



Kansas Water Environment Association

## 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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## ***PRESIDENT – Kurt Bookout***

KWEA continues to be the premier water quality organization in Kansas and strives to be the go-to for educational opportunities, water certifications, and information about our water environment.

## **JOINT CONFERENCE**

KWEA held the eighth Joint Conference with the KsAWWA. The conference was held in Topeka, KS at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. The conference was kicked off by keynote speaker George Hawkins, General Manager of DC Water. George spoke about his experience as an environmental lawyer, a regulator and as his current role as general manager. Conference attendance was the largest yet at 801 and saw revenue and overall profit increase from the previous year and was as expected for a conference in Topeka. The Board will continue to evaluate the location of the conference with KsAWWA to ensure the best experience for our membership. The conference will be held in Wichita in 2017 and in Topeka 2018.

## **KWEA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

There was no update to the KWEA Constitution and By-laws in 2016.

## **KWEA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIR UPDATE**

The Nominating Committee approved the nomination of Ron Thomann (TREKK Design Group) as incoming Vice-President beginning at the Annual Conference in August 2016. The nominating committee also approved Jeannette Klamm as the Junior WEF delegate. These nominations were accepted and approved at the 2016 Annual Conference Business Meeting.

The following committees will have new chairpersons for 2015.

1. Laboratory Committee Chair – Jason Patty
2. Government Affairs – Joe Foster

## ***PRESIDENT-ELECT – Dave Hauser***

The primary responsibility of the President-Elect is to chair the Program Committee for the Annual Conference. The eight annual joint KWEA and KsAWWA conference was in Topeka again this year at the Capital Plaza Hotel. Approximately 801 industry professionals attended the

conference, which is higher than last year's attendance of about 720. There were nearly 120 people that came to take certification exams, but did not attend the conference. We offered boxed lunches for a one day registration fee to try and convert these people to conference attendees. The conference included a great key note speaker, George Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins gave an interesting talk on his initial days of taking over the utility and turning its image, perception and morale around internally and externally to make it one of the premier utilities in the country. The conference provided learning opportunities with industry professionals, as well as networking with vendors. Seventy-one vendors participated in the joint conference with booth set-ups and activity sponsorships. This joint conference was an overwhelming success due to the efforts of all of the committee chairs and both executive boards. Program highlights include:

- The conference kicked off Monday with the KsAWWA Water for People Trap Shoot and KWEA Scholarship Golf Tournament.
- On Tuesday we started with a high-energy, impactful session with our key note speaker, George Hawkins.
- Bowling Night on Tuesday evening was a very successful departure from past evening functions. This event was well attended and provided vendors with an excellent opportunity to network with other attendees and exhibitors, and win great prizes.
- On Wednesday night, several deserving members were presented with distinguished awards at the KWEA/KsAWWA Awards Banquet.

### ***VICE-PRESIDENT – Susan Pekarek***

The annual report is an important part of recording the events, activities and accomplishments of KWEA each year. This is the ninth annual report for KWEA.

### ***SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT – Sylvan Coles***

Summary of 2016 Program:

- KWEA has currently 417 members: 266 Professional, 94 PWO, 25 Young Professionals, 19 Life, 3 Corporate, 2 Executive, 5 Retired, 2 Student, and 1 Honorary Member. Membership dropped by 14 in 2016.
- KWEA oversees the ABC Voluntary Certification Program in Kansas and currently has 663 current certificate holders in the following disciplines: 347 Collections, 169 Distribution, 70 Water and Wastewater Laboratory, 61 Plant Maintenance, 6 Industrial Pretreatment, & 10 Residuals Management.

Eight exam opportunities were held in 2016 and a total of 147 exams were administered.

- KWEA’s 81st Annual Conference was held jointly with the KsAWWA in 2016 in Topeka, Kansas. Approximately 801 were in attendance this year, which was up over 11% from the previous year. Sixty-six regular booth and five equipment booths were sold and 172 registered as exhibitors. KWEA has signed an MOU with KsAWWA through 2020. This year 77 people took the KDHE Exams and 43 people took the ABC Exams. Over the two and a half day conference, 122 presentations were given.
- Future Conference Dates:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Begin Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
2017	Wichita Hyatt Hotel	8/28/2017	8/31/2017
2018	Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel	8/27/2018	8/30/2018
2019	Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel	8/26/2019	8/29/2019
- KWEA’s holds ~ \$120,000 in reserves. The operating budget is ~ \$40,000. Operating revenue comes primarily from the Annual Conference. The revenue from membership is approximately \$4,300 annually.

***PWO TRUSTEE- Joe Foster***

The PWO Trustee holds a position on the WEF Operation and Maintenance committee. This gives KWEA a voice with WEF for the training that is needed for Kansas. The 2016 joint annual KWEA & KsAWWA conference was held in Topeka, Kansas this year. There were training tracks for operators and maintenance professionals. KDHE & ABC exams were also offered for the attendees. In addition, WEF hosted several free web-based training sessions during 2016 for operations and maintenance.

***DELEGATES –Page Burks and Janette Klamm***

There are two Delegate positions on KWEA’s Board. Delegates are responsible for representing KWEA at the WEF House of Delegates meetings. Water Environment Federation’s governance structure continues to utilize the Delegates to encourage and improve better communication channels between the local MAs and WEF.

KWEA’s Delegates are elected for a three year term. The 2015-2016 Delegates were Chris Burns and Page Burks. Chris completed his Delegate’s term at WEFTEC 2016. Following WEFTEC 2016, Page Burks assumed the Senior Delegate position through WEFTEC 2017. Jeanette Klamm was selected to fill the Junior Delegate post at the 2016 Joint Conference and will serve three years.

- Chris and Page attended the House of Delegates (HOD) meeting at WEFTEC 2016 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Over 100 Delegates from local MA’s and other countries attended

the meeting. Key topics discussed and activities during the HOD meetings are as follows:

- Various reports from HOD committees were given and approved.
- 2015/16 HOD Work Groups reported on their results (Chris served on the Operators of the Future Work Group and Page on the Value of Water workgroup)
- Three new/continued HOD work groups will be utilized in 2016/17 – Strategic Planning, Membership, and Value of Water & Water Advocates. Each group met in the afternoon to discuss the issue and the charge/goals set that can be worked on throughout the year. Page attended the Value of Water/Water Advocates WG and serves as the HOD liaison to the WEF Public Communications and Outreach Committee (PCOC). Jeanette has joined the Strategic Planning WG
- New Speaker of the House is Howard Carter.

In addition to the HOD meeting in New Orleans, Page attended the 2016 WEFMAX meeting in Chicago, Illinois with David Hauser. The purpose of WEFMAX is to provide an opportunity for the local MAs to learn from one another and interact with key WEF staff. Each MA in attendance provided a report of local activities and accomplishments. This exchange of ideas between MA's was very useful. An HOD meeting was held in advance of the general WEFMAX meeting to help gather feedback topics Delegates prioritized for the upcoming year, both in the HOD and the organization as a whole.

### ***MANUFACTURER TRUSTEE – Michael Rudy***

The exhibit hall layout this year included 78 booths and 5 large equipment booths. The Exhibit Area also included two presentation areas and several activities to assist with increasing booth traffic including: Meter Madness, Water Taste Test, Water for People Silent Auction, Meet & Greet and Prize Drawings. KWEA & KSAWWA will continue to work on new ideas to increase traffic in the Exhibit Area for next year's conference. Overall the exhibitors are happy with the Joint Conference arrangement.

### ***YOUNG PROFESSIONAL TRUSTEE – Ed McGrath/ (Ryan Rutkowski)***

#### **COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

YP Trustee:	Ed McGrath
Committee Chair:	Dallas Massie
Vice Committee Chair:	Ryan Rutkowski

## **KWEA S&YP COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES SUMMARY 2016**

1. Chair (Dallas Massie) and Vice Chair (Ryan Rutkowski) attended 2016 AWWA/WEF YP Professionals Summit in San Deigo, CA
2. Smith and Loveless Grit Removal Research Center Tour & social
3. JCW Myron K Nelson Treatment Complex tour and social
4. Kansas City Royals game night with tailgate social
5. YP KU Student Chapter attended 2015 WEFTEC Conference
6. KWEA/AWWA Joint Annual Conference YP Sessions and networking event
7. Spring, Summer & Winter Committee Lunch Meetings

### **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

Committee descriptions and committee chair contact information are posted on [www.KWEA.net](http://www.KWEA.net). The following activities were reported by committee chairs:

#### ***Administrative - Finance – Brian Spano***

The main objectives of this committee are to a) provide a stable and sound economic base for the KWEA, b) ensure compliance with federal and state requirements for a 503(c) not-for-profit organization, c) provide fiscal consistency related to revenue and expenditures, d) maximize returns on investments, and e) establish/maintain/modify financial policies, processes and procedures, as is appropriate.

The committee performed the following tasks:

1. Established the 2016 Annual Budget with input from various committees and Board members.
2. Determined and maintained the appropriate reserve funds.
3. Reviewed appropriate fees, rates, and charges for memberships, annual conference registration, fall and other workshops registration, booth charges, advertising, etc.
4. Reviewed current revenue streams and provided recommendations.

## ***Administrative - Membership –Dan Riney***

Membership Statistics:

December 2015		December 2016
● Corporate	3	3
● Executive	3	2
● Honorary	1	1
● Life	18	19
● Professional	264	266
● PWO	101	94
● Retired	3	5
● Student	5	2
● Young Prof	43	25
● Current	441	417

This is a decrease of 24 members from the 2014-2015 Annual Report.

## ***Administrative - Constitution and Bylaws – Jim Martin***

No activity was initiated or required during the past year. There were no changes made to the documents and no requests for reviews and/or new initiatives. The major re-write completed in 2012 was implemented and served as the base document for 2013 and continues as the organization's guidance at this time.

## ***Administrative - Audit- Waldo Margheim III***

### **ACCOUNT BALANCES**

The CoreFirst Bank & Trust account balances as of December 31, 2015, were as follows with the exception of the CD balance:

1. Checking:                   \$ 66,678.84  
(interest no longer accrued)
2. CD #01853370006:       \$ 62,574.64  
(balance as of 11/23/15; interest earned = \$311.90)

One of the CDs was cashed out in August 2010 to increase the checking account balance in preparation for the upcoming Annual Conference. Since that time, the Association has maintained only one CD (outside the ones held for the Scholarship fund).

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The following is a summary of the 2015 Joint Annual Conference:

1. Expenditures:                   \$ 99,931.96  
  (Hotel Costs = \$55,499.78 of that amount)
2. Income:                         \$ 170,984.57
  - a) Income from Exhibitors:         \$ 72,530.00
  - b) Income from Member Registration:   \$ 92,826.57
  - c) Other Income:                     \$ 5,628.00
  - d) Total:                             \$ 170,984.57

The total profit for the 2015 Annual Conference was \$71,052.61. The agreed upon split of that total profit is 60% for KWEA and 40% for Kansas AWWA, resulting in a net profit for KWEA from the 2015 Annual Conference of \$42,631.57. For comparison, profits for the last eight annual conferences are provided below.

Annual Conference Year	KWEA Profit (\$)
2016	\$ 45,301.57
2015	\$ 42,631.57
2014	\$ 42,151.25
2013 <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 18,398.86
2012	\$ 50,394.28
2011	\$ 38,966.53
2010 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 41,036.50
2009 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 38,040.08
2008	\$ 60,618.91

<sup>(1)</sup>Conference was held in Wichita instead of Topeka.

<sup>(2)</sup>Actual profit for KWEA unclear at time of Audit due to negotiations with AWWA.

<sup>(3)</sup>First year of joint annual conference.

A joint account (Account No. 20706) with Kansas AWWA exists and Sylvan Coles and Terryl Pajor with Kansas AWWA are required dual signees for that account. All Annual Conference transactions are handled through this account.

**ABC CERTIFICATION**

The Association administers the ABC Operator and Collection System accreditation. Income is derived from certification renewals and exams. Expenditures include ABC membership, certification exams, mailings, training logs and proctoring the tests.

1. Expenditures: \$ 12,340.17
2. Income: \$ 17,498.00



## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The following is a summary of the KWEA Scholarship funds.

Topeka Credit Union Account (as of 12/31/14).

Regular Shares (Savings Account):	\$	4,911.15	
CD# 1031:	\$	1,641.57	
CD# 936:	\$	25,748.21	
CD# 1042:	\$	1,230.35	
Subtotal	\$	33,531.28	(12/31/14 Total Balance)

The KWEA Scholarship Committee awarded \$ 2,700.00 of scholarships in 2014. The Conference Golf Tournament contributed \$ 747.38.

## MISCELLANEOUS

The following are the Association's miscellaneous accounts and business actions handled throughout the year:

- The Association's expense for the on-line payment (credit card) for payment to the conference registration is approximately 3 percent per transaction and amounted to approximately \$1,383.52 this past year.
- There were office expenses in the amount of \$5,889.10, which included such major items as Corporation Fees, Equipment, Insurance, General Mailings, Miscellaneous, Supplies, Tax Statements and Telephone Costs.
- The Association spent \$2,699.98 on conference and travel expenses sending KWEA members to WEFMAX 2014. The Association also spent \$2,205.03 on conference and travel expenses sending a member to the WEF Fly-in 2014.
- The Association spent \$1,102.30 to send YPs to WEFMAX.
- The Association spent \$350.00 on an outside audit that was completed by M&M Accounting and Tax Service of Topeka, Kansas.

The Association's list of paid employees and the annual amounts they received are as follows:

- Dustin Coles (Proctor Tests) \$ 1,437.50
- Becky Roeckers (Proctor Tests) \$ 150.00

- Tina Leitzel (Website/Splashings)     \$     4,830.27
- Sylvan Coles (Secretary/Treasurer)     \$     18,364.50
- Total     \$     24,782.27

The Association received \$ 3,984.17 in WEF Membership dues.

***Collections Systems – Chris Ramsey***

The Collection Systems Committee’s (CSC) objectives are to provide information to the Association’s membership regarding collection systems topics and issues. The committee strives to inform collection systems workers, as well as management, on the following topics:

- Ongoing operation and maintenance.
- Rehabilitation and repair technology.
- Training and certification of collection systems personnel.
- Safety issues.
- Proper management of collection systems.
- Current and future State and Federal Regulations

The Committee met six times over the past 12 months. There are approximately 25 active members on the committee, with a good mix of industry representation – municipalities, consultants, and equipment representatives. All members join at least one of seven sub-committees which cover a variety of areas within the collections systems field.

The Annual Conference and Workshops Sub-committee assisted with gathering presentations for 2016 Joint Conference (CSO, SSO & Wet Weather; Collection Systems Topics). The technical session included round table discussion on private service lateral inspection and repair with presentations to support the topic. The sub-committee will again assist with the technical program for the 2017 Joint Conference. The sub-committee is also researching and developing an operator’s challenge to be held at future annual conferences. One of the goals of the event is to encourage attendance and participation by collection system operators. The goal is to introduce the operator’s challenge at the 2018 annual conference.

The Training and Certification Sub-committee was unable to schedule the one-day workshop for KWEA members on Collection Systems operation and maintenance. The sub-committee is currently identifying a 2017 date and location for the work shop. ABC certification exams will be administered following the workshop.

The Publications Sub-committee submitted profiles of the Collection System Award winners and other articles were submitted on a variety of collection system topics.

- The Awards Sub-committee reviewed nominations for the Collection Systems Award, with the following results:

Category I – City of Bonner Springs, Kansas

Category II – City of Lawrence, Kansas

Category III – Johnson County Wastewater, Kansas

- The Golden Manhole Society (GMS) inducted Bob Brower, City of Lawrence as a new member at the annual conference.
- Rick Nelson with Ch2M Hill was awarded the Ray Stillwell award at the annual conference.
- The National Issues sub-committee reported on the status of collection system issues. Other collections system conference dates and locations were shared.

The Technology Transfer Sub-committee looked into a number of new technologies and provided information to the Splashings.

### ***Government Affairs – Trent Stober***

The Government Affairs performed the following activities:

- The committee provided articles in *Splashings* on topics of interest to KWEA members. This is important, as one of our key charges is to provide information on government affairs issues to the membership.
- The government affairs session for the annual KWEA conference was a success. This year's focus was on regulatory, legislative and legal updates with visiting speakers from KDHE, WEF, NACWA. KWEA PWO Trustee and Government Affairs Committee member Joe Foster and the KWEA President, Kurt Bookout, participated in the NACWA/WEF/WERF National Water Policy Forum & Fly-In, which focuses on regulations, legislation, and Congressional visits. The committee is finding these visits are helpful and continuing to send the message to our congressional members about the importance of clean water and its infrastructure.
- The current GA committee leadership organization is Trent Stober as Chair; Vice-Chair is vacant as of 2015, and Susan Pekarek as Past-Chair. The organization chart also

contains three key focus areas: Treatment (Susan Pekarek), Collection System (vacant), and Stormwater (Andy Sauer).

- John Metzler, Susan Pekarek, Joe Foster, and Trent Stober represented Kansas at the EPA Region 7 and 4-States meeting with the purpose of providing open discussion on current hot topics between members of EPA, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa.

Planned Activities for 2017 include monitoring activity associated with the Clean Water Rule (a.k.a. Water of the U.S rule), application of the “blending” rule to the remainder of the nation. The committee will also monitor integrated planning, nutrient criteria and the proposed wet weather sustainability act legislation. The committee will plan to attend the National Water Policy Forum & Fly-In in April and will plan to attend the Eighth Annual EPA Region 7 and 4-States meeting in the fall.

### ***Industrial – Mike Carter***

The Industrial Committee met one time face-to-face during the past year. The meeting was held to plan the Industrial Pretreatment sessions for the 2016 joint conference in Topeka. Additional correspondence, as necessary, was conducted throughout the year through e-mails or telephone calls.

Our primary purpose is to provide useful information and training opportunities relevant to both industrial regulators and industrial users. To achieve this, we offered an Industrial Pretreatment track on the opening day of the annual conference. Four technical presentations were delivered in this track; each of which were attended by an average of 39 individuals. The Industrial Committee intends to offer half-day Industrial Pretreatment tracks in each of the upcoming conferences.

The Industrial Committee will continue to work with other committees and organizations to provide timely and essential information to the community.

### ***Laboratory – Jason Patty***

The Laboratory Committee met one time in person during the past year. The meeting was held to plan the Laboratory session for the joint conference in Topeka. The rest of our meetings and any changes and/or confirmations that were needed to be done were conducted through e-mails or telephone calls.

We have continued to meet our committee’s goal which is to provide training and information to the laboratory community. We accomplished this by offering a laboratory session at the annual conference. Since this was a joint conference with KWEA and AWWA, we wanted to assure there were topics that were of interest to both water and wastewater laboratories. The Laboratory session presentations included Ethics, Regulation updates, Preparing for lab

assessments, Microbiology Encore, A Committee Q & A panel discussion, and TNI updates. The committee would like to continue to offer a full day of lab presentations in the upcoming conferences to allow laboratory personnel to receive all of the CEUs they require at one time. This will depend on the time available at the conferences.

Three (3) people received the Crystal Crucible award this year. They were Jan Copeland with Westar Energy, Greg Cruse also with Westar Energy, and Jason Patty with the City of El Dorado. All have greatly contributed to the laboratory field in the state of Kansas as well as the KWEA association. The award is recognized by the Federation. It is for anyone who is involved with the operation of a laboratory in any way. It will help recognize laboratory personnel as well as instructors, regulators, vendors and plant personnel.

The Laboratory Analyst award recipient this year was Jason Patty with the City of El Dorado. Mr. Patty is a very worthy recipient and is the current Chair of the KWEA Laboratory Committee and a great supporter of KWEA.

The committee is looking forward to working with AWWA members for the next joint conference in 2017 to offer pertinent laboratory topics and help make the conference a success. We have a conference call scheduled on March 1st to discuss topics for the conference.

The Laboratory Committee will continue to work with other committees and organizations to provide timely and essential information to the laboratory community. During the past year, co-chair, Mike Bader has been submitting articles both in the WEF Laboratory newsletter as well as Splashings.

### ***Municipal Management – Patrick Beane***

The Municipal Management Committee focused this year on providing relevant content for the annual conference. There were four great presentations in the municipal management track and a variety of other presentations included in the asset management track. The committee will continue to identify topics for the annual conference, submit articles to Splashings, and to evaluate a Municipal Management award in the future. We are also looking to recruit new members from the public and private sectors to be active members of the committee.

### ***Municipal Technology Transfer – Phil Burns***

The primary activity of the Municipal Technology Transfer (MTT) committee was to assist with the development of technical sessions for the annual conference. The committee business was conducted via e-mail communications with the President Elect and the committee members.

The committee provided several presentations for the annual conference and also provided moderators for the municipal tech sessions. The MTT committee currently has 9 members.

***Nominating Committee – Lorrie Hill (Past President)***

The Nominating Committee approved the nomination of Ron Thomann (TREKK ) as incoming Vice-President beginning at the Annual Conference in August 2016. This nomination was accepted and approved at the Annual Conference Meeting.

***Plant Operations and Maintenance – Tyler Pjesky***

The Plant Awards are presented to municipalities and industries for recognition of those plant operators who have done an outstanding job of plant operation and maintenance. The award winners and honorable mentions recognized at the 2015 KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference include:

<b>Winners</b>	<b>Honorable Mentions</b>
<b>1A</b> No Applicants	
<b>1B</b> Dodge City South Lagoons	
<b>2</b> No Applicants	
<b>3</b> Holton	
<b>4</b> El Dorado/Gardner (dual winners)	
<b>5</b> Lawrence	
<b>6(a)</b> No Applicants	
<b>6(b)</b> No Applicants	
<b>Biosolids</b> Lawrence	
<b>Safety</b> El Dorado	

***Public Communications and Outreach –Sheila Shockey***

In November 2016, the Public Communications & Outreach Committee encouraged KWEA members to celebrate World Toilet Day. World Toilet Day aims to break the taboo around toilets and draw attention to the global sanitation issue. 2.3 billion people around the world lack access to proper toilets, which results in serious health consequences in millions of children every year.

By encouraging local water and wastewater professionals to raise awareness in their community for the global issue, they help foster an appreciation for wastewater services closer to home. Talking about the fact that 40% of the world's population lacks access to a proper toilet serves as a humble reminder that we are lucky to have wastewater infrastructure protecting our public health and our environment.

The committee developed several marketing pieces to inspire our members to take part in the World Toilet Day festivities. This includes an informational brochure on World Toilet Day that provided ideas on the different ways a utility or individual could get involved. Some of the ideas included; hosting free tours of a wastewater facility, using social media to draw attention to the cause, holding a toilet paper drive in the workplace, donating money to the World Toilet Organization, and telling friends and neighbors about what World Toilet Day means to them.

### ***PC&O - Public Education –***

No update.

### ***PC&O - Publications – Caitlin Perry***

Four issues of Splashings were prepared to provide the membership with information on the annual conference and other KWEA events. Articles from the membership are solicited on a quarterly basis for publication. This past year KWEA committees continued to develop and submit articles for Splashings. The committee articles were a great way to transfer knowledge to KWEA members.

Caitlin Perry serves as the Splashings editor and Tina Leitzel, KWEA Webmaster continues to design the cover and general layout and assemble each edition.

This past year, Splashings Fall and Winter issues swapped content. The traditional post-conference material was provided in the Winter issue instead of the Fall issue as done in years past. This change allowed for a more thorough overview of the conference to be included in the Winter issue. Additionally, it helped to evenly distribute content across the four issues, providing better quarterly articles.

### ***Safety – Craig Stromgren-***

No update.

## *Scholarship Committee - Joe Mester*

Scholarship Committee:

Joe Mester, Chairman

Jim Martin

Rebecca Lewis

Mike Hafling

Dustin Craig

Susan Pekarek, KWEA Vice-President

This year, based on proceeds from the KWEA Golf tournament, individual donations (donations received at the 5S breakfast and at the conference luncheon), and interest income from the scholarship endowment, the Board voted to allow the Scholarship Committee to award up to \$2700 in scholarships. We awarded one \$1200 Shirley Coles Memorial University scholarship, one \$1000 university scholarship and one \$500 university scholarship. Two Vo-tech financial assistance awards are still available for the remainder of this year.

The awards were presented at the Annual Conference at the Conference luncheon. The following awards were announced and presented:

This year's Shirley Coles Memorial scholarship of \$1200 was awarded to Seth Heronemus. Seth will be a senior at Kansas State University majoring in Civil Engineering with a 3.9 GPA. He has been involved in ASCE, serving as treasurer of the K-State chapter. He has also participated in steel bridge and concrete canoe design teams and was the design team and site layout lead for K-State's Engineers Without Borders Guatemala school building project.

Heronemus indicates in his essay the reason he is interested in the environmental fields is there are many ways he can make a difference in society. Some of these include finding ways to sustainably use and optimize resources, finding ways to provide safe drinking water especially to those who populations who struggle to fulfill their basis needs, and protecting limited resources and educating those that use them.

We have also awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Chad Olney. Chad is a senior at Kansas State University with a 3.2 GPA majoring in civil (environmental) engineering. Chad is ASCE student chapter President, the Chi Epsilon student chapter honorary chapter president, Engineers Without Borders large fundraising chairman, and a member of the steel bridge competition. He has worked as a graduate research assistant, CAD data entry for K-State and as a land surveyor consultant.



Chad writes in his essay that climate change is the most pressing issue and he is optimistic his generation will mark history by beginning to reverse the environmental degradation. He would like to be a part of this effort, to build a world that can live harmoniously with the planet.

The third scholarship awarded was \$500 to Bailey Rendzia, a junior at the University of Kansas. Bailey is pursuing a civil engineering degree with an environmental concentration and has a 3.92 GPA. A dean's list student every semester, Bailey was also recognized with an Engineering Dean's Scholarship, the Chancellor Scholarship, and is a member of the Hixon Scholars program.

Bailey explains in her essay how every day clean water is taken for granted yet every day we read about another water crisis, such as Flint Michigan, the drought in California, and the reservoirs in Kansas. In the future as a water resources engineer, Rendzia wants to work toward creative and sustainable solutions for crop irrigation, flood management and development of infrastructure.

### ***Stockholm Junior Water Prize – Rebecca Lewis***

The U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition is made possible through a collaborative effort between the Water Environment Federation and its local Member Associations (MAs) across the country. Each state competition is sponsored by an MA and has a designated state organizer. Each state identifies and sends a winner (or winning team) to the U.S. national competition.

KWEA did not have any applications for the April 15 submission deadline. We have done more outreach in 2016 and anticipate awarding a water prize in 2017.

Hosted by WEF, with support from Xylem Inc. and local WEF MAs, the 2016 U.S. competition will include student winners from 48 states, plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, for a total of 50 projects.

The purpose of the SJWP program is to increase students' interest in water-related issues and research and to raise awareness about global water challenges. The competition is open to projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life through improvement of water quality, water resources management, water protection, and water and wastewater treatment