

SPLASH

Ohio Rural Water Association Newsletter



**April
2019**

[ORWA WEB SITE](#)



April in Ohio Rocks

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Hello members and friends,

Happy Spring! It seems the weather has finally turned, and we are now having some nice, seasonal days.

It's busy here at ORWA. We are in full preparation-mode for our Annual Conference next month, which will be held in Dublin, Ohio again this year.

We will be doing many relevant and fun things at the conference, including the return of our vignettes and our fabulous Elvis impersonator (back by popular demand!). The conference is chock-full of awesome exhibitors and has a full schedule of topical and informative workshops and classes.

Please don't delay- register to join us next month by [clicking here](#).



Last month we had our Winter Quarterly Meeting at Blystone Farms in Canal Winchester, and it was a rousing success. Sponsored by Le-Ax Water, the venue and food were top-notch. Our speakers were great and many in attendance claimed this was the best set of speakers we have ever had. See the article below in this SPLASH issue for the information on the speakers.



We have welcomed aboard our third Water Circuit Rider. If you recall, National Rural Water was so impressed with our technical assistance program, they are supporting us by adding this third circuit rider. His name is Michael Copeland, so when you see him, welcome him to the ORWA brigade.

I wish for you all a great 2019 Spring and until next time, take care.

Sincerely,
Joseph Pheil
ORWA Executive Director

The ORWA 2019 Annual Conference is Next Month: Don't Miss out!

[Click here to register!](#)



Ohio
RURAL WATER
ASSOCIATION

RURAL WATER PROUD

MAY 6-8, 2019
EMBASSY SUITES
DUBLIN, OHIO



PAST
AND
FUTURE

**Check out our video of the
2018 Conference!**



What is the Ohio Rural Water PAC, and Why Do We Have One?

There is often confusion and misunderstanding as to what a Political Action Committee (PAC) is and why Ohio Rural Water Association has a PAC. This article hopes to clarify for you what the ORWA PAC is and what it does.



There are a handful of rural water state associations in the country, who choose to have their own Political Action Committee. Conversely, the other state associations who do not have a state PAC generally contribute monies in various other ways to National Rural

Water's PAC, and National Rural Water uses those funds for what they think is best when it comes to legislative action and support.

The state associations, like ORWA, who have their own PAC choose to have more control over the legislative work and monies for their state. To illustrate, ORWA has the ability to pick and choose who to support, and when, while also showing that our support is coming directly from us in Ohio. The Ohio Rural Water PAC is individual supported and makes campaign contributions to candidates for the Ohio Legislature and United States Congress.

The Ohio Rural Water PAC Board is made up of ORWA Board representatives and the ORWA E.D. They monitor legislation that helps support rural Ohio, and contribute to legislators who help get

that legislation passed.

In general, our PAC supports:

- **Men and women running for the Ohio legislature and U.S. Congress who take stands on issues that matter to Rural Water in Ohio - like increased funding for water and wastewater infrastructure needs, small systems technical assistance programs, reasonable regulatory reform, and a common-sense application of environmental regulations.**
- **People who support and fight for important rural issues.**
- **Ohio Legislative and Congress members with leadership positions or important committee assignments.**
- **Both Republicans and Democrats. Our PAC is completely bi-partisan.**

According to the Ohio Rural Water PAC Chairperson, John Simpson, "Legislative action and support that provides the best possible outcomes for our member systems is a crucial element of the ORWA Mission. Most folks don't realize the amount of legislative activity that has the potential to impact their operation. Legislators sometimes introduce legislation not realizing its reach or who might unknowingly be affected. There is a massive amount of legislation being tracked and opinions to be given on. The time to have input is early in the rule making process. The doors that PAC opens through donations, provides invitations later to events that allow ORWA a private ear of the legislators. The PAC has gotten ORWA name recognition within the political arena. Relationship building is the most important aspect of our activities, being recognized as subject experts. We have been asked to submit written testimony 8 times last year, this did not happen previously." Simpson continues "Maybe we don't always share all the stories of how our PAC has made a difference for our members but believe me it has." In the future watch our website for periodic updates on activities.

ORWA Board President Tom Reese states "I agree with John we need to improve communications and to do a better job of telling members of ORWA our successes and where funds of the PAC go. Political Action Committees require a lot of administration and it becomes easy to slight one of our biggest duties to communicate with the donors. The ORWA PAC works with National Rural Water, and locally with an attorney who specializes in PAC administration reviewing our practices and guidelines to ensure we continue to represent our donors and our industry in the best manner. "

The Ohio Rural Water PAC also enhances the effectiveness of ORWA's lobbyist, Andrew Huffman of the Governmental Policy Group, Inc. This organization is very helpful at facilitating the development of ORWA's relationships with legislators and providing continuing legislative updates, which can be found on the ORWA website by [clicking here](#).

ORWA Board President Tom Reese states "The lobbyist we use from the Governmental Policy Group, Inc. has created enormous

value in that we are continually updated with all possible and pending legislation that affects us. Additionally, Mr. Huffman has coordinated many ORWA delegates to be able to speak at, and attend, legislative sessions."

As an example, and as reported in the March 2018 Edition of Splash, former ORWA Board President Dustin Parker testified on behalf of House Bill 221, which would allow lateral improvement projects to be eligible for funding by the Ohio Public Works Commission. Even more recently, current E.D. Joseph Pheil attended a legislative meeting with new Ohio Governor Mike DeWine in attendance and was able to speak about the needs of rural water and wastewater systems in Ohio.

ORWA and the Ohio Rural Water PAC are doing the very best to make sure we have a voice with the decision makers who can make a difference for our members and the great rural residents of Ohio.



Tim Ballard commented on this.



Mike Copeland ► Tim Ballard

2 hrs · 

Using my amazing listening skills I found this leak Tim!





1 Comment

 Like

 Comment



Tim Ballard
With one ear



ORWA's newest Circuit Rider Mike Anderson shares some of his leak detection skills on Facebook with fellow ORWA Circuit Rider Tim Ballard!

Winter Quarterly Meeting at Blystone Farms Rocks the House!

Sponsored by our great members at Le-Ax Water, ORWA's quarterly meeting last month was superb.

Held at Blystone Farms in Canal Winchester, there was fabulous farm to table food. And the setting was in a facility with an old-style rustic decor, brightly lit and comfy.

Best of all, the speakers for the meeting were simply outstanding.

Chas Antinone from Aerometer Technology kicked

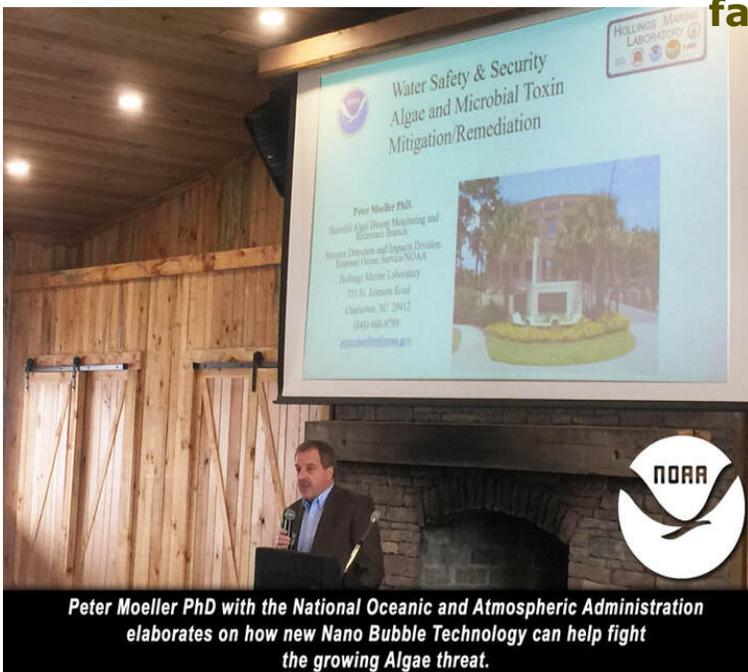
Chas Antinone, President of AeroMeter Technology discusses how his company uses airplanes to read an entire System's meters within hours.



things off by presenting the benefits of meter reading from an airborne platform.

Check out the AeroMeter Technology website here.

Next was a fascinating scientific discussion, led by Dr. Peter Moeller, explaining a new Nano Bubble Technology, which fights and treats algae issues.



Peter Moeller PhD with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration elaborates on how new Nano Bubble Technology can help fight the growing Algae threat.

Click here for an article on this technology.



Will Woods from Onyx explains how they can potentially save ORWA Members thousands of dollars on their Energy Consumption costs.

Lastly, a group from Onyx Power and Gas Consulting discussed with us their services, which has already

saved many of our members money. The contingent that joined us included Onyx founder and President Kevin Gooden.

[Click here for a look at how ORWA and Onyx work together, and can save you money.](#)



**We are truly thankful to our
Diamond/Corporate Members
Thanks for your special level
of support for ORWA and
rural Ohio!**

CO-BANK



COMPMANAGEMENT

The logo for CompManagement Inc. features the word "CompManagement" in a blue, sans-serif font, with "Inc." in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font directly below it.

**We are sincerely appreciative of our
Sustaining Members!**

You help ORWA serve Ohio!

Alloway

**Bennett & Williams
Environmental Consultants, Inc.**

DN Tanks

EnviroLink of Ohio

F&E Payment Pros

FeeCorp

GRW Engineers, Inc.

Jones & Henry Engineers

RLM Engineering, Inc.

Software Solutions

USA Bluebook

Utility Technologies

Linked in



Do you love LinkedIn?

ORWA is trying to boost our presence on LinkedIn.

Please click below and request to join the ORWA group, which will have great resources, discussions, and of course, contacts and networks within our industry!

[Please click here and request to join the ORWA group!](#)



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Facebook

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

The Ohio Rural Water Association hopes you enjoyed this edition of Splash.

Splash will be back in June 2019!

As always, we ask that you remember the Mission of the Ohio Rural Water Association:

To provide our members with technical assistance, professional training, and legislative leadership.