

# FSAWWA REGION IV

## Newsletter



### REGION IV CHAIR UPDATE

Nicole Thomas, PE, PMP

Greetings Region IV –

Region IV has kicked off the year with a BANG! and full of excitement already. We held our annual planning meeting and are ready to provide the region with a year of fantastic educational, networking, and fundraising opportunities.

We have renewed our commitment to supporting our strong, engaged, and curious USF Chapter. Therefore, we are inviting our local engineering, construction, vendor, manufacturer, utility, and operational teams to host “A Day in the Life” lunchtime catch-ups. These catch-ups are for introducing the USF students to what career-life looks like today and what occupational paths and vocational options are out there after graduation. Please reach out to a Region IV officer if you are interested in hosting a catch-up and we will make the connection.

The Region IV team is also looking for new, unique, and alternate locations/venues/utility facilities to host our events to make new connections, reach a broader audience, and involve remote members – please touch base to share your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions.

I look forward to seeing all our Region IV members and Regional Sponsors at upcoming events!



### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

[Region IV Chair Update](#)

[Event Recap](#)

[USF Student Chapter Highlights](#)

[SWFWMD Updates](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

## Thank You 2026 FSAWWA Region IV Sponsors



# FSAWWA BE THE THUNDER EVENT

Members joined in cheering on the Tampa Bay Lightning at the Member Appreciation event on February 5<sup>th</sup> at Amalie Arena.

Before puck drop, members were invited up to the Sky Lounge of the arena for food, drinks, networking, and a raffle supporting AWWA's Water Equation. The raffle included autographed team merchandise, limited edition jerseys, seat upgrades, signed pucks, and much more!

In a thrilling in-state rivalry game, the Lightning defeated the Florida Panthers 6-1.

Thank you to Jarah Parke, Tim Smith, and all volunteers for planning a great membership event!





# FSAWWA VETERANS INITIATIVE

The Veterans Affairs Program continues to advance its mission of recognizing, recruiting, retaining, and supporting military veterans within the water industry. Through initiatives like Operation WETVET and Operation FISHHOOK, the program highlights the contributions of current veteran members while actively creating pathways for new careers in waterworks. Recent and upcoming events, including VET Connect sessions, provide valuable opportunities for networking and engagement. We encourage members to get involved, support our veterans, and help strengthen this growing community within AWWA. Learn more [here](#).

## MODEL WATER TOWER COMPETITION

The annual Model Water Tower Competition was held on February 21st at East Lake High School. Students from Middle and High Schools around the area learned of the importance of water storage while building their own model water tower.

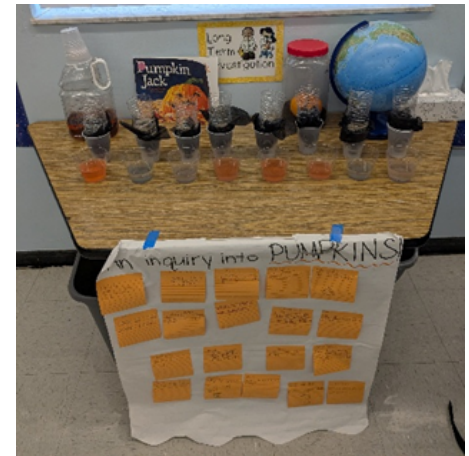
The towers were judged on cost efficiency, hydraulic efficiency, structural efficiency, and design ingenuity. In addition to the competition, students and families were able to learn about components of water storage and distribution and enjoy seeing the different designs. Congrats to our winners and thank you to Savannah Mika, Amanda Cannon, and all volunteers for putting on such an amazing event!



# A LOOK INTO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA AWWA STUDENT CHAPTER

## Roland Park Science Fair:

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the AWWA officers, led by student chapter advisor Dr. Katherine Alfredo, spent the morning at Roland Park continuing our mentoring on the scientific method and helping students develop strong science fair projects for the Hillsborough County STEM Fair. In the afternoon, officers led hands-on demonstrations for the 2nd graders, teaching adsorption and how drinking water filters work. Students built their own filters using different types of media—gravel, sand, and granular activated carbon—and tested them with the “dirty water” mix of dirt, food coloring, and glitter; experimenting with different media combinations to see which produced the best color removal and the “cleanest” water.



## Hillsborough Regional STEM Fair - AWWA Volunteers Inspire Future Innovators:

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, AWWA USF students volunteered in the 2025–2026 Hillsborough Regional STEM Fair. Members of our chapter spent the day engaging with elementary school students from across the region, offering feedback to spark curiosity and strengthen their love for science and engineering. Featuring more than 1,100 student science projects, the fair gave volunteers an inspiring look at the creativity driving future STEM leaders. It was a rewarding experience that reinforced the chapter’s commitment to outreach, mentorship, and community impact.



## Model Water Tower Competition:

On February 21st, AWWA USF student volunteers supported the Model Water Tower Competition at East Lake High School in Tarpon Springs. The team assisted with event activities including dimension evaluations, hydraulic testing, providing materials and cost estimates, and judging. One volunteer shared, “It was amazing seeing young scientists come up with such innovative ideas. The future of water looks good.” The event showcased the talent and enthusiasm of students exploring careers in water engineering and environmental science.



## USF AWWA Students Tour Stantec’s Tampa Office:

On February 25th, students visited Stantec’s Tampa office to learn about the day-to-day operations of the Water Team. During the tour, students gained insight into current and upcoming projects and participated in the team’s monthly meeting to observe how professional engineers collaborate across disciplines. The visit was facilitated by Ivan Tamayo Arteaga, Senior Water/Wastewater Engineer at Stantec, “Thank you, Ivan and the Stantec Team!”. Through this experience, USF students developed a clearer understanding of expectations in consulting environments - from prepositioning to winning proposals - and what it takes to succeed as a professional engineer.



---

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT

## DISTRICT UPDATES - MARCH 2026

---

- FY27 Cooperative Funding Initiative preliminary evaluations were presented to the Governing board in February, and will return to the Governing Board in April. Updated information can be found on the District's [website](#).
- Public Supply Annual Reports (PSAR) and Annual Reclaimed Water Supplier Reports will be due to the District on April 1<sup>st</sup>. PSAR workshops were held the second week of March, and the recordings/ pdfs are available on the District's [website](#).
- The 2025 Regional Water Supply Plan was approved by the Governing Board in December and is available on the District's website. Pursuant to subsection 163.3177(6)(c)4, F.S., each local government within a Regional Water Supply Plan (RWSP) area must update its Water Supply Facilities Work Plan within 18 months after Governing Board approval of the RWSP. The District will be issuing notices to relevant communities in the coming months, and staff are currently working to update materials to assist local governments in updating their plans. Updated information can be found at the District's [website](#).
- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the District implemented modified Phase III Water Shortage restrictions effective April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 through July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Information about current watering restrictions can be found on this District's [webpage](#).

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

---

### ***April***

April 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> - FWRC Conference, West Palm Beach, FL

### ***May***

Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> - Lunchtime Waterbugs Webinar, Virtual

Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> - Region IV Board Meeting, TBD

### ***June***

Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> - Energy & Leadership Connection at the Florida Avenue Brewing Co., Wesley Chapel

June 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> - DBIA Florida Region Conference, Orlando, FL

June 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> - National AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition, Denver, CO

### ***July***

Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> - Region IV Board Meeting, TBD

Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> - Water for People Event, Florida Aquarium

# REGION IV OFFICERS

## Chair

Nicole Thomas

## Vice-Chair

Lindsey Scott

## Treasurer

Jarah Parke

## Secretary

Vincent Domanico

## Past Chair

Mike Condran

# REGION IV COMMITTEES

## Golf Charity Event Committee

Nicole Thomas, Chair  
Vacant, Vice Chair

## Collegiate Committee

Allyson Mauck, Chair  
Aaron Turman, Vice Chair

## Manufacturers' Association Liaison

Mark McDowell, Chair

## Membership Committee

Bianca Pulver, Chair  
Mike Semago, Vice Chair

## MWTC Committee

Savannah Mika, Chair  
Amanda Cannon, Vice Chair

## Operators and Utility Council Committee

John McCary, Chair  
Vincent Domanico, Vice Chair

## Public Affairs Committee

Andy Franosz, Chair  
Vacant, Vice Chair

## Special Events Committee

Nestor Murray, Chair  
Dave Adams, Vice Chair  
Kris Samples, Vice Chair  
Tim Smith, Vice Chair

## SWFWMD Liaison

Devon Villareal, Chair  
Patience Harper, Chair

## Taste Test Competition Committee

M. Samer Alkhatib, Chair  
Abby Nodal-Roque, Vice Chair

## Technical & Education Committee

Jon Fernald, Chair  
Elizabeth Keddy, Vice Chair

## Water For People Committee

Courtney Dantone, Chair  
Sharmeela Khemlani, Vice Chair

## Young Professionals Committee

Neil Coffman, Chair  
Marcos Espinosa, Vice Chair

## Youth Education Committee

Alex Spektor, Chair  
Adri Mayr Mejia, Vice Chair

## Newsletter Committee

Kennedy Cobb, Chair



# FLORIDA

---

## American Water Works Association

**Region IV** - Serving members in Citrus, Hernando,  
Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter Counties