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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 an effort to keep all community water system officials informed, the AWWA trustees voted to provide a complimentary copy to all community water systems within both states. This will help keep water systems current on events affecting the water supply industry and aware of products and services available through the AWWA. 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:

AWWA PIPELINE
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2009 Officers/Trustees of the
Alabama-Mississippi Section of the
American Water Works Association

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Entertainment ...............................................Bill Wall
Exhibits .........................................................Sam Agnew
Exhibits - Assistant to Chair .............................Shannon Bailey
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Water For People - Chair .................................Hugh Smith
Water For People - Assistant to Chair ..............John M. Lyons
Nominations ....................................................Tom Walters
Memorial Scholarship .....................................Jim Miller
Fuller Award ....................................................Bob Giglio
Membership .....................................................Ken McCool
AWWA National Contact .................................Christopher McGinnis
Hotel Contact ..................................................Mike Davis
As we begin another year for the section, let me extend my sincere thanks to Tom and his team for putting together such a wonderful conference. The bar has been set high. The technical program was solid and provided much to all of us in the Alabama-Mississippi water industry. We had great speakers to inspire us to strive to greater heights. We heard from former SEC official Dick Burleson about his disciplines of leadership such as integrity, fairness, common sense, relationships, and professionalism. Coach Stallings carried a similar message but also talked about having high expectations for ourselves and extending that to our careers. Part of his message also spoke to me about being a servant. It goes without saying that we are in a service industry. We are saddled with providing a product that everyone needs, and they want it cheap without sacrificing quality. No small task, right?

We “Capitalized the Water Industry” in Montgomery this year, but there’s more to the Section and Association than just the conference. We are going to continue on with good educational opportunities. We will have topics that will hit home with current needs of section members. My desire is that the programs will provide the additional skills and/or knowledge to help us better serve the industry within our respective states. So the saying goes “Never stop Learning” and we won’t. I would like to have educational opportunities for everyone. With that in mind, if there are specific topics that you would like to see in future educational programs, please contact Kyle Massey at kmassey@mwwssb.com in Alabama and Sheila Williams at swilliams@engservice.com in Mississippi.

At the banquet, I briefly mentioned that my hopes for this year are for us to build relationships with other water organizations and increase section giving to Water For People. These two goals encourage us to think locally and globally. New relationships with other organizations can mean increased membership and greater networking and educational opportunities within the states where their goal is our goal - safe water. Water For People takes that goal beyond our nation’s borders to areas of the world where safe drinking water is hard to find.

Where do we go from here? - Well, back to Mississippi of course. Specifically, we will be at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi. They are ready for us and Katrina didn’t slow them down one bit.

I want to leave you with one parting thought. The Section and the Association have many opportunities for its members. It would take several pages to lay out all there is to offer. That being the case, I would encourage you to go to www.awwa.org. Anything that affects the water industry is offered there in some form. It is a valuable tool that I don’t think we as a Section use enough. It’s all there for us, so check it out.
Once again, our volunteers have accomplished an outstanding annual conference. Led by Tom and Patsy, the team organized outstanding technical presentations, excellent food, and opportunity for the fellowship that we’ve all grown to enjoy. For those of you reading this that do not attend our annual conferences, I want to challenge you to start planning now to attend next year in Biloxi. I promise you, the friendships you’ll develop during the AWWA annual conference will last a lifetime. The things you’ll learn will become the part of your job that you love. You won’t find a group of people anywhere that is more interested in helping each other solve problems. I think our secret is “the volunteer spirit”. This attitude of helping others is the cornerstone to the success of our organization.

I hope you enjoyed visiting with Dee Bennett, AWWA VP from Columbia, SC, if you were at the conference. We also had Christopher McGuiness from the AWWA Denver office in attendance. If you got to talk with Christopher you noticed that he is really interested in making sure we get what we need from the Denver office.

Bill Moody, our current chairman, has hit the ground running. He and Lori are well underway to hosting another great and exciting conference next year. But the conference is not all you have to look forward to. Stay tuned for to learn more about how your ACTIVE participation in AL/MS Section AWWA activities will be the most rewarding of any association of which you are affiliated.

Our success comes straight from YOU.

Consider what you have to offer to other professionals in the waterworks industry.

Contact me for help to put your ideas in action through AWWA.

Enjoy the satisfaction of seeing others benefit from your ideas…….truly one of the best rewards you’ll ever receive.

Thanks to each and every member for helping to make us the strong organization that we are.

Danny Hutcherson
Director, AL/MS Section of AWWA
As with so many past conferences, I always find it hard to describe how well I felt each went. Maybe with so many years between this Montgomery Conference and the last, fortune shined its light upon the 2008 Conference Planning Committee by making it possibly the most glitch-free meeting I’ve ever attended; then, maybe it was the keen direction and class borne by our Chair and First-Lady, Tom & Patsy Walters. Either way, I can think of no portion of the venue that should’ve been done differently. The City of Montgomery is also to be complimented on its continued downtown revitalization.

I’m already receiving calls from manufacturers and vendors checking on next year’s time & place. Those exhibitors missing out on this year’s record exposition of 77 booths will really need to get their registration in early for the limited-space Beau Rivage hall area.

My hat is off to Tom, Patsy, the 2008 Planning Committee and especially all of our members who attended this year’s wonderful event! I do want to send out a very special thanks to all of our vendors and manufacturers who so energetically participated in Montgomery by their special sponsorships, signing up to exhibit and supporting this Section’s conference.

Dee Bennett echoed what so many of our past National Representatives attending have mentioned in that our Section presents a warm welcome to all and also offers, not only professionalism, but a terrific time for all!

Keep it up, Alabama/Mississippi!!!!

Ken McCool  
Section Manager  
AL/MS AWWA

Join Us at the Beau Rivage!  
October 4-6, 2009  
Details in next issue of the AL/MS AWWA Pipeline  

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The 2008 conference yielded ample opportunity for learning as well as entertainment to fit every attendees taste. The meeting opened with the Water For People Golf Tournament hosted by the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail on the acclaimed Capitol Hill course in Prattville. Photos and results from the tournament are on page 16.

Sunday evening banquet attendees were treated to the comedic magic of Chris Blackmore after dinner. There were no pauses in the laughter as volunteers and hand-picked participants alike helped the magician entertain the crowd. At times the magician himself was overcome as he learned a few lessons in laughter from his volunteers.

Monday morning started bright and early with a welcome from Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright, as well as informative speeches from AWWA National Vice President Dee Bennett, and EPA Region 4 Representative Dale Foneberger. They were followed by a motivational speech from Retired Major General and SEC official Dick Burleson.

Program Chair Chris Griffin and Assistant Harry Gong provided attendees with a variety of learning experiences throughout the conference. Technical sessions covered security issues and water quality program as customer service and public relations issues. There was something for everyone during every technical session time slot.

It was hard to impress attendees by the time they reached the Tuesday night banquet. Every agenda item had lived up to expectations and everyone was pleased with the conference. Even so, everyone avidly enjoyed Tuesday night’s guest speaker, football legend Gene Stallings, as he helped close out the meeting in style.

The 2009 Conference will be at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi. As the committee rounds out its plans more details will come available. In the meantime, we invite everyone to visit the Rivage’s website and make plans to attend the October 5-9 AWWA meeting with us!

### 10 Lessons of Leadership

**Lesson 1:** Being responsible sometimes means ticking people off.

**Lesson 2:** The day your employees stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.

**Lesson 3:** Never neglect details. When everyone’s mind is dulled or distracted the leader must be doubly vigilant.

**Lesson 4:** You don’t know what you can get away with until you try.

**Lesson 5:** Burleson’s Rules for Picking People - Look for intelligence and judgement, and most critically, a capacity to anticipate, to see around corners. Also look for loyalty, integrity, a high energy drive, a balanced ego, and a drive to get things done.

**Lesson 6:** Organization does not really accomplish anything. Plans don’t accomplish anything, either. Theories of management don’t much matter. Endeavors succeed or fail because of the people involved. Only by attracting the best people will you accomplish great deeds.

**Lesson 7:** Fit no stereotypes. Don’t chase the latest management fads. The situation dictates which approach best accomplishes the team’s mission.

**Lesson 8:** Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt, to offer a solution everybody can understand.

**Lesson 9:** Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.

**Lesson 10:** Have fun! Don’t always run at a breakneck pace. Take leave when you’ve earned it: Spend time with your families. Surround yourself with people who take their work seriously, but not themselves, those who work hard and play hard.
Thank You to our 2008 Exhibitors

Exhibit Chair Jim Ballintine and Assistant Chair Jason Cumberland did a great job filling the Renaissance Hotel’s exhibit hall. A record 77 exhibitors proudly shared expertise about their products from computer software to system reliability.

Space may be more limited at the Beau Rivage so interested participants are urged to contact the 2009 Exhibit Chairman Sam Agnew or Exhibit Assistant Chair Shannon Bailey to reserve their space early. Sam can be reached at sagnew@etc-sales.com or 225-295-1200. Shannon is available at Shannon.Bailey@tetratech.com or 256-551-0222.
ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective Monday, September 15, 2008, Ray Smith assumed the duties and responsibilities of Manager of Operations at Mid-South Water in Cleveland, Mississippi.

Ray brings with him 34 years of experience in the groundwater development industry, with extensive experience in a wide range of drilling techniques, pump applications, pump repairs, and well rehabilitation techniques.

Ray began his career at Layne Christensen Company in Jackson, Mississippi in January 1974. Since that time he has served as the manager of operations in the districts located in Norfolk Virginia, Dallas Texas, Lake Charles and Baton Rouge Louisiana, Savannah Georgia, and Memphis Tennessee. Over the last three years, Ray has managed a drilling company located in northeast Mississippi. We welcome Ray and his wife, Vickie, to Cleveland and to the Mid-South Water team.

In addition to Ray Smith, Mid-South Water is pleased to announce that effective October 1, 2008, John Capocaccia joined Mid-South Water as a training sales representative. John is a Delta State graduate and is a life-long resident of Bolivar County, Mississippi. He is married to Lucy Speikes Capocaccia, and they are the proud parents of three children: Ferris Love – 11, Summer – 7, and John Brennan – 4. John has the education, personality, mechanical aptitude and work ethic to quickly become a knowledgeable and productive member of our Mid-South Water team.

Quality people like Ray Smith and John Capocaccia will ensure the continued success and growth of our organization.

Mid-South Water provides water related products and services, including initial groundwater surveys, exploration, recommendations, site selection, well drilling, well casings and screens, gravel wall wells, pump design and installation, construction of water systems, geophysical logging surveys, downhole TV inspections, preventative maintenance, service and chemical treatment of water wells. The company is licensed and qualified to operate in the states of Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana and Arkansas.

H. Ed Coleman, President
Program Chair Chris Griffin and Assistant to Chair (and this year’s chair!) Harry Gong scheduled 30 technical sessions including growth planning, system upkeep, and regulation updates. Here are a few scenes from the technical sessions.

ADEM’s Dennis Harrison gave an update on the Drinking Water Division.

MSDH’s Melissa Park gave an update on Public Water Supply issues in Mississippi.

Shirrel Roberts of the Alabama Department of Homeland Security had a well attended session as he discussed security issues and what can be done to protect water supplies.

Malcolm Pirnie’s Gary Trachtman partnered with Birmingham Water Works’ Geoff Goodwin to give a presentation on reducing water loss in Birmingham.

CH2M Hill’s Brian Skeens discusses water conservation as a part of drought planning.

The drought was a popular topic of conversation both in the classroom and in the halls. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers’ Chief of Water Management, Randall Harvey, spoke about drought affects in the southeast.

ADECA’s Tom Littlepage shows a photo of cooked cotton fields in Madison County, Alabama.
Another hot topic throughout the conference was pharmaceuticals in drinking water. Above the U.S. EPA’s Office of Research and Development sent Susan Glassmeyer to discuss the issue with attendees.

Sessions were following by Q&A discussion and door prize drawings.

CH2M Hill’s Andy Moore spoke on COOP - Continuity of Operations Planning.

Dustin Dowdy of Southeastern Tank gave a presentation on portable water tanks.

Mississippi State’s Jason Barrett gave presentations on utilizing the peer review program in public water systems as well as training board members to help improve capacity.
Golf Tournament Sponsors included:
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On such a beautiful day, we were not surprised when our faux furry friends were joined by Mother Nature’s little critters.

There were 19 sponsors and 70 participants for the 2008 tournament.
First place went to Allen Cox (Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association), Mark Breslin (Ductile), Chuck Nevins (Bessemer), and Greg Horn (Ductile). They had a score of 58, 14 under par.

Second place went to Buddy Morgan, Brian Alberson, Bret Busby, and Jim Watterson.

Third place went to Lee Palmer, Andrew Weaver, and Tracey Wright.

The view was magnificent no matter what part of the course you were on.

**2008 YP vs. “Not-So-Young” YP Volleyball Challenge**

The annual volleyball challenge between the Young Professional (YP) members and the “not so young” members was held for the third year in a row ... much to the merriment of onlookers as well as players. For the second year in a row, the YPs were the big winners. The event was held in conjunction with the Tuesday afternoon ice cream social.

Game 1 was won by the “not so young” YPs by a score of 21-19.  
Game 2 was won by the YPs by a score of 24-22.  
Game 3 was won by the YPs by a score of 15-11.

Will we see a comeback from the “not-so-young” team in 2009? Meet us at the Beau Rivage in October to find out.
The Tuesday night banquet was a delight for all. In addition to great food and company, legendary Coach Gene Stallings provided the Alabama/Mississippi section of AWWA real life lessons on how to be a winner in the water industry.

With a full resume of being a winner in the football arena, Coach Stallings began the night informally visiting with attendees during a reception prior to the banquet. Many attendees took the opportunity to take pictures and shake hands with the legend. From being head coach of the Dallas Cowboys to head coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide, Coach Stallings' winning career demanded the respect of all.

Coach Stallings’ address was highlighted by inspiration he gained from the life of his son, John Mark Stallings. The emotion of his loss was evident, yet the inspiration of his son’s life seemed to rally Coach Stallings and all of the water work attendees to “be the best at what you are”. Coach Stallings touched on the importance of respecting your job. He stated that his job as head coach was to get the team ready to play – that was his job. To perform your job well, you need commitment and honor. Coach Stallings stressed the importance of a well developed work ethic. “Work ethics remain the key to success”, stated Coach Stallings. He recounted a tale about a young man wanting to marry his daughter. Of course, his daughter wanted dad’s approval of the selection of the young man as her husband. Coach Stallings did not measure the young man by how well he spoke, was groomed, or by the exchange of kind words, but invited him to help build a fence on his farm. He noticed work ethics and the desire to perform well.

The inspiration that Coach Stallings provided the section will be remembered for years to come. Younger and older water professionals and spouses alike are appreciative of his words of wisdom!

Coach Stallings delivered memorable antidotes about his son, John Mark, and other family members and players, interwoveed with his words of inspiration and encouragement. He specifically recognized the importance of the water industry and its mission.
Minutes of the
BUSINESS MEETING
ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI SECTION
AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER 6, 2008

The meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. at the Renaissance Hotel & Spa Convention Center in Montgomery, Alabama. Tom Walters, Section Chair, called the business meeting to order. A motion was made by Chuck Lott and seconded by George Twiner to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the last Section Business Meeting held in October 2007, and to approve said minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

The Chair asked for reports from the following chairs:

Keith Lowery, Secretary-Treasurer, reported on the financial condition of the Section. As of September 30, 2008, the Section had a balance of $184,455.64 in its checking account; $100,342.67 in its Money Market Account; and three Region’s Bank Certificates of Deposits with a combined value of $174,094.08 for total net assets of $458,892.39. Dan Sowell queried whether all assets were in one bank, Regions and Keith responded that they were, but that each separate account was protected by FDIC. Keith did say, however that he would verify that fact. A motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Danny Hutcherson, Director’s Report: Danny began his report by commenting on how it had been a pleasant six months of tenure for him. He said he especially has benefitted in networking with other section directors around the country. His recent acquaintance with Gary Zimmerman, incoming Executive Director for AWWA has given him assurance in AWWA’s future as Gary has an impressive, business-oriented background. His next meetings will be in January and again at ACE in June. Danny asked all present to feel free to contact him with any concerns with our section. He also reminded members that AWWA is typically an untapped source of terrific information and ideas for managers, administrative and operator personnel.

Bill Moody, Audit Report: Bill reported that he and all Trustees review all banking transactions through the actual statements and reminded all present that the bylaws require an annual audit, and that an external audit was conducted of the Section’s 2007 financials by the CPA firm of Wilson Price Barranco Blankenship & Billingsley P.C. of Montgomery, AL. Moody reported that the audit found all accounts to be in order. Bill additionally reminded those present that the section has on display at the exhibit hall a WFP booth where he will sell clothing and other items to benefit our charity of choice. Danny encouraged all to attend this year’s ACE at San Diego. A motion was made to accept the Audit Committee report, seconded and all votes were ‘Aye’.

Jimmy Nelson, member of Scholarship Board, stated that the committee met at the UAB campus last December and awards for scholarships totaled $6,000.00; there was no further report.
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concerning the Scholarship Board, except that they will meet again this upcoming December.

**Denson Robinson, Fuller Award**, reported that the Fuller Award Committee had met over the summer and that the Award would be presented at the Banquet on Tuesday night.

**Chris Griffin, Program Chair**, reported that we have 30 presenters this year and attendees will have the opportunity for up to nine CEU’s. Chair Walters commended Chris and his committee for their excellent work.

**Jim Watterson, MAC**, reported that around 31 sponsors were contributing this year and that those contributions should well exceed last year’s. He asked all members to please thank all those listed on easel boards around the conference areas and that all sponsors would be recognized at the joint luncheon on Tuesday.

**Deb Hudson, PIPELINE Magazine**, brought up the fact that the Pipeline had received a new ‘face lift’ this year and asked members to please contact her if they have ideas, suggestions or articles. She offered thanks to those who participated in the survey she sent out regarding drought.

**Kyle Massey, Water for People**, thanked those who participated in the golf tournament which was held earlier. He expressed thanks for the 19 sponsors who helped guarantee the tournament’s success.

**Blake Jeffcoat, Resolutions**, reported that fortunately, there would be no report this year. Although AWWA does an excellent job of reporting deceased members, he reminded those present to let Ken know during the upcoming year of the loss of any section members.

**Lee Jones, Nominations**, submitted the following nominations as AL/MS Section officers for 2007.

- Chair – Bill Moody
- Past Chair – Tom Walters
- Vice Chair – Sam McElroy
- Trustee-at-Large (AL) – Jim Watterson
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· Trustee-at-Large (MS) – Hunter Arnold
· Secretary-Treasurer (3-year term expires December 31, 2009) – Keith Lowery
· Director (3-year term expires June 2010) – Danny Hutcherson

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

**Jim Miller, Time and Place**, reported that he and committee members had evaluated several locations for the 2010 Conference (the 63rd Conference for the Alabama-Mississippi Section of AWWA). Jim informed those present that the committee had chose Huntsville, Alabama as that location. Following a motion and a second, all present voted ‘Aye’.

**Carson Smith, Young Professionals** (YP), reported on their activities to promote involvement of young members. This Conference’s schedule, of course 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. The opportunities for social networking among YP’s has increased within the section. He also reported that he and Amy McLeod represented the section YP’s at a KY/TN Section-sponsored meeting earlier this year.

**Jimmy Wilson, Safety**, Tom Walters reported for Jimmy, who was not able to be present. Tom read aloud and issued the certificates to this year’s Safety Awardees present.

**Hugh Smith, Education**, reported that of the four section-sponsored workshops this past year, one was a National package. A total of 30 CEU’s were offered and attendance at each workshop averaged around 15 or so. He offered special thanks to his co-chair, Mark Smith and all the volunteers who helped.

**Jim Ballintine, Exhibits**, In Jim’s absence, David Stejskal reported the section had an astounding record-breaking exhibitor roster of 77 companies. Many vendors had to be turned away following an early sell-out. He encouraged all to visit the vendor booths and thank each one for coming.

**David Stejskal, Registration**, reported the new, online registration method the trustees elected to use this year saved him and his committee a lot of time and headaches. He requested that all registrants please report any constructive feedback, if possible (about ½ of the 466 registrants this year used the ‘123Signup’ system. Chair Walters and others thanked David for a very smooth registration process.

**Chuck Lott, Entertainment**, thanked the sponsors for supporting this year as we ‘picked up a notch’ on our quality of entertainment. He hoped all could attend the highlight of the meeting Tuesday night, a motivational talk by Coach Gene Stallings.

Adjourn; There being no further business and with a motion from Bill Moody and second from Chris Griffin, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. by Chair Tom Walters.
Thank You Conference Sponsors!

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PAST OFFICERS DINNER
CH2M HILL
Gene Hanson was the recipient of this year’s Fuller Award. Gene has a long record of supporting the American Water Works Association and the Alabama/Mississippi Section following his choice of a career in the water works industry. He has represented the Birmingham Water Works and Sewer Board well, working diligently to bring value and leadership by example. Like many Fuller Award recipients, Gene worked his way up through the ranks, making important changes to his organization along the way. As with other recipients, he is a professional engineer having attended UAB at night earning a degree while working during the day.

He is extremely proud of his lovely wife, two children and his grandsons with whom he golf’s and fishes. He is, without question, an extremely faithful member of his church.

This Section’s 2009 AWWA Fuller Awardee started his career as an Engineering Aide in 1964. He often worked on weekends in those days with his co-workers in the drafting room solving problems. Gene was promoted to Chief Draftsman the following year, reorganizing the Drafting Department. He was instrumental in his organization’s receipt of the “Steel Tank of the Year” design award in 1971. He worked as a resident engineer from 1972-1973 with oversight of the Carson Filter Plant’s construction in Birmingham. He served as Assistant General Manager in charge of Engineering and Distribution from 1977 to 1996, and would later become General Manager at the Birmingham Water Works.

As an executive, he would often wonder why he could no longer seem to solve problems as easily as he could back in the drafting room days.

Gene holds membership in the American Water Works Association, the Water Pollution Control Federation, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Alabama Water Pollution Control Association, the Alabama Society of Professional Engineers, and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. This year’s Fuller Awardee has served on AWWA’s prestigious Standards Committee, served as an AWWA Director, and held the post of Chairman of the Alabama/Mississippi Section.

In every way this year’s Fuller Awardee has demonstrated the values associated with and recognized by the George Warren Fuller Award.

Congratulations to our 2009 Fuller Award Recipient, Gene Hanson!

To the left, William A. Sacra (retired, Cullman County Water) is recognized by AWWA Vice President Dee Bennett for 50 years of membership in the organization. Pictured above, three members received lifetime memberships as recognition of their work in the water industry. Recipients included William J. Hughes, Jr. of Bridgeport (AL) Utilities, Jerry A. Hammon of the Waterworks Board of Section & Dutton, and Charles C. DiLaura of Neptune Technology Group.
Once again the Section’s first lady hosted a memorable schedule of activities for spouses attending the annual section meeting with their significant others. Patsy Walters combined entertainment with historic value and was able to please every taste.

On Monday the day’s activities include historic tours as well as a taste of the arts. The day began with a historic downtown Montgomery tour. The group made stops at two historic churches. The group visited the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the minister from 1954-1960 and began his quest for civil rights. Listed as a National Historic Landmark, visitors can view the modest pulpit where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. first preached his message of hope and brotherhood. This church was also a center point of the Montgomery bus boycott. The spouses also viewed a large mural in the church which depicts King’s civil rights crusade from Montgomery to Memphis.

They also visited the St. John’s Episcopal Church. John’s was host to the historic Secession convention of Southern Churches in 1861. During his stay in Montgomery, Confederacy President Jefferson Davis attended services with his wife, an Episcopalian. In 1865, St. John’s was closed, with all the other Episcopal churches in Alabama, by order of the Union Army. Worship took place in parishioners’ homes until the church was reopened in 1866.

The group lunched at a downtown antebellum home and then bused out to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival for a backstage theatre tour. This is one of the top 10 Shakespeare theatres in the world and a magnificent complex. From there the spouses went to the studio of Mandy Bagwell, a local artist who made the spouse’s gifts for the conference. Shopping was enjoyed by all at this stop.

On Tuesday the traditional Bingo Marathon was held. Yes...we said marathon, because it’s not over until everyone is a winner. The ladies enjoyed a variety of brunch delights along with the comedy such an activity provides.

Hats off to Patsy Walters for coordinating such an interesting line up of events for the spouses during the 2008 meeting.
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As most of you know, Water For People (WFP) is a private, nonprofit international development organization that supports the development of safe drinking water resources as well as improved sanitation facilities and hygiene education in developing countries. WFP is unique in that it is a community-based model that partners with communities, local governments, and other nongovernmental organizations to help people improve their quality of life by supporting sustainable drinking water and sanitation solutions, as well as hygiene education.

As was mentioned at the conference last year, WFP currently works in the countries of Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and Malawi. Through these countries, they have been able to help almost 100,000 people since 1991. Two years ago, WFP made an ambitious move to expand its program to five additional nations: Ecuador, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Dominican Republic. These countries were selected from a list of 10 possible countries based on their strategic location to current WFP countries, extensive research made within the country, and potential partnering organizations within the prospective country. This aggressive plan looks to benefit 1,000 new people per day by the year 2011. Work began in Ecuador and Nicaragua in 2007, with Rwanda beginning this year. Work in Uganda and the Dominican Republic will be initiated over the next four years, as resources allow.

In 2007, I had the opportunity to attend the WFP Annual Workshop in Denver. While there, I had a chance to meet and hear from the country coordinators about the problems facing the communities, the strategies to combat the problems, and the successes after implementation of the strategies. After meeting them and hearing about what their countries face on a daily basis, I could not help but think about how blessed we are in the States with the services that our utilities provide. I also learned about what other states are doing to raise funds and promote awareness for WFP and I even found out what it was like to have a kidney stone 1,200 miles from home ... JOY! But when I was not in my room writhing in pain, I found out that we as a section are limiting ourselves to the fundraising possibilities.

In recent years, we’ve added successful cookbook and merchandise sales to the “bread and butter” of our annual golf tournament. The workshop had a special session on corporate and organizational giving. It was brought to my attention that there are many businesses and organizations within each of our states that give to WFP at a national level such as Coca-Cola®, Rotary International© or Kiwanis International©. These local businesses/franchises and organizational chapters on their own make separate charitable donations and are an untapped source. We may have an opportunity to encourage giving at the local level just by showing them the impact at an international level that their group could have. I believe the section could improve its international impact by a small group of volunteers willing to meet with the businesses and organizations to inform them of WFP and the good that it performs. Those volunteers would be given ample information including prepared presentations and guidelines to make the “sales pitch” for the benefit of WFP. Individuals who are interested in helping the section get the word out should contact our Water for People Chair, Hugh Smith, at hughsmith@meridianms.org or 601-484-6835.

Bill Moody
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Employment Announcement

Water & Wastewater Board of the City of Madison

Civil Engineer

The Water & Wastewater Board of the City of Madison is seeking applications for the position of Civil Engineer. This position requires a Bachelor’s degree (B.S.) in Civil Engineering from a four-year college or university with a minimum of 5 years of engineering experience with wastewater and wastewater utility systems. The position involves coordinating and managing projects within the department’s responsibilities, including, but not limited to, product quality, system planning, modeling, and coordination, equipment and material specifications, and construction standards. This position offers an excellent salary and benefits package.

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