February 12, 2020

New York Water Environment Association Presents Robert D. Hennigan Water Hero Award to William Grandner

Syracuse – The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), a statewide organization of water quality management professionals, has awarded William Grandner the Robert D. Hennigan Water Hero Award. During NYWEA’s 92nd Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, February 5, NYWEA President Robert Wither presented the award to Grandner.

The Robert D. Hennigan Water Hero Award is given to an Association Member who has made a consistent, sustained and meaningful contribution to improving water quality through their everyday responsibilities, actions and efforts.

Grandner has dedicated his career to water quality management and started working at NYCDEP in 1977 as a water resource recovery operator and over the years advanced his professional career holding various titles that evolved into leadership positions at several facilities – Deputy Plant Superintendent of Red Hook (1993-1999), Newtown Creek (1999-2002), and then Plant Superintendent of Owl’s Head facility (2002-2013). He became a member of NYWEA in 1978 and got involved with the Metropolitan Chapter Operator’s Committee in 1979, and is still active with that committee today. Grandner held the position of Metropolitan Chapter Operator’s chair from 1991-1997, and served as Metropolitan Chapter Chair from 2001-2002. He served on the Public Works Operations Committee from 2003-2005. He is currently the Operator-in-Chief of the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers (SSSSS), a member of the Utility Operations & Management, Member Education, and Conference Management committees. Grandner has received several awards from NYWEA including the Uhl T. Mann, and the John Chester Brigham award. He is a member of the SSSSSS in NYWEA and NEWEA.

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Grandner’s dedication to NYWEA culminated in 2018, when he became a WEF Life Member in recognition of his 35 years of continuous membership. He is a strong supporter and advocate for NYWEA by promoting the involvement of operators in the Operations Challenge and other Association activities. Grandner was instrumental in developing the Operations Challenge program for NYWEA.

This award commemorates Robert D. Hennigan, who embodied these qualities and played a significant role in developing public policy in water quality management. His work became the basis for the state’s Pure Water’s Program and later for the 1972 federal Clean Water Act. During his career, Hennigan initiated many NYWEA programs that are still used today, including the Scholarship Program.

About NYWEA: Founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a nonprofit educational organization, NYWEA has 2,700 members statewide and hosts several technical conferences each year for environmental engineers, scientists, public officials and others who work in water and wastewater quality management. In addition, NYWEA sponsors a scholarship program, publishes Clear Waters, a quarterly educational magazine, and administers the wastewater operator certification program. NYWEA also supports humanitarian clean water projects. Headquartered in Syracuse, NYWEA has seven regional chapters, 14 college student chapters and is a Member Association of the international Water Environment Federation. For more information, visit www.nywea.org.

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