WEF Awards Presented at WEFTEC

By Lou Storino, IWEA President

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) proudly announced the 2015 WEF Awards recipients, honoring two Illinoisans at the recent WEFTEC meeting: the Honorable Laurel Prussing, Mayor of Urbana, IL and Commissioner Frank Avila, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Both received the WEF Public Officials Award.

The annual awards program recognizes individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the water environment profession, WEF, and its Member Associations.

Recipients include individuals and organizations that contribute to the sustainability of water resources and make

Continued on page 3...
a profound impact on the future through involvement with water professionals and education.

Mayor Laurel Prussing is the first woman mayor of Urbana. She was first elected in 2005 and has been re-elected twice. Mayor Prussing earned a B.A. in Economics from Wellesley College, a M.A. from Boston University and is near completion of a Ph.D. in Economics (Public Finance) from the University of Illinois.

Mayor Prussing has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving and protecting the water environment and preserving Urbana's natural resources. She has inaugurated and seen the completion of the Boneyard Creek Master Plan, a project that enhanced the physical appearance of the creek through naturalization, landscaping, bank stabilization and other amenities, while maintaining the creek's primary drainage function. She has fought to protect the Mahomet Aquifer, her city's primary source of drinking water. Mayor Prussing has also focused on improving Urbana's stormwater management and infrastructure.

Commissioner Frank Avila works to protect the health and safety of the public and protect the quality of water in the Chicago area waterways. His top priorities include cost-effective wastewater treatment, flood prevention, and the regulation of waste disposal to protect our waterways by eliminating toxic chemicals from the source to prevent endocrine disruption.

Commissioner Avila received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois-Champaign in 1961 and his M.S. in Finance from the University of Arizona-Tucson in 1968. He owned a civil engineering company, Avila & Associates, Inc. and practiced engineering and land surveying for more than 45 years.

Welcome New Members!

By Frederick Wu, Membership Chair

SEPTEMBER
Craig Blanchette, Aqua Illinois
Hao Chen
Michael Colby
Robert Czernek
Joe Dinkel
Amanda Flegel
Ivonne Friday, Bloomingdale Township
Timothy Hopkins, Aqua Bio Technologies
Jayashree Jayaraj
Diana Kapanzhi
Marcy Knysz
Amanda Lardizabal
Dabney Lyles
John Robak, Greeley & Hansen LLC

Jay Shetty
Seth Snyder
Laura Southworth
Yijie Tian

AUGUST
Aubree Basso
Michael Cunningham
Douglas Erickson
Charles Jackson
Michael Ott, Strand Associates
Shane Remmert, Crawford, Murphy and Tilly
Paul Ruscko, HR Green
Mark Wagstaff, M3 Engineering Group, PC
George Zurmely, City of Streator

JULY
Ambría Benesch
Nichole Brown, Baxter Woodman
Fatima Farooqi
Jason Jones
Sanjay Kottapalli
Emma Lamblin
Lillian Oliver
Daniel Reynolds
Paul Roots
Zack Sasnow
Kruti Sutaria
Isabel Trumbull
Anthony Warmack