



AWWOA

ALBERTA WATER & WASTEWATER OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

ELECTION BIOGRAPHIES 2020

The following people have been nominated for Executive positions with the Alberta Water & Wastewater Operators Association (AWWOA). Biography information was supplied by each candidate. The AWWOA is not responsible for accuracy of biographies.

COMMUNITIES OVER 150,000

MIKE BUREAUD, *EPCOR Water Services, Edmonton*

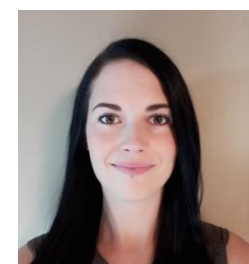
Mike Bureaud is a Water Network Operator for EPCOR Water Services in Edmonton. Holding Level IV Water Distribution and Level I Wastewater Collection certifications, he works primarily in the areas of water distribution, construction and maintenance. He currently serves as technical support for field staff and is considered the procedure “guru.” Prior to this position, he led the fabrication shop and yard team who support maintenance and repair crews. Mike believes the future lies with new operators, “Through mentorship, training and education, we can pass on the torch.” On a personal note, Mike coaches his son’s basketball team and spends time downhill skiing, camping with his family and doing home renovations.



COMMUNITIES 25,001 to 150,000

KATHY ROBERTSON, *Aquatera*

Kathy has been in the industry since 2010 and graduated from NAIT in 2012. She has Level III Water and Level IV Wastewater certifications and strives to provide safe drinking water and protect the environment. When she is away from work, Kathy enjoys spending time with her family, camping, hiking and anything outside.



BLAIR ROY, *City of St. Albert*

Blair works for the City of St. Albert and holds Level IV certifications in Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection. He has been in the industry for over 35 years and has seen constant change within it. He enjoys attending conferences and participating in the training courses offered through the association. “These events and courses also offer a great opportunity to network with others from around the province. In my spare time, I enjoy getting out, golfing or escaping to somewhere warm in the winter months.”



COMMUNITIES 5,001 to 25,000

TAMMY ELZINGA, *Leduc County*

Tammy holds Level III Water Distribution and Wastewater Collection certifications in addition to Level II Water Treatment and Level I Wastewater Treatment. She lives on an acreage in Leduc County with her family and enjoys camping, barrel racing, trail riding and travelling to warm destinations.



ED SPOHR, *EPCOR, Town of Strathmore/Chestermere*

Ed has been employed in the water/wastewater industry for the past 33 years and began his career with the City of Calgary in 1979. He spent a few years outside of the industry and then returned to the Town of Okotoks where he became the Utility Foreman. In 2005 the town entered into an agreement with EPCOR Water Services where he spent 7 years as the Okotoks Site Manager. From 2012 to July 2019, Ed managed the Southern Alberta Maintenance Team and Operational Excellence for EPCOR Regional Operations. In July 2019, Ed retired from EPCOR and began the next chapter of my life: three weeks of retirement and Ed was back at work as a contract site manager for EPCOR. "Throughout my career, I have spent many years involved with the AWWOA and the AEP Certification Advisory Committee. These experiences are highlights of my career, giving me the opportunity to pay it forward, develop friendships and shape the future of the industry."



COMMUNITIES 5,000 & Under

RICK GERVAIS, *Smoky River Regional Water Commission*

Rick started working in the water and wastewater industry almost five years ago after leaving a 20-year career in the logging industry. Since then he has achieved Level II Water Treatment, Level II Water Distribution and Level I Wastewater Treatment and Level I Wastewater Collection certifications. "I have also taken many AWWOA courses through the classroom and correspondence and find these to be useful tools in expanding my knowledge in the industry. In my off time, I like to be with family, kayaking on the river, and working on my acreage while hanging out with my two dogs."



JOHN GREATHEAD, *Municipality of Jasper*

John is the Director of Operations in Jasper and holds certification in all four disciplines. He has enjoyed serving two terms on the AWWOA Board and is seeking re-election. "I have found AWWOA to be a great resource for information, training and networking as well as an organization that supports its communities and leaders in environmental responsibility and stewardship."



DARIS PODGURSKI, *Town of Penhold*

Daris has been working with the Town of Penhold for the past 8 years and holds Level I certification in Water Distribution, Water Treatment and Wastewater Collection. He started with the town in 2012 as a summer student and then became a full-time operator. As an operator Daris is responsible for maintaining two reservoirs and 7 lift stations. In past years Daris has volunteered at the Seminar as a room moderator and sold 50/50 tickets. “No two days are the same as a public works operator and that’s what makes the job enjoyable.” He enjoys being able to give back to the community. When not working, you can find him at the nearest ski hill or on the field playing football.



PUBLIC FACILITIES

DON ERECHUK, *DMJ Environmental*

Don has worked in the industry for over 22 years in all four disciplines. He currently holds Level III in Water Treatment and Level II certification in all of the other three disciplines. He’s been an AWWOA member for over 17 years and has now been on the Board for 4 years. Don enjoys spending time with his wife and son and is actively involved with the Parkland County community. In his free time, he helps with treatment training and enjoys fly fishing, hiking, camping, golfing and quading.



LIFE MEMBER

DOUG THORSON, *Retired*

I have been privileged to serve 37 plus years on the AWWOA Executive. My re-nomination to the Life Member position is based on my belief in AWWOA’s goals for continued education, training and upgrading in the water/wastewater industry. When your AWWOA decided to contribute funds to supply clean drinking water to third world countries, I was the representative for Charitable Donations. To this day, I still hold this position and would feel honored to continue. I have also been privileged to provide an article in your Utility Operator Magazine under the pen of “The Old Operator.” My hobbies include woodworking, tinwork, and spending time with grandchildren.



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OPERATORS ASSOCIATION**

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