Florida Section
AWWA Bets Big on ACE18 in Las Vegas

Many of the staff, officers, and members of the Florida Section American Water Works Association (FSAWWA) traveled to the 2018 AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE18) that was held June 11-14 in Las Vegas. They took advantage of the many events that the conference had to offer.

Technical Program and Exhibition

The section members attended the many workshops, technical and poster sessions, and facility tours to learn the latest ideas from colleagues in the water industry, and visited the exhibit hall to hear about the newest products and services available. More than 40 speakers from Florida made presentations, including some who had two and even three papers.

Opening General Session

This Tuesday morning session encouraged attendees to group together by section, and those there from Florida could meet each other and be cheerleaders for FSAWWA. The session included addresses from Uzi Daniel, California-Nevada Section chair; Brenda Lennox, AWWA president; and David LaFrance, the association’s chief executive officer. There was also an awards presentation and a keynote presentation by Ira Flatow, science correspondent for National Public Radio, who talked about the right time and place that’s needed for ideas to become successful.

George Warren Fuller Award:
Carl Larrabee Jr.

This award is presented annually by AWWA to the sections’ respective selected members for their distinguished service to the water supply field in commemoration of the sound engineering skill, brilliant diplomatic talent, and constructive leadership that characterized the life of George Warren Fuller. This year, the Florida Section recipient was Carl Larrabee Jr.

The qualifications for the award specify that the services of the candidate must have been over and above those expected of officers and committee members in fulfilling the obligations or duties assigned to them. It’s emphasized that the performance of a nominee must be exceptional and extraordinary.

Larrabee received his award plaque and pin at the Fuller Award Society Breakfast that was held at ACE18. Each awardee automatically becomes a member of the George Warren Fuller Award Society of AWWA.

The announcement of Larrabee’s award was also made at the section’s meeting that was held at the FSAWWA Fall Conference last November.
Section Lunch

The section hosted a buffet lunch for members on Tuesday, June 12, at the Border Grill in Mandalay Bay. Everyone enjoyed the Mexican food, ice-cold drinks, and frosty ice cream treats, while they mingled in the indoor and outdoor space in the lower floor of the restaurant, which overlooked the Lazy River just off Mandalay Beach.

Top Ops

The national Top Ops competition was held at the conference. This “College Bowl” type competition tests teams from AWWA sections, made up of water treatment and distribution operators or laboratory personnel, on their knowledge of system operations.

The section has two teams in the contest: Palm Coast Water Buoys, which came in first in the FSAWWA Top Ops held at the Florida Water Resources Conference in April, and FWPCOA Region #9. Here, the Water Buoys came in second and Region #9 took third place.

Landmark Awards

This AWWA award recognizes American, Canadian, or Mexican water landmarks that are at least 50 years old and have had a direct and significant relationship with water supply, treatment, distribution, or technological development. The landmark must be a tangible, physical property; is of a permanent and nonexpendable nature, such as a building, dam, reservoir, tower, etc.; and is not machinery or a natural water resource.

This year the Manatee County Dam in Bradenton and the Bay County Water Treatment Plant in Panama City were affirmed as AWWA landmarks following favorable review of their nomination by the AWWA Water Landmarks Award Committee.

Each awardee received two certificates—one for the section and one for the plant—and a bronze plaque to be mounted at the landmark site.

From left: Janice and Carl Larrabee, and Kathy and Bill Young.

Dr. Steve Duranceau (far right) with some of his University of Central Florida students.

Other attendees enjoying the lunch.

From left: David Rager, AWWA president-elect; Palm Coast Water Buoys team members Fred Greiner, Peter Roussell, Jim Hogan (coach), and Tom Martens; and Brenda Lennox.

From left: David Rager; FWPCOA Region #9 team members Steve Harrison, Frank Kelsey, Kameron Van Kleeck, and Glenn Whitcomb; and Brenda Lennox.

Me accepting the award for Manatee County, presented by Brenda Lennox and David LaFrance.

Commissioner Tommy Hamm (center) accepts the award for Bay County Utilities from Brenda Lennox and David LaFrance.