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- Safety in a Confined Space Inspection
- Why AWWA Utility Membership?
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SAFE. TRUSTED. COMMITTED.
Just Like That

Wow, and just like that I am writing my final letter to you as Section Chair. Serving the Section in this capacity has been an unbelievable experience. I want to thank each of my fellow board members and committee leadership for all they do each day to provide the services and training opportunities that benefit our membership.

We have certainly had an eventful year from all the rain and the shortening of WaterJAM due to the threat of Hurricane Florence. I’d like to thank each and every member for their continued support of WaterJAM. The choice was made to end the event early as we felt it was in the best interest for participants to aid in the response for each of their organizations. In our profession, public perception is extremely important and we felt along with the forecasted projection on Tuesday morning that it was indeed the right decision. I want to personally thank Evan Bowles, Chris Johnson, and the entire WaterJAM committee for their hard work in putting together a great program. Many people in our organization do not realize the time and energy that goes on behind the scenes throughout the year to put on an event of this magnitude. Most importantly, the committee was able to work through difficult situations as the event had to end early.

This is truly an exciting time for our Section. We are continuing to see new faces in key leadership positions. I would like to personally thank our outgoing trustees, Robert Steidel and Russ Navratil, as well as our Past Chair, Gary St John. Just because your time on the board is coming to a close (this time) doesn’t mean that you are finished! I hope each of you continue to be engaged with our Section.

A huge welcome to our new trustees, Becky Mitchell and Ronnie Baker, and to our new Chair-Elect Jim Cherry. I am excited to see what these three will accomplish while serving on the board. Last but not least, I want to wish Tim Mitchell all the best as he steps into his new role as Section Chair. As many of you know, I really enjoy joking around with Tim – he is an all-around great guy. His expertise in the water industry will truly be what our Section needs to continue to be the resource for water professionals in the state. Ok, I may have lied just a bit. Geneva Hudgins, what more can I say. Our Section has the greatest asset in you! The many evenings you are up (well past my bedtime) making sure that our organization runs smoothly does not go unnoticed by our board and the entire membership.

As for me, I will not be going far. I will be working with the Strategic Planning, WARN, and Nominations Committees this next year. Perhaps what I am most looking forward to is returning as Chair of the Membership Engagement Committee. One of our greatest assets is our membership and I would like to hear from each of you. What makes your membership worthwhile? What would make being a member more beneficial? How would you like to be more engaged? These are all great questions which our committee will be looking into over the next year.

As always, I am just a phone call or email away. Please contact me anytime to become more engaged or just to connect. We are always here for you!

Best,
Dwayne Schwartz
VA AWWA Section Chair
Greetings from your new Director! While this may be a new title for me, I hope my name isn't new to you. It has been my honor to serve the Virginia Section in many capacities over the last 30 years, but this is the first time I will be serving the Section and the Association as the AWWA Director. It is a role I am very excited about and look forward to being a voice for the Virginia Section on the Association level over the next three years.

Before I go too much further, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Beate Wright for her dedication and service in this position. Beate was the first female director from Virginia and did an outstanding job to communicate the activities happening in Denver and DC to us. She participated in AWWA's Innovation Strategic Planning Committee to develop and grow the organization and strengthen it for years to come. We are very proud to have Beate in the Virginia Section and hopes she continues her involvement for many more years. She has set a high standard as Director and I hope I can serve as well as she did.

For those that may not be familiar with the “job” of AWWA Director, it entails attending two AWWA board meetings a year where policy and planning initiatives are brought to the Board of Directors for input and vote. The director reviews the information set out by AWWA’s CEO and staff and makes sure we are staying true to the mission of the organization. Subsequent to that, I will be sharing the information with the Virginia Section and keeping you informed of high-level items at the Association. I will serve as a ‘personal communication tool’ if you will, for everything that is happening at AWWA. By my next article, AWWA will have held their Winter Board meeting and I hope to have more to details to share then.

With that, I would ask that if you have any questions or concerns about the Section or the Association, please feel free to reach out to me. My email address is swilliam@nnva.gov. I would love to hear from you. I look forward to having this opportunity and will do my best to serve Virginia well.

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Connect the Dots...Customer Service, Leadership, and You! was the theme for the 40th Annual Customer Service Workshop presented by the VA AWWA Customer Service Committee held October 17-19, 2018 in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Customer service, leadership, and you is the proverbial three-legged stool for organizational success. Without any one of these legs, the stool tips over and the organization fails. Connect the Dots...Customer Service, Leadership, and You! provided attendees with a rich and meaningful learning experience about the connection these attributes have for making your organization a success. The Customer Service Committee sincerely thanks each of the VA AWWA member utilities for investing in their employees who attended the workshop.

Erin Trimyer, Director of Public Utilities for the City of Portsmouth, Virginia opened the workshop by warmly greeting all attendees and talking about the history of Portsmouth and its public utility. Founded in 1879 as a self-supporting public service organization, the Department of Public Utilities has grown into a major provider of water and sanitary sewer services serving residents in the City of Portsmouth, and certain areas of Suffolk and Chesapeake.

Cynthia Daniels, Manager of Administration and Financial Services for the Portsmouth Department of Public Utilities presented workshop attendees with Knowing Your Purpose...Which Dot Are You? This presentation focused on the importance of self-awareness. It went beyond teaching about knowing how each of us impacts others and how others impact us, by stressing the importance of knowing our special purpose. Our special purpose is the unique gift, or gifts, each of us
“An essential attribute of successful leaders who connect with people is the ability to be an effective active listener. Active listening deepens the engagement a leader has with another person.”

David Maddox, CEO of the Enduring Leadership Project, was the keynote speaker and presenter for the workshop. Mr. Maddox specializes in leadership development and organizational performance. His unique teaching and facilitative style pushes leaders out of their comfort zones and challenges their conventional thinking. Mr. Maddox taught workshop participants about connective leadership by presenting Some Assembly Required: The Plans, Pieces, and Parts for Connective Leadership.

Effective leaders must connect with people emotionally, connect people with information, and connect people with people. It is important for leaders to connect in order to gain understanding and rapport, build consensus through compromise, and build a common or shared vision. An essential attribute of successful leaders who connect with people is the ability to be an effective active listener. Active listening deepens the engagement a leader has with another person. It allows the leader to show compassion and empathy, understanding, build trust, and facilitate influence. Relating to how one feels is key trait of a connected leader. Mr. Maddox illustrated the power of connecting by sharing the story of Nelson Mandela when he was imprisoned in South Africa. Mandela connected with his warders, or prison guards, by understanding what was important to them. He learned their language, their history, their sports interest and more. This connection enabled Mandela to find a commonality with his captors. The lessons he learned and built while in prison led him to become one of the most influential leaders of our times when he reunited South Africa and defeated Apartheid.

Day two of the workshop began with an insightful presentation about Creating a Career Development Program from Larry Grant, Field Operations Manager for the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities, and Toya Williams, Program Management Analyst, also from the City of Richmond. Mr. Grant and Ms. Williams discussed some career development programs implemented by Richmond in field operations and the call center. Each program is designed to provide a career path for an incumbent and recognize his/her increasing value to the organization as he/she builds deeper job knowledge and expands job skills.

As an employee gains more advanced job knowledge and skills over time, the employee has the ability to receive higher compensation. The programs enabled the City to retain existing employees, attract new employees, and begin developing a path for succession planning. Many of the career development programs incorporate various degrees of leadership training for those incumbents interested in growing and developing into supervision and management. Each career development program is specific to the job class and tasks for the position. The program has milestones related to knowledge and skills. Each milestone is considered a zone.

More complex zones are subdivided into intra-zones. An incumbent has inter- or intra-zone advancement by achieving the milestones required by the zone.

After demonstrating the application of competencies through successful completion of an assessment, the incumbent will receive an adjustment to wage or salary. Current career development programs utilized with the City’s Department of Public Utilities include water and wastewater plant
operators, customer care specialists, gas and water service technicians, commercial meter technicians, and water distribution and maintenance workers.

Returning by popular demand was Let’s Talk Shop. Moderated by David Wallace, Retired from Henrico County Department of Public Utilities, and Mark McClain, Customer Service Administrator for the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities, this part of the workshop enables attendees to ask questions about utility related topics and learn how peers in other utilities handle them. It is an excellent best practice learning opportunity and a networking opportunity for participants wanting to take a deeper dive into a topic with a colleague.

There was a wide-ranging gamut of topics posed by participants. The group discussed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) deployment as one utility representative shared the success his organization had deploying it. He shared what worked well along with things his utility would do differently based upon what was learned. Many utilities attending the workshop are considering this next evolution in meter and billing management. Delinquent collections is always a hot topic among utilities attending the workshop. This topic included the differences between using collection agencies versus collection utilities, liens, shut-off policies and reconnection policies.

A great topic posed this year was revert to owner. This occurs when a utility transfers service into an owner’s name after the owner’s tenant requests disconnection of service. Only a small number of utilities currently do this; however, it peaked interest in the group as a way to ensure cost of service recovery for vacant properties. Another topic having different approaches among the utilities was the administration of medical certification for customers having a serious medical condition.

Dot to Dot…Making the Connection in Customer Service was a fun filled team building event presented by Megan Tomin, Business Manager, and Melissa Alexander, Executive Director, both from Rockbridge County Public Service Authority, and Paul Fecht, Account Manager for Badger Meters. The exercise built on key concepts learned earlier in the workshop from Cynthia Daniels and David Maddox. Teams had to understand each other’s strengths and leverage those strengths to fulfill the assignment.

Additionally, team members had to connect with each other and collaborate with whomever emerged as the leader of the team. This high energy team-building event focused on the importance of smart phones and social media as tools to achieve common objectives.

The team building exercise energized the attendees making it a great segue into Putting FUN into Customer Service, presented by Jeanne Cornish, Retired from the City of Virginia Beach. Ms. Cornish focused on the importance of having fun in the workplace. She talked about the six reasons why fun in the workplace is so important.

Happy employees are healthier employees. Healthier employees reduce absenteeism, stress, and anxiety. Fun in the workplace improves collaboration and communication between employees and work groups. Employees learn more about each other such as likes and dislikes, understanding each other’s boundaries, and each other’s strength and weaknesses. Having fun breeds creativity in the workplace. It helps stimulate imagination, and it enables employees to be adaptive and enthusiastic. A person or group having fun attracts attention. Other people take notice. It can become infectious throughout the organization, and it can even make recruiting easier by attracting people to an organization with a reputation as fun place to work. Happy employees are more productive employees. The employees are more engaged in helping customers and each other. Morale is higher. And fun helps all get through the most challenging of times.

Finally, having fun creates advocacy. Employees tend to help each other, support each other, provide tips and advice to each other, and more freely share knowledge and experiences. So, have some fun in your organization!

Libby Gooden, Director of Human Resources Management for the City of Portsmouth, closed day three of this year’s workshop with an insightful session about How to Connect the Dots. Ms. Gooden talked about having the courage to discuss the thing most people avoid discussing, failure. Failure is not a negative. It is a gift and often times an opportunity. Everyone must fail to succeed and grow. Failure is a step we all have to go through to get where we want to go.

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Ms. Gooden spoke about the importance of patience in customer service. Take the time to listen to the customer to figure out what the customer really needs. Being patient and an active listener leads to first call resolution. The customer is happier and the likelihood of a call back diminishes.

Ms. Gooden taught attendees that leadership is an action, not a position. The role of the leader is to build trust, have honest and open communication, deal with the challenging or hard conversation which must occur, and make goals interesting and engaging. Ms. Gooden challenged the group to dream. And if you don't have a dream, get one. One must be willing to move out of his/her comfort zone to achieve the dream.

An individual's actions speak louder than his/her words. What you do and say around others tells them who you are. Ms. Gooden stressed that we should go to work to prosper and grow. We need to prepare ourselves for success by taking control of our self-confidence, knowing ourselves by understanding our strengths and building on them, eliminate negative self-talk, and increase our competencies.

This year’s workshop recognized Kelley Kirby, Customer Service Representative for Hanover County Department of Public Utilities, as the Fred Angel Exceptional Service Scholarship award recipient. This award covers the conference registration fee and lodging cost for the winner. The scholarship was created by the Customer Service Committee in honor and memory of Fred Angel. Fred’s passion for providing excellent customer service and his leadership within the water industry are legacies, which inspire us all.

David Wallace, retired from Henrico County, and Jeanne Cornish, retired from Virginia Beach, received special recognition as Member Emeritus of the VA AWWA Customer Service Committee for their many years of faithful service to the Committee and the Virginia water industry. Mr. Wallace served on the Committee for 32 years, and Ms. Cornish served on the Committee for 13 years. Each left a legacy of hard work, dedication, and customer service leadership which made a lasting impression on customer service professionals serving the water industry within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Committee is forever grateful for their contributions, experience, and friendship. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

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The Student Activities Committee (SAC) has had a busy year of competitions and accomplishments. In April, HRSD hosted our Annual Student Design Competition. For the first time, students were given the option to present on either a wastewater or environmental problem. GMU took home first prize in the wastewater category. Both the GMU wastewater and environmental teams went on to compete at WEFTEC supported by the SAC. The SAC also awarded four VA AWWA Scholarships this year to support the education of college students and career development for operators. For the second year, the SAC hosted the Student Digital Knowledge Competition at WaterJAM, where students shared the water projects they had been working on through short video presentations. This year, students from Virginia Tech took home both of the top prizes. Unfortunately, the Student Water Challenge had to be cancelled this year due to Hurricane Florence, but it will be back at next year’s WaterJAM.

Closing out this year for the SAC are the fall Model Water Tower Competitions in late October/early November. At these competitions, middle school students get a taste of working in the water industry by building their own water towers which are scored based on engineering criteria. Keep an eye out early next year for the Student Design Competition prompt and call for scholarship submissions.

The SAC is always looking for new members to help us reach as many students as possible. Whether you’re passionate about bringing fresh blood into our industry, remember how uncertain it was being a college student, or are looking for fun events that support the industry we’ve got something you can help with. Come to one our events and see if it’s something that interests you.
The Distribution System Committee aims to promote affordable education and training and to foster professionalism and communication among those responsible for operating and maintaining distribution systems. Amongst its many activities, the Distribution System Committee contributes relevant articles for publication in *Tap Into Virginia*, the official magazine for the Section.

Each April, the committee holds the highly successful Distribution Seminar and Utility Rodeo, which draws over 30 vendors and approximately 250 attendees. Started in 1989, this three-day conference includes the widely popular Utility Rodeo, in which individuals and teams participate in the skill-based events of Buried Treasure, Meter Madness, Splish Splash, Hydrant Hysteria and Rapid Tappin’. The current rodeo event rules are maintained on the committee webpage, and as always you can contact the committee chair with any questions about the events or the committee.

In addition to the rodeo, the committee holds a one-day seminar in the fall that focuses on topics that are relevant to the maintenance and operation of a distribution system and that are geared more towards field level and supervisory staff.

**Brief Overview of Virginia Section Utility Rodeo Events**

**Buried Treasure:** Contestants trace a buried cable with conventional locating equipment. The competition area consists of a hub and a series of strings arranged in a 30-foot diameter “wheel spoke” pattern. The buried wire may cross some or all of the strings and may cross a string more than once. Contestants have five minutes to set up and locate and record their results. Contestants are required to mark the location of the wire at each string crossing, using a flag and to measure the distance from the hub to each flag. The contestant with the lowest accumulative difference plus any penalties will be declared the winner and will represent at ACE.

**Splish Splash:** Contestants repair a 3/4” copper service line under pressure. You just might get wet if you get too close to this event! Penalties for leaks add to overall time to complete the event, and best time wins.

**Rapid Tappin’**: Teams make a pressurized main tap and service connection. Each team consists of a Captain, Copper Person, Crank Person, and Star Person. Penalties for leaks or safety violations add to overall time to complete the event, and best time wins. The winner will then represent Virginia in the National Rapid Tap event held at ACE.

**Meter Madness:** Contestants assemble a 5/8” meter from a bucket of parts, which will also contain unrelated items. Penalties for leaks or improper
assembly add to overall time to complete the event. The preliminary, semi-finals, and final round are used to determine the fastest time. The winner will represent Virginia in the National Meter Madness competition held each year at ACE.

Hydrant Hysteria:

Teams must reassemble a dry barrel hydrant from the shoe up in the fastest time possible. Penalties are assessed for operational failure, missing parts, and safety violations. Teams consist of two assemblers and a coach. The winning team will represent Virginia in the National Hydrant Hysteria event held at ACE.

Best of Virginia Taste Test: A panel of judges will sample water from participating utilities and will score the contestants based on four categories: Clarity, Odor, Flavor, and Aftertaste. The winner of this event will represent Virginia in the Best of the Best Taste test competition held each year at ACE.

People’s Choice Taste Test: In this event, the same samples that were used for the Best of Virginia Taste Test are sampled by the rodeo participants who then cast a vote for their favorite tasting water. The sample with the most votes is declared the winner.

If you would like more information about our events or are interested in joining the Distribution System Committee please contact:

Committee Chair – Chris Carey:
540-283-2936 or chris.carey@westernvawater.org

Vice Chair – Scott Parkins:
434-455-4248 or scott.parkins@lynchburgva.gov

Committee Chair – Chris Carey:
540-283-2936 or chris.carey@westernvawater.org

Vice Chair – Scott Parkins:
434-455-4248 or scott.parkins@lynchburgva.gov
One of the best ways to acknowledge an exceptional performer is by nominating them for an award. For lab folks, VA AWWA/VWEA offers the Lab Analyst Excellence Award. Eligibility and criteria requirements for the award are listed below.

VA AWWA / VWEA Lab Analyst Excellence Award

Eligibility
- **MEMBERSHIP** – The candidate does not have to be a member of the Water Environment Federation at the time of nomination. The Association will award a membership to the winner, if the awardee is not a current member.
- **EMPLOYMENT** – The candidate must be employed at an industrial, commercial, or municipal laboratory facility that conducts water and wastewater analyses.
- **RESPONSIBILITIES** – The candidate must have direct responsibilities for analytical bench testing and/or field testing of water or wastewater samples.
- **RECOGNITION** – Only those who have not been recognized by this award before are eligible. Non-winning nominees may be nominated again. One nominee per facility per year.

Criteria
- **INITIATIVE** – The nominee must have shown initiative in pursuing innovative bench or field technique improvements.
- **PERFORMANCE**
  - The nominee must have performed duties consistently as outlined by laboratory or field sampling/analytical methods.
  - The nominee’s performance must demonstrate a commitment to high quality control standards.
- **ABILITY** – The nominee’s abilities must include problem solving.
- **PERSPECTIVE** – The nominee’s perspective should be dutiful and conscientious.
- **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT** – The nominee’s actions should demonstrate a commitment to professional development, e.g. by maintaining active membership in professional associations and/or through continuing education.

The deadline for nomination packages is **February 15, 2019**. It’s never too early to nominate. So don’t let this recognition opportunity pass you by.

For more information and nomination forms, please contact: **Lea Brooks** at brooksd1@chesterfield.gov.

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Lab Practices Committee – A Little History

By Mignonne Wint, LPC Chair

For those of you not familiar with the Laboratory Practices Committee (LPC), the LPC has been a joint VA AWWA / VWEA Committee since 1995. The committee was formed to identify and address laboratory-related concerns of the Associations’ membership. Its mission also includes the review of standards and practices and to educate and promote professionalism in the water and wastewater community.

LPC members participate through membership and/or representation in many other state and national activities such as:
- Board of Directors for both VA AWWA and VWEA
- National WEF LPC
- DEQ Laboratory Stakeholders Workgroup
- Ad hoc Committee for VA’s Development of Rules & Regulations for Environmental Laboratory Certification
- ASTM Committee D19 for water
- NELAC Institute Proficiency Testing Committee
- Coordinator and judges for the State and National Operation Challenge Laboratory event sponsored by VWEA & WEF
- Detection & Quantitation Stakeholder Workgroup
- NACWA Mercury workgroup (National Association of Clean Water Agencies)
- Science fair judges on the middle school and high school levels
- EPA Method development studies
- Various committees for JAM (Joint Annual Meeting of VA AWWA & VWEA)

The membership, seasoned and novice, young and old, is represented by a variety of municipal wastewater and drinking water laboratories, commercial laboratories, regulatory agencies, as well as vendors. Lunch meetings are held throughout the year for discussions, subcommittee projects, and technical presentations. Items of interest include; regulatory concerns, state laboratory accreditation/certification, methods and technologies, sustainability, quality assurance requirements, and management issues.

The LPC exemplifies the meaning of teamwork through its subcommittees and projects. Besides the topics mentioned above, the subcommittees also work on preparing for the LPC’s Annual Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) Conference as well as the VA AWWA – VWEA Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) workshops and presentations. The conference addresses current issues faced by the environmental laboratory community. This event consists of several half-day workshops and a technical program with a vendor exhibit and presents the opportunity to earn CPES for wastewater/water operators and CECS. Hands-on workshops are included to provide practical training that analysts can use in their daily activities and are designed to address the analytical concerns of both operators and analysts. Technical session topics range from specific analytical issues to laboratory management interests. Information regarding these worthwhile events, as well as contact information, can be found on the VWEA and VA AWWA websites.

The LPC provides a professional, friendly, and relaxed venue where members can network, share information, and collaborate on important issues. Subcommittee meetings start at 10am and full committee meeting at 11am. There is a short technical presentation with lunch provided. With the ever-changing regulatory concerns and workforce economics, we encourage everyone interested to join and participate. There is great value in what can be gained from the vast amount of knowledge and experience that is shared.

For further information on how to be a part of this amazing committee, please contact Mignonne Wint at mignonne.wint@norfolk.gov.
Lab Practices Committee – Activity News

By Mignonne Wint, LPC Chair

The LPC membership is represented by a variety of municipal wastewater and drinking water laboratories, commercial laboratories, regulatory agencies, and vendors. The LPC provides a professional, friendly, and relaxed venue where members can network, share information, and collaborate on important issues. The LPC invites you to be a part of this awesome committee.

Meeting dates for 2019 are January 23rd, March 20th, April 17th, June 19th, and October 16th. Meetings start at 1000 at the Henrico Operations Building, 10401 Jessie Chavis Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060. For further information, please contact Mignonne Wint at mignonne.wint@norfolk.gov.

25th Annual GLP Conference
2019 Call for Papers & Workshops

Sponsored by VA AWWA / VWEA Laboratory Practice Committee

The Laboratory Practice Committee hereby invites the submission of abstracts for papers and workshops for the 25th Annual Good Laboratory Practice Technical Conference, to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia on July 29th and 30th, 2019 at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel. This conference is designed to provide the latest information on major issues such as analytical method updates and development, laboratory accreditation, regulatory updates, particularly those impacting laboratory staff and utilities; and emerging technologies and analytical instrumentation. This is a great opportunity to present new information related to water and wastewater issues. Workshops will be held on the 29th and the technical presentations will be given on the 30th.

We encourage you to submit an abstract and participate in discussions that are important to the advancement of our laboratory professionals. Conference topics may include but are not limited to the following:

- Natural water monitoring
- Environmental research
- Treatment plant monitoring
- Drinking water distribution
- Bacteriological techniques
- Drinking water disinfection
- Laboratory accreditation
- Laboratory management
- Security issues
- Water and wastewater analytical methods
- LIMS, laboratory software applications
- Laboratory practices
- Laboratory ethics
- QA/QC issues
- Regulatory issues
- Emerging instrumental technology
- Analytical instrument troubleshooting
- Nutrient screening methods

Abstract and paper submissions for technical presentation
Submit a 300 word or less abstract that lists the title, author(s), affiliation, phone number, and email address. Morning session presentations are 40 minutes. Afternoon technical session presentations are 25 minutes with five minute Q&A.

Workshop proposal submission
Submit a one-page workshop outline that includes information on the subject matter and name(s), affiliation, email address, and phone number of workshop instructors. Workshops are three-hour sessions.

Deadline for presentations and Workshops is February 15, 2019.
For further information and to submit your technical presentations and workshop proposals contact: Alicia Connelly, Lab Manager, Newport News Shipbuilding alicia.a.connelly@hii-nns.com.
Sustainable Utilities Committee – A Year in Review
Submitted by Christel Dyer and Matthias Wittenberg

The VA AWWA/VWEA Sustainable Utilities Committee (SUC) had another great year, with notable successes that include: achieving four straight years of certification for WaterJAM as a Virginia Green event, developing the Sustainable Event Checklist, and touring the Hardywood West Creek Brewery.

Through continued focus on sustainability and reducing the conference’s net environmental impact, the 2018 WaterJAM Conference was certified as a Virginia Green event, for the fourth year in a row! The 2018 WaterJAM Planning Committee continued its partnering with the Sustainable Utilities Committee to make this initiative a success. Items incorporated into WaterJAM that supported the certification included:

- A user-friendly WaterJAM App that reduced the number of printed planners
- On-line registration
- Use of recycled paper products throughout the conference to include the planner and board inserts
- Use of water or soy based ink in printed materials
- Conference boards are designed for reuse each year
- Conference attendees were encouraged to turn in the lanyards and plastic name tag holders at the end of the conference, for reuse at future conferences
- The Virginia Beach Convention Center provided:
  ◆ Recycling receptacles throughout the venue
  ◆ Reusable water bottle filling stations
  ◆ Bulk packaging of condiments, where applicable
  ◆ Restroom paper products were made from recycled paper
  ◆ Donation or composting of food waste

This year there were five recipients of the Tidy Otter Exhibitor Award, in acknowledgement of their efforts in sustainability. The exhibitors who met the award requirements and contributed to the green event include:

1. CPower Energy Management (first time awardee)
2. Gannett Fleming (four consecutive years of receiving the award)
3. OBG (three consecutive years of receiving the award)
4. The Perkinson Co. (four consecutive years of receiving the award)
5. Wendel (four consecutive years of receiving the award)

The committee would like to offer a huge thank you to these exhibitors for your participation and for reducing your impact on the environment! We hope to see more exhibitors participate in this effort in upcoming conferences.

With the success in four consecutive years of making WaterJAM a sustainable event, the committee decided to develop a checklist to be provided to other committees for use in the wide range of event planning: anything from community outreach, to golf tournaments, tours, or lunch and learn; all the way up to full scale conferences. The committee will present the checklist at the upcoming
Following the committee meeting, those in attendance received a behind the scenes tour of this Virginia Green certified venue. Hardywood’s beers, and business practices, have earned local, national, and international acclaim. With a focus on sustainability, Hardywood utilized the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure’s Envision rating system during the design of the new facility. The project incorporated new opportunities for development to the existing community by increasing regional productivity and community attractiveness for compatible businesses, collaborating with the University of Richmond on a beer brewer professional certificate to improve the local skill base, and creating a new venue with outdoor natural features and views. Construction and operations of the brewery preserve resources by using low-maintenance and long-life materials, recycled content steel, reclaimed wood, local sourcing, efficient mechanical systems, LED and natural lighting, green power purchasing, and waterless urinals. Also, impacts to the site were minimized by avoiding development on steep slopes, selective tree removal and harvesting, and establishing low-maintenance native plantings to minimize the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and potable water for irrigation. For the areas disturbed during construction, reforestation and/or warm season meadows are being installed to stitch nature back together while creating habitat. This facility is leading the way in sustainable design by embracing the sustainable best practices promoted by Envision. The SUC hopes to provide future educational opportunities on the Envision rating system to VA AWWA and VWEA members.

The Sustainable Utilities Committee is looking forward to another great year of finding ways to advance sustainable practices in the utilities industry through communication and educational opportunities amongst VA AWWA and VWEA members and Virginia water professionals. If you are interested in joining the Sustainable Utilities Committee, please contact our newest chair, Dr. Matthias Wittenberg, PE, PMP, D.WRE, REM at wittenbergm@cdmsmith.com.

Committee members pause for a photo op during the tour of the Virginia Green certified Hardywood West Creek Brewery - From left to right: Andrew L. Casolini Dal Bo, Christel Dyer, Blase A. Kegel, Dr. Matthias Wittenberg, Denise Nelson and Brian Nelson (Hardywood).
VA AWWA Publication Committee

is searching for additional members to assist with the VA AWWA “Tap Into Virginia” magazine and “wE-SPLASH” e-newsletter.

What should you expect as a VA AWWA Publication Committee Member:

- Attend quarterly meetings
- Quarterly review of articles for the magazine (this involves all members of the committee)
- Monthly review of articles for the e-newsletter (one committee member is assigned per month)

So if you would like to be part of the success of a great magazine and e-newsletter, then the Publication Committee is for you. How do you sign up?

Easy. Either log onto the VAAWWA website at the following link:
http://www.vaawwa.org/get-involved/service-opportunities/;
and follow these steps: 1) Select Committees/Subcommittees;
2) drop down to Communications and Public Affairs;
3) select Publications; 4) fill out your contact information;
and 5) Submit Form, or contact Keith Havron (Publication Committee Chair) at KHavron@vbgov.com
CUES is the world’s leading manufacturer of closed circuit television video (CCTV) pipeline inspection systems, joint sealing solutions, pipe profiling equipment and asset inspection/decision support software. For over 50 years, CUES has provided innovative pipeline inspection technology and solutions to enable accurate condition assessment and proactive maintenance programs for buried infrastructure.

CUES continues to lead the industry by designing and manufacturing products for pipe inspection, profiling, rehabilitation, and data acquisition right here in the U.S.A., with bi-directional interfaces to ESRI ArcGIS and asset management software such as Hansen, Azteca Cityworks, and others. CUES’ GraniteNet Software provides a strong foundation for decision-making to establish priorities for pipeline inspection, rehabilitation, or replacement.

Manhole inspection systems, chemical grouting systems for mainline and lateral pipe joints, lateral-reinstatement cutting systems, and advanced SONAR, LIDAR, and LASER PROFILING systems are also available from the industry’s infrastructure experts at CUES!

At CUES, after-sales support is a foundation of our business model. We ship 98% of our spare part orders within 24 hours of receipt. We also provide loaner equipment and full-time customer support and training from our experienced team of industry professionals and factory-certified technicians. Operator training schools and resultant certification are offered regularly to all CUES customers. Emphasis on innovation and customer support has made CUES the world’s largest supplier of pipeline inspection and rehabilitation equipment and software.

CUES conducts its development and manufacturing operations from over 60,000 square feet of facilities in Orlando, FL. We maintain U.S.A. facilities for sales, service and support in Florida, California, Wisconsin, Georgia, and opening soon in Delaware! Our new staff of Mobile Service Technicians is providing current CUES customers with the industry’s only factory-certified, on-site equipment repair option.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist and look forward to hearing from you. Contact CUES today for a free demo and learn how we can help your team GO THE DISTANCE!

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WaterJam 2018 RECAP

September 10-12 | Virginia Beach, Virginia

This year’s WaterJAM theme, Waves of Innovation, perfectly reflected the environment of learning, fellowship, and outreach experienced in and around the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Many call WaterJAM a family reunion, and that family is growing each year. We’re happy to share that we had a record 1,796 registrants, including 284 first time registrants.

**SUNDAY**
Although the conference officially started on Monday, we held our Annual Water Taste Test on Sunday afternoon in Neptune’s Park along the boardwalk. Most of the participants preferred the taste of Virginia Beach’s tap water to bottled water. This type of outreach helps to demonstrate the value of the services our industry provides to the public every day of every year.

**MONDAY**
Monday offered numerous opportunities for education, networking, and outreach. The morning kicked off with two WaterJAM favorites, the Golf Outing and Clay Shoot. This year’s Golf Outing was held at The Signature at West Neck in Virginia Beach. Over 160 golfers duked it out on the links and then enjoyed a cookout and Water for People raffle. The Clay Shoot was held at Old Forge Sporting Clays in Providence Forge with a record number of 84 shooters. Following a morning of skeet, the attendees enjoyed a hearty barbeque lunch.

The Young Professionals Service Project was held in Beach Garden Park, in conjunction with Lynnhaven River Now. Seventeen volunteers put on their boots and waders and removed over 100 pounds of trash from the park and river marsh to help reduce sources of contamination in Virginia’s waterways. We also hosted three workshops (Lab Practices, Water Reuse, and Filter Detectives), as well as a WEF/WRF Lift Innovation Training Session. Following a full day of activities, we brought everyone together for the Meet and Greet, held at the Hilton Oceanfront. Networking abounded late into the night with food, drinks, and plenty of laughs, and set the perfect tone for the remainder of the conference.
TUESDAY
Tuesday morning kicked off early with our annual Water for People 5K Fun Run/Walk. Set against the perfect backdrop of the beach oceanfront, we had 28 participants enjoy a brisk run along the boardwalk while watching the sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean. For our first-time attendees, the orientation breakfast helped them become more acquainted with all of the opportunities WaterJAM has to offer with a fun trivia game that got everyone thinking! The orientation breakfast was followed up with an eventful opening session, with an attendance that required expansion of the room size! The opening session started with an address and proclamation by the Mayor of Virginia Beach, Mr. Louis R. Jones. The featured speaker, Mr. Christopher E. Pomeroy with AquaLaw, provided an enlightening discussion of the current and upcoming state and national regulatory landscape. The keynote speaker, Ms. Emily Simonson with the U.S. Water Alliance, provided a rousing discussion on the role each of us have to advocate for the value of water to our communities. These speakers were followed up with national activity and initiative updates by the national WEF and AWWA representatives Ms. Ifetayo Venner and Ms. Gugliuzza, respectively.

The opening of the Exhibit Hall, which set a record with 212 booth registrations, followed the opening session. The exhibitors shared cutting edge information with the attendees about products and services that help drive innovation in our industry. The Exhibit Hall also included a number of networking and educational events to help diversify the education and networking opportunities throughout the day. Once again, the Sewer and Water Art Gallery (SWAG) showcased unusual field artifacts provided by utilities, engineers, and contractors. These artifacts were shared in a gallery throughout the conference, and attendees voted on the most interesting artifact. The most interesting artifact came from Fairfax County DPWES, a rare 1901 book titled, “A General Formula for the Uniform Flow of Water.” The young professionals hosted a Cornhole Challenge, and tables with electrical and phone chargers as a fun way to take a break from the conference.

The day closed out with the Water Reach Silent Auction, where attendees bid on a diverse collection of donated and handmade items that helped raise money for a great cause.

WEDNESDAY
Both Tuesday and Wednesday included a multitude of educational opportunities for students, young professionals, and seasoned professionals alike! The technical sessions provided a venue for our presenters to share valuable educational information on forward thinking and practical topics. Mobile sessions returned for a second year, offering multiple opportunities for attendees to engage in enhanced learning interactions with exhibitors, all while obtaining continuing education credits. The students and young professionals contributed to an excellent poster session and digital knowledge presentation, enabling them to engage and network with water professionals, and teach them about cutting edge research and practices.

Unfortunately, a portion of this year’s WaterJAM was cut short due to the forecasted effects of Hurricane Florence. We hope you enjoyed your time at WaterJAM and Virginia Beach this year. On behalf of the entire WaterJAM Committee, we’d like to thank all attendees for coming to contribute to our Waves of Innovation. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2019 in Virginia Beach!

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

George Fuller Award
Russ Navratil, Henrico County

Herb Evan Distinguished Service Award
Rick DiSalvo, Retired

YP Poster Contest Winner
Shiqiang Zou, Virginia Tech

Outstanding YP Award
Ryan Clark, Kimley-Horn and Associates

Sherry L Williams Leadership Award
Christopher Carey, Western Virginia Water Authority

Membership Award
Dwayne Schwartz given in memory of Dr. Roy L. Williams

Operator of the Year
Chris Harbin, City of Norfolk

Public Information
Social Media City of Lynchburg

Silver Water Drop
See AWWA Tenure Awards

Life Member
See AWWA Tenure Awards

Gold Water Drop
Patrick Brady, Retired

Howard A. Johnson
50-Year Service Award
Patrick Brady, Retired

VA AWWA Larry Gordon Safety Award
County of Henrico Water Treatment Facility

Rapid Tappin'
Spotsylvania County Utilities
** Took 3rd place at Nationals

Meter Madness
Mike Sherwood, City of Virginia Beach

Splish Splash
Dave Burnett, City of Virginia Beach

Buried Treasure
Taylor Hicks, Caroline County Public Utilities

Hydrant Hysteria
City of Virginia Beach
** Took 1st place at Nationals

Water Taste Test Judges Choice
Spotsylvania County Utilities

Peoples Choice
Western VA Water Authority

Top Ops Competition
Fairfax Water

OneAWWA Operator Scholarship
Ashley Keith, S.C. Rossi and Company
Joseph Farmer, Town of Fries

Ray Jackson Undergraduate Scholarship
Laura Saunders, Old Dominion University

VA AWWA Graduate Student Scholarship
Shiqiang Zou, Virginia Tech

Past Trustees
Russ Navratil, Henrico County
Robert Steidel, City of Richmond

Past Director
Beate Wright, The Water Research Foundation

Past Chair
Dwayne Schwartz, City of Waynesboro

AWWA TENURE AWARDS

Silver
Gary Van Huss W.C.S.A.
Peter Rynkiewicz, P.E., BCEE
Jonathan England, Hanover County Public Utilities Doswell Water Treatment Plant
Charles Murray, Fairfax Water
Dave Hundelt, Arlington Cnty. DES/WSS
Henry Sliwinski, Frederick County Sanitation Authority
Eric Nice
William Johnson II, P.E.
Michael McEvoy, Western Virginia Water Authority
Todd Wilson, Romac Industries
Leslie Griffith, Prince William County Service Authority

Life
Thomas Slaydon
David Montgomery, Flowserve Limitorque
Olin Cooper, Newport News Waterworks Dept.
Terry Legg, P.E., Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP
Thomas Grubbs
David Wallace
Asghar Parirroo, County of Fairfax-DPWES
Roy Covington
Robert Sampson, RGS Enterprises
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Rick DiSalvo receiving the Herb Evans Distinguished Service Award

YP Poster Contest Winner in the Water Category, Shiqiang Zou

2018 Outstanding Young Professional of the Year, Ryan Clark

Christopher Carey is presented the Sherry L. Williams Leadership Award

Dwayne Schwartz received the Membership Award given in memory of Dr. Roy L. Williams

Operator of the Year Award was given to Chris Harbin (Ryan Maslyn accepting on his behalf)

Jes Gearing and Tim Mitchell with the City of Lynchburg accepting the Public Information – Social Media Award

Larry Gordon Facility Safety Award was presenting to Henrico County Water Treatment Facility (Russ Navratil accepting)

Director, Sherry Williams, presents Mary Gugliuzza, AWWA Visiting Officer with the Abel Wolman Scholarship Donation

Past Trustee, Russ Navratil

Past Director, Beate Wright

Dwayne Schwartz passes the Gavel to new Chair, Tim Mitchell
TONIGHT’S HONOREE IS A LONG TIME MEMBER OF AWWA, THE VIRGINIA SECTION AND THE DRINKING WATER COMMUNITY. HE HAS SERVED THE VIRGINIA SECTION FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS IN NUMEROUS WAYS, INCLUDING AS CHAIR OF THE WATER UTILITY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEES AND AS A MEMBER OF THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE. HE HAS SPENT NUMEROUS HOURS LEADING THE CPE REVIEW PROCESS FOR ALL TRAINING WITHIN THE SECTION AND IS AN AVID ABSTRACT REVIEWER. HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS SECTION TRUSTEE. TONIGHT’S FULLER AWARD WINNER CAN ADD THIS AWARD TO HIS PREVIOUS HERB EVANS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD.

The awardee hails from New Jersey, exit 17 and received his primary schooling in New Jersey, as well as his mechanical engineering degree. He has spent his 27 years in Virginia employed at Virginia utilities, including the last 16 years at his current employer, Henrico County. In his current role at Henrico he provides direction, leadership and supervision to ensure efficient, 24-7 operation of the water treatment facility which provides up to 80 million gallons of safe drinking water daily to nearly 100,000 customers. He has successfully led Henrico’s Water Treatment Facility staff through plant operations from day one with no service interruptions or drinking water violations. Under his leadership, Henrico has received multiple State awards for exceeding optimization goals for drinking water quality. He coauthored an article on optimizing his plant’s ozone system that was published in Ozone Science & Engineering. He is also an active participant in the County’s team that will operate Henrico’s 14.8 billion gallon regional water reservoir scheduled to come online in 2022.

Despite his extensive accomplishments, there are some downsides to tonight’s recipient. Shakespeare said that “brevity is the soul of wit,” but tonight’s honoree does not subscribe to that philosophy. He has been known to wax loquacious upon (frequent) occasions. Ask him about his

- building his house
- maintaining his house
- family, especially his grandsons Jackson and Wyatt
- assembling Legos with above
- New Jersey
- water treatment
- places he’s been
- City of Richmond

... and be prepared to set aside two hours.

Please join me in welcoming Russ Navratil to the podium, the Virginia Section AWWA 2018 Fuller Awardee.

Russ, would you like to make a few comments? Be advised, the microphone will automatically go dead in three minutes.
**PROCESS EQUIPMENT**

- **WestTech**: Digester Gas Safety Equipment, Dry Pit, Submersible Screw Pumps, FRP AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS
- **Clean Methane Systems LLC**: Digester and Landfill Gas Cleaning, MicroTurbines
- **Sans Air**: Floating Brush Rotor Aeration, Mixers
- **Transducers Pressure Calibrators**: Pressure Gauges and Switches
- **Ultrasonic Density and Invasive Density Measurement**
- **Sengram Instruments**: Flow measurement for solids
- **KPSI**: Gamma Level and Density Loggers
- **HP: Torque Flow Pumps**: Flow Measurement for Liquids
- **Infrascan**: Infrared Temperature
- **Valco**: Coriolis Mass Flow and Density
- **Rosemount**: Analytical Instrumentation
- **process weigh systems**: Process Weighing Systems
- **Hardy Instruments**: TRU-METER
- **Infrascan**: Infrared Temperature
- **Gamma Level and Density Loggers
- **ULTRASONICS**: Ultrasonic Density and Concentration Measurement
- **SensoTech**: Ultrasonic Density and Concentration Measurement
- **Level and Positioning Solutions**: Level and Positioning Solutions
- **ASHCRAFT**: Non-invasive Density Measurement
- **AHC Paper & Film**: Optical Dissolved Oxygen, TSS, pH and ORP Analyzers
- **Act Process Solutions**: FRP Flumes and Packaged Metering Manholes, Equipment Shelters
- **PARKER**: 2-3-4 Way Solenoid Valves, Sinclair-Collins Control Valves
- **MFG**: FRP: Troughs, Weirs, Baffles, Launder Covers and Buildings
- **Act Process Solutions**: FRP Flumes and Packaged Metering Manholes, Equipment Shelters
- **ClearWater Inc.**: Submersible Sewage Pumps, Self-priming pumps
- **Hydrostar**: Dry Pit, Submersible Screw Pumps
- **EPIC INTERNATIONAL**: Floater Mixer/Aerators, Arch. Screw Pumps
- **WEMCO**: VFDs, Soft Starts and PLCs
- **ABB**: Custom control panels
- **Emerson Rosemount**: Flow, Pressure, Level, Temperature
- **SensoTech**: Ultrasonic Density and Concentration Measurement
- **Level and Positioning Solutions**: Level and Positioning Solutions
- **ASHCRAFT**: Non-invasive Density Measurement
- **Optical Dissolved Oxygen, TSS, pH and ORP Analyzers
- **FRP AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS**
- **PARKER**: 2-3-4 Way Solenoid Valves, Sinclair-Collins Control Valves
- **MFG**: FRP: Troughs, Weirs, Baffles, Launder Covers and Buildings
- **Act Process Solutions**: FRP Flumes and Packaged Metering Manholes, Equipment Shelters
- **ClearWater Inc.**: Submersible Sewage Pumps, Self-priming pumps
- **Hydrostar**: Dry Pit, Submersible Screw Pumps
- **EPIC INTERNATIONAL**: Floater Mixer/Aerators, Arch. Screw Pumps
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- **Emerson Rosemount**: Flow, Pressure, Level, Temperature
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  - Charlie Weimer (919) 218-8569 (m) charlie@clearwaterinc.net (Outside Sales - Eastern Virginia)
  - Joe Nelson (434) 270-4358 (m) jnelson@clearwaterinc.net (Outside Sales - Northern Virginia)
  - John Hunt (804) 677-0440 (m) jhunt@clearwaterinc.net (Outside Sales - Western Virginia & Stafford County)
  - Ryland Brown (704) 756-0088 (m) ryland@clearwaterinc.net (Outside Instrumentation Sales)
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Twenty-eight runners met at King Neptune on the Virginia Beach boardwalk to enjoy a sunrise on the beach and a scenic 5k run. The 2018 Water for People WaterJAM 5K Fun Run/Walk was made possible by volunteers Andrew King (Fairfax Water), John Millsapugh (Arcadis), Jamie Bondurant (Hazen and Sawyer), Dan Horne (VDH) and Chip England (Henrico County PU). Prior to the run, the participants stretched and enjoyed the good weather and some refreshments and free reusable water bottles.

The runners started the race on the boardwalk at 31st Street, ran south for a mile and a half, turned at 9th Street and finished back under King Neptune’s trident. Alayna Bigalbal (Dewberry) finished first overall with a time of 19:28 and Mark Titcomb (Newport News WW) was a close second with a time of 20:01.

The first and second place winners took home $25 Running Etc. gift certificates and celebratory drinkware. Two other runners were lucky raffle winners of $50 Amazon gift cards. All of the runners that registered by the WaterJAM early registration deadline took home custom race shirts. Those that registered later were able to choose from vintage race shirts still available. All who completed the race received finisher’s flags to display on their name badges for the conference.

The 5K Fun Run/Walk raised funding for Water For People. Water for People works to share the vision of a world where all people have access to clean water, adequate sanitation, and basic health services. Water For People works with people and partners to develop innovative and long-lasting solutions to the water, sanitation, and hygiene problems in developing nations all over the world. The Virginia
chapter of Water For People hosts many events throughout the year to promote awareness and work together towards a common goal of clean water for all. To learn more about Water For People please visit, www.waterforpeople.org or e-mail Jamie Bondurant jbondurant@hazenandsawyer.com to learn more about the Virginia chapter activities.

Thank you so much to all volunteers, sponsors, and participants of this year’s 5K Fun RunWalk. We couldn’t have done it without you! We are looking forward to seeing you at next year’s WaterJAM 5K back in Virginia Beach.
GOLF OUTING
PLENTY OF ENERGY, EXCITEMENT AND FUN

Written by Thom Lipinski and Paul Delphos, golf tournament organizers

It was early September, not long before one of the world’s biggest golf events. The nation’s golf world was consumed with one big question – who were going to be the final teams? It would be an understatement to just say this golf event is a big deal. The atmosphere at an event like this, where premier golfers are pitted against each other, creates riveting theater. If you’re lucky enough to be on the grounds during the tournament, you can feel the energy. It radiates from the players and it can be infectious, passed from one to all. That’s why the golf world just wanted to know one simple thing – who? What big names would be there? Dustin? Phil? Jordan? Of course, we are talking about the 2018 WaterJAM Golf Outing and not the Ryder Cup. Sorry if you were misled and feel a little disappointed.

While the Ryder Cup has huge television ratings and decades of storied history, that’s where the differences end. Well, maybe talent level as well. May we suggest if you haven’t already, attend a WaterJAM Golf Outing and it will all make sense. The energy. The excitement. The fun.

Once again, the scene was the Signature at West Neck Golf Course in Virginia Beach. The source of energy was the record setting 138 golfers that started their WaterJAM experience with a great round of golf on a beautiful late summer, sunny day. Thanks to this great group, as well as our volunteers, nearly $6,000 was raised through the golf tournament for Water For People.

History and tradition are always key elements to the making of a great event. As is customary, the fun started early with a relaxed continental breakfast, some time for practice and some time for strategy. The heavy rains of the night before influenced plans on how to best approach the soggy Signature. Undoubtedly the kegs of beer and games on the course also influenced the strategy for the day. Successful mulligan management and mug management were no doubt hallmarks of the winning teams. Almost all, winners or not, managed a new hairstyle with a pink or gold wig and a new outfit with a hula skirt or a tutu. The photographs from the course revealed that successful management of hair and apparel decisions were mixed – some chose well, others did not.

Though not yet a longstanding tradition, the marshmallow drive contest was back once again, and history repeated - tee it up and see how far you could smack a marshmallow! All players lined up and swung for the “Stay-Puff Marshmallow Man” and the chance of long-distance pride over all others.

The field was a complete mix of foursomes with great golfers and duffers, alike and after the golf ended, the energy, excitement, fun and friendly competition continued through lunch, which was the perfect time to present the day’s awards. No matter their skill level, many took home awards and prizes either from course competitions or from the fundraising prize raffle benefitting Water For People. The course contests included awards for team lowest score in each of three flights and individual awards for hitting it closest to the pin on the par three holes and bombing the longest and straightest drives on different par five holes.

A big thanks goes out to all the very generous corporate sponsors that donated many of the raffle prizes and to our volunteers that made the day’s events fun, including a hole-in-one prize trip to Pebble Beach that once again went unclaimed. The WaterJAM Water For People Golf Outing is a perennial favorite of all participants, and this year was no different.

Next year, if you want to be a part of the energy and experience the excitement and the fun, we suggest you join us! That way, if someone says they just want to know one thing, “What big name is going to be there?” You have a simple answer. You.

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WaterJAM 2018 RECAP
Eighty-four VWEA and VAWWA members participated in the Water JAM 2018 Clay Shoot held at Old Forge Sporting Clays in Providence Forge on September 10. This is the finest sporting clays facility in Virginia and we were once again treated to 100 challenging targets, delicious food, and an overall great time together.

Team Champion honors were grabbed by Southern Corrosion (Brett Woodruff, Pam Baughman, Tom Delbridge, and Bryant Francisco) in a repeat performance from last year. CHA Consulting, Inc. (Doug Hudgins, Steve Clary, Justin Pruitt and Michael Ward) claimed 2nd place honors, moving up a slot from last year. The 3rd place team was Combs & Associates, Inc. (Bryce Carter, Greg Everhart, Sergio Gomez, Jonathan Taylor, and Alexander Kraemer).

Bryce Carter was the Shoot Champion with a score of 87. Max Chance and Greg Everhart shared 2nd place honors with both breaking 81 of 100 targets. Unlike golf, the highest score wins in sporting clays.

Everyone enjoyed a fine lunch of BBQ sandwiches and vegetable soup, followed by the awards ceremony. As always, each shooter went home with a door prize for participating.

Due to the generosity of our sponsors, we were able to include two grand prize drawings this year. Jessica Hou was the lucky winner of a RTIC Cooler and Frank Haltom took home a DeWalt Drill Package.

This was a record setting year for the Clay Shoot as 84 shooters surpassed the previous high mark of 64 and 23 sponsors outpaced the previous high of 9. Thank you to our participants and sponsors for a successful and safe event.

We are already making plans for next year at Water JAM 2019 and hope you can join us for another great day of shooting.
WATER TASTE TEST
VIRGINIA BEACH TAP WATER WINS!

Which do you prefer the taste of... tap water or bottled water? On Sunday, September 9, Virginia Beach Public Utilities asked visitors of the Virginia Beach Boardwalk that very question during a double blind taste test at the 31st Street Park. The result: 20 people preferred tap water, 15 people preferred bottled water, and 4 people had no preference.

While participation may seem low (tap water reined in the votes, but the weather rained out the event), we were thrilled to see the results favor Virginia Beach’s great tasting water!

SEWER AND WATER ART GALLERY (SWAG)

Written by Danny Maas

We had another great showing for the Sewer and Water Art Gallery (SWAG) at WaterJAM 2018! There were multiple items from various municipalities/agencies across Virginia and beyond on display for conference attendees to view and learn about. Our mystery item this year provided by Hydrostructures was a severely corroded jetter nozzle that was recovered from a sewer line and was only guessed correctly by a small number of the hundreds of visitors who came through the exhibit. Our visitors, comprised of a wide variety of roles within the industry, from seasoned professionals to students, were asked to vote for their favorite item on display.

Congratulations to Matthew Doyle from Fairfax County DPWES for the first-place entry of “A General Formula for the Uniform Flow of Water” that was one of the first textbooks to cover open-channel flow. Second place went to the “Bar Wrapped Wooden Water Line” that was provided as a rotating permanent piece to the SWAG collection by Jimmy Stewart from Pure Technologies, and third place went to the “Wooden Bonded Pipe” provided by the Wendel Companies.

Thank you to all of the agencies and organizations that contributed items to SWAG this year. We look forward to collecting and displaying a new batch of SWAG items for WaterJAM next year! Contact Danny Maas at dmaas@BrwnCald.com if you have an item to contribute.
In early 2018, Kelsey Kenel, Ryan Muncy, and Bianca Pinto volunteered to lead the YP community service event for the 2018 WaterJAM conference. The group reached out to different organizations in Southeastern Virginia that have a mission focused on improving water quality. The group partnered with Lynnhaven River Now, a local organization in Virginia Beach that focuses on restoring and protecting the Lynnhaven River and other Virginia Beach waterways. The service event occurred at the Beach Garden Park on the first day of the WaterJAM conference, September 10, 2018, and consisted of a park and river marsh cleanup. There were 17 volunteers that attended the event in their waders and boots and worked to clean up a total 100 pounds of trash.

Volunteers found both large and small pieces of trash that were removed with trash grabbers and nets. One objective of Lynnhaven River Now is to identify and reduce sources of contamination in the Virginia Beach Waterways; at the event, volunteers were asked to record every piece of trash picked up in an effort to better track and identify existing contaminant sources. Lynnhaven River Now has over 8,000 members that work together to help educate the community on restoring and protecting the Virginia Beach Waterways, and has cleanups similar to the YP community service event on a monthly basis that help with the mission of the organization.
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SILENT AUCTION

This year’s Water Reach Silent Auction took place at WaterJAM during the Tuesday evening reception in the exhibit hall. Thankfully it was not affected by the weather and had a good turnout of both donations and bidders. As a result of their hard work, the committee raised over $1,200 to go towards assisting small water systems in Virginia.

We would like to thank the following people/companies for their generous donations.

- Stacie Crandall
- Margie Hamner, Starfish Consulting
- Riverfront Golf Course
- Bowman Consultants
- Jerry Higgins
- Piedmont Golf Course
- Hardywood
- HydroStructures
- Suffolk Golf Club
- Michele Siminari
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Proper entry into a confined space isn’t just a smart practice – it can be a life or death situation.

In October of 2016, two landfill employees were removing a failed sump pump from a wet well in Suffolk, Va., and got stuck in a vertical drain pipe that was three-feet wide and 20-feet deep. Rescue crews attempted to save the men, but with uneven terrain and damp conditions in the 70-acre landfill, they were unresponsive by the time rescuers could get to the scene. Both died of asphyxiation due to hydrogen sulfide exposure.

Reports to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) show that 90 to 100 deaths a year result from work in confined spaces, and most of the accidents could have been avoided by following proper safety procedures. About 60 percent of incidents in confined spaces result from a situation where someone is trying to rescue a fellow worker. So, how do you know what is considered a confined space, and how do you make sure you don’t have any confined space incidents at your worksite?

First, make sure you understand OSHA’s Confined Space Standard. A confined space is large enough to enter and has limited or restricted means of egress, but it is not meant for continuous human occupancy. A permit-required confined space (PRCS) has the same characteristics, but also:

• Contains or has the potential to contain an atmospheric hazard, defined as:
  • An oxygen-deficient (less than 19.5 percent) or oxygen-enriched (greater than 23.5 percent) atmosphere;
  • A flammable or explosive atmosphere (must be less than 10 percent of the lower explosive limit); or
  • Other toxic, poisonous, irritant, or corrosive atmospheres (must be below permissible exposure limits);
• Contains an engulfment hazard such as dry storage or water;
• Has inwardly converging walls; or
• Has any other serious safety or health hazard.

When it comes to safety, it’s critical to treat all confined spaces as a PRCS until proven otherwise.

Second, employers and property owners should be aware of their responsibilities to ensure the safety of all employees who may enter confined spaces on their worksite. Untrained personnel are at the greatest risk. They often lack proper personal protective equipment, are not aware of the entry permit requirements or written safety program, and they do not understand OSHA’s Confined Space Standard. There are many training programs available that provide OSHA-specific guidance on how to enter a confined space or a PRCS.

Finally, conduct a proper PRCS inspection by taking the following steps:
1. Prepare – Review the scope of work, get familiar with the drawings, and identify hazards up front.
2. Develop a safety plan – Ensure the inspecting entity has an entry plan and an emergency action plan.

Safety in a Confined Space Inspection

By Paula Loht, CIH, CSP, Corporate Safety Director at Gannett Fleming
3. Verify the equipment – Make sure inspectors have the proper equipment to do the job.
4. Notify authorities and first responders – Have an “on call” plan in case of an emergency.
5. Provide a pre-entry briefing – Review the safety plans, identify a lockout and tagout plan, assign PRCS personnel, and establish communications protocol.
6. The entry supervisor must authorize the PRCS permit.
7. Conduct initial atmospheric monitoring and assess hazards.
8. Perform the inspection with continuous atmospheric monitoring.
9. Remove all personnel from PRCS, close PRCS, and close PRCS permit.
10. Conduct a post-entry briefing and discuss lessons learned.

By properly preparing inspectors and taking responsibility as owners and employers, workers can safely enter a PRCS or confined space with limited risk.

For more information, visit OSHA’s resource page on confined spaces: www.osha.gov/SLTC/confinedspaces/index.html.

Paula Loht, CIH, CSP, is corporate safety director at Gannett Fleming. Gannett Fleming has offices in Fairfax, Newport News, Richmond, and Virginia Beach, Va.

Sources:
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UTILITY MEMBERSHIP in AWWA comes with many benefits that are not included with an individual membership. In addition to the benefits individuals receive, AWWA provides utilities with resources to help manage a utility – tools for assessing infrastructure needs, rate-setting, training and certification programs, communicating the value of water service to the public, and opportunities to craft regulatory policy.

I’m Andy Chase, and I’m incredibly proud to be the first Utility Relationship Manager in the 137-year history of AWWA. I joined the Member Engagement & Development team in January 2015, and I was charged with developing AWWA’s utility recruitment process. I realized, early on, the power of partnering with AWWA Sections and recruiting volunteers to join me in meetings with utilities and municipalities. Our process: We identify nonmember utilities through a variety of sources and group them geographically. I reach out to Section leaders and ask for volunteers to commit one day to visiting utilities with me.

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WHY AWWA UTILITY MEMBERSHIP?

When meeting with utilities, we discuss how each water utility benefits from its AWWA membership differently, for most, at least three areas of value rise to the top.

First, AWWA is the preeminent forum for knowledge and solutions to help water professionals—and water utilities—do their jobs better and more efficiently. Through its international and local conferences, peer-reviewed journal and other publications, and online training and webcasts, AWWA helps its members discover the right technologies, management strategies, and operational tactics to ensure each customer dollar is being spent efficiently and in a way that best protects public health.

Second, AWWA is the entity that produces water industry standards for materials, equipment, and practices used in water treatment and supply. AWWA members have a voice in the creation of these standards, and utility members always have access to the full, updated set. AWWA also produces a robust set of manuals of practice to complement the standards. Members further enjoy substantial discounts on a vast collection of handbooks, reports, and other tools created through the intellectual capital of AWWA’s members.

Third, AWWA provides the water sector with a critical voice in Washington, D.C., where legislative and regulatory decisions can dramatically affect each of America’s more than 52,000 community water systems. Working closely with its utility members, AWWA’s Government Affairs group and Water Utility Council bring sound science and the real-life experience of water utilities to the
With its 51,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and enhance our quality of life.

public policy dialogue. AWWA brings critical technical information to the regulatory process and frequently testifies before Congress on legislative and other matters. Utility members stay informed through regular public affairs, legislative, and regulatory advisories, and a bi-weekly Water Utility Insider newsletter.

We’ve recently had substantial success in AWWA’s Southwest Section. The AWWA Membership Engagement & Development Team has been working closely with the Section to recruit new utility members. I’ve had the pleasure of meeting with 12 utilities with Executive Director Don Broussard, and we are excited to welcome Baton Rouge Water Company, the City of Shreveport, and the City of Monroe, LA, as new utility members. From Arkansas, we welcome Benton/Washington Regional Public Water Authority as new utility members. We also hosted a luncheon in Oklahoma City, an active utility member, and we welcomed the City of Norman and the City of Broken Arrow, Ok, as new utility members. Utilities benefit from their utility membership and the Section benefits as well, since a portion of membership dues is returned to the Section for operations to maintain member services locally.

Successes such as these help maintain AWWA as the largest nonprofit, scientific, and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world’s most important resource. With its 51,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and enhance our quality of life.

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1st Place: Mehdi K etabchy – ‘Simulation of Watershed-Scale Practices for Mitigating the Thermal Pollution of Urbanization’ - Gannett Fleming

2nd Place: Michael Schindler – ‘Crushed Glass, the Valuable Resource Nobody Is Thinking About’ - Fairfax County

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