Message from the Chair

I remember attending the Region VII events during my college years, learning about the importance of safe drinking water and being inspired to become part of this water profession that plays such a vital role in our community. Today, I am honored to represent FSAWWA as the new Region VII Chair. I want to thank all of you that contributed to the organization’s achievements in 2017 and trust that we can count on you to continue that momentum through 2018.

We welcome 2018 with a long list of goals and expectations for our Region. We want to celebrate our Miami-Dade and Monroe County utilities which continue to supply our community with reliable safe drinking water and sanitation, striving to protect public health and our environment. Our goal is to serve our utilities and associated professionals by providing training tools and networking opportunities, and promoting their success stories through community outreach events. We also want to continue fundraising efforts to support our Likins scholarship, Water for People and the Water Equation.

This year we will particularly focus on providing training opportunities for our members. We are working towards increased engagement from local university students, operators, utility managers, contractors and consultants alike. We have planned 6 technical training events for the year, covering various topics related to water treatment, conveyance and utility management. Please feel free to provide your suggestions on topics of interest.

We also want to encourage participation from local university students in our Regional events and state conference competitions. Just as I was inspired as a student, I hope FSAWWA Region VII continues to inspire the new generation of young professionals, to strive to deliver on this mission of providing solutions to effectively manage water, the world’s most important resource.

I’m very excited to lead our Region into another fruitful year, and look forward to your full participation and feedback. We want FSAWWA Region VII to be a truly valuable resource for our water community and beyond.

For any questions regarding FSAWWA Region VII, including volunteer opportunities, email Cristina at Cristina.Ortega@ch2m.com
**Third Annual Water for People Golf Tournament**

On November 3, 2017, we had another beautiful day to hold the Third Annual Water for People Golf Tournament.

The event was a great success with nearly 60 players that included representatives of private sector companies and local utilities. We provided prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams, a great raffle, and great food throughout to make it a great experience for all. Our long-time host, the Country Club of Miami, has been a great partner and the event went off without a hitch once again. We raised almost $2,000 for Water for People! The golf tournament is just one of the fundraising campaigns and public outreach/awareness efforts to support Water for People, but it is one of the most fun!

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**Eighth Annual Water for People Wine Tasting**

The 2017 Annual Water for People Wine Tasting event was held at XIXON Spanish Cuisine in Miami on September 21st, 2017.

The event was very well attended and received, attracting a diverse group of professionals. This was the eighth and largest Water for People yearly event to date despite having followed a major hurricane event over a week before.

There were approximately 200 attendees at this year’s event and support from 12 event specific sponsors, aside from the 28 annual region sponsors, raising almost $10,000 towards Water for People. With this year’s event, we proudly continued a tradition of converting several event sponsors to annual FSAWWA Region VII sponsors. The Wine Tasting event was also supported by numerous University of Miami student volunteers, as well as benefited from the assistance of Xixon, who donated a gift prize for a fundraiser raffle and provided outdoor live entertainment while reserving their entire first floor for the event.

With each event we have continued to expand our base attendance reaching out beyond our industry (consulting engineering, construction & water utilities) to law, medical, marketing, educational, surveyors, hydrogeologists, biofuels, economists, and other professions. Our annual Wine Tasting Event is a part of our fundraising campaigns and public outreach and awareness efforts to assist disadvantaged countries throughout the world.
One of Region VII’s goals for 2018 is to increase the number of technical training events held throughout the year. We believe a greater focus on technical training provides significant value across all groups of our membership, providing new areas or interest for young professionals and promoting the conversation on technical challenges faced by designers, plant operators and utility managers.

Considering the natural disasters faced by the South Florida region as well as the Caribbean last summer, Region VII decided to host a presentation on Floodplain Design, Construction and Impacts on Flood Insurance by Flood Mitigation Specialist Owen Gechter. The event was an eye-opening experience with more than 40 participants representing all branches of the water and wastewater industry.

We look forward to seeing you at the next FSAWWA Region VII technical seminar to continue the conversation on the successes and challenges faced by our industry.

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2017 Member Appreciation Social

On December 7th, 2017 FSAWWA Region VII hosted its annual member appreciation social at the Coral Gables Woman’s Club.

This event is held every year in an effort to bring all of our members together to celebrate the Region’s successes and thank each of our members, annual sponsors and event sponsors for their continued support.

The 2017 member appreciation social lived up to the event’s track record of being a success with over 120 people in attendance. This event is an opportunity for colleagues from the water industry to get together, share anecdotes and discuss areas of interest associated with the vision for South Florida’s water future. Proceeds towards the venue rental for this event benefit the Coral Gables Woman’s Club Dental Clinic.
Lunch & Learn Technical Seminar – Chloramines Fundamentals and Control Addressing Treatment and Distribution System Challenges


Our speaker Chris Catlin, P.E. provided an extensive and very informative session about the use of Chloramines as disinfectants to treat water. They are most commonly formed when Ammonia is added to chlorine, providing longer-lasting disinfection as water moves through pipes to consumers.

The seminar was successfully executed; it was a unique convergence of networking, learning and fun into a single occasion. It offered the audience a wealth of information, hoping to help our professionals in the industry improve their knowledge on this specific subject.

Member Spotlight

1. Why did you join FSAWWA?
   I was looking for a way to get involved in the community and was introduced to AWWA by Robert Regalado. I really appreciate him for helping get involved in such a great organization.

2. What is the most important thing you’ve gained from FSAWWA?
   The most important things I’ve gained from FSAWWA are the relationships I’ve formed with some really impressive people throughout the industry. It is a great opportunity to work with these people who really care about the region and the section.

3. How did you get into the Engineering industry?
   I was in the Civil Engineering Squadron in the USAF. During my time in the service I started with drafting and progressed through contract and construction management. I got to see construction all over the world and completed my engineering degree after my enlistment.

4. What is the last book (or newspaper, magazine, etc) you read?
   The last book I read was The Monster of Florence. The descriptions of the countryside inspired my next trip where I hope to travel to Tuscany in the fall.

5. How do you enjoy your free time?
   I love to spend as much of my free time as I can on the water. I really enjoy fishing for mahi in the summer and scuba diving for lobster in the fall.

Austin P’Pool
Region VII Secretary
2018 ANNUAL SPONSORS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

“BEST OF THE BEST”
DRINKING WATER TASTE TEST
Date: April 5, 2018
Time: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Location: Rusty Pelican Restaurant
3201 Rickenbacker Causeway
Key Biscayne, Florida 33149

BAYNANZA 2018
Date: April 21, 2018
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Location: Haulover Park
(Exact location TBD)

REGION VII OFFICERS

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Cristina Ortega-Castineiras, P.E.

Vice Chair
Josenrique Cueto, P.E.

Secretary
Austin Pool, P.E.

Treasurer
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Veronica Llaneza PhD & Catalina Lopez

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Communications Chair
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Public Affairs Council Chair
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Contractors Committee Chair
Jorge Valdes

Water for People Chair
Robert Regalado

Water Conservation Chair
Melissa Velez, P.E.

Florida Section Chair
Bill Young

AWWA Florida Section, Region VII
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