

Attendance awards given out to staff

Employees using 24 hours or less of sick leave in 2017 were honored with pizza parties to celebrate their good health and good attendance this week.

The award recognizes exemplary attendance of year-round, certified, non-probationary staff.

Each recipient was presented with a certificate of outstanding attendance signed by Steve Schneider and the division manager.

Each division held its own celebration. Those being honored were:

Administration

Bruce Berg
Martha Burckhardt

Dennis Rosemark
Jodi Wallin

Business

Elena Iliarski
Gayle Moser

Joe Tronson
Herman Audett

Distribution

Herman Audett
Kim Block
Sam Caliguire
Tom Courteau
Brad Eilts
Andrea Flohr
Sandy Hernandez
Joel Koppendrayer

Craig Landkamer
Mark Luzinski
Jacob Masiello
Nathan Pearl
Richelle Nicosia
Mic Searson
Dustin Schluessler

Engineering

Mike Anderson
Ramsey Coronado
Graeme Chaple

Ben Feldman
Rich Hibbard
Dave Wagner

Good attendance awarded



Engineering, business and administration divisions held their pizza luncheon for good attendance together in the north conference room on September 13. Production division held their own luncheon separately in the plant at the same time. Distribution staff have yet to have their luncheon. The annual event recognizes employees who have used 24 hours or less of sick leave in the prior year.

Production

Ali Abdi
Jon Beck
Sarah Brown
Allison Bruhn
Jim Burchard
Che Fei Chen
Mark Cullen
Metric Giles
Salam Hamid
Larry Healey

Larry Larsen
Kenn Larson
Tristen Magdziarz
Dan Salinas
Steve Schoenecker
Matt Stone
Paul Scott
Nate Torgerson
Mike Walton

Professional skills courses offered at Century College

Want to learn something new or brush up on some old skills?

SPRWS is again partnering with Century College to offer continuing education classes to utility employees this fall. Classes are available from now until the end of December.

Debbie Szulim sent out a complete list of available classes with times and dates in a email a few weeks ago. If you have not seen the list, contact Szulim for a complete list of offerings.

Courses cover a large gamut of topics from finance and accounting to management and leadership classes. You can learn better speaking skills and how to improve your Power Point presentations. You can sharpen your writing skills or learn to deal with conflict. And you can get some helpful insights into customer service.

Depending on the course, it may last four hours or a

whole day. The utility has two seats available in each of the classes it is offering. Some series courses, such as the Excel series, are sequential and must be taken in order. Others are stand alone. If textbooks are required for the course, they will be provided.

Classes are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. You must obtain management approval prior to signing up for the course(s) you are interested in.

Most classes are held at the main Century College campus in White Bear Lake.

If you are interested, please send Szulim a list of your preferred classes in priority order. The utility staff will work to accommodate all requests, but wants to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate.

If you have questions, need to find out more, or want to sign up for coursework, see Debbie Szulim in engineering. You can also email her at debbie.szulim@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call her at 266-6263.

Board meeting held at McCarrons on Sept. 11

The Board of Water Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed 2019 budget the water utility on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

As part of the overall budget, the proposal included a water rate increase of 9 cents a billing unit in 2019. The Board recommended that the budget be approved by the city council as part of the city's budget process. Final approval is anticipated at the December city council meeting.

There will be no other changes to the water service base fee or the water main replacement surcharge.

Average residential water use is 17 units of water per residential single-family household each quarter.

The rate increase will cost the average consumer \$1.53 more per quarter than last year or \$6.12 more per year for water use.

This is an increase of 2.1 percent for the average customer.

The budget also encompasses all of the planned expenditures for upcoming year.

The utility has a budget of \$77.4 million for the next year.

Celebrate 31 years at SPRWS with Hanson

Brian Hanson, painter, is retiring at the end of the month with 31 years of service to the water utility.

A reception will be held in his honor at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27 in the break room at the plant.

Everyone is welcome to give Brian well wishes as he heads into retirement.



Brian Hanson

Bryan Jensen hired as new water utility welder Sept. 4

Bryan Jensen, the utility's new welder, started work on Sept. 4.

He works in the welding shop in back of the garage. He reports to Todd Hansford.

Please welcome him to the utility when you see him.



Bryan Jensen