

North Central Regional WWOA Meeting

April 29, 2009

North Central Laboratories, Birnamwood, WI

The spring meeting of the North Central Region of the WWOA was held on April 29, 2009. The meeting was hosted by North Central Laboratories. The meeting was held at the NCL facility in Birnamwood, WI.

Mike Raynovic opened the meeting at 8:30 am. He welcomed those in attendance. He gave a brief description of the NCL facility and highlighted a recent addition.

Mike introduced Jerry Cooke of the NCL staff, who gave a presentation on the current status of ammonia probes.

Mike followed Jerry with a presentation on the Secrets to a Successful Wastewater Lab. He shared a number of helpful hints and lessons learned from NCL's experience working with wastewater labs. He also shared several "Myths of the Lab", including "Probes that are put in the drawer will fix themselves" and "You don't need to wash your glassware if you use the same reagent every time".

Tour of the new facility were offered during the morning break.

After the break, the meeting resumed with a discussion by Jerry Cooke on various aspects of complying with NR 149.

Tim Grooms, of YSI, discussed the differences between the traditional galvanic DO measurement technology and the newer optical/luminescent technology. The traditional DO technology has faster response time. The newer technology does not need stirring to operate. The new optical technology is not yet approved for reporting by EPA.

Lyle Lutz called the business meeting to order.

1. He thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. He thanked the speakers for their presentations.
2. He thanked Mike Raynovic and NCL for hosting the meeting and for providing this morning's refreshments.
3. Lutz introduced Randy Thater and Dave Carlson representing the WWOA State Board
4. Thater and Carlson announced several upcoming events and benefits activities of WWOA.
5. Lutz called for any questions/comments/ or changes to meeting minutes from the Edgar/Marathon regional meeting January as posted on the WWOA website. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted as printed.
6. Treasurer's report. As of 7/29/09 our escrow balance account is \$728.79 and the checking account balance is \$2,374.36.
7. WWOA annual conference will be October 6th – 9th at the KI Conference Center Green Bay. Registration is available online at the WWOA website.
8. Anyone interested in the Operator Competition Team should contact a Steering Committee member for details.
9. Membership for all non-members is encouraged. Benefits include discounted rates to annual convention and training opportunities, student scholarships, tuition aides, the Clarifier Magazine, the Membership Directory, and eligibility for WWOA awards.
10. Scholarships- two of \$1000 each available for either 2 or 4 year program students. Candidate must be a child or grandchild of a member and in an eligible program this academic year. More information available on the WWOA website.

11. Nomination forms for the Regional operator of the year awards are available on the WWOA website. Scholarship applications can also be obtained from the website.
12. Tuition reimbursements- Six for \$150 each academic year, credit courses or advanced non-credit seminars. Contact Wade Peterson for more information.
13. Anyone interested in having your community host a future meeting should contact a steering committee member for details. The Steering Committee members are available to provide you with as little or as much help, as you need. It is a great way to showcase your community and your facilities.
14. There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned. Lunch was served.

Toni Glymph gave very educational and well-received presentation on understanding wastewater organisms. She discussed the common wastewater organisms' classifications and characteristics. She discussed environmental affects on the organisms and specific conditions such as low DO and nutrient deficiency. She also covered how and why filaments and other poor settling organisms develop.

Tours of the existing NCL facility were offered during the afternoon break.

Toni followed with a Laboratory Program for Wastewater Microbiology. She covered topics such as microscope selection and use, slide preparation, and population counts.

Submitted by Rich Boden, Secretary, North Central Region