The Water Matters! Fly-In

So, what is the AWWA Water Matters! Fly-In? The origins were an event at the 2001 AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition, which was held in Washington, DC. AWWA took advantage of having ACE in the nation’s capital by staging a rally on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building and by preparing issue packets for AWWA members to use in visits with their members of Congress. The response was so enthusiastic, and AWWA made such inroads with its issues with Congress, that association leaders decided to follow up with another event. The first Fly-In was held in the spring of 2002. The purpose of that Fly-In, and all subsequent Fly-Ins, was to advance AWWA’s legislative issues on Capitol Hill utilizing the broad grassroots power of AWWA. The Fly-In also boosts the name recognition of AWWA and our members among members of Congress. This helps further establish our water professionals as authoritative sources of knowledge and expertise on drinking water issues with members of Congress and their staffs.

The Fly-In is a two-day event. We begin the first morning with briefings, updates and discussions of current drinking water issues before Congress, and issues that we want to bring before Congress. The afternoon and the next morning are set aside for AWWA members to visit their members of Congress. We provide copies of our issue paper or papers in pocket folders on AWWA letterhead, but we also send out the issue papers ahead of the event in case members want to put the papers on their own Section or utility letterhead. We will have a reception that night for participants and invited guests. The Fly-In will conclude with a luncheon on the second day to share information and lessons learned. Detailed agendas will be sent out closer to the event.

We expect Fly-In participants to make appointments with their own members of Congress ahead of the Fly-In.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

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