President’s Message

The holidays are a time for family and friends, a time to celebrate love, joy, and hope with those that are closest to you. But the holidays can also be celebrated among peers within the water industry. We can celebrate the joy and friendship that relationships with fellow chapter members bring, and we can all hope together for continued improvements in the safety and reliability of our water supplies. This is the spirit of the holidays that we celebrate at our Holiday Dinner each year.

We celebrate our chapter, the achievements of our designs, management, products, and construction together. We spread holiday cheer at the photo booth, in the live music, in the raffle, the ice breaker activity, the dinner conversation, and in the dinner program. This year, the dinner program will be on the progress and planning that is occurring at the Upper Trinity Regional Water District as they experience strong growth in the area they serve. We are honored to have Jody Zabolio, Director of Operations, and Larry Patterson, Deputy Executive Director attend our dinner and deliver this presentation.

The Holiday Dinner is not just for fun and socializing. It is also a fundraiser. This year, funds will be raised for the Texas Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (TXWARN). Our donation will be specifically used to deal with the effects of Hurricane Harvey. Mike Howe, Executive Director of the Texas Section of AWWA will attend to update us on the activities of TXWARN during the past few months.

We are looking forward to bringing in the Holiday Season with you at another great event! Thank you to all of you in the chapter who are helping to plan and arrange the Holiday Dinner and thank you to all of you who plan to sponsor and attend. Happy Holidays!

Communications Committee

Who is doing the work behind the scenes? Thanks to our following NCT TAWWA members who contributed their time and expertise to bring you this issue of The Lake!

Andrea Fernandez – CDM Smith Katie Stowers – CP&Y Brandon Mellgren – Newman Regency Group
Gabe Trejo – Arcadis Jacob Niemeier – Stantec Sam Barraco – Carollo
Helen Cantril Dulac – City of Dallas Stefanie Massey – AECOM

For contributions to this newsletter, or if you would like to volunteer to serve on the Communications Committee, please contact Chair Andrea Fernandez.
The North Central Texas Chapter of AWWA returned to the Texas Star Conference Center for its October lunch meeting, just before the annual Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar. As has been the case all year, we had a fantastic attendance for this event, and are happy to see the chapter growing. The meetings always include a social component before the program actually begins. While people fill their plates with the delicious food provided, the leadership teams makes chapter announcements to keep chapter members and guests informed of upcoming events. Once chapter announcements were made, the meeting’s speaker took to the podium to start the meeting’s program. David Sloan, a senior water treatment technologist with Freese and Nichols, discussed their fast track project for the Somervell County Water District located near Glen Rose, Texas. In the summer of 2013, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) notified the water district that their water exceeded the maximum contaminant level for total trihalomethanes (THM’s). THM’s are a group of volatile organic compounds that are formed when chlorine reacts with naturally-occurring organic matter in water. Freese and Nichols conducted bench scale testing of the District’s water and evaluated their effectiveness on THM’s using various treatment technologies, including activated carbon filters, ion exchange resins, ozonation coagulation oxidation and nanofiltration. After concluding their studies and performing an economic analysis, it was determined that nanofiltration was the best solution for the District’s water quality issues. Freese and Nichols proceeded to design the nanofiltration skid and was brought online in 2015. Since being commissioned, the system has reduced THM’s in Somervell County Water District’s water.

Thank you, Mr. Sloan for your time and your contribution to the local water industry, and for sharing that with our NCT TAWWA chapter.
On Friday, October 20, 2017, the NCT Chapter of TAWWA hosted another successful drinking water seminar at the Petroleum Club of Fort Worth. This year’s seminar had both a record number of sponsors and a record number of attendees! The AWWA Texas Section Chair, Bruce Curtis, kicked off the seminar with some excellent opening remarks. The seminar then continued with two morning sessions of presentations before breaking for lunch and networking. After lunch, the seminar held a water quality round table discussion where the morning presenters and attendees discussed various topics and questions related to the morning session presentations. The round table discussion was then followed by two afternoon sessions of presentations. On behalf of the 2017 Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar Committee, I’d like to sincerely thank all of our sponsors and attendees for making this year’s seminar a success!
Upcoming Lunch Meeting

Using the Consumer Confidence Report as an Educational Communication Tool

By: Stephanie Zavala and Arianne Shipley, Rogue COE Creative Marketing

Location: Texas Star Conference Center
1400 Texas Star Pkwy,
Euless, TX 76040

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2017

Time: Social: 11:15 a.m.
Lunch: Noon

Register or sponsor by NOON, Tuesday, February 13 – This deadline is for reservations and cancellations.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming plant tour:
- Thursday, April 12, 2018 – Plant Tour: To Be Announced

Note that if you reserve and do not attend the meeting, the chapter still pays for your meal. If you cannot attend, email Steven Mendoza by the deadline. If you do not cancel your reservation prior to the deadline, mail missed meeting dues to Carollo Engineers, Inc., ATTN: Steve Mendoza, 14785 Preston Road, Suite 950, Dallas, TX 75254.

Social Media Update – Feel Connected

Want to learn more about what’s going on in the NCT TAWWA community?! Then GET CONNECTED! Get updated on NCT TAWWA events and community updates via Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram!

Current Social Media followings:
Twitter (@nct_tawwa): 124 followers
Instagram (@nct_tawwa): 174 followers
Facebook: (@ncttawwa) 65 page likes

Get Connected, Stay Connected, Feel Connected!
Connect with NCT TAWWA TODAY!
As the year comes to end, we want to Thank All of Our Young Professionals for another fantastic year of Happy Hours, Service Events, and our 4th Annual Casino Night. We really hope that each of you reading this have in some way, shape, or form been touched, impacted, and engaged by our YP activities. We encourage your feedback and insight on how we can improve our YP activities and chapter engagement.

On a cold and rainy Wednesday evening on November 8th, our YPs in Fort Worth came together for our final YP Happy Hour of the year at America Gardens. This sort of commitment to fellowship despite the weather is something we are quite excited to be seeing among our Young Professionals.

Also, we recently partnered with NTS WEAT on Saturday, November 18th for the Redeem the Stream Texas River Cleanup Challenge on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. We had a lot of fun being good stewards of our environment, picking up a bunch of trash and litter covering the banks of the river! Some of the most unique finds included, but were not limited to, a full wine fridge and completely intact Guitar Hero guitar!

If you would like to be added to our YP listserv please email us at aw- wa.ntx.yp@gmail.com. Our next YP event will be a Happy Hour in Dallas in January of the coming new year! Please be on the lookout for future communications on this.

We wish you a Happy and Blessed Holiday!

Your YP Chairs,
Jacob Niemeier (Stantec)
Brandon Mellgren (NRP Group)
Chris Boyd (Alan Plummer)
John Logan (TRA)
The LAke

Pipe Tapping Competition

Last year, the NCT chapter held our first annual Pipe Tapping Invitational on March 2, 2017 at the DN Tank facility in Grand Praire, TX. It was a great success. Teams from the cities of Dallas, Fort Worth and North Richland Hills competed for the ever-prestigious bragging rights of “Fastest Tappers in North Texas”. North Richland Hills put together a team for the first time and went on to compete at Texas Water 2017™. The following is an interview with the NRH team:

Q: What made you interested in creating a pipe tapping team?
A: After the establishment of our Operations Challenge Team, we saw a tremendous benefit of increased comradery within the division and improved skill sets that can be utilized in our own utility. From a management side, creating a cohesive team gives them a greater understanding that they are part of something bigger than just one municipality.

Q: What was the most surprising aspect of being involved in the competition?
A: The most surprising thing that the team experienced was the outright willingness for the other teams to lend advice, offer insight and assistance to a new team. Our team found that to be a pleasant experience and it motivated them even more.

Q: How did the pipe tapping invitational prepare your team for Texas Water?
A: Having never competed before, the invitational helped us to prepare by first meeting other teams and having the opportunity to see them in action. It also helped our team by operating in a competitive setting and with an enthusiastic crowd behind them. This gave a real feel and showed us what it truly was about, all the comradery and teams coming together.

Q: What are some interesting facts about your team members?
A: The most interesting facts about our team are that we are all from different divisions within our Public Works. We have team members from the Street Division, Utility Construction Division and Utility Operations Division as well. This broad spectrum of knowledge has given the team a unique opportunity to operate as one team, further unifying our divisions.

The 2nd Annual Pipe Tapping Invitational will be held on March 22nd, 2018!
REGISTER TODAY at www.tawwa.org/event/nctpipetapping18

2016 Pipe Tapping Invitational Competitors
Dallas and Fort Worth Regional Science Fair Judging

WEAT and AWWA will again be supporting the Dallas and Fort Worth Regional Science Fairs this year and serve as Special Award Judges; as such, we are asking for 20 volunteers at each event. Commitment is 8:00 am to noon the day of the event and consists of judging water and environmental related projects in the middle and high school age group.

- Fort Worth: Saturday, February 17th at College Park Center, University of Texas at Arlington. Contact Amy Robinson.
- Dallas: Saturday, February 24th at Fair Park, Dallas. Contact Elle Holbrook.

Calling All Pipe Tappers

Team registration is now open the 2nd Annual NCTC TAWWA Pipe Tapping Competition scheduled for Thursday evening, March 22, 2018 at the DN Tanks facilities located in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Register today at www.tawwa.org/event/NCTpipetapping18

Questions? Contact Sally Mills-Wright at sally.wright@dallascityhall.com
The water industry of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex has one of the largest, experienced, and most diverse pools of water operators, technologists, utilities and consultants in the United States. The North Central Texas Chapter of the Texas Section of AWWA (NCT TAWWA) is here to serve its members by encouraging meaningful continuing education and networking for the local industry at large. In an effort to keep our members well-informed of the most up-to-date happenings within our industry from across the Metroplex and beyond, the NCT TAWWA is soliciting abstracts for presentations for the April 2018 – February 2019 meetings and seminar. We would like to hear from you to help us generate new and exciting topics for the coming year’s program!

Our yearly program for the NCT TAWWA consists of bi-monthly chapter meetings in February, April, June, October and December; meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each calendar month. Our bi-monthly chapter meetings consist of a networking period followed by a one-hour chapter meeting and technical presentation. In addition, our chapter brings to you the Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar held each year in October. This day-long seminar has historically consisted of multiple 30 to 45 minute technical presentations featuring a variety of technical presenters and topics.

To that end, we are asking for brief abstracts to be submitted for consideration by our chapter leadership in preparing the program agenda for the coming year. Please note that engineering, management, and operational topics are desired for submission to ensure education opportunities to our broader membership base.

**Click here to submit your abstract online!**

NEW THIS YEAR: Utilities that would like to nominate their facility for the April plant tour, please [click here](#).

**Abstracts will be accepted through Wednesday January 31, 2018.** Selected presenters will be notified and speaking engagements confirmed at least four to six weeks in advance of the meeting or presentation. For the Seminar, the notification to the selected speakers will be by May 31, 2018. The anticipated dates for 2018/2019 Chapter Meetings and the 2018 Drinking Water Seminar are as follows:

- April 2018 – Plant Tour and Dinner Meeting
- June 21, 2018 – Lunch Meeting
- August 16, 2018 - Lunch Meeting
- October 18, 2018 – Lunch Meeting
- October 2018 – Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar*
- December 2018 – Holiday Dinner Meeting
- February 21, 2019 – Lunch Meeting

*Please note, the Drinking Water Seminar is an all-day seminar. If selected for the seminar, the speaker needs to be available all day to allow scheduling flexibility.

Additionally, note that the dates for the 2018 year have not been finalized. Tentative dates have been provided.
The following are water-related events sponsored and coordinated by other organizations which may be of your general interest. To add an event to this calendar, contact Katie Stowers.

Happy Holidays! Make sure you make the Nice List by volunteering:

December 8th — 10th, Times Vary

The aftermath of the Rowlett Tornado Event in 2015 still affects the Rowlett community. Join this event to aid in replanting the many trees lost and make this community naturally beautiful again! Remember, trees aid in reducing water quality problems in communities by decreasing stormwater runoff and soil erosion. If interested, register here.

December 9th, 9am-Noon

Let’s Keep White Rock Lake Beautiful! Every second Saturday, join a group of volunteers to clean-up the shorelines of White Rock. A “continental breakfast” consisting of hot Starbucks coffee, orange juice, chocolate milk, as well as treats brought to you by Another Broken Egg Cafe and Nothing Bundt Cakes is provided to volunteers. If interested, register here.

December 9th, 2pm-4pm

Downwinders at Risk, a local clean air advocacy group, is meeting this day for a public info. And brainstorming session. Feel free to join them at the Meadows Conference Center in East Dallas. Remember, pollutants in the air also affects water, so it’ll be good to attend and see how this advocacy group is aiding Dallas to keep its air safe. For more information, visit their website.

December 28th — 29th, 9:30am-Noon

Have kids? Want them to start learning the value of water and Mother Nature? Sign them up for Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary’s Winter Mini-Camps. At the camps, they will learn different topics about the environment and take part in both indoor and outdoor activities as well as a take home project so they can share their new knowledge with their friends and family. To register or learn more, see link.

January 27th, 9am-Noon

One Saturday of each month, the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center invites individuals and groups to assist with outdoor projects based on their current needs. Projects may include trail building, habitat managements, invasive plant removal, working in their gardens, and much more. For more information, contact Conservation and Operations Manager Julie Collins or call 469-526-1991.

Upcoming Webinars — Coming to a Computer Screen Near YOU! Visit awwa.org

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<td>December 6th</td>
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<td>Improve Lab Accuracy for Better Water Analysis (FREE)</td>
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<td>January 17th</td>
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR LAKE CONTRIBUTORS!