Welcome to the April Spotlight Member! This month, and in honor of Volunteer Week (April 20-24) the Section is Spotlighting our 2019-2020 Committee Chairs. Each committee has worked tirelessly in helping the Section meet or exceed its goals. Without their work, creativity, and enthusiasm, the Section would not be able to deliver the value of membership that you expect. In no particular order ... here are a few words about each of our committees!

The **Water Utility Council**, chaired for several years by Steve Specht, increased their lobbying efforts this past year meeting with several federal and state legislators and also provided testimony in Trenton on important water issues. The Section would be lost without such dedicated volunteers.

Steve Blankenship and the **Infrastructure Management Committee** have been aiming to provide speakers for the technical program committee and conferences, and in the coming year will look to do the same, as well as through webinar training.

This year the **Conference Committee** and its sub-committees worked tirelessly in preparation for the Annual Conference. Mike Piemontesi and Brian Applegate, along with Sandy Kutzing (**Technical Program Committee**), Mimi Heims (**Registration Committee**), and Rafael Rovito, Andy Clauhs, and Bryan Burdalski (**Manufacturers and Associates Committee**), had reached “all systems go” before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Section to make the decision to postpone the conference. As Joe Stanley said in his remarks at the Annual Business Meeting, this year, the Section was set to break conference records and had an outstanding program – technical and social planned. **However, let’s remember that in October 2019, these committees put together a recording breaking Fall Meeting!**

Dave Tanzi and the **Strategic Planning Committee** had some time off this year as a five-year review is not due until next year; the committee is tasked with reviewing the plan and ensuring that the Section is on course to accomplish its goals.

Howard Woods and the **Financial Advisory Committee** review and oversee the financial integrity of the Section. This year, they have reviewed our external audit reports and various other IRS and State mandated submissions. They also will be updating the Section’s 5-year Financial Plan.

Giselle Diaz’s role as **Recognition and Awards Committee Chair** is to ensure that the Sections awards are awarded at the appropriate time. She is also consulted when special awards are needed.

Frank Blank and the **Education and Professional Development Committee** began with a bang! For the first time, the Section delivered technical content by way of webinars. The first webinar was in November of 2018, and then the committee delivered 5 more webinars in 2019 and shows no sign of stopping.

Mark Theiler and the **Research and Technology Transfer Committee** held several events throughout the year. The committee partnered with Students and Young Professionals and held two research dinners where educational credits were awarded.

George Lewis and the **Safety & Security Committee** held two all-day seminars in 2019. In the Spring of 2019, they held a Security Workshop, and in the Fall of 2019, they held a Safety Workshop in which attendees earned educational credits.
Nicole Brown and the Membership Services Committee helped the Section earn awards from AWWA by achieving the goals set in the 2019 Membership Challenge. Nicole and her committee have some fun things planned for the year ahead.

Kyle Boehme (Student Affairs Committee) and Laura Norkute (Young Professional Committee) worked hand in hand to deliver monthly networking opportunities for Students and Young Professionals. They also worked with the Future Cities Competition this year and conducted another successful Student Filter Building Competition.

Keith Pytlik, Chair of the Retired Professionals Committee, carried the tradition of producing the 13th edition of the Living History Program. He also worked with the Technical Program Committee to supply Experienced Professionals teamed with Young Professionals for two presentations for the conference. This committee continually expands the retired professionals’ relationship with the young professionals of the industry.

Keith Smith and the Licensed Operators Committee teamed up with the Water Utility Council to deliver this year’s AWWA Education Award-winning “Lead in Drinking Water Forum.”

The Section’s Social Responsibility Committee has three sub-committees: Water for People (WFP) which was Chaired by Erika Taylor, Community Engineering Corp (CEC) which is chaired by Mark Tompeck and Water Equation (WE) which is chaired by Suzanne Chiavari. This committee is charged with coordinating the fundraising activities for and supporting the initiatives of WFP, CEC and WE.

Public Information & Publications Committee chaired by Summer DeFeo, works to promote the Section as the authority on water quality, quantity and other important water matters. This year, Summer organized a networking event to promote “Imagine a Day Without Water.” Starting in 2020, the Section newsletter, “Pipeline,” is now produced as a print magazine.

Are you interested in joining one of our committees? Has something sparked an interest in you? Please click on the links to the left to see more about many of our committees. What to join a committee? Check on the Join a Committee Link on the left. And, as always, you can call or email Mona (mona@njawwa.org) or Stacy (stacy@njawwa.org) and they would be happy to help you.