This year’s Plant Operations Tour was held on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at the Rock River Water Reclamation District (RRWRD). The tour was held to provide industry professionals with an overview of the treatment facility, some of the ongoing activities at the district and a first-hand look at some of the recent improvements.

The event was well-attended with approximately 40 people present. The first session was held in the maintenance...
Fall has arrived, bringing us beautiful colors and good weather as well. Fall also means additional seminars and events coming your way as the IWEA committees continue to provide opportunities for our industry professionals to network and increase their knowledge base.

I hope you had an opportunity to attend the Collections Seminar on Nov. 2, and if you act now, you may still be able to register for the Innovative Technologies Dinner, Nov. 16. In addition, committees are hard at work to focus on nailing down terrific program tracks for the annual conference.

"Engage with IWEA" has been a main topic in each of my columns and a few have chosen to do just that. I want to welcome new members to the organization as well as those of you who have joined committees or have taken on new roles. The search for a new chairperson for the Newsletter Committee has ended with Karen Clementi stepping into this role as Bernie Held looks to move on. A big THANK YOU goes out to Bernie for all of his service over the years. Are you looking for a way to get more involved? Not sure who to contact? Give me a call or drop me an email and I would be glad to discuss this with you.

Events and meetings continue to take place for interaction and planning. In August, the SYPC held a golf lesson event and the Plant Operations Committee hosted a tour of the Rock River Water Reclamation Plant. September was also a busy month, kicked off by the Nutrient Removal & Recovery Workshop, a joint effort of IWEA’s Nutrient Removal and Recovery Committee, the Illinois Water Pollution Control Operators and the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies. All events were a huge success.

On Sept. 8th, President Elect Eric Berggren called a special meeting to announce to the board that he would be stepping down from his position as he was required to move back to Nebraska. Eric has been an integral part of IWEA for several years and most notably a major force behind the overall planning of several annual conferences. We wish Eric the best and thank him for his service to IWEA. The Nebraska WEA is very lucky to have him back.

The IWEA Executive Board Long-Range Planning Meeting was held on Sept. 12 to plan for the coming year and discuss how to better meet the needs of the members of IWEA. The meeting emphasized investment and engagement in the future of the organization. The board discussed and brainstormed topics related to finances, membership growth, young professional and student focus, social media, the upcoming needs of operators, the annual conference and much more. As a result of the meeting, the Executive Board will be setting goals and objectives for the organization to be carried out by various committees in an effort to continuously improve on the quality programs and other benefits we offer our members.

An Executive Board and Committee Chair meeting was held on Sept. 22. The activities and results of the Executive Board Long-Range Planning Meeting, held earlier in the month, were discussed and reports from all committees were presented.

WEFTEC 2017 was held in Chicago on Sept. 30-Oct. 4. The event was a huge success, beginning with a terrific reception on Sunday evening. A big thanks goes out to all involved in creating such a wonderful event.

I encourage everyone to engage with the organization through attendance at one of the many seminars/events, inviting other professionals to become members, joining a committee or stepping into a committee chair role. Participating in IWEA is beneficial, not only to the organization, but for us as professionals working to protect the water environment for future generations.

Be sure to check the website (www.iweasite.org) for information on upcoming and future events including the Government Affairs Conference, the Industrial Pretreatment Dinner and the Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference (IWPC).

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The RRWRD Operations Manager, Larry McFall, then presented on Sustainable Energy Use and Resource Recovery. The presentation identified potential ways of reducing energy consumption from processes and equipment that are major energy users. Larry showed us an example of a recent project completed in the aeration tanks where the RRWRD installed low energy consumption hyperboloid mixers to reduce air requirements and thus reduce energy consumption. Larry also gave us a preview on some of the initiatives in generating and recovering energy and some of the future goals of the RRWRD.

The final presentation of the morning session was presented by Alice Ohrmann, Pretreatment Supervisor. She presented on the RRWRD’s Fats, Oils and Grease Program. Alice described the history of the program and its components. She demonstrated that an effective program and teaming with local agencies and business can significantly reduce the number of sewer backups that occur in the collection system.

After the presentations, there was a guided tour of the treatment facility. Some of the liquid processes visited were the headworks building (where screening and pumping takes place), primary tanks, aeration tanks (where the mixers were recently installed), final clarifiers and disinfection facilities. Some of the solids handling processes visited were the anaerobic digesters, dewatering facility (where centrifuges dewater the digested solids to about 25 percent solids), biosolids storage and the cogeneration facility (where biogas is recovered from the digestion process).

After the tour, the group enjoyed a barbecue lunch from Big Papa’s Barbecue. The afternoon session started off with a presentation by Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc. (AAS) that gave an overview of the AquaNereda demonstration facility that is currently being constructed at the RRWRD. Brian Bates of AAS presented an overview of the process, which consists of aerobic granular sludge that performs the function of aerobic, anoxic and anaerobic processes within each granule. This allows multiple reactions to take place within a single tank, potentially reducing the footprint of nutrient removal systems while reducing energy consumption. A tour of the demonstration facility was provided after the presentation. The facility is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2018.

The Plant Operations Tour concluded after the demonstration facility. The IWEA Plant Operations Committee would like to thank RRWRD and its staff for welcoming and accommodating us for a day filled with knowledge, sharing and information transfer.
From the Shed
By Dan Bounds and the Watershed Management Committee

Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Biennial Report
The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy 2015-2017 Biennial Report was released in August of 2017. The report details progress made toward reducing nutrient loads in Illinois rivers and streams since the strategy was released in 2015.

• Most major treatment plants have received permit updates and have facility upgrade plans underway.

• A large number of alternative farming practices have been implemented for more efficient nutrient use.

To get a copy of the report and more information on the strategy and working groups that help develop and support it, visit http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/excess-nutrients/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy/index

MS4 Program Evaluation
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) audited several Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) programs this year, and has plans to audit more in 2018. One of the MS4 permit requirements is to perform a self-assessment and determine how effectively the stormwater program meets water quality goals. Some communities have struggled with the best way to do this. There are several different methods of effectiveness that can be used for the assessment. A good summary of methods, insights and resources is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) at: https://www.epa.gov/npdes/developing-ms4-resources. Click on the “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Municipal Stormwater Programs” link.

2018 Watershed Management Track Agenda – Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference
The Watershed Management Committee is finalizing the agenda for the 2018 watershed management track at the Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference (IWPC) in Springfield. IEPA staff will give an update on several water quality programs, including Water Quality Standards, TMDL and Non-Point Source Program updates. This year will also feature a presentation from IEPA’s permit section, including an overview of wastewater permitting progress and challenges. Several IEPA staff will be available for questions and discussion.

The agenda will also include presentations and updates on:
• MS4 Implementation
• Chloride water quality variance development
• Watershed-based concepts for nutrient water quality trading

Watch for the registration announcement for the April 2018 IWPC conference!

IWEA Laboratory Committee at WEFTEC 2017
By Keith Richard, Laboratory Committee Chair

The Laboratory Committee stayed very busy during WEFTEC 2017 at McCormick Place in Chicago. Several members of the committee served as judges for the laboratory event of the Operations Challenge.

This year’s laboratory event involved performing sample dilutions, analyzing six separate samples for pH, alkalinity, and ammonia and calculating the final results. All of the steps had to be completed as quickly and accurately as possible under the watchful eyes of the judges.

A total of 44 teams from all around the world competed in the challenge. The fastest teams were able to complete the laboratory event in as little as six minutes! The winners of the lab event were “L.A. Wrecking Crew” from California WEA in Division I and “Pumpers” from Central States WEA in Division 2. The competition was very intense but we all had a great time serving as judges. Thanks to everyone from the Laboratory Committee that helped with the event.

ILINOIS WATERSHED TRIVIA!

What is the largest, naturally formed lake wholly within Illinois? (Answer on page 7)

ILLINOIS WATERSHED TRIVIA!

Photos by Ted Denning

IWEA Laboratory Committee members (L to R): Rebecca Rose, Mary Johnson, Tiffany Poole, Keith Richard, Debra Ness, Donna Coolidge.

Tiffany Poole right judging the pH and alkalinity tests.

Keith Richard left judging the ammonia test.

Photos courtesy of Mary Johnson and Donna Coolidge.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR 2018 SPONSORS!
Sponsorship and exhibition registration is now open for the 2018 IWPC Annual Conference on www.iweasite.org under Events > Annual Conference. For questions about sponsorships, please contact Cheryl Kunz, IWEA Marketing Chair at (815) 639-4582 or ckunz@aqua-aerobic.com. For information on exhibits, please contact Pete Lynch at plynch@lai-ltd.com.
Delegates’ Corner
By Deb Ness, Delegate 2019

WEFTEC 2017 came and went just like that. Hopefully you were able to attend some sessions, walk the exhibit floor and of course attend a few of the after parties!

For me, WEFTEC means attending the House of Delegates meetings. During these meetings, as a delegate, you are encouraged to join one of the multiple workgroups offered. I chose to join the Operator Initiative Workgroup as did our incoming delegate, Rebecca Rose. Outgoing delegate Mark Halm is off the hook as his tenure has ended. Thanks for your hard work and representation these past three years, Mark!

The Operator Initiative Workgroup’s objectives are to promote and support the professional operator through the development of promotional materials to support and encourage participation in WEF operator-oriented programs and services, including the Operator Ingenuity Contest. The workgroup will also assist in the current efforts to survey member associations (MAs) on operator training materials (developed by both WEF and MA) to provide a gap analysis for content. Also, the workgroup will assist in other WEF operator initiatives as the need arises. This includes:

- Promoting:
  - The role of the professional operator in the community
  - WEF Operations Challenge
  - WEF OWLs
- Promoting and endorsing ABC Professional Operator Designation
- Passing along information for utility managers on how to support operators in the workplace
- Inform MAs about available WEF and other operator training materials
- Distributing operator-oriented articles for MA magazines
- Defining long-term MA operator training strategy

While our workgroup begins to develop the above objectives, a few members of the committee have agreed to act as a liaison to the Operator Advisory Panel and WEF Plant Operations and Maintenance Committee so the group may share information and avoid duplicating efforts. So, we have a lot to accomplish before WEFTEC 2018, but we can do it!

Welcome New Members!
By Frederick Wu, Membership Committee Chair

AUGUST
Anil Ahuja
Jason Bromley
Anne Crotteau
Roland Cusick
University of Illinois
John Dyson
Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.
Alison Fritz
CH2M
Tatiana Garcia
Adam Ianning
Rochele Municipal Utilities
Sindhu Katta
Anna Kesler
Village of Glenview
David Manney
Let’s Electric
Mark McIntyre
McIntyre Management Group
David Montes
Teklab, Inc.
Adams Russell
City of McHenry Div
Stephanie Schramm
Edward Tirakian
Xiaolong Wang

SEPTEMBER
Shantanu Agrawal
Carlos Enginers
Marco Alaina
Timothy Aiston
Sarah Ben Maamar

Don Berry
Sherwin Williams
James Canning
Karen Clementi
Deschler ENV
Stephen Cosper
USACEERL
Martina Del Cerro
Ivonne Friday
Gina Gansmann
Black & Veatch
Anthony Giovannone
Jia Guo
Newground Environmental
Matthew Heise
Sara Khawaja
CH2M
Dianna Kitt
Ken Kubit
Bridget Ladell
Sean Carbonaro
Utilities Inc.
Angela Magnuson
Steve McCance
Cyrus McMains
Yorkville-Bristol Sanitary District
Samantha Morrow
David Peterson
Green Vision International LLC
Jade Pereira
Kenny Reekeie
Gardner Denver Inc.
Karl Rockne
Joshua Scott

OCTOBER
Devashree Atre
Matthew Drabik
Saki Handa
Mott Macdonald
Vanessa Harris
V A Harris PE Consultants
SeungChul Hong
Alex Hoppes
Suresh Jambunathan
Edward Jankun
Aarthi Kuppan
Mark Lammers
Village of Romeoville
Saraha Sathyarayanan
Black & Veatch
Dan Thurston

Tragedy Calls Attention to Safety Concerns
By Dan Rivera, Safety Committee

The tragic accident that occurred in the Chicagoland community of Streamwood in late October is a somber reminder that our business can be very dangerous. A 22-year-old worker died after becoming trapped in a sewer pipe during a lining installation. Rescue workers entered the manhole to search for him but their way was blocked by a “large quantity of hardened lining material” that was blocking the pipe. They cut it away to clear a path, but when they finally got him to the surface, he was pronounced dead at the scene. The event is currently under investigation by OSHA and the Streamwood police. IWEA Safety Committee reminds all to develop a safety plan, follow it, always be aware of your surroundings and think “Safety First”.

Answer: Horseshoe Lake in Madison County. Being once a major floodplain of the Mississippi River, the flooding patterns and channels changed overtime, leaving the permanent lake independent of the river.
The City of Highland’s existing wastewater collection system consists of approximately 61 miles of sanitary sewer, and four collection system pumping stations. The WRF was initially constructed in the mid-1970s as a dual aboveground, steel tanks package activated sludge treatment plant (Cantex). The dual tanks each consisted of a circular secondary clarifier in the center surrounded by an annular ring that included contact stabilization activated sludge tankage and separate zones of aerobic digestion. The original plant also included an influent pump station, bar rack, grit basin, chlorine contact tank, sludge drying beds and a control building.

The 1970s plant was upgraded and expanded in 1998 to include new influent pumping, new headworks (screening and grit removal), new secondary biological treatment (oxidation ditch), new secondary clarifiers, new disinfection facilities, new solids dewatering and covered storage facilities, excess flow treatment facilities, a new service/control building and other related improvements. The original dual tanks package plant was converted into an aerobic digester (one tank), and an excess flow clarifier (the other tank).

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In 2013, the city developed a capital improvement plan (CIP) for the Highland’s wastewater system that would: 1) meet regulatory requirements and expectations (i.e. Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance, or “CMOM” related objectives); 2) address aging wastewater infrastructure; and 3) meet future capacity needs from ongoing community growth and development. The CIP established necessary adjustments to sewer rates to keep pace with inflation, fund the capital improvement plan and related projects, and provide revenue/financial stability. The 10-year CIP identified ways to optimize spending while assessing the needs of the entire system (collection system and the WRF) through focusing on older and/or more problematic areas first and deferring major investments where practical.

The major components of the CIP include: CMOM compliance/asset management, collection system assessment, rehabilitation of high priority sewers, rehabilitation of the city’s three major trunk sewers, WRF improvements and future planning. Major improvements in the collection system have been completed, and have already produced positive results. During both a very wet spring in 2015, as well as record rainfalls in late 2015, only three total backups were reported, down significantly from a similar wet weather period in 2013 that resulted in 87 backups.

The city completed facility planning and a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan application for the WRF improvements in February, and are nearing completion of the design phase. The WRF improvements will replace major process equipment that is nearing the end of its service life, and will address regulatory-driven requirements. The project will increase flexibility, reliability and energy efficiency through new, state-of-the-art equipment and enhanced automation. The WRF improvements will also include an expansion in capacity in order to accommodate ongoing growth and development in Highland.

Continued On Page 9
IWEA MEMBERS MAKE A SPLASH AT WEFTEC

Accepting Scholarship Applications Now!
By Paul Hurley, Scholarship and Charitable Giving Committee Chair

In this season of cheers and celebration, it is important to remember that perhaps the best gift you can give a loved one is a reminder to apply for one of IWEA’s annual scholarships!

The Scholarship and Charitable Giving Committee is very excited to announce a new scholarship this year called the Public Service Scholarship. The winner of the IWEA Public Service Scholarship will receive tuition towards the Illinois Public Service Institute (IPSI) Program, a three-year program consisting of three annual, week-long sessions. The scholarship will cover one IPSI session (a $695 value).

The committee is now accepting applications from public service professionals who are registered for the IPSI program, which has a mission to promote and encourage professional development through education and training specifically designed for public works supervisors or managers.

We have also begun accepting applications for our Clean Water Scholarship and our Environmental Career Scholarship. The Clean Water Scholarship awards $1,000, and it is open to Illinois residents or students attending college in Illinois who are pursuing careers working with the water environment. The Environmental Career Scholarship awards $500 to college-bound, high school seniors who are interested in science and the environment. IWEA will also offer a reimbursement grant of up to $250 for an experiment or field trip to the teacher who wrote the letter of recommendation for the Environmental Career Scholarship recipient. If you know any college students, high school seniors, or teachers with an interest in the water environment, direct them to the ‘Education’ tab on the IWEA website. The last day to apply is Jan. 31.

Please direct any questions about IWEA’s scholarships to Paul Hurley at phurley@greeley-hansen.com.

Members Gather For Nutrient Removal and Recovery Workshop
by Brett Garelli, Nutrient Removal and Recovery Chair

A festive group of more than 100 members attended the annual Nutrient Removal and Recovery Workshop on Sept. 6, 2017 at the Medinah Shriners in Addison, Illinois.

The first keynote speaker was Dr. Andrew Shaw of Black and Veatch. Andrew discussed current trends and technologies in nutrient removal. The second keynote speaker was David St. Pierre of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). David discussed his concept of the environmental utility and how it can address nutrient issues of our state.

The other presentations included our academia presentation by Dr. George Wells of Northwestern University, a regulatory update by Amy Walkenbach (IEPA) and an update on nutrient removal at the MWRDGC plants by Dr. Joseph Kozak.

I wish to thank the members of the committee for all of their work over the past year. We also wish to thank Laurie Frieders and all the vendors who participated in this conference.

Photo courtesy of Kam Law
Are You A Shutterbug? We Need Your Photos!
By the Newsletter Committee

For years, our trusty, loyal, and talented volunteer photographer, Ted Denning, has been providing pictures for nearly all of our events. IWEA members agree that photos are the icing on the Clarifier cake and Ted has made it all happen. Thank you, Ted!

However, as great as Ted is, he can’t be everywhere. The more help we get, the more great pictures we can include in the Clarifier. So we are looking for additional photographers...both willful volunteers and those who may be solicited (voluntolds?) to help us take pictures at events. At events where Ted is not present, the event chairpersons will be on the lookout for help with photography duties. If you are willing, please let them know at the event or ahead of time. If you are asked directly to help “cover” an event, we hope you will say yes!

Even if you don’t have Ted’s camera or skill level, you can still take newsletter-worthy pictures with the camera in your pocket—your smartphone! The best cameras are on the newest smartphones. If you have the most recent iPhone, Samsung Galaxy, Google Pixel, or LG phone, your camera may be one of the best in the room! Anyway, we’d like to consider your photos for publication...if you submit them to us!

Any photos you take at any IWEA event are always welcome. Please send them to the coordinator (chairperson) of the event or ilclarifier@juno.com. The photos will be considered for inclusion in the Clarifier with the wrap-up article on the event. In return, you’ll receive the undying, silent gratitude of IWEA members and the public recognition of your generosity in the form of a glorious photo credit!

Just for fun, here’s some quick tips for providing us with great photos...even from your cell phone!

• Try to make sure the background of your subject is clean. (We’ve all seen those pictures of palm trees growing out of people’s heads.)
• Make sure the area and subjects of your photograph have plenty of lighting.
• Make sure that the subject of your photograph is stable and not moving.
• Hold your phone or camera steady, and make sure your subject is at the center of every frame, so that your camera focuses properly on your subject.

We know you’re up to the challenge and we look forward to receiving your beautiful pictures from an upcoming event! Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words.

IWEA is proud to announce the Government Affairs Seminar, which will take place on Friday, January 19, 2018 at the Chicago Marriott South-west in Burr Ridge, Illinois. See you there!

Save The Date!

Students And Young Professionals Fall Activities

By Kelly Lockerbie, Students and Young Professionals Committee Chair

The IWEA Students & Young Professionals Committee organized IWEA’s first “Presidents Barbecue” on Sept. 23. Hosted by executive board member Mark Halm, young professionals enjoyed a day of outdoor games and barbecue with IWEA’s executive board and committee chairs. The event was an opportunity for young professionals to get to know the leaders of the organization and learn about the various committees IWEA has to offer.

IWEA students and young professionals had a strong presence at this year’s WEF community service project on Sept. 30. The group of volunteers transformed a parking lot with poor drainage at Manierre Elementary School in Chicago into an outdoor classroom with a bioswale to improve the area’s drainage. The group of students and young professionals gathered afterwards to celebrate the day’s hard work.

Keep an eye out for updates on future students and young professionals events for the winter!

Thanks For The Memories, Bernie!
By Karen Dix, Newsletter Editor

For the past few years, Bernie has been the eyes and ears behind the Clarifier, answering to the board, making the tough decisions on editorial policy, production scheduling and more. As he leaves this post, we want to thank him for his hard work and wish him the best. We thank Karen Clementi from Deuchler ENV, who will be stepping up as the next Clarifier editor. We look forward to working with her!

Bernie Held (rt) making some memories with IWEA Past President John Drake.
(Photograph courtesy of Bernie Held)
The strategy established the goal of providing a 45 percent reduction in both total nitrogen and total phosphorus discharged into the state watersways. The report provides an update on the multi-faceted progress that has been made since the original strategy was released two years ago. The biennial report, original strategy document, and other information can be found at: http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/excess-nutrients/nutrient-loss-reduction-strategy/index

State Nutrient Reduction Loss Strategy Progress Report

A biennial report on the ongoing implementation of the State Nutrient Reduction Loss Strategy is now available.

2017-2018 Executive Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member/Position</th>
<th>Affiliation/Address</th>
<th>Telephone/Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Rebecca Rose</td>
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<td>(847) 584-5605</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Village of Addison (retired)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keep your eyes open for these upcoming events!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting/Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16, 2017</td>
<td>Innovative Technologies Dinner</td>
<td>Rock Bottom Brewery - Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 19, 2018</td>
<td>Government Affairs Conference</td>
<td>Chicago Marriott Southwest - Burr Ridge, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 21, 2018</td>
<td>Industrial Pretreatment Dinner</td>
<td>Ditka’s - Oak Brook Terrace, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 16-18, 2018</td>
<td>Illinois Wastewater Professionals Conference (IWPC)</td>
<td>Crowne Plaza - Springfield, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 29 - Oct. 3</td>
<td>WEFTEC 2018</td>
<td>New Orleans Morial Convention Center - New Orleans, LA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see www.iweasite.org to register for events.

First Quarter Financial Report

By Lou Storino, Treasurer

The Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) is a not-for-profit corporation in the State of Illinois. I am currently working with IWEA’s attorney on applying for a sales tax exemption from the state.

The first quarter of the 2017-2018 fiscal year ended on September 30, 2017. First quarter ending balances are presented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Statement (as of 9/29/17)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bank Accounts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asset Accounts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Month Reserve CD</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Month Reserve CD</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Month Reserve CD</td>
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<td>24 Month Reserve CD</td>
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<td>24 Month Reserve CD</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Keep your eyes open for these upcoming events!
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