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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 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 through the AWWA.

Current circulation is over 2,900. Articles and photographs are encouraged and appreciated. All submissions, comments, or other matters concerning this publication should be directed to:

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For those of you who were fortunate enough to have been present Tuesday Night of the recent Section Meeting and to have heard my acceptance speech, you will find some of this article repetitive. However, I feel that all of those points bear repeating.

I will leave out the Boudreaux and Thibodeaux joke and the announcement of my being bisectional. If anyone wants to discuss either of those subjects, see me privately.

It is truly an honor to have served this Section on the Board of Directors during the last three years. As I now embark upon serving as Section Chair, it is with a great deal of pride and enthusiasm.

Of all the organizations to which I and ETEC belong, the AL/MS AWWA has always been my favorite, and I am honored to be able to give back to a group which has given so much to me.

During the last three years, I have not only been preparing for my turn to serve this coming year as Chair, but I have also been watching with great pride, the change in focus of this Section.

The change is reflected in many new programs and activities, but it can be summed up by stating that the AL/MS Section of the American Water Works Association, more than ever before, is focused on our members.

If we are not serving our members, then what is our purpose? And we can’t just serve some of, or a segment of our membership. We must serve all of our members.

And by serving, I mean offering programs and activities which make individuals and utilities want to be …… and proud to be …… members of our Section. We want enthusiasm that will make members comment at lunch; “hey, you ought to join the AWWA”, and when asked “why’s that?” to have an answer.

When I came on as Junior Trustee in 2012, Jim Watterson was Chair, then Hugh Smith, then David Stejskal. During those three years, dramatic changes took place in the areas of scholarship, education, and overall membership service.

We completely reworked the scholarship program, converting it from a narrowly-focused program, aimed at three universities, to a completely open program offering scholarships to any person deemed deserving, even for trade school and junior college students, seeking operator licenses. We awarded six scholarships this year. Three were for $4000, and three were for $2000. That’s not chump change! Five of the six recipients were present at the Section Meeting to receive them. If you were there, you saw the excitement on the faces of these recipients. There will be more. These recipients were all connected in some way to a Section Member, and are all very likely to stay in our industry and in our Section when they graduate. So, in a way, we are investing in our own future.

We have established an on-line training program through a Company
called 360 Water, where members can go on-line, get CEU credits for professional development, or work toward operator certification. This can be done any time, day or night, at your convenience! Significant Section resources were expended to conceive, sanction, and implement this program. The classes offered have been certified by the appropriate agencies in both Mississippi and Alabama. Now that it’s in place, it will only grow broader and more useful. Did I mention that this service is FREE to Section members? Well it is. And it’s also free to any employee of a Utility member. We enacted this program solely as a service to members, knowing that it might hurt our annual meeting attendance, but decided that the incentive for more folks to join the Section so they could take advantage of this program, outweighed the annual meeting attendance concerns. I think we made the right decision. As more utilities become aware of this service, we hope that we will grow our utility membership rolls. Details of this program can be found by visiting our website, www.almsawwa.org.

Over the last three years we have established new awards categories and have taken steps to renew interest in existing competitions. Several awards were presented this meeting for the first time, and we have seen a renewed interest in such competition as the water taste competition.

Awards generate new and different interests in our organization and boost the attendance at our Section Meeting. After all, what better reason to attend a meeting than to accept an award?

All of these efforts in the areas of scholarship, education and awards, were put in place to serve our existing members. We expect that they will also entice new individual members, as well as new utility members to join. When our Section Manager, Jim Miller, goes and visits potential utility members, and they ask him “what’s in it for me?” he now has an answer. The same is true for individual members.

While all of these other activities were going on, our volunteers in charge of the Pipeline magazine were completely revamping that publication, hiring an outside firm, Kelman and Associates, to publish for us and turning the Pipeline magazine into a money maker for the Section. We actually got a check from Kelman this year for the first time ever.

Did I mention our new focus on social media? How about the fact that we totally revamped our website? Visit us on Facebook or LinkedIn, and check out our website at www.almsawwa.com. All of this is impressive enough on its own, but when you consider the fact that, aside from our Section Manager, all of this work is done by volunteers who have regular jobs to do in addition to the responsibilities they take on as Committee members and Board members, it is truly amazing. If I tried to cite individually the names and accomplishments I have witnessed over the last three years, I would run out of space.

Our biggest challenge this year is going to be getting the word out.

We have something to offer owners, engineers, operators and students.

We are, indeed, an organization with value!

My message to you today, as we enter the 2015 year, is that you all belong to a VALUABLE organization. We have all of the intangibles we have always had; the networking and comradery, and now we also offer scholarship and education opportunities with tangible value.

I challenge you today to do two things. First, take advantage personally of the programs your Section offers. Second, spread the word. Tell your coworkers, your friends and your boss how valuable our organization is and encourage others to join.

I look forward to serving you this coming year. The team we have in place is phenomenal! You should all be proud to be members of such a valuable organization. I know I am.
I would like to congratulate last year’s chair, David Stejskal and his wife Mindy, as well as the entire planning committee for their outstanding job planning and implementing this year’s annual conference. All of the technical programs, competitions and other activities were outstanding and well attended. In addition to the conference, the Section should be commended for all of the other ongoing educational programs the Section has implemented this year related to Operator Training and the award of educational scholarships to several applicants. None of this could have been accomplished without countless hours of work by so many volunteers. What a great job by everyone!

I also want to thank our national guests, AWWA Vice President Michael Simpson and his wife Sharon, for attending our annual conference. Michael helped out in many ways, from being a judge in the taste test to being a caller for the spouse’s bingo program. The spouses also showed Sharon what a great spouses program that our section always provides for the ladies. I hope you were able to meet Michael and Sharon, as they are outstanding representatives of our association.

Congratulations are also in order for Harry Gong, our Pipeline Editor, who was the recipient of the Section’s inaugural Ken McCool Service Award. In addition to doing an outstanding job as the Pipeline Editor, Harry also went above and beyond the call of duty to assist our Section in many other areas in the past year, including maintaining both our Section’s webpage and Facebook page. Thanks to Harry for a job well done!

I would also like to congratulate Sam McElroy, this year’s Fuller Award winner. Sam has served the Section in many ways over the years and is most worthy of AWWA’s highest award.

Those of you who may have missed this year’s conference you should plan to attend the 2015 Annual Conference which will be held in Biloxi, Mississippi. Our new Chair, Sam Agnew, and the planning committee have already begun planning for the meeting and it will certainly be another outstanding conference. You should also participate in other non-conference activities that will be held in the upcoming year, which will include educational opportunities, young professional events and other events.

I will be representing our Section at the AWWA Winter Meeting, which will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in January. As always, please let me know if you have any thoughts or concerns related to AWWA.
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Raising the bar at the 67th Annual AL-MS Section Conference

If the numbers are any indication the recently concluded 67th Annual Section Conference in Point Clear, Alabama at the Marriott Grand Hotel and Resort was an unqualified success. Attendance was the highest since 2006. That may be, at least in part, to the great setting. The Grand is a rare blend of luxury accommodations with all the attractions of the finest resorts. It combines the charm and elegance of true southern hospitality with modern amenities.

But I suspect that was only a part of the equation. Other parts that played a role in attracting a crowd of the “who's who” in the water industry includes the Technical Program which provided forty-one sessions offering the more ambitious attendees opportunities to earn CEU’s in sixteen sessions. The Program Committee employed the use of the latest barcode/scanner technology to keep track of attendance. The program itself offered an interesting variety of topics from workforce development to technical innovation.

The food at the Grand is second to none when it comes to conference centers and resort hotels. It has the look, feel and, most importantly, the taste of a gourmet restaurant and a fine dining experience …even when serving three or four hundred attendees at the time! Add to that the entertainment that is consistently first class and unrivaled in water conferences anywhere in the country, our traditional ice-cream social, networking opportunities, water taste test, seventy-five exhibits from leading suppliers and service providers in the industry showing the latest in technology and equipment. Taken all together you would have the makings of a great conference. But there was more.

For the past several years beginning at least as far back as Keith Lowery’s year as Section Chair there has been an on-going effort to streamline and upgrade the Section’s scholarship efforts. There has also been a desire to focus those efforts on students which have demonstrated an intention to pursue study and ultimately to work within the industry. The fruits of those efforts were realized in this year’s scholarship framework. Six deserving students, all sponsored by an individual who works in the water works arena and is a AL-MS Section member; all working or studying some aspect of water works careers; all committed to stay in the two state area and stay in the business were awarded scholarships and conference attendance packages totaling $20,000 in value. Three awards of $2,000 and three awards of $4,000 were made. In addition each recipient was offered free conference registration and a night’s stay at the Grand. Five of the six were in attendance at the Opening General Session to receive their checks. The sixth had gained employment in the industry and, because he is a new employee, could not take time off to attend the conference. Each of the recipients made a few remarks as they were awarded their checks. The audience could easily appreciate they are quality individuals and deserve our assistance in their academic pursuits. Scholarship Committee Chair Danny Hutcherson with Hach Corporation summed it up when he said, “It is a proud moment for all those involved with the Committee and the Section.”

Thanks to all of you who took time out from your regular work to come way down south and share ideas, experiences and knowledge. Congratulations to Chuck Lott with Neel-Schaffer Engineers on achieving the Silver Water Drop Award, to Lonnie Thompson, Specification Rubber Products, on receiving Lifetime Membership and to the latest Fuller Awardee, Sam McElroy of Huntsville, Alabama. And, new this year, to Harry Gong for receiving the first “Kenny McCool Outstanding Service Award” for his hard work on the Media / Communication Committee.

The energetic and capable leadership of our Section Chair for 2013-2014, David Stejskal, assisted by the hard work of your Board of Trustees truly has raised the bar for annual Section Conferences as well as for member value throughout the year.
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ETSW - How does it work and does it work?

By Eddie James, Water Operator, City of Auburn, AL
This article is sponsored by Jacksonville State University.

Let me begin by defining the word ETSW. Extended Terminal Subfluidization Washing or ETSW was a program started in 2012 in Alabama by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). Berry, Bessemer and Smiths Station water plants conducted very successful studies as to the effects of ETSW. Other plants from around the state might be using this method or have heard of it as well. Six months ago, Auburn was approached by William McClimans from ADEM to start trying out this method at our water treatment plant and our results have been very successful as well.

An ETSW is a change in how a filter is washed but only to the last step of the backwash sequence. During the backwash procedure, water is pushed up through the filter media at a high rate of up to 20 gpm/ft of filter area for an extended period of time. This causes the particles trapped in and on the media to become dislodged and wash out of the filter. Most treatment plants then lower their backwash rate to around 10 gpm/ft of filter area for a shorter period of time to allow for redistribution of the filter media. An ETSW adds another low flow rate change to the backwash sequence.

This additional flow rate would be in the 3 to 8 gpm/ft of filter area. This low flow rate would be continued until the amount of water contained in the filter has been exchanged one to two times. Studies have shown that this low backwash rate allows the very small particles that remain trapped in the filter to be removed from the filter and can then shorten filter rewash times. Thus saving clean water usage. It can also help lower the turbidity spike that occurs during this time.

In Auburn, we approached this by reducing our high rate backwash flow time in half from 10 minutes to 5 minutes. We then doubled our low backwash time from 5 minutes to 10 minutes. The water usage on backwashing our filters remained about the same but our rewash times reduced by 45-50%. Our rewash times went from 15-25 minutes to 8-12 minutes. We also are experiencing a huge difference in our post backwash turbidity spikes from a .7 to 1.0 NTU to now having a .2 to .5 NTU spike. This has netted us about 15,000 gallons of water saved per backwash.

I don’t know if this program could be used by every water plant out there but the amount of water we are saving always adds up. We are always looking for ways to save water and money so this just could be a way for you to do that at your plant. If you are interested in implementing ETSW or want more information on it, please contact ADEM’s water division at (334) 271-7823.
The Jacksonville State University Office of Continuing Education, Workforce Development Division, has developed a training program that will prepare approved candidates for taking the Alabama Department of Environmental Management Water or Wastewater Treatment Plant Grade IV Operator Exam. This program was developed with valuable input from individuals respected within the water industry. A special thanks goes to Jim Miller, General Manager, Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board (Retired), for his support during this process and his continued involvement. This program would not have been possible without the wise counsel of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the AWWA, in particular John Hall, John Stockton, Brian Daniel, Virgil White, and Joel Wise. This partnership has resulted in a training program that will provide the well-rounded water works professionals that are in demand within the industry.

Requirements for this program are 1) High school diploma or GED, 2) Proficient in reading and math at the 10th grade level, 3) Drug and criminal background screen, and 4) Must be 18 years old to apply. This program has been approved for funding through the Workforce Investment Board for displaced employees and other individuals that meet eligibility requirements. Candidates from any State may apply to participate in this program (with the exception of States that do not accept Alabama’s certification). JSU welcomes inquiries from any State. This program is designed to be mobile and can be made available in any location within the United States.

The program curriculum follows the material provided in Volumes I and II of the California State University (CSU), Sacramento, Water (or Wastewater) Treatment Plant Operation Field Study Training Program. Volume I will be completed by self-study. Volume II will be completed within twenty-two weeks in conjunction with an on-site 440-hour internship in an Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) approved water or wastewater treatment plant. Prior to the exam, the student will attend up to 40 hours of classroom instruction, review for the test, and be tutored in areas of need. The student must also complete the 1900-hour, on-the-job experience requirement prior to ADEM issuing the official certification.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
Belinda Blackburn, Director, Jacksonville State University Office of Continuing Education
blackbur@jsu.edu or (256) 782-5956
Asset management

By Glenn Goldman, Manager of Central Water Association, Philadelphia, MS

When asked to submit this article, I tried to think of something that we do at Central Water that would be beneficial to all rural water systems. The area I see that is most critical for most water systems is protecting and maintaining our assets. When we think of assets we think of tanks, wells, lines, claricones, panels, construction equipment, trucks, computers, software upgrades, building maintenance, etc, but we also should plan to protect skilled, key employees. I’ll begin by sharing with you how this has become a priority for Central Water.

Just over thirteen years ago, Central Water began the task of completely revamping all of its water plants. Three years and $12 million later, construction was completed and our members had the quality and quantity of water that they all deserved.

It was at the end of the 2nd Phase and at the beginning of the final Phase of this project that I became manager of Central Water. As anticipation of completion of the project was high, all I could do was worry about how would we keep these millions of dollars worth of equipment maintained; how would we replace equipment that broke down, stop and think about that last statement for a second: “Develop a plan for paying your indebtedness and a plan for when the new equipment wears out”. If you only increase revenue and cut costs enough to pay back your loans, then all you’ve done is fight a fire that will never go out.

Central Water Association has 18 wells, 19 elevated storage tanks, 5 Class “B” treatment plants, a Class “D” treatment plant, approximately 5,000 miles of water line, 2 mini excavators, a trencher, a tractor, road boring machine, 12 trucks and numerous trailers. Add in a SCADA system, 12 computers and all the upgrades that they require, and a 4,000 square foot office building.

We began by researching past histories of repair cost, the life expectancy of each of the above items and what it would cost to replace them when necessary. We developed a ten-year plan, then broke it down into five, three and one-year plans and determined that these plans should be reviewed annually. Based on the information that we had, we then determined a monthly amount that would need to be saved each month to prepare for these future costs.

Each month we present the board with a list of expenses and the Reserve Fund allotment is listed as an expense of the company and placed into a Reserve Account. A reserve account report is given each month showing how much money is in the account along with any expenses.

We are currently adding a new well, building a pumping station and replacing two trucks in our fleet without borrowing money or increasing water rates.

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Located just north of Mississippi’s capital city and along the shores of the Barnett Reservoir, Ridgeland is a thriving and progressive city. The history of Ridgeland has always been associated with “rivers of commerce,” beginning with the Natchez Trace and growing to include the Illinois Central Railroad, U.S. Highway 51 and Interstate 55. These “rivers” have provided economic growth and redefined the community to what it is today. Just 50 years ago, fewer than 1,000 people lived in Ridgeland, a quaint town along the Natchez Trace. Now with a population of over 25,000, Ridgeland has attracted families and businesses alike for its close proximity to state business activities in Jackson and the relaxation of the Reservoir.

In contrast, the nearby historic City of Canton, which is the county seat of Madison County, has grown from 9,000 to 13,000 residents over the same 50 years. During the last 45 years of remarkable growth, Ridgeland is fortunate to have had the consistent visionary leadership of two consecutive long-serving mayors. Mayor Gene McGee has now been mayor for the last 25 years, after succeeding the late Mayor Hite Wolcott.

Ridgeland’s 7,880 customers are served with a water supply that is owned by the city and operated and maintained by the City’s Public Works Department. Supplied by seven groundwater wells founded between 700 and 1,400 feet deep in two confined aquifers (Sparta and Cockfield), Ridgeland is blessed with favorable water quality that requires no treatment except disinfection with chlorine and fluoridation. The city has four elevated water storage tanks and a ground storage tank that provide 3.3 million gallons in elevated storage.

**Healthy Lifestyle Emphasis**

Over recent decades, Ridgeland has made a conscious and emphatic choice to promote healthy lifestyles in their infrastructure and recreation. The city has an ambitious Recreation and Parks program, with parks, walking trails, soccer fields, tennis facilities, and baseball/softball fields. In addition, Ridgeland has created an award-winning recreational trail program that takes full advantage of the presence of the Natchez Trace Parkway. City leaders promote cycling, walking/jogging and all manner of fitness. This health emphasis extends to include a commitment to high quality drinking water for the citizens.

City leaders’ commitment to quality and good management practices is demonstrated by their long-standing utility membership in the American Water System Excellence

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- Maximum Daily Available Supply – 10 M Gal
- Earned an Overall Maximum Rating of 5.0 issued by Health Department for the past 4 years, and for 9 of the last 11 years.
Water Works Association. The City of Ridgeland has been an active member in the Alabama-Mississippi Section of AWWA since 1984. The City leaders of Ridgeland showed their commitment to maintaining quality water and sewer systems when they enacted an ordinance in 2002 declaring that water and sewer rates would increase 2 percent each year on January 1.

Ridgeland’s Public Works Department is charged with keeping the water system in top operational order. There are 22 city employees who work on the City’s water system; seven of those employees are licensed water system operators. These 22 employees include operators, maintenance crews, meter readers, utility locators, purchasing and inventory, receptionists, city engineer, assistant public works director and public works director. Ridgeland’s Water System is rated in the top five percent of all water systems in the State with over 1,800 systems evaluated. System evaluations are based on technical, financial and managerial criteria. Public Works Director Mike McCollum and his staff have placed intensive emphasis on the importance of preparation for the MSDH Annual Inspection, and have effectively used that process as a tool to systematically improve the water system.

Mark McManus is the Superintendent and Operator of Record for the water system. Mark has been a leader for the City since he was hired in 2001. He manages less than 20 people to the completion of over one thousand work orders annually while also answering an endless line of requests.

Jason Jones has worked for the City of Ridgeland for 24 years and oversees the water systems production, treatment and storage along with maintenance of the distribution system. When asked what the biggest challenge ahead for the water system would be, Jason stated “the biggest challenge will be providing enough water to meet the demand of future development.”

Jason also said, “We do a really good job of the day to day maintenance, and repairing problems as soon as they are found. We don’t neglect our system and let it go to pot.”

Geographic Challenges
Demand Forward Planning
Ridgeland is divided in both north-south and east-west directions by two significant barriers – Interstate 55, and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Many cities have interstate corridors to contend with, and have had to invest significantly to cross these geographic interruptions with water and sewer infrastructure, not to mention transportation systems. Ridgeland is no different on that score, but the Natchez Trace Parkway is a corridor that holds a national park designation and has presented Ridgeland with the need to plan in the long term, and very carefully, in order to provide adequate crossings for the water system, and at the same time to protect and preserve the Natchez Trace Parkway as the national treasure that it is.

John M. McCollum, Public Works Director for the city of Ridgeland

“The City of Ridgeland water system has improved tremendously since I became Director of Public Works in 2000. The City has consistently updated the water facilities plan in order to maintain a pulse on where the system is regarding capacity, anticipated growth and replacement and addition of new facilities. Our Public Works crews are second to none in the execution of their daily task and take pride in the fact that the system has received a maximum score on the Annual Health Department Inspection nine times in the past twelve years. In 2008 the City installed an Automatic Meter Reading System that reduced the manpower from five people to one and the read time from two weeks to a day and a half. This also reduced our read error rate from ten to one percent. We also send out leak letters to our customers saving millions of gallons of water as a result of this effort. With all this being said our crews in the field make this system what it is now and what it will become in the future and I could not be prouder of the job they do day in and day out.”
A Water System for the City’s Path of Growth

 Ridgeland is bounded on three sides by the City of Jackson, the Barnett Reservoir, and by the City of Madison. The one direction in which the city has opportunity to grow and expand is its western boundary. Through progressive and visionary planning, the city leaders recognized long ago this reality of the need for westward expansion. As has been typical for Ridgeland, once they decided on a path, they moved aggressively to make expansion possible by acquiring the Livingston Road Water Association (LRWA) system. The ultimate goal was to provide that area with high quality municipal grade water and fire protection service. By acquiring LRWA, Ridgeland increased its service area from 17.8 to 21.4 square miles.

The LRWA was a rural water association with 162 customers spread across 3.6 square miles of service area, built to rural water standards. So purchasing the system was only the beginning of the costs. The city is well on its way to investing over $5 million in establishing a new higher gradeline system with a new water storage tank, new water well, new water distribution mains, and water meters. The new Western Water tank was built 92-feet higher than the rest of the City’s tanks, and motorized actuation, in-line valves were installed at key points in the system to maintain control of this new higher hydraulic grade line. The Western Water System pressure zone can act as a backup supply to the remainder of the City water system through actuation of the in-line valves which are monitored and operated on the City’s SCADA system.

Capital Projects

With 22% growth in the City’s population since the year 2000, Ridgeland obviously must be very intentional about capital improvements. Mayor Gene McGee has provided the vision for the City of Ridgeland’s growth since his first election and recognized the importance of utilities to providing a strong thriving economy for business and an excellent quality of life for the community. During his term, the Mayor has more than doubled the size of the water system by providing 3 of the 5 water storage tanks, 3 of the 7 water wells, and miles of large diameter transmission mains for connecting these supply and storage facilities.

In November 2014, the City will advertise for bids for the construction of a second deep groundwater well in the Western Water system area to provide a redundant/back-up source of water to the higher Western Water tank. The City is replacing an existing well with this project and taking advantage of an existing well site to lower the Capital costs.

Diligence is Required

Strict subdivision regulations have provided the framework for making sure developer’s build new parts of the water system at the City of Ridgeland standard. Maintaining this standard requires consistent attention from all aspects such as plan review, inspection during construction, user connections, billing and system usage. The City of Ridgeland recognizes the importance of water system materials. Recent law changes require the City to monitor all new service connections for fittings that do not have any lead. Also, the soil native to the Ridgeland area has a high clay content. The clay along with its associated acidity and electrical charge creates a corrosive environment for steel pipe fittings buried underground. As a result, the City requires and monitors for the use of solid brass service connection fittings to prevent leaks on the system.

“Water, Water, Everywhere…”

From a water supply standpoint, Ridgeland’s location is interesting and ironic. Though Ridgeland’s water supply is from groundwater wells, the city is located on the shores of the Barnett Reservoir, which was constructed as a surface water supply impoundment on the Pearl River by the state of Mississippi and the City of Jackson. Ridgeland’s
southern boundary runs within 1,000 feet of the City of Jackson’s 50 MGD O.B. Curtis Water Treatment Plant, which draws its raw water stream from the Barnett Reservoir.

To add to the irony, consider that a 24” water supply line from Jackson’s Water Treatment Plant extends northward through Ridgeland on its way to deliver fresh water to the $1.3 billion Nissan Auto Assembly Plant, 12 miles to the north in Canton. Thankfully, all indications are that Ridgeland’s groundwater supply aquifers have abundant capacity to meet the city’s needs perpetually. But it is reassuring to know that Ridgeland has ready-access to a treated surface water supply, if they should ever need an alternative water source.

Special Thanks to Mike McCollum, Public Works Director for the City of Ridgeland, and his staff, including Chris Bryson, PE, City Engineer, for their time and assistance in providing information for this article.

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The state house in Mississippi has been relatively quiet. However, there continue to be concerns regarding populist activity out of the Public Service Commission. As you may remember, a new rule was proposed that would waive utility deposits for the victims of domestic violence. Section Manager Jim Miller and I attended the initial hearing at the PSC. We were joined by the Mississippi Rural Water Association, and several water, gas and electric utilities. Jim Miller, representing AWWA, spoke in opposition to this proposed rule. He made clear that while we have much sympathy for these victims, it seemed that this rule would open the door to exceptions for other social problems. It was also noted that deposits are one of the few tools available to utilities to recover bad debt. These concerns were shared by others in attendance.

Unfortunately, the PSC passed this rule anyway. While they only waved the deposit for 60 days, they also added a penalty provision that would be applied to any utility employee that purposely, or even inadvertently, revealed this information. The penalty was set at $10,000 and also allowed for civil damages. We maintain that this rule, as written, is a significant overreach by the commission and could very possibly have significant consequences to water utilities. As of this writing, MS RWA is challenging this ruling in court. Details have been forwarded to AWWA Government Affairs office in Washington and we will continue to monitor this situation closely.
The Army Corps of Engineers has released their highly-anticipated Master Water Control Manual and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) Basin which was completed and filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on October 31, 2014. The public comment period will commence with the publication of Notice of Availability in the Federal Register and will end 30 days after its publication. Please watch for more information regarding this crucial document that will govern water flow from Georgia into Alabama, and be ready to participate in the comment period, which will be upon us immediately. This is a link to the web page where more information on this subject may be found: http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/PlanningEnvironmental/ACTMasterWaterControlManualUpdate.aspx

The ALMS Government Affairs committee also plans to partner with the Alabama Water Environment Association to conduct our first ever Management Forum on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, in Montgomery Alabama. Please plan to join us as we review topics of importance for Alabama’s 2015 Legislative Session, as well as other topics of management interest. More details on this will be shared soon.

The AWWA 2015 Fly-In will occur in Washington, D.C. Wednesday, March 18, and Thursday, March 19, 2015. If you have an interest in participating, please let Mark Snow, Frank Eskridge, or a member of your Section leadership know as soon as possible.

Please be sure to contact your Government Affairs leadership if we can be of assistance to you.

On October 13, 2014, the Government Affairs Committee presented an update on activities during the Opening Session of the ALMS Section Annual Conference in Point Clear, Alabama. Mark Snow and Frank Eskridge (the Co Chairs for the Gov’t. Affairs Committee from Mississippi and Alabama respectively) were joined by Ms. Stephanie Norrell of McMillan & Associates from Montgomery, Alabama, the lobbyist for the Alabama Water and Wastewater Institute (AWWI). The ALMS Section has partnered with AWWI for legislative and regulatory efforts in order to take advantage of Ms. Norrell’s expertise and advocacy during the Alabama legislative session.

Mark Snow gave a recap of his recent AWWA Water Utility Council meeting in Denver where utility cybersecurity, EPA’s recent action regarding the “waters of the United States”, lead and copper rule revisions, and concern about Legionella were topics of national concern. Frank Eskridge shared information regarding the direction that Section leadership has staked out for the Government Affairs committee, and updated the Section on the recent participation of the Section with AWWI in Alabama on the State level.

Ms. Norrell of McMillan & Associates, AWWI’s lobbyist, encouraged everyone in Alabama to look for the legislative and regulatory updates that are provided during the Alabama legislative session in the spring. She particularly emphasized the need for utilities in Alabama to work with municipalities and other local government agencies to effect legislative change on employee liability. Current Alabama law has been interpreted in Alabama Courts to make it so that utility workers are personally liable in an unlimited fashion for damage associated with the performance of their job duties. The existing law was not meant to be applied this way, but a technicality allowed an Alabama Court to apply this thinking within the last year or so, and the Section’s No. 1 legislative priority in 2015 will be to get a law passed to change this. Ms. Norrell encouraged everyone to get involved with this important legislative initiative.
The 2014 Best Operated Plant Award—Mississippi was presented to the Clifford G. Worsham Surface Water Treatment Facility City of the Corinth Gas and Water Department in Corinth, Mississippi. The Clifford G. Worsham Surface Water Treatment Facility opened in 2013 and it can deliver 10-16.5 MGD to Corinth Gas & Water’s approximately 7,000 customers. It also has the capacity to supply to outside associations in the future. Accepting the award was Operations Manager David Bass.

The 2014 Best Operated Plant Award—Alabama was presented to the Shades Mountain Filter Plant of the Birmingham Water Works Board of Birmingham, Alabama. During 2013 Shades Mountain Filter Plant delivered on average 44.5 MGD of water to downtown Birmingham, Highway 280 corridor, Moody AL, and interconnects to three other Birmingham Water Works Board treatment plants. Shades Mountain Filter Plant also dewatered the plants by-products and delivers them to the landfill. Accepting the award was Chief Operator Wendell Cox.

The 2014 Best Operated Plant Award—Mississippi was presented to the Birmingham Water Works Board of Birmingham, Alabama. The Birmingham Water Works Board has over 4,000 miles of pipe, 51 storage tanks, 49 pump stations, 52 pressure reducing valves and 8 raw water facilities serving approximately 650,000 people. The Birmingham Water Works Board employs the latest leak detection methods available and have comprehensive asset management, reliability, and quality programs in place. The Birmingham Water Works Board collects as many as 404 samples per month, 220 of which are compliance sample as per Alabama Department of Environmental Management rule based on population served. Accepting the award was Superintendent Darin Roberson on behalf of Sonny Jones, AGM.

The 2014 Young Professional of the Year Award was awarded to Teresa Thomas of The City of Meridian of Meridian, Mississippi. Teresa represents the City of Meridian when citizens have water quality issues. She oversees the City’s state certified lab and oversees the Cross Connection Control program. Teresa works with management to oversee the City’s
Risk Management plan. Accepting the award on her behalf was the City of Meridian Public Works Director Hugh Smith.

The 2014 Operator of the Year Award-Mississippi was awarded to Phillip L. Webb of The Natchez Water Works of Natchez, Mississippi. Lance oversees all aspects of operations for Natchez Water Works water plant as well as collection of water and fluoride samples and maintaining compliance recordkeeping. He schedules operator shifts and works during their absence.

The 2014 Operator of the Year Award-Alabama was awarded to Bill Shikle of The Birmingham Water Works Board of Birmingham, Alabama. Bill is the senior operator at the Putnum Station Filter Plant. His responsibilities include maintaining the plant in regulatory compliance, recordkeeping, lab instrument calibration, and maintaining booster system pressures and tank levels.

2014 Operator of the Year Award - Mississippi

Presented to Phillip L. Webb of The Natchez Water Works of Natchez, Mississippi

2014 Operator of the Year Award - Alabama

Presented to Bill Shikle of The Birmingham Water Works Board in Birmingham, Alabama

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It is easy to under appreciate the full meaning behind the George Warren Fuller Award to our industry. Fuller was a remarkable man at a pivotal time in the history of the treatment of drinking water. Not to mention he was a lynchpin behind the formation of the American Water Works Association.

Fuller was recognized by his contemporaries with practically every award available for engineers and water supply professionals of his day. He was remarkably erudite while possessed of great common sense and practical in approach. If you would like to challenge yourself to meet the standards he set for integrity and innovation in our industry I commend to you his biography which can be accessed on the AWWA.org website.

This year marks the sixty-sixth time the Section has made the Fuller Award. Sam McElroy and his wife Malene were present at the Awards Banquet on Tuesday night of the conference. In characteristic humility Sam was taken by surprise when the traditional biographic narrative was read by national representative and AWWA Vice-President Michael Simpson. Following is the narrative from the awards ceremony. From it you will see why Sam was deserving of this recognition. We congratulate Sam on this milestone in his career and wish him very success going forward.

“He graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.S. in civil engineering. Shortly thereafter he began working for Huntsville Utilities. Not long after obtaining his PE license, he worked his way up to Superintendent of the Water Engineering Department. He has always had a natural talent for math, and so taught part time at a local college for eight years.
Because he got his start under meager circumstances he has always had a desire to give back to those who are less fortunate. He began his service at the Crisis Services of North Alabama (which provides services for victims of domestic violence) answering the HELP Line and eventually chaired the Board in 2007.

He has served his community in several other ways including currently serving on the University of Alabama’s Civil and Environmental Engineering Board since 2008, serving as the chair of the Department of Labor/Huntsville Utilities Water Apprentice Program for six years, and of course by serving as chair of the AL-MS section of the American Water Works Association. During his tenure as chair, he implemented the Meter Madness and Best Tasting Water Competitions. He also served on the education and governmental affairs committees. Subsequently he has taught classes at the request of the education chair.

In response to the disastrous earthquake in Haiti, he formed a Haiti Relief Committee to provide Section support to the more than 1.3 million Haitians who were homeless and in many cases without adequate water supplies. The Section approved $10,000 during 2010 and the same for 2011 totaling $20,000 to aide in support efforts. He also obtained additional support from the National Baptist Convention, USA Inc. which agreed to provide matching funds of $20,000 in 2011.

As if all of this was not enough to keep him busy, he began his own engineering and construction firm in 2012. As the owner and president, he manages design/build projects and provides engineering consulting services for local churches, a university, and local developers.

He is also the proud father of three children, has been married for ten years, and serves on the First Missionary Baptist Church Official Board.

Sam McElroy has clearly demonstrated distinguished service to the water supply field, represents sound engineering skills, and displays leadership which characterizes the life of George Warren Fuller.”
Local students and water employees were awarded $2,000 and $4,000 AL/MS Section AWWA Scholarships during the Opening Session of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works annual conference in Point Clear, Alabama. Austin Omer, a student at Mississippi State University’s College of Forest Resources, Matt Connell, a student at the University of South Alabama in the Master’s program for environmental toxicology, and Phillip Grammer, a student at the University of Alabama in the PhD. program for environmental engineering, were each awarded a $2,000 AL/MS Section AWWA scholarship. Brian Ninesling, an employee of the Montgomery Water and Sanitary Sewer Board and a student at Columbia Southern University in Occupational Safety and Health, Heath Denton, an employee of the Anniston Water Works and Sewer Board and a student at Gadsden State University's College of Forest Resources, were each awarded a $4,000 AL/MS Section AWWA scholarship.
in Civil Engineering Technology, and Markus Moore an employee of the Mobile Area Water and Sanitary Sewer Board and a student at the University of South Alabama in Civil Engineering, were each awarded a $4,000 AL/MS Section AWWA scholarship. Mr. David Stejskal with Ch2M Hill Engineers and Section Chair along with Danny Hutcherson, Chair of the Scholarship Committee presented them their checks.

The dual state scholarships are for individuals interested in pursuing careers in the Water Works industry in Alabama and Mississippi. For more details about the scholarships, please visit the website, www.almsawwa.org. Up to three scholarships could be awarded in each of the categories; individuals pursuing advanced licensure or training in the water works (science) field, individuals pursuing an undergraduate degree, and individuals pursuing a graduate degree. Each scholarship recipient is eligible for an additional $1,000 if they complete their training or degree and are employed within the section.

The Alabama-Mississippi Section is made up of approximately 1000 members representing utilities, sales and engineering firms, service providers and academia in fields related to public water supply. Internationally the American Water Works Association has over 54,000 members.

For more information about the AL/MS Section AWWA scholarship, please visit our website at www.almsawwa.org or contact: Mr. Jim Miller, Section Manager at 256-310-3646.

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Heath Denton

Markus Moore

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During the Annual Conference of the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association (AL/MS Section of AWWA) at the Grand Resort in Point Clear, Alabama, the Leeds Water Works Board was awarded the title of “Best Tasting Drinking Water” from the Section. It was the second time that the utility has won the award since the competition began five years ago. They competed against other public water supply systems from the two states of Alabama and Mississippi.

Bill Morris, of the Leeds Water Works Board, accepted the award during the Annual Sponsor Luncheon on October 14, 2014 from Chairman David Stejskal and YP co-chairs LaQuoyah McDaniel and Chris Bryson.

The competition was sponsored by the Section’s Young Professionals Committee and took place the prior day during the Strolling Lunch. Water samples were scored on a scale of 1 to 10 by a panel of three judges in four categories (Taste, Odor, Color, and Clarity). The judges for the competition were National AWWA Vice President Michael Simpson, Past Section Manager Ken McCool, and Past AL/MS Section Chairman Sam McElroy (2010 Chair).

The Leeds Water Works Board’s water is eligible to advance to the “Best of the Best” Taste Test at the 2015 AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE’15) in Anaheim, California in June. There, they will compete against water providers from the 43 other Sections of AWWA from across the Country.
Kenny McCool left an indelible mark on the Section having served in the officer’s rotation, winning the Fuller Award and serving as the first Section staff and manager. He still serves as an enthusiastic and battle tested volunteer. Kenny was honored at the 67th Annual Conference in Point Clear with a gift of appreciation from the Section Board of Trustees. More importantly the Board, wanting to recognize the huge role that volunteers play in the success of the Alabama-Mississippi Section, created a service award in Kenny’s honor. The honor is slated to be awarded each year at the annual conference banquet to a deserving Section volunteer.

The inaugural “Kenny McCool Service Award” went to *Pipeline* Editor, Media – Communications Committee Chair Harry Gong. Harry’s regular job is with the Mississippi State Department of Health in the Bureau of Public Water Supply. But often he will be working on the next edition of *Pipeline* Magazine or helping co-chair Hercy Golson in moving the Section’s entry into Social Media forward.

Harry is passionate about the Section and is a reliable force behind the Section’s redoubled efforts to communicate to its membership and offer additional value through its publications. Under his leadership the *Pipeline* has increased its content offering an “Operator’s Corner” and “Manager’s Minute.” The Operator’s Corner article offers practical lessons and certification help to aspiring operator trainees and entry level water works employees who are seeking to upgrade their skills and become licensed operators or increase their level of certification. It is written by a practicing, certified operator. The articles tie certification exam questions to real life, hands on experience. The same is true for the Manager’s Minute articles, which are written by current or recently retired managers. They offer real-world experiences and practical advice to aspiring water works managers and those who play a management role in the industry.

In addition to increasing the quality of the content, Harry has spear headed negotiating a contract to produce the *Pipeline* using professional publications specialty contractor Kelman & Associates. The contract along with the increased advertising revenue it has produced has us in a position of at least breaking even. But more likely it will yield a small surplus that can be used to offer more services to our membership and keep membership costs low.

Congratulations to Harry and to Kenny on this recognition of their hard work!
Scholarship Golf Tournament
Lakewood Golf Club - Point Clear, Alabama

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Competitions

Technical Sessions
Sunday Reception

Tuesday Banquet
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting on Monday October 12, 2014

At the opening session business meeting, Annual Conference

At The Marriott Grand Hotel Point Clear, AL

Chairman David Stejskal called the general membership Business Meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes from last year’s meeting by Danny Hutcherson and seconded by Hunter Arnold. With no one indicating opposition the motion carried.

A motion to accept the minutes as presented in last year’s post conference Pipeline was made by John Stockton and seconded by Nick Freeman with all present voting aye.

A financial report was then given by Secretary-Treasurer Chris Griffin:
• Chris stated that the Section is in sound financial condition. The financial position has been enhanced by the transfer of monies from the Memorial Scholarship Board which dissolved and turned its assets over to the Section.
• The funds invested in an Edward Jones account will be used as seed money for scholarship.
• He then reported the current balances for each account held by the Section.
• The account balances total $734,484.38 which represents the total current assets of the Section.

A motion was made by Danny Hutcherson and second by Jim Watterson to accept the financial report with all members present voting aye.

The Audit Report was given by David Stejskal in the absence of Sam Agnew who chaired the committee:
• There were no major findings or deficiencies reported by the auditors.
• Total assets of the Section increased from $507,999.00 to approximately $734,000.00 over the audit period.
• Copies of the audit are available to review upon request.

With no issues revealed or reported in the audit a motion was made to accept the audit report by Tom Walters, seconded by Chuck Lott and was unanimously approved by the membership.

An Exhibit Committee Report was given by Exhibits Chair Jeremy Gwin:
• There were some differences in approach this year that actually began with last year’s conference.
• Exhibit participation increased by approximately 25% this year over last year.
• The Exhibit Committee sold out of exhibit space at 75 spaces.
• Approximately 150 attendees to the conference were related to the exhibitors.
• That is an approximate increase of 40%.

A MAC Committee Report was given by Jim Ballentine who chaired the committee:
• There were at least 30 sponsors this year.
• That included 7 Platinum, 7 Gold, 8 Silver and 8 Bronze.
• A few more platinum sponsors this year really made a difference. Our platinum sponsors are Thornton, Musso & Bellemin, ETEC, Consolidated Pipe, Eco-Tech, Southern Pipe and Supply, M&H Valve, and CH2MHill. The gold sponsors are McWane Cast Iron Pipe, Morrow Water Technologies, Tank Pro, Volkert Engineers, Arcadis, American Cast Iron Pipe Company, and Utility Engineering.
• He ask the members to make sure to attend the Tuesday luncheon where sponsors will get their Plaques and recognition.

A motion was made by Hunter Arnold. With no one indicating opposition the motion carried.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes this year rather than 40-45 minutes as in past conferences with the intent being to provide a diverse range of topics to attendees.

A motion was made by John Stockton and seconded by Nick Freeman who chaired the committee:
• The technical sessions will run 30 minutes this year rather than 40-45 minutes as in past conferences with the intent being to provide a diverse range of topics to attendees.
• There was a total of 41 session opportunities over the two day program.
• This represents a great opportunity for operators and other professionals who require them to get CEU credits.
• He noted that Mississippi operators should note the “R” code on the program, which indicates that the course meets Regulatory contact requirements.
• He noted the use this year of barcode scanners to track and record CEU’s. Until we are confident that works well we are also recording the hours attended manually with bar coded cards. He believes this will speed up the recording of classes attended. Each attendee received 10 bar coded cards while there is the potential to attend 16 sessions. More cards are available if they attend more sessions.
• He then made note of the various rooms where sessions would be held.

An Education Committee Report was then offered by Maurika McKenzie on behalf of him and Carson Smith who co-chaired the committee:
• There were three training events held during the year.
• The Corrosion Training event in Mississippi had 16 attendees. But the corresponding training in Alabama was cancelled due to snow. The
course was also offered via Webinar and had 11 attendees.

- There was a chlorine class on site and by webinar on May 15.
- There was a SCADA design class offered on site at the Curtis Water Treatment Plant in Jackson, MS which was also offered on the Web and included a plant tour.

- A safety training event offered on February 26 in Alabama and on the Web had a total of 107 attendees. A Media Committee Report was given by Harry Gong, Pipeline Publisher:
  - He noted the latest five-year agreement with Kelman who is contracted to do the Pipeline magazine.
  - Three issues have already been published this year with preparations now under way for the fourth and final edition of the year.
  - He commented on the committee’s efforts at increasing followers on Social Media. Particularly Facebook. He invited the attendees to follow us and “friend” us on Facebook.
  - We are also on Linked-In but that effort is still in its infancy.
  - He would like to more thoroughly develop and expand the committee and so invited anyone interested to contact him to volunteer to serve with the committee.

A “Time and Place” report was then given by Jim Watterson who chaired the committee:

- He offered that the conference is planned to be held next year on October 10 – 12 at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, MS.
- The 2016 conference is planned to be held in Montgomery, Alabama at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown on October 10-11. A motion to approve these sites and dates was made by Hunter Arnold and seconded by Amy McCleod with all present voting aye.

Tom Walters who chaired the Resolutions Committee asked all in attendance to stand as he read the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Ron Harris and A.P. “Bob” Foley were faithful and dedicated life members of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association; and

WHEREAS, they contributed by 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;

BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association, meeting on this the twelfth day of October, 2014 at Point Clear, Alabama do 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 of the members listed herein by our Secretary-Treasurer.

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

* Actual forms sent to the families by the Secretary-Treasurer will be individually printed for each lost member.

A report on the activities of the YP Committee was given by LaQuoyah McDaniels who chaired the committee:

- The YP group held two socials. Both at baseball parks. One was in Jackson, MS where about 20 members watched the Mississippi Braves. The other was in Birmingham, Alabama at a Birmingham Barons game where about 30 members enjoyed the game and festivities.
- She encouraged participation in YP and support for the group as they are the future of the organization.
- She reported that the Water Taste Test attracted about twenty entries. Judges will sample the entries Monday at the strolling lunch in the exhibit hall and the winner will be announced at the Sponsors Luncheon Tuesday at noon. David Stejskal reported on the Conference Golf Tournament stating that it raised some $5000.00 for the Scholarship Fund.

Hugh Smith then made a Nominations Committee Report. He presented the proposed slate of officers as follows:

- David Stejskal, Past Chair
- Jimmy Nelson, Director
- Sam Agnew, Chair
- Brian Shelton, Vice-Chair
- Chris Griffin, Sec-Treas.
- Amy McCleod, Mississippi Trustee-At-Large
- Drusilla Hudson, Alabama Trustee-At-Large

David Stejskal then called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

**John Stockton made a motion to close the nominations and elect the officers slate as presented which was seconded by Alan Barefield with all present voting aye.**

Glen Thomas who chaired the Fuller Award Committee then reported on the selection of an awardee:

- He stated that the committee had deliberated and had selected an awardee who would be announced at the awards ceremony during the Tuesday night banquet.
- He thanked the members of the committee (comprised of past Fuller Award recipients) for their service.

Hunter Arnold then gave a membership report on behalf of him and co-chair Jim Watterson:

- AWWA tracks the variances of membership for the Section.
- AWWA offers promotions and advertising to promote membership.
- He asks for assistance from the members in attracting new members. “Every member get a member.”
- Getting new members involved and inviting them to participate on committees helps to retain them as members.
- He discussed the efforts being discussed in Denver to make Utility membership more attractive.
- There are over 54,000 AWWA members internationally. Currently there are 864 members in the Section.
- AWWA is working on an affiliate in India.
- Current members are the key to attracting new members.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to then adjourn the meeting.
Victory Junction receives contributions from Southern Corrosion

(Randleman, NC) — Seriously ill kids attending Victory Junction camp are benefitting from a generous new ministry of one North Carolina company. Southern Corrosion Inc. is making a donation, for every new contract their company signs, to Victory Junction a nonprofit camp for children with serious or chronic medical conditions.

“We were impressed with the fact that Victory Junction hosts all kids for free, no cost to families, and we know that takes financial support. Victory Junction offers week-long campers a fun, exhilarating and challenging experience while providing unobtrusive 24-hour medical supervision, and we felt compelled to help,” says Southern Corrosion’s President, Jim Skilton. “Families should not have to worry about the cost of such a great camp on top of cumbersome medical expenses.”

Austin Petty, Victory Junction COO, says the camp and the private company came together for business purposes, and expanded from there. “Victory Junction and Southern Corrosion got acquainted through a business relationship where SCI designed and painted a unique water tank on our 84-acre property in the shape of a hot-air balloon. They share our belief that every child, no matter their illness or medical condition, deserve the chance to just be kids.”

In the wake of the untimely death of NASCAR driver Adam Petty, Victory Junction was founded in his honor by the Petty family in 2004 as they realized Adam’s dream of creating a camp for children battling serious illnesses or chronic conditions. Since opening its doors in 2004 Victory Junction has served more than 20,000 children and their families in a safe and medically-sound environment at no cost to the camper or their family.

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**NEW MEMBERS**

**INDIVIDUALS**

Lafelton Norman – Greenwood Utilities  
William Craven – Orlando, FL  
Cedric Montgomery – Bessemer Water Service  
Cynthia Hill – Jackson Water Works  
Thomas Mobley – Auburn, AL  
Joshua Pierce – Goodwyn Mills and Cawood Inc  
Jeffery Harrison – CDG  
Christopher Lovelace – Alabama Rural Water Assn.  
Cedric Hayden – Jefferson County Commission  
Reginald Shumaker – MS Band of Choctaw Indians  
Darryl Stabile – US ARMY Corps of Engineers  
James White – Mobile Co Water Sewer & FPA  
Mary Carter – Jackson Water Works  
William Miley – Jackson Water Works  
Michelle Burns – Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
Terry Hamilton – Mobile Co. Water Sewer & FPA  
Danny Pike – Alexander City, AL  
Brian Rohling – Jefferson County Commission  
Joe Summersgil – Mobile Co Water Sewer & FPA  
Jeanne Taylor – HCP Pumps America  
Mike Waldrop – City Of Alexander City  
Brian Hinkle – Schneider Electric  
Rebecca Mason – PAE Keesler AFB  
Lauren Behel – Mississippi State University Exension Service  
Frank Pugh – Guin Water and Sewer Board

**UTILITY MEMBERS**

Bessemer Water Service – Bessemer, AL  
Bear Creek Water Association – Canton, MS

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Resolutions noting the passing of **Ron Harris** and **A.P. “Bob” Foley** were read into the permanent minutes of the Alabama-Mississippi Section during the general membership meeting on Monday of the 2014 Annual Section Conference in Point Clear, Alabama. Tom Walters, CH2M Hill, chair of the Resolutions Committee, read the resolutions.

Ron was President of Paul B. Krebs Engineering having started there upon his graduation from Auburn University where he earned both a Bachelor’s Degree and a Master’s Degree in engineering. He worked with the venerable Anniston native Paul Krebs for many years eventually leading the company until this passing this year. He was a gifted engineer possessed of great common sense, determination and practical knowledge. He enjoyed sharing a good story. Particularly if it had some humor and humanity in it.

Ron was successful by any measure. In his professional life he was modest but intelligent. He was a faithful son, husband and Dad in his personal life. He is survived by his wife Pam and two fine sons, Rob and David.

Bob Foley began his career in the U.S. Air Force. After earning his degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech his first water works job was in Albany, Georgia where he, literally, married the Boss’s daughter, Myrtis Adams Foley. After Albany he moved to Huntsville Utilities where he served as Manager of the Water Division. In 1971 he became the General Manager of the Industrial Water Board of the City of Birmingham, Alabama. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1993. The IWB was a unique utility and he managed it in his own unique style. While he sought the best from his employees he was also a great believer in second chances. Many of those he offered that chance went on to their own successful careers in the industry. Those whom he mentored would always remember the lessons he taught; sometimes with an amusing anecdote, others with a rather unforgettable “course correction.”

Bob is survived by his wife of sixty-four years Myrtis and five children, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

While it could be said of both that they did not suffer fools gladly; they both also contributed to the common good. Those of us who knew them are richer for the experience and the world will be a poorer place without them.
MEMBER UPDATE

Online Operator Training
360 Water

Members now have access to an Online Training Site for Continuing Education and Professional Development Hours with 360Water.

Visit us online
www.almsawwa.org

Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn

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NEWSMAKERS NOTICE
If you have recently been promoted, passed an exam, become certified, retired, become a parent, etc..., the Pipeline would like you to submit a small write-up and a profile picture for consideration in our Newsmakers Section. Please send the information to Harry.Gong@msdh.state.ms.us or call Harry Gong at (601) 576-7527.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE NOTICE
Volunteers are needed to serve on the Communications Committee for the Alabama/Mississippi Section of AWWA. If you are interested in working on the Section Website or the Section’s Pipeline magazine, please contact the Communication’s Chair Harry Gong at Harry.Gong@msdh.state.ms.us or at (601) 576-7527.
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