New WaterOne Board Chairman and Vice Chairman Elected

At the May 10 Board Meeting, the seven-member governing board of WaterOne elected a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 2011-2013 term. Rob Olson was elected Chairman, and Brenda Cherpitel was elected Vice-Chairman.

Olson has served as Board Vice-Chairman for the past six years, as well as Chairman of the Administrative Committee for eight years. He also served as Chairman of the Legislative Committee for two years. He was elected to the Board in 1995. Olson resides in Olathe, Kansas and is also a Kansas State Senator. Cherpitel has served on the Board since 2007 and chaired the Government and Community Relations Committee for the past two years. She earned a Public Officials Certificate from the American Water Works Association in 2009. She resides in Overland Park.

Also during the May 10, 2011 Board meeting, four incumbent Board members were sworn into office. Incumbents Dick Noon, Terry Frederick, Joe H. Vaughan and Rob Olson were re-elected to the Board in April and were administered the Oath at the May meeting.

WaterOne a Finalist for Global Water Award

WaterOne was one of eight utilities worldwide selected as a finalist for the Water Performance Initiative of the Year, a Global Water Award, for its new Wolcott Treatment Plant in Wyandotte County. The award was presented by the Global Water Summit in Berlin, Germany in April.

Chuck Weber, WaterOne’s Superintendent of Operations, was flown to Germany by Global Water Intelligence to make a presentation on behalf of the utility. The top award went to Seaal, Algiers and was presented by Kofi Annan, Former Secretary General for the United Nations.
WaterOne has implemented a Green Driver Program that allows the utility to track the carbon footprint of its fleet. It is a program that collects real time data and monitors key driving behaviors of acceleration, deceleration, speed, idle time and RPM.

The Green Driver program:
- Reduces WaterOne fuel consumption and CO2 impact, further setting WaterOne apart as a green focused organization.
- Empowers WaterOne drivers to have a more favorable impact on their environment and the organization’s sustainability.
- Helps combat sharp fuel price increases.
- Has a projected annual payback of $35,000 in fuel savings by improved MPG, and $250,000 total payback on insurance (reduced preventable accidents), fleet maintenance and fleet capital savings.

Each WaterOne driver is provided with online training consisting of four modules on driving best practices, which results in a Green Driver Certification to help ensure driver success. Monthly recaps are designed to provide a snap shot of driving behavior trends and are emailed to assigned drivers and their managers.

Before implementing the Green Driver program, WaterOne implemented a successful six month pilot program that resulted in an 86% reduction in acceleration events, 83% reduction in deceleration events; 72% reduction in idle time and 95% reduction in RPM events. Because of the success of the pilot program it was decided to expand it to the entire fleet.

Electronic Delivery of Pipeline

As part of WaterOne’s sustainability and green initiatives, we will begin sending out future issues of the Pipeline newsletter electronically to those who would like to receive it in that format. Please send your email address to: ekoutelas@waterone.org.