68th Annual Conference Recap
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino
Biloxi, MS

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- 2015 Award Winners
- General Membership Meeting Minutes
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Greetings from the Board

Planning for next year’s Conference in Montgomery is in full swing. Our second planning meeting takes place January 17 and 18 at the conference site – the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery. We have a large convention space, and a great venue, so I hope that you will join us. Montgomery’s riverfront and downtown areas are a great place to be in October.

Last year’s opening event at the baseball park in Biloxi was so popular, we’re going to follow in Sam’s footsteps and have this year’s Sunday night event at Riverfront Park, home of the Montgomery Biscuits. Details are still being worked out but we’re going to have some great music, great food, and a great time. Maybe we’ll even get a few swings in at home plate.

The Section continues its commitment of providing value to members. The Scholarship Committee is seeking applications for this year’s awards. Over the last two years, the Section has given out nearly $40,000 worth of scholarships. Our goal is to keep that pace, given the financial ability to do so.

These scholarships are for students interested in pursuing, or enhancing, a career in the water industry in Alabama or Mississippi. It’s open to traditional college students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and students pursuing advanced licensure or training in a water works-related field. Applications are available on the Section’s website www.almsawwa.org.

Our Education Committee has been busy as well. In November, the Section coordinated with Alabama Water Environment Association to put on the Water/Wastewater Conference in Auburn, Alabama. Two full days of training, one for water, the other for wastewater, and 10 hours of continuing education were available. Kudos to our education people for making that happen.

We will also provide EPA-sponsored training geared toward small systems again this year, along with classes from the Environmental Finance Center. Watch for email notices from our Section Manager, Jim Miller, with more details on times and places.

In addition to these big events, further opportunities for onsite and webinar training will be provided throughout the year. We’ll get the word out as they come available. And, as always, we offer online training to members at no cost through our website. It is provided in conjunction with 360Water, considered the industry standard for online education.

Our Awards committee needs your help finding outstanding Operators, Young Professionals, and utilities with exceptional Distribution Systems and Treatment Plants. We want to give them the recognition they deserve. Consider nominating them for one of our awards. Nomination forms for this year will soon be on the website.

Finally, our goal is to be the go-to resource for water professionals in Alabama and Mississippi. We have a great Section, made up of great individuals who are dedicated to the water profession. Let people know that. Encourage someone to join.
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A great job by everyone involved

would like to congratulate last year’s Chair, Sam Agnew, his wife Dana, and 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 it sponsored related to Operator Training, as well as the award of educational scholarships to several applicants. None of this could have been accomplished without our volunteers, who put in countless hours of work – what a great job by everyone!

I also want to thank AWWA President Gene Koontz, our national guest, for attending our annual conference. Gene 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 Gene what a great program our Section always provides for the ladies.

Congratulations are also in order for Mauricka McKenzie, who served as the Mississippi Education Chair, who was the recipient of the Section’s Ken McCool Service Award. I would also like to congratulate Hunter Arnold, this year’s Fuller Award winner. Hunter has served the Section in many ways over the years and is most worthy of AWWA’s highest award.

Those who missed this year’s conference should plan to attend the 2016 Annual Conference in Montgomery, AL. Our new Chair, Brian Shelton, and the planning committee have already begun planning for the meeting and it will certainly be another outstanding event. You should also participate in other non-conference activities that will be held in the upcoming year, which will include educational opportunities, young professional and other events.

I will be representing our Section at the AWWA Winter Meeting which will be held in San Diego CA, in January.
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A sample of the value of your membership

By the time you read this, the 2015 Annual Conference will be a distant image in the rearview mirror. Congratulations are due for Mr. Sam Agnew (E-Tec), Immediate Past-Chair, for an excellent job leading the Section in 2015. Chair Brian Shelton (Montgomery Water and Sanitary Sewer Board) is off to a great start for 2016, with planning for the year well under way.

Last year the Section provided training and education events to a record number of members and 2016 promises to be at least that good. AWWA has been awarded another round of EPA Small System Grants, along with the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP). The funding provided by EPA gives small systems the opportunity to get training geared for the particular challenges they often face. Training is free for anyone who wants to attend, as long as space is available. Scheduling is underway for these sessions, so keep a watch on your email for dates and times. Small Systems training will be conducted in both Alabama and Mississippi, focused on Safe Drinking Water Act compliance with emphasis on recent changes to the regulations. There will likely also be an educational session in Alabama on Small System Financial Management, conducted in partnership with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina.

For those of you who experienced difficulty getting your credit certificates last year, you will be pleased to know that the Section will handle producing those and distributing them this time. So there should be no waiting to get your certificates. They will be issued the day of the sessions to those who attend.

The Utility Management Training Session conducted in January in Montgomery, as a joint effort with the Alabama Water Environment Association, kicked off the 2016 Educational Agenda. This was the third in a series of joint workshops put together through the combined efforts of the AL-MS Section and the AWEA. All have been well-attended and received great reviews from attendees. They are yet another powerful example of what happens when great organizations pool their resources and talents for the betterment of our industry.

The Section, as well as other water associations, is excited about the opportunity the Professional Operator Training Program at Jacksonville State University presents to create a pool of well-trained, state-certified operators. Several students are enrolled and preparing for a great future as a water or wastewater plant operator for our member utilities. For more information on this program please see the JSU ad in this edition of Pipeline.

The EPA Small Systems Program and the JSU Professional Operator Training Program are huge steps forward in our efforts to equip a workplace ready workforce. But there is more. Last year the Section Scholarship Committee and Board of Trustees awarded $19,000 in college scholarships to students who are seeking to become the future leaders in the drinking water and waste water treatment industries. The money funded eight scholarships, in varying amounts, for a variety of degree programs. The recipients were an impressive group of both under grad and graduate-level candidates, and several are current employees of member utilities. Four of the recipients were on hand at the Monday morning opening session to receive their awards. The Section should be proud of these people and its support of their continued professional development.

That’s a sampling of the value your membership in the Alabama-Mississippi Section offers. Please watch your inbox for other educational events as they develop. And, as always, if you have any questions or suggestions related to the Section, please don’t hesitate to drop me an email or give me a call.
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Consider these tips for greater safety when working alone:
• Talk to your boss or other colleagues about your specific job duties, and the hazards that might arise and how to minimize them.
• See if specific hazardous job duties can be rescheduled so you do not have to work alone.
• If that is not possible, take another worker with you into higher risk situations.
• Set up a check-in system or tracking method so others know you are ok.
• Always carry a personal cell phone or two-way radio with you at all times.
• If working at night always carry a flashlight as well. You never know when a hole or unexpected trip hazard will show up.
• Most water plant grounds are sizeable and secure. Always keep an eye out on your surroundings when walking around alone. You never know when someone might want to sneak up on you.

If you’re like me, then the solidarity of working alone is fun and enjoyable. Keep these tips in mind though and always stay safe.
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Overcoming obstacles when modernizing your utility’s operations

By Ken Herring

The “six phases of a project” have been jokingly described as:
1. Enthusiasm
2. Disillusionment
3. Panic
4. Search for the guilty
5. Punishment of the innocent
6. Praise and honors for the non-participants.*

I found a lot of truth in the above remark when our organization recently implemented a new software project. Even though installing new software systems may not be the most expensive or the most complicated process, it can be a massive undertaking. Problems include; transferring old data, re-training employees, disgruntled staff members, orienting thousands of customers to a new payment system, and a host of other complications.

If this project is implemented properly, it can save your utility money, benefit the customers, and streamline the routine tasks required in our industry.

MAKE SURE THE SOFTWARE COMPANY CAN PROVIDE THE SERVICES

We solicited proposals from seven different software companies, and after all the presentations, we agreed to narrow it down to three. I located several utilities that used these operating systems and requested onsite visits. Even though the utility companies were scattered throughout the southeast, it was well worth the time and travel to meet with the people who actually used the software. I was surprised with one particular visit. After conversing at length with this utility’s staff, it was evident this particular software company did not have all the bells and whistles they stated in their presentation. A crucial benefit of meeting face to face was the rapport we built with current users of the software that we eventually purchased. It was invaluable to be able to call a familiar face and get their thoughts on a problem during the integration period.

KEEP THE BOARD AWARE OF MAJOR ISSUES

We were having major difficulties with electronically importing the billing data into the financial software. It took months and months of bug repairs, with numerous journal entries to get the integration operating correctly. By keeping our board appraised of the complications, they understood the necessary financial adjustments pertaining to this project.

KEEP THE EMPLOYEES MOTIVATED ON COMPLETING THE TRANSITION

Let’s face it, we are all creatures of habit and some people hate change. One of the issues was that some of the employees did not have confidence in a new software and others had the mindset that “the old way was better.” To combat this attitude, we encouraged the staff by reminding them other utilities were already using this technology, and in the long run, our company would operate more efficiently. The management team also kept a positive attitude in front of the workforce. It was very important to deal with any negative comments immediately. The employees had enough stress learning a new system without having to listen to any naysayers.

TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE SOFTWARE

On one of our site visits, there was one particular utility company that left an impression on my management team. They had all the latest technology, but their staff was not implementing all the tools available. They were only using the pieces they were familiar with (from the old system) and not taking full advantage of all the new technological advancements in new software systems. After that visit, our team agreed that we were going to utilize everything this new operating system had to offer. This determination has paid big dividends. It has allowed us to save money, be more efficient and streamline our operation.

DISPLAY GOOD LEADERSHIP SKILLS

I am reminded of a quote by Donald Rumsfeld: “Amidst all the clutter, beyond all the obstacles, aside from the static, are the goals set. Put your head down, do the best job possible, let the flak pass, and work toward those goals.”

Any project worthwhile is never easy and has challenges to face. It’s the leadership’s attitude and determination that allows a utility to reap the full benefits of a new endeavor.

Ken Herring is the General Manager of Adams County Water Association in southwest Mississippi.

*Source: en.m.wikipedia.org
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Several of the municipal water supply systems in the area have already embraced various technologies for treatment of groundwater. Southern Mississippi relies almost entirely on its supply from groundwater aquifers - until now. In November 2015, the Jackson County Utility Authority (JCUA) began operation of the first surface water treatment plant in the southern half of a state. The source – the Pascagoula River. The Pascagoula River is approximately 80 miles in length flowing at an average of 75,700 gallons per second. With a relatively heavy industrial demand of around 49 million gallons per day (MGD) already on the river, an additional demand of less than 5MGD was received with little or no resistance within the existing 100MGD permitted withdrawal value.
The existing industrial water supply system, operated by the Jackson County Port Authority, serves the industrial water supply needs in the area. From its inception, the supply line from the river has always anticipated providing the needed river water supply for a potable water plant. (See Photo 1)

In 2008, the JCUA began installing a water distribution system in the eastern portion of Jackson County in response to increased demand for housing and commerce that was less susceptible to storm surge. During this project, the ground water testing indicated that significant treatment would be required to achieve top drinking water standard. While the concept of surface water treatment had been considered and initiated several years ago, it became evident that potential solution to ground water quality should be revisited.

As with any project, one of the first orders of business was funding the project. To develop the funding plan a planning team was established that included Mr. Tommy Fairfield, Jr., Executive Director of JCUA, Mr. Peter McMaster, P.E., Arcadis, and Jackson County Supervisors Mr. John
McKay, Mr. Barry Cumbest, and Mr. Troy Ross. The JCUA and the Jackson County Board of Supervisors engaged the services of Arcadis Engineering to revive the partially funded surface water treatment plant concept. The Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the JCUA entered an inter-local agreement wherein the County Board of Supervisors would support the project with funds from an Environmental Protection Agency Grant and the JCUA would contribute the required agency match funds. The County also agreed to contribute the plant site it had already acquired and pre-loaded.

To address the concerns for source water should there be a period of low flow, or an unforeseen disruption of source water supply, JCUA requested Arcadis, to include source water from deep groundwater wells on the site. As a contingency plan for source water disruption, the treatment plant would be designed and built to treat surface water, but could also be re-configured to treat the available groundwater should something happen to the supply. Arcadis and JCUA completed the pilot studies from both sources of water prior to final design. With the pilot studies complete, final design could now be completed and construction could begin.

The design and construction oversight was led by Mr. Chuck Starling, P. E. (Arcadis) and Mr. Talbert Rea, P. E. (JCUA). The construction contract was awarded to Max Foote Construction. Based on the initial operation size of .75 MGD, expandable to 3 MGD, the cost of construction was about $11,000,000 – excluding site acquisition and raw water supply to the site. The JCUA awarded separate contract to connect the treatment plant to the existing distribution system concurrent with plant construction.

For surface water treatment, the raw water is initially processed through a traditional flocculation – sedimentation...
system using aluminum sulfate as the coagulate. (See Photos 2 and 3) The product is then treated using ultrafiltration (UF) and reverse osmosis (RO) which ensure cryptosporidium and giardia removal. (See Photos 4, 5, and 6) Disinfection is accomplished with a gas chlorine feed system and ground storage tank to meet the required contact time to ensure 4 log removal of any virus. (See Photo 8) All major components were supplied by Evoqua and controlled by SCADA. (See Photo 9) Plant operations are overseen by Class A Surface Water Operators Ralph Hayman (JCWA) and Craig Ellis (JCWA). With plant construction now complete and the water supply on-line a relatively plentiful natural resource can provide a much greater value to the community.

As a contingency plan for source water disruption, the treatment plant would be designed and built to treat surface water, but could also be re-configured to treat the available groundwater should something happen to the supply.
As you know, the election cycle is now complete in Mississippi. Mr. Trent Kelly is the new Congressman from the 1st District, replacing the late Alan Nunnlee. Trent and his wife Sheila are from Saltillo. He is a former District Attorney; spent 29 years with the Mississippi Army National Guard; served two terms in Iraq during- and-after Desert Storm for which he received two Bronze Stars, Combat Action Badge, and the DeFleury Medal. We are looking forward to meeting and working with Congressman Kelly in the future and hope to visit with him and his staff during the Spring AWWA Fly-In.

Speaking of The Fly-In, it is currently scheduled for April 13 – 14. I will provide more information as it becomes available regarding issues to be discussed at the Fly-In. If anyone has a particular concern or interest prior to then, please let me know, I’d be happy to share those with our delegation as well.

We continue to monitor activities related to the Mississippi Public Service Commission. There are now two new members that have been elected from the Central and Southern Districts. While the commission usually does not get involved too much in our business, there has been some effort toward populist issues that could be considered “back door” regulation. We stand ready to assist the commission on these or other issues that may arise.

As always, I’m open to input or simply any conversation related to water issues.

Mark Snow, Mississippi Governmental Affairs Chair
It is with great emotion and pride that I pass the torch of the Pipeline newsletter and begin my official first three years as an elected officer (Secretary/Treasurer) within the Alabama–Mississippi Section. It truly was an honor to serve the Section in this capacity during the past five years. Even though I bid good bye to these duties, I still will continue to serve on the Communications Committee to offer guidance and advice for those that that wish to serve in the future.

Starting the new 2016 year, Hercy Golson of Huntsville Utilities has accepted to take over these responsibilities and duties. Hercy has worked with me these past five years, and I have no doubt that he can continue the service that has already been established, and will continue to make the Pipeline the most resourceful tool to our industry.

Before I close, I challenge all of our members especially our young professionals to get more involved and consider serving on the Communications Committee. Serving in this capacity can likely be the most rewarding experience, for both your personal and professional growth, in our industry. Nowhere else will you get the opportunity to communicate with all levels of our industry – including: vendors, engineers, operators, managers, and officials to grow your own network.

Opportunities to serve can include contacting vendors, firms, or utilities, for article contributions or taking pictures at our sponsored events. There are even opportunities to serve on social media and on website development. If anyone wishes to volunteer and serve on the Communications Committee, please contact Hercy Golson, Jim Miller, or myself, and we will get you started.

Harry D. Gong, Jr., P.E.

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Stable Suspension of more than 30% by Weight

SCALELESS PIPE

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Every year at the section conference, we highlight individuals and water systems that are doing exceptional work. This year, we awarded two young professionals and two operators (one from Alabama and one from Mississippi) for their hard work at their companies and AWWA. In addition to these four wonderful individuals, we awarded prizes for outstanding Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System (one from Alabama and one from Mississippi). The Treatment Plant and Distribution System winners are great examples of the hard work and dedication necessary to produce quality water in Alabama, Mississippi, and throughout the United States.

**Young Professional of the Year 2015**

**Alabama**
Lorenzo Clay
Birmingham Water Works Board
Birmingham, AL

**Mississippi**
Chris Bryson
City of Ridgeland Public Works
Ridgeland, MS
Operator of the Year 2015

Alabama
Wendell Cox
Birmingham Water Works Board
Birmingham, AL

Mississippi
Jill Vaughn
Bear Creek Water Association
Madison County, MS

Accepting on his behalf is Bill Shinkle
Accepting on her behalf is Mark Snow

Water Treatment Plant of the Year 2015

Alabama
Trojan Water Treatment Facility
Daphne Utilities
Daphne, AL

Mississippi
City of Meridian North Plant
Meridian Public Works Department
Meridian, MS

Water Distribution System of the Year 2015

Alabama
Montgomery Water Works & Sanitary Sewer Board
Birmingham, AL

Mississippi
Bear Creek Water Association
Madison County, MS
This year’s winner is Hunter Arnold with Waggoner Engineering in Mississippi. Hunter’s citation is included herein. You will find if you read on that Hunter is a deserving candidate for this award — although you would never know all of his accomplishments, due to his quiet nature. He is a humble, modest sort. But his life in water and engineering epitomizes the definition of a servant leader.

Hunter was “pinned” at the Awards Banquet on Tuesday night of the Annual Conference and will receive his official recognition from AWWA at the national Conference and Exposition in Chicago in June of next year. One of the highlights of that conference is the Fuller Award Breakfast, where Fuller Award winners from all the AWWA Sections are honored for their service to the profession.

To understand the significance of this award, you need to understand the contributions that George Warren Fuller made to our profession. Below is a biographical account of his professional life upon his passing. Below that you will also find Hunter’s bio and citation. I think you will see how these two men’s contributions align to span the intervening generations.

“George Warren Fuller was first of all a capable engineer, equipped with a mind that never closed a channel to new ideas. He was an inventive technician—first in the laboratory field, later in engineering and design. He was a skilled negotiator, a public relations counsel who never called himself one, but who by such skill persuaded reluctant city officials that they were very wise and right to authorize sanitary improvements. He was a loyal citizen who found himself able and willing to render service to his country during World War I. He was uncannily able to give ear to the ideas and aspirations of younger men in the field and to inspire in them some measure of the spirit of leadership that he possessed. He believed in the organization and assembly of technical and professional men and devoted himself fully to the advancement of their associations and societies to the end that they serve better through planned action and cooperation.

As is our long standing tradition, the Section’s Fuller Award Committee selected the winner of the Alabama-Mississippi Section’ 2016 Fuller Award Winner at the October Annual Conference. The Fuller Award Committee is comprised of the past five Fuller Award Winners and is based on criteria as described below.

Fitting indeed were the words of M. N. Baker, in his editorial tribute in the Engineering News Record.

“History will be better able than we are to appraise the contributions of George W. Fuller to the art of water purification, but history will not be so well able to appraise Mr. Fuller’s personal qualities of understanding, kindliness, sound judgment and tact as are we who have been fortunate enough to have frequent contact with him in our daily work… Here also should be recorded an acknowledgment of the debt the profession owes to Mr. Fuller, especially his chosen branch of the profession, for his liberal contributions of time and energy to its professional societies. It can be said without fear of contradiction that it was chiefly through his efforts that the American Water Works Association has been raised from the level of a social group to its present high standing as a technical organization. Mr. Fuller’s passing also serves to re-emphasize the youthfulness of sanitary engineering and the fundamental nature of the contributions made by a generation of notable men, now largely departed -- work that centered around the Lawrence experiments and laid the foundation for present design methods and practices of water filtration . . . Fuller’s achievements and those of others of his generation are a legacy to be utilized by the present generation to carry the art forward to greater perfection.”

This is the citation that was read when Hunter was named as this year’s Fuller Award recipient:

A native of Starkville, MS, this year’s recipient received his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering, summa cum laude, from Mississippi State University in 1986. After graduation, he worked for a general contractor in Dallas, TX, for two years before relocating to Jackson, MS, where he worked as a bridge design engineer for Michael Baker Engineers. In 1990, he joined his current firm as a Project Manager. He became director of the firm’s water and
wastewater division in 2002, and has served as their vice-president of client services since 2005.

He has over 25 years of experience in the management, planning, design, and construction of civil engineering infrastructure programs. His experience includes project management of public works infrastructure improvement projects in the areas of regional infrastructure, wastewater systems, airports, roadways, drainage, storm water management, railroads, water supply, storage and distribution, environmental assessments, and construction management.

He is a longtime member of the AL-MS Section of the American Water Works Association and has served as: Past-Chair, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and Membership Committee Chair, and has held a number of other posts in the Section – always being quick to volunteer his time and talents.

He is an active member of the Mississippi Engineering Society and has held the following positions: President, Secretary/Treasurer, Secretary/Treasurer-Elect, Nominating Committee Member, Legislative Committee Member, Sustaining Organization Committee Member, Chairman, Membership Committee, Awards Committee Member. He also served in the following roles for the Jackson Chapter of the Mississippi Engineering Society: President, President-Elect, and Secretary/Treasurer.

He serves his profession and community in several other ways including: Mississippi World Trade Center Past-President; American Public Works Association, Member; American Society of Civil Engineers, Member; Mississippi Economic Development Council, Member; Rotary Club of Downtown Jackson, Board of Directors Member; Ridgeland Chamber of Commerce Past-President and Past Board of Directors Member; Central Mississippi Chapter of the Mississippi State University Alumni Association, Past Board of Directors Member; Boy Scouts of America, Young Life Jackson Area Committee Member; and he is currently working as a volunteer for Young Life Capernaum, which provides opportunities to children with special needs.

He and his wife are avid Mississippi State University alumni and supporters of many of the university’s sports and educational programs. He serves as a board member for the Mississippi State University Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

He and his wife are the proud parents of two daughters, Jessica and Regan, who are currently in medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. They are members of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, MS, where he is a deacon and a member of the choir.

Please join me in congratulating this year’s Alabama-Mississippi recipient of the George Warren Fuller Award – Hunter Arnold.

On October 13, 2015 during the 68th Annual Conference of the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association (AL/MS Section of AWWA) in Biloxi, Mississippi, Anniston Water Works was awarded the title of “Best Tasting Drinking Water” from the Section. Anniston competed against 13 other public water supply systems from the two states of Alabama and Mississippi.

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 President Gene Kooantz, Section Chair Sam Agnew, and Section Manager Jim Miller.

General Manager of Anniston Water Works Ed Turner said, “It is no surprise to us that our water would be selected as best tasting.” Turner also added that, “In order to taste good, water has to be clean and safe and no one does that as well as the employees of our water system.”

Anniston Water Work’s water is now eligible to advance to the “Best of the Best” Taste Test at the 2016 AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE’16) in Chicago, Illinois in June. There, Anniston will compete against water providers from the 43 other Sections of AWWA from across the Country.
The Alabama-Mississippi Section Scholarship Committee and Board of Trustees continued its momentum toward providing a “workplace ready” workforce to the water industry. At the Annual Conference in October, scholarships totaling $19,000 were handed out to eight worthy individuals. In addition to the scholarship, awards recipients who attended the Opening Session were given a complimentary conference registration and one night’s accommodation in the hotel. Four of the recipients were present to receive their awards and attend conference events.

This was the second year in a row the Section awarded $20,000 in benefits to students who are either involved in the Alabama and Mississippi water industries, or studying a water-related curriculum for future careers in water or wastewater. The Section Trustees have budgeted $20,000 for awards in the upcoming calendar year as well.

The selection process for next year’s awards is currently underway. If you know someone who may qualify for a scholarship please see the scholarship tab on the Section’s website at www.alsawwa.org and please follow the application instructions carefully. Tuition and fees for courses of study related to the water industry at community colleges, undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as the Jacksonville State University Professional Operator Training Program, are eligible for scholarships. The application cut-off date of February 1 is rapidly approaching.

With the pending retirements of many baby boomers, it is predicted that shortages of positions and skills in the water industry will occur. Indeed, several utilities in the Alabama-Mississippi area are already experiencing shortages of qualified water and waste water treatment plant operators. In an effort to meet this shortfall, Section Trustees are proactively supporting scholarships to traditional academic institutions, as well as specialized training like JSU’s Professional Operator Program.

Our goal is to recruit promising individuals into our industry, prepare them for long, successful careers and, by doing so, create a pool of quality candidates to meet the needs of water utilities and service providers going forward. We ask utilities to please give some thought as to who, within your utility, could be promoted if they received the necessary training and skills. If you are a professional, look for those who might be recruited into the field. It is in our best interests to use tools such as the AL-MS Scholarship program, and the promise of a steady career, to recruit the best and brightest to the water industry.

2015 Scholarship Awards

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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Ingram</td>
<td>Vern Dillon</td>
<td>Aaron Tutor</td>
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<td>Tadesse Simshaw</td>
<td>Quint Jones</td>
<td>Morgan Pate</td>
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<td>Jaquice Boyd</td>
<td>Tyler Mewbourn</td>
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The AL-MS Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) is now accepting abstracts for presentations for the 2016 Annual Conference technical program. Presentations will be limited to 20–25 minutes, with 5–10 minutes for questions submitted from the audience afterward. Abstracts should include the title, a detailed description of the topic, approximate length (time) of presentation, author(s) name(s), and short bio for the primary contact. Abstracts should be maximum 500 words. The Section plans to place a special emphasis on current and future regulatory changes, and operator training, so presenters from each of those groups are encouraged to participate. General categories for the technical program include:

- Regulatory Compliance
- Operations/Management
- Finance and Administration
- Billing and Customer Service
- Water Resources
- Surface Water Treatment
- Groundwater Water Treatment
- Distribution System Management
- Water System Security and
- Disaster Recovery
- Equipment Selection
- Research from Universities
- Emerging/New Technologies
- Asset and Data Management Systems

Selection Criteria
- Originality
- Content
- Relevance to Industry
- Audience Range
- Innovation
- Case Studies

Submission Timeline
May 31 ....................Abstract Deadline
June 30 ............... Presenter Notification
Sept. 9 ........ Submit Materials Digitally

Please submit abstracts and questions to Nick Freeman (nicholas.freeman@ch2m.com); 334-215-9093. Materials may also be mailed to Nick Freeman, 4121 Carmichael Rd., Suite 400, Montgomery, AL 36106.
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training booth
Trivaco
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Underground Solutions
Utility Engineering Consultants
Utility Service Company
Vanguard Utility Service
Volkert
Water Company of America
Plant Tour – Jackson County Utility Authority

Spouse Event

Competitions
**Technical Sessions**

![Image of technical sessions](image1.png)

**Sunday Evening**

![Image of Sunday evening activities](image2.png)

**Tuesday Evening**

![Image of Tuesday evening activities](image3.png)
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sam Agnew at approximately 11 am.

Minutes were presented from the last general membership meeting in Point Clear, Alabama, in October of 2014.

A motion was made by Jimmy Nelson, seconded by Brian Shelton, with all present voting aye to dispense with the reading of the minutes from that meeting.

A motion was then made by Jimmy Nelson, seconded by Phillip Gibson, with all voting aye to accept the minutes from the 2014 General Membership meeting.

Mr. Harry Gong, Secretary-Treasurer for the Section, then presented a financial report. A suggestion was made from the members present to dispense with a line-by-line report of the financials. Harry commented that the Section was financially sound with over $743,000 in current assets. A motion was made by Brain Shelton, seconded by Davis Stejskal, with all present voting aye to accept the financial report.

Brian Shelton, as Chair of the Audit Committee, reported that a recent audit by an independent accounting firm revealed no significant findings, exceptions or reportable conditions. Copies of the audit were made available to the membership present. A motion was made by Tom Walters, with a second, and all present voting aye to accept the audit report.

Brian Shelton, as Chair of the Audit Committee, reported that a recent audit by an independent accounting firm revealed no significant findings, exceptions or reportable conditions. Copies of the audit were made available to the membership present. A motion was made by Tom Walters, with a second, and all present voting aye to accept the audit report.

Doug Clark, co-Chair of the Exhibit Committee, reported that there were 71 exhibitors booked for the conference. Ryan Bailey, chair of the MAC Committee, reported that there were six Platinum donors, six Gold, 11 silver and six bronze sponsors, totaling approximately $39,750 donated for the conference. This is a record for sponsorships in the Section.

Anna Yamat, Registration Chair, gave a report stating that there were 550 registrants including 30 new members, 30 YPs and 100 spouses.

Matt McDougald and Mauricka McKenzie reported on the education efforts of the Section. Mauricka went through the past year calendar and highlighted the educational programs delivered each month in Mississippi. Matt reported that the Section is working with the Alabama Water Environment Association to deliver a water technology conference in Auburn, in November, and a management conference in Montgomery, on January 27.

Harry Gong reported on media/communications. Highlights included:
- Establishing an Instagram account (almsawwa)
- Acquiring conference incentive gifts – including power chargers and tumblers – for those who follow the Section on social media
- Encouraging social media engagement (comments, sharing, etc.) as a way to invite and encourage involvement
- The Pipeline reaching a net positive position and generating extra cash income for the Section.

The Time and Place committee reported that the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center will be the site of the 2016 Annual Conference and Exhibitions.

There were no Last Call Resolutions for the year.

Chris Bryson reported on the activities of the Young Professionals Committee
- Chris represented the Committee at the national AWWA conference on YP activities, in Austin. He recommended the conference, said it had value, and that future YP chairs should make an effort to attend.
- Chris will be using some of the tools learned at the YP Summit
- Chris reported that the Committee organized two YP events in Mississippi and one in Alabama during the past year. All were associated with sports events and held at ballparks. It was noted that several people attended these events, who did not attend the Section Conference, and that the events provided a forum to reach other Young Professionals
- Chris commented on the events held Sunday evening at the Biloxi Shuckers baseball park including the Home Run Derby. He also reported on the Water Taste Test for The Best Stating Water in Mississippi and Alabama. There were 15 entrants this year and 26 sample bottles were requested. This was the most ever for our Section
- YP games were sponsored by Capital Chlorination
There were 42 players, five sponsors, six hole sponsors, and six lunch sponsors.

David Stejskal reported on Membership Committee activities, stating that we had gained two utility members in the past year.

Jim Miller, chair of the Fuller Award Committee, reported that the committee had made a selection, which would be announced by national AWWA president, Gene Koontz, at the Tuesday Awards banquet. The actual award will be given at the national conference in Chicago next June.

The Nominations committee put forth the following nominations for the 2015-16 year:

- Past-Chair – Sam Agnew
- Chair – Brian Shelton
- Vice-Chair – Amy McLeod
- Alabama Senior Trustee – Drusilla Hudson
- Mississippi Junior Trustee – Phillip Gibson
- Secretary/Treasurer – Harry Gong
- Director – Jim Watterson*
* Jim Watterson will succeed Jimmy Nelson at the summer AWWA Board meeting.

There being no motions from the floor, a motion was made to close nominations by Jimmy Nelson, seconded by Chuck Lott, with all present voting aye.

A motion was then made by Charlie Moak, with a second from Lee Jones, to accept the Nomination Committee’s slate of officers. All present voted aye.

There being no further business brought forward a motion was made, seconded, and approved, to adjourn the meeting.
Alabama Utility Management Conference

DATE/TIME
January 27, 2016
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

LOCATION
Embassy Suites Hotel - Montgomery

The American Water Works Association (AWWA), AL/MS Section and Alabama’s Water Environment Association (AWEA) announce a specialty conference coming to Montgomery, Alabama on Wednesday, January 27, 2016. The Alabama Utility Management Conference will be held at the Embassy Suites Montgomery Hotel & Conference Center located at 300 Tallapoosa Street in Montgomery.

The workshop theme is for utility management professionals that work in Alabama’s public water and wastewater industry and will include presentations from State Regulatory Agencies, including the Office of Water Resources (OWR) and ADEM in addition to a legislative update from the Alabama Water and Wastewater Institute (AWWI), as well as other management topics. Follow this link to register or download printable registration form.

COST
$75/person

AVAILABLE PDHs
4.5 hours

PROPOSED AGENDA

9:00 - 10:00
Registration & Networking

10:00 - 10:15
Welcome & Announcements

10:15 - 11:45
Utility Management Topic – Water Utility of the Future

11:45 - 12:00
Networking Break

12:00 - 1:00
Lunch with Keynote Speaker

1:00 - 1:15
Networking Break

1:15 - 3:15
ADEM Regulatory Matters
  • Fluoridation in Water Treatment Systems
  • Alabama Water Reuse Regulations
  • The State of SSOs in Alabama – ADEM
  • The State of SSOs in Alabama – Utility Reports

3:15 - 3:30
Networking Break

3:30 - 4:30
More About Alabama Water Matters
  • Alabama Office of Water Resources
  • Mapping the Legislative Agenda – AWWI

AL/MS Section AWWA and AWEA Joint Technology Workshop a Success; Auburn, Alabama
NEW MEMBERS

Robert Wilcocks – ARCADIS US
David Calhoun – Arcadis
Hector Castro –
  Mobile Area Water & Sewer
Calressia Clark –
  Mobile Area Water & Sewer
Brian Finnegan –
  Canton Municipal Utility
Mike Allen – Alabaster Water
Vernon Carter –
  Governmental Utility Services Corp.
James Lofton – Dothan Utilities
Brian Chandler – City of Troy
Vincent Covington –
  Birmingham Water Works Board
Debi Parker –
  Beauregard Water Authority
Chad Andrews –
  Underground Solutions, Inc.
Glenna Potter – Huntsville Utilities
Austin Moore –
  Waggoner Engineering, Inc
Marsha Sloss – City of Athens Utilities
Collena Matz –
  Mobile Area Water & Sewer
Mikel Thompson – City of Auburn
Chad Hare –
  Gadsden Water Works & Sewer Board
Joshua Tarpy –
  ACIPCO/American Flow Control
Mike Davis – City of Troy
Janis Nolan – USDA
Eric Barlow –
  Montgomery Water Works
William Moore – Montgomery Water
  Works and Sanitary Sewer Board
Lucious Jackson –
  Montgomery Water Works
Phillip Grammer –
  University of Alabama
Pauline Johnson –
  University of Alabama
Julie Olson – University of Alabama
Jessica Wedgeworth –
  University of Alabama
Houston Jenkins –
  Jones Blair Waldrup Tucker
Nolan Williamson –
  Bear Creek Water Association
Michael Simmons –
  Town of Berry Water Dept.
Harry Knight – Lonza
Stuart Williamson –
  Pass Christian, MS
Shawn Dickson – Integra Water LLC
Anthony Sinclair –
  Greenwood Utilities

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City of Troy – Troy, AL

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www.awwa.org/partnership
MEMBER UPDATE

Online Operator Training

360water

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

Visit us online
www.almsawwa.org

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.
Your source for Total Water Solutions

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Pipeline would not be possible without the advertising support of these companies and organizations. Please think of them when you require a product or service. We have tried to make it easier for you to contact these suppliers by including their telephone numbers and websites.

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<td>CB&amp;I Inc</td>
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<td>678-935-3650</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cbi.com">www.cbi.com</a></td>
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<td>CH2M HILL</td>
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<td>334-271-1444</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ch2mhill.com">www.ch2mhill.com</a></td>
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<td>Environmental Technical Sales, Inc. (ETEC)</td>
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<td>225-295-1200</td>
<td><a href="http://www.etec-sales.com">www.etec-sales.com</a></td>
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<td>Franklin Miller</td>
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<td>800-932-0599</td>
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<td>Garver</td>
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<td>251-406-2583</td>
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<td>Hydra Service, Inc.</td>
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<td>800-749-3569</td>
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<td>Jacksonville State University</td>
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<td>256-782-5956</td>
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<td>Kamstrup</td>
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<td>404-835-6716</td>
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<td>205-987-7411</td>
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<td>Medora Corporation</td>
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<td>866-437-8076</td>
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<td>MER-RICK Industries, Inc.</td>
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<td>850-265-3611</td>
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<td>205-408-6680</td>
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<td>Neel-Schaffer, Inc.</td>
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<td>800-264-6335</td>
<td><a href="http://www.neel-schaffer.com">www.neel-schaffer.com</a></td>
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<td>Neptune Technology Group Inc.</td>
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<td>270-826-9000</td>
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<td>Schnabel Engineering</td>
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<td>770-781-8008</td>
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<td>The Ford Meter Box Co., Inc.</td>
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<td>260-563-3171</td>
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<td>Utility Service Co., Inc.</td>
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<td>855-526-4413</td>
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<td>Volkert, Inc.</td>
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<td>251-342-1070</td>
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<td>Waggoner Engineering, Inc.</td>
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<td>800-661-3733</td>
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<td>Williams Equipment &amp; Supply</td>
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