



### **Keith Pytlik Spotlight Member**

Let's give Keith Pytlik a big AWWA NJ congratulations for being nominated and selected as the Section's Spotlight Member! Keith has been a member of AWWA since 1985 serving on the Education & Professional Development Committee, liaison to the Safety Committee, assisting with the Membership Committee, and presently is the Chair of the Retired Professionals Committee. He is also involved with the Mentorship Program and the non-denominational prayer breakfast group.

Besides the AWWA, Keith has been a member of ASDSO, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials for decades, serving on the Council for State Dams Executive Committee. He has been involved with Dam Rehabilitation Projects, new dam construction, inspections, operation & maintenance, emergency planning, PFMA's (Potential Failure Modes Analysis) and more. Keith is a licensed Professional Engineer in New Jersey & New York.

Keith graduated from NJIT in 1982 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He learned on his college graduation day that the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission in Wanaque was looking for a new graduate to fill the position of Assistant Engineer. He began work at the NJDWSC two months later in July 1982. Keith continued working at the Commission for over 30 years until retiring in 2014 as their Manager-Department of Civil Engineering, Construction & Dam Management. After retiring, he had the pleasure of working at SUEZ New York for a short period, and is presently back at the NJDWSC, working part-time.

He loved the hydraulics & hydrology courses at NJIT. So his employment at the NJDWSC would allow him the opportunity to expand on what he learned. Since it was a relatively small engineering department, everyone got involved with the many aspects of Civil Engineering, from the first thought of the idea, to the planning, permitting, construction & implementation. This was useful with his involvement in the Wanaque South Project in the 1980's that included new & upgraded pump stations, pipelines, a new dam and reservoir. He was also involved with

several different dam rehabilitation projects and Water Treatment Plant construction projects, including their operation and maintenance afterwards.

His first boss at the NJDWSC was Dean Noll. Dean was very active in both the New Jersey Section as well as the National AWWA. Dean was the first individual who persistently pushed Keith to join AWWA. So eventually he joined. This allowed him to attend the NJAWWA Annual Conference in Atlantic City. He still remembers the first time he attended, how amazed he was with what he witnessed...the knowledge that was evident with the presentations, the professionalism of the entire NJ Section, the camaraderie of the Industry, something that left him in awe. He was hooked! He is so proud that he can still see that in the Section all these years later. It was seeing all the dedicated individuals, working so diligently at the NJ Annual Conference that motivated him to step up and get more involved.

A member of AWWA for over 37 years, he has seen how AWWA National as well as the NJ Section have evolved. In the 1980's, there was the Journal magazine and The Pipeline that had the information related to AWWA & the Water Industry. Now everything is available at one's fingertips. Besides the years of educational information received from Conferences and Seminars, there's the other benefits associated with being involved...namely the people.

His hobbies include physical activities, whether it's his waking up at 4AM to go to the gym, or walking 2+ miles with his wife, Deb. He also enjoys hikes with his oldest son, Jason and he did his first "Spartan Super" race at Mountain Creek with his youngest son, Michael. Keith & Michael are planning a Disney Run in Florida, November, 2023.

Another thing he enjoys is traveling, with the last several trips being a driving trip to the Canadian Maritimes, another driving trip to Michigan (Frankenmuth & Mackinac Island), and flying to Florida & Arizona.

Keith also is very involved with his Church, Serving as an Elder, singing bass in the Adult Choir, and volunteering with other Church related activities.

When asked about "What legacy would he like to leave behind?" His hope is that his years of work in the Water Industry have contributed to the providing of safe, clean, affordable and ample supply of water. He loves sharing his experiences of the last 40+ years with others, when people ask him how he did a particular project in 1980's, 90's, etc... He wants to be able to share not just knowledge, but more important, kindness and encouragement with others.

Keith is grateful for his Family for the many years of sacrifices made with the 24/7 routine of responding to emergencies, etc. He is so thankful for the years of employment in the water industry and for all the support and kindness from his fellow employees. Also, gratitude is extended to those in the water industry that he has dealt with through the years, including those in the regulatory sectors, both Federal and State, other water companies, utilities, county and municipalities, consultants, contractors and suppliers. And finally, all involved with the NJAWWA, both present and past.