



The Florida Flow

NEWS TO USE

APRIL 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

WQA Convention
April 28– 30, 2026
Miami Beach, FL

FWQA Convention
Trade Show
June 17,18,&19, 2026
Caribe Royale Resort
Orlando, FL

FWQA Golf Tournament
Celebration Golf
Wednesday June 17, 2026
June 2026

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow FWQA Members,

Celebrating Progress and Looking Ahead

As we approach the final stretch of 2026, it's a great time to reflect on the progress we've made together and the impact of our collective efforts across the Florida Water Quality Association.

At the beginning of the year, we set clear priorities—education, advocacy, member engagement, and leadership development. Today, I'm proud to say those priorities have

not only guided us but have also produced meaningful results.

Through our educational programs and events, members are gaining valuable knowledge and tools to better serve their customers and communities right now at our convention. From technical training to shared best practices, we continue to raise the standard of professionalism across our not only industry, but also the GREAT state of Florida!

Our advocacy efforts have also made a difference. By engaging with policymakers and staying involved in legislative discussions, FWQA has helped ensure that the voice of our industry is heard and respected. These efforts protect not only our businesses, but also the consumers who rely on safe, high-quality water solutions every day.

Perhaps most importantly, we've seen tremendous growth in member engagement. From increased event participation to more members stepping into volunteer and leadership roles, it's clear that our association is strong, connected, and moving forward together. And it is not too late for you to still get plugged in!!

We've also taken important steps in developing future leaders. By encouraging new involvement and fostering mentorship, we are building a foundation that will sustain FWQA for years to come.

As we look ahead to our Fall Seminar in November, I encourage each of you to attend, reconnect, and continue building on the relationships that make this association so valuable. It's one more opportunity this year to learn, collaborate, and finish strong.

While we celebrate what we've accomplished, we also recognize that our work is never done. The water quality industry continues to evolve, and FWQA will remain committed to supporting our members, advancing our profession, and protecting the communities we serve.

Members---Thank you for your dedication, your involvement, and your belief in what we are building together.

A special note:

As we reflect on the progress and success of this past year, I want to take a moment to recognize a group whose dedication often happens behind the scenes, but whose impact is felt throughout our entire association—our Board of Directors. Serving on the FWQA Board is a true commitment. It requires time, energy, and a genuine passion for advancing our industry. Each member of our Board has stepped forward not only to lead, but to serve—bringing thoughtful ideas, steady guidance, and a shared vision for the future of FWQA.

Over the past year, the Board has played a critical role in strengthening our educational programs, supporting our advocacy efforts, growing member engagement, and developing future leaders within our association. Their leadership has helped ensure that FWQA remains focused, responsive, and positioned for continued success. The progress we've made is a direct reflection of their commitment and teamwork.

To each member of our Board of Directors—thank you. Thank you for your leadership, your service, and your dedication to FWQA and the water quality industry across Florida.

I am honored to serve alongside you, and I look forward to all that we will continue to accomplish together. Let's finish 2026 strong and carry this momentum forward!

Sincerely,
Jami West

RO Filter Replacement Schedule

Water Medic (a FWQA member) released a guide on [reverse osmosis filter replacement](#) while emphasizing that standard 6-12 month pre-filter and 2-5 year membrane timelines don't account for local water conditions. The Southwest Florida company explains that the region's notoriously hard water, high sediment levels, and chlorine treatment create unique challenges that can cut membrane lifespan from 5 years to just 2-3 years without proper pre-filter maintenance. The company breaks down replacement schedules by local water source, showing Cape Coral municipal water requires 6-9 month pre-filter changes while rural well water may need changes every 3-6 months due to iron, hydrogen sulfide, and high TDS levels. Their approach uses technical credibility (TDS rejection rates, specific contamination data) to justify professional service over DIY maintenance, positioning filter changes as comprehensive system health checks rather than simple part swaps.

"This High School Student Invented a Filter That Eliminates 96 Percent of Microplastics From Drinking Water

A high school student from Virginia is currently making [headlines](#) for developing a homemade filtration method that relies on ferrofluid to remove PFAS and microplastics. The prototype is reported to remove nearly 96% of microplastics from test samples, and the student, Mia Heller, is looking to further explore the technology for more widely adaptable applications.

Heller described the filtration system as an affordable, low-waste filtration system that doesn't rely on the use of a solid membrane. Rather, it uses a magnetic oil, ferrofluid, to bond with microplastics and separate in a "spinning magnified vial." She noted that she was inspired primarily by her home's filtration method and concerns for the region's exposure to PFAS and microplastics.

Heller submitted her project to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in 2025 and came in as a finalist. For her placement, she was awarded \$500 from the Patent and Trademark Office Society.

While her system requires constant maintenance and it currently removes 87.5% of the water's ferrofluid, many experts laud the high schooler's ambition and enthusiasm for the water treatment industry and look forward to seeing Heller as a colleague in the coming years.

Wcponline.com March 25, 2026

QUICK FACT: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MICROPLASTICS?

According to the EPA, primary microplastics are tiny plastics manufactured for things like cosmetics and biomedical products. Secondary microplastics are plastic pieces that have broken down from larger plastic consumer products. The Environmental Protection Agency defines microplastics as small particles measuring about 1 nanometer to 5 millimeters in size.

***The FWQA Nominating Committee presents the
Slate of Officers for 2026-2027***

Don Grace—President, Safeway Water

Nick Mahle—Vice President, Water Treatment Warehouse

John Ladue — Treasurer, Complete Water Systems

Josh Harris— Secretary, Custom Water Solutions by MJHS

Chris Zunk—One-Year Director, Balanced Water and Drain Services

Dakota Allen—One-Year Director, Charger Water

Dennis Garcia—One-Year Director, MD Pumps

Jake Roche—One-Year Director, Fargo Well and Pump Services Inc

Jami West, Immediate Past Pres., C-Tech Water

The election of the Board of Directors of the FWQA will be held at our Annual Meeting to be held on
Thursday June 18, 2026
at Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando, FL

Welcome to Our NEW Members

FWQA serving the Water Conditioning and Purification Industry since 1975!

● Robin and Russell Hook
● All Pumps and Well Repairs
● 849 SW 70th Ave
● Bell, FL 32619

● Ms Melissa and Chester Sheffield
● Sheffield's Inc-Water Well Services
● P O Box 2662
● High Springs, FL 32655

● Mr. Jonathan Torres
● Tower Water Treatment LLC
● 3841 39th Ave NE
● Naples, FL 34210

Mr. Jared Beviano
Water Wizards of FL
601 N Congress Ave Unit 305
Delray Beach, FL 33445

Mr Dominic Tagliafierro
Watersprint Inc
7215 Gateway Ct.
Manassas, VA 20109



FWQA CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW LEARN TO RELATE JUNE 17-19, 2026

**WEDNESDAY
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**THURSDAY
EDUCATION SEMINARS*
ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
TRADE SHOW
SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION
SOCIAL FUN - EVENING RECEPTION**

**FRIDAY
*EDUCATION SEMINARS**

Education topics. “Hands On” Teardown and re-assembly of the Clack WS15PB Composite 1 ½” Control Valve , Repair or Replace – How Service Teams Can Sell Without "Selling" , The Makings of a Professional , Panel Discussion—Your Florida Water Issues, Emerging Contaminants and Removal Methods, POE Filters: Selection, Applications and Best Practices, Water heater anode rod to prevent and eliminate sulfur smell and other tank issues, Spin Class— Your guide to spin-down filters.

*Don't forget to reserve your room at the Caribe Royale Resort
<https://fwqa.com/events/2026-convention-trade-show/>
Room block good until May 15, 2026.*

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Convention Exhibitors (as of 4/10/26)
check our website for updates www.fwqa.com

AO Smith
Aqua Wholesale
Canature Water Group/ Hydrotech
Cargill
Charger Water
Corro-Protec
EMC Pumps
Fluid Systems and Controls
Foundation Finance
G A Murdock
Goodleap
Hydronix Water Technology
John Guest USA/RWC
Nelsen Corporation
Preferred Pump & Equipment
Pro Products
Pure and Gentle Soap
RUSCO/ Vu-Flow Filters
Safeway Water
Scotwood Industries, LLC
Service Titan
Stenner Pump Company
UNCO Data
VIQUA
Water Treatment Warehouse
WQA

And a Big THANK YOU to our SPONSORS (to date)

Canature Water Group/ Hydrotech
Cargill Salt
Charger Water
Foundation Finance
Nelsen Corporation
Pure & Gentle Soap
Scotwood Industries LLC
Water Treatment Warehouse

FWQA Visits Tallahassee –Representing YOU



Before the group went to see our legislators. We met in the Rotunda of the Capitol. Front– Suzanne Trueblood, Ray Gregory, Jami West, Cindy Schieber, Back– Jacqueline Ladue, Nick Mahle, Dennis Garcia, Josh Harris, Brian Morgan, Don Grace, Addie Olson, Jorge Zukoski, Nate Padilla, and Dakota Allen.



Great meeting with Senator Clay Yarborough who really appreciated the "bite-sized" hand outs. Also, he values having us as a subject matter expert resource.



Dennis Garcia, Josh Harris, Matt Rosenwald, and Jacqueline Ladue. Discussed how Florida Water Quality Association can be a resource when it comes to water questions.

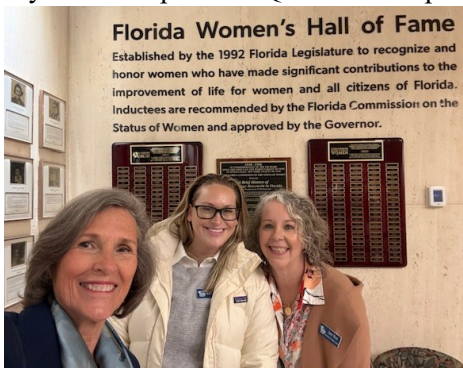


Dakota Allen, Rep Kiyan Michael, Cindy and Jorge Zukoski take time to talk water.

We made the rounds to provide information...



Cindy Schieber puts FWQA on the map!



It's important to recognize women making a difference. We have so many women who are an active part of our water quality industry.

FWQA works closely with WQA and their Legislative Staff to prepare us for our visits. They shared with us several handouts about PFAS, Lead in Drinking Water, Final Barrier, Healthy H₂O Act, and much more. We also leave information about FWQA and how to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Our goal is to introduce what our water conditioning industry does and the benefits offered to consumers at the Point of Use.

All of our members are welcome to join us when we go to Tallahassee.



Nate Padilla meets with Chase Bohannon at Rep Yeager's office



Nick Mahle visited with Sarah Craven from Rep John Snyder's office. Sharing information about FWQA.



Schieber,

A quick stop at the Governor's office to let him know FWQA is ready to be his resource! Representing FWQA Jacqueline Ladue, Nick Mahle, Brian Morgan, Dennis Garcia, Josh Harris, Addie Olson, Nate Padilla, Suzanne Trueblood, Don Grace, Jamie Wesst, Ray Gregory.,

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We continue to update and correct our mailing list. If you have an error in the address of this mailing, please call or email us the correction.*

Serving the water conditioning industry since 1975

Our Mission

To promote increased use of industry products and services, to foster and maintain the professional competency of water treatment professionals, and work with governments, other organizations and the public on issues affecting water quality. Serving the water industry since 1975

FWQA Board of Directors 2025-2026

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