

ASSOCIATION OF STATE DRINKING WATER ADMINISTRATORS
2017 Year in Review





*Our members
are on the
front lines of
protecting
public health
and the
environment*



Who We Are

ASDWA is the professional association that serves the 57 men and women (and their staff) who lead and implement state drinking water programs.

ASDWA staff are, in many ways, guardians of our nation's drinking water. We are conveners of ideas, facilitators of conversations, and interpreters that provide insight and context into the complex information that comprises our drinking water legislation and regulations. Ultimately, we are champions for the states. We take the lead on issues that affect states and assert positions to influence the kind of change needed to support them.

Our members and their staff are public servants in a noble profession – ensuring the safety of the nation's drinking water. They are on the front lines of protecting public health and the environment. They ensure that over 150,000 water systems in the U.S. comply with the 91 drinking water standards and that monitoring and reporting for the regulations is done properly. Some of our members' specific responsibilities include:

- Conducting regular inspections of the water systems, known as sanitary surveys.
- Ensuring systems have the technical, financial, and managerial capabilities to sustain present and future operations.
- Testing and certifying the water system operators to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to run the treatment plants and distribution systems, as well as certifying that analytical testing laboratories meet strict quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) criteria.
- Administering loans for system improvements through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF).
- Managing source water protection programs that minimize contamination of the water going into a treatment plant.
- Reviewing plans and specifications for system improvements to ensure adherence to standard engineering principles, and issue permits for source water and groundwater use.

ASDWA Members oversee
150,000
water systems,
protecting drinking water for
350 million
Americans

Every \$1
invested
in drinking water
generates \$6
for the US economy

\$28.5 billion
IS INVESTED
in water systems annually
YIELDING \$171 billion
worth of goods and services*

*(US Census)



Looking Back

RANDY ELLINGBOE

*Minnesota Department of Health
President, ASDWA*



DEAR ALL,

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your president in 2017. The chance to engage with all of our members, partners, and other professionals in the water sector was energizing, informative and humbling!

The list of current issues facing public water systems is daunting: media and public attention and concerns over the safety of public drinking water; EPA rule revisions and review, and changes to state oversight; challenges with unregulated contaminants including perfluoroalkyl substances, cyanotoxins, and Legionella; SDWIS Prime; and infrastructure investment needs. Many of these issues are beyond our roles, however, I am reassured by the engagement and the expertise that the ASDWA Board, staff, and members share, that we will meet these challenges.

I had the opportunity to testify before Congress and attend a White House briefing on infrastructure investment as a representative of ASDWA this past year. Both of these invitations prove the value of ASDWA, and are a reflection of the maturity of the organization and the respect it receives from Congress and the Administration.

Thank you to Alan Roberson, who stepped into the role of Executive Director at a critical time as the country transitioned to a new administration. He has brought energy, expertise, new ideas, and a broad network of contacts to this role, and the transition from our esteemed former Executive Director Jim Taft has been a smooth one.

Thanks also to all of the ASDWA staff. I am amazed each week at how much information they can provide to help us stay on top of emerging and developing issues. Their work allows us to better understand and speak to these critical public health issues.

Looking ahead, we have many opportunities to partner with our colleagues in public health and water resource protection. It is important that we continue to work with EPA, Congress, and all our partners to protect drinking water and public health. I know that Lisa Daniels will serve us well and that Alan and his team will provide the support we need.

Best wishes,

Randy Ellingboe
Randy



Looking Ahead

LISA DANIELS

*Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
President-Elect, ASDWA*



DEAR ALL,

As I look at the year ahead, I know there is a lot of ground to cover in a short amount of time, but I am confident that working together, we will make some real strides with EPA and Congressional staff on the following issues:

First and foremost, funding – we will continue to advocate that maintaining PWSS & DWSRF funding is critical. Throughout 2018 (and beyond), we will continue to improve our relationships with key Congressional staff to ensure that they understand the importance of this funding.

Next, it is essential we continue to provide states' perspective on potential SDWA Amendments, as these will have deep and far-reaching impacts on states' budgets. We must also press for clear and coordinated communications from all parties, to ensure we're speaking with one voice.

This will also be a big year for SDWIS Prime. First, we will closely monitor and obtain states' input throughout the roll out of version 1.0. Then, following a few months of User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and pilot testing in six states, a general transition for all states to Prime can begin, with an estimated completion in November 2018.

UCMR4 and unregulated contaminants will also be high on our list of priorities, with focus on the current health advisories for cyanotoxins and PFOA and PFOS. The start of UCMR4 monitoring this year could lead to communications challenges. We will press hard for high-level coordination with EPA and clear messaging. We will likely continue to experience similar challenges with the new requirements from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for building water quality management plans by

health care facilities, as this could lead to an increase in monitoring for Legionella, the installation of secondary treatment, and in the number of regulated public water systems.

ASDWA must remain nimble as the transitions continue in Washington, DC, with a new Assistant Administrator for Water, the release of the Administration's infrastructure plan, and the proposed revisions to the LCR. It will be another crazy year in drinking water, but together, we will meet these challenges head-on.

Sincerely,

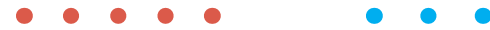
Lisa Daniels

Lisa





ASDWA continually emphasizes drinking water's importance for public health and the economy.



Keeping Water at the Top of Everyone's Mind

One of the most important roles ASDWA has is to make sure no one stops thinking about water. Whether that means spending time on the Hill to speak with Congressional staff about drinking water issues, or expanding the reach of our communications to the public by way of social media, ASDWA is constantly working to advance our message of public health protection on behalf of our members. Having safe drinking water is taken for granted by many, so ASDWA continually emphasizes drinking water's importance for public health and for the economy.

IN CONGRESS

In 2017, ASDWA spent more time on Capitol Hill developing relationships with Congressional staff of the Committees that matter most to state drinking water programs. As a leader in this arena, we want legislators to know that they can come to ASDWA when they have drinking water related questions or need information to help inform important decisions.

To that end, ASDWA's President Randy Ellingboe and President-Elect Lisa Daniels both testified before Congress on the importance of maintaining funding for both the Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF). We worked closely with House staff to identify and analyze any potential workload increases or administrative roadblocks at the state level from potential SDWA Amendments (HR 3387).

WITH EPA

ASDWA staff continuously collects and synthesizes the states' perspectives to provide to EPA for development and implementation of national drinking water regulations. Through conference calls, surveys, and other discussions, ASDWA provided data and information to EPA on a wide range of drinking water issues throughout 2017. Additionally, ASDWA organized water treatment plant tours for EPA Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water's new staff to promote an appreciation of the technical, scheduling and logistical challenges in building a new water treatment plant.

FOR THE PUBLIC

ASDWA began a measured effort to become more vocal and influential in public conversations about drinking water. We have begun to increase our social media presence with blog posts now feeding immediately into Twitter and Facebook and plans for more strategic public outreach in 2018.

Keeping the Money Flowing

Another important function for ASDWA is to ensure the states have the funding they need to accomplish the important work they do. On this front, we met with House and Senate appropriations staff and explained the importance of the funding for Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) Program and the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF). We also developed a White Paper on PWSS funding that showed the impacts of inflation over the past decade as part of our effort to inform Congressional staff on the importance of this funding. Last, we held a Hill Briefing on the 20th anniversary of DWSRF that focused on the first DWSRF loan for Williamsburg, Pennsylvania in 1997. The speakers from EPA, Pennvest, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection spoke of the national impacts of the DWSRF program (over 13,000 drinking water projects) and how this first loan helped Williamsburg rebuild its deteriorated water system.



Providing Opportunities for States to Learn from Each Other

It's so important that states have opportunities to exchange knowledge and information, but also the occasion to share unique experiences dealing with any number of challenges facing drinking water programs every day. Through a combination of meetings, conferences and workshops, regularly scheduled webinars, discussion forums, surveys, and news blogs, ASDWA provides a framework for states to learn from each other and showcase effective solutions to drinking water issues impacting the nation.

For the Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP), ASDWA facilitated Regional Meetings and organized and ran the National AWOP meeting. ASDWA also organized and ran the Data Management Users Conference (DMUC).

For capacity development and operator certification (CapDev/OpCert), ASDWA helped organize and manage the Regions 1-5 CapDev/OpCert Meeting and began planning with EPA the 2018 CapDev/OpCert National Meeting.

Travel and budget restrictions have challenged many states' abilities to take advantage of ASDWA's in-person training opportunities. ASDWA has therefore increased the use of video to capture conference sessions, webinar proceedings, and training events to ensure no one misses an opportunity to get the information they need to support the important work they do.



Staying Ahead of Hot Issues

Many hot issues are impacting the drinking water industry today and it's our charge to stay ahead of them so we can amply prepare the states for action. The top three we focused on in 2017 included the Lead and Copper Rule, emerging contaminants such as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), and the growing focus on the prevention of opportunistic pathogens in premise plumbing systems (OPPPS).

In terms of the lead issue, ASDWA provided the states' perspective and expertise to EPA on the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) and started a study on states' costs from potential LCR revisions. We provided comments to EPA on the lead notifications required by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act and we convened a panel on states' approaches to Lead Service Line Replacement at our annual meeting.

On the issue of PFAS, ASDWA formed a workgroup to develop a plan to address state challenges. As a result, a letter was sent to EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) detailing these challenges. This letter also included a series of recommendations to EPA and CDC to fill critical data gaps.

On the issue of OPPPS, ASDWA worked with CDC and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the recent CMS requirement for building water quality management plans for health care facilities. These new requirements generated a lot of questions (and concerns from the states). ASDWA also collaborated on the planning for a national Legionella conference in 2018.

Working Smarter Not Harder

The public expects more information about the quality of their drinking water and they want it faster. States must be able to respond quickly to water quality questions and to have the data in hand for definitive answers.

With so much work in front of us, our states cannot be bogged down trying to find, interpret and then effectively apply data. SDWIS/State is the software that states and territories used to run their drinking water programs and report the data and information to EPA. ASDWA is helping states work in partnership with EPA to make the new software more user-friendly.

The updated version, SDWIS Prime, has been under development for a decade and is going to be released this year, following extensive work in 2017 to provide the states' perspective

and expertise to EPA on the software. The states' transition to SDWIS Prime starts in late 2018, and, in 2019 and beyond, ASDWA's members, its staff and the public will likely begin to experience the fruits of this labor. ASDWA was instrumental in providing the organizational structure for the dialogue and information transfer for multiple SDWIS Prime Committees. We identified states for pilot testing of SDWIS Prime and facilitated multiple meetings between the states and EPA to work on the details of this important software.



The Importance of Partnerships

One of ASDWA's most important roles is as a convener of minds - leveraging our efforts with other similarly-minded groups, as we are a stronger voice to EPA and Congress together than when we are apart. To that end, ASDWA continued to cultivate close relationships with other state environmental associations such as the Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) and the Environmental Council of States (ECOS). ASDWA members are participating in ACWA's Nutrients Workgroup to provide a source water protection perspective and are working with ACWA and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) on limiting bromide discharges from steam power plants. Collectively, the states, when united, are a very powerful voice with Congress and the Federal Agencies.

Protecting public health is the foundation for state drinking water programs. ASDWA staff continued our collaboration and coordination with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) with discussions on emerging contaminants at their mid-year meeting. With the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ASDWA staff reviewed the next version of its emergency water supply planning guide for hospitals and health care facilities.

As co-chair of the Source Water Collaborative (SWC) with the Ground Water Protection Council, we organized and ran an in-person meeting and field trip on sustainable farming in 2017. ASDWA will be working with several SWC members on the Farm Bill in 2018 to ensure that protection of drinking water sources is included in the Farm Bill's conservation titles, so that the Farm Bill's funding can improve source water quality.

ASDWA worked with the Water Research Foundation (WRF) in 2017 to ensure that its members had access to the results of the latest research to assist water systems in solving challenging water quality problems such as lead, PFAS and cyanotoxins.

With the monitoring results from the Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR4) coming out in late 2018, WRF's Risk Communication Toolkit for cyanotoxins looks to be timely.



What a Year!

ALAN ROBERSON
Executive Director, ASDWA



DEAR ALL,

What a year! If I had to choose a word to describe it, I would say jam-packed. Despite my learning curve, I think we accomplished a lot and that's due to having such a thoughtful staff, a committed Board, and especially, a very engaged membership all working together to make our nation's drinking water safer.

As ASDWA's Executive Director, I focused my attention this first year in three specific areas: (1) getting to know my staff and building a high performing team that accentuates their individual strengths; (2) identifying and then executing ways we can streamline communications with members so that you have the info you need, when you need it, in the way that works best for you; and (3) listening to members and the regulators to determine what topics to prioritize, given our members' strapped budgets and resources, and where critical action must take place.

Getting to know my staff and building their 2018 goals and objectives around what I learned has been an important undertaking this year, and one that I have found immensely rewarding. Though our team is small, we are quite diverse in our thinking and approach

to the Association's work - with some who are quite analytical and measured, and others who are more directive and bottom-line oriented. Team building is critical to our continued success as an organization and we devoted significant resources to it during this transitional year with two staff retreats and regularly scheduled in-house training. Stay tuned as we continue to strengthen our team dynamic to more effectively and efficiently serve our members.

Building a strong and modernized communications infrastructure has also been a top priority this year. Here are just a few of our accomplishments on this front that I am particularly proud of:

- We launched a new and improved website that is cleaner and simpler to navigate. And we will continue to improve the website, knowing that it's the entry point for our members and staff to find the information that they need in a timely manner.
- We streamlined our digital communications, with blog posts now feeding into the Weekly Update. And stay tuned, soon you'll be able to customize your own Update, based on your personal information needs.
- We transitioned to an Electronic ballot for President-Elect as well as electronic invoices for 2018 ASDWA Dues.
- We created this new Year-In-Review and a one-page fact sheet for ASDWA marketing and outreach.

Prioritizing our efforts is more important now than ever, with respect to an increasing list of challenges to meet without an increasing pool of resources with which to meet them. It's fair to say that the uncertainties and changes we faced in 2017 will likely continue into 2018 and beyond. I will be working with you all to prioritize opportunities where ASDWA can have the most impact in supporting your work; whether it's providing input to EPA on states' transactions costs for potential revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) or doing everything possible to make the transition to SDWIS Prime work.

My thanks to Randy for helping me get off on the right foot this year, and my thanks to you all for trusting in me to lead us forward. More to come!

Sincerely,
J. Alan Roberson
Alan

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