

Hydrant Hysteria team competes

Leadership Award presented to Kaszynski

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Our mission is to provide reliable, quality water and services at a reasonable cost.

SPRWS wins “Best in Glass-Minnesota’s Best Drinking Water”

Saint Paul Regional Water Services was voted the winner of the 2021 “Best in Glass” drinking water taste test at this year’s Annual Conference for the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association (MN AWWA), held in Duluth September 14-17.

“Our water is second to none,” said Mara Humphrey, president of the Board of Water Commissioners. “There is a reason that St. Paul has some of the best breweries in the state: We have the best water.”

The “Best in Glass” winner must meet all state or federal drinking water requirements during the previous calendar year to qualify.

Entries were evaluated in a two-round process to determine a winner.

In the first round of the “Best in Glass” competition, conference

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Water utility employees gather with Patrick Shea, general manager, to claim the award for “Best in Glass-Minnesota’s Best Drinking Water” following the awards dinner at the Minnesota Section of the American

Water Works Association conference on Thursday, Sept. 16 in Duluth. The utility was represented by 23 employees from across all divisions, not all of whom are shown in this photo.

Utility hires accountant, promotes several employees

The utility has hired Aaron Black as an accountant V and head of the finance section of the business division.

He started in his new role on Sept. 13 and comes to water from the University of Minnesota.

Renee Huset has been promoted to engineering tech. supervisor in charge of the GIS staff in engineering. Mike Anderson will remain in charges of records, as the maps and records section splits into two



Aaron Black



Renee Huset



Nick Sprenke



Mike Hively

sections.

Nick Sprenke has been promoted to information tech. analyst V in the IS section.

Mike Hively was promoted to a

water systems worker II in distribution.

Welcome to Aaron and congratulations to employees earning promotions this fall!

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participants chose the top four water samples provided by water utilities across the state. Saint Paul Regional Water Services, along with Rochester Public Utilities, city of Moorhead, and city of St. Peter advanced into the second round of judging.

In the second round, a panel of water industry experts judged the four popular vote winners for taste, color, odor and mouth feel to determine the “Best in Glass” winner. The water was provided in a blind taste-test and served at room temperature, the gold standard in determining water tastes and odors.

Saint Paul Regional Water Services was the unanimous winner

amongst the judges.

“The best part of this award is that our customers get to drink the finest tap water in the state every day,” said Patrick Shea, general manager.

“This recognition exemplifies the commitment the 255 employees of SPRWS place in providing excellent drinking water,” said Shea.

“Previous and future investments in the water system will ensure the continued delivery of clean and safe tap water for the 452,000 customers of SPRWS.”

Saint Paul Regional Water Services took home the traveling trophy and advances to the Best of



the Best water taste test at the 2022 Annual Conference of the American Water Works Association, where it will compete with other section winners from across the country.

SPRWS team competes in Hydrant Hysteria at conference



Photo by Raquel Vaske

Jonathan Kirk and Kelsey Feirer, water utility workers, set out the parts of the hydrant for assembly during the first round of the Hydrant Hysteria contest at the MN Section of the AWWA conference in Duluth on Sept. 15. They clocked in a time of 1:47 with no penalties in the first round, but the team did not place in the contest.

Kaszynski accepts leadership award



Carol Kaszynski, IS manager, accepts the Andrew Sullivan Leadership award for her role on the Water Utility Technical Training program advisory board. The award is shared amongst the original advisory board members. The award was presented to Carol on Sept. 16 at the MN Section AWWA conference in Duluth. Also during the awards, Hayley Heidelberg, emergency planning and security supervisor, received the Water Utility Management Institute Scholarship.