Message from the Region IV Chair

Let’s go Lightning…so sad. Regardless, Region IV has made the playoffs by helping the Florida Section of AWWA win the Nicholas S. Hill Jr. Award for the 2018 award year! The Florida Section earned this honor by achieving the highest percentage net growth in 2018 among all 43 Sections. Region IV has 670 members, up from 605 in 2017. That’s nearly 11% growth! We are also the largest region in Florida. Why is that? Because we are providing so many interesting, diverse, social and training events to our members. Please see our current calendar of events and especially another new YP event “A Day at the Zoo”!

In keeping with our Region’s tradition of alternating officer positions between public and private professionals, I have the following announcement:

Nick Makris has graciously accepted the Region IV officer’s invitation to be our next Region IV secretary. He is the current chair for the Taste Test Competition Committee and was the previous chair for Liaison to SWFWMD committee and is a dedicated member of our board who participates in many of our events as a volunteer and supporter of Region IV. I made it very clear that this is a 10-year position commitment, yet he signed on the dotted line, figuratively. I sort of half joke about it, but I am coming up on eight years as an officer in Region IV, having been asked to join mid-year as secretary in 2011. The officer positions and committee chair/vice chair board positions are the core and essence of our strength and vitality.

More on Nick in our Member Spotlight section of this First Quarter Newsletter. Thank you to our 33 sponsors that make our region strong!

Your Chair, not Sofa,

Dan

Dan Glaser, P.E., ENV SP, Chair
Region IV, FSAWWA
(727) 464-5209

Interested in becoming a member or more active in Region IV?
Contact: amber.kiger@veolia.com

In This Issue........

“Be the Thunder” Membership Event
and
Best Tasting Drinking Water
Committee Events

YP and Membership Committees “Beer Bus Tour”!

In February the YP and Membership Committees co-hosted this fourth annual and fun tour of area microbreweries.

Neil Coffman, YP Committee Chair, offered that about 20 attendees participated, consisted of our utility and consultant members. Three Tampa breweries were visited: Coppertail, Angry Chair, and Zydeco. Everyone was able to network with each other while getting a sample beer from each of the three breweries. At Zydeco, everyone got an inside tour of the beer making processes and how the beer is brewed at that particular brewery. Amber Kiger, Membership Committee Chair, added that Region IV is the largest of all regions in Florida, with 624 active members. Both Neil and Amber noted that this fun event reminds us that “no water, no beer”!
On February 7 the Region IV Public Affairs Committee hosted the “Be the Thunder” Membership Event at the Tampa Bay Lightning game, playing against the St. Louis Blues. This extremely successful event was attended by 113 participants. While the Lightning came up short to the Blues in a 1 – 0 loss, the game was very exciting. Tim Smith, the PAC Chair, mentioned that there was an extremely diverse group of water industry attendees, from large and small municipalities, consultants, contractors, vendors, and industry spouses. While the event was originally planned to begin at 6pm, the Lightning decided to allow us to enter the Arena at 5:30pm to enjoy pre-game food and beverages, along with views from the Budweiser Biergarten for an additional 30 minutes. The game began at 7:30pm and the Lightning staff selected a random winner from our registration list to win a hockey stick signed by a Lightning player between the 2nd and 3rd period. The winner was Jeff Crowley of Jones Edmunds - congratulations Jeff! The PAC is planning to host a similar event in early 2020, so stay tuned!
USF Student Chapter and YP Committee - Spring Career Fair

On February 13 the USF Student Chapter and YP Committees participated in the annual Spring Career Fair held at the Yuengling Center at the USF campus. Region IV volunteers attended this informative event held between 10AM and 3PM, and manned a booth to share information with students about careers in the water industry. Thanks to all the Region IV volunteers who participated!

YP Committee PE Exam Roundtable

In early March, the YP Committee convened a roundtable discussion about successful strategies to prepare for the PE exam that was scheduled to take place in April. The panel discussion consisted of 3 Professional Engineers in the region who recently took and passed the PE exam.

They discussed their experiences preparing for the exam and how they studied. They offered advice from taking practice exams to reference materials to logistics the day before the exam, and answered many questions from those attending - thanks for all who participated!
Best Tasting Drinking Water Event!

The Annual Region IV Best Tasting Drinking Water Event was held on March 8 at the Land O’ Lakes Recreation Center.

By Nick Makris - Best Tasting Drinking Water Committee Chair

Water professionals recently gathered for the Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest, where public supply water utilities from Region IV’s seven-county region (Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sumter) meet each year in friendly competition for bragging rights as the region’s best tasting drinking water. The defending 2018 champs and this year’s honorary host Pasco County Utilities did their best to repeat, but when the final points were tabulated the City of Wildwood was named the 2019 winner!

Wildwood will now have the privilege of displaying the much coveted Region IV revolving trophy for a full year and have their name etched onto the trophy as a lasting legacy among previous winners. They will also proudly represent Region IV at the Best of the Best state contest held during the Florida Water Resource Conference April 14-17 at the Tampa Convention Center.

This year’s competition was held at the Land O’ Lakes recreation complex, where the indoor gym was converted to host over 100 people in attendance and representatives for 21 drinking water utilities. The opportunity to gather and catch up with fellow colleagues was complemented by a delicious catered lunch and completed by a keynote speech by Dr. Whitney Elmore, Pasco County Extension Director for the UF/IFAS Extension Office about the importance of water conservation and Florida friendly landscaping principles.

The main event began soon after by a distinguished panel of judges who carefully evaluated important drinking water criteria such as taste, color and aroma from anonymously numbered water glasses representing each of the competing utilities. The judges gave this year’s event a broad range of expertise and talent across the spectrum of the water industry, environmental and regulatory agencies, as well as community leaders including: Commissioner Ron Oakley, Pasco County District 1; Commissioner Mike Moore, Pasco County District 2; Mandi Rice, Assistant Executive Director for the Southwest Florida Water Management District; James Brock, Environmental Manager for Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Southwest District Office; Gary Raulerson, Ecologist for the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, and Don Whiting, Regional Sales Manager for Hach Tampa.

Special thanks is due our generous event sponsors including Ardurra/King Engineering and Data Flow Systems. As always, thanks to all our great regional sponsors for providing support needed for this and the many other Region IV events throughout the year. Events like this would not be possible without the collective efforts of my fellow talented and dedicated colleagues and friends in Region IV. Last and definitely not least, thanks to all participating utilities for providing safe, reliable, and great tasting water and for taking the time to join us at this year’s event.
Member Spotlight | Nick Makris

**Why did you join FSAWWA?**

I joined the FSAWWA as a way to stay better connected in this, one of our most important public services industries. I initially received an invitation to be a Best Tasting Drinking Water contest judge. It was such a good experience that I got involved the very next year in the committee to help organize the event and have been participating and assisting ever since. Additionally I contributed as a guest speaker presenting on leak detection theory and practices at one of our Region IV luncheons that eventually led to another opportunity when I was requested to speak in front of some of our counterparts at a workshop for the Alabama/Mississippi Section of the AWWA. I’m further reminded what a great organization we are full of talented and dedicated professionals during our myriad workshops, seminars, and conferences.

**What is the most important thing you have gained from FSAWWA?**

Not only have I gained tremendous knowledge through all our training opportunities, I have met an amazing group of people, who have quickly become not just colleagues, but great friends who make our networking and social events that much more fun. An important thing I’m reminded is not only do I realize great benefits from what the FSAWWA offers, but also the gains of my own professional growth as a result of my participation back. I serve as the Region IV Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest Chair and recently served as the Florida Section Water Quality and Resources Division Secretary.

**How did you get into the Water industry?**

I began my career in the water industry first out of USF (Go Bulls!) with a couple of small engineering consulting firms where I conducted assessments and ran petroleum contamination remediation equipment, then on to the Southwest Florida Water Management District where I helped with water supply planning, managed the water loss reduction program as well as conservation and reclaimed water projects, to my current role supervising a wide spectrum of Public Works and Public Services projects throughout the City of Tarpon Springs. I have been very fortunate in my career and couldn’t think of a more rewarding calling as a project manager than the water industry. Everyday I’m reminded of the important and essential work we do for the citizens of our community (Region IV), our state (Florida Section) and our world (e.g. Water for People).

**What is the last book, newspaper, magazine, etc. that you read?**

It seems that I always have a stack of books on my nightstand that I read simultaneously. Some that are about to topple over on me while I sleep are: Factfulness - Rosling; 21 Lessons for the 21st Century-Harari; Down and Out in Paris and London – Orwell; Roumeli – Fermon; How to Raise an Adult – Haims; and one of my all-time favorites (and funniest) A Confederacy of Dunces – Toole

**What activities do you enjoy in your free time?**

I usually keep busy with all the busyness of my son’s and daughter’s school and sports activities, but I also enjoy crossword puzzles, woodworking, and brewing (attempting) new funky flavors of kombucha (quicker and easier than beer and wine). I’m always on the lookout for the next adventure orienteering race and dreaming up our next family trip.
### Calendar of Upcoming Events

**April 2019**

- **Wednesday, April 10th, Region IV Officer’s Meeting**
  - Dan Glaser | dglaser@co.pinellas.fl.us
  - [Link](#)

- **Wednesday, April 10th, USF Chapter Alumni Social, Yuengling Center**
  - Sarah Ecker | sarah.ecker@kimley-horn.com

- **April 14 - 17, Florida Water Resource Conference - Tampa Convention Center**
  - Dan Glaser | dglaser@co.pinellas.fl.us

**May 2019**

- **Friday, May 10th, Utility Committee Training Event - Plans and Specs 101 Workshop, City of St. Pete**
  - Hillary Weber | hweber@ctsfl.us

- **Saturday, May 11th, 7 Rivers Water Festival, Central Park, Winter Haven - Water For People Committee**
  - Sean Menard | smenard@jonesedmunds.com

**June 2019**

- **Saturday, June 1st, Young Professionals and Family Zoo Day, Lowrey Park Zoo, Tampa**
  - Allison Rainey | allison.rainey@kimley-horn.com

- **June 9 - 12, AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition, Denver, Colorado**

- **Monday, June 10th, FSAWWA Lunch at ACE19, Denver, Colorado**

- **Date TBD - Technical & Education Committee Lunch Event - ASR Technology Updates, Tuscan Brio, Tampa**
  - David Yonge | dyonge@jonesedmunds.com

**July 2019**

- **Thursday, July 18th, Water For People Fundraising Event, Rock Bros. Brewing, 6PM**
  - Sean Menard | smenard@jonesedmunds.com

**August 2019**

- **Monday, August 5th, Hillsborough County Science Study Day**
  - Katherine Williams | kwilliams@hazenandsawyer.com

- **Date and Location TBD, YP Committee Summer Seminar**
  - Neil Coffman | ncoffman@mckimcreed.com

- **Date TBD, Region IV Member Appreciation Event, Spectrum Field, Clearwater**
  - Nestor Murray | nmurray@georgefyoung.com

**September 2019**

- **Date TBD, YP Committee Salary Survey, Resume Workshop, USF Campus**
  - Neil Coffman | ncoffman@mckimcreed.com

- **Date TBD, YP Committee USF Bulls Connect Fall Career Fair, Yuengling Center**
  - Neil Coffman | ncoffman@mckimcreed.com

**October 2019**

- **Friday, October 4th, Region IV Golf Tournament, Lake Jovita CC, Dade City**
  - Ron Parker | parkerre@bv.com

- **Date and Location TBD, Oktoberfest Celebration**
  - Kris Samples | ksamples@mckimcreed.com

- **Date TBD, YP Committee Breast Cancer 5K & Bucs Game, Buccaneers Stadium**
  - Neil Coffman | ncoffman@mckimcreed.com

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### Officers and Committee Members

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<td>Region IV Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Ken Broome</td>
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<td>Russ Ferlita</td>
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<td>Region IV Past Chair</td>
<td>Steve King</td>
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<td>Technical &amp; Education Committee</td>
<td>David Yonge, Chair</td>
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<td>Special Events Committee</td>
<td>Nestor Murray, Chair</td>
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<td>Utility Committee</td>
<td>Hillary Weber, Chair</td>
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<td>Public Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Tim Smith, Chair</td>
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<td>Operators Committee</td>
<td>Andrew Greenbaum, Chair</td>
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<td>Membership Committee</td>
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<td>Manufacturer’s/Associates Committee</td>
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<td>Water For People Committee</td>
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<td>Competition Committee</td>
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<td>Annual Golf Charity Event Committee</td>
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<td>USF Student Chapter Committee</td>
<td>Sarah Ecker, Chair</td>
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<td>Lindsey Bohmann, Chair</td>
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<td>Youth Education Committee</td>
<td>Katherine Williams, Chair</td>
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<td>SWFWMD Liaison</td>
<td>Tommy Kiger, Chair</td>
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<td>Taste Test Competition Committee</td>
<td>Nick Makris, Chair</td>
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<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Bina Nayak, Chair</td>
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Calendar of Upcoming Events (continued)

November 2019

Saturday, November 2nd, Model Water Tower Competition, Walker Middle School, Odessa, 8AM - 1PM
Shelby Hughes | Shelby.Hughes@kimley-horn.com

Thursday, November 7th, Region IV Sponsor Appreciation Event
Nestor Murray | nmurray@georgefyoung.com

Friday, November 15th, Sporting Clay Event, Location TBD
Kris Samples | ksamples@mckimcreed.com

Date TBD, YP Committee Water Treatment Plant Tour, Cosme WTP, St. Petersburg
Neil Coffman | ncoffman@mckimcreed.com

December 2019

December 8th to 12th, FSAWWA Fall Conference - Championsgate Resort, Kissimmee

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 33 REGIONAL 2019 SPONSORS!!