“Leadership, Knowledge, and Networking Opportunities through Professional Organizations”

Scott Trotter, P.E., BCEE
Leadership, Knowledge & Networking

- How Did You Get This Opportunity?
  - I asked to come on my own
  - My friends invited me
  - My colleagues at work encouraged me to come
  - Someone else in the profession encouraged me to attend
  - My boss / professor encouraged me to attend
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- What is your current role in the industry
  - Student
  - Consultants
  - PWO - Government
  - Manufacturer/ Man. Representative

- Years of Experience:
  - Less than 2 Years Experience
  - Between 2 – 5 Years Experience
  - Between 5 – 10 Years Experience
  - More than 10 Years Experience
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- Who is attending the Education Seminar?
  - Who are first time attendees?
  - How many have attended previously?
  - Those that are not attending?
    - Didn’t know about it?
    - Couldn’t get away for two days
    - Chose Leadership over the Ed Seminar
    - Travel Restrictions
    - Family Obligations
    - Budget Limitations
    - Lack Company Support
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- Who’s active in a Professional Organization
  - Members of CSWEA or other
  - Was part of a Student Chapter
  - Currently serves on a Committee
  - Has given a paper or presentation
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- **Who is a good Public Speaker?**
  - Can give a solid technical presentation?
  - Can lead an interview with a client
  - Can lead a project team meeting
  - Can stand-up and spontaneously tell a joke

- **Who dreads Public Speaking?**
  - Nervous no matter what with people I don’t know?
  - Get nervous just introducing myself in a crowd?
  - Feel better with a rehearsed presentation?
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- The water industry is evolving

  ✓ Water is the key to social and economic stability
    - Public Health
    - Environment
    - Industry: agriculture, power, manufacturing, commerce

  ✓ Water will be the “new” Oil
    - The Water Industry will need a new generation of leaders
    - Those leaders will emerge as well rounded individuals
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- **What does it take to be an effective leader?**
  - Earn the Confidence, Respect and Trust of your peers
  - Experience and Knowledge to understand the issues
  - Network and resources to identify sound solutions
  - Ability to develop consensus among stakeholders
  - Encourage the professional development of others

- **How do you become an effective leader?**
  - Leaders are built not born
  - Find mentor(s)
  - Develop a style that fits you
  - One of the most proven venues to build this skill set is through being involved in a Professional Organization
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- Professional Organizations
  - Leadership Skills
    - Observe different leadership styles and strategies
    - Take a leadership role through committees, etc.
    - Learn how to empower others to lead
  - Knowledge Transfer
    - Learn about the challenges facing our profession
    - Increase your technical expertise
    - Share your knowledge and experience with others
  - Networking Opportunities
    - Increase your pool of resources
    - Develop relationships outside your organization
    - Improve your social skills
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- Professional Organizations
  - How are they structured?
  - How do you choose an organization?
  - How do you get involved?
  - What if you want to be involved but not lead?
  - What kind of time commitment does it take?
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- Water Environment Federation?

  - Water Environment Federation was founded in 1928 to provide a forum for water quality professionals to exchange information and technical advancements within the industry.

  - WEF has expanded its horizon beyond wastewater to include water reuse, watershed management and sustainability practices.

  - The Federation is made up of 45 Member Associations, which have roughly 18,000 members in the United States.

  - Central States WEA is a Member Association
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- Central States Water Environment Association

- Founding Members of WEF in 1928

- Roughly 1,400 Members including Operators, Managers, Consultants, Manufacturers, and Sales Representatives.

- CSWEA Serves Members in Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota
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Water Environment Federation

Central States WEA

Illinois Wisconsin Minnesota
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Water Environment Federation
Board of Trustees

House of Delegates

WEF Staff

Forty Five Member Associations including Central States WEA

Committee Leadership Council

Committees such as Biosolids Disinfection Operations Collection System Awards Etc.

Central States
Water Environment Association
CSWEA Leadership Academy

April 2011
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- How do you choose an organization?
  - Be a member of multiple organizations
  - Pick ones that are aligned with your goals
  - Find organizations where you enjoy the people
  - Find balance between Prof. Org. and Work
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- How do you get involved in an organization?
  - Research the opportunities – committees, work groups, etc.
  - Find the leadership of that work group and tell them you are interested
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- What if you want to be involved, but not lead?
  - Not a problem
  - Most people are just glad to have the help
  - But be committed and accountable
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- What kind of time commitment does it take??
  - You can commit as little or as much as you want
  - Caution: find balance between personal, work and professional organizations
Leadership, Knowledge & Networking

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  - **Knowledge Transfer**
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