



Let's give Eileen Feldman a big AWWA NJ welcome! She is the Section's July Spotlight Member! Eileen is an Associate Vice President at Hazen and Sawyer. She holds New Jersey and New York Engineering Licenses. Eileen has been involved in the Section since she joined AWWA in 2003. She's been an active member and chaired both the Technical Program Committee and the Research and Technology Transfer Committee. Eileen was awarded the Section's Next Generation Award in 2016.

Why did you decide to go into the field of water?

I love the water and can't remember a time when I wasn't swimming in the ocean or a pool. Growing up at north end of the Jersey Shore, I witnessed the impacts of ocean dumping and it left a strong impression on me. In elementary school, I had a project on the environment and Sandy Hook. This project foreshadowed my career – there are pages of my report dedicated to wastewater effluent and building sanitation plants! As an ocean swimmer and a lifeguard on the Raritan Bay, my love for water and its impact on our lives has always been important to me.

My internship and first job out of college was in wastewater but I was quickly drawn to drinking water. I had the opportunity to work on groundwater pilot studies and storage tank projects. I moved to New York City and was part of the design team for two very large water treatment facilities – the Croton Water Filtration Plant and the Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Disinfection Facility. Fortunately, I was able to get back to working on great projects in New Jersey like the East Orange Water Supply and Treatment Program and the Oak Glen Water Treatment Plant. Throughout my career, I've worked on different pieces of the drinking water process – wells, aqueducts, treatment plants and distribution systems. I'm passionate about discussing drinking water with my friends, family and the public in a way that is factual and easy to understand.

How did you become a volunteer for AWWA? What motivates you to be active in the Section?

Young Professionals bowling nights were my first introduction to AWWA! In my early years in AWWA NJ, I was active with the Young Professionals and Water for People committees. A mentor of mine encouraged me to join the Technical Program Committee. Through my first ten years on the committee, I had the opportunity to learn from others, get career advice, and help build robust programs for our members. Following my time on the Technical Program Committee, I enjoyed re-energizing the Research and Technology Transfer Committee and pass it on to young professionals to take a leadership role there. I'm back working with the Technical Program Committee with old friends and new professionals in New Jersey water.

My early career experiences in AWWA NJ cemented friendships that have developed over the last several years. Through my time as a member and leader of the Technical Program Committee, I have gathered valuable mentors who I regularly reach out to for guidance and advice. These seasoned AWWA NJ members have taught me important skills and fostered my growth professionally and personally.

How long have you been an AWWA member and what have you gotten from your membership?

I've been an AWWA member for 18 years and gained amazing friends and leadership opportunities throughout my involvement. I strongly recommend young professionals getting involved early and often in AWWA – while you are learning technical skills at your job, you can learn other important skills

working with people, organizing meeting and conferences, and contributing to safe water throughout the state.

Hobbies and outside interests?

I love to run, swim, fish, bowl and listen to history podcasts. I'm learning how to play tennis and dusted off my sewing machine during the pandemic. I have two boys, 9 and 11, and serve as a Den Leader in our local Cub Scout Pack.

What motivates you in your career?

In a year when public health has been at the forefront of our minds, safe drinking water is a critical component of protecting public health. As a drinking water engineer and representative of the AWWA community, I am proud to be a small part of protecting public health and spreading the value of water with enthusiasm.