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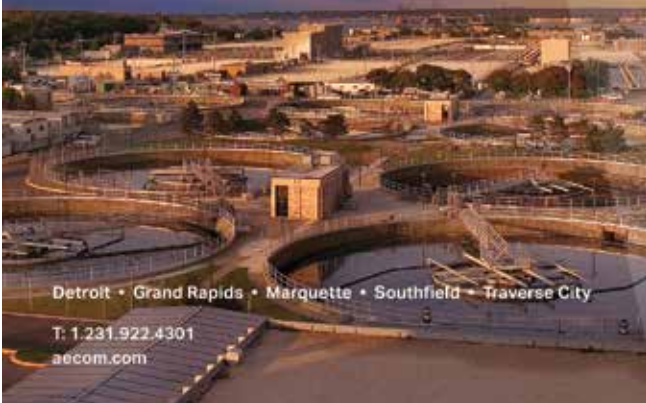


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## WATER WORKS NEWS

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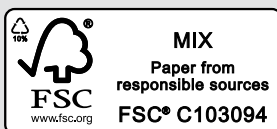
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# THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

JOHN WILLEMIN, CHAIR

**M**y time as Chair is drawing quickly to a close. It has been a great experience, and I highly recommend anyone interested in the Section consider participating on the Board. With my final article, there are a few themes I'd like to share about the Michigan Section.

First, we are financially strong. We are in a good cash position and have a newly approved minimum reserve policy in place to protect the Section's resources. While we have budgeted a deficit in recent years, we are operating at a near-neutral position over the last several years and our reserves remain strong. The budgeting process has involved temporarily scaling back on

some of the programs we have done in the past. Our business plan focuses on improving our revenue position and aims to have us revenue-positive in the next few years. Our reserve gives us the flexibility to consider new initiatives. If you have an idea on something you'd like to see the Section do, talk to a Board member or Council representative, or Bonnifer Ballard, our Executive Director.

Second, the Section is more and more being sought out as the expert in water - a goal in our strategic planning. In the past few years the Section has been asked to participate in/on:

- The Governor's *21st Century Infrastructure Commission* and the subsequent pilot program to provide recommendations for implementing a comprehensive, statewide asset management system
- The Flint Water Infrastructure Summit which we did in conjunction with the Association
- The MDEQ Water Use Advisory Council
- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Regional Body/Compact Council Advisory Committee
- The Water Center at U of M

The Section was asked to develop a water track for APWA Michigan's annual conference. Many of our members testified at the Senate hearings for Senate Bill 157 in early 2017. Additionally, Janice Skadsen has been asked by AWWA to represent the Association on the Great Lakes Source Water Initiative. We've also had recent requests from media to comment on

various issues. Our presence is strong and growing stronger. This will be further supplemented by our Communications Plan, which involves designating and training spokespeople for the Section to help us respond quickly to requests for information. Thanks to all those members who continue to represent the Section so effectively in our state and beyond.

Lastly, we recognize we have work to do on the volunteer front. We've struggled with how to address loss of momentum of some groups. This is something all professional organizations seem to be struggling with in some manner, and was a motivating factor in our transition to a new structure a few years ago. Almost everything we do as a Section is focused on the key goals of meeting the needs of our members, promoting the water industry, and making the volunteer experience a good and meaningful one. It all comes back to the members and the volunteers. It is with that spirit that the Committees and Communities of Practice Review Task Force was initiated last fall. This group has been reviewing the status of our existing groups, looking at their interactions with the Councils and looking for ways to better connect volunteers to groups in the Section. The Board will be hearing the recommendations of the Task Force at the summer meeting. If you have suggestions for the Task Force or would like more information, contact me or Amy Vail.

Thanks for your support over the past year. I look forward to working with our incoming Chair, Christine Spitzley, and the Board next year, and I hope to see you at the Annual Conference in the fall! 💧

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# ASSOCIATION INITIATIVES

MARK COLEMAN, DIRECTOR

In this *Water Works News* edition, I will provide a brief status update on two ongoing dynamic AWWA activities, the United States Federal Government's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act and a new AWWA web-based information center on communicating with your customers about lead in drinking water. It is my expectation that you will find this information useful in understanding what the Association is doing on behalf of members of AWWA.

## Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

A chief architect of the WIFIA program, AWWA recently celebrated news that 43 entities have expressed interest in loans through WIFIA. The Association continues to advocate for WIFIA and State Revolving Funds on Capitol Hill to confront the U.S. water infrastructure challenge. At the AWWA March 2017 Water Matters! Fly-In to Washington, D.C. AWWA delegates met with over 400 Congressional offices, urging robust funding for FY18 for WIFIA and the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRFs.

"As a federal-local-private partnership, this program will help expand water infrastructure systems to meet the needs of growing communities," EPA Administrator Scott

Pruitt said in *announcing the interest in WIFIA loans*. "This investment will empower states, municipalities, companies, and public-private partnerships to solve real environmental problems in our communities, like the need for clean and safe water." WIFIA leverages federal dollars so that for every dollar Congress appropriates, \$50 to \$60 is expected to be loaned out.

## Talking with your community about lead

AWWA has created a website filled with guidance and adaptable tools to help utilities communicate with customers.

Called the "Lead Resource Community" it is available on AWWA's website and was produced through the Public Affairs Council (PAC). AWWA CEO David LaFrance said that "Revisions to the Lead and Copper rule are expected later this year and will likely require utilities to communicate more proactively about lead and lead service lines". To address this need, the information is organized in four sections – Reach Your Customers, Engage Partners, Help Schools, and Tell the Whole Story.

The information includes consumer handouts, draft correspondence, brochures and other off-the-shelf materials. Materials will be updated to showcase utility best practices and reflect regulatory changes. Melissa Elliott, PAC chair and director of public affairs for Denver Water notes that "The information includes adaptable language you can put into your own materials. It also has examples of what other utilities are using. This is an easy way to get materials that have already been vetted, and have worked."

The website is designed to complement materials from the *Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative*, ([www.lslr.collaborative.org](http://www.lslr.collaborative.org)) of which AWWA is a member. The Collaborative includes outreach primarily related to replacing lead service lines.

Thanks for your attention! Give me a shout if you would like additional information or simply want to chat. My contact information is [mcoleman@wadetrim.com](mailto:mcoleman@wadetrim.com) or you can easily find me on our Michigan Section website ([www.mi-water.org](http://www.mi-water.org)).

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# LOOKING AHEAD

BONNIFER BALLARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**W**hen you look out at the horizon, what do you see for the water sector? Although none of us can see the future, we all know that change is coming. Indeed, it has already arrived. From where I sit, we have some interesting times ahead.

### Workforce

Our workforce is changing. As long-time water professionals retire, organizations must contend with all the knowledge that these retirees take with them. Finding people to take the open positions is challenging. As younger professionals enter the water sector, organizations must figure out how to manage a workforce that spans four generations (Boomers, Gen Xers, Millennials, and now Gen Zers). What role might a diversity program play? In filling open positions? In the complexities of managing the workforce? How do you get them up to speed quickly enough to be effective?

### Asset Management

In Michigan, asset management plans for community water supplies are due January 1 to DEQ. This deadline has been looming for a while. The Section, together with MWEA and EFCN, has offered several training opportunities to help you prepare. It has been all too easy to ignore it until now and with less than six months left, many organizations will be scrambling to not only understand the requirements, but develop the plan itself. It can feel



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daunting but this new requirement is actually good for the water sector.

### Infrastructure Funding

The good that comes from the asset management plan requirement is that it will help you think about how to manage your infrastructure needs. Through the process of

developing the plan, you will identify funding, or at least your funding gaps. The need to maintain water infrastructure and how exactly to pay for it will be the driving force for everyone in the water sector for some time to come. Increased public scrutiny will ensure that. AWWA continues to make strides on funding

for WIFIA and continued funding for State Revolving Funds. Communities will continue to wrestle with the sweet spot for a rate structure that allows for investment while keeping water affordable. There is currently a plethora of academics and water professionals from across the country grappling with different ways to fund water infrastructure. The fact is we will have to get really creative in order to fund all of the infrastructure investment that is needed to ensure a clean and safe drinking water supply into the future.

### Technology

It was inevitable that technology would find its way into the water sector. From SCADA to smart meters, technology has brought to the water sector new efficiencies and innovations. It also brought with it new challenges. Some operators can monitor an entire system from a control room. However, with that connectivity comes new challenges in cyber security. How many of you who have been in the business for more than 20 years would ever have thought that cyber security would be an issue?

### Rule Changes

Michigan will continue to have a high standard for water operator licensure. That is as it should be. And in this new age of increased public and political scrutiny, water operators will continue to be held to a standard higher than merely holding a license. Not only will you have to stay current on the latest rules affecting your operations; you will need to be able to demonstrate and perhaps even articulate what guides your actions to protect public health. The stakes have always been high in water. It is just that we are all now in the spot light. What's a water professional to do? Stay connected and involved with AWWA. Now more than ever before, membership in a professional society will help you meet the challenges that have already arrived for the water sector. 💧

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## TECHNICAL NETWORKING COUNCIL UPDATE


The Technical Networking Council is off and running with its networking road show across the state. The group is gaining momentum and has hosted two very successful events. The desired outcome of these events is to increase membership networking and allow for members and non-members to collaborate and share information about technical topics as well as benefits that the Section can provide to any organization.

This past March, the group gathered in Northville at Granite City Brewery to hold a rate and fee panel discussion titled "Sustainable Rates and Financial Practices". The discussion was hosted by Matt Parks and facilitated by Murat Ulasir of OHM Advisors. Presentations and discussions were led by Bob Schneider of MDEQ and Andrew Burnham of Stantec. As a follow up to our discussion of Water Asset Management in the winter, this discussion dove deep into trends of consumer prices for utilities, average household income

and proactive financial management; on a local, regional and national level. A tremendous amount of data and trends were shared in addition to widely known information outlined in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure Commission Report. Critical information was discussed in terms of affordability and challenges that families now face with "new" expenses that did not exist 10-15 years ago. The marketing of municipal utilities and its reliability has been tainted somewhat by recent news headlines, but the fact of the matter is much of what is good is not celebrated and discussed and revenues have not kept up with costs. This has led to an infrastructure epidemic.

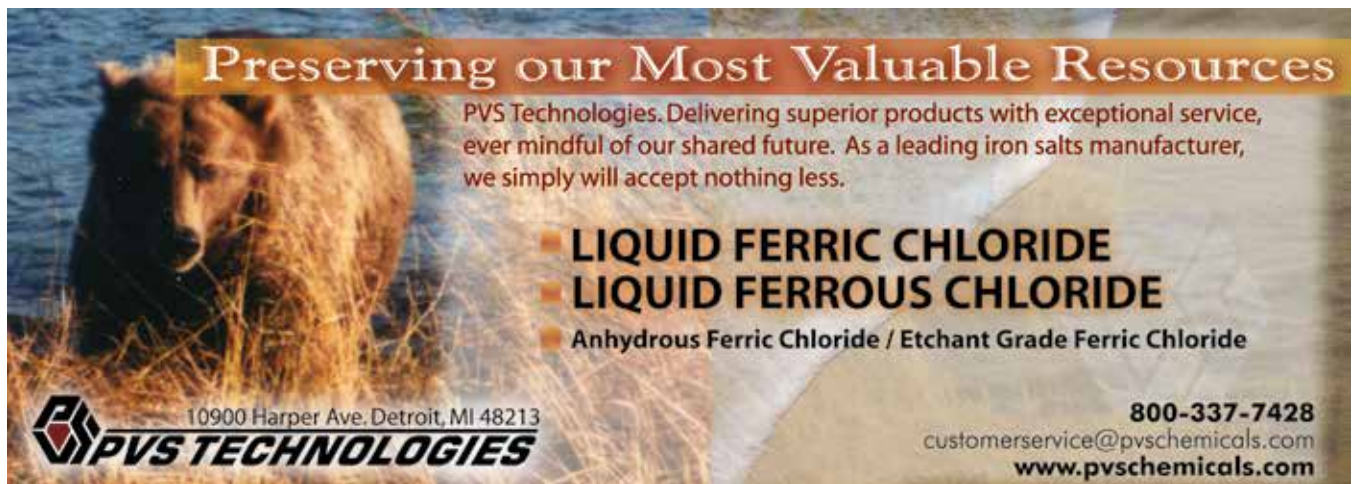
Basic understanding of cost allocation in selecting rate structures and utilization of available industry resources (such as AWWA and WEF manuals) were discussed. As the dialogue continued, the ability to obtain and mine data has never been more available. Once objectives are

understood and prioritized and rate structures and financial policies are outlined, the successful utilities are able to create dynamic forecasting and use modeling to become more financially sound. The use of data is not only key to position utilities for better success, but to also help communicate information to the public and customer base.

Following the discussion, networking and follow up discussion continued. As the TNC hosts more of these events, we will be actively seeking sponsors, topics, speakers and venues across Michigan. Sponsorship benefits include hosting and introducing the topic, speakers and your organization. We thank OHM Advisors for sponsoring this event. Stay tuned for more upcoming TNC events. We will continue to strive to reach out, be available as a resource and actively look to place members in a role where they can contribute to benefit themselves as well as the Section. 



AS THE TNC HOSTS MORE OF THESE EVENTS, WE WILL BE ACTIVELY SEEKING SPONSORS, TOPICS, SPEAKERS AND VENUES ACROSS MICHIGAN. SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE HOSTING AND INTRODUCING THE TOPIC, SPEAKERS AND YOUR ORGANIZATION.



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# DEBT PLANNING— ANOTHER PLANNING STEP BEYOND ASSET MANAGEMENT?

**S**o you have just completed an Asset Management Plan and, if you follow that plan, have a 20-year-plus strategy for managing user rates and capital improvement spending. Capital improvement spending plans may include debt financing, and if yours does, there is another step in planning required beyond the just the asset management plan.

A community that desires to finance a project must do so according to State law. A financing or “obligation” is narrowly defined as bonds or notes (and a limited application of installment purchase contracts). One key aspect of State law is the “debt limit” that keeps total general obligation debt capped at 10% of State Equalized Value for cities, villages, and charter townships.

Why should you be concerned about this? Because many communities are looking at more than just water or sewer—they are looking at all of their capital spending including roads, sidewalks, buildings, and other projects. This means that all of the capital projects need to be taken into consideration in a planning step beyond the asset management plan that is done for just one utility. An evaluation should be made as to the type of bonds that would best meet the needs of financing all of the various capital projects.

As an example, recently a city of 5,000 population completed an evaluation of their ability to finance water, sewer, roads, sidewalks, parking lots, and buildings; in other words, a comprehensive, long-term capital improvement plan for the community. What they found was that their 10% debt limit meant they

could only finance about one third of the road projects identified! And, in addition, they needed to immediately change course on issuing General Obligation Bonds for water and sewer projects and switch to Revenue Bonds.

So when you have completed your water or sewer asset management plan, prompt your administration and elected officials to have a discussion concerning financing management. It may have an impact on the next water or sewer project you do!

To help in understanding some of the bonding terminology, the following is a listing of commonly used bond issue formats.

### **Unlimited Tax General Obligation (UTGO)**

UTGO Bonds are voted issues and are considered by the market to be the most secure and most preferred form of financing. A voted issue can be for a wide variety of public purposes. The ballot language may limit the application to one bond issue or a “series” of bond issues for the completion of a project, and is capped by a dollar amount. The ballot language must include an estimation of the simple average millage rate over the life of the issue and the estimated millage rate for the first year levy.

### **Limited Tax General Obligation (LTGO)**

There are several choices that allow for a LTGO pledge. The pledge would be a first budget obligation of the general fund, but is only allowed to the charter

or statutory millage limit. Often a referendum period is required for the pledge. The following are possible LTGO bonds for constructing a facility:

- Act 34 of 2001 “Capital Improvement Bonds”: This allows for a wide variety of public purposes and is handy for mixing water, sewer, road, and drain in one bond format.
- Act 233 of 1955 “Utility Authority”: This method involves forming a water or sewer Utility Authority by two or more local units. The purpose of an Authority is to accomplish financings and/or have operational control. The powers of the Authority can be limited or broad. Many are designed to only have the power to issue bonds on behalf of the members. A primary advantage of the Act 233 Authority is that bonds can be issued as revenue bonds or limited tax general obligation bonds (counts toward debt limit), and can include multiple communities in one bond format.
- Act 185 of 1957 or 342 of 1939 “County Issue”: This method offers



**ONE KEY ASPECT OF STATE LAW IS THE “DEBT LIMIT” THAT KEEPS TOTAL GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT CAPPED AT 10% OF STATE EQUALIZED VALUE FOR CITIES, VILLAGES, AND CHARTER TOWNSHIPS.**





a conduit for issuing bonds for one or more local units in financing water and sewer projects. The local unit pledges their limited tax full faith and credit to the repayment of the bonds in the contract, which counts toward their debt limit. The County, in turn, typically pledges its limited tax full faith and credit to the issuance of County bonds. One advantage is that the County may have a bond rating and be more readily acceptable to potential purchasers than that of the local unit.

- Various Acts "Special Assessment": A Special Assessment roll of individual properties may be established as a method of supporting a bond issue. This can be used in conjunction with other forms of financing. This is most

appropriate for infrastructure benefiting specific properties. Special Assessment Bonds have a separate debt limit and does not count toward the general 10% of SEV debt limit.

- Various Acts including Act 197 of 1975, Act 450 of 1980 Act 281 of 1986 "Tax Increment": There are various bond options that rely on tax increment revenue capture. It must be demonstrated, however, that the facility serves the defined area. These are generally not very marketable without a General Obligation pledge and hence counts toward the debt limit.

### Revenue Bond Obligation

This type of bond issue is supported and secured solely by the user fee revenues of the project. The bond market

expects to see a debt service reserve and rates that cover debt by at least 110%. The issuer passes an ordinance that covenants that rates will be maintained sufficient to cover operations and debt service. The plus side is that there is no debt limit for Revenue Bonds. They are often used for a USDA loan and DEQ CWRF/DWRF loans.



*This article was submitted by Tom Traciak of Umbaugh on behalf of the MWEA/MI-AWWA Asset and Infrastructure Management Committee. You may contact Tom at [traciak@umbaugh.com](mailto:traciak@umbaugh.com). If you would like more information on the committee, please contact Co-Chairs Jennifer Drinan ([Jennifer.Drinan@ohm-advisors.com](mailto:Jennifer.Drinan@ohm-advisors.com)), Sally Duffy ([sduffy@hrcengr.com](mailto:sduffy@hrcengr.com)) or committee Secretary Deann Falkowski at ([defalkowski@ftch.com](mailto:defalkowski@ftch.com)).*



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# EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL UPDATE

**W**e've all got problems, and no matter how bad things seem, there is probably always someone else worse off. As the world's woes affect our utility operations, a common problem we encounter is that there just is not enough time in the day to run our system, train our staff, deliver our reports, eat, sleep, coach soccer, etc. Nobody I know right now seems to have more time in their schedules "freeing-up". For as long as I can tell, the trend seems to be going the other way. We were able to "make" some time last week, allowing almost half our staff to sit for the Michigan Licensed Water Operator exams. Those not at the exam were able to step it up and carry the load. No disasters, even though we were running with a bare-bones staff that was cut in half again. I don't know how all our folks did on the exams yet, but everyone came back feeling good about it, and all the time they spent preparing for the test will ultimately benefit everyone in the community.

Did you write a DEQ exam back in May? How did you do? How about your fellow employees? What did you do to

prepare for the test that you thought was the most beneficial to you? What helped you the least? Exam preparation continues to be a top priority for operators in our field, and the MI-AWWA and the Education and Training Council are kicking off another path to a head full of knowledge that will benefit you greatly at test time. The Michigan Water Academy 'Apprentice' level curriculum is aimed at equipping you with the industry basics. Curriculum development is underway, alongside the roll-out of the 'Introductory' level classes. The Education Council looks forward to working with the Academy Advisory Committee in the future to launch new ideas.

In other Council news, I have to again acknowledge the hard work and tremendous success of our Regional Meeting Planning Task Force. Ray Berkin has been at or near the front of these efforts for far longer than I've been around to witness. Recently, Ray has stepped down from his Chairmanship of the task force, but will remain an active member of the group. Please thank and congratulate Ray for all he's done for the section next time you see him. To ensure that our great Regional meetings stay great, Trevor Wagenmaker has stepped up to Chair the task force. We shouldn't miss a beat. 💧



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## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

This has been an exciting and challenging endeavor for your 2017 Nominations Committee. This year's recommendation addresses three open Board positions, Chair Elect and two Trustee positions, each with a three-year term on the Board.

The Nominations Committee THANKS all the nominees who submitted their name for consideration. Once again, the committee had an excellent field of candidates to choose from and the committee choices were very difficult. All the candidates were extremely well qualified. After much deliberation, the committee nominates the following individuals for the noted available positions:

Chair Elect

**Bill Fritz**

Great Lakes Water Authority

Trustee 2017 – 2020

**Ken McDonough Jr.**

EJ

Trustee 2017 – 2020

**Aaron Uranga**

Hubbell Roth and Clark

To learn a little bit about Aaron, Bill and Ken, we invite you to read "Meet the Nominees" contained within this edition of WWN.

The election will take place during the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at approximately 7:45 AM during our Annual Conference at the Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire.

Your 2017 Nominations Committee, comprised of Board Members Greg Alimenti, Mark Coleman, Christine Spitzley, Amy Vail and Joe Vanderstel along with At-Large Members Bruce Bartley and Tina Pawlak look forward to seeing you all at Shanty Creek Resort! 💧



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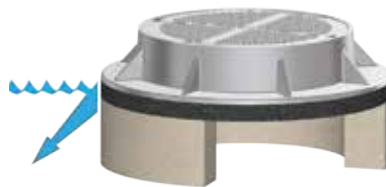
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# Conference ➤ Preview

## MI-ACE 2017

Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire, MI  
Sep 12-15, 2017

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# MI-ACE 2017 › *Conference Preview*

You are invited to attend the Michigan Section of AWWA's **79th Annual Conference & Exhibits**.

MI-ACE 2017 offers two and a half days of technical presentations that will offer you new perspectives, help you find new approaches to your work, and challenge you to think differently about some of the water sector's most intractable challenges.

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- › Utility Managers
- › Water Operators
- › Vendors
- › Engineers
- › Consultants



Attending MI-ACE 2017 will help you enhance your water knowledge and build your professional network with colleagues from around the state. Make the investment in your professional growth and development.

*Register today!*

## 2017 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, September 12		
10:30 AM	Annual Golf Outing Registration and Lunch - Shotgun start at noon	
7:30 – 9:00 PM	<b>New!</b> Dessert Reception in the Exhibit Hall	
Wednesday, September 13		
7:30 AM	Young Professionals (YP) and First Time Attendee Breakfast	
7:30 AM	<b>New!</b> Early Riser Continental Breakfast	
8:00 AM	Opening General Session	
10:00 AM	Exhibit Hall Opens Refreshments in the Exhibit Hall Chance Auction Opens	
10:15 AM	Women on Water Mixer	
11:30 AM	Awards Lunch ( <b>ticketed</b> )	
1:30 PM	Afternoon General Session	
3:00 – 4:45 PM	YP Leadership Session (pre-registration requested)	
4:45 – 6:00 PM	Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall	
8:00 PM	<b>New!</b> Bonfire, hosted by the YP Committee (weather permitting)	
Thursday, September 14		
7:30 AM	<b>New!</b> Early Riser Continental Breakfast	
7:45 AM	Section Annual Business Meeting	
8:15 AM	› Distribution Track 1	› Water Quality Track 2
11:30 AM	Fuller Lunch ( <b>ticketed</b> )	
1:30 PM	› Treatment Track 1	› Data Management Track 2
6:00 – 9:00 PM	"A Night of Improv" - Networking, Cocktails, Dinner and Entertainment ( <b>ticketed</b> )	
Friday, September 15		
7:30 AM	Board, Council Chair Section Leadership Breakfast (by invitation only)	
7:30 AM	<b>New!</b> Early Riser Continental Breakfast	
8:00 AM	Closing General Session	
11:30 AM	Conference Adjourns	

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## FEATURED SPEAKERS



**Tyler Glaze,**  
Director of Quality,  
Shorts Brewing Company

Tyler studied at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo as a Microbiology/Biochemistry Undergraduate student and escaped before graduation to explore the United States and try all of its beer. By sheer luck, Tyler landed in a seat at the Bellaire Pub and was hired shortly after for a summer internship. Soon, he found himself managing the Quality Department at Short's and, while working at Short's, attended the prestigious University of California, Davis Extension, Master Brewer's Program where he learned the science and engineering behind the beer we all love. Shortly after, Tyler received his Diploma in Brewing from the Institute of Brewing and Distilling, London, U.K. Tyler lives in Traverse City with a large fridge full of Huma Lupa Licious.



**DEQ Director Eric Oswald,**  
MDEQ Director – Invited

Eric is the new Director of the Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Originally from Battle Creek, Eric has 28 years of experience with the Air Force and has spent most of his career providing infrastructure support for Air Force bases around the world, including operation of drinking water and wastewater systems. Most recently, he has been responsible for design and construction of the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, including oversight of the water supply system.



**Ray Baral, Jr.,**  
AWWA Vice President  
and AWWA Visiting Officer

Ray Baral is the Assistant Manager of Water Treatment at the Metropolitan District Commission, in Hartford, CT where he has been employed since 2002. Ray has been an active member of the Connecticut Section of AWWA (CTAWWA) since joining in 1994. Ray has served in a variety of capacities on the local level. From 2008-2014, Ray served on the CTAWWA Board of Directors, (Chair 2012-2013). He is a past Education Co-Chair, and a member of the Education/Program, ATCAVE and WTP Operations & Maintenance Committees. As a leader within the water industry, Ray has been a driving force in the development of the Water Quality and Treatment Symposium.

Ray received the Operator's Meritorious Service Award in 2000 and the Connecticut Department of Public Health Educator of the Year Award in 2015. He holds a BA in Public Administration from Southern New Hampshire University and an Associates in Science degree from Charter Oak State College.

## FEATURED SPEAKERS (CONTINUED)



**Brian Steglitz,**

Manager Water Treatment Services, City of Ann Arbor

Brian Steglitz is a registered professional engineer in the State of Michigan. He currently serves as the Manager of Water Treatment Services for the City of Ann Arbor, MI and is responsible for operation of the City's 50 MGD Water Treatment Plant that serves approximately 125,000 people in the City of Ann Arbor and environs. Mr. Steglitz is a former Chair and Director of the Michigan Section AWWA and served as Vice President of AWWA in 2015-6. Mr. Steglitz was appointed by the Governor of Michigan to serve on a 21st Century Infrastructure Commission. Mr. Steglitz has a BA in Economics from Yale University and a MS in Civil/Environmental Engineering from Stanford University.

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**Manny Teodoro**

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University

Manny Teodoro is Associate Professor of public policy and political science at Texas A&M University. His research lies at the intersection of management, politics, and public policy, with a specific focus on water issues in the United States. His management research emphasizes labor markets as political phenomena and predictors of organizational performance. Much of Professor Teodoro's research deals with U.S. environmental policy, examining the drivers of compliance and enforcement under federal environmental regulations. This line of research includes explorations of implementation as a matter of environmental justice, with attention to race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status as predictors of environmental policy implementation. He has developed novel methods for analyzing utility rate equity and affordability, and in 2013 completed the first comprehensive study of American water utility CEOs. Professor Teodoro's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation and Water Research Foundation, and has been published numerous times in *Journal AWWA*, *Public Administration Review*, *State & Local Government Review*, and several other academic outlets. His award-winning 2011 book, *Bureaucratic Ambition*, argues that ambition shapes administrators' decisions to innovate. He has more than 20 years' experience in utility management consulting, and has served on AWWA's Rates & Charges and Workforce Strategies Committees.

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**Robert Renner,**

Chief Executive Officer, Water Research Foundation

Rob Renner is Chief Executive Officer of the Water Research Foundation ([www.WaterRF.org](http://www.WaterRF.org)), the leading not-for-profit research cooperative that advances the science of water to protect public health and the environment. Governed by utilities, WRF plans, manages, and delivers scientifically sound research solutions on the most critical challenges facing the water community in the areas of drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and reuse. Over more than 50 years, WRF has sponsored nearly 1,500 research projects valued at \$500 million, and serves more than 1,000 subscribing organizations.

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**Melanie K. Goetz,**

Hughes and Stuart Communications

Melanie is a communications consultant, speaker, and on-going contributor to the *Journal AWWA*. She is the author of two of AWWA's books about communications. Melanie specializes in helping utilities build trust with the public and currently works with utilities facing lead/copper issues. Melanie holds an MBA from Old Dominion University.



# FULL SCHEDULE WITH TECHNICAL SESSIONS

## Tuesday, September 12, 2017

7:30 – 9:00 PM

**New!** Dessert Reception in the Exhibit Hall

## Wednesday, September 13, 2017

7:30 AM

Early Riser Continental Breakfast

**8:00 – 10:00 AM**

**Opening General Session**

8:00 AM

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

John Willemin, MI-AWWA Chair

8:15 AM

**1.1 Water Quality from a Brewer's Perspective**

Presenter: Tyler Glaze, Shorts Brewing Company

9:00 AM

**1.2 A Conversation with the Director**

Presenter: Eric Oswald, MDEQ Director (invited)

9:30 AM

**1.3 Risk Management and Communications**

Presenter: Melanie K. Goetz, Hughes and Stuart Communications

Where do you look for warning signs of an impending crisis? How do you tell the public about a water quality violation? How does a utility avoid the rumors and dispel the myths about contaminants? Attendees will learn field-proven ways to avoid public outrage and tools to educate the public about their role in the effort to communicate the value of water.

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Exhibit Hall Open

Refreshments in Exhibit Hall

Chance Auction benefiting SWIE and One AWWA Operator Scholarship

10:15 AM Women on Water Mixer

11:30 AM – 1:15 PM Annual Awards Lunch (ticketed)

1:30 – 6:30 PM

Exhibit Hall Open

Vendor Presentations in Exhibit Hall (topics and schedule available onsite)  
Chance Auction

**1:30– 4:45 PM**

**Afternoon General Session**

1:30 PM

**2.1 AWWA Visitor**

Presenter: Ray Baral, Jr., AWWA Vice President and AWWA Visiting Officer

2:00 PM

**2.2 21st Century Infrastructure Commission Recommendations**

Presenter: Brian Steglitz, City of Ann Arbor  
The 21st Century Infrastructure Commission developed over 100 recommendations that include development of new programs and proposed concepts for funding and financing the recommendations. This presentation will also comment on how the recommendations might impact local utilities and professionals in the water sector.

2:30 PM Refreshments in the Exhibit Hall

2:45 PM

**2.3 Workforce as a Resource: Taking "HR" Seriously**

Presenter: Manny Teodoro, Texas A&M University  
Just as a utility's performance depends on the availability of financial and environmental resources, access to and development of human capital resources in a labor pool affect a utility's ability to carry out its mission. This presentation reports cutting-edge utility workforce research, demonstrating how access to human capital, management practices, and leadership development shape utility performance. Implications for utility management and the water sector generally are discussed, with special attention to small and medium-sized utilities.

## Young Professional Session

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM

**3.1 Foundation of Leadership Professional Development**

Presenter: Wayne Pratt, Wachs Water Services

Young professionals are tomorrow's leaders of the water industry and a major part of the future for delivering safe water to the people of Michigan. At the end of the presentation, you will:

1. Better understand time management
2. Understand disciplines of leadership excellence
3. Recognize habits of highly successful leaders

**Class size is limited to 30 participants, pre-registration is required.**

3:15 PM

**2.4 An Overview of Water Research from WRF**

Presenter: Rob Renner, Water Research Foundation

*The presentation will provide an overview of recent Water Research Foundation research on topics that are of importance to the Michigan section members.*

3:45 PM

**2.5 Water Industry Security Update - Kevin Morley**

Presenter: Kevin Morley, American Water Works Association  
Security continues to be in the national news. Will be reviewing the current state for security in the water industry nationally. Kevin will also be providing his insight on relevant Federal, Dept Homeland Security and AWWA guidance documents.

4:15 PM

## 2.6 History of the Water Taste-Off

Presenter: Gary Wozniak, DEQ  
Since 1985, (32 years!) the Michigan Section has sponsored a Water Taste-Off. The history of the contest with past winners, surface vs groundwater, water quality specifics, past pictures, judges, trophy construction, will all be discussed.

4:30 – 6:00 PM

Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall

8:00 PM (weather permitting)

New! Bonfire, hosted by the Young Professionals Committee

### Thursday, September 14, 2017

7:30 AM Early Riser

Continental Breakfast

7:45 AM

Section Business Meeting

John Willemin, MI-AWWA Chair

8:00 AM

MI-AWWA Section Update

Bonnifer Ballard,

MI-AWWA Executive Director

8:05 AM

Best Tasting Water in Michigan Trophy Presentation

Gary Wozniak and Dave Stinson,  
Co-Chairs of Water Taste Off Committee

### 8:15 – 11:30 AM Morning Session Distribution Track A

8:15 AM

4.1 Sustainability and Water Piping

Presenter: Paul Hanson, DIPRA

8:45 AM

4.2 Water Meters or Meter Reading

Technology – Which is More Important?

Presenter: Derek Clayton, Johnson

Controls

9:15 AM

4.3 Pre-Chlorinated Pipe Bursting Success

Presenter: Edwin Haapala, Charter

Township of West Bloomfield ;

Kristin Goetze, P.E.,

Johnson & Anderson, Inc.

9:45 AM Break

10:00 AM

4.4 Service Terminations – What you don't Terminate may Haunt you

Presenter: Dan Sorek, P.E., Prein&Newhof

10:30 AM

4.5 Asset Management Planning - A Tool for Long Term Rate Stability

Presenter: Carrie Ricker Cox,

Oakland County Water Resource

Commissioner's Office ; Sally Duffy, HRC

11:00 AM

4.6 Establishing an Antenna Management Program

Presenter: Keith Dixon, Esq.,

Dixon Engineering, Inc.

### 8:15 – 11:30 AM Morning Session Water Quality Track B

8:15 AM

5.1 Prevention of Disease and Injury Associated with Building Water Systems

Presenter: Allison Yee, NSF International

Andrew Ward, Building Water Health

8:45 AM

5.2 Identification and mitigation of risks associated with the presence of lead in water distribution systems

Presenter: Emily Tummons, Black & Veatch

9:15 AM

5.3 Waukesha's Water Quality Balancing Act: Increasing Standards for Radium and Declining Groundwater Levels

Presenter: Kelly Zylstra, Waukesha

Water Utility

9:45 AM Break

10:00 AM

5.4 Benefits of a System-wide Tracer Test and Real-time Simulation for Enhanced Model Calibration to Target Water Quality Challenges

Presenter: Bryon Wood, HDR

10:30 AM

5.5 Define the Resource - New Methodologies for Efficiently Characterizing Aquifer Systems and Predicting Pumping Impacts

Presenter: Todd Feenstra, Tritium, Inc.

11:00 AM

5.6 A Facile Approach to Synthesize Iron Oxy-Hydroxide Nanoparticles for the Treatment of Lead in Water in Flint, Michigan

Presenter: Minal Jaisinghani,  
Michigan State University

11:30 AM – 1:15 PM

George W. Fuller Luncheon (ticketed)

### 1:30 – 4:45 PM Afternoon Session Water Treatment Track A

1:30 PM

6.1 The McCaysville Story: How to Rehabilitate a Filter in Seven Days

Presenter: Hollie Scott, AWI and Rich Baraki, AWI

2:00 PM

6.2 High-Rate Clarification Pilot Treatment Plant

Presenter: Kevin VanSickle, Genesee County Water & Waste Services

2:30 PM

6.3 Preventing Water Crises

Presenter: Alex Yavich, Optimization Solutions Environmental, LLC

3:00 PM Break

3:15 PM

**6.4 Balancing Reliability and Cost-effectiveness of Water Transmission Infrastructure**

Presenter: Ben Whitehead, Black & Veatch  
Grant Gartrell, PE BCEE, Great Lakes Water Authority

3:45 PM

**6.5 Transmission Main Condition Assessment in West Michigan**

Presenter: Andrew Chastain-Howley, Black & Veatch ; Alex Fleet, City of Grand Rapids

4:15 PM

**6.6 Oh Buoy! Building Monitoring Capacity Through Multi-Sector Partnerships**

Presenter: Kelli Paige, Great Lakes Observing System

**1:30 – 4:45 PM Afternoon Session Data Management Track B**

1:30 PM

**7.1 Practical and User Friendly GIS and Work Order Software is Key to the Successful Implementation and Operation of Asset Management Plans**

Presenter: Frank LaPierre, Wightman & Associates, Inc. and Ryan Miller; Wightman & Associates, Inc.

2:00 PM

**7.2 Innovative Applications to assist with Managing your Water Quality**

Presenters: Dan Stickel, Waterford Township and Jack Brusewitz, Aquasight

2:30 PM

**7.3 Utilities: Under Constant Attack**

Presenter: Charles Parker, II, Thomas Edison State University

3:00 PM Break

3:15 PM

**7.4 Clouds & Things: The implications of Cloud and Internet-of-Things for SCADA/ICS**

Presenter: Mitch Dobson, Tetra Tech

3:45 PM

**7.5 Water Security Panel Discussion**

Presenter: Kevin Morley  
American Water Works Association

6:00 PM

**A Night of Improv Comedy (ticketed)**

**Friday, September 15, 2017**

7:30 AM

**MI-AWWA Board of Directors, Council and Committee Leadership Breakfast (by invitation only)**

7:30 AM

**Early Riser Continental Breakfast Closing General Session**

8:00 AM

**8.1 MDEQ Regulatory Update**

8:30 AM

**8.2 Waukesha's Diversion: Great Lakes Panel Analyzes this Historic Decision**

Presenter: Nicole Spieles, P.E., Greenley-Hanson  
Dan Duchniak, Waukesha Water Utility  
Grant Trigger, RACER Trust

9:30 AM

**8.3 Intertwined...Water, Wastewater, and Energy!**

Presenter: Thomas Fishbaugh, Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)

10:00 AM

**8.4 Creating a Water Safety Net**

Presenter: Patrick Gubry, EcoWorks

10:30 AM

**8.5 Water Utilities and Their External Impacts; the Social Cost and What Can Be Done**

Presenter: Adam DeYoung, Moore & Bruggink

11:00 AM

**8.6 News from the Field**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### GOLF

**Annual Golf Outing (ticketed event – additional fees apply)**

The MI-AWWA Annual Golf Outing will be held on Tuesday, September 12 at Shanty Creek's Cedar River Course. Designed by PGA player and architects, Tom Weiskopf, Cedar River was named one of America's Top 100 Resort Golf Courses by Golf Week.

This year, the Annual Golf Outing raises money for Safe Water Ecuador (SWIE) and for the new One AWWA Operator Scholarship. SWIE helps bring clean, safe water to communities in Ecuador. The Scholarship is a new partnership between the Association and the Section to help provide support for operators seeking additional education and training.

#### Schedule of the Day

10:30 AM	Check-in at Bag Drop
11:00 AM	Picnic Lunch
11:50 AM	Game Rules at your Cart
12:00 PM	Shot Gun Start
5:30 PM	Outing concludes – next up...
7:30 – 9:00 PM	Dessert Reception in the Exhibit Hall

#### Event Features

*(help raise money for the cause)*

**Putting Green** – Practice your putt before the scramble starts (complimentary)

**Driving Range** – Warm up on the driving range (complimentary)

**The Water Dive** – A fun way to practice your aim and hit a straight shot into the kiddy pool (\$5 per ball)

**Mulligans** - \$1 for two shots (limit 2 per player)

**Rent-a-pro** – Have a golf pro take a shot for you off a predetermined tee (\$5 per ball)

Prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin, best overall team, worst overall team, and more!

**All are welcome. Space is limited!**

*(continued on page 30)*

# Fast, accurate and reliable microbial detection.

## Results in 2-18 hours

- Only Automated US EPA approved method for testing drinking water
- Fastest time to detect
- Most accurate, non subjective results
- Reduce costs significantly
- Adopted in major cities and labs in over 30 countries





*E. coli*  
Detected!

## When Every Second Counts, Why Wait For Results?

When regularly testing water quality you want to be certain you get the results back quickly, accurately and efficiently.

For more details visit [www.tecta-pds.com](http://www.tecta-pds.com)

## SPECIAL EVENTS (CONTINUED)

### RECOGNITION

#### **Annual Awards Lunch (ticketed event – additional fee applies)**

A wonderful event, the Annual Awards Lunch on Wednesday at 11:30 AM, is the time for us to celebrate accomplishments in Michigan water. During the Lunch, we recognize awardees for the Raymond J. Faust Award, the Operator's Meritorious Award, the Edward Dunbar Rich Awards, the AWWA Water Drop Awards, and many others. Join Your Fellow attendees for lunch to help recognize 2017 awardees. Tickets are required for entry.

#### **George W. Fuller Luncheon (ticketed event – additional fees apply)**

Named for industry titan George W. Fuller, this annual luncheon is the celebration event of the Conference. During this event on Thursday, beginning at 11:30 AM, any new inductees into the Michigan Water Industry Hall of Fame are announced. New Board of Trustee members are installed and this year's George W. Fuller Awardee is announced. Come for lunch, stay for the fun of discovering who this year's Fuller nominee will be. Meet newly installed 2017 – 2018 Board Chair Christine Spitzley.

### AUCTION

#### **Chance Auction**

The Chance Auction benefiting Safe Water in Ecuador (SWIE) and the One AWWA Operator Scholarship will be held in the Exhibit Hall during exhibit hours on Wednesday. All money raised will support drinking water projects in Ecuador for indigenous communities in need of safe and reliable water and the One AWWA Operator Scholarship. The scholarship is a new partnership between the Association and the Section to help provide support for operators seeking additional education and training.

Visit participating exhibitor booths and other displays throughout the Exhibit Hall to browse donated items to be 'auctioned' (raffled). There is no bidding. Simply purchase tickets (3 for \$5 or 15 for \$20) and place your tickets in jars associated

with the donated item you want a chance to win. Winning tickets will be drawn near the end of the Happy Hour on Wednesday evening prior to the close of the Exhibit Hall. Participants must be present to win.

Want to help? You can bring an item with a value of at least \$25 and it will be gratefully accepted. Examples of donated items in the past include gift cards, gift baskets, tools, electronics, handmade items, outdoor items, event tickets, and sports memorabilia. For more information, to make a donation, or to volunteer, contact Jessica Howard at 734-547-4576 or [jessica.howard@ohm-advisors.com](mailto:jessica.howard@ohm-advisors.com).

### NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

#### **New! Opening Dessert Reception in the Exhibit Hall (RSVP requested)**

Join MI-ACE attendees and exhibitors for cocktails, dessert and coffee beginning at 7:30 PM. Meet and mingle with colleagues and peers and see what products are available to you through our exhibitors. Remember to stop by the Conference Registration Desk for your name badge. Name badges are required to enter the Exhibit Hall.

#### **Young Professionals and First-Time Attendee Breakfast (RSVP requested)**

Young professionals and first-time attendees to MI-ACE have something in common. Help is available to navigate MI-ACE and to maximize your conference experience with tips and tricks from Section leaders. If you are a water professional under 35 or have never been to a Section Annual Conference and Exhibit, RSVP to attend this instructional continental breakfast and meet others like you. The breakfast begins at 7:00 AM on Wednesday morning before the Opening General Session. Make the most of your conference attendance and RSVP today!

#### **Women on Water Mixer (RSVP requested)**

Come on ladies! Plan to join your peers on Wednesday at 10:15 AM for a fun, interactive hour making new connections and reconnecting with friends and colleagues you haven't seen for a while. Designed

especially for women in the water sector, you will be glad you attended!

#### **Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall**

Join your colleagues on Wednesday after education sessions close. Starting at 4:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall, spend time with the exhibitors and your friends as you recap the day. Beverages and light snacks will be served. A name badge is required to enter the Exhibit Hall.

#### **New! Bonfire hosted by the Young Professionals Committee (Weather permitting)**

The place to be Wednesday evening after dinner is around a camp fire when the sun has set. Bring a guitar? Have a harmonica? All are welcome at this informal event.

### ENTERTAINMENT

#### **A Night of Improv Comedy (ticketed event – additional fee applies)**

Register early for Thursday evening's special event. Join your colleagues and friends for cocktails and light snacks prior to dinner. Conversations continue during the sit-down dinner. After dessert, turn your attention to the stage and enjoy an evening of unscripted comedy with River City Improv. Comedy sketches, skits, game shows filled with good-natured humor (and audience suggestions) will keep you entertained!

River City Improv is a Grand Rapids-based improvisational comedy team featuring fast-paced, clean, clever improv comedy based on audience suggestions.

Their shows weave skits, games and songs with audience suggestions to create unique entertainment experiences for each show. Occasionally they will throw in a piece of non-improvised sketch comedy or a dance number, just to keep our audience guessing.

**Avoid being disappointed and register for ticketed events in advance. A limited number of tickets for ticketed events may be available on site. Inquire at the Conference Registration Desk for availability.**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Conference Registration Options

**Full conference** attendees will receive access to all general and technical sessions, all refreshment breaks, Tuesday night Opening Dessert Reception in the Exhibit Hall, Exhibit Hall access during exhibit hours, Wednesday evening Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall. The earlier your register, the more you save.

**One-day conference** attendees will receive access to all general and / or technical sessions and refreshment breaks on the day of their choosing. Wednesday attendees will also have access to the Exhibit Hall and the Wednesday evening Happy Hour in the Exhibit Hall. Registration discounts are available if you register before August 28.

**Small system operators** (serving a population of fewer of 3,300), **Student members and Retired members** are eligible for discounted rates. Log-in to your membership account to receive the discounted rate at [www.mi-water.org](http://www.mi-water.org).

**Speakers and panelists** are also eligible for a discounted registration as a token of our appreciation for contributing their expertise to MI-ACE.

**Young Professionals** (under 35 years old or have been in the industry for five years or less) who have never attendee the Michigan Section's Annual Conference & Exhibits are eligible to have their conference registration fee waived. Please contact Jenna Karazim, Young Professionals Committee Chair by calling 517-937-0765 or by email at [jenna@karazim.us](mailto:jenna@karazim.us).

**Spouse/significant other** must be registered to enter any function of the Conference. Registered guests have access to all social functions listed. Access to general sessions and / or technical sessions is not allowed. Lunch tickets and Thursday evening's entertainment event may be purchased during the registration process. Pre-registration for ticketed events is recommended. A limited number of tickets for ticketed events may be available on site. Inquire at the Conference Registration Desk for availability.

## Exhibitor booth registration

includes exhibit hall full access for two registrants. This includes set-up, exhibit hours, and tear-down. Access also includes social functions held during exhibit hall hours such as the Tuesday night reception, Wednesday refreshment breaks and Wednesday Happy Hour on the Exhibit Floor. Exhibitors who wish to receive continuing education credits (CECs) have the option to upgrade the Exhibit Booth registration to include one Full Conference registration. If the second person wishes to receive CECs they must register initially as a Full Conference attendee of for the Wednesday one-day only registration. Please call for assistance.

## Conference Cancellation

Substitutions – If you are not able to attend, substitutes are encouraged. Please email the substitution request to [ejohnson@mi-water.org](mailto:ejohnson@mi-water.org). Rates are based on membership status, so additional fees may apply.

Cancellations – If a substitute is not available to attend in your place, please notify MI-AWWA by email to [ejohnson@mi-water.org](mailto:ejohnson@mi-water.org) or by fax at 517-292-2912 attention Eric Johnson.

1. If cancelled by 4:00 PM on August 11, 2017, you will receive a full refund less a \$35 processing fee.
2. If cancelled after 4:00 PM August 11, 2017, but prior to 4:00 PM September 1, 2017 you will receive 50% of the registration fee paid. *There is no refund for purchased meals or special activities.*
3. If cancelled after 4:00 PM on September 1 or if you are a conference no-show, there will be no refund.

## Continuing Education Credits

Individuals holding DEQ drinking water certifications will be eligible for up to 1.4 CECs of approved credit in the categories as indicated in the schedule. As a reminder, technical and managerial credits count the same toward meeting the requirements for renewal. This allows you to attend the sessions based on your interest.

An additional 0.1 CEC in the "other" category may be obtained when attending the exhibits on Wednesday. CECs for Exhibit Hall Training Sessions are also available. Each Exhibit Hall Training Session has been approved for 0.05 CECs, but you must attend at least two in order to earn credit.

Licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) will be eligible for up to 14 professional development hours. These credits will be applied to your professional development journal on the Section website. Instructions for obtaining a transcript of credits earned will be provided in your registration packet.

## Shanty Creek Resort

**Accommodations**– MI-AWWA has made arrangements for sleeping rooms at Shanty Creek Resorts for the 2017 MI-AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibits, September 12 - 15, 2017.

To make reservations by scanned email, mail or fax, please download the housing form from the website.

You may also call the hotel at 866-695-5012. Ask for the Michigan Section American Water Works rate.

Or, you may make your reservations online: <http://reserve.shantycreek.com/?g=225081>

Day	Technical Category	Managerial Category	Other Category
Wednesday	0.3	0.2	0.1
Thursday	0.6		
Friday	0.3		

*Represents available CECs in that Category. Because some sessions are concurrent, this does not represent the total an attendee will receive a maximum of 1.4 CECs is achievable within the constraints to the schedule. Attendees must be present from the beginning of a session to its conclusion in order to earn the applicable CECs for that session. Total CECs in each category are rounded down to the nearest tenth.*

## GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

Discounted Rates are available starting at \$143 per night. Reservations must be received by August 11, 2017. Discounted rates are based on availability. Rates are available until August 11, 2017, or until the block fills, whichever comes first. Please make your reservations early.

If you have any special lodging requirements, please make your request known when making your reservation.

### About the area

Discover the village of Bellaire, surrounded by glacier-carved hills and steep valleys. It is centrally located on the chain of lakes, connecting 75 miles of waterway. Several of the larger ones, like Torch Lake and Elk Lake are considered among the most beautiful in the world, and the region has long been a favorite destination for boats and fisherman.

After a day on the trail or out on the boat, feast at a variety of family friendly

restaurants and unique lounges; grab a glass of locally produced beer, mead or wine; or visit area farm markets and u-picks to take home a taste Northern Michigan. The peaceful Intermediate River runs through downtown Bellaire, with unique shops and a state-of-the-art movie theater.

For more information please go to Destination Bellaire at [www.destinationbellaire.com](http://www.destinationbellaire.com)



## EXHIBITOR PROSPECTUS

Partner with MI-AWWA to reach your audience at this year's 79th Annual Conference & Exhibits (MI-ACE 2017). Join water sector leaders, buyers and practitioners from the State of Michigan who will come together for two and one-half days of peer-to-peer continuing education and networking opportunities.

### Show Hours

Tuesday, September 12th from 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

- Attendee Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, September 13th from 10:00 AM until 6:30 PM

- Opening General Sessions concludes at 10:00 AM; conference attendees will move to the Exhibit Hall for a mid-morning refreshment break and to visit exhibits

- Exhibits will close for the Awards Luncheon; 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- CECs for certified drinking water operators on the ½ hour; 1:30 – 3:30 PM at four selected and approved exhibit booths
- Chance Auction begins at the opening of the exhibits. We need auction items! Examples of items donated in the past include; gift cards or baskets, tools, outdoor items, event tickets and sports memorabilia.
- Will your firm participate? Contact Jessica Howard at 734-466-4587 or

[Jessica.Howard@ohm-advisors.com](mailto:Jessica.Howard@ohm-advisors.com) for more info.

- Drinking Water Taste- Off – Five MI-AWWA Regional Winners compete for the top prize – “Best Tasting Water in Michigan”
- Conference Attendee Reception from 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall

### Price

Save by registering for your booth early. Space is limited, so register early to avoid not being represented.

	5/1-6/30 Early Bird		7/1-8/27 Regular		Onsite	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
Exhibit	\$575	\$575	\$600	\$600	\$625	\$625
Exhibit w Conference Reg	\$760	\$850	\$810	\$900	\$860	\$950



Price includes one 7' x 10' exhibit booth with one 6' x 30" covered and skirted table, 2 chairs, 1 wastebasket, pipe/drape on sides and back and access to 110v electrical, and 2 exhibitor-only badges. You can save by getting the booth/conference registration package, which includes one exhibit booth plus full conference registration for one by purchasing an Exhibit Booth with Conference Registration. Conference registration includes the opportunity to attend education sessions, networking refreshment breaks and receptions. Golf, ticketed luncheons and ticketed evening special event are available at an additional price.

### Exhibit Hall Presentations

There are four opportunities to provide a 30-minute educational presentation to conference attendees. If you are interested in presenting, please submit a brief (max 250-word) description of the presentation during the booth registration process. Selection is made by the Manufacturers Advisory Council Chair in consultation with the Conference & Recognition Council Chair or their designees.

### Conference Sponsorships

Maximize your presence at the Conference through **sponsorship support**. There are a number of opportunities including three conference sponsorship levels, break sponsorships, and golf sponsorships.

### Billboard Ads

Raise your profile even more during the Conference by purchasing a slide

on the Billboard reel that displays during show hours. An exhibitor may acquire up to 3 slides.

### SWIE Chance Auction

SWIE and One AWWA Operator Scholarship will hold a Chance Auction again this year and is looking for items. Donate an item or themed basket. You can display it in the main Auction area or in your own booth. Please contact Jessica Howard at 734-466-4587 or [jessica.howard@ohm-advisors.com](mailto:jessica.howard@ohm-advisors.com) for more information.

### Rules and Regulations

#### Exhibitor Move-In and Booth Set-up

Tuesday, September 12th:

1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

An exhibit booth is 7' by 10' and includes a 6' x 30" covered and (blue) skirted table, 2 chairs, 1 wastebasket, pipe/drape on sides and back and access to 110v electrical. Exhibit booth draping will be (blue and white) 8' high back and 3' high sides. Exhibitors must bring their own grounded extension cords, approximately 20' in length to access electrical outlets.

- All exhibits must be contained within the confines of the booth space. Tables, displays, chairs, etc. may not be outside of the booth. Displays along the back of the space may be no higher than 8' tall nor higher than 3' on the side of the booth.
- All exhibits must be set up by 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 12th.
- Exhibitors must conform to local ordinances and regulations and to the

policies of the venue. All items must be secured when the booth is not attended. Contents of the booth are the sole responsibility of the exhibitor. No security is provided. The Section is not responsible for theft, loss, or any other damage incurred during move in, while exhibiting, or during move out.

- Exhibitors must occupy the booth assigned to them and may not substitute or swap booth space without prior consent of the Section.
- It is Section policy that only Section staff, the contracted show decorator, and paid exhibitors are allowed on the exhibitor floor during set up and tear down. Anyone on the floor must be showing identification badges at all times.

#### Booth Teardown and Exhibitor Move-Out

Wednesday, September 13th:

6:30 PM – 10:00 PM.

- No exhibitor may remove any part of their exhibit prior to the close of the reception at 6:30 PM. Exhibits must be completely removed no later than 10:00 PM.

For more information, contact:

Eric Johnson at 517-292-2912, extension 2, or via email at [ejohnson@mi-water.org](mailto:ejohnson@mi-water.org) or Bonniifer Ballard at 517-292-2912, extension 1 or via email at [bballard@mi-water.org](mailto:bballard@mi-water.org).

**Don't delay! Space is limited!**

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Show your continued commitment to the water sector and have your company recognized before, during, and after the Section's Annual Conference and Exhibits.

### Billboard Ad

You have the opportunity to promote your products and services with the PowerPoint Billboard displayed in the exhibit hall. This "Billboard" is a PowerPoint file that loops, playing continuously during exhibit hours. Your slide

can describe a new product or service, or simply describe your firm. This added exposure is sure to generate increased interest by conference attendees.

**One slide.....\$150**  
(maximum three slides per firm)

### Conference Sponsorship:

**Gold Sponsor .....\$1, 500**

As a Gold Level sponsor at MI-ACE 2017, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- recognition in pre-conference promotional materials

- logo on save-the-date promotional mailer (if purchased far enough in advance)
- logo on the website
- logo in conference materials
- recognition in the conference pre-session slides
- logo in the Fall issue of *Michigan Water Works News*

**Silver Sponsor ..... \$1,000**

As a Silver Level sponsor at MI-ACE 2017, you will enjoy the following benefits:

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

- name on the website
- name in conference materials
- recognition in the conference pre-session slides
- logo in the Fall issue of *Michigan Water Works News*

### Bronze Sponsor ..... \$500

As a Bronze Level sponsor at MI-ACE 2017, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- name on the website
- name in conference materials
- recognition in the conference pre-session slides
- logo in the Fall issue of *Michigan Water Works News*

### MI-ACE Morning Coffee Break.... \$500

As a Morning Coffee Break sponsor at MI-ACE 2017, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- name on the website
- listed in conference pocket guide
- recognition on signage during the break
- listed in the Fall issue of *Michigan Water Works News*

**Make your commitment no later than May 10 to be acknowledged in the conference preview.**

**Make your commitment no later than August 15 to be acknowledged onsite.**

## EXHIBITOR LIST *(as of June 19, 2017)*

American Flow Control	Hach
Badger Meter	Honeywell
CCRA Professional Services	Johnson Controls
DIPRA	Kraft Power Corporation
Dixon Engineering	Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services
DN Tanks	Peerless-Midwest, Inc.
EJ	Spectrum Contracting
Etna Supply Company	UIS SCADA
Fer-Pal Construction USA, LLC	Wolverine Power
Forterra Pressure Pipe	

*Thank You*  
**TO OUR SPONSORS!**

### GOLD SPONSOR



### BRONZE SPONSORS

- Black & Veatch
- Mead & Hunt
- Peerless-Midwest, Inc.
- Tetra Tech

*Sponsors as of June 19, 2017*

# MI-ACE 2017 REGISTRATION

Primary Contact (first and last name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AWWA Member #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am bringing my spouse or significant other.  \$50 (before 7/1)  \$75 (7/1-8/27)  \$100 (after 8/28)  
 Companion/Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION TYPE

Conference Attendee	5/1-6/30 Early Bird		7/1-8/27 Regular		Onsite	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
<b>Full Conference</b>	\$ 400	\$ 490	\$ 425	\$ 515	\$ 450	\$ 540
<b>One Day Only</b>	\$ 185	\$ 275	\$ 210	\$ 300	\$ 235	\$ 325
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday						
<b>Small System Operator**</b>	\$ 275	\$ 365	\$ 300	\$ 390	\$ 325	\$ 415
<b>Retiree*</b>	\$ 125	N/A	\$ 150	N/A	\$ 175	N/A
<b>Speaker Full Conference</b>	\$ 215	\$ 215	\$ 215	\$ 215	\$ 215	\$ 215
<b>Student*</b>	\$ 125	N/A	\$ 150	N/A	\$ 175	N/A
<b>Speaker One Day Only</b>	Complimentary		Complimentary		Complimentary	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday						

\*rate available for AWWA members only \*\*Small System serving a population of fewer than 3,300. **Attendee Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
 including companion

Exhibitor	5/1-6/30 Early Bird		7/1-8/27 Regular		Onsite	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
<b>Exhibit</b>	\$ 575		\$ 600		\$ 625	
<b>Exhibit with Conference Reg.</b>	\$ 760	\$ 850	\$ 810	\$ 900	\$ 860	\$ 950

Please provide the names of the two individuals who will be working the booth on Wednesday: \_\_\_\_\_ **Exhibitor Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
 2nd Exhibitor Attendee Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Conference Activities

	Conference Attendee	Companion	Exhibitor 1	Exhibitor 2
Opening Dessert Reception (Tue, complimentary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YP and First Time Attendee Breakfast (Wed, complimentary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women on Water Mixer (Wed, complimentary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Awards Lunch (Wed, \$20)	\$	\$	\$	\$
Happy Hour (Wed, complimentary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Business Meeting (Thu, members encouraged to attend)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
George W. Fuller Luncheon (Wed, \$25) <input type="checkbox"/> Meat <input type="checkbox"/> Fish <input type="checkbox"/> Vegan	\$	\$	\$	\$
A Night of Improve (Thu, \$35)	\$	\$	\$	\$
Young Professionals Session (limited seating, registration complimentary but required)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Conference Activities Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

## Sponsorship

Gold	Silver	Bronze	Coffee Break	Billboard ad
\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 150

**Sponsorship Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us about any special restrictions or accommodations you require. **Grand Total Due \$** \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Options

Payments must be received by the date indicated for the registration fee.

Check # enclosed

Credit Card

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and send with payment to: MI-AWWA Payment Processing Dept 6091 PO Box 30516 Lansing, MI 48909-8016 Fax (517) 292-2912  
 You may also register online at [www.mi-water.org](http://www.mi-water.org). Cancellation policy is posted online. For questions, please contact Eric Johnson at [ejohnson@mi-water.org](mailto:ejohnson@mi-water.org).

\*\* Mailed registrations must be postmarked by the cutoff date listed above.

## ANNUAL GOLF OUTING REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

You will be combined with other golfers to create a foursome. If there are other single golfers with whom you would like to golf, please indicate their names below. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

2nd Golfer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  I want to pay for this golfer.  
 3rd Golfer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  I want to pay for this golfer.  
 4th Golfer Name: \_\_\_\_\_  I want to pay for this golfer.

### REGISTRATION FEE

Golfer \$80 x (# of golfers) \_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ **Golfer Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSORSHIPS

Golf Outing Feature Sponsor (exclusive, \$1000) ..... **TAKEN**  
 Golf Outing Hole Sponsor (\$250) .....  
 Golf Outing Goody Bag Sponsor (\$250 plus an item for the goody bag) .....  
 Golf Outing Lunch Sponsor (one of three available, \$250) .....  
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**Sponsorship Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Grand Total Due \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us about any special restrictions or accommodations you require.

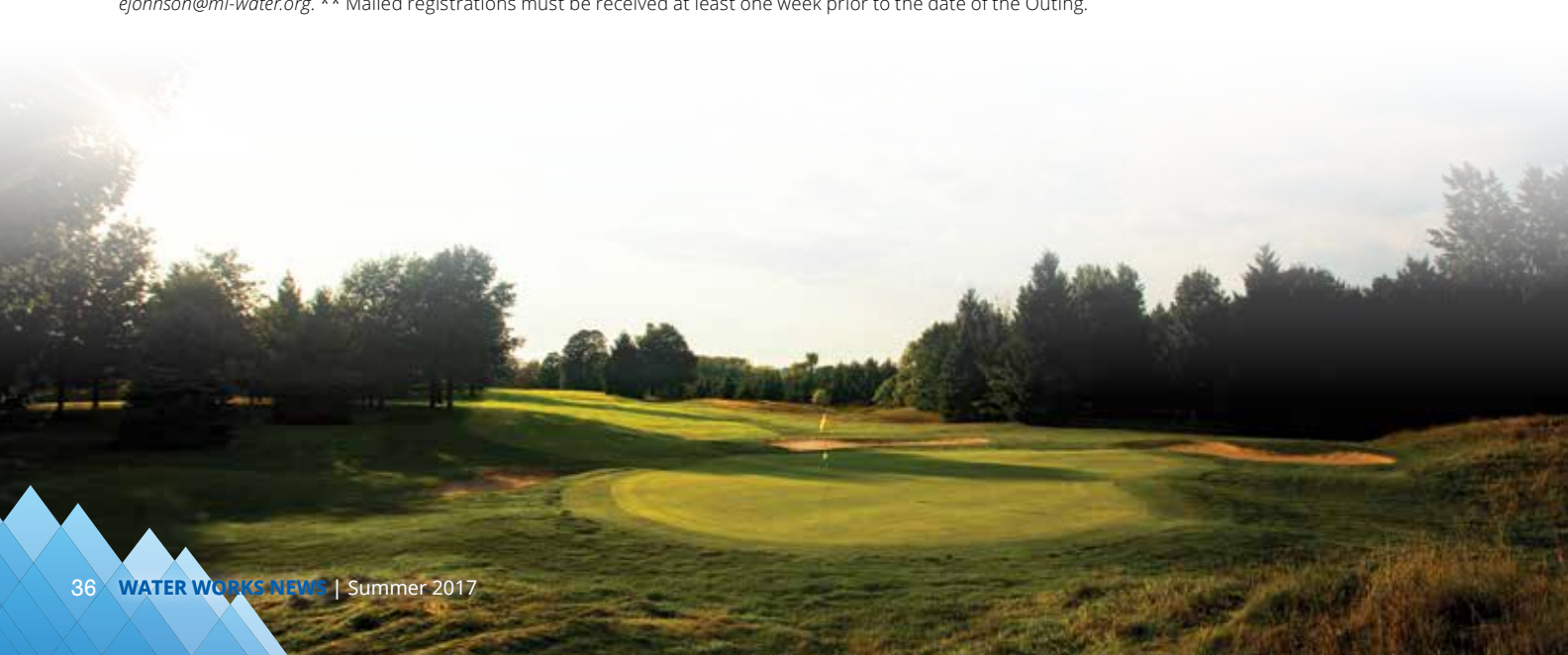
### PAYMENT OPTIONS (Payments must be received prior to the golf outing)

- Check # enclosed
- Credit Card

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Billing Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and send with payment to: MI-AWWA Payment Processing Dept 6091 PO Box 30516 Lansing, MI 48909-8016\*\* Fax 517-292-2912

You may also register online at [www.mi-water.org/event/MI-ACE2017Golf](http://www.mi-water.org/event/MI-ACE2017Golf). Cancellation policy is posted online. For questions, please contact Eric Johnson at [ejohnson@mi-water.org](mailto:ejohnson@mi-water.org). \*\* Mailed registrations must be received at least one week prior to the date of the Outing.





**MI Section American Water Works (225081)**

September 11, 2017 – September 15, 2017

8631-S

**Reservations Must Be Received By: August 11, 2017**

Reservation requests received after this date will still be accepted provided rooms are available.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY MAIL (OR) FAX TO:**

Reservations Department • Shanty Creek Resorts

5780 Shanty Creek Road • Bellaire, MI 49615

Fax: 231.533.7004

Check-in begins at 5pm, Check-out is 12 Noon.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

You are welcome to arrive early or extend your stay following this scheduled event. At times, specified accommodations are not available prior to or following your event. If the room type requested is not available, we reserve the right to assign the next available room type and rate.

**Arrival Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Departure Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Adults:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Children:** \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Room Type	1 Adult	2 Adults	3 Adults	4 Adults
	Guest Room (2 Beds)	\$143	\$143	\$158	\$173
	Studio Parlor (King Bed)	\$175	\$175	n/a	n/a

Additional guest fee is \$15.00 per person, per night. Children under 18 may stay free in their parents' room using existing bedding. The above rates are per room, per day, plus 6% state tax, 9% resort fee and 5% TCCVB fee.

**IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS STATE TAX EXEMPT YOU MUST FURNISH A COPY OF THE STATE TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATIONS.**

**THIS FORM MUST BE MAILED, FAXED OR EMAILED TO [SCRRESERVATIONS@SHANTYCREEK.COM](mailto:SCRRESERVATIONS@SHANTYCREEK.COM) TO RECEIVE THE GROUP DISCOUNTED RATES.**

**Deposit Policy:** You must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or a check as a deposit in the amount of first nights lodging. We will call within 24 hours of receiving form to obtain your credit card number. Reservations that are not guaranteed with a credit card may be subject to cancellation. If mailing a check, your reservation will be held for 10 days pending receipt of the check. If credit card deposit is made and organization pays in full by check, refunds of credit card are subject to a \$10.00 handling fee.

**Cancellation Policy:** Refund of your deposit will be made if cancellation occurs at least 5 days prior to arrival, less a \$10 handling fee.

Use of Debit cards at the resort for lodging or deposits may cause your financial institution to put a hold on your account for the total amount of the stay plus a \$50.00 per night incidental charge. The resort is not responsible for returned check fees resulting from this practice by your financial institution.

Do you have any special lodging requests? Barrier Free: \_\_\_ Other (Please Indicate): \_\_\_\_\_

We do our best to honor special requests, however we cannot guarantee them.

**FOR QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 866.695.5012**

# Michigan AWWA Represented at Fly-in



We hit the underground running. As hundreds of water professionals poured into the U.S. capital for Water Week and the AWWA Fly-In March 22-23, it seemed only fitting that we found our way into the maze of tunnels that connect the numerous congressional office buildings on Capitol Hill. Not only was that the most efficient way to traverse the multiple security checkpoints and avoid the traffic on Independence Avenue, it was where we could be constantly reminded of our cause, because above our heads ran the various pipes, conduits, and infrastructure of all forms that supports the important legislative work going on above ground.

The Michigan AWWA delegation to this year's Fly-In included me (City of Holland), Jaime Fleming (City of Wyoming), and Bill Fritz (Great Lakes Water Authority). We were tasked with urging our Michigan members of Congress to support the water industry in the following specific ways:

- Provide fully authorized funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.
- Double appropriations for the drinking water and wastewater state revolving loan funds.
- Protect the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.
- Remove the annual volume caps on private activity bonds for water infrastructure projects.

Between the three of us we visited the offices of fifteen of Michigan's sixteen total representatives in the House and Senate to make water's case. The only meeting that didn't line up was with Senator Gary Peters, but more on that later. The majority of the meetings were held with staff members and not the representatives themselves, though many of those staffers were policy experts who displayed a strong understanding of water issues. With that said, we were able to meet in-

person with John Moolenaar and Dave Trott and both voiced strong support for water infrastructure funding. There was also a short reception on Wednesday night that included brief speeches from about half a dozen U.S. Senators (including the previously elusive Senator Peters) singing the praises of the water industry and expressing their commitment to strong funding for water going forward.

Part of the reason that more representatives were unable to attend our meetings in-person was the fact that our visit just happened to correspond with the week of the potential vote on the Affordable Care Act replacement bill, so many members of Congress were on the Hill participating in floor debates or closed door meetings and last minute negotiations. To add to the flurry of activity, our first day of meetings also got underway just as California Representative Devin Nunes was conducting his solo press briefing on

preliminary findings of his committee's Russia investigation and Neil Gorsuch was in the midst of Supreme Court confirmation hearings.

Those political distractions aside, we were heartened by the level of interest and support for our cause shown by the various offices we visited. Our visits clearly helped to inform staff about WIFIA, since a few were not yet familiar with what the program was or the type of projects it could potentially help fund. One of our most engaging conversations of the entire visit was with Dan Kildee's legislative assistant, with whom we spoke for nearly 30 minutes. Not surprisingly, much of the conversation revolved around lead. We discussed federal funding for Flint, how lead has, hasn't, or may yet impact our individual water systems, and encouraged their staff to reach out to MI-AWWA for feedback and input as their office drafts any future bills dealing with water issues- lead or otherwise.

Lead was not absent from our other meetings on the Hill, but interestingly it was



One of the many tunnels running underneath the various Congressional office buildings.



The MI-AWWA delegation outside the U.S. Capitol building. Pictured from left to right: Andrew Reynolds (City of Holland), Jaime Fleming (City of Wyoming), and Bill Fritz (Great Lakes Water Authority)

## “Our visits clearly helped to inform staff about WIFIA, since a few were not yet familiar with what the program was or the type of projects it could potentially help fund.”

often in the context of the Congressional office buildings' own lead action level exceedances. Multiple water fountains and bathroom faucets had been labeled “out of service” or “do not use” since sampling in the summer of 2016 showed results above the 15 ppb action level. No obvious repairs had been undertaken as of our visit, so in the meantime staff offices contained ubiquitous water cooler jugs. I wouldn't envy a member of congress the task of having to explain why the water pipes in his office building needed to get replaced before those of his constituents back home, so I guess the fact that no action had been taken was not a surprise. Even still, in my mind those water fountains have

been one of the most lasting images of the whole trip.

That was what I was grappling with as we left D.C. on Thursday morning. How do we convince legislators at the state and national level that infrastructure should be a priority, even though it doesn't generate the same buzz-worthy headlines as other political topics of the moment? They walk just a few feet beneath water pipes on the way through the tunnels into work every morning, and they have to open a plastic bottle of water every time they fill up their office Keurig machine, but what more should we be doing to help our elected leaders comprehend the

scale of the challenges ahead for our nation's water system?

While the possible answers to this question may seem overwhelming, I want to leave you with one of the encouraging takeaways I had from participating in this event, and perhaps one of keys to starting to tackle these tough problems. I will admit that until I started calling congressional offices to schedule my Fly-In meetings, I had never called or emailed a politician at any level to advocate for an issue I was passionate about. I was intimidated by what I imagined such a call would be like- speaking with someone who was more knowledgeable than I about a particular issue or who would confront me if I had incomplete information or if I was not in agreement with their representative's stance on said issue.

The scheduling calls I conducted put these fears mostly to rest, and visiting the offices themselves banished any remaining apprehension. Getting to meet the staffers in the various Congressional offices, it is clear that their role is to listen to constituent's concerns, not to argue details or try and prove they are right and you are wrong. It was particularly encouraging to watch the staffers interact with constituent callers while sitting in their offices waiting for our meetings. Calls were logged in a spreadsheet, with names of callers and topics of their comments being carefully recorded. Every call mattered.

The calls that were coming in every minute or so were almost all about the possible health care law revisions, so I don't think it was a coincidence that that is where many members of Congress were devoting their attention for the moment. But what if those calls were from AWWA members, our stakeholders, and customers about the needs of the water industry? Let's all commit to help shed some light on water issues for our legislators so infrastructure doesn't stay buried on their agenda. 💧



The MI-AWWA delegation at a reception in the Hart Senate Office Building. Pictured from left to right: Andrew Reynolds (City of Holland), Bill Fritz (Great Lakes Water Authority), and Jaime Fleming (City of Wyoming)



Drinking fountains in the Cannon Congressional Office Building. Marked “Out of Service” due to lead action level exceedances.

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# MOVERS AND SHAKERS

## SWIE UPDATE

Safe Water in Ecuador is preparing for this fall's exciting trip to Ecuador to help more communities obtain fresh water for their residents by hosting some awesome fundraising events at the MI-ACE 2017 Conference. Help support two great causes-providing safe, clean drinking water (something most of us take for granted) to remote communities in Ecuador and the One AWWA Operator Scholarship-by participating in the Golf Outing and Chance Auction! The Chance Auction will include items such as tasty wine, beer, or coffee baskets, the all-important golfing supplies basket, and uniquely-made Ecuadorian-made blankets for a one-of-a-kind cultural addition to your home. The Chance Auction effort is being undertaken as a collaborative effort with the Young Professionals (YP) Committee.

Don't miss out on these great prizes! There's still plenty of time to donate to this important cause! Donations can be made at [www.mi-water.org](http://www.mi-water.org) or by contacting Jessica Howard at [swie.awwa@gmail.com](mailto:swie.awwa@gmail.com) and Jenna Karazim at [jenna@karazim.us](mailto:jenna@karazim.us).

### SWIE is on the move to Ecuador!

A group of members are preparing for another trip to Ecuador this fall. This visit will allow us to not only check back in with communities we visited on our last trip, but also help many more. By the time the team reaches Ecuador, Kawá, a community who undertook this effort on their own, should have a fully functioning clean drinking water system! The SWIE team will get

a chance to meet with the residents of this community and celebrate this awesome feat. In addition, the team will visit other communities that may need assistance getting their systems

up and running, as well as communities just beginning their journey towards obtaining fresh water. Check us out on Facebook and follow our progress at [www.facebook.com/SWIE.MI/](http://www.facebook.com/SWIE.MI/).



# MOVERS AND SHAKERS

## Young Professionals (YPs) are on the move too!

In celebration of Water Awareness Month, the YPs worked with MWEA to coordinate three separate events in three different locations across the state for the No Water, No Beer Festival. The first one was held at the Arbor Brewing Company in Ypsilanti, MI. Additional events were held at Founder's in Grand Rapids, and Bell's in Kalamazoo as the week progressed! This is the first festival and there was a great turnout of people wanting to raise awareness of the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Good beer and lively discussions enjoyed while presenters highlighted the importance of our infrastructure replacement needs. Attendees had a great time overall! Check us out on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/MIAWWA/](http://www.facebook.com/MIAWWA/).

Look for additional updates in the next issue of WWN for both SWIE and the YP committees. ♠



**GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS  
TO DELIVER  
GREAT  
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The Great Lakes is now home to AMERICAN SpiralWeld's newest division. That means we're closer than ever to delivering solutions throughout the Great Lakes. Whatever the job size, in sizes up to 12 feet in diameter and thickness up to one inch, we can handle it. Built strong, built to endure, and made in America. That's The Right Way. That's the AMERICAN way.

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# Meet the Nominees

Provided by the Nomination Committee

The election will take place during the Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2017 during MI-ACE at the Shanty Creek Resort. Registration is not required to participate at the meeting. Please see the website for more details.

## Bill Fritz, M.S., P.E.



Bill is an Asset Management Professional at the Great Lakes Water Authority. Prior to that he was with Waterford Township Department of Public Works for 20 years, the final five years as the Director. He is a professional engineer, holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University (MTU) and a master's degree in engineering management from Oakland University (OU).

Bill is a twenty-year AWWA member and has worn many hats within the organization:

- MI-AWWA Board of Directors Trustee
- Government Affairs Council
- Water Utility Committee
- Pipe Rehabilitation Committee
- Strategic Management Practices Committee

Bill lives in Waterford with his wife of 25 years, Dawn, and his 15-year-old Cairn Terrier, Scrappy. Bill and Dawn are empty-nesters whose twin sons graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2016 and are now pursuing careers as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants in the U.S. Army. Bill enjoys golf and traveling to visit his kids.

Bill has long been an early adopter of technological innovations that build efficiency and system integration. His goal, ultimately, is for an employee to be able to perform all of their tasks with all the required tools at their disposal in one easy-to-use environment. He is an optimist with the self-proclaimed motto of: *"If you can imagine it, then it can be achieved!"*

## Aaron Uranga, P.E.



Aaron is a 42-year old licensed professional engineer working as an Associate in the Detroit office of Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc (HRC). Born and raised in Los

Angeles, California, Aaron moved to Michigan at the age of 19 and never left. Aaron holds a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering and a master's degree in civil engineering, both from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Uranga has spent his career working with many talented water professionals on a variety pumping and treatment projects throughout Michigan, spending his first 14 years at ALNM (later acquired by Stantec) and his last 4 at HRC. A recent highlight of his career was HRC's involvement in the design and construction of the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA) Lake Huron Intake Pumping Station.

Mr. Uranga has been a member of the MI-AWWA Water Treatment Practices Committee and is a current member of the MI-AWWA Technical Network Council (formerly the Communities of Practice and Social Responsibility Council). For Aaron, getting younger engineers involved and excited about water projects and in MI-AWWA is very important. To accomplish this, Aaron has been active in getting younger HRC staff to join MI-AWWA and participate in YP events.

## Ken McDonough, Jr.



Ken is a 58-year-old veteran of the water industry who has called the City of Durand, MI, home for the past 30 years. After graduating from Bryon High School,

Ken worked for the Grand Trunk Railroad before pursuing a career at the City of Durand's water plant in 1985. Hired as a Water Operator he spent the next 17 years gaining the education, training and skills to become the Water Superintendent and earn his S2 D2 license. In 2003, he left the plant to work for EJ as a sales representative where he still works.

Ken has decades of involvement in the water industry serving as a board member and/or member of MRWA, SCMWA and AWWA. He continues to value learning and makes it a priority to keep his operator licenses current. Ken looks forward to encouraging the younger generation to get involved in the industry where they will gain the experience and skills to deliver safe drinking water for us all. He values the AWWA as a big resource center for new operators where they can gain the information and training they need to learn and succeed.

Dedicated to the City of Durand, Ken served as City Councilman for 12 years before retiring in 2016 as Mayor Pro-Tem, and he served on the City's Fire Department for 22 years. Ken cherishes his wife of almost 37 years and his 31-year-old son.

He sends a big Thanks to all that supported his nomination. It is a great honor and feeling of appreciation for his many years working to make a difference in our business. 💧

# Celebrating Drinking Water Week:

## City of Ann Arbor Open House: 450+ customers attended

Eddy the water droplet visits us from AWWA in Denver.



City of Ann Arbor Staff demonstrating pilot filter system in filter gallery



Larry Sanford/Asst. Manager giving a tour to captivated customers



Brian Rogers/Supervisor explaining the treatment process to an interested public

**Holland Board of Public Works: Passed out reusable water bottles with logo, had crayons and coloring sheets and a URL to learn more**

Holland BWP Water Week Poster



All set up to pass out reusable water bottles for Tulip Time race expo

**Great Lakes Water Authority: Held the First Annual Drinking Water Week Photo Contest asking participants to submit photos displaying how they use water.**



**Alan John** - This family picture was taken at Smoky Mountain Upper River Rafting located in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains, on the Pigeon River.



**Keith Sadlocha**  
- I enjoy the Great Lakes water when I'm on vacation, here I'm at the Chippewa Hotel on Mackinac Island.

**Lansing Board of Water and Light: Dye Water Conditioning Plant tours and debut of a new water station. Handed out refillable bottles with the slogan "Fill, Drink, Refill"**



BWL new water station

Environmental staff, Emily Wright and Cheryl Loudon, filling up



Plant employee, Cindy Irving, explaining the sand filtration process



# Regional Meeting of Section Officers

BY AMY VAIL

Every year AWWA holds Regional Meetings of Section Officers (RMSO) in each of their five regions. This is an opportunity for members of various Sections to get together and learn more about AWWA initiatives, share successes and struggles, network and get to know their counterparts in other Sections.

This year Joe VanderStel and I had the opportunity to travel to Columbus, OH to meet with approximately 40 other members from Region III, as well as, AWWA staff from both Denver and Washington D.C.

## **Below are some of the highlights from this year's RMSO:**

### **Total Water Solutions:**

AWWA has adopted a comprehensive approach to all things water. This includes not only drinking water, but wastewater, storm water, water reuse, etc. They are all interconnected and need to be looked at together. We worked as Sections to evaluate how well or organizations provide training and support in each of the areas.

Most groups realized we are mainly lacking in the reuse portion which is not unexpected since most of our region encompasses the great lakes.

### **Creating Excellence: AWWA Resources for Utilities:**

We were introduced to the AWWA Standards G-100 to G-400 series which are important tools for utilities when looking to optimize operational improvements. There are guidebooks that go along with these standards that cover areas such as Water Treatment Plant Operations and Management, Distribution System Operations and Management, Source Water Protection, and Utility Management.

### **Building a Stronger Organization through Inclusion:**

A member of the Diversity and Member Inclusion Committee spoke of the tools and resources available to support inclusivity for Sections. If a Section does not currently have a Diversity Committee, they were encouraged to use resources on the AWWA Diversity Center page to get started.

### **AWWA Update:**

- 34 Sections have signed up for the OneAWWA Operator Scholarship. We discussed that many sections are still having a hard time getting operators to apply and looked at some possible solutions.
- There are resources on lead service line replacement at the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative website at [slr-collaborative.org](http://slr-collaborative.org)
- AWWA now has a Student Program Manager. Her name is Cari Russie and she is available to help with college student engagement. Her contact info is 303-347-6269 or [crussie@awwa.org](mailto:crussie@awwa.org)

While there was a lot of work going on, we also were able to check out some of the local establishments, as a group, and continue our networking each evening. Columbus has a strong German heritage so we had dinner and refreshments at Gordon Biersch Brewery one evening and Schmidt's Restaurant and Sausage Haus the next. While there, Columbus got knocked out of the NHL playoffs so there were a lot of fans drowning their sorrows at local watering holes. 💧



# Passing the Torch

The 2017 YP Summit this February in Tampa, Florida inspired my ambitions by allowing me to see the path I was on, as well as the direction it can take me. The YP Summit is more than just chance to learn about the water industry from some of the most prominent professionals while meeting other Young Professionals, it's also a chance to be away from the complications of work, giving me time to reflect. Being near the end of my age as a "Young" Professional doesn't mean that the race I'm running is over, it only means that it's time that I consider what brought me here and if what I'm doing will get me where I want to go.

Being a college dropout who was bouncing from factory jobs; finally ended up in Public Works, it was a rough time for me when I was promoted to Public Works Superintendent in April of 2012. I had no professional training or administrative

experience to draw from and I had very few people to use as resources. I only knew I liked working in the water system for the public much more than I liked working in a factory for a corporation. In 2013, my new manager at the time, Cindy LaGrow from LaGrow Consulting, being a professional herself, recognized that I needed to be around water industry professionals if I was going to take steps in the right direction. She made the decision for me to attend my first MI-AWWA conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Having never been far from my hometown by myself for more than a few hours, I reluctantly made the two-hour trip alone, to what seemed like a huge city where I was by myself. I felt afraid, homesick, and unprepared. It was hard for me to even leave my hotel room at first. When I made it to the welcoming reception I tried to mask my nerves and lack of social skills by drinking beer until I was comfortable enough to hold a conversation with a

stranger. The water industry professionals were easily relatable people and full of knowledge and encouraging stories about their own experiences.

During the next day's opening sessions, I listened intently to the speakers impressed by their professionalism and amazed by the subject matter. Still rattled by all the new faces and voices, I mostly kept to myself and followed the crowd from session to session. Although surrounded by people, I felt alone until Carrie Ricker-Cox, 2014-2015 YP Committee Chair, approached me and invited me to the Young Professionals meeting. I met



# Passing the Torch

people who shared the same interests and who held the same views on water related issues that I had, I was finding my people and my purpose, but that didn't let my fear of the travel and the responsibilities I had at work stop me from me declining the opportunity to attend the 2014 YP Summit in Savannah, Georgia.

At the 2014 Michigan Section Conference, I was excited to see Carrie again, who told me to attend the 2015 YP Summit in Austin, Texas with Patrick Droze, 2014-2015 YP Committee Co-Chair. Patrick, whose professionalism I still borrow parts of which to model my own work place personality after, was probably the best possible person who I could have gone with. He led by example when it came time to getting up early to attend all the training sessions even after spending the nights taking in the sights of the city. It was easy to hear why they called Austin the "Live Music Capital" the music led us to the downtown with other Young Professionals from all over the world, which helped build my network while having candid conversations with other the Young Professionals. The music poured out of the bars like mortar, cementing together the parts of me that were being shaped and molded into a professional. My outlook on my role in the water industry was forever changed and my fears of travel were cured.

I was thrilled when Matt Parks, 2015-16 YP Chair, offered me the opportunity to attend the 2016 YP Summit in San Diego, California with Jenna Karazim, 2016-17 YP Committee Chair. Jenna and I had become friends while working on the News from the Field Presentation together at the 2015 Michigan Section Conference in Sault St. Marie and I knew she was already ready to lead, but it was my time to take the torch and lead. Jenna, being a fearless leader herself helped me understand how brilliant it is to promote leadership through unity.

The YP Summits are some of the richest experiences that I have ever had in terms of training and enjoyment. The things I have learned at them and because of them have made my work easier and the friends I've made along the way, continue to make my life more

enjoyable. Meeting YP's from all over the nation as well as from many different parts of the world, I really get a glimpse at a global perspective on the importance of the world-wide water industry.

In 2016, Jenna made the choice to allow me to go to a third YP Summit. Handing me back the torch so that I might be able to pass it on to Kyle Tryan, 2016-17 YP Co Chair. Kyle and I were already friends, but this experience enriched our bond allowing me to use the skills and knowledge I had built in Austin, TX and the leadership style I had learned in San Diego, CA. He easily navigated the daily training sessions and the evening events; I introduced him to old YP friends as he made new YP friends. During the breakout sessions we challenged each other, which made the lessons learned feel more real. We discussed how each of us could incorporate the ideas we were learning into our daily work process. During one of the YP Chair Training sessions, David LaFrance AWWA CEO, discussed having a personal marketing plan that we use to grow and develop ourselves to get to where we want to be in the water industry and our careers. Part of the discussion included an exercise where we had to discuss our personal goals with the YP's around us. As Kyle and I talked to the other YP's I could see where I was in my career and I could see what I was doing, but was struggling to see where I was going or how I could better myself. In my mind my past passed by fast; decisions were made, fought for, or forced for better or worse. As we spoke

about the possibilities, the future was becoming clearer to me: as we connect with our peers we learn how to solve any water industry issue, we are equipped with all the tools we need and have the knowledge to create any new tools that we don't have. I left knowing it's time for me to pass the torch and choose my direction.

I am grateful to all the members of the Michigan Section for allowing me to go these YP Summits and thankful that you all accept me into this association. I have grown and developed in ways that I can hardly explain. I have passed the torch and I'm prepared to take on any new challenges and even old ones that I thought I would never get the opportunity to be face to face with again. That preparedness is due largely to the experiences I have gotten from my time as a member of MI-AWWA. Passing the torch means that I can't be a "Young" Professional anymore, but I will always be a professional who is young at heart. 💧





# Cleaning Water and Cutting Budgets:

## A Case for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

By G. Tracy Mehan, III and Ian D. Gansler

We expect that when we make our morning coffee or mix a baby's formula, we're using water that is safe to drink. In reality, our nation is facing an investment crisis, with \$1 trillion needed over the next 25 years if we are to maintain current levels of service for a growing population. The longer this investment is delayed, the more expensive it will become.

This is truly a bipartisan issue, with Democrats and Republicans alike admitting it is time to find a solution. On the campaign trail President Donald Trump called attention to the issue, promising to, "refocus the EPA on its core mission of ensuring clean air and clean, safe drinking water for all Americans" at a speech in Pittsburgh. In his first address to Congress, President Trump reiterated his call for a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment package.

At the same time, the Federal Government faces immense budgetary constraints. According to the Congressional Budget Office's report, "The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2017-2027," federal debt is projected to rise from 77% of GDP today to an all-time high of 145% of GDP by 2047, exceeding record post-WWII levels of 106% of GDP. Entitlement spending programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid also loom in the future as crippling budgetary outlays, dwarfing the current levels of federal debt. Lawmakers face twin pressures to solve problems and save money.

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) is one solution that could strike that balance. WIFIA is a financing program, meaning its


assistance comes in the form of loans. Any money paid out for projects comes back to the government as the loan is repaid. Towns and cities undergoing infrastructure projects often do not have the cash on hand to pay for the work, so they look to loans and bonds to raise funds, paying it back over the years. Rather than taking out a high-interest loan, WIFIA allows borrowers to take out a loan from the US Treasury, which offers the lowest interest loans on the market.

The current appropriation for WIFIA is \$20 million. While this is a drop in the bucket when it comes to the federal budget, that drop will go a long way. The \$20 million is only the "subsidy cost" of WIFIA, meaning it covers infrastructure projects that will default and never pay back the loan. The Fitch Rating Agency estimates that only about 0.04% of water infrastructure projects end in default, an extremely reliable rate. That means every dollar appropriated to WIFIA can leverage \$67 in investment. If Congress appropriates WIFIA the full \$45 million that it authorized for FY2018, the program could leverage in excess of \$2 billion in credit assistance.

WIFIA is set up to complement the State Revolving Funds (SRF), a long-standing federal grant program that gives funding to the states to distribute for water infrastructure projects. President Trump, on his campaign website under the "Infrastructure" heading, promised to "Triple funding for state revolving loan fund programs." Only 49% of a project can be funded through WIFIA; the other 51% must come from other sources, allowing space for the SRF and private equity

investments. SRFs have a right of first refusal over WIFIA applications, allowing them to elect to fund a WIFIA project themselves if they prefer to do so at the same interest rate as WIFIA. SRFs can also apply for WIFIA loans themselves, bolstering their funds to finance one or a group of projects. Many state SRFs just don't have the capacity to fund some larger infrastructure projects. The minimum project cost for a WIFIA loan is \$20 million (or \$5 million for a small community), which allows SRF to focus on a greater number of smaller projects.

In a budget climate that puts every penny of taxpayer money under a magnifying glass, WIFIA makes a big impact at a small price, creating more than \$2 billion in capital with only a \$45 million expenditure. In a November New York Times interview, then President-elect Trump said, "Crystal-clean water is vitally important." Too often we take this for granted. When we turn on the tap, the water that comes out safe to drink. President Trump believes in the importance of clean water. WIFIA would be a powerful tool to make it a reality for every American. It is a program he can build upon to achieve his goal of infrastructure renewal.

G. Tracy Mehan, III, is former Assistant Administrator for Water at US EPA in the administration of President George W. Bush. He is now executive director for government affairs at the American Water Works Association, the world's oldest and largest water association with 50,000 members. Ian Gansler is the Legislative Affairs Intern for the American Water Works Association 

# TPS Total Piping Solutions, Inc.

## Total Piping Solutions, Inc.

is a full line supplier of products used for the repair, connection and tapping of water, sewer, natural gas and industrial piping systems. All products are shipped from our state of the art manufacturing facility located in western New York State. Products include the TX3® Pipe Coupling, the Quick Sleeve Bell Joint Encapsulation Sleeve®, the Triple Tap® Tapping Sleeve and line stop fitting, the T3® Service Saddle, the Quick Cam® Wide Range Repair Clamp, the Quick Cam® Line Stop and Hot Tapping Saddle, galvanized ductile iron compression fittings, and pipe patch clamps.

The newly introduced "TX3"® Wide Range Coupling is a two-bolt Universal Pipe Coupling designed to accommodate pipe repairs and maximum pipe transitions in diameters of 2" through 12". The TX3 includes a fully replaceable gasket system, Easy-Lift® Handle, and superior three stage coating.

All products are manufactured and tested in accordance with industry wide standards, and are designed for use on all pipe materials including high density polyethylene.

For over 15 years, Total Piping Solutions, Inc. has provided utilities, contractors and distributors high value products with exceptional quality in product sizes ranging from ½" to 48" in diameter.

This includes the best in class wide range Quick Cam® Repair Clamp. This clamp is available in sizes from 2" to 48" in diameter, and carries a working pressure rating of up to 200 psi. All single panel clamps carry an extended range of nearly 1", allowing for a reduction of inventory since more pipe diameters can



be covered with fewer sizes. This high value product maximizes performance, minimizes inventory and streamlines the installation process.

The New Quick Sleeve Bell Joint Encapsulation Sleeve® is a ductile iron full joint encapsulation sleeve built to accommodate diameters of 2- 2.5, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12". Each wide range sleeve covers either 2 or 3 pipe classes and may range from IPS to DIP or CIP pipe diameters. With an epoxy coating and stainless steel nuts, bolts and washers this product is built for the life of the line. By eliminating the need to perform an open cut repair, the Quick Sleeve® for Bell Joint Encapsulation reduces labor, time and material. Since it eliminates the need for an open cut repair, downtime is minimized by removing the need to disinfect and take post repair water samples.

The Triple Tap® Tapping Sleeve and Line Stop Fitting Product line, available in sizes from 4" to 30" in diameter, provides the same exceptional benefits as the Quick Cam® Rapid Seal Repair Clamp. Tapping sleeves and line stop fittings are designed with an extended range feature that allows for maximum pipe coverage, and provides the opportunity for an across the board reduction in inventory.

All Triple Tap products are constructed of Type 304 Stainless Steel and are equipped with heavier than normal band

materials, thicker gaskets and bridge plating, plus a unique triple seal configuration. These features combine to create an industry leading product line that works to higher working pressures, provides full beam break resistance, and maximum reinforcement of the pipe. This industry first design delivers value for the distributor, the contractor and the utility. For information regarding sizes to 24" in diameter, contact Total Piping Solutions, Inc.

The Triple Tap® Line Stop Fitting features an equipment interface that works with all industry standard tapping and stopping machines and completion plugs may be ordered in either a threaded or push plug type configuration.

The Quick Cam® Line Stop and Hot Tapping Saddle, in sizes ranging from ¾" to 4" will help perform both industrial stop and tap requirements on either copper or steel in plant piping applications.

The T3 Universal Pipe Saddle is an industry first tapping saddle. It may used on all pipe materials including polyethylene pipe in sizes to 48" in diameter.

Total Piping Solutions, Inc. is here for all of your piping requirements. Nearly every product ships within 24 hours after receipt of order, and we are happy to work with each and every customer to accommodate any of their special or emergency requirements.

# FALL TRAINING CALENDAR

## August

**1** Plankton Short Course  
*in Muskegon*

## September

**6** Cross Connection Seminar – Advanced  
*at Lansing Community College–West in Lansing with MDEQ*

**12–15** MI-AWWA Annual Conference & Exhibits  
*at Shanty Creek, Bellaire, MI*

**20** Cross Connection Seminar – Advanced  
*in Gaylord with MDEQ*

**26–27** U.P. Distribution Seminar  
*at Island Hotel and Casino, Harris*

**TBD** Customer Service II

## October

**3** Regional Meeting Livonia  
*at Laurel Manor Conference Center in Livonia*

**4** Regional Meeting Kalamazoo  
*at Western Michigan University Fetzer Center in Kalamazoo*

**10–12** Distribution System Short Course  
*at Gull Lake Conference Center in Hickory Corners with MDEQ*

**10–12** Limited Treatment Short Course  
*at Gull Lake Conference Center in Hickory Corners with MDEQ*

**18–20** Basic Math & Hydraulics Short Course  
*at Kettunen Center in Tustin with MDEQ*

**18–20** Water Treatment Short Course II  
*at Kettunen Center in Tustin with MDEQ*

**24** Regional Meeting Mt. Pleasant  
*at Comfort Inn & Suites in Mt. Pleasant*

**25** Regional Meeting Gaylord  
*at Otsego Club & Resort in Gaylord*

## November

**TBD** Basic Waterworks

**TBD** Customer Service III



## MDEQ UPDATE

## DEQ EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Eric Oswald** is the new Director of the Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Eric will replace Bryce Feighner, who is retiring on June 30, 2017.

Eric was born in Battle Creek. He attended Michigan State University and has a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and Master's Degree in Engineering and Environmental Management.

Eric has 28 years of experience with the Air Force and has spent most

of his career providing infrastructure support for Air Force bases around the world, including operation of drinking water and wastewater systems. Eric has managed over 400 staff responsible for engineering, environmental management and compliance, personnel, logistics, budgeting, and communications. Most recently, he has been responsible for design and construction of the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, including oversight of the water supply system. 💧



To reach Michigan's water industry professionals through *Water Works News* magazine and its targeted readership, please contact me directly at



**Al Whalen, Marketing Manager 1-866-985-9782 [awhalen@kelman.ca](mailto:awhalen@kelman.ca)**



## ON THE MOVE



**Amy Vail** from Lab Manager for City of Cadillac to Environmental Quality Analyst at MDEQ Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance Division of Cadillac.



**Bill Fritz** from the Director of Public Works for Waterford Township to Asset Management Professional at Great Lakes Water Authority.



**Mike Grenier** from Superintendent at the City of Muskegon's Water Filtration Plant to the Superintendent at the City of Grand Rapids' Lake Michigan Filtration Plant.

Do you have a recent career change to announce? We'd like to feature you! Send promotions, job changes and retirements to Michigan Water Works News editor Kelly Gleason. 💧

## IN MEMORIAM



**Brian Anthony Wadaga**, age 54, of Baraga, passed away unexpectedly Monday, March 27, 2017.

He was born in L'Anse, MI on February 5, 1963. Brian attended school in Baraga and graduated from Baraga High School in 1981. He had worked at Baraga County businesses his entire life, and landed his "dream job" in May of 2002 with the Village of Baraga Water Plant, and had become the water plant supervisor. Brian was a very special person, who touched the lives of so many. He was a fun-loving, humorous guy who loved playing practical jokes on his family. He was the life of any get-together and was the first person anyone could call on in their time of need. Brian was simply put on this earth to prove that life is too short, and to make the most of each and every day. 💧



**Mark A. Gay** of Climax Mark Allen Gay, age 40, passed away suddenly May 9, 2017 in Climax. Mark was born September 4, 1976 in Kalamazoo, the son

of David and Beverly (Weck) Gay and was a lifelong Climax area resident. He graduated from Climax-Scotts High School in 1994. For the past 3 years, he was employed with the Village of Climax and was a member of the Laborers Union for 6 years. Mark would help and do anything for anybody day or night without hesitation. He enjoyed watching sports and was an avid fan of Notre Dame. Mark also loved music, especially the bands Counting Crows and Bon Jovi. Family was very important part of Mark's life. 💧

## MEET THE MEMBER GARY WOZNIAK

**T**he people of MI-AWWA are the heart and soul of what make our Association successful. To strengthen our goal of advancing our knowledge of water, we volunteer our time as often as we can to work toward that goal. We come together to share our experiences to help one another, not only for the mission of the section, but to help each of us grow in our professional lives as well. Though we all share the same passion for safe water, we are a diverse group of people with different backgrounds, who took different paths that lead us to the place where we all come together for our common goal.



Gary Wozniak P.E. is a 53-year-old District Engineer for the State of Michigan, Department of Environmental Quality who graduated from

Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Engineering. Gary also has his Professional Engineer License as well as three S3, D2, F4 water system licenses. Gary was selected as the member you might like to meet.

### What town did you grow up in?

Avon Township, Michigan (now called Rochester Hills)

### What jobs did you do before getting into the water industry?

Sewer Construction in Downtown Lansing; I investigated sewer hook-ups, removed inflow, infiltration, and illicit connections. Student summer job; Biosurvey a river drainage basin to relicense a hydroelectric dam; essentially catch and catalog fish.

### Did you look for a job in the water industry or did it find you?

Both. My first interview with the



water supply program was unsuccessful. I studied hard for my next interview and ended up working in the UP. I expected to switch careers at first, but ended up loving water supply and staying with it.

### Were there any people that inspired you to work in the water industry?

My old boss John Erickson challenged me intellectually and showed me the importance of Section membership. Brock Howard for mentoring my public speaking skills. My boss Greg Daneffel for showing me negotiation skills in compliance enforcement. Chuck Van Der Kolk for showing passion and dedication.

**In your current position, what are your daily duties?** Construction permitting and review, operator training, sanitary surveys of community water supplies.

### What is your biggest accomplishment?

Convincing the City of Three Rivers to chlorinate their water supply.

### What do you like about what you do?

The variety of tasks, working with dedicated people, the importance of public health and making a difference in the lives of many, travelling and seeing this beautiful state, thinking about water chemistry, hydraulics, and the Great Lakes. Sometimes it is actually hard to believe they pay me to do this stuff.

### Do you have a role at your section and how did you become a volunteer?

I currently serve on Education and Training Council, and the Historical Committee. My first volunteer experience was when I was "assigned" the Taste-Off duties at the UP Institute for the UP Education Committee. That was spring '91.

### How long have you been a member and what have you gotten from your membership?

18 years plus employer membership. Professional development and education, recognition in my field, networking with other water supply professionals.



**Do you volunteer for any other organizations?** I am a volunteer Trapper Education Instructor with the DNR, I help with the music at church on occasion, and when my kids were younger I was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader. I am steward in our office with my Union Local.

**How can others contribute to the water industry?** Show passion and dedication. Never discount the importance of clean safe water. Get involved in Committees, (Young Professionals for example) and recruit others into this field at local high schools.

**What's your motto in life?** I love Mondays.

**Hobbies and outside interests:** Guitars and music, fur trapping, fishing, water supply history, old comic books, antiques, travel, Bible study, woodworking, food and root beer.

**When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?** Astronaut, pop rock singer, soldier, Alaska homesteader, electrical engineer, and fur trapper



**What is something that people would be surprised to know about you?** I love hot humid weather.

There are different titles and job positions across the many water utilities in Michigan. While there are many differences between us that are worth celebrating, the similarities that unite us are the driving force that moves us forward. Whether you're an engineer, operator or chemist; just to name a few, the work you do for the water industry is invaluable. Getting to know one another is an opportunity to expand your network and a chance to be inspired by someone who might help you make a difference. 💧



MY OLD BOSS JOHN ERICKSON CHALLENGED ME INTELLECTUALLY AND SHOWED ME THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTION MEMBERSHIP.



## TOM IDEMA WINS 2017 JOHN LECHNER SERVICE PROVIDER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

**T**om Idema, a long-time member of the Michigan Section, is the 2017 AWWA John Lechner Award Winner. This prestigious award recognizes a Section Service Provider Member who has demonstrated exemplary service to the drinking water community and to AWWA's mission and goals.

Tom Idema is only the second winner of this new award and is very deserving. If you ever had a question about a hydrant or other product, he'd get back to you promptly and with just what was needed. He has always been passionate about the need to provide clean, safe water to everyone....everywhere.

Tom has been a long-time figure in the Michigan water industry. He was employed for 44 years at EJ (formerly

East Jordan Iron Works), starting as a truck driver in 1971 and advancing through the sales and managerial ranks. Throughout his amazing career, Tom worked with countless water utilities across the state, providing hydrants, valves, fittings, pipes and other water distribution system materials. His commitment to excellence and personal service to Michigan utilities did not end there. He shared his expertise in all facets regarding water services whenever and wherever it was needed. An AWWA Member since 1988, Tom's Michigan Section service included serving on the Manufacturers Advisory Committee, Historic Preservation Committee, and Safe Water in Ecuador Committee as well as serving as Section

Trustee from 1998-2001. He also served on the AWWA Manufacturer's/ Associate's Council from 2003-2009 and as a member of the AWWA Tapping Contest Sub-committee. He won the Fuller Award in 2015.

Tom has been a constant presence at section conferences and exhibits. Under his direction, his employees have conducted training seminars on hydrant maintenance and other distribution components for hundreds of Michigan water utilities. Whenever the Michigan Section needs support, assistance, or a volunteer to promote, enhance, create, or improve a water initiative, Mr. Idema is there.

**Congratulations Tom!**



## DID YOU KNOW?

**D**id you know that there are 45 possible awards that can be awarded to AWWA members and their families? Some winners are nominated by general membership, others are identified by the local board, and some are granted by the national AWWA board. There are also two scholarships,

one for high school seniors, to help defray the costs of college, and one fellowship for researchers.

Awards are given annually at the Awards Luncheon at the Annual Conference. Nominations for most awards are due by October 1<sup>st</sup>, but you should check the website for exact dates. You

will also find articles about the origin of some of these awards in this issue. Remember, there are 45 possible awards, so start nominating!

Contact the Conference and Recognition council Chair Dave Stinson at [dstinson@northernpwco.com](mailto:dstinson@northernpwco.com) if you require more information.

## HAVING A BETTER CONVERSATION ABOUT WATER

**E**arlier this year, the Section engaged a media consultant to help develop a media relations program as part of our new Communications Plan. The plan called for the Section to adopt a champion for the plan. As a result, Board Chair John Willemin appointed Randy Roost of Lansing Board of Water & Light as the Section's Communications Coordinator. One of the first tasks that was addressed was to meet with the media consultant to develop a plan of action for

media outreach. The new media relations program kicked off with a press release about Drinking Water Awareness Week.

Then, the Section held a Communications Workshop for members and media spokespeople. This one-of-a-kind workshop was facilitated by Melanie Goetz, author of "Communicating Water's Value". Members came from across Michigan to participate in a half-day fundamentals workshop. Six spokespeople for the Section together

with other water professionals from large utilities stayed for an afternoon of specialized media training.

Communications has been raised as a key area of concern by members for the past few years. The Communications Plan is being piloted this year and will be evaluated by the Board during its fall meeting. If you have comments and thoughts, please share them with a Board member or Communication Coordinator Randy Roost at [randall.roost@gmail.com](mailto:randall.roost@gmail.com).

## ONE AWWA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

I'd like to give a shout out to Joe Vanderstel (Grand Haven), Mark Panzegrau (Lake Township), Joe Wilson (Allegan), and Bob Miller (Portage) for helping me donate to the One AWWA Scholarship fund for the MI Section! I recently matched their donations at a lunch meeting in South Haven, MI.

This scholarship and others like it are critical to operators who need financial help furthering their education and training. Especially in a time when there is a predicted shortage of certified operators over the next 5 to 10 years. So, help us by spreading the word about the scholarship and please donate if you are

able to! I look forward to awarding the scholarship to an applicant later this year.

### Kyle Tryan

Chair, One AWWA Operator Scholarship Selection Committee  
Water Plant Superintendent  
Benton Charter Township

## FAUST SCHOLARSHIP

The Michigan Section American Water Works Association Raymond J. Faust Scholarship was established to promote the pursuit of advanced education by water utility employees, a goal which commemorates the water supply career of Raymond J. Faust with the State of Michigan and the American Water Works Association.

Endowed by the family of Raymond Faust, the Faust Scholarship is available to any Michigan water utility employees and their dependents as well as other individuals pursuing a water utility career. The scholarship award is based on demonstrated dedication to the water supply industry and to

the pursuit of a bachelor or associate degree in the drinking water field. Applicants will not be evaluated on financial need, but must be a member of the Michigan Section American Water Works Association. Application deadline is July 31, 2017. Applications and eligibility criteria can be obtained online at [www.mi-water.org](http://www.mi-water.org).

## AMERICAN Zinc: A SMaRT Product for Smart Cities

The list is growing – from San Jose to Miami, from Boston to Birmingham, and cities in between. From north to south, east to west, across the country cities are recognizing the benefits of specifying and installing zinc-coated ductile iron pipe. Why zinc? The zinc-coating system is a proven, life extending product for iron pipe, adding years of life and service to an already reliable and resilient product. And, ductile iron pipe is the only pressure pipe to be SMaRT certified, a designation given to products that use recycled materials, provide energy savings and are environmentally safe. With zinc-coated ductile iron pipe, water utilities can be confident that their customers will have sustainable and dependable water service for generations to come. And, it's made in America by AMERICAN.

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## WATER TASTE OFF

The Spring Regionals once again saw high-pressure competition between rivals in the taste-off. *Ann Arbor* seems to be on a roll, winning against a flood of supplies at the Livonia regional. *MHOG* once again showed mid-Michigan that softened water still tastes good, and *Mancelona* still tastes the best in Northern Michigan. The UP again decided on *Marquette Township*, while *Grand Haven* showed southwest Michigan how to treat Lake Michigan water. Turbulent competition should continue at Shanty Creek as these finalists battle for Best Tasting water of Michigan! See you at Shanty!!



John Karnes thoughtfully sips the water sample. Judging is hard work.



Water professional Brian Esparsa measures the sample's purity by holding the glass in the sunlight.

## ONLINE CAREER CENTER

Looking for a new career opportunity? Visit the Career Center on the Section's website and you'll find the latest open positions from around the state. Just go to the Section website and click on Career Opportunities and then Career Center to search for Michigan jobs in water. Searching jobs is open to anyone looking for opportunities in the water sector.

Looking to hire? Members can post job ads for free, as a benefit of membership. Non-members pay only a nominal fee.

Members: log in and the option to post to the site will appear on the Career Center page. It will not post immediately as all posts must be approved by a website administrator, which usually takes less than 24 hours.



Non-members: purchase the timeframe for which you would like the job posting to remain live. Then, email the job posting to [feedback@mi-water.org](mailto:feedback@mi-water.org).

More than 100 jobs have been posted in the Section's Career Center over the last year with each posting getting an average of nearly 250 views.



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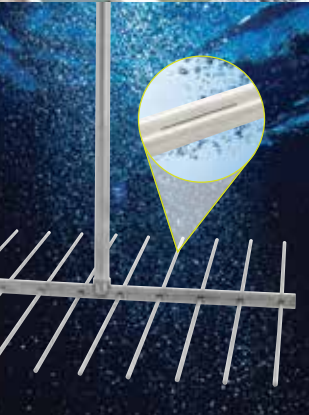
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