



Federal Water Quality Association (FWQA)

An Affiliate of the Water Environment Federation

Theme - "Approaching a Century of Protecting the Nation's Water Resources"

Website: www.fwqa-dc.org

Note: Following a long hiatus in providing FWQA news highlights to membership, here are updates on what's flowing within our group (Mary B. Klein, Editor)

2024 Recap

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS HONORED by Sharon Nye

Congratulations to the FWQA 30th Annual Capital Environmental Scholarship Program winners! The scholarship awardees for 2024 were Sidak Singh, Battlefield High School, Georgia Chen Kaufmann, D.C. International Public Charter School, Matthew Lerner, Potomac Falls High School, Wes Boyers, Great Mills High School, and Charles Butler, Mount St. Joseph High School.

We honored the five outstanding students for their academic accomplishments and service in the environment. These talented young students were awarded \$2,000 each and will go on to pursue their environmental studies at various universities in the U.S. Applicants from Washington, DC and surrounding Maryland and Virginia counties are rated on academic achievement, environment-related essays, references, extra-curricular activities related to the environment and overall presentation. The selection process is not an easy one as FWQA receives many high caliber applicants whose environmental awareness relating to water quality is versatile and covers a broad spectrum.

Thank you to our judging committee: Janet Goodwin, James Wheeler, Sheila Olem and Christian Davies-Venn for their expertise and dedication to this program and especially to our sponsors - this program wouldn't be possible without them.

Congrats to 2024 Science Fair Winners!

Montgomery County
Ahil Thendral

Prince William County
Livia Kouts
Erin Jansen

2025 Latest Highlights

Scholarships - The time is now! Know any high school seniors? Let them know that we will be awarding scholarships this year! Check out this link <http://www.fwqa-dc.org/scholarships.php> for a description of the program and for the 2025 Scholarship Application.

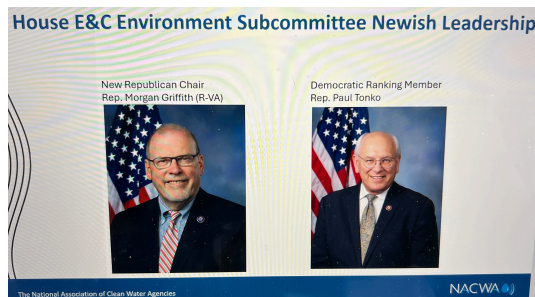
Happenings

WEBINAR ON “*Changes in the 119th U.S. Congress*” by Mary B. Klein

Kicking off the first webinar of 2025, National Association of Clean Water Agencies’ (NACWA) Government Affairs Director, Matthew McKenna provided an informative program on changes in Congressional leadership for key environmental, infrastructure, and energy committees.



Mr. McKenna gave some insight on the new members of the major committees, some of which are from our surrounding Washington DC area. Changes in the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee (EPW) included the new Republican Chair, Sen. Shelley Moore-Capito (R-WV) and the new Democratic Ranking Member, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), along with new Senate members Sen. John Curtis (R-UT), Sen. John Husted (R-OH), Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), and Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD). In the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee, the Republican Chair is Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) and the Democratic Ranking Member is Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA). New leadership for the House T&I Water Resource Subcommittee is Republican Chair, Rep. Mike Collins (R-GA) and Democratic Ranking Member Rep., Frederica Wilson (D-FL). Mr. McKenna introduced “newish” leadership for the House



Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee with new Republican Chair, Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and Democratic Ranking Member Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and for the E&C Environment Subcommittee (picture left), the new Republican Chair Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA) and Democratic Ranking Member Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY).

The top three areas that NACWA will be focused on working on for bipartisan support mentioned by Mr. McKenna included tackling water affordability, working on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to ensure polluters, not the public pay for addressing the problem, and investing in America’s critical water infrastructure.

Looking for Leadership Opportunities?

Science Fairs - Once again, we NEED You! Help judge high school science projects this March and April for our future water resource professionals. Here's the schedule and hoping you can judge at least at one of these 2025 science fairs.

Northern VA Regional Science and Engineering Fair

- Saturday March 1, 2025

Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering

- Saturday March 22, 2025

2025 Prince William Regional Science and Engineering Fair

-March 6-13 virtual

-March 22 in person

LCPS Regional Science and Engineering Fair

- Wednesday March 19, 2025

FDA White Oak Silver Spring

- Saturday April 5th 2025

Contact members Ken Foo (kfoo@alumni.nd.edu) or Dylan Owen (owen.dylan15@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Openings - Our Board has openings for various leadership positions and areas of expertise dealing with membership, events, and social media and communications. If you are interested contact our member Jim Wheeler (virginiawheels@aol.com).

News, Articles, Opinions, Events - Share water resource information of interest to the FWQA membership for future FWQA Highlights. Submit information to Mary B. Klein (maryl2002@earthlink.net).