



CENTRAL STATES WEA
Illinois State Section Exchange
October 30 2020 | 12:00 -2:00 PM
Virtual

1. Call to Order & Introductions

Jason Neighbors, Amanda Streicher, Mark Eddington, Tom Romza, Tim Juskiwicz, Paul Burris, Aaron Berry, Nick Domalewski, Mike Holland, Leigha Green, Amy Underwood, Dennis Haile, Sonia O'Dell, James Kerigan, Matt Streicher, Joe Lapastora, Jim Jolly, Daniel Galeher, Mohammed Haque, Brad Benett, Dave Koch, Megan Fox, Andy LeJuene, Dena Potaki, Chris Buckley, Tony Conn, Derek Wold

Please forgive me if you were on the call and not listed here. We had over 30 participants! Thank you to everyone who came out to help evaluate our IL Section! It was a great meeting with a lot of fantastic ideas! Many of the discussion below base around when we can meet in person again. Until it is safe, we will continue hosting most events virtually, however we will implement as many ideas as we can while we are restricted to a virtual status.

2. Group Lead Discussion

-) What does IL Section want to be known for?
 -) We want to be known as the source for all information relating to our industry through providing high quality technical programming content.
-) What are we doing, or what should we be doing to get that out of the section?
 -) We should be hosting more events outside of the Chicalogand area. Or, if an event is hosted in only one location, there should be a virtual component to it where others from around the state can participate and view the sessions virtually.
 -) Engage the students! Identify professors with our contacts in the industry. How can we help increase student involvement in CSWEA so that when they become professionals they join our organization?
 -) Work with Sanitary Districts/WRRFs/Utilities and students to provide a scholarship/stipend to work at plants as a part internship and operations experience. This will provide students with hands-on operations experience and the scholarship from CSWEA will help relieve some of the financial burden from the Utility. LIFT with WEF has a similar program called University-Utility Partnerships. Our section should start reaching out to universities and utilities to determine if there is interest to implement the program this summer.
<https://www.waterrf.org/university-utility-partnership>
 - i. Is there a way we could work with equipment vendors, students, and utilities to set up a piloting program? Student would receive hands-on experience, Utility would get low cost data, and vendor gets opportunity to pilot equipment.
 -) Begin round-table type discussions with equipment vendors and utilities. There would be a list of topics to choose from and for a brief lunchtime discussion once per month to go over relevant daily problems/questions/concerns with Utilities. It would provide Utilities a chance to get together and discuss issues and resolutions of various topics such as equipment maintenance/operation, controls issue, utility financing, Some could be lead by equipment vendors, where others may be a group of operators or Utility Directors coming together discussing industry related questions and concerns. There would be an outstanding request for topics of discussions and those topics would be selected for a monthly round-table discussion. Depending on the topic, a Committee will be selected to host the round table to keep all Committee's active throughout the year. These round tables could be recorded to serve as a podcast or reference tool for future operators/utilities finding a similar issue.

Chair – Amanda Streicher, Baxter & Woodman
Vice Chair - Bob Swirsky, DGSD | 2nd Vice Chair – Jason Neighbors, GWA

