Message from the Chair

Welcome to our Inaugural Newsletter!

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a healthy and safe 2021!

The past year has been a very challenging time for our Region and the country at large. In the middle of planning one of our major events, the Best Tasting Drinking Water Competition, we were hit with an ongoing global health pandemic. We were forced to cancel this event and all future in-person events planned for 2020. Additionally, the Region experienced a significant decline in annual sponsorship. However, despite these challenges, our Region has continued to persevere.

Faced with confusion and lots of uncertainty, we were still able to successfully execute several virtual events, including two webinar events jointly collaborated with Region VII, participation in a fundraising event for The Water Equation and a very fun virtual Holiday Party. This success was largely due to the commitment, hard work, and support of our water utilities, sponsoring companies, professional members, and volunteers. Many thanks! We definitely could not have done it without you.

As a Region, we are optimistic about 2021 and the future! We will strive to continuously explore and reinvent new ways to keep our members engaged and informed of new and exciting events happening in the water industry. Hence, the launch of our quarterly Region VI Newsletter which will showcase past and upcoming events that impact the Region and the State. With each newsletter, we will spotlight either a member or a project that is adding value to the Region.

Again, my sincere thanks to all our water utilities, company sponsors, professional members and volunteers, for your continued efforts as we navigate these challenging times. We are excited about the future and remain hopeful that you will be able to join us at an event soon. We look forward to meeting you. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to continue to stay safe and healthy. Be on the lookout for our June 2021 Issue for all the new and exciting event updates.
PAST EVENTS

Holiday Social

In December of 2020, FSAWWA Region VI gathered on Zoom to celebrate the holidays. Amongst the holiday cheer were games such as Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, Movie Trivia, and of course, a Pet Parade. Gift cards were given out for the winners of the entertaining activities and to the winner of a random name generator.

WE Bid! Auction

There was an online auction called WE Bid! held September 20 to September 24, 2020 to help AWWA Sections raise money for philanthropic efforts. The Florida Section had the opportunity to raise money for the Water Equation philanthropic program while having a friendly competition between the other 42 AWWA Sections. Region VI submitted a cute basket “Relax at Home while Saving the Ocean” and it included candles, tea, and a “Mana-tea” diffuser. The items submitted by the Florida Section raised $2,100 and won bragging rights by raising the most money out of all AWWA Sections! In total, the auction raised a little over $8,000 to support the Water Equation program.

ONGOING EVENT

Water Matters Month

Water Matters Month is a four-week virtual event in March hosted by Broward County in which residents and students of Broward County will learn about water conservation, our coast and ocean, Naturescape landscaping, and climate change. Go to watermatters.broward.org to find a StoryMap, Scavenger Hunt, workshops, demonstrations, recognitions, and to win prizes. FSAWWA is featured in the StoryMap as a virtual booth under “Broward County Water and Wastewater Services. People who complete the scavenger hunt will be eligible for a grand prize consisting of a complete irrigation system provided by Hunter Industries along with other gardening tools and items (worth over $3000).
Two close neighbors – Caribbean and South Florida – to celebrate two great days – World Water Day and Earth Day- for our shared Number one Global Resource- Water!

The Section’s Region VI and VII are working towards a virtual webinar event to celebrate both World Water Day (March 22nd) and Earth Day (April 22nd) with our neighboring Caribbean Water Sector. Beyond celebrating two of the year’s most important days, the event’s purpose is to provide an information exchange between the two neighboring regions and develop stronger networks and dialogue. In addition, we aim to highlight the close cultural, family, and friendship connections between the regions. Thus, the webinar’s title ‘South Florida and Caribbean Water Link Up’ is built out of music link up events between the regions’ airwaves and internet through the years. FSAWWA is currently coordinating with the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, the Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association, and fellow AWWA (and Water Environment Federation) Section in Puerto Rico - the Puerto Rico Water & Environment Association on an agenda and speakers. A post webinar happy hour is also in the plans. Currently either the afternoon of April 8th or 15th are target dates. Please keep an eye out for a Save the Date e-mail soon from the Section. If you have any interest in the upcoming event please contact Kevin Carter (Broward County) at kcarter@broward.org or 954-856-3879.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**South Florida & Caribbean Link Up**

Date: TBA (in April)

Time: TBA

Location: Virtual

Registration: TBA

**Member Appreciation Spring Fling**

Date: Thursday April 1, 2021

Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m. EST

Location: Virtual

Registration: TBA

The AWWA Florida Section is holding a Spring-themed event on April 1st virtually. Events include Trivia, Bingo, a Pet Parade, and an Easter Egg decoration contest. The event will have raffles and prizes, so make sure to save the date! Registration is free to all FSAWWA members including Region VI. Contact casey@fsawwa.org for questions.

**Project Spotlight**

**Winson Water Treatment Plant Bid 1: Filter Rehabilitation**

North Miami, FL

The project includes replacement of a surface wash agitator system, under drain-system, and pipe gallery for existing filters. Additionally, filter interiors were waterproofed for leak suppression with all ancillary accessories as well as installing new filter media.

The project was a collaboration between Hazen, Victaulic, City of North Miami, and Primoris Mechanical Contractors. Victaulic provided inherent value engineering SS installation pipe solutions, allowing the Primoris Mechanical Contractors to complete system within the 20-day shutdown, avoiding major public water service issues. Completing the installation within the time limit left very little room for errors, unforeseen modifications and delays.
REG-LEG REVIEW

Thanks for stopping by Region VI's first edition of The Reg-Leg Review where we will discuss regulatory and legislative issues affecting the water sector. Today’s first addition is focused on Tallahassee (Tally). The 2021 State of Florida Legislative Session kicked off on March 2nd and is scheduled to end on the 60th day (April 30th). The FSAWWA Water Utility Council (WUC) tracks bills before and during each session. Each week (Fridays at 11:30 a.m. EST) we host an update call along with our partners on the Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council (UC). When necessary, both the WUC and UC may comment on bills or interact with the sponsoring legislators. In addition, the WUC and UC hosted a Virtual 2021 Tally Fly-In on March 18th and 19th where our members met with legislators to educate them about the water sector and to learn about their priorities. If you are interested in FWEA UC, contact information is found at the end of this section.

As you may recall, legislators introduce bills to become laws and those bills are presented through a committee meeting series (typically three meetings) before reaching the full House or Senate for a vote. In 2021, Senate Bill (SB) 64: Reclaimed Water and its House of Representatives’ companion House Bill (HB) 263: Reclaimed Water are moving fast through their respective committees. If you are also a wastewater utility with a surface water discharge you should review this bill to understand its potential impact. These bills are also important to the ‘drinking water side of the house’ as they propose additional Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) potable reuse regulations. If you were not aware, FDEP is currently developing Florida’s first potable reuse rules as required by last year’s SB 712 – “Clean Waterways Act”. In fact, FDEP is busy with other SB 712 mandated rulemaking including for biosolids, stormwater, and wastewater collection systems.

In addition, resiliency to sea level impacts is being facilitated by FDEP’s current rulemaking focused on Sea Level Impact Projection (SLIP) Studies. Resiliency is front and center for the 2021 Session. Governor DeSantis proposed a multi-year $1 billion grant program to fund local government resilient infrastructure (includes water sector). The Legislature is also proposing the “Resilient Florida Grant Program” through HB 7019 – “Clean Waterways Act”. In fact, FDEP is busy with other SB 712 mandated rulemaking including for biosolids, stormwater, and wastewater collection systems.

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We are tracking many other bills and watching for amendments. Fortunately, both the authors are very active on with the WUC and UC leadership. If you have any questions or comments please with contact Kevin at kcarter@broward.org or Lisa at LWilsonDavis@myboca.fl.us.

UPCOMING FSAWWA WEBINARS

FSWWA MAC New Technology & Training Showcase 2021 Webinar Series
$20/session

Session 3 of 6
Friday, March 26, 2021 / 9am - 11am EDT
Advancements in Valve Insertion Technologies / Clay Waters & Basic Control Valve Technology / Tommy Nichols (Course #05100552/0.2 CEUs/2.0 PDHs)
Register Here

Session 4 of 6
Friday, April 23, 2021 / 9am - 11am EDT
How to Control & Mitigate Hydraulic Issues in Pressurized Pipelines Utilizing Air Release Valves / Fabier Fernandez & Focused Electrode Leak Location-The FELL Method / Michael Condran (Course #05100553/0.2 CEUs/2.0 PDHs)
Register Here

Session 5 of 6
Friday, May 28, 2021 / 9am - 11am EDT
Water Systems and Pressure Monitoring / Shannon Payne & Wastewater Treatment Systems / Chase Freeman (Course #05100554/0.2 CEUs/2.0 PDHs)
Register Here

Session 6 of 6
Friday, June 25, 2021 / 9am - 11am EDT
Rehabilitation of Existing Manholes, Wet Wells & Lift Stations / Paul Blastic & Engineering & Fabrication of Repair Parts / Carlos Gonzalez (Course #05100555/0.2 CEUs/2.0 PDHs)
Register Here
UPCOMING FSAWWA WORKSHOPS

Cybersecurity & Accessing Funding

Date: March 25, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m. -3:30 p.m. EST
Location: Virtual
Registration: Link

USDA is holding a cybersecurity and funding workshop through AWWA for small public water systems, community and non-community water systems serving a population of 10,000 persons or fewer only. This workshop can serve as a free training session to all small systems. Virtual handouts will be emailed upon registration. (Course #05100534/0.6 CEUs/6.0 PDHs)

2021 FSAWWA Conference

ACE 2021 is going virtual this year from June 14-June 17. Register below!
https://www.awwa.org/ace/Attend/Registration

PAST REGION VI WEBINARS

September 2020

The webinar, Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades: Inextricable Links to the Lower East Coast’s Future Water Supply, was brought together by Regions VI & VII. The webinar emphasized the importance for communities of Florida’s east coast to participate in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discussion of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) which is currently in development.

November 2020

The webinar, Panel Discussion on the Impacts of COVID-19 on Water Utilities, was brought together by Region VI & VII. The presentation covered COVID’s sampling in wastewater, impacts and challenges of COVID-19 on water and wastewater utilities, motivation and team building during COVID-19, and how to avoid a COVID burnout.

REGION VI CURRENT OFFICERS

Monique Durand—Chair
Kevin Cevallos—Vice Chair
Mark Ludwigson —Treasurer
Kara Mills—Secretary
Pranoti Kikale—Web Manager
Richard Gallant—YP Chair
Monica Pazahanick—Membership Chair

REGION VI COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kevin Carter—Utility Committee
Lisa Davis—Utility Committee
Tyler Tedcastle—Utility Committee
Grace Johns—Water for People Committee
Emma Johnson—Newsletter Committee
Kara Mills—Newsletter Committee
THANK YOU REGION VI ANNUAL SPONSORS!

For the opportunity to sponsor or renew current sponsorship with Region VI, see below.

New Sponsor:
www.fsawwa.org/reg6newsponsor

Renewing Sponsor:
www.fsawwa.org/reg6returningsponsor

Any questions can be directed to
tdavis@globaltechdb.com