



*Our 25th
Year!*

2025 Plant Operations Conference

Presented by the VA AWWA Plant Operations Committee

April 30 - May 2, 2025 | Virginia Beach, VA

<https://vaawwa.org/events/25th-annual-plant-operations-conference/>

This conference is dedicated to promoting education and training, increasing performance and fostering communication among water works operators, maintenance and management personnel. Come match wits against fellow operators in the Top Ops Competition or cheer for your favorites. For more information about the sponsoring committee, please visit our web page at <https://vaawwa.org/page/plant-operations> or ask one of the many volunteer members helping out. Enjoy your conference!

Jamie Morris, VA AWWA Plant Operations Committee Chair
james.morris@westernvawater.org



Thank you to our sponsors

Highlights? Suggestions?

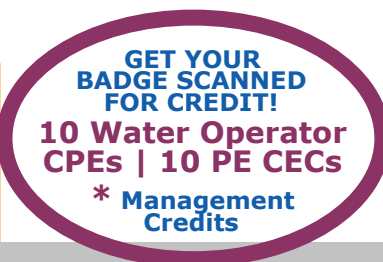
Please complete this 2 minute survey to help us plan for 2026!

<https://vaawwa.typeform.com/popsconf>



Wednesday, April 30

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|-----------------|---|
| 6:00 pm | Event Check In - Reception - (Drinks/Appetizers) |
| 6:30 pm-8:30 pm | *Roundtable Discussions SOPs and Training for Operators - Mark Estes- Virginia Rural Water Association Operator Response to Intruders and Non-water Emergencies -Nicole Webb, Billy Fentress and Tom Johnson- City of Chesapeake |



Thursday, May 1

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|-------------------------|---|
| 7:30 am | Event Check In and Continental Breakfast |
| 8:00 am-8:15 am | Greetings- Plant Operations Committee Chair <i>Jamie Morris- Western Virginia Water Authority</i> |
| 8:15 am-8:30 am | Vendor Introductions and Remarks <i>James Frazier- Heyward, Inc. and Guests</i> |
| 8:30 am-9:30 am | *Preparing Your Team To Succeed In All Situations <i>Jonathan Wright- Consultant</i> |
| 9:30 am- 10:00 am | Networking Break |
| 10:00 am-11:00 am | *Are Your SOPs Worthless Garbage? <i>Brad Weiss, PE, Short Elliott Hendrickson</i> |
| 11:00 am-12:00 pm | *The Decaying Practice of Fluoridating Water <i>John C. Moore- RK&K</i> |
| 12:00 pm- 1:15 pm | Lunch/Top Ops Competition <i>Preliminary Competition Round</i> |
| 1:15 pm-2:15 pm | Homeless Issues Around Water Treatment Plants <i>David Burpeau- Consultant</i> |
| 2:15 pm | Closing Comments |
| 4:00 pm- 7:00 pm | <i>Virginia Section Social- All Welcome!</i> |

Top Ops Competition

Get your team together and match wits with your fellow operators!

During the Plant Operations Conference, a competition is conducted to find the Top Operators in Virginia to represent the Virginia Section at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE). This competition consists of questions related to water treatment and aligns with the National AWWA Top Ops Competition.

Teams consist of 1-3 licensed operators.

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Solo entries welcome!

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We can also help you build a Team.

- Teams work quickly against a timer to select their best answer.
- Each team is provided with a small dry erase board on which to display their answers.
- Calculators are assigned to assist with math questions similar to those on the operator's exam.
- \$1000/team member is offered by VA AWWA for the team to compete at ACE the following year.

Friday, May 2

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|-------------------|---|
| 7:30 | Event Check In and Continental Breakfast |
| 8:15 am-8:30 am | Greetings- Plant Operations Committee Chair <i>Jamie Morris- Western Virginia Water Authority</i> |
| 8:30 am-9:30 am | Designs for Better Operations and Maintenance <i>Eric Anderson- CHA</i> |
| 9:30 am-10:00 am | Networking Break |
| 10:00 am-11:00 am | *Elevating Water Quality Management through Innovative Sensor Solutions <i>Jessica Mannhardt- Cleanwater1</i> |
| 11:00 am-12:00 pm | Microplastics in Water Treatment <i>Dr. Meredith Seeley- Virginia Institute of Marine Science</i> |
| 12:00 pm-1:15 pm | Lunch and Top Ops Competition |
| 1:15 pm-2:15 pm | Water Treatment Plant Automation and Control Systems <i>Patrick Kneisley - Hazen and Sawyer</i> |
| 2:15 pm | Closing Comments |

Please direct questions and comments to Billy Fentress at wrfentress@cityofchesapeake.net