



## News Advisory

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### **MAWSS' Hanke Receives Charles W. White Award Water Plants Recognized**



*Photo: MAWSS' Carl Hanke (center) accepts the Charles W. White Award from Kevin Brakefield (left) and AWPCA President Gary Bailey (right). The award is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the water industry.*

Mobile Area Water and Sewer System's (MAWSS) Albert Carl Hanke, Jr. was the 2016 recipient of the Charles W. White Award for outstanding contributions to the water industry presented by the Alabama Water and Pollution Control Association (AWPCA) during their annual conference July 24-26, in Phenix City, Alabama. MAWSS Water Treatment Plants were also recognized during the two-day educational event attended by water and wastewater professionals in the state.

The Charles W. White Award recognizes individual efforts in promoting safe drinking water, public health and training for water treatment plant operators. It is the highest individual honor given to water professionals by AWPCA.

Hanke, a Treatment Plant Operator III, oversees MAWSS' water distribution system which is responsible for the delivery of more than 41 million gallons a day of safe drinking water to 250,000 people in the Mobile area. The system utilizes 1,554 miles of pipe, 6 reservoirs, 9 storage tanks and 13 booster stations.

“Thanks to Carl Hanke and water professionals like him, when you turn on your tap you are guaranteed safe drinking water,” said MAWSS Director Charles Hyland. “While much of the community takes this level of service for granted, those in the industry know the amount of commitment and professionalism required to maintain it. We are proud of Carl and our plants for the excellent service they provide our customers.”

Hanke began his career at MAWSS in 1989 as an unskilled laborer. Within the year he was promoted to Public Service Worker then rose through the ranks of Treatment Plant Operator I, II and III. He became active in AWPCA serving as the District III Water Director from 2007-2011, Plant Awards Committee Chair in 2009 followed by leadership roles as Secretary, President Elect and Conference Committee Chair, and President. A family man, youth coach and lifetime bowler, he was inducted into the Greater Mobile Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 2013, a noteworthy accomplishment brought out during the presentation.

MAWSS’ H.E. Myers Water Treatment Plant (WTP) received the Best Operated Plant Award for Surface Water Plants treating 20-30 million gallons of water a day. The E.M. Stickney WTP received an Award of Excellence. MAWSS’ Distribution System and Wastewater Treatment Plants were ineligible to participate. Having won the Best Operated Award for three consecutive years they are required to sit out three years.

The annual plant awards are based on an application and site visit. Facilities are judged on performance, water quality, record keeping, appearance and safety.