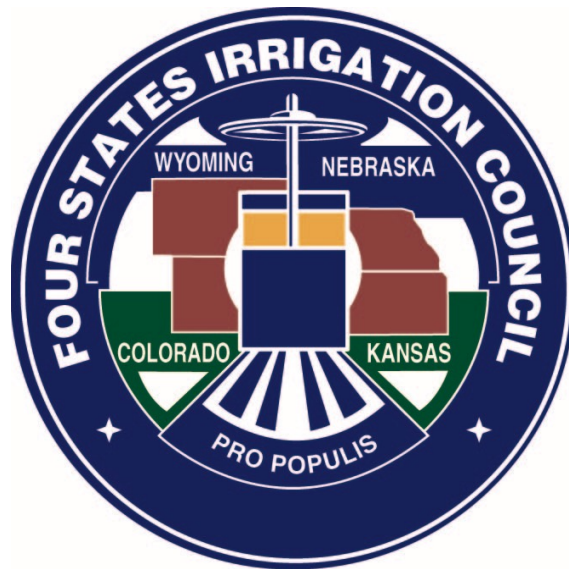


Four States Irrigation Council
62nd Annual Meeting
Awards Banquet



January 14-16, 2015
Fort Collins, Colorado



Water Master Award

Brian Werner

It's difficult to describe the impact of Brian Werner's contributions to the Four States Irrigation Council. His involvement spans decades, as evidenced by his receipt of the Headgate award in 1987. His leadership in Four States has been crucial to the continuity of the organization. He has given countless hours to putting together both the annual meeting and the Colorado summer tours over the years. He seems to always be "in the know" with what is going on in irrigation and have pertinent ideas for the programs our attendees enjoy. Four States is able to celebrate 62 years in large part because of Brian's involvement. The Board wishes to express their deepest thanks and gratitude to Brian for all he has done for the organization. Since he has already won the highest award given, a new award has been created to honor him - the Water Master award.

Brian is the public information officer for Northern Water and serves as the public affairs coordinator for the Northern Integrated Supply Project, a water storage project. As PIO for Northern Water, Brian oversees public affairs for the district including media relations, youth and public education, facility tours, and informational publications. He has coordinated more than 50 children's water festivals in Colorado and produced a video on the Colorado-Big Thompson Project.

Brian was born in Colorado Springs. He graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in history and followed with a Master of Arts in history from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Brian has continued his academic training by researching and giving presentations on the history of water development in Colorado and the American West. He has written extensively about water development and related issues.

Brian was chairman of the Poudre River Trust for five years and helped organize the first Riverfest and cleanup in 1994. He helped lead successful efforts to pass county-wide open space taxes in 1995 and 1999. He is a commissioner for the Poudre Heritage Alliance, and a member of the Public Affairs Committee of the Colorado River Water Users Association.

Ditchrider Award Winners

2014	_____	1991	Beryl Churchill
2013	Ann Bleed		Frank Dragoun
2012	Mike Purcell	1990	Jim Rawlings
2011	Special Recognition Award		John Engen
	— John Lawson	1989	Jim Hokit
2010	Norm DeMott	1988	Mars Garey
2008	Tom Knutson	1987	Les Sheffield
	John Lawson		Brian Werner
2007	Pete Juba	1986	Ken Whitmore
	Ken Nelson	1985	Bill E. Martin
2006	Roger Patterson		Richard D. Black
2004	John W. Keys, III		Donald Brosz
2003	Kent Heidt	1983	J. Willis Ervin
2002	Maryanne Bach		Connie Rothwell
2000	Northern Water	1981	Tom Williamson
	Eluid Martinez	1980	Joe Hall
1999	J. Michael Jess		Charles Calhoun
1996	Candee Werth	1976	Gordon L. Cruse
1995	Robert Prouty	1972	Neil W. Schild
1994	Bob Kutz	1970	Nat Tolman
1992	Sam Shimamoto	1968	O.A. (Bud) Dolven
		1961	Ben H. King



Ditchrider Award Veronica Gomez

For the past decade, Veronica Gomez has helped the Four States Irrigation Council in a wide variety of ways. She has assisted in organizing the annual meetings and summer tours and handling registration duties for both events.

Behind the scenes, where she does exemplary work, Veronica has helped in creating successful meetings and tours. She has assisted both Brian Werner and Jennifer Brown in the logistics of creating successful meetings year after year.

Her accomplishments are numerous. She tracks all things related to registration and fees, even tackling the daunting task of keeping track of the numerous changes with banquet meal requests. She is essential in compiling and producing the information used in conference materials. From the program to the door prize tickets to your lunch selection, Veronica has a hand in it and helped make it happen.

It goes beyond the paperwork; Veronica works with hotel staff and caterers. She is detail oriented and helps manage everything from catering to technical and logistical issues during the meetings. But even more, you'll notice that Veronica is usually the first person you encounter at the events. She is always there to greet everyone with a smile – a great first impression of the organization. And, always reliable, she is often the go-to person when others are in need.

She assists the council with experience she has gained, in part, by working at Northern Water as its events coordinator for the past ten years. At Northern Water, Veronica's same skills are used on a full-time basis for daily, monthly, and yearly events such as conferences, board meetings, water users meetings, summer bus tours, water festivals and the South Platte Forum.

Veronica attended Casper College and received a career offices studies certificate. She also attended Natrona County High School in Casper, Wyo.

Veronica is the proud mother of five children and eight grandchildren.



Wyoming Headgate Award Len Chamberlain

Len Chamberlain has been involved with Four States Irrigation Council since 2000. He first served the organization as the Wyoming director before moving up to secretary-treasurer and then vice president. He was elected president and served in that capacity from 2011-2014. He now holds the board position of past president.

Len's dedication to the Council is evident in his enthusiasm for all things Four States. He makes it a point to attend not only the annual meetings, but also the summer tours in each state. Len was instrumental in planning the Wyoming summer tour in 2007 and has been actively working to create another successful Wyoming summer tour for 2015.

Len was raised on a ranch near Douglas, Wyo., that irrigated from LaPrele Creek through the LaPrele Dam and laterals in the Douglas Water Users Association ditches. In 1984, Len purchased his own operation and began serving on the board of commissioners of the Casper-Alcova Irrigation District in 1999. Len holds a bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Idaho.

Len has owned and operated a cow-calf/alfalfa hay operation west of Casper, Wyo., with his family. They irrigated 700 acres of crop land served by the Casper-Alcova Irrigation District; part of the hay crop was sold locally with the remainder used to feed the 600 head cow/calf operation.



Colorado Headgate Award

Bob Sakata

Bob Sakata was born in 1916 in California. He has seen the best and worst this country has to offer, from bountiful harvest to the interment days, which his family was subjected to. Mr. Sakata moved from California to the Brighton area in 1942. He is now 89 years old and chairman of the family business, where they grow many different types of vegetables on 2,400 acres, including sweet corn, cabbage, onions, pinto beans, and broccoli.

Bob has been honored many times throughout his life for his work in water, not only in Colorado but through the world. He was inducted into the 1999 Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This January he will be inducted in the Business Hall of Fame with his wife of nearly 60 years, Joanna. Bob has accomplished much and been recognized in many ways over the years, including positions as a board director, as a statesman, and as the recipient of numerous awards and commissions. Bob and Joanna have shared much of this recognition with their son, Robert, who now runs the family operation. Bob has been honored by many of his peers and lives by ten simple values:

- Don't just look, observe.
- Don't just hear, listen.
- Don't just talk, say something.
- Don't just work, be productive.
- Don't just set goals, achieve them.
- Don't just live on a title, continue to prove you are worthy of it.
- Don't just tell the truth, live it.
- Don't just make a promise, follow through with it.
- Don't just love, have respect and honor with it.
- Don't just pray, have faith.



Kansas Headgate Award

Don Lieb

Don Lieb was born in Southern California and raised on the family dairy farm. When he was eight, the State of California informed the family they were putting an interstate freeway system through their farm and dairy operation. Therefore, the family moved to Pomona, California, where his dad was the head farmer and agronomy professor at California State Polytechnic University. After virtually growing up on campus, Don graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in agricultural biology. Knowing there was a world to explore, he joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Iran to serve as an agricultural extension agent in the Nahavand Valley in Iran. He extended a third year and served from 1970 to 1973. While in Iran, he met a couple from North Central Kansas who encouraged him to move to the Midwest as they knew of his desire to be in a more rural environment and work in agriculture.

He moved to Courtland, Kan., in February, 1974. It was there that Don and his wife raised their two children. He initially worked for a chemical distributor then the local grain elevator. In the spring of 1980, a position became available at the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2 where he remained until his retirement in December 2013. During his tenure with the irrigation district, he served as a ditchrider and dragline equipment operator from 1980 to 1993, at which time he moved into the office to replace the retired office manager. Irrigation issues were always important to him. When asked, he would give his opinion as he felt he was in the middle between management and local irrigators. During his tenure with Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2, he could not have asked for better employees, supervisor, and board of directors to work with. He knew that each of them truly cared and desired to do their best. Don also served as Republic County's paramedic-EMS director until his retirement in December, 2013. Now in his "spare time" he officiates high school volleyball, softball, and baseball, is a substitute bus driver, continues as a practicing EMT/paramedic, and spends quality time with his grandchildren and family.



Nebraska Headgate Award Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson and his twin brother, Bruce, were born in the family home in Johnstown, Neb. in January 1936. They joined three older sisters and two older brothers.

Brent grew up on the farm and attended Brown County grade school. He graduated from Ainsworth high school in 1954. While in high school, Brent was active in sports, especially track where he placed in the state track meet his senior year. Brent also played basketball. After high school he farmed with his father and brother, Bruce, for two years. Then Brent and Bruce joined the Army in 1956. They served in Germany for two years and were honorably discharged in 1958.

After serving in the Army, Brent returned home to continue farming with his father and brother. Brent married his wife Karen in 1960. When his father retired, the farm became Johnson Brothers farming. Brent and Bruce farmed together for the next 40 years. They expanded their farming operations to include cattle feeding and trucking. After many years, they dissolved their partnership and Brent and Karen began farming with their son, Mark, who has now taken over the operation along with his son.

Brent became interested in irrigation in very early days of his farming career. When the Ainsworth Irrigation District brought water to Brown county, most of the Johnson Brothers land was within the area to be served. Brent was elected to the board of directors of the Ainsworth Irrigation District in 1975 and has served as president for the past 25 years. Brent has also served on the Nebraska State Irrigation board of directors. He is a member of the American Legion post 79 and chairman of the Brown County veterans board. Brent has been very active in the legion baseball program where he coached for many years. Along with their son Mark, Brent and Karen have two daughters, Kathy Jochem, Beth Unick, and many grandchildren.

Headgate Award Winners

Year	Colorado	Kansas	Nebraska	Wyoming
2014				
2013	Harold Nelson	Mike Brzon	Don Felker	Bruce Good
2012	David Simpson	Monty Dahl	Tim Anderson	Ron Richner
2011	Donnie McBee	Jack B. Wergin	Clifford Hanna Jim Davidson	Brad Helzer
2010	Jon Altenhofen	Marvin Swanda	Dennis Strauch	Patrick T. Tyrrell
2009	Gary Kennedy	Brad Petersen	Robert L. Petersen	Bruce Zimmerer
2008	Hal Simpson	Stephen Ronshaugen	Stephen Ronshaugen	Robert Coxbill
2007	Delbert Helzer	Barney Gordon	Darwin Lee Dale Nowak	Dan Melcher
2006	Keith Catlin	David Barfield	Harlin Welch	Jim McClun
2005	Mike Hungenberg	Arnold Ross	Bob Andrews	Bill Vandivort
2004	Tom Pinton	David Pope Dennis Allacher	Al Schmidt Dennis Allacher	Charles Osback
2003	Ralph Adkins	Gary Housholder	Ralph Best Tom Knutson	Kenneth Randolph Herman Strand
2002	John Porter	Joe Hall, Lee Orton	Thomas L. Hayden	Lawrence "Mike" Besson
2001	Tom Cech	Andy Wilson	Donald E. Hughes	James Best
2000	Don Ament	Merwin Kaser	Evlin Ebsen	LeRoy Feagler
1999	John Wilkins-Wells	Bob Dole	Don Schepler	Ronald A. "Butch" Francis
1998	Ralph Curtis	Scott E. Ross	Chris K. Funk	John H. Lawson
1997	Robert Schlagel	Janis K. Lee	Ronald B. Wolf	Donald D. Britton William "Bill" Jones
1996	Jim Hokit	Darwin Housholder	Wallace E. Bean	Emmett Coxbill
1995	Duane Helton	Loren Zabel	Norma Sitzman Roy L. Patterson	Bob Bressler

Headgate Award Winners

Year	Colorado	Kansas	Nebraska	Wyoming
1994	William "W.D." Farr	Elvin Hobson	Les Sheffield	Norm DeMott
1993	James L. Doyle	Thayne Larson	Donald O. Winchell	Michael K. Purcell
1992	Carl Genova	Louis Allen	Paul Pritts	Jack Miles
1991	Pete Nein	Kenneth Nelson	Virginia Smith	Gordon W. Fassett
1990	Frank Gould	Bob Raney	Stanley Christensen	Winston Churchill
1989	Ed Blackburn	Fred Swoyer	C. J. Hargleroad	Howard A. Haas
1988	Robert W. Jesse	Carl Freeman	Wes Sell	Ed Grenier
1987	Jack Neutze	Richard Black	Henry Lange	Neal S. Payne
1986	Kelly Boyce	Wayne Bossert	Homer Loutzenheiser	Bill Franks
1985	Milton H. Nelson	Jim Purcell	Robert B. Crosby	J. Kenneth Kennedy
1984	A. E. Seymour	David Van Patten	Calvin Ewing	Harold Shreve
1983	Bill Howland	Jim Wannamaker	Keith Davis	Henry Garrelts
			Vernon Laverack	
			R. D. Dirmeyer	
1982	Everett C. Long	Delmer Meyer	Charles Harrison	LeGrande Page
1981	John Bigham	Dewayne Lindberg	Robert Thomas	Millard Gowin
1980	Earl Phipps	Leland Stroup	Dr. Leo Beattie	Myron Goodson
1979	Harlan Seaworth	Kenneth Tuley	Lester Johnson	George Chirstopulos
1978	William Pattie	Opal Conrad	Lee Vohland	Donald Brosz
1977	J. Ben Nix	Lyle Russell	C. P. Shaughnessy	Ralph Wells
1976	Tommy Thomson	DeLynn R. Hay	Kenneth E. Carpenter	Peter F. Anker
1975	Frank Milenski	Keith S. Krause	G. E. Exley	Earl Michael
1974	Harold Anderson	Glen Graf	Vernon Krueger	L. E. "Buck" Whitman
1973	Clyde Helms, Jr.	Clayton S. Flood	Lawrence M. John	Floyd A. Bishop
1972	Roy D. Cooper	W. H. Sunderland	T. A. Johnson	R. M. Sensintaffer
1971	J. Sid Nichols	Keith G. Sebelius	Stanley J. Bowman	Charles H. Preuit
1970	J. R. Barkley	Floyd Freeborn	A. C. Splattstoesser	Floyd H. Pease
1969	Felix L. Sparks	Orvin Marquardt	Harold T. Fintus	William R. Jones
1968	Kyle Bryning	Jack R. Nicholson	Don Thompson	Marlin T. Kurtz
1967	William Kelly	Walter Stephenson	Sen. Stanley Matzke	Oscar Barnes
1966	Charles Boustead	John Ayers	Dan Jones	G. N. Goodrich
1965	J. W. Preston	Perry Sweat	Bob Colson	Wilma Lang
1964	Fred Wright	Ward Douglas	James P. Adams	Earl Lloyd
1963	E. F. Munroe	Donald J. Magaw	A. L. Hoyt	Harry W. Kelly
1962	H. P. Amsley	Dr. E. H. Ahrens	Ralph O. Canaday	W. J. Wehrli
1961	Dr. Ivan D. Wood	Arno Windscheffel	E. O. Daggett	E. T. Bower
1960	Harold H. Christy	Russ Herpich	Val Kuska	I J. Matthews
1959	M. C. Hinderlider	R. V. Smrha	Harry Bashore	Dr. J. B. Fuller
1958	Ralph Parshall	Guy W. Caldwell	George E. Johnson	H. T. Person
1957	Charles A. Lory	Chris A. Green	C. P. Peterson	L. C. Bishop

Congratulations to all
our deserving award winners.