

NEWS RELEASE

CA-NV AWWA Prepares for ACE 2018 in Las Vegas *Water System Operator Finalists Head to Mandalay Bay Resort*

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA – The California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association (CA-NV AWWA) hosted the 2018 event for skilled distribution operators, treatment operators, engineers and field professionals from the world of drinking water safety. The two day symposium took place at Crowne Plaza Burlingame to provide training classes for professional contact hours, qualifying rounds of competition events and an award reception on March 27 and 28. Top competition finalists will move on to ACE 2018 Nationals at the Mandalay Bay Resort June 11-14, 2018. Bay area resident, fire fighter and television personality Johnathan Brewer II from the series, “*Home Made Simple*” joined to further the mission of the organization for outreach to a diverse audience including X and Y generations regarding the importance of the skilled laborer work force.

Top-Op’s is the "college bowl a la Jeopardy game" of the water industry. Teams of one, two or three water operators or lab personnel compete against each other in a fast-paced question-and-answer tournament. A moderator poses a broad range of technical questions to participating teams and math problems. The team scoring the most points in the championship round is awarded the Top-Op’s Championship. Top-Op’s Champions receive the “Ainsworth Cup” (a Stanley Cup type trophy) engraved with individual name and utility engraving, which they keep for one year. They also receive CA-NV plaque memento that stays at their utility signifying 2018 champion(s). Each competitor also receives an individual plaque, logo hat and Top-Op’s lapel pin. Lastly, they each receive \$750 toward travel expense reimbursement to attend the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition to represent CA-NV Section in the Top-Op’s Challenge.

TOP OP’S RESULTS:

1st place – Alameda County Water District “Smooth Operators”

John Herrick, Luis Cuellar, Scott Lehman, Kristopher Cooley – (Presently employed by Santa Clara Valley Water)

2nd Place – Modesto Irrigation District “Membraniacs – Conventionally Speaking”

Damon Wilkens, Cristian Irigoyan, Jessica Cullins

3rd Place – Sacramento Suburban Water District “Reservoir Dawgs”

Hannah Dunrud, Hector Segoviano, Joe Crockett

Pipe Tapping, Hydrant Hysteria, Meter Madness and Hot Flare Champions receive a CA-NV plaque memento that stays at their utility signifying 2018 champion(s). Each competitor receives a Competitions logo hat and Pipe Tapping, Hydrant Hysteria, Meter Madness team members each receive \$750 toward travel expense reimbursement to attend the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition to represent CA-NV Section.

WOMEN’S PIPE TAPING RESULTS:

1st place – City of Sacramento “Sacramento Lady Tappers” Time - 2:37.53

Jolynn Conrad, Megan Mackey, Megan Thomas, Coach: David Boisa

2nd place – Marin Municipal Water District “Hustle & Flow” Time - 3:46.62

Nicole Momsen, Minerva Rogina, Shirrell Longueay, Donna Lahey, Alternate: Lucy Croy

MEN’S PIPE TAPING RESULTS:

1st place – Las Vegas Valley Water District; Time - 1:18.78

2nd place – City of Brentwood; Time - 1:19.10

3rd place – City of Santa Ana; Time - 1:25.59

HYDRANT HYSTERIA RESULTS:

- 1st place – City of Brentwood; Time - 1:20.72
- 2nd place – Las Vegas Valley Water District; Time - 1:21.63
- 3rd place – City of Sacramento; Time - 1:22.09

METER MADNESS:

- 1st place – Joe Crocket, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Time - 51.95
- 2nd place – Kyle Jiriden, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Time - 52.16
- 3rd place – Shawn Chaney, Sacramento Suburban Water District; Time - 54.03 (Only two per/Agency can compete)
- 4th place – Jason Langlois, City of Brentwood; Time - 1:00.69

HOT FLARE (Not an event at ACE18, Demo only this year at ACE18)

- 1st place – Robert Gonzalez, City of Santa Ana at 34.19
- 2nd place – Enrique Reynoso, City of Santa Ana at 36.43
- 3rd place – Eric Brennan, City of Brentwood at 36.84

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're excited that this year our attendance increased and we had more female participants. This shows the growth of our outreach, the Section's diversity and we're proud of this fact as we strive to focus on inclusion." CA-NV AWWA Executive Director Tim Worley added, "I'm happy our events give core field operators an opportunity to learn, train and enhance their skill sets. We are here to reinvest in their morale and to recognize the importance to provide continuing education toward their professional careers."

Top-Op's, Operator Competition Chairs, water industry veterans and former competitors, John D. Parsons & Boyd Schultz produce this showcase of knowledge and skills. Parsons noted, "this year's Top-Op's was the largest contingent of teams in their 25-year history and with 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."

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To view photo albums and videos visit our social media pages. **For more information please contact** John Tucker via email: jtucker@ca-nv-awwa.org (and/or) dtoro@ca-nv-awwa.org and/or visit: www.ca-nv-awwa.org/communications.

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.