Planning for Fall Conference Well Underway

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Chair, FSAWWA

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his year’s FSAWWA Florida Section Fall Conference, with the theme, “It’s All One Water,” will be held November 25-29 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando.

Dr. Fred Bloetscher has been coordinating the technical program for the conference, which will once again offer CEUs and PDHs. Topics for the workshops include engineering laws and ethics, water bugs, water distribution, agricultural and urban water policies for a growing Florida, and evaluation of fresh groundwater sources. The technical sessions will address water conservation, membranes, maintaining infrastructure, using SCADA to improve system performance, water distribution, regulatory compliance, water treatment, and managing waste products.

The fourth annual Florida 2030 Water Summit will be held at the conference on Monday, November 26, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Summit is designed to help build a future vision for sustainable water infrastructure in the state.

The Backhoe Rodeo will take place on Tuesday morning, November 27, to name the best operator in Florida. The Tapping Contest, Meter Madness, and Fun Tap will also be held on Tuesday, as will the Young Professional’s Water Bowl and Poster Session.

The conference will have a total of 180 exhibitors promoting their products and services. It will be a great time to see what’s new in the waterworks industry. Instead of the days or weeks it might take you to find some product information, it will all be available to you in one place at the conference.

We will be giving out our annual distribution and water conservation awards at the business luncheon on Wednesday November 28. There will also be numerous committee, division, and council meetings that will be occurring during the conference, and anyone is invited to attend.

On Tuesday, November 27, we will hold our first-ever Poker Night. Tournament play begins at 6:00 p.m., and all proceeds will benefit the Roy Likins Scholarship Fund. On Thursday, November 29, the Roy Likins Scholarship golf tournament will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Shingle Creek Golf Club, which will also benefit the scholarship fund.

These are just some of the highlights of this year’s conference. Please check the section website, www.fsawwa.org, for additional information.

I would to thank the Florida Section Manufacturers/Associates Council (MAC) for once again doing an outstanding job of hosting the conference for the section. The MAC has been involved with the conference since its inception and this group of individuals starts planning the conference eleven months in advance. They have taken time out of their busy schedules to be involved and to make FSAWWA a better section.

Past Chairs Summit

Last month the section held its Past Chair Summit in central Florida. I’m happy to say we had thirteen past chairs that were able to attend the event. During the meeting, the executive committee gave a “state of the union” address. The past chairs listened and then gave us their feedback. The big topic was membership—how important it is to the section and how we have to engage our members. Your Executive Committee is committed to expanding and increasing our membership. We are working on a number of programs to accomplish this goal.

During the meeting with the past chairs, we also discussed how many total years of service there were with the section, including the executive board, and the total was 516 years! Needless to say, there was a great deal of knowledge, history, and service to our industry in the room that day. Thank you to the past chairs for their guidance and service to our industry.

Water Forum

Also last month, the Water Forum 2012 was held in Orlando. We had over two hundred people attend this event. Some of the speakers and their topics were:

- Rep. Dana Young—Benefits of New Reclaimed Water Legislature
- Rep. Steve Perman—Agriculture Lands for Water Storage, and Where Do We Go From Here
- Rep. Elizabeth Porter—Why Inter-Water Management District Cooperation is Necessary

I think it’s safe to say that water issues in Florida are very complex and are not going to get solved overnight. It will take many more discussions, more conferences and meetings, more input, and more understanding of the needs of utilities, residents, farmers, businesses, and developers—everyone who produces or uses water—to continue to address the issues we face.