Message from the Chair

Emilie Moore

Welcome to Fall! Great things are happening in Region IV to round up another successful year of trainings, fundraisers, outreach, and member networking and appreciation events. We are readying for events with our local college and K-12 school students and are hosting our charity fundraiser events such as our golf tournament and 5K run. And for the first time, we are hosting an appreciation and networking event to thank our regional sponsors for their help making Region IV’s 2014 a great success.

Our volunteers have gone the extra mile to prepare for and host these events, and we have fun doing it. For people interested in becoming an American Water Works Association (AWWA) member, I encourage you to contact me or any of our Region IV volunteers about the benefits of membership.

Within the Florida Section AWWA, we offer discounts on one-year operator’s memberships ($25 each) and one year student memberships (free). There are other first-year membership discounts so check out the Florida Section website (www.fsawwa.org) for more information.

Additionally, FSAWWA offers a mentoring program which brings together seasoned FSAWWA members with newer members to facilitate member integration into FSAWWA and the volunteer opportunities. Interested mentors and mentees are encouraged to visit www.fsawwa.org and sign up for the program.

Region IV has exciting events planned in the next few months. Be sure to check out the Region IV website at http://www.fsawwa.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=106 for more information. A snapshot of our Fall events includes:

- **September 25th** – USF/Young Professionals’ Networking Event
- **October 3rd** – Golf Tournament Fundraiser
- **October 11th** – Water for People 5K Run
- **October 25th** – Model Water Tower Competition
- **November 1st** – Tailgate Event – USF vs. Houston
- **November 13th** – Regional Sponsors Appreciation & Networking Event
- **November 19th** – FSAWWA Water Quality Division / Region IV Workshop
- **Nov 30th – Dec 4th** – FSAWWA Fall Conference (Omni ChampionsGate)
- **December** – Region IV Fall Seminar

Please visit our website: www.fsawwa.org for event updates!

“The best laid plans are no substitute for an idea that’s done. So go. Do it. Make tracks. Leave a trail.”

– Author unknown

UPCOMING 2014 CALENDAR EVENTS

THANK YOU – REGION IV SPONSORS
USF’s Master’s International Program

By Dustin Bales

I am originally from Central Missouri, where I grew up in farming country and attended school through undergraduate. I graduated in 2010 from Missouri University of Science and Technology with a degree in Chemical Engineering. Following that, I decided to pursue the Master’s International program at University of South Florida, to receive a Master’s in Environmental Engineering and serve in the Peace Corps. At USF, I did research on manual drilling and low-cost pump technologies. Instead of coming to Peace Corps directly after my one year of classes, I was lucky to receive the opportunity to intern and do research at the drinking water treatment plant in Tampa. I stayed in Tampa for an additional 1.5 years working at the water treatment plant and completed my thesis research. My thesis research focused on reducing bromate formation during ozonation using the chlorine ammonia process and improving biofiltration through non-chlorinated backwash and nutrient addition.

In Uganda, I am working on building the capacity of the manual drilling industry in Northern Uganda. The goal is to have a private sector industry that can provide affordable water to a large percentage of the population with no subsidy, while also providing employment. The work encompasses training of business and technical skills as well as improving the supply chain of required materials and building demand for the products. The manual drilling technology we are implementing here is called the Baptist or SHIPO drilling method. A drill bit with a check valve is attached to the bottom of the drilling pipe, with drilling water circulating throughout the system. As the pipe is slammed down, cuttings flow up from the pipe and flow into two settling pits. Then the water circulates back into the well around the drilling pipe, completing the loop and bringing more cuttings up. Cow dung is used as an effective low cost alternative instead of bentonite or polymer to increase the viscosity and bring the cuttings to the surface. It also has the bonus of being completely biodegradable, so high velocity pumping isn’t required to develop the well. Once the well is drilled to depth, it is cased and sealed the same way a traditional machine drilled well is. After 1-2 months to let the cow dung degrade, the water quality is in the same range as machine drilled wells.

We also install (when the customer wants it) a low cost pump called the rope pump. It uses a series of rubber pistons (made from old tires) to bring water up a riser pipe. The rope travels around a wheel made from pipe (as spokes) and the inner ring of old tires (as the wheel part) and then back down the backside to bring more water. A small metal guide box is affixed to the bottom of the riser pipe to make sure the rope travels correctly back into the pipe. When a rope pump isn’t installed, the iconic India Mark II hand pump is installed.

As far as day to day life goes, I live in the largest city in Northern Uganda, Gulu. You might have heard of it due to it being the epicenter of the LRA conflict for about 15 years, ending in about 2010. Today, it’s a very safe city with a lot of services not found in other places. (We have a pizza place!). I live in a small apartment with electricity (about 75% of the time) and running water (but no water heater). The mobile networks are almost always working, and that’s also how we get internet (3G!). The internet is a lot less reliable than the general mobile networks, but it’s good enough to email reliably. Food wise, we get a pretty good selection of vegetables here and all your typical meat, and the large Indian population means we can get all kinds of spices unavailable in other parts of Africa. I make and eat curry style dishes all the time. I hope this letter reaches everyone in AWWA well, and helps give a clear picture of life and work in Uganda!
FSAWWA USF Student Chapter Update

By Laurel Smith

Fall semester is here and things are kicking into high gear. Our club started out the semester with a “No Water, No Coffee” Free Raffle Give Away during the freshman week of welcome event August 21st. In addition to the raffle, students received a chance to go "hands on" with a cut-through example of a water valve and reverse osmosis filter. Franchesca Dinapoli was the winner of a free Keurig K-Cup Coffee Maker, courtesy of the USF Student Chapter of AWWA.

This month’s events for the AWWA USF student chapter include: USF student design competition practice presentation for WEFTEC, joint YP and USF happy hour at Peabody’s Billiards for the YP/USF Social network, and movie night featuring a water related independent film. More exciting events are currently in planning for later into the fall semester, including lectures from guest speakers, tours, football tailgating and additional social events.

If you have an interesting project or topic in the works that you would like to present to our student members or would consider hosting a tour of your facilities, please contact the USF Student Chair, Laurel Smith at laurel3@mail.usf.edu or USF Student Vice Chair, Pamela London-Exner at pamela.london-exner@veolia.com.

Go Bulls!!!
Seventh Annual Model Water Tower Competition

By John Troutt

The Seventh Annual Model Water Tower Competition is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Walker Middle Magnet School, 8282 North Mobley Road, Odessa, Fl. 33556. This is a fun event where the Middle and High School students in Region IV can use their artistic, math, science and engineering skills to build model water towers and compete for cash prizes. It is also an event where we can educate the students about local potable water supplies and to talk to the students about future job opportunities in the potable water industry.

The committee is seeking about 40 volunteer water professionals to assist with the testing, judging and festivities the day of the competition. We hope you will consider being a volunteer to help make this a fun and exciting day for all the local middle and high school students that participate. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt and lunch on the day of the event. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this fun and educational event for our next generation of water industry professionals.

Please RSVP via email or direct any questions regarding the event to either:

John Troutt
MWTC Chair
813-929-4511
jtroutt@tampabaywater.org

Shelby Hughes
MWTC Vice Chair
813-635-5580
Shelby.Hughes@kimley-horn.com

“Reliability in a Changing Environment”

By Rick Ratcliffe

Region IV MAC is working hand and hand with the Florida Section MAC in planning the fall conference. This year’s theme is “Reliability in a Changing Environment” will be held at the Omni Resort Champions Gate from November 30 to December 4. The calendar of events is located up on the following website http://fsawwa.org/2014fallconference. One of the highlights of this year conference is the BBQ challenge Monday night and also to celebrate one of our own from Region IV Mark Lehigh as the incoming Chair for the Florida Section. As always there will be a number of technical sessions, workshops / symposiums, CEU credits will be issued, a number of competitions will be held from back hoe rodeo, tapping contest, fun tap, to the water meter contest. Hope to see everyone at the of November.

The Region IV MAC is busy working on a NEW Technology Showcase in February 2015 in the City of Oldsmar. The City of Oldsmar was our host last year as well. CEU’S will be issued at this event to comply with Florida DEP regulations. More information will be available in the next couple of months.
2nd Annual Run4Water

By Holly Kremers

The 2nd annual Run4Water 5K will be held Saturday, October 11th at R.E. Olds Park in Oldsmar. The 1 mile fun run will begin at 6:00 pm, and the 5K will follow at 6:15 pm. Live music, food, and drinks will begin at 6:00 and continue into the evening, which makes the event great fun for race participants and spectators alike.

New this year, Region IV has teamed up with the FWEA West Coast Chapter to host the event. Special prizes will be provided for the largest team and the fastest team, so get your coworkers together and register your team! All proceeds from the event will benefit Water for People and local organization Oldsmar Cares. The Water for People committee is looking forward to the event, and we hope to see all of you there!

Registration is available at www.run4water5k.com. Please contact Holly Kremers HKremers@wadetrim.com with any questions about the event.

Regional Sponsors Appreciation and Networking Event

By Dan Glaser

Region IV is hosting a Regional Sponsors Appreciation & Networking Event on November 13, 2014, 6-8:30 p.m. at the InterContinental Hotel in Tampa. The purpose of the fun event is to recognize our 23 regional sponsors publicly, and to provide networking opportunities for sponsors, members and guests. Five speakers have been invited to speak briefly about their current and future programs and projects.

Sponsors, and utility directors and assistants will be provided with free admission and one complimentary beverage. We encourage our members to come and network with your peers to meet our speakers and other agency attendees. The invited speakers are Steven Leavitt, City of St. Petersburg; Brad Baird, City of Tampa; David Scott, Pinellas County; Robert Beltran, SWFWMD; and George Cassady, Hillsborough County. We look forward seeing you there for some fun and fabulous networking!
Interested in becoming more active in Region IV?

**Contact:**
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