



# The 26th Annual Plant Operations Conference and Top Ops Competition

Presented by the VA AWWA Plant Operations Committee

May 6-8, 2026 | Virginia Beach, VA



This conference is dedicated to promoting education and training, increasing performance and fostering communication among water works operators, maintenance and management personnel.

**\*\* We're excited to premiere our NEW TOP OPS SOFTWARE, part of our commitment to continue building a network for water operators throughout Virginia to support each other and share knowledge. \*\***

So, come match wits against fellow operators, cheer for your favorite team or let us help you get started in forming your own team! For more information about our committee, check out <https://vaawwa.org/page/plant-operations> or ask one of the many volunteer members helping out. We hope you enjoy your conference!

Jamie Morris, VA AWWA Plant Operations Committee Chair, [james.morris@westernvawater.org](mailto:james.morris@westernvawater.org)  
Mike Vest, VA AWWA Plant Operations Committee Vice Chair, [mvest@nnva.gov](mailto:mvest@nnva.gov)

## Comments? Compliments? Critiques?



The Plant Operations Committee wants this to be a *great* event!  
Please complete this 1 minute survey to help us make next year even better.  
<https://vaawwa.typeform.com/popsconf>

## Thanks to our sponsors!



## Wednesday, May 6

- 6:00 pm-6:30 pm **Event Check In - Reception- 2nd Floor**  
*Drinks/Appetizers*
- 6:30 pm-8:30 pm **Roundtable Discussion: Plant Upsets and Problems- What works and what doesn't?**  
*Mark Titcomb- Newport News Waterworks*

## Thursday, May 7

- 7:30 am-9:00 am **Event Check In and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:00 am-8:15 am **Greetings- Plant Operations Committee Chair**  
*Jamie Morris- Western Virginia Water Authority*
- 8:15 am-8:30 am **Exhibitor Showcase**  
*James Frazier- Heyward, Inc. and Guests*
- 8:30 am-9:30 am **Cybersecurity for Operators- First Line of Defense**  
*Zané Mullins, City of Richmond*
- 9:30 am- 10:00 am **Networking Break**
- 10:00 am-11:00 am **Major Investment in VAW Hopewell WTP Means Major Support by Operations Team**  
*Jessica Hou, GFT*
- 11:00 am-12:00 pm **Regulatory Update**  
*Lee Strickland, VDH- Office of Drinking Water*
- 12:00 pm- 1:15 pm **Lunch/Top Ops Competition**  
*Preliminary Competition Round*
- 1:15 pm-2:15 pm **Small System PFAS Treatment**  
*Chris Savino, AdEdge/Chart*
- 2:15 pm **Closing Comments**

**GET YOUR BADGE  
SCANNED AFTER  
EACH SESSION!**

10 WATER OPERATOR  
CPES | 10 PE CECS

## Friday, May 8

- 7:30 am-9:00 am **Event Check In and Continental Breakfast**
- 8:15 am-8:30 am **Greetings- Plant Operations Committee Chair**  
*Jamie Morris- Western Virginia Water Authority*
- 8:30 am-9:30 am **The Richmond Road to Recovery**  
*Tony Singh, City of Richmond*  
*Rob Harvey, Hazen and Sawyer*
- 9:30 am-10:00 am **Networking Break**
- 10:00 am-11:00 am **Shaping Organizational Culture**  
*Jordan Combs, Maury River Service Authority*
- 11:00 am-12:00 pm **Filter Monitoring and Optimization**  
*Brad Weiss, SEH*
- 12:00 pm-1:15 pm **Lunch and Top Ops Competition**
- 1:15 pm-2:15 pm **Radium Treatment in Greensand Treatment**  
*Eric Anderson, CHA*
- 2:15 pm **Closing Comments- Door Prizes**

**GET READY FOR**

# Top Ops 2026!

During the conference, we will hold a competition to find the Top Operators in Virginia.

This competition consists of questions related to water treatment and aligns with the National AWWA Top Ops Competition.

Teams work against time to display answers on a dry erase board. Calculators are provided for math questions.



**Come see the new software that will be rolled out at this year's ACE.**

**We're excited to share this enhanced game experience with you!**

Winners get \$1000 per team member in travel expenses to go to ACE and represent VA AWWA- and a cool belt!



Teams consist of 1-3 licensed operators.

Solo entries welcome!

We can also help you build a team.

### Questions?

Ask Billy at: [wrfentress@cityofchesapeake.net](mailto:wrfentress@cityofchesapeake.net)

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