

members can take to engage with the organizations working on these projects.

Women in Water: Informing, Inspiring, Connecting

Monday, Oct 1

5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Room 276

Ticketed event: \$40

During this reception and session, current and future female water sector leaders representing a variety of disciplines – engineering, operations, research, management, and communications – are informed and inspired by guest speaker Fidan Karimova. This exciting event also includes ample time for facilitated peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and support.

Technical Session No. 309: Carbon for Energy or Carbon for BNR: You be the Judge (...Well ok, the Jury)

Tuesday, Oct. 2

8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Room 352

This is an interactive session where attendees will be asked to be jurors in the landmark case: *Carbon for Energy v. Carbon for Biological Nutrient Removal*. Expert litigators will make their best case and our honorable judge will hope to maintain order, but the verdict will be up to you.

Technical Session No. 404: FUNDamentals: Secondary School on Nutrient Removal

Tuesday, Oct. 2

1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Room 347

International Operations Challenge events unite water sector professionals

The Operations Challenge competition tests the skills of wastewater professionals and draws attention to their important work. It also helps competitors build skills and expand professional networks.

The U.S. national Operations Challenge competition is held during WEFTEC, but similar events are held worldwide

Highlighted speakers

- Pusker Regmi, process engineer, Brown and Caldwell
- Bruce Mansell, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
- Sidharta Arora, contract compliance assistant manager, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- David Parry, senior fellow technologist and vice president, CH2M

Are you intimidated by super nerdy nutrient removal sessions? Come and join us for a review of biological and chemical nutrient removal treatment fundamentals. An interactive session that provides an overview, a nutrient roadmap, and approaches for process optimization.

Technical Session No. 535: Operator Excellence: Operations Ingenuity Contest Winners

Wednesday, Oct. 3

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Booth No. 3129, Hall E

Find out who won the seventh-annual WEFTEC Operator Ingenuity Contest. This year's class of entries resulted in three winners.

Not all innovations come from a research lab. Sometimes, you need to tackle a persistent problem using just what's at hand and a big shot of ingenuity. Hear about the winning entries and how they measured up in terms of resourcefulness, safety, and transferability.

Technical Session No. 624: WEFTEC Session: State and Future of Stormwater

Wednesday, Oct. 3

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Room 352

throughout the year. The international expansion of these competitions in South America and Germany unites water sector professionals on a global scale.

Recognition and pride for Argentinean competitors

The 2018 Sanitary Olympics was held June 27 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The

Hear about the current trends in the stormwater sector and take a look at the future. This interactive session will include panel presentations and small group discussions and input. Hear the basic findings from the WEF's Stormwater Institute MS4 Needs Survey as well as panelists' perspectives on the state of stormwater, as well as anticipated changes in the years ahead.

Participants will then be asked to work in small groups and provide feedback based upon panel discussions and WEF's Stormwater Institute objectives.

Technical Session No. 622: U.S. EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

Wednesday, Oct. 3

1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Room 349

Highlighted speakers

- Kevin McDonald, underwriter, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Danusha Chandy, senior engineer, U.S. EPA
- Karen Fligger, senior project manager, U.S. EPA

The U.S. EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA) program will hold a panel discussion with conference attendees.

The session will include a background and a general update on the program as well as a case study on a successful WIFIA loan application process, including both borrower and U.S. EPA perspectives. Following this presentation, the WIFIA program staff will open the floor to allow for questions from the audience.



Two teams represented the U.S. in the World Water Skills competition at IFAT 2018 in Munich, Germany. At left, Lacy Burnette and Troy Newton formed Team KSB East and, at right, Nicholas Janicke and Carlos Vasquez formed Team KSB West. Water Environment Federation (Alexandria, Va.) Senior Manager of Operations Programs Steve Harrison (center) also attended; Harrison runs the Operations Challenge competition at WEFTEC. Lacy Burnette



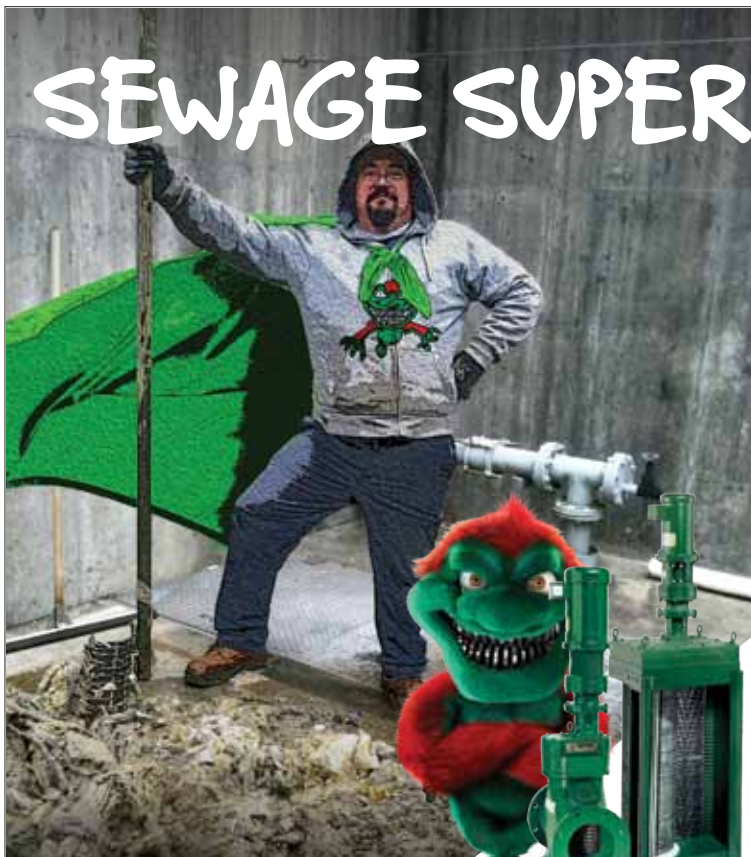
Newton competes in the World Water Skills Laboratory Event. Lacy Burnette

Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) and past participant in Canada's Operations Challenge competition.

The event gives operators, equipment suppliers, union leaders, professional organization representatives, utility management, and the public the opportunity to interact with each other and admire the

skills of competitors, he said.

In 2001, Nolasco moved from the U.S. to Buenos Aires, and proposed an Operations Challenge event to the local WEF Member Association (MA), Interamerican Sanitary and Environmental Engineering Association (AIDIS) Argentina. The AIDIS president supported the idea and



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Team 4KVA of Agua y Saneamientos Argentinos S.A. (AySA; Buenos Aires, Argentina) – Nicolás Couso, coach and captain Pablo Quiroga, Nahuel Sánchez, Sebastián Lomazzi, and Ariel Acosta – won the 2018 Sanitary Olympics in Argentina. AySA

the first competition took place during the AIDIS annual conference and exhibition in 2003, Nolasco said.

Since then, the team that wins the Sanitary Olympics travels to compete at WEFTEC. The runners-up travel to Colombia

to compete at the Sanitary Olympics organized by the Colombian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (ACODAL; Cartagena, Colombia).

This year, nine teams competed in Buenos Aires, but the Argentinian event

has had as many as 16 teams competing (2012). This makes the competition one of the largest hosted by an MA, Nolasco said.

This year's winning team, 4KVA of Agua y Saneamientos Argentinos S.A. (AySA; Buenos Aires, Argentina), will travel to compete at WEFTEC 2018. The team – Sebastián Lomazzi, Nicolás Couso, Nahuel Sánchez, Ariel Acosta, and coach and captain Pablo Quiroga – looks forward to working to develop new knowledge and teamwork techniques, said Héctor Vaccaro, director of maintenance and workshops at AySA. Vaccaro helps organize the Sanitary Olympics for AySA and has competed on several teams, some of which have won that competition and gone on to compete in Argentina, Colombia, and the U.S.

“Competing in both countries gives us an extra learning [experience],” Vaccaro said. “[It] gives us greater belonging and commitment in the task of public service.” In addition to educating about new methods, tools, and equipment in the water sector, competitors learn how to work as a team, make connections, and gain a sense of pride for the work they do, he said.

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Members of two AySA teams, Team 4KVA and Team TWT, gathered for a photo during the 2018 Sanitary Olympics in Argentina. AySA



Members of Team 4KVA work together during the Collection Systems Event at the 2018 Sanitary Olympics in Argentina under the close eye of coach and captain Pablo Quiroga. AySA

German competition offers immersive experience

In May, two U.S. teams competed in the World Water Skills competition during IFAT 2018 in Munich, Germany. KSB Inc. (Frankenthal, Germany) sponsored the 2-member U.S. teams at this competition. For these teams, Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) chose veteran Operations Challenge competitors:

- Lacy Burnette from the West Virginia Water Environment Association (WEA) Blue Ridge Brawlers,
- Troy Newton from the South Carolina WEA Controlled Chaos,

- Nicholas Janicke from the California WEA LA Wrecking Crew, and
- Carlos Vasquez from the California WEA LA Wrecking Crew.

"The best thing about participating at IFAT was being able to immerse myself in a completely different culture and discuss wastewater treatment with people from all around the world," Burnette said.

Burnette and Newton formed Team KSB East; and Janicke and Vasquez formed Team KSB West. The competition was split into two divisions, each incorporating two events. The Sewer Professionals division covered maintenance and safety. The Wastewater

Treatment Plant Professionals division covered process and laboratory events. Both U.S. teams tackled all the events.

Team KSB West earned second place in the maintenance and laboratory events as well as second-place overall in the wastewater professionals category. In addition to their trophies, the U.S. competitors also gained an international network of colleagues and new skills.

Not only are these events different than the Operations Challenge events the U.S. competitors are used to, the teams also had only 1.5 days to prepare. Those days also were the first time Burnette and Newton had competed together; they come from different Operations Challenge teams.

But this experience was educational for Burnette, he said. "My ability to become an efficient problem solver has improved since returning from IFAT," he said. "I also feel that my team-building skills were improved."

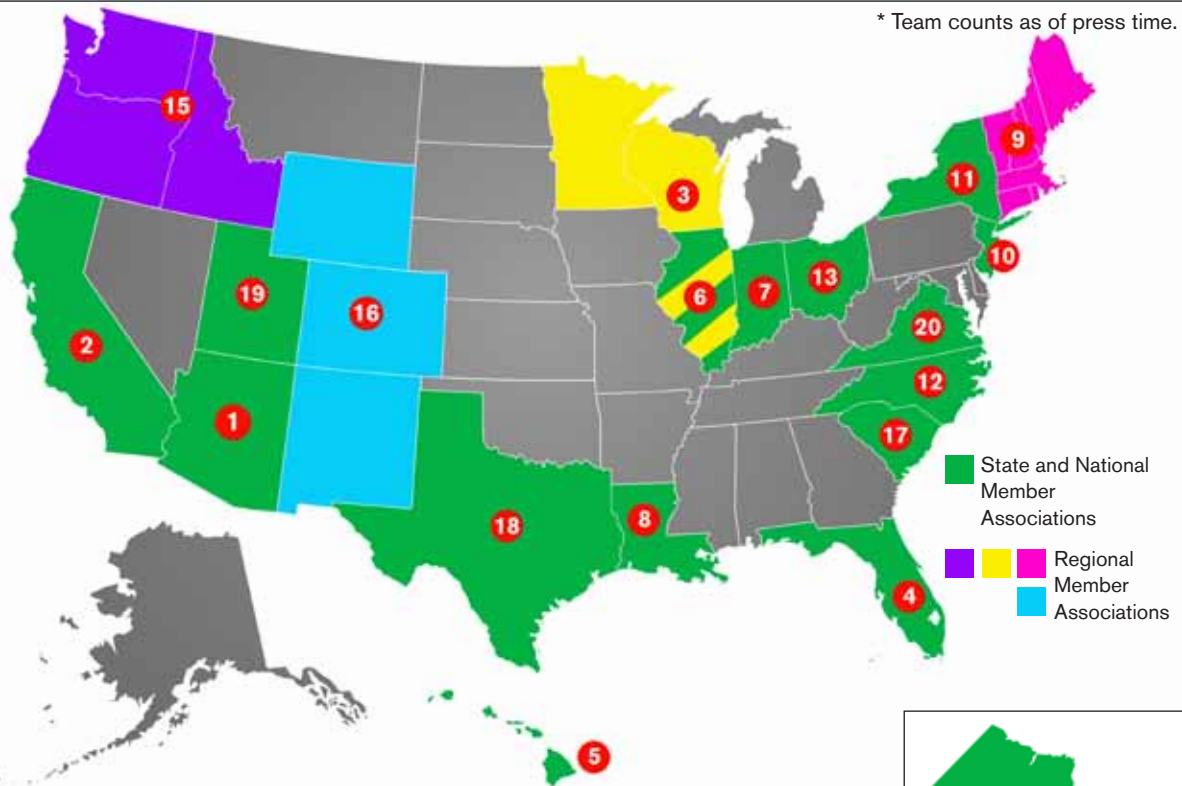
"These competitions unite water sector professionals by giving them a platform to showcase their skills on a national- and international-level," Burnette said. "The conversations I was able to have while at IFAT clearly showed me that we are all on the same team when it comes to protecting the environment and providing clean water to people everywhere."

"I am looking forward to sharing my IFAT experience with other teams that will be participating at WEFTEC," Burnette said.

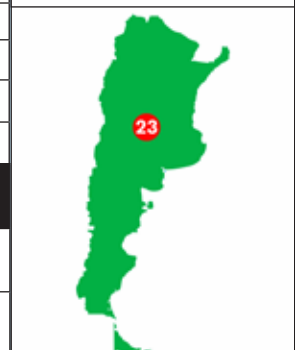
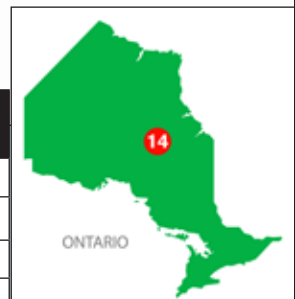
– Jennifer Fulcher, WE&T

Operations Challenge 2018 by Member Association*

* Team counts as of press time.



Member Association	Number of Teams
1 AZ Water Association	1
2 California Water Environment Association	1
3 Central States Water Environment Association	2
4 Florida Water Environment Association	2
5 Hawaii Water Environment Association	1
6 Illinois Water Environment Association	1
7 Indiana Water Environment Association	1
8 Louisiana Water Environment Association	1
9 New England Water Environment Association	3
10 New Jersey Water Environment Association	1
11 New York Water Environment Association	4
12 North Carolina American Water Works Association & North Carolina Water Environment Association	1
13 Ohio Water Environment Association	3
14 Water Environment Association of Ontario	3
15 Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association	1
16 Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association	2
17 Water Environment Association of South Carolina	3
18 Water Environment Association of Texas	6
19 Water Environment Association of Utah	2
20 Virginia Water Environment Association	2
21 British Columbia Water and Waste Association	1



Member Association	Number of Teams
22 Asociación Colombiana de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental (ACODAL)	1
23 Interamerican Sanitary and Environmental Engineering Association (AIDIS)	1