

# Virginia Laboratory Practices Committee

Stacie Metzler  
QA Manager  
HRSD

# Background

- ▶ **Goal**– Determine and address the laboratory related concerns of membership. Promote professionalism in laboratory practices among laboratories and sponsor a conference each year on new and changing laboratory methodologies and requirements
  - ▶ Joint Committee between Virginia Water Environment Association (Water Environment Federation) and Virginia American Water Works Association
  - ▶ Meets bi-monthly
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# Membership

- ▶ 30 to 40 active members
  - ▶ Laboratory Professionals– Drinking Water and Wastewater
    - Analysts
    - Managers
  - ▶ Regulators
    - Assessors
    - Permit Managers
  - ▶ Vendors
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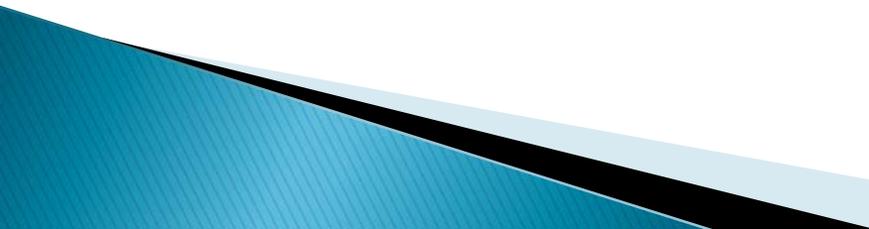
# Annual Conference

- ▶ 150 to 200 Attendees
  - ▶ 30–35 Vendors
  - ▶ Workshops
    - Hands-on Instrumentation
    - Quality Assurance
  - ▶ Technical Sessions
    - Regulatory Updates
    - Innovative technologies
    - Case Studies
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# Annual Laboratory Management Workshop

- ▶ Laboratory and Utility Managers, Analysts, Regulatory Community
  - ▶ Improving Communication
    - Hands-on exercises
  - ▶ Development of Quality System
  - ▶ Accreditation
  - ▶ Ethics Policy
  - ▶ Resolution of assessment findings and corrective action
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# Other Accomplishments

- ▶ Preparing Comments for Proposed Regulations
  - ▶ Development of SOP and QA Manual Templates
  - ▶ Technical Presentations at each meeting
  - ▶ Work with stakeholders to resolve issues
    - Inspection findings
    - Monitoring frequency and methodologies
  - ▶ Work with vendors on evaluation of equipment
  - ▶ Other Activities
    - Science Fair Judging
    - Regional Activities
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# Individual Benefits of Participation

- ▶ Networking
    - Shared experience and problem solving
    - New contacts through leadership
  - ▶ Increased technical knowledge
    - presentations, conference participation
  - ▶ Increased regulatory knowledge
    - Regulatory comments
    - Communication with other stakeholders
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# Organizational Benefits

- ▶ Pooling of resources with other organizations
  - ▶ Development of comments for proposed regulations
  - ▶ Inexpensive regional training opportunities
  - ▶ Increased involvement in regional and national activities
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# Organizational Benefits

- ▶ Increased awareness of current and future issues affecting the laboratory community
  - ▶ Staff development through conference presentations
  - ▶ Recognition– WEF Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award
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# Starting a Laboratory Association

## ▶ Resources

- WEF Laboratory Practices Committee
  - Charter
  - Meetings, webcasts

## ▶ Balanced Membership

- Laboratory Professionals– technical knowledge
- Regulators– disseminate and gather information
- Vendors– Sponsorship/events
- Other Stakeholders– networking opportunities, other technical expertise