

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025-2026**

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# The Clarifier

## Chair's Column



It's hard to believe that this Clarifier marks the one-year anniversary of my first chair column. Time sure does fly when you are having fun! Speaking of fun, I recently got the opportunity to tour a couple of the water treatment facilities in our District, and those trips reminded me about how passionate our members are when it comes to providing clean and reliable water. I am always amazed about how knowledgeable individuals are with their system, and with all the extra things that they do such as preserving the history of their facility and looking for innovative ways (like 3D printing) to keep equipment operational. Keep up the great work!

Don't forget to check out the Capital District Scholarship Golf Tournament recap in this Clarifier. Our tournament organizers did another phenomenal job making sure that the tournament went off without a hitch, which it did, on September 9th at the Mid-Carolina Club. They even managed to manipulate the weather to ensure that we had a break from the summer heat just in time.

Thanks to everyone else who volunteered their time to organize the event, prepare food, set out the sponsor signs, take pictures, sponsor the event, participate in the event, and every other little behind-the-scenes task that needed to be done.

In addition to the tournament, we held a District Business Meeting that same night in the event hall at the country club. It was a delight to reflect with the day's golfers on how awfully we played and to see all the non-golfers who came out to socialize and support another successful event. By the end of the day, everyone's hard work showed through, and it was evident that our District was once again able to raise enough money to support additional scholarship opportunities this coming Spring.

Which leaves me at today and what lies ahead. Our next District meeting is just around the corner, November 20th, at the EdVenture Museum in downtown Columbia. This meeting comes fully equipped with an afternoon of technical sessions and a social hour prior to dinner. During the meeting we will

recognize this year's scholarship recipients, Sam Kauffman and Taryn Watson, so come on out and let them know that we are proud of their hard work.

WEASC also has quite a few other events on their calendar to close out 2025. There is the Engineering Management Workshop, the Industrial Wastewater & Pretreatment Workshop, and a Safety Workshop -just to name a few. Check out the events listed on SCwaters.org to see everything that is available!

Lastly, be sure you nominate your fellow coworkers and colleagues for our District Awards. These are due November 15th, so the odds are that by the time you are reading this you only have a few days or maybe a few hours to get your nominations in...so drop that cup of coffee and get to nominating!! All nominations can be submitted online via SCwaters.org.

I am looking forward to recognizing your nomination(s) in January!

Dave



Follow us on [FACEBOOK](#) @ Water Environment Association of South Carolina-WEASC  
And on X [@WEA\\_SC](#) Check out our Website @ [www.scwaters.org/group/capital](http://www.scwaters.org/group/capital)

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## WEASC Capital District Schedule &amp; Location

2025	Meeting / Location
Nov 20	District Meeting @ EdVenture
Dec 11	EC Meeting @ Richland County Utilities
2026	Meeting / Location
Jan 15	District Meeting @ Lexington Municipal Complex
Feb 19	EC Meeting @ AECOM
Mar 5	District Meeting @ T&S Farms
Apr 2	Sportsman Clay Tournament
Apr 16	EC Meeting TBA
Apr 18	Walk for Water



Jay Kates

CEO

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## WEASC Capital District Meeting Thursday, November 20, 2025

**Sponsored by**  
The City of Columbia Water & Metro WWTP

### Associate Sponsors

Sherwin-Williams, Heyward Incorporated, GA Industries  
Networking Hour Sponsored by CDM Smith  
Grand Prize Sponsored by Richland County Utilities

### WHERE:

**EdVenture Conference Center – The Café  
211 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201**

### AGENDA

**2:00–2:50pm** How to Properly Check a Lift Station  
**David Wiman, Town of Lexington**

**2:50–3:00pm** Break

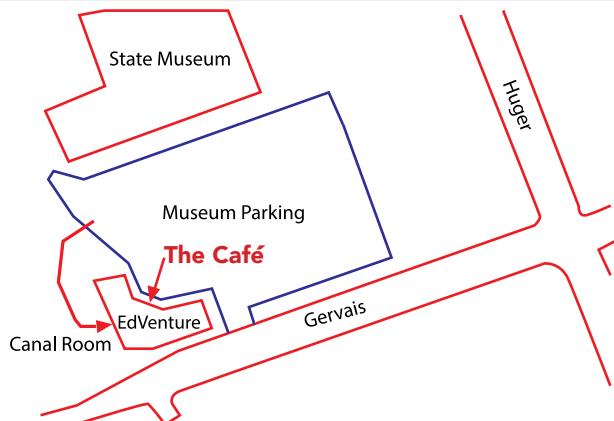
**3:00–3:50pm** Control Valves & Valve Maintenance  
**Brian Lee, Heyward Incorporated**

**3:50–4:00pm** Break

**4:00–4:50pm** Lab Basics for Non-Lab People  
**Jill Martinez, City of Columbia**

**5:00–6:00pm** Networking Hour Canal Room

**6:00pm** Meal and Business Meeting Canal Room



**Congratulations once again to our latest scholarship winners, Sam Kauffman and Taryn Watson!**  
**They will be recognized at the November meeting so come out and support!!**

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## WEASC Capital District (District 3) Capital District Meeting, Sept 9, 2025

The Capital District of the Water Environment Association of South Carolina (WEASC) held their September Business Meeting at the Mid Carolina Club following the Capital District Scholarship Golf Tournament.

At the start of the business meeting, Chair Dave Johnson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Johnson recognized honored guests Guy Schmoltze, 1st Vice President, Ginger Clark, State Secretary and Madeline Zimmerman, State Treasurer who were in attendance. The first order of business was to approve the July Business Meeting Minutes. A motion and second were made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Johnson then invited Allison Legette and Marett Richardson, Golf Tournament Committee Co-Chairs, to announce the results of the Golf Tournament. They thanked everyone for participating and noted that the proceeds from the tournament go towards funding scholarships for the Capital District Scholarship program. This past year's recipients will be recognized at the November business meeting that will be held at EdVenture on Thursday, November 20th. 1st place went to Pete Duty & Associates (Greg Desroches, Joey Desroches, Russell Wright and Brian Tyler), 2nd place went to Keefer Engineering (John Waters, Mark Waters, Tom Keefer and Jay Stewart), Closet to Pin went to Cathy Desroches (Pete Duty & Associates), Longest Drive went to Brian Tyler (Pete Duty & Associates), Toilet Tee went to Marett Richardson (played with Black & Veatch) and Last Place (Toilet Plunger Award) went to Keefer Engineering (Dillon Hodge, John Riggs, Tyler Dillman and Aaron Marshall).

Chair Johnson then recognized each of the tournament's sponsors. There were 11 Platinum Sponsors (4D Engineering, Abbott's Auto Care & Tire, AECOM, Carolina Backflow Specialties, Inc., GHD, Heyward, Inc., Hobgood Electric Company, JMWSC, Pete Duty & Associates, Tencarva Machinery Company and Water Works Metrology, LLC), 3 Gold Sponsors (American Engineering Consultants, HIGHFILL

Infrastructure Engineering and Michael Baker International), 4 Silver Sponsors (EFI Solutions, Hazen & Sawyer, McClam & Associates and Zorn Equipment Sales) and 2 Bronze Sponsors (Collins Controls, Inc. and Stanley Martin Homes).

Chair Johnson then provided a few district updates and highlighted future events and meetings for reference. District and State Award nominations are currently open and the deadline to submit any nominations is November 15th. The Operator Grant Program Applications are currently open and will be accepting applications up until December 31st. SCEC Abstracts are due Friday, September 12th. WEFTEC will take place in Chicago this year from September 27th through October 1st. The Operator Conference will be held in Myrtle Beach from November 3rd through the 5th. The Engineering Management Workshop will be held on November 13th at Saluda Shoals. The November District Meeting will be held at EdVenture on November 20th. The Capital District Scholarship recipients will be recognized at this meeting. The January District Meeting will be held at the Town of Lexington Municipal Complex on January 15th, 2026. The March District meeting will be held at T&S Farms on March 5th, 2026 and the Sportsman's Clay Tournament will take place on April 2nd, 2026.

Under New Business, Madeline Zimmerman added that the next Women In Water Life event is coming up on October 3rd. It will take place at Painting With a Twist (275 Harbison Blvd Suite R Columbia, SC 29212), there are limited spots available so make sure and register if you're interested. Registration details are included on the website.

With no further new or old business to discuss, Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, received a motion and second, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ryan T. Ohmer*

WEASC Capital District (District 3)

**Congratulations  
to our Golf Winners!  
&  
Great Job to all  
our participants!**



Pete Duty & Associates  
(Greg Desroches, Joey Desroches, Russell Wright, Brian Tyler)



**Longest  
Drive**



Brian Tyler (Pete Duty & Associates)



Keefer Engineering (John Waters, Mark Waters, Tom Keefer, Jay Stewart)



**Toilet tee** Maret Richardson



(played with Black & Veatch team)

**Closest  
to Pin**



Cathy Desroches (Pete Duty & Associates)



Keefer Engineering  
(Dillon Hodge, John Riggs, Tyler Dillman, Aaron Marshall)

## Fun Day of Golf and Fellowship



# ANOTHER THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF SPONSORS!!

## Platinum Sponsors

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Carolina Backflow Specialties, Inc.

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Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission

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# PAINTING WITH A Twist



The Nominating Committee has confirmed the following Slate of Officers for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027:

**Past Chair:** Dave Johnson (Highfill Infrastructure Engineering)

**Chair:** Anthony Self  
(Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission)

**Chair-Elect:** John Epting  
(CDM Smith)

**1st Vice Chair:** Mike Teran (Richland County Utilities)

**2nd Vice Chair:** Allison Legette  
(Town of Lexington)

**Treasurer:** Donna West  
(Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission)

**Secretary:** Ryan Ohmer  
(Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina)

The election will be held during the January 2026 Capital District meeting in Lexington. Officers will be elected in accordance with the Capital District rules posted on the website at:

[www.scwaters.org/group/capital](http://www.scwaters.org/group/capital)

## Painting with a Twist EVENT

On October 3, the WEASC Capital District Women in Water Life (WiWL) group gathered at Painting with a Twist in Columbia for a relaxing and creative Paint & Sip Night. Twenty-one attendees enjoyed an evening of fellowship, finger foods, and wine while following guided painting instructions. The group's chosen artwork—a moonlit lake framed by autumn leaves—served as an artful homage to the water industry and the fall season! The event offered a fun, engaging opportunity for women in the water profession to unwind, connect, and celebrate their shared passion for the field.

Have ideas for content or other information to share?

Email: [dcrim@ardurra.com](mailto:dcrim@ardurra.com) We value your input and feedback!!

## WEASC Capital District Committee Assignments 2025-2026

At Large Member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member  
At Large Member  
Arrangements  
Arrangements Support  
Awards  
Budget & Audit  
Membership  
Golf Tournament

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# Welcome

## NEW MEMBERS!

**Hunter Shehane** JMWSC  
**Brad Kingsmore** HACH  
**Karen Inman** Newberry County WSA  
**Marci Eddy** Westinghouse  
**Kyle Force** JMWSC  
**Errol Alger** City of Columbia  
**Jennifer Taylor** City of Columbia  
**Jesse Carwell** JMWSC  
**Krystal Hopkins** JMWSC  
**Ashley Cole** Source Technologies

### Congratulations! Members in the News!



Congratulations to Biff Blocker (JMWSC) and his wife, Meredith, on the birth of their son **Grayson W. Blocker** born on September 12, 2025



### YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!!

District Awards Nomination Forms  
Now Available Online!!



### DEADLINE is November 15th

The deadline for nominations is sooner than usual -- please nominate your well-deserving colleagues so we can recognize the tremendous talent in our District!

Visit [www.scwaters.org/group/capital](http://www.scwaters.org/group/capital) and click on **AWARDS** for more info or use the QR code below.

#### Seeking nominations for the following awards:

Water Treatment Plant Operator  
 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator  
 Laboratory Analyst of the Year  
 Administrative Professional of the Year  
 Maintenance Person of the Year  
 Safety Award (Certificate of Merit)  
 Collection System Operator of the Year (Dennis Pittman)  
 Excellence in Collection Systems Operations  
 Young Professional  
 Engineer of the Year  
 Distribution System Operator  
 (AWWA Distribution Operator of the Year)  
 Rookie of the Year  
 Customer Service



ANYONE can submit nominations for District & State levels awards online at:  
<https://www.scwaters.org/page/AwardsWEASC>  
 and <https://www.scwaters.org/page/Awards>



### Operator Educational Grant Program Announcement

The application for Operator Education Grants is now available. We plan to award up to \$10,000 in grants at the January 2026 Business Meeting. Applications must be submitted by December 31, 2025 to be eligible for the 2026 grants.

Click this [link](#) for the application.



# WEASC 2026 CAPITAL DISTRICT SPORTSMAN CLAY TOURNAMENT

## WHEN

**April 2, 2026**  
**9:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Check-In starts at 8:00 am

## WHERE

**Palmetto State Armory  
Shooting Facility**

**1201 Redmond Mill Rd, Swansea, SC 29160**

## OPERATOR EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

Operator scholarships are awarded at the January Business Meeting in Lexington, SC

- *Operator Licensure Program*
- *Operator Certificate Program*
- *Operator Degree Program*
- *Operator of the Year Awards Program*

**Limited to Thirty-four (34) 4-person Teams**

## WHAT'S NEW? SHARPSHOOTER EVENT

**8:00 am – 9:30 am**  
\$20 gift card for 100% accuracy  
\$10 per 5 rounds  
Limited availability  
Event time increased to 1 1/2 hrs

## CAROLINA CAMPING SAUSAGE BREAD

**8:00 am – 9:30 am**  
You asked for something warm and we're going to deliver! Head over to the grilling area after sign-in to partake in the self-serve old fashioned roll-up delight.

## SPONSORS

**Tents & Tables** are allowed between the Sharpshooter Event and the Picnic Shelter (sponsors are not allowed to set up at the stations)

## CHECK-IN/ROSTER

Find your label, then find your team's square, place your label in the square, and take your labeled scorecard.

**Turn your scorecard in to Tevin** – he will be our scorekeeper this year!

**FULL DETAILS INCLUDING ITINERARY, SPONSORSHIP  
AND REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)**