

# APRIL 2005 NEWSLETTER

*Southeast Texas Chapter of the TAWWA*

## MEETING NOTICE

**Date:** Thursday, April 28, 2005

**Place:** HESS Club Building  
5430 Westheimer Road  
Houston, TX 77056

(See [www.hessclub.com](http://www.hessclub.com) for a map.)

- The meeting will be held in the Bowie Room

**Luncheon:** \$20 if confirmed by 4/25/05 and  
an AWWA member  
\$25 for non-AWWA members  
\$25 for AWWA members after  
4/25/05

**Time:** Registration at 11:30 a.m.  
Lunch at 11:50 p.m.  
Speaker at 12:20 p.m.

RSVP: Please include your first and last name, organization (for name tag), and e-mail your reservation to Marilyn Christian at [mchristian@harriscountyhealth.com](mailto:mchristian@harriscountyhealth.com). You may call in your RSVP to Marilyn Christian at 713-439-6260. No-shows will be invoiced for their dinner.

***What topics are you interested in?  
What are the issues that affect you?***

We want to meet your needs and interests. Any suggestions for topics and/or speakers are welcomed and can be forwarded to Jennifer Elms at [jelms@browngay.com](mailto:jelms@browngay.com)

## FEATURED PROGRAM



Keith Bircher, Technical Director for UV Technologies division of the Calgon Carbon Corporation, will speak on the use of UV disinfection for drinking water. Keith will focus on the upcoming LT2 rules for cryptosporidium and giardia and the validation process outlined in the proposed UV Disinfection Guidance Manual for drinking water reactors.

Keith has a Bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering and began working with UV technologies in 1988. He has had various responsibilities in the development and design of Rayox ® UV oxidation product, the Aurora ® wastewater disinfection product. Keith has also been involved in the research that led to the use of UV for the treatment of cryptosporidium and giardia in drinking water.

Presently, Keith is involved in the development and commercialization of the Sentinel™ drinking water disinfection product line. This work involves product development, CFD modeling and validation testing of large scale UV disinfection reactors.



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<http://www.awwa.org/science/partnership/>

**Presidents' Message  
A Service Orientated Association**

Camille Sowell, our Correspondence Chairperson, asked me to write a message for our Newsletter as the President of Southeast Chapter of TAWWA (SETAWWA) during our first leadership meeting a couple weeks ago.

It was a challenge for a person like me to express my thoughts in a language that I have known since I was twelve years old, but is not my native tongue. Being a naturalized Texan over the past thirty years, I would like to say Howdy to you without any tongue twisting but with a little accent.

As a civil engineering professional working in the water business, as most of us are, I have the honor of serving with seventy hard working city employees as the manager of the City of Houston's Meter Shop for four years. Besides learning how to replace, fix or test water meters, the best thing that I have learned in my twenty years of City employment is "How to be Customer Service Oriented".

I believe customer service is the basic hallmark of our daily work, regardless of whether you are a government employee, consultant, or doing any other water / wastewater related work. We should always strive to satisfy the customer whether the customer is our boss, council member, board president or citizens. What we tend to overlook is the needs of our internal customers at all levels. For example a colleague who asks for help on how to handle the chlorine test after a flushing a new water system.

Likewise, our members are the customers of our organization – SETAWWA (May I suggest to pronounce as se'tawa or si'tawa with an Asian twist). During our leadership team meeting we promised to provide the best customer service to our members.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation on electing us to represent and serve you. If you have any suggestion on the speakers, speaking topics, meeting sponsors or if you would like to volunteer within the organization, please don't hesitate to inform any of our leadership team members. After all, this is our organization.

**Young Professionals Chairperson  
Report**



On Friday March 18th, members from the Southeast Section of TAWWA and regional members of WEAT joined forces to participate in the annual Science Engineering Fair Houston. Members judged for three separate age groups specific

projects, pre-selected as relevant to water and environmental quality. Here are the top three projects in each age group:

**Seniors:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Zuri Dale  
"Presence of Volatile Organic Compounds & E.Coli In Urban Watersheds"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Michael Robertson  
"Bioremediation of Oil Spills"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Keatin Reagen  
"Affects Of Pollution On Growth of Marine Organisms"

**Juniors**

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Ali Muhammad

“Fastest Bioremediation”

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Kirk Lindstrom

“Is Dilution The Solution In The Amazon?”

3<sup>rd</sup>Place

Patrick Thompson

“Dangerous Water”

**Ninth Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Linda Ugbah & Sandra Medellin

“Tap it Or Zap It”

2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Allison Silva

“What Is In Your Water?”

3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Jason Pan & Ernest Puckett

“Go Green, Save Green”

Each of these students was awarded savings bonds from TAWWA and WEAT for their accomplishments as well as a certificate of award. Speaking as a judge for the senior division, I can say that being a part of the fair was an exciting and rewarding experience. It was absolutely remarkable to see the projects that these bright young adults came up with and how well they understood the subject matter and its importance to society. I would strongly encourage other members of the Southeast Section of TAWWA to participate in the future to witness the bright minds of our future at work and to support such a worthwhile event.

**Scholarship Committee Report**

Time is fast approaching for the Texas Section of AWWA Scholarship Awards. Last year we were fortunate to have **Phillip Wing-Thai Ho** from Jersey Village win a \$2,000.00 State Level scholarship. In addition to contributing to the State fund this year, the Southeast Chapter will also provide some additional scholarship awards to deserving relatives of our Chapter members. The announcement concerning the scholarships will be made in May and the forms are available on the TAWWA website.

<http://www.tawwa.org/Scholarship%20Application.htm>

Those interested will be required to fill out the form and submit it to the state office. Jerry Woodward of our Chapter will again serve on the State Selection Committee, as well as the local committee selection chairperson. The local chapter will use the forms submitted to the State Office for selection of recipients of the local scholarships.

Members, be on the lookout for the announcement and encourage those deserving relatives to submit their completed forms. If you should have any questions, please contact Jerry at [jwoodwardpe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwoodwardpe@sbcglobal.net).

***TREASURER’S REPORT***

*Jessie Li, PhD, P.E.*



AS OF MARCH 28, 2005 THE  
SOUTHEAST CHAPTER’S ACCOUNT  
BALANCE TOTAL IS \$3031.07

**2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****OFFICERS:**

**Simon Tung, P.E. - President**  
City of Houston  
713-837-7025

**Edward Tadlock - Vice-President**  
Galveston County WCID No. 1;  
281-337-7529

**Jason Nelson - Secretary**  
Turner, Collie & Braden  
713-267-3257

**Jessie Li, Ph.D., P.E. – Treasurer**  
City of Houston  
713-842-4001

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Corporate Sponsorship – Gary Rabalais, P.E.**  
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.  
713-960-7428

**Correspondence – Camille Sowell, P.E.**  
Camp, Dresser & McKee Inc.  
713-850-1921

**Membership - Victoria Foss, P.E.**  
Independent Consultant  
281-491-7470

**Program - Jennifer Elms, P.E.**  
Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc.  
281-558-8700

**Scholarship – Jerry Woodward, P.E.**  
Independent Consultant  
281-899-1263

**Young Professional – Chris Varnon**  
Camp, Dresser & McKee, Inc.  
713-850-1921

**CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Corporate sponsorship is a great way to get your company in front of our over 400-strong SE Chapter membership. Sponsorships are available for each of our SE Chapter meetings, as well as in our bi-monthly newsletters.

What are the sponsorship funds used for? Your contributions allow the SE Chapter to award college scholarships through TAWWA and cash prizes for science fair award recipients. In August 2004, the Texas Section awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to seven students throughout Texas.

*What are the sponsorship options?*

**\$200/Luncheon/Dinner Meeting:** Corporate sponsors will be announced during the meeting and attending firm members will be publicly acknowledged. The Chapter will also acknowledge the meeting sponsors on a bulletin board at the registration table, and they may distribute brochures about their company. In addition, they will be able to place a 0.25 page color ad about their company in our newsletter prior to the meeting they sponsor. Up to four sponsors per meeting.

**\$100/Year Color Business Card:** Your company's business card can appear in each of our bi-monthly newsletters for one calendar year (January through December) under the section entitled "Professional Services Directory." Prorated amounts for starting between these times can be arranged.

**\$100/Newsletter Professional Job Position:** A company/agency can place professional job position openings in the newsletter and on our website. The position will be published once in our bi-monthly newsletter and simultaneously on our website for that same two-month period.

If you are interested in being a Chapter sponsor, please contact Gary Rabalais, Corporate Sponsorship Chair, at 713-960-7428, or at [grabalais@pirnie.com](mailto:grabalais@pirnie.com). Checks are made payable to *SE Chapter of TAWWA*.

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AWWA is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information, and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of drinking water in North America and beyond. AWWA is the largest organization of water professionals in the world. AWWA advances public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of the drinking water community. Through our collective strength we become better stewards of water for the greatest good of the people and the environment.

Founded in 1881, AWWA is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world. Its more than 57,000 members represent the full spectrum of the drinking water community: treatment plant operators and managers, scientists, environmentalists, manufacturers, academicians, regulators, and others who hold genuine interest in water supply and public health. Membership includes more than 4,700 utilities that supply water to roughly 180 million people in North America.

**ABOUT SE CHAPTER**

If you're a member of the Southeast Texas Chapter of the Texas Section American Water Works Association, this is a great opportunity to meet and build relationships with your peers in the water community. If you're not a member, this is your opportunity to attend with other water professionals, share ideas and information, and see what AWWA has to offer. Luncheon or dinner meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis and are open to both AWWA members and non-members. It is a 501 (c) (3) exempt scientific/education organization.

Chapters of the Texas Section AWWA provide training and other opportunities to share information and ideas on *important issues and topics*. *The grassroots nature of Chapters gives the Texas Section AWWA the strength of nearly 3200 members statewide.*

**Southeast Texas Chapter Website:**

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SE\\_CHAPTER\\_TAWWA/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SE_CHAPTER_TAWWA/)



Safe drinking water, basic health, hygiene education and sanitation facilities are nonexistent for impoverished people in the developing countries throughout the world. WHO/UNICEF estimates that the combination of these conditions results in 6,000 deaths everyday, mostly children.

In response, a dedicated handful of North American water professionals from the **American Water Works Association** established Water For People in 1991 and Water For People-Canada in 1995. They saw this as a natural extension of what their 57,000 members already do on a daily basis -- bring safe, sufficient drinking water to their own communities.

Water For People is an international nonprofit development organization committed to the long-term impact of increased access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation and health.

**Save the Date!**  
**Calendar of Events****AWWA Management Institute****April 17-22, 2005**

Arlington, TX

<http://www.tawwa.org/cgi-local/SoftCart.100.exe/cgi-local/smpagegen.exe?U+scstore+kqjg8488ffc1bcf+p+c+scstore.cfg+51>

**SE TAWWA Chapter Meeting****April 28, 2005, 11:30am**

Hess Building

**AWWA Web cast: Security Hardware Financing**

May 18, 2005

By: American Water Works Association

[Linda Berridge](mailto:Linda.Berridge@awwa.org) 303-347-6168**AWWA Web cast: Applying Benchmarking Performance Indicator Data at Your Utility**

May 18, 2005

By: American Water Works Association

[Linda Berridge](mailto:Linda.Berridge@awwa.org) 303-347-6168**Texas AWWA and Texas Water Dev. Board WATER AUDIT TRAINING Teleconference**

May 13

<http://www.tawwa.org/cgi-local/SoftCart.100.exe/cgi-local/smpagegen.exe?U+scstore+xysl3793ff680a68+p+c+scstore.cfg+61>

**AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE)**

June 12 – 16, 2005

San Francisco, California United States

By: American Water Works Association

<http://www.awwa.org/ace2005/>**SE TAWWA Chapter Meeting**

June 23, 2005, 11:30am

**APRIL 2005  
PROGRAM CORPORATE SPONSORS**



**CALGON CARBON CORPORATION**  
**UV Technologies Division**

**Sentinel® UV Disinfection**

- Largest flow range product line including the **Sentinel® 48**, the largest validated reactor on the market, and the new **Sentinel® 12** for small- to medium-sized treatment plants
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At Brown & Gay, we understand water, wastewater, and flood control systems of all sizes, from major urban areas to small subdivisions. This understanding allows us not only to design efficient new utility systems, but also to determine the upgrades or repairs needed to keep existing systems working, now and in the future.



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