



Our Spotlight Member for June is Dalia Ghobrial. Dalia has been a member of AWWA since 2002 and has been an active volunteer since that time. She has been active in the Membership Committee since 2002, where, early on, she was one of NJ's top recruiters. She was also Chair of the Membership Committee in 2012, and she was an active member of the Research and Technology Committee. In 2006 she was awarded the Next Generation Award. In 2010 Dalia and the Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC) team won the Top Ops competition and then participated in the Top Ops Competition at ACE. Dalia is a Senior Chemist at PVWC. She holds NJ T3 and W2 Operators Licenses.

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

Prior to working in the field of water, I knew nothing about it. I thought that you turn the faucet and water just comes out. I took water for granted. But when I started working in this field and realized the amount of work that's put in every cup of water that comes out of that faucet, not only did it motivate me, but I wanted to know more and learn more. Everyone in this industry is working hard to provide safe drinking water to our customers. I am blessed that I was given the opportunity to get my first real job in the water field and here I am years later still here and loving it.

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

I was fresh out of college and in 2000 I received the opportunity to work for Trenton Water Works. At that time Stacy Fysz-Cacallori was working at Trenton Water, who happened to be the Membership Committee Chair. Stacy recruited me and another young professional at TWW into AWWA and at the same time she recruited us to participate in the Membership Committee. During the recruitment session she explained the benefits of becoming a member and volunteering. The benefits opened a whole new world of opportunities for me. I was able to learn about the Section, the different fields in the water industry, attend seminars and conferences, get information on the newest regulations, and most importantly the networking opportunities. Not only do I have friends that I can go to when I have questions, I also have friends that have become a part of my family over the years. Thank you, Stacy, for recruiting me, giving me no choice, and encouraging me to become a member and volunteering in the Section

What motivates you to be active in the Section?

As my career progressed to Passaic Valley Water Commission (PVWC), Wendy Simone, the Plant Superintendent, and Joe Bella, the Executive Director, have been very supportive of me. I have attended many seminars, conferences or meetings over the years. They encourage PVWC staff involvement. Thank you to Wendy and Joe for your continued support.

I would like to thank Laura Cummings who was the Plant Superintendent at PVWC. She too supported me and my activities at the Section. Thank you

Hobbies and outside interests?

I love being with my kids, family and friends. My hobbies are playing tennis and going to the gym.

What legacy would you like to leave behind?

As a member of the Operations Department at PVWC, I would like to recruit more operators and entry level employees to become Section members and volunteers – just as I was - I think our section needs more diversity.