



**"RE-BUILDING THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEMS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"**

# **Sewerage & Water Board OF NEW ORLEANS**

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## **Sewerage & Water Board Recognized for Environmental Leadership and Performance**

**NEW ORLEANS** – Today, the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) announced that it has been recognized for its environmental leadership by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and performance in maintenance and safety at the Regional Water Environment Association Annual Conference.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

This week, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) recognized SWBNO with its 2017 Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program Municipality Achievement Award in Community Environment Outreach for its *Growing Water Literacy* program.

The *Growing Water Literacy* program was awarded for the education and outreach services provided to the community that are above and beyond what is required by SWBNO's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit.

The goals of SWBNO's *Growing Water Literacy* program are to: 1) promote environmental quality and reduce pollution and environmental degradation in New Orleans by informing, educating, and empowering residents of New Orleans to be watershed stewards and 2) create opportunities and programs that encourage SWBNO employees and our City counterparts to share their knowledge, skills and abilities in water management with the community in ways that grows local water literacy and empowers citizens while fostering trust in our expertise. The education and outreach initiatives are designed for citizens of all ages so that they will be inspired to be watershed stewards.

**Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director of the Sewerage and Water Board**, said, "The Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans believes that environmental issues cannot be addressed without participation from the public. We want our customers to be informed so together we can work to protect the environment in which we live, work and play. It is an honor to be recognized by LDEQ for our environmental education and outreach program."

**Ann Wilson, SWBNO Chief of Environmental Affairs**, said, "We thank LDEQ for this honor and we look forward to bringing more environmental educational efforts to the public in the future."

**LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown** said, “The Environmental Leadership Program encourages voluntary actions to help improve the environment and the quality of life in Louisiana. With local schools, governments and industries promoting innovative ways to reduce pollution, recycle and reuse resources beyond regulations, we get the best results and help educate the public about voluntary environmental protection.”

#### **FIRST PLACE AWARDS IN MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY**

This week at the Regional Water Environment Association Annual Conference in Lafayette, LA, SWBNO’s “Water Dogz” competitive operations team won two First Place Awards for its performance in maintenance and safety.

SWBNO’s competitive operations team are three-time State Champions consisting of employees working in various operations including, Networks Repairs, Networks Engineering, Water Quality and Environmental Affairs. SWBNO’s team competed in five different events that included collection systems, laboratory, process control, maintenance and safety.

Winners of the events are determined by a weighted point system designed to test the diverse skills required for the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater treatment facilities, their collection systems and laboratories.

Team members include Carlton Allen (Co-Captain)-Networks Division, Ja’Ryan Youngblood, Networks Division, Mark Bearchild-Technical Services, Philip Minor-Networks Division, Jerome Marshall (Captain)-Networks Division and Ron Ferdinand, Networks Division.

SWBNO’s competitive operations team beat the Lafayette Cajuns. This is their second consecutive state title. They also won in 2011. The “Water Dogz” will go on to represent the State of Louisiana in Chicago at the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Annual Conference this October.

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