

Person Submitting Nomination: Ted Barnes

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:

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

Individual Award Nominee:	
Nominee:	Bradley Alexander
Title:	WasteWater Plant Manager
System Name:	Bastrop, City of/Veolia Water
Member #:	2770 <b>FRI</b>
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 706
City:	Bastrop, City of/Veolia Water
Zip:	71221
Phone #:	318-283-3326
Categories and Levels of Certifications Held:	WW class 4
Years as an Operator:	8
WS Letter Grade:	<b>A</b> % Grade: <b>103%</b>

*n m '19*

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.

Bradley Alexander took over the Bastrop wastewater treatment approximately six years ago. At the time there was only two persons working there with the correct liscene. He imeadently began a program to get everyone qualified and liscened. He also began a program to repair or replace the failing infrustructure as needed lowering the amount of I&I



# Wastewater 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

--- Cell Phone --- (318) 581-2683

--- Email --- [toc4312@bellsouth.net](mailto: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: --- **Wastewater Operator**

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

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

--- What do you believe entitles this individual to receive this award? --- I believe Bukar Mohammed should receive the Wastewater Specialist Award for the Town of Coushatta Wastewater System because of his outstanding technical knowledge, tireless dedication, and significant contributions to improving the efficiency and sustainability of the town's wastewater management. Over the years, Bukar has played a pivotal role in optimizing wastewater treatment processes, reducing environmental impacts, and ensuring compliance with all regulatory standards. His proactive approach to troubleshooting and resolving complex issues, along with his ability to implement innovative solutions, has greatly enhanced the system's reliability. Bukar's leadership, attention to detail, and commitment to public health and environmental protection make him an exemplary candidate for this prestigious award. His unwavering focus on maintaining a high standard of service for the residents of Coushatta reflects his true professionalism and passion for his work.

--- Provide a brief work background on the individual being nominated --- Operator Bukar Mohammed is a highly experienced wastewater operator with over a decade of hands-on expertise in managing and maintaining wastewater systems. Bukar quickly developed a deep understanding of wastewater treatment processes, equipment maintenance, and regulatory compliance. Over the years, Bukar has advanced through various roles, gaining invaluable experience in system operations, troubleshooting, and implementing innovative solutions to optimize efficiency and reduce environmental impact. His extensive knowledge of both conventional and advanced treatment technologies has made him an integral part of the Town of Coushatta Utility department. Bukar is known for his meticulous attention to detail, problem-solving skills, and dedication to ensuring the highest standards of our wastewater system and public health.

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

ACT 771

n/a ✓

Wastewater

## 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	
<b>Individual Awards</b>			Water System
			Wastewater System
	H.M. "Skeeter" Vickers Award		Energy Conservation System
	Outstanding Office Person		Source Water Protection System
	Water System Operations Specialist ( <i>Operator</i> )		Private System
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wastewater System Operations Specialist ( <i>Operator</i> ) - <i>North</i>		Water Conservation & Re-use

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

- Select** the award above that you are nominating for (complete a separate form for each award)
- Complete** required information below
- 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.
- 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: <b>Town of Ball Wastewater Treatment Plant</b>			
System mailing address: 100 Municipal Drive			
City: <b>Ball</b>	State: <b>LA</b>	Zip: <b>71405</b>	
Physical address: 116 Gayle Lane Ball, LA 71405			
Phone number: (318) 640-9605		Email: emelancon@townofball.com	
Name & title of person submitting nomination: <b>Gail Wilking, Mayor</b>			
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: <b>Michael Willingham</b>			
Title/Position with system: <b>Wastewater Supervisor</b>			
How long has nominee worked in water/wastewater industry? <b>10 years</b>			
What level and type of Operator Certification does nominee hold?			
<b>Wastewater Collection 3 and Wastewater Treatment 2</b>			

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.

## 2025 LRWA Annual Awards Nomination Wastewater System Operations Specialist (Operator)

### Michael Willingham Operator ID# 52914

Michael Willingham started with the Town of Ball as a laborer in the wastewater department on March 30, 2015. For a long time we only saw him either working where he was told to work or quietly accompanying his supervisor to Town Hall when necessary. Although he had a certain “look” that conveyed what he was thinking, he never spoke more than a few grunts and only when necessary. He’s a hard worker and an excellent employee who follows proper procedures and completes paperwork legibly.

Michael worked in his same position under three different supervisors but over the years it became quite apparent that he was the “go to guy” when wastewater questions arose, which was often since the Town’s treatment plant was at capacity and we were facing a huge sludge removal project.

After some gentle but persistent nudging, Michael got his GED and qualified to begin training to get his operator certifications. At the time of this writing, Michael holds a 3 in Wastewater Collection and a 2 in Wastewater Treatment. He will be testing for a 3 in Wastewater Treatment at the end of this month.

Michael was promoted to Wastewater Supervisor on April 16, 2024 and is still our “go to guy”. We are very proud of all that he has accomplished thus far and look forward to seeing all the awesome blessings God bestows upon his future.

In closing, if Michael is selected in front of a room full of people, Mayor Wilking says that he is to blame his work family as well and not just her!