**Movers & Shakers**

The Leadership Committee is pleased to continue highlighting a member of the Association who is moving up, moving on, or moving out along with another member who is going, or has the potential, to be shaking things up in ways big or small. Highlighted in this issue are Dr. Anupa Jain with the City of Chandler who has been involved with the Association for several years, and John Kmiec with the Town of Marana who has been a member of the Association for several years. Anupa and John are the two newest members of the Board of Directors, and they are already hard at work!

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**Dr. Anupa Jain**

Dr. Anupa Jain has worked passionately for over the past 25 years to preserve the integrity of water resources. She currently holds the title of Water Quality Advisor with the City of Chandler; however, over the years, she has contributed to the water and wastewater industry as a chemist, laboratory manager, researcher, and advisor. Anupa holds Masters & Doctorate degrees in Organic Chemistry and was awarded “Outstanding Student of the Decade” certificate for her academic achievements. She has published several papers in the International Journals and presented technical papers in many professional organizations. Anupa is the newly elected AZ Water Association Board Member and serves as a liaison for the Tap into Quality, Research, and Lab Practices committees.

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**Leadership Committee (LC): Where are you from originally and, if not from Arizona, how did you end up in Arizona?**

**Anupa Jain (AJ):** I was born and raised in the Northern part of India, in Amritsar city, famous for its Golden Temple. I moved to Chandler, Arizona in early 1990s to be near my family and called Arizona my home ever since.

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**LC:** How long have you been a member of AZ Water?
AJ: I have been a member of the AZ Water for almost 20 years. Back then, it was called Arizona Water Pollution Control Association (AWPCA).

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**LC:** Why did you join AZ Water?
AJ: I got my first exposure to the AZ Water when I attended their annual conference. I was extremely impressed with the quality of the presentations and the networking opportunities it offered. I immediately became a big proponent and have been a member ever since.

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**LC:** What roles have you served during your membership in AZ Water? What committees are you on?
AJ: I have been part of the Tap into Quality Committee for almost 17 years and the Water Treatment Committee for almost 10 years. I have also been an active member of Technical Conference Committee, Research Committee and Phoenix Luncheon Committee for almost 5 years. Currently, I am serving as AZ Water Board liaison for Tap into Quality, Research and Lab Practices Committees.

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**LC:** What is the best/greatest thing about being an AZ Water member?
AJ: The AZ Water Association membership offers a wide variety of benchmarking and networking opportunities. The Kachina magazine is also an excellent source of information that keeps you abreast of the activities in the water/wastewater industry.
LC: Was there someone within AZ Water who helped mentor and guide you in your career?
AJ: When I became the Water Quality Advisor, my manager Lori McCallum advised me to be the face of Water Quality for the City of Chandler. Her mentorship and guidance allowed me to enhance my professional career and develop professional relationships with the sister cities and regulatory agencies.

LC: What advice would you give to a new water professional as they start their career?
AJ: First and foremost, to be a member of the AZ Water Association and help Arizona prepare for the water challenges in the decades to come.

LC: What do you see as the greatest challenge facing the organization in the next 2-5 years?
AJ: With baby boomers on the verge of retirement, there may be a shortage of water/wastewater professionals in next 2-5 years. We need to raise awareness of this subject and work with the educational institutions to offer programs and develop future professionals.

LC: As one of AZ Water’s newest board members, what goals/ambitions do you have for the organization (or for yourself, as a board member of the organization)?
AJ: With the environmental stewardship as the key component of the charter of this organization, I would like to raise awareness of Tap Water by enhancing community engagement activities and be a part of the policy making in water and wastewater industry.

LC: 10) If you could take your family on a vacation anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go? What would you see and do there?
Aj: Since I migrated to US right after college, I did not get a chance to do much sightseeing in India. I would love to go back and visit all regions, from northern India’s Leh and Ladakh to eastern India’s Assam and Nagaland to southern India’s Andaman and Nicobar Islands and western India’s beautiful temples.
John Kmiec
John is currently the Water and Water Reclamation Director for the Town on Marana. John is originally from the Detroit area, and he moved to Arizona in 1999 to work for Tucson Water as a hydrologist. Soon after, he became an environmental scientist (2002), Reclaimed Water and Backflow Prevention Supervisor (2004), and finally Tucson Water’s Environmental & Regulatory Compliance Manager overseeing drinking water, reclaimed water, and other environmental programs for the utility (2006). In 2012, he became the Water and Water Reclamation director for the Town of Marana. He has a Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences from Michigan State University and a Master in Public Administration from Troy University.

Leadership Committee (LC): Where are you from originally and, if not from Arizona, how did you end up in Arizona?
John Kmiec (JK): I grew up in a suburb just a few miles north of Detroit called Sterling Heights, Michigan. After university, I worked as an environmental consultant for a firm in the Detroit area specializing in soil and groundwater contamination and remediation for about four years. Then I worked as an environmental and safety manager for a large automotive plastic injection firm for two years. Frankly, I was tired of living in the Detroit area where the economy was driven on a daily basis on how the automotive industry was doing. So, my wife and I decided to do the complete opposite - leave the land of the Great Lakes and an economy that was based on hourly production numbers and go to a place that had limited water and a different pace of life. We chose Tucson. Thankfullly, Tucson Water was looking for a hydrologist at the time, so while we were moving, they offered me a job.

(LC): How long have you been a member of AZ Water?
(CP): I am not entirely sure, but I think it was around 2003 when I knew a career in the water industry was exactly where I wanted to be.

LC: Why did you join AZ Water?
JK: At the time, it was to learn all I could about the industry and the people within the association. As a scientist, curiosity has always been my driver. I found that interacting with other members of the organization opened my eyes to all the possibilities that are in this field.

LC: What roles have you served during your membership in AZ Water? What committees are you on?
JK: With my position at Tucson Water, I was and am always interested in reclaimed water and securing water resources. Absolutely no thought was given to this where I was from, the land of five of the world’s largest freshwater lakes and the seemingly unlimited resource of water. Learning and planning around the “whole” water cycle is very exciting. So the two committees that I have always been a part of in some form were the Reclaimed Water Committee and the Water Resources Committee. With regards to reclaimed water, I was part of the planning committee to create the state section of the WateReuse Association in 2005. I have been a part of WateReuse Arizona for 13 years and I am in the middle of my second stint as association president.

LC: What is the best/greatest thing about being an AZ Water member?
JK: Well, it is always the people. People in the water profession have a passion about what they do. Being around people who care about their community, their state, and their profession is great.

LC: Was there someone within AZ Water who helped mentor and guide you in your career? What was the best advice or wisdom they gave to you?
JK: Recent Past President, Marie Pearthree, was my Deputy Director at Tucson Water when I started. I always remembered how supportive she was when I showed my interest in becoming involved and wanting to learn more about all aspects of the water industry. The whole leadership team at Tucson Water in the early 2000s was fantastic for a young person starting in this career (David Modeer, Bruce Johnson, etc.). I found nothing but complete support from them as I developed professionally.

LC: What advice would you give to a new water professional as they start their career?
JK: Look for the opportunities to volunteer and go to meetings or conferences. Find who your peers are in the other utilities and get to know them. I have a group of friends that I know I call at any time to ask a question or solicit advice and they are always there for me.

LC: What do you see as the greatest challenge facing the organization in the next 2-5 years?
JK: This may sound funny, but a booming economy. Utilities are going to continue to grow but having a young, technically savvy workforce to come in and replace our aging workforce will continue to be difficult. With more opportunities out there in the world, trying to entice new employees to a career in the water industry will continue to be a challenge when you have so many competing fields and money opportunities.

LC: As one of AZ Water’s newest board members, what goals/ambitions do you have for the organization (or for yourself, as a board member of the organization)?
JK: My overall goal is to have AZ Water continue to be a place for education and networking; networking with all of the tremendous people who work in our industry and who provide great service to the people of this wonderful state.

LC: If you could take your family on a vacation anywhere in the world, all expenses paid, where would you go? What would you see and do there?
JK: I have always wanted to go to Europe to see the water and sewer systems of the Roman Empire. My family will probably do something else. HaHa!