

Southwest Membrane Operator Association



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SWMOA NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2010

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! SWMOA membership has catapulted to 325 members for 2011. We are sure to continue to grow as more agencies and operators realize what SWMOA has in store for the year ahead.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

This Friday (Dec. 10) is the deadline for submissions for the 2011 Plant of the Year and Operator of the Year awards. Competition is sure to be tough this year given the simple fact that the Southwest has the best selection of plants and operators around.

Don't miss out on the chance submit your 2011 nominations! <http://www.swmoa.org/Awards.html>.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP & SYMPOSIUM:

SWMOA knows you don't need another reminder for the 2011 Annual Symposium because it's been marked on your calendar since the 2010 Symposium. But it's almost here, so here's a reminder anyway. The 2011 Annual Symposium will be held in Las Vegas, NV on Feb. 7-9, 2011. SWMOA has negotiated unbelievable room rates for the Flamingo Las Vegas hotel. Combined with SWMOA's 'always-reasonable' registration rate, this event is undeniably affordable. Plus we've lined up some of the best operators, consultants, and vendors in the business to share their experiences during the sessions and product lines during the breaks. There will be a ridiculous amount of knowledge transfer and learning occurring at this event, with topics covering MBR, MF/UF, and RO on water sources ranging from surface water, groundwater, and wastewater effluents. You will not find a better 'knowledge per dollar' ratio in 2011, so be sure to take advantage. Don't take SWMOA's word for it; see the brochure yourself at <http://www.swmoa.org/Pdfs/Feb11SymposiumBrochure.pdf>.

Be sure to watch the SWMOA website for future workshops in Peoria, AZ, San Luis Obispo, CA, and Sacramento, CA.

SWMOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION:

The 2011 BOD elections results are in! Counter to the wave of anti-incumbent sentiment prevalent in national, state, and local politics this past November, SWMOA voters re-elected Mehul Patel, Carl Spangenberg, David Russell, Miller Truby and Eric Owens to the 2011/2012 BOD term. On behalf of these individuals, we wish to extend a warm 'thank-you' to SWMOA voters for their participation.

But most importantly, a special thank-you goes out to Kevin Watson, Mary Portillo, and Valerie Garcia. These members were willing to take their SWMOA dedication to the next level. Without enthusiastic members like these, SWMOA could not continue be the greatest operator organization in the country.

RECENT ACTIVITIES:

A mysterious phenomenon was reported in Pleasanton, California last month. Several membrane treatment operators found that hats no longer fit on their heads. As it turns out, recent attendance at the SWMOA Hands-on Training Workshop hosted by Zone 7 Water Agency caused several participants' heads to expand – a consequence of receiving too much knowledge in one sitting.

All joking aside, this Northern California event was a spectacular example of what SWMOA is here to do – bring operators together to share experiences and knowledge. Operators from all over California attended this workshop to learn about Zone 7's Mocho Groundwater Demineralization Plant (MGDP) and groundwater RO treatment in general. Zone 7 staff was instrumental in kicking off the event with an overview of the Zone 7 Water Agency and provided outstanding tours of MGDP in the afternoon. Carollo Engineers did a great job conveying their experience with MGDP startup and how Zone 7 was successful in obtaining approval for remote operation of the facility. Attendees learned about chemical pre-treatment from Avista Technologies, high pressure pumps from Afton Pumps, cartridge filtration from Parker Hannifin and Valin Corp., RO element construction from SPI, RO membrane installation from Hydranautics, and RO pressure vessels from Bekaert Progressive Composites. All in all, a very successful event!

Let your friends at other water districts know about SWMOA - we are dedicated to providing a forum for membrane system operators to exchange information, experience and knowledge. As important, we provide educational credits through our workshops and hands-on training necessary for Operator Certification. Our goal is to make our vital industry stronger and the technology more reliable. Prospective members can find application information online on our website at www.swmoa.org.

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SWMOA was formed in 2006 as an affiliate of the American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA). It is dedicated to the improvement of the quality of water supplies through desalting, reuse and other water sciences. The Corporation's members are concerned with design, research and development, equipment manufacture, operation and maintenance, environmental regulations and legislation.

The Corporation's objectives include promotion, both to the public and to elected officials, of available technologies that improve water quality; education, training and certification of plant operation personnel; communication within the membership; development of meaningful interface with regulatory agencies; technology transfer; and protection of the environment.

The Corporation is committed to the advancement of its objectives throughout the Southwest United States region including but not limited to Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada within the limits of its resources.

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