



Greetings AOWMA members,

I would like to start off thanking you for your continued support of your industry association which is dedicated solely to the advancement of the Onsite Wastewater Industry. The Association's core focus continues to be activities that directly benefit the membership and support the onsite wastewater industry.

The AOWMA was extremely busy in 2022 with the SOP code update training cycle. We delivered multiple online and in person classes to help ensure courses were available throughout the year. Although this tied a lot of our resources up, we were also busy moving forward with some of our other key initiatives. Some of the key initiatives included the creation of an inspection program curriculum, raising onsite public awareness through the annual Septic Awareness Week, the annual convention & trade show, and the septic sense program, to name a few. The Association team is working diligently behind the scenes to create value in the Association and the industry.

I hope you were able to attend the Association's 25th Anniversary convention and tradeshow. We had a great time being back "in person" and I certainly didn't realize how much positive energy is generated during the convention and trade show. Two years of being "online" got us through the gap, but there is no substitute for shaking hands, talking face-to-face and being in the same room as the speakers and trainers! The synergy this type of gathering brings helps to lower stress levels, provide an opportunity to network with suppliers, regulators, policy makers and fellow onsite professionals where we can share and gain information about the industry. Please watch for the date of the 2024 event coming soon.

As for the upcoming year, many of our initiatives are under way and headed for completion! We are looking to provide additional value-added benefits and services for you as a member. This includes providing technical system design reviews on a request-by-request basis and an updated website providing members with additional access to industry specific information. The AOWMA Board of Directors and administration team continue to work together with other stakeholder groups in our community whose activities impact the onsite wastewater industry. The Association meets regularly with stakeholders from Municipal Affairs, Suppliers, APEGA, Ministry of Health and others. AOWMA members have an advocate with key stakeholder groups in moving their concerns forward.

I would like to share with you that Lesley Desjardins has decided, after 21 very productive years with AOWMA, to transition into retirement this year. Lesley has put an incredible amount of time and effort into this Association, the onsite industry, and her passion has been invaluable in achieving many of the goals we've accomplished. We would like to wish Lesley all the best as she steps into retirement.

In her place, I would like to introduce myself, Charles Hallett, as the person trying to fill Lesley's shoes as the Association's Executive Director. Many of you may already know me as I have been around the Association for over 20 years. I was on the Board of Directors for twelve years and around the onsite wastewater industry from both the regulatory and industry side. I'm looking forward to working with you as an Association member and the onsite wastewater community in moving the Association and the onsite industry forward. I'm here for you. If you have any concerns or ideas you would like to share with me, I would appreciate hearing from you.

The primary focus of the Association is to promote a strong industry for our membership. When industry stakeholders work together towards a strong onsite industry, they have a greater ability to affect positive change. The Association is 100% dedicated to its members, the advancement of onsite industry and has never been, nor ever will be, for profit. Thank you for supporting AOWMA with your membership.

Charles Hallett
Executive Director