

Municipal Service and Suppliers Association

At the founding meeting of the Western Canada Water and Sewage Conference(WCWSC) in September 1948, a committee was formed under the leadership of A.W. McCallum, of Anthes Imperial, Winnipeg (manufacturers of cast and ductile iron pipes) to represent the manufacturers and contractors in the water and sewage fields, and to organize their activities as part of the first conference. Thus began an association between the WCWSC and the equipment suppliers, that has lasted for 50 years and has been of great value and benefit to both WCWWA and the suppliers association; known for many years as the Equipment and Contractors Association (E & CA) and now named the Municipal Service and Suppliers' Association (MSSA).

In December of 1948 the Western Canada Manufacturers, Agents & Contractors (MAC) provided a gift of \$100 to the WCWSC. This \$100 gift constituted 40% of the Conference bank balance at that time. It was determined that MAC would provide a luncheon at the convention on Monday, September 27, 1949. There was concern that the cost of this luncheon could go as high as \$400.

Manufacturer representatives included:

A. W. McCallum, Anthes Imperial, Winnipeg
Don McDonald, Crane Limited
H. C. Lindsten, Wallace & Tiernan
W. J. Waddell, Neptune-National Meters, Calgary

At the 1949 Convention in Regina, it was agreed that every contributor of \$100 to the MAC entertainment fund be granted one complete registration fee, including membership. The fund was to provide a luncheon and club room for the 1950 Conference. The membership consisted of 35 firms. After the 1949 Conference the WCWSC passed a resolution expressing their deep appreciation to MAC for helping to make the 1949 conference an unqualified success.

Participation in the 1950 convention in Calgary showed 40 firms participating and a surplus of \$15.00 being generated. By the third convention in 1951 it was felt that a more permanent organization was required and MAC was replaced by the "Equipment & Contractors' Association" (E&CA). The following year the first constitution was drafted. By this time W .J. Waddell was named as the manufacturer's representative on the WCWSC Board. This was in addition to his duties as Secretary-Treasurer of WCWSC following Herb Lindsten's death.

Created originally to assist the Conference with organization of the social portions of the program, the Equipment and Contractors Association and it's successor, the Municipal Services and Suppliers Association has continued to be actively involved in this type of program.

Over the years the E & CA has, for varying periods, financed and organized the Club Room to provide a social room with drinks where conference delegates could meet and talk before the luncheons and the banquet; the ladies program; wine and cheese socials; an orchestra or pianist to play during the banquet and entertainment following the banquet.

It is amusing in these days to note that in 1951 the E & CA resolved that "escorted ladies"

would be admitted to the Club Room.

By the tenth conference, in 1958, the E & CA had 50 member firms, had asked that the E & CA no longer run the registration desk, and lastly that papers by manufacturers be presented only by firms who were members of E & CA.

By 1968, the twentieth conference in Calgary, membership had dropped slightly to 47 firms and E & CA had sponsored a river boat cruise in Winnipeg, a Klondike Night with bingo in Edmonton and had agreed to pay half of the cost of the coffee breaks.

1978 saw the thirtieth conference and membership had increased to 53 firms. The 1973 river boat cruise in Winnipeg had been replaced by an Oktoberfest as not all the delegates could be accommodated on the sternwheeler.

Bev Anderson, in 1982 became the ECA representative on the Board of WCWWA, the first woman to be on the WCWWA Board.

Exhibits were first established at our 1984 convention in Regina and were for one day only, on the Wednesday. These exhibits were well received by the conference delegates, especially by the operators. Members of E & CA had concerns about the cost of erecting and staffing the exhibits, especially as by now they were also having exhibit booths at the operator association annual conferences.

The WCWWA annual conference was the one remaining event that ECA members could attend as delegates and not have the added responsibility of putting up and taking down displays. They also benefited through making friendships with other delegates, so that when making sales calls they were familiar with most of the people they visited. The members of ECA were emphatic that no product should be displayed at the convention and went as far as policing the hospitality suites looking for culprits breaking with tradition.

However, as more manufacturers, suppliers and distributors entered the water and wastewater industry there was a greater demand for product exposure. The WCWWA Conference was seen as having potential as an ideal venue for displaying product. In 1986, at the 28th annual convention in Calgary, the ECA hosted their first trade show. Along with their responsibility to provide the entertainment they also became responsible for selling exhibit space, organizing and running the trade show.

In turn WCWWA became concerned that the exhibition could become more important than the Conference itself and when in 1994 the Winnipeg exhibition was cancelled, it created a tension between ECA & WCWWA. In 1995 the responsibility of running the trade show was turned over to the WCWWA Conference planning committee by the Board of Directors.

A trade show committee was formed with the chair representing WCWWA and one member representing ECA.

In 1993 the members of ECA, at an annual meeting, had directed their manager to investigate the procedure for incorporation. The name Municipal Service and Suppliers Association was chosen because the current name "Equipment & Contractors Association" was too similar to another organization in the East. In March 1995 the members met in Alberta, and passed the motion to accept the new name and the bylaws. In April the Municipal Service and Suppliers Association was incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act.

In 2007 the position of Western Canada Water Director was added to the board as well as the position of Treasurer. Kevin McMechan serves as the first WCW Director and Nicky Currie as the Treasurer.

Names of recent, past and present Chairs:

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| Kip Campbell | 1979-1980 |
| Richard Desiatnyk | 1980-1981 |
| Don Lovett | 1981-1982 |
| Bev Anderson | 1982-1983 |
| Maurice Ballman | 1983-1984 |
| Guy Merserau | 1985-1986 |
| Mark Vogel, Peacock Industries | 1987-1989 |
| Al Grant, Western Water | 1989-1992 |
| Cliff Stauble, Royal Flex Lox | 1992-1995 |
| John Walsh, Johlin Measurements | 1995-1996 |
| Jay Sommerfeld, ITT Flyght | 1996-1997 |
| Mark McPhail, Trojan Industries Inc. | 1997-1998 |
| Bob Blackwell, IPEX Inc | 1998-1999 |
| Al Thompson, IPEX Inc | 1999-2000 |
| Mark Vogel, Peacock Industries | 2000-2001 |
| Peter Vanderstelt, Wolseley Waterworks | 2001-2002 |
| Doug Lemon, ITT Flygt | 2002-2003 |
| Kevin McMechan, Canada Pipeline Accessories | 2003-2004 |
| Randy Bracewell, ClearTech Industries Inc | 2004-2005 |
| Jean Courcelles, Wolseley Waterworks | 2005-2006 |
| Darrel Stang, Municipal Solutions Ltd | 2006-2007 |
| Chris Shannon, Corix Water Products Inc | 2007-2008 |
| Paul Ferreira, Wolseley Canada | 2008-2009 |
| Nicky Currie, Anthratech Western Inc | 2009-2010 |