Message from the Chair

Please join me in congratulating our FSAWWA Region VII board. This year has been outstanding for our Region. To date, we have successfully hosted ten events and we are well underway in meeting our goals for training, fundraising, networking and promoting our industry’s success stories through community outreach.

Region VII events – including our marquee Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest, Drop Savers Water Conservation Poster Contest, and our Model Water Tower Competition – have had increased participation and continue to be key tools for educating our community on the importance of our water industry. The Model Water Tower Competition is an excellent example; this spring a record number of middle school and high school students competed with ingenious water tower models and had a chance to tour the Alexander Orr water treatment plant.

We held four technical seminars with great attendance. These covered various topics of water treatment and distribution. Our most recent seminar was held on September 12th and focused on hurricane preparedness for water utilities.

We also continued with our fundraising activities – supporting the Likins scholarship, Water for People and the Water Equation, with contributions exceeding $12,000. We successfully hosted our first ever Water for People Topgolf Event in June, and are looking forward to the upcoming annual Water for People Wine Tasting, at the end of September. I look forward to your participation in this and all future events.

Region VII accomplishments are only possible through the efforts of our volunteers and sponsors. Don’t hesitate to reach out and join us, as we set the course for our organization’s continued success.

For any questions regarding FSAWWA Region VII, including volunteer opportunities, email Cristina at Cristina.Ortega@jacobs.com
2018 Water for People Topgolf Event

On June 21, 2018, FSAWWA Region VII held its Fourth Annual Water for People Golf Event at the new Topgolf Miami Gardens location.

The event was held as part of the Water for People fundraising campaign. This year’s event was a success with nearly 100 registrants, including FSAWWA members from South Florida Water and Wastewater Utilities, Engineering Firms and Vendors.

Region VII obtained the support of 33 annual sponsors, 11 event sponsors and a number of volunteers to raise over $4,000, amounting in a 25% 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 being even larger!

2018 Drop Savers Water Conservation Poster Contest

Once again, the FSAWWA sponsored the statewide Drop Savers Water Conservation Poster Contest during National Drinking Water Week.

The five winning posters are displayed here!

Division 1:
Harper Fitzpatrick
Gainesville Regional Utilities

Division 2:
Giana Pantaleon
Miami Dade Water and Sewer Department

Division 3:
Lina Tamer Elattar
Miami Dade Water and Sewer Department

Division 4:
Annabella Refler
JEA

Division 5:
Mackenzie Emrich
Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority
For the second year in a row, North Miami’s Water and Sewer Utility, a division of the City of North Miami Public Works Department, won the “Best of the Best” Drinking Water Contest at the Region VII level. NMB Water also came in second place for the second year in a row.

On April 5, 2018 five water utilities from the Miami-Dade and Monroe County area joined FSAWWA Region VII to participate in this year’s “Best of the Best” Drinking Water Contest. The five participating water utilities included the City of Homestead Public Works Department, City of North Miami, Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department, and NMB Water.

This year’s event was held at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant, located in Key Biscayne, Florida. A meet and greet reception was followed by a dinner at which each Utility Director spoke about the state of their utility. After dinner, the Drinking Water Contest began. This year’s Master of Ceremonies was Bill Young, the Florida Section AWWA Chair.

This year’s event was sponsored by Region VII’s 30 Annual Sponsors and 18 Event Sponsors. Combined, this year’s Event Sponsors contributed $7,200, over and beyond what was raised last year. A portion of the proceeds earned at the event benefit Water for People, the Roy Likins Scholarship and the Water Equation.

North Miami’s water Utility went on to represent Region VII at the State level contest, held on April 17, 2018 at the Florida Section’s 16th Annual Drinking Water Contest in Daytona Beach. Lee County Utilities won at the state level.

The seminar covered CIPP “Pressure Pipe” Solutions and the presenters included Ricardo Vieira, P.E. from Black & Veatch and Fred Tingberg Jr. from Lanzo Companies. Our speakers did an excellent job at demonstrating the technical viability of renovating segments of existing large diameter pressure pipelines via cured in place lining (CIPP) design aspects and installation methods. The session was a well-attended, well-received affair and very beneficial for all the engineers, contractors and utilities personnel that participated.
FSAWWA Region VII

Model Water Tower Competition

On Saturday April 28, 2018, Region VII and Miami Dade Water and Sewer Department (MDWASD) hosted the Ninth Annual Model Water Tower Competition.

Students were encouraged to become engineers for the day by designing and building model water towers based on limited specifications. Students also had a chance to tour the Alexander Orr Water Treatment Plant and learned about where their tap water comes from. Fourteen senior high school teams and 4 middle school teams from Miami Dade County participated, exceeding last year’s participation. Monetary awards of $300, $200 and $100 were presented to the top three teams in both the middle and senior high school categories. This event was made possible with the support of Region VII’s Annual Sponsors.

Young Professional (YP) Network Event

The YP Networking Event was held on March 8, 2018 at the Bar in Coral Gables.

The event had a strong participation of South Florida young and seasoned professionals from the water and wastewater industry. Over 60 professionals from both public and private sector along with civil/environmental undergraduate and graduate students shared experiences. Food and drinks were served while members networked. This year the venue had a great outdoor space, that allow for more interaction in a relaxed environment.
36th Baynanza Biscayne Bay Clean-up

On April 21, 2018, Region VII volunteers and their families joined forces to participate in the 36th Baynanza, a celebration of Biscayne Bay and its significance as one of our most important ecological systems in South Florida. This year’s event featured thousands of volunteers who helped clean up Biscayne Bay at various sites. Together, volunteers picked up trash from shorelines and islands of Biscayne Bay. Region VII pitched in at the Haulover Park continuing a tradition of supporting this event and Miami-Dade County. It was an amazing event!

Member Spotlight

1. What is your current position?
   I serve as a Project Manager on the Ocean Outfall Legislation Program. I work for Jacobs.

2. How has AWWA helped you grow as a professional?
   AWWA has allowed me to work alongside local industry leaders making a difference in the community. AWWA has also provided me with networking opportunities that will likely help me grow as a professional.

3. How did you get involved with FSAWWA?
   A dear friend and colleague who is part of the Region VII Leadership Team encouraged me to become active. After attending the Wine Tasting event in 2015, I decided to become a volunteer for Region VII. It has been an amazing experience.

4. What advice do you have for young professionals entering the industry?
   Respect everyone you come across (Clients, competitors, colleagues, EVERYONE), and build your network!
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Florida Section AWWA Chair
Bill Young

UPCOMING EVENTS

9TH ANNUAL WATER FOR PEOPLE WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER
Date: September 27, 2018
Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Location: Xixón Spanish Cuisine
2101 SW 22nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33145

AWWA Florida Section, Region VII
MIAMI-DADE AND MONROE COUNTIES    WWW.FSAWWA.ORG