Message from Chair (Region IV)

I am Dan, your Region IV chair for the next two years. I joined AWWA in 2010 and became secretary of Region IV in 2011. I told our incoming secretary that to be an officer in Region IV is a 10-year commitment. Thank you Mike Condran for agreeing to join us on our journey of a decade. These past seven years have been a tremendous learning experience for me having been a member of AIChE, WEF and FES (past Pinellas Chapter president) over the course of my career prior to joining AWWA. Those on the board and officers who came before me have paved the way for a consistently successful region in the Florida Section.

As I was filling out my Region IV report for the upcoming Board of Governors meeting at the FWRC conference, I realized that the number of events would surpass 2017 from 24 to 27 events! With 40 volunteer board members of professional scientists, engineers, business people, students, public and private servants and operators, our board is the organization within the organization fully prepared to best serve our 550 members. On behalf of the Region IV members, thanks to all of you who volunteer your time to events, board and officers meetings and to the community. And we are serving our community. As of April 9, 2018, our events include: YP/USF Student Social (USF Beef ‘O Bradys), USF Student Chapter Resume Workshop, USF Career Fair, Eco Festival at Pinellas County Solid Waste Department, 16th Annual Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest, Florida Water Festival, and the Spring Seminar – Rate and Budget Planning for Utilities.

We’re just getting started!

I am honored, and look forward to leading Region IV through a successful year of programs, workshops, networking events and fun times. Feel free to email or call me at any time with ideas, questions, comments or concerns.

At your service,

Dan Glaser, Chair
Region IV, FSAWWA
(727) 464-5209

Interested in becoming a member or more active in Region IV!

Contact: dglaser@co.pinellas.fl.us
Florida Section AWWA Region IV recently hosted a Young Professionals Networking Event on the campus of University of South Florida on January 17, 2018.

The event was organized by the Young Professionals Committee and the Student Committee, and provided a great opportunity for our professional and student members to get together. Over 40 people attended, and thanks to our Region IV sponsors, the Young Professional Committee provided drinks and appetizers to the attendees.

The event hosted a wide range of members, including consulting engineers, environmental scientists, utility staff, students, and regional vendors. Several of the Region IV Board and Committee members attended as well. Overall, the event provided an excellent opportunity for AWWA members to meet over drinks, build their professional networks, and learn about current events in the water industry from other water professionals and AWWA members.
Region IV/USF Student Chapter Resume Workshop

On Monday, January 29th, Region IV hosted a resume workshop for the FSAWWA student chapter at the University of South Florida.

A presentation on the do’s and don’ts of resume writing was given by Thomas Kiger, PE, Water Supply Engineer from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). At the end of the presentation, a short Q&A session was held through which students could ask water industry professionals about resume writing and the hiring process. The panelists included Jason Mickel, Water Supply Manager from SWFWMD; Bill Weber, PE, Chief Site Civil Engineer from Stantec; and Amber Kiger, Senior Lab Technician from Veolia. After the Q&A session, students were invited to have their resumes reviewed by the panelists. Alicia Branon, Recruitment Program Manager for SWFWMD, was also available to give students HR’s perspective on the hiring process.

Overall the event was a great success! Approximately 30 students attended the workshop and left with helpful insights about starting a career in the water industry. Region IV is looking forward to continuing to work with USF’s student chapter on future events.

Eco Fun Fest

February 25, 2018, Region IV Chair Dan Glaser attended the Eco Fun Festival an annual event sponsored by Pinellas County Solid waste Department.

Eco Fun Festival is a family-friendly event that features tours of Pinellas County’s Solid Waste Disposal Facility, environmentally-themed exhibitors, equipment demonstrations, electric vehicles, giveaways, food vendors and the ever-popular Touch-a-Truck exhibit in a dedicated green space within the facility. The event was free, open to the public, and welcomed guests of all ages.

The goal of the Eco Fun Festival is to showcase the many options residents have to make positive environmental changes in their lifestyle, homes and community. These positive changes can add up and have a big impact on preserving our local environment.
1. Why did you join FSAWWA?
   Originally I was encouraged to join by Chris Owen when I worked for the City of Tampa. Then when I moved to Veolia I was lucky enough to re-join. I needed information in the Journal to stay up to date with what was going on in our industry.

2. What is the most important thing you’ve gained from FSAWWA?
   I get updates on everything from regulations to new scientific developments and even updates on how everyone in our community is doing and how to stay in touch. FSAWWA is a very sharing community when it comes to what is new and interesting in our industry and everyone is more than willing to help answer questions that will allow us all to do a good job providing a safe product and service to the public.

3. How did you get into the Water industry?
   During grad school at USF, I started doing research while working for my major professor, Joan Rose. Her area of interest was drinking water and wastewater microbiology and I found that interesting. I needed to do a work-study project and the City of Tampa Lab was kind enough to let me volunteer for those hours during the summer in their lab. It was a great experience and I was lucky enough to get a real job there after earning my MPH at USF.

4. What is the last book, newspaper, magazine, etc. that you read?
   Parasite Rex by Carl Zimmer.

5. What activities do you enjoy in your free time?
   I don’t get much free time, but I enjoy gardening and crafting when I do get some time. Tom and I did take the time to go on a cruise and we go to the cabin a couple of times per year. I stay so busy with work and volunteer activities with FSAWWA that I spend the rest of my free time catching up at the house and checking in on my Dad.

2018 FWEA Water Festival

The Region IV Water for People committee hosted a booth at FWEA’s 2018 Water Festival this past March, in an effort to support Water For People’s educational outreach goals. The event was a success, with multiple families stopping by the booth and learning more about the Water For People cause and facts about countries that are being aided from this organization. Between a Zoo Ticket Raffle, Coloring Pages, 5-gallon Sample Jerry Cans, and Country-Specific Pamphlets with Photos of Water For People Projects, there was information and activities to attract all ages to the booth. The Region IV Water For People Committee will be hosting another Educational Outreach Table May 5th at the 7 Rivers Water Festival in Haines City.
Pasco County Utilities Crowned Region IV’s Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest Winner

Nick Makris, Region IV FSAWWA Best Tasting Water Competition Committee Chair

Recently, professionals from diverse water backgrounds ranging from production, water quality, distribution, management, regulatory, and even a professional food tasting columnist all gathered for a different sort of tasting. All were in attendance for the Region IV Florida Section American Water Works Association (FSAWWA) Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest. Each year public supply water utilities from Region IV’s seven-county region (Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sumter) meet in friendly competition for bragging rights and hopefully to take home the honor as the region’s champion for best tasting drinking water.

Much like the Stanley Cup, the National Hockey League’s ultimate piece of hardware, the winning utility has the privilege of proudly displaying a revolving trophy for a full year and having their utility’s name etched onto the trophy as a lasting legacy among previous winners. This year, the competition was held at the Southwest Florida Water Management District’s (SWFWMD) Brooksville office. The SWFWMD’s Governing Board room was set up for the day with well over 100 people in attendance and 22 drinking water utilities competing (with at least one representative utility from each of our seven-county region).

The judging tables were packed with anonymously numbered water glasses representing each of the competing utilities which were then carefully evaluated and ranked on important drinking water criteria such as taste, color and aroma by a distinguished panel of judges. These notable individuals gave this year’s event a broad range of expertise and talent across the spectrum of the water and food tasting industries including: Mandi Rice, Assistant Executive Director for the SWFWMD; Cindy Zhang-Torres, Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Southwest District Office; Citrus County Commissioner Scott Carnahan; and Laura Reiley, Tampa Bay Times’ restaurant critic.

As the final tally of the points were carefully tabulated, each of the contestants anxiously awaited knowing that they would have to be on top of their game if they were to take home the coveted trophy. The winner was announced... the 2018 Region IV Best Tasting Drinking Water title goes to...........Pasco County Utilities!

The winning sample was collected from Pasco County’s Lake Jovita Water Treatment Plant. To be recognized in this way in a friendly competition of your peers make the award that much special and should be something of well-deserved pride for Pasco County.

Pasco County Utilities will now represent Region IV competing against the remaining eleven regions of the FSAWWA at the Best of the Best state contest in April at the Florida Water Resource Conference in Daytona Beach.

Extra special thanks is due our generous event sponsors including King Engineering, Advanced Environmental Laboratories, Inc., and Data Flow Systems. As always, thanks to all our great regional sponsors for providing support needed for this and many other events throughout the year. Last but not least, events like this would not be possible without the collective efforts of my fellow talented and dedicated colleagues and friends in Region IV.

In addition to the water tasting fun, attendees were informed of upcoming training and workshops along with mention of the tremendous benefits of AWWA membership. A delicious catered lunch helped to make the day complete. Ultimately though, feature events like these give the participating utilities the recognition they deserve. By reminding the community how every day these drinking water utilities provide safe, reliable, high quality and great tasting water to their customers.

Thanks to all participating utilities for all that you do and for taking the time to join us at this year’s event. A video of the event is currently being produced by the SWFWMD Communication Department is in the final editing stages and should be completed by the end of the week. A short video of last year’s 2017 event’s highlights can be found at the Southwest Florida Water Management District’s Water Matters Blog here:

http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/blog/entry.php?blogPrlid=188
Upcoming Events

Utility Compliance Workshop:
The Revised Total Coliform Rule Training, and Regulatory Compliance Reporting

Location: City of Tampa David L. Tippin WTP, 7125 N. 30th St., Tampa, FL 33610
Date: May 3, 2018
Time: 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Ticket Cost: $45.00 (Members) | $55.00 (Non-members)

Speakers:
- Therese LaDouceur, Florida Department of Health (FLDOH)
- James Brock, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- Sean Isaac, FLDOH

7 Rivers Water Festival

Location: Lake Eva Park
Date: May 5, 2018
Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Cost: Free

Region IV Charity Golf Event

Location: Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club
Date: October 5, 2018
Information: Ron Parker at (813) 207-7940 parkerre@bv.com

The thirteenth annual Region IV charity golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, October 5, 2018. This year’s event will be played on the North Course at Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club in Pasco County. Last year, we had a record number of teams that played the South Course. Both courses at Lake Jovita are very challenging and well maintained for an enjoyable day of golf and socializing. This year’s event will include team, a $10,000 hole-in-one prize, closest to the pin, long drive, door prizes, a grand prize; along with an excellent Continental breakfast and Italian lunch buffet.

Golf registration flyers will be sent out in early August 2018. If you are a Region IV sponsor your sponsorship automatically includes one-foursome (if you sign up) and special recognition at the tournament. Proceeds for the event help sponsor the Likins Scholarship Fund and Water for People.

Don’t Miss This FREE Event!

7 RIVERS WATER FESTIVAL
WHERE: Lake Eva Park
WHEN & TIME: May 5
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Hope to see you at this year’s event!!!
Stayed Turned for More Information

Cybersecurity Guidance, Tools & Updates
Location: Brio Tuscan Grill
Date: June 20, 2018

Region IV/X Joint Seminar on Membranes
Location: Location to confirmed - Announcement to be made
Date: July 9, 2018

Maintaining Public Confidence
Location: Brio Tuscan Grill
Date: September 19, 2018

Regulatory Updates
Location: Brio Tuscan Grill
Date: December 12, 2018

2018 Region IV Sponsors