

Our Florida Section Has a First-Rate Staff!



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Chair, FSAWWA

In my first Speaking Out columns, I have attempted to highlight certain aspects of the Florida Section that make it such a tremendously successful organization. Obviously, it all starts with the dedication and sense of volunteerism that exists in every one of our 2,600 members. From an organizational perspective, we also looked at our regions, which are, in my opinion, the backbone of our success.

But there is yet another important reason for the success of our section over the past few years. We are blessed with a very talented and committed staff to assist us in reaching our goals. Our staff has grown in both experience and value over the years to answer the needs of the section and I know our professional staff is the envy of many similar volunteer organizations in our area of the country.

One of the best decisions ever made by section leadership was to hire a professional executive director to help coordinate day-to-day operations of our organization. Since 2007, the section has been very well-served by our executive director, Peggy Guingona. I have known Peggy over this entire period and know her to be as effective and competent as she is positive and helpful. There is no doubt in my mind that Peggy has been a huge part of our success over the past decade and I hope that everyone in the section has an opportunity to work with her.

Peggy is responsible for carrying out the policies, procedures, and goals of the section under the overall supervision of its officers. Fortunately for us, Peggy handles these everyday activities with little need for supervision. Her strength, in my opinion, is her communication with all councils, regions, and major committees, while coordinating with section leadership. Peggy attends and organizes all section board meetings and represents us at AWWA headquarters in Denver and other important meetings wherever we need her. She sees her mission as “maximizing the effectiveness of the section through communication, training, and face-to-face interaction.” I can tell you that she succeeds on all fronts!

Another strength of Peggy’s is the ability to attract and retain key staff members to assist her in meeting our goals. These other three coworkers each hold specific duties and specialties, but as we all know, when it’s time to plan, organize, and produce one of our meetings, training sessions, or semi-annual conferences, it’s always “all hands on deck.” The success of our conferences is a testament to their committed team approach! Again, Peggy, as our executive director, is responsible for assuring that the team succeeds.

I would like to briefly say a little about each one of Peggy’s team:

Casey Cumiskey has been our membership specialist/training coordinator, since July of 2009. Casey deserves a lot of credit for the great gains our section, under the Membership Committee, has made over the past few years, which has been recognized nationally. I also know that Casey has been very valuable in coordinating our very successful mentor program. Please feel free to contact Casey at (407) 957-8447 or fsawwa.casey@gmail.com.

Donna Metherall has been with us since 2010. She is our training coordinator and oversees our “on demand” training processes, continuing education units, and professional development hours, and works closely with the regions to assure successful networking and educational events. Donna can be reached at (407) 957-8443 or fsawwa.donna@gmail.com.

Jenny Arguello has worked with us since 2009, but was recently promoted to a full-time employee because of her proven value to the section. Jenny has shown herself to be valuable in many areas at our headquarters, but is especially visible at our conferences where she is obviously a critical member of our team. You can contact Jenny at (407) 957-8448 or fsawwa.jenny@gmail.com.

As you can see, we are fortunate to have such an excellent administrative team and I believe that Peggy deserves a lot of credit for building a team that has stayed together through several of the section’s most challenging and expansive years.

Please take the time to introduce yourself to one of these team members next time you see them. I have always found each one of them to be professional and helpful. We wouldn’t be the tremendous section we are without them! ◊



The FSAWWA staff (left to right): Donna Metherall, Casey Cumiskey, Jenny Arguello, and Peggy Guingona.