February 2017

Last Meeting: The last Capital Area Chapter meeting was held on Friday, December 16, at Waller Creek Center. Adam Conner and Trent Woodward presented on Water For People. Thanks, Adam and Trent, for an informative presentation, and thanks to The Scruggs Company for sponsoring our December meeting!

Next Meeting: The next Capital Area Chapter meeting will be held on Friday, February 17, at noon at Waller Creek Center (625 E. 10th Street, 78701) Room 104. Please be sure to arrive by 11:45am to ensure a good seat. Valarica (Val) Olfers will be giving the Texas Board of Professional Engineers’ Professional Practice Update / Ethics presentation.

Val Olfers is an Investigator IV with the Compliance & Enforcement Department, Texas Board of Professional Engineers. She has over 18 years of experience as an investigator with the State of Texas; eleven of those years are with the Board. As an investigator, she ensures the TBPE Act and statute are being followed. She receives and reviews complaints filed with the Board regarding any violation of the rules and/or statute. Val served on active duty in the United States Air Force from 1980-1984. Val received her B.S. in Management-Human Resources from Park University, Austin, Texas.

Please join us for this interesting presentation!

TAWWA Annual Officer Election

Capital Area Chapter Officer elections will be held during the February meeting prior to our presentation. If you are an AWWA member and would like to place a nomination for Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, or President, please send your nominations to Katie Walker at Kathryn.Walker@hdrinc.com.

Upcoming Events and News:

- MATHCOUNTS February 4 at J.J. Pickle Research Campus in Austin, TX
- Annual WEF/AWWA YP Summit February 7 in Tampa, FL
- TAWWA/WEAT/ASCE/YPT/EWRI YP Happy Hour February 21 at Abel’s on the Lake in Austin, TX
- Girl Day at UT Austin February 25 at the University of Texas in Austin, TX
- Keep Austin Clean – Ladybird Lake Kayak Cleanup March 25 in Austin, TX
- Water For People Volleyball Tournament April 1 at Aussie’s in Austin, TX
- Texas Water 2017 April 10-13 at the Austin Convention Center in Austin, TX

Call for Volunteers—Texas Water 2017

Interested in volunteering at the Texas Water 2017 conference? Texas Water returns to Austin, TX during the week of April 10-13 and we need your help! Fill out the online registration form to secure your volunteer slot here: https://www.txwater.org/volunteer_form_2017.cfm.

Volunteers who work ½ a day can attend the conference for the rest of the same day at no cost. To offer the opportunity to as many people as possible, volunteer slots are limited to one per person. Contact Hannah Frels at hfrels@apaienv.com or 512-687-2161 with any questions. Thanks in advance for your contribution to a successful conference!

Capital Area Chapter
Texas Section American Water Works Assoc.
P.O. Box 80150, Austin, TX  78708
http://www.tawwa.org/group/capital_area
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YP Events and Committee Update

Past Events

**Hornsby Bend Biosolids Facility Tour:** On December 2nd, the TAWWA/CTSWEAT YPs had the opportunity for a private tour of the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Facility. We were able to see a functioning co-generation system, compost facility, and dewatering equipment while learning about the processes and history of the plant. Many thanks to Ken Lockard and the folks with the facility who hosted and led us around, and to Forterra/US Pipe for sponsoring the event.

**Coats for Kids:** For the second year in a row, the TAWWA/CTSWEAT YPs participated in the Junior League of Austin’s Coats for Kids sorting event! We had a good turnout from the YPs and additional community support for a great cause – supplying kids and teens in Central Texas with warm garments (over 34,000! https://www.jlaustin.org/coats). Thanks to the Junior League for hosting, and thanks to Environmental Improvements, Inc. (EI2) for sponsoring a happy hour for the YPs after the event.

**Bowling Happy Hour:** We had a great turnout for our TAWWA/WEAT Young Professionals Happy Hour at Dart Bowl on January 30th. A big thank you to WWaterTech for sponsoring this fun event!

Upcoming Events

**Happy Hour:** Please join us for the first ever (or in a long time) joint happy hour with the local chapters of TAWWA, WEAT, ASCE, YPT, and EWRI! We’ll be meeting on February 21 at Abel’s on the Lake (3825 Lake Austin Blvd.) from 6-8pm. Thanks to Flowtite for helping to sponsor the event!

**Keep Austin Clean – Ladybird Lake Kayak Cleanup:** The TAWWA YP Committee is helping our local CTS WEAT chapter plan an event to participate in the Texas River Cleanup Challenge. WEAT chapters throughout the state will be participating in this competition to promote environmental stewardship, awareness, and cooperation. All members of TAWWA and WEAT are invited to get on a kayak (or stay on the shore) to pick up trash at Ladybird Lake on March 25, 2017 from 9-11am. We’ll meet at Live Love Paddle and then go out to lunch afterwards. Please see our flyer for more details.

If you are interested in being added to the Young Professionals email distribution list, or if you are interested in joining the Capital Area TAWWA YP Committee, please contact Interim Membership & YP Chair Kira Iles at kira.iles@freese.com or 512-617-3189.

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**Walker Partners** is a regional team of engineers, surveyors, technical experts, and industry-renowned veterans. We are the folks who create – and deliver – your project on time and under budget. For over a decade and with more than 2,000 civil engineering projects successfully completed, we have built a business based on cultivating long-lasting relationships. With our keen understanding of municipal engineering and land development, we meld services and projects to help our clients create sustainable and enduring impacts on their communities. More information on Walker Partners can be found at [www.walkerpartners.com](http://www.walkerpartners.com), or contact John Lindner, PE, Chief Operating Officer at 512-382-0021 or jlindner@walkerpartners.com.

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**Sponsor of the Capital Area Chapter of TAWWA**

February 17, 2017

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Annual Seminar

The Capital Area Chapter of TAWWA hosted their annual Fall Seminar titled “The Future of Utility Infrastructure” on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at the Hornsby Bend Environmental Research Center. Keynote speaker Dr. Robert Mace, Deputy Executive Administrator of the Texas Water Development Board kicked off the seminar with an excellent overview of conservation in the water industry. The seminar was attended by over 50 water professionals from the Central Texas region. CAC TAWWA thanks all seminar presenters for their expertise, time, and well-prepared talks to make for an excellent seminar for all attendees. CAC TAWWA also thanks our sponsors for their contributions, as the event raised over $2,600 for scholarships!

As always, we welcome member input for future seminars. If you have any suggestions for next year’s seminar, please contact Kira Iles at kira.illes@freese.com.

Gold Sponsors:

Silver Sponsors:

Happy Hour Sponsor:

Kirk Obst and Matt Cullen, P.E., presenting at the Annual Seminar

CAC TAWWA Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee of the Capital Area Chapter donated $2000 to the TAWWA scholarship fund and awarded two local $1000 scholarships to Caroline Hackett and Adam Thane. The local scholarships were presented at the December meeting. Thank you to our meeting and seminar sponsors for their support of our scholarships, and congratulations to Caroline and Adam on their individual achievements and award of the scholarships!

Girl Day at UT Austin

Check out Girl Day at UT Austin including both Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day and the Girl Day STEM Festival which will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017. We’re anticipating over 8,000 kindergarten through 8th grade girls participating this year with their parents, teachers, Girl Scout troop leaders and more. Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is once again supported by lead partner Halliburton. The Girl Day STEM Festival is supported by lead partner Texas Instruments. Sign up as a partner here!

Water for People Charity Volleyball Tournament — April 1, 2017

The annual Water for People Charity Volleyball Tournament will be held April 1 at Aussie’s Grill & Beach Bar in Austin. Approximately 100 players and spectators attended the event last year, raising $2,300 for sustainable water projects around the world. Based on average costs for Water for People’s work, this is enough money to provide safe water or sanitation for over 160 people for a lifetime. See the attached flyer for additional information about the event.

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Consumer Outreach Committee

The Consumer Outreach Committee is proud to bring you "All Things H2O," a monthly blog highlighting existing water utilities and programs across Texas. This month features a piece by Stephanie Zavala with the City of Mansfield who shares details about a remarkable program developed by SAWS in San Antonio called IMPACT. SAWS believes “the key to resolving important water issues in the future starts with a knowledgeable, skilled and active youth citizenry today”. And Stephanie reminds us that “the leaders of today and tomorrow have a responsibility to showcase to the public the incredible passion, tireless work, and dedicated people that make our industry what it is.” We hope you enjoy and come back next month! An electronic version of the blog can be accessed via the following link http://www.tawwa.org/group/Ed_Out.

If you’d like to learn more about the Consumer Outreach Committee, including volunteering with the Committee, or if you’d like to suggest a topic for future posts, please contact Karen Menard, Committee Chair, at kmenard@utrwd.com.

Water Conservation License Plates Available

The Texas Section AWWA has created the only Water Conservation License Plate in the country. It only adds $30 to your annual license plate fee. Through our partnership with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, $22 of the mere $30 comes back to the Section to fund scholarships for families of Texas AWWA members like you. Your small investment helps shape the future of Water Conservation and the future of water professionals. Go to www.conservetexaswater.org to buy yours today!

About the Capital Area Chapter

The Capital Area Chapter meets at the City of Austin offices at Waller Creek Center, 625 E. 10th Street, Austin, Room 104 on the third Friday of even numbered months. Upon arrival, sign in with the security guard at the 10th street entrance. Room 104 is the large conference room on the east side of the first floor.

If you are interested in speaking at a meeting or have suggestions for meeting topics, contact Joe Hoepken: 512-972-1168 or Joe.Hoepken@austintexas.gov.

This newsletter is sent to over 600 water professionals in the Austin area. If you are interested in sponsoring a meeting or have information for publication, contact Katie Walker at: 512-912-5169 or Kathryn.Walker@hdrinc.com.

2016 Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

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