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**2011 Officers / Trustees of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association**

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**2011 Committee Members**

- **Program Chair** .................................................................. Shannon Bailey-Partlow
- **Program - Assistant to Chair** ........................................... Jason Carter
- **Entertainment** .................................................................... Keith Lowery
- **Exhibits** ............................................................................. Sam Agnew
- **MAC - Chair** ........................................................................ Chris Griffin
- **Registration** ........................................................................ Philip Gibson
- **Registration - Assistant to Chair MS** .................................. Jim Ballentine
- **Competitions** ......................................................................... Jeff Standridge
- **Competitions - Assistant to Chair** ....................................... Greta Threadgill
- **Membership** ............................................................................. Ken McCool
- **Education - AL Co-Chair** ..................................................... Hercy Golson
- **Education - MS Co-Chair** ..................................................... Brian Granger
- **Media, Communications, & Pipeline** ....................................... Harry Gong
- **Time & Place - Chair** ............................................................ Bill Moody
- **Time & Place - Assistant to Chair** .......................................... Hugh Smith
- **Resolutions** ............................................................................. Blake Jeffcoat
- **Governmental Affairs - Co-Chair MS** ...................................... Bill Moody
- **Governmental Affairs - Co-Chair AL** ....................................... Drusilla Hudson
- **Audit** ..................................................................................... Jim Watterson
- **Young Professionals AL** ....................................................... Kyle Massey
- **Young Professionals MS** ...................................................... Jason Cumberland
- **Water For People - Chair** ...................................................... Ben Benvenutti
- **Nominations** ............................................................................ Sam McElroy
- **Safety Chair** ........................................................................... Mark Snow
- **Memorial Scholarship** ............................................................ Jim Miller
- **Fuller Award** ............................................................................ Keith Lowery
- **AWWA National Contact** ........................................................ Christopher McGinness
As I write this, we are fast approaching Thanksgiving 2010. So it is fitting that I should begin this, my first article as Chair of the Alabama/Mississippi Section of AWWA, with a heavy dose of “Thanks”...

THANKS to Sam and Malene McElroy for their leadership and service as Chair and First Lady of our Section for the past 12 months, and for a great annual conference concluded October 5th in their hometown of Huntsville. And THANKS to their outstanding Planning Committee that worked so hard on this year’s successful conference. The 2010 conference will be remembered for Huntsville hospitality, for our visit to the Space & Rocket Center, and for introducing new competitions (Meter Madness and Water Taste Test) that highlight our Section’s value and appeal to an even broader cross-section of the drinking water industry.

THANKS to Deb Hudson of Huntsville Utilities for her service to the Section for these past three years in publishing our outstanding three-times-per-year magazine Pipeline. This is the last edition that she will be producing for us, and she has really set a high standard for this magazine.

THANKS to Harry Gong for agreeing to take on the Pipeline publishing and communications job for the Section. This is a volunteer post that is true service to the drinking water industry in our states.

I also want to congratulate Jim Miller of Anniston Water Works, who was awarded the Fuller Award by our Section on October 5th in Huntsville. Jim has been a strong leader for our Section for many years, and he continues the tradition of hard-working Fuller Awardees from the Alabama/Mississippi Section.

Soon it will be 2011, and we are already preparing for the next annual conference, which will be October 2nd through 4th at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. But before that arrives, the 2011 Planning Committee will also be busy providing our members with continuing education, governmental affairs representation, and continuing our outreach to a region in Haiti to improve their lives through a better supply of potable water.

To get involved contact me or any member of our 2011 Planning Committee listed in this edition of Pipeline. You will definitely enjoy and grow from becoming involved with the workings and mission of the Alabama/Mississippi Section of AWWA.

Hunter Arnold
2011 Chair, AL/MS Section, AWWA
I was officially installed as the Section’s Director at the AWWA Annual Conference in Chicago this past June. As such, this is my first report. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Section members for entrusting me with this honor and privilege to serve as the Section’s representative on the AWWA Board of Directors. I will strive to maintain that trust through my service to the Section, and to the Board of Directors.

I believe it to be fitting to tell you what I do as a Director. Well, in a nutshell, I serve as the communication link between our Section membership and the AWWA Board of Directors. This means that I bring issues to the Board and express the viewpoint of our Section’s membership. I also act on the Section’s behalf with respect to other issues that are presented to the Board. This communication between me, as your Director, and you, as the members, is two-way. Through mediums such as this periodical and other meetings, I will try to pass along to you activities and events from AWWA headquarters. Also, I hope to hear from you on issues of concern that you have as a member of the AL/MS Section of the American Water Works Association. I value your membership in this great organization, and truly want you to get the most out of your membership. So, don’t hesitate to bring your ideas to me or to any other Section Trustee. We all want to hear from you. So, if you have something that would enable you to better appreciate your membership in AWWA … bring it on.

Our thanks and appreciation goes out to Sam and Malene McElroy for organizing and executing our Section’s 2010 Annual Conference held in Huntsville, Alabama. This year’s conference set new standards for the diversity of conference programs. All of you that served on the conference planning committee deserve a great deal of thanks from the membership for a job well done. Although I was not able to fully participate due to a death in my family, I received many positive comments about the conference. I hope you were able to spend some time with one of our AWWA Vice Presidents, Charlie Anderson. Charlie and his wife Cindy were very grateful for the warm welcome and southern hospitality that you all showed to them while they were guests at our conference. I thank you for that. Charlie described our Section as being a very strong volunteer group that has demonstrated the ability to work together as a team to produce good committee involvement and conference planning and execution.

I hope you were able to hear Charlie Anderson speak about the value of an AWWA membership. This is an issue that is foremost on the minds of your leadership at AWWA, including me. I want to reiterate my plea to you to bring your ideas to me or one of our Section Trustees if there is an issue of concern regarding your membership, or if you think of a way that our members could get more out of their membership in AWWA.

Thanks for your help and support.

Tom Walters
Once upon a time, in a far-away place called the City of Cleveland, before I became Public Works Director, I was the Water Works Superintendent (naturally, when I became PWD I was still the Utility Director). Five months following my appointment as Water Works Superintendent, my City Manager informed me the city was a utility member of AWWA and that I was the city contact. He also gave me an application so that I would become an individual member as well. Further, I had to attend the AL/MS Section’s annual conference in Jackson, Mississippi. Already putting in around 60 hours per week, I was reluctant to go but Jerome insisted. I said, “I don’t believe this is the time for me to be away for 3 or 4 days, Jerome. Think I’ll pass this year.” Jerome said, “The Mayor’s requiring you to go and you’re goin’!” Naturally, I revisited my decision.

The year was 1979 and earlier that year, back in the Spring, the Pearl River had gotten just about as high as anyone had ever seen it. That year and few since, service providers set up Hospitality Suites in various locations, usually their hotel suites or rooms. That was a hoot! I began to feel guilty for being away from my water system … Nyaaaah!

As Monday arrived, I did enjoy the training sessions, Layne-Central’s breakfast, other meals & handouts, and meeting new friends. It was during a Monday morning session break that I learned from Bobby West how to locate any type of underground pipe (or any item, if you think about it intensely & stand on one foot) with survey flag rods … I thought he was a nut!

Well, he wasn’t a nut, as I found out a month later when I was able to finally located an elusive 12” AC pipe leading from a 500 MG water tower that no one then at Cleveland Public Works could find. I also learned at the conference how to resolve water customer billing complaints by pointing out problems with toilet flapper valves, HWH T&P valves and faucet leaks. Once shown to a complainant where the problem was, they’d say “…Well, that’s barely a quart a minute! No way could that little drip run up the bill y’all just mailed to me!” I would then whip out my trusty Texas Instruments calculator (they were not cheap back then) and run the numbers … Got him! Heck, I never realized before I attended AL/MS AWWA’s conference there were actually 1440 minutes in a day! Like the customer, a little lazy on math, I guess.

The next year (1980), the Section held the conference at the brand new Opryland Hotel in Nashville. My wife decided she would like to go as well. We became hooked on the Section that year. Really, even if I hadn’t enjoyed it, she did and that assured my attendance and participation every year since.

I did have to leave that Jackson conference half a day early as I still had no one to adequately handle things during my absence; yet, memories of that conference still linger above most as it truly introduced a young man to the world of Water Works and its wonders … not to mention the fine folks, tools & gadgets of the industry. Further, I couldn’t believe I finally could put the fruits of those dreaded Algebra & Geometry classes to work.

By the way, when I’d help customers or friends locate their clay, cast iron or PVC household sewer lines (or anything else) with Bobby’s “witching rods”, they thought I was crazy, too. They would usually want to bet 5 or 10 dollars I’d be wrong … nice perk for an underpaid Water Works Super!

We’ve come quite a way since that ’79 conference and the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association will continue to excel in meeting our membership’s (and spouses’) needs as was recently exemplified by Sam & Malene at Huntsville. The success of their 2010 conference is a challenge to Hunter & Tina for the Biloxi Conference in 2011. Like their predecessors, I know the Arnolds and their new planning team will prevail!

See Y’all There!!

Ken McCool
Section Manager
Thank you Conference Sponsors!

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Technical Sessions

For a Variety of Needs

Technical sessions at the 2010 conference provided attendees with many educational opportunities. Sessions were conducted in the areas of regulations, accounting, personnel, security, and water supply needs. From planning a water plant to hiring the right people to meet your company’s needs, training was available to everyone. A possible 10.5 Continuing Education (CEU) hours were available to Alabama attendees and 10.5 CEU hours with 2 hours in regulations were available to Mississippi attendees.

The section staff urges all members to consider their 2011 training needs and help fill the schedule. Contact Program Chair Shannon Bailey-Partlow at Tetra Tech to submit your requests or abstract(s) if you wish to present.
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In light of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti in January, the AL/MS AWWA trustees voted to form a Haiti Relief Committee to provide Section support to the more than 1.3 million Haitians who are homeless and without adequate water supplies in many cases. The Section approved $10,000 over 2010 and the same for 2011 to aide in support efforts. As additional support, the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc. (NBC) agreed to provide matching funds of $20,000 over 2011 and to work with the Section to see the completion of a water project in the small town of Petite Riviere de l’Artibonite.

Efforts are underway to upgrade the existing water systems in this small community of 18,000 people. Currently, an existing Artesian well, which serves as the only available supply of fresh drinking water, does not have adequately sized piping to deliver the water to the community. This, coupled with leaks in the existing piping system, will provide a meaningful project for the Section and NBC for the coming year.

Pictured: A - Flying into Petite Riviere de L’Artibonite. B - A sample of the above ground piping common to the area. C - The Artesian well intake that serves Petite Riviere de L’Artibonite. D - Residents receive water service once every eight days. E - Residents must stand in long lines to get water. F & G - Leaks in the system are quite common. Here residents watch water being dumped out of the vault from the leak in picture G.
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2010 Spouse Program Wrap-Up

This year the AWWA AL/MS section was in for a real treat. Sunday night all conference participants had the pleasure of listening to astronaut Jan Davis speak while dining in the new Davidson Center at the US Space and Rocket Center.

Monday the spouses enjoyed a trip to Bridge Street Town Centre where we went to J. Jill for a fashion show, Vintage Wine & Cigars for a wine tasting, and BLUE MedSpa, for hair styling techniques. Each spouse received a $25 gift card to spend at any store at Bridge Street. Additionally, we enjoyed lunch at Dolce.

Tuesday spouses had a blast during the bingo party as always. Participants had so many gifts this year, that many women received two!

I am truly thankful to the Spouse Program Planning Committee for their assistance. We all look forward to the program that Tina Arnold will host next year at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Malene McElroy

At left, the bingo party on Tuesday is always a big hit with the spouses. On the right, Sam & Malene are pictured with Huntsville Utilities Water Board Member Dr. Jimmy Wall and wife Joanne at the Space and Rocket Center Sunday evening.
It’s a brand new era in Young Professional (YP) activities at section conferences thanks to the YP committee who have embraced the newest members and helped them become active at conferences. Alabama/Mississippi 2010 co-chairs Hercy Golson and Ben Benvenutti have introduced a variety of activities involving the newest and youngest members.

First, the YPs participated in the 2nd Annual YP Scavenger Hunt with Jason Benson of Huntsville Utilities placing first. The YPs also judged the first annual Water Tasting Contest. Anniston Waster Works and Sewer Board (pictured at right) placed first and have won the right to compete in the national “Best of the Best” competition at the 2011 International American Water Works Association Conference and Exhibition to be held in Washington D.C.

The annual volleyball battle was once again waged in the VBC Exhibit Hall. The “EPs” (Experienced Professionals aka OPs - Older Professionals) once again trounced the YPs with scores of 11-6 and 11-8. Maybe next year, YPs?

Another new activity for the YPs this year was a YP Forum held on Monday morning. Young Professionals were given a chance to ask outgoing Director Danny Hutcherson, past Chairman and Director Blake Jeffcoat, and Past Chair Jim Miller questions about the association, the opportunities it provides, and how they can get involved. The session was very informative and enjoyed by all. Hercy Golson served as moderator for the session.

Hercy and Ben did an excellent job on the 2010 YP program and we look forward to seeing what the 2011 conference offers YP attendees.

Utility systems are increasingly interested in ways to promote safety practices as well as efficiency on the job. Competitions between utility crews have become a popular way to accomplish this goal. To facilitate this, the AL/MS section has added a competition chair and assistant to the conference committee. Jeff Standridge and Greta Threadgill will help lay the foundation for a strong competition program on the section level.

In Huntsville, Daphne Utility once again challenged Birmingham Water Works in the Pipe Tapping competition. Technical issues caused problems for both teams, and each finished with only one time. Birmingham posted 1:32.38 with Daphne at 2:18.91. Both teams competed admirably and everyone enjoyed watching.

New this conference was a Meter Madness competition with competitors building meters from a bucket of parts. Huntsville Utilities, Daphne and Birmingham each had two competitors. While Don and Ron from Birmingham placed 1st and 2nd, Justin and Sam (HU), and Tony and Jason (DU) all competed admirably.

In 2011 a new competition, Top Ops will also be added to the competition line up. If your utility would like to compete in any of the competitions please contact Jeff Standridge at (205) 288-2395 or jstandridge@bwwsb.com.
Water for People Golf Tournament

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(Result are listed in the Business Meeting Minutes)
The meeting convened at 10:50 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel/Spa in Huntsville, Alabama.

Sam McElroy, Section Chair, called the business meeting to order.

The Chair asked for a report from the following chairs:

Amy McLeod, Secretary-Treasurer, reported the 2010 Annual Business Meeting minutes were available from Ken McCool in electronic form and will be published in the conference issue of *Pipeline* in about two months. Amy then dispensed with the reading of the minutes, requested approval of said minutes.

Amy also reported on the financial condition of the Section. The beginning checking and money-market accounts balance as of January 1, 2010 was $160,160.86. Through nine months ending September 31st, 2010 the Section has had receipts of $171,902.99 and disbursements of $75,549.17, for an ending balance of $256,514.68. In addition to the checking account, the Section has certificates-of-deposit accounts that increased from $237,569.60 to $240,217.48 over the 9-month period. Therefore, the total assets of the Section as of September 30th, 2010 are reported as $496,732.16 or an net increase in the past 12 months of $9,505.01.

Following a question and answer regarding the location of the CDs, the Chair thanked Amy for her new service to the Section as Secretary-Treasurer. A motion was then made by Ken McCool and seconded by Hunter Arnold to accept the financial report, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Charlie Anderson, AWWA V.P., presented on behalf of the Partnership for Safe Water the Five Year Director’s Award to the Birmingham Water Works and Sewer Board.

Hunter Arnold, Audit, reported that the bylaws require an annual audit of Section finances, and that an external audit was conducted of the Section’s 2010 financials by the CPA firm of Wilson Price Barranco Blankenship & Billingsley P.C. of Montgomery, AL. Hunter reported that the audit found all accounts to be in order and that the Sec-Treasurer keeps the Trustees informed regarding all finances on a monthly basis or more often, if necessary.

Dr. Dennis Truax, Secretary-Treasurer of the Memorial Scholarship Fund Board (MSFB), provided Section attendees with information regarding the MSFB’s policies, timelines and procedures relative to searches & awards of scholarships and the timetables for those awards. Dr. Truax alsoupdated members with the following report:

Dr. Truax gave a history of The Memorial Scholarship Fund which was established in 1974 with a gift from section members. The money held by the Fund continued to accumulate over the years. In addition, the section had elected to pay scholarships from its general funds so as to allow investments to accumulate towards a level of being a self-sustaining endowment. The last contribution from the section was in 2007. Over those years, the total amount expended by the Section was about $66,000.

Per the charter of the Scholarship Fund, one award can be made to an undergraduate student at Auburn University (AU), University of Alabama (AL), and Mississippi State University (MSU). A fourth award could be made to one graduate student from the three schools combined. The first awards of scholarships began in 1982 and continued uninterrupted until 2008. During that time, 110 scholarships have been awarded.

In 2005, the Scholarship Board was informed that the Section would no longer pay scholarships and that awards should be taken from investments. Since that time, $22,000 has been awarded. In 2007 the funds had accrued to a point where the total value of the investments was over $120,000 as a result of the $66,000 in contributions plus returns on investments less scholarship payments. The Scholarship Board of Trustees elected to define $100,000 as the equity amount in the fund. This means that it intends to never take funds from the investments if the total value of all investments was ever below this level. Ironically, subsequent reduction in the equity value of the investment resulting from the recent economic downturn caused this to occur at the end of 2008.

In our last report, we stated the value of the investments stood at about $102,400 as of 30 September 2009. About 45% of the investments were in US government securities and 55% were in equities. Return on the investments have averaged about 15% for the past nine months with the greatest return of about 27% for most of the equities against a 3% return on the government securities. Return on the investments have averaged about 15% for the past nine months with the greatest return of about 27% for most of the equities against a 3% return on the government securities over the first three quarters of 2009.

At this time, the 30 September 2010 value of the investments is $109,500. About 40% of the investments were in US government securities and 60% were in equities. This shift is the result of the performance of these securities. Return on the investments averaged 7% for the past twelve months with the greatest return coming from the equities. Their 12-month performance has ranged between five and ten percent against slightly less than 5% return on the...
government securities during the same period.

The Scholarship award process is underway. The board will be making an award of scholarships for 2010 in the near future.

The Section Trustee’s new agreement and policy for assisting the Board through the Section’s general fund with the Board’s awards; this policy and agreement was made to enable the Scholarship Fund to maintain a minimal threshold of $75,000. The agreement is available upon request to your Section Manager.

Jim Miller also gave a brief report on the status of the Junior College Scholarship Program that is a broader scholarship program that would compliment the senior college engineering school scholarships that the Scholarship Board oversees, possibly offering other scholarships that the Trustees wish to initiate, such as environmental science degrees and/or other Associate degrees with the community or junior college systems of both States.

Danny Hutcherson, Fuller Award, reported that the Fuller Award would be presented at the Banquet on Tuesday night.

Chris Griffin, Program Chair, reported on the variety of technical sessions in store for us this year as well as the new competitive events. Joining in with the Tapping contest will be a “Meter Madness” competition and a Utility Water Tasting contest to be judged by the YP Committee.

David Stejskal, MAC Committee, extended a gracious thanks to this year’s sponsors, notified the attendees present that the sponsors will be recognized at the Awards Luncheon and then gave the following report:

- 5 Platinum Sponsors
- 6 Gold Sponsors
- 8 Silver Sponsors
- 15 Bronze Sponsors

Total Sponsorship - $29,870.

Deb Hudson, PIPELINE Magazine, expressed thanks to the sponsors and advertisers. Deb had already informed the Trustees last year that the pre-conference issue would be her last; however, she stated that she has agreed to serve as editor of the magazine for one last issue following the conference while new editor, Harry Gong learns the ropes.

The Chair commended Deb for her excellent work in producing the Pipeline.

Sonny Jones, Water For People Golf Chair, Sam McElroy provided a brief report on the golf event for Sonny. Later Kevin Kennoy of the committee provided the following summary of the golf tournament:

- 14 teams & 56 golfers participated
- There were 14 Hole Sponsors @ $200 a piece and 2 Tournament Sponsors @ $1000 per sponsor – Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. and Neptune Technology; 1 Eagle Sponsor @ $600 –Garver & several door prize sponsors. The lunch sponsor @ $400 was Ecotech.

Winners:
- 1st Place Team – Garver Team
- 2nd Place Team – McWane Team

Continued on page 20
3rd Place Team – ACIPCO Team

Hole prizes awarded:
- Longest Drive – Matt Reynolds, Brian Shelton
- Closest to Pin – Jack Malone, Terry Lynch
- Longest Putt – Jim Watterson

Blake Jeffcoat, Resolutions, asked the members present to stand, and then read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Johnny R. Wiggins, K.P. Lynch and Leslie E. Smith were faithful and dedicated members of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association; and

WHEREAS, they contributed their loyalty and service to the Association; and

WHEREAS, they were respected and loved by their 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 their valued and trusted friends.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association meeting on this 4th day of October, 2010, in Huntsville, Alabama, does hereby express their sorrow and regret over the loss of these trusted and devoted friends; and

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

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

Bill Moody, Nominations, submitted the following nominations as AL/MS Section officers for 2010/11.

- Chair – Hunter Arnold
- Past Chair – Sam McElroy
- Vice Chair – Jim Watterson
- Trustee-at-Large (AL) – David Stejskal
- Trustee-at-Large (MS) – Hugh Smith
- Secretary-Treasurer (3-yr term/expires December 31, 2012) – Amy McLeod
- Director (3-yr term/expires June 2013) – Tom Walters

The Chair then requested if any nominations from the floor would be offered; there being none, a motion from the floor was made by

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Winter 2010   •   21

Conference Business Meeting Minutes

The Water Taste Test is a competition to see which participating utility can deliver safe, great-tasting tap water. The participating utilities must currently be a part of the section and have no state or federal drinking violations for the fiscal year 2010. One representative will be present from each participating utility with two samples identified in a 1-liter glass container. Upon acceptance, the YPs will judge each sample and determine which competitor has the best tasting tap water.

The young professionals would also like to thank the trustees for allowing us to host these events at this year’s conference and hope that these events will continue.

Jason Carter, Education, reported on this year’s offerings of seminars & webcasts which were well attended. These programs, as in past years, are free to Section members with Lunches included. There were four seminars across Alabama this year which provided a forum for water utilities to present ideas for “Doing More with Less.” These talks covered four general topics including:

- Leadership and Management
- Water Resources Management
- Capital Planning and Finance
- Water Treatment and Distribution

The presentations addressed specific issues such as workforce development/retention, water conservation, prioritizing capital needs, and leveraging new treatment technologies for improved water quality. The AL Education committee issued 1.5 pdh, CEU, and CEHs for each seminar in both AL and MS.

For each talk over 30 remote sites were patched in for the presentations and Q&A sessions. All materials have been loaded on the AL/MS AWWA Website and are available for download.

Jason extended thanks to his team (Anne Cannon, Jill Prestridge, Diane Bailey & Nancy Thomason), his speakers (Jim Miller, Bob McElroy, Sonny Jones, Sam McElroy, Jay Stowe, Brian Shelton & Jason Heberling) and the host utilities (Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery & Huntsville) and their people for coordinating details.

Shannon Bailey, Exhibits Chair, gave the following report:

This year’s exhibit hall has 54 booths. This is a reduction of approximately 25 exhibitors from the 2009 conference. The reduction is due to the scheduling conflict with WEFTEC and the additional expense to have a second attendee at the conference. A second conference attendee costs approximately $375.

Carson Smith, Registration Chair, Jeremy Gwin reported the following conference registration information for Carson: 406 registrations including the 67 spouses.

Keith Lowery, Entertainment, reported Dr. Charles Karr, University of Alabama Dean of the College of Engineering, provided an excellent motivational presentation earlier this morning.

Dr. Jan Davis, a former NASA astronaut and currently Vice President and Deputy General Manager of Jacobs Engineering, Sci-

Continued on page 24
Conference Business Meeting Minutes

Featured Speakers

Conference Attendees were privileged to hear some marvelous speakers in addition to the great training sessions. Dr. Jan Davis, who flew on three shuttle missions, spoke about life in space. Dr. Charles Karr, Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Alabama gave a motivational speech about potential.

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Answers.
ence, and Technical Services at the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, spoke to our group on Sunday evening at the Space and Rocket Center. Her slide presentation gave those in attendance a good picture of what it’s like for an astronaut during space missions.

Our entertainment for Tuesday night is a professional keynote entertainer who blends laugh-out-loud comedy, eye-popping juggling, and fun audience participation, with a powerful message about personal transformation. He is also an award-winning producer and writer and appeared at thousands of special events since 1984. You don’t want to miss his performance on Tuesday night following the banquet.

**ByLaws Amendment:** Other business to be included in the Business Meeting was that of a change in the ByLaws unanimously voted upon and hereby recommended to the membership by the Board of Trustees. The Chair called upon Jim Watterson to explain the change(s) which primarily had to do with the manner in which new Directors are nominated (*Article VII, Section Governance; Sections 7.3.1., 7.3.2. and 7.3.3*)

The ByLaws amendment motioned for is to *(a)* add the following sentence to Section 7.3.1: “The purpose of the Nominating Committee shall be to nominate candidates for the Section Board of Trustees for the incoming annual term for all positions except the position of Section Director as outlined in 7.3.2 below.” and *(b)* to strike Section 7.3.2 from the ByLaws and create Section 7.3.3 with the same wording as struck from Section 7.3.2; and *(c)* Section 7.3.2 will be replaced with the following wording: “At least thirty days prior to an annual meeting of the Section, the Chair shall appoint a separate nominating committee consisting of three members for the sole purpose of nominating a Section Director. (This will typically occur every third year when the term of Director is set to expire.) The Nominating Committee shall consist of the current Section Director, who shall serve as the Nominating Committee Chair, along with the next two immediate Past Directors. If any of the Past Directors are unable to serve on the Nominating Committee, the Board of Trustees may appoint any other member deemed appropriate based on knowledge of and experience in the Section.”

A motion was made by Blake Jeffcoat to accept the Trustees’ recommendation; following a second by Jimmy Nelson, the Chair called for a vote by all present. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Ken McCool, Membership,** reported that although nationally membership retention is becoming an issue, our Section presently is faring well, particularly in regard to Utility and Service Provider **Continued on page 28**
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The Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) has selected James D. Miller, General Manager of the Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board, as this year’s recipient of the organizations’ prestigious Fuller Award. The award was given at the Section’s annual meeting held in Huntsville, Alabama.

The Fuller Award is given annually to an individual who has displayed exemplary service to the water industry in Alabama and Mississippi over their career. The award is named to honor Mr. George Warren Fuller, a longtime member of the American Water Works Association. Fuller devoted a lifetime working to improve public health and the water industry and exemplified sound engineering skill, brilliant diplomatic talent and constructive leadership.

Jimmy O’Dell, Chairman of the Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board said, “Mr. Miller’s receipt of this award comes as no surprise to us. The Anniston Water Works Board is very proud of his many accomplishments, both as General Manager of Anniston Water Works and as a leader in the water industry.”

Miller is a veteran of the water and sewer industry for over thirty years and has been General Manager of the Anniston Water Works since 1996. He has been active in water industry affairs serving as Chair of the AWWA section, as Vice-Chair of the Alabama Water and Wastewater Institute and as a member of the State of Alabama Water Resources Commission.

From the Editor

It’s with emotion that I bid adieu as editor of the *Pipeline* publication. The last three years have been very exciting and educational for me. I have learned so much about the water industry. As a Public Relations professional for a three-service (electric, natural gas, and water) public utility, this has been a great opportunity to focus on one area and become more informed.

And I have met so many wonderful people. I can’t thank Sam Agnew and Carson Smith enough for all their help selling advertisements to finance the publication. Hercy Golson, Justin York, and Sam McElroy have been instrumental in helping make the magazine a quality item for all water industry professionals. The committee members over the last three years, serving with chairs Tom Walters, Bill Moody, and Sam McElroy have also been great at contributing information for publication.

Now I am introducing the new *Pipeline* Editor, Harry Gong, to the *Pipeline* readership. Harry has been very active in the AWWA as a member of the conference committee and a Young Professional. I am certain he will do a splendid job of providing timely, informative water industry news.

This is actually the last article for this issue, so I now close shop with a wish for continued success for each of you and the Alabama/Mississippi section of the American Water Works Association.

Ciao,

Deb Hudson
Huntsville Utilities
categories. Our numbers remain around 1000 – 1100 year-round but we certainly still want to work on Section growth. Ken advised everyone that the Section’s membership booth is set up and those wanting to learn more about AWWA or those who would like to become more knowledgeable about member benefits and recruiting are welcome to stop by.

Adjourn; There being no further business, Section Chair Sam McElroy adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

AWWA Training Offered
The AWWA will present the Water Utility Management Institute in partnership with Utah State University, January 24-28 in Salt Lake City. The management institute is for anyone in a leadership position, and is designed to teach how to put effective management and supervisory skills to work for you and your organization.

Instruction will include the “Foundations of Leadership” by Dr. Brent Soffee, “The Leaders Role in Performance Management” by Van Potter, and “Managing Conflict” by Glen Dutton and Van Potter, among other topics. For further information about the institute please contact Chuck Christensen at (801) 281-0107 or chuckets@msn.com
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