AWWA & PA Section welcomes
University of Pennsylvania’s
Student Chapter …Page 7

Coming this Fall:
The Utility and Joint Asset Management Conference
with PA-AWWA, PMAA and PWEA
Oct. 31—Nov. 1, 2019
Gettysburg, PA
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To advertise in the Water News Source, please contact Mike Snyder at 717-774-8870 or email mikesnyder@paawwa.org for more information.

The Water News Source • Vol. 55 No. 2 • Summer 2019

The Water News Source is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Section of the American Water Works Association. The purpose is to inform members, local and state officials, and elected representatives about water supply issues in Pennsylvania.

The ideas, opinions, concepts, procedures, etc., expressed in this publication are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the PA-AWWA Section, its officers, general membership, or the editor. The Section maintains the right to edit all articles for clarity and space. Individuals or organizations are encouraged to submit suggestions, ideas, articles, and items for the calendar of events. Please submit as a Word file and email to mikesnyder@paawwa.org.

Deadline to submit articles for the next newsletter is August 31, 2019.
Hello Water Professionals,

Thank you for the opportunity to become Chair and for the support of PA-AWWA members on the path here! Additionally, I would like to thank all the individuals who made the 2019 PA-AWWA Annual Conference a success. The PA-AWWA Section is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers and full time employees who make the Annual Conference an enjoyable experience.

My largest industry concern is taken from a March 31, 2019 Lancaster Online article. The article references Pennsylvania DEP data and the quote is as follows:

“In 2015, of the 4,095 drinking water operators in the state, 64.5 percent (2,643) were over 50 years old and less than 3 percent were under 30.

Similarly, in the wastewater industry, of the 4,109 operators, 64.7 percent (2,657) were over 50 years old and less than 3 percent were under 30.”

In the upcoming year, I plan to focus my efforts on the shortage of employees the water industry faces and working with the Young Professionals Committee to achieve outreach goals. The Young Professionals Committee has jumped at the idea of taking a larger role in the PA-AWWA Section. To accomplish this, the Young Professionals (YP) leadership has been invited to attend Section Board and Conference meetings. As an introduction to PA-AWWA Section, the YP leadership team is as follows:

- YP Committee Chair (Eastern PA) – Eloise Gibby, Greeley and Hansen
- Western PA Vice Chair - Ralph Wawrzyniakowski, PA American Water
- Central PA Vice Chair - Brian Rowland, Rummel, Klepper & Kahl
- Social Media Coordinator - Kristin Connors, Hazen and Sawyer

YP Committee attendance at Board and Conference meetings will be to focus on the YP Social Media Outreach Plan. This plan has the following goal:

The use of social media and/or outreach to recruit high school students, trade school students, university students, young professionals and veterans to join the PA-AWWA section and to pursue a career in the water industry.

The YP Committee will continue to play a large role in student outreach and the start-up of PA-AWWA student chapters. One initiative is leading the new student Elevated Storage Tank Contests in the East, Central and West Regions.

The winning team of each contest will receive a free admission to the PA AWWA Annual Conference to compete against the Section teams and provide the students with career networking opportunities.

Workforce sustainability has been a long term water industry topic and appears to be a current relevant issue. To leverage the time of our outreach volunteers, we plan to use social media platforms of LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, and YouTube. Please contact me if you have experience in social media platforms.

The Section Staff, Board and Committees have been very busy planning upcoming educational and networking events including:

- AWWA ACE19 PA-AWWA and Chesapeake-AWWA Joint Reception on Monday, June 10th from 5:30 - 7pm at the Hard Rock Café in Denver, CO.
- 4th Annual Sporting Clay Challenge at Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays on Tuesday, September 17, 2019
- The 4th Annual PA-AWWA/PMAA/PWEA Joint Conference on Asset Management and Utility Management in Gettysburg, PA on October 31 – November 1, 2019

In addition to the above, the Section is planning joint PA-AWWA/PWEA annual conferences in 2020 and 2022 located in State College, PA.

I look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events!

Thank you,

Chris Evans, PA Section Chair
message from the executive director

SAVE THE DATE: The Joint Asset Management Conference with PA-AWWA, PMAA and PWEA
Oct 31, 2019 – Nov. 1, 2019 • Gettysburg, PA

Operators Apply Now for The One AWWA Operator Scholarship – Deadline is Dec. 6, 2019

The One AWWA Operator Scholarship, funded through the support of AWWA’s The Water Equation Campaign and the Pennsylvania AWWA Section, can be used for certification/licensure, two-year water related associate degree, technical school program, professional training program, books and manuals, and operator related conferences.

Each scholarship recipient will receive a one-year AWWA Operator membership.

Eligibility Guidelines

• Applicant must be a current water operator or seeking to enter the water operator profession.
• Applicant must be pursuing an Operator’s License or Certification, two or four-year degree related to the water operator profession, or professional development.
• Disbursement of the funds will be made directly by the Section to the financial office of recipient’s college, university, or technical school.
• Items related to books, manuals, conferences, professional development courses, and other eligible expenses will be reimbursed to recipient upon presentation of eligible receipts.
• Applicant must reside or work within the geographical boundaries covered by the sponsoring Section.
• Acceptance of scholarship constitutes permission to use recipient’s name and scholarship story for purpose of promotion.

Please submit the application to Don Hershey, PA-AWWA at donhershey@paawwa.org or fax to: 717-774-0288. The scholarship(s) will be awarded at the 2020 PA-AWWA’s 72nd annual conference.

Special note: The award may be split two ways depending on the amount of nominees and qualified applicants.

Congratulations to Emily Poach, 2019 Charles “Chick” Roberts Scholarship Winner

Emily is from Monroeville, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Pittsburgh. She is currently a student at Gannon University in Erie, PA and has just completed her second year in the Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Engineering program.

Emily stays busy through academics and involvement in clubs. One of her greatest passions is playing volleyball. She is the current President of the Women’s Club Volleyball team where she organizes practices, volunteer work, and attending tournaments for the team. Additionally, Emily is also very proud to serve as chair of the Gannon chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. In this

AWWA Member Utility Spotlight is on: Borough of Quakertown Water Department

The Borough of Quakertown Water Department serves the Borough by providing safe and dependable drinking water to its customers. The Department’s primary mission is to plan for, operate, and maintain both the infrastructure and the organization necessary to purvey high quality drinking water and to provide an adequate and reliable water supply for all household, commercial, and community needs as well as adequate supplies and water pressures for fire protection.

Whether we are providing safe water for residents to drink, supplying water for industries to manufacture goods here in the Borough, or protecting the region’s water resources, serving our customers with quality has been a commitment of the Borough of Quakertown Water Department.

The Water Department operates both manned and automated systems that work around the clock to make sure that a safe, high-quality supply of water is always on tap.

The Borough of Quakertown operates ten wells in and around the Borough as well as three storage facilities with a total storage capacity of over 2.8 million gallons. The average daily demand is 1.4 million gallons per day.

The Borough complies with all federal and state requirements. The Borough publishes a Drinking Water Quality Report which is mailed to all customers in July of each year and is always available at Borough Hall.

Quality is a principle that runs throughout the Borough of Quakertown’s Water Department. Our commitment to providing a safe and abundant supply of water is our commitment to all of our customers, large and small.

Emily Poach

Emily Poach continued on Page 19

Don Hershey
Executive Director

Emily Poach

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Criminal prosecutions & tactics used to get top honchos

At the recent AWWA-PA Section Annual Conference, there seemed to be a lot of interest in the segment that I presented on the criminalization of violations under the PA Safe Drinking Water Act. Because of time limitations, I was unable to answer all of the questions that the audience had. So, I am taking this opportunity to elaborate further on this topic, and in particular on tactics used in criminal prosecutions. A common criminal prosecution tactic is for the prosecution to cast a wide net by criminally charging multiple underlings within an organization, including water systems, with the goal of having at least one or more of the underlings testify against others higher-up on the organizational chart, i.e., the top honchos.

An inducement for underlings to cooperate with the prosecution, by testifying against those higher up on the organizational chart, is the promised reduction or elimination of criminal charges in exchange. The tactic is not always successful in inducing charged individuals to testify against others. Nor, may it result in a plea deal when a charged individual seeking a plea deal is not considered credible. The slang for the latter is “whether the person is singing or composing?” Examples of some of this made the news in the Robert Mueller Russian collusion investigation. In many cases, the tactic has been successful, and is sometimes the only chance prosecutors have of getting a conviction, or guilty plea, at the top honcho level.

This tactic is being used in the Flint water crisis criminal prosecutions. As I have reported previously, 15 state and local officials have been criminally charged in connection with their involvement. The officials hailed from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (“MDHHS”), Emergency Managers appointed by the State government, and City of Flint employees. The charges range from misdemeanors to felonies. The plea deals have been in progress since the charges were filed. For example, as reported by Michigan Radio on April 25, 2019, Stephen Busch, the former Water Supervisor for the DEQ pleaded no contest to his charges, and was placed on probation. In exchange for that Mr. Busch has agreed to testify against former MDHHS Services Director, Nick Lyon. Mr. Lyon is a top honcho because he has been charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Another example, as reported by The Detroit News on January 7, 2019, is the plea deal of Liane Shekter-Smith, the former head of the DEQ’s Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance. She had been charged with involuntary manslaughter. In exchange for her agreement to testify against other officials, the charges against her were reduced to a misdemeanor. If she complies with the plea agreement, all charges against her will be dismissed. Ms. Shekter is a top honcho because of her official duties and the gravity of the felony charge against her. So, in her case it is an example of the prosecution making a deal with one top honcho in order to obtain guilty pleas or convictions of other top honchos. Of the 15 officials criminally charged, 7 have entered into plea agreements to cooperate with the prosecution and testify against others involved.

Criminal charges filed in a case of alleged massive water theft

The Reading Eagle and the Philly Voice reported on April 19, 2019 that criminal charges were filed on April 18, 2019 by the Berks County District Attorney’s Office against an individual with commercial properties on the Reading Area Water Authority’s (“RAWA”) water system. The alleged crimes are the theft of services, a felony, and possession of an instrument of crime, a misdemeanor. The services allegedly stolen are 63 million gallons of water. The alleged theft of water did not happen all at one time, and not all of the alleged theft is recent. Based on the criminal charges, the theft spans a period of 13 years. The value of the alleged theft is reported to be $815,000 in unpaid water and sewer usage. The alleged instrument of crime was not the typical gun or a knife.

In this case, the report identifies it to be an alleged magnet. The alleged facts are that the meter department suspected that someone was possibly tampering with the water meter in one of the commercial buildings owned by the defendant. Employees of the RAWA went to the building, in question, to investigate. As reported, when they arrived at the building they allegedly encountered the defendant and several others in the basement of the building near the water meter. The RAWA employees allegedly told the defendant that they needed to examine the water meter. A sweatshirt allegedly was observed covering the
The NJ and PA-AWWA YP committees and the NJ and PA WEA YP committees collaboratively hosted the Scranton WWTP Tour and Ski Trip which was an all-day event in Scranton, PA on January 25, 2019.

Fourteen water industry professionals attended. The group met at the Scranton WWTP and toured the plant. The tour began at the Scranton WWTP Headworks Building, went on to the primary tanks, final tanks, chlorination tank, and sludge handling building. Along the way, tour guide Daniel Rickard spoke at each process and answered questions from attendees. Midway through the tour, the group gathered inside the Administration Building for a Q&A session with Daniel.

After the tour, attendees drove to a nearby Panera Bread Co. restaurant and enjoyed lunch together. Following lunch, YPs headed up to Montage Mountain and hit the slopes. After an afternoon of skiing and snowboarding, YPs were invited to spend the remainder of the evening at the Slocum Hollow Restaurant in the Montage Mountain Ski Lodge. Staff from Pennsylvania American Water volunteered their time to guide the tour.

To become a member of this active and fun group, contact Benjamin Deatrich at benjamin.deatrich@aecom.com.

PA Water Law Continued from page 6

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AWWA, PA-AWWA welcomes the University of Pennsylvania Student Chapter

AWWA and PA-AWWA welcomes the University of Pennsylvania Student Chapter which is dedicated to engaging the Philadelphia community to develop integrated and innovative strategies for addressing the city’s public health, infrastructure, and long-term water sustainability. With interests ranging from hydrology, geology, geochemistry and environmental contamination, we are excited to expand our knowledge of water resources through our collaborative efforts with AWWA.

Special thanks to: Hannah New and Howard Neukrug, Advisor

AWWA Student Chapters

It’s easy to start an AWWA Student Chapter at your college/university! You’ll need a minimum of five AWWA Student Members and a faculty advisor, along with the support of your college/university and your local AWWA Section. Participating in an AWWA Student Chapter provides you with leadership and organizational skills – not to mention, it’s a great resume-builder.

You’ll expand your network of water professionals as you attend local Section events and Association conferences and events. Other benefits include free webinars for student chapters, discounted manuals and training guides, access to electronic publications, and the opportunity to apply for AWWA scholarships.

For more information or to get your chapter started, call or email Cari Maciolek at 303.347.6269 or cmaciolek@awwa.org.

Michael D. Klein is a Senior Counsel in the Harrisburg, PA, and Washington D.C. offices of Cozen O’Connor. Michael practices in the areas of utility and environmental law. He can be reached at mklein@cozen.com and 717-703-5903. This column is intended to be a discussion of legal issues in the water industry. It is not intended to be legal advice, or to establish any attorney-client relationships. Before making any legal decisions regarding anything discussed in this column you should always consult with an attorney.
Charlotte Katzenmoyer — Capital Region Water’s new CEO

Capital Region Water’s Board of Directors recently selected Charlotte Katzenmoyer as Chief Executive Officer of Capital Region Water.

“Charlotte’s success leading the City of Lancaster’s Public Works including its water, wastewater, and stormwater systems for over 17 years made her an ideal candidate for Capital Region Water as we address similar infrastructure investments and regulatory obligations,” said Board Chairperson Marc Kurowski. “Her unique experience and commitment to transparency will help Capital Region Water continue to best serve our customers.”

As the Director of Public Works with the City of Lancaster, Charlotte led a team of 200 employees including the Bureau of Water and the Bureau of Wastewater which serve 140,000 people in the City of Lancaster and nine surrounding municipalities. While in Lancaster, Charlotte oversaw the modernization of Lancaster’s water and sewer infrastructure and developed a nationally recognized green stormwater infrastructure program.

“It is an honor to be selected CEO of Capital Region Water,” said Charlotte Katzenmoyer. “I look forward to joining a team of dedicated employees to enhance the Harrisburg-area community through resilient operations and long-term infrastructure investments as well as making Harrisburg a leader in green stormwater infrastructure projects to help eliminate localized flooding and improve neighborhoods.”

Charlotte graduated from the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and graduated from Lehigh University with a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering.

Xylem’s Freedom PA plant produces first Wedeco Ozone System

Xylem recently produced, tested and shipped its first Wedeco Ozone System from its new facility in Freedom, Pennsylvania, marking the first Xylem product to come out of the factory, which was acquired in Sept. 2017 from Mitsubishi Electric. The Wedeco system will be used in one of the country’s busiest airports as part of a wastewater reuse project with Carollo Engineers (pictured here with a Xylem employee) and Walsh Construction Company. The system is scheduled to go online later this year.
Congratulations to the 2019 Award Winners

**George W. Fuller Award**

Recipient: Christopher Crockett, Aqua America

Chris Crocket (left) receives the George W. Fuller Award from Joe Jacangelo, AWWA representative.

The Fuller Award honors a prominent leader in the water industry for “distinguished service in the water supply field and in commemoration of the sound engineering skill, the brilliant diplomatic talent, and the constructive leadership of men and women in the Association which characterized the life of George Warren Fuller.”

---

**Operator Meritorious Service Award**

Recipient: Steven Bixler, Elizabethtown Area Water Authority

Steve Bixler of the Elizabethtown Area Water Authority displays his Operator Meritorious Service Award presented by Peter Lusardi, PA Section Chair (left) and Craig Palmer, Committee Chair.

This award acknowledges special operator performance for continuous compliance with public health standards in finished water.

---

**David A. Long Scholarship Award**

Recipient: Sara Schwetschenau

Sara Schwetschenau of Carnegie Mellon University displays her David A. Long Scholarship certificate. Presenters included Peter Lusardi (left) and Curt Fontaine, Committee Chair.

The David A Long Scholarship award is for $2,000. The scholarship’s namesake served on the State College Borough Water Authority for 20 years and was described by his peers as a visionary. Dave was very active in the PA Section for over 35 years. He passed away in November 2001.

---

**One AWWA Operator Scholarship Award**

Recipient: Jesse Lavigne

Jesse Lavigne (center) of Downingtown Municipal Water Authority displays his award with EPA’s Patti Kay Wisniewski (right) and Peter Lusardi.

The one AWWA Operator Scholarship offers water and wastewater operators funding for continuing education, certification, training, and conference attendance through a partnership with local AWWA Sections.

---

**Samuel S. Baxter Award**

Recipient: Debra McCarty, Philadelphia Water Commissioner

Pictured: Debra McCarty

The Baxter Award is presented for outstanding personal service in the water supply field and in commemoration of the leadership and development of safe public water system facilities, and advancement of improved water supply practices, the promotion of the water works industry of high esteem and service to the American Water Works Association as exhibited by Samuel S. Baxter, former Commissioner of Water for the City of Philadelphia and former AWWA President.

---

**Rising Tide/Young Professional Award**

Recipient: Eloise Gibby

Eloise Gibby of Greeley-Hansen received her Rising Tide/Young Professional Award from (left) Peter Lusardi and Benjamin Deatrich, Committee Chair.

The Rising Tide award is given to an individual (AWWA member under the age of 35) in the PA Section who has made or continues to make a significant contribution to the advancement of young professionals in the Section.
PaWARN Gold Star Award

Recipient: Thomas Mealy, Derry Township Municipal Authority

Thomas Mealy (center) received his award from Peter Lusardi (left) and Mike Snyder, PaWARN Coordinator.

The PaWARN Gold Star Award is given to an individual who has shown his or her dedication to emergency preparedness and mutual aid within the water/wastewater sector.

Outgoing District Trustees

North Central: James DeWolfe
Northeast: Eric Fox

Pictured: James DeWolfe (right) displays his award presented by Peter Lusardi.

Outgoing Committee Chair

Rising Tide/Young Professional: Benjamin Deatrich

Pictured: Ben Deatrich (right) receives the Outgoing Committee Chair award from Peter Lusardi.

Victor Appleyard Award

Recipient: Steve Bixler, Elizabethtown Area Water Authority

Pictured: Steve Bixler

This award is given to the Section member who recruited the most new members to join PA-AWWA.

Special Recognition

These awards are given to honor years of service and dedication to the water industry.

Recipient: Liesel Gross, Lehigh County Authority

Liesel Gross received her award from Peter Lusardi (left) and John Muldowney, Committee Co-Chair.

Recipient: Jeffrey Golding, retired from Gannett Fleming

Jeffrey Golding (left) received his award from Gene Koontz, Committee Co-Chair.

Recipient: Dr. Jeanne VanBriesen, Carnegie Mellon University

Jeanne VanBriesen received her award from Peter Lusardi (left) and Curt Fontaine, Committee Co-Chair.

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2019 PA-AWWA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Fresh Ideas Poster Contest

First Place: Thomas Boynton, University of Oxford

Second Place: Michael Ryan, Villanova University

Third Place: Elizabeth Bell, Penn State University

Top Photo: Thomas Boynton, a student at the University of Oxford, enthusiastically explains his poster entry to the judges. Boynton’s poster finished in first place.

Bottom Photo: This year’s poster contest entrants included (left to right) Kelly Good (judge), Elizabeth Bell, Michael Ryan, Thomas Boynton, Chelsea Errichetti, Lesmes Mora Jerez, Asa Lewis, Ben Deatrich (Committee Chair) and Joe Jacangelo (AWWA Rep).

Silent Auction raises $2,060 benefitting Water For People

The Pennsylvania Section’s Water For People (WFP) Silent Auction raised $2,060 during the 2019 Annual Conference held recently at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center.

The Pennsylvania Section and the Design-Build Institute of America also joined forces to donate an additional $5,000 to WFP.

These funds will be combined with funds raised this year through the PA-AWWA Night at PNC Park in Pittsburgh on July 20, 2019; the 13th Annual Water For People Charity Golf Outing in Coopersburg on September 19, 2019 and the 13th Annual PA-AWWA Water For People Gala hosted by Stone Hill Contracting at the William Penn Inn in Gwynedd on November 7, 2019.

WFP encourages everyone to get involved in Water For People by making a charitable contribution. Visit the website www.waterforpeople.org and learn more about the projects and the Water For People sponsors. Helping those less fortunate enjoy clean, drinkable water becomes possible through your generous donations. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year’s silent auction and other WFP events.

For more information, contact Bob McIntyre at Stone Hill Contracting Co., Inc. 215-340-1840 or at rkmcintyre@stonehillcontracting.com.
Jim DeWolfe selected as Vice-Chair of PA-AWWA

Jim DeWolfe, PE, CWO, has served for 7 years as the Water Treatment Operations Leader for Hazen and Sawyer, and over 30 years of experience in the drinking water industry. He leads national efforts to guide strategic initiatives that assures continuity of emphasis on operations from inception to commissioning for new projects, and prioritizes efforts to assist utilities with source water, treatment and distribution system challenges. Jim specializes in process optimization, residuals management via beneficial use, filter surveillance, and operator empowerment. Prior to Hazen, he worked for several consulting firms and American Water.

Jim earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering (1987) and a Master of Science (1990) from Penn State University. Prior to his academic pursuits, he served 6 years in the US Navy’s Submarine Service / Nuclear Power Program. He last served as Trustee of the NC District prior to his election as Vice-Chair of the PA AWWA Section, and is Past Chair of the Coagulation Filtration Committee, a member of the AWWA B100 Standard Committee for Granular Media, and a member of the Source Water Protection Technical Advisory Workgroup. He has authored numerous articles and publications for both AWWA and the Water Research Foundation (WRF), and regularly presents at state and national conferences.

Jim and his wife Suzie reside in State College, PA and are the parents of six children. Jim volunteers for several State College area organizations, including American Legion Post 245 (past Vice President of the Board).
Award winning PfSW utilities honored at Section Conference

By Paul Zielinski, PfSW Representative

Chester Water Authority

Members of the Chester Water Authority were present to accept their recognition certificate for 15 continuous years in the Treatment program as a Directors Award utility. Chester Water is also one of two Phase IV Excellence Award facilities in Pennsylvania.

On hand to present and accept the award are (left to right): Don Hershey (PA-AWWA Executive Director), Paul Zielinski (PfSW Rep), Ken Eller (Chester Water Operator), Sharon Fillmann (Chief – Treatment & Pumping), Randy Freese (Chester Water Operator) and Kevin Anderson (DEP – Environmental Group Manager).

Jersey Shore Area Joint Water Authority

Representatives of the Jersey Shore Area Joint Water Authority (JSAJWA) proudly accepted their award for 15 continuous years of voluntary compliance within the Treatment program as a Phase III Directors Award utility.

Pictured (left to right): Don Hershey, David Palski (JSAJWA Board Treasurer), Barbara Schmouder (JSAJWA Board Secretary), Paul Zielinski, Judy Cohick (JSAJWA Manager) and Kevin Anderson.

Ephrata Area Joint Authority

The Ephrata Area Joint Authority was recognized for their 5 years of continual voluntary compliance with the Partnership Treatment program as a Directors Award utility. The utility also completed their Phase IV Excellence program self-assessment report and filed it with National AWWA.

Pictured (left to right) Don Hershey, Paul Zielinski, Scott Mohn (Ephrata Water Operator), Jeff Iezzi (Ephrata Chief Operator), Paul Swangren (Ephrata Public Works & Water Supt.) and Kevin Anderson.

PfSW utilities also receiving recognition awards at the Conference but not present are:

- Philadelphia Water Department (3 Plants) – 20 years as a Directors Award utility
- Blossburg Water Authority - 15 Years as a Directors Award utility
- Brohead Creek Regional Authority – 15 years as a Directors Award utility
- Shenandoah Municipal Water Authority – 15 Years as a Directors Award utility
- Easton Suburban Water Authority - 10 Years as a Directors Award utility

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Annual Tank Building Contest: Team Awesome’s tank featuring 3 mixers captures $100 prize

Supplies: 50 plastic straws. A 16 oz red solo cup. Paperclips, rubber bands, scissors, and pipe cleaners. Could you construct a tank out of random office supplies that could hold 8 oz of water for 30 seconds?

Eight teams of four successfully did this at the 5th Annual Tank Building Contest, proudly sponsored by Entech Engineering, at this year’s PA-AWWA Conference.

The competition was fierce, with several teams returning from previous years with important hands-on experience, and knowing they only had 30 minutes to construct their tank.

After construction, water testing moved from the shortest tank to tallest. A student team built the Leaning Water Tower of Pisa (22” high), which quickly crashed and splashed, plus lost an inch in height by failing to include a tank mixer in their design, a new twist in this year’s competition.

The Keggers from Keystone Engineering (22”) and Frank the Tank’s team (25.25”) remembered their mixers, but also crashed down. The Entech Leaky Buckets were the first team to pass the fill test, standing proudly at 26.75”. They outpaced tough competition from Buchart Horn’s We Are Tanked (29.5”), which was 28 seconds into the 30 second water test before succumbing to gravity, but still earned a huge roar from the crowd, the Biggest Splash award, and tasty treats for their team.

The last three teams kept the crowd in suspense, with The Pipeline (Capital Region Water) scaling to 30.5” and holding water, then the returning champions Don’t Fall reaching 31.75” and not falling. The tallest tank from Team Awesome (Kyle Quinn of MBA, Dan Goldhahn of IK Stoltzfus, and Kristen Conners and Aaron Griffin of Hazen & Sawyer) maxed out at 35”. Not only did their tank feature three different mixers, but it won the contest, and won their team the $100 grand prize!
2019 PA-AWWA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Hydrant Hysteria
Lehigh County Authority wins intense Hydrant Hysteria contest

The competition was intense again this year between the Hydrant Hysteria teams representing Lehigh County Authority and Aqua PA. LCA edged out Aqua PA with their best time of 1 minute 24 seconds. Aqua PA’s best time was 1 minute 51 seconds. The LCA team now moves on to the ACE 2019 contest being held in Denver CO, June 9-12, 2019.

Team Participants
LCA: Shaun Lee, Steven Southam Jr. and the coach is John Maco
Aqua PA: Joe Sciallis, Ken Pollarine and the coach is John Christiansen

Water Taste Test Contest
Aqua PA Bristol captured both the 2019 People’s Choice Award and the 2019 Best of Pennsylvania Taste Test Award at the PA Section’s 71st Annual Conference!

Water Tasting Contest Judges Ben Reichley (left) of LB Water and Joe Jacangelo, National AWWA rep, take their time to closely examine and taste each contest sample.

Judge Kelly Zimmerman of Cullari Vineyards and Winery applies her expertise in tasting wine to tasting the water entrees.
2019 PA-AWWA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

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- Yeager Supply, Inc.
- Zenner USA

Conference Snapshots
Emily Poach continued from Page 5

position, she focuses on finding and engaging in service activities locally in the Erie community for the club. She is also part of the environment club and a member of Phi Eta Sigma national honor society. Outside of school, Emily enjoys snowboarding in the winter, hiking and playing beach volleyball in the summer, and playing piano.

She has decided to pursue a career in water quality and management in hopes of assisting the end to the clean water crisis. Emily strongly believes that clean water should be a basic human right and should not be influenced by wealth or social status. Clean water is an issue everywhere, including the United States, a country considered to be one of the greatest to live in. Despite improved technology, having clean water seems to be an issue that continually gets pushed aside as exemplified in Flint, Michigan and other cities such as Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Brady, Texas, which face issues of toxic levels of lead and radium. One of Emily’s career goals is to help shift the focus and shed light on these issues so that action can be taken both domestically and in developing countries which do not even have water systems established in some cases.

Emily will use the generous $5,000 scholarship to cover expenses for books and tuition for the upcoming semester. Emily feels blessed that this scholarship will relieve some of the financial burden of not having to take out another student loan for this Fall and the worry that accompanies growing student debt. She takes her studies very seriously and this scholarship will help towards her goal of becoming an Environmental Engineer.

Attending the ACE 19 Annual Conference and Exposition is an opportunity that Emily is truly thankful to receive. She is excited to attend the workshops and listen to keynote presentations. Emily is very interested in the lecture on “Drinking Water Treatability and Resilience Assessment for Climate Change Adaptation” and also the open forum “Protecting the Source – How Agricultural Conservation and Land Management Help Protect Drinking Water.” This opportunity to learn from, and network with professionals, advocates, and other students in the industry with the same passion for clean water studies as myself, is an honor indeed.
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Deciding when it’s best to repair or replace pipe

By Doug Riseden, Technical Support Manager, Krausz USA

Municipalities and water utilities in the US are struggling to make upgrades due to budgetary restraints, even as their water and wastewater infrastructure is deteriorating. In the meantime, utilities make pipe repairs until a long term solution can be financed and implemented. The question of when it makes the most financial sense to replace pipe versus repairing it is not a simple one to answer. The short term costs of repairing pipe may seem like an attractive option to keep costs low but at a certain point, repeated repairs aren’t economical.

When does it make sense to repair pipe rather than to replace it? When it is time to replace, what can be done to ensure it’s done properly and keep the project on time and on budget?

There are three major items to consider when thinking about whether to repair or replace pipe.

Cost

At a certain point, the costs involved in making repeated repairs outweigh the costs to replace the pipe. This includes the cost of parts and expenses involved in closing up the work area once the repair is completed. If utility crews are repeatedly visiting the same section of pipe, this is the first clue that the pipe may need to be replaced. While a repair can solve the problem in the short term, there could be higher costs and service interruptions in the long term.

Complaints

The reality is that customers can dictate when and what kind of response a utility will take when water or wastewater problems arise in their neighborhood. If service to homes and businesses is not reliable, customers are going to expect a solution that is dependable and minimizes interruption of their service.

Data

It’s impossible to make an informed choice that could involve hundreds of thousands of dollars without useful data. By keeping good records, carefully examining repair data and noticing trends, water utilities can make sound decisions about whether to repair or replace pipe.

It’s never too late to start gathering data. Develop a system where information can be stored and easily recalled as data is only as good as it can be accessed. In the absence of data from the field, residences and businesses in the neighborhood can help give information on the history of water and wastewater pipe repairs in the area.

Whenever repairs are being made, there are six questions to ask to help gather information for future decisions on pipe repair or replacement: who, what, when, where, why and how.

Who?

Who was making the repair? Who was there, and who did what?

What?

What was the issue? What actions were taken to make the repair?

When?

When was the repair made? Be accurate with day, date and time.

Where?

Where was the repair? How many times have crews been to this same location or close by?

Why?

Why is the pipe breaking? Was the break due to a one-time incident, such as a gas company boring into the ground and hitting the pipe, or is the cause the same each time. Factors that can be considered are external forces such as ground movement, trains or heavy traffic.

How was the repair made?

What parts and equipment were used to make the repair? How much did they cost? Were quality parts and good repair techniques used to fix the pipe?

When answers to these questions are recorded each time a repair is made, trends can be detected and it becomes possible to predict how likely future repairs will be needed.

How to ensure pipe installation is done right

After reviewing the data and the costs involved, utilities can determine whether to move forward with replacing the pipe. Here are steps to ensure that new pipe installations are done properly while keeping the project on schedule and on budget.

Form a strong construction committee

To ensure that the installation goes smoothly, you need to have a committee of people who can supervise and review the project from beginning to end.

Pipe Repair continued on page 22
Pipe Repair continued from Page 21

Include the following people on your construction committee:

- at least one council member, this person is critical to communicating updates to the rest of council
- the municipality’s finance officer
- the utility’s lead engineer and their assistant
- the public works director and their assistant
- the project inspector (who might be supplied by the engineer)
- a customer

Bringing together the right people at the beginning of the project is especially critical so that everyone is on board with the plan. Follow up meetings should also occur whenever there is a change to the plan, and it’s also a good idea to use email, Skype and other communication tools to keep everyone in the loop. Remember to be in contact with media and local officials, such as police, so the public at large can be aware of what is happening before and during construction.

Stay in close contact with public works, engineers and inspectors

Public works or your utility should be the lead on your project since their crews will be tasked with maintaining the finished product. Ensure that they review the site and physically go out and walk around it. They should take photos and video before construction starts to help manage claims that could come up. This activity should continue along with daily written reports, especially when changes are made to the original plan.

Speak and consult with engineers as often as needed. You will want to have your inspector closely monitoring the project as these people know the rules and regulations regarding installations, and will help ensure the project gets approved upon completion.

Choose good products and work with responsible contractors

Your utility will likely have specs on what you will accept and use in different situations. Make sure products have a great work history with the backing of other local professionals and your engineer.

It pays to use high quality products that are exceptionally durable, even in harsh conditions, and designed to prevent future pipe damage. Krausz products, such as the HYMAX, allow for repairs to maintain a flexible connection to prevent damage from post-installation ground shifts and temperature changes, protecting your investment over the long-term.

There’s a difference between the lowest responsible bidder and the lowest bidder. The lowest bidder will sometimes will leave things out of their bid and come back with a change order which can dramatically increase the budget. When it comes to using the right contractor and parts, do your homework, and get references to avoid surprises.

Have a realistic schedule

Make sure that your work schedule is realistic. It should be fair to customers and contractors who will expect that the project is completed as scheduled.

Stay in close contact with public works, engineers and inspectors

Public works or your utility should be the lead on your project since their crews will be tasked with maintaining the finished product. Ensure that they review the site and physically go out and walk around it. They should take photos and video before construction starts to help manage claims that could come up. This activity should continue along with daily written reports, especially when changes are made to the original plan.

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Choose good products and work with responsible contractors

Your utility will likely have specs on what you will accept and use in different
If you’re trusted to protect public health or the environment, we can help.

PA-AWWA Water For People Committee Events

April 16-18, 2019
PA-AWWA/DBIA Annual Conference
Silent Auction Benefitting Water For People
Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA

Summer 2019
PA-AWWA Night at PNC Park
Benefitting Water For People

September 2019
12th Annual Water For People Charity Golf Outing

September 8-11, 2019
PMAA Annual Conference
Silent Auction Benefiting Water For People
Kalahari Resort, Pocono Manor, PA

November 7, 2019
14th Annual PA-AWWA Water For People Gala
Hosted by Stone Hill Contracting Co., Inc.
William Penn Inn, Gwynedd, PA

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!

For more information or to become a committee member, please contact

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