

## JOHN LECHNER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: NOMINATIONS DUE DECEMBER 15, 2015.

### Bragging Rights

Several years ago, the MAC created the John Lechner Award of Excellence. John Lechner lobbied for service provider representation within AWWA and was the first council chair. He exemplified and set a standard of commitment to the water industry that we can all attempt to live up to. John wanted to take the idea of manufacturer membership beyond the "peddler's committee" or "exhibitor's committee" to a group that assists with education, industry trends, and issues that affect the water industry. For that reason, the MAC challenged each Section to create its own Section-level award, honoring those service providers that contribute year in and year out to the Section. The Sections would then nominate their winners for the JLAOE, which is handed out at the Water Industry Luncheon at ACE.

The Section nominees are judged on their applications by the number of positions, years of service, committees, and other types of service. The better nominations from Sections read like résumés full of activities, conferences, and positions within AWWA. Although the nominee is likely humble and would not want to brag about everything they have done for the organization, this is a Section's chance to rightfully brag about what

its nominee has done for the organization. Be proud of those who give back!

A committee within the MAC puts the nominees' applications into a matrix, awarding points based on what is known from the applications. The more detail and the more accurately the matrix is filled in, the better shot your nominee has. Several Sections have provided great details about committees, conferences, councils, civic service, educational training, and many other activities contributing to both AWWA and the Sections.

### Example

"John is an excellent candidate for the JLAOE. He has been a fixture at the annual conference, and is the first to provide a door prize, always sets up the chairs and tables, and usually moderates a couple of sessions when asked. John has served our Section for many years. When you think of our Section, you think of John."

Or...

"Janice will be the most excellent candidate for the JLAOE. Janice's 26 years in serving the Section includes two terms on the MAC, with one term as the chairman. Over those 26 years, she moderated sessions at 20 conferences, assisted in 10 Section training



conferences, held the position of Treasurer with the Section, has also sat on two councils, and currently sits on an AWWA Standard committee. Two years ago, our Section awarded Janice the 'honorary operator award' for her unbiased training to water operators across three states. Janice not only serves the water industry but also volunteers at an animal shelter, where she has been an advisory board member for the past two years and a volunteer for 10 years."

It is clear which of the above descriptions provides the most detail about the nominee.

Please make sure your Section submits a nomination and details to give your nominee the recognition he/she deserves; even though *every* nominee is already a winner.

## WHAT IS GOING ON AT WASDA?

Good question. For those of you who do not know what WASDA is, WASDA stands for Water and Sewer Distributors of America. We are an organization of more than 130 member companies representing North American manufacturers and distributors of underground water and sewer supplies. WASDA formed in 1979 when 14 men saw a need to provide support and resources in the American water infrastructure and wastewater industries. Thirty-five years later, this need is as strong as ever as the industry faces higher demands on our nation's water systems with fewer resources and crumbling infrastructure.

WASDA's primary goal is to enhance the relationships between manufacturers and distributors in the waterworks field, as each type of business brings a different set of values to the supply chain. One great example is how WASDA members prepared for and reacted to the lead-free brass legislation. Members educated one another during the WASDA annual meeting on what the law meant, how to comply, and how to educate end users. WASDA collaborated with industry organizations to educate the US Environmental Protection Agency on the impact and reasonableness of the law. Our members engaged at the local level, writing

to Congress and urging their congressional representatives to listen to the industry experts. WASDA is constantly working for members and on behalf of the industry to remain relevant in support of the changing needs of our members.

I would encourage you to visit us on the Web ([www.wasda.com](http://www.wasda.com)), and check out our industry blog; drop us a line and tell us what you think. WASDA will continue to be the voice of the water and sewer industry, and we would love to hear from you.

Best of luck for the remainder of the year.

—Ed Nugent, Past President of WASDA

## MAC OPENINGS START JUNE 2016

The MAC will have openings starting in June 2016. Volunteer Applications should be received by Jan. 31, 2016. For more information about what is involved, contact Staff Advisor, Jane Johnson, at [jjohnson@awwa.org](mailto:jjohnson@awwa.org). The volunteer application can be found online at [www.awwa.org/membership/get-involved/volunteer.aspx](http://www.awwa.org/membership/get-involved/volunteer.aspx).

## CHALLENGE TO SERVICE PROVIDERS TO HIRE A VETERAN!

The summer is quickly coming to a close, so I hope by now your efforts to hire a Veteran are in progress. ACE16 will be here before you know it! We have publicized our **Service Provider Challenge** to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, the Dept. of Labor, and the Soldier For Life Program. They are all anxious to see the results and confirm that the water sector is a good career objective for Veterans, both those just separating from their military service and those who are looking for new and more rewarding careers. The Acting Assistant Secretary of the Dept. of Labor met recently with a large utility in Southern California and the California/Nevada Section as a direct result of Dept. of Labor attendance at ACE15. We are now on their radar. Let's follow up with some tangible results that prove that we want to take advantage of these highly trained and motivated individuals who are eager to start new careers. Please help us make this initiative a success!

For all Service Providers who hire at least one Veteran between ACE15 in Anaheim and ACE16 in Chicago, there will be recognition at ACE16 and in various publications. There are local offices of the Dept. of Labor in every city, and they are the best place to start looking for qualified Veterans.

For more information on local contacts or assistance, please contact Katie McCain at [kathryn.mccain2@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.mccain2@gmail.com) or 214-707-8120. Please send Katie your form that documents your company hiring a Veteran. It's a short form and requires very little personal information about the new hire.



## BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION: EXHIBIT OR SPONSOR



**WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**  
Conference



**WATER QUALITY**  
Technology Conference

Whether it's water quality technology or water infrastructure, *our* utility members are looking for products, services and solutions to optimize their water systems.

By exhibiting or sponsoring, your company will have access to a dedicated utility audience. You'll be able to

- Showcase your company
- Build relationships
- Increase brand awareness
- Generate qualified leads

**Is your company looking to connect face-to-face with...**

- Chief/Director of Engineering: Planning and Construction Management
- Utility engineers
- Utility Directors/Managers
- Security Specialists
- Computer/Process Control Systems Professionals
- SCADA System Managers and Operators
- Emergency Response Managers

- Water utility management and executives
- Treatment plant managers
- Scientists
- Engineers
- Lab personnel
- Academics and students
- Consultants

**...then exhibit or sponsor at:**

Water Infrastructure Conference & Exposition  
October 13-16, 2015  
Bethesda, MD USA

Water Quality Technology Conference & Exposition  
November 15-19, 2015  
Salt Lake City, UT USA

Opportunities are still available! Learn more at [www.awwa.org/exhibitors](http://www.awwa.org/exhibitors) and contact your Territory Sales Manager today.

To submit articles for the MACYAK, please contact [jjohnson@awwa.org](mailto:jjohnson@awwa.org)