

Best of the Best

Mount Pleasant Waterworks is a winning organization—winning both competitions and awards—due to the passion and drive of the people who work there. The talents and commitment of our staff are recognized both within the utility and more broadly, at state and national professional meetings.

My goal in this post is to raise awareness of how well-regarded our staff is to underscore how fortunate we are as a community to have this great organization here, providing the critical services that greatly benefit our quality of life.

The South Carolina Environmental Conference is an annual event which combines a trade show, technical presentations, and a group of competitions called Operations Challenge. It is also a time for recognizing those who have contributed significantly to the profession.

Award winners from MPW include:

<p>Zach Akinjobi Water Distribution Operator of the Year</p> <p>Troy Newton Quarter-Century Award</p>	<p>Greg Hill, Operations Manager Bedell Award</p> <p>David Niesse, Engineering Manager Graham Leadership Award</p>
<p>Ross Wattay, Field Services Manager Volunteer of the Year</p>	

2021 Operations Challenge Competition: MPW's Controlled Chaos First Place Overall!

Operations Challenge includes a variety of hands-on water and wastewater operations competitions, including Safety, Process Control, Lab, and Maintenance.



This year's competition was again titled "Bobby Williams Brawl at the Beach" in memory of Bobby Williams, a long-standing participant in this competition, who was killed in the mass shooting at the Municipal Center in Virginia Beach in May 2019.

A moving tribute to Bobby was also given at the October 2019 National Operations Challenge Awards Ceremony in Chicago, which I attended. It was a gift to see how strong the bonds are among our utility professionals—they lift one another up as well as compete hard.