

FSAWWA Manufacturers/Associates Council: What We Do



Kim Kowalski.
Chair, FSAWWA

As I stated in an earlier column, I got my start within the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (FSAWWA) serving as a member of the Manufacturers/Associates Council (MAC). When I am attending different meetings and am asked where I volunteer, I state that I am a MAC member. I generally receive a look of confusion, as most people have never heard of us. With this column, I hope to educate and inform FSAWWA members and others as to what the MAC is and what we are about, and hopefully, we can gain some new members as well!

What MAC Does

The MAC provides responsible representation of manufacturers and associates in FSAWWA and develops programs and activities to encourage membership and participation within the organization. Our yearly events include the FSAWWA Fall Conference and the Florida Section luncheon each year in June at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE). We also offer a "traveling" training program and select the Water Distribution Award recipients in the state based on division categories.

The biggest responsibility of the MAC is the Fall Conference, which is held at the end of the year. The planning starts in February and doesn't end until after the conference golf tournament. There are many dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to make sure that the conference is bigger and better each year.

The following is a list of the volunteers who chair the various committees for the conference, and there are many others who work with them to ensure a quality event.

- ◆ Kevin Stine – Conference Cochair
- ◆ Bryan Fletcher – Sponsorship Chair
- ◆ Todd Metcalfe – Exhibits Chair
- ◆ Josh Anderson – Events Chair
- ◆ Mike George – Water Distribution Awards Chair
- ◆ Fred Bloetscher – Technical Program Chair
- ◆ Peggy Guingona and Jenny Arguello – Marketing Cochairs
- ◆ Michael Alexakis and Richard Anderson – BBQ Cochairs
- ◆ Chase Freeman – Golf Chair
- ◆ Terry Gullet – Poker Tournament Chair
- ◆ Tom Hogeland – Utility System Symposium Chair

MAC Training

Let's talk training! The MAC has created the New Technology and Training Showcase (NTTS), which allows MAC members to contribute their expertise by holding training seminars for utility operators and consultants throughout the 12 regions of the state. There are a variety of topics, such as:

- ◆ Principles of Metering Technology
- ◆ Water Loss Management
- ◆ Water Conservation Through Seamless High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Technology

These programs are each a one-day, eight-hour course, for which attendees can receive continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development hours (PDHs). They are scheduled each month per the region number designation: Region 1 is held in January, Region 2 in February, Region 3 in March, and so on throughout the year. So please be on the lookout in your region for these training opportunities.

MAC Awards

Lastly, there are the water distribution system awards, which are presented to utilities whose outstanding performance during the preceding year deserves special recognition by the section. These awards have been given out since 1997 and are very prestigious for the utilities. The award criteria are based upon the following:

- ◆ Water Quality
- ◆ Operational Records
- ◆ Maintenance
- ◆ Professionalism
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness
- ◆ Cross Connection Control Program

These awards are presented to a utility during each recipient's board or commission meeting, which helps to recognize the local utility and reflects on the commitment and dedication of the utilities in our state.

MAC Personnel

I don't want to forget to recognize Mike George, MAC chair, and Mark McDowell, MAC secretary, for all of their hard work in keeping us in line and on task. I hope to see some new faces at our upcoming meetings!

As always, thank you to all the volunteers; the section would not be where it is today without your endless help. ☺



Mike George



Mark McDowell