

# President's Corner

By Lou Storino, IWEA President



WEFTEC 2015 – Chicago, held Sept. 26-30 at McCormick Place, provided an abundant opportunity for water sector enrichment. IWEA members participated in all aspects of the conference: planning committees, moderating and presenting at technical sessions/workshops, exhibiting in the great hall, competing in the Operation Challenge, attending meetings and networking at

the IWEA/CSWEA Welcome Reception and other events. Thank you for your participation and representation of IWEA at this incredible event, One World, One Water, One Event – WEFTEC. Please encourage your colleagues to join WEF and IWEA, and to participate in our events.

Following WEFTEC, IWEA participated in the *Imagine a Day Without Water* campaign, Oct. 6-8, a national education campaign to engage the public and key stakeholders about how water is essential, invaluable, and needs investment. The campaign is an education advocacy effort by the Value of Water Coalition. You received an email during the campaign, and if you follow IWEA on LinkedIn, Twitter or Facebook, you also saw various aspects of the campaign, such as the “Water is Essential” flow chart (pictured below). I encourage

every member to participate by sending IWEA a photo illustrating what the “Value of Water” means to you. Photos will be posted on the IWEA website and may be submitted to Mary Johnson at [mjohnson@rrwr.dst.il.us](mailto:mjohnson@rrwr.dst.il.us).

The conference planning committee has been hard at work planning the 37th Annual IWEA Conference, Life is Good Water – Renew for the Future, Feb. 29 – Mar. 2, 2016 at the iHotel in Champaign, IL. The conference will open with Raj Bhattarai, Environmental and Regulatory Services Division Manager of Austin Water Utility, Austin, Texas, speaking on resource recovery. Be sure not to miss his keynote address.

An ad-hoc committee of IWEA volunteers, led by Chuck Corley, is planning WEFMAX 2016 at the Hard Rock Hotel Chicago, May 4-6, 2016. WEFMAX is a WEF-budgeted annual program offering Member Association (MA) leaders an opportunity to attend one of four meetings each year that provides a forum to learn what is new from WEF. It also provides sessions for ongoing exchange of MA information. With WEF, Member Associations volunteer to jointly sponsor a WEFMAX meeting. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending.

Looking to April 2017, the Executive Board is working with the Illinois Association of Water Pollution Control Operators in planning a joint conference in Springfield, IL.

## Water is Essential

**PROBLEM**

Water Infrastructure and resources are at risk

**SOLUTION**

Investment in water must be a top priority

**FUTURE**

Ensure clean, safe water so all communities can thrive