

Southwest Membrane Operator Association



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SWMOA NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2009

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of August 2009 we are 309 members strong! SWMOA welcomes all the new members as our numbers continue to grow throughout 2009! Every single SWMOA member is responsible for our success. So give yourselves a pat on the back with one hand, but extend the other hand to coworkers and associates who haven't yet joined.

SWMOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

It's that time of year again and SWMOA board elections are upon us. Similar to last year, voting will be done electronically, so be on the lookout for your electronic ballot via email. Only members in good standing as of September 10th will be eligible to vote and the announcement will be sent to all members prior to the bylaw deadline of September 15th. Members will be able to cast their ballot from September 15th – October 31st. Several of your fellow members have heeded the call to service so please give them your full attention and cast that ballot as soon as you get it!

UPCOMING WORKSHOP & SYMPOSIUM:

The next Technology Transfer Workshop will take place on November 4th in Ventura, CA at the Ventura Avenue Water Treatment Plant. The one day, Hands-On Membrane Plant Operator Training Workshop will focus on ultrafiltration membrane operation, with topics including Surface Water Regulations, Membrane Integrity Testing, Fiber Repair, and Membrane Cleanings. This workshop has been approved by the State of California for 6 Contact Hours of CEUs.

Visit the SWMOA website at www.swmoa.org for more information or to register online. You can also register by calling SWMOA at 888-463-0830.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for SWMOA's 3rd Annual Symposium to be held in Carefree, AZ on February 22-25, 2010. In addition to 'hands-on' workshops at the City of Scottsdale's new CAP Water Treatment Plant, the following topics will be presented next February.

Topics for Presentations:

1. Concentrate Management and Disposal
2. System Optimization
3. Startup Issues/Resolutions
4. New Treatment Processes and Innovations

RECENT ACTIVITIES

SWMOA held their first workshop focusing on seawater desalting on July 29th in Sand City, CA. Sand City, a small suburb of Monterey, hosted 35 attendees for the hands-on portion of the program. Attendees learned about spiral wound element construction, energy recovery devices, high pressure pumps and some of the unique challenges of working with a seawater system. Operators were particularly interested in seeing the energy recovery device taken apart and put back together. Industry experts were available to answer all types of questions and gave insights to the special design considerations needed when working with seawater. More seawater facilities are planned in California to address the state's ongoing water shortages.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

SWMOA member Harley Slater of Yucaipa Valley Water District seems to be sweeping the operator recognition awards this year. After receiving the 2009 SWMOA Operator of The Year Award in February, Harley was then recognized as the AMTA 2009 Robert O. Vernon Award recipient in July. The AMTA Robert O. Vernon Award was awarded to Harley for “his continued support and leadership as an operator in the membrane industry”. Congratulations to Harley for being recognized twice now by our industry.

SWMOA has recently developed more formal nomination criteria for the Operator and Plant of the Year Awards. Members can review these below, and then submit their nominees before next year’s Annual Symposium.

Southwest Membrane Operator Association “Plant of the Year” Award Criteria:

- ◆ The treatment plant be at least 1 mgd of membrane based treatment processes in order to be considered for this award.
- ◆ The plant shall be a public or private facility providing water, wastewater, or reclaimed water. No industrial supply plants will be considered for this award.
- ◆ The treatment plant shall have exhibited an exemplary safety record.
- ◆ The treatment plant should demonstrate a history of minimum and preferably no permit violations.
- ◆ The treatment plant should consistently be neat and clean in appearance with minimal impact to surrounding neighbors.
- ◆ It is preferable that the plant be used by its owner to educate the public on water supply, water quality, treatment, and/or reuse.
- ◆ The award recipient will be announced at the SWMOA Annual Symposium and receive a plaque recognizing this achievement. In addition, the recipient’s achievement will be mentioned in the SWMOA quarterly newsletter.
- ◆ A letter will be written by the SWMOA president to the manager of the winning treatment plant acknowledging the achievement.
- ◆ The award recipient will be automatically be nominated for consideration of the AMTA Plant of the Year award.
- ◆ The deadline for nominations will be in the December prior to the Annual Symposium

Southwest Membrane Operator Association “Operator of the Year” Award Criteria:

- ◆ The award recipient must have worked continuously for at least one year as a licensed plant operator in a facility that contains at least one membrane based treatment process.
- ◆ The recipient should exhibit a job effort that is above and beyond the normal requirement for his or her position.
- ◆ The recipient should demonstrate a working knowledge of membrane processes and a willingness to further their knowledge on a regular basis.
- ◆ The recipient should demonstrate the ability to positively represent his or her employer in the water or wastewater industry.
- ◆ An evaluation of the candidate’s work experience, honors, character, self reliance, and leadership will be used to select the award recipient.
- ◆ It is preferable that the award nominees have a letter of recommendation from their supervisor or other management personnel.
- ◆ It is preferable that the candidate be active in industry organization such as SWMOA, AMTA, or AWWA.
- ◆ The award recipient will be announced at the SWMOA Annual Symposium and receive a plaque recognizing this achievement. In addition, the recipient’s achievement will be mentioned in the SWMOA quarterly newsletter.
- ◆ A letter will be written by the SWMOA president to the winner’s manager acknowledging the achievement.
- ◆ The award recipient will be automatically be nominated for consideration of the AMTA Operator of the Year award.
- ◆ The deadline for nominations will be in the December prior to the Annual Symposium.

IN THE NEWS:

On August 19, 2009, the Marin Municipal Water District board unanimously approved a 5 mgd desalination facility, the first of its kind on the San Francisco Bay. Read more about the board’s decision and the project at the MMWD website, <http://www.marinwater.org/controller?action=opennews&id=226>.

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.

You are receiving this email from the SOUTHWEST MEMBRANE OPERATOR ASSOCIATION (SWMOA) as a registered member. If you would like to be removed from SWMOA's email list, please respond to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. For further questions, please email SWMOA at admin@swmoa.org.

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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