

# Recognizing Sandor Csallany



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“We must again thank him for his foresight... and pledge to carry on the AWRA mission.”

**AS I WAS** preparing to write this column, I received word from AWRA Executive Vice President Ken Reid that on June 8, 2016, the founder of AWRA, Sandor Csallany, had passed away.

Sandor has positively impacted thousands of people in the water resources field. While working at the Illinois Water Survey, he recognized that the field was lacking a society focused on bringing together water professionals on the many important issues facing water resources planning and management. On March 17, 1964, Sandor and several colleagues formed the American Water Resources Association (AWRA). Through AWRA, Sandor has had a profound influence on water resource professionals and students by establishing a water resources forum to gather, network and collaborate. As Ken Reid so succinctly stated in his email to the AWRA Board and staff, “through his vision and foresight, he changed the way we approached finding solutions to the problems we face in managing our greatest resource. He broadened the conversations to include all disciplines related to water resources. He truly was a pioneer.”

The timing of this issue of *IMPACT* is quite fitting. It exemplifies the multidisciplinary nature of AWRA and water resources, exactly what Sandor had hoped to facilitate in 1964. This issue focuses on some of the critical topics facing America's elected

officials as determined by the AWRA membership. The articles address: sea level rise; floods; the water-energy nexus; water governance; and the integration of groundwater and surface water management. As you read these articles it is clear that not one of the topics can be addressed through the lens of a single discipline. Sandor grasped this quite early in his career and recognized there was a need to gather individuals to promote conversation and dialogue among water professionals. His vision was in 1964 and 52 years later this concept couldn't be more relevant. This issue of *IMPACT* clearly demonstrates that Sandor succeeded in his mission to make AWRA a forum to promote the multidisciplinary discourse of our most pressing water resource issues.

As we read this issue and focus on the most pressing concerns facing our water resources leaders, let us recognize that Sandor Csallany's forethought provides AWRA members the forum to address these issues with a multidisciplinary approach. I never met Sandor but I feel honored that I heard him speak at AWRA's 50th anniversary celebration in Tysons Corner, VA. And as we did at the 50th celebration, I believe we must again thank him for his foresight in the water resources field and pledge to carry on the AWRA mission.

I hope to see many of you in November for AWRA's Annual Conference in Orlando to continue this multidisciplinary discourse. ■



## In Memoriam: Sandor Csallany, 1928-2016 AWRA Founder 1964, AWRA Secretary 1964-1976

Sandor Csallany was born in Szentes, Hungary, on April 15, 1928. He completed degrees in civil engineering, hydraulic engineering and hydrology at the Technical University of Budapest, began his professional career and married.

The family fled into Austria at the time of the Hungarian Uprising in the fall of 1956 and continued to the United States in 1957 where Sandor joined the Illinois Water Survey. In the United States, he was challenged by observing his adopted country lacked a society focused on promoting discourse among water professionals on the

many important issues facing water resources planning and management. He recruited colleagues who joined him in forming the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) on March 17, 1964. Sandor immediately went to work writing letters inviting professionals nationwide to an initial meeting in Chicago in 1965. Since then, AWRA has grown steadily to become an influential force for an interdisciplinary perspective in water resources management.

Sandor then took the next step of facilitating this important collaboration at the international scale and recruited Gabor Karadi and also Emil Mosanyi from the

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