



American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

2019 Conference Program Committee Report Fall Trustees Meeting Coeur D'Alene, ID

2019 Conference Program – Vancouver, Washington

Program Development – Assembling the program has been much more of a challenge this year than it has been for the last several years, in large part due to the smaller venue. We've been able to run as many as 8 concurrent tracks in dedicated tech session rooms since 2015. This year, we're limited to a maximum of 7 rooms, and on Thursday morning, we have only 5 rooms available, since 2 of them will be needed for the opening general session.

We received requests totaling 9 sessions for Friday and 6 sessions for Thursday. We've had to not only resolve abstract conflicts, we've had to resolve room conflicts, and in some cases, cut back on the time requested by committees. We're also trying to recognize Section initiatives, by including a wastewater track in support of One Water and our operators holding dual certification, and a Young Professionals track supporting the 2020 Initiative. And finally, for the content that consistently draws the highest attendances, we've tried to make sure that some of that content is presented on both Thursday and Friday.

We have had outstanding cooperation from our committees in working through these issues. (Elizabeth Edgar is most persuasive.) Water Treatment, Water Quality and Research requested some nearly identical sessions, and by consolidating those requests into jointly hosted sessions, we were able free up rooms for use by other committees. As of September 22, it appears that there are only 2 early bird sessions and 1 Thursday afternoon session available for 2 committees that were expected to ask for time, but have not yet done so.

As of September 22, we have 4 pre-conference seminars, sponsored by the Water Treatment, Engineering, Distribution, and Water Information Technology committees. There are 3 early bird sessions, 5 Thursday morning sessions, 6 confirmed and 1 pending Thursday afternoon sessions and 7 sessions each for Friday morning and Friday afternoon. By the fall meeting, we should have a final schedule in hand.

Vendor Education Sessions – Last year, we piloted 15-minute education sessions given by vendors at their booths in the vendor hall. Feedback was mixed, and space is tight, so this year we have decided not to pursue this option. We may re-evaluate for next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Capron, Chair
Elizabeth Edgar, Vice-Chair 2019 Vancouver