

## Bill Gregory Distinguished Service Award

On November 28, 2016, the onsite industry in Michigan lost one of its foremost leaders. Bill Gregory went above and beyond, ceaselessly giving back to the onsite industry with his characteristic enthusiasm, contagious smile, and obvious love of profession. Not much happened in Michigan's onsite industry that Bill was not involved with in some way. He was the initial driving force behind the establishment of the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA), affiliate of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA). Bill was involved at both the state and national level, and served as Secretary and Treasurer of MOWRA up until his death. He was a longtime member of the Annual Wastewater Conference Planning Committee, contributed substantially to the development of the onsite training center in Novi, and was a leader in training events around the state. Bill was a friend to all who knew him and will be sorely missed.

In memory of Bill Gregory, the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference Committee has set up a conference award to recognize those who have contributed to the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference. This year, the "*Bill Gregory Distinguished Service Award*" in Recognition of Exceptional Service to the Onsite Wastewater Industry, was presented to Dan Milan of Milan Supply Company. Dan has been dedicated to serving on the

MOWC Committee for over 25 years. His volunteerism, positivity, and good-natured personality throughout his years of service to Michigan's largest onsite conference went hand-in-hand with Bill's enthusiasm for the same. Thank you, Dan!



**Bill Gregory's Family Pose with Dan Milan**  
(L-R Wyatt Gregory, Susan Pominville, Dan Milan and Nancy Gregory)

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Well here it is. The spring edition of the MSTA newsletter and I am preparing this in January. We just got done with the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference in Lansing and it was another big success. Congratulations to the conference committee for another job well done. Our own Executive officer, Karlyn Wickham and Director Mark Scott were very big contributors to the success of the conference. Also many of our members with the combined help of the other associations to made it work. They keep putting out a fantastic industry conference.

Our annual banquet was also another big hit and always seems to be. It's a good time to have a little fun and network with each other. It's funny, I have been involved with MSTA for over 20 years and

sometimes I wonder where this 68 year old association will be in the future as far as leadership and member involvement. I have been blessed over the years with working with good dedicated business owners to make this association work for all of us. As we were getting ready for the banquet and social hour was going on next door. I came back from getting a beer and looked to see Chris Sloan, his wife Shawn and their two boys setting up tables and get our giveaways out. I chuckled to myself and was reflecting when Chris's parents, Francis and Sandy Sloan were doing this banquet set up. They are now retired. Then I see Mark Scott's daughter Danielle getting involved in the business. I also was introduced to Jack Flynn's son and Matt Pius's son. Over and over I was noticing new generations coming forward in our industry. I had my son and daughter work for us a one time. They have moved on to different careers. My partner, Terry Kiel, has his son and stepson working for us. Then it hit me, damn, not only have I done this for a long time I am getting old. But still it is nice to see that this generation is getting involved with the association and industry. We always can prosper with new blood and ideas. I think we will be in good hands.

With all that being said and reflected on, I hope you all had a good 2018 season and a better 2019. Hope to see you all at the spring meeting in Traverse City on April 13th.

*Submitted by:*

*Dave W. Snyder (MSTA President)*



**MSTA President Dave Snyder at MSTA Auction**



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## 2019 Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference



The 68th annual Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference, held January 8-10, 2019 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing (for the seventh year in a row), was a success. There were over 400 individuals registered for some part of the conference and 37 exhibitors rented booth space. It is the intent of these annual wastewater conferences, organized as a joint venture by the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA), our association (MSTA), and the Michigan Water Environmental Association (MWEA), along with Michigan State University (MSU) to educate people involved in our industry. Having all these groups together with an interest in onsite wastewater resulted in a strong conference with good networking opportunities.

The conference allowed participants the opportunity to acquire up to 17-1/2 hours of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality-approved continuing septage education (CSE) credit hours toward their re-licensure.

A special thanks to Keynote speakers Tristian Bounds [Orenco Systems, Inc.] and Kelly Galloway [Engineering Technologies Canada Ltd. (ETC)], who both delivered excellent presentations. Tristan delivered an informative session titled "Pits to Potable: A look at the Evolution of Onsite." Kelly delivered a session on "Smart Septics - How AI, Advanced Sensors and the 'Internet of Things' Will Change the Decentralized Wastewater Industry." A BIG thanks to all the speakers and round table facilitators who contributed their time and travel to make this conference a success.

Former Michigan Onsite Wastewater Planning Committee Member (past Chairman and Treasurer) Bill Gregory, who passed away November 28th 2016, was honored again during lunch on Wednesday. This year, the "Bill Gregory Distinguished Service Award" in Recognition of Exceptional Service to the Onsite Wastewater Industry, was presented to Dan Milan of Milan Supply Company. Bill's wife and 2-children were present for this special honor. Please see attached Bill Gregory Distinguished Service Award tribute (in this newsletter).

Thanks to Vendors whose exhibit fees help keep the cost of the conference more affordable to all. A warm thank you to Karlyn Wickham (MSTA Executive Officer), and all the others who helped at the registration area and as CSE volunteers.

The MSTA Banquet (Wednesday evening) was a huge success. A BIG THANKS to the volunteers who helped to make Banquet a fun time for all: Master of Ceremonies, MSTA President Dave Snyder with the help of auctioneer extraordinaire Brian Bost of Walex and several MSTA members. A special thank you to our Guest of Honor: Michigan State Representative Daire Rendon. Thanks to Dave's Concrete Products winner of the 7th place raffle prize (\$175). They donated it back to MSTA! A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VENDORS & MSTA MEMBERS WHO CONTRIBUTED DOOR PRIZE GIFTS TO THE BANQUET THIS YEAR.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the Kellogg Center staff for the excellent job they did in taking care of us.

At the MSTA Annual Meeting, EMC Insurance representative Ryan Adams (Underwriting Manager EMC Insurance Companies) and Mick Natzel Jr., (Commercial lines agent - General Agency) presented a check for \$17,739.64 to the association for MSTA member participation in the excellent insurance program the General Agency organized for our membership.



**2019 MOWC Planning Committee**

*(continued on page 6)*



(continued from page 5)



**Brian Bost – Walex – MSTA Banquet Auctioneer**

Thank you to all the participants that made the 2019 Onsite Wastewater Conference a resounding success!! We had 202 enrollees in the continuing education program who earned over 2,000 MDEQ approved continuing septage education credit hours.

Thank you to the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference Committee for putting together an outstanding conference.  
2019 Committee Members:

From MDEQ: Greg Merricle, Dale Ladouceur, Dave Cotton & Kristine Rendon

From MSU: Bindu Bhakta & Terry Gibb

From MEHA: Joel Kwiatkowski, R.S. (Committee Chair) & Gregory Braun

From MSTA: Karlyn Wickham (Secretary), Ralph Bailey, Jason Spangle & Mark Scott (Treasurer)

From MOWRA: Dan Milan & Larry Stephens (Exhibitor Masters)

From MWEA: James R. (Jim) Rabine

From MALEHA: Randy Rapp

The planning committee will use the input from the conference evaluations to help formulate the conference content for next year and help address other difficulties that were noted. Several of this year's out-of-state guests commented not only on the conference affordability, but the fact that meals were included in our registration cost. Mention was made that the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference is better than many of the national conferences. Please contact a committee member and let them know what you would like to see at the 69th annual Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference tentatively planned to be held January 7 - 9, 2020 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. There will be more on the 2020 Conference in upcoming newsletters.

Please find copies of many of the conference PowerPoint presentations on the MSTA website at ([www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz)) and clicking on Calendars at the top.

*Submitted By:*

*Mark N. Scott*

*(Continuing Education Committee)*







**Charlie Culton – Deloris Thomas of Michigan Truck Safety pose with Duane Selar**



**MDEQ Staff at Q&A Session, Marty Derocco at Exhibit Hall**



**Kelly Galloway 2nd Keynote**



**Michigan Truck Safety**



**Greg Braun performs septic truck inspection**



## There Is Always Something to Be Learned



Once again, the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference in Lansing has come and gone, helping an otherwise slow service month in Northern Michigan leap soundly into the next calendar year. As usual, I took advantage of the conference's seamlessly implemented program, ate a little too much of the wonderfully prepared food that the Kellogg Center's hospitality management students and staff provide, and enjoyed the use of a bathroom far superior to my own. I also learned a little, had my eyes opened by ideas and products I did not know existed, and made some interesting new acquaintances.

I am a firm believer that, if approached with an open mind and willingness to socialize with strangers who make their livings in the same industry, there are more than a few benefits to attending the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference. First, there are classes that invariably teach something to each attendee. Second, there are many vendor products, both tried and new to consider for future installations and usages. Third, there are hundreds of professionals present, all of whom are engaged in various aspects of wastewater collection and treatment. If a pumper can attend MOWC and state that he or she (1) learned not a single new

fact, (2) knew everything about all of the vendor products, and (3) met no engaging professional of the hundreds present - something has still been learned.

I have known a particular type of student since my early elementary days. This type of student always sits at the back of classroom. When asked by mom or dad what he learned in school, his answer is "nothing." He complains relentlessly to friends that school is boring and heckles academically-minded classmates in the halls. When a teacher or parent challenges his poor performance, as evidenced by a slew of D's each period, he yells about how no one understands him, school is boring and unnecessary, he can't wait until he can get out of "this stupid school," or some other such phrase that only insults his teachers, parents, peers, and his own intelligence. This type of student does not simply disappear after school. This type of student is present in the professional world as well, seen as those who do not wish to engage in professional development, cloaked in complaints suspiciously similar to those shouted by unhappy middle and high school students. Is it too much to suggest that if a pumper can attend MOWC and learn nothing, perhaps he is this type of student? This is a harsh truth to learn and therefore often remains unlearned by the individual, unwilling as he is to admit his shortcomings and embrace that which could better him.

I have known another type of student since my early elementary days. This type of student is engaged in the classroom. She sits toward the front, where it is easiest to see and hear the teacher. She works to soak up as much knowledge as possible and delights in learning. She makes her teachers glad of their profession and her parents proud of their offspring. She tends toward the top grade in the class and endures slight persecution from some classmates for setting the curve high, being a "goody-goody," or some other social pressure meant to encourage her to perform on a lesser level. It is possible that if a pumper is this type of student, she really, truly, honestly did not learn much, if anything, at the conference. In addition, perhaps she also knows a large number of engineers, vendors, regulators, and other haulers who frequently attend the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference, and she therefore has a vast network of professionals to consult. This hauler can also learn something about herself: she has enough knowledge to share in a classroom setting or knows enough people to dream up new topics with new speakers at the next Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference.

These are extreme examples of student types. I do not know that I have met a single hauler who solidly fits one of these types. However, it is safe to say that each of us probably represents one of these student types more than the other. Please take a moment to ask yourself some questions and answer them honestly. Did you learn something in a session at this year's conference? Meet someone new? Did you



**MSTA Banquet**



see a product that you had never seen before and that you maybe even researched in depth once home? Do you plan to attend next year's conference with a new series of complaints and criticisms? Could you contribute something to better next year's "Wastewater University of Michigan?"

*Article Submitted by:  
Danielle Gerdes  
Scott's Excavating, Roscommon, MI*



**MSTA Board at Annual Meeting**



**Monday Evening Badge Stuffing Meeting**



**Dan Milan Receives Bill Gregory award**



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# How to Navigate the MSTA Website

## [www.msta.org](http://www.msta.org)



### **How to log in to your personal portal of the MSTA website**

1. Log into your account on [www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz)

If you do not remember your username /or password, click on “Forgot Your Password?” on the MSTA Homepage. You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password. Follow the instructions on this email to log in.

### **Getting your CSE Credits off from the MSTA Website**

As you already know, we have a new website and database system to track your membership and CSE credits. The old website contained all your CSE Credits prior to August of 2017. If you don’t have records of your credits prior to August 2017, you will not be able to get them by logging onto the website. Instead you will have to send an email to the address below to request a report of those.

The new website contains your CSE Credits from August 2017 through now. To get a record of the credits you received from the Fall 2017 meeting or the 2018 Michigan Onsite WW Conference, follow the steps below:

1. Log into your account on [www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz). If you do not remember your username /or password, click on “Forgot Your Password?” on the MSTA Homepage. You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password.
2. Once you are logged in, go to “My Membership Information”
3. Click on the “other information” tab
4. Click on “Prior Event Registrations”
5. Find the class you just attended and click on the symbol with the checkmark inside the square
6. A copy of your transcript will appear showing the credits you earned by going to the meeting
7. Print this page and keep it for your records to be turned into the DEQ when you renew your license.

Please save these instructions for future use. Please also save your username and password somewhere safe as well so that you can log onto the MSTA website again. By the way, your username and password can be changed to something you remember more easily by clicking on “Member Information / change username and password” (right next to the “other information” tab).

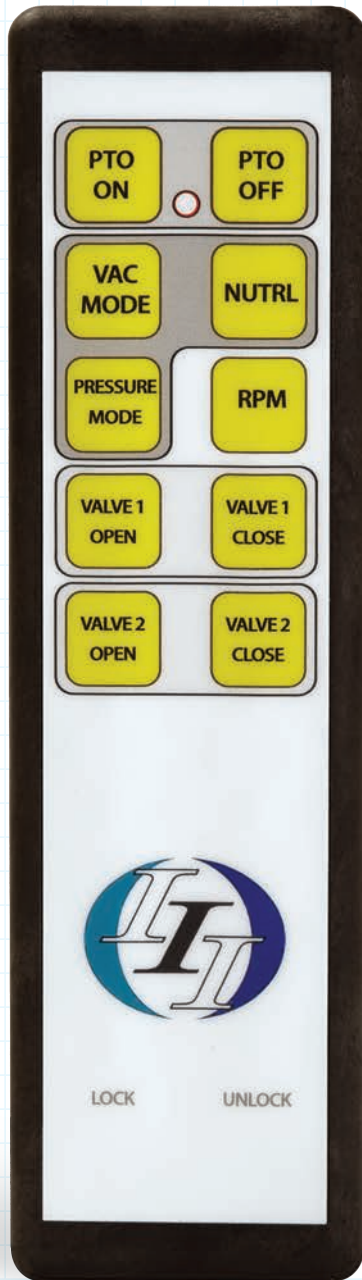
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1. Log into your account on [www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz). If you do not remember your username /or password, click on “Forgot Your Password?” on the MSTA Homepage. You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password.
2. Once you are logged in, go to “My Membership Information”
3. Click on the “Membership Information” tab
4. Click on “change contact / profile”
5. Change your profile information
6. BE SURE TO PRESS SUBMIT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE

### **Adding employees or additional people to your membership**

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2. Once you are logged in, go to “My Membership Information”
3. Click on the “Membership Information” tab
4. Click on “additional individuals attached to this membership”
5. Click on “add an additional member”
6. Fill out the information about this member
7. Do this for every person you would like to add to your membership

*Karlyn Wickham, Executive Officer*



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## Legislative Report for MSTA

Judy Augenstein, Legislative Consultant



### December 2018 Report

In November Democrats were successful in obtaining the governorship by electing Governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer, the office of the Attorney General (Dana Nessel) and the Office of the Secretary of State with Jacelyn Benson. Democrats re-elected U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and flipped two U.S. House seats.

Democrats narrowed the Republican majorities in the State Legislature where Democrats flipped five seats for the biggest gain of seats by a Senate caucus since 1974. Republicans hung onto majorities in both the House and the Senate. Senate Democrats narrowed the Republican majority to 22-16, House Democrats gained five seats, leaving the GOP with a 58-52 majority.

Governor Rick Snyder has again pushed his call for greater civility in politics. He has pushed the theme several times in the past year or two. In keeping with his past remarks on the subject, he did not name names of those he sees as contributing to the problem. “Let’s act like a family,” he said. “Let’s be the role model for civility”

The comments came at an “exit interview” and it gave Governor Snyder a chance to remark on what he said were his proudest achievements: that young residents can build a career in Michigan, the resurgence of Detroit and Medicaid expansion. Mr. Snyder said he was especially pleased about what he saw as an improved relationship between Detroit and the rest of the state. He commented he wished he had been able to sign legislation addressing auto insurance rates. Snyder suggested that Democratic Governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer and the Republican-led Legislature work towards areas of agreement early in 2019 to get some quick wins.

The incoming Senate Republican Majority has elected their new leadership team consisting of Senator Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake as Senate Majority Leader. Senator Jim Stamas, R-Midland will serve as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford will serve as Senate Majority Floor Leader. Rep. Lee Chatfield, R-Levering will be the Speaker of the House next session and Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona will be the House Majority Floor Leader and Rep. Jason Wentworth, R-Farwell will become the House Speaker Pro-Tempore.

Senator Jim Ananich, D-Flint, will remain the Senate Minority Leader and incoming senator/Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit will serve as Senate Minority Floor Leader. Rep. Christine Greig, D-Farmington Hills will be the House Minority Leader and Rep. Yousef Rabhi, D-Ann Arbor will serve as Minority Floor Leader.

House Republicans have not selected their Appropriations Chair and all other committee assignments in the Senate and the House will be completed sometime in February.

The Legislature returned to Lansing on November 27 for the “Lame Duck” session with only 12 days scheduled for the session. Rep. James Lower, R-Cedar has prepared new drafts of HB 5752 & 5753, legislation to create a Statewide Sanitary Code. Ken Goike and others have reviewed the bills and feel the bills are closer to recommendations he and MSTA made to the sponsor. Rep. Lower contends he is closer to a funding solution with the Health Departments and Governor Rick Snyder. Rep. Lower intends to move the bills during the “Lame Duck” session.

### January 2019 Report

Dozen of legislators celebrated the 2018 Lame Duck session by hanging their own ornament on a \$379.5 million General Fund Christmas Tree spending bill. The bill retained most of Governor Rick Snyder’s original requests, but legislators

*(continued on page 16)*

(continued from page 15)

added some \$200 million in special legislative projects for their districts. The Christmas Tree bill did NOT include an additional \$10 million for legislative operations and \$18 million for a parking ramp for lawmakers and their staff since their parking spaces behind the Capitol have been turned into a construction mess for the time being and will remain that way for another year before the outside Capitol construction is completed.

Money was dedicated to get a better handle on the growing PFAS contamination issue which will receive a combined \$20 million, roads got \$115 million more, \$15 million was put into hiring 175 more child protective services with another \$5 million going to CPS technology. Legislators put \$100 million into the rainy day fund, \$52 million into the Soo Locks and \$4.5 million for the Mackinaw Straits tunnel and \$200 million was freed up for legislators special in district requests and the list goes on.

In November 2018, Democrats obtained control of the state's top four elected officials by electing Gretchen Whitmer as Governor, Jacelyn Benson as Secretary of State and Dana Nessel was elected Attorney General. The Senate and House maintained a Republican advantage, but both lost seats to Democrats. Republicans in the Senate will maintain control with a 22-16 majority and the House Republicans will reign with a 58-52 majority.

Senator Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake was elected to serve as Senate Majority Leader. Senator Jim Stamas, R-Midland serves as the Chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Peter MacGregor, R-Rockford serves as Senate Floor Leader. Rep. Lee Chatfield, R-Levering was elected to be the Speaker of the House and Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona was elected to serve as House Majority Floor Leader. Rep. Jason Wentworth, R-Farwell was elected to serve as the House Speaker Pro-Tempore.

Senator Jim Ananich, D-Flint, remained the Senate Minority Leader and incoming Senator Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit now serves as the Senate Minority Leader. Rep. Christine Greig, D-Farmington Hills was elected to be the House Minority Leader and Rep. Yousef Rabhi, D-Ann Arbor was elected to serve as Minority Floor Leader. Committee assignments expect to be named in early February. Legislative directories are expected to be available in February.

Beginning the second [Wednesday](#) in January we have some 72 “newbie” legislators to meet and greet and to introduce to our issues.

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Phone: 517-371-6911  
or 800-250-8533  
Fax: 517-371-5302

## MSTA PAC Update

We are continuing to fight for legislative issues that benefit MSTA members. Your donation to the PAC Fund will help tremendously in these efforts! If you would like to donate, a “personal check” (not a company check) should be made out to: MSTA PAC Fund.

Please mail your “personal check” to:

MSTA

1181 LaCosta Drive, DeWitt, MI 48820

## New Members

Troy Arts

Arts- Clare County Septic

Deanna Byrd

Oliver Septic Service

Brian Forbes

Forbes Sanitation & Excavation, Inc.

Brandon Leisure

Dorr Event and Septic Services

Connie Pierson

Pierson Environmental, LLC

Andy Popp

Smart Septic Service

Keith Snyder

Battle Creek Wastewater Consultants

1181 LaCosta Drive  
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[www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz)

