



NEWS RELEASE

Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 2017

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James Mensendike Recognized as an Outstanding Groundwater Operator at Statewide Event

2017 Operators of the Year named in Springfield

Springfield, IL –The Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association (IPWSOA) recognized eight (8) 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 honored **Edward Earnhart, Anna-Jonesboro Water Commission**, as Groundwater Operator of the Year. **Matt Vasey, Village of Fox Lake**, and **James Mensendike, Village of Elizabeth**, 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 and maintenance of their facilities.

James Mensendike is the Public Works Director at the Village of Elizabeth. Mensendike has worked for the Village for five years. He is responsible for supervising the water system, sewer system, and maintaining the public roadways. Mensendike has been instrumental in implementing a smart meter program and cross-connection program improvements for the Village. His nominator wrote, “Despite having many other responsibilities for the Village, James has put 110% into his job as Water Superintendent.”

The Village of Elizabeth treats and distributes approximately 55,000 gallons of water per day to 406 service connections. The facility includes two water treatment plants and a ground storage tank.

There are approximately 4,000 certified drinking water operators in the State of Illinois. These operators were nominated 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.

Operators of the Year and nominees were honored during the Association's 86th 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 2017 awards were announced and received their plaques during the three day event.

Send To: Galena Gazette, cnewton@galgazette.com