory Card Outlet, OfficeMax and Sally Beauty Supply.

KM provided design and survey services including: interior roadways, storm sewers, sanitary sewers, site grading, erosion control and utility coordination. They also conducted a traffic study for the project.

MAC Committee

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

The 2006 Annual Fall Conference will be held at the Kearney, NE. Holiday Inn Convention Center, November 8-9. Invitations to potential exhibitors will be mailed by the first of July.

Vendors are encouraged to submit their registration as soon as possible. The exhibition hall accommodates a maximum of 54 booths. The exhibition fee includes one 8' x 10" skirted booth with backdrop, table, chairs and one set of luncheon and banquet tickets.

Additional meal tickets are available for purchase at the conference.

The 2006 exhibit fee will be \$450 and covers Nebraska Section AWWA, WEA and APWA functions.

Money for Seminars!

The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer grants for water operators to attend seminars and the Annual Fall Conference.

To apply, complete the application on page 11. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.504.7855.

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services (308.535.8135) e-mail: mike.wentink@hhs.ne.gov

Water Operator Workshops

June 8	(Backflow) Alliance Utility Bldg.
June 9	(Backflow) Broken Bow City Auditorium
September 12	Chappell
September 13	North Platte
September 14	McCook
September 18	(Backflow) Ogallala
September 19	(Backflow) Grand Island
September 20	(Backflow) Wayne
September 21	(Backflow) Beatrice
October 11	Ord
December 5	Grand Island
December 6	Norfolk
December 7	Fremont
December 12	Lincoln
December 13	(Backflow) Fremont

2006 workshop information also can be found in the Coalition Water Calendar, League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Newsletter and the following websites: www.lonm.org; www.hhs.state.ne.us; www.awwaneb.org.

Contact **Rob Pierce**, 402.476.2829, for more information.



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Director's report by Joel Christensen



Joel Christensen

Plans for the Annual Conference and Exhibition continue. Exhibit sales are above projections and registrations are slightly behind.

30 Years of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act

*by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8135) e-mail: mike.wentink@hhs.ne.gov*

This year marks 30 years of Nebraska statutory authority to regulate public water systems.

With passage of the National Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974, the U.S. Congress recognized states' efforts to regulate the quality of drinking water by authorizing the administrator of U.S. EPA to delegate authority for enforcement to those states that enacted legislation and enforcement in a manner no less stringent than practiced at the federal level.

In 1976 the Unicameral passed the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Administrative authority of the SDWA was assigned by the Legislature to the former Nebraska Department of Health – now the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure (NHHS R&L).

With statutes come regulations – necessary to provide clarity and make things work. The first regulations developed, titled *Rule 5*, were 22 pages in length. These were signed by then Governor J. James Exon on May 23, 1977. Currently, Title 179 *Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems* is 382 pages in length.

Rule 5 included definitions and maximum contaminant levels for:

- 10 inorganic chemicals,
- 6 organic chemicals,
- turbidity (1 TU monthly average of daily calculations),
- microbiological (total coliform), and

The three months ended March 31 show a \$161,600 surplus of revenues versus budget for National AWWA. Surpluses in net publication sales and advertising were offset by deficits in revenue from events.

The Water Library was launched in May. It is an on-line tool for finding Journal AWWA articles. It will be expanded to all AWWA publications.

- radionuclides (radium-226, radium-228, gross alpha particle activity, beta particle and photon radioactivity).

In addition, *Rule 5* consisted of requirements for monitoring:

- Regulated contaminants,
- Public notification,
- Reporting and recordkeeping,
- Variances and exemptions,
- Water system design and construction,
- Operation and maintenance,
- Public water system permit, and
- Water operator certification.

As can be seen, the areas regulated have not changed to any great extent. Over the years, several have been added: Lead and copper, lead ban, filter backwash, surface water treatment, etc. As research and technology improved, further refinement to existing requirements took place. These additions/refinements are the result of federal rulemaking, and to maintain primacy, Nebraska regulations had to be modified.

I do not anticipate any statewide celebrations, parades, or even a moment of silence during this 30th anniversary of the Nebraska SDWA. We have an effective Public Water Supply Program in Nebraska, and it has shown its worth without a lot of fanfare.



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Brief Notes

Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers has promoted **LeRoy Gerrard** to the position of Vice President. Mr. Gerrard, who has served as the York Office Manager since he joined the firm in 1988, will now focus solely on land surveying and construction staking projects for the firm's clients, as well as continuing his role as county surveyor and highway superintendent for various counties in Nebraska.

Gerrard is a registered land surveyor in Nebraska, and serves as county surveyor and highway superintendent for Boone, Clay and Nance counties. He also serves as county surveyor for Polk county. He is an active member of the Professional Surveyors Association of Nebraska and the Nebraska Association of County Engineers.

Tournament nets \$4,500 to help the needy

Nick McElvain, Kent Evans, Rich Robinson and Monty Fredrickson formed one of 36 teams who participated in a golf fundraiser at Shoreline Golf Course, Carter Lake, IA, April 22, to help needy Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) customers pay natural gas and water bills via the District's Heat Aid Fund.

The annual tournament, organized by M.U.D. meter readers, raised \$4,500. The event has raised more than \$23,000 for the Fund in the past six years.

Nebraska Section AWWA members, who helped sponsor the tournament, included HDR Engineering Inc., Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers, and Mc2 Inc.

Below, from left: **Nick McElvain, Lincoln Water System; Kent Evans, Lincoln Engineering Services; Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers, and Monty Fredrickson, Nebraska Department of Roads.** (See more photos on page 11.)



Terry O'Brien retires

Terry O'Brien, president and chairman of the board of directors for JEO Consulting, retired April 28 with more than 35 years of service.

"It has been a very challenging and rewarding career," said Terry, who chaired the Nebraska Section AWWA in 1998 and received the Fuller Award in 2000.

Terry also is a lifetime member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the Water Environment Federation.



Terry O'Brien

When Terry began his career at JEO, he was the seventh employee. He said the 1989 loss of co-founder E. Gerald Erickson was a low point and the growth of JEO and the diversity of projects were the most significant changes during his tenure.

JEO Consulting Group currently has 110 employees in Wahoo, Norfolk, Hastings, Grand Island, Nebraska City, Lincoln, plus the states of Iowa and Wisconsin.

Terry plans to spend more time with his granddaughter, Katelyn, age 12. He and his wife, Val, have a son, Cory, and daughter, Marnie. The O'Briens live at 352 City View Dr., Wahoo, NE 68006.

Nebraska Section AWWA 2006 budget (March 7, 2006)

INCOME	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	2006 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 8,703.00	\$ 8,700.00	\$15,000.00
Association allotment	6,297.00	6,300.00	
Multi-section allotment	668.85	500.00	168.30
Annual meeting	33,510.00	12,000.00	
Washington Fly-In Reimbursement	0.00	500.00	
Interest on Accounts	853.99	1,000.00	
Teleconferences	795.00	3,000.00	60.00
Advertising income	6,725.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Water for People	1,138.00	1,250.00	
SRF Education Funds	2,089.00	10,000.00	
Miscellaneous	360.00	750.00	
Water for People Golf Tournament	7,251.00	7,200.00	
Total Income	\$68,390.84	\$56,200.00	20,228.30
EXPENSES			
Safety Committee	0.00	1,500.00	
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	300.00	
Education			
Education Committee	0.00	2,000.00	190.56
SRF Expenses	2,950.00	10,000.00	
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	2,205.00	1,500.00	
Public Information Committee/website	470.80	1,500.00	
Teleconferences	1,011.35	1,500.00	
Small Systems Committee	125.31	300.00	
Director's board meeting	0.00	0.00	
Publications			
Wise Water Words	7,911.98	8,400.00	1,495.00
Membership Directory	0.00	6,500.00	1,782.87
Advertising	228.00	375.00	
Student Activity	70.00	250.00	
Membership	1,235.45	750.00	
Audit	0.00	2,000.00	
Awards	415.04	500.00	
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Regional officers' meeting/officer training	930.65	2,000.00	
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	245.89	0.00	
Annual meeting	42,140.83	1,500.00	
Publicity	621.87		
Water for People	1,806.99	1,500.00	
MAC Council	0.00	100.00	
Scholarships	3,250.00	2,000.00	
Young Professionals	128.22	250.00	
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	617.56	1,300.00	
Miscellaneous	107.80	500.00	18.71
Water for People Golf Tournament	7,251.00	7,200.00	
Total Expenses	\$75,723.74	\$55,725.00	\$3,487.14
Net Income	-\$7,332.90	\$ 475.00	\$16,741.16

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

The Nebraska Section AWWA awards grants for water operators to attend seminars and the Annual Fall Conference in Kearney (November 8-9, 2006), plus other workshops. To apply, please complete this application and send it to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.504.7855; fax: 402.504.7709; e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com.

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

Tournament to help the needy (from page 8)



M.U.D. Meter Reader Golf Tournament, from left: Jeff Kohn, Kevin Tobin, M.U.D.; Glenn Dostal, Keith Froscheiser, HDR Engineering Inc.



From left: Kathleen Alexander, HDR Engineering Inc.; Ron Bucher, M.U.D.; Kent Prior, HDR Engineering Inc., and Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System.

Ad order form for 2006 publications

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- Wise Water Words, Fall/Winter issue, 2006 (deadline for copy, etc. August 1, 2006)

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Fall conference, November 8-9

National Director to open conference

Joseph P. Mantua, 2006-2007 vice-president of national AWWA, will be the guest speaker at the 2006 Annual Fall Conference November 8-9 in Kearney. After Joe Mantua joined AWWA in 1987, he found AWWA provided excellent opportunities to exchange information, establish relationships, learn, and have fun. He chaired numerous Chesapeake Section committees; served as trustee from 1998 to 2000, chair in 2001-2002 and director beginning in 2005. He currently serves on the National AWWA Conference Management and Young Professionals committees.

Joe serves as the project delivery group leader for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. The group administers facility and major pipeline designs; manages facility planning studies and special projects. The group also is responsible for the construction management and inspection of major facility projects.

Joe has been a long-time mentor, a career-day speaker, a science fair judge, and participant with the adopt-a-school

program. In 2005, Joe received the Malcolm Shaneman Quality of Life Award from the Maryland National Capital Building Industry Association. The award is presented to a public sector person who demonstrates concern for Montgomery County quality of life and fosters partnership with the housing industry.



Joe Mantua

Honing his speaking skills in Toastmasters International, he has twice received the Best Technical Presentation Award at the Chesapeake Section annual meetings.

Joe has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and is a registered professional engineer. He and his wife, Juliann, live in Rockville, MD.

Top Ops

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).

Nominations Committee

by *Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont (402.727.2621)*
e-mail: l_andreasen@fremont.net

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

Chair **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services
Trustee
& *Past Chair* **Tony Bilek**, Mc2 Inc.

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

Chair-Elect **Kevin Tobin**, Metropolitan Utilities District
Vice Chair **Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, UNL Civil Engineering
Secretary **Chuck Thomerson**, City of Columbus
Treasurer **John S. Olsson**, Olsson Associates
Trustee **Teresa Kub**, HDR Engineering Inc.
Trustee **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities
Director **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates

Teleconference Nov. 2

Plan to attend the November 2 teleconference, "Fire Hydrant Operations and Maintenance." Information will be posted on our website (<http://www.awwaneb.org>) when it becomes available.

For more information, contact Mike Wentink: (308.535.8135) e-mail: mike.wentink@hhss.ne.gov.

Chair's comments

It doesn't seem possible that the summer of 2006 will soon be history. At the time of writing the comments for the summer issue, precipitation from winter and early spring were better than years past and, it appeared that we were on our way to a Nebraska summer that would buck the trend of drought stricken seasons past.

Unfortunately, extreme dry conditions in May, June and July have us all concerned about supplies and shortages. These drought conditions force us to concertedly think about conservation and optimizing our resources to the best of our abilities.

In time of need I encourage you to ask for assistance from the list of mentors in our mentoring program. A mentor does not need to be on the list to provide assistance, to those in need, and to receive re-imburement from the Section for your service. The list of mentors in posted on the website and found in our membership directory.

The Board is planning some special events at the annual Fall Conference to celebrate National AWWA's 125th anniversary. To promote membership in our Section, and in recognition of the 125th anniversary, we are offering new memberships for \$30 (regularly \$62). This is a one-time offer available this year only. Please spread the word to your non-member friends and encourage participation in this offer.

I'd also like to remind operators to take advantage of the Scholarship program to help defray costs to attend the Fall Conference. See the application form on page 10.

National AWWA Vice-President **Joe Mantua**, of the Chesapeake Section, will be the national dignitary joining us at the Fall Conference. Please give Joe a hearty Nebraska welcome when you see him in Kearney.

Fall Conference Planning Committee Chair **Mike Wentink** has assembled another solid technical program. The conference agenda is on the following page for your reference. I look forward to seeing a large turnout at what should be another terrific conference.

In closing, I would like to thank the association for the privilege to serve as your chairperson this year and to the Executive Board for their commitment and continuing service to the association.



Tony Bilek

Officers and Trustees

Tony Bilek, 402.333.9660

e-mail: tony.mc2inc@att.net

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2006 Committee Chairs

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402.333.9660

Steve Kelley, *Awards*

402.228.5217

John S. Olsson, *Budget*

402.458.5661

Rich Koenig, *Cross Connections*

402.370.3114

Mike Wentink, *Education*

308.535.8134 or 402.471.1005

Mike Wentink, *Fall Conference*

308.535.8134 or 402.471.1005

Rich Koenig, *Fuller Award*

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Tony Bilek

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

Editor: **Mari Matulka**, APR, 402.504.7150; fax: 402.504.7020

e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com

2006 Fall Conference — November 8-9, Kearney

Wednesday, November 8

Session I

- 8:30-9 A.M. Opening session, **Joseph P. Mantua**, national AWWA vice-president
- 9-9:30 A.M. Angle Wells
Teresa Kub, HDR Engineering Inc.
- 9:30-10 A.M. River Crossings
Steve Hergert, Eric Cox, HDR Engineering Inc.
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11:15 A.M. Platte River Issues
Don Blankenau, Blackwell Sanders
- 11:15 A.M.-noon Stream Depletion Impacts on Water Systems
Gary Mader, Grand Island Utilities
Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System

NOON-1:30 P.M. Joint AWWA and WEA Lunch

- 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
- 5-6 P.M. New Member/Young Professional Mixer (*in Top Ops room*)
- 6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
- 7-9 P.M. Banquet

Session II

- 8:30-9 A.M. Opening session, **Joseph P. Mantua**, national AWWA vice-president
- 9-9:30 A.M. Angle Wells
Teresa Kub, HDR Engineering Inc.
- 9:30-10 A.M. GIS Digital in Records, Asset Management
Ben Day, Owen Killham, Olsson Associates
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30 A.M.-noon Cross-Connection Control Program and Panel Discussion
Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human Services
- NOON-1:30 P.M. **Joint AWWA and WEA Lunch**
- 1:30-2 P.M. Water for People Projects
Rajat Das, HDR Engineering Inc.
- 2-2:30 P.M. Proper Sampling Techniques
Dalton Johnson, Howard Isaacs
Nebraska Health & Human Services
- 2:30-3 P.M. Water Operator Basics
Ralph Naber, Nebraska Health & Human Services
- 3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 3:30-5 P.M. Top OPS Competition
- 5-6 P.M. New Member/Young Professional Mixer (*in Top Ops room*)
- 6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
- 7-9 P.M. Banquet

Thursday, November 9

- 7:30-8:30 A.M. Water Operator Breakfast

Session I

- 8:30-9 A.M. Lincoln Water System Wellfield Management
Kris Hahn, Black & Veatch
- 9-9:30 A.M. McCook Water Treatment Plant: The Challenges
Thomas Satchell, Jacobson Helgoth Consultants
- 9:30-10 A.M. Uranium and Arsenic: New Data and Potential Approaches to Mitigation
Dr. David Gosselin, UNL School of Natural Resources
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. Potential Federal Regulatory Impacts AWWA and/or EPA
- 11 A.M.-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update
Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services

Session II

- 8:30-9 A.M. Public Notification
Kris Luebbe, Nebraska Health & Human Services
- 9-9:30 A.M. Crisis, Conflict and Cooperation: Working With the Media
Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District
- 9:30-10 A.M. Safe Drinking Water Information System Public Access
Laura Hardesty, Nebraska Health & Human Services
- 10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
- 10:30-11 A.M. Potential Federal Regulatory Impacts AWWA and/or EPA
- 11 A.M.-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update
Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services

CEUs

- Nebraska Health & Human Services
- Grades 1-4: AWWA Program = Up to 7 hours
- Grades 1-4: Top Ops Participation = 1.5 hours
- Grade 6: AWWA Program = Up to 1.5 hours

Fees

- Pre-Registration for AWWA
(includes Thursday lunch and banquet), \$70
- Pre-Registration for Full Conference
(includes all lunches and banquets), \$140 (\$150 on-site)
- Pre-Registration = Prior to October 20
- 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 11 for the conference rate (Holiday Inn: \$67.95 for single or double), plus tax.

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Lincoln
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Brief Notes

The following companies provided financial support for the Nebraska Section Top Ops team to compete at the National Conference.

HDR Engineering Inc.
HGM Associates Inc.
HTM Sales
JEO Consulting Group
Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers
Mission Clay Pipe
Technical Maintenance and Service

Our team included: **Dave Lathrop, Doug Pollack**, City of Seward; and **Rick Melcher**, City of Aurora. They placed 10th out of 23 teams.

Said Rick: "The conference went well and the competition was fun. We were in the middle of the pack after preliminaries and hoped to do better at that point. But there were some questions we felt we knew the answers; just didn't get the button pushed in time. With as serious as the competition is, one must not hesitate. I'm not exactly sure what position we ended up in but I really appreciate the support from the Nebraska Section AWWA and **Chris Koenig**."



Kristine Ranslem, City of Albion and 2004 chair of the Nebraska Section AWWA, resigned her position with the city to move to Greeley, CO, where her husband accepted a new job. Her last day was June 9.

Said Kristine, "I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Nebraska Section AWWA. I will treasure the experiences and relationships I've had with each and everyone of you. Thank you for all of your guidance and encouragement along the way. I wish you all the best and continued success not only for the Section, but also in your personal endeavors."



Roger M. Helgoth has joined Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers as the manager of the Nebraska operations located in Omaha, Lincoln and York. He most recently was principal of Jacobson Helgoth Consultants and has 36 years of experience in environmental engineering.

A native of David City, Roger is a licensed professional engineer in Nebraska and Iowa. He is past president and national director of American Council of Engineering Companies of Nebraska and is on the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects. He also is involved in numerous professional and civic organizations. Roger earned his bachelors degree in Civil Engineering and a masters degree in Environmental Engineering from UNL.

Bruce "Mike" Michaelson has joined Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers as a senior municipal project manager. He will work on projects dealing with major roadways, pipelines, storm drainage, parks and trails.

In his 40-year engineering career, Mike has worked for E & A Consulting Group, Schemmer Associates and the City of Lincoln. He earned a bachelor of science degree in Construction Management from UNL, and is a member of AWWA, ACE and the



Chip Haas, HDR Engineering Inc., received the George Warren Fuller Award at the National Conference, June 11-15, in San Antonio, TX. On hand to congratulate Chip were, from left: Keith Alexander, M.U.D.;

Kathleen Alexander, HDR Engineering Inc.; Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works; Joel Christensen, M.U.D., Chip; Glenn Dostal, HDR Engineering Inc.; John Miriofsky and Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System.

National Society of Professional Engineers. Mike's phone number is 402.255.3820; e-mail: bmichaelson@kirkham.com.

Kirkham Michael Consulting has acquired Associated Design Professionals Inc. of Colorado Springs, CO.



Todd Skoog has been joined the JEO Consulting Group Inc. as business development director. Prior to joining JEO, he worked for the Lower Platte South NRD in Lincoln as a project coordinator.

In 2005, Todd retired as deputy commander of the Omaha District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He had served 22 years as an engineer officer for U.S. Army.

He earned a bachelors degree in geosciences from Pennsylvania State University, and a masters degree in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Colorado.



Kevin Tobin has been named superintendent of the Metropolitan Utilities District's Platte West Water Treatment Plant.

The Platte West Water Treatment Plant at 216th & Q Sts. extends the length of three football fields and covers a total of 630,511 sq. ft. Estimated to cost \$352 million, the plant will add a 100 million-gallon-per-day pumping capacity, bringing the total pumping capacity to 338 million gallons per day — pumping capacity envisioned to meet demands for the next 50 to 60 years. It is targeted to go on-line in 2008.

Kevin is vice-chair of the Nebraska Section AWWA.



Teresa Kub, HDR Engineering Inc. and Section board member, plans to marry Daren Konda September 30. Daren is an engineer with TD2. She will assume her husband's last name. Congratulations, Teresa!



Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System, has been named to the National AWWA Water Utility Council.



Scott Sprague has joined Nebraska Health and Human Services as a capacity development coordinator for the Regulation and Licensure Department.

During the past 30 years, Scott held the positions of water/wastewater superintendent, street superintendent and city administrator for the City of Ainsworth, followed by employment with the City of Valentine.

Capacity development is a state effort to help drinking water systems improve technical, financial and managerial capabilities. Much of this is accomplished by partnering with organizations such as the League of Nebraska Municipalities, Central Community College, Nebraska Section American Water Works Association, Midwest Assistance Program, and Nebraska Rural Water Association.

Scott's phone: 402.471.0088; e-mail:scott.sprague@hhss.ne.gov.



Get a head start on your advertising in Wise Water Words for 2007. See order form on page 11. We send the publication to 500 people, including Nebraska state senators and U.S. congressional representatives.

MAC Committee

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

The 2006 Annual Fall Conference will be held at the Kearney, NE. Holiday Inn Convention Center, November 8-9. Invitations to potential exhibitors were mailed in July.

Vendors are encouraged to submit their registration as soon as possible. The exhibition hall accommodates a maximum of 54 booths. The exhibition fee includes one 8' x 10" skirted booth with backdrop, table, chairs and one set of luncheon and banquet tickets.

Additional meal tickets are available for purchase at the conference.

The 2006 exhibit fee will be \$450 and covers Nebraska Section AWWA, WEA and APWA functions.

Money for Seminars!

The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer grants for water operators to attend seminars and the Annual Fall Conference.

To apply, complete the application on page 10. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.504.7855.

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services (308.535.8135) e-mail: mike.wentink@hhs.ne.gov

Water Operator Workshops

September 12 Chappell
September 13 North Platte
September 14 McCook
September 18 (Backflow) Ogallala
September 19 (Backflow) Grand Island
September 20 (Backflow) Wayne
September 21 (Backflow) Beatrice
October 11 Ord
December 5 Grand Island
December 6 Norfolk
December 7 Fremont
December 12 Lincoln
December 13 (Backflow) Fremont

Cost per workshop is \$25. Cost goes to \$35 for workshops after December 1. Workshop information also can be found in the Coalition Water Calendar, League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Newsletter and the following websites: www.lonm.org; www.hhs.state.ne.us; www.awwaneb.org.

Contact **Rob Pierce**, 402.476.2829, for more information.



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Director's report by Joel Christensen



Joel Christensen

The Board of Directors met at the Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Antonio June 10-11.

Joe Mantua, association vice-president from the Chesapeake Section, will be the AWWA representative at our Fall Conference. Joe is the Project Delivery Group Leader at the

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Sections are asked to review a proposed memorandum of understanding regarding use of branding materials and other issues relating to Water for People.

We discussed the accreditation program. There were questions about the costs to utilities and the consequences of being "non-accredited." There will be a utility survey to assess potential utility participation.

Last year the sections were asked to find their own director and officer insurance because the Association might not be able to cover them. Late in the year, it was determined the sections' directors and officers will be covered for at least one more year. It appears that sections like Nebraska, with no employees, will continue to be covered by the Association. Employment practices are the main area of risk.

I personally contacted **Tom Curtis**, with the AWWA Washington office, and asked him to speak at our Fall Conference. I followed up with an e-mail and am waiting for a reply. Tom had spoken at the Iowa conference last year.

The Board voted to add one vice-president and to grant voting rights on the Executive Committee to the AWWARF, Water for People and the Public interest Advisory Forum representatives.

If you have any questions, please give me a call (402.504.7774).

Young Professionals Committee

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

The Young Professionals Committee is organizing two vendor tours. The first one will be Thursday, August 31, at the Flowserve Pump Foundry, Hastings.

The tour will begin at 10 a.m. with an introduction, followed by a tour of the foundry showing the various processes of pump manufacturing. The tour is expected to last about two hours.

Safety glasses are required. You may bring your own, or use glasses provided by Flowserve. No open-toed shoes will be allowed.

The deadline to sign up for the tour is Thursday, August 24. If you are interested in attending, contact **Teresa Kub**, HDR Engineering Inc., by e-mail (teresa.kub@hdrinc.com) or call 402.926.7063.

The second tour will be to the Diamond Pipe Plant, Grand Island, NE, September 22, 2006. Details will be posted on the Section website when they become available.



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Have you ever been a member of AWWA? _____

When? _____ Member # _____

Section 1: Personal Information

Preferred mailing address: Business Home
 Mr. Ms. 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: _____

Section 2: Dues and Section Assessments

Active - \$150 (02) Student - \$28 (14) Operations/Administrative - \$62 (06) (will not receive Journal AWWA) Utility (0-5,000) - \$265 Utility (5,001-10,000) - \$1,465

Section 3: 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. Go to <http://www.awwa.org> for more information.

Annual Dues \$ _____

Multi-Section Option \$ _____

Total (U.S. funds) \$ _____

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.)

Section 4: 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.

Section 5: Circulation Figures

All applicants must complete this section. For auditing purposes, please circle one description in each of the 3 groups below that best describes you.

Business and Industry	Job Title	Interests	Optional
A. Public Water Supply—Municipally Owned	A. Executive—General Manager, Commissioner, Board Member, City Manager, Mayor, President, Vice-President, Owner, Partner, Director, etc.	Please help us serve you better by marking all appropriate areas of professional interest. <input type="checkbox"/> Backflow <input type="checkbox"/> Career Development <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/Information Systems <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation/Efficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Service <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfection <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution System <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Filtration <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Water <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste Management <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory/Testing Sample <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance/Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Membrane Treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Management <input type="checkbox"/> Public Information/Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory/Legislative <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources Mgmt./Plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Rates/Cost of Service <input type="checkbox"/> Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water <input type="checkbox"/> Water Reuse <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	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
B. Public Water Supply—Investor Owned	B. Management—Division Head, Section Head, Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroller, etc.		
C. Government—Federal, State, Local	C. Engineering/Non-managerial—Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System Designer, etc.		
D. Consultant	D. Scientific/Non-managerial—Chemist, Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.		
E. Contractor	E. Purchasing—Purchasing Agent, Procurement Specialist, Buyer, etc.		
F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler	F. Operations—Foreman, Operator, Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.		
G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives	G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial—Market Analyst, Marketing Representative, Salesperson, Sales Representative, etc.		
H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives	H. Other: _____		
I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations			
J. Fully Retired			
K. Research Lab			
L. Unreported			
Field Served			
5 Water Supply Only			
7 Wastewater Only			
9 Both			
3 Other			

Signature required: _____

Date: _____

Mail to: AWWA Membership
 6666 W. Quincy Ave.
 Denver, CO 80235
 800.926.7337
 303.794.7711

or fax to: 303.347.0804

Nebraska Section AWWA 2006 budget (July 10, 2006)

INCOME	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	2006 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 8,703.00	\$ 8,700.00	\$15,000.00
Association allotment	6,297.00	6,300.00	
Multi-section allotment	668.85	500.00	390.15
Annual meeting	33,510.00	12,000.00	
Washington Fly-In Reimbursement	0.00	500.00	
Interest on Accounts	853.99	1,000.00	
Teleconferences	795.00	3,000.00	420.00
Advertising income	6,725.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Water for People	1,138.00	1,250.00	
SRF Education Funds	2,089.00	10,000.00	
Miscellaneous	360.00	750.00	3,220.00
Water for People Golf Tournament	7,251.00	7,200.00	6,535.00
Total Income	\$68,390.84	\$56,200.00	\$30,565.15
EXPENSES			
Safety Committee	0.00	1,500.00	
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	300.00	
Education			
Education Committee	0.00	2,000.00	2,020.47
SRF Expenses	2,950.00	10,000.00	
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	2,205.00	1,500.00	
Public Information Committee/website	470.80	1,500.00	214.00
Teleconferences	1,011.35	1,500.00	216.94
Small Systems Committee	125.31	300.00	
Director's board meeting	0.00	0.00	
Publications			
Wise Water Words	7,911.98	8,400.00	5,530.05
Membership Directory	0.00	6,500.00	4,295.79
Advertising	228.00	375.00	
Student Activity	70.00	250.00	
Membership	1,235.45	750.00	
Audit	0.00	2,000.00	
Awards	415.04	500.00	171.18
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Regional officers' meeting/officer training	930.65	2,000.00	936.24
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	245.89	0.00	
Annual meeting	42,140.83	1,500.00	
Publicity	621.87		
Water for People	1,806.99	1,500.00	1,179.98
MAC Council	0.00	100.00	
Scholarships	3,250.00	2,000.00	2,501.00
Young Professionals	128.22	250.00	
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	617.56	1,300.00	
Miscellaneous	107.80	500.00	251.71
Water for People Golf Tournament	7,251.00	7,200.00	6,435.00
Total Expenses	\$75,723.74	\$55,725.00	\$25,752.36
Net Income	-\$7,332.90	\$ 475.00	\$4,812.79

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

The Nebraska Section AWWA awards grants for water operators to attend seminars and the Annual Fall Conference in Kearney (November 8-9, 2006), plus other workshops. To apply, please complete this application and send it to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.504.7855; fax: 402.504.7709; e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com.

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: _____

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- Wise Water Words, Spring issue, 2007 (deadline for copy, etc. January 15, 2007)
- Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2007 (deadline for copy, etc. April 15, 2007)
- Wise Water Words, Fall/Winter issue, 2007 (deadline for copy, etc. August 1, 2007)

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<i>full page not available on back page</i>		

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