2019 has been another remarkable year for FSAWWA and Region VII. We hosted thirteen events so far, with record participation from our utilities and members. You can read all about these events in this Fall Newsletter. I would like to thank and congratulate our Region VII board for leading us through this exciting year, meeting and exceeding every goal.

I have a few very special announcements:

- Austin P’Pool will be taking over as Region VII chair in 2020. Austin is a Project Manager and Engineer with The Corradino Group. He has been very involved with our Region over the past six years, earning the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award, serving in the Water for People Committee and as Secretary for the past two years. Please join me in congratulating Austin on his new role as Region VII Chair and continue to support him and our Association, as we move forward into a bright future.

- At this upcoming FSAWWA Fall Conference, Region VII is proudly sponsoring its second student team to participate at the Water Bowl Competition and Poster Competition. As planned, our YP Committee accomplished an increase in engagement from our local universities.

- Our board has expanded over the past few months, with six new babies. Please check out the cutest newsletter article about our newest FSAWWA members. Congratulations to the happy and sleep-deprived new parents!

A special thanks to our water utilities, sponsors, members and volunteers for ensuring our Region’s success. Being part of Region VII has been a truly special journey. Don’t hesitate to reach out and join us; it is most worthwhile…

See you at our next Region VII gathering!

For any questions regarding FSAWWA Region VII, including volunteer opportunities, email Cristina at Cristina.Ortega@jacobs.com
Annual Water for People TopGolf Event

On May 23, 2019, FSAWWA Region VII held its Annual Water for People (WFP) Golf Event in the TopGolf Miami Gardens Location as part of the fundraising campaigns and public outreach/awareness efforts to support Water for People. Region VII obtained the support of our annual sponsors, 13 event sponsors and a number of volunteers to raise over $6,000, amounting in a 50% increase in donations from the previous year! The event was a great success and a lot of fun, everybody involved clearly had a blast! A huge shout out to Topgolf Miami Gardens who were amazing in assisting with coordinating the event and honoring our non-profit status to allow us to donate more to Water for People. We greatly look forward to next year’s event because it gets bigger and better every year!

Technical Seminar - Getting Ready for 2019 Hurricane Season

June 1st marked the start of the Atlantic hurricane Season. Region VII’s “Getting Ready for Hurricane Season” Technical Seminar held at the 94th Aero Squadron on June 6th was timely. Over 50 participants attended to learn about disaster-specific grant programs that help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and human-caused disasters. The presentation by John Buri from Tetra Tech was followed by an informative panel discussion which included representatives from the City of North Miami, City of Coral Gables, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department, NMB Water and Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority.
Technical Seminar - Cannot Change the Market so Change the Design - Non Clog Pump Impellers

On August 1, 2019, Region VII hosted a Lunch & Learn Technical Seminar: Cannot Change the Market so Change the Design – Non Clog Pump Impellers.

Our speaker, Ashley Dirou Branch Manager of Grundfos provided an informative session about the challenges utilities face due to the clogging of sewer pumps. The technical seminar addressed the process of developing “Non-Clog” impellers considering passage capabilities, energy efficiency, and materials of construction.

The seminar was a unique convergence of networking and learning into a single occasion, with hands-on experience.

Technical Seminar - Current and Future Trends in Asset Management

Last November 7, 2019 our FSAWWA Region VII hosted their 4th Lunch & Learn Technical Seminar of the year at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant.

The speakers Bob Munro, Senior Management Consultant, GHD and Craig Omundsen, Asset Management and Deputy O&M Manager, NMB Water/ Jacobs did a remarkable presentation about how asset management through risk assessment and evaluation is the key to ensuring resiliency for the future. Risk assessments have progressed from qualitative to quantitative measurements as data acquisition has progressed from word of mouth to manuals and digital analytics. Information technology and advanced technology have transformed the way assets are operated and maintained through SMART Analytics; a strategy that assures asset Sustainability, Maintainability, Availability, Reliability, and Transformation. This move forward allows stakeholders to entrust quantitative risk assessments and better manage the future of their assets.
1. What is your current position?

I am currently a Senior Project Engineer with Nova Consulting Inc. I am primarily focused on work associated with water distribution system modeling, master planning, asset management, wastewater collection systems and water resources engineering. My experience includes moderate to complex water/wastewater systems evaluation, system planning, design, hydraulic modeling, and data analysis. I also manage water and wastewater projects from the planning phase to design and construction. As well as project deliverables, proposal writing and direct interaction with clients.

2. How did you get involved with FSAWWA?

In Fall 2014 I began graduate studies in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University, and worked as graduate research and teaching assistant under the direction of Dr. Detlef Knappe. Dr. Knappe was the University advisor for NC-Safe Water, NC State AWWA student chapter, he shared with me the fun activities and the benefits of being part of this amazing organization, I volunteer and then became the student chapter president from 2015 to 2016. After moving to Florida, I asked about the State chapter for AWWA and have been involved with FSAWWA since.

3. What advice do you have for young professionals entering the industry?

Get involved and start networking as soon as you can. Being the president of the AWWA student Chapter at NC State opened many doors for me. Being involved opens a whole world of possibilities for personal and professional development. Networking will help you develop and improve your skill set, stay on top of the latest trends in your industry, keep a pulse on the job market, meet prospective mentors, partners, and clients, and gain access to the necessary resources that will foster your career development.

4. How did you get into the Engineering industry?

My favorite subjects through school were math and chemistry so I knew I wanted to pursue a career that was math and chemistry heavy. I decided to look into Engineering and enrolled in the college of Engineering at Universidad de los Andes (Colombia) and obtained degrees in chemical engineering and environmental engineering. Then I moved to Raleigh, NC to pursue my Master of Science in environmental engineering at NC State University.
YP Summer Seminar & Bowling Tournament

The Young Professional summer seminar for Region VII was held at Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department on August 15th. Over 35 participants attended to learn about “Lessons Learned from Emergency Situation and a Creative Approach to General Preparedness”. All presenters were from various regions across Florida and Region VII was proud to host MDWASD Deputy Director, Hardeep Anand as a key speaker and present on the Resilience Movement and how utilities can approach challenges in the 21st Century. After the successful event, the annual bowling tournament was at the newly opened Kings bowling alleys in Doral, where refreshments and snacks were served, and strikes were made!
Our Region VII Family Welcomes its Newest Members!

Beth Waters (Events Committee Chair) welcomes baby Maverick Viñas, born on June 27, 2019

Veronica Llaneza (YP Committee Chair) welcomes babies Sebastian and Westley Mulaire-Llaneza, born on October 11, 2019

Elizabeth Fernandez-Cuervo (Communications Committee Chair) welcomes baby Connor Page, born on August 7, 2019

Eric Corey (MAC Committee Co-Chair) welcomes baby Connor Duke Corey, born on June 25, 2019

Tyler Tedcastle (MAC Committee Co-Chair) welcomes baby Collins Mae Tedcastle, born on July 1, 2019
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Water Conservation Chair
Melissa Velez, P.E.
Florida Section AWWA Chair
Mike Bailey

UPCOMING EVENTS!

2019 Member Appreciation Social

Wednesday December 4, 2019
5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Coral Gables Woman’s Club

AWWA Florida Section, Region VII
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