



North Central Texas Chapter
Texas AWWA
American Water Works Association

Volume 13, Issue 6

April/May 2025



NCT TAWWA Chapter Annual Plant Tour

Thursday, April 17th

Social: 4:30 pm

Tour: 5:30 pm

Event will be capped at 35 people. Register [here](#)

Speaker: Westside

Location: Westside Water Treatment Plant

Westside Water Treatment Plant
12200 Old Weatherford Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76008

Annual April Plant Tour and Social Hour

Tour to be Led By:

Erik Irwin, City of Fort
Worth Water Department

See you at the Westside
Water Treatment Plant!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello NCT TAWWA Members,

Thanks to all those that were able to join us for the February Chapter Meeting and the NCT TAWWA Pipe Tapping Event! Checkout the recaps for both events in this issue of The Lake. Have you [submitted your abstract](#) for the Chapter's 2025-2026 education program yet? The deadline to submit is extending to March 31st. Presentation selections help us build out our General Chapter Meeting Program, as well as the Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar program. If your abstract was not selected for Texas Water, this is a great opportunity to submit it for the chance to be included at the local chapter program level!

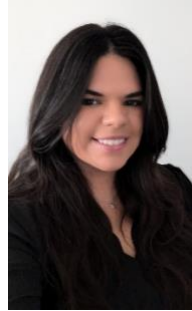
Have you registered for Texas Water 2025 in Houston? There is still time to check out some of the event opportunities including the Curtis Smalley Environmental Event and Dodson Drive Fun Run! Look under the "Events" tab on the conference website: www.txwater.org

Speaking of Texas Water and local chapter programs, our Chapter is proud to be accepting the Educational Offerings Award at Texas Water 2025! Join us at the Awards Celebration at noon on March 20th in Grand Ballroom A/B, 3rd Floor. As you move about the conference this next week, be sure to tag the NCT TAWWA in your social media posts!

Happening next month, consider registering for our April Plant Tour at the Fort Worth Water Department's Westside Water Treatment Plant on April 17. Space is limited so sign-up soon! Chapter officer elections will also happen electronically as our Chapter fiscal year comes to an end. Be on the lookout for an email to participate. As always, it is a pleasure to serve and support our local Chapter. See you at Texas Water –

Thank you!

Your North Central Texas Chapter President,



Brandy Martinez, P.E. (Brown and Caldwell)

PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP

Hunter Honeycutt, EIT (LAN)

Enhancing Operational Reliability: NTMWD's Approach to Chemical Tank Management

Martina Hanna and Tyler Mott from the North Texas Municipal Water District presented their comprehensive approach to chemical tank management. NTMWD serves over 2 million people across 2,200 square miles, operating 7 water treatment plants and 13 wastewater treatment plants. The district manages 217 chemical tanks, ranging from 50 gallons to 175,000 gallons. With such a large and diverse set of tanks, the district has implemented a standardized chemical tank management program to ensure that each tank is properly cleaned, inspected, and maintained to meet safety and operational standards.



Martina Hanna (NTMWD)

During the presentation, Hanna and Mott outlined their chemical tank cleaning standards, touching on the challenges of coordinating with the operations team and contracting specialized Hazmat cleaning services. The discussion also included the frequency and methods of inspections, which range from routine visual checks to more invasive assessments conducted monthly, annually, and at 5 and 10-year intervals. Methods such as infrared thermography, acoustic emission testing, and dye testing are used to detect potential issues early. The presentation also covered the varying maintenance needs based on tank materials and the common failures associated with each type, while emphasizing the importance of safe execution and long-term planning for both maintenance and eventual tank replacement.



Tyler Mott (NTMWD)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jim Estala, EIT (LAN)



Texas Water, a joint annual conference of the Water Environmental Association of Texas and the Texas Section American Water Works Association, is celebrating its 31st year as the Largest Regional Water Conference in the U.S. Join professionals in the wastewater and water industry, including water quality engineers, treatment plant technicians, scientists, government officials, regulatory agency personnel, manufacturers and their agents, libraries, universities, etc., in meetings, competitions, ceremonies, and more!

If you're interested in registering, click [here](#) for more information.

Texas Water | Operations Challenge Saw Cut

Wednesday, March 19th

- 3:30 PM - Relay Competition
- 4:30 PM - Individual Competition

[Register HERE for the Texas Saw Cut 2025](#)



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

NCT TAWWA Chapter Call for 2025-2026 Presentation Abstracts

Abstracts will be accepted through Friday, March 31. The anticipated dates for 2025/2026 Chapter Meetings and the 2025 Drinking Water Seminar are as follows:

- Thursday, August 21, 2025 – Lunch Meeting
- Friday, October 24, 2025 – Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar*
- Thursday, February 19, 2026 – Lunch Meeting

To ensure education opportunities to our broader membership base, we ask you to submit in one of the following categories:

- Treatment/Operations
- Instrumentation/Networking/Cyber Security
- Utility Management/Asset Management/Work Order Management
- Pipelines/Transmission/Distribution
- Planning
- Communications/Media/Public Outreach
- Construction Issues
- Other

[Submit your Abstract Here!](#)

STRUT YOUR MUTT

Helen Dulac (Growing North Texas)

Love Water? Love Dogs?

Strut Your Mutt, The Race to End Animal Cruelty will be held on April 12, 2025, at the Tower Building Fair Park. We are looking for No Water No Wags ambassadors to represent our chapter to play trivia with racers and hand out themed prizes. The Bow Wow Bazaar begins at 7 AM and ends by 11 AM. Be a part of vendor booths, activities for pets and kids, demonstrations and more in air conditioned comfort, sharing your passion for the water industry, and handing out No Water No Wags goodies. Contact Helen at helen@grownorthtexas.org and Dustan at dustan.compton@trwd.com to by March 31 to join the pack.





YP CORNER

Tasie Kade, P.E. (Carollo)

YP Year in Review

This year the YPs have enjoyed networking events such as pickleball, Rangers games, putt putt golf, and kickball games. We've given back to our community by participating in Trash Bash. We deepened our understanding of the industry by touring MCI's manufacturing facility. To wrap up the year, all were invited to our third annual Ugly Sweater Party in December. We enjoyed cold drinks, raffle giveaways, delicious pizza, and each other's company!



On behalf of the YP committee, we would like to extend a warm thank you to all who have participated in the YP group this year. It is a pleasure to get to know our colleagues in the industry in such fun ways. We hope everyone will join us for our final events of the new year: a trivia happy hour at 3 Nations Brewing on March 13th and stay tuned for information on participating in For the Love of The Lake cleanup later in March/April.

YP Email List

Want to come to more upcoming YP events, but you just keep missing the notification about them? Or are you a non-YP member and would like your younger staff to get more involved with NCT AWWA? Send an email to Tasie at tkade@carollo.com to get your email added to the YP distribution list.

YP Committee Invitation

Interested in getting involved with the NCT AWWA YP Committee? Send an email to Tasie at tkade@carollo.com to hear more about open positions and get plugged in. We will be welcoming new committee members as the TAWWA fiscal year re-starts in May, so now is a great time to join.

NCT TAWWA Tappin' it in Texas

Ashley Van Keer, P.E. (LAN)

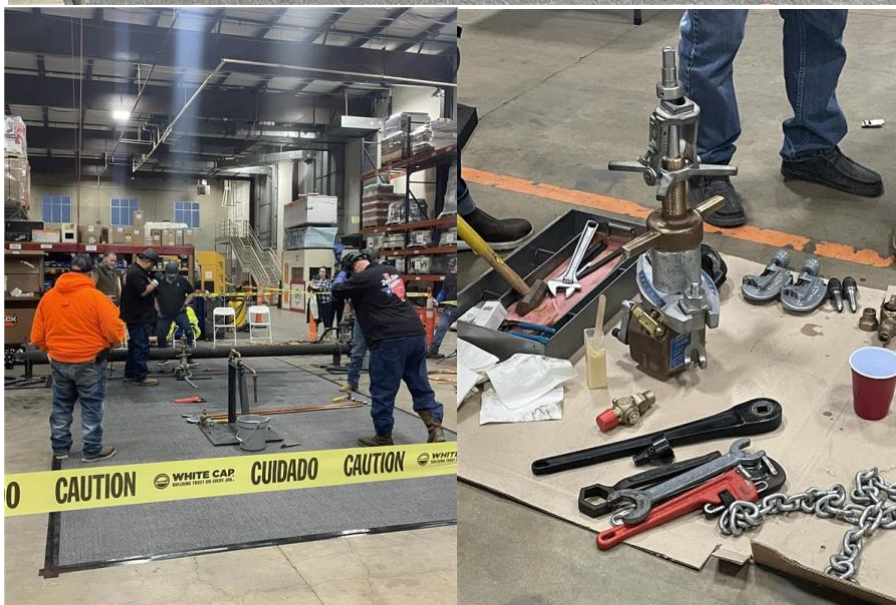
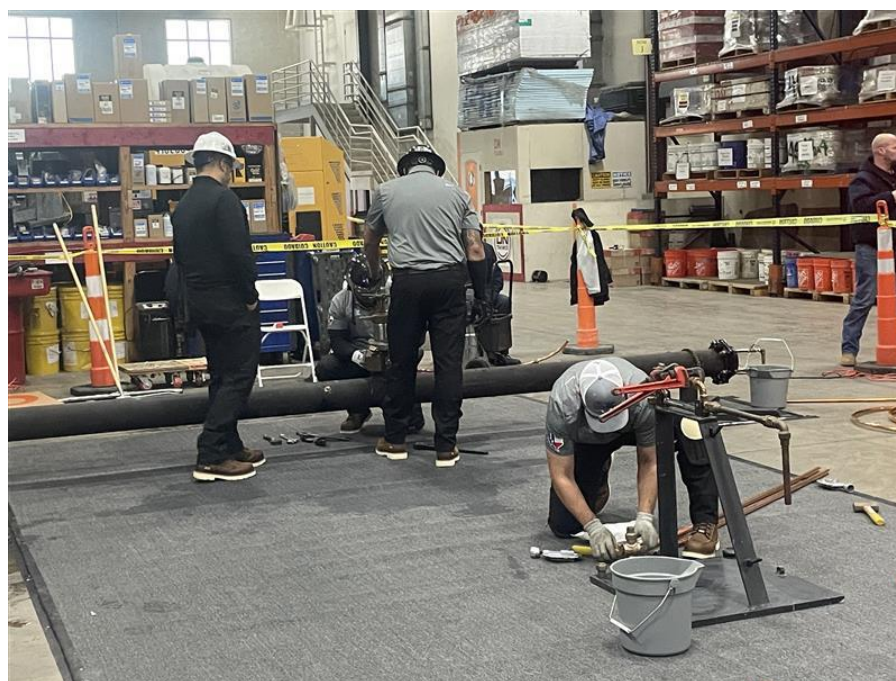
Teams from all over Texas gathered at DN Tanks in Grand Prairie to compete for the fastest tap in Texas on February 20th. NCT AWWA's Annual Pipe Tapping Invitational and Member Appreciation night included dinner, door prizes, and a fast paced preview of what is to come at upcoming competitions.

In a pipe tapping competition, teams aim for the best time of two rounds where they must tap a pressurized pipe made of ductile iron, install a corporation stop, and cut and flare copper tubing that connects their water service line to a meter. Each team consists of 4 members: the coach, the copper, the driller, and the setter.

With finishing times that could be competitive at the national level, we are looking forward to watching these local teams represent Texas at the AWWA Annual Conference and Expo (ACE) national competition. Looking forward to seeing what times the teams can tap into at Texas Water where they will compete against other teams from across Texas!

Special Congratulations to the teams who competed:

- Alamo Drillerz (SAWS)
- Lady Bandits (Fort Worth)
- Outlaws (Fort Worth)
- Lone Star Tappers (DWU)



Trash Bash

Sinclair Newby (JCSUD)

It is almost time for the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) Spring Trash Bash! For the past 30 years, TRWD has committed to engaging with the communities that surround its waterways to promote community-organized cleanups. Over the years, thousands of community members have removed over 500 tons of garbage with one mission in mind, protecting the natural resources that surround them.

Trash Bash is TRWD's commitment to fostering litter prevention within the communities they serve by providing various opportunities to volunteer in organized cleanups of our waterways.

Join TRWD and thousands of volunteers to remove litter throughout your community and its local waterways. Help cleanup from 8 AM to 10 AM and join in celebrating your hard work at the After-Party from 10 AM to 12 PM.

- Marine Creek Lake - Saturday, March 29
- Richland-Chambers Reservoir - Saturday, April 5
- Lake Bridgeport - Saturday, April 12
- Trinity River - Saturday, April 26

There are also opportunities to sponsor the Trash Bash and gain lasting exposure in the community. Follow the link for more details and to register for a cleanup date today: <https://www.trwd.com/trashbash/>



UTILITY SPOTLIGHT

Tyler Johnston, EIT (LAN)



Alejandro R. Gonzalez, P.E. , Dallas Water Utilities

Position: Engineer II

Education and Experience:

- Alma Matter: SMU in Dallas, TX (Pony Up)!
- Experience: 6 years with DWU as a water/sewer designer, project manager, and currently one of two engineers in the water Distribution division.

What motivated you to be involved in the water and wastewater utility industry?

My first job out of college was in a field that I felt didn't contribute any value to the real world, and it made waking up and describing what I do an absolute chore. I left that job after just under two years and started applying to positions that I felt better served the community.

What advice would you give to those who are new to this industry, and what do you wish you could tell yourself back when you started?

You don't know what you don't know, so when you come across something new, ask questions. There is a lot of experience in this industry, take in information wherever you find it.

What is a current challenge you are facing within the water and wastewater utility industry?

Production & delivery for large-diameter pipe & materials has been slow in recent years. It's made it a challenge to complete a handful of our projects in a timely manner.

What career success are you most proud of?

Another individual and myself designed a series of pipeline improvements that allowed us to perform water transmission main shutdowns for maintenance near a water tank without disrupting service to a nearby hospital.

What should people know about Dallas Water Utilities? What do you find rewarding about your work?

In addition to the city of Dallas itself, DWU also provides water to over 20 nearby wholesale customer cities. One of the more rewarding things about working for DWU is that anywhere I go, there will be a faucet providing access to safe drinking water.

Do you encourage members within your industry to pursue licenses and certifications? What benefits have you received from gaining these?

Definitely pursue a PE or a TCEQ license according to your profession. Both will open more doors to you advancing your placement within your company.

What do you think more people should know about our industry?

Maintaining our water system takes a lot of effort from a lot of good, hard-working individuals. Most of these activities go unnoticed because they happen during typical work hours, or underground. Between the repair crews, service workers, operators, valve crews, and many others, there is a lot of time and collective effort that goes into keeping the water in the pipe until it reaches your home.

What role have professional organizations played in your career development?

I've been a member of both the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and a junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) during my early college and late high school years, respectively. Both organizations gave me the opportunity connect with individuals with similar backgrounds, collegiate & professional goals, and to meet with professionals that gave insight to the many engineering opportunities that exist beyond college graduation.

Please describe your family and/or hobbies and interests.

I have two brothers and one sister, a highly expressive husky/german shepherd puppy, and an amazing mom and dad. Outside of work, I put a lot of time into DIY home improvement, playing soccer, and I recently started a business 3D printing (shameless plug: @baselayer3D on Etsy and Instagram).

What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I got third place alongside several of my friends in a Guitar Hero competition hosted by the Dallas Mavericks in the 2011 Championship year (when Mark Cuban didn't trade Dirk away).

TRIVIA CONTEST

Helen Dulac (Growing North Texas)

TRIVIA CONTEST

**NO WATER ☕
NO COFFEE**

American Water Works Association



1301 S Central Expy, McKinney



**SUNDAY
MARCH 23
10a-12p**

Play fun and FREE coffee trivia on your phone while sipping your fav Bad Ass Coffee beverage.

Challenge your friends and family for awesome prizes!

Registration Not Required

*Free Prizes
Mugs
Tees
& More*

Upcoming AWWA Webinars

Jim Estala (LAN)

→ [Chloride Dioxide for Drinking Water Treatment](#)

March 19, 2025, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

→ [Rethinking Reserves](#)

March 26, 2025, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

→ [Investing Enforcement Mechanisms Beyond Local Ordinances – A Look into AWWA's New Guidance](#)

April 2, 2025, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

North Central Texas TAWWA Officers

Position	Name	Organization
President	Brandy Martinez	Brown and Caldwell
Vice President	Mariana Anguiano	TRA
Secretary	Andrea Tom	CDM Smith
Treasurer (yr 3 of 3)	Ikram Sayed	Garver
Deputy Treasurer	Elaine Hung	TRA
Arrangements Committee Chair	Meredith McCall	LJA
Arrangements Committee Associate Chair	Bella Boddicker	Carollo
Communications Committee Chair	Caitlin Koranda	LAN
Education & Outreach Committee Chair	Helen Dulac	Grow North Texas

Programs Chair	Chris Bitter	JQ Infrastructure	
Virtual Programs	Simone Guidry	Kennedy Jenks	985-414-5392
Associate Virtual Programs	Claire Yancey	FNI	817-618-4939
Membership Committee Chair	Veronica Enriquez	TRWD	
Scholarship Committee Chair	Cate Ball	Plummer	817-806-1738
Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar Committee Chair	Chad Bartruff	Brown and Caldwell	
Chapter Competitions Committee Co-Chair "Lead"	Dario Sanches	Arcadis	972-419-0320
Chapter Competitions Committee Co-Chair	Michael McBee	FNI	817-735-7361
Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair	Tony Mbroh	Mbroh Engineering	
Young Professionals Committee Chair	Zac Bolen	Plummer	913-972-8402
Young Professionals Committee Secretary	Conor Mullis	Pump Solutions	
Young Professionals Committee Treasurer	Cheyenne Footracer	Plummer	
Young Professionals Committee Past Chair	Cat Turner	Garver	214-533-8071
Student Design Co-Chair	Nicole Conner	Kennedy Jenks	817-686-8161
Student Design Co-Chair	Steven Mendoza	Carollo	972-763-4423
Past President	Dustan Compton	TRWD	817-720-4358
Section Trustee	Katie Livas	HDR	972-960-4400
Section Deputy Trustee	Stefi Massey	AECOM	817-698-6848

We Love Our Water Memes!

Traci Peterson (City of Arlington)



April 7-13
National Public
Health Week

#TXWATERAMBASSADOR



Safe, dependable tap water is a building block of a healthy community. Water professionals are essential for public health.



April 23rd
Administrative
Professionals Day

#TXWATERAMBASSADOR



It's a great time to say
thank you to all of the
administrative
professionals who keep
the water industry
moving all year long!



April 22nd
Earth Day

#TXWATERAMBASSADOR



Protect the planet
and the vital water
resources we all
share!



**Add some native plants
to your garden!**

April
National Garden Month

#TXWATERAMBASSADOR



Tough native Texas plants need less water, saving time, money, and the most valuable natural resource, water.



May 26th
Memorial Day

#TXWATERAMBASSADOR



We honor and remember those who gave all for our country.



May 4-10
Drinking Water Week

#TXWATERAMBASSADOR



Celebrate Drinking Water Week by learning more about your local water supply and ways to protect it!

Traci Peterson with the City of Arlington has been instrumental in creating these up-to-date memes. Thank you, Traci!

Thank you to our Annual Sponsors!



Kimley»Horn



This newsletter was brought to you by your NCT TAWWA Communications Committee members. We would like to thank each member who contributed their time to bring you this issue of *The Lake*:

Caitlin Koranda (LAN) • Brandy Martinez Manske (Brown and Caldwell) • Dustan Compton (TRWD) • Traci Peterson (City of Arlington) • Ashley Van Keer (LAN) • Tasia C. Kade (Carollo) • Jim Estala (LAN) • Tyler Johnston (LAN) • Paul Swope (LAN) • Ali Kazemi (Kimley-Horn) • Cate Ball (Plummer)

For questions or comments about the newsletter, please contact Caitlin Koranda. We're open to ideas for potential articles and newsletter contributions.

Thanks for reading.
See you in June for our next issue!

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