Since becoming a Board member I started a list of ideas about all of the things I wanted to accomplish during my year as Chair. Many of these ideas came from conversations that I had with you, our members, while attending seminars, meetings and while at work. The reality of turning these ideas into initiatives was beyond reach since there were too many ideas and only so much time in a given day. So I generated a short list of our “great ideas” to define which of these would be the most valuable to our section and used this list to create a vision of initiatives for my year as Chair.

“Value of Active Membership in AWWA” Initiative

One initiative I plan to deliver is to demonstrate to our employers, and our member volunteers, the value active membership in the Association provides. Employers can expect a return from their investment in the Association by supporting the volunteerism of their staff and by supporting their participation in professional development activities. Association volunteer activities provide a venue where employees gain fresh perspectives by periodically removing themselves from their every day environment, returning to work with new information that can help them do their jobs more effectively. Most importantly, they come back with new motivation, a true benefit for employers since it is proven that motivated employees will outperform others. Volunteers can expect a return for their investment since being involved also provides an alternate path for individual recognition and promotion within the section. The Association’s educational seminars provide additional opportunities for all members to continue their professional development, so that the industry maintains a workforce that is the “best in the business.”

Participation in these seminars is valuable even for those who are not required to obtain continuing education credits. Because our primary industry mission is to protect public health and public safety we have an obligation to develop our professionals so that we can address the challenges of today, tomorrow and those yet to be defined for our future. We owe being the “best in the business” to our final end users, our consumers.

“Work for Water” Public Outreach Campaign Initiative

My primary initiative is to use the “Work for Water” Public Outreach Campaign, released on April 1st by the AWWA and the Water Environment Foundation, as intended to generate excitement about and interest in careers in the water profession. The campaign includes a web-based clearinghouse that enhances the image of water careers and exhorts students and job-seekers to “Work for Water.” AWWA-WEF also has a Workforce Strategies Committee working on addressing these issues. More information on the campaign can be found at: www.awwa.org/Resources/WorkForWater.

Given the challenges facing the water industry and given the fact that we will lose over 30% of our workforce in the next decade due to retirements we need to focus on workforce strategies. We need to develop a means to recruit individuals into this industry to replace these experienced and talented individuals. We also need to recruit individuals to develop a more discipline-diversified workforce qualified to meet the approaching industry challenges since we can no longer manage these challenges with a workforce majority of engineers (no offense to my fellow PEs!). We need to expand our expertise by recruiting experts in the sciences, public health, information technology, public information, business, technical trades and many other disciplines.

I plan to introduce this campaign in both traditional and non-traditional settings. The first introduction took place at the 2010 New Jersey Governor’s Conference for Women during Drinking Water Week. AWWA NJ, using the AWWA-WEF Work for Water exhibit, partnered with Water for People and the American Society of Civil Engineers and exhibited at this event. The goal of these exhibits was to inform...
Reflections from the Outgoing Senior Director
by John Young

This is my last AWWA NJ Director’s Report. My term as section director ends in June at the ACE Conference in Chicago. Those of us with a few grey hairs appreciate how quickly time passes. It did not seem that long ago (it was over three years) that I received a call from Rich Russo asking if I was interested in serving the section as its new director. I did not immediately respond to the inquiry since there was much for me to consider given the time required to properly serve the section. Adding another responsibility to an already hectic schedule was going to be a challenge. I needed to assess my priorities, work/life balance and my interest in the position.

There was one other concern that I needed to address as I deliberated. While I had stayed active with National AWWA activities, I had not been officially engaged in section activities for almost 10 years. During that time, the leadership and culture of the AWWA NJ Section had changed. I really enjoyed my time on the Board of Trustees in the mid-1990s. I “worked” with a great group of guys, many of who are still active in the section – John Dyksen, Tommy Dawson, John Snidenbach, Bill Hutchinson, Nick DeNichilo, and Frank Moritz. We got the job done and had fun in the process.

However, in 2007, the Board was much different in age and gender with a slightly different approach to advancing our section and the industry.

At this point in my career, I wondered: Could I add value to the section while enjoying my time on the Board?

In hindsight, I am not sure why my decision to accept the section director position required so much thought. Why would I pass on the opportunity to work with a new, energized group on the AWWA NJ Board? In both my previous roles as AWWA NJ section chair and strategic planning committee chair, I promoted a need for diversity in the section as a necessary component to properly serve the section’s members and the water industry. Fortunately, in my absence, that diversity had occurred and had established a strong foundation for future growth in the section’s memberships and programs.

Looking back on the past three years, I received more from my AWWA experience than I was able to give in return. The people, events and learning surpassed all of my expectations. So thanks to all the board members, committee chairs and other volunteers who contributed to this experience and the success of AWWA NJ. The section is technically, financially and socially strong and well positioned for the future.

In June, Frank Moritz of Ridgwood Water will begin representing the New Jersey Section on the AWWA Board. I encourage you to communicate to Frank your thoughts on how to improve AWWA. For AWWA matters and does makes a difference! It is the most comprehensive and effective forum for water professionals and associated industries to work together in their common interests and for the protection of public health and welfare. Your participation is critical for our future success.

Looking back on the past three years, I received more from my AWWA experience than I was able to give in return.

John Young is the president of American Water Works Service Company and director of the NJ Section.

Letter from the Chair continued from page 1

women about the potential careers in the water industry and also to inform them about industry issues, such as infrastructure needs and the over 800 million people that do not have access to a safe supply of drinking water. A second exhibit of the Work for Water campaign will take place through networking at Kean University as part of our outreach to students, and a third exhibit will take place during the League of Municipalities Conference in November where we will focus on generating interest in operator and technical trade careers.

“Membership Discipline-Diversity” Initiative
A second initiative is to work to expand the section’s membership base by recruiting members from diverse disciplines. Improving our membership diversity will continue to strengthen many aspects of our section. Outreach using the Work for Water Campaign will help to accomplish this goal.

“Section Vision” Initiative
My third initiative is to continue to develop our vision as a section. 2010 was the first year we met with our Committee members to develop an Annual Calendar of events, defining our vision for the upcoming year. This vision setting process will become part of our routine activities, so that we are always looking ahead to plan more effectively and efficiently. This will help to ensure that our goals as a section, in particular educational goals, are in sync with longer-term issues and strategies to include local, national and global perspectives. I am also planning an Inter-Association Summit where we will invite representatives from related organizations to discuss the potential for partnering on a variety of initiatives.

“Keep Up the Good Work!”
I am truly looking forward to this year to serve our members. I will strive for a quality outcome for each of these initiatives, which can only happen with the support from our volunteers, so allow me to thank everyone in advance for helping to implement each of these. If you are interested in working on any of these initiatives, please contact me at lcummings@pwc.com.

In closing, for each of you as public health and public safety stewards, remember to continue to “keep up the good work” as Mr. Al Gore asked us to do.

Laura Cummings is the plant superintendent at Passaic Valley Water Commission and chair of the NJ Section.
The Water Utility Council (WUC) works to monitor and influence responsible legislation and regulation impacting the water industry. The WUC has been monitoring and participating in several emerging and continuing New Jersey legislative issues.

At the top of the WUC’s continued priority watch list are several bills that could impact our industry and our members. The WUC continues to closely monitor potential legislative efforts to potentially implement a “water tax.” The AWWA NJ has opposed a water tax or water-use fee and has suggested other funding methods, including assembly bill A2603, which was introduced in this legislative session.

Senate bill S933 has been re-introduced in this legislative session. The bill would require mandatory fluoridation of all public drinking water supplies. Although AWWA recognizes the potential dental health benefits of fluoridation, the New Jersey Section has opposed any state mandated requirement. The WUC and AWWA NJ have updated their position paper on fluoridation to more clearly support local decision-making for any future changes to fluoridation practices.

Several other bills that could impact the water industry have been introduced or re-introduced in this legislative session. These involve: drought mitigation, boil water orders and interconnections; sub-metering; exposure to toxic pollutants; and professional engineering continuing education requirements. The legislature has been occupied with state budget issues early in the year, but AWWA NJ and the WUC will continue to monitor these issues should they begin to move through the legislative process.

At the regulatory level, the WUC has welcomed the new Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bob Martin in several ways. The Commissioner was invited to, and attended, the annual meeting in April. He also participated in Drinking Water Week events in May. The WUC also sent a letter to Martin and Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno’s red tape committee suggesting several improvements that could potentially streamline and improve the way the DEP interacts with the regulated water community. The suggestions included: improvements in the clarity, certainty and transparency of permit systems; the development of professional certification approval programs for routine water permits; the improvement of the use of technology for permit systems; a proposal for one source of decisions for water supply issues; and the completion of the state Water Master Plan.

At the national level, AWWA NJ and the WUC recently formed a subcommittee led by Barker Hamill to review the proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Drinking Water Strategy and Six Year Review of national primary drinking water standards. The objective of the subcommittee is to provide AWWA NJ’s position to AWWA National.

The WUC is committed to keeping our members educated about issues regulatory and legislative issues in New Jersey and in Washington, D.C. If you would like more information about any of these issues, or if you would like the WUC to take up an issue that you learn of, please contact WUC Chair, Steve Tambini, at steve.tambini@amwater.com.

Steve Tambini is vice president of operations with New Jersey American Water and chair of the Water Utility Council.
The Technical Program Committee (TPC) is starting a new year by welcoming several new volunteers and working towards developing the program for the Fall Meeting. Our first meetings will be on June 4 and 18, 2010. The committee is most grateful to Joe Stanley, Hatch Mott MacDonald, the outgoing committee chair, for his leadership and hard work. The committee structure Joe cared for and grew is in place and back at work. Over the last two years, Joe’s requests for support and help from the committee were modest. Joe continues to serve on the committee and all are thankful for his experience and commitment.

Joining the Technical Program Committee as volunteers for 2010-2011 we welcome: Janine Beni Witko from Halcrow, AJ Capuzzi from CH2M Hill, Robin Casale from American Water, and Dave Foltz from UBIS.

The committee provides opportunities to assist with responsibilities both during the year preparing for the Fall Meeting and Annual Conference, and during the events as well. Different levels of involvement – and time committed to the committee’s efforts – can be accommodated and are appreciated. We welcome our new section chair, Laura Cummings, and Carol Storms, Trustee Liaison to the committee and to join us at our meetings as their schedules allow.

William (Bill) Gettings, CDM, graciously agreed to serve as Vice-Chair of the Technical Program Committee for the period 2010-2012 and we thank him for that commitment.

The new head of the NJDEP, Commissioner Bob Martin, delivered his message and engaged in dialogue with members of the section at the Spring Conference.

The Technical Program Committee is looking forward to working together with the other committees of the section for the success of the meeting and conference programs. A relevant and accessible technical program and opportunities to meet with friends and colleagues will continue to distinguish the meeting and conference as important events for AWWA NJ.

Ron von Autenried is president of Buck, Seifert & Jost, Inc. and chair of the Technical Program Committee.

---

**Michael Polito is the Fresh Ideas Competition Winner!**

*by Hetal Mistry*

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 the respective section's annual conference. At the 2010 Annual Conference, 10 young professionals participated in the annual Fresh Ideas competition, which is sponsored by the Membership Services Committee.

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

After a fair amount of deliberation, the panel chose Michael Polito of Hatch Mott MacDonald as the 2010 Fresh Ideas winner. Mike’s presentation, *Building Information Modeling Offers a Whole New Approach to Facility Design*, was full of innovative means on the use of modeling for the design of various water system projects, such as pumping stations and treatment facilities.

Mike was awarded $300 and a Fresh Ideas plaque along with a complimentary registration to ACE10 in Chicago! With the support of his employer, Mike will be displaying his award-winning paper during the Fresh Ideas Poster Session at ACE10. Congratulations to Mike for winning this year’s Fresh Ideas competition!

If you are a young professional 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 Hetal.Mistry@unitedwater.com.

Hetal Mistry is a senior engineer with United Water and chair of the Membership Services Committee.

---

**Comedy Night AWWA NJ Style**

*by Elizabeth Yanosey*

For those who couldn’t wait for the weekend to kick back and hang out, the Membership Services Committee held a Comedy Night in March one Thursday night. The event was a fun time shared by more than twenty AWWA NJ members and friends at the Stress Factory Comedy Club in New Brunswick. The star of the night was Phil Paisios, a comedian who has appeared on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and *Last Comic Standing*. Along with the host and opening acts, Phil entertained the crowd with his wisecracks about himself, spell check and the internet, and the social acceptance of being rude while driving. While each of us had a favorite comedian of the night, AWWA NJ guests all enjoyed the discounted ticket price, buffet dinner, and refreshing drinks of the evening!

It was a fun networking event that helped us wind down from a long work day.

Elizabeth Yanosey is an environmental engineer with CDM and a member of the Membership Services Committee.
Water utilities are responsible for the operation and maintenance of multigenerational assets, which are essential to the protection of public health. As stewards of these resources, with their associated environmental impacts, managers can assure the long-term viability of their facilities by incorporating key technical, managerial and financial factors into their planning. These are the foundations of capacity development.

Through capacity development, water systems enhance their ability to solve problems, make informed choices, define priorities and conduct planning. Capacity development is a process that includes investing and building on often neglected human capital, and changing and strengthening institutional practices. This helps develop a viable organization that recognizes its employees as key assets and trains to enhance individual capabilities. The employees retain institutional knowledge, which is essential for the vitality of the organization. Training also allows for a diverse work force capable of proper succession planning.

Proper human resource management provides the strength and flexibility needed to optimize operational processes. The team approach promotes organizational efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Activities that can lead to capacity development include asset management, technical assistance, training, reorganization, improved information access and establishment of communities of practice. The success of this process will result in a sustainable utility, one that can provide an adequate supply of drinking water that meets all water quality regulations. Customer concerns are addressed quickly and their feedback is used to evaluate infrastructure needs.

Small water systems must have a vision. When efficiently using the resources of limited means facilities, the team approach aids in the development of an asset management plan and allows for the active supervision of infrastructure needs. An asset management plan incorporates core components of:

- Evaluating the current condition of assets.
- Determining the level of service desired.
- Identifying critical assets.
- Assessing minimum life-cycle costs.
- Planning a long-term funding strategy.

While many larger water systems may utilize consultants to complete these tasks, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state technical assistance centers have developed tools for smaller water systems to achieve these objectives using in-house staff. The small system also may contribute available human resources to consider the critical components of life-cycle costs, which include planning, design, construction/acquisition, operations, maintenance, renewal/rehabilitation, financial (e.g., depreciation and cost of finance), and replacement or disposal.

The result is better management of the water utility and decision-makers can better communicate infrastructure needs to rate payers and governing bodies. The development of an efficient infrastructure assures that valuable water product isn’t lost or unaccounted for use. Recognizing the importance of watershed protection helps planning for protection and consideration for the ready availability of future water supplies. The active involvement of stakeholders enhances this process by educating the consumers and cultivating needed support for decision-making processes that reject short-term determinations running counter to long-term planning. Decision-makers and stakeholders may combine to recognize a vision for long-term community sustainability.

Does this sound too ‘pie in the sky’?

What’s the alternative? The wonderful vision that past water professionals have contributed to our water infrastructure planning shows that the goals are attainable. We can’t be the generation that shepherds the decline of these assets. How does your water utility rate? Ask yourself these questions:

- What’s the condition of your storage tank? When was the last time it was inspected? Has the tank been fully inspected within the last five years?
- How many operators are on staff? Do you provide internal resources to promote training and certification of in-house personnel? Is succession planning in place?
- Do you track customer complaints? Are these occasions used to provide feedback on quality of service and infrastructure needs?
- Do you have a capital improvement plan that includes asset management determinations to assess future infrastructure needs?
- Do you practice full cost pricing? Are revenues generated by your utility dedicated to not only water system operations, but also required capital and operational reserves?

The Bureau of Safe Drinking Water of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has tools available for water systems to encourage capacity development. If you have any interest, please contact Mike Kenney at (609) 292-5550.

Alan Dillon is a section chief with the NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water and a member of the Education and Professional Development Committee.
The AWWA NJ Section annual tapping contest was held on Friday, April 23, 2010, at United Water New Jersey’s Hackensack Yard. It was a great day – the weather was beautiful and the teams did a great job! Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) and United Water New Jersey (UWNJ) each entered a team. Team members and judges included:

### PVWC
- **Coach:** Andrew Bisesi
- **Cranker:** Steve Sarety
- **Setter:** Jeff Baig
- **Copper:** Mark Romain
- **Manager:** Mark Romain

### UWNJ-Garden State Tappers
- **Coach:** Victor Peraino
- **Cranker:** Brent Mattos
- **Setter:** James Lagrosa
- **Copper:** Frank Hlavaty
- **Manager:** Jack McNaughton

### Judges
- Scott Aszman (Head Judge) – Middlesex Water Company
- Bill Braga – Water Works Supply Co., Inc.
- Andy Clauhs – Mueller Company
- Laura Cummings, section chair and plant superintendent at PVWC, made some opening remarks on behalf of the NJ Section. Dennis Ciemniecki, president – Regulated Segment of UW and a Trustee of the NJ Section, welcomed the participants and spectators, while Jim Glozzy, vice president of UWNJ, welcomed the group to the Hackensack Yard.

Each team made two taps to determine its best time. Both teams demonstrated a lot of enthusiasm and exhibited the special skills required to tap a main under pressure. Also, the spectators did a great job in cheering on both teams.

You might say that both teams came out winners. The PVWC team wanted to achieve a time of less than 3 minutes, and they did just that with their first run of 2 minutes and 56 seconds. UWNJ’s Garden State Tappers won the contest with a great time of 1 minute and 26 seconds – without any penalties! This is the third consecutive year that UWNJ has won the NJ Section tapping contest.

The Garden State Tappers will now represent the NJ Section at the national tapping contest which will be held at the AWWA Annual Conference in Chicago in June. Congratulations guys and we’ll be there routing for you in Chicago!

Thanks to the teams, the judges and everyone who participated in the tapping contest this year. Special thanks to Kara Kennedy, Sonja Clark, and Jack McNaughton, all of UW, for their efforts in organizing and coordinating this successful event.

*John Dyksen is vice president of capital investment planning and delivery with United Water and is a member of the Research & Technology Transfer Committee.*

---

**And Then There Was the Time... The Living History Project**

*by Michael J. Opaleski*

The New Jersey Section of the American Water Works Association has a long and proud history in the water industry. Have you ever wondered how the section achieved so much professional success? It is due to many of our retired members, as well as current members, who have dedicated themselves to the water industry.


We shouldn’t forget our history or the water professionals who laid the groundwork for our industry to move forward. The retired professionals have given us a future in which we can utilize their knowledge and experiences, and combine it with our own to perfect our various systems to better serve the customers of today and tomorrow.

Our section is rich with talented and knowledgeable retired individuals. It is in our best interest to preserve that history through the Retired Professionals Committee. Each member of our section can remember someone who either taught or mentored them in their career. These are the individuals that the Retired Professionals Committee is hoping to interview in order to gain their insight and knowledge and preserve for the future. Would you please assist us by supplying a name or two of any retired individual who has been instrumental in your water career?

We cannot allow this vast combination of knowledge and talent to simply fade into a void. Think of the times when you were attending one of our annual conferences or seminars, and you spent some time speaking with one of the retired professionals who shared their experience and knowledge with you. Their longevity is a testament to the success of our section.

“Those were the days…” each of us have heard this phrase, which many believe relates to the “good ol’ days.” Many of the individuals mentioned above were part of the “Those were the days...” memories. Remember the “great drought” of the late 60s and early 70s? the “Great Notch Project” – one of the many major interconnections between sources in the northern part of the state, transferring water from Round Valley Reservoir in Hunterdon County to North Jersey? or the pipeline across the George Washington Bridge from New York City to New Jersey to supplement our water supply?

If those were the “good ol’ days,” I’m glad they’re over! Each of these problems was solved by the water professionals of our section. Every time a crisis arose, our section assisted in resolving the issues. How many of today’s problems are resolved by looking back to gain some integral piece of knowledge from “the good ol’ days?” Yes, today’s problems are more complex and challenging, but by using what we have learned from history, those challenges will be met with great success.

One of my mentors once told me: “We look to the future but we learn from the past...” So please let us not forget the many retired professionals that made our section great! And then there was the time...

Michael J. Opaleski is the retired director of Public Works and Water Resources for East Brunswick, N.J.
David Legg of New Jersey American Water was selected to receive the Kenneth J. Miller Founders’ Award for 2009 by the Water For People (WFP) Committee. The purpose of this award, which is presented by WFP, is to recognize volunteers for their outstanding service and leadership in the advancement of the WFP mission. David received acknowledgement at the AWWA NJ Annual Conference on April 14, 2010, and will receive a plaque at the National AWWA Conference in Chicago.

David has been an active member of the Committee since 2004. In 2009, David single-handedly supported the WFP mission by coordinating a $10,000 fundraising campaign with Rotary International District 7500 in Monmouth, Ocean and Burlington counties. That $10,000, along with $20,000 raised by the WFP Committee, was used for water projects in Guatemala. David also is a very active participant in the section’s Annual WFP Golf Outing and the Annual Conference WFP events. David continues to support both WFP and Rotary clean water projects in developing countries.

As Rotary District 7500 Water Project Chairman, David recently coordinated a $23,000 household Biosand Filters Rotary Project for families living in simple huts situated near the highly contaminated Rimac River on the eastern side of metropolitan Lima, Peru. David will be traveling to Lima in September to visit with the families receiving the filters and to discuss a 2011 Biosand Filter project with local Rotarians.

Congratulations David on a much deserved award and thank you for all you have done for the WFP Committee!

Sandy Kutzting is an engineer with CDM and is the chair of the Water For People Committee.

John Young (right) simultaneously praises David Legg for his charitable work and admonishes his Robin Hood-like tactics.

PREPARING TO TEE-OFF
Golfers make final preparations at the annual Water For People – NJ Golf Classic, held on May 3rd at Royce Brook Country Club. The event was a huge success with 128 golfers joining to raise over $20,000 for Water For People. The committee would like to thank all those who participated in this event and we hope to see you next year.

Welcome New Members!
Zeeshan Alam
Ali Alavinasab
Michael Anello
Avante International Technology, Inc.
Richard Barnes
Ken Bienkowski
Jeff Bowlby
Domenick Brando
Marc Buchwald
Reginald Butler
Richard Calbi
Richard Cangialosi
Michael Ciaravino
John Dipietropolo
Paul Finnegan
Fin-Tek Corporation
Justin Flancheam
Miro Gietka
Kiran Gill
Mike Hapersberger
Vijaya Jayaraj
Walter Jenness
Bernard Jones, CBCP
Kenneth Kratzer
M Lombardi
Dick McDonnell
Justin Mezzadri
Thomas Nangle
Roger Parr
Jean Pelouze
Dionna Pisel
Dave Poorman
Patrick Power
Jacob Quick
Joseph Rambaldi
Gerard Remsen
Frank Ricciotti
James Runzer
David Seugling
Rich Shoemaker
John Stoltzfs
Martin Striefler
Richard Tangle
Jonathan Tardiff
Walter Trotman
Tony Vicente
Mickey Walsh
Shawn Younger
Water For People 3rd Annual Drop in the Bucket Auction at the AWWA NJ Annual Conference

The AWWA NJ Water For People Committee hosted the third annual installment of the very successful “Drop in the Bucket Auction” during the AWWA Annual Conference in Atlantic City to raise money for Water For People.

A record 36 prizes were donated by exhibitors and attendees and over 900 raffle tickets were purchased during the three day conference. More than $3,100 was raised for Water For People during the conference! In addition, Mr. Jim Mastrakalos, United Water, winner of the first and third place prizes for Best Gadget, donated his $275 prize money to Water For People. Thank you prize donors and participants for your generous contributions!

You might have also noticed that Water For People unveiled its new logo and new tag line, The Current of Change, at the Annual Conference. The Current of Change refers to the limitless changes that can occur by helping to bring water and sanitation to a region.

Michael Johnson is an associate with Buck, Seifert & Jost, Inc. and is the treasurer of the Water For People Committee. Sandy Kutzing is an engineer with CDM and is the chair of the Water For People Committee.

Education and Professional Development Committee Receives National Education Award

by David Tanzi

The AWWA NJ Section was recently notified that it has received the 2010 AWWA Section National Education Award. This award recognizes AWWA sections for initiatives that educate water industry personnel, the public, students or other groups about drinking water.

Personnel at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s (NJDEP’s) Division of Water Supply (DWS) awarded the Education and Professional Development Committee (EPDC) of the AWWA NJ Section for the development and implementation of a training curriculum. This is the fourth National Education Award that the EPDC has received.

Budget cuts and a lack of outside funding have hampered NJDEP’s ability to offer continuing education opportunities to its staff. To assist in overcoming these challenges, the EPDC, under the direction of the AWWA NJ Board of Trustees, developed a series of two- to three-hour presentations covering various topics in the area of drinking water and offers these courses to DWS staff. Topics planned for presentation include: math for water operations, water treatment chemistry, fundamentals of hydraulics, sample collection/field measurements, groundwater/surface water treatment, corrosion control, inorganic removal, and primary/secondary disinfection.

The first session on operations math, taught by committee member Bill Mitchell of Trenton Water Works, and the second session on surface water treatment taught by Oleg Kostin of New Jersey American Water were well received. Future sessions will be taught by committee members Mike Stephens of Aqua New Jersey and Chuck Narod of ITT Flygt Corporation and are in the process of being scheduled.

A special thanks to Alan Dillon of the NJDEP for helping to coordinate these training sessions.

Save the Date

The EPDC will be conducting a seminar titled Water Treatment – Back to the Basics on November 9, 2010 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ. Preliminary topics to be covered include:

- Water Related Math
- Basic Water Chemistry
- Fundamentals of Hydraulics
- Surface Water Treatment- Coagulation, Flocculation, Sedimentation, Filtration
- Groundwater Treatment including Construction and Operation of Wells, Iron and Manganese Removal
- Distribution System Management including Corrosion Control
- Inorganics Removal (Arsenic, Mercury, Radionuclides etc.)

This seminar will be conducted by some of the section’s most knowledgeable water professionals. Save the date and don’t miss the opportunity to earn up to 6.0 training contact hours (TCHs) toward your water operator license and up to 6.0 professional development hours (PDHs) toward your New York PE license. Additional information and registration material will be posted to www.njawwa.org.

David Tanzi is an associate with CDM and the chair of the Education and Professional Development Committee.
Earlier this spring, I found myself sitting at this year’s Young Professional Summit hosted by the AWWA Puerto Rico Section. As I entered the full day summit, I was astounded by the number of members participating. There were representatives from all over the country gathered in one room to work together for one common cause, to ensure steps are taken to promote, recruit and sustain the level of professionalism in our industry.

Focused on contributing and absorbing as much of the information covered, I delved into the topics and participated as much as I could. Words cannot describe the enthusiasm and energy that sections brought to the meeting. Although it was a long day, the energy that began the summit continued to the very end. Impressed and feeling optimistic about the future, I reflected on my career and how fortunate I was to take part in this event. Unfortunately, many of us do not realize the impact that we have or could have on our industry.

As I pondered how I can contribute to the future Young Professionals in our field, I began to retrace how I was steered into the water and wastewater industry. As one begins to recount one’s story it is amazing the impact that others have had on our career decisions. There is always one event, individual or group moment that has provided us the support and encouragement to succeed. In my case, there are three particular mentors who impacted my career and have provided the resources that I needed to succeed. Today, I will share my story and share the lessons learned from my mentors. It is these same lessons that I will provide to others to ensure that Young Professionals are given the same opportunities that I was so lucky to have.

Turning Point
My first exposure to the water and wastewater field was through my first mentor, Larry Coslow. If it weren’t for his active participation, energy and dedication to this field, there is a good chance that I wouldn’t be in this industry. A member of the AWWA student committee, Larry actively worked with the Rutgers Cooperative Education program promoting the industry.

Embracing the importance of the future of our field, he developed the first internship program at his employer. The position that he established sought engineering students interested in the water/wastewater field. The intern position of project engineer was to be my first and my last internship. At the time, I was unaware that this opportunity would lead to such a rewarding career.

Advancing in the Industry
I worked under Larry for 10 years until his retirement and was then presented the opportunity to work for yet another active member of AWWA, Nadine Leslie. Her drive, desire for excellence, and demand for quality provided the environment for me to continue my professional growth. Under Nadine’s leadership, I learned the importance of public relations, and the importance of educating our customers on our initiatives. These lessons, and the others that I have learned from Nadine, I will always use in my career.

Currently, I am learning from Mike Rogers who is as passionate of the industry as my other mentors. I look forward to continue my professional growth as I work alongside Mike. It is evident that my mentors share some common traits. These three industry leaders drive for excellence, their passion for the industry and their dedication to the field are evident by their commitment to AWWA.

A Stronger Commitment
I have to admit, my participation in the AWWA organization, or any other organization for that matter, has been very limited for the last few years. My AWWA membership was solely based on attending seminars and training programs for continuing education credits at a discounted price. In addition, I rarely attended networking or social events and never even thought of participating on any committee. Recently, I decided to take a note from my mentors and decided to explore everything AWWA has to offer. With a bit of curiosity, I decided to finally delve into a committee and just make one call (yes it only takes one quick call or email). It certainly is eye opening to see all the hard work that is being completed behind the scenes. Unfortunately, many of us take the smoothness of how our organization operates for granted. The hard work that volunteers put forth to make our organization work is amazing. Unbeknownst to me, my interest in the committee was to present an opportunity to attend this year’s Young Professional Summit sponsored by AWWA/WEA.

I arrived at the summit with no set expectations and only a minimal knowledge of the challenges, initiatives, and members of the YP committees of AWWA. I was astounded by the hard work and accomplishments of the young professional committees throughout the country. I am sure you can imagine it was a wonderful opportunity to meet others in the field. There is no doubt in my mind that many of those that I met, I would have never met had I not participated in this event. The activities that were part of the summit were insightful, motivational, as well as educational.

This year’s main topics included work/life balance which we all can attest is a challenge during our careers. Through life examples from key note speakers and group exercises, participants were given opportunities to reflect and discuss ideas on techniques to create a balance in one’s life through self analysis and goal setting. Overall, it was a great experience that I would recommend to any colleague.

Takeaways from the Summit
Upon my return many have asked the following: What did you think of the summit? Did you get anything out of the summit? Would you do it again? The opportunity to meet others in the industry is priceless. The stories that continued on page 10
were discussed, the ideas that were shared, the initiatives that were developed made the conference, in my feelings, a success. The countless individuals who I hope to keep in touch with bring so much to the table and to this field.

The water/wastewater industry has a bright future but an effort is necessary to ensure sustainability. The YP committee is the means of acquiring new talent and providing those in the field with the resources necessary for their success. I hope to build on this experience and utilize all that I have learned with the goal of continuing the hard work of others. I have chosen to focus my efforts to promote this committee and take it to the next level.

The Reward of Getting Involved

Everyone will reach a point in their careers where they will have the opportunity to step up and participate in our organization. Some may choose to sit on the sidelines and not get involved, while others will join a committee and discover all it has to offer. At the bare minimum, the resources and contacts obtained are unquestionably valuable.

Following the lead of my mentors, I can only encourage you to take the opportunity if you have not done so already. Trust me, it is well worth it. My only hope is that you can benefit from AWWA as I am doing now. The opportunity to capitalize on networks and the knowledge held by colleagues is so vast, and most importantly, it is right at your finger tips. I have been fortunate, like many of my colleagues, to have no regrets in choosing this industry. The individuals that I have met, the opportunities and the lessons learned have made my professional career very fulfilling. I certainly see an optimistic future in this field and have no doubt that I will continue to participate. Hopefully I will have the same impact that my mentors have had on this organization, and most importantly, on the future young professionals in this field.

Juan Donoso is superintendent of water for the Monroe Township Utility Department and co-chair of the AWWA NJ Technology Committee

Electronic Version of Pipeline Is Coming!

As part of the Section’s continuing effort to seek ways to be “green”, we are working toward providing an option of receiving Pipeline electronically rather than by mail. In order to get ready for this effort we ask that all Section members take a few minutes to check your membership information to make sure that we have your email address, and if we do, that it is correct. Currently, this may be checked either by visiting www.awwa.org, where you can create a free account and review and update your AWWA member information, or by contacting Section Manager Mona Cavalcoli at (866) 436-1120 or mona@njawwa.org.

Stay tuned for more details in the coming months!

Night at the Ballpark to benefit WATER For PEOPLE

Trenton Thunder vs. Reading Phillies

Friday, July 16
7:05 p.m.
Waterfront Park
in Trenton, NJ

Sponsors and ticket information at www.njawwa.org
Thoughts on the Passing of Our Valued Mentor, Charlie Moeller

Charlie Moeller, a valued member of the AWWA NJ community, passed away on March 9, 2010. Born on Aug. 18, 1934, Charlie was a superintendent for the Wayne Township Water & Sewer Department before retiring.

If you are an operator from North Jersey, you most likely know Charlie from taking his operator training courses. Charlie was responsible for teaching and training many of the northern and central New Jersey licensed operators. Charlie was everything you wanted in a teacher. He understood that operating a water treatment plant required knowledge of both theory and field experience, and he integrated these two distinct aspects into his courses. As Charlie gained experience, he did not simply keep it to himself, but instead chose to continue teaching and share his immense knowledge with others. If you had a question, you could always count on Charlie. Two of his former students and colleagues, John Perry and Mike Furrey, were asked about their remembrances of Charlie.

John Perry:
“Back in 1994, I took the Advanced Water Treatment Course, and Charlie had already been well-known by most licensed operators in North Jersey at that time for his work as an instructor. By the time I began conducting the class tours with him at Newark’s Pequannock Plant and North Jersey’s Wanaque Plant, I don’t think there was anyone in the business that hadn’t taken the course with him or knew of his work in Wayne Township in some way. He was pretty much an icon. He had a unique style of teaching, and the materials we covered in the course were very extensive. I still have my notebook from the class and even refer to it from time to time. The outline format he provided during each class was an excellent study tool for taking the State exams.

One of Charlie’s favorite words was ‘hellacious.’ I don’t think it had ever been a part of my vocabulary until I met him. It was one of his ‘colorful metaphors.’ We’d be talking about main breaks, and he’d say, ‘that was one hellacious water break that we had on Valley Road that day’ or ‘that was one hellacious problem that we had with the hypo delivery that day,’ I guess it was like the worst case scenario for him. If you’ve ever seen the Mel Brooks movie “Spaceballs,” there’s a funny part where they refer to ‘ludicrous speed.’ It was one step above light speed. I guess that’s how it was with Charlie. ‘Hellacious’ was his reference to the worst case scenario. Charlie was a real good man. The industry is really going to miss him.”

Mike Furrey:
“My thoughts about Charlie always focus on his ability to teach and, most importantly, communicate. Charlie taught all — and I mean all — the operators in North Jersey, providing the foundation of knowledge and expertise that has been in place for many years. He always stressed that we share ideas, promote our business and take seriously the fact we are here to promote public health 24/7.

Charlie always had a real world story to tell; sometimes a tale taller than the last one. Every story had a meaning and every point was well taken, ready to be applied to real world. There were so few people during my early career days that I would trust and confide in to ask questions and to even get the right answer, whether technical in nature or how things worked in the public sector. What was special about Charlie was that he always offered you with an infectious smile and you were always comfortable in his presence. I spent a few years with Charlie on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Operator Advisory Board and when Charlie spoke, people listened. He was the godfather of the water business, a true icon and a voice worth listening to.”

Charlie Moeller will be sadly missed. He was an inspiration to so many and a true leader in our field. To those who knew him, he not only made them better water operators, but better human beings as well. Section members are grateful that we will have the opportunity to carry on the brightly burning torch that he passed to us.
from the New Jersey State Legislature. State representatives who participated in the panel discussions included Senator Loretta Weinberg, Assembly Speaker Shyla Oliver and Assemblywomen Caroline Casagrande, DiAnne Cove, Elease Evans, Linda Greenstein, Valerie Hurtle, Pamela Lampitt, Alison McHose, Grace Spencer and Cleopatra Tucker. Each of the panel participants was presented with AWWA materials and the “Drink Tap!” water bottles to raise awareness of the importance of safe drinking water.

We are planning to exhibit at the 2011 conference as well. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at lcummings@pwccom.

Laura Cummings is the plant superintendent at Passaic Valley Water Commission and chair of the NJ Section.

PIPELINE is the official publication of the New Jersey Section of the American Water Works Association. It is published three times a year.

Next Issue: Fall 2010
Deadline: September 30, 2010

Editor and Publications Committee Chair
Christopher Olson
New Jersey American Water
213 Carriage Lane, Delran, NJ 08075
Telephone: 856-824-2588
Email: Christopher.olson@amwater.com

For address corrections please contact AWWA Customer Service at 6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235, phone (303) 794-7711 or (800) 926-7337, email custsvc@awwa.org.

Publications Committee
Margie Gray
Hatch Mott MacDonald
Mona Cavalcoti
AWWA NJ Section Manager
Richard Barnes
New Jersey American Water
Daniel Ranieri
New Jersey American Water

We encourage and support varied and differing viewpoints that stimulate thought and discussion.

Opinions expressed are exclusively those of the author and do not suggest or indicate Section policies or procedures. Pipeline editors reserve the right not to publish any article or notice deemed inappropriate or contrary to the purpose and mission of the newsletter. Editors reserve the right to edit written material for style and readability while maintaining the intent and stated purpose of the material.