The FSAWWA has been actively engaging our elected officials over the past several months, both in Tallahassee and Washington D.C., to discuss legislative issues related to the water industry and to promote AWWA as the authoritative resource for all things water.

Washington, D.C. Fly-In

The Washington, D.C. Fly-In was held on March 26-28 and, by all accounts, it was very successful. A total of 150 attendees from 48 states and Puerto Rico converged on Capitol Hill to voice our concerns about water issues on a national level. Florida was well represented with seven delegates from several different utilities. Specific recommendations to our elected officials included:

- Provide fully authorized funding in fiscal year (FY) 2020 for the drinking water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program at $1.3 billion, and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program at $50 million.
- Begin discussions for reauthorization of the drinking water and wastewater SRF programs and of WIFIA.
- Maintain fully authorized funding for conservation programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, particularly the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) at $300 million in FY 2020.
- Give the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the tools it needs to make accurate, health-based decisions on how to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) accurately and effectively.

The Florida delegation was led by seasoned Capitol Hill veterans Lisa Wilson-Davis (Water Utility Council chair), Kevin Carter (Water Utility Council vice chair), and Chris Pettit (Water Utility Council Legislative Committee chair), who all did a great job framing the conversations. I was with them, along with Monica Autrey (Water Utility Council secretary-treasurer) and Bill Young (FSAWWA past chair).

We visited the following members of Congress:
- U.S. Senate
  - Sen. Marco Rubio
  - Sen. Rick Scott
- U.S. House of Representatives
  - Rep. Matt Gaetz
  - Rep. Ted S. Yoho
  - Rep. John H. Rutherford
  - Rep. Darren Soto
  - Rep. Charlie Crist
  - Rep. Kathy Castor
  - Rep. Greg Steube
  - Rep. Brian Mast
  - Rep. Lois Frankel
  - Rep. Ted Deutch
  - Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
  - Rep. Frederica Wilson
  - Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart
  - Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
  - Rep. Donna Shalala

Regional Meeting of Section Officers

On March 3 and 4, FSAWWA leadership attended the Regional Meeting of Section Officers (RMSO) for AWWA Region II in Oxford, Miss. This event brings together the twelve sister sections located within the region:

- Alabama/Mississippi
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky/Tennessee
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- West Virginia
The RMSO is a great opportunity for leaders of these sections to meet with each other and AWWA staff to learn about new initiatives from the association and its vision for the future with the sections. The section leaders also share the different methods and procedures that they have developed to meet their goals to provide value to their members.

I personally learned that the Florida Section and its regions provide a wide variety of benefits to the members. There are also some very interesting ideas coming from our neighboring sections and we can learn a lot from each other. I also learned that northern Mississippi can be darn cold in early March!

By the time most of you read this, the 2019 Florida Water Resources Conference in Tampa will have ended, so I hope you all enjoyed that event and I encourage you to make your plans now to attend ACE19 in Denver.

See you there!