



NEWWA
New England
Water Works
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL 2022-2023 REPORT

NEWWA's vision is to inspire excellence in the drinking water profession, public confidence in tap water, and water resource stewardship.

President's Message

IN THE WORDS OF the immortal Jerry Garcia, "What a long, strange trip it's been." Despite the predicted time warp, I was fortunate enough to be able to accomplish a couple of my goals. Along the way, I traveled to faraway lands, collaborated with many incredible people, and toured some amazing utilities and projects.

Two of my goals directly involved highlighting and promoting the great work our members are quietly completing around New England. I was able to tour many utilities and write about their projects and achievements in my space in NEWWA publications. We are truly fortunate to have so many top-notch utilities and cutting-edge projects in New England.

Another goal was to bring the ongoing disciplinary proceeding with AWWA to a satisfactory resolution. From the beginning, NEWWA's goal was to try to find a way to continue the relationship with AWWA while also protecting the interests of all our members and preserving the legacy and history of NEWWA. This process proved very frustrating and eye opening at times, but we were lucky enough to have an incredible group of resolute NEWWA leaders on our Ad hoc Committee who made sure we were not distracted from these goals.

In the end, AWWA leadership felt the need to make significant changes to a relationship that had been beneficial for both parties for a long time. They did not believe that our unique and highly successful section warranted a unique affiliation agreement. Based on AWWA's stance and overwhelming opinion of our members, our board made the decision not to renew our affiliation with AWWA at this time.

Throughout the process, it was reassuring to watch our membership rally together and support this tough decision, just like real New Englanders have been doing since colonial days. It feels like this decision has reinvigorated our membership and, as was a theme at the recent planning session, there is tremendous momentum that will make NEWWA stronger and more vibrant than ever.

We are extremely fortunate to have Kirsten King and the dedicated staff of NEWWA guiding us through these new and exciting times. Their enthusiasm and passion for NEWWA is intense and this intensity is shared by our members. I am extremely proud to be a member of an association that is as close knit, supportive, and inclusive as NEWWA and was truly honored and thankful for the opportunity to serve as its president.



James DeCelles, P.E.
President 2022-2023

Executive Director's Message

THE YEARS 2022-2023 were incredibly trying for NEWWA, and I truly look forward to finally closing this chapter in our history and moving on.

However, despite our struggles, NEWWA was still able to maintain service to its members and the water community across New England, continue positive partnerships with regional and state associations, and advocate at the federal level. In addition, NEWWA was fortunate enough to see overwhelming support by its membership, further proving the strength, integrity, and uniqueness of our water works community.

While this year's annual report will focus on the positive aspects of what we were

able to still accomplish given the massive distraction of the affiliation disagreement, and eventual disaffiliation, with the American Water Works Association (AWWA), we would be remiss if we did not dedicate a great portion of the report to just that. While the situation with AWWA was incredibly unfortunate, it is now a big part of our history, and will help shape our future as well.

NEWWA's history and legacy is long and storied, and there are many, many more years of chapters to write. The passion our members as well as staff show for the water works profession makes what we do possible. Without that, and without all of you, we would fail.

I'd like to personally thank our members for hanging in there with us, and I especially want to recognize the Ad Hoc Affiliation Committee, who put in countless hours—day, night, weekend, and even when on vacations—to fight for NEWWA. There are truly no words to express how grateful I am for their loyalty and friendship. In addition, without the support of staff our mission would have failed. It did not.

Here's to the closing of one very interesting chapter in our history, and I am looking forward to what the future will bring for all of us.

Thank you for allowing me the honor to serve you in this capacity.



Kirsten King
Executive Director



Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee

With proposed federal rules surrounding Lead and Copper, PFAS, and the Consumer Confidence Reports, NEWWA's Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee was extremely busy this year drafting comment letters on multiple proposed regulations. These included:

Letter on PFAS Health Advisories

NEWWA issued a joint letter with the state associations on EPA's updated Health Advisories (HA) for four Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) compounds that focused on public perception and messaging, funding, and timing related to (an at the time) still-anticipated PFAS MCL proposed rule.

Letter on Proposed Rule - Asbestos Part 1: Chrysotile Asbestos; Regulation of Certain Conditions of Use Under Section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act

NEWWA filed comments on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to ban the use of chrysotile asbestos diaphragms in chlor-alkali production facilities. The letter stated that the potential for the loss of critical capacity within the chemical supply chain for the chlor-alkali products used in the production of chlorine creates an unacceptable risk for water systems, which would be unable to reliably secure adequate supplies of this essential disinfection chemical. This could adversely impact the operation of water and wastewater treatment facilities throughout the country, potentially putting the health of customers and the environment at unnecessary risk.

Letter on the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

A comment letter relating to the proposed CERCLA Act focused on extending the same exemption as airports to drinking water suppliers when it comes to PFAS remediation. The letter was sent to the U.S. EPA as well as all legislative delegates from each New England state.

Letter on Federalism and Unfunded Mandates consultation on Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Improvements

A letter requesting that EPA reconsider making additional changes to the LCR to reduce the compliance burden on utilities while achieving its public health goals was sent in December 2022. This was the last opportunity for drinking water professionals to comment on the proposed changes to the rule.

Letter on National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions

A letter focusing on the proposed rules updates on "Don't Say Safe" provisions, delivery schedules and triggers for supplemental material, delivery timelines, translation requirements, delivery windows, and timing of certification was sent in May 2023.

Letter on National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Rulemaking for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

An extensive comment letter on EPA's proposed rule on PFAS focused on PFAS occurrence in drinking water, what entities should be regulated, sampling protocols and training, source water and analytical variability, treatment considerations, analytical methodology, public communication and messaging, liability concerns, source investigations, supply chain/procurement issues, and costs relating to treatment was sent in May 2023.

In addition, Kirsten King and Don Bunker were interviewed by WGBH Boston and featured in an article on the proposed PFAS regulations. The article can be found here: <https://www.wgbh.org/news/local-news/2023/03/15/meeting-epas-new-standards-for-pfas-in-drinking-water-will-be-costly-and-take-time-say-industry-leaders>.

NEWWA will continue to monitor any proposed rules or legislation that affects drinking water suppliers.

Filtration Committee

The 25th Annual Water Quality Symposium was held on May 10, 2023, at the Devens Common Center with 95 attendees. The: "A Quarter Century of the Water Quality Symposium: Meeting Challenges Current and Future" focused on PFAS given the proposed MCLs announced by the U.S. EPA. The event, coordinated by the Filtration Committee, saw strong participation for the first in-person year since COVID (see photo - right).



THE DISAFFILIATION

On June 20, 2023, the New England Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) officially disaffiliated with the AWWA after years of negotiations and a disciplinary process initiated, managed, and decided by AWWA. We would like to recognize the incredibly hard work of the Ad hoc Affiliation Committee, who gave countless hours of their time to ensure NEWWA, and its members, were protected

- Chris Hodgson, AWWA Section Director 2019-2022
- Craig Douglas, AWWA Section Director 2022-2025
- Jim DeCelles, NEWWA President 2022-2023
- Steve Olson, NEWWA President-Elect 2022-2023
- Demetri Vidalis, NEWWA Vice President 2022-2023
- Erica Lotz, NEWWA Past President 2021-2022
- Lisa Gove, NEWWA Past President 2020-2021
- Kirsten King, NEWWA Executive Director 2019-Present

Their dedication to NEWWA, and determination to protect NEWWA's legacy, as well as all of its members, is a testament to the strength of the water community in New England.



from l-r: Demetri Vidalis, Chris Hodgson, Kirsten King, Erica Lotz, Craig Douglas, Jim DeCelles, Steve Olson

Below are excerpts from the Ad hoc Committee's final report on the entire process. Members may request a full copy of the report by contacting Kirsten King at NEWWA's office.

This report provides a recap of the New England Water Works Association's Ad hoc Affiliation Committee ("NEWWA's committee") activities over the past 18 months and provides our recommendation as the committee concludes its efforts to resolve the conflict with the American Water Works Association (AWWA)...

NEWWA's committee was formed in the fall of 2021 upon notification that AWWA had established its own Ad Hoc Committee (AWWA's committee) to investigate the perceived non-compliance of NEWWA's Affiliation Agreement. The action by AWWA to form their committee followed 3 years of discussions and correspondence between the organizations, all focused on AWWA's claims of non-compliance and NEWWA's demonstration of facts supporting our ongoing business activities. The claim of non-compliance centered on AWWA's contention that NEWWA, Inc.'s activity of accepting and retaining local "Inc.-only" memberships was a violation of the terms of their Affiliation Agreement with the New England Section (the "Section").

NEWWA's response to the complaint clearly illustrated that AWWA's conclusions for non-compliance were based on draft documents, and not consistent with the final conditions for affiliation as well as final documents, which were approved by all parties in 1987.

Despite the clarification provided to AWWA's Special Presidential Ad hoc Committee, the Paragraph 8 resolution (i.e., disciplinary) process continued as prescribed throughout 2022 and into early 2023. On a parallel track, NEWWA's committee commenced communications and activities, working to develop a resolution with AWWA's Special Presidential Ad hoc Committee. Meetings were conducted and key communications developed as follows:

- February 9, 2022, NEWWA letter, response to AWWA's "Complaint"
- March 10, 2022, Teams meeting with AWWA Special Presidential Ad hoc Committee
- March 25, 2022, Teams meeting with AWWA Special Presidential Ad hoc Committee
- June 19, 2022, in-person meeting in Boston with AWWA Special Presidential Ad hoc Committee
- August 15, 2022, Teams meeting and presentation to AWWA Board of Directors

THE DISAFFILIATION

- September 18, 2022, NEWWA letter, response to AWWA letter of August 16
- November 30, 2022, Teams meeting with AWWA Special Presidential Ad hoc Committee
- January 13, 2023, presentation to AWWA Board of Directors in person, Santa Fe, NM
- January 26, 2023, in-person meeting in Boston with AWWA Special Presidential Ad hoc Committee
- February 16, 2023, participation at AWWA Hearing in person, Denver, CO
- March 20, 2023, NEWWA response and counter-offer proposal to AWWA's conclusion of "willful and material breach" of the Affiliation Agreement
- April 4, 2023, received AWWA's rejection of NEWWA's counter-offer proposal
- April 6, 2023, conducted special NEWWA membership meeting and polling of members

Upon confirmation of the AWWA board's vote to support their Executive Committee's conclusions of a willful and material breach, NEWWA's committee recommended that a special meeting of the NEWWA Section members be conducted as part of the Spring Joint Regional Conference and Exhibition in Worcester, MA. Information was provided via a series of informational sessions regarding the status of the conflict before the meeting. The special meeting was held on April 6, 2023. At the meeting a poll was conducted, requesting members to provide their preference for one of two options:

- To accept the conditions for AWWA's Cure # 2 (the formation of a "Two-Entity" cure), or
- AWWA's Cure #3 (to Disaffiliate from AWWA).

Results of the poll were 92.5 percent in favor of a disaffiliation and 7.5 percent in favor of Cure #3.

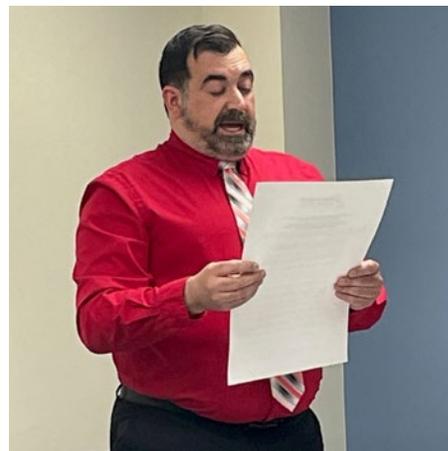
After review by and guidance from legal counsel, consideration of the options by AWWA, consideration of the member polling results, and a complete review of our work, the NEWWA Ad hoc Affiliation Committee has developed a recommendation for the NEWWA Board of Directors.

We recommend that the Section exercise its option under Paragraph 9 of the AWWA Affiliation Agreement. Doing so terminates the Section's affiliation with AWWA...

Throughout the process to address and resolve AWWA's complaint, NEWWA's committee followed the principles established by the original 1987 Affiliation Committee; to maintain the original NEWWA, Inc. organization as the independent, legacy organization, including offering and maintaining memberships. The action, as recommended here, is consistent with that priority.

If at some time in the future changes in leadership at AWWA occur, and if AWWA comes to recognize the value of diverse organizational structures outside of its standard affiliation template, consideration should be given for re-affiliation.

President Jim DeCelles signs the disaffiliation proclamation.



Vice President Demetri Vidalis reads the disaffiliation proclamation before the board of director's final vote.

On April 26, 2023, NEWWA's board of directors formally voted to disaffiliate with AWWA. AWWA was notified that the disaffiliation would take place on June 20, 2023, (the anniversary date of the 2010 Affiliation Agreement's signing).

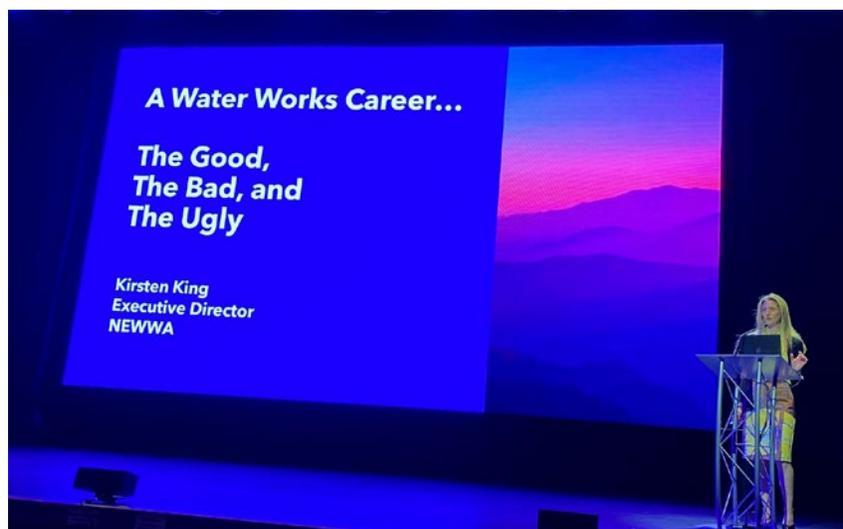
Since June 20, staff has worked behind the scenes to ensure a smooth transition and implement updated branding for NEWWA. We would like to thank the entire membership for its overwhelming support.

NEWWA was excited to announce that Hannah Lee joined its training team on June 5, 2023. Hannah came to NEWWA already as a member, and has previously served on the Laboratory Operations and Young Professionals Committees. Hannah has extensive laboratory experience in addition to webinar development and instruction.



Trainings, Events, and Partnerships

- On March 8, 2023 the Groundwater Committee presented “PFAS in Drinking Water Tools for Water Utilities” at the New Hampshire DES office in Portsmouth. Speakers included representatives from all New England states. The program was well received by the sold-out audience of 85 registrants. (photo left)
- In conjunction with the NHWWA, NEWWA staff conducted a 2-week Exam Preparation course to 50 students preparing for the T1, D1, and VSS (C1A in NH). The program was offered in person at NHDES.
- Final attendance at NEWWA’s 2023 Spring Joint Regional Conference & Exhibition was 3,211, with another sold-out exhibit hall. This was the second highest attendance in the show’s history.



In May NEWWA partnered with the NHWWA on “The Power of Diversity in Public Drinking Water” Symposium. This event demonstrated and celebrated the power of diversity in drinking water organizations and operations and explored how working together builds teamwork, strengthens organizations, and adds system resilience and sustainability. Executive Director Kirsten King gave the Personal Story Presentation on “A Water Works Career - the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.” (photo above)

Partnerships

- NEWWA joined forces again with MWWA to exhibit at the Massachusetts Municipal Association Conference on January 20-21, 2023 in Boston. This is a great way for both associations to collaborate and reach out to key stakeholders from communities across Massachusetts.
- NEWWA also had a booth and met with leadership from NEWEA and NE-APWA at the NEWEA Annual Conference and Exhibit in January 2023 in Boston. The groups discussed potential for more joint initiatives and provided updates on key programs. This leadership also met in April 2023 during NEWWA's Spring Joint Regional Conference and Exhibition in Worcester, MA.
- NEWWA leadership met with the MWUA Board of Directors in January 2023 to discuss ways to work together and initiatives both associations are undertaking. NEWWA also exhibited and presented at the MWUA show from February 1-2, 2023.
- On March 23, 2023 staff presented the "Fundamentals of Reading Prints and Drawings" class in conjunction with the NY Section AWWA at the Troy, NY, WTP. The class was full with 20 students. NEWWA will be working with the NY Section AWWA to offer additional training courses in NY in 2024 via a Memorandum of Understanding.
- In May 2023 NEWWA, along with MWWA and MassDEP coordinated the Massachusetts Drinking Water Awards Day, held at the state house. This is an annual partnership event that helps to recognize outstanding performance by water systems across the commonwealth. (photo right)



- NEWWA's WaterWORKS! Committee joined forces with NEWEA and their workforce development initiative to create a region-wide planning group that also includes each state drinking water and clean water association. We have since hired a consultant and outlined a framework to bring this project to fruition. On April 18, 2023, the consultant met with all of the state and organizational representatives for their first in-person workshop, hosted at NEWWA's Holliston facility. The first report is complete and the project is moving into Phase 2. Another in-person workshop will be scheduled for the fall 2023. NEWWA is excited to be part of this critical initiative to help the water profession recruit new talent into both the operations and engineering fields. (photo above)

Conference/meeting numbers

- Joint July Membership Meeting with RIWWA – July 14, 2022 - The Guild, Pawtucket, RI – 74 attendees
- Annual Conference - September 18 – 21, 2022 - Newport Marriott, Newport, RI. - 402 attendees
- Water Resources & Sustainability Symposium - October 26, 2022 - Devens Common Center, Devens, MA - 59 attendees
- NEWWA/NEWEA IT & Asset Management Fair - November 8, 2022 - NEWWA Headquarters, Holliston, MA - 53 attendees
- December Membership Meeting – December 15, 2022 - Granite Links Country Club, Quincy, MA – 221 attendees
- Joint January Membership Meeting with NHWWA – January 19, 2023 - Cisco Brewers, Portsmouth, NH - 142 attendees
- 37th Annual Ski Classic - Gunstock (NH) - January 20, 2023 - 43 participants
- Spring Joint Regional Conference & Exhibition – April 5-6, 2023 – DCU Center, Worcester, MA - 3,211 attendees
- 25th Annual Water Quality Symposium - May 10, 2023 - Devens Common Center, Devens, MA - 95 attendees
- 30th Annual Golf Classic – May 15, 2023 - Red Tail Golf Club, Devens, MA - 136 golfers

Membership Statistics

	Member Category	Member Type	FY21 Ending 6/30/22	FY22 Ending 6/30/23
NEWWA, INC.	Individual	Individual	139	1,060
		Honorary	11	29
		Life	28	118
		Retired	9	51
		Utility Representative	46	214
		Junior	3	37
		Organization Representative	N/A	40
		Operator	N/A	133
		Total Individual Members	236	1,682
	Organization	Utility	96	302
		Service Provider	23	88
		Total Organization Members	119	390
	NEWWA, INC. TOTAL			355
NE SECTION AWWA	Individual	Individual	981	N/A
		International Individual	0	
		Honorary	4	
		Life	83	
		Main Utility Contact	226	
		Operations	152	
		Retired	60	
		Student	43	
		Total Individual Members	1,549	
	Organization	Utility	190	
		Partner Agency	6	
		Service Provider	34	
		Total Organization Members	230	
NE SECTION AWWA TOTAL			1,779	
NEWWA, INC. TOTAL MEMBERSHIP			2,134	2,072

*Article II (Membership), Section I of NEWWA Inc.'s Constitution states: "All members of New England Water Works Association, a section of the American Water Works Association, are members of New England Water Works Association, Inc."

STATISTICS

TRAINING REPORT SUMMARY PERIOD JULY 1, 2022, TO JUNE 30, 2023

Topic Area	In Person Programs	Online Programs	Total Attendance
Distribution Operations	22	3	496
Safety	32	0	379
Treatment	13	4	243
Management Development	5	1	51
Water Management	12	7	261
Computer	1	0	53
Science	20	1	237
Specialty Topics	4	0	127
Cross Connection Control And Related Courses	74	9	1,139
Total	183	25	2,986

THREE YEAR COMPARISON

	Fiscal Year			
	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Students/Programs				
Total Students	2,986	3,063	3,132	3,038
Total Backflow Students	1,139	1,402	780	560
Total Programs Scheduled	208	198	211	311
Total Backflow Programs Scheduled	83	88	78	90
Total Programs Cancelled (Includes Back-flow)	35	20	25	116
% Of Programs Cancelled	12%	10%	12%	37%
Total Contract Training Sessions (Students)	52 (703)	90 (1,160)	93 (1,515)	83 (1,283)

SOCIAL MEDIA

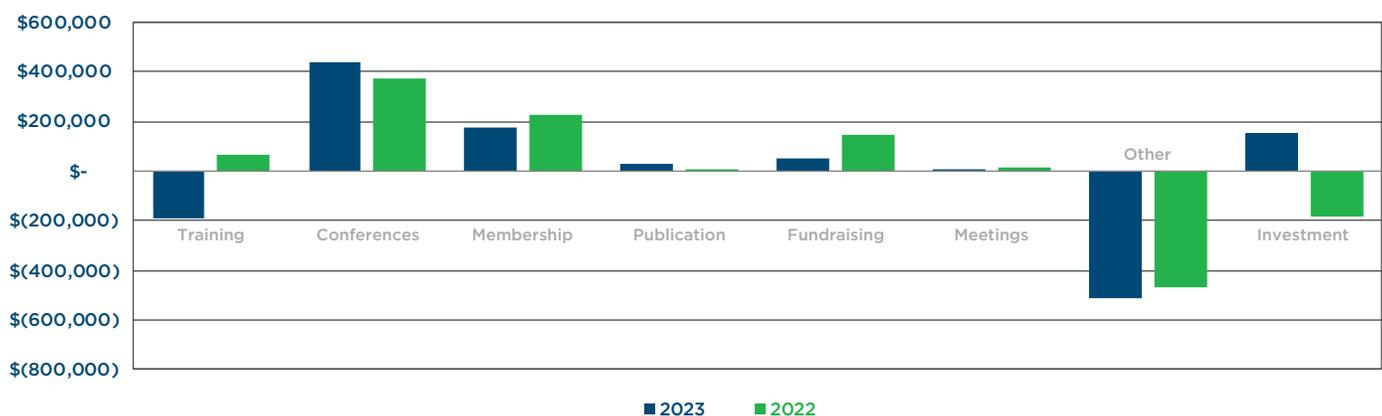
	Young Professionals 				
1,525 Fans 1,668 Followers	313 YP Fans 339 Followers	1,531 Followers	1,064 Followers	1,417 Followers	33 Subscribers

NEWWA ended FY2023 with net income of \$144,034. During 2023, both the Annual and Spring Conferences were very successful and saw near record attendance with an increase in revenue of just over \$46,000. Training revenue was down about \$233,000 as it was the off year for much of the licensing requirements, therefore there was a large drop in contracted training for larger utilities. Investments recovered many of the losses incurred during 2022 and saw gains of just over \$136,000. Other items of note for this year's fiscal activities include:

- The new LMS Software upgrade has been successfully linked with the AMS system. As of year-end 2023, all but \$49,000 from the prior year's virtual fundraising has been expended on this project.
- Administrative expenses include all staff and central office costs not allocated to other programs.
- NEWWA has received the final \$118,000 of the total \$194,000 from the Employee Retention Credit portion of the CARES Act designed as an incentive to retain employees during the pandemic.
- Investment dividend, interest, and principal gains net of fees totalled \$136,189.

Statement of Activities			
For the Year Ended June 30, 2023			
Income and Expenses: Money we earned in the past 12 months offset by costs incurred.			
	Revenues	Expenses	
Training	\$1,219,423	\$1,406,677	(\$187,254)
Conferences	789,015	349,942	439,073
Membership	201,393	23,199	178,194
Publications	65,833	39,866	25,967
Fundraising	125,615	77,512	48,103
Meetings	55,158	52,487	2,671
Other (Administrative)	53,590	568,078	(\$514,488)
Total Operating	\$2,510,027	\$2,517,761	(\$7,734)
Investment Income	151,768	0	151,768
Net Income	\$2,661,795	\$2,517,761	\$144,034

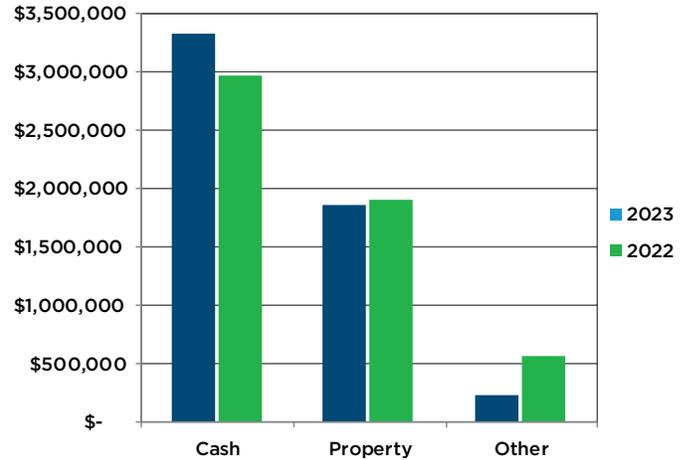
Net Income - 2023 and 2022



FINANCIALS

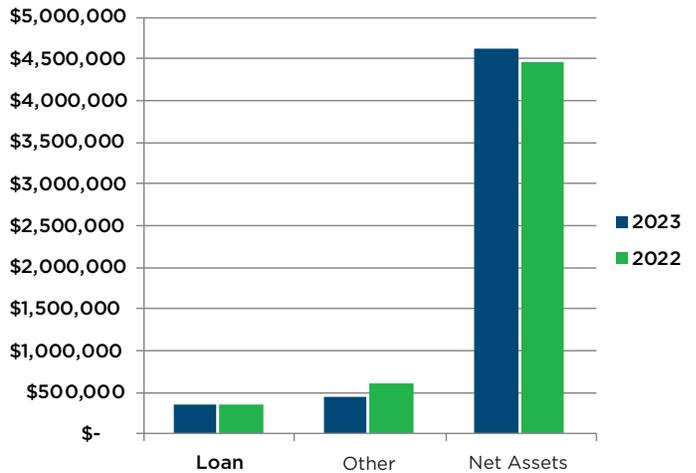
What We Own

Assets		
	2023	2022
Cash	\$3,332,911	\$2,972,022
Property	\$1,862,282	\$1,906,556
Other	\$226,650	\$556,059
Total Assets	\$5,421,843	\$5,434,637



What We Owe

Liabilities		
	2023	2022
Loan	\$359,891	\$359,891
Other	\$448,073	\$604,901
Net Assets	\$4,613,879	\$4,469,845
Total Liabilities/ Net Assets	\$5,421,843	\$5,434,637



Highlights

- Cash/investment balance has gained additional strength with a balance of \$3,332,911.
- Loan payable related to the building in Holliston has an outstanding balance of \$359,891.
- Net Assets - reserve balances as of year-end were strong:
 - Operating: \$1,243,939 (46.4% of budget, target is 25%); \$90,738 higher than last year.
 - Capital: \$962,798 (minimum target balance of \$500,000); \$154,734 higher than last year.
 - Scholarship: \$392,432; \$8,987 higher than last year.

The selected financial data presented on pages 10 and 11 has been compiled from the association's records. The association is a Massachusetts corporation classified as a public charity and has been recognized by the IRS as tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit educational, research, and philanthropic organization. The association's complete financial statements are available from the Massachusetts Attorney General Division of Public Charities Web site (www.charities.ago.state.ma.us/charities/index.asp).



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ASSOCIATION

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