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Member Association News

Chesapeake WEA ([CWEA](#))

The Chesapeake WEA Collection Systems Committee will be hosting their *Fall Collection Systems Seminar* on **Thursday, December 1, 2016** at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies in Linthicum Heights, MD.

The fall seminar will focus on *Force Main Condition Check Ups*, and will present key talks on sewer force main condition assessments, including the following topics:

- ◆ Corrosion Control
- ◆ Transient Pressures
- ◆ Condition Assessments
- ◆ Utility Scans/SUE
- ◆ Old & New Safety Features

For more information and to register for the seminar, [click here](#).

Illinois WEA ([IWEA](#))

Illinois WEA hosted a Collection Systems Seminar on **Thursday, November 10, 2016** at the Hyatt Lisle, Lisle, IL. This year's seminar will include presentations by:

- ◆ Allison Swisher, Joliet Capital, *Practical Lessons from an EPA Administrative Order: Overview of Joliet's Game Plan*.
- ◆ Bill Sheriff, MWRD, *Lessons Learned from the First Round of MWRD Submittals*.
- ◆ James Landini, Director of Public Works, *Olympia Fields' Lateral Lining Program: Getting Public Participation and Community Buy-In*.
- ◆ Jay Seyller and Carl Schoedel, Kane County DOT, *Traffic Safety*.
- ◆ Steve Ludwig, Village of Algonquin, *Interacting with the Public: Is It You or the Resident That Needs Medication?*

For more information about the event, [click here](#).

Ohio WEA ([OWEA](#))

Ohio WEA will be hosting a series of "hands-on" Collection Systems Workshops throughout the fall. Look out for one in your area and for more information or to register, click on the links below.

- ◆ NE Collection Systems Hands-On Workshop—**October 20, 2016**—Packard Facility, Warren, Ohio—[Register Here!](#)
- ◆ SW Collection Systems Hands-On Workshop—**November 3, 2016**—MSDGC-Wastewater Collection Division, Cincinnati, OH—[Register Here!](#)
- ◆ SE Collection Systems Hands-On Workshop—**November 17, 2016**—City of Columbus SMOC, Columbus, OH—[Register Here!](#)
- ◆ NW Collection Systems Hands-On Workshop—**December 8, 2016**—Northwestern Water and Sewer District, Bowling Green, OH—[Register Here!](#)

Virginia WEA ([VWEA](#))

The Collections Committee held a meeting at WaterJAM, September 12-15, 2016, to transition the Chair position to Jeff Griffiths, as TJ Johnson completed his two-year commitment in this role. The committee welcomes Kyle Logue as the new Vice Chair. WaterJAM and WEFTEC were highlighted with some proud moments in recognition of long-standing committee members; Chris Wilson (Brown & Caldwell) received the VWEA Collection Systems Golden Manhole Award and Phil Hubbard (HRSD) received the national WEF Collection Systems Award. Congratulations to Chris & Phil!

The committee is actively working on an agenda and action items for the next twelve months. A number of topics, including a statewide operator certification program, are in the works and more details will follow in the next quarterly Board Report.

Collection Systems Awards

In each issue we like to recognize professionals and/or utilities in your Member Association (MA) who received a distinguished award in collection systems. Please contact Bri Nakamura at bnakamura@wef.org if you would like to contribute.

Chesapeake WEA (CWEA)

Chesapeake WEA held their annual conference on August 29-September 1, 2016 in Ocean City, Maryland. The Keynote Speaker was Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of Environment (MDE), and there were over 135 Technical Presentations, including process classes for operators.

At this year's conference they presented several awards. Congratulations to the following awardees!

- ♦ **Golden Manhole**, Aaron Z. Hughes, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Anna Santino, Pure Technology
- ♦ **Golden Raindrop**, Jane McDonough, Brown and Caldwell
- ♦ **Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers, 5s**—Jane McDonough Brown and Caldwell, Aaron Z. Hughes Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Chein-Chi Chang DCWater, Cece Nguyen Brown and Caldwell.
- ♦ **President Award**—Edward Shea Greeley and Hansan
- ♦ **Laboratory Analyst Award**: Anjuman A. Islam, Ph.D, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
- ♦ **Bedell Award**: Rudy Chow, P. E., City of Baltimore

The CWEA's annual **Operations Challenge** continues to grow every year, with 11 Teams competing. The Blue Ridge Brawlers from the Virginia Water Environment Association won first place, and CWEA's own Motley Poo was 2nd.

Virginia WEA (VWEA)



VWEA Golden Manhole Awardee Chis Wilson with VWEA President John McGettigan. Photo : Chris Wilson

The Golden Manhole award is to recognize an individual who has shown extreme dedication to the area of sewer collection systems. The dedication is evident by the focus on training and promotion of collection systems personnel to enhance the personnel's knowledge and ability to operate and maintain collection systems.

VWEA awarded this year's award to Mr. Chris Wilson of Brown & Caldwell.

Let us highlight what your MA is doing in the realm of collection systems. Share any successes, milestones, events, initiatives, innovations, fun ideas, etc. with all in our collection systems community by emailing a short summary to Bri Nakamura at bnakamura@wef.org

WEF CSC Honors 8 New Golden Manhole Awardees

At the Collection Systems Committee Meeting at WEFTEC on Sunday, September 25, 2016, the CSC awardee 8 members with the Golden Manhole Award. The Golden Manhole is awarded to the members who have showed significant contributions to the CSC, within the past years.

This years awardee's are:

- ♦ Aaron Witt, Johnson County Environmental Department
- ♦ Angela Lee, Charlotte Water
- ♦ Bri Nakamura, Water Environment Federation
- ♦ Jerome Iltis, San Antonio Water System
- ♦ James Shelton, ARCADIS
- ♦ Kevin Waldron, Olsson Associates
- ♦ Mark Courtney, Brown & Caldwell
- ♦ Srinii Vallabhaneni, MWH

Congratulations to all the awardees and don't forget to wear your pins!

Phil Hubbard (HRSD) wins the WEF Collections Systems Award



Collection Systems Award Winner Phil Hubbard and WEF President Paul Bowen. Photo : WEF Photos.

The Collection System Award is presented to an individual for contributions to the advancement of the state of the art wastewater collection.

This year's awardee is Mr. Phil Hubbard an active member of the Virginia Water Environment Association and WEF with over thirty years'

experience in maintenance and construction of collection systems. Through his professional career, he has reached and educated many in Virginia and nationally on the basics and special issues in wastewater profession. Phil's work to develop Regional Technical Standards to provide guidance on wet weather operation for locally owned collection systems lead to his role as the Hampton Roads Sanitation Districts' leader on wet weather enforcement actions. In this role he negotiated on behalf of the 14 regional entities to gain consensus on implementation of a unified wet weather management plan and in doing so saved the rate payers \$1 billion over the 25-year implementation term. Through his involvement with the WEF Collection Systems Committee and VWEA he has provided presentations and training at numerous locations locally, throughout the state, regionally and nationally.

A big congratulations to Phil!

Richmond (British Columbia, CA) Sewers liked "Blocked Arteries" with Grease



In the battle against grease and fatbergs, Metro Vancouver (CA) have began a targeted campaign in Richmond to better educate the community about the effects of grease in not only their homes but region wide sewer system.

Metro Vancouver spends about \$2 million each year in the region to repair damage caused by grease. The campaign is a good reminder that in addition to grease, fats and oils, and disposal wipes should not be flushed down the toilet.

The campaign, "Wipe It, Green Bin It" encourages people to properly dispose of fats and grease by collecting the fat in a bowl or scraping it from the pan directly into your food compost green bin.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/canada/british-columbia/richmond-grease-fighters-1.3800283>

Sewer warmth to heat Paris (France) swimming pool

In October, the Aspirant Dunand Pool in Paris' 14th arrondissement inaugurated a new heating systems using warmth recovered from sewers in a bid to cut costs and reduce carbon emissions. The pool is the latest in a series of French public buildings to use heat pumps to recycle residual warmth from showers, dishwashers, and washing machines in its sewage pipes.

French waste and water group Suez, which has a 30-year contract to run the installation, already operates a dozen such heating systems around the country, including in pools in Paris suburb Levallois and in Annemasse, near the Swiss border, and in schools, apartment blocks and administrative buildings.

"The potential is enormous. Wherever there are sewers, we can recover heat," said Bertrand Camus, head of Suez water in France.

France has some 400,000 kilometers of sewage networks, where the water temperature typically ranges between 13 degrees Celsius (55.4°F) in winter and 20 degrees (68°F) in summer.

Source: <http://in.reuters.com/article/us-france-environment-sewers-idINKNC125192>

How India is Turning Sewage into Energy

In India, one of the worlds most populated countries, the issue of waste and how to dispose of it is a big problem for many: according to WaterAid India, roughly 560 million people in India go to the toilet "in the open".

To help with this problem, the state government in Chennai is looking for smart solutions to dispose of the waste and harness energy potential.

"Chennai, being a metro city, has a sewage treatment capacity of 732 million liters per day," Pandian Appakutti, resident engineer at VA Tech Wabag, told CNBC's Sustainable Energy.

"The sewage has to be treated in order to prevent the water bodies from getting polluted," Appakutti added. "In Chennai we have 13 plants, sewage treatment plants, out of which seven plants are with biogas engines."

The process doesn't use oxygen, but captures methane and uses it in the plant's engines, helping to make the plant self-sufficient.

More innovations are coming too: The plant will soon be re-using processed domestic waste water to help relieve droughts and water shortages in the area.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/13/how-india-is-turning-sewage-into-energy.html>

Wastewater Collection System Workers in Texas Would Benefit

Texas Health Officials have proposed changes to [Rule Number 1.136](#) that governs the disposition of special waste from health care-related facilities. The new rules would require that fetal remains be [buried or cremated](#).

The proposed rules in Texas follow an Indiana measure that was signed into law last year by Governor Mike Pence. [Senate Enrolled Act 329](#) requires the Indiana State Department of Health to adopt rules concerning the disposal methods of aborted remains by health care facilities.

"This law creates rules for how to appropriately dispose of aborted fetal remains," said Sen. Liz Brown who authored the Indiana bill. "Establishing standards brings respect to the woman, abortion staff and the aborted child. These standards require the facility to dispose of the baby's remains properly, unless the woman chooses to bury her baby. Hoosiers want their government to ensure the bodies of aborted babies are treated with dignity and this law accomplishes that."

Texas Governor Greg Abbott similarly justifies his support for the proposed rules in his state on moral grounds. "Governor Abbott believes human and fetal remains should not be treated like medical waste, and the proposed rule changes affirms the value and dignity of all life," said Abbott's spokeswoman Ciara Matthews.

During a hearing leading up to the vote on Indiana's Senate Bill 329, [testimony](#) was presented to the Indiana legislature that disposal of fetal remains in the wastewater collection system was practiced. This disposal method is suspected to be also practiced in other states due to the discovery of human remains associated with incidents reported in [Arizona](#), [Texas](#), [South Carolina](#) and [Rhode Island](#) involving wastewater utility systems.

Testimony on the proposed rule changes in Texas will not be made public until after the [comment](#) period is closed on October 31. Consequently, it is unknown at the time of this writing if any testimony has been presented in favor of the rule changes on behalf of Texas wastewater utility workers who object to the possibility of discovering fetal remains in the wastewater utility system. It is anticipated that the Texas utility workers would overwhelmingly applaud the rule changes.



Impressive Turnout at WEFTEC 2016 in NOLA

We had another impressive turnout at WEFTEC 2016 in New Orleans, Louisiana with **20,113 registrants** and **1,006 exhibitors** using 301,900 square feet of space!

Notable highlights included the installation of green infrastructure on the grounds of New Orleans City Hall during the ninth annual Community Service Project; exciting discussions and knowledge exchange during the Great Water Cities session, Women in Water breakfast, as well as countless workshops, technical sessions, and networking events; the fifth annual Innovation Showcase, which included the return of the popular Sustainable Beer Smackdown, the Operator Ingenuity Contest, and the unveiling of the Water Reuse Roadmap Primer; the recognition of sixty-one Utility of the Future Today recipients for exceptional performance in sustainable water management and operations; and much more.

We were also very excited about the launch of the #MyWaterLegacy social media campaign. The campaign will bring attention to the value of mentorship and membership, the tradition of working in the water sector, and the important contributions that water professionals make every day to build a legacy of clean water for future generations.

A big thanks to everyone who came out and we hope to see you next year!

Collection Systems at WEFTEC 2016

The WEF Collection System Committee (CSC) hosted a meeting on September 25 during the 2016 WEFTEC conference with nearly 100 members in attendance.

Succession of Officers – The meeting was called to order by Rudy Fernandez turned over to Keith McCormack, Past Chair for the introduction of the New Vice Chair and promotion of officers. The leadership for the 2016-2017 year includes Chair, Luis Leon, Chair-Elect, Dianne Sumego, Vice-Chair Kevin Waldron and Rudy Fernandez as Past Chair. Chair Luis Leon started the meeting with the recognition of outgoing chair Rudy Fernandez. Rudy led the CSC and was instrumental in the implementation of the new organizational structure serving as chair for two years during the transition. **THANY YOU** Rudy for your leadership!

Our guest technical speaker was **Mr. George Kurz** discussion his research over the past several years on data gathering and his discussion on I/I and results across Georgia followed by reports on Member Services, Specialty Conference and WEFTEC. A second presentation by The Lord of Wipes, Rob Villee updating us on the latest and greatest happening with this mission to rid our sewers of “non-flushable/dispersable” wipes from entering our collection systems.

Our committee chairs dedication is a direct correlation to the success of our committee and were recognized for their service over the past two years. Outgoing Chairs recognized:

- ◆ Paul Costa, WEFTEC
- ◆ Jim Hewitt, Specialty Conference

- ◆ Keith McCormack, Collection System Committee
- ◆ John Nelson, Webcast
- ◆ Sriniv Vallabhaneni
- ◆ Kevin Waldron, Member Services

Thank you to our Outgoing chair’s for your efforts and leadership!

Golden Manhole Awards: Awards chair Jennifer Lachmayr presented the Golden Manhole award which recognizes professionals in our industry whom have gone above and beyond in both their professional and volunteer lives to help with the education, and improvement of our environment. Jenn introduced the award winners with the help of Laurie Chase and Rob Villee.

Congratulations to this year’s Golden manhole award winners (pictured):



Pictured from left to right: Mark Courtney, Aaron Witt, Angela Lee, Kevin Waldron, James Shelton, Sriniv Vallabhaneni . Brianne Nakamura. Not Pictured Jerome Iltis. Photo: D. Sumego

The **Collection System Award Winner** this year was Phil Hubbard from HRSD. Many of us know Phil for his relentless leadership and involvement within the CSC and for HRSD. Congratulations Phil on your award.

Dave Hofer, took a few moments to recognize **Marsha Slaughter on her retirement**. As a long time friend Dave shared a few stories with us sharing Marsha’s accomplishments over the years as well as serving as a Past Chair of the CSC. Congratulations Marsha and best wishes on your new adventures.



Congratulations Marsha Slaughter on your retirement! Photo: D. Sumego

The meeting concluded with brief reports of our workgroups by the offices. We look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Year.

Collection Systems Workshops Sell Out!

We had a sold out Workshop 23: Collection Systems Back to Basics 2016 – Priming the Pumps and Exercising the Force Mains – The Basics and Beyond of Pumping Systems. The attendees were a good mix of operations, engineering, and technology oriented professionals. It was an engaging workshop with excellent interactive components followed by a panel discussion. Thank to Eric Harold, Brian Duane, Richard Cummings, Phil Hubbard, Paul Edwards, and Andrew Vane for another successful installment of the Back to Basics Workshop series!



Participants in Workshop 10. Photo : WEF Photos.

The Workshop 10 was also well attended with about 50 participants – nearly 90% of them representing utilities across the USA and Canada. The workshop was targeted at both experienced and inexperienced participants who would like to learn or further their knowledge on establishing and progressing

their private I/I reduction programs. The workshop topics focused on legal, funding, public outreach, and technical and implementation strategies covered by six invited speakers. Workshop participants were also engaged in three interactive sessions: first one in the morning to share their own challenges with setting/managing private property I/I programs; second in the afternoon to work through a hypothetical case study exercise to apply their knowledge and what they have learned from speakers; last one was at the end with an interactive expert panel session discussion on vision forward.

A big thanks to all the organizers and participants of this year's workshops! Remember that workshops are a great way to get an interactive learning experience at conferences! Look out for a great set of workshops at Collection Systems 2017!

Packed House's for Collection Systems Sessions!

The Collection Systems sessions were once again successful at WEFTEC 2016! The track this year included 7 full sessions, 5 half sessions, and our popular mobile session on Wednesday morning that focused on reducing I/I through sewer rehabilitation. The featured private property half session on Monday morning had record attendance, with over 250 in the room and a line out the door! In addition, WEFTEC 2016 included two new sessions on emerging collection systems technologies and manufacturer's perspectives on sewer rehabilitation, which we hope to continue in future years. Many thanks to the members of the Collection Systems Symposia, WEF Staff, and Assistant Moderators for all your efforts in making the Collection Systems program a success!

14th Annual Collection Systems Luncheon and Tours a Success!

Speaking to the sold out crowd at the 14th annual Collection Systems Luncheon in New Orleans, Adel Hagekhalil, P.E., BCEE, the Assistant Director with the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation discussed the City's award winning "One Water" Water Integrated Resources Plan which relies on public input and participation and integrates water supply, water reuse, water conservation and stormwater management with wastewater facilities planning through a regional watershed approach.



CS Luncheon speaker Mr. Adel Hagekhalil. Photo : WEF Photos

The Sewer and Water Board of New Orleans continues to provide strong support for the WEFTECH collection systems committee with tours of the systems pumping stations. These sold out high demand tours visited three of the pump stations. These unique pump station tours offered visits to Pump Station #6 the second largest pumping station of its kind in the world. The SWBNO system's pumping capacity is over 32 billion gallons a day, enough to fill the Superdome in 42 minutes.

Blue Ridge Brawlers ([VWEA](#)) and Elevated Ops ([RMWEA](#)) win Ops Challenge 2016

The Blue Ridge Brawlers of the Virginia Water Environment Association, pulled off a dramatic win at the 29th annual Operations Challenge competition. The fun-filled, high-energy event took place at WEFTEC 2016—the Water Environment Federation's 89th annual technical exhibition and conference—in New Orleans.

First place Division 1 team members Randy Williams (coach), Lacy Burnette (captain), Wayne Brown, Stephen Lofaro, and Kevin Thomasson and first place Division 2 team, Elevated Ops, included members Orren West (coach), Kelsey Gedge (captain), Matt Duncan, Lance Wenholz, and Josh Mallory competed against 40 hardworking teams from the U.S., Canada, and Argentina. Both teams are first time winners.

Over the course of nearly three decades, Operations Challenge has steadily grown from the original 22-team event to this year's 42-team, two-division format.

Overall winners in both divisions include:

Division 1

First Place: Blue Ridge Brawlers

Virginia WEA, Western Virginia Water Authority, Roanoke, Va.

Second Place: Motley Poo

Chesapeake WEA, Maryland Environmental Service, Millersville, Md.

Third Place: L.A. Wrecking Crew

California WEA, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Carson, Calif.

Division 2

First Place: Elevated Ops

Rocky Mountain WEA, Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, Denver, Colo.

Second Place: Wasatch All-Stars

WEA of Utah, Composite team from Northern Utah

Third Place: TRA Waste Warriors

WEA of Texas, Trinity River Authority, Dallas, Texas

Call for Abstracts for WEFTEC 2017

Even though we just wrapped up WEFTEC 2016 in New Orleans, planning is already underway for WEFTEC 2017 in Chicago! WEFTEC 2017 will be the 90th anniversary of WEFTEC and will be on **September 30-October 1, 2017**. If you are interested in being a part of the 90th WEFTEC program, submit an abstract by **December 1, 2016**.

WEF News (continued)

Save the Date—Mid-Year 2017 in Coral Gables, FL!

The 2017 Midyear meeting will be on **January 25-28, 2017** at the Hotel Colonnade in Coral Gables, FL. Housing will be open soon, so look out for more information on the upcoming Midyear! For more information about the event, [click here](#).

**collection
systems 2017**

May 21-24, 2017 | Omaha, Nebraska



Look out for more information about CS 2017 in Omaha, NE!
With WEFTEC complete we are looking ahead to 2017.

A BIG Thank You to “Past” Chair Rudy Fernandez!

This year’s WEFTEC 2016, concluded our beloved Chair Rudy Fernandez’s term as Collection Systems Committee Chair. Rudy has been an amazing leader for the CSC and has helped the CSC head into a positive and bright future.

During his tenure Rudy has been instrumental in several projects and accomplishments including:

- ◆ the implementation of a new CSC leadership structure—Chairs now serve 1 year terms, with the addition of a Chair-Elect position, the transition was official completed at WEFTEC 2016;
- ◆ rolling out a new on-boarding program for CSC members (which has been especially helpful with over 200 members);
- ◆ The restart of the Golden Manhole Society Award, which was sunsetted several years ago. With the popularity of the award growing on the MA level, it only made sense to reignite it on the national level.



L-R: WEF President Paul Bowen, “Past” CSC Chair Rudy Fernandez, CLC Chair John Trofatter. *Photo : WEF Photos.*

Rudy has left an everlasting impression on the CSC and we look forward to his involvement on the committee as this year’s Past Chair. Please join us in thanking Rudy for his continuing commitment to the CSC and we hope he enjoys all his free time now!

Did You Know?



Water Mission Responds to Hurricane Matthew

In early October, Hurricane Matthew reached the southern coast of Haiti, wrecking homes and devastating communities. With 40 Water Mission staff members in Haiti, their team is already at work assessing the need for access to safe water in Haiti and Cuba as the storm moves on.

Water Mission has 14 Living Water Treatment Systems, capable of providing safe water for up to 100,000 people, ready to be deployed in Haiti. Nine additional safe water systems are being installed in Jérémie, with 30 additional systems being shipped to Port-au-Prince from our Charleston headquarters. These systems combined will provide safe water for upwards of 195,000 people, and our 50 staff members in Haiti are working around the clock to reach those in need.

As the Water Mission team assesses the effects of Hurricane Matthew, we ask for you to join us in prayer. Please pray for the Water Mission staff as they respond to the needs of devastated communities.

[Click here](#) to donate to the Water Mission’s cause to help those affected by Hurricane Matthew.

This issue is brought to you by...

WEF CSC MA Outreach E-Newsletter Team

- ◆ Jimmy Stewart, Member Services Chair, *Alabama WEA, Chesapeake WEA, GAWP*
- ◆ Chip Smith, Member Services Vice Chair, *North Carolina AWWA-WEA, South Carolina WEA, GAWP*
- ◆ Jane Bayer, *Chesapeake WEA*
- ◆ Stuart Bowns, *Kentucky-Tennessee WEA*
- ◆ David Brown, *North Carolina AWWA-WEA, Virginia WEA*
- ◆ Daniel Coleman, *Chesapeake WEA, Virginia WEA*
- ◆ Ted DeBoda, *Chesapeake WEA*
- ◆ Mark Huber, *Alabama WEA*

- ◆ Jerome Iltis, *WEA of Texas*
- ◆ Roger Lehman, *Pennsylvania WEA*
- ◆ Christine Radke, *Chesapeake WEA, Virginia WEA*
- ◆ Michael Quamme, *North Dakota WEA*
- ◆ Heather Veal, *GAWP*

WEF CSC Leadership and Support

- ◆ Luis Leon, Chair, *California WEA*
- ◆ Dianne Sumego, Chair-Elect, *Ohio WEA*
- ◆ Kevin Waldron, Vice Chair, *Kansas WEA, Missouri WEA*
- ◆ Bri Nakamura, *WEF Staff Liaison*