North Central Texas Chapter
TEXAS
Section • American Water Works Association

Volume 14, Issue 4 December/January 2026

the LAKE

NCT TAWWA Chapter Annual Holiday Dinner

Thursday, December 4

Social: 5:30 pm

Dinner & Program: 6:30 pm

Register here

Texas Star Conference Center

1400 Texas Star Pkwy

Euless, Texas 76040

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello NCT TAWWA Members!

As we step into this busy and festive season, I want to send my warmest holiday wishes to you and your loved ones. This time of year, naturally invites reflection, and I've found myself especially grateful for being part of such an amazing industry and for being able to play a very small role in ensuring others have access to our world's most vital resource. I'm equally thankful to all the operators that work through the holidays, often without recognition, for the commitment to protecting and serving our communities. I want to also expresses my heartfelt appreciation to the community within our North Central Texas Chapter of TAWWA. Our Chapter thrives because of extraordinary volunteers who invest their time and energy to plan, organize, and share the many opportunities that strengthen our local water industry. Whenever you can, please join me in expressing appreciation to our operators and volunteers for their commitment—they are a big part of what makes our industry truly exceptional.

We've had a full and exciting season of events recently. First, our Chapter hosted the 24th Annual Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar on October 24th at The Petroleum Club of Fort Worth. I want to recognize Committee Chair Guadalupe Bailey, P.E., with City of Dallas Water Utilities, and the many committee volunteers that worked diligently for months to organize this wonderful event that brings our industry together to share our knowledge and gives us a chance to connect. Also, I want to express my gratitude to Karen Menard and Daniel Parish for moderating the event and to Marissa Vergara, P.E., our TAWWA Section Chair, alongside Daniel Nix, TAWWA Director, for the opening remarks and updating us on the Texas Section's goals and initiatives. We are grateful for all the sponsors and attendees who supported and made this seminar a memorable day.

On November 11th, we held our 3rd Annual Women in Water event. This year we changed the format of the event and feature three outstanding speakers, Sarah Standifer from DWU, Aliza Caraballo, P.E., from NTMWD, and Stephanie Bache, P.E., from Black & Veatch. They each shared their diverse perspectives in their water industry journey and provided impactful advice to our audience based on their lessons learned throughout their very successful careers. I also want to recognize Tony Mbroh, P.E., our chapter's Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair and my co-moderator of the event, for leading the planning of this great event and his committee for their dedication in providing impactful events and content to our chapter that aligns with the committee's goals. Finally, make sure to register to our 15th Annual Holiday Dinner on Thursday, December 4, at the Texas Star Conference Center in Euless. There are a limited number of spots remaining. This year's program will feature a panel comprised of Dallas Water Utilities leadership, including:

- Sarah Standifer – Director of Dallas Water Utilities
- Alexander Land – Deputy Director of Business and Customer Operations
- Matt Penk, P.E., CFM – Deputy Director of Capital Improvements
- Sally U. Wright – Deputy Director of Water Production and Distribution
- Zach Peoples – Deputy Director of Wastewater and Stormwater Operations

They will be providing a State of the Union presentation. It will be a great event so you won't want to miss it. A special thanks to all our sponsors that help make this evening possible. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lastly, I want to remind you that sponsorship opportunities are always available and they play a vital role in ensuring our Chapter continues to make a meaningful impact in our industry. Also, our save-the-date for the 2025 Pipe Tapping and Member Appreciation event will be released soon. Keep a lookout for event details and be sure and join us to support the utility competition teams. Please continue to support Chapter events by registering, sponsoring, and sharing the opportunities with your colleagues. Your participation and support of our events is what keeps our Chapter strong. Wishing you all a wonderful and joyful season!

Your North Central Texas Chapter President,

Mariana Anguiano
President, North Central Texas Chapter
Texas American Water Works Association (TAWWA)

PREVIOUS MEETING RECAP

Christopher Prado (NTMWD)

2025 Drinking Water Seminar

The 2025 Robert F. Pence North Central Texas TAWWA Drinking Water Seminar was tremendous success, drawing experts in water quality, process, and operations to discuss regulatory and case study updates. This annual event held on October 24th at the Petroleum Club of Fort Worth highlighted numerous optimization efforts, treatment strategies for PFAS removal, and best research practices to showcase TAWWA's commitment to water treatment.

Presentation Highlights

Do You Suffer from Water Quality Anxiety? You May Need a Pilot Study

Ikram Sayed, PE from Garver signified the worry and fears that water utilities might encounter when it comes to changing treatment in efforts to optimize. In efforts to relieve some of those worries, Sayed brought into limelight the strengths that a Pilot Study would demonstrate. Using a previous Pilot Study Garver performed for Ozone in a water treatment plant, Sayed signified how having a Pilot Study helped provide strong data to bring confidence to Operations.

48 Hours: Do Not Use Water - City of Grand Prairie Case Study

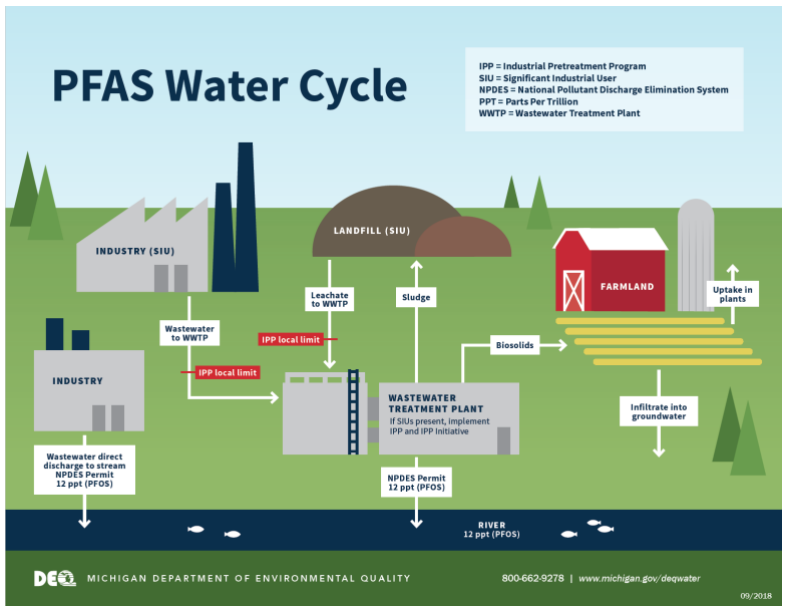
Cindy Mendez, PE for the City of Grand Prairie brought forth an incident that occurred in Grand Prairie where a firefighting foam contaminated water distribution which caused grand Prairie to go under a no-use water restriction. Firefighter responded to a fire at a local warehouse and in attempts to put out the fire, the foaming agent used had made its way into the water line which was then detected north of I-20. Bottled water was distributed in attempts to mitigate the issue. This issue was caused by a failed backflow preventer at the warehouse fire. Mendez illustrated the issue as well as reminded her fellow colleagues of useful strategies and preventative actions that could be done to reduce the risk of this happening again.

PFAS Treatment Design 102 - Beyond the Basics

Kyle Hay, PE from Brown and Caldwell explored the current issue around PFAS such as regulation standards for PFAS removal and best practices for achieving such treatment. Hay introduced PFAS at the basic level, explaining what it is and how it affects drinking water. From there, it was explained how PFAS can be treated in water treatment and how to be efficient with such treatment.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Ali Kazemi (CDM Smith)



Understanding PFASs in Water & Wastewater Systems: New Science, New Solutions
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are a very large group of synthetic chemicals that continue to challenge water and wastewater utilities due to the extreme persistence of the perfluorocarbon functional groups they contain, coupled with the potential for many to bioaccumulate in higher organisms or plants, an evolving understanding of their toxicioloy. Many PFASs are water soluble and so mobile, but some can be volatile and others are extremely hydrophobic so attach to surfaces and particulates. Known as “forever chemicals,” the perfluorocarbon components of PFASs resist environmental degradation thanks to the extreme chemical stability imparted by the strength of the C-F bonds and near overlapping radii of highly polarized fluorine atoms along carbon chains, protecting the inner carbon-fluorine and carbon-carbon bonds from attack by oxidants, reductants, acids and bases. Recent research are reshaping how the industry understands PFASs environmental transformation, fate, transport, monitoring, and destruction.
There are two main classes of PFASs, as the name suggests. Polyfluoroalkyl substances contain non-fluorinated components which can slowly transform under environmental conditions (and be metabolized within higher organisms) to generate perfluoroalkyl substances, commonly termed perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) such as perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). So polyfluoroalkyl substances have been termed PFAA-precursors as they lead to the ultimate generation of very persistent PFAAs as terminal daughter products.

The initial regulatory focus on PFASs was towards ‘long chain’ PFAAs, such as PFOS, PFOA, perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) and perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS) which bioaccumulate in higher organisms (humans, fish etc.). In the last decade the regulatory focus has broadened to consider short chain and ultra-short chain PFASs, which have can have a higher water solubility, thus mobility in groundwater and tend to bioaccumulate in plants, as opposed to higher organisms. PFAAs with 4 perfluoroalkyl carbons or more can be surfactants and are termed amphiphilic PFASs.

Environmental Fate, Distribution & Transport
Several scientific publications have described the diversity of PFASs and the complexity of their environmental transformation and mobility across unsaturated zones, surface waters, sediments, plants, atmospheric pathways, and potential for aerosolization (Schaefer, Lavorgna et al. 2023), (Schaefer, Lemes et al. 2022, Schaefer, Nguyen et al. 2024)A recent summary pulled from hundreds of studies (Alam et al., 2024)., the authors highlight several mechanisms critical to water utilities:

- **Air–Water Interface (AWI) Transport**
  Amphiphillic PFASs behave as surface-active agents. Their movement is controlled by competitive adsorption at the AWI, meaning that surface tension, bubble formation, and aeration conditions greatly influence transport in rivers, sewers, and treatment plants.
- **Chain-Length Differences**
  Longer-chain PFAS exhibit strong sorption to sediments and solid matrices, making them prone to accumulation in biosolids. Shorter-chain and ultra-short PFASs (C4–C6 and C1-C3) remain highly mobile in surface and groundwater, increasing their potential for drinking water contamination.
- **Role of Solution Chemistry**
  pH, ionic strength, and co-contaminants shift sorption behavior.

Microplastics—especially polyamide—act as additional PFAS carriers, increasing both transport and bioavailability.

- **Modeling Gaps**
  The study emphasizes the need for improved models that account for episodic events such as storms, which can mobilize previously trapped PFAS in soils and sediments.

Evich et al. (2022) emphasize that PFAS now appear in rainwater, oceans, Arctic snow, food chains, biosolids, and even remote ecosystems, a testament to their global spread.

Speeding Up Detection: Moving to Real-Time

Traditional PFAS detection through Liquid Chromatography–Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) often takes weeks, delaying public health and operational decisions. Multiple university teams have recently pushed the boundaries of speed and sensitivity:

1. **Ultra-Fast Sensor Detection—University of Chicago & Argonne National Laboratory**
   They developed a handheld field-effect transistor (FET) sensor capable of detecting PFAS at parts per quadrillion within minutes. Machine learning was used to design molecular probes with high specificity for PFOS.
   This technology may eventually allow:
   - On-site, real-time PFAS testing
   - Lower monitoring costs for municipalities
   - Faster compliance verification under new EPA limits

2. **Portable Chemical Probes—Rice University**
   Rice integrated a real-time PFAS test into their LDH-based treatment system to monitor capture efficiency (Chung et al., 2025). These innovations signal a transition from “detect-after-the-fact” to continuous PFAS monitoring.

Treatment Technologies: What Works Today

Utilities currently rely on a few proven removal methods:

- Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)
  Highly effective for long-chain PFAS; less effective for short-chain PFAS.
  Requires regular media changeouts.
- Ion Exchange Resins
  Strong performers for both long- and short-chain PFAS;
- Reverse Osmosis (RO)
  Very high removal efficiency but produces a PFAS-rich concentrate that must be handled responsibly.
- Thermal Destruction of PFAS-Loaded Residuals
  EPA warns that not all incineration systems achieve full PFAS destruction, and utilities should evaluate vendor claims carefully.

Next-Generation PFAS Destruction Technologies

1. **High-Efficiency PFAS Capture — Rice University**
   Rice scientists created a copper–aluminum layered double hydroxide (LDH) that captures PFAS:
   - 1,000× more effectively than activated carbon
   - 100× faster, removing PFAS in minutes
   - Regenerable, through a thermal process that destroys PFAS without creating secondary waste

   This is the first system to pair capture with an eco-friendly destruction method.

2. **Light-Driven Destruction — Colorado State University**
   A photocatalytic system uses low-cost LED light to break carbon–fluorine bonds, eliminating PFAS without metals or extreme temperatures. It offers potential for scalable mineralization into harmless end products (Miyake Group, 2024).

3. **Sustainable PFAS-Free Alternatives — Northwestern University**

Wei and Nguyen developed a graphene-oxide-based material that replaces PFAS in food packaging. It is:

- Non-toxic
- Compostable
- Recyclable
- Stronger than PFAS-coated options

Reducing PFAS at the source is a critical part of long-term mitigation.

Public Health & Exposure: New Community Findings

A 2025 Michigan State University study found that residents exposed to PFAS-contaminated drinking water maintained elevated blood PFAS levels even three years after switching to clean water (Carignan et al., 2025).
This demonstrates:

- Extreme persistence in the human body
- The urgent need for early source identification
- The importance of monitoring secondary and overlooked contamination sources such as old paper mill landfills

Why This Matters for Water & Wastewater Utilities

- PFAS are entering drinking water, wastewater influent, biosolids, and stormwater systems.
- EPA's new PFAS Maximum Contaminant Limits (MCLs) require utilities to adopt rapid detection and advanced treatment strategies.
- Emerging technologies offer hope for real-time detection, safer disposal, and long-term elimination.
- Environmental fate science is improving predictive modeling for source tracking and remediation planning.

Utilities across Texas and the nation are preparing for PFAS monitoring, treatment, and regulatory compliance—and innovations from universities are accelerating solutions.

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2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Cate Ball (Plummer)

One of TAWWA's most important missions is to raise scholarship money for members and their families. TAWWA does this through the various philanthropic activities at both the State and Chapter levels. The State announced their 12 State Scholarship recipients in the Fall 2025 Issue of Texas h2o (Texas H2O - Texas Section AWWA).

Our local North Central Texas Chapter of TAWWA is pleased to announce that we are awarding $11,000 more in scholarship funds than last year! This year we are awarding a total of $30,000 in scholarships to 23 members or their family compared with $19,000 in scholarships last year. A huge shout-out to our sponsors and active members that come to our events and support each other and our families.

NCT TAWWA Scholarship recipients listed in alphabetical order include:

Ania	Cadena	
	Home Town -	Aledo, Texas
	College -	UT Health San Antonio
	Field of Study -	Medical Laboratory Science
Esteban	Cadena	
	Home Town -	Aledo, TX
	College -	Southern Methodist University
	Field of Study -	Finance
Nathan	Chan	
	Home Town -	Desoto, Texas
	College -	University of Texas at Arlington
	Field of Study -	Aviation, Aerospace Engineering
Nathaniel	Davis	
	Home Town -	Keller, TX
	College -	The University of Texas at Austin
	Field of Study -	Biology (Pre-Dentistry)
Elijah	Dorminy	
	Home Town -	Fort Worth, Texas
	College -	Texas Woman's University
	Field of Study -	MBA
Priscilla	Eappen	
	Home Town -	Mesquite, Texas
	College -	University of Texas at Dallas
	Field of Study -	Healthcare Studies
Nicholas	Gehrig	
	Home Town -	Subiaco, Arkansas
	College -	Texas A&M University
	Field of Study -	Environmental Engineering
Anthony	Gehrig	
	Home Town -	Subiaco, Arkansas
	College -	Notre Dame University
	Field of Study -	Strategic Management

Jalie	Hodges	
	Home Town -	Sanger, Texas
	College -	Texas Tech University
	Field of Study -	Animal Science
Sevda	Jannatdoust	
	Home Town -	Tabriz/Iran
	College -	University of Texas at Arlington
	Field of Study -	Civil Engineering
Seth	Lange	
	Home Town -	Grapevine
	College -	Franciscan University of Steubenville
	Field of Study -	International Business
Ridwan	Mahmood	
	Home Town -	Plano, TX
	College -	Texas A&M
	Field of Study -	Mechanical Engineering
Zahra	Mahmood	
	Home Town -	Plano, Texas
	College -	University of Texas at Austin
	Field of Study -	Chemistry
John	Melcher	
	Home Town -	Garland, Texas
	College -	Texas Tech University
	Field of Study -	Biology
Morgan	Menard	
	Home Town -	Flower Mound, Texas
	College -	East Central University
	Field of Study -	Accounting
Marjan	Moradi	
	Home Town -	Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi, Iran
	College -	The University of Texas at Arlington
	Field of Study -	Civil Engineering
Maya	Musallam	
	Home Town -	Plano, TX
	College -	The University of Texas at Austin
	Field of Study -	Civil Engineering
McKinley	Ortiz	
	Home Town -	Justin, Texas
	College -	University of Texas at Austin
	Field of Study -	Journalism
Jackson	Pettit	
	Home Town -	Dallas, TX
	College -	Oklahoma State University
	Field of Study -	Electrical Engineering
Ehsan	Rajaie	
	Home Town -	Tehran, Iran
	College -	The University of Texas at Arlington
	Field of Study -	Ph.D. Student in Civil Engineering
Aubrey	Reeves	
	Home Town -	Fort Worth, Texas
	College -	Texas A&M University
	Field of Study -	Nutrition
Allison	Schiffman	
	Home Town -	Plano, Texas
	College -	Texas A&M University
	Field of Study -	Engineering

Jonathan	Zabolio	
	Home Town -	Irving, TX
	College -	Texas A&M University
	Field of Study -	Engineering, Math, Sciences

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients.

CALL FOR SPONSORS

North Central Texas Chapter
Texas AWWA
American Water Works Association

Sponsorship Opportunities
June 2025 - April 2026

Annual Program Sponsor

Annual Program Sponsor: $2000 - Recognized at all THREE bi-monthly Chapter Lunch Meetings (June, August and February) and the April Plant Tour, and have their name included on the website and in the bi-monthly newsletter *The Lake*, and thanked at each meeting.

Individual Chapter Meeting and April Plant Tour Sponsorships: $500 - Includes 1 registration and logo on event advertisements and thanked at the meeting.

Special Chapter Events

Robert F. Pence Drinking Water Seminar (October 2025)

Proceeds benefit our Scholarship Program

Platinum: $800 - Includes 1 registration, logo on event advertisements and slide show, and literature table near entryway.

Gold: $500 - Includes 1 registration and logo on event advertisements and slide show.

Breakfast Sponsor: $1500 - Includes 1 registration, logo on event advertisements and slide show, and emcee mention during the breakfast. One available - first come basis.

Morning Break Sponsor: $1000 - Includes 1 registration, logo on event advertisements and slide show, and emcee mention during the morning break. One available - first come basis.

Afternoon Break Sponsor: $1000 - Includes 1 registration, logo on event advertisements and slide show, and emcee mention during the afternoon break. One available - first come basis.

Women in Water (November 2025)

Individual Meeting Sponsorship: $300 - Includes logo on event advertisements and slide show and thanked at the meeting.

Holiday Dinner (December 2025)

Platinum: $1500 - Includes a reserved table with 10 registrations, logo on event advertisements and slide show, and emcee mention.

Gold: $1000 - Includes half a reserved table with 5 registrations, logo on event advertisements and slide show, and emcee mention

Silver: $500 - Includes logo on event advertisements and slide show, and emcee mention

Bar Sponsorship: $2000 - Includes 1 registration, opportunity to hang logo banner, etc. by bar, logo on advertisements and slide show, and emcee mention. Two available - first come basis.

Has your organization ever wanted the chance to sponsor a TAWWA event? Now is your chance! Have your organization's name displayed at any of the events above and not only benefit your organization but benefit your community. Register for the **North Central Texas Chapter Annual Program Sponsor 2025-2026** program from 5/19/25 to 4/30/26.

Link to register: North Central Texas Chapter Annual Program Sponsor 2025-2026

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Chapter volunteers recently supported a combined TAWWA and WEAT exhibitor booth at the 2025 Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. From November 13th through 15th, over 300 teachers and educators learned about school-age opportunities and resources such as the **SETH program** and **WaterGeek videos**.

We want to thank Jessica Paz, Texas Water Development Board, for organizing TAWWA's involvement and Nyla Hubbard, Signature Automation, for coordinating the booth materials! We also want to extend a huge appreciation to the following supporters and volunteers that helped make it successful: Traci Peterson, Arlington Water Utilities; Alicia Lee, Christina Tieyah, and the Dallas EEI Team, Dallas Water Utilities; Betsy Deck, Trophy Club MUD; Andrea Tom, CDM Smith; Archana Sharma, Mead & Hunt; Nikki Ingram, City of Tyler; and Angelica Zuniga, San Antonio Water System. Thank you all!

Texas AWWA
American Water Works Association

THANK YOU!

Water Environment Association of Texas

CAST | DALLAS | NOVEMBER 13-15 2025

YP CORNER

May Aye, EIT (Wade Trim)

YP Intramural Kickball & Cookout

The Young Professionals kicked off the week with a high-energy Kickball & Cookout event at Randol Mill Park! The evening began with a cookout featuring grilled hot dogs and burgers, topped by casual conversations. After. attendees enjoyed a fun mix of friendly competition, action-packed plays on the field, and plenty of time to connect with fellow YPs. Events like this remind us how strong and engaged our YP network truly is (as well as athletic!). We look forward to hosting more opportunities for connection throughout the year.

For the Love of Lake:

Our Young Professionals shifted gears from competition to community service with a successful trash Pick-Up event. Volunteers spent the morning cleaning up a local area and helping keep our shared spaces clean, safe, and welcoming. It was inspiring to see young engineers show up and dedicate their time to making a positive impact. Your commitment to service continues to reflect the values of our YP community, and we appreciate the effort each of you brings. We're proud of the momentum our YP group has built: two events in one week, and two great examples of how we grow, connect, and contribute together.

Coming up next:

Keep an eye out for a registration link to our 4th Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party. The event will take place December 11th from 6-9pm at 3 Nations Brewery.

Want to stay updated on what's next? Join the YP email list by reaching out to May at maye@wadetrim.com. And if you're thinking about getting more involved, now's a great time; new committee members are always welcome!

AWWA SCHOLARSHIP

UTILITY SPOTLIGHT

Matthew Rowland

City of Denton Water Reclamation Division

Background and Education

- A.A., Collin College (Environmental emphasis)
- B.A., Environmental Studies, Ashford University

His degree focused on environmental policy, Clean Water Act regulations, pollution control, and the broader systems that shape environmental decision-making.

A Fun Fact
Perhaps the most surprising part of Matthew's life: He is a hot air balloon pilot-in-training.
His family owns a balloon and participates in festivals across Texas and the U.S., including the world-famous Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. He describes ballooning as peaceful, freeing, and completely different from everyday life.

Entering the Water & Wastewater Industry
Matthew grew up with an early interest in the environment. After serving eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps he returned to Texas ready to begin a new chapter. A recruiter introduced him to the water/wastewater field, and in late 2015 he interviewed with the City of Denton. He was hired the same day.
Once he started, he became "infatuated" with the industry—its complexity, its purpose, and its immediate impact on the community.
He quickly took on responsibilities beyond his title, diving into operations, improving belt press productivity, writing SOPs, researching greener solutions, and helping the plant modernize while navigating PFAS regulations and aging infrastructure.

What Keeps Him in the Industry
For Matthew, the work is deeply meaningful.
He loves seeing a tangible product—clean water released back into the environment—and feeling the direct results of his team's work.
He takes pride in:

- knowing the community depends on the plant every hour of every day,
- making operational improvements that protect public health,
- and educating others about where their water goes and how treatment works.

He explains it simply: *"There's a duty to do the best job we can for the city. And no one sees us—but our work keeps everything running."*

Bridging the Gap: Operators and Engineers
Matthew emphasized the importance of connecting theory with practice. Many engineering decisions start on paper, but operators see the real-world complications:

- pipe access,
- equipment limitations,
- maintenance realities,
- safety concerns,
- and how people actually move through the plant.

He enjoys participating in design meetings, offering practical insight, and helping engineers translate theory into workable design. He believes true collaboration between engineers and operators makes facilities better, safer, and more efficient.

Public Awareness and Community Education
The public often doesn't know how wastewater treatment works—or how much work it takes to keep water safe. Matthew encourages:

- public tours,
- community events,
- transparent communication,
- and proactive teaching about grease, household waste, and proper disposal.

He works closely with City of Denton staff during events like Blocktober, Denton's massive Halloween festival, and enjoys showing children and families the 3D wastewater models created by colleague Daniel Parish. He believes education is key to protecting infrastructure and improving public understanding.

Challenges at the Plant
Denton's Pecan Creek plant is more than 60 years old and has been expanded multiple times. The biggest ongoing challenges include:

- aging infrastructure,
- obsolete equipment,
- parts that no longer exist,
- long lead times,
- and balancing repairs while a new plant is being planned.

Despite this, the team remains highly committed, flexible, and responsive. Matthew describes wastewater reality perfectly:
"We try to be proactive, but wastewater is unpredictable. Something can break two weeks after installation. Our team adapts, responds, and keeps the city safe."

Licensing, Certifications, and Mentorship
Denton encourages all operators to advance quickly through licensing:

- **Class C** within one year (required)
- **Class B** for lead operations
- **Class A** for top-level operator roles

The city pays for all coursework, and now that Matthew is a TCQ-certified instructor, he is beginning to teach licensing classes in-house. He sees education as a responsibility:
"Knowledge is something everyone should seek. Industry changes. Regulations change. We have to keep learning."
He also supports involvement in WEAT, AWWA, and the Partnership for Clean Water, noting that staying engaged with professional organizations strengthens the whole industry.

A Memorable Achievement
One of Matthew's proudest moments was being selected to contribute to the Eckenfelder Student Design Competition, where he worked closely with university teams, offered plant tours, answered questions, and guided students through real-world wastewater design concepts. That experience—and the teaching that followed—eventually led him to earn his TCEQ teaching certification.

Closing Thoughts
Matthew Rowland embodies dedication, curiosity, and service. His commitment to education, his drive to improve plant operations, and his passion for the water sector make him a powerful representative for the City of Denton and for the water and wastewater community statewide.

"We're here in every storm, every night, every holiday. We make sure the water that leaves here is safe. And we want people to know how much that matters."

Upcoming AWWA Webinars

Ashley Van Keer, P.E. (LAN)

Virtual Roundtable: Data Management and Maintenance in the Age of AI

December 3, 2025, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Essential Policy Updates from AWWA's DC Office: Year End 2025

December 10, 2025, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Low Flows, High Impact – FREE Webinar, Sponsored and Presented by Xylem's Sensus

December 11, 2025, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Bridging the Gap Between Limited Budgets and Long-Term Resilience – FREE Webinar, Sponsored and Presented by Mueller

December 16, 2025, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

North Central Texas TAWWA Officers

Chapter Position	Name	Organization
President	Mariana Anguiano	TRA
Vice President	Andrea Tom	CDM Smith
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Student Design Co-Chair	*Vacant*	
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We Love Our Water Memes!

Traci Peterson (City of Arlington)

December 4-22

Hanukkah

#TXWATERAMBASSADOR

TEXAS

Section • American Water Works Association

Happy Hanukkah!

Dec. 26th - Jan. 1st

Kwanzaa

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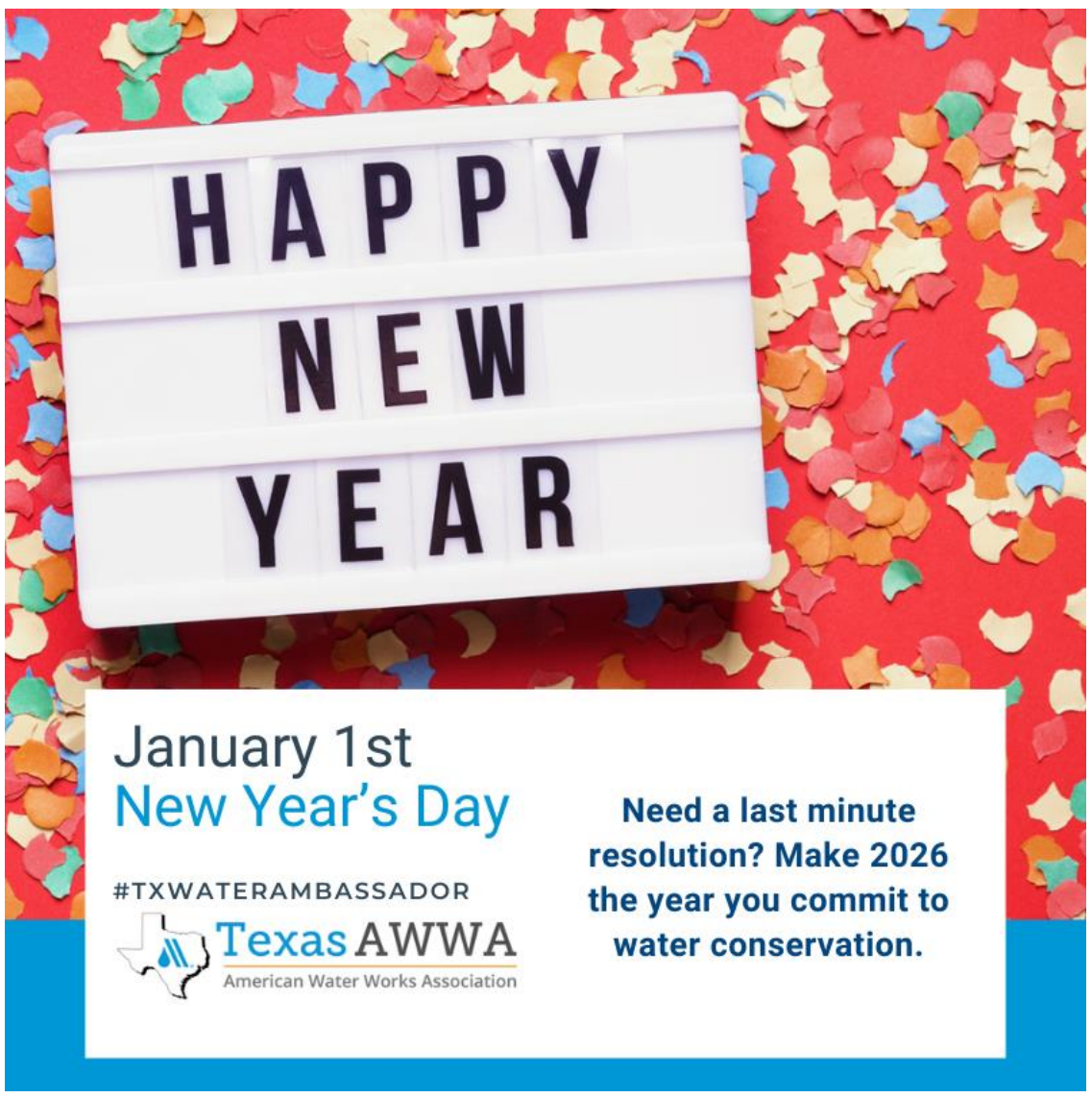
Happy Kwanzaa!



January 1st

New Year's Day

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Texas AWWA

American Water Works Association

Need a last minute resolution? Make 2026 the year you commit to water conservation.

Thank you to our Annual Sponsors!

Has your organization ever wanted the chance to sponsor a TAWWA event? Now is your chance! Have your organization's name displayed at any of the events above and not only benefit your organization but benefit your community. Register for the **North Central Texas Chapter Annual Program Sponsor 2025-2026** program from 5/19/25 to 4/30/26.
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This newsletter was brought to you by your NCT TAWWA Communications Committee members.
Caitlin Koranda (NTMWD) • Brandy Martinez Manske (Brown and Caldwell) Dustan Compton (TRWD) • Traci Peterson (City of Arlington) • Ashley Van Keer (LAN) • Tasie 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.

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