

| Summer 2023 |



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TAWWA's New Committee: A Texas Network for Environmental Laboratories

BY HUNTER ADAMS, CRYSTAL YBANEZ, HIMANSHU SAIL, SELINA TABOR
tawwa laboratory committee members

Plant operations are fundamentally tied to the laboratory. While on rounds, seasoned operators can often sense when something has changed in the plant by sight, smell, sound, or touch. This can direct the operator to look for issues and to perform additional testing to understand what may have changed in the plant, backing their intuition by data.

To make informed decisions, plant operators must understand that everything they do, from sample collection, to sample transport, to sample analysis and reporting, can affect data quality. Poor technique in any of these areas can affect the quality of the sample, in turn affecting the quality of the data, leading to ineffective operational changes.

Data are just numbers; they tell a story and it is up to the operator to unravel that story to determine what is going on in the treatment plant. Data are only as good as the equipment and instrumentation being used, and as the operator interpreting the data. The **TAWWA Laboratory Committee's** (TAWWA LC) mission is to create a network of utility/environmental laboratories in Texas to be a forum for knowledge sharing and collaboration, by studying, reporting, and providing training on issues pertinent to water quality laboratory activities and responsibilities. This includes training plant operators and stressing the importance of their role in producing safe and reliable drinking water.

Importance of High Quality Data

Water treatment should have a holistic approach to data collection and application that unites the efforts of everyone involved in testing water samples. A connection exists for the operator collecting the

sample, the operations and/or laboratory staff completing the testing, those analyzing the results, and anyone making operational changes in response to the data. Each of these groups are interwoven in the water treatment process and can strengthen the integrity of the data.

When drinking water is tested for chemical and bacteriological properties, it is crucial that all those playing a part in sample analysis understand the complete process, from collection to resulting changes made from sample data. Operators who perform sample collection should have an understanding of basic laboratory skills to ensure samples are collected properly and without contamination from outside sources.

Proper sample collection ensures the water being tested is from the correct location, has been stored and transported appropriately, and provides the laboratory with the best opportunity to provide high quality data. Many operators (especially in smaller water systems) perform sample collection, run basic benchtop analyses, interpret the results, and make treatment process changes based on those results. Proper collection, analysis, interpretation, and process changes must also be documented to ensure the integrity of every step.

Similarly, it is essential for laboratory analysts to understand how the data they provide are used to ensure drinking water is of the best quality possible. Many laboratories are helping analysts understand the value of data by encouraging laboratory staff to obtain drinking water licenses and fully understand the treatment process. Understanding what each test is

CONTINUED PAGE 32 | laboratory committee



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Water You Doing This Summer?

BY AMY MIDDLETON
texas section chair

An excessive heat wave has hit Texas this summer and being from South Texas, the heat typically does not bother me too much. Finding great spots of shade, wearing large hats and applying lots of sunscreen have saved me and kept me cool (kind of). The heat of summer reminds me that what we do as water professionals is so important.


In June, part of the Executive Board went to Toronto to participate in ACE23. The Texas Section was the recipient of the AWWA Section Education Award and has been for the past seven years. This year our Section was recognized for the Municipal Water Conservation Coordinator Guidebook curriculum developed by our Water Conservation and Reuse Division. TAWWA has completed three webcasts that support this curriculum.

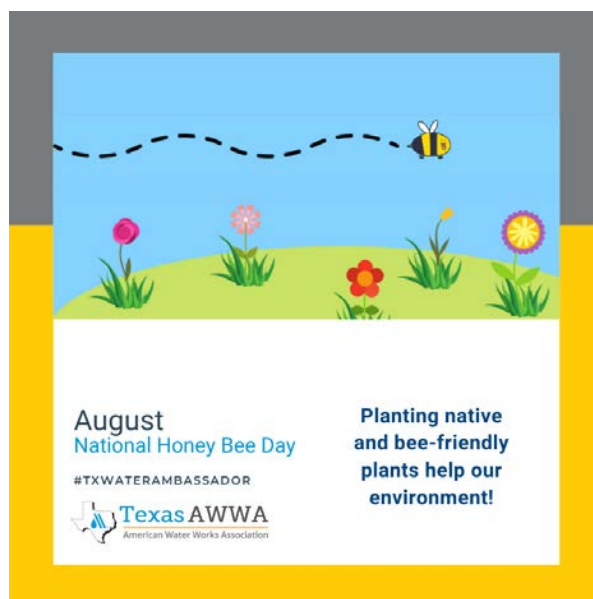
In July, most of the Executive Board attended the Summer Workshop, where we took a deeper dive into the AWWA Affiliation Agreement, learned risk communication strategies and networked with other Section Board members. Look for these topics to be shared with the

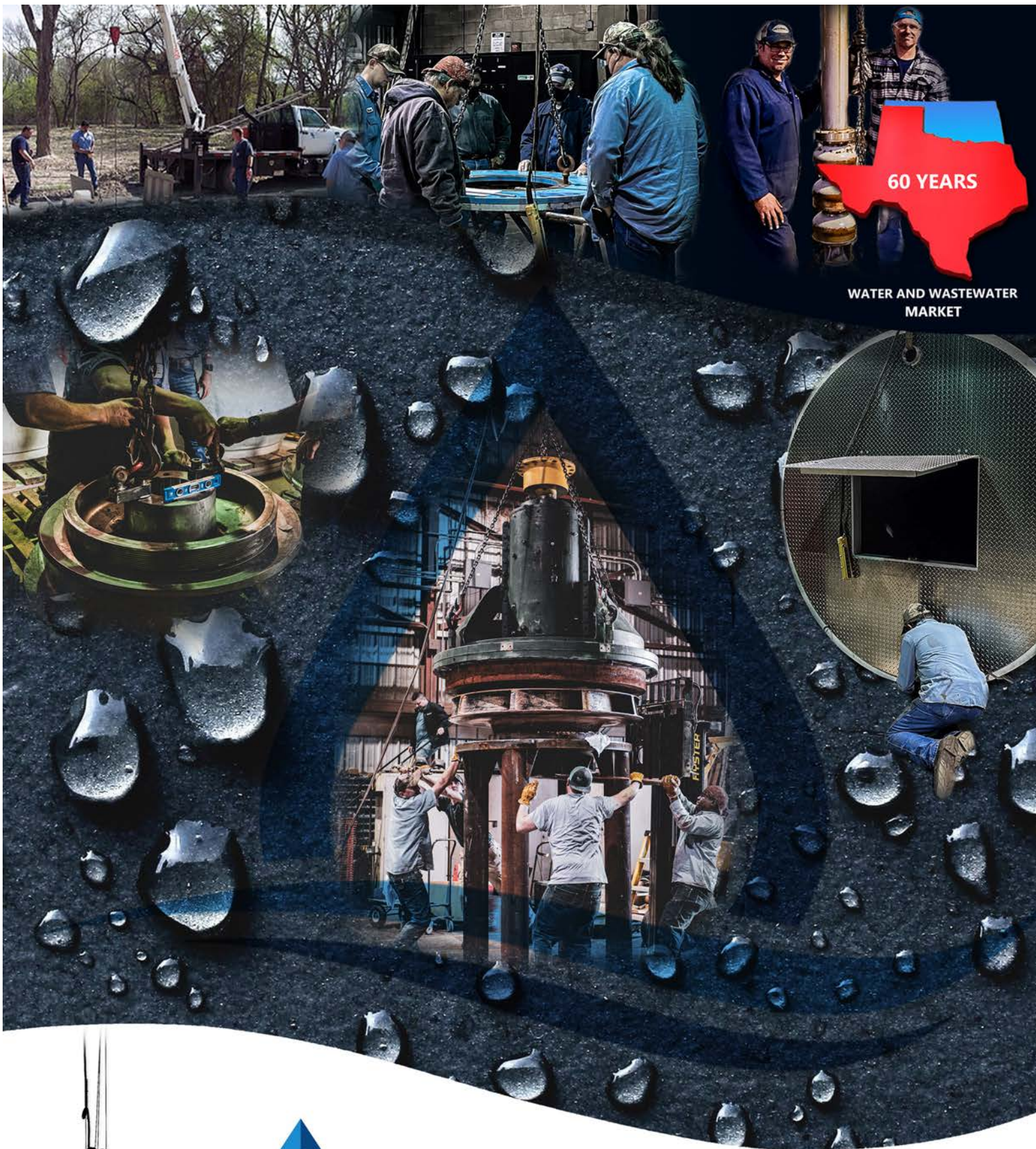


AMY MIDDLETON
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Chapter Boards in the fall.

As we finish out summer, take a moment to reflect on why you entered this profession and what you contribute to your community so that we can stay hydrated during this crazy heat and have clean safe readily available drinking water! 





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Braggin' Rights

BY MIKE HOWE
tawwa executive director

There are lots of reasons why the Texas Section AWWA is the largest water association in Texas and growing faster than any other AWWA Section, at an annual rate of over 6%. We now have more than 4,500 members who are active all over the state, including our eight professional and three student chapters.

These volunteers bring enormous value to all water professionals in Texas in many ways. You can tick off their many successful efforts, including those who plan and present the Texas Water™ Conferences each year. By the way, the numbers are in for Texas Water™ 2023

in Houston and not only did the conference set a new income record to support Section programs, but we also had more than 4,300 registered attendees. And, if you thought the conference was really busy, it was. When total exhibitor badges were added, there were nearly 6,700 folks in the convention center. And, in August, planning begins for the 28th Texas Water™ Conference, April 9-12, 2024, in Fort Worth.



MIKE HOWE
512-238-9292
mikehowe@tawwa.org

In addition to the annual Texas Water Conference, every year we also present numerous other training events, including at the Chapter/local levels. Each of these training courses are planned by volunteers who bring their own interests and skill sets to the planning and execution of the training. Some are planned by members of our Education Division, and many others are crafted by the members of the other 20 plus divisions and committees in the Section.

Most recently, members of our Education Division presented a new training called the Water Utility - UMP, or "Utility Managers Playbook". Designed by Karen Menard, our Chair-Elect, this new program is an introduction to a growing effort to improve utility customer communications. Following the initial webcast, future training will help utility managers implement successful public outreach programs.

Over the last couple of years, many of you have likely heard of the SETH Project. SETH stands for Science, Engineering, Technical, Health (<https://www.tawwa.org/page/SETH>). This unique training program

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Water Quality Technology Conference Returns to Dallas in November

AWWA's Water Quality Technology Conference (WQTC) will be held November 5-9 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. WQTC is the premier conference for water quality professionals around the world! This established and highly regarded conference provides a practical forum for a wide range of water technology professionals to exchange the latest research and information.

Attendees include water quality specialists, treatment plant managers, scientists, engineers, academics and students, lab personnel, researchers, water utility managers, distributors and manufacturers, consultants

and regulators. For more information and to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/wqtc23>.

Texas AWWA will also be hosting a social on Tuesday, November 7, at The Statler as part of WQTC and is looking for sponsors for this special reception. Find out more info and become a sponsor: <https://www.tawwa.org/event/wqtc23reception2023>. 



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Lead and Copper Rule Revisions Webcast Series

Compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions is required in just 15 months. Most discussion around the rule has involved the inventory needed, but there are so many other requirements utilities must be ready to meet by Oct. 16, 2024. This includes replacement plans, new sampling tiers and sampling protocols, corrosion control, school and child care testing, and communications. Every aspect of a water systems operation from new account setup to rehab projects to handling meter replacements and main breaks is impacted, and the customer outreach requirements are extensive.

TAWWA is presenting a series of six 90-minute

webinars to cover everything utilities need to know. Hear from TCEQ, utilities and other experts on how to achieve compliance.

The webcasts will run from Aug. 24 through Nov. 9 from 11:30 am-1 pm (Central) each time. Registration for all six webcasts is only \$200; individual webcast registration is available for \$50 a webcast.

Nine hours of TCEQ training credit has been requested for all six webcasts (hours only available if watched live; you must be individually registered and paid to receive credit hours).

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.tawwa.org/event/lcrwwebcastseries2023>. 🇺🇸

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North Texas Municipal Water District Receives Award at ACE23

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) was recognized by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) as the recipient of its 2023 Exemplary Source Water Protection Award for Large Water Systems. This prestigious honor acknowledges organizations in North America that have successfully developed and are implementing exemplary source water protection programs. The award was presented during the AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition in Toronto, Canada, which took place June 11-14, 2023.

"Protecting source water is only the first step in water treatment," said Zeke Campbell, NTMWD Assistant Deputy for Water Treatment and Conveyance, who accepted the award on the District's behalf. "It is vital to our mission to provide high quality, dependable service, and it provides the added benefit of clean water for recreation and wildlife."




Recipients of the award must meet specific criteria outlined in the AWWA Standard for Source Water Protection, which provides technical standards and guidelines for protecting and preserving the quality



Joe Jacangelo, AWWA President; Zeke Campbell, NTMWD Assistant Deputy Water Treatment and Conveyance; and David LaFrance, AWWA CEO.

of water sources used for drinking water. The criteria include source water characterization; source water protection goals; source water protection action plans; implementation; and periodic evaluation and revision of the program.

To help fulfill its source water protection goals, NTMWD characterized land uses and potential sources of pollution around Lavon Lake and Bois d'Arc Lake, two of their major water sources. Watershed protection plans were developed in close coordination with local stakeholders who work across multiple jurisdictions within each watershed.

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CONTINUED PAGE 31 | ntmwd

ACE23 Competition Winners

Congratulations to our Texas Section competition winners at ACE23 in Toronto! Texas Section's Big D Lady Tappers took home first place in Women's Pipe Tapping and the Alamo Drillerz took second place in Men's Pipe Tapping.

Samuel Murguia, with the City of Georgetown, took home third place in the Meter Challenge competition.

AWWA Pipe Tapping

Women's Pipe Tapping

First Place: Big D Lady Tappers with a time of 1:59:15

Men's Pipe Tapping

Second Place: Alamo Drillerz with a time of 1:21:50

AWWA Meter Challenge

Third Place: Samuel Murguia, City of Georgetown, with a time of 49.03 🇺🇸



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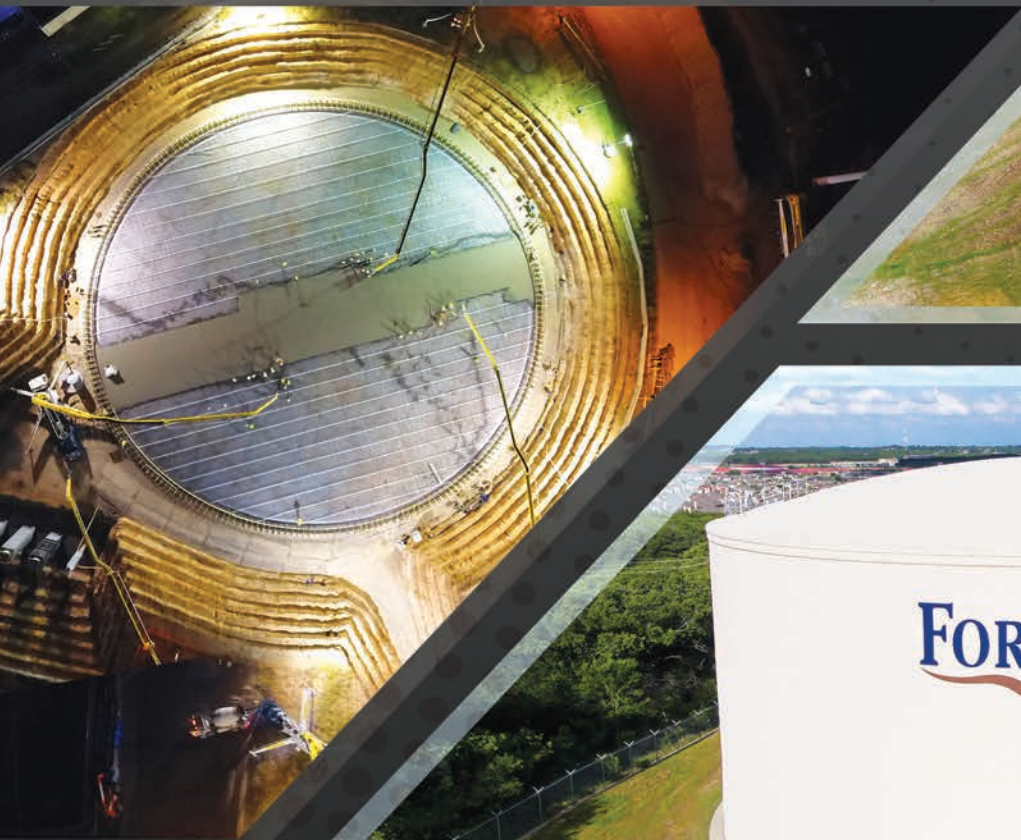


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TAWWA EPA Cybersecurity Update Webinar


Are you wondering about new developments in cybersecurity in the water sector? Please join the Texas AWWA Resiliency and Cybersecurity Committee for a presentation on August 28, from 12-1 pm on the EPA Memorandum and Guidance published in March 2023.

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division will provide an update on the memorandum *Addressing PWS Cybersecurity in Sanitary Surveys or an Alternate Process*, and an overview of EPA's cybersecurity guidance and technical assistance resources to support cyber resilience within the water sector.

Following the presentation by the EPA, a panel will answer your questions and provide insight on available resources and approaches to assist in improving cybersecurity for your public water system.

Registration is free. Attendees will be able to interact with the speakers and their colleagues. The seminars are presented via Zoom.

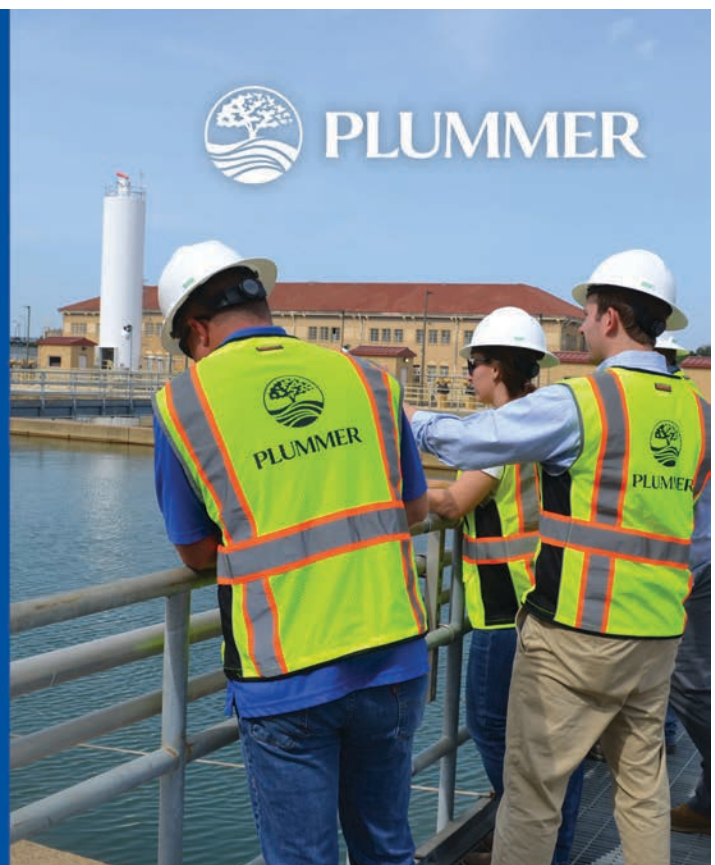
One hour of PDH (self-reporting) is available and one hour of TCEQ water and wastewater operator training credit has been requested. *You must be individually registered to receive credit.*

Registration is limited – so sign up today at www.tawwa.org/event/cybersecurityaug28. 

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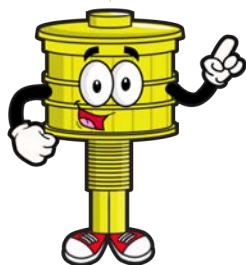
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TAWWA Water Science Lunch Break Seminar


The Texas AWWA Water Science and Research Division invites you to expand your horizons and join your colleagues for a presentation on a relatively new topic of machine learning and application to design. This is the fourth quarterly virtual Water Science & Research Lunch Break on **August 30, 2023**, from Noon to 1 pm.

This presentation will explain key concepts to understanding machine learning and how best to apply it. These concepts include cross-validation, overfitting, and classification vs regression. We will then provide a few examples of successful applications across potable

reuse treatment trains, including ultrafiltration, membrane bioreactors, and reverse osmosis. Our speaker will be Kyle Thompson with Carollo Engineers.

Registration is free. Attendees will be able to interact with the speakers and their colleagues. The seminars are presented via Zoom.

One hour of PDH (self-reporting) is available and one hour of TCEQ water and wastewater operator training credit has been requested. *You must be individually registered to receive credit.*

Registration is limited – so sign up today at www.tawwa.org/event/watersciencewebcastaug30. 



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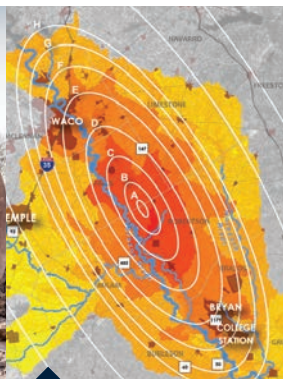
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Water Conservation Coordinator Training Series

The AWWA award-winning 2023 Water Conservation Coordinator Training Webcast Series is a pre-recorded three-part webinar focused on water conservation.

The water conservation education program will help guide staff new to water conservation about how and why Texas uses water data reported annually from utilities; teach attendees how to determine the best options for creating a conservation program for your municipality, introduce attendees to free and low-cost resources to utilize, and offer plenty of case studies and lessons learned from water providers across the state.

This unique training is based on curriculum

developed by the Texas Section AWWA Water Conservation and Reuse Division specifically for Texas and to meet the requirements for all water conservation practitioners in any size utility. Presenters are the leaders in water conservation in Texas and will provide participants with the tools they need to develop effective conservation programs and understand state reporting requirements.

The series is intended for new Water Conservation



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Pricing to receive all three webcast recordings:
AWWA/TAWWA Member Rate: \$145; Non Member Rate: \$225 (*includes a one-year AWWA/Texas AWWA operations/administrative membership*)

All registered attendees will also receive the new, exclusive 64 page **Texas Municipal Water Conservation Coordinator Guidebook** (electronic PDF), which recently won an AWWA Education Award at ACE 2023.

TCEQ hours are not available for viewing recordings of the webcasts.


You can purchase the webcast series at www.tawwa.org under the Training & Events tab on the menu bar. 

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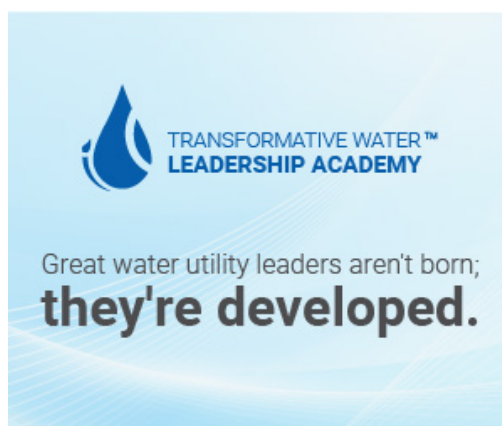
Transformative Water Leadership Academy 2024 Cohort Applications Open

The Transformative Water Leadership Academy (TWLA), a collaboration between AWWA and the WaterNow Alliance, has opened applications for the 2024 cohort. Applications are due **September 4**.

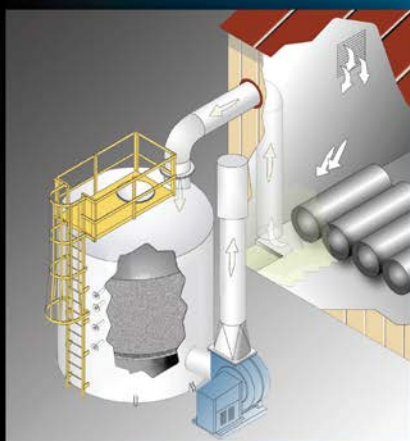
This unique opportunity is designed to cultivate purpose-driven water leadership. TWLA will prepare tomorrow's utility executives to address emerging water issues and opportunities, and to guide utilities through positive transformation.

In the 21st century, all organizations must deliver on the triple bottom line: social, environmental, and financial performance. TWLA graduates will be empowered to meet this challenge.

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Second Annual Professor Desmond Lawler Lecture

The Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Program at UT initiated an annual lecture series honoring the legacy of Dr. Desmond Lawler who taught in the program from 1980 until his retirement in 2021. The second annual Desmond F. Lawler Lecture will be held Thursday, Sept. 21, at 3:30 pm and given by Dr. Menachem Elimelech of Yale University on "Membranes for Selective Ion Separations at the Water-Energy Nexus."

Dr. Elimelech is internationally known for his research on the use of membranes in water treatment. He has a long list of notable prizes and awards, including the Clarke Prize in 2005 by the National Water Research

Institute, election to the National Academy of Engineering in 2006, and election to both the Korean and Canadian Academies of Engineering in 2022.

The lecture will be held at the Mulva Auditorium, Engineering Education and Research Building (EER), University of Texas Campus, with a reception to follow.

Attendance will qualify for one professional development hour (PDH) for professional engineers.

Free to attend. No advanced registration required. 🇺🇸



Dr. Menachem Elimelech.

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Annual Larry Kelm Memorial Golf Tournament

2023 REGISTRATION



Benefitting the SETAWWA Water Education Programs

DATE

**Friday, November 10, 2023
(Veterans Day Weekend)**



TIME

**Check-in & Breakfast: 8:00 AM
Shotgun Start: 9:00 AM**

LOCATION

Pearland Golf Club
3123 Flower Field Lane
Pearland, TX 77584

***Completed online form
and payment are due by
September 15, 2023***

Raffle items needed!

Donate baskets or individual items such as gift cards, admission tickets, new merchandise, services, lodging, etc. Cash donations also welcome.

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Digital signage, plus branded material (balls, towel, tumbler, etc.)

Silver	\$2,000
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Digital signage

Bronze	\$1,500
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Team registration

Government Agency	\$200
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All government agency team registration

All teams include registration, cart, green fees, giveaway bag, 4 reception luncheon tickets and 4 drink tickets.

Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

Tee Box Sponsor - Tent at Hole	\$1,000 each
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Drink Tickets	\$1,250
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Raffle Sponsor	\$500 each
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Additional Items

Mulligans + Raffle Ticket	\$10
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**Sponsorship and Online Registration at
<https://www.tawwa.org/event/segolf2023>**

Make checks payable to "SE Chapter of TAWWA".

For event information, registration, and sponsorship contact:

Andrew Swirsky - 281-841-9822 (andrew.swirsky@xylem.com) Chris Canonico - 713-540-5512 (canonico@ardurragroup.com)
Larry Sims - 803-493-5353 (lsims@vectorcag.com)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13 | ntmwd

"The plans provide a roadmap to reducing pollutants and protecting water quality in the rapidly growing region," said David Cowan, NTMWD Watershed Manager. "Working closely with local stakeholders, state agencies, and regional partners, we help ensure residents and businesses in NTMWD's service area have access to safe, reliable water supplies now and for future generations."

Protecting source water involves monitoring to determine how water quality changes over time and modeling to estimate pollutant loads. Implementation projects such as those outlined in the Lavon Lake and Bois d'Arc Lake watershed protection plans help slow erosion and reduce pollutant loading in the lakes. Projects such as tree planting along eroded streams and installing low-impact development features in McKinney and Wylie help improve water quality by reducing stormwater pollution.

To learn more about NTMWD's efforts to protect our source water and how we can all do our part to ensure

safe, high-quality drinking water around the clock, visit www.NTMWD.com/watershed. 

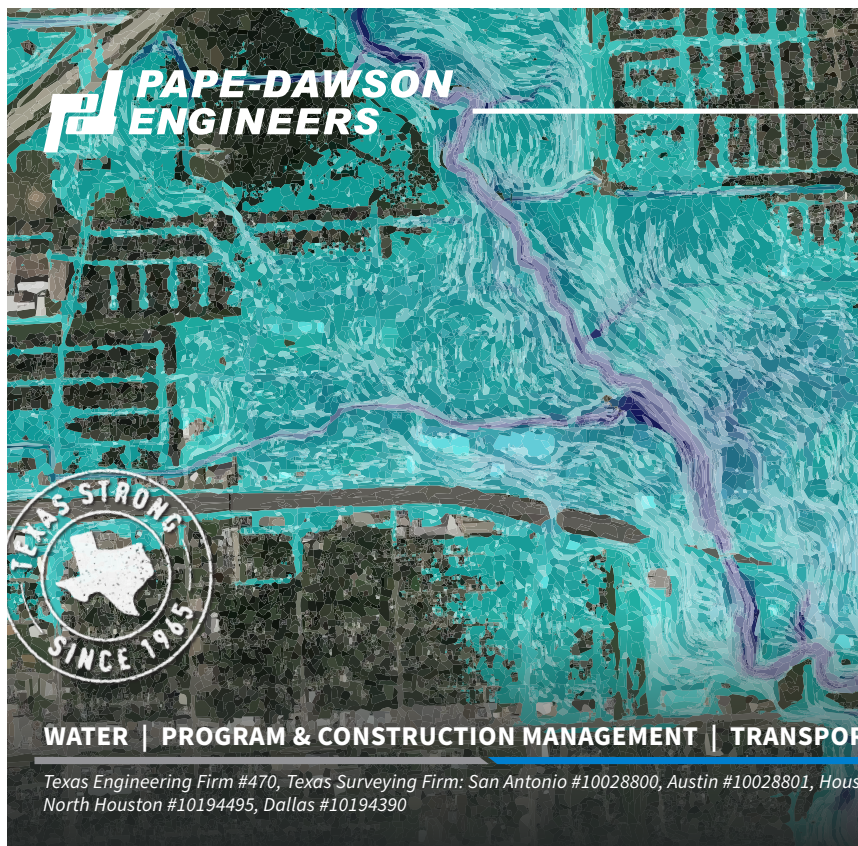


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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 | laboratory committee

used for, what results mean, and how it affects the water treatment process and quality of water gives laboratory technicians a better understanding of the importance of high-quality data.

As these data are reported by the laboratory to water treatment professionals, a thorough understanding of how the samples were collected and analyzed will increase confidence in the results and provide assurance that changes made to the treatment process will be effective. The TAWWA LC recognizes the importance of establishing a partnership between laboratories and water treatment operators and aims to create this partnership between laboratories, water treatment operators, and other industry professionals to provide more robust knowledge and data in the drinking water industry. By working together, the committee hopes to contribute to the overarching goal

of providing safe and high-quality drinking water to communities.

Join TAWWA's Laboratory Committee

The TAWWA LC is looking for new members to help build a strong, geographically diverse, network of scientists and operators involved in the Texas water industry. The LC meets monthly and discusses ideas for articles, webinars, and conferences. The LC will also work with the Water Environment Association of Texas Laboratory Committee to identify areas in which the two committees can collaborate, as well as staying connected to the AWWA Water Quality Laboratory Committee.

The TAWWA LC currently comprises 18 members from utilities, 4 from contract laboratories, 2 from industry, and 1 graduate student (Figure 1). Experience of committee members ranges from ready to enter the industry to > 30 years.



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If you're interested in joining the Laboratory Committee, please contact Committee Chair **Hunter Adams** (hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov) or Vice Chair **Crystal Ybanez** (crystal@ctexas.com).

Hunter Adams is Environmental Laboratory Supervisor for the City of Wichita Falls (www.wichitafallstx.gov), and Chair of TAWWA's Laboratory Committee. Crystal Ybanez is the Water Quality Manager for the City of Corpus Christi, (www.ctexas.com), and Vice Chair of TAWWA's Laboratory Committee. Himanshu Sail is a recent graduate from University of Texas at Austin and an incoming Staff Professional at Carollo Engineers (www.carollo.com), and member of TAWWA's Laboratory Committee. Selina Tabor is the water purification utility plant manager for the City of Longview (www.longviewtexas.gov), and member of TAWWA's Laboratory Committee. 🗺️

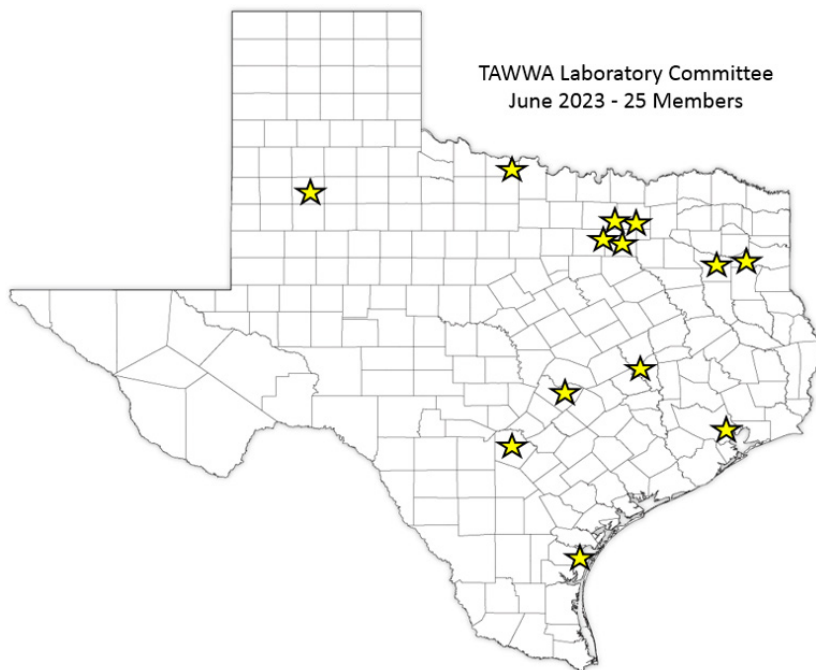


Figure 1 - TAWWA LC Member Geographic Distribution as of June 2023

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6 |
executive director report

uses the TEEX Basic Water training manual and targets high school students to become water operators. One of the unique elements of SETH is that once a student successfully completes the training, they are eligible to sit for their Class "D" Water License before they graduate or turn eighteen. This tees them up to be connected to their local utility and a pathway to a solid long-term career in the water community—all at no cost.

You may also have heard of or participated in the three webcasts based on another of our new training courses, the Texas Water Conservation Coordinator Curriculum. This unique Texas oriented program was developed over the last four years by our Water Conservation and Reuse Division, with the additional support from well-known conservation practitioner

Bill Hoffman.

I note these last two because in 2022 the SETH Project and in 2023 the Conservation Curriculum each were awarded the AWWA Education Award. This means that these training courses were recognized as the best in the country among all 43 AWWA Sections.

"But wait, there's more!"

Recently, AWWA reached out to me noting that over at least the last seven years, the Texas Section AWWA has won the AWWA Education Award. Actually, you can go much further back and find our awards in years 2001-2006, 2008-2014, and 2016 to 2023. That's twenty education awards over twenty-two years. This is an outstanding record – and we owe it all to our volunteers.

AWWA asked me to discuss our success in education development at the AWWA Summer Workshop in late July. The discussion focused on how the Texas Section brings education programs forward to full implementation. In my remarks, I noted the answer is simpler than it seems. We have the largest and most effective group of volunteers in the state who are committed to bringing their passion about water to the forefront. Their range of experience is substantial and, combined with their willingness to commit their expertise and time to development of training programs, is how we can present well-crafted and timely training for all members.

When volunteers propose a training, we put our operational expertise in play and funding support if necessary. If our purpose is to provide education to water professionals, then we are more than willing to capitalizing on the expertise of the widest range of our volunteers. It just makes sense. And our volunteers have fun doing it!



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The best part is our volunteers never seem to rest. If you head to our website, www.tawwa.org, and go to the Training Calendar, you can sign up for the upcoming six-part series of ninety-minute webcasts on the Lead and Copper Rule. They begin in August and run through November 9th. The compliance deadline is October 2024.

Lead and Copper Rule Webcasts

August 24th: Inventory/replacement plans
 September 7th: Communications
 September 21st: Compliance sampling/new tiers
 October 12th: Corrosion control/find-and-fix/WQP
 October 26th: Schools and Daycare testing

November 9th: Construction, interruptions, and disturbances

This series was developed by volunteers Mary Gugliuzza and Stacy Walters with Fort Worth Water along with Jennelle Crane and Michelle Risko with the TCEQ. Check it all out on our website. I suspect this group of webcasts MAY be entered for a future AWWA Education Award.

I'll keep this simple. The above speaks for itself. Our volunteers make it happen and make us proud!

"No Brag. Just Fact."

- Walter Brennan, "The Guns of Will Sonnet" (1960s TV show) 🇺🇸

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TAWWA Welcomes New Members Joining May 1–June 30, 2023

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Tony Aguirre McAllen, TX	Callie Bletsch Houston, TX	Juan Pablo Cantu Los Fresnos, TX	Mayra Cordova-Garcia Arlington, TX	Tyler Duncan Willow Park, TX	Guadalupe Garcia III Brownsville, TX
Morgan Aikins LA Vernia, TX	Jeremy Blevins Houston, TX	Laton Carr Round Rock, TX	Melanie Cossio El Paso, TX	Morgan Early Pearland, TX	Noelyn Garcia Zepeda El Paso, TX
Saad Al-Taie Houston, TX	Blue Topaz Utilities Conroe, TX	Ashwin Chandran Houston, TX	Vanessa Davila Canyon Lake, TX	Mohammad Elayyan Beeville, TX	Brian Gettinger Grapevine, TX
Danny Araiza San Marcos, TX	Krystal Boggs Houston, TX	Tomas Chavez Flint, TX	Takasa Davis Houston, TX	Susan Emberg Houston, TX	Jacob Gifford Magnolia, TX
Luis Arrendondo Alamo, TX	Daniel Bond Dallas, TX	Lane Cheek Rosenberg, TX	Deanna Degeyter Conroe, TX	Tommy Ervin Odessa, TX	George Gillespie College Station, TX
Jason Barber College Station, TX	Keith Bradford Abilene, TX	Matthew Childs Flower Mound, TX	Christopher Deleon San Antonio, TX	Trey Evans Liberty Hill, TX	Chuck Gilman Houston, TX
Glenn Barin San Marcos, TX	Candace Brannan Rockport, TX	Jiwon Chun Austin, TX	Cory Despain New Caney, TX	Richard Everhart Arlington, TX	Shaun Gilmore Pearland, TX
Barry Beeson Waxahachie, TX	Maribel Burciaga Odessa, TX	Jeannie Cisneros San Antonio, TX	Duane Devall Houston, TX	Eric Frieze Corpus Christi, TX	Cristal Gonzalez Lubbock, TX
Tony Bencomo McKinney, TX	Richard Burnside McKinney, TX	Jason Clark Garland, TX	Bonnie Doggett Austin, TX	William Gamblin Jonestown, TX	Eliberto Gonzalez Jr Mercedes, TX
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DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION	INFORMATION
AUG 25	15th Annual Water For People Hill Country Classic		Canyon Springs Golf Club San Antonio	www.tawwa.org
AUG 28	TAWWA EPA Cybersecurity Update Webinar	12-1 pm	Online	www.tawwa.org
AUG 30	TAWWA Water Science Lunch Break Seminar	12-1 pm	Online	www.tawwa.org
SEPT 21	Second Annual Lawler Lecture	3:30 pm	Mulva Auditorium, UT Austin	www.tawwa.org
OCT 19-20	TAWWA Customer Service Workshop		Menger Hotel San Antonio	www.tawwa.org

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Contact Mike Howe, 512-238-9292, or mikehowe@tawwa.org.

Check the Section's website, www.tawwa.org, for the latest information on Section activities.

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