



## ABOUT US

The Fox Valley Operators Association has been bringing together wastewater operators from the Fox Valley and surrounding areas for over 50 years. The Association's focus is the operators but is comprised of a variety of occupations in the wastewater industry. The Fox Valley Operators Association is dedicated to educating our members. Information sharing is one of the most valuable tools we operators have. Members meet monthly at various treatment plants throughout the Fox Valley and beyond.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

All Presenters  
All Moderators  
Sue Ruta, Jacobs  
Felice Grandinetti, Village of Carpentersville  
Cathy Piazza, Peterson & Matz.  
Mike Johnson, Hach



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17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fox Valley  
Operators Association  
Conference

**August 21st, 2025**

Medinah Shriners Center  
550 Shriners Drive  
Addison, IL 60101



**[foxvalleyoperators.org](http://foxvalleyoperators.org)**

# SCHEDULE

6:00 – 7:00 am	Guest Registration
7:00 – 8:00 am	Conference Welcome
8:00 – 8:45 am	Technical Sessions #1
8:45 – 9:30 am	Break with Vendors
9:30 – 10:15 am	Technical Sessions #2
10:15 – 10:45 am	Break with Vendors
10:45 – 11:30 am	Technical Sessions #3
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch/Vendor Demos
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Raffle / Awards
2:00 pm	End of Conference



# TECHNICAL SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Session #1 (8:00 – 8:45 am)

Scimitar Room: Work Smarter, Not Harder: Pretreatment Efficiency Tips

**Lisa Lucht, P.E. | Village of Bensenville**

This presentation will provide tips on how to efficiently manage the key requirements of an industrial pretreatment program by working intelligently, finding innovative solutions, and improving productivity. “Work smarter, Not Harder” to streamline your tasks and create a more manageable and fulfilling work experience.

Crescent Room: Mitigating Corrosion of Electrical and Electronic Equipment in Wastewater Treatment Facilities

**Sean Cornelious | Purafil**

This presentation will outline industrial standards and methods for identifying and mitigating corrosion, ultimately reducing operating expenses and improving electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) longevity.

Room B: Enhancing Wet Weather Resiliency with Pile Cloth Media Filtration

**Vedansh Gupta | Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc.**

Explore real-world case studies showcasing pile cloth media filtration’s (PCMF’s) effectiveness in managing peak flows, enhancing carbon diversion, and improving overall treatment efficiency.

## Session #2 (9:30 – 10:15 am)

Scimitar Room: UV or Not UV

**Anne Munoz | Baxter & Woodman, Inc.**

This presentation is an overview of the cost analysis to continue with and upgrade the John McElwain Water Reclamation Facility system for chlorination and dechlorination for complete treatment or to convert to a UV disinfection system, including considerations for chemical, operation, maintenance, and energy costs.

Crescent Room: Upgrading BOD and Ammonia Treatment Capacity for Small and Rural Communities and Giving a 2nd Life to Aging WWTPs

**Juntao Li | Technologies Ecofixe, Inc.**

Examine modular fixed-film technologies incorporating fine-bubble aeration that can be submerged into existing lagoons (or other types of biological treatment) to intensify biomass retention and optimize aeration to help communities comply with stricter effluent limits year-round and increase treatment capacity.

Room B: ABCs of VFDs, Preventive Maintenance, and Troubleshooting

**Mark Martina | ABB - Water Segment**

Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) are common in municipal systems. This presentation will help demystify VFDs by providing a better understanding as to where and why one would use them and identifying potential misapplications and troubleshooting efforts.

## Session #3 (10:45 – 11:30 am)

Scimitar Room: Operators “Bull” Session

**Doug Armstrong, Zac Bonesz, Garrett Guthrie (Facilitators)**

A roundtable discussion of everyday operator issues.

Crescent Room: The Evolution of Blower Technologies in Search of Efficiency

**George Graves | Kaeser Compressors**

Explore how blower technologies have improved over the years. Address how blowers are not a “one technology fits all” type of product by looking at the advantages of the various technologies.

Room B: Sandwich WWTF: Started as a Phosphorous Project, Ended Up As An Electrical Project

**Tom Parkinson | Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI)**

Examine challenges during design and construction for the upgrading of the City of Sandwich’s WWTF’s pre-anoxic activated sludge process with a new anaerobic selector zone and pre-fermentation for Bio-P removal, and supplementing with alum feed. During design it became clear the electrical distribution at the plant needed to be re-worked.