

JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

Southeast Texas Chapter of the TAWWA

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Thursday, June 23, 2005

Place: Golden Island Buffet Restaurant
901-A North Shepherd
Houston, TX 77008

Luncheon: \$20 if confirmed by 6/17/05 and
an AWWA member
\$25 for non-AWWA members
\$25 for AWWA members after
6/17/05

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. 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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jessie Li, PhD, P.E.



AS OF MARCH 28, 2005 THE
SOUTHEAST CHAPTER'S
ACCOUNT BALANCE TOTAL IS
\$3761.20

FEATURED PROGRAM



Ms. Dannelle Belhateche, Senior Assistant Director of Water Production Branch for the City of Houston will speak at the June meeting of the Southeast Chapter of Texas AWWA. Ms. Belhateche will discuss new program initiatives being implemented by the City's water production branch which include an enhanced source water and well head protection program, reliability focused preventive maintenance management, distribution system water quality monitoring and early contaminate warning detection.

With the goal of providing more reliable, cost effective and higher quality service to the ever expanding customer base, the City's Public Utilities Division is focusing on customer service and delivering a quality product. The City engages world-class professional and is optimizing and streamlining operations in order to deliver a quality product that is competitive with commercial products.

Ms. Belhateche received her Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Houston and has a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Environmental Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Prior to joining the City of Houston, she worked as an environmental consultant specializing in water and wastewater treatment and operations support for industrial and municipal facilities.

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We Deliver

JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

Southeast Texas Chapter of the TAWWA

"Aim High"

By: Edward Tadlock

This is the MOTO of the United States Air Force and is one that should help "Turn on your light".

Here are 10 ways to turn your organization into one that "Aims High"

Is your organization locked into the same old ways of thinking? It doesn't have to be. Do you need to help jump-start managers and employees' creativity? Here are ten steps for making the most of employee creativity in your organization.

1. **ONE-A-DAY.** Ask employees to try to improve one work area or an aspect of one work area each day, focusing on areas within their control.
2. **POSITIVE THINKING.** People shouldn't waste time thinking of reasons why something can't work or can't be done. Ask people to think of three work-related tasks or changes they think can't be accomplished. Then ask them to figure out ways to accomplish them.
3. **CHANGE PLACES.** Have people work part of a day in other departments. Afterwards, get feedback and discuss the ideas that came up.
4. **BRAINSTORMING BOARD.** Put up a bulletin board in a central area and encourage people to use it to brainstorm ideas. Write a theme or problem on the center of the board.
5. **CREATIVE COMMITTEE.** Establish a "creative-idea" committee made up of volunteers from different departments. The goals of the committee should be to discuss, and implement employees' ideas. The committee can record the number of ideas on a thermometer-type graph then the employees should be recognized according to the quantity and quality of their creative contributions.
6. **BREAKING THROUGH.** If it isn't broke, break it. Test all of the assumptions about the organization's current systems, processes, methods, and products to see whether they're really necessary and whether there might be better ones.
7. **OPEN THE WINDMILLS OF YOUR MINDS.** Conduct a meeting open to employees at all levels to give them the opportunity to discuss issues and suggest ideas. Announce the meeting's theme, and then invite everyone to identify a related issue for which they're willing to take responsibility.

When someone suggests an issue, he or she becomes the sponsor writes the issue on a large sheet of paper, posts the sheet on a wall. The process continues until all of the suggested issues have been posted. Next have participants take part in an "ideas marketplace" in which each person signs one or more of the large sheets to discuss the issues. The sponsors get together with their groups in private to discuss the issues and record ideas and solutions.
8. **CREATIVE COACHING.** Ask someone in the organization to fill the role of coach. The role would entail encouraging and supporting creativity in all employees. The "Position" of creative coach could be rotated among several or all employees.
9. **ICONS OF CREATIVITY.** Ask people to display items on their desks that represent their own visions of creativity. For example, a crystal ball might represent a view toward the future; jumper cables might symbolize the start of people's creative thinking a bottle of Heinz catsup might represent 57 new ideas.
10. **AIM HIGH.** Simply put the key to increasing creativity in an organization is to make it start acting like a creative organization. Suppose that you wanted to be an artist: You would begin behaving like an artist by painting every day. You may not become another Van Gogh, but you'll be more of an artist than someone who has never tried will.

Let people know that they are allowed to fail. As Thomas Edison said, "I failed my way to success." Edison conducted 9,000 experiments before he achieved a working light bulb. When an assistant asked why he persisted "in this folly," Edison replied, "young man, I haven't failed. I've learned 9,000 things that don't work.

When you reach for the stars, you may not capture one, but you also aren't likely to come up empty-handed.

Scholarship Committee Report

The announcement concerning the scholarships has been made on the TAWWA web site. Forms are available on the website (www.TAWWA.org). Just click on the part that states "Texas Section Scholarship Program". Those interested are required to fill out the form and submit it to the state office by July 8, 2005. Scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors or students all ready enrolled in college. All applicants must be full time students.

If you should have any questions, please contact Jerry Woodward at jwoodwardpe@sbcglobal.net or 281-304-8613.



Partnership for Safe Water
Be a Part of It!
<http://www.awwa.org/science/partnership/>

CORPORATE SPONSORS ON BOARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

Our 2005 campaign for the SE Chapter Scholarship Fund is well underway. To date, we have received pledges for \$1,400. The following companies have generously supported our cause.

Calgon Carbon Corporation
Environmental Improvements Inc.
Hartwell Environmental Corporation
KBR
Malcolm Pirnie
Newman Regency Group
Water and Waste Management Associates

GET YOUR COMPANY ON BOARD!**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. Checks are made payable to *SE Chapter of TAWWA*.

2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS:

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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

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713-850-1921



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/



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.

New president committed to preserve water legacy

June 15, San Francisco—Taking the helm of AWWA as its new president, Andrew W. Richardson reminded attendees at AWWA's annual conference of the legacy created by AWWA and water professionals in the past 100-plus years:

- Standards for water supply equipment and practices,
- Water operations training and professional development programs,
- A strong voice in the public policy arena for safe water and public health,
- The new annual State of the Industry Report,
- A growing outreach to water professionals, reflected in record membership numbers,
- A responsive leadership and responsible financial structure for the association,
- The establishment of the Awwa Research Foundation, and
- The creation of Water For People

In his [speech](#) to the audience at AWWA's last annual banquet, Richardson emphasized the legacy left by the previous generations. "We need to view AWWA and our countries' infrastructure as precious gems we are holding in trust for the next generation to come. We need to pass both on better than we found them."

As part of the "privilege and obligation" of stewardship, "we need to exercise our leadership ability beyond the water community and enlist the general public and decision makers in our common goal to protect public health and preserve and invest in the assets of our water and wastewater utilities," he said.

Richardson gave tribute to his father, William H. Richardson, who was president of AWWA in 1984-1985 and inspired in his son and in others the values of service and leadership that have made AWWA a successful and forceful organization.

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