Why are you a member of AWWA? Why do you renew your membership every year? In other words, what is your value story? My value story is threefold:

1. AWWA provides educational opportunities even when I am not looking for education. Who can resist the Certification Corner of Opflow? I may not be looking to learn about using tilapia in sedimentation basins to reduce algae, but when I am flipping to the back of the Opflow to test myself in the Certification Corner, I can’t help but to read the tilapia article.

2. The conferences that AWWA holds on a Section and Association level are unparalleled. Where else can you learn about the latest NJDEP regulations, watch a tank building contest, have over 80 vendors all in one place to ask all of your questions to, eat and drink while watching 3 Top Ops teams battle it out, listen to extremely high quality presentations by some of the leading water industry professionals in the country and dance the night away to the incredible sounds of Water Hammer?

3. The third leg on my AWWA value stool is networking. I attended my first AWWA NJ conference only knowing the people that I worked with. I remember sitting in a session and seeing John Dyksen on the other side of the room. Everyone was coming up to him and talking to him. Of course I asked one of my co-workers who he was and they told me that he was one of the “big wigs” at United Water, he is a Past Section Chair and a Fuller Award recipient. I thought to myself that I would really like to meet him, but at 22 years old I was very intimidated. After that conference I joined a couple AWWA NJ committees and started networking within the organization. I had the opportunity to meet John a couple of years later and then serve on a committee with him. Today I consider John one of my friends and one of my super hubs in my water industry network.

At my first board meeting as AWWA NJ chair, I opened up the meeting by asking the Board what their value story was. There were a lot of different answers; however, there was one response that was consistently in everyone’s value story: their AWWA network. Everyone on the Board recognized the value of the relationships with other AWWA members as an invaluable benefit on a professional and personal level. The relationships that we build within our organization strengthen our personal network, which in turn strengthens our company’s network, which will then strengthen the water industry’s network as a whole. I think this is a priceless benefit to you as an AWWA member and to our industry as a whole… and to the success of your career. My focus this year will be on helping AWWA members build their water industry network, and here are my three initiatives to get it done:

**Initiative #1:**
AWWA NJ is going to increase your social networking opportunity by 300%! We will have monthly networking events, held the third Thursday of every month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm throughout NJ, eliminating the excuse of “it’s too far for me”. These monthly networking events are free (buy your own drinks and food) and are in addition to the 4 regular scheduled networking events. This will be a casual event that you can come and go as you please. I’m inviting EVERYONE to come out, even if it is for 30 minutes, to increase the strength of your network, your company’s network and the water industry’s network! You owe it to yourself and your career!

**Initiative #2:**
Increase AWWA NJ activity by 10%. At the banquet I gave everyone AWWA NJ homework and by virtue of reading this, you too now have AWWA NJ homework. If you are a manager or supervisor, your homework is to recruit an additional member of your staff to be active on an AWWA committee. If you are not a manager or supervisor, ask your manager if you can become involved on an AWWA committee. We are always looking for energetic volunteers,
We operate in an environment where we rapidly move from one “urgent” priority to the next. Many times this results in a short-term focus for an industry that requires long-term planning and performance. Challenges associated with aging infrastructure, workforce issues, increasingly stringent regulations and changing customer expectations can overwhelm our management capacity.

The services and resources provided by AWWA to address our needs take many different forms. While education, publications and advocacy may be the most obvious, AWWA also contributes to numerous special projects that address relevant challenges encountered by water utility managers.

Over the past two years, I have been participating in one of these special projects. In conjunction with USEPA and five other major water and wastewater organizations (Collaborating Organizations), AWWA has helped create an Effective Water Utility Management Primer. This Primer is designed to help water and wastewater utility managers make proactive, systematic changes to achieve excellence in utility performance. Rather than just focusing on financial and operational goals, the Primer considers all significant aspects of water and wastewater utility management. The Primer’s main components are:

- The Ten Attributes of Effectively Managed Water Sector Utilities – product quality, customer satisfaction, financial viability, community sustainability, operating resiliency, etc.
- Keys to Management Success
- Where to Begin – A Self-Assessment Tool

The Primer also includes sample measures to help utility managers gauge performance and a “resource toolbox” which provides additional resources on effective utility management.

The Primer’s approach to strategically prioritizing activities and measuring performance works. I can personally attest that this practical resource was developed by utility managers for utility managers. The utility advisors focused on making the approach adaptable to utilities of all sizes and maturities. Last month, four case studies were completed to assess the applicability of the Effective Utility Management Primer. The diverse range of utilities involved in the case studies found that the Primer concepts and tools provided a substantial contribution to their management improvement efforts, brought a cost-effective focus to their initiatives and aided both their internal and external communication. These benefits were achieved with an easy-to-implement set of tools and concepts that provided an external validation of their improvement priorities.

If USEPA and the collaborating professional organization have their way, this Primer will become the primary resource for water and wastewater utility managers. The Primer is being extensively advertised by all the Collaborating Organizations and was the theme for this year’s AWWA/WEF Utility Management Conference in New Orleans. The Primer is available for use at the following website: http://waterutm.org/. It is an easy read that can be used across all levels in your organization. Given the value of this management tool and its endorsements across the industry, AWWA and I recommend that you review and consider using this Primer.

John Young is the President of American Water Works Service Company and AWWA NJ’s Director.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**FALL SEMINAR**

**FROM RESEARCH TO RULES TO REGULATIONS**

**When:** Wednesday, October 7, 2009

**Where:** Rutgers Eco Complex in Bordentown, NJ

**What:** The seminar will cover several of the new proposed regulations such as Radon, Perchlorate, GWR, and the processes that led to their creation. Stay tuned to the Section website for details, [www.njawwa.org](http://www.njawwa.org).

**Letter from the Chair** continued from page 1

so I am asking YOU to call me (856-727-6129) so I can help you get on a committee! I will be following up with everyone to ask how you are doing with your homework. I know who gets the Pipeline, so there is no escaping me!

**Initiative #3:**

Carry on Stacy and Mark’s initiatives by continuing the implementation of the student mentoring program, the website redevelopment, and the creation of the Speakers Bureau.

The student mentoring program is pushing forward in full gear this year. We already have a couple students paired with AWWA mentors. Brian Carr is leading this effort from the Student Affairs Committee and is looking for AWWA mentor volunteers. The time requirement is minimal, and it is a great way to get involved in the Section! Contact Brian at bcarr@cmxengineering.com and become a mentor.

Log on to our website and see the changes! We have a completely new look for the homepage and more is coming. We will be updating the entire website to give AWWA NJ a new, user-friendly look. Make sure you keep checking back to see all of the changes we are making. When you are there, you can check the Section Calendar on the homepage to see what seminars, conferences and events are going on in your area!

Jordan Volk and the Public Information Committee are in the process of creating a Speakers Bureau. Are you wondering what that is or if you sign up, where will you be speaking? The Speakers Bureau is a list of AWWA NJ members that are willing to speak on selected topics in selected areas of the state. We might ask you to speak to another organization, an elementary school or a Boy Scout troop. There are endless possibilities. I am encouraging everyone reading this to email Jordan Volk at jordan.volk@hatchmott.com to put your name on the Speakers Bureau list.

If you take nothing else from this article, I want you to take this away…stop asking your colleagues “Are you involved in AWWA?” and start asking “HOW are you involved in AWWA?” Let’s build up AWWA NJ through networking and most importantly, having fun doing it! See you at an event!

Lindsey Olson is a Design Engineer with American Water and Chair of the Section.
Pre-Conference Workshop Identified Research Needs  
By Carol Storms

On March 31, 2009, a Pre-Conference Workshop was held at the AWWA NJ Section Annual Conference in Atlantic City. The workshop attendees included water utilities, consulting firms, universities, section leaders, and representatives from the Water Research Foundation (WRF) and National AWWA. Attendees at the workshop represented a wide spectrum of research sponsors and participants. The workshop was facilitated by the AWWA NJ Section Research and Technology Transfer Committee (RTTC).

Besides presenting research that showed the benefits of utility participation, the RTTC wanted to get input from water industry leaders on suggested future research needs and ideas. The purpose of this workshop was to identify and prioritize these ideas. The RTTC identified four key areas to facilitate discussion: water sources, treatment, distribution, and management. Attendees were asked to form four “Breakout” groups and identify research needs under each topic that would be of value to them. The breakout groups identified the topics below:

Water Sources
• Climate change issues – water use, water availability
• Watershed management

Treatment
• Increasing salinity levels
• ASR
• Algal toxins
• EDCs and PPCPs
• Ground water contamination

Management
• Aging workforce
• Energy efficiency
• Going green
• Forecasting the future of the water industry
• Health and safety
• Environmental compliance
• Customer service issues
• IT issues

Distribution
• Condition assessment of underground assets
• Tools for prioritizing pipe replacement
• Water quality maintenance
• Managing the distribution system to avoid revised TCR events
• Determining life cycle of various types of pipe
• Tank operation and maintenance

These ideas will now be developed and given to the WRF. A visit to the WRF website shows how this list would become part of their agenda. “The Foundation strives to understand subscribers’ research requirements and to target research that meets those needs. The Foundation’s basic planning philosophy is that research has value only if meaningful results are delivered to subscribers and other stakeholders in a manner that meets their needs.” Each year, the WRF works with Sections to develop an approved agenda of projects that meets water industry needs.

Have an idea not on the above list? If so, we would love to hear from you! Contact Frank Marascia, Southeast Morris MUA, at fmarascia@smcmua.org.

Carol Storms is the Manager of Water Quality and Wastewater at Aqua New Jersey and a Trustee of the Section.

Your Company could be the next Employer Support Award Winner!  
by Elizabeth Yanosey

The Membership Committee is once again recognizing an employer who supports their young employees’ educational growth and career development. The Acknowledgment of Young Professional Employer Support Award will distinguish an employer who has encouraged the young professionals within their company to participate in the industry beyond every day work. The Award will go to an employer who supports their employees in continuing education, National and New Jersey Section of AWWA activities, participation in AWWA NJ committees, presentations at conferences, and publications in professional and technical journals.

Anyone can nominate his or her company for this award by completing the Questionnaire for Award Year 2009. The Questionnaire gathers information regarding your employer’s interaction with its young professionals as they discover their role in the water industry. While a young professional is defined as a person 35 years of age or under, there is no age distinction as to who may submit a nominee. The Questionnaire must be submitted by August 31, 2009 for an employer to be officially nominated for the award.

Visit the Section website to obtain a copy of the Questionnaire.

The award recipient will be announced at the AWWA NJ Fall Section Meeting to be held on September 17, 2009. The recipient will also be recognized in Pipeline amongst a list of all the nominees.

Please note that you can nominate your company for this award two years in a row; however, a different employee must submit the nomination.

Elizabeth Yanosey is an Engineer with Camp Dessier McKee and a member of the Membership Services Committee.

Thanks to Our 2008-2009 Sponsors!

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• United Water

AWWA NJ appreciates the support of all of our sponsors throughout the year. For more information on the AWWA NJ Sponsorship Program, visit our website at www.njawwa.org.
COMMITTEE UPDATES

Water Utility Council Update
by Steve Tambini

The Water Utility Council (WUC) has been monitoring and participating in several emerging New Jersey legislative issues. At the top of the WUC’s priority watch list is a bill that could require mandatory fluoridation of all public drinking water supplies. Although AWWA recognizes the potential dental health benefits of fluoridation, the NJ Section has opposed any state mandated requirement. The WUC and the AWWA NJ have updated its position paper on fluoridation to more clearly support local decision making for any future changes to fluoridation practices.

The WUC is also continuing to closely monitor potential legislative efforts to potentially implement a “water tax.” The Governor and the bill sponsor have a continued interest in sustainable open space funding and the development of a fee on water diversions and water usage is being considered to support the program. The AWWA NJ has opposed a water tax or water use fee and has suggested other funding methods. AWWA NJ also strongly supports a voter decision making process through a ballot referendum for any open space funding.

The WUC also developed a subcommittee group to work with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on draft Boil Water Advisory practices and procedures. The subcommittee, chaired by Keith Cartnick at United Water, developed a series of recommended guidance for reportable incidents and for notification of NJDEP, customers and for lifting advisories.

Do you not yet have the required number of TCH’s? Not to worry – you still have until September 30, 2009 to obtain TCH credits for the current licensure period. To help, the EPDC has a number of events planned in the upcoming months to assist operators in getting their last minutes TCH credits. These include the following:

- **TCH Midnight Madness** will be held in conjunction with the NJAES Office of Continuing Education at Rutgers University on September 29, 2009. A total of 3 TCH’s per session (one morning, one afternoon and one evening) for New Jersey licensed water/wastewater operators can be obtained.
- The EPDC is planning another Jar Testing Seminar to be conducted by Oleg Kostin from New Jersey American Water and other committee members in September 2009.
- There are also other educational events that are being planned by the Section, including the Fall Conference to be held on September 17, 2009. Keep checking the AWWA NJ website for more details on these and other educational events being organized by the Section.

The AWWA NJ is also pleased to report that they have received from The State Education Department, The University of the State of New York approval as a sponsor of continuing education for professional engineers (PE’s) in New York State for another 3-year period between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2012. NY PE’s can attend specific educational events conducted by the Section to obtain continuing education credits.

Welcome to the following new committee members: Nadine Leslie, Meghna Patel, Michael Stephens and Jason Tse. Please feel free to contact David Tanzi, Committee Chair, or any other EPDC members about any other EPDC activities that are being offered or planned by the Section.

David Tanzi is an Associate with CDM and Chair of the Education and Professional Development Committee.
Welcome to the Living History Project

By Stacy A. Fysz

Were you able to watch the Living History Project film that was showing at the Annual Conference? I hope so! This year’s edition certainly provided valuable insights into the shaping of the Section, the water industry, and our professionals.

The goal of the project is to document the history of our section and the water industry in New Jersey. For the past two years former Chair of the Committee and current Fuller Award Recipient Mike Opaleski interviewed several retired professionals or experienced professionals to gain their insights into how both the section and the water industry in New Jersey developed. This year we had three interviews. The first interview was with Bill Packer about his career and the industry. For the second interview, Mike interviewed Richard Russo and Brent Cacallori about their remembrances of the late Lewis W. Klockner. And this year, we did something a little different. With the help of Richard and Brent, the tables were turned on Mike, and they interviewed Mike about his career.

While the documentary easily meets the goal of the project, as I and others watch the film, we see that there are other goals that the documentary meets. Each of the interviewees talks about the importance of having mentors in one’s career and the importance of the water industry. Each of us during our careers has had one, two or more mentors to provide us guidance. Sometimes the mentor relationship can be a formal one. Sometimes the relationship is not formal. The Student Affairs Committee has established a formal mentorship program. If you are not involved in the program either as a mentor or mentee, I urge each of you to contact Brian Carr, Chair of the Committee, to become involved in this exciting program.

Another aspect of the documentary is watching all of the participants talk about the industry and their enthusiasm and passion for the industry. Their enthusiasm reminds us that it is incumbent upon each of us to spread the enthusiasm we have about the water industry and to encourage our youth to select a career that encompasses public health, public safety, and support of the environment and the economy.

In closing, I encourage you to reach out and become involved in the Section Mentoring Program and the spread your passion about our industry and stay tuned for another opportunity to watch The Living History Project!

Stacy A. Fysz is a Consultant with Black & Veatch Enterprise Management Solutions and Chair of the Retired Professionals Committee.

New Jersey Security Best Practices Training Deadline Nears

By Scott Para

Last year, all Community Water Systems in New Jersey were sent a letter from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Water Supply – Bureau of Safe Drinking Water mandating compliance with a Security Best Practices Training initiative.

The letter indicated that all Community Water Systems serving more than 3,300 population, must provide security training to its employees at a level that relates to their job function in their respective organization, within one year of receipt of the letter. The distribution of the letters began in June of last year and ended in the October time frame.

The training is to be broken out into two different training levels: Level 1, which is required for all operational and management personnel, including those in the office and clerical setting, and Level 2, which is required for all operational and management personnel serving in a supervisory and above function.

The training is broken down into six modules. These modules cover topics such as: Terrorism Awareness, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Security Best Practices, Homeland Security Advisory System, and General Security Awareness. The Level 1 training lasts approximately two hours with the Level 2 training going on for approximately two more hours.

This class has received approval from the DEP to satisfy the Wastewater, Dam, and Chemical Sector Security Best Practices training initiatives. It also has been recognized to be eligible for CEU’s, but you will need to fill out the necessary paperwork to obtain them.

The AWWA NJ Operational Risk Committee is seeking to run the Level 1 and Level 2 Security Best Practices Training Class within the next couple of months. Please stay tuned for future announcements. If you would like more information on the initiative please contact Scott Para Co-Chair of the Operational Risk Committee at scott.para@amwater.com.

Scott Para is Manager of Operations Security at American Water and Co-Chair of the Operational Risk Committee.

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Eight 8th grade girls from Heritage Middle School in Livingston earned a trip to the Annual Conference after participating in the National Engineering Week Future Cities Competition at Rutgers and winning the New Jersey American Water Award for Best Infrastructure Layout.

2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Fuller Award

Mike Opaleski (r) was presented with the 2009 George Warren Fuller Award. The award is conferred to a member each year for “distinguished service in the water supply field and in commemoration of the sound engineering skill, brilliant diplomatic talent, and the constructive leadership of persons in the Association which characterized the life of George Warren Fuller.” He worked for many years holding various positions with the Township of East Brunswick, starting as a plant operator and eventually becoming Director of Public Works and Water Resources; served as an adjunct professor at several area colleges teaching water technology courses; achieved W-4 and T-3 levels of licensure; and participated in AWWA on the Board and various committees for over 40 years, and has been a member. Because of his many years of dedicated service to the industry, Mike was the ideal choice for this year’s Fuller Award.

Public Service Award

Steve Tambini (l) presented Barker Hamill (r) with the Water Utility Council’s Public Service Award. This award was presented to Barker in recognition of his many years of dedicated leadership in the water community.

K.J. Miller Founders’ Award

Robert McIntyre was presented with the Kenneth J. Miller Founders’ Award. The award was created by the Water For People organization to recognize volunteers for their outstanding service and leadership in the advancement of the Water For People mission at the local Committee/Regional level.

H.V. Florence Jr. Meritorious Operator Award

The Harold V. Florence Jr. Meritorious Operator Award is bestowed each year upon an operator who has brought a higher degree of excellence, learning, initiative and resourcefulness to bear in the operation of a public water supply system. This year’s recipient was Mark Ferraro of the Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority. Mark is a long time member of the North Jersey Water Conference and has been very involved as a Trustee, as a member of several committees and as an instructor for numerous seminars. He has also been an instructor for seminars for the New Jersey Water Association and teaches the Introductory Water Class as a state licensing course instructor. His commitment to the profession and education lead him to volunteer his personal time to provide training sessions on water operations to soldiers in the National Guard in 2007. For all of Mark’s hard work and dedication to the profession, this recognition is well deserved.

NJDEP’s Distinguished Service Award

Alan Dillon (l) presented Bill Packer (r) with a Distinguished Service Award from the NJDEP recognizing Bill for his many dedicated years of service as a member of the Advisory Committee on Water and Wastewater Licensed Operator Training from 1991-2008.

Engineers of Tomorrow

Eight 8th grade girls from Heritage Middle School in Livingston earned a trip to the Annual Conference after participating in the National Engineering Week Future Cities Competition at Rutgers and winning the New Jersey American Water Award for Best Infrastructure Layout.
The 2009 Fresh Ideas Award Winner is Joseph Goodwill! by Hetal Mistry

At the 2009 Annual Conference, eight young professionals participated in the annual Fresh Ideas competition. Fresh Ideas is a National AWWA initiative in which young professionals (35 and under) receive recognition and a cash award for presenting the best paper at their respective section’s Annual Conference.

All of the young professionals presented very well and deserve recognition for their individual efforts in this year’s competition. Similar to prior years, due to the high level of participation in this year’s Fresh Ideas program, it was extremely competitive. The Fresh Ideas competition was judged by a panel comprised of the AWWA NJ Membership Committee members and by members-at-large.

After some deliberation, the 2009 Fresh Ideas winner was selected to be Joseph Goodwill of Black & Veatch who presented on Water For People – Malawi. Joseph’s experience as a volunteer with the World Water Corps was very impressive and demonstrated his commitment to Water for People.

Joseph was awarded $300 and a Fresh Ideas plaque along with a complimentary registration to ACE09 in San Diego, CA! With the support of his employer, Joseph will display his award-winning paper during the Fresh Ideas Poster Session at ACE09. Congratulations to Joseph for winning this year’s Fresh Ideas competition!

Fresh Ideas is sponsored by the Membership Services committee and the award is presented at the Annual Conference. If you are a young professional that will be presenting at next year’s Annual Conference, please check ‘Yes’ on the Fresh Ideas Box on the Abstract Form. For more information on the Fresh Ideas Program, please contact Hetal Mistry at 732-638-7530 or hmistry@middlesexwater.com.

Hetal Mistry is a Senior Project Engineer with Middlesex Water Company and Chair of the Membership Services Committee.

Next Generation Award: Representing the Youth by Anthony Tomasello

This year at the AWWA NJ Annual Conference in Atlantic City, the Next Generation Award was presented to Patrick Cole. The award is given to a Young Professional (35 years of age or younger) who has made significant contributions to the organization. Pat, a Project Manager for CMX, has been involved with the following section committees: Water for People, Public Information, and Membership Services. Pat also served as Chair for the Student Affairs Committee in 2008-2009. In 2007, Mr. Cole was the winner of the Fresh Ideas Award, presented to the best paper at the Annual Conference by a Young Professional. Thanks to Pat for his hard work and Congratulations!

Anthony Tomasello is an Engineer with Hatch Mott MacDonald and Chair of the Recognition Committee.

Top Ops 2009 – The “Aqua Men” Prevail by Kenneth Ern

Congratulations to the “Aqua Men”, from the Passaic Valley Water Commission, on their second “NJ Top Ops” championship. The “Aqua Men”, who consist of Edgar Alicea, Mark Romain, and Drew Saskowitz, won a well fought battle against the “H2O Bros”, and “Team Brick MUA”. The “Aqua Men” now have the opportunity to represent AWWA NJ at ACE09 in San Diego. They will be able to compete against the nation’s best and brightest in this Jeopardy style game, centered on water industry questions and trivia.

The Small Systems and Operators Committee would like to thank all three teams for stepping up to the challenge and competing. We would like to thank Rich Russo and Alan Dillon for once again serving as judges, supplying us with their voice of reason and years of experience. The Committee would also like to acknowledge Larry Coslow for his performance as the Master of Ceremony. Lastly, we would like to thank the Regulatory and Consulting Lifelines for their valuable advice to our contestants.

See you next year at “Top Ops 2010”!

Kenneth Ern is the Assistant Operations Manager for Gordon’s Corner Water Company and the Co-Chair of the Small Systems and Operators Committee.
Model Tank Building Contest Rousing Success

by Brian Dougherty

Jim Scott, Andy Larkin, Jim Schaller and Eric Hahn (1 to r) from NJAW

At the Annual Conference on April 1st the Small Systems and Operators Committee (SS&OC) sponsored a “Model Tank Building Contest” at luncheon in the vendor exhibit area. The event included three teams: New Jersey American Water, Hatch Mott MacDonald, and representatives from the SS&OC. The contest also featured judges with tank expertise, Jim Carter from CB&I and Nicole Clarke from Tank Industry Consultants.

The contest required each team to assemble a model elevated tank from a number of household materials within the 30 minute time limit. The materials included a plastic cup, drinking straws, paperclips, toothpicks, bubblegum and band-aids. Upon completion, the tank was filled about half way with water (8 oz.) and then had to hold the water, and remain standing, for 30 seconds.

The SS&OC team, comprised of Ken Ern, Chris Andreasen, and Jeff Ulrich, successfully completed their model to a height of 27 inches. However, they fell just short of the winning height.

The Hatch Mott MacDonald team of Jordan Volk and Anthony Tomasello constructed their tank to an impressive height, but it fell over upon being filled with water.

With a swarm of supporters, the New Jersey American Water team was definitely feeling the pressure, but they were able to keep their cool and complete the assembly on-time. The New Jersey American Water team, which consisted of Jim Scott, Andrew Larkin, James Schaller, and Eric Hahn, won the contest with a tank height of 33 inches. The gracious winners then donated their prize money to Water For People.

The event turned out to be a lot of fun for both the participants and the audience. The Committee was very pleased with the interest in the contest and hopes to make this an annual event with even more teams competing next year.

Brian Dougherty is an Associate with Hatch Mott MacDonald and a member of the Small Systems and Operators Committee.

SS&OC Sponsors Best Gadget Contest

by Brian Dougherty

At the Annual Conference on April 1st, the Small Systems and Operators Committee (SS&OC) awarded prizes for the first annual Best Gadget Contest. The contest was a great success with the Committee receiving seven entries from water utilities and operators from all over the state. Gadget entries were judged on the basis of originality, simplicity, use, and application to the water industry.

Third place went to Gene Ferrence and Glen Porbansky of Middlesex Water Company for the invention of the “Grab and Go.” This invention involved the attachment of an elongated handle onto the transmitter used for markouts. This gadget makes the markout process faster, safer and more ergonomically. For their efforts, Mr. Ferrence and Mr. Porbansky were given an award certificate and $75 in prize money.

Second place was awarded to Daniel Esser of Agra Environmental and Laboratories for his invention called the “Sucka MC”. This device was invented from common parts, such as hoses, PVC pipe, and a small pump, to remove sediment from sodium hypochlorite storage tanks. Mr. Esser was given an award certificate and $125 in prize money.

First place went to the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority with its entry for the “Hydrant Bonnet Removal Tool”. The gadget, which was fabricated from steel stock and pins for minimal cost, allows the removal of a hydrant bonnet from its stem for routine maintenance and repairs without damaging the hydrant. For their ingenuity, the operations staff at BTMUA was awarded a plaque and $200 in prize money.

The winning gadgets were those that provided a more efficient, safer, or easier way to perform routine tasks in the maintenance, operation, or construction of a water system. The Small Systems and Operators Committee was extremely pleased with the interest in the contest and the quality of the entries. All of the gadgets submitted showed great ingenuity and the review of the entries resulted in some heated discussions amongst the committee members.

The Committee is looking forward to continuing the contest next year. So for all you amateur inventors out there, start thinking of ideas for next year so you have a chance to win the Best Gadget Award.

Brian Dougherty is an Associate with Hatch Mott MacDonald and a member of the Small Systems and Operators Committee.
The 2009 Annual Conference Technical Program was a success in spite of a stalling economy. A summary of the conference program is as follows:

• Attendance was slightly down on average for the three day technical program compared to 2008 and more reflected 2007 attendance figures.
• Once again, regulatory topics presented by NJDEP staff attracted the largest audience. Treatment topics also tended to attract significant numbers, as did the Operator sessions.

We have lost a couple of key members, Steve Blankenship, who has moved up to the position of Trustee, and Eileen Feldman, who will be starting a family in September. I want to thank them for their tireless service and wish them the best. I also want to welcome two new members, Steve Creel from American Water and Bill Hahn from Park Ridge Water and Sewer. I am confident that they will be able to bring their combined utility experience to the committee.

The Technical Program Committee (TPC) has already started planning programs for the Fall and 2010 Annual Conferences. It is vital as an organization that we stay relevant to our diverse membership. Each year the TPC strives to provide an opportunity at the Fall and Annual Conferences to present a diversified program highlighting regulatory updates, treatment developments and water industry trends. The TPC strongly encourages all individuals, especially operators and our young professionals to submit an abstract for consideration. Remember – only your participation will continue to help make each conference technically stronger than the last. Also please remember that a person can only give one presentation at a conference.

Please be on the lookout for the request for papers notice on the Section’s website sometime in June, www.njawwa.org, for the Annual Conference, which will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal on April 13 through 16, 2010. It has proven to be a great venue with large rooms for presentations and an outstanding exhibit area. The conference theme is Sustainability, and we request that abstracts have a sustainable element to them.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

In order to secure the necessary Technical Contact Hours (TCHs) for the program, abstracts must be submitted for consideration by September 4, 2009. We have been fortunate to have far more abstract submissions than the 66 required for the Annual Conference program. In this manner we can continue to provide our fellow members with the finest program possible.

Individuals interested in submitting an abstract must utilize the form that will be posted on the AWWA NJ website at www.njawwa.org. To be considered, your abstract must be received by the TPC no later than Friday, September 4, 2009. Abstract review will commence soon after the September 4th deadline. Abstracts will be selected based on their technical merit, originality, timeliness and relevance. Abstracts received after the deadline may not be accepted.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE AND SUBMITTAL DATES

Acceptance notification will be made to the corresponding author by the end of December, 2009. Submittals of all presentations will be required by February 19, 2010. Speakers are encouraged to submit a written paper as well as their presentation by February 19, 2010. Copies of abstracts, papers and presentations are normally included in the Conference Proceedings.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Speakers will be offered a complimentary one-day registration for the day of their presentation only. Please Note: All speakers are required to cover the costs associated with attending the conference. These costs include, but are not limited to, conference registration (for days when not speaking), lodging, meals and travel.

QUESTIONS

Please direct your inquiries to Joe Stanley, Chair - Technical Program Committee at (973) 912-2485 or joseph.stanley@hatchmott.com.

The TPC is a strong committee of hard-working individuals. We will work diligently on developing good programs for the Fall Conference, which will be held on September 17, 2009 at Eagle Ridge in Lakewood and the previously mentioned Annual Conference in Atlantic City. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any ideas that you may have to make these programs stronger.

Joe Stanley is a Vice President at Hatch Mott MacDonald and the Chair of the
Annual Tapping Contest by John Dyksen

The Section’s Annual Tapping Contest was held on May 8 during Drinking Water Week at the United Water NJ Hackensack Yard in Hackensack. The weather was great after a week of rain.

Two teams participated:
United Water NJ:
- Coach – Victor Peraino
- Cranker – Curtis Paterson
- Setter – Jim LaGrosa
- Copper – John Crolla
- Manager – Jack McNaughton

United Water Camden:
- Coach – Raymond Cianfrani
- Cranker – Steven Rodriguez
- Setter – Brian Gilken
- Copper – Manny Santiago
- Manager – Larry Coslow

The judges were:
Scott Aszman, Head Judge – Middlesex Water Co.
Andy Clauhs – Mueller Co.
Bill Braga – Water Works Supply Co., Inc.

United Water NJ won with a time of 1 minute and 30 seconds and no penalties, their best time ever!

United Water Camden did a great job considering it was their first contest and they had limited practice time. Their second run (2 minutes and 30 seconds) was 1/2 the time of their first run and they only had 2 penalties!

A great part of the contest was the way the two teams helped and encouraged each other.

Lindsey Olson, our Section Chair, was there and helped to kick-off the event and present the trophy to the winning teams.

Many thanks go to Jack McNaughton of United Water NJ for his work in getting the yard set up for the contest and making sure that all the equipment was on site. Also, Sonja Clark of United Water’s Communication Group was responsible for the great audio/visual arrangements and for working on advertising the event and preparing a nice brochure.

It was a great day all around. We only wish we could have had more teams participate. We wish the United Water NJ team success at the national contest in San Diego in June, and we believe that the United Water Camden team will be back next year to give the champions and any other team a run for their money.

John Dyksen is the Director of Large Capital Projects at United Water.

Student Poster Competition by Eddie Gajek

The AWWA NJ Student Affairs Committee recently sponsored their fourth annual National Drinking Water Week poster competition for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. The theme of this year’s poster competition was “Only Tap Water Delivers”. Thank you to all the students and AWWA NJ members that participated in this year’s student poster competition.

Ava Kovitski from Woods Road School in Hillsborough was the overall winner in the kindergarten and 1st grade category.

James Zhang, also from Woods Road School in Hillsborough was the overall winner in the 2nd and 3rd grade category.

Ivan Zhang from East Brook Middle School in Paramus was the overall winner in the 4th and 5th grade category.

Each winning student in their grade category received $100 and a framed copy of their winning poster.

In addition, Mrs. Marge Selfridge’s 1st grade class from Tuckerton Elementary School was the winner of the overall classroom participation prize. Mrs. Selfridge’s class received a pizza party and a classroom presentation on drinking water from AWWA NJ.

For a look at the students’ posters, please be sure to visit www.njawwa.org where you can view this year’s entries. Once again, thank you to all who participated and helped to make this event successful.

Eddie Gajek is an Associate with Hatch Mott MacDonald and a member of the Student Affairs Committee.

AWWA NJ Members met with key New Jersey officials at the State House to celebrate Drinking Water Week with a Proclamation from Governor Corzine. Pictured from left to right: Joe Bella, Steve Tambini, Senator Bob Smith (Chair of the Senate Environment Committee), NJDEP Commissioner Mark Mauroiello, Lindsey Olson, Dennis Hart (Executive Director of the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust), Carol Storms, Chris Andreasean, and Steve Blankenship.
For Board and Committee Chair contact information, please visit our website at [www.njawwa.org](http://www.njawwa.org).

**Section Manager**
- Mona Cavalcoti

**Secretary/Treasurer**
- David Ern

**Audit**
- Howard Woods

**Asst. Secretary/Treasurer**
- Carrie Feuer

**Legislation & Regulation**
- Lindsey Olson

**Water Utility Council**
- Steve Tambini

**Fuller Award**
- Neil Goldfine

**Ad Hoc Retired Professionals Committee**
- Stacy Fysz

**Officer Nominating**
- Lindsey Olson

**Conference**
- Laura Cummings

**Conference Registration**
- Dave Scheibner
- Mike Piemontesi

**Technical Program**
- Joseph Stanley

**Manufacturers & Associates**
- Wally Burdalski
- Bob Waldele

**Conference**
- David Blair

**Strategic Planning**
- Chris Andreasen

**Trustee Nominating**
- Mark Tompeck

**Recognition/Awards**
- Anthony Tomaselino

**Hal Florence Meritorious Operator's Award**
- John Young

**Director Nominating**
- John Young

**Section Operations**
- John Young

**Section Services**
- Neil Goldfine

**Operators and Small Systems**
- Max Huber
- Ken Ern

**Student Affairs**
- Brian Carr

**Water for People**
- Robert McIntyre

**Public Information**
- Jordan Volk

**Publications**
- Margie Gray

**Education & Professional Development**
- Dave Tanzi

**Research & Technology Transfer**
- Frank Marascia

**Operational Risk**
- Scott Para
- Paul Kozakiewicz

**Education**
- Ken Garrison

**Membership Services**
- Hetal Mistry

**Information Technology**
- Mark Khodash

**Outreach**
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**Communications**
- Steve Blankenship

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- Brian Carr

**Water for People**
- Robert McIntyre

**Public Information**
- Jordan Volk

**Publications**
- Margie Gray

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A very successful golf outing was held by the SJWPA at the Renault Winery on April 30th. One hundred nineteen golfers participated in the event. The SJWPA thanks all who helped out in organizing and executing this event, and also all of the vendors that were hole sponsors. Without the continued support of the vendors, the golf outing would not be the anticipated annual event that it has become.

The SJWPA will be electing new Officers for the next two years at the June business meeting. The Nominating Committee wishes to present to the membership the following for consideration:

**President:** Robert Lender  
**1st Vice President:** Steven Blankenship  
**2nd Vice President:** Fred Schindler

**Future events are scheduled as follows:**

**August 20**  
Business Meeting  
Flying Cloud Restaurant, Atlantic City

**October 22**  
Business Meeting  
Location to be announced

**December 4**  
Annual Ladies Night  
Seaview Marriott, Absecon

Advertisements are being accepted for the Annual Membership Directory as well as any old photographs.

Contact Mike Lawler  
c/o Vineland Water Utility  
330 E. Walnut Rd, Vineland, NJ 08360  
Phone 856-794-4059  
Fax 856-794-6181  
e-mail mlawler@vinelandcity.org

Craig Dombrosky is an Operations Supervisor for Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority, a Trustee for the South Jersey Water Professionals Association, and a member of AWWA NJ.

**Advertisements are being accepted for**

**Future events are scheduled**

**August 20**

**Business Meeting**

**Flying Cloud Restaurant, Atlantic City**

**October 22**

**Business Meeting**

**Location to be announced**

**December 4**

**Annual Ladies Night**

**Seaview Marriott, Absecon**

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**New Jersey American Water**

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**Carol Walczyk**  
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