



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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PRESIDENT – Chris Ramsey

KWEA continues to be the premier water quality organization in Kansas and strives to be the go-to for educational opportunities, water certifications, and information about our water environment.

JOINT CONFERENCE

The 10th Annual KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference was held Aug. 28-30 in Topeka, Kansas, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and was once again a great success. Conference attendance was 850 over the three-day period along with 84 vendors in the exhibit hall. All attendees and exhibitors received a survey following the conference providing valuable input and feedback that will help us to make the 2019 joint conference even better.

The conference kicked off Monday with the annual golf tournament and sporting clays competition helping to support our scholarship fund. Tuesday morning welcomed the attendees who were entertained by the keynote speaker, Kent Rader, who works with organizations teaching them how humor and laughter can be utilized as an effective business tool. Attendees were also informed on WEF issues by WEF representative Steve Dye. Tuesday's activities concluded at the Topeka Civic Center where attendees were treated to dinner and entertainment provided by the comedy troupe Laugh Lines. Congratulations to the award winners and those being recognized for various achievements. The conference wrapped up Thursday afternoon and was followed by KDHE water and wastewater operators and ABC testing.

KWEA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The KWEA Constitution and Bylaws were reviewed and no updates were made in 2017.

KWEA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATE

The Nominating Committee approved the nomination of Chris Ramsey (Black & Veatch) as incoming Vice-President beginning at the Annual Conference in August 2017. The nominating

committee also approved Brian Spano as the Junior WEF delegate. These nominations were accepted and approved at the 2017 Annual Conference Business Meeting.

The following committees will have new chairpersons for 2018.

1. Chair Student & YP – Miranda Sloan
2. Collections System – Laura Gray
3. Safety - Floyd Koder

PRESIDENT-ELECT – Jason Patty

The primary responsibility of the President-Elect is to chair the Program Committee for the Annual Conference. The ninth annual joint KWEA and KsAWWA conference was in Wichita this year at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Convention Center. Approximately 850 industry professionals attended the conference, which is new record, higher than last year's attendance of about 800. There were nearly 120 people that came to take certification exams, but did not attend the conference. The conference was kicked off by a Key Note Speaker, Mr. Kent Rader who works with organizations teaching them how humor and laughter can be utilized as an effective business tool. The conference provided learning opportunities through 122 technical presentations, as well as networking with vendors. Eighty-four vendors participated in the joint conference with booth set-ups and activity sponsorships. This joint conference was an overwhelming success due to the efforts of all of the committee chairs and both executive boards. Program highlights include:

- The conference kicked off Monday with the KWEA/KsAWWA Water for People Trap Shoot and Scholarship Golf Tournament.
- On Tuesday we started with our key note speaker, Kent Rader, interjected humor to remind that laughter is a powerful tool to reduce stress in the workplace.
- The conference "ice breaker" continued with our theme of humor as both KWEA/KsAWWA members enjoyed the improv comedy with Topeka's Laugh Lines. This event was very well attended and provided an excellent opportunity to network with other attendees.
- On Wednesday night, several deserving members were presented with distinguished awards at the KWEA/KsAWWA Awards Banquet.

VICE-PRESIDENT – Ryan Rutkowski

The annual report is an important part of recording the events, activities and accomplishments of KWEA each year. This is the eleventh annual report for KWEA.

SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT – Sylvan Coles

Summary of 2019 Program:

- As of January 1, 2020 KWEA has 522 members: 317 Professional, 109 PWO, 34 Young Professionals, 24 Life, 4 Corporate, 7 Executive, 5 Retired, 2 Stockholm Junior Water Prize, 20 Student, and 1 Honorary Member. Membership is again on the rise. As the profession has matured we have seen more and more women entering the profession and currently they comprise 20% (105) of our membership.

Dr. Ross McKinney, Professor Emeritus of the University of Kansas now residing in Chapel Hill, North Carolina celebrates his 71st membership year with KWEA as he joined on January 1, 1949. Many of our members remember Ross as their Professor as well as a frequent guest speaker at KWEA conferences. J. Howard Duncan, KDHE Section Chief, now retired, celebrates his 61st membership year with KWEA as he joined January 1, 1959. Howard has also made an indelible mark on our profession.

Of the 511 non-corporate / executive members, 438 have Degrees. The breakdown is:

- 20 Associate Degrees
- 162 Bachelor's Degrees
- 238 Master's Degrees
- 18 Doctorate Degrees

Fifteen of our members have Technical School Certification.

KWEA has seen a steady growth in membership over the last five years after a downward trend in membership ten years ago owing to the economy. The decline was a national trend that affected the WEF as well. The upswing suggests that the economy and concerns for our environment are driving factors.

- KWEA oversees the ABC Voluntary Certification Program in Kansas and currently has 734 certificate holders in the following disciplines: 348 Collections, 235 Distribution, 72 Water & Wastewater Laboratory, 61 Plant Maintenance, 10 Industrial Pretreatment, 8 in Residuals Management.

Eleven exam opportunities were held in 2019 and a total of 179 exams were administered.

- KWEA's 74th Annual Conference was held jointly with the KsAWWA in 2019 in Topeka, Kansas. Approximately 900 were in attendance this year. Seventy-Seven Exhibit Booths were sold as well as 3 large vehicle booths. One hundred Fifty-Seven of the registrants registered with the booths. This year over 100 people took the KDHE Exams and 23 people took the ABC Exams at the Conference. KWEA has a signed MOU with KsAWWA through 2030 and is also scheduled to hold its 75th Annual Conference with them in Wichita in 2020.

- Future Conference Dates:

Year	Location	Begin Date	End Date
2019	Wichita Hyatt Regency	8/31/2020	9/03/2020
2020	Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel	8/29/2021	9/02/2021
2021	Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel	8/28/2022	9/01/2022

- KWEA holds ~ \$155,000 in reserves in 2020. The operating budget is ~ \$40,000. Operating revenue comes primarily from the Annual Conference. The revenue from membership is approximately \$4500 annually. KWEA also has a scholarship fund with ~ \$43,000 in reserve.

PWO TRUSTEE- Joe Foster

The PWO Trustee holds a position on the WEF Operation and Maintenance committee. This gives KWEA a voice with WEF for the training that is needed for Kansas. The 2017 joint annual KWEA & KsAWWA conference was held in Topeka, Kansas this year. There were training tracks for operators and maintenance professionals. KDHE & ABC exams were also offered for the attendees. In addition, WEF hosted several free web-based training sessions during 2017 for operations and maintenance.

DELEGATES –Ron Thomann and Chris Ramsey

There are two Delegate positions on KWEA's Board. Delegates are responsible for representing KWEA at the WEF House of Delegates meetings. Water Environment Federation's governance structure continues to utilize the Delegates to encourage and improve better communication channels between the local MAs and WEF.

KWEA's Delegates are elected for a three year term. The 2017-2018 Delegates were Jeanette Klamm and Brian Spano. Jeanette completed her second year of her Senior Delegate's term at WEFTEC 2018 and will continue in this role thru WEFTEC 2019. Brian completed his first year of his Junior Delegate's term at WEFTEC 2018 and will continue in this role thru WEFTEC 2020 (but will become Senior Delegate after WEFTEC 2019).

- Both Jeanette and Brian attended the House of Delegates (HOD) meeting at WEFTEC 2018 in New Orleans, LA. Key topics discussed and activities during the HOD meetings are as follows:
 - Various reports from HOD committees were given and approved.
 - 2017/18 HOD Work Groups reported on their results (Jeanette served on the Operators Initiatives Work Group)
 - Three new/continued HOD work groups will be utilized in 2018/19. Each group met in the afternoon to discuss the issue and the goals to meet for the year. Jeanette has joined the Operator Initiatives Work Group and Brian Spano has joined the Membership Relations Work Group.
 - New Speaker of the House is Keith Hobson.

Jeanette and Brian both attended the 2018 WEFMAX meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. The purpose of WEFMAX is to provide an opportunity for the local MAs to learn from one another and interact with key WEF staff. Each MA in attendance provided a report of local activities and accomplishments. This exchange of ideas between MA's was very useful. An HOD meeting was held in advance of the general WEFMAX meeting to help gather feedback topics Delegates prioritized for the upcoming year, both in the HOD and the organization as a whole.

MANUFACTURER TRUSTEE – Michael Rudy

The exhibit hall layout this year included 82 booths. The Exhibit Area also included the joint lunch on Wednesday and several activities to assist with increasing booth traffic including: Meter Madness, Water Taste Test, Water for People Silent Auction, Meet & Greet and Prize Drawings. KWEA & KsAWWA will continue to work on new ideas to increase traffic in the Exhibit Area for next year's conference. Overall the exhibitors are happy with the Joint Conference arrangement.

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TRUSTEE – Vacant

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

YP Trustee:	Ed McGrath
Committee Chair:	Miranda Sloan
Vice Committee Chair:	Sarah Espinosa

KWEA S&YP COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES SUMMARY 2018

1. Chair (Miranda Sloan) and Vice Chair (Sarah Espinosa) attended 2018 AWWA/WEF YP Professionals Summit in San Antonio, TX.
2. Lunch & Learn at Johnson County Community College about the Water crisis in the world.
3. KWEA/MWEA Joint YP Event – Tour of the Smith and Loveless Plant and Social
4. KWEA/MWEA/KsAWWA/MoAWWA Joint YP Event Social at Kansas City Royals Game
5. YP KU Student Chapter attended 2018 WEFTEC Conference
6. KWEA/AWWA Joint Annual Conference YP Sessions, networking breakfast event, and business card competition
7. Bi-Monthly Committee Lunch Meetings

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Committee descriptions and committee chair contact information are posted on www.KWEA.net.

The following activities were reported by committee chairs:

Administrative - Finance – Vacant

The main objectives of this committee are to a) provide a stable and sound economic base for the KWEA, b) ensure compliance with federal and state requirements for a 503(c) not-for-profit organization, c) provide fiscal consistency related to revenue and expenditures, d) maximize returns on investments, and e) establish/maintain/modify financial policies, processes and procedures, as is appropriate.

The committee performed the following tasks:

1. Established the 2018 Annual Budget with input from various committees and Board members.
2. Determined and maintained the appropriate reserve funds.
3. Reviewed appropriate fees, rates, and charges for memberships, annual conference registration, fall and other workshops registration, booth charges, advertising, etc.
4. Reviewed current revenue streams and provided recommendations.

Administrative - Membership – Sylvan Coles

Membership Statistics:

Membership Type	December 2017	December 2018	December 2019
Corporate	6	6	4
Executive	3	4	7
Honorary	1	1	1
Life	21	21	24
Professional	272	301	317
PWO	103	92	109
Retired	6	5	5
Student & SJWP	19	19	22
Young Prof.	30	33	34
Current Total	461	482	522

This is an increase of 61 from the 2017 report and 40 from the 2018 report. See breakdown statistics in Secretary's report.

Administrative - Constitution and Bylaws – Dave Hauser

No activity was initiated or required during the past year. There were no changes made to the documents and no requests for reviews and/or new initiatives. The major re-write completed in 2012 was implemented and served as the base document for 2013 and continues as the organization's guidance at this time.

Administrative - Audit- Waldo Margheim

The 2017 Annual Audit was conducted in February 2019, to examine the Kansas Water Environment Association's financial records for the calendar year 2017, the Annual Conference and the Scholarship fund. The audit finds the records accurately reflect the Association's financial activity for the Year 2017. The financial records for the year were in excellent condition.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

The CoreFirst Bank & Trust account balances as of December 31, 2019, were as follows:

1. Checking: \$ 58,165.72
2. CD #01853370006: \$ 63,204.00
(interest earned = \$315.04)
3. CD #04300018537: \$ 10,075.30
(interest earned = \$37.59)

Since purchasing a new CD in April 2016, the Association now maintains two CDs (outside the ones held for the Scholarship fund, which are described below).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The following is a summary of the 2017 Joint Annual Conference:

1. Expenditures: \$ 154,766.17
(Hotel Costs = \$69,098.97 of that amount)
2. Income: \$ 192,256.00
 - a) Income from Exhibitors: \$ 75,590.00
 - b) Income from Member Registration: \$ 106,480.00
 - c) Other Income: \$ 10,186.00
 - d) Total: \$ 192,256.00

The total profit for the 2019 Annual Conference was \$95,848.72, resulting in a net profit for KWEA from the 2019 Annual Conference of \$57,509.43. For comparison, profits for the previous six annual conferences are provided below.

Annual Conference Year	KWEA Profit (\$)
2019	\$ 57,509.23
2018	\$ 46,230.68
2017 *	\$ 22,493.90
2016	\$ 45,301.57
2015	\$ 42,631.57
2014	\$ 42,151.25
2013 *	\$ 18,398.86
2012	\$ 50,394.28
2011	\$ 38,966.53

* Conference was held in Wichita.

A joint account with Kansas AWWA exists and Sylvan Coles and Terryl Pajor with Kansas AWWA are required dual signees for that account. All Annual Conference transactions are handled through this account.

ABC CERTIFICATION

The Association administers the ABC Operator and Collection System accreditation. Income is derived from certification renewals and exams. Expenditures include ABC membership, certification exams, mailings, training logs and proctoring the tests.

1. Expenditures: \$ 14,677
2. Income: \$ 14,725

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As of December 31, 2019, the KWEA Scholarship funds consisting of one savings account and four CDs totaled \$41,352.35. The KWEA Scholarship Committee awarded three scholarships in 2019 totaling \$3,450.00.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following are the Association's miscellaneous accounts and business actions handled throughout the year:

- The Association's expense for the on-line payment (credit card) for payment to the conference registration is approximately 3 percent per transaction and amounted to \$ this past year.
- There were office expenses in the amount of \$3,688, which included such major items as Corporation Fees, Insurance, General Mailings, Miscellaneous, Printing, Supplies, Tax Statements and Telephone Costs.

- The Association spent \$3544, on conference and travel expenses sending three KWEA members to WEFMAX 2019.
- The Association spent \$3,457 on conference and travel expenses sending three members to the WEF Fly-in 2019.
- The Association spent \$2,600 to send two YPs to WEFMAX.

The Association's list of paid employees and the annual amounts they received are as follows:

● Dustin Coles (Proctor Tests)	\$ 1,175
● Tina Leitzel (Website/Splashing)	\$ 6,970
● Sylvan Coles (Secretary/Treasurer)	<u>\$ 14,870</u>
● Total	\$ 22,952

The Association received \$4,738 in WEF Membership dues.

Collections Systems – Alex Darby

The Collection Systems Committee's (CSC) objectives are to provide information to the Association's membership regarding collection systems topics and issues. The committee strives to inform collection systems workers, as well as management, on the following topics:

- Ongoing operation and maintenance.
- Rehabilitation and repair technology.
- Training and certification of collection systems personnel.
- Safety issues.
- Proper management of collection systems.
- Current and future State and Federal Regulations

The Committee met five times over the past 12 months. There are approximately 15 active members on the committee, with a good mix of industry representation – municipalities, consultants, and equipment representatives. All members join at least one of seven sub-committees which cover a variety of areas within the collections systems field.

The Annual Conference and Workshops Sub-committee assisted with gathering presentations for 2018 Joint Conference (CSO, SSO & Wet Weather; Collection Systems Topics). The technical session included round table discussion on fats, oils, and grease (FOG) in the collection system and how system owners manage the FOG. The sub-committee will again assist with the

technical program for the 2019 Joint Conference. A sub-committee is again planning an operator's challenge to be held at the 2019 conference. One of the goals of the event is to encourage attendance and participation by collection system operators. Each year the "task" of the calling will move to a different maintenance item in the collection system.

The CSC did not hold a one-day workshop for KWEA members on Collection Systems operation and maintenance in 2018. The sub-committee is evaluating an outreach workshop to be held in Topeka. ABC certification exams would be administered following the workshop.

The Publications Sub-committee submitted profiles of the Collection System Award winners and other articles were submitted on a variety of collection system topics.

- The Awards Sub-committee reviewed nominations for the Collection Systems Award, with the following results:

Category I – City of Bonner Springs, Kansas

Category II – City of Ottawa, Kansas

Category III – Johnson County Wastewater, KS and

City of Olathe, KS

- The Golden Manhole Society (GMS) inducted three new members David Hamberlin with Trekk Design Group, Kevin Swearengin with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, and Kurt Winters with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County at the annual conference.
- Aaron Witt with Johnson County Wastewater was awarded the Ray Stillwell award at the annual conference.
- The National Issues sub-committee reported on the status of collection system issues. Other collections system conference dates and locations were shared.

The Technology Transfer Sub-committee looked into a number of new technologies and provided information to the Splashings.

Government Affairs – Vacant

The current Government Affairs Committee leadership organization is Lorrie Hill as Chair and Dan Ott as Vice-Chair. The committee also has a focus area for stormwater, which is headed by Andy Sauer.

In 2018, the Government Affairs Committee performed the following activities:

- In April, committee members Joe Foster, Lorrie Hill, and Susan Pekarek participated in the NACWA/WEF/WERF National Water Policy Forum & Fly-In, which includes updates on regulatory and legislative affairs and visits with congressional members. This year, we were able to visit with all four representatives and both senators from Kansas. committee is finds these visits are helpful for continuing to send the message to our congressional members about the importance of clean water and its infrastructure challenges in Kansas.
- In August, the committee held a half-day session at the Annual Conference. The following presentations were coordinated by the committee:
 - Chris Hornback (NACWA) – NACWA’s Clean Water Outlook: An Update from Washington
 - Tom Stiles (KDHE) – KDHE Update
 - Trent Stober (HDR and GAC committee member) – Latest Concepts in Municipal Wastewater and Stormwater Affordability Analyses
 - Chris Hornback (NACWA), Trent Stober (HDR), and Andy Sauer (Burns & McDonnell and GAC committee member) – Integrated Planning: Why and How to Do It (Panel Discussion)
- In October, the committee hosted the 12th Annual Four-States Government Affairs Meeting at EPA’s Region 7 office. This meeting is an annual opportunity for representatives from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, and EPA Region 7 to discuss clean water issues affecting the region. Each state’s government affairs committee rotates each year to coordinate and host the event.
- In October, the committee provided a public comment letter in response to EPA’s request for input on forthcoming regulatory clarity surrounding management of peak wet weather flows and wastewater treatment plants. The committee particularly thanks Jim Fitzpatrick, Trent Stober, and John Metzler for their technical contributions to the letter, and Dan Ott for representing KWEA at the public hearing held at EPA Region 7’s office.
- The committee provided articles in *Splashings* on topics of interest to KWEA members. This is important, as one of our key charges is to provide information on government affairs issues to the membership.

Planned Activities for 2019 include monitoring regulatory activity associated with the “blending” rule and legislation for funding clean water infrastructure. The committee will plan to attend the National Water Policy Forum & Fly-In in April and the Four-States Government Affairs meeting in the fall.

Industrial – Natalie Wilderom

The Industrial Committee met one time face-to-face during the past year. The meeting was held to plan the Industrial Pretreatment sessions for the 2018 joint conference in Topeka. Additional communications were conducted throughout the year through numerous e-mails or telephone calls.

Our primary purpose is to provide useful information and training opportunities relevant to both industrial regulators and industrial users. To achieve this, we offered an Industrial Pretreatment track on the opening day of the annual conference. Four technical presentations were delivered in this track; each of which were attended by an average of 55 individuals. The number of people attending Industrial Pretreatment presentations was up by 100% over last year; and by 57% over the previous 4-year average. The Industrial Committee intends to offer half-day Industrial Pretreatment tracks in each of the upcoming conferences.

The Industrial Committee will continue to work with other committees and organizations to share best practices, lessons learned, and to provide timely and essential information to the community.

Laboratory – Vacant

The Laboratory Committee conducted our updates and conference scheduling via emails and conference calls this past year.

We continue to meet our committee's goal of providing training and information to the laboratory community. We accomplished this by offering a laboratory session at the annual conference. This year the laboratory tour took place at the MARS factory just outside of Topeka, KS. 20 individuals had the opportunity to visit the production and pretreatment areas of the Mars factory. A big thank you to Kirk Hoeffner from Mars for the excellent tour.

Unfortunately we did not receive any Crystal Crucible nominations for 2018. The Crystal Crucible award was established by the Lab Practices Committee of the Water Environment Federation in 2002. The award is intended to acknowledge all who contribute to the wastewater laboratory field and deserve recognition for their effort. Not only laboratory personnel, but regulators, instructors, and vendors are eligible for the award. The nomination criteria includes years of experience in the field, involvement in KWEA and/or the Laboratory Committee, involvement in promoting the professionalism of the field and membership in WEF. It's not too early to start nominating for 2019!

The Laboratory Excellence award recipient for 2018 was Ron McClure, City of El Dorado. The Water Environment Federation Board of Directors established this award in 1993 to recognize individuals for outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analysis profession.

- Must be a member of the Water Environment Federation.
- Candidate must be employed at an educational facility laboratory, industrial, commercial, or municipal laboratory which performs wastewater-related analysis, and must have direct analytical responsibilities.
- Candidates are eligible for this award only once.
- Qualifying criteria may include:

- Membership and involvement in professional associations. Examples: Water Environment Federation Committees, Standard Methods Joint Task Groups, MA committees and conferences and conference activities.
- Outstanding efforts in the area of wastewater and environmental aquatic analysis, including such items as innovative sampling techniques or solutions to a treatment, analytical or environmental problem.
- Involvement in community activities or public relations.
- Presentations at professional conferences, meetings, etc. relevant to water quality analysis.
- Professional certifications.
- Continuing education.
- Contributions that have been beneficial to the nominee's facility.
- Unusual initiative or performance "beyond the call of duty."

The Laboratory Committee is looking forward to working with AWWA members for the next joint conference in 2019 to offer interesting laboratory topics and help make the conference a success. We have tentatively scheduled a conference call on March 1st to discuss topics for the conference and the planning of a laboratory challenge.

The Laboratory Committee will continue to work with other committees and organizations to provide timely and essential information to the laboratory community.

Municipal Management – Vacant

The Municipal Management Committee continued this year on providing relevant content for the KWEA membership. There were a wide variety of municipal management related presentations submitted and presented at the annual conference. The committee will continue to identify article for Splashing's, develop topics for the annual conference, and to evaluate a Municipal Management award in the 2018. We are also looking to recruit new members from the public and private sectors to be active members of the committee.

Municipal Technology Transfer – Tim Hunt

The primary activity of the Municipal Technology Transfer (MTT) committee was to assist with the development of technical sessions for the annual conference. The committee business was conducted via e-mail communications with the President Elect and the committee members. The committee provided several presentations for the annual conference and also provided moderators for the municipal tech sessions. The MTT committee currently has 9 members.

Nominating Committee – Ron Thomann (Past President)

The Nominating Committee approved the nomination of Chris Ramsey (Black & Veatch) as incoming Vice-President beginning at the Annual Conference in August 2017. This nomination was accepted and approved at the Annual Conference Meeting.

Plant Operations and Maintenance – Steven McNolty

The Plant Awards are presented to municipalities and industries for recognition of those plant operators who have done an outstanding job of plant operation and maintenance. The award winners and honorable mentions recognized at the 2018 KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference include:

Winners		Honorable Mentions
1A	No Applicants	
1B	Dodge City South Lagoons	
2	No Applicants	
3	No Applicants	
4	El Dorado	
5	Dodge City North & Lansing (dual awardee)	Olathe Cedar Creek
6(a)	No Applicants	
6(b)	No Applicants	
Biosolids	El Dorado	

Public Communications and Outreach – Page Burks

In 2018, the Public Communications & Outreach Committee focused on public water quality education through the advertisement and recruitment of volunteers to support water quality testing by students. This first step of KWEA’s program focused on the Kansas City metro area with the intent to raise awareness by coordinating with existing education organizations like Friends of the Kaw utilizing the Kids About Water program. This program helps students understand the sources of water pollution, how to test for water quality, and ways to improve water quality. The program includes classroom and field activities with a project-based learning format. The committee recruited volunteers at our table at KWEA’s annual conference. Potential volunteers were asked to join a distribution list to be notified about future volunteer opportunities. We plan to expand the program into other locations with interested KWEA volunteers, like Wichita, in following years.

By encouraging local water and wastewater professionals to raise awareness in their community for this national and global issue, they can help foster an appreciation for water services closer to home. The recognition also brings attention to the fact that an investment in

our drinking water and wastewater systems is essential to our national health, safety, and economic prosperity.

PC&O - Public Education – Vacant

No update.

PC&O - Publications – Barry Schmidt

Four issues of Splashing's were prepared to provide the membership with information on the annual conference and other KWEA events. Articles from the membership are solicited on a quarterly basis for publication. This past year KWEA committees continued to develop and submit articles for Splashing's. The committee articles were a great way to transfer knowledge to KWEA members.

Barry Schmidt serves as the Splashing's editor and Tina Leitzel, KWEA Webmaster continues to design the cover and general layout and assemble each edition.

As in the previous year, post-conference material was provided in the winter issue of Splashing's instead of the fall issue as done in years past. This change has allowed for a more thorough overview of the conference to be included in the winter issue. Additionally, it helped to evenly distribute content across the four issues, providing better quarterly articles.

Resource Recovery – Phil Burns

Safety – Vacant

Safety awards are presented to wastewater treatment facilities that have high standards of excellence in safe operation. A questionnaire and an unannounced visit by members of the KWEA Safety Committee are used to evaluate the facilities. The City of El Dorado was awarded the 2017 KWEA Safety award.

Scholarship Committee – Martha Tasker

KWEA 2019 Scholarship Winners

The Scholarship Committee selected three students out of thirteen applicants to receive scholarships totaling \$2950. One \$1200 Shirley Coles Memorial University Scholarship, one \$1000, and one \$750 University Scholarship were awarded at the KWEA Awards Luncheon as follows:

A \$1200 Shirley Coles Memorial University Scholarship was awarded to Allison Dobie. Allison is a senior at the University of Kansas and is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. Allison interned part-time at the Kansas Water Office in Topeka. Allison's goal is to conduct research on the fluid mechanics of plants in water, as well as the filtration of water due to vegetation.

Honors include:

- Global Awareness Program Certificate
- Honors Program
- Miller Alumnae Award for Spirit and Leadership

Extracurricular activities include:

- Engineers Without Borders
- Uganda Project Education Lead
- Public and Social Relations Chair
- New Orleans Project Member
- Engineering Student Council

A \$1000 University Scholarship was awarded to Amelia V. Wyndrum. Amelia is a junior at the University of Kansas majoring in Environmental Studies and Biochemistry. Amelia's goals are to broaden her knowledge regarding waste management systems in order to create more ways to tackle other environmental problems.

Extracurricular activities include:

- KU Solar Car Recruitment Lead
- Research Assistant

A \$750 University Scholarship was awarded to Sydney Gard. Sydney is a senior at the University of Kansas majoring in Environmental Engineering. Sydney's goals are pursuing a degree Environmental Engineering and learning more about the design process and wastewater concepts.

Honors include:

- Self-Engineering Leadership Fellow
- Honors Program
- Honor Roll

Extracurricular activities include:

- Association for Water and Environment
- Volunteer at Lawrence Humane Society

Stockholm Junior Water Prize – Rebecca Lewis

The U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition is made possible through a collaborative effort between the Water Environment Federation and its local Member Associations (MAs) across the country. Each state competition is sponsored by an MA and has a designated state organizer. Each state identifies and sends a winner (or winning team) to the U.S. national competition.



In 2018, four entries were submitted and a team from Rolla, Kansas, two high school seniors, Deserae Schwindt and Paige Claassen. Both young women teamed together and were selected as the Kansas Representative for the SJWP competition with their project, “*Forage Quality Analysis for Sandhills Wetland Site*”. They presented their paper at the national competition, located at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, June 19-20, 2018.

Hosted by WEF, with support from Xylem Inc. and local WEF MAs, the 2018 U.S. competition will include student winners from 48 states, plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, for a total of 50 projects.

The purpose of the SJWP program is to increase students’ interest in water-related issues and research and to raise awareness about global water challenges. The competition is open to projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water resources management, water protection, and water and wastewater treatment.

The SJWP competition is open to all high school students in 9th – 12th grades who have conducted water-related research science projects, and have reached the age of 15 by August 1st of the competition year. Up to three students may work on a single project. It is not necessary for a student to have participated in a science fair in order to enter the competition. The competition is open to any high school student to include home school, private school or students who have worked independent of any school program. Projects should be aimed at enhancing the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water resource

management, or water and wastewater treatment. Projects can explore water issues on a local, regional, national, or global level using a research-oriented approach. Students who wish to compete in the state competition must enter their papers online at www.sjwp.org by April 15th.