“Start Building Your Network Today”

Eric Lecuyer, CSWEA Executive Director
Network???

What is a Network?

Why Do I Need a Network?

How Do I Build a Network?
Build Your Network!

- Where Do You Want Your Career to Take You…What is Your Measure of Success?

- Lifestyle…time and $$ to do what you want, when you want to!

- In control of your own destiny!

- Spend your time on the job doing what you enjoy most!
Build Your Network

Why?

Security!
Sphere of Influence
Build Your Network

The time to start building your network is NOT when you need it.
Build Your Network

- Where are the Networking Opportunities?
Build Your Network

Wherever you can meet people in the “industry”…Conferences and Seminars.

- Why should you be involved in Professional Organizations?
  - Get involved & make a difference in the profession
  - Increase, reaffirm and share your knowledge base
  - Develop leadership and technical skills
  - Professional and Social Networking
Build Your Network

- Who’s active in a Professional Organization
  - Members of CSWEA
  - Currently serves on a Committee
  - Has given a paper or presentation
  - Makes time to devoted to Prof. Org.
  - Need to find balance b/w work and volunteering
**Build Your Network**

- Central States Water Environment Association
  - Founding Members of WEF in 1927
  - CSWEA Serves Members in Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota
  - Roughly 1,300 Members including Operators, Managers, Consultants, Manufacturers, Academics and Sales Representatives.
  - Overall objective is to enhance the water environment
Build Your Network

- Central States Water Environment Association

  Committees:
  Technical Program
  Local Arrangements
  Education Seminar
  Awards
  Government Affairs
  Membership
  Collections
  Safety
  Operations
  Public Education
  Laboratory
  Young Professionals
  Student Chapters
  Midwest Water Industry Joint Committee
  Ad Hoc – Digester Foaming etc
Build Your Network

Water Environment Federation

Central States Water Environment Association

Illinois Wisconsin Minnesota
Build Your Network

- Who is the Water Environment Federation?
  - Founded in 1928, WEF is an international organization dedicated to providing technical and educational support to the Water Quality Field.
  - The Federation is made up of 45 Member Associations, which have roughly 18,000 members in the United States.
  - Central States WEA (Illinois, Wisconsin & Minnesota)
Build Your Network

- Be outgoing, seek to meet new people
- Build genuine relationships, with your peers
- Seek out folks who are going to move up in their careers with you
- Young Professional Operators may someday be Superintendents, Managers
- May be on selection committees some day
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When all proposing firms are equal:

- Determining factor may be:

Who the client wants to work with!
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- Take care of your reputation:
  - Be a person of character
  - Do what you say you will do
  - Don’t over-commit
  - Don’t “over” socialize
- Get Involved!
Build Your Network

- Build your reputation
- Present Technical Papers
- Collaborate
- Join and be Active on a Committee
- Become a Leader
Build Your Network

- Start Today, at the Reception
- Who is attending the Education Seminar?
- Engineers – Equipment Suppliers
- Facility Operators and Managers
- Regulators
- Academics - Students
Build Your Network

- Leadership Opportunities
  - Observe other leadership styles and strategies
  - Improve leadership skills through external experiences
  - Get involved & make a difference in the profession

Central States Water Environment Association
CSWEA Leadership Academy
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Build Your Network

- Networking Opportunities – build it now!

Questions?