

STREAMLINES

KENTUCKY
TENNESSEE



WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

A Publication of the Kentucky Tennessee Water Environment Association | Volume 1 Issue 2 | June 2010

TDEC Marks Passing of S. Leary Jones, Founder of Tennessee's Clean Water Programs

by: Paul E. Davis, P.E.

Samuel Leary Jones, a founding and life-long member of the Kentucky-Tennessee WEA died on November 23, 2009, at the age of 95.

Samuel Leary Jones, always referred to as "Leary," "S. Leary," or simply "Mr. Jones," was born January 29, 1914, in Elizabeth City, N.C. Not long after the start of the Great Depression, he enrolled at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech) in Blacksburg, Va., where he was editor of the Virginia Tech Engineer. After finishing his undergraduate degree in civil engineering in 1935, Mr. Jones stayed on to take a master's degree in sanitary engineering.

Mr. Jones worked briefly for the U.S. Geological Survey, before joining the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1936. While working at the TVA, Mr. Jones met TVA librarian Lila Bell Haney, and in 1941 they were married. About this time, TVA decided to send the young engineer to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. The school was already at the forefront of public health research and training, and in 1942, it awarded a second master's degree to Mr. Jones, this one in public-health engineering.

In 1943, the Tennessee departments of Health and Conservation had persuaded legislators to introduce a pollution-control law. Although the bill failed, the General Assembly authorized a study board to further examine the issue. Tennessee turned to TVA for technical help, and the man they sent was S. Leary Jones.



Mr. Jones did more than assist the effort. He became the primary author of a 47-page document detailing the alarming condition of Tennessee's streams. This report, delivered to the Stream Pollution Study Board in January 1945, revealed that fewer than a third of the 114 sewer systems in the state provided any sewage treatment before discharging to the state's waterways. Many more communities had no sewage collection system at all. Industrial waste was just as bad, with an estimated 200 million to 400 million gallons per day receiving little or no treatment.

Within months of receiving these findings, Tennessee's General Assembly passed the first water pollution law in the nation. The Tennessee Stream Pollution Control Act of 1945 predated the first federal Water

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WATER HEROES:

S. Leary Jones



Title:

Division of Water Pollution Control Director (Retired)

Employer:

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Years in Water Quality: 60+

Why a Water Hero?

Leary was a leader in the Water Quality industry since its infancy in the 1940s though his retirement, into the 1990s. He was an integral figure in establishment of water quality control regulations in Tennessee, and the establishment of the KY-TN WEA, formerly the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Pollution Control Association.

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KY TN WPC Conference

Passing of S. Leary Jones *(continued from front page)*

Pollution Control Act by a full three years and helped inspire similar laws in other states.

The new law created a Stream Pollution Control Board within the Department of Health. Mr. Jones was hired as its principal engineer, and when the department created a Stream Pollution Control Division, he was named as its first director.

Under his direction, the program grew in staff, funding and expertise. Originally housed only in Nashville, the division eventually opened offices in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Jackson, as well as a

training center in Murfreesboro for operators of wastewater and drinking-water plants. The regional offices in those days were called "basin offices" in reference to the watersheds assigned to them.

He enjoyed two weeks of field work every year as a member of the U.S. Public Health Service Reserve; he was intensely active in the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Pollution Control Association (which he helped create); and for a number of years he served as an adjunct professor in Vanderbilt University's Department of Environmental and Water Resources Engineering.

After 30 years at the helm of the agency, Mr. Jones relinquished the director's chair. All three of Nashville's television stations covered his retirement dinner.

After retirement from TDEC, Mr. Jones stayed busy. He consulted for a while, and continued to be immersed in the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Pollution Control Association. In 1990, the association established the "S. Leary Jones Hall of Fame Award" in honor of their colleague's tireless service to clean water. In 1995, TDEC presented him with its Lifetime Environmental Stewardship Award.

COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Management Conference

by: Mike Gardner

The Kentucky/Tennessee Water Environment Association's Management Committee addresses and coordinates management issues that are relevant to the Association. As part of this mission, a 2010 Management Conference was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, TN on April 15-16, 2010. This year's conference included a variety of speakers and topics, including: experience with federal consent decrees and EPA 308 audits, capital planning techniques, methods to adjust staffing, corporate sustainability, regional water supply planning, and effects of climate change on water and wastewater utilities.

The Renaissance Hotel provided a comfortable venue for the conference that promoted discussion of the conference topics as well as other issues of common interest to the attendees. This exchange of information and experience is at the core of mission of the Management Committee. Through such exchanges managers (and utilities) support each other and work together as a body to address the myriad technical, financial, regulatory and legal issues that all utilities face in providing water and wastewater service to our customers.

Despite the poor economy, the conference was attended by 50 managers and other water professionals and was supported by 18 corporate sponsors. Future management conferences will be held in even years, with the next conference to be held in 2012 at a location still to be determined. The Management Committee invites all managers to participate in ongoing committee activities and planning for the 2012 conference. Please contact Management Committee chair Paul Maron at 502-583-7020, or email him at Paul.Maron@strand.com for additional information.

MEMBER EDUCATION:

WEF, AWWA Launch New "Work for Water" Web Site

by: Linda Kelly, WEF and Greg Kail, AWWA

Alexandria, Va. - The Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) have launched WorkforWater.org, a collaborative Web site featuring resources for water recruiters, career seekers and students.

In March, the WEF and AWWA announced the Work for Water outreach campaign and the launch of WorkforWater.org, which promotes water careers as both professionally fulfilling and aligned to the greatest public health and environmental cause of our day — access to safe water and sanitation services.

"Work for Water aims to generate excitement about and interest in careers in the water profession," said WEF President Paul Freedman. "This new Web site will act as a recruitment tool for all of us who are trying to make information on water sector careers readily available."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which joined with AWWA and WEF members in developing the Work for Water campaign, posted a portion of its new "Water you waiting for?" video on the site.

The site has landing pages for four audiences: high school and vocational school students, college students, second career and retired military job seekers, and advanced science professionals.

For more information, visit www.WorkforWater.org.



ELECTIONS: Tennessee Vice President Candidates for 2010-2011

The ballot has been set for the KY-TN WEA Chapter officers for 2010-2011! Pursuant to the constitution and by-laws of the KY-TN WEA, official ballots will be sent via mail to all members in good standing. After you receive your ballot, please mail by July 12, 2010 or bring it with you to the Water Professionals Conference and turn it in at the designated box by Sunday, July 18, 2010.

Vice Presidential Candidates:



Robin Fothergill

Robin Fothergill, P.E., a graduate of Vanderbilt University, has been actively involved with the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environmental Association (Association) since 2001. Robin was one of the founding members of the local Association's Watershed Committee, chairing the committee from 2007 until 2010. She also coordinated the first Watershed Conference and has remained active in all of the subsequent Watershed Conferences. Additionally, Robin is one of the founding members of the Young Professionals Committee and plays an active role in recruiting Young Professionals to get involved in the Association. Robin was nominated to the 5S (Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers) in July of 2007. This year, Robin is Co-Chair for the 2010 Water Professionals Conference to be held in Nashville this July.

Robin is currently the Municipal Practice Leader for Brown and Caldwell's Tennessee and Kentucky Operation. Personally, Robin enjoys traveling (particularly internationally), cycling, and spending time with her new baby, Mitra.



Chris Provost

Chris Provost grew up in East Tennessee and received his BS in Civil Engineering at Tennessee Tech University. While attending graduate school at Georgia Tech, he started his professional career with the Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV office where he worked in several water program offices.

After nearly 5 years at EPA, he started work for Camp Dresser & McKee Inc (CDM) and has worked with CDM for 23 years. Currently he is Vice President and Area Manager, and has worked on environmental and facility management projects, including master planning, feasibility studies and design, construction and operations.

Chris is a registered engineer in three states, including Tennessee, and a Board Certified Environmental Engineer by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He has been a member of the American Water Works Association, the Water Environmental Federation, and Kentucky/Tennessee WEA for many years. He has served as past co-chair of the KY/TN WEA Watershed committee, and is currently the co-chair of the KY/TN WEA Governmental Affairs committee and a member of WEF's Governmental Affairs Committee.

Chris has been married to Lisa for 24 years, has three children, Jennifer and Laura, both currently attending Tennessee Tech, and John who is a high school freshman.

Delegate:



Saya Qualls

Saya is the Chief Engineer for the Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control. Previously, she managed the the division's Permit Section. She is responsible for coordinating the functions of the permitting, enforcement and municipal facilities sections. Saya also serves as a senior water policy manager within the Department of Environment and Conservation.

From 1992 to 1998, Saya worked in the Division's Municipal Facilities Section as the lead municipal permit writer. During this time, she led the development of Tennessee's Watershed Approach to permitting, monitoring and assessment.

Saya has also worked in the private sector for Martin Marietta Energy Systems in Paducah, Kentucky and for GSEE Environmental Consultants in LaVergne, Tennessee. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Kentucky and is a registered professional engineer in the State of Tennessee.

Saya has been a member of the Water Environment Association for 18 years and served as association president in 2007-2008.



JULY 18-21, 2010
KY/TN WPC
Annual Conference
Nashville, TN

JULY 18, 2010
Sunday, 1:30 PM
WEA Board Meeting
Renaissance Hotel - Country Room
Nashville, TN

JULY 18-21, 2010
KY TN WEA Committee Meetings
Renaissance Hotel
Nashville, TN

JULY 21, 2010
Wednesday, 7:30 AM
KY TN WEA Awards Program
Renaissance Hotel Ballroom
Nashville, TN

JULY 21, 2010
Wednesday, 12:00 PM
KY TN WEA Past President's Luncheon
Renaissance Hotel - Bluegrass Room
Nashville, TN

Calendar of Events & Meetings

UPCOMING
CONFERENCE

Water Professionals
Conference

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Nashville, TN



2010 Water Professionals Conference

Nashville Convention Center
and Renaissance Hotel
July 18th - 21st 2010

More Information:

<http://www.kytnwpc.org>

We hope you'll join us in Nashville for the seventh annual Water Professionals Conference presented by the Kentucky/Tennessee Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association (WEA).

Our conference offers:

- Technical sessions and workshops covering water, wastewater, management and regulatory issues
- Opportunity for companies to exhibit the latest water and wastewater products and services
- Opportunities for networking with industry professionals – existing and potential customers – from Kentucky and Tennessee
- Largest water and wastewater technical conference and exhibition in both Kentucky and Tennessee.

Discounted early registration has been extended until June 25.

Full conference registration: \$375

One Day Registration: \$185

Young Professionals Day (Tuesday): \$90

--- Prices go up after June 25 ---

Who's Who in KY TN WEA

[\(Click here for more detailed contact info\)](#)

President

Ron Taylor, P.E.

President Elect

Mike Flynn

Kentucky Vice President

Wesley Sydnor, P.E.

Tennessee Vice President

Leanne Scott, P.E.

Secretary Treasurer

Donald Blackburn

Past President

Mike Gardner, P.E.

Kentucky Delegate

Timothy Kraus, P.E.

Tennessee Delegate

Larry Moore, P.E., PhD

Association Manager

Valerie A. Lucas, P.E.

Collections

Kentucky Co-Chair

Wesley Sydnor, PE

Tennessee Co-Chair

George Kurz

Government Affairs

Kentucky Co-Chair:

Mike Apgar

Tennessee Co-Chair:

Chris Provost

Membership

Kentucky Co-Chair:

OPEN

Tennessee Co-Chair:

Chris Jones

Watershed

Kentucky Co-Chair:

Charles Poskas

Tennessee Co-Chair:

Robin Fothergill

Wastewater Technology

Kentucky Co-Chair:

Robert Bates

Tennessee Co-Chair:

Doug Yarosz

Management

Kentucky Co-Chair:

Paul Maron

Tennessee Co-Chair:

OPEN

Pretreatment Certification

Chair:

Chuck Durham

Asst. Chair:

Jennifer Dodd

Young Professionals

Co-Chair:

Stefanie Farrell

Co-Chair:

Kristi Schnell

2010 Water Professionals Conference

Exhibit space is sold out.

Thank you to all our exhibitors!

See you in Nashville.

Have newsletter suggestions? Please email Brad Derrick at: newsletter@kytnwea.org

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BLACK & VEATCH
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