

Winchester Utility System awarded title of 'State's Best Tasting Water'

Local citizens now officially know they have an abundance of water sources and local utilities that provide clean, reliable water – essential to the quality of life for those who depend on it daily throughout Tennessee.

For the customers of Winchester Utility System, they can now also take pride in knowing that their water 'reigns' supreme in Tennessee in 2017 as it was recently named the state's best tasting water in a statewide competition conducted by the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD).

The Statewide Best Tasting Water Competition was recently held by TAUD at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. The drinking water samples were judged on their clarity, bouquet and taste.

"We have worked very hard over the years to provide the people we serve with the highest water quality possible," said Winchester Utility System General Manager Roger Caldwell. "We take very seriously our responsibility to provide our customers the purest water possible at the lowest possible rate."

Water Superintendent Tim Solomon further states, "Our operators take pride in producing the best quality water and they are truly professionals in their field of expertise."

Judges for the annual competition were John Greer, Utility Specialist with the State Comptroller's Office; Gay Irwin, Tennessee Department of Environment &

Conservation; Harriet Cannon, USDA Rural Development; and Matt Hinkin, Chief Meteorologist with Knoxville's WATE-TV.

"I've judged the statewide competition several times now, and I'm always impressed by how much it means to the competitors," noted Hinkin. "The first time I saw the gentlemen wearing white gloves in an effort to not smudge my glass, I knew this was a serious matter. It definitely opened my eyes to the importance of the many rural utility districts in Tennessee and the services they provide."

In addition to Winchester Utility System, the other regional finalists competing were First Utility District of Knox County, Caryville-Jacksboro Utility District, West Warren-Viola Utility District, Parsons Utility Systems, Cedar Grove Utility District, The Water Authority of Dickson County, The Ocoee Utility District, Brownlow Utility District, West Wilson Utility District

As the statewide winner of the 2017 competition, Winchester Utility System will advance to compete at the National Best Tasting



Winchester Utility System was recently named the state's best tasting water in a statewide competition conducted by the Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD). They will now advance to the national competition. Pictured from left are, Adam Denton of Winchester Utility System, TAUD Board President Drexel Heidel and George Powell of Winchester Utility System.

—Photo provided

Water in America competition in February 2018 during the National Rural Water Association's Rural Water Rally Conference in Washington D.C.