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PIPELINE is a publication of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association.

PIPELINE is mailed to all members of the Alabama Mississippi Section. In addition to the members, the trustees voted to provide a complimentary copy to all community water systems within both states in an effort to keep all community water system officials informed on current events affecting the water supply industry and aware of products and services available to them. Current circulation is over 2700.

Articles and photographs are encouraged and appreciated. All submissions, comments or other matters concerning this publication should be directed to:

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Anniston, AL 36202
Phone (256) 238-1241
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On The Cover
A look at our water covered world.
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### 60th Annual Alabama-Mississippi Section AWWA Conference

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This year’s annual conference in Orange Beach was tremendous, and it was because of the efforts of many. It takes great leaders, like Jim and Deb Miller who put their heart and soul into everything they do. Their vision of what this section can do to help its members promote safe drinking water, both here at home and in developing countries, has been an inspiration to many. They would be the first to say that it takes teamwork, people who are committed to do the best they possibly can, to provide for others. Their leadership will be a hard act to follow. Debbie and I will do our best to continue the efforts to make the Alabama/Mississippi Section the best it can be.

But you know, we cannot do it alone. Many of you have been asked to join our team and have begun planning the 2007 conference to be held at the Grand Casino Resort - Tunica, and we thank you in advance for your willingness to give your time and talents. Just because you are not serving on a planning committee, does not mean that your section does not need your help. Just think, if ever member would recruit just one member, our membership would double. If every member would make just a small donation to Water for People, what an impact we could make on the lives of those in need. We challenge each of you to take an active role in your section this year.

Volunteer your time and talents to participate in and promote our section activities. The rewards will be awesome.

Thanks again for giving Debbie and me the opportunity to serve.
Orange Beach was nice! No hurricanes! Record attendance! Excellent technical sessions! Good food! Wonderful fellowship! What more could you ask for? We had a great conference! The conferences get better and better each year.

Here are my observations from our recent annual conference:

1. Jim and Deb Miller did an outstanding job leading us in 2006 and through the conference. They did a superb job. Both are well organized and detailed. Nothing was left to chance and the conference came off without a hitch. Thanks - Jim and Deb!

2. We were fortunate to have AWWA represented by AWWA Vice President Craig Woolard from Anchorage, Alaska – about as far from Orange Beach as you can get and quite a climate change. After spending time with Craig, I realize that AWWA is in good hands. He really is dedicated to this organization and is devoted to improving the services provided by AWWA. I have not heard back from him but I understand he stayed over a couple of days after the conference to try out the local fishing.

3. Finally, the selection of Keith Lowery for the George Warren Fuller Award was very gratifying. I have known Keith for many years and he is an outstanding recipient. As a matter-of-fact, I was with the Health Department when he was first hired in 1975 and I signed him up as an AWWA member. Both he and Peggy have served our section in many different capacities over many years. He approaches each assignment with a commitment to do his best. When I think of the definition of committed – I think of Keith.

Well, the section’s leadership has now passed to Lee Jones. As with previous chairs, Lee too is very thorough and planful and we are already off to a good start. I believe that 2006-2007 will be a great year for the Alabama-Mississippi Section.

Blake
Jim & Deb Miller wouldn’t have had it any other way …. an extremely successful 2006 conference at the Perdido Beach resort in Gulf Shores where a great time was shared by all in attendance. From the informative technical sessions, to the superb entertainment, great food, golf and, oh yes … volleyball! Folks have commented how they wished it could have gone on another day. The section, as usual raised more funds for Water For People and the Scholarship Fund received a boost from its first new annual fund raiser.

All this I’ve gotten through word-of-mouth. For the first time since the 1979 conference, I missed this one, having left shortly after the business meeting on Monday. Since early November, Diane Bailey, our Pipeline Editor, has really been on me to turn in my article for this issue. Following a few weeks of writer’s block, I did some research and composed a lengthy piece on Ethics in the Water Industry. We’ll save that one for the Spring issue. My wife, Cynthia reminded me I really need to express my thanks to those who have called over the many weeks following the conference checking on the status of our son, Michael.

Mike had his spleen removed October 2nd following an injury and was having a rough time. Your outpouring of calls, cards and e-mails really came at a time when we needed the warmth and support that can only come from true friends.

After nine days in the hospital and three weeks out of school, Michael couldn’t wait to get back to the ‘game’. On November 10th, the exact day his surgeon told him he might be able to dress out, Michael played his first football game since his injury with nervous parents watching on. They won that night and went on to within one game of winning the state championship. Now, if we could just catch up on the academics!

Our heartfelt thanks to you all for your thoughts and prayers during that difficult time for our family; thank you, Jim & Deb for pulling off a great conference whether I was there or not and a big thanks to the rest of your planning committee for covering for me. I hope I can make it up to you at our 2007 conference by being there.

Have a Wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year,

Cynthia, Michael & Kenny McCool
The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama.

Jim Miller, Section Chair, called the business meeting to order.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last Section Business Meeting held in October 2005, and to approve said minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Chair asked for a report from the following chairs:

Hunter Arnold, Secretary-Treasurer, reported on the financial condition of the Section. The beginning checking account balance as of January 1, 2006 was $76,049. Through 8 months ending August 31, 2006 the Section has had receipts of $132,001 and disbursements of $45,836, for an ending balance of $162,215. In addition to the checking account, the Section has certificates-of-deposit and money market accounts that increased from $152,498 to $155,249 over the 8 month period. Therefore, the total assets of the Section as of August 31, 2006 were reported as $317,484.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes, continued on page 11
Alabama-Mississippi Section published its first cookbook containing over 225 recipes submitted by members and/or spouses.

All profits go to support the AWWA Water For People.

Cookbooks would make great gifts for friends and family.

For information on how to get your copy/copies, please contact Diane Bailey, Pipeline Editor, at 256-238-1241 or www.dbailey@awwsb.org for information on how to get your copy.

Spouse activities for 2006 Conference included the above cookbook, a cooking demonstration, and the annual Bingo game.

Voyager Restaurant’s Chef Jim

Jimmy Nelson & Bob Giglio assist with Bingo game.

Deb Miller presents a $400 Gift Card to Gail Rowland whose husband is with the Childersburg Water, Sewer and Gas Company.
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Lee Jones, Audit, reported that the bylaws require an annual audit, and that an external audit was conducted of the Section’s 2005 financials by the CPA firm of Wilson Price Barranco Blankenship & Billingsley P.C. of Montgomery, AL. Jones reported that the audit found all accounts to be in order.

Jimmy Nelson, member of Scholarship Board, stated that there was no report concerning the Scholarship Board, except that they will meet in December.

Jim Miller explained that the AL-MS Scholarship Board is a separate entity from the AL-MS Section. There is also a Scholarship Committee within the Section that is considering a broader scholarship program that would compliment the senior college engineering school scholarships that the Scholarship Board oversees, possibly offering other scholarships that the Section might want to initiate, such as science degrees, and such as community or junior college students.

Dan Sowell, Fuller Award, reported that the Fuller Award would be presented at the Banquet on Tuesday night.

Mark Smith, Program Chair, thanked his co-chair Sheila Williams and reported that we had a variety of technical sessions this year, and that we are also trying hands-on demonstration presentations this year. Approximately 25 presentations are scheduled. Mark specifically mentioned the Tuesday afternoon ALWARN and MSWARN panel discussion.

Bill Moody of the Mississippi State Department of Health, Water Supply Division, noted that for Mississippi operators, the presentations would total to 10 credit hours toward operator training, and that a maximum of 7 hours of regulatory.
Rodney Owens, MAC, reported that the conference is supported by 28 sponsors contributing over $27,000, and referred attendees to the conference program, which lists all sponsors. Jim Miller thanked Rodney for his hard work and success in this area. Rodney expressed his thanks to the sponsoring organizations, and to Ken McCool, Jay Wood, and Keith Lowery for their help in recruiting sponsors.

Diane Bailey, PIPELINE Magazine, expressed thanks to the sponsors and advertisers. Diane stated that she has agreed to serve as editor of the magazine for one last year while Lee Jones is Chair. She encouraged the Section and membership to identify a successor. Diane reported that the website is up and running, and she welcomes comments or suggestions. Members can send comments on website to Ken McCool or to Diane.

Jim Miller commended Diane Bailey for her excellent work in producing the Pipeline.

Craig Justice, Water for People Golf Tournament, thanked his co-chair Harold Daugherty and reported that the golf tournament was held on the previous day, October 8th, and was very successful. 70 participants, 30 hole sponsors, resulting in over $8,000 earned for WFP. Final amount will be tallied, combined with funds raised by cookbooks, and a check from the Section will be presented to Water For People at the lunch on Tuesday.

Jim Miller reported that cookbooks produced by the AL-MS Section as a benefit for WFP are on sale at the Registration table.

Bill Moody reported that WFP shirts and other apparel and goods are available for purchase near the Registration table.

Charlie Moak, Resolutions, asked the members present to stand, and then read the following resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Donald Alexander Mills, was a faithful and dedicated life member of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association; and

WHEREAS, he contributed by his loyalty and service to the Association; and

WHEREAS, he was respected and loved by his friends in the Association; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association wish to recognize the loss of a valued and trusted friend.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association meeting on this 9th day of October, 2006, in Orange Beach, Alabama, do hereby express their sorrow and regret over the loss of a trusted and devoted friend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and that a copy be sent to the family by our Secretary-Treasurer.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the resolution, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Chuck Lott, Nominations, submitted the following nominations as AL/MS Section officers for 2007.

- Chair - Lee Jones
- Past Chair - Jim Miller
- Vice Chair - Tom Walters
- Trustee-at-Large (MS) – Bill Moody
- Trustee-at-Large (AL) – Sam McElroy
- Secretary-Treasurer (3-year term to expire December 31, 2009) – Keith Lowery
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- SEWER & STORM WATER CHAMBERS
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Green-Shirted Conference Committee Members and Volunteers work the Registration Desk at the 2006 Annual Conference

Approximately 375 pre-registered individuals plus 127 spouses and 34 speakers. The total conference registration was approximately 502.
This year’s George Warren Fuller Award went to a gentleman whose engineering career has witnessed both sides of our industry’s regulatory fence. He’s a workaholic who’s served in many capacities with the Section, including that of Chair. His enduring approach toward volunteerism has led a succession of conference planning committee chairs to call on him year after year for opinions, ideas and archival information. Our awardee’s dedication to the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association is certainly not limited to conference time in that he can be found any day of the year on the phone or computer, relating his thoughts of new enhancements for the Section.

He is seen by his peers as a man of sound management style and professional honesty. This trait was well earned at an early age. I was told that while owner of his own small business, our Fuller Awardee, making his point with an errant employee, broke his own hand … later at the doctor’s office, he reported that material fell on his mangled digits (insurance, you know?).

He is equally comfortable in either of our Section’s two states, having received his Bachelors Engineering Degree in one and Masters in the other. Joining AWWA 31 years ago, he received the association’s Ambassador Award 22 years later.

His wife of 29 years refers to him as a “vehicular evangelist” whose driving style will motivate the most ardent agnostic. She also added other interesting tidbits:

- He likes a martini slightly dryer than a rusty bumper.
- He hits one golf club particularly well … in fact, he uses that same club for every shot, including the putt!
- If he misplaces something, he immediately considers it stolen or most probably walked off with by his son.
- Ask to SEE the football tickets before you ride to Auburn with him!
- He stays slim & trim by substituting many meals with his work.

Having served as his church’s parking usher every 1st Sunday of the month for the past 25 years, our awardee retired from the Alabama Department of Environmental Quality after 28-½ years and now runs his own consulting firm. He and his wife Peggy reside in Montgomery, Alabama, and have one son, Shep, who has a career in accounting.
Winning Team: (Left to right) Bill Carter (ACIPCO), Buddy Morgan (Montgomery Water Works), Tom Walters (CH2M Hill), and Jim Watterson (ACIPCO)

Chair Jim Miller (left) and Water For People Committee Chairman Craig Justice (right) of the Alabama/Mississippi Section present Water For People Board Member Chuck DiLaura (center) with a giant check for $10,000 representing proceeds from the annual WFP Golf Tournament and from the sale of the “Just Add Water” cookbooks sponsored by the AL/MS Section Spouse Program.
As the North American water community debates parts-per-billion of one contaminant or another, the developing world is dealing with billions on another level—the staggering number of people without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

According to UNICEF, there are currently 1.1 billion people worldwide who do not have access to safe drinking water and 2.4 billion without adequate sanitation facilities. The result of these shortfalls is devastating. Every day, 6,000 people on our planet die from waterborne illnesses, nearly 2.2 million each year, and the vast majority of these are children. Epidemics of cholera, dysentery and Hepatitis are commonplace in the developing world, diseases that can be traced directly to water or sanitation. Water is arguably the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time.

The water crisis is hitting the most vulnerable populations—the world’s poor. Half the world—nearly 3 billion people—live in abject poverty on less than US$2 per day. Water-related diseases are killing them at an alarming rate. Every 15 seconds, a child under the age of five dies from a preventable water-related illness.

It is with deep conviction and hope that Water For People is working to ensure that these people are not forgotten and that their basic long-term water and sanitation needs are met with dignity. Water For People’s vision is a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; a world where no person suffers or dies from a water- or sanitation-related disease.

Founded in 1991, Water For People is a Colorado-based private, nonprofit international development organization that supports safe drinking water and sanitation projects in developing countries. The organization was founded by the American Water Works Association and is supported by the Water Environment Federation, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the National Association of Water Companies and the Water Quality Association. Water For People relies on funding from individuals, utilities, and corporations, predominantly from the North American water community represented by these professional organizations.

To complete its mission, Water For People partners with communities, local government other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the local private sector to help people improve their quality of life by supporting sustainable drinking water, sanitation and health and hygiene projects. Water For People supports projects with professional development advice, financial support and technical services. Typical projects include protected spring-fed community water systems, wells or boreholes with hand pumps, arsenic filtration systems in West Bengal India, latrine construction, operator training and health and hygiene education. Water For People is currently working in Latin America, Africa and Asia and has funded more than 700 projects, providing more than 2 million people with safe drinking water and/or improved sanitation facilities since its beginning 15 years ago.

Sustainability is key to Water For People’s success. What it builds, it builds to last. While it would be easy to enter a remote village in Africa and simply install a state-of-the-art water system and move on, the organization has learned that this model doesn’t work...
for the long-term. What if the system breaks down? Who will repair it? Where will the parts come from?

Instead, Water For People’s work focuses on partnerships and community involvement. The community must want the system and be willing to invest in its development. That means contributing in numerous ways. Communities make financial and labor contributions to their projects. They decide which technologies are most appropriate for them given their economic and technical realities. They decide how the system will be managed, what tariffs are required to finance the scheme over time, and what strategies will be employed to maintain and repair the system so that it continues to provide clean water over time.

To achieve this, considerable training support is provided with each project in the areas of financial management, maintenance, operation and community mobilization/conflict resolution. Water for People relies on local suppliers so that critical spare parts will be easily accessible to the community in the future. A remote village in Africa would have difficulty accessing replacement parts for an American-made pump.

Water For People works to build long-term relationships in each of the countries in which it operates. Local governments are responsible for planning and coordination in their areas of jurisdiction. They are also responsible for quality control. Sometimes they are responsible for actually providing water and sanitation services although this responsibility is increasingly being shifted to the private sector. As such, working with local government is essential.

Other important players in the Water For People model include local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are already invested in a given country or region and will help ensure the long-term viability of the work, and the private sector (formal and informal). Water For People rarely funds projects in their entirety but works to acquire funding from a variety of stakeholders, including local governments, NGOs and the communities that benefit. Without such buy-in from others, Water For People would simply be a charity offering goods rather than a developmental partner who encourages responsibility amongst all parties.

Projects are funded based on need in regions where the organization has an operational presence—currently Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, India and Malawi. Water For People has committed to expand into five additional countries over the next five years and is taking a more strategic approach to its work by targeting multiple villages and communities within clearly defined geographic areas to have greater regional impact.

Beyond solving a desperate need, water and sanitation projects can often result in a boost to local economies. For example, Water For People has been working in India’s West Bengal region to remove arsenic from the groundwater supplies where hundreds of thousands of people have been exposed to dangerous levels of this naturally occurring contaminant. Working with a local university, the organization has supported the installation of low-cost activated alumina filters at more than 120 tube well sites. The filter media must be regenerated or replaced on a regular basis, which has created a local business opportunity in the region and allowed West Bengali residents to allocate their scarce financial resources to other needs and opportunities besides hospital fees.

Water For People is making a big difference in people’s lives in the communities in which it works. But there is much work to be done. The scope of the global water crisis is astounding and Water For People must build its own capacity to make a meaningful difference to these problems. You can help. There are lots of opportunities to get involved—from offering your financial support to volunteering to fundraising to helping to spread the word. More information about Water For People and its work is available on the Web at www.waterforpeople.org, or by calling 303.734.3490.

About the author

John Kayser is Water For People’s Communications Manager. For more information about Water For People and its work to provide safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and health and hygiene education in the developing world, contact Kayser at 303-734-3476, email jkayser@waterforpeople.org. Visit the Water For People website at www.waterforpeople.org.

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• Director (3-year term to expire June 2010) – Danny Hutcherson

After a motion from the floor was made to close the nominations, a second was made. Thereafter, upon a voice vote, all proposed nominees were unanimously elected.

Jim Miller commended Blake Jeffcoat and Hunter Arnold for their service to the Section, as their three year terms as Director and as Secretary-Treasurer will come to an end within the next 12 months.

Tom Walters, Time and Place, reported that he and committee members Ken McCool and Randy Chafin had evaluated several locations for the 2008 Conference (the 61st Conference for the Alabama-Mississippi Section of AWWA). On behalf of the Time & Place Committee, Tom suggested that the Section contract with the Montgomery Hotel & Spa in Montgomery, Alabama, October 5 – 7, 2008. The facility is currently under construction, with a projected opening date of summer 2007. A motion to approve entering a contract with Montgomery Hotel & Spa was made, seconded, and approved.

Andrea Traviglia and Adrianna Dimperio, Young Professionals (YP), reported on their activities to promote involvement of young members. The Conference schedule includes a YP versus NSYP (“Not So Young Professionals”) beach volleyball challenge match that will take place following the ice cream social on Monday afternoon.

Jason Carter, Safety, reported that safety awards information was not available yet, so that information will be announced in the Pipeline magazine:

Chris Griffin, Education, thanked his co-chair Bill Moody and reported that in both states, seminars were held featuring Dr. Singer about technical and regulatory issues common to all water systems. Attendance was good, and a total of 4 new members joined as a part of the registration for the seminar series. Those that attended the sessions rated this education program as a 4 on a scale of 1 to 5.

Chris invited members to comment on topics that they would like to see this coming year 2007.

Exhibits, Jim Miller expressed his thanks to Exhibits Chairs Jay Wood and Rodney Owens assisting, and reported that we had a full exhibit hall with 57 paid exhibitors and 3 complimentary. Lunch will be served in the Exhibit Hall on Monday, and he encouraged all attendees to tour the Exhibit Hall and interact with the exhibitors.
FIRST ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS vs.
“MATURE” PROFESSIONALS

Experience shows as the first tournament ends two games to one in favor of the “Mature” Professionals! Better luck next year Young Professionals.

If they were not out playing volleyball, they were visiting and/or eating at the Ice Cream Social.
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2006 - 2007 Officers: (left to right) Jim Miller, Keith Lowery, Danny Hutcherson, Lee Jones, Blake Jeffcoat, Tom Walters, and Bill Moody.
**Alabama-Mississippi Section presents Gold Water Drop Award to Joe Starnes**

The American Water Works Association is always proud to honor its own for long years of membership and service to the Association and the Section. This year the Section had another member to receive the Gold Water Drop designation which is given only to those who have achieved 50 years of continuous membership with the Association.

James E. “Joe” Starnes was born and raised in Guntersville, Alabama, and at the age of 17 moved to Scottsboro, Alabama, where he completed his junior and senior years at Jackson County High School.

He met the joy of his life early in 1944 and in December of that year he and Inez were married.

Joe began his Water Works career on September 15, 1950, working for the Scottsboro Electric Department where he quickly began splitting his work-weeks between the electric and water departments. He began full-time with the water works in 1951.

Later in that same year Scottsboro formed the Water and Sewer Board in order to get better rates on its bonds.

In 1955 Joe was appointed departmental manager and one year later he joined the *American Water Works Association*. In 1959 he oversaw construction of Scottsboro’s new water plant sourced from the Tennessee River. Shortly thereafter, the city applied for grants and loans to construct a natural gas distribution system for Scottsboro. Before the system was completed the city formed the Water, Sewer and Gas Board. Joe was involved in construction of additional water treatment plants to handle new industry locating in Scottsboro.

Retiring on October 1, 1981, he and Inez have spent the past 25 years traveling to all 49 continental states happily pulling their RV behind. If that seems like quite a trek, one must add they also toured all the Canadian Provinces, save one.

Joe and Inez have one daughter, Jo Ann who’ll retire from the Alabama Employment Service at the end of this year. Jo Ann has blessed them with two lovely granddaughters.

**30-Year Lifetime Awards**

**Others Receiving Awards:**

**2006**
- Ms. Pauline W. Bryant
- Mr. Jerry N. Burns
- Mr. Terry L. Dougherty
- Mr. Charles Griner, Jr.
- Mr. E. Corbin McGiff, Jr.
- Mr. Gene Oliver
- Dallas County Water & Sewer Selma, AL
- ACIPCO
- American Flow Control
- Griner Drilling Service
- Hazolean Env. Consultants
- ACIPCO

**2005**
- William B. Durkin
- ESA Engineering
- Birmingham, AL

Chair Jim Miller presents the Gold Water Drop Award for 50 years of membership and service to AWWA.

Chair Jim Miller presents James E. Starnes the Gold Water Drop Award for 50 years of membership and service to AWWA.

Chair Jim Miller presents the 30-year Lifetime Award to Wayne Roberson of Hartselle Utilities, Hartselle, Alabama.
Registration, Jim Miller expressed his thanks to Registration Chair Ed Turner, his assistant Bill Moody, and the volunteers that were working the Registration desk. Approximately 375 pre-registered individuals plus 127 spouses and 34 speakers. Including on-site registrations, the total conference registration is approximately 502 at this time.

Keith Lowery, Entertainment, reported that we will have performances by musician Brent Burns, illusionist Dana Daniels and his parrot, motivational speaker Bryan Townsend, and a pre-banquet mixer music by exhibitor Chris Gill of Control Systems, Inc.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. by Chair Jim Miller.
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Response by Vendors wanting to exhibit at the 2006 Conference exceeded the number of spaces available. Thanks to each and every one of you.
CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

The number of spaces available. Thanks to each and every one of you.
Hope to see all of you in Tunica, Mississippi in 2007
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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