

OFFICERS**Chair**
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John Keith • 402-441-1622**Vice-Chair**
Ryan Hurst • 402-443-3222**Secretary**
Brian Gongol • 515-223-4144**Treasurer**
Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338**Director**
Ben Day • 402-570-6843**Past Chair**
Craig Reinsch • 402-458-5671**Trustees**
Chris Miller • 308-234-6456
Adam Darbro • 402-694-6992
Tom Menke • 308-432-0522
{one vacant}

STANDING COMMITTEES**Archives & History**
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Marc Rosso • 531-207-3244
Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338**Awards**
Rob Pierce • 402-432-9172**Budget**
Angel Lowery • 402-970-2338**Cross Connection**
vacant**Education**
John Keith • 402-441-1622**Fall Conference**
John Keith • 402-441-1622**Fuller Award**
Teresa Konda • 402-926-7063**Manufacturers/Associates Council**
Lee Dunn • 531-200-5983**Membership Engagement**
Chuck Seuferer • 402-443-7440**Nominations**
Craig Reinsch • 402-458-5671**One Water**
Dale Jacobson • 402-203-4921**Philanthropy**
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Hayden Delay • 402-926-7075
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AD-HOC COMMITTEES**Community Engineering Corps**
Dr. Bruce Dvorak • 402-326-8391**American Water Works Association**
Nebraska SectionPO Box 83743
Lincoln, NE 68501-3743
awwaneb.org

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Board Meeting Minutes (2023) 11:27:14 AM

Date	September 7, 2023		
Time	1:00 pm CT		
Location	Videoconference		
Call to order	Marc Rosso called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.		
Roll call		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	ROSSO, Marc	Present	
	KEITH, John	Present	
	HURST, Ryan ¹	Present	
	GONGOL, Brian	Present	
	KOENIG, Mike		Absent
	DAY, Ben	Present	
	REINSCH, Craig	Present	
	MILLER, Chris ²	Present	
	LOWERY, Angel	Present	
	DARBRO, Adam		Absent
	MENKE, Tom	Present	
Approval of agenda	Craig Reinsch offered a friendly amendment to remove a duplicate item from the agenda, prior to moving approval of the agenda. Motion by Reinsch, seconded by Keith. Approved by voice vote.		
	Chris Miller joined the meeting at 1:09 pm.		
Approval of minutes	Day moved approval of the previous minutes, seconded by Lowery. Minutes were approved by voice vote.		
Chair's report	Marc Rosso referred the board to his written report. Keith moved to accept the report, seconded by Day. Report was accepted by voice vote.		
Director's report	Ben Day indicated that he had no report.		
Confirm new treasurer	On the motion to ratify the online vote to accept the resignation of Mike Koenig and appoint Angel Lowery as interim Treasurer until the Fall Conference, Reinsch moved, seconded by Miller. Ratification was approved by voice vote.		

- 1 Arrived at 1:22 pm
- 2 Arrived at 1:09 pm

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John Keith, assisting temporarily as Angel Lowery takes up the new role, reported a net income of about \$30,000 for the year. Keith further reported on the status of the Section's investment account, which has grown modestly since the start of the year. Keith reported on the reallocation of some funds within the investment account to reflect changes in interest rates.

Lowery noted that some of the fund transfers related to the Water For People donation experienced some friction, but that they were being resolved.

Lowery asked who was checking on the PO Box. Day indicated that he and Reinsch had been periodically checking the box. Lowery asked if the old PO Box was still forwarding to the new, and Day indicated that he thought so.

Lowery asked that anyone with invoices to be paid try to send them electronically if possible, in order to simplify the audit trail.

Gongol moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Menke. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Ryan Hurst joined the meeting at 1:22 pm.

Committee reports

Archives & History: See brief below.

Awards: See brief below.

Budget: See treasurer's report.

Cross Connections: See brief below. Rosso asked whether the new chair should come from a regulatory agency. Hurst noted that he believed the state was the likely best source of a new candidate. Reinsch agreed to approach some appropriate members of the regulatory agencies.

Education: Keith reported that the pre-conference would take place using the EPA small systems RCAP grant, and that it would be the final use of such a grant since the agreement is elapsing. The pre-conference will be free of charge for the first 60 attendees registering. Sponsors will help with the cost of the meal.

Fall Conference: Keith reported that the initial email

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invitations have gone out from NWEA, and that registration links were going live. Keith said that a conference announcement would be going out via postcard rather than the traditional folded mailer. All of the programs have been finalized and the details of the conference center are being undertaken. A volunteer is needed from the Nebraska Section AWWA to assist with the registration table on Wednesday.

Reinsch suggested reaching out to the YP committee to recruit session moderators. Gongol asked whether a postcard mailer needed to go out to the membership as a reminder for both the conference and the business meeting; Keith confirmed that would be the usual expectation.

Keith reminded the board that award orders and other related Fall Conference items need to be completed with the Association at least 6 weeks in advance. The past chairs' breakfast will be held at the Younes Center this year in order to ease the process for those trying to attend other proceedings.

Fuller Award: See brief below.

Manufacturers and Associates Council: No report.

Membership Engagement: Report attached.

Nominations: Reinsch deferred his report to the later agenda item.

One Water: No report.

Philanthropy: No report.

Public Information: No report.

Publications: Report attached.

Scholarship: Lowery reported that the applications were being issued presently and that new members were being recruited to the committee.

Small Systems: See brief below.

Top Ops: Report attached.

Water Utility Council: See brief below.

YP and Student Activities: No report. Rosso reported that they are participating in World of Water in Omaha on Saturday. Some collateral was collected for them to distribute, and the model had been brought back up to speed for display.

Membership report

See membership committee report.

Old business

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1. SOP update (Lowery):

One additional SOP update has been received. Some others have been either reported as current. Keith asked if a report on the SOP status could be compiled; Lowery said she had been keeping one and would send it to all committee chairs and board members.

2. Bylaws update (Reinsch):

Reinsch asked for a status update. Rosso reported that the approval was received from the association at ACE, and that further ratification would be performed at the business meeting.

3. Committee liaison updates (Rosso):

Rosso asked about the purpose of the agenda item. Gongol indicated that it was left over from prior discussions about using the board members to reach out to the committees as liaisons. Rosso indicated that the shortfall in reports for this meeting was probably a sign that some such outreach may be of value.

4. Fall Conference planning update (Keith):

Refer to the committee report already undertaken.

5. Strategic plan elements (Rosso):

Reinsch indicated that the strategic plan would be a good topic of discussion at the business meeting.

6. Safety awards (Rosso):

Keith reiterated the report from Rob Pierce that the number of applications was down and needed some additional support.

7. Small Systems committee chair (Rosso):

Rosso indicated that some outreach had been underway through Reinsch. Reinsch reported that he had not been able to get a new chair at the utilities he had targeted. Keith noted that it is hard to recruit leadership from the systems themselves, but that NDEE may be a more fruitful recruiting target for leadership. Reinsch agreed to add that to his plans for outreach with NDEE. Some brainstorming

regarding other candidates followed.

New business

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1. Groundwater model storage and maintenance (Rosso):

Rosso noted that in trying to find the groundwater model, it was only by chance that he was able to recall that it was in JEO's possession. Keith agreed to take on the groundwater model as an item for the Education committee SOP to ensure that it can be traced in the future.

2. Extension of secretary term to 2024 (Reinsch):

Reinsch reported that he reached out to the current trustees to find out whether any of them would be willing to accelerate their board progression by taking over the Secretary role. All declined.

Reinsch noted that a continuance of Gongol's term as Secretary taken concurrently with the role of Vice Chair was the path of least resistance, subject to the approval of the association for concurrent service. Recruiting a new trustee to immediately leapfrog into the Secretary role seems ill-advised.

Reinsch will update his nominations report subject to the approval of the association. He further noted that the board may wish to consider a more formal process for filling roles vacated prematurely. Rosso asked what such a policy would look like. Lowery noted that she thought there was a policy from the association that could also be reviewed. Keith suggested that the new process be integrated with the Nominations committee SOP.

3. Fall Conference banquet attendance gift discussion/selection (Reinsch):

Keith shared some proof imagery of a banquet gift themed with the AWWA "No Water No Beef" logo mark. The gifts will be distributed to the visiting dignitary and used as door prizes for other conference purposes.

Reinsch noted that other special items have been distributed in prior years at the banquet to all attendees. Some brainstorming discussion followed, particularly regarding the use of the "No Water No Beef" logo.

Reinsch moved, seconded by Miller, to distribute barbecue sets as the banquet attendance gift. Motion was approved by voice vote. A separate item will be

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found to give to the visiting dignitary and to be distributed as a door prize.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

Upcoming meetings

Keith will distribute invitations to the board dinner prior to the Fall Conference.

Adjournment

Keith moved to adjourn, seconded by Menke. Motion was approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Attest

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gongol
Secretary

Committee Report Briefs

Archives & History: Still have books to get to members (dropped off books to MUD but Mike left and not sure where the books went). Bruce Dvorak stopped at our office and helped with some members who were students and may no longer be in the state. Gave him some books to get to any students still around. Have about 24 books at the League office. Any thoughts on donating a book to the Nebraska Historical Society, provided they would want one? My thoughts are to give a book to anyone donating \$20 to the scholarship fund. - *Rob Pierce*

Awards/Safety: Will have awards for November (possibly 3-4 WISA, treatment water operator, meritorious operator and a supervisor award). Am working on a couple more but don't have the applications yet. Safety awards are down in applications. Need to make changes to the SOP and award applications. - *Rob Pierce*

Cross Connections: Four workshops held in Beatrice, Wayne, Ogallala and Grand Island with 140 in attendance. Used caterers at two sites. Meals costs about 15-25% higher than in past years. Marty O. (committee member) helped with the western workshops. Need a chair for the committee. - *Rob Pierce*

Fuller Award: There will be a Fuller Award recipient this year. - *Teresa Konda*

Small Systems: Nothing to report. - *Adam Darbro*

Water Utility Council: Nothing to report. - *Chad Roberts*

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American Water Works Association
Nebraska Section

PO Box 83743
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September 7, 2023

Chairs Report

Members of the Board, Committee Chairs and Section Members:

It's been a bit quiet this summer with NSAWWA activities. Fall Conference planning is almost complete, and the committee can report "it's happening". Many thanks to Mike Koenig who has departed as Treasurer and welcome to incoming Treasurer Angel Lowery who has started as interim incoming Chair and will be confirmed at Fall Conference.

We are still in search of a Small Systems Committee Chair as Adam Darbro has departed that Chair position. We also need a Cross Connections Chair to replace Rich Koenig. RIP. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let the Board know and we can contact and encourage someone to take that position. We are also pursuing more operators to engage with the committees. This to put more operators in Chair and Board positions in the future.

As we hit the home stretch of my tenure as Chair, I look forward to completing updates and membership approval of the SOP's and the Bylaws. Thanks to Maggie Vulman of AWWA for her efforts in getting the NSAWWA Bylaws updated as well as Angel Lowery for leading the SOP's updates.

See you at Fall Conference!

Respectfully submitted,

Marc E. Rosso, PE

Chair of the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association

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September, 2023 Board of Directors Memorandum September 7, 2023, 2023 Board Meeting

We currently have 309 active members, with 11 late members. Since the last Board meeting in May we are up two member from 307. For comparison, in January 2022 we had 309 active members with 29 late. In a large part, we anticipate a significant number of late members rejoining as they include several member renewals that are sent to municipal finance departments to process and it takes 30 days to process. This year we have seen a decrease in memberships and reluctance from people to renew. This is partly due to former members taking other positions in different fields of work and other individuals retiring. Hopefully with a little reminder they will remember to renew. We have been reaching out with current members who have connections with late/dropped members.

I came on as Membership Committee Chair in November of 2022, and my goal this year is to increase membership along with learning more about AWWA. We can report “more of the same” for 2023. I have a focus on water systems maintaining their memberships. Recently it seems there has been a trend of those entities being late or dropping memberships. We continue to monitor late members and notify them of lapsed memberships, on a monthly basis.

As of this committee report being sent out, I have not heard of the date for the AWWA Membership Summit. Last year I attended it virtually. In that summit, there was a lot of useful information. Depending on when it is, I hope to attend it again.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Seufferer
Nebraska Section AWWA Membership Committee Chair

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American Water Works Association
Nebraska Section

PO Box 83743
Lincoln, NE 68501-3743
awwaneb.org

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

September 6, 2023

Brian Gongol, chair - brian@gongol.net

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Current members:

- Brian Gongol, Laura Hardesty, Darren Jack, Teresa Konda, Mary Poe, Mike Wentink

Changes since last report:

- None

KEY UPDATES

- **Color palette:** Your humble chair has not updated the website or our printed collateral materials to reflect the updated AWWA color palette. This update should serve as a reminder to do so.
- **Task delegation:** A new form for requesting website updates has been developed and posted to <https://forms.gle/2E6yrZm5jykvZoH19>. Please test that form as you come up with website updates you want to request. This is a major step in the direction of delegating committee tasks more effectively.
- **Letterhead updates:** Pending confirmation of the new interim treasurer, we will need to issue a new letterhead template for Section use.

WEBSITE

Updates have been made to the website as requested by the board and committees.

Month	Updates	Year ago	Trend
October 2022	13	11	↗
November 2022	0	6	↘
December 2022	4	1	↗
January 2023	6	5	↗
February 2023	5	7	↘
March 2023	3	5	↘
April 2023	4	2	↗
May 2023	11	9	↗
June 2022	4	2	↗
July 2022	4	6	↘
August 2022	7	10	↘
September 2022	2	15	

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E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

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WWW Weekly emails are going out regularly.

Recent editions	Open rate ¹	Click rate ²
May 19	37.4%	13.1%
June 11	28.3%	1.7%
June 23	27.8	3.1
July 7	31.1	4.4
August 4	31.1	5.6
August 13	32.2	4.9
August 18	26.8	4.0
August 25	30.6	7.2
September 1	30.1	3.5

WISE WATER WORDS

Please don't hesitate to send content at any time, since we always publish to the website first.

Edition	Articles due	Target publication
Spring edition	March 15	April 1
Summer edition	June 15	July 1
Fall edition	September 15	October 1
Winter edition	December 15	January 1

SOCIAL MEDIA

Nothing new to report.

MULTIMEDIA

Nothing new to report.

DATA DASHBOARD

Medium	Members/Fans	May report	Change
Facebook likes	479	445	+34
Facebook follows	517	486	+31
E-mail distro list	435	411	+24
LinkedIn	14	14	no change
Twitter	143	145	-3
YouTube subscribers	130	129	+1
YouTube views	175,511	174,307	+1,204

1 Of the emails sent, how many were opened by subscribers

2 Of the emails sent, how many registered at least one click

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REPORT

NSAWWA TOP OPS COMMITTEE – Michael Wentink, Chair

September 2023

The original goal was for a slate of eight teams of three for the competition. Based on the draft Joint Fall Conference agenda, it appears that one hour will be allotted for the Top Ops competition this year. In 2022, every minute of the 1 ½ hour Top Ops time allotment was consumed by the five-team competition. Due to the reduced time allotment this year (2023), **a scaled down slate of six teams is planned.**

As provided last year, incentive for competing at the Fall conference Top Ops competition includes a \$25.00 gift card for each competitor, in addition to prize money awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

Financials

Gift cards (18 @ \$25.00) total \$450.00.

Prize money

1st place team members (3 @ \$60.00) = \$180.00

2nd place team members (3 @ \$40.00) = \$120.00

3rd place team members (3 @ \$20.00) = \$60.00

Total for prize money and Visa gift cards = \$810.00

NSAWWA Treasurer will be requested to purchase gift cards and make available cash for distributing at the end of the Top Ops competition to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place team members.

Top Ops questions are being compiled and soon will be submitted to the moderator (Brian Gongol).