

NEW JERSEY'S TOP DRINKING WATER PROFESSIONALS HONORED

ISELIN, N.J., May 5, 2016 – In March, New Jersey water professionals gathered in Atlantic City for the American Water Works Association New Jersey (AWWA NJ) Section 81st Annual Conference.

During the Conference some of New Jersey's top water professionals were honored for their contributions in engineering, leadership, years of distinguished service, engagement and volunteerism. Those receiving top honors were:

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.

Mr. Tompeck has developed a broad range of engineering experience in the area of water supply over the last 33-years. As a Senior Vice President in HMM's Water Division and the firm's Water Practice Leader, he has worked on a wide range of water supply engineering assignments. These have included feasibility evaluations, preliminary and final designs, permitting, project financing, and construction and facility commissioning for treatment plants, wells, pump stations, pipelines, storage tanks and other water supply facilities. Some of Mark's notable projects include the design of the Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Facility Upgrade, the Little Falls Water Treatment Plant Upgrade, and the City of New Brunswick Membrane Treatment Plant.

Tompeck received his B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from NJIT, holds professional engineering licenses in 10 states, and is a Certified Professional by the Design Build Institute of America. He is a long time resident of Randolph Township.

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.

Fullagar joined Middlesex Water Company in 1997 and serves as Director of Distribution. He was recently named Water and Wastewater Systems Sector Chair by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Division of Security and Reliability to represent the state's water and wastewater systems on the NJ

Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Infrastructure Advisory Committee (IAC). Fullagar is active as Vice Chair of the Operations Committee of the New Jersey Utilities Association and a member of the Licensed Operator Committee of AWWA-NJ, the Civil Engineering National Honor Society, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Fire Protection Association and ASIS International. He is a member of Lead NJ-Class of 2015. A resident of Basking Ridge, Fullagar also serves as an Officer in the Basking Ridge Volunteer Fire Company.

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.

Ms. Feldman is an experienced water engineer who conducts and manages projects in the drinking water area for public and private water utilities. As a Senior Associate for Hazen and Sawyer, Ms. Feldman has worked on a variety of drinking water related projects including facility master planning, firm capacity evaluations, water supply rehabilitation, designing water treatment plans and distribution systems and provided emergency response to support water quality, treatment and capacity.

Feldman received her B.S in Systems Engineering-Environmental Systems and Management from University of Pennsylvania. She is a certified Professional Engineer in New York and New Jersey along with being a Project Management Professional.

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.

Vardaxis began her career with New Jersey American Water as Staff Engineer, where she managed a variety of capital projects before becoming an Engineering Project Manager and currently serves as a Production Supervisor. Ms. Vardaxis received her M.S. in Engineering Management from Drexel University and her B.S. in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University.

The **Fresh Ideas Award** was given to **Mark Theiler** with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). 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".

Before joining the DEP Mr. Theiler graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 2013. He worked on projects such as the determination of the overall heat transfer coefficient using a tank heater system, the synthesis of biodiesel via the transesterification of triglycerides in a BSTR, rate constant determination of base catalyzed hydrolysis of ethyl benzoate and quantitative analysis of aerobic fermentation of *Saccharomyces Cerevisia*.

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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About AWWA-NJ

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

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