

## **2003 AIH FOUNDERS AWARD**

### **Gerald E. Seaburn, Recipient**

The AIH Founders Award was established in 1990 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding, long and dedicated service to the Institute. It was established to honor the AIH founders, Sandor Csallany, Alex Zaporozec and Roman Kanivetsky. The award is given at the discretion of the AIH Executive Board to a member of AIH for outstanding, long, and dedicated service to the Institute. The first Founders Award was presented to Ralph C. Heath at the 10th Anniversary Meeting of AIH in Orlando on November 4, 1991.

#### **Citation: Antonius Laenen**

Gerald Seaburn became a Professional Hydrologist on November 29, 1984 while running his consulting company, Seaburn and Robertson, Inc. in Tampa, Florida, before moving to Atlanta, Georgia. Jerry spent 12 years working with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) at Mineola, NY, Atlanta, GA and Tampa, FL where he was involved in diverse hydrologic research projects including urbanization effects on hydrology, artificial recharge of groundwater and Florida Estuarine Water Quality. After leaving the USGS, Jerry opened his own consulting firm for 10 years before joining Law Environmental. Jerry has published numerous scientific projects and journal reports in his long career as a hydrologist

Jerry received a Bachelors degree in Engineering in 1962 from Geneva College, PA, and another Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1964 from Drexel University, PA. In 1965 he completed his Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Cincinnati, OH. In 1976, Jerry received his Ph.D. from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA.

Jerry has been a member of ASCE (Fellow), AGU, AWRA, ASAE, and NGWA. He is a Professional Engineer in New York (1968), Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama and in Florida (1975)

In the 1980's, Jerry was appointed to serve on the Professional Task Force assisting the AIH Board of Registration in completing reviews and then later served on the Board of Registration. In 1994, he replaced James Mercer as the Vice President for Institute Development. He continued as the Vice President until 1998 when he became President, and later as Past President from 2001 to 2003.

During his term of AIH President, the Constitution and Bylaws were revised. The financial condition of the organization greatly improved during his term with the payment of all debts and the establishment of a savings account. Jerry was also very supportive of the development of our new examination and the return of our certification process as a primary goal for the Institute. He made a point to keep in touch with many of the other water-related agencies.

Jerry was very supportive in assisting other officers in the accomplishment their work. When a proposal was sent out for other officer's comments, Jerry would always provide suggestions and feedback. His suggestions were always positive and helpful. Jerry established monthly/bi-monthly executive committee teleconferences to promote better communication, and also established written policy and responsibility for the various committees for AIH.

We, the Executive members of AIH, believe that the work of Gerald E. Seaburn is worthy of the 2003 Founder's Award, and it is my pleasure to present him with the award.

## GERALD E. SEABURN, RECIPIENT

### **AIH Founders Award Recipient: Gerald E. Seaburn**

I am grateful and honored to receive the American Institute of Hydrology's Founder's Award for 2003. I have always endeavored to serve my profession and give back something in return for the life it has provided me. There have been many that have helped and inspired me to contribute to my profession. I am pleased to know that my contribution has been recognized.

Water has always been my career ambition. Fortunately, I have had the opportunity to associate with some of the notable leaders in hydrology that have advanced and enriched my career. As I receive the American Institute of Hydrology's Founder's Award, this an appropriate time to recognize and thank those that have mentored, influenced or inspired me along the way and in their way participated in helping me achieve this award. During my academic years, Larry Younkin was the first person to create an enthusiasm for engineering and science in me. At Drexel University, Irwin Remson and Randall Giles (wrote the Schaum's Hydraulics Handbook) were mentors. At Georgia Tech, I met Carl Kindswater briefly and participated under his multi-disciplinary water resources planning and management program. At Georgia Tech, I had the great fortune to work with a number of people with outstanding credentials in hydrology. Jim Wallace served as my dissertation adviser and friend. Doug James showed me a discipline and willingness to think out of the box. Alan Lamb, Gene Willeke and Henry Tsvoglue were enthusiastic instructors.

I joined the U.S Geological Survey in 1964, in Long Island N.Y. I did not know it at the time or for a long time after, but that was the most important move I made in my professional career. Long Island is a hydrologist's perfect laboratory. Many notable hydrologists have authored studies of some aspect of the hydrology of Long Island. I was assigned two projects when I arrived in Mineola. The first was to study the effects of urbanization of the hydrology on the island. The second was to study and document the effects of recharge basins on the hydrology of the island. Both were new topics and I had little experience with either at that early age of my career. But with the resources and talents available to us in the USGS and their willingness to develop skills of the professionals, I completed the assignments with publications in the prestigious Water Supply Papers series. My District Chiefs were Gerald Parker and Ralph Heath. My immediate boss was Phil Cohen. Some of the colleagues that I met in Long Island are Bruce Foxworthy, Neil McClymonds, Gordon Bennett, John Vecchioli, Ed Pluhowski, Steve Rangone, Don Vaupel, Layne Franke and Pat Leahy.

I served the USGS in Tampa, Florida, as well. This is also a wonderful hydrologic laboratory. Joe Rosenshein was my boss for most of the four years that I worked for USGS. John Moore was later named the manager. On the day John arrived, several of us announced our resignations. I announced mine to start my water resources consulting firm in Tampa. John still harbors concerns about those events. Some of the colleagues I worked with were Lou Motz, Al Robertson, Joe Wilson and Bob Westly.

I had the good fortune to attend a number of Ivan Johnson training courses in Denver, Colorado. This provided me with opportunities to meet and learn from some of the best scientists available, including Konikow, Glover, Weeks, Bear, Rumbaugh, Schiender, Carter, Dawdy and many others. Thanks to all of you for the influence you made on my career.

In 1984, when I was certified by AIH, I decided that this was an organization that I admired and wanted to contribute some of my time to. After attending some meetings and a lot of procrastination, I mentioned to Doug James that I might be interested in helping out somehow. Before I knew it, I

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was appointed to replace James Mercer as Vice President of Institute Development. One of the important accomplishments I achieved as Vice President was to organize and conduct the development of a Strategic Plan for AIH. The purpose of the Plan was to identify the issues affecting the growth of AIH. The officers at that time were diligent in participating in the "brainstorming" sessions and reviewing drafts of the results of each part of the plan. This plan was not completed as a final document, but rather was intended to be a working document for each subsequent administration of AIH, to use as a tool to develop their own goals and programs. The results are available, but probably should be updated to reflect any developments since 1997.

I was then asked to oppose Dave Dawdy for President. Dave won the election, but decided against serving for such a long term. I accepted and became the fifth President in 1998. I immediately referred to the Strategic Plan and developed a comprehensive program of goals for virtually all aspects of our organization. We had three-year terms at the time to accomplish goals. I am proud of the accomplishments of that administration and want to recognize each member of the Executive Committee: Ken Potter served as Vice President of Academic Affairs, Miguel Medina served as Vice President of Institute Development, R. Kanivetsky as Senior Vice President, Jennie Leete as Secretary, Dick Cassidy as Treasurer, Tom Haan as Past-President, Ken Brooks as Chairman of the Board of Registration and Tony Laenen as Secretary of the Board of Registration. All of the people proved to be hard working, dedicated professionals that I am proud to have worked with. We accomplished some good things:

1. We completed a major revision of the Constitution and By-Laws that made significant changes in the operations of the Institute. This was necessary, due to an IRS audit of our non-profit status.
2. We agreed to develop a hydrology examination for the State of Wisconsin to license hydrologists in Wisconsin. We further agreed to administer the examination program for Wisconsin with the right to use the examination for AIH's testing program. This program has been adopted and we now administer the tests for Wisconsin and for AIH.
3. We adopted an academic program developed by the University of Portland that would approve Hydrologist-In-Training status to students who satisfactorily completed the program. This program was marketed at other schools with little success.
4. We restructured the administration and financial operations of the organization. We formalized the checks and balances of the bookkeeping system.
5. We established an organizational structure for the officers and committee chairpersons. This included establishing statements of duties and responsibilities for the officers and for the committee chairpersons.
6. We established new communication guidelines to increase response time and foster better decision-making. We had monthly teleconferences. We established e-mail as the primary method of daily communications. We upgraded our equipment to support better technology. We established the use of e-mail voting ballots to gain approval for individual actions between teleconference meetings.
7. We established a retirement plan for our Office Manager, Helen Klose, and fully funded it each year. Ms. Klose was the only AIH employee in the history of the Institute.

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8. We increased the membership each year; thereby increasing the revenues.
9. We strive to continue to increase the overall membership, with minor success.

I am proud of what has been accomplished during my tenure as President. There still remains much to do in several areas, not the least of which is membership growth. Academia is the breeding ground for the Institute's sustainability and growth. The common error, however, seems to be in tracking students' development after graduation. AIH seems to lose most of these student members after they leave school. For AIH to continue to be viable, it is imperative that the current membership instill a sense of urgency in them while they toil and try to gain the experience they need to apply for certification. Finding new and encouraging ways to promote AIH to the new and young hydrologists supports AIH's purpose and mission, to strengthen and promote hydrology as a science and profession.

It is with these final words that I say, thank you, for honoring me with this award.