Upcoming Education and Training

A number of events will be occurring in the coming months that might be of interest to our members.

ISA Symposium

The Florida Section AWWA is proud to be a cosponsor of the fifth annual 2012 International Society of Automation (ISA) Water/Wastewater and Automatic Controls Symposium, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Castle Resort in Orlando, from August 7-9. I encourage all FSAWWA members to attend in order to have a better understanding of how instrumentation, SCADA, and automation control applications affect water treatment and distribution systems. This is a perfect opportunity to get CEU credits, learn about control applications, and network with others in the industry. I hope to see you there.

Classes and Workshops

We will be conducting a class on excavation and trenching safety on August 22. Please contact Casey at section headquarters in St. Cloud at 407-957-8448 for more information.

Region IV will conduct a workshop on brackish desalination in Oldsmar on August 22. Immediately following the workshop, a tour of the new reverse osmosis plant will be conducted.

Water Forum

The Florida Section, along with the Associated Industries of Florida (AIF), will once again be hosting the Water Forum. This year’s forum will be held at Renaissance Sea World on September 6. The scheduled participants and their topics include:

- Rep. Steve Perman: Agricultural Lands for Water Storage: Where to Go From Here?
- Rep. Steve Crisafulli: Water Issues for the 2013 Legislative Session
- Herschel Vinyard, secretary of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP): Budget and the New Look of Water Management Districts
- Drew Bartlet, director, FDEP: Update on Numeric Nutrient Criteria
- David Childs, attorney, Hopping Green & Sams: Legal Update

The planning committee is working on additional speakers and will be announcing them early next month. The cost of the forum is $50, which includes lunch. For additional information please visit www.flawaterforum.com.

Contest Winners Honorably Represent Florida

At the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE), presented in Dallas in June, the Top Ops contest, which is the “college bowl” of the water industry, was held. The Florida Section was fortunate to have two teams in the running: the 2012 state champs, City of Deltona All Stars, and the 2011 FSAWWA champions, the City of Palm Coast Water Buoys. Unfortunately, the All Stars faced very tough rounds in the competition and were eliminated. The 2011 champs went into both the semi-finals and the final round with the most points ever. Hoping for a repeat, the Water Buoys, consisting of Tom Martens, Fred Greiner, and Peter Roussell, with Jim Hogan as team captain, lost the honor by pushing the buzzer a millisecond too late. They placed second in this year’s competition.

The Florida Section is very proud of the Water Buoys, who have been in the Top Ops
Contest Hall of Fame since the 2005 ACE in San Francisco.

**Drinking Water Contest**

Last month I mentioned that Collier County Utilities won the statewide Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest and was going to represent Florida at ACE for the national contest. The utility, represented by its director, Paul Mattausch, was a finalist in the annual competition and was rated as having the fourth-best tasting water in the United States.

The Collier County water supply system provides drinking water to approximately 175,000 permanent residents, and to nearly 210,000 people during the peak tourist season. All of its source water is groundwater, including both fresh and brackish water sources. The treatment processes includes lime softening and nanofiltration for the fresh groundwater source, and reverse osmosis for the brackish groundwater source. The fresh and brackish streams are blended prior to pumping the water to the distribution system.

Congratulations to Collier County Utilities for an outstanding job.

**Fuller Award Winner**

Matthew Alvarez, P.E., received the AWWA George Warren Fuller Award at ACE in June. Matt has a long history of dedicated service to the Florida Section and has served as the state’s Young Professionals Committee chair; Region III chair; and section secretary, chair-elect, chair, and past chair. He currently serves as general policy director.

As chair-elect and chair, Matt devised a three-year policy plan that brought stability and consistency to the section. The plan’s main objectives included running the section using a business model, establishing a headquarters and hiring a full-time staff, and increasing the section’s visibility and influence on water supply policy.

Matt has sought and received statewide recognition for the section with key agencies and organizations. He created the “Florida 2030” initiative, which has published several documents on water policy that have become a go-to source for the state’s elected officials. “Florida 2030” also sponsors the state’s annual water summit.

Matt has always encouraged participation and input from the section’s past chairs; thus, a past chair summit was started in 2008 and has since been held on a yearly basis.

Matt has expressed numerous times that fellowship is the unique driving force behind the Florida Section, and Matt, I agree with you. Congratulations on receiving the Fuller Award!