

ACT/10 - 568
LA 1079004

A=90%

LRWA Annual Awards Nomination

Form Deadline to Apply is March 7, 2025

Award Categories (place "X" next to award category of your choice)		System Awards	
		Water System	
Individual Awards		Wastewater System	
<input type="checkbox"/>	H.M. "Skeeter" Vickers Award	Energy Conservation System	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outstanding Office Person	Source Water Protection System	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Water System Operations Specialist (Operator) - North	Private System	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wastewater System Operations Specialist (Operator)	Water Conservation & Re-use	

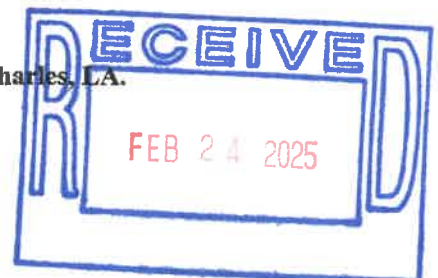
Note: Complete and submit ALL required information. Incomplete nominations will not be considered.

1. **Select** the award above that you are nominating for (complete a separate form for each award)
2. **Complete** required information below
3. **Attach** a separate sheet stating what you believe entitles this system/individual to receive this award AND a brief background on the system/individual being nominated.
4. **Submit** completed form and background by email to mardoin@lrwa.org, by fax to 337-738-5620, or by mail to Louisiana Rural Water Association; Attn: Conference Awards; PO Box 180; Kinder, LA 70648.

Complete for <u>ALL</u> Awards Nominations		
System Name: <u>Buckeye Water District No. 50, Inc.</u>		
System mailing address: <u>P.O. Box 6</u>		
City: <u>Deville</u>	State: <u>LA</u>	Zip: <u>71328</u>
Physical address: <u>654 Hwy 1207</u>		
Phone number: <u>(318) 466-5746</u>	Email: <u>buckeye50@bellsouth.net</u>	
Name & title of person submitting nomination: <u>David Richey, Board President</u>		
Complete for <u>SYSTEM</u> Awards Nominations		
Name of system being nominated:		
How long has system been in operation?		
# of employees?	How many customers are served by the system?	
Has system ever been out of compliance? If yes, when and for what reason?		
Complete for <u>INDIVIDUAL</u> Awards Nominations		
Name of individual being nominated: <u>Michael Luty</u>		
Title/Position with system: <u>System Manager</u>		
How long has nominee worked in water/wastewater industry? <u>12 years</u>		
What level and type of Operator Certification does nominee hold? <u>Level 2 Water Treatment, Level 3 Water Production, Level 4 Water Distribution</u>		

To ensure your nomination is considered for an award, submit ALL required information by the deadline.

Awards Luncheon will be held Wednesday, July 16th in Lake Charles, LA.



To: LRWA RE: Nomination for Water System Operations Specialist (Operator)

Please accept the following as a written nomination for the Water System Operations Specialist (Operator).

Buckeye Water District is proud to nominate Mr. Michael Luty.

Mike has been an employee of Buckeye Water District since September 3, 2013. He currently serves as Buckeye Water District's System Manager.

Mike currently holds the following certifications: Level 3 Water Production, Level 2 Water Treatment and Level 4 Water Distribution.

Mike is very knowledgeable of the water system operations and very familiar with the proper policies and procedures to follow. He is always willing to do whatever is necessary to get the job done and done the proper way. He is very safety conscious and makes sure the employees have a safe working environment, has the proper safety equipment and follows safe working procedures.

Mike communicates very well with the Department of Health and Hospitals, developers, engineers, and the Buckeye Water District Board of Directors. Mike works well with the public, the members/customers, which is a big plus in this rural community where "everybody knows everybody". He communicates well with the employees. He always listens to everyone's ideas, complaints and concerns. The employees have utmost respect for Mike. He is stern about what needs to be done and done in a timely manner and does this in a way that the employees respect his work ethic and his responsibility as System Manager.

Mike is very knowledgeable with the rules and regulations from LaDHH and EPA. He is excellent with delegation. He knows who can do what and delegates those responsibilities. Mike is well aware of the growth and necessary improvements needed to operate this system. His input and his knowledge are assets to the success of the projects this system undertakes and with the day to day operations.

After saying all of the above about Mike, the best thing is yet to say. We, as employees, can say that Mike is a Christian and it shows through his personality, his care and concern for everyone. He is a family man, his actions show how deeply he cares for his family. He and his wife Ericka have twins, Jeremiah and Juliette. He cares for our families and understands that there are times we have to take off and handle things. He cares for this community. He serves as the pastor of Open Door Community Church in Deville. He listens to us, whether it be work related or personal. He prays for us and with us.

A quote from Mike, "I cannot do this alone, not without a good crew and we have one." Mike truly goes above and beyond in operations, maintenance and management of Buckeye Water District. He takes pride in his work and it shows.

Buckeye Water District is proud to nominate Michael Luty for the LRWA Award as Water System Operations Specialist (Operator) of the year. We ask you to please consider Mike Luty for this award.

Water System Operations Specialist (Operator) Award

--- System/Facility Name --- **Frost Town Water System, Inc**

--- Address (provide mailing and physical) --- 1406 Hwy 837 (physical), Downsville, La 71234 ; P.O. Box 217 , Calhoun (mailing), LA 71225

--- Office Phone (copy) --- (318) 599-8066

--- Cell Phone --- (318) 376-0171

--- Email --- frosttownwater@att.net

--- Name of person submitting nomination --- Brenda Jordan

--- Title of person submitting nomination --- Secretary/Treasurer

--- Legal operating name of system individual is employed with: --- Frost Town Water System, Inc

--- Name of individual being nominated: --- **Thomas R. Ezell**

--- Title/Position with system: --- **system operator**

--- How long has nominee worked in water/wastewater industry? --- since 2013

--- What level and type of Operator Certification does nominee hold? --- Water Production 2; Water Distribution 2; Water Treatment 2

--- What do you believe entitles this individual to receive this award? --- Thomas Ray Ezell is very conscientious of his work. He won't do anything half way, it has to be done right or not done at all. He works diligently every day to keep our wells running and chlorine levels where they should be. He follows the rules of the Dept of Health on every project, and believe me he knows the rules and regulations. He very seldom takes a day off unless he is sick, and when he does, he checks in to make sure the system is working without any problems. If a customer calls with a suspicion of a leak or line break, he takes care of that immediately. He checks it out, calls 811 before he begins repairs, calls the personnel who repairs our lines, gets all the material collected for the repair. He does his every day normal duties of checking the wells and chlorine levels. His work requires more time in the winter months because he makes sure heaters, etc are working properly in the places that have to be kept warm. He checks those several times a day on the coldest winter days. If we get an alarm on one of the wells, he goes immediately to check it out and repairs then if he can. Our water system is fortunate to have such a dedicated man whose work ethics are beyond compare. He has gone to unlock meters if I ask him to, due to the meter reader being out of pocket. I can't stress enough how knowledgeable and dependable Thomas Ray Ezell is with his position at our water system. I have had to ask him and will have to keep asking him questions about our system if something comes up that I have no idea how it works, especially when it comes to filling out forms concerning the wells. He is very deserving of this award.

--- Provide a brief work background on the individual being nominated --- As a young boy, Thomas worked with his dad constructing metal buildings, along with working in their poultry houses. After graduating from high school, he went to work full time with his dad on construction. After a few years of that, he worked for Crow-Burlingame Auto Parts and took some college courses. After a few years, he applied for a position as fireman with the Monroe Fire Department. Thomas passed all his written exams and the physical part to become a fireman. He was hired and worked with Monroe Fire Department for 33 years. He retired in 2013 and soon after went to work for the Frost Town Water System as the well operator. He worked diligently to learn all the phases of the system, attended classes to get his certificates.

North	South
Water System Grade (Letter/Percentage)	A = 105%
Member Type & #	ACT 698
LA 1073014	

Person Submitting Nomination: Colby Isom

Highlight the award category below:

System Awards List
Energy Conservation System of the Year, North
Energy Conservation System of the Year, South
Private System of the Year
Source Water Protection System of the Year
Wastewater System of the Year, North
Wastewater System of the Year, South
Water System of the Year, North
Water System of the Year, South

Individual Awards List
H. M. "Skeeter" Vickers
Office Person of the Year, North
Office Person of the Year, South
Prosper Toups Trainer Award
Wastewater System Operations Specialist of the Year, North
Wastewater System Operations Specialist of the Year, South
Water System Operations Specialist of the Year, North
Water System Operations Specialist of the Year, South

Complete this information as it appears on your member list for **SYSTEM** that you wish to nominate:

System Award Nominee:			
System Name:			
Member #:			
Mailing Address:			
City:			
Zip:			
Phone #:			
Any Violations?:			
WS Letter Grade:		% Grade:	

*Tom 112
113*

Complete this information as it appears on your member list for **INDIVIDUAL** that you wish to nominate:

Individual Award Nominee:			
Nominee:	Joe Smith		
Title:	Water Operator		
System Name:	Arcadia/Gibbsland ACT 420 ACT 1353		
Member #:	420 & 1353 LA 1013003 LA 1013008		
Mailing Address:	Po Box 767 B=8920 F=4320		
City:	Arcadia		
Zip:	71001		
Phone #:	318-278-0206		
Categories and Levels of Certifications Held	Level 4		
Years as an Operator	20+		
WS Letter Grade:		% Grade:	

Write a narrative here as to why you feel the above nominee is worthy of the award:

Simply type the information below, the text will wrap as you type. It is NOT necessary to try to put into paragraphs.

Joe Smith has always been willing to answer calls no matter the hour and respond to an issue. Joe has been willing to help not only identify leaks but also ready to jump in and make the repair. I am nominating Joe Smith for Water System operator of the year north for his dedication and determination to any system he is operating. Mr. Smith stays involved with LRWA and attends most every training session and conference we hold.

Mayor Millican | Mayor Richardson

Water System Operations Specialist (Operator) Award

--- System/Facility Name --- **Coushatta**

--- Address (provide mailing and physical) --- PO Box 531, 1211 East Carroll Street, Coushatta, LA, 71019

--- Office Phone (copy) --- (318) 932-4312

--- Email --- toc4312@bellsouth.net

--- Name of person submitting nomination --- Stephanie Babers

--- Title of person submitting nomination --- Town Clerk

--- Legal operating name of system individual is employed with: --- Coushatta

--- Name of individual being nominated: --- **Bukar Mohammed**

--- Title/Position with system: --- **Water Operator**

--- How long has nominee worked in water/wastewater industry? --- 7 years

--- What level and type of Operator Certification does nominee hold? --- Water Certification Level 4

--- What do you believe entitles this individual to receive this award? --- I believe Water Operator Bukar Mohammed is highly deserving of the Water Specialist award for the Town of Coushatta due to his exceptional dedication, expertise, and contributions to the water system's efficient operation and maintenance. Over the years, Bukar has consistently demonstrated an in-depth understanding of complex water systems, ensuring reliable service to the community. His proactive approach to identifying and resolving issues, as well as his commitment to safety and sustainability, has been invaluable. Bukar's ability to work collaboratively with the team and his unwavering focus on improving water quality and infrastructure further solidifies his qualifications for this prestigious award. His work continues to positively impact the town's water management, making him an ideal candidate for recognition.

--- Provide a brief work background on the individual being nominated --- Water Operator Bukar Mohammed has been with the Town of Coushatta for several years, consistently proving himself as a dedicated and skilled professional in the water management field. Throughout his tenure, Bukar has played a pivotal role in maintaining and improving the town's water systems, ensuring both reliability and safety for the community. His extensive experience includes operating and overseeing water treatment processes, managing water distribution, and addressing urgent maintenance needs. Bukar has also been instrumental in troubleshooting technical issues, implementing system upgrades, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. His strong work ethic and commitment to excellence have made him an integral part of the Town of Coushatta's water department.

North	South
Water System Grade (Letter/Percentage)	C = 75%
Member Type & #	ACT 1087
LA 1081001	

Water System Operations Specialist (Operator) Award

--- System/Facility Name --- **Town of Many**

--- Address (provide mailing and physical) --- P.O. Box 1330, 965 San Antonio Ave, Many, LA, 71449

--- Office Phone (copy) --- (318) 256-3654

--- Cell Phone --- (318) 315-1634

--- Email --- manymayor@cp-tel.net

--- Name of person submitting nomination --- Robert Hable

--- Title of person submitting nomination --- Mayor

--- Legal operating name of system individual is employed with: --- Town of Many

--- Name of individual being nominated: --- **Jeremy Cauthen**

--- Title/Position with system: --- **Water Supervisor**

--- How long has nominee worked in water/wastewater industry? --- 5

--- What level and type of Operator Certification does nominee hold? --- Level 2

--- What do you believe entitles this individual to receive this award? --- In 2022 Many purchased electronic water meters for our customers and businesses. Jeremy was instrumental in the oversight during and accountability after the meters were installed. Billing became somewhat problematic and after working through days of reconciliation, Jeremy discovered the problem and worked alongside our water clerk in getting the water bills straightened.

Fast forward to 2025, the town has had hundreds of locates called in for internet cable boring. Jeremy organized a meeting with all of the contractors and set guidelines for drilling and worked through the locates to stay one step ahead of the boring. Unfortunately the town didn't go unscathed as we encountered three major hits from the boring crews on the town's supply lines. Jeremy, along with the water department employees as well as our other public works staff worked tirelessly through frigid temps and rain to restore water service to the Town's customers, Jeremy Cauthen is a true leader.

--- Provide a brief work background on the individual being nominated --- Jeremy Cauthen previously worked in the oilfield and USIC before joining the water department at Many. He is married to Kathy and they have three children, Justin, Katelynn and Madi.

North	South
Water System Grade (Letter/Percentage)	B=83%
Member Type & #	ACT 1386
LA 1085016 Robert Hable Mayor	