



## MEMBER ENGAGEMENT DIVISION REPORT

### WATER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (WIT)

#### Achievements:

- Assistance to the Scholarship committee on their scholarship processes
- Technical moderator to the section's quarterly virtual training
- Website upgrade effort, including committee and subsection support

#### Challenges:

- Manpower
- Uncertainty over future events

#### Goals:

- To recruit one volunteer
- To collaborate with fellow committees within the same division

### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YP)

The YPs are struggling right now. They are having trouble finding engaged members. Without the scavenger hunt at the annual conference, they have not been able to recruit new members that are interested and willing to help continue their legacy of great work. The board should help the current YPs recruit new members that are willing to help with all the great work that they do bringing positive engagement to the section. If we don't get these new, young members engaged in the organization there could be a potential future domino effect of reduced involvement in the section as a whole.

#### Achievements:

- Initiated monthly, virtual webinars about water-industry topics. Hosted five webinars and took a break over the summer. Will be starting the webinars again soon. Webinars were well attended with between 15-30 participants, but attendees were not generally the target audience of YPs. Attendees were instead mostly season professionals.
- Promoted section events, including the YP Water-Tower-Building Competition, YP Mentorship Program, Urban Native Education Alliance math and science tutoring program, and Community Engineering Corps
- Joint-hosted a virtual career panel event with ASCE, which included industry professionals representing water resources, transportation engineering, structural engineering, and more
- Recognized outstanding YP achievement via the Pioneer Award



### **Challenges:**

- Recruiting new YP members in a virtual setting has been difficult. They have struggled to determine how to provide worthwhile engagement and member benefits/camaraderie that YPs care about (see Goals section about mission). Virtual events were planned, advertised and hosted, but YP participation didn't reflect planning efforts.
  - Are people burnt-out on virtual events?
  - Are YPs not getting the support from their companies to be involved or to learn at these trainings?
  - Are YPs not even aware that there is a YP committee they could be involved with?
- Shuffling of leadership was a problem as the chair left the water industry and the vice chair (Annabel Warnell) stepped in as interim chair. This left a gap in other leadership roles within the committee.

### **Goals:**

- Redefine YP mission statement: what's important/relevant to the group and what will draw new membership?
- Need for leadership: The committee chair, Annabel will be on maternity leave starting late November 2021.
- Build YP membership base

## **MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (MEDC)**

### **Achievements:**

- Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee founded and supported
  - D&I held a "Be your Authentic Self" virtual event
  - D&I facilitated a Section-wide survey for a baseline evaluation of our Section's diversity and inclusion
- 2020 Vision Subcommittee
  - Successful Mentorship Program
    - 8 pairs of Mentors/Proteges
    - First all-virtual mentorship program
    - Ran two meet & Greet events as part of the program, one of which coincided with the Fall Trustee's meeting
  - Involvement with the Section's ROP ad-hoc Group

### **Challenges:**

- Time - only two active members



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- Joanie – KCAWWA, 2020 Vision, D&I Committee
- Chris – Supporting D&I, 2020 Vision, ROP Group

**Goals:**

- As always, make transparent the value of AWWA membership.
- Ideally this is done on a more local level - Foster a more collaborative relationship between the MEDC and Section Technical Committees and Subsection.
- Recruitment and succession planning, both for the committee and for the subcommittees.