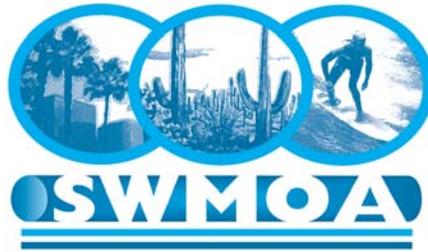


Southwest Membrane Operator Association



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## SWMOA NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2010

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

This summer finds SWMOA membership at 308! Whether you're in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, or elsewhere - welcome to SWMOA. As you will soon find out, you are in the company of the greatest membrane operators the world has to offer.

### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Congratulations to Wayne Wright of Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD). Wayne was crowned as the 2010 Outstanding Plant Operator Award winner at this year's Annual Symposium in Carefree, AZ. Additionally, the good folks at Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) took home the award for 2010 Outstanding Membrane Plant with the Yucaipa Valley Regional Water Filtration Facility (YVRWFF). Check out the SWMOA website to view the YVWD submittal and pictures of the award presentations (that's right Wayne, pictures!)

Oh yeah...let's not forget that SWMOA had a huge showing at this year's AMTA Annual Conference and Exposition in San Diego, CA. YVWD walked away with the 2010 Membrane Plant Award for the YVRWFF. Wayne Wright collected the 2010 Robert O. Vernon Award for his long history and outstanding performance at IRWD. This is the third year in a row the SWMOA Outstanding Plant Operator Award Winner went on to take the AMTA award (SWMOA has only presented our award three times!). This seems to confirm what our members already know – ***the southwest has a lock on the best operators in the biz.***

View award criteria, and throw your 2011 nominations in the hat at <http://www.swmoa.org/Awards.html>.

### UPCOMING WORKSHOP & SYMPOSIUM:

Northern California, here we come. The next technology transfer workshop is being planned for the Zone 7 Mocho Groundwater Demineralization Plant in Pleasanton, CA. Attendees will learn about treating brackish groundwater with reverse osmosis membrane. The one-day workshop is expected to

include classroom discussion in the morning, followed by a plant tour and interactive break-out sessions in the afternoon. Topics will include lessons learned during startup of the plant, RO chemical pretreatment, RO membrane autopsies, and much, much, more. Contact hours for water are pending through CDPH. ***If you operate an RO plant, or are even thinking about building an RO plant, you don't want to miss this stellar event!***

#### **SWMOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION:**

Imad Fagheli has recently resigned from the SWMOA board due to an international work assignment that will keep him from being able to offer as much time as he'd like to our organization. SWMOA wants to extend our gratitude to Imad for his hard work and dedication during his tenure as a SWMOA Director. We also want to extend our best wishes for his new assignment overseas.

The Board has appointed Miller Truby of Toray Membrane, USA to fill Imad's position until 2011, when the seat will be up for re-election. Miller graduated in 2005 from the University of Redlands with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Miller was hired by Toray Membrane USA, Inc. in February of 2006 as Communications Manager. After two years in that position, he transferred to the Technical Service department in January of 2008, where he provides technical support to Toray's customers.

The 2011 Elections are fast approaching. If you are interested in getting more involved in SWMOA and investing your own sweat equity in this great organization, please contact Seth Ginter ([seth.ginter@ge.com](mailto:seth.ginter@ge.com)) or Janet Jaworski ([admin@swmoa.org](mailto:admin@swmoa.org)) today. ***Seriously, don't wait, do it right now.***

#### **RECENT ACTIVITIES:**

SWMOA has been busy in 2010:

In February, SWMOA held its third Annual Symposium in Carefree, AZ. The 109 attendees learned about a range of topics, including Concentrate Management, Start-Up Issues and Resolutions, New Treatment Processes and Innovations as well as System Optimization. The keynote presentation was given by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on drought impacts and start-up of the Yuma Desalting Facility. The symposium featured the Scottsdale CAP Water Treatment Plant with an overview of the facility followed by a facility tour and hands-on training covering: Sonic Testing of an MF Train, Repair of a Pressurized MF Module, Troubleshooting and Inspecting of a large Kinney Strainer, and DAF Operation Overview. ***Don't be jealous if you missed this year's symposium, just sign up for next year's!***

On April 13, 2010 a Technology Transfer Workshop was held at the San Diego County Water Authority's Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant, a 100 MGD low pressure UF plant with ozone and solids management on site. This zero liquid discharge plant treats a blend of Colorado River water with CA State Project Water for supply to the greater San Diego region. This workshop had over 40 attendees participate. Speakers from the plant staff and the San Diego County Water Authority presented topics on lessons learned, design criteria, operational challenges and successes, in addition to the hands-on workshops in the afternoon. All those who attended came away from the day with a new understanding of membrane treatment and the many facets that are a part of running one of the

largest plants in the world. A special thank you goes to our sponsor GE Water and Process Technologies and to our host at the Twin Oaks Facility.

In July 2010, SWMOA hosted a pre-conference workshop kicking off the American Membrane Technology Conference in San Diego, CA. The pre-conference workshop provided an opportunity to "Figure Out" membranes in both a class room and hands-on setting. The morning session included an overview of RO basics, MF/UF basics, Seawater Desalination Pretreatment, RO Chemistry, and Membrane Cleaning and Autopsy. The afternoon was held at Sweetwater Authority's Richard A. Reynolds Desalination Facility. The facility has been in operation for 10 years and treats saline groundwater with a RO system to drinking water quality.

If you missed any of these, don't worry, SWMOA has much more planned for the future. SWMOA puts on Technology Transfer Workshops four times per year at a variety of locations and venues; we hope to see you at one soon.

**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](http://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 it's resources.

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