



SOUTHEAST CIRCULAR

Publication of Water Environment Association of Texas,
Section 9, Houston & Galveston

January 2010

Featured Speaker

Ms. SuEllen Staggs

Director of Utilities
City of Sugar Land

Ms. SuEllen Staggs is currently the Director of Utilities with the City of Sugar Land. She began her utility career working with a municipal utility district operations firm as a client manager. Ms. Staggs began working for the City of Sugar Land in 1998 as the Assistant Director of Public Works and promoted to Director in 2004. Ms. Staggs became the Director of Utilities in 2005 when the Public Works Department was split into two departments.

Ms. Staggs was an integral part of the team that revised the city safety program in 2003 and the emergency management program in 2002 (after 9/11). She developed the City's Groundwater Reduction Plan (GRP) that has been approved by the Fort Bend Subsidence District. The GRP encompasses the city limits, the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), and includes 17 public and private groundwater producers in the City and the ETJ. She has been responsible for the development and implementation of the City's Water and Wastewater Master Plans along with development of the City's Strategic Partnership Agreements and Utility Agreements for new development.

Ms. Staggs has a Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Michigan University and Master's Degree in Business Administration from University of Houston. She is affiliated with

American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation, South Central Membrane Association and Water Environment Federation.

The topic of presentation at the meeting will be "Using Risk Based Criteria for Rehabilitation Decisions"; she also intends to talk briefly about City of Sugar Land's master planning process and successes.

Meeting Notice

Date: Thursday, January 21

Time: Registration 11:00
Lunch 11:30
Presentation 12:00

Place: Houston Engineering and Scientific Society (HESS)
5430 Westheimer Rd.

Luncheon: \$20 if confirmed by January 18
\$25 after January 18 or at the door
Discount price - \$12 for students and public employees, if confirmed before January 18

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RSVP: Lindsay Kovar (281-558-8700)
or www.weat.org/southeast or
lkovar@browngay.com

The President's Message



Happy New Year! Starting off a new year is always exciting, as we make new plans and resolutions, gearing up for a fresh start. Our goal at WEAT this season, this year and always is to have increased participation and to be able to aid in the growth of future water and wastewater professionals. We have had a great season with superb speakers, exciting topics and tremendous support. We are grateful for it, and hope to continue to receive your support and participation.

Coming up this spring we will be judging at the Science and Engineering Science Fair. This will be an opportunity for our members to participate in judging the projects. We look forward to seeing you there. Stay tuned for more information coming up in the next months.

Wrapping up 2009, we had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Ravi Kaleyatodi give an "Overview of the City of Houston's Wastewater Systems" in November. Thank you for taking the time to explain the City's challenges, initiatives and vision for the future.

Starting off the New Year, we are delighted to have Ms. SuEllen Staggs with the City of Sugar Land discuss the topic of "Using Risk Based Criteria for Rehabilitation Decisions". Please join us for this luncheon on January 21st at HESS. To RSVP please contact any of the officers or via our website www.weat.org/southeast.

Special thanks to our sponsors Brown & Gay Engineers, CDM, Hartwell Environmental, Klotz Associates, LAN,

Newman Regency and Vision Equipment for making this meeting possible. This has been a record setting month for sponsors and we would love to see it happen again. This makes scholarships to local area colleges achievable.

As always, if you are interested in sponsoring a meeting, placing an ad in our newsletters, for any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or the officers.

Stay warm!
Evelyn Zapata

Meeting Sponsors



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Klotz Associates is headquartered in Houston and has branch offices in Austin, Lufkin and San Antonio. Klotz Associates has a staff of 125 professionals including 61 licensed engineers in the State of Texas.



Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. (LAN) is a nationally-recognized, full-service engineering firm headquartered

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Founded in 1935, LAN continues to innovatively serve our clients, which include municipalities, governmental agencies, and private industries, by employing the same core principals and standards for excellence established by our founders 75 years ago. LAN is consistently rated in the top 100 A/E firms by Engineering News-Record magazine, and is a subsidiary of Leo A Daly, one of the largest planning, architecture, engineering, and interior design firms in the United States.



Newman Regency Group's effective and efficient coverage of the potable water and wastewater treatment capital equipment market began in 1961 when James B. Newman founded the company in Dallas. Coverage was expanded when the company opened offices in Houston and Austin in 1973 and 1992, respectively. Today, statewide coverage in both the municipal and industrial markets is provided by our three partners and four outside salespeople.

Newman Regency is a process-oriented sales organization offering a full range of equipment. Catalogs provide good information. However, consultants can benefit from the specific knowledge & experience our sales professionals can offer in pulling all the pieces together. Our approach is to offer product lines that complement each other and can solve those process issues unique to each owner's treatment needs, budget, & environment



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Founded in 2003, and registered with the State of Texas as an HUB entity, the company has grown rapidly to include 6 offices in Texas and one office in Oklahoma City.

News & Announcements

Texas Water 2010

This year's Texas Water will be held in Corpus Christi. The full conference will begin April 14th and continue until April 16th with the meet and greet event on April 13th.

For more information on the conference and for registration visit

<http://www.texas-water.com/home.html>.

National Water Policy and the Future of Texas Water

A debate to discuss the current water conditions in Texas and to explore current and future federal roles in water law, policy and management, will be held on January 29, 2010 at Texas Tech University School of Law between 1:00 and 5:30 pm. Two panels of experts and government representatives will discuss Texas water supplies and management and the merits of a national water policy and its implications for Texas.

NACWA's Winter Conference

Join the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Austin as they focus on the expanding boundaries of utility management. Speakers will examine some of the drivers for change and how utility managers, already handling a full array of issues, have and will continue to adapt.

Date: February 2-5, 2010

Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, Austin, TX

The Watermark Competition

If you think your utility has done a good job, you can show the world or at least the Texas Water community by nominating them in the annual Watermark competition. There are two competitions (1) For the members of TWWWA and Water Environment Federation of Texas (2) For news media – print, broadcast or internet – who have communicated on water-related issues.

Deadline: February 1, 2010

Please see attachment for complete information.

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Feb. 1 deadline for Watermark entries

Complete set
of rules available
on Section website:
www.tawwa.org

Has your utility done a good job communicating with the public?

If so, you can show the world – or at least the Texas Water community – by entering the annual Watermark competition. Deadline for entries is Feb. 1, 2010.

There are actually two competitions. One is for members of TAWWA and members of the Water Environment Association of Texas. That entry form appears on the opposite page.

Another competition is for news media – print, broadcast or Internet – who have communicated on water-related issues. That entry form appears at the bottom of this page.

The competition for members is open to any communication in calendar 2009. Larger utilities – 50,000 connections or more – are judged in a separate category.

The competition is a little different this year. There is no separate category for the annual water quality reports (also know as Consumer Confidence Reports, or CCRs). They are judged with other publications in Category III.

The website category includes all types of on-line content, including postings to Twitter and Facebook.

Photographs will be judged in the miscellaneous category, rather than the audio-visual category as in the past.

A complete set of rules is available on the Section website, www.tawwa.org.

In the media competition, utilities may not enter on behalf of the news media. But it's okay to encourage your local reporters to enter. That's a good way to strike up a conversation and get the media thinking about water issues.

General Rules

1. Entries must be accompanied by the entry form (or a copy), and must be received no later than Feb. 1, 2009.
2. Entries must have been produced between Jan. 1, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2009.
3. Newspaper and magazine entries consisting of a large number of pages should be mounted or bound in a manner suitable for display at Texas Water 2010SM.
4. Radio and television entries should include the complete script (if a script was used) and a brief summary or outline of the program's content. Radio entries must be accompanied by an audio cassette tape or audio CD. Television entries must be accompanied by a DVD or 1/2-inch video tape (VHS format).
5. Only published or broadcast material will be judged.
6. Paid advertising is not eligible.
7. TAWWA or WEAT members may not enter for media, but should encourage their local media to enter.
8. Entrants may submit no more than two entries. Each entrant can receive only one award.
9. Winners will be announced on or about March 1, 2010. Entries will not be returned.
10. Winners will be recognized during Texas Water 2010SM conference in Corpus Christi April 13-16. The awards breakfast is Thursday, April 16 at 7:30 a.m. at the Corpus Christi Convention Center.

Judging: Entries are judged based on water interest, accuracy, clarity, style and impact. Judges may be members of TAWWA or WEAT, instructors or professors of communication in accredited Texas schools or members of the publishing and broadcasting fields who are not currently employed by Texas media.

Watermark entry form - Media

Complete a separate form for each entry.

Utilities cannot submit entries on behalf of the news media.

Name of Station/Publication _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Title of Entry _____

Writer/Producer _____

Job Title _____

Medium: Print: Daily Print: Non-Daily Radio TV

Describe the entry being nominated (*use an additional sheet if necessary*) _____

Documentation provided: printed article video tape DVD audio tape or CD script

other _____

Mail or deliver entry to:

Watermark Entry
ATTN: Mary Gugliuzza
Public Education Section
Fort Worth Water Department
1000 Throckmorton St.
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

**Deadline:
February 1, 2010**



Clip along dotted line.

Watermark Entry Form

Complete a separate form for each entry.

Please PRINT.

Name of Utility, Company or Agency _____

Name & title of person entering _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Title of Entry _____

Utility with less than 50,000 connections Utility with 50,000 or more connections Non-utility

Member of: AWWA Member Number _____ WEAT Member Number _____

Category:

I. Communications programs: internal campaigns, external campaigns, crisis communications, community relations.

II. Periodicals: magazines or newsletters. black & white or 2-color color

III. Publications: annual reports, annual water quality reports, brochures, direct mail materials and other multi-page publications.
 black & white or 2-color color

IV. Online communications: Web sites, Facebook, Twitter online newsletters, etc.
Provide URL or link: _____
Do not submit copies of pages, judges will review actual online content and your one- or two-page summary.

V. School curriculums.

VI. Writing releases, features, scripts, speeches, public service announcements, etc.

VII. Audio and visual: videos, DVDs, slide shows, PowerPoint presentations, etc. Videos can be submitted on standard VHS videotape (1/2-inch) or DVD. Slide shows can be submitted by numbering and packaging slides and the script.

VIII. Miscellaneous: photography, logos, one-time advertisements, posters, illustrations, invitations.

Mail or deliver entry to:

Watermark Entry
ATTN: Mary L. Gugliuzza
Public Education Section
Fort Worth Water Department
1000 Throckmorton St.,
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Extra Awards

One glass Watermark Award is provided to each winner. Each additional copy is \$35. If you win and want additional copies for other team members, you must specify and commit to that cost now.

Additional Copies: _____ Print Name: _____

Signature _____

For more information, contact Mary Gugliuzza at mary.gugliuzza@fortworthgov.org or (817) 392-8253.