



## MWQA, MPCA Sponsoring State Fair Booth

*Exhibit Will Educate Consumers About Chloride Reduction*

**By Scott Schiesser, MWQA President**



The Minnesota State Fair is almost here, and we need volunteers to man our new exhibit booth!

MWQA is working together with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on a State Fair exhibit about chlorides. A State Fair Committee comprised of MWQA members Mike McGowan, Scott Schiesser and Mike Herman, plus MPCA employees, has met several times and is now finalizing the exhibit, which will address chloride reduction in Minnesota. We hope to inform and educate fairgoers about simple ways to reduce chloride discharge through proper equipment maintenance and educated purchasing decisions. During the Fair, an MWQA member in the booth will answer equipment optimization questions and offer tips for consumers when purchasing new equipment.

The booth and marketing materials will be branded with a joint logo from the MPCA and MWQA to support our collaborative efforts. Consumers will be directed to a special page on the MWQA website to find more information about the goals of MWQA and the MPCA. This page will also include an interactive Minnesota map listing all members, with links so the consumer can reach out to a local dealer and arrange a home inspection of their equipment.

The home visit, for a \$49.95 fee, includes an inspection of the homeowner's water conditioning equipment settings, operation, and distribution of a tip sheet of suggestions to conserve water. If you participate in the home inspection, MWQA is asking that you follow this specific process. Once the inspection is complete, leave the inspection copy along with the water conservation tips with the home owner. Email the details of the in-home visit once completed, including the name, address, and type of equipment the home owner has, to the MWQA email address ([info@mwqa.com](mailto:info@mwqa.com)).

We need volunteers to man the State Fair booth this year! To sign up for your booth time, follow the simple steps outlined below. We need 100% coverage at the booth. Get your sales team, and any other eager employees involved, to ensure this joint venture is a remarkable success. If you're not an MWQA member, join today and take advantage of all the opportunities our great association has to offer. Feel free to wear your company shirts and logos, or pick up an Eco Experience shirt at the exhibit. Please note, however, that this is not a selling environment. This is an opportunity for MWQA and MPCA to help consumers reduce chloride discharge in Minnesota, and conserve water.

Here are the steps to register and sign up for a shift at the State Fair MWQA/MPCA

exhibit.

- Create an account using this link, and be sure to indicate that you are a "water softening exhibit volunteer" when creating your account: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=1636466460>
- Log in to our volunteer system to view and claim shifts: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/?FROM=57409>

After signing up, MPCA will send out your fair ticket and reach out with details and reminders. If you have any challenges signing up, don't hesitate to email [Britt.Gangeness@state.mn.us](mailto:Britt.Gangeness@state.mn.us), and she will help you complete the process.

By working together on a common goal, we will make a positive impact on the growing chloride issue that is affecting our state.

---

## *Fall Convention is October 24-25*

Do you know what PPCP's are, and how they are affecting drinking water quality in Minnesota? You will, after you attend the MWQA Annual Convention on October 24 & 25. Watch for registration forms coming next week! Get all your CEU's for license renewal, or take a state license exam at our event.

---

## Plumbing Board To Review Code Language Changes

***By Mike Herman***

The Minnesota Plumbing Board is currently reviewing language requesting changes to the Plumbing Code. These changes are expected to move forward and will affect the water conditioning industry. MWQA has been involved with this since the beginning. We have reviewed the language, written suggestions and had our legal counsel look it over. This new language will create a classification for registered unlicensed water conditioning workers. After this change has been completed, those seeking licensure as a water conditioning journeyworker will no longer register first as a registered unlicensed plumber (individual) as we currently are required to do.

There still seems to be confusion with regards to the path required to obtain licensure as a water conditioning journeyworker. In order to take the license test for this, an individual needs to have a minimum of 875 (six months minimum time) hours of documented training/practical experience. Hours for documentation for the exam will only be counted if the individual is first registered as a registered unlicensed plumber (this will change to registered unlicensed water conditioning worker once language above is approved). Only hours documented after the individual is registered will count towards qualification to take the test. Application for initial registration may be submitted at any time, and registration must be renewed annually and shall be for the period from July 1 of each year to June 30 of the following year.

To gain a water conditioning master license an individual is required to have a total of 1750 documented hours, be licensed as a water conditioning journeyworker and have a

minimum of 12 months work experience as such to be eligible to take the Water Conditioning master exam. There may be some of the hours substituted for past experience and this is dependent on review of the Minnesota Dept of Labor and Industry for acceptance. Application forms and instructions are available on the Minnesota DOLI website at this link: <http://www.doli.state.mn.us/business/plumbing-contractors/water-conditioning-contractor-license-renewal>

For further information you can refer to chapter 4716 of the Minnesota Plumbing Code or contact a board member of MWQA to provide further info/assistance.

## License Exam Session Scheduled for Convention

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry has offered to hold a state license exam session at the MWQA convention site again this year.

Testing will be held on Wednesday, October 24, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Lakeville. ***There are a limited number of seats available for this session.*** You may take any exam you wish to take. Registration information for this special session will be on the DOLI website, but if you are interested in securing a seat, please let Lori Jansen know ASAP so we can hold one for you prior to the registration being opened up to the public. You will still need to complete the exam registration process through the Department's website, once the information is online.

This is a great opportunity for our members. You can take your exam, attend a few seminars at our convention, and visit our vendor fair all in one day! We plan to have seminars on the Minnesota Plumbing Code, UV technology, small systems plan approval, and other technical topics.

Plan to attend our convention on October 24-25. Registration forms will be emailed to all members soon, and will also be available on our website.

