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NEWS RELEASE

CA-NV AWWA Hosts Operator Symposium in Burlingame

Water System Operators to Take Center Stage in Top-Op's Competition

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA – The California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association (CA-NV AWWA) will hold its 2018 event for skilled distribution operators, treatment operators, engineers and field professionals from the world of drinking water safety. This year, Crowne Plaza Burlingame is the host venue for the two day symposium, awards reception and will include the widely popular Operator Challenge events on March 27 and 28. Bay area resident, fire fighter and television personality Johnathan Brewer II from the series, "*Home Made Simple*" airing on OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network will Emcee. Brewer joins in support of the organization's outreach to a diverse audience including X and Y generations regarding the importance of the skilled laborer work force.

Schedule of Events: (All competitions are fast-paced, timed and interactive)

Tuesday, March 27^{th} from 9am-3pm: Pipe Tapping Competition & Meter Madness Competition Wednesday, March 28^{th} from 8am-3pm: Hot Flare Competition & Hydrant Hysteria Competition **Competitions will be held in the Crowne Plaza Parking Lot

Footage of 2014 contest: 2014 CA-NV AWWA Pipe Tapping Competition

Section Chair and CA-NV AWWA Board Member, Uzi Daniel, is proud of the organization's ongoing work and how these events afford "learning together to ensure we remain servants of public health. We must continue to provide one of the most basic human needs and rights to our communities here in Nevada and California." CA-NV AWWA Executive Director Tim Worley offered, "this event was created to give our core field operators an opportunity to learn and train to enhance current skill sets. It is so important to provide continuing education toward their jobs, building their professional knowledge and possibly putting preexisting skills to the test during the competitions."

Top-Op's and Operator Competition Chairs and water industry veterans, John D. Parsons & Boyd Schultz produce this showcase of knowledge and skills. Parsons noted, "this year's Top-Op's is the largest contingent of teams in their 25-year history and will have 12-teams vying for the championship title to advance and represent CA-NV during the upcoming AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE) this June 11-14 at Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas."

Brewer is the on air carpenter on "Home Made Simple" opposite Laila Ali. He is an area business owner and ambassador for Habitat for Humanity East Bay Silicon Valley and Habitat Los Angeles offices. "I'm excited to interact with attendees and competitors at my first event as the roving reporter eyes and ears on the ground. I'm ready to gain more awareness from my fellow trade members about water safety that I think will enhance my engineering and even my construction knowledge. Being able to spend personal time with these professional teams and event participants is sure to be a great learning experience."

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Media is required to RSVP to John Tucker via email: <u>jtucker@ca-nv-awwa.org</u> (and) <u>dtoro@ca-nv-awwa.org</u>. To reach John on site both days contact via cellular: (909)736-4255; Daniela Toro at (909)291-2109 for more info or visit <u>ca-nv-awwa.org</u>.

The California - Nevada Section of American Water Works Association (AWWA) is a non-profit association, whose mission is to support the water professionals who provide safe and reliable water. The American Water Works Association is the largest worldwide known nonprofit, scientific, and educational association dedicated to providing solutions to manage the world's most important resource: water. Since 1920, California - Nevada AWWA members and volunteers have impacted the industry with their commitment and dedication to leading, educating, and serving the drinking water community. The focus of the organization is to ensure public health and to provide safe and sufficient water for all."For more information on California – Nevada Section of AWWA or to become a member, call 909-481-7200 or visit www.ca-nv-awwa.org.