



REGION IV NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION



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Letter from the Past Chair

By: Steve Soltau



This year has been both fun and productive. The 2009 winner of the Region IV Best Tasting Water contest, hosted by the Town of Belleair (2008 winner), is the City of Zephyrhills Water System.

At the Region's four seminars this year, over 100 individuals were trained with over 500 hours of professional education!

The 2009 member Appreciation Night and General Membership Meeting was also a big hit, attended by about 100 Region IV members. The Young Professional's Water for People 2009 fund raiser was a great success, with over 60 participants. Hope to see more in 2010!

This has been my last year as Region IV Chair. Tory Champlin is stepping up for the next two-year term. Please provide him with the same enthusiasm and support as always.

It is an honor to be a part of this successful organization. Region IV would have accomplished nothing without the support and dedication of the volunteers who really do all the

work. Over 20 volunteers devoted more than 1360 hours of work contributing to the Region's goal of training and social networking for our members.

Thank you for the opportunity you provided me to serve.



View from the suite at the 2009 Region IV Membership Meeting and Appreciation Night

Letter from the Chair

By: Tory Champlin



As your newly elected FSAWWA Region IV Chair, I would like to extend my thanks to our Past Chair, Steve Soltau, for the hard work and effort he put in during his term. Through his leadership, Region IV has continued to grow and thrive into one of the leading regions in the state. You have inspired us all, Steve - Thank you.

Region IV Committees. I would like to explain some new changes that we have made to the Region IV's Executive Committee this year. At the left is a listing of our new 12 committees and officers. I encourage everyone to become more actively involved and help us by filling either a vacant officer position or becoming a member of one of our committees. Please contact the chair of a committee that most interests you.

Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest and General Membership Meeting. February 26th is Region IV's Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest and General Membership Meeting. This year's contest will be hosted by last year's winner, "City of Zephyrhills". Please do not miss this great opportunity to meet with other professionals and help us crown "Region IV's 2010 Winner of the Best Tasting Drinking Water". This has always been a fun event. The winner will receive an engraved plaque, the utility's name engraved on Region IV's "revolving trophy", which the winner retains for a year and most importantly, a year's worth of "bragging rights" as the best tasting drinking water in

our seven county region (Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter).

Drinking Water Day. April 8th is Drinking Water Day and State Drinking Water Contest in Tallahassee. This is a great opportunity to meet and discuss with our state senators and representatives to discuss issues pertaining to our industry. The event is hosted by Florida Section AWWA members that are familiar with the workings of our state legislature and will lead you through the process. At this event, the Winner of the Region IV's Best Tasting Water gets to compete with the other 11 regions for the state title. The State winner moves on and competes at the Annual Conference & Exposition in Chicago, June 20 – 23, 2010.

Become an Active Region IV Member. Did you know Region IV represents AWWA members in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter Counties? We continue to look for ways to expand our outreach into all seven counties. If you are a member in Citrus, Hernando, Polk and Sumter Counties and would like to become more actively involved in Region IV, I encourage you to give me or Chris Waters, Region IV's Membership Committee Chair a call.

Regional Sponsors and Event Sponsors. Please join me in extending our appreciation of support to our 2010 Regional Sponsors and Event Sponsors. Their sponsorship helps to support our seminars, charity events and social activities throughout the year.

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Model Water Tower Competition

By: Ari Copeland

Region IV had 38 Model Water Towers at the 2009 MWTC held at the University of South Florida on November 14. Students from both Hillsborough and Pinellas County were represented this year.



Ari Copeland (Left), former Youth Education Chair, awarding the first place prize to Aaron (Middle) and Brandon (Right) at Young Middle Magnet School, Sue Ellis' Science Class.

The winners of this year's contest were:

1st Place: Aaron Zamites and Brandon Winters,
Young Middle Magnet School

2nd Place: Radhe Mehta and Fatema Monowar,
Young Middle Magnet School

3rd Place: Joseph Christel, Mann Middle School

In addition to the top three Middle School teams, Region IV gave out ten \$25 gift cards to several honorable mentions for Scariest tower, most school spirit and other subjective categories.

Thanks to our 2009 sponsors and volunteers for helping FSAWWA Region IV continue supporting this effort of outreach of our profession to local students.

USF Student Chapter

By: Michael Gerdjikian

The USF Student Chapter had great success during the 2009 Fall semester. Events such as the Model Water Tower Competition at USF Engineering, Expo, and the AWWA Fall Conference in Orlando helped to peak interest from new members. Nearby schools ranging from elementary to high school come to the Engineering Expo to learn about the importance of engineering in our everyday lives. We had several demonstrations set up including our new Enviroscape® Drinking Water & Wastewater Treatment Model which was partially funded by Region IV and the Public Affairs Committee. Using this display, we showed

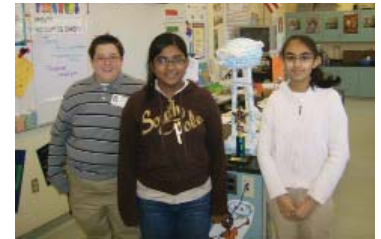
A promo video was filmed during our MWTC that will be used to display the contest to other sections within the Association starting this year. Publications for the MWTC expansion across the state will be showcased in the FWRJ in the February 2010 Edition.

Lastly, the Youth Education Committee of Region IV would like to Congratulate Emilie Moore of Tetra Tech!

Emilie is now chair of FSAWWA Region IV "Model Water Tower Competition" Committee.



Ari Copeland (Left), former Youth Education Chair, awarding the second place prize to Fataema (Middle) and Radhe (Right) at Young Middle Magnet School, Sue Ellis' Science Class.



Ari Copeland (Left), former Youth Education Chair, awarding the third place prize to Joseph Christel (Middle) at Mann Middle School, Randall Borden's (Right) Science Class

how we get our drinking water as well as what happens to that water after we use it. Throughout the semester we will also be holding meetings in which we welcome volunteer speakers or anyone that would like to sit in on a meeting and meet some of the students. To thank all student members, faculty and professionals that have supported us over the years, we will be having a picnic at USF Riverfront Park in the near future. If you have any questions or want to come to an event or speak during a meeting, please contact Michael Gerdjikian at mgerdjik@gmail.com.

New FSAWWA Operators Council

By: Mark Lehigh

Following on the success of the FSAWWA Contractors Council started in 2008, the FSAWWA Membership Committee proposes the addition of another new council – the FSAWWA "Operators Council".

Mission

To increase member services to water and distribution system operators, a significant portion of our membership, through increased opportunities for association leadership, participation, local networking, and expanded awards and recognition programs; and provide direction on long-term operator needs and priorities to the Board of Governors.

Benefits of New Operators Council

1. Operator representation on the FSAWWA Board of Governors
2. More specialized service to a significant portion of our membership
3. Provides operators more visibility and active participation and representation in FSAWWA
4. Assistance with operator career advancement and exposure to new technology and products
6. Local operator representation within each region and networking opportunities
7. Possible liaison positions with the local FWPCOA region
8. Long-term operator planning to meet future needs of this membership sector

Water Laboratory Alliance

By: Marsha Pryor

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a nationwide laboratory program, the Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA), in September 2009. The WLA provides the drinking water sector with an integrated nationwide network of laboratories with analytical capabilities and capacity to analyze samples for chemical, biological, and radiological contaminants during an emergency situation.

The WLA structure consists of many national, state and local laboratories, both public and private. This extensive network of labs can be easily accessed during a major event such as a terrorist attack or a wide spread epidemic. However, most water contamination events can and should be handled locally. Tools and guidance provided by the WLA can be used locally to investigate possible water contamination.

Visit the WLA website to find out about the many benefits available to member labs: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/wla.cfm>. Benefits include:

- WLA-Response Plan that can be used to supplement your own Disaster Plan

- Access to the EPA Compendium of Environmental Testing Labs, a secure Web-based tool that provides laboratory capability, capacity, and contact information
- Access to WCIT, a database of contaminants that pose a serious threat to the water industry
- Access to the NEMI-CBR an analytical methods index for regulated and unregulated water contaminants
- Sampling Guidance for unknown contaminants in drinking water; detailed information on sample collection, preservation, and transport procedures
- Chemical Method Development & Validation rapid screening methods for unregulated contaminants and adaptation of existing methods

Register for the EPA Compendium & WLA at <http://www.epa.gov/erln/join.html>

Or contact your WLA Liaison for the State of Florida, Marsha Pryor, at mpryor@co.pinellas.fl.us

Fourth Annual Region IV FSAWWA Charity Golf Tournament

By: Ken Broome

FSAWWA's Region IV hosted its fourth annual charity golf tournament at Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club South Course on Friday, October 16, 2009. A full field of approximately 100 players joined us for a great day of golf to benefit Water for People and the Roy Likins Scholarship. The golf committee included Nicole Thomas, Ken Broome, Sandra Anderson, Alessandra Pozsonyi, Rebecca McLarty, Mark Lehigh, and Bryan Veith. The teams were divided into two flights with each flight having first, second place, and third place ranked teams. Congrats to our first place finishers in flights 1 and 2. The committee greatly appreciates everyone's participation

and sponsorships. We would especially like to thank our volunteers the day of the event. Commitments by all helped Region IV to raise approximately \$5,000 for our charities! Look for an announcement regarding our fifth annual tournament in the next news letter.



We're Looking for a Few Good Minds

By: Jennifer Meisenhelder



With 880 million people lacking access to clean water, we need bright, creative minds to join Water For People, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing sustainable water and sanitation solutions to third world countries. What you do at the local level matters, so please join us as we raise money, raise awareness and

take the Water for People organization in Region 4 to the next level. Contact Jimena Pinzon or Jennifer Meisenhelder for details on how you can help.

Water For People's Guiding Principles

- We Believe In People
- We Keep It Local
- We Keep Good Company
- We Keep Our Promises



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