



NEWS RELEASE

Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association
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Outstanding Operators in Drinking Water Recognized at State-wide Event

2016 Operators of the Year named in Springfield

Springfield, IL –The Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency recognized 6 outstanding professionals in their individual categories of service. These operators produce and supply drinking water for Illinois public water supply consumers.

Drinking water professionals and guests of the Illinois Potable Water Operators Association (IPWSOA) honored **Andrew Barclay, Village of Energy**, as Distribution Operator of the Year. **Dustin Patterson, Village of Chatham**, and **James Lukas, Village of Burr Ridge**, were named runners-up for the top spot. All three individuals were recognized for their outstanding work in supplying safe drinking water on a daily basis to consumers, as well as their contributions to the industry and community.

Operators are rated on the day-to-day operation of facilities that pump surface water or groundwater from their water source and distribute it to consumers. "Operator of the Year" is the highest professional honor an operator can receive in recognition of service and performance in the waterworks industry. In addition, finalists are designated in each category.

Andrew Barclay, Public Works Superintendent for the **Village of Energy**, was selected as Operator of the Year in the Distribution Category. Barclay has 28 years of experience in the water industry, and holds a Class D Water Supply Operator Certificate. He is responsible for all maintenance activities for the distribution system, as well as installation of new water main. Barclay was an essential part of recent major water distribution system improvements projects for the Village of Energy. His letter of nomination commended him as "Instrumental in acquiring and implementation of water tower and associated systems." The recent water distribution system upgrades have improved system pressures, flows and overall reliability.

The Village of Energy purchases treated water and distributes it to 542 service connections through 13 miles of water main. The facility includes 2 water storage tanks, a pumping station and 91 fire hydrants.

Dustin Patterson, Water Department Foreman for the **Village of Chatham**, is responsible for a growing water distribution system that provides water to 5,565 service connections through 108

miles of water main. The system includes over 785 hydrants, 2 water towers and a pump station. Patterson holds a Class D Water Operators Certification and supervises 3 full time employees. His letter of nomination noted “Dustin not only makes extraordinary contribution daily in his role as Lead Water Department Maintainer for the Village of Chatham; he willingly shares his knowledge and expertise with his team members and other members of the community. Dustin exemplifies the quality of an outstanding, dedicated leader who possesses personal integrity and a calm communicative style.”

James Lukas, Water and Sewer Division Supervisor for the **Village of Burr Ridge**, has 27 years of experience in the water/wastewater industry and holds a Class C Water Operators Certification. Lukas is responsible for overseeing all aspects and daily operations for the Village of Burr Ridge water distribution system as well as the wastewater collection system. The Village of Burr Ridge provides water to 4,160 service connection through 91 miles of water main. The system includes 1,500 fire hydrants, 4 water storage tanks , and a pump station. His letter of nomination noted “He is always on call for various emergencies including main breaks, pump failures, SCADA alarms and locating requests.”

There are approximately 4,000 certified drinking water operators in the State of Illinois. These operators were nominated and selected by owners, operators and other professionals in the drinking water industry. Finalists are then reviewed by other certified drinking water operators who serve on the Operator of the Year Nomination and Final Selection Committees of IPWSOA. Winners and finalists are nominated by their peers, screened by a pre-selection committee, and chosen by a second committee that interviews nominees at their facilities. Committee members, all operators, use a numeric system to rate nominees.

Operators of the Year and nominees were honored during the Association's 85th annual conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Members from all areas of the state met to stay current on new industry regulations, equipment and processes. Winners of the 2016 awards were announced and received their plaques during the three day event.

Speakers and displays at the 2016 conference focused on safe operation; compliance with State and federal regulations; and new operational and analytical techniques and equipment.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the IPWSOA co-sponsor the conference. The Agency oversees operations of approximately 1,800 public water supplies serving Illinois and their compliance with federal and state drinking water regulations.