

# MWQA News



## MWQA Fall Convention Draws More than 75 Attendees

MWQA's annual convention drew a large crowd, assisting both water conditioning professionals and plumbers in obtaining their required credit for license renewals.

In addition to several seminars aimed at offering license renewal CEU, the event provided attendees with the chance to hear what MWQA's role has been with regard the implementation of the proposed Uniform Plumbing Code (see page 2 for more detailed info).

Special thanks to the following sponsors, exhibitors and speakers who helped make our event possible:

Better Water Industries  
 Canature  
 Cargill Salt  
 Casta Marketing  
 Charger Water Treatment  
 Culligan International  
 Efleets  
 Hellenbrand, Inc.  
 Kennedy Communications  
 Marsh & McClennan Agencies  
 Resintech  
 United Salt  
 Viqua  
 Water-Right  
 Watts Water Quality Products

### **Speakers:**

Tate Burckhardt of  
 Better Water Industries

Mike Herman & Scott Schiesser  
 of Ultrasure

Bill Loyd of  
 Dow Water & Process Solutions

Kimberly Redden of  
 Water Quality Association



A large crowd attended MWQA's annual convention held in late October. Most attendees needed credit to renew their Water Conditioning or Plumbing licenses. Here, MWQA President Mike Herman addresses the group.

## **Legislative Efforts Require Help From All MWQA Members**

By Mark Haase, MWQA Legal Advisor

I am honored to support MWQA in working to pass the legislation described in the article on Page 2. We have already made significant progress by getting the bill authored by a bipartisan group of legislators in key leadership positions, passed through one committee, and working with the Department of Labor and Industry to facilitate meetings to garner additional support. This has only been possible through the tireless efforts of the volunteer members of your government affairs committee and other members who have volunteered to talk to their legislators.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us. With some of our opposition telling people you are "trying to steal" plumbers' work, resistance at the Capitol will continue to be strong as we work to get it passed during the 2016 legislative session starting in March.

This is why we need your help. We need you to help tell MWQA's story to your legislators, as they care most about voters and businesses in their district. If you are willing to help, please fill out the form at this link: <http://goo.gl/forms/lv2pM5paez> and submit it to me.

I will use the information to contact you when we need your assistance with your legislators. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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 612-819-0738

*See Page 2 for more information on MWQA's Legislative Initiatives*

# Industry Members Recognized For Support

Thanks to the following MWQA members, and non-members, who have contributed to the MWQA's legal fund. We are asking all members to please consider a generous donation to the legal fund this year.

*aba Water Systems - Plainview*  
*Aquarius Water Cond. - St. Paul*  
*Arrowhead Water - Cloquet*  
*Ben Holzer Unlimited - Perham*  
*Better Water Industries - Tyler*  
*Commers Water - Minneapolis*  
*Culligan - Albert Lea*  
*Culligan - Anoka*  
*Culligan - Austin*  
*Culligan - Baxter*  
*Culligan - Bemidji*  
*Culligan - Benson*  
*Culligan - Buffalo*  
*Culligan - Cloquet*  
*Culligan - Elbow Lake*  
*Culligan - Fairmont*  
*Culligan - Faribault*  
*Culligan - Kasson*  
*Culligan - La Crosse, Wisconsin*  
*Culligan - Madelia*  
*Culligan - Minnetonka*

*Culligan - Montevideo*  
*Culligan - Northfield*  
*Culligan - Owatonna*  
*Culligan - Pine City*  
*Culligan - Red Wing*  
*Culligan - Rochester*  
*Culligan - St. Cloud*  
*Culligan - Stillwater*  
*Culligan - Wadena*  
*Culligan - Waseca*  
*Culligan - Winona*  
*Ecolab - St. Paul*  
*Ecowater of Marshall*  
*Erkens Water - Cold Spring*  
*Finken Water - St. Cloud*  
*Frakco - Luverne*  
*Haferman Water - Twin Cities*  
*Hellenbrand - Waunakee, WI*  
*Hidrocare - Forest Lake*  
*Hiivala, Inc - Virginia & Hibbing*

*Jahnke Water - Olivia*  
*Kandi Water - Spicer*  
*Mayer Soft Water - St. Peter*  
*McKays Company*  
*Mike's Softener Service*  
*Milbert Culligan - St. Paul*  
*McGowan Water - Mankato*  
*Northland Water - Rosemount*  
*Pentair Water*  
*Range Water - Grand Rapids*  
*Robert B. Hill Company - Minneapolis*  
*Schultz Soft Water - Sauk Rapids*  
*Sterling Water - Eau Claire, Wis. & Sauk Center, Minn.*  
*Ultrapure - Driessen Water*  
*United Salt Corporation*  
*Water Control - Ramsey*  
*Zachman's Watercare - Mahtomedi*

## MWQA Legislative Priorities Outlined

MWQA seeks to constantly upgrade the standards of the water quality improvement industry and the qualifications of its members. Legislative priorities we are focusing on are:

### **Commercial Water Conditioning Equipment Installation**

Current Minnesota law allows water conditioning journeymen and masters to install water conditioning equipment in single family residences, but not in any other settings. This limitation does not make water safer in Minnesota, and it may even reduce water safety. The water issues, process, and equipment involved are no different in commercial applications, and current water conditioning professional training and licensing regulations make water conditioning journeymen and masters the specialists who know the most about this work. It also adds unnecessary costs to consumers.

MWQA's proposed legislation would create a more logical line for water conditioning work. It would allow water conditioning journeymen and masters to install water conditioning equipment in commercial settings only after the appropriate bypass, shut-off or isolation valve has been established by a licensed plumber, to ensure the integrity and isolation of the surrounding plumbing system, and only when the piping involved is 2 inches or less in diameter. It would not limit the current ability of licensed plumbers to do this work.

### **Supervised Water Conditioning Training**

Current law does not provide a way for Minnesotans seeking entry into the water conditioning profession to gain the required practical experience. MWQA's proposed legislation would allow entry-level individuals to gain the practical experience required, under the supervision of a master or journeyman plumber or water conditioning journeyman or master, to take the water conditioning journeyman exam.

### **Water Conditioning Equipment Repair and Maintenance**

Current practice is that unlicensed individuals may repair and maintain already installed water conditioning equipment. The regulations do not state this explicitly. This work is currently safely and economically done by unlicensed individuals. MWQA's proposed legislation would clarify that repair and maintenance of already installed water conditioning equipment does not require licensure.

### **Bills Introduced in 2015:**

House File 1408  
Representatives O'Driscoll, Hoppe, and Atkins

Senate File 1689  
Senators Carlson, Metzen, Gazelka, Eken and Sparks

For questions or more information contact Mark Haase at [mahaase@gmail.com](mailto:mahaase@gmail.com) or 612-819-0738.

# Water Conditioning Business License Renewal Tips

Fee reductions, continuous bond and streamlined online renewals are among changes for 2015 business license renewals in Minnesota.

The water conditioning contractor license renewal fee has dropped from \$206.80 to \$168, according to DOLI.

New continuous bond renewals mean contractors won't have to submit a new bond to DOLI every two years. And, the online business renewal process eliminates most paperwork.

Current water conditioning contractor licenses expire Dec. 31, 2015, and DOLI is now accepting license renewal applications. Instructions for renewing licenses, and all renewal forms, are provided on the DOLI website at <http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlumbingWater.asp>.

The updated online renewal process allows you to renew your business license without having to submit several paper forms. You can now review the information DOLI has on file for your company, make changes and pay the renewal fee, all online.

Renewal fees cannot be paid over the telephone, and original bond forms will still have to be mailed to DOLI.

If DOLI does not have current liability insurance information for your company, you will need to submit a current insurance certificate (PDF). Insurance certificates can be sent via email to [DLI.license@state.mn.us](mailto:DLI.license@state.mn.us).

Changes to licensing laws in 2015 mean bonds required for water conditioning contractors are to be continuous.

The new bond you submit with the upcoming renewal is presumed to be valid until DOLI receives a cancellation notice from the surety (bonding) company.

This means that after you successfully submit a new bond with this renewal, you will not have to submit a new bond to DOLI when you renew your license in the future.

The amount of the bond is also cumulative, which means there will be \$3,000 in coverage for each two-year license term.

To renew your license your corporate, LLC or assumed name filing with the Secretary of State must be up-to-date.

On all renewal forms, especially your bond and insurance certificates, your business name must appear EXACTLY as it is filed with the Secretary of State. Check the status of your Secretary of State filing online and update it if necessary. Your license cannot be renewed if your Secretary of State filing is inactive!

If you have changed your business structure (going from a sole proprietorship to an LLC or corporation, or from a corporation to an LLC), you will need to apply for a new license for your new business entity.

License renewals can be submitted by mail or in person. Mailed or delivered renewals must include all of the required forms including the original bond form (and power of attorney form) completely filled out before you mail or deliver them to DOLI. All forms are available at

<http://www.dli.mn.gov/CCLD/PlumbingWater.asp>.

## Do You Need Credit to Renew Your License?

Minnesota Statutes require that all persons holding Plumbing, Water Conditioning Journeyman or Master licenses must attend classes to obtain credits (CEU) prior to renewing a license. Water Conditioning Licenses require 4 total CEU to renew. Plumbing Licenses require 16 credits.

If you have not obtained your credit and your license expires on December 31, 2015, contact the MWQA to learn about opportunities to attend classes before the deadline. If there is enough interest, we will hold another class to help you get your credit before the December 31 deadline. Contact us ASAP so we can schedule a class soon.



## Board Election Results

Results of the MWQA Board of Directors Election held at the October convention are:

Elected to a 1-year Associate Director term:  
David Duren, EcoWater

Elected to 3-year terms as Dealer directors:  
Bob Fader of Willmar Water & Currier's Water  
Elias Naatz of Culligan Owatonna & Waseca

There is still one opening for a dealer member. We had some votes for write-in candidates but they were not members. You must be a member in good standing to serve on the board.

## Check Your MWQA Web Listing

Once again we are asking that you please take a look at your business listing on our member page. Contact Lori Jansen at [info@mwqa.com](mailto:info@mwqa.com) if anything needs changing. We can also include your company logo.

The website is located at [www.mwqa.com](http://www.mwqa.com) Click on "Member Directory" to bring up the list of members. Dealerships are listed alphabetically, with Associate Members at the end of the list.



We want to make sure we have everyone's information correct. Thanks for your help with this.