



FLORIDA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

REGION IV NEWSLETTER



Volume 8, Issue 6

Summer 2014

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Message from the Chair

Emilie Moore



Summer is upon us and Region IV is gearing up for great events in the 2nd half of the year. Our Region IV volunteers with support from FSAWWA have been busy preparing for these events. We'll start off with Chemical Safety Training on June 30th in St. Petersburg and then a month later on July 30th we're hosting a luncheon seminar in Tampa on Sea Level Rise Impacts to a Coastal Surface Water Supply. Keep your eyes to your email for those notices.

We'll kick it up a notch in August with two events. FSAWWA's Water Quality Division and Region IV are hosting a joint workshop on August 14th titled "Don't Waste a Drop: Water Conservation and Management

Practices from Source to Tap". Then on August 16th, we are hosting our Region IV General Membership Meeting at Brighthouse Field in Clearwater to enjoy an evening watching Clearwater Threshers baseball.

Take a look at the articles in this newsletter detailing events in the region. Looking forward, I hope to see you at our upcoming Region IV events. We are an active group of volunteers dedicated to improving our world of water. We have been blessed to receive tremendous support from our regional sponsors, leading to successful trainings, technology transfers, and networking events.

Many thanks to everyone!

Be sure to check out the Region IV website at: <http://www.fsawwa.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=106>

UPCOMING 2014 CALENDAR EVENTS

- June 30th – Chemical Safety Workshop
- July 30th – Summer Seminar (Sea Level Rise Impacts to a Coastal Surface Water Supply)
- August 14th – Summer Workshop (Region IV/ FSAWWA Water Quality and Resources Division)
- August 16th – Membership Appreciation Event
- August 21st – Region IV Young Professionals' Summer Webinar & Social Event
- September – 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 – Fall Seminar
- November 30th - December 4th – FSAWWA Fall Conference (Omni ChampionsGate)
- January 2015 – Regional Sponsors Appreciation Event

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

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Plant City Utilities Department receives accolades for a job well done

By Steve Soltau



Steven Saffels,
Utilities
Operations
Superintendent

The Plant City Utilities Maintenance Department and its employees have won at least four statewide awards for outstanding service in recent years. City Commissioner Bill Dodson said he likes seeing the department bringing home awards. *"I'm pretty proud of them."* Utilities Director Frank Coughenour said the honors have not come easy. It's good old-fashioned hard work and dedication to their jobs." The Utilities Department delivers 5 million gallons of treated drinking water in the average day from three water towers and a ground level storage tank spread out around Plant City.

Steven Saffels, Utilities Operations Superintendent, won the 2013 Meritorious Operator Award from the Florida Section American Water Works Association. With 41 years of public service experience, Steve is one of the longest-tenured employees on the city payroll. Steve started his career as lab technician and now claims the title of superintendent. He was nominated by chief plant operator Patrick Murphy. "It's not just about length of service; it's about the quality of service. The award judges look at your entire operation," Murphy said.

Steve believes technology plays a much greater role in operating the city's utilities than ever before. A computerized module monitors the systems and displays their status — and any problems — on a screen, 24 hours a day. "It used to be you'd drive around on a regular basis and look at it (the system) to make sure it was all running smoothly. The computerized system is a great tool that saves us a lot of time," he said.

Steve gives his staff the kudos for the accolades his department has received in recent years.

"We have a totally professional staff here," he said. "Everybody is concerned about doing a good job. They are the ones who deserve the credit."

Source: <http://tbo.com/plant-city/city-utilities-department-receives-accolades-for-a-job-well-done-20140505/>

Region 4 takes four FSAWWA Awards in 2013 - By Steve Soltau

Region 4 was well represented in the 2013 FSAWWA Awards presented at the FWRC in April of this year:

- Steven Saffels, Utilities Operations Superintendent, City of Plant City
 - Meritorious Drinking Water Treatment Plant Award
- Hillsborough County Lake Park WTP
 - Most Improved WTP Class B Award
- City of Clearwater RO#1
 - Outstanding WTP Class C Award
- Fred Hemerick, City of Clearwater
 - Outstanding WTP Operator Award

If you would like to nominate your water treatment plant, or an operator you believe deserves special recognition, please go to the FSAWWA web site and click the Awards link to find the applications; <http://www.fsawwa.org/#>

Award applications are accepted year 'round until late March. There is no reason to wait! Begin now and you will have ample time to create an award winning application.

For additional information, please contact Steve Soltau, Operator Council Chair ssoltau@pinellascounty.org



Left to Right: Andrew Greenbaum, Emilie Moore, and Steve Soltau

FSAWWA Region 4 recently partnered with utility services from cities within Pinellas County to showcase the variety of careers that can be involved with utilities.

The Utilities Career Expo took place on May 20 at the St. Petersburg College Digitorium in Seminole. Students with an interest in utility careers were able to hear from the professionals currently working in the field and see the diversity of jobs available.

The night began with a video presentation showcasing utility workers in different fields and phases of their career commenting on their experiences working in their profession.

To see the video presentation shown at the expo, visit http://youtu.be/WsYziE_WZ5I.

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133rd AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE14)

Uniting the World of Water

By Peggy Guingona

This year, the 133rd AWWA's Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE14) was held in Boston, MA, and the theme was "Uniting the World of Water".

Monday Highlights:

Each year ACE kicks off with the Opening General Session (OGS), which follows with the official opening of the exhibition hall. The OGS creates high energy and is a great way to start the conference. This is the second year in a row that the OGS resembled a political convention. I had the honor of holding up a sign to identify our section seating area. I don't know if it had to do with luck of the draw or section size, but we were assigned the first six rows on the left side facing the stage. Everyone in our section received their own special sunglasses and a Florida Section ribbon.

The Florida Section had much to crow about during ACE. For one, we were proud during the introduction of the AWWA Board. We did a rousing "shout-out" for our very own **Jeff Nash**, FSAWWA board member and AWWA Vice President, as he was introduced to the OGS attendees!

Another yearly event is the FSAWWA luncheon, partly sponsored by the section's MAC. It was held at the Seaport Hotel's Aura Restaurant; easy walking from the Boston Convention Center and attended by 74 FSAWWA members.

Tuesday Highlights:

This year's Water Industry Luncheon featured Rick Pitino, head basketball coach for the Louisville Cardinals. However, that was not the reason why the Florida Section bought a table for the luncheon. We were there to honor **Rick Ratcliffe**! He was a recipient of the John Lechner Award of Excellence.

Purpose of award: An individual award of excellence to recognize a section Manufacturers/Associates Council member who has demonstrated exemplary

service to the drinking water community and to AWWA's mission and goals.

Florida's own **Palm Coast Water Buoys** recaptured the first-place Top Ops crown at ACE14. Chris Hill and I watched them beat the Smooth Operators team from the California-Nevada Section.

This was the team's fifth title in nine years in the "college bowl" contest that tests the everyday know-how of water treatment operators.

Wednesday Highlight:

The FSAWWA's George Warren Fuller Awards for 2014 is **Charles (Chuck) Carden**. Chuck was honored for his distinguished service in the water supply field at Wednesday's George Warren Fuller breakfast.

Way to go Region IV! Two of your volunteers received prestigious awards.

In closing, if you haven't made it to ACE, I hope to see you at ACE15 in Anaheim, CA on June 7-10.



9th Annual Region IV Charity Golf Tournament

Reminder Notice –Mark Your Calendars

By Ron Parker

As a reminder, the 9th Annual Region IV charity golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, October 3, 2014. This year's event will be held on the North Course at Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club. This Pasco County course is very challenging and well maintained for an enjoyable day of golf and socializing with other water professionals.

Golf registration flyers will be sent out in August 2014. If you are a Region IV regional sponsor your sponsorship automatically includes one foursome (if you sign up) and special recognition at the tournament. Proceeds from the event help sponsor the Likins Scholarship Fund and Water for People.

For more information on the event, please contact Ron Parker at 813-207-7940 or parkerre@bv.com. Hope to see you there.



Coming January 2015 Sponsors Appreciation Networking Event! - *By Dan Glaser*

The above event held in the early evening, will provide networking opportunities to sponsors of Region IV. Two complementary tickets will be provided to each of Region IV's 2014 annual sponsors. Thank you. Please contact Dan Glaser at 727.464.5209 or dglaser@pinellascounty.org with questions.

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT LIASON CHAIR UPDATE

City of Crystal River Duke Groundbreaking - *By Nick Makris*

Just recently we had the official groundbreaking ceremony with the City of Crystal River, Duke Energy, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Crystal River Duke Energy Reclaimed Water project. The \$6.2 million project will provide 0.75 mgd of reclaimed water and will reduce groundwater pumping and wastewater nutrient loading in the Crystal River/Kings Bay springshed.

REALITY IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

By Rick Ratcliffe

Region IV MAC is working hand and hand with Florida Section MAC in planning the fall conference. This year theme is "Reliability in a Changing Environment." The conference will be held at the Omni Resort Champions Gate from November 30 to December 4. Exhibitor registration is now open. Attendee registration will open on August 1. Please mark the date on your calendar and please plan on attending this year conference. We hope to see you there.

Presentations

By Mike Condran

On March 27th, Tom Rawls with Hillsborough County and Carlton Serrette delivered a presentation entitled "Developing a Countywide Pump Station SCADA System for Hillsborough County Wastewater Pump Stations". We had an excellent turnout with nearly 60 attendees at the Tuscan Brio restaurant. We offer our thanks and sincere appreciation to Tom and Carlton for an excellent presentation and interesting Q&A!

On July 30th we will be hosting another lunch time meeting at the same venue, and our guest speaker will be Kevin Morris, Science and Technology Officer with the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority. Kevin's presentation is entitled "Sea Level Rise Compels Florida Coastal Surface Water Supply to Develop Sustainability Model". A separate flyer will be sent out shortly with more details. We are very much looking forward to Kevin's discussion of this important topic. Coming in the October timeframe we will be hosting a half-day session focusing on regulatory topics that impact all water utilities in the Region – stay tuned for further details on the date and invited speakers and their topics.

FS-AWWA USF STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE

By Laurel Smith

The USF student chapter of FSAWWA gathered this past spring for a tour of the water quality facilities of Busch Gardens. A big thank you goes out to George Tenhagen, maintenance manager at Busch Gardens, who made possible the tour and kept the event both fun and educational.



Also this past semester, numerous speakers came and presented lectures on water related topics. Just to name a few: Matthew Munz, Phil Waller, and David Socha with MWH Global, spoke regarding their company and various projects in progress, Nan Bennett with the city of Clearwater discussed the new RO plant in progress, and Johna Jahn and Holly Kremers closed out the Spring semester with a lecture, panel discussion, and networking social about Water for People.



Planning for the fall semester is in full swing, as the student chapters of AWWA and FWEA are partnering in the effort to increase undergraduate and graduate student interest in the industry of water management. 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 (laurel3@mail.usf.edu) or USF Student Vice Chair, Pamela London-Exner (pamela.london-exner@veolia.com). Go Bulls!!!

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