KY/TN Water Professionals Leadership Academy
Beginnings

- Shannon Lambert attended WEF’s Water Leadership Institute in 2015 with an eye toward starting a local leadership class for KY/TN
- Created a committee in 2016
- Sent out applications for first class in 2017
- Graduated first class in 2018
General Format/Schedule

• Target 10-15 Students per Class
• Applications go out in May
• Class chosen in early summer
• Class announced at KY TN Water Professionals Conference (in the summer)
• Six 2-Day Classes during the year (first in Sept/Oct – last in May)
• Classes held in Chattanooga, Bowling Green, Nashville, Louisville, Knoxville and Lexington
• Graduation at WPC (Water Professionals Conference)
Class Topics

- Self Evaluation
- Leadership Style
- Internal Communication
- Finance
- Industry Perspectives
- External Communication
Class Format

• Begin with lunch on Thursday
• Ice Breakers, Speakers, Group Projects, etc.
• Dinner out Thursday night and something fun
• Friday morning sessions
• End with Lunch on Friday
• Optional tours of local facilities if available
Committee

- Sub Committee of our Joint Conference (WPC) Committee
- Two co-chairs (AWWA & CWP)
- Two leaders for each session
  - Create agenda
  - Schedule speakers
  - Attend and lead session
- Selection group – reviews and ranks applications
- Sponsorship Lead
Finances

• Cost to attend is $750
• Committee’s goal is to raise $12 - $15k in sponsorships
  • Founding Sponsors
  • Session Sponsors (both financial and local utility hosts)
• Starting to offer scholarships for small utilities
Fruit from the Program

• Graduated 3 classes (skipped a year during COVID)
• Over half the committee is now graduates of the class
• Many new committee members for both organizations have come through the class
• Generally have twice to 3x the number of applicants than room in the class
• Not lost any money
Questions