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Maine Water Environment Association

Local Government Center

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

It is hard to believe we are already at the end of February. For those of you who love winter sports, you have about a month left. For the rest of us that ask ourselves every single year why we live in the Northeast? It's almost over. I'm very excited to announce our first joint newsletter, titled "**One Water**" with MWUA, which is out today and can be viewed here:

https://www.mewea.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2_21_Final_One_Water_Newsletter_.pdf

The MEWEA Government Affairs Committee is working very hard tracking legislation and offering testimony where needed. MEWEA is looking for sponsors to help fund the cost of a 30-second commercial through Ochang Comics who have done commercials for Keep Maine Clean, BIW, and Southern Maine Chrysler, Dodge, & Jeep. This is to increase awareness of the ongoing non-flushables problem throughout the State. The cost of the commercial is \$3,000, but MEWEA would own the rights to the commercial and would own it forever. Whether it is aired via commercial or social media advertising is still being decided. The goal is to have a funny, but clean, close to home type of commercial that will grab the attention of our younger adults with families as well as all other age groups. If you are able and willing, please make your donations to **MEWEA**, with "Gov't Affairs Committee Donation" in the memo and mail to MEWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330.

I'd like to leave you with this poem below written by a retired wastewater operator from Kansas City, MO.

Sincerely,
Phil Tucker, MeWEA President

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Workers' Higher Calling

Around the kingly and regal conference table sat the Chairman and the Board. Staff members were presenting their year-end reports. The chief of staff, Gabriel, stood and reported, "Mr. Chairman, the human race is polluting the waters so much that the natural purification cycle cannot keep up. If the pollution continues at this rate, all of mankind and the poor innocent creatures on earth will soon be poisoned by the contaminated waters."

Gabriel continued, "It is a sad indictment against mankind that these waters that were once clean and clear have now become filthy and foul. The waters that were once bubbling, sparkling, rippling and flowing have now become a nasty, stagnant, foul-smelling cesspool of man's waste." Gabriel requested, "Mr. Chairman may I blow my horn, which will be a signal to our managers to immediately evict all these people who have served as horrible stewards?" The Chairman of the Board rose from His throne-like chair and said, "I understand what you are saying Gabriel, but I am going to give them a little more time on their lease. You see I have a plan to produce wastewater treatment plants to aid in nature's purification process. The designers and builders of these plants will occupy the scene for a while. Nonetheless, the wastewater treatment plant workers will be there from now on and their responsibility will be to maintain and efficiently operate the wastewater treatment plant." So it became a higher calling: the wastewater treatment plant workers' marching orders are to reclaim the waters by recycling, replenishing, and reviving the polluted waters.

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