



THE YP CONNECTION

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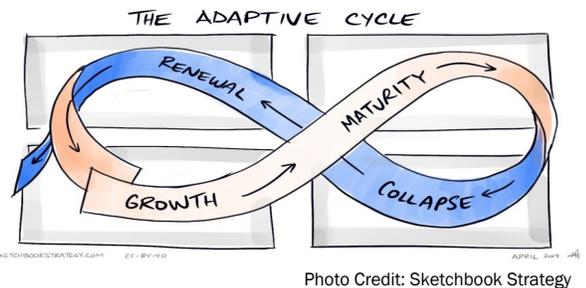
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YPAC Chair Update:

If I'm being completely honest, when I opened my computer to write this chair's message, I didn't really have a topic in mind. This newsletter comes at the crux of so many interesting and important topics and I felt like one or two paragraphs would not be enough to cover all of them. Then Hurricane Zeta hit.

As I type this quarter's message on generator power here in New Orleans, utility workers are busy restoring the things we thought we couldn't live without: power, phone service, internet. This is not an uncommon theme across the United States this year. From hurricanes and forest fires to derechos and ice storms (COVID-19 notwithstanding), every part of the country has seemingly been impacted by some form of hardship and in each case the last thing to come back for the majority of us is the thing we crave the most: connectivity. Our digital world, which has exploded in scope and importance in the midst of the pandemic, is suddenly stripped from us in the form of empty pings and silent dial tones. But as Zeta passed and the clean-up began, connectivity took on a different meaning. Neighbors helped each other clear debris and cut down trees. A local restaurant put on a pot of gumbo for the whole neighborhood. And Halloween persisted, albeit socially distanced and flashlight-aided. I know these scenes aren't unique to New Orleans (maybe the pot of gumbo is), but going through the recovery cycle has reminded me that connectivity isn't refreshing my email or social media accounts every other minute. Connectivity is community. Connectivity is resilience.



I may be jumping the gun a little bit here seeing as the theme for the 2021 ACE is "Environmental Resiliency for Tomorrow," but no organization I work with has better embodied the definition of resilience than A&WMA. From our Council volunteers to headquarters staff, the Association has done a tremendous job in presenting conferences, webinars, and YP events in either virtual or mixed-media formats while adhering to local and state health guidelines. Our industry did not stop for the pandemic and neither did A&WMA. In providing these forums for us to come together, learn from leading experts, and even relax with colleagues over informal Zoom trivia nights and YPAC bingo, the Association did what it does best: connect us. And the cycle of connectivity leading to resilience renews. We would love for you to join this community by either attending upcoming events like the virtual [MEGA Symposium](#) or [Annual Information Exchange](#), submitting an abstract for the [2021 ACE](#), or dialing into our monthly [YPAC](#) calls and learning what we as a Council do to promote the voice of the young professional in A&WMA. And in the near future I hope to see you in person at the January Intercouncil Meeting in Orlando! Until then, stay safe and have a great Fall!

ACE 2020 RECAP (The Virtual Experience)

After making the difficult decision to cancel the on-site portion of A&WMA's 113th Annual Conference & Exhibition due to COVID-19 concerns, A&WMA transitioned ACE 2020 to a virtual format, held June 30 – July 2. The first-ever Virtual ACE incorporated both live and on-demand presentations, with over 20 livestream sessions, 230 slide presentations, 170 audio recordings, 50 full technical papers, and more, all available for attendees to view for a year after the conference.

ACE 2020 attendance exceeded expectations for our first virtual conference, and many sessions drew over 100-200 attendees watching live. The Keynote Plenary Session on Environmental Challenges for Transportation kicked off the conference, while many tuned in for presentations on PFAS and the Emerging Air Emissions Nexus, Air Quality Issues Surrounding COVID-19, EPA Priorities for 2020-2021, New Source Review, and the 50th Annual Critical Review.

Many special events successfully transitioned to a virtual format as well, including the Young Professionals' Breakfast Club, YP/Student Career Panel, Women's Professional Development Presentation, and Environmental Challenge International (ECi) Competition. We also hosted our sponsors and exhibitors with virtual exhibit booths on the conference website.

A&WMA thanks all of the ACE 2020 presenters and chairs, volunteers on the Local Host Committee and Technical Council, and sponsors and exhibitors for making the first Virtual ACE a huge success. We look forward to hosting ACE in person next year, June 14-17, 2021 in Orlando, FL. Visit the [ACE 2021 page](#) to view the Call for Abstracts and submit your work by November 30 to become a presenter.

In addition to ACE 2020, A&WMA transitioned two other events to a virtual format. The New Source Review (NSR) Workshop, held in September, was converted into a 5-part webinar series with excellent turnout. The Science of PFAS: Chemistry, Health, and Multi-media Measurements was held as a virtual conference from September 15-17. A&WMA's first specialty conference on PFAS drew nearly 200 attendees, with over 100 attendees tuning in live for each session. A&WMA thanks everyone involved for making these virtual events successful.



YP Events Across the Country!

Florida Young Professionals Annual (Virtual) Happy Hour



The Florida Young Professionals hosted their annual happy hour during the joint Florida Section, Coastal Plains and Alabama Chapters conference on October 29. Like everything in 2020, the conference and happy hour were held virtually. Microsoft Teams was successfully used to host the attendees, and the moderators left the meeting open for the YP happy hour at the end of the meeting. This encouraged students, YPs and other members to stick around for the event. The Teams platform is flexible and allowed people to participate over the phone, on video or in the chat box. During the happy hour, we played Millennial Trivia, which was made up of a random smattering of pop culture, movie and Halloween themed questions.

Q: Which of these industries are millennials NOT accused of ruining?

- Office Supplies
- Diamonds
- Napkins
- Department Stores

Answer: A) Office Supplies

Midwest Section YP Workshop

On October 6 and 13, the Midwest Section hosted its annual Young Professionals workshop. Typically held in-person on a single day in Kansas City, this year's workshop was held virtually. Topics on the first day included presentations from working professionals in air quality, water resources, solid waste, and remediation. The second day featured quick "speed learning" sessions about working with environmental regulations, climate resiliency in Kansas City, PFAS and emerging contaminants, and using AI/Imaging for environmental investigations, followed by a Q&A panel with working professionals in industry, consulting, and government.

EM Magazine: Want Your Article Published?

A Call for 2021 Submissions

All young professionals are invited to submit their unique perspectives and insights for publication in the *EM* Magazine. Articles published under the YP Perspective column can be technical, introspective, or professional development-related and can be on any topic of interest to you and your YP peers.

Copy deadlines and the planned *EM* issue topics for 2021 are listed below for reference and inspiration. YP Perspective columns should be approximately 1,000-1,200 words and do not have to follow the main edition theme.

The August *EM* issue will feature all YP authors. If you have interest in writing one of the five main articles for this issue, please reach out no later than April 31, 2021 to share your potential topic and allow the editorial team to best develop the special issue.

Issue	Copy Deadline	Feature Article Topic
January	November 3, 2020	Community-Based Air Quality Assessment
February	December 3, 2020	Shipping Impacts on Air and Water Quality
March	January 4, 2021	Waste Management
April	February 3, 2021	Air Quality Modeling
May	March 3, 2021	Renewable Energy
June	April 2, 2021	<i>Annual Conference Issue – Orlando, FL</i> Emerging Contaminants (PFAS)
July	May 4, 2021	Facing up to COVID-19
August	June 3, 2021	Young Professionals Share Environmental Expertise
September	July 2, 2021	New Insights in Air Quality Monitoring Using Satellite Data
October	August 3, 2021	Natural Emissions and Their Impacts on Air Quality
November	September 3, 2021	Implementation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards
December	October 4, 2021	Climate Policy: Five Cities Provide Leadership in Reducing Emissions

Please contact Kerry Weichsel at kweichsel@cecinc.com for more information or if you have an article you would like to share.

Q: With Covid-19 not going anywhere anytime soon and working remotely for the foreseeable future, I am having trouble communicating with my team and understanding directions. It's much easier to learn in person. I feel I am doing a bad job and things are taking me longer than usual because I am not in the office. Help!

A: You are absolutely right that it can be challenging to communicate effectively during this unparalleled time, especially when face to face dialogue has been encouraged for so long, and now suddenly everything is mainly virtual. We find ourselves having to be very creative and your standard instant message might not be doing the trick. By now you have probably heard of different media platforms like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, WebEx, Join Me, etc. If you haven't used any of these or a similar tool, I encourage you to do so as they have call and video options. You can see your coworker(s)/team face to face and engage with them in a normal manner from the comfort of your own home. These media provide an opportunity to connect remotely but yet professionally in a job setting.

Maybe if you need some advice or coaching, a one on one video call might be the more appropriate way to engage. If something is not clear, a coworker can share their screen to show a document or even draw something or write a script and you can watch in real time. There are even features to change your background setting to display an office environment to seem like you are actual in an office building. I know it's not the real tangible thing, but there are some technology advancements to aid us with virtual vs. in person meetings or instructor led trainings. Hearing voices, seeing faces and facial expression may better help you navigate the communication barrier.

Also, don't be too hard on yourself! This is an adjustment period for everyone, including you. It might be a good idea to speak with your supervisor or colleagues and express your feelings. Not everyone adjusts in the same way. Be honest that you work and learn much better in person and are seeking guidance to transition in a virtual realm. Request feedback and then set out an action plan that will help you feel more comfortable and confident in your communication style(s) with the team using this new media. I think that you will find that people will welcome your openness and be more than happy to help in this period. You may even find that others on your team are experiencing the same difficulties but haven't voiced their concerns. Don't be afraid to speak up!

Best wishes to you!

YPAC Officers LIST

YPAC Officer	Position	Chapter	Section
Paul Algu	YPAC Chair	N.A.	Louisiana Section
Vacant Until 2022	Past Chair		
Lindsay Salvador	Vice-Chair	Alabama Chapter	N.A.
Kaitlyn Watkins	ACE Liasion (2021)	NE Florida Chapter	Florida Section
	ACE Liasion (2022)		
Kaitlyn Watkins	Local Support Committee	NE Florida Chapter	Florida Section
Stephanie Friel	Local Support Committee Vice Chair	Delaware Valley Chapter	Mid-Atlantic States Section
Kristin Fritchman	Technical Committee		Allegheny Mountain Section
Vacant	Technical Committee Vice Chair		
Lizzie Rubenstein	Vitality Committee		Allegheny Mountain Section
Vacant	Vitality Committee Member		
Patrick Wright	Communications Committee	Connecticut Chapter	New England Section
Vacant	Communications Committee Vice-Chair	N.A.	Golden West Section
Kerry Weichsel	Publications Committee		Allegheny Mountain Section
	YPAC Volunteer Coordinator		
Ryan Christman	Professional Development Committee	Baltimore-Washington Chapter	South Atlantic States Section
Ross Lowe Beardsley	Professional Development Committee Vice-Chair	N.A.	Golden West Section
Shelley Koehn	Professional Development Committee		Midwest Section

If you have questions or comments on the *YP Connection*, or would like to submit articles, please send an email with *YP Connection* in the subject line to pwright@trccompanies.com