

2008
Section Directors' Report
to the
North Dakota Section
American Water Works Association

For those of you who were in attendance at the Spring Board Meeting in Mandan on May 21, 2008, I provided an update of what had occurred on the National level from the time of the NDWPCC in Fargo until May 2008. I will briefly summarize what occurred during that period of time before moving into the activities of the past four and half months.

The 2008 Mid-Winter Board Meeting was held January 26 – 27, 2008 in Coronado, California. At the Meeting Craig Woolard (Alaska Section) was elected to serve as your President-Elect for 2008. Dee Bennett (South Carolina Section), Dean Fritzke (Pacific Northwest Section), Juan Carlos Perez Bofill (Puerto Rico Section), and Jeff Zdrojewski (New York Section) were elected as Vice-Presidents. Dan Duchniak (Wisconsin Section) and Joel Neulight (Pennsylvania Section) was elected as Directors-At-Large. In addition Gary Zimmerman was confirmed by the Board as the Executive Director and Lee Roberts was confirmed as the Association Treasurer. While the normal Association business was acted on; budgets, financial reports, Section Bylaw changes, approval of AWWA Standards, Executive Director's Report, etc., other issues that were out of the ordinary meeting activities and required additional conversations and deliberations were the introduction of Gary Zimmerman and his confirmation and one last general meeting with Jack Hoffbuhr at the reins. Following adjournment of the meetings on Sunday evening, a special tribute was held for Jack with each Section and many of the Committees and Councils recognizing Jack's accomplishments with the Association, although many of them were from a lighter perspective, stories that had not been publicly shared before.

During the months that followed the Mid-Winter Board Meeting a number of activities and events took place. Don Degen (British Columbia Section), Mike Hooker (New York Section), Joe Mantua (Chesapeake Section), and Jerry Stevens (Iowa Section) announced that they would be campaigning for the position of President-Elect for 2009. In addition there are two available Vice-President positions open and one Director-at-Large position open. Nominations closed on October 1, 2008 and there are seven individuals who have submitted the necessary paperwork for consideration of the two Vice-President positions and six individuals have completed the paperwork for the Director-at-Large position. The names will not be released until after the Nominating Committee, of which I am a member, narrows the list of Directors-at-Large down to the mandated three candidates at our meeting on October 14, 2008.

The month of May saw the first ever RMSO for the new Region Three, comprised of the Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, Ontario, South Dakota, and Wisconsin Sections, met in Dearborn, MI on the 16th and 17th. The meeting agenda included Membership Matters, the 2008 Education Direction, the Town Hall Meetings, AWWA updates, Section Exchanges, the Section-Association Relationship, the Seven Measures of Success, and a meeting wrap-up. Having an opportunity to interact with a different set of Sections was both fun and informative. The 2009 RMSO has been scheduled for April 17 and 18, 2009 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

June saw the 2008 edition of ACE held in Atlanta, Georgia, June 7th through the 12th. The AWWA Board convened on the Saturday and Sunday prior to ACE. The normal Board activities including Bylaw changes, Standards adoption, and Treasurer's and Audit Reports were heard, discussed, and approved, etc. Las Vegas, Nevada was chosen as the site for the 2018 ACE and a very lively discussion followed regarding the proposal by the Administrative and Policy Council for a three region rotation schedule for future ACE's. The proposal would include approval of a rotation plan that included two locations in the western United States, two in the central States, and two in the east. The proposed sites by region were: West – Las Vegas and San Diego, Central – Chicago and Denver, and East – Orlando and Washington, D.C. San Antonio, Texas was selected as the site of the 2011 Mid-Winter Board Meeting. The North Dakota Section was well represented at ACE 2008. Charles Vein, AE2S, Grand Forks, accepted the George Warren Fuller Award; Dennis Howey, City of Gwinner, Gwinner, was awarded the Operator Meritorius Award; the City of Fargo, Fargo, was recognized with the Service to the Water Industry Award for fifty years of utility membership, and the City of Grand Forks was one of the five finalists in the Drinking Water Taste Test. The Conference concluded with the passing of the gavel and Mike Leonard (Georgia Section) accepting the role as President of AWWA. Final numbers for ACE indicated a registration number of 12,201 versus a budget of 12,825 and 13,600 in Toronto last year. Exhibitor attendance continues to be robust and at 100% of budget and 120% versus Toronto. Available exhibitor space seems to be the only factor limiting the exhibitor registration. The financial shortfall for the event was approximately \$163,000 and it is believed that the shortfall was city/venue-related.

Please note that I received a formal thank you from Jack Hoffbuhr for what he described as a "wonderful bottle of wine" and the donation on his behalf to Water For People. Jack wrote, "I can't think of a better tribute since Water For People is the embodiment of my commitment to safe water throughout the world. My connection to the Section goes way back to the early '70's when Bob Francis and others helped mentor a young Public Health Service Officer and kept inviting him back to the North Central and then the North Dakota Section Meetings".

Hurricane Gustav and subsequently Hanna and Ike provided an opportunity to see the WARN program in action. The Emergency Management Assistance Compact Advisory Council was very encouraged and impressed by the improvements in water sector readiness since Katrina based on the implementation of WARN nationally.

Public Affairs Advisories were distributed for Associated Press stories on Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products, the Red Flags of Identity Theft, the signing of the Total Coliform Rule Agreement-in-Principle, Pharmaceuticals in Wastewater, and the *Liquid Assets* documentary.

The subject of the AWWA-Affiliation Agreement continues to be a matter that will need resolution. Currently an Ad-Hoc Committee has been organized and is developing the “guiding principles” of an agreement, is organizing a communications strategy that will keep the Sections informed of necessary changes, and is establishing business relationships between AWWA and the Sections that will ensure retention of the unique circumstances of the various types of Sections and will provide the flexibility that allows each Section to operate in an effective and efficient manner.

Finally, the most current membership numbers show the AWWA membership to be 58,829 at the end of September. And on a sad note, AWWA lost a dear friend when Al Warburton, former and long-time AWWA Director of Legislative Affairs passed away on Wednesday, October 1, 2008.

Respectfully submitted on October 08, 2008 by Jack Long, Director.