

**W I N T E R
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**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

2014 Winter Conference Recap	1-5
President's Message	6-7
Septic Training Option	7
Website Offer for WOWRA Members	9
Legislative Update	10-12
WOWRA in the News	14-15

Coming Events

WOWRA Board
Teleconference
February 26th

WOWRA News

2014 WOWRA/WLWCA Joint Winter Conference: An Educational Success!

A sincere thank you to all who helped make the 2014
Winter Conference a HUGE success!!

- A few highlights for those who were unable to attend:
- 11 DSPS credits, 17.5 DNR credits, 1 DNR Compliance Credit and 5.5 MI DEQ credits were obtained.
- DSPS Secretary Dave Ross discussed agency updates.
- New Board member Reggie Layoff from was elected.
- Attendees were able to learn tips and tricks to improve their businesses during Thursday's Business Day.
- Sara Heger received rave reviews from members and spoke about high strength waste.
- The silent auction raised \$450.00 for the scholarship fund!
- Valuable input was received including robust discussion about electricians legislation at the member meeting.
- 30+ vendors talked shop in the expo hall.
- Members networked over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.
- And much, much more...

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the 2014 Winter Conference or suggestions for next year please do not hesitate to contact the WOWRA office via phone (608) 441-1436 or via E-Mail: info@wowra.com

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WLWCA Executive Director George
Klaetsch Speaks to Attendees



Attendees Listening Intently
and Gaining Valuable Info!



Attendees Talking Industry &
Products in Exhibition Hall



DSPS Secretary Dave Ross
Addresses Attendees

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WOWRA Scholarship Winners Announcement

This year WOWRA was able to donate a total of \$3,750 dollars to six winners!!!

- Austen Jentges currently attends Ripon College and is majoring in biology. He is planning to continue his studies at Concordia University of Wisconsin is planning to become a Doctor of physical therapy.
- Carolyn Kelk is planning to attend the University of Wyoming and is planning to major in nutrition/dietetics.
- Claire Kelk is planning to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and is planning to major in actuarial science.
- Mitchell Fanning is planning to attend either University of Wisconsin La Crosse or University of Wisconsin Rock County and major in finance.
- Marissa Mellen is planning to attend the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and major in elementary education with early childhood and inclusion minors.
- Felicia Kons is planning to attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and major in elementary education.

Congratulations to all our scholarship winners and best of luck to each and every one of you in your future endeavors!

A HUGE Thank You to the Scholarship Fund Donors!!!

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WOWRA was also able to raise an additional \$450.00 for the scholarship fund at this year's WOWRA/WLWCA Winter Conference Silent Auction!!!

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President's Message

Friends of WOWRA –

A couple weeks ago we wrapped up another successful Onsite Show. The format was a little different this year with fewer but lengthier exhibitor sessions, two receptions, a bean bag tournament and an earlier Saturday conclusion. For the second consecutive year we had good attendance and great speakers. Having sat in on classes all three days and talking with attendees I think it is safe to say that the WOWRA Onsite Show is the premier event for POWTS continuing education. As I start my second term as your President I look forward to planning yet another successful show. Please, if you haven't already, let us know how we did and what we can do to improve.



That being said we are saying goodbye to a very active board member in Steve Jentges. Steve's hard work and dedication to this industry will be greatly missed. Thank you Steve! Our newest board member Reggie Layoff comes to us from Hart Travers and Associates. Although Reggie is new to the board, we are confident that he will be a great addition. I'm really excited to see what our new board can do.

We have some exciting events planned for 2014 first of which is the return of the Rejuvenate A Family Day. The family this year comes to us from Rock County and was referred by board member Roger Fanning. Although the physical donation items have not been solicited yet I encourage you to start thinking about how you can help us help this family. I expect this event to go as well as the first if not better.

On a sad note I'd be remiss if I did not mention the passing of a WOWRA member in Ben Morgan of Tri County Sanitation. Ben was a member of WOWRA and WLWCA residing in Hudson WI. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate through these tough times.

Continued on Page 7...

President's Message Continued

I know it's hard to think about installing septic systems with a month plus of below zero degree weather and an endless supply of snow, but recent trends are showing a slow continual growth in new home construction so let's hope that translates to more septic systems. Let's hope that Old Man Winter goes into hibernation soon and we can start digging holes. Stay safe everyone in 2014!

Sincerely,

Aaron J Ausen
WOWRA President

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As a follow up from his presentations at the WOWRA Business Day on January 30th, John has offered to develop the following for \$1800 (normally a \$2,500-\$2,700 value):

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For further information, please contact John Larson directly at:
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Legislative Update From Executive Director George Klaetsch

Wisconsin Legislature Making Final Push

As the temperatures continue to hover in the single digits and the snow continues to pile high around your driveway apron, the Wisconsin State Legislature continues to stay white hot in their frenetic pace this Winter. As of this writing there have been 762 Assembly Bills and 589 Senate Bills to total 1,351 bills introduced in the legislature and in any give day more than two dozen bills can be debated.



With that said, I want to focus on a single piece of legislation that is important to many (if not all) septic installers. That bill is AB 683. On the surface, it is an electricians bill, but when you dig deeper (specifically to page 7, section 13, 101.862 (4)(g) you will find something that has been on your minds for the past five years - **what can installers do and what can't they do when dealing with electrical connections associated with septic and holding tanks.**

During the 2014 WOWRA/WLWCA Winter Conference, we had many state officials primarily from the DSPS providing their current interpretations of Wisconsin State Statute on what our plumbers and installer can and can't do. Happening at the exact same time, Representative Tom Larson (an electrician by trade) and Senator Glenn Grothman introduced a bill that is intended to ensure that plumbers and septic installers can conduct minor electrical work in support of septic and holding tank installation, maintenance, etc.



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Better Service Means Better Value

As a result, the following is an email from Representative Larson's staff to interested stakeholders on the issue. **Please note - this is still a legislative proposal and not law.** We will keep you posted on all updates and progress throughout the remaining legislative session.

Continued on Next Page...

Legislative Update Continued

-February 7, 2014 email from Rep. Larson staff...

*In light of the comments our office has been receiving about changes AB 683 makes to 101.862(4)(g), Representative Larson asked me to share with you some language that he believes may address those concerns without changing the intent of (4)(g) – to allow plumbers, well and septic installers, light installers, sign installers, etc., to do their jobs without calling in an electrician to make the final connection. As you may know, time is of the essence, so please share any feedback **as soon as possible**.*

Our office is proposing an amendment that would rewrite (4)(g) so that it reads:

A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining manufactured equipment or utilization equipment, including ballasts, electric signs and luminaires, or a any other manufactured system that is designed to provide a function that is not primarily electrical in nature if the installation, repair, or maintenance does not involve only involves the modification or installation of conductors beyond that are considered part of the equipment or system under this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph, any conductor going from the disconnecting point or beyond the last nearest junction, pull, or device box, whichever is nearer to the point where the person is performing the installation, repair, or maintenance to the manufactured equipment or utilization equipment or the manufactured system is considered part of the equipment or system

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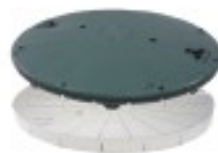
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WOWRA IN THE NEWS:

Onsite Installer | COLE Publishing | January 2014

Extreme Makeover-Septic System Edition | By: Jim Kneiszel



Except for the bus pulling away to reveal a gasp-inspiring home improvement project, the Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association Rejuvenate a Family Day had all the makings of an Extreme Makeover television show.

A dedicated crew of volunteer WOWRA members worked at breakneck pace to build a brand-new septic system for a family in need. Cameras were rolling from local media watching the project come together. Officials and legislators from the state of Wisconsin were gathered for a ceremony at the completion of the build.

And the appreciation of the family that received the system left everyone a little choked up.

“Seeing Ron and Barb’s faces during the entire process was a priceless moment in my 29 years of life,” says Aaron Ausen, of Dalmaray Concrete Products and WOWRA president. “It was a proud day for everyone who was on that site. It was pretty amazing.”

Ron and Barb are members of the Joslyn family in Cascade, Wis., whose septic system stopped functioning at the same time they were having a difficult time paying off Ron’s medical bills. The couple was thankful when WOWRA board member Damon Huibregtse learned of their plight and brought it to the attention of association members.

Conventional System

For some time, WOWRA members were talking about helping a family in need with a new septic system. Members jumped at the chance to help the Joslyn family and replaced an antiquated and failing drywell and leach bed last July.

“God bless WOWRA and the members who saw our needs and decided to do something about it,” Barb Joslyn says in a recent press release from the trade group. “It’s easy to talk about it, but this group is actually doing something about it.” Along with the local press, Dave Ross, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services, State Sen. Joseph Liebham (R-Sheboygan), a local county administrator and the Joslyns watched as the new system was installed in an afternoon.

The new conventional septic system was designed by Huibregtse to utilize a dual-compartment 1,500-gallon concrete tank, donated by Ledgerview Precast, with effluent moving to a drainfield filled with 88 Infiltrator Systems Quick 4 units. Overwhelmed by volunteer installers, the system was quickly assembled and buried, followed by a ceremony with the Joslyn family. The total value of the donations was \$9,125.

“It was an emotional-type thing,” says Huibregtse. “This was different from installing other systems. Here you’ve got people getting emotional and crying, thanking you and saying they can’t believe this happened to them.” And the attention from media and officials was a learning experience, too.

WOWRA IN THE NEWS CONTINUED

While the legislator and others in government wanted to get close to the action, the installers had to monitor a busy work site and explain each step of the process to the onlookers. But it was a good thing to have the attention of decision makers, including Ross, who has jurisdiction over all septic system installs in the state, and have them see a crack team of installers at work.

Raise Awareness

“Ordinarily we don’t want people standing around crowding the site,” Huibregtse says. “It was good to raise awareness of septic systems and WOWRA, to explain why we’re members and why we think it’s a value.”

Ausen echoed the sentiment. “People take for granted where their waste is going, and that’s when you have problems. These things do work; they’re not just holes in the ground. There’s science behind it,” he says. The install gave Ausen and others in the industry a great opportunity to educate people on the complexity of a septic system design. That was a bonus on top of the real reason so many WOWRA members showed up to work that day.

“The thing to take away from [the project] is that even though the economy hasn’t quite turned itself around, there’s still a lot of people willing to give and help out. That’s what a nonprofit should be all about,” he says.

The organizers said it’s likely WOWRA will make these donations a regular part of the group’s mission. The board of directors is currently developing an application process for future donations in an effort to spread them across the state and involve all interested members.

“There are lots of good people in the industry who want to help. We’ll try to move it around the state so everyone has an opportunity to do that,” he says. They put this project together quickly, and received many offers to help after necessary donations were quickly rounded up.

“We had a plethora of calls from WOWRA members who wanted to give money and time. We had to turn a lot of people away because we had too much,” Ausen reflects. “That speaks volumes for WOWRA and the membership. I was very pleased to see that.”

Share Your Story

Ausen saw this type of project done in Indiana, and other state onsite associations have made similar charitable efforts. If your association has recently helped out a homeowner in need or is planning to do so in the near future, let me know and we’ll share your good news.

Like Ausen says, these projects reflect positively on the individual state association, and the contractors who offer their products and services. But the feelings of goodwill extend to the entire onsite industry.

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