

NEW JERSEY DRINKING WATER PROFESSIONALS SHARE BEST INFORMATION AND PRACTICES AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., March 28, 2016 -- New Jersey water professionals gathered in Atlantic City March 15-17, 2016 for the American Water Works Association New Jersey (AWWA NJ) Section 81st Annual Conference. The conference themed, “Keeping New Jersey Tapped In”, offered educational sessions on topics ranging from water treatment for contaminants such as lead, regulations and asset management to distribution. It also provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to network with their peers and benefit from information sharing.

The AWWA New Jersey Section represents over 1,350 members united in a mission to provide New Jersey residents with a safe and reliable supply of drinking water. Members include most of New Jersey’s public and investor-owned water utilities along with engineering and environmental professionals and allied industry businesses. AWWA works to make advances in public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of drinking water professionals.

Other highlights at the Conference included a water taste test, where attendees voted for their favorite tap water submitted from municipal and investor-owned water utilities. Pinelands Water Company, which serves resident in Southampton Township, N.J., was selected as the best tasting water. Conference attendees also tested their water knowledge in an Operators and Student Bowl Competition, where student teams from several New Jersey colleges were paired with a water professional and competed in a game show style competition.

Conference attendees also participated in Water For People’s Drop in the Bucket Auction led by the Section’s Water for People Committee. This committee proudly raised and donated over \$120,000 to Water for People this year, an international charity focused on ensuring everyone has access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

During the Conference several water professionals were honored for their contributions in engineering, leadership, years of distinguished service, engagement and volunteerism. The recipients were as follows:

The **George Warren Fuller Award**, which recognizes distinguished service in the water supply field, was bestowed upon Mark Tompeck of Mott MacDonald. The Fuller Award – one of the most prestigious awards AWWA bestows -- is given to an individual for their sound engineering skill and constructive leadership, qualities exemplified by George Warren Fuller, one of America's most eminent engineers.

The **Harold V. Florence, Jr. Meritorious Operator Award** for distinguished service in water operations was awarded to Robert K. Fullagar for his work at the Middlesex Water Company. The Operator of the Year Award is named for Harold V. Florence, Jr., a licensed water utility operator, mentor, and long-time AWWA-NJ member. It is bestowed annually upon an individual who has brought a higher degree of excellence, learning, initiative and resourcefulness to bear in the operation of a public water supply system.

The **Next Generation Award** was presented to Eileen Feldman of Hazen and Sawyer. This award is given to a member who is a young professional (age of 35 and under) and who is actively participating in the Association's activities and programs. This award has been developed to encourage young professionals to become active in AWWA New Jersey Section and to encourage employers to allow their young professionals to participate.

The **Kenneth J. Miller Award** was given to Erika Vardaxis of New Jersey American Water for her volunteer work with Water for People. Water for People, a nonprofit organization, is dedicated to helping people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities and health and hygiene education programs.

The **Fresh Ideas Award** was given to Mark Theiler with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The AWWA NJ Section selects the best presentation by a young professional based on originality, topical interest, content, speaker's knowledge of topic, use of audio-visual elements, and overall presentation. Theiler presentation was "Regulatory Review: Treatment of Contaminants of Emerging Concern".

Additionally, the AWWA NJ Section announced its officers for the coming year (2015-2016):

Section Chair: Michael Furrey (Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services)

Vice Chair: Nicole Wiley (American Water)

Past Chair: David Tanzi (CDM Smith)

Director: Mark Tompeck (Mott MacDonald) through June 2016 and Stephen R. Blankenship (Hamilton Township MUA) through June 2019.

Trustee: Andrew Clauhs (Mueller Company)

Trustee: Brian Carr (Middlesex Water Company)

Trustee: David G. Ern (Gordon's Corner Water Company)

Trustee: Joseph G. Stanley (Mott MacDonald)

Secretary-Treasurer: Andrea McElroy (Passaic Valley Water Commission)

For more information about the AWWA NJ Section, please visit our website: www.njawwa.org or call Mona Cavalcoli, Section Manager, at (866) 436-1120.

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