

MARYLAND RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S Annual Awards Program

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS & CRITERIA

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS

MRWA MUST RECEIVE ALL SUBMISSIONS NO LATER THAN
3:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010.
RETURN BY MAIL: PO Box 225 Woodbine, MD 21797 OR
FAX: 410/489.5840 OR E-Mail: md.rwa@earthlink.net

WATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

1. Must be currently employed as a water treatment system operator or distribution system operator AND have been employed by that system for at least two (2) years at the time of nomination.
2. Must hold a permanent Water Operator's license, OR have passed the state test to obtain permanent license with issuance pending, at the time of nomination.
3. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Length of service and experience
 - Exceptional effort and dedication in performance of duties
 - Special project or program instituted at the suggestion of, or under the supervision and oversight of the nominee in the past year that has improved the system or its efficiency of operation
 - Demonstration of creative problem-solving skills and attitude
 - Outstanding efforts in system operations under difficult circumstances during the past year
4. May be nominated by any System Representative holding a supervisory or superior office to that of the nominee, or by MRWA Staff.

ROOKIE WATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

1. Must be currently employed as a water treatment system operator or distribution system AND have been employed by that system for at least three (3) months and not more than two (2) years at the time of nomination.
2. Must hold a temporary Water Operator's license.
3. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Demonstrated eagerness to learn and expand knowledge of treatment process
 - Volume of new information absorbed by the nominee in the time employed
 - Exceptional effort on behalf of the system's operations
 - Outstanding effort in system operations under difficult circumstances during the past year
4. May be nominated by any System Representative holding a supervisory or superior office to that of the nominee, or by MRWA Staff.

WATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

1. Must be a community system of 25 or more population AND at least 8 connections.
2. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Quality and consistency of treatment process and results
 - Quality and consistency of water service to customers
 - A special new project, program or upgrade instituted within the past year
 - Demonstrated innovation or creativity in addressing a system function, problem or operation; Creative problem-solving attitude is prevalent
 - Exceptional effort by system personnel under difficult circumstances
 - Outstanding professionalism of system operations or management personnel
3. May be nominated by any System Representative in a supervisory or decision making capacity, MDE Representative(s) or MRWA Staff.

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CLERK OF THE YEAR

1. Must be currently employed by a water utility operation AND have been employed by that utility for at least two (2) years at the time of nomination.
2. Must spend 60% or more of working time devoted to water and sewer utility's clerical work, whether billing, administrative or secretarial, etc., rather than general clerical work for the municipality. The exception to this requirement will be if the municipality or private system employs only one person for its entire operation's clerical work.
3. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Length of service and experience
 - Exceptional effort and dedication in performance of duties
 - Special project or program instituted at the suggestion of, or under the supervision and oversight of the nominee in the past year that has improved the system or its efficiency of operation
 - Demonstration of creative problem-solving skills and attitude
 - Outstanding efforts in system administration under difficult circumstances during the past year
 - Outstanding demonstration of customer service and responsiveness to customer problems/complaints
4. May be nominated by any System Representative holding a supervisory or superior office to that of the nominee, or by MRWA Staff.

DECISION MAKER OF THE YEAR

1. Eligible nominees include Mayors, Council members, Town Mangers, System Managers, Public Works Directors, or any category of office that carries the authority to make policy and budgetary decisions governing the operations of a water or wastewater system, whatever the title.
2. Must be currently employed by or associated with a system in a decision-making capacity, or have been so associated within three months of the time of award (i.e. within three months of the April Conference).
3. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Length of service and experience
 - Exceptional effort and dedication in performance of duties
 - Special project or program instituted at the suggestion of, or under the supervision and oversight of the nominee in the past year that has improved the system or its efficiency of operation
 - Demonstration of creative problem-solving skills and attitude
 - Outstanding efforts under difficult circumstances during the past year
4. May be nominated by any System Representative or MRWA Staff.

WASTEWATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

1. Must be currently employed as a wastewater treatment system operator or collection system operator AND have been employed by that system for at least two (2) years at the time of nomination.
2. Must hold a permanent Wastewater Operator's license, OR have passed the state test to obtain permanent license with issuance pending, at the time of nomination.
3. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Length of service and experience
 - Exceptional effort and dedication in performance of duties
 - Special project or program instituted at the suggestion of, or under the supervision and oversight of the nominee in the past year that has improved the system or its efficiency of operation
 - Demonstration of creative problem-solving skills and attitude
 - Outstanding efforts in system operations under difficult circumstances during the past year
 - Exceptional quality of customer service and/or response to emergencies in the system
4. May be nominated by any System Representative holding a supervisory or superior office to that of the nominee, or by MRWA Staff.

MARYLAND RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S *Annual Awards Program*

ROOKIE WASTEWATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

1. Must be currently employed as a wastewater treatment system operator or collection system AND have been employed by that system for at least three (3) months and not more than two (2) years at the time of nomination.
2. Must hold a temporary Wastewater Operator's license.
3. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Demonstrated eagerness to learn and expand knowledge of treatment process
 - Volume of new information absorbed by the nominee in the time employed
 - Exceptional effort on behalf of the system's operations
 - Outstanding effort in system operations under difficult circumstances during the past year
4. May be nominated by any System Representative holding a supervisory or superior office to that of the nominee, or by MRWA Staff.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

1. Must be a community system of 25 or more population and at least 8 connections.
2. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Quality and consistency of treatment process and results
 - Quality and consistency of wastewater service to customers
 - A special new project, program or upgrade instituted within the past year
 - Demonstrated innovation or creativity in addressing a system function, problem or operation; Creative problem-solving attitude is prevalent
 - Exceptional effort by system personnel under difficult circumstances
 - Outstanding professionalism of system operations or management personnel
3. May be nominated by any System Representative in a supervisory or decision making capacity, MDE Representative(s) or MRWA Staff.

SOURCEWATER PROJECT OF THE YEAR

1. Must be a water system/county serving 25 or more in population AND 8 or more connections, which uses groundwater for 60% or more of its community water supply, AND, have a fully-implemented Source Water Protection program on one or more of its groundwater wells or surface water intakes within the last year.
2. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - SWP measures installed/implemented by the system exceed the minimum required
 - Exceptional professionalism of staff in implementing and maintaining SWP program
 - Public/Customers' demonstrated commitment and support for SWP program
 - Outstanding public information efforts to promote SWP program and concepts
 - General success of system's SWP program as measured by public awareness, specific incidents of contamination avoided due to SWP measures, etc.
3. May be nominated by System Representative, MDE Representative(s) and MRWA FSA/EPA Source Water Specialists.

TRAINER OF THE YEAR

1. Nominees must have taught not less than two (2) classes or eight (8) CEU hours for MRWA in the past 12 months.
2. Nominees must have volunteered their time to teach at no charge to MRWA for time or travel expenses.
3. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Number of classes taught over the previous two years greatly exceeds the minimum stated above
 - Exceptional professionalism in conducting the training
 - Rate as "9" or "10" on course evaluations consistently by a majority of class attendees
 - Traveled an excessive number of miles in the past two years to conduct training sessions without charge
 - Exceptional dedication and support demonstrated for MRWA goals, activities and programs
4. May be nominated by Operators/Superintendents who have attended training or by MRWA Staff involved in training programs.

MARYLAND RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S *Annual Awards Program*

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

1. Nominees must be a current member of MRWA.
2. Must have exhibited at the Annual Conference for at least one year, AND have demonstrated dedication and support for MRWA goals, programs and activities.
3. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Donation of one or more pieces of equipment for MRWA use, or sale of equipment at or below cost for MRWA use
 - Sponsorship of one or more MRWA projects, programs, functions or activities, such as conference events, special programs, etc.
 - Demonstrated consistent support for MRWA through company promotions, donations, contributions, training time, etc.
4. May be nominated by MRWA Staff and Board Members.

FRIENDS OF RURAL WATER

1. Nominees must not be directly employed by a water or wastewater system.
2. Must be a representative of an agency or organization not directly involved in the actual day-to-day operation or management of a water or wastewater system, OR, an individual with an affiliation related to water, wastewater or rural community interests.
3. Must have demonstrated a commitment to goals, programs, activities and services of Maryland Rural Water in some fashion, through either financial, program, legislative, regulatory or training support.
4. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Dedication to MRWA goals, programs and activities
 - Specific contribution(s) over the past year to MRWA activities or objectives
 - Publicly stated support for MRWA OR active promotion of MRWA and its goals and services
 - Outstanding assistance to MRWA in the past year
 - Outstanding performance in promotion, sponsoring, lobbying or influencing the passage (or failure) of legislation affecting rural water systems and/or in agreement with rural water goals and objectives
5. May be nominated by MRWA Staff and Board Members.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

1. Must be currently employed as a distribution system operator OR as a Water Operator in a water system which does not separate the treatment and distribution system functions, AND have been employed by that system for at least two (2) years at the time of nomination. If nominated from a system which combines treatment and distribution functions, nominee must spend at least 60% of his/her work time in the distribution systems functions and/or operations.
2. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Length of service and experience
 - Exceptional effort and dedication in performance of duties
 - Special project or program instituted at the suggestion of, or under the supervision and oversight of the nominee in the past year that has improved the system or its efficiency of operation
 - Demonstration of creative problem-solving skills and attitude
 - Outstanding efforts in system operations under difficult circumstances during the past year
 - Exceptional quality of customer service and/or response to emergencies in the system
3. May be nominated by any System Representative holding a supervisory or superior office to that of the nominee, or by MRWA Staff.

COLLECTION SYSTEM OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

1. Must be currently employed as a collection system operator AND have been employed by that system for at least two (2) years at the time of nomination. If nominated from a system which combines treatment and collection functions, nominee must spend at least 60% of his/her work time in the collection systems functions and/or operations.
2. Examples of reasons for nomination include, but are not limited to:
 - Length of service and experience
 - Exceptional effort and dedication in performance of duties
 - Special project or program instituted at the suggestion of, or under the supervision and oversight of the nominee in the past year that has improved the system or its efficiency of operation
 - Demonstration of creative problem-solving skills and attitude
 - Outstanding efforts in system operations under difficult circumstances during the past year
 - Exceptional quality of customer service and/or response to emergencies in the system
3. May be nominated by any System Representative holding a supervisory or superior office to that of the nominee, or by MRWA Staff.