Past Chairs Summit

Our fourth annual Past Chairs Summit was held on August 25-26 in downtown Orlando. Each year, this event turns out to be one of the most enjoyable and informative meetings we host. The primary purpose of the meeting is to provide a platform for the current executive committee to inform the past chairs of the state of the section and its business, and solicit input and advice on our future direction and priorities. It’s also a great venue for the past chairs to reunite, see old friends, and swap stories. The summit has become a great opportunity for today’s leadership to meet and connect with section leaders of the past; their knowledge and experiences are invaluable tools as we look to the future of the section.

Fourth Annual Past Chairs Dinner

Although this year’s attendance was affected by Hurricane Irene passing along Florida’s east coast, those who were able to attend represented over 35 years of section experience:

- Ed Singley, 1976-1977
- Tim Brodeur, 1986-1987
- Bevin Beaudet, 1990-1991
- Pat Lehman, 1999-2000
- Larry Ruffin, 2000-2001
- Jeff Nash, 2001-2002
- Jackie Torbert, 2005-2006
- Rob Teegarden, 2007-2008

- Matt Alvarez, 2007-2008

Following the dinner, the group attended the annual Region III “Wine For Us” fundraiser for Water For People, which raises money for the organization to support the building of water and sanitation projects in developing countries.

Sadly, this year marked the passing of two past chairs: Dave Crowson (1973-1974) and Curtis Stanton (1960-1961). On behalf of the section, our deepest sympathies go out to the families for their loss. Both gentlemen dedicated their careers to the water industry and touched countless lives in the process. The impact they had on the section will be felt for many years to come.

Workshop Issues

Highlights of the past chairs workshop held at the summit included the customary “state of the section” report and financial update, as well as a review of our strategic initiatives and current priorities for the board of governors. As has been the case in the past, the Continued on page 44
section’s focus on training, membership, and marketing was confirmed and embraced by the chairs. An excellent feedback and discussion session closed out the meeting, with the past chairs and the board in agreement on the main challenge to the section: seeking out new and innovative ways to engage utilities during these trying economic times.

Thank you to the past chairs, executive committee, and section staff for once again making this a meaningful and worthwhile event. Hopefully, this tradition will continue for many years to come.

2011 Fall Conference

Believe it or not, fall is already here, which means planning for this year’s FSAWWA fall conference is well underway. The section and its Manufacturers/Associates Council (MAC) invite you to attend the conference, which will be held November 27 through December 1 at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando.

The conference provides a variety of activities, including an excellent technical program, to bring you up to speed on relevant topics and technologies for utility managers, directors, operators, and other water industry personnel. Over 180 exhibitors will give you first-hand information on the latest developments to help your utility run smoothly and efficiently.

Whether it’s attending the technical sessions and workshops, viewing the competitions, being a part of the many award presentations, attending a committee meeting, or talking to the product experts in the exhibit hall, this conference has what you need to meet the future head-on.

Also being held at the conference is the third water summit of Florida 2030, a program that is helping build a future vision for sustainable water infrastructure.

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- Sewage treatment equipment
- Lift station rehabilitation

Santa Loves the Fall Conference—and He Has a Present for You!

In response to the difficult financial constraints placed on many utilities, the section is increasing its efforts to make the conference exhibit hall accessible to as many utility employees as we can. This year, complimentary exhibit hall passes will be provided to any of your utility staff members. Yes, the passes are free and the quantity is unlimited. If you are a utility manager or supervisor, this is great way to reward and motivate your staff at virtually no cost, while at the same time providing them with the best technical and networking resources in our industry. For your complimentary passes, contact the FSAWWA administrative office at (407) 957-8448, or via email at fsawwa@gmail.com.