



# 2016 KRWA Annual Conference Review

The largest and most inspiring conference ever hosted by KRWA was held March 29 - 31 at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. The total registration was 2,375 people. The event provided something for everyone, and non-stop. This is the reason that the KRWA conference has the reputation as being one of the best water and wastewater regional conferences in America. Representatives came from 320 cities and 199 rural water districts. Registrations were from 29 states and the country of France.

The 2016 conference also marked the celebration of KRWA's 50th Anniversary. Each registrant's portfolio included an anniversary booklet, showcasing the history of KRWA from its founding in 1966 to the present.

The conference featured a total of 59 training sessions with more than 80 presenters

being involved. Nearly 220 water and wastewater operators took the operator certification exam on Thursday, March 31. Again, KRWA appreciates the certification staff at KDHE for their extra efforts in helping provide special training for water and wastewater operators on Tuesday, March 29 as preparation courses to the exam.

## Who attended?

In 2016, registrants came from 320 cities and 199 rural water districts or other public water or wastewater systems. The attendance breakdown is as follows:

- ❖ Operators: 1,069
- ❖ Administrative Staff: 134
- ❖ Board/Council Members: 156
- ❖ Industry: 960
- ❖ Agency: 52

There were 198 different exhibitors who filled all 345 available booth spaces in EXPO Hall. Manufacturers' representatives and exhibitors registered from 29 states, and France.

While this issue summarizes the 2016 conference, initial plans are already underway for 2017. For starters, EXPO Hall will have additional booths in 2017 taking the total to 365 spaces. As of June 1, nearly 200 spaces have already been reserved.

A review of the conference continues on the next pages. Mark your calendars for the 2017 KRWA Conference at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. The dates are March 28-30, 2017.





# Pre-conference Sessions

## 2016 Engineers' Forum

The second annual "Engineers' Forum" was another success by any measure. A special invitation was extended by USDA Rural Development to all those water and wastewater utilities that had applications for funding. However, many others who wanted to learn about the process of applying for funding also attended. USDA Rural Development officials headed up this special session that also welcomed consulting engineers. USDA representatives who presented included Richard Boyles, Program Support Director, Newton, Kan., Sháne "Shawn" S. Hastings, Community Programs Director Rural Development, Topeka, Kan.; Josh Cohen, Deputy Director, USDA Rural Development, Washington, DC and Randy H. Stone, Civil Engineer, Rural Development, Topeka. There were 32 who attended.



## Fixing Your User Rates

Utility rate analyst Carl Brown explained that user charge rates won't fix themselves. "Unless you learn what fair and adequate rates look like, you can't fix them," Carl said. He reminded those attending that if a water system can't get fair and adequate rates, then they cannot have a well-funded, running-like-a-top utility and well-pleased customers at the same time. This session was designed for two main groups: city and rural water district management staff such as administrators, finance directors and clerks – the rate calculators; and boards and councils – the rate adopters. Carl presented how to determine what is "fair and adequate", when to calculate rates and when to simply increase rates across the board. And last, when and how to get rate setting help. There were 30 who attended this session.

## Water Operator Forum

This full-day training was a must for operators who planned to take the KDHE certification exam. The session offered water operators an excellent opportunity to refresh and review prior to taking the operator certification exam. Topics such as chlorination concepts (free vs. combined, etc.), chlorine residual monitoring; sample collection procedures; well operation and maintenance; knowledge of water quality issues; regulatory update/Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and distribution system operation, including leak detection, water line disinfection procedures, water loss, storage tanks, etc. made for a full-day of presentations. KRWA staff members Pat McCool and Delbert Zerr provided the training. This session was attended by 175.

## Variable Frequency Drives

Those attending this training by Larry Stanley with ABB Drives, Fairfield, Tenn., learned that troubleshooting variable frequency drives (VFDs) is to fix the problem and not the symptom. Stanley explained that issues can arise with VFDs that require troubleshooting to identify root causes to provide proper resolution. Common issues with VFDs were reviewed. These included problems such as failure to start, stop, follow analog, vibration and water hammer, ground faults, unbalanced currents, etc. Safety when troubleshooting was also an important aspect of the training. Water and wastewater operators who attended received five hours of operator credit towards certification. A total of 104 attended.







## Water Wells, Lifeblood of Many Kansas Water Supplies

Aspects of constructing water wells and their maintenance and treatment for public water supplies was the main focus of this preconference session. Everything from baseline information necessary to construct and complete a new production well, the need for test drilling, hydrology services, production well construction, well development and pump selection was discussed. Topics such as groundwater fouling and how to rid those issues using various mechanical and chemical methods was also presented. Another subject of the session was how to determine the efficiency of well production. The day of training concluded with a presentation that explained Ion Exchange and Layne Ox water treatment method. Presenters were Jim Seley, Pat Jurcek and Mike Busch with Layne Christensen Company, Wichita, Kan., and Mike Schneiders, Water Systems Engineering, Ottawa, Kan. A total of 87 attended.

## Leadership Skills for Avoiding and Resolving Problems

Gary Flory and Dan Wassink of the Great Plains Consensus Council in North Newton, Kan., presented an inspiring day of leadership training. How to become a better listener? This training presented information on how to be a collaborative leader and how that approach helps people be better board, council or staff team members. This was not just a lecture presentation. The day involved many participation exercises. Those attending readily identified how this training will help them resolve conflicts when speaking to staff, holding better board/council meetings, dealing with subordinates and workers alike. One of the session evaluation comments was, "I will use this in my daily work life with co-workers. I learned a lot through this class." There were 54 who attended this training.



## Water Distribution: Hydrants and Valves, System Components, Useful Tools and Practices

No one can have enough training on water distribution and the myriad of materials that are available today. This session covered many of the components used in modern water utilities. Presentations focused on hydrant and valve operation and maintenance, as well as couplings, clamps, saddles, tapping sleeves and multi-range bolted couplings. Subjects such as making repairs in the distribution system including applications of the multi-range bolted repair couplings. Another segment of the training was to provide education on nomenclature, in other words how to minimize confusion when ordering materials. Presenters included Kent Culbertson, American AVK, Nevada, Mo.; Pete Settini, American AVK, Oskaloosa, Ia.; George Ulmer, Smith-Blair, Inc., Raymore, Mo.; and Dan Clemens, HD Supply Waterworks, McPherson, Kan. A total of 166 attended this training.







## Best Practices for Lift Stations

Those attending this preconference session likened it to a “Lift Station 101” course. This training was a complete overview of lift stations. The approaches to lift stations, including dry-pit and wet-pit arrangements and understanding the purposes and nuances of components and controls and proper operation and maintenance were main topics. A complete station was on hand as a prop to supplement the presentations. Common issues such as water hammer, pump rebuilds, and the dreaded epidemic of pump clogging caused by consumer flushables in the collection system drew attention of those attending. This training was provided by representatives of Smith & Loveless, Inc., Lenexa, Kan. Presenters were John Mowen, P.E.; Alex Tabb and Bob Durdee. There were 210 in attendance at this training session.

## Chemical Feed Pumps – Stay With The Flow

Don Van Veldhuizen, USABlueBook, Gurnee, Ill., provided this preconference training on chemical feed pumps. The training included diaphragm and peristaltic pumps, and the operation and maintenance of these units. Chemical feed pumps are the small workhorses that provide needed chemicals to help water systems deliver safe drinking water and in wastewater systems to provide proper treatment. The training also included reviews to help operators calculate dosages and set the controls of the equipment to obtain optimal performance. Thanks again to the presenter Don Van Veldhuizen, Senior Technical Support Representative/Technical Training Manager at USA BlueBook. There were 65 in attendance.

## City Clerks’ Forum

City clerks found good camaraderie in this forum. It’s the one place where clerks can discuss the wide variety of duties many clerks have. The morning portion of training was presented by Christie McReynolds, National Staff Member of USDA Rural Development. Christie explained and demonstrated the agency’s new RDApply, online loan application process. Additional training focused on emerging personnel issues. Those dealt with the daily challenges in city hall, and the legal compliances with the numerous regulations and ordinances. The main topics were property regulation of gun possession by city employees; workplace bullying; discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and social media use by public employees. Additional presenters were Nicole Prioux Aiken and Eric Smith, both with the League of Kansas Municipalities, Topeka, Kan. There were 37 clerks who attended.

## RWD Office Forum

Rural water district bookkeepers and managers remain key to the successful operation of water systems across Kansas. This training included a morning session that discussed regulations that must be met by rural water districts. Jason Solomon with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, reviewed the regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act and necessary compliances. The presentation included an overview of water quality issues, requirements of public water systems, maintaining and monitoring chlorine residuals and compliance and sampling results. After lunch, Christie McReynolds, National Staff Member with USDA Rural Development, introduced and demonstrated the agency’s newly released loan application process called RDApply. This new feature by USDA embraces the changes in technology to provide for more efficiency for the applicant and the agency. Facilitators for the Forum were Sharon Dywer, Douglas RWD5, Lawrence, Kan., and Patricia Shaffer, Butler RWD 5, Benton, Kan. There were 39 who attended this day-long training.



**Don't Miss it! – Mark your calendar now  
for next year's 50th KRWA  
Annual Conference and Exhibition!  
March 28-30, 2017**





# Solving Problems Before They Begin

## Leadership session encourages consensus, culture, listening

**T**he best time to address a problem in the workplace is before it starts.

There were 54 Kansas Rural Water Association 2016 annual conference-goers who attended a preconference session to develop leadership skills to avoid and resolve problems.

The session, conducted by representatives from the Great Plains Consensus Council in North Newton, gave those assembled the opportunity to participate in activities to practice working with others in a collaborative way. The Consensus Council is part of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Social Conflict Resolution at Bethel College.

**Gary Flory**, with the Consensus Council, discussed the value of making decisions by consensus, a method that could be time-consuming, but could ultimately lead to long-lasting, productive outcomes both within an organization and with customers in communities.

“The most efficient way to make decisions is to have a king,” he said. “Most of us don’t work in offices where that works long-term.”

The concept of working toward consensus was introduced through an exercise in which individuals were asked to rank the effectiveness of items on a list if they were lost at sea, and then discuss their choices while ranking each item as a group.

In most cases, individuals had to agree on the best ranking for the group, even if it wasn’t their own – a critical component of coming to an agreement through consensus.

The process showed the importance of answering a single, well-defined question, Flory said.

“If groups are trying to answer different questions, it’s difficult to find answers,” he said. “At the start of any meeting, even an informal work group, the most important question is ‘what are we trying to answer?’ If you aren’t starting with that question, it can create issues.”

Using a process to determine which ideas a group can support is important, particularly if groups are made up of representatives from different areas or opinions, Flory said.

“Consensus is not the same as unanimity,” he said.

Workplace culture can contribute to challenging situations, said **Dan Wassink**, who along with Flory represented the Consensus Council.



**Dan Defore, city of Winfield; Ericka Nicholson, city of Quinter; and, Chris Weiner, city of Girard were among the 54 who attended the day-long training that addressed leadership skills and problem solving techniques.**

**“The most efficient way to make decisions is to have a king,” he said. “Most of us don’t work in offices where that works long-term.”**

The group described some challenges between different workers in their offices, including field staff vs. office staff, people who prefer texting to talking on the phone, and generational differences in communication style.

The best way to address those differences, Wassink said, was to call them out.

“You can have multiple strategies and approaches to problems in a culture if you recognize that and accommodate that,” he said.

The session ended with a “talking circle,” in which groups were given a stick and asked to build on the previous speaker’s comments and add their own, allowing one person to speak at a time in order to practice good listening skills.

Those who attended included KRWA board members and rural water district staff and board members from large, medium and small communities around the state.

**Paul Rush**, chairman of Doniphan RWD 6, said the process would have been beneficial for his part of the state during conversations about joining other water districts to create a public wholesale water supply district.

“I think this would have been very useful – allowing for some mediation between the boards in our area to reach a consensus,” he said. “This would have allowed us to get the white elephants on the table. I think the direction the rural water community is going is to regionalize resources. This showed we can’t assume a lot of the positions that various





people are taking, but the need to come to a common ground about something.”

**Preston Harness**, the vice-chairman of Doniphan RWD 6, said the concepts could lead to more effective board meetings.

“We get some off-the-wall questions from the general public when they show up,” he said. “They don’t always understand why we do what we do. Maybe this will give us some empathy in dealing with them.”

**Jacob Wood**, the assistant city manager for the city of Hays, said that local governments and rural water districts often reacted to problems – and the session showed that it was important to think about communicating effectively with customers and the public to prevent problems before they arise.

“We need to think about how we communicate with the people who are calling in or have concerns,” he said. “If we don’t do it the right way, it’s going to cause problems.”

**Debby Smith**, secretary of the board for Jefferson RWD 13, said the information could be applicable in every part of life – not just at work.

“When we’ve had conflicts on our board, it has really helped to slow down and listen to what everyone had to say,” she said. “That helps people to come to a moderate solution, in the middle.”

**“When we’ve had conflicts on our board, it has really helped to slow down and listen to what everyone had to say,”**

**Anne Stephens**, the public works director and city engineer for the city of Bel Aire, said the day following the session that she had already spoken to the city manager about including a session about leadership at their next monthly meeting.

“I thought it was awesome,” she said. “I liked the methods for reframing and diffusing confrontation. It’s hard to know how to diffuse confrontation between two groups.”

Flory said it had been “refreshing” to spend time with the group.

“Rural water people are truly interested in other people,” he said. “I think they are very much a part of their communities. They are interested in maintaining good relationships. It was good to work with this group.”

Sarah Green is a writer, editor and consultant. A graduate of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas, Green has written for local and national publications including *The Hutchinson News*, the *KHI News Service* and *Saveur* magazine. She lives in Wichita.



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**Terry Merritt**  
Division Manager





## 2016 Marks 16th Attorneys' Forum



**Teresa L. Shulda, Foulston Siefkin, LLP, Wichita, Kan. presented on the subject Ethical Obligations Surrounding Cyber-Security Issues during the Attorneys' Forum.**

**T**he 2016 Conference also featured the 16th Annual Attorneys' Forum. Attorneys have appreciated this event over the years as it provides an opportunity for them to share their experiences concerning water and wastewater utility legal matters, regulatory issues and water law. This Forum also provided 6.5 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit. Topics and presenters included the following:

- Prepare Yourself and Your Clients; Ethical Obligations Surrounding Cyber-Security Issues by Teresa L. Shulda, Foulston Siefkin, LLP, Wichita, Kan.
- Public Finance: Dodd Frank; Continuing Disclosures; Financial Advisory Rules, and More by Mary F. Carson, Triplett Woolf & Garretson, LLC, Wichita, Kan.
- Evidence Presentation: Say It With Pictures by Tim Orrick, Orrick & Erskine, LLP, Overland Park, Kan.
- There were two roundtable discussions held in the afternoon with topics including: Payments by Credit Card; Exclusive/non-Exclusive Easements; Use of Platted Easements; Liens for Non-Payment; Acquisition of Easements for Roads; and other topics of interest
- At 2 p.m. there was a presentation by William Carr, Bureau of Water at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kan. on the Public Water Supply Loan Fund.
- The second roundtable discussions included these topics: Cases; New and Pending Legislation, RWD Benefit Unit Transfers; Fourth Amendment and Public Water Supplies; Water Purchase Contracts; Secondary Water Quality Standards and Non-Compliance.

The Forum was organized and facilitated by Gary Hanson, Stumbo Hanson, LLP, Topeka, Kan. There were 36 attorneys in attendance.

## 2016 5K-KRWA Conference Run/Walk

**A**nd they're off! It's 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 and it's the start of the 4th annual "Almost 5K-KRWA Conference Run/Walk". It was a moderately cool morning, unlike a couple of past conferences.

KRWA's Mark Thomas was challenged in explaining the detours that were necessary because of downtown construction projects in Wichita. A construction project on the River Walk rerouted the usual course that normally keeps participants off the busy Wichita streets. But in 2016, everyone had to cross two intersections. Thankfully no one was injured in a traffic accident and no one became lost.

Josh Cohen, Deputy Administrator of USDA Rural Development, took home 1st place in the men's division. His time was 24:34 on the 2.8 mile course. KRWA Director and Manager of Johnson RWD 7, Allan Soetaert, had a time of 25:15. Jennifer Blair of the city of St. Francis earned 1st place in the women's at 34:46. Alexandra Whisler with the city of Kansas City Board of Public Utilities was second in the women's division with a time of 37:20.

Hot chocolate with donuts, bagels and fresh fruit was enjoyed by the runners as they returned to Century II.





# Opening Session



Sam Atherton, KRWA President

## ***“Welcome, To This 50th Anniversary of KRWA”***

**H**ello, hello, Kansas Rural Water! Welcome to your 50th Anniversary – *Quality Water Made in Kansas*.

“I wear a lapel pin that says, ‘Kansas as big as you think.’ That certainly was the thinking of our forefathers who founded this great organization, the Kansas Rural Water Association, fifty years ago.

“The founders of the KRWA recognized that there was a need for an organization that

could be of help to community water systems in Kansas. However today’s terminology and technology have greatly changed in fifty years. In 1966 the first handheld calculator was invented. Medicare began in July 1 of that year. Eight track was a new fangled option on many Ford cars. The saying ‘Beam me up Scottie’ was real on TV but not as real as it could be today. Today, words like THM’s, HAA5’s, Disinfection By-Products, GPS mapping, CCR Reports, Total Coliform Rule, Public Wholesale Water Districts are in our vocabularies. The list goes on and on with more acronyms never heard of in 1966.

“KRWA responds to thousands of calls annually. The rapport that KRWA has with people across Kansas and the United States is beyond impressive. Because of strong Leadership and with good management the KRWA will continue to be respected for the organization that does what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, 24-7. Simply stated ‘KRWA Helps Others’.

“I read that one of the only challenges fifty years ago was how to have two sessions in one large room. Today there are no less than 345 exhibits, 12 preconference sessions, 48 educational sessions – all a far cry from two sessions fifty years ago. I wish I could come back in fifty years to KRWA’s 100th anniversary. I can only imagine how primitive our grandchildren and great grandchildren will probably think we are in 2016. When I think 2066 it brings up lots of questions, such as water availability across Kansas, population demands on our H<sub>2</sub>O and more.

“But today we are here in Wichita to educate ourselves about our chosen profession – WATER. We come to meet new friends and visit with our peers. Some of you are wanting to win some of the \$10,000 prizes to be given away.

“Ladies and gentlemen, let’s go out and enjoy your 50th Convention *Quality Water Made in Kansas*. I hope you are glad you are here too.

“Thank you and God bless each of you.”

## **Butler Headliners Described as “Simply Awesome”**

**I**t’s an early trip from El Dorado for the Butler Headliners to arrive at Century II in Wichita by 7:30 a.m. But it’s a trip they have made for more than a dozen years now to help the KRWA Conference get off to one rousing start. The Headliners are a high energy level show choir that is nationally acclaimed. Their performance at the 2016 Conference was described as inspiring and spectacular according to many of those who attended. The Headliners played to nearly a full house on the lower level of Concert Hall which seats 1,700.

There are 36 singer/dancers in the show choir. The choir is directed by Valerie Lippoldt Mack. A five-piece combo accompanies the group with instrumental music; two other students serve as stage manager and sound manager. The students must maintain a minimum grade point average to participate in the group, Lippoldt Mack has reported to KRWA. The group’s members go on after they graduate from Butler to become performers for the Walt Disney theme parks, Worlds of Fun, and to own their own dance studios, direct church and community choirs, and become doctors, lawyers and teachers.

KRWA provided a \$3,000 stipend to the Butler Headliners in 2016. They are repeat performers at KRWA’s conference – and they always have a complete new show. “They are simply awesome”, said KRWA President Sam Atherton.







## Special Guest – Josh Cohen



### USDA Rural Utility Leader Praises Kansas Water Systems: “Proud” of State’s Zero Delinquent Loan Payment Rate

One of the nation’s top rural utilities officials praised Kansas water systems and the people who operate them during the annual Kansas Rural Water Association Conference.

Josh Cohen, Deputy Administrator for the Rural Utilities Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service, addressed the conference attendees during Wednesday morning’s opening session.

“I was appointed six months ago, and this is my first state rural water conference,” Cohen said. “Not that the USDA plays favorites, but the Kansas Rural Water Association is, hands down, the best of the state rural water conferences.”

Cohen, a former mayor of Annapolis, Md., said that the recent news about drinking water in Michigan had put a new focus on the work of those involved with public water systems.

“The horrible tragedy of Flint has put the issue of safe water on everyone’s mind in a way it hasn’t been in recent memory, thank goodness,” he said. “Here in Kansas, all of you who serve rural water districts, public water

wholesale supply districts, those of you who are paid staff and those of you who volunteer your time, all of you, every day, have the opportunity to shape the quality of your water and wastewater, and hopefully avert a terrible situation like that from happening here.

“I want to commend you all. So many take what you do for granted, and because of you, so many enjoy their water and their quality of life here in Kansas.”

Cohen said he was “very proud” to note that, of 292 USDA loans to 178 borrowers in Kansas, zero were currently delinquent with their payments, a statement welcomed with loud applause from the crowd.

Interest rates as of Friday, April 1 for water projects would be the lowest they’d ever been, Cohen said, making it a favorable time to apply for new loans.

“If there’s a project that you’ve been thinking about that would be an enhancement that your community needs to make, seriously consider making this the time,” he said. “I don’t know if we will ever have a financial environment as favorable as the one we will have this Friday.”

USDA Rural Development continues to encourage communities to work together on regional water projects, Cohen said, and has set aside special funds for projects with two or more partners.

“Just like local governments, the federal government is trying to make ends meet, too,” he said. “Supporting regional partnerships is rewarding people who work together. It may not be the right solution, but I would encourage you when you’re putting in a loan application to look at regional projects.”

The process for applying for USDA loans has been made more efficient with the RDAApply online application site, Cohen said, which should improve the USDA’s operations and also those of rural water system bookkeepers.

“It’s a response to Congress that we are being good stewards of taxpayer dollars,” he said. “There are a lot of i’s that need to be dotted and a lot of t’s that need to be crossed. That’s just a virtue of dealing with public funding.”

Cohen told the Lifeline after the opening session that he appreciated the connectedness of the state’s rural water systems to their communities.

“One of the special qualities about Kansas Rural Water and the various water districts is that so many of the folks who work in the industry here are from the area,” he said. “It’s more than just a job. They understand the community, and they care about the community. It’s about more than just providing good quality water and wastewater systems, it’s about ensuring the vitality and sustainability of their community.”

People who live in urban areas take for granted many of the essential utilities that rural American communities struggle to build and maintain, he said.

“The Rural Utilities Service is doing more than fixing water systems and distribution systems, it’s really making sure rural America remains vibrant,” Cohen said. “There’s untapped opportunity in rural America because of the way of life, and the quality of life there.”

“Communities are tight-knit. Families raise their children together, spend time at school events together, serve on rural water district boards together. There’s something special about the connections that exist in rural America.”



**Josh Cohen**  
USDA Rural Development



# Keynote Speaker – David Browning

## The Mayberry Deputy Discusses “Attitude”

**D**avid Browning – “The Mayberry Deputy” and his involvement in the 2016 KRWA conference was met with cheers and applause galore. In a near cloning of Don Knotts in his role as Deputy Barney Fife from the “Andy Griffith Show”, Browning was the spark that lit the opening fire at the conference. He joined in the 50th Anniversary Party and sang while the King Midas Band accompanied him. No only was the Deputy a floor comedian, he demonstrated his vocal talent as well.

But that was Tuesday evening. No one was prepared for what might happen on Concert Hall stage the next morning for the Opening Session.

The Deputy and local actor Ryan Ehresman, playing Ernest T. Bass, kicked off the Opening Session with a skit from a scene straight out of Mayberry. “It’s me, it’s me, it’s Ernest T” was all it took for the Deputy to charge onto the stage to try to clear Ernest T. off stage. Complete with the throwing of rocks and the sounds of breaking glass windows, the duo had an ongoing verbal exchange that was reminiscent of the great Andy Griffith shows of the 60s. After the opening welcomes and addresses, and a rousing musical revue by The Headliners, the Mayberry Deputy took the stage for the keynote. The address was wrapped in humor and involvement of some audience members – but Browning came to give a message. And deliver he did!

Browning explained how he came about in the role of playing the Mayberry Deputy.

“Back in 1989, I was running a community theater and playing roles in its productions when a friend of mine asked me to do this character for a bluegrass concert. And that was with the Dillard’s (a family band with roles in several episodes of “The Andy Griffith Show”). That was the first time I wore this deputy costume. It went over so well that I started doing the same act at churches and civic clubs.

“Then in 1991, I was asked to go to Nashville to be part of a Mayberry cast reunion just to add to the atmosphere. On



David Browning  
The Mayberry Deputy

the second day of that event, Don Knotts (the actor who portrayed Deputy Barney Fife in the TV show) called me into his dressing room and asked me to perform as his opening act at engagements that he did. It was July of 1994 before I finally got to open for him. And the next month I went full time. We did about 20 shows together, and I kept doing other appearances on my own.

Browning ended with the simple formula for being a good Deputy. It was this:

- D - Decide to Make a Difference:** Whatever we do in our lives needs to make a difference for other people.
- E - Energize Those Around You:** I recall listening to speaker in Florida who suggested that everyone look at their feet. He then stated, “They are all above ground, right? So be energized. Yes, you’re feet are about ground. Let’s get going!”
- P - Prove You Are Worthy Of Others’ Friendship:** If someone messes up, help pick them up, dust them off. We all need that in our lives. Prove that you are worthy of other people’s friendship.
- U - Use All Your Talents:** Search your heart, your mind and your soul and look for other things that you can do. Use all the talents you’ve been given.
- T - Talk To One Another:** We must talk to each other. You cannot make friends by texting on a cell phone. Everything you type can be interpreted five different ways. Look the person in the eye and have a conversation.
- Y - Yesterday is Gone - Make Today The Best Day Of Your Life!** We can remember things. We can hold on to values we learned. But yesterday is gone. We make new memories today.

A near full-house in Concert Hall showed appreciation with a standing ovation.







# 2016 EXPO Hall – Largest in Mid-America

**T**he 2016 KRWA Conference & Exhibition featured the largest display of products and services for the water and wastewater utilities ever gathered in one location in Kansas.

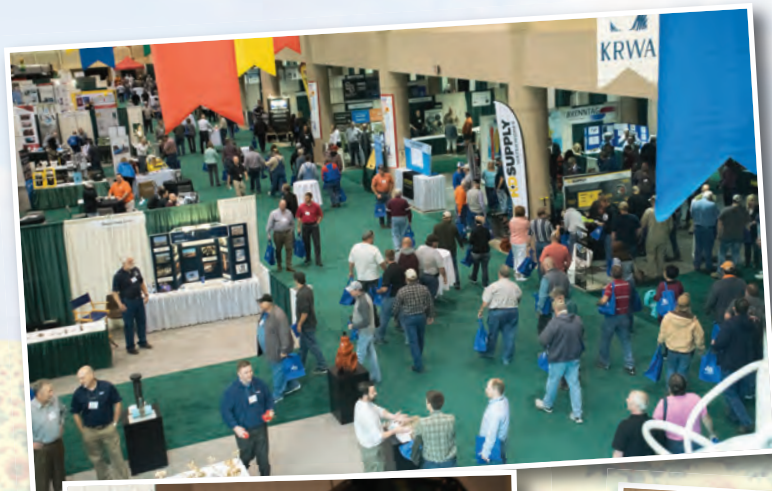
A total of 345 exhibit spaces filled the 93,000 square feet of EXPO Hall at the Century II Convention Center. State and federal agencies joined suppliers, manufacturers, consultants and other service providers to provide the largest venue ever. Backhoes, trenchers, utility trucks, tools, computer software, financial services – you name it and it was there.

2017's conference EXPO Hall floor plan has already been announced and will be expanded to 365 exhibits. Nearly 200 spaces have already been reserved by June 1. The KRWA Conference & Exhibition will continue to grow because it provides good value in a down-home fashion. It's like a huge family reunion, where people learn about new products and services, exchange ideas, do business, make new friends and create lasting relationships.

Thanks to all the exhibitors for their participation and support. These pages show a few of the scenes from EXPO Hall.



The KRWA conference offers opportunities for agencies and engineers to meet. Shane Hastings, Program Chief with USDA Rural Development, discusses a funding application with Don Hellar, EBH Associates.



Rich Champlain and Tim Rafferty of EJ, Kearney, Mo. and Dee Donoho, Harper RWD 5, had a discussion about supplies and materials.



"Remembering Our Fallen" pays tribute to all those from Kansas who have sacrificed their lives in the Iraq War.





Allison and Kent Markely from Douglas RWD 2, Lawrence, Kan., visit with Steve Hoerr, Kupferle Foundry Company, St. Louis, Mo.



Randall Harris with Chisholm Creek Utility Authority at Bel Aire, Kan. has been meeting with Rick Van Kirk and Jim Stone with Letts, Van Kirk & Associates, Kansas City, Kan.



Left: Brian Rogers, International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials from Cedar Rapids, Ia., and John Rayl, city of Osawatomie after a discussion.



Connie Ralph, Manager at Public Wholesale District No. 12 at Melvern Reservoir, visits with Mike Robertson and Darren Pursifull with Sidener Environmental Services.



Mike Douglas with Douglas Pump, Lenexa, Kan. visits with Dirk Larsen, Operator with Ellsworth RWD 1.



Many water systems met with agency representatives during the conference. Pictured are Debra Mildfelt, Rick Weideman and Todd Stevenson with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Scott and Trisha Gibson from the city of Ozawkie.



Popcorn! Come and get it! That's a common line from Doug Napier of Hawkins Chemical as Hawkins popped corn for many other visitors in EXPO Hall.





# 2016 KRWA's Welcoming – 50th Anniversary Party



**F**ood for 1,500 people – it was fabulous beef and pork barbecue served by Corporate Caterers. “A full-meal deal” -- no better to be had, complete with an ice cream bar! There was social and games, an amusement ride and more than \$10,000 in prizes.

There was the rocking “King Midas and the Mufflers” band. These guys do rock! And they drew rounds of applause for bringing “real music” to the 2016 KRWA Conference opening nite 50th Anniversary Party.

“The Mayberry Deputy” made his first appearance, passing out citations for whatever infraction could be tossed out at the moment. David Browning as “The Deputy” spiced up the evening by participating impromptu with a couple of songs with the band and added pizzazz to the prize drawings, including riding a mountain bike around the entire



“The Mayberry Deputy” gets in on the act, singing several songs to the accompaniment of King Midas and the Mufflers.



Bob and Shirley Hemenway (in red shirts) were honored by Key Equipment with a \$1,000 donation to the Technical Assistance Program Survivors (TAPS). The Hemenway's son was killed in the attack on the Pentagon on 9-11. The remains of their son Robert and four others were never located. Also in photo is Debbie Austin – a Gold Star mother with “Remembering Our Fallen” along with representatives of Key Equipment and Federal Signal Corporation.



Those attending the 50th Anniversary Party participated in more than 40 midway game trailers, the Sizzler ride, pool tables and other video games, caricaturists a photo booth, Water Bingo, a casino with a host of games, bull riding, basketball toss, Hi-Stryker, and an “Oxygen Bar”. It's one of the most energetic opening events you'll find at any conference.







## 50th Anniversary Party Prize Winners

Prize	Winner	System
\$250 VISA Certificate	Scott Kasl	City of Belleville
\$250 VISA Certificate	Leonard Mostrom	City of Burdett
\$250 VISA Certificate	Phillip Cooper	City of Emporia
\$250 VISA Certificate	Tanner Tuttle	City of Gove
\$250 VISA Certificate	Alan Brown	City of Riley
\$250 VISA Certificate	Terry Stephenson	Cowley RWD 1
\$250 VISA Certificate	Bob Becker	Franklin RWD 2
\$250 VISA Certificate	Denise Eggers	Jefferson RWD 12
\$250 VISA Certificate	Owen Daniels	Midland Manufacturing
\$250 VISA Certificate	Randy Mark	Sedgwick RWD 2
29" Genesis Men's Mountain Bike	Trevor Gardner	City of Beloit
Airhead 2-Person Towable Tube	Virgil Ray	Anderson Cons. RWD 1
Alpine Boy/Water Pump Fountain	Kristina Haverkamp	Nemaha RWD 3
Apple Ipad Mini 2 16 GB WiFi	Lora Yeomans	Shawnee Cons. RWD 1
Avanti 12-Bottle Wine Cooler	Steve Phyllis	City of Protection
Beach Umbrella	Matthew Comfort	City of Leoti
Beach Umbrella	Chris Weller	Saline RWD 2
Browning Strike Game Camera	Phil Jeanerett	Lyon RWD 3
Cuisinart 5-n-1 Griller/Waffle Maker	Colleen Weller	Saline RWD 2
Cuisinart 12-Cup Food Processor	Stephen Smith	Layne Christensen Company
Cuisinart Soft Serve Ice Cream Maker	Curtis Swenson	City of Miltonvale
Dewalt Drill / Driver	Roger Brandt	Leavenworth Cons. RWD 1
Duraflame Power Heater	Shannon Young	City of Lyons
GoPro Hero4 Silver Camera	Patrick Garrett	Leavenworth Water Dept.
Great Wolf Lodge 2-night stay	Justin King	City of Burlington
iTouchless Robotic Vacuum Cleaner	Charles Richardson	Sedgwick RWD 2
Keurig Rivo Brewer	Mike Dawson	Shawnee Cons. RWD 1
KitchenAid Artisan Chrome Mixer	Sandy Benoit	Rooks RWD 3
Margarita Frozen Concoction Maker	Kristina Haverkamp	Nemaha RWD 3
Master Mechanics 116 Piece Tool Set	Debbie Schlabach	Washington RWD 3
Newcastle LP Gas Fire Pit Bowl	Kevin Krisle	CH2M
Nostalgia Retro Kettle Popcorn Popper	Teresa Steele	KRWA
Ozark Trail Folding Wagon	George Vanderpool	Crawford RWD 5
Pioneer Woman Cookware Set	Dennis Albrecht	City of Herington
Power XL Pressure Cooker	Mike Dawson	Shawnee Cons. RWD 1
Richard Petty Driving Experience donated by Key Equipment	Allen Winters	City of Mound Valley
Rubbermaid Patio Storage Bench	Michael Young	City of Lyons
Smart Rod Fishing Rod	Pat Weller	Saline RWD 2
Two 20-oz Yeti Mugs	Norma Braun	Rooks RWD 3
Vizio TV E40-C20	Brian Calhoon	Shawnee Cons. RWD 4







# Thank you to all the 2016 Presenters!

**The Kansas Rural Water Association appreciates the time and effort by all the presenters at the 2016 conference. Thank you for helping all those who attended “Quality Water Made In Kansas”.**

Mel Abbott	KPERS
Phillip Alexander	Attorney at Law
Debbie Austin	Remembering Our Fallen
Richard Boyles	USDA Rural Development
Carl Brown	GettingGreatRates.com
David Browning	The Mayberry Deputy
Rex Buchanan	Kansas Geological Survey
Mike Busch	Layne Christensen Company
William Carr	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Mary Carson	Triplett, Woolf & Garretson
William Clark	Metron Farnier & T2
Dan Clemens	HD Supply Waterworks
Ray Connell	Rural Water Districts
Kent Culbertson	American AVK Company
Salih Doughramaji	Kansas Dept. of Commerce
Bob Durdee	Smith & Loveless, Inc.
Sharon Dwyer	Douglas RWD 5 / KRWA
Randy Dye	Brenntag Southwest, Inc.
Ken Ebert	Waddell & Reed
Rick Elliott	Elliott Insurance Group
Steve Euler	Morris RWD 1
Kent Evans	USDA Rural Development
Elizabeth Fitch	Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
Marsha Fleming	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Gary Flory	Great Plains Consensus Council
Richard Frankforter	Maguire Iron, Inc.
Paul Froelich	City of Enterprise / KRWA
Rick Gage	LMK Technologies
Rod Geisler	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Chris Gutschow	PeopleService, Inc.
Gary Hanson	Stumbo Hanson LLP
Shane Hastings	USDA Rural Development
John Hodgden	Hawkins, Inc.
Lewis Hyatt	Johnson Service Company
Pat Jurcek	Layne Christensen Company
Clayton Lamberd	Remembering Our Fallen
Melinda Lambert	Mayer Specialty Services
Tom Lasser	Hawkins, Inc.
Lane Letourneau	Kansas Dept. of Agriculture
Josh Lindsey	American AVK Company
Ned Marks	Terrane Resources Company

John Martin	American AVK Company
Pat McCool	Kansas Rural Water Association
Christie McReynolds	USDA Rural Development
Traci Miles	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Michael Moore	Copperhead Industries, LLC
John Mowen, P.E.	Smith & Loveless, Inc.
Katie Nicholas	Foresters Financial
Tim Orrick	Orrick & Erskine, LLP
Taryn Parillo	Foresters Financial
Austin Parker	Fisher, Patterson, Sayler & Smith
Ed Ragsdale	Banyon Data Systems
Rosette Randel	Waddell & Reed
Terry Randles	Randles Consulting
Noel Rasor	KU Public Management Center
James Roberts, P.G.	Professional Engineering Consultants
Kelly Rundell	Hite, Fanning & Honeyman
David Saraceni	Metron Farnier & T2
Mike Schnieders	Water Systems Engineering
Jim Schuth	Hach Company
Charlie Schwindamann	Kansas Rural Water Association
James Seley	Layne Christensen Company
Pat Shaffer	Butler RWD 5 / KRWA
Jen Sharp	JenSharp.com
Patrick Shields	Kansas Corporation Commission
Teresa Shulda	Foulston Siefkins, LLP
Darin Skutt	Carus Corporation
Eric Smith	League of Kansas Municipalities
Jason Solomon	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Larry Stanley	ABB Drives
Randy Stone	USDA Rural Development
Tracy Streeter	Kansas Water Office
Alex Tabb	Smith & Loveless, Inc.
Mark Thomas	Kansas Rural Water Association
LeAnn Thurman	Kansas Dept. of Commerce
George Ulmer	Smith-Blair, Inc.
Don Van Veldhuizen	USABlueBook
Dan Wassink	KIPCOR Consensus Council
Traci Wilnerd	Internal Revenue Service
Morgan Zelch	Tomcat Consultants, LLC / TAP Co.
J. W. Zelch	Tomcat Consultants, LLC / TAP Co.
Delbert Zerr	Kansas Rural Water Association



# Wednesday Luncheon



## Evans: Kansas Rural Water is a “Shining Star”

**T**he reputation of rural water is strong and getting stronger, both across the country and in Kansas, according to one of the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s top water program managers.

Kent Evans, Director of the Water Programs Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service’s Water and Environmental Programs, returned to Kansas from his new post in Washington, D.C. to address the Kansas Rural Water Association annual convention attendees at the Wednesday, March 30 noon luncheon. He previously worked for the Kansas state office of USDA Rural Development.

“People have been taking us for granted for a long time,” Evans said. “We’re improving how we’re getting our message out. Not just for water and wastewater projects, but for the economic development that has spurred growth in all communities.”

Evans thanked staff and board members for their service to their local water systems and for their thoughtful choices made in their water projects.

“You choose to invest in your water system,” he said. “You choose when and how those investments are made. You choose your partners. I want to say thank you to all the partners who are here today. With every choice you made, and those that you will make, you put yourself on the path for positive outcomes.”

The federal government obligated almost \$1.6 billion for water projects in fiscal year 2015, Evans said, which have helped more than 18 million rural residents in 6.6 million households.



Kent Evans, Director of Water Programs Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture

You should go and take those better deals, and partner with us. We are also a partner with commercial credit. It makes our other loans that much stronger.”

Evans pointed to the city of La Cygne, which received \$3 million in loans and \$3 million in grants from the USDA for a project that replaced 70,000 linear feet of water lines, as an example of the agency’s assistance to rural residents.

“Without Rural Development, their water rates would have increased by \$25,” he said.

In fiscal year 2016, which Evans said was a “great year,” there was about \$1.3 million left to assist rural water districts with water projects. And, he said, since interest rates for

the projects were at historical lows, the time was a good one to apply.

Evans also complimented the USDA Rural Development staff members working in Kansas, including Christie McReynolds and Steve Tharman from the Washington, D.C. office, and Shane Hastings and Patty Clark from the state office, and their work to efficiently receive, process and administer loan and grant applications.

Since Clark has been the state director, Evans said, the USDA has provided assistance that has helped more than 219,000 rural residents in 81,000 homes and businesses in the state of Kansas alone.

Evans discussed three priorities of the current USDA administration related to rural water projects.

First, he said, the agency intends to spend 100 percent of the money obligated for rural water projects in this fiscal year by Sept. 30, 2016, the last day of the federal fiscal year. Second, the agency will focus on sustaining rural communities by servicing the accounts that are already on the books. And a third priority, he said, would be to build the capacity of staff, operators and partners in rural water districts.

“Every decision we’ve made has consequences beyond those that we can see,” he said. “The people who live and work in rural areas are counting on us to make good decisions. Whether or not they know it, they are counting on us. The people in rural America are in good hands.”

Speaking to *The Lifeline* before his speech, Evans said his time working in Rural Development in the Kansas state office was a positive experience that he draws upon in Washington, D.C.

“Kansas is a shining star,” he said. “I brag on Kansas all the time.”

“Our portfolio is stronger than ever,” he said. “Rural water is very strong. Sometimes people come to us who don’t want to go to commercial credit. But sometimes you might get a better deal if you go to commercial credit.”







# Entertainment: *Lend Me A Tenor* – A Madcap Romp



**Y**es, *Lend Me A Tenor* was a madcap romp. It was as close as it gets to Marx Brothers, Abbot and Costello and Lucy and Ethel all wrapped into one great show for the 2016 KRWA Conference.

*Lend Me A Tenor* was a cleverly directed and choreographed play with no room for a misstep. The audience howled with laughter as the plot continued to unfold. When the world's greatest Italian opera tenor and notorious ladies man received a "Dear John" letter from his jealous, angry and long-suffering wife on the eve of his starring as "Otello" in Cleveland in 1934, he accidentally takes so many tranquilizers to calm down that he is rendered unfit to perform. The desperate manager of the opera company pressures his hapless assistant to stand in for the famous singer, hoping no one will notice. But the switch results in a riot of mistaken identities, miscommunications, double entendres and door-slamming chases.

Hugo Castillo, a real-life operatic tenor and frequent performer with Wichita Grand Opera, played Tito Morelli, the overindulgent, Pavarotti-like world-class singer, and Cynthia Atchison, a regular at Mosley Street Melodrama, was his hot-tempered, Sophia Loren-type wife, Maria. Ray Wills, acclaimed actor who played in New York and Los Angeles for 30 years, was Saunders, the neurotic, controlling head of the opera company. John Keckiesen, a WSU theater grad played Max, the lovably nerdish assistant (think a young Woody Allen) forced to step in for the singer.

Shanna Berry, a Chicago actress who recently moved to Wichita, was Maggie, the daughter of the company manager and lovable Max's girlfriend who also harbors a







secret crush on the famed singer. Chelsey Moore played sexy diva Diana, a soprano who uses more than her voice to get what she wants, while Ryan Ehresman was The Bellhop, a comically obnoxious opera fan trying to get the famous singer's autograph by any means necessary. Charlene Ayers, a longtime leading lady for Music Theatre Wichita, was the imperious society matron and opera patron, Julia.

KRWA appreciates the opportunity to present top class entertainment at its conferences. Kathryn Hauptman with the Forum Theatre, directed and produced the show. The audience showed their appreciation with a standing ovation.



## Quilts Are Big Draw as Grand Prizes

**T** There's one statement that the KRWA conference can make and that is that the grand door prizes given at the conference have more time invested in them than any other prize. That's because of the hundreds of hours it requires to piece and quilt the four quilts that are given as prizes at the annual conference.

As in past years, KRWA again had drawings for four beautifully crafted, pieced quilts. The design, *Swirling Fall Leaves*, was won by Allan Markley,

Douglas RWD 2 in the WaterPAC Raffle.

The other designs which were drawn at the Wednesday evening banquet and Thursday luncheon were: *Kansas Kaleidoscope* won by Jane Edmonds, from Douglas RWD 3; *Slice of Sunshine* won by Francis Lobbmeyer from Wheatland Water and Finney RWD 1; and *Home on the Range*, won by David Keys from Doniphan RWD 5.

From 1984 to 2016, the KRWA conference has given away 91 quilts.

Kathleen Ronnebaum has been responsible for the design of all the quilts. Anna Ronnebaum pieced the first ten quilts from 1984 to 1988 and Kathleen has assumed piecing of the subsequent 81 quilts given away from 1985 through 2016.



David Keys is joined by his wife Roberta from Doniphan RWD 5, Troy, Kan. as David's name was drawn at the Thursday luncheon. David and Roberta chose the pattern *Home on the Range*.



Jane Edmonds from Douglas RWD 3, Berryton, Kan., was the winner of the first quilt drawn at the Awards Banquet. Jane chose the pattern *Kansas Kaleidoscope*.



Francis Lobbmeyer from Wheatland Water and Finney RWD 1, Garden City, Kan. was the winner of the quilt *Slice of Sunshine*. It was one of two drawings at the Thursday luncheon.





# Thursday Luncheon

## Buchanan: “Water is Central To Kansas”

**R**ex Buchanan, Interim Director of the Kansas Geological Survey in Lawrence, presented a fascinating address at the Thursday noon luncheon. Rex’s presentation included many slides showing locations across Kansas and the geological features of the state. The following are notes from the presentation.



“Water is central to Kansas. It is central to what Kansans do, where they live, who they are. Some of the earliest evidence of occupation of Kansas by Native peoples is associated with water: springs, seeps, rivers. Later, as Europeans moved into the state, many of their routes across Kansas were determined by water as they traveled from spring to spring or along rivers. And many

of the cities they established were located near water. Wichita, Kansas City, Topeka, Lawrence, Hutchinson, Salina, Junction City, and other towns are located along rivers or at the junction of rivers.

“Over the past few years, the state developed a 50-year water planning vision. In that process, two major issues were identified. One is reservoir sedimentation, an issue in eastern Kansas where aging reservoirs are important in terms of water supply, recreation, and flood control. The Kansas Water Office is leading a program of dredging for sediment removal in one of those reservoirs, John Redmond, that is particularly affected by siltation and is particularly important for

water supply and energy production via Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station.

“The other major issue identified in the water visioning process was drawdown in the Ogallala portion of the High Plains Aquifer in western Kansas. That aquifer, used primarily for irrigation, is highly variable in extent. Long-term declines have been highly variable too, but especially significant in west-central Kansas. In general, the management approach to the aquifer has been one of planned depletion. Conserving and extending the life of the Ogallala, via incentives and voluntary measures, was the response outlined in the water vision.

“Demographic changes in western Kansas are connected to the issue of water-level declines in the Ogallala. Many counties in western Kansas have long been losing population, while some counties in eastern Kansas gain population. Those same population-gaining counties are, in several cases, also relatively water-rich. Thus, the scarcity of water out west, and the affect of that scarcity on economic activity, may exacerbate those demographic shifts. And as that shift continues, Kansas becomes an increasingly urban state, with a population that is less connected to the land and more in need of natural, public accessible space.

“Thus, water continues to greatly affect who Kansans are, where they live, and what they do. How we deal with water issues today will define much about Kansans in the future, just as it always has.”





# Scholarship Awarded

## Sarabella Weidenhaft, Winner of Dennis F. Schwartz Scholarship

In 2015, the Kansas Rural Water Association established a college scholarship in the name of Dennis Schwartz, long-timer member of the Association's board and also Director to the National Rural Water Association.

The amount of \$1,000 was awarded for the 2016- 017 school term. The winner of the scholarship was announced at the 2016 Conference. The recipient is Sarabella Weidenhaft of Beloit, Kansas. Sarabella is the daughter of Michael and Michelle Weidenhaft. Mike is the manager of Rural Water District No. 3, Mitchell County.

Applicants were limited to be children, stepchildren or under guardianship of full-time employees of either an active member system of the Kansas Rural Water Association or employees of the Association. There were 28 applicants this first year.

Sarabella plans to enter a program at Wichita State University with the goal of becoming a medical laboratory technician.



**Sarabella Weidenhaft with Dennis Schwartz.**

The Scholarship is designated as the Dennis Schwartz Scholarship in honor of Dennis who served on the Association Board of Directors from 1977 to 2014 and who served on a host of state and national committees including the National Rural Water Association, National Drinking Water Advisory Committee and the Kansas Water Authority.

## Scott Robertson Elected to KRWA Board of Directors

Scott Robertson, Utility Superintendent at Hesston, was elected to the board of directors of the Kansas Rural Water Association at the recent annual conference in Wichita. Robertson fills the position previously held by Sharon Dwyer, Lawrence, Kan.

Robertson started with the city of Bishop, CA in 1987, working there for five years before taking the Public Works Supervisor Position with the city of Phillipsburg, Kan. He served as Public Works Supervisor at Phillipsburg for 19 years. He was selected Public Works Supervisor of the year by KRWA in 2010. He is currently the Utilities Superintendent for the city of Hesston, starting his fifth year. Scott and his wife Chris have two daughters, Kayley and Shelby.

"I appreciate the opportunity to represent the membership of the Kansas Rural Water Association," Robertson says.

"The Association's programs provide invaluable help to cities and rural water districts across the state whether it is from troubleshooting operational issues with water and wastewater systems to helping with water rights and funding applications, or explaining regulations to new city clerks. I have spent 28 years in community service work. I know how critical it is for many medium-sized and smaller communities to have the access to the resources the Association provides," Robertson says.



**Scott Robertson**

**Mark your calendar now for next year's 50th KRWA Annual Conference and Exhibition! March 28-30, 2017**



# Conference-goers contribute \$7,969 to WaterPAC

**K**ansas Rural Water Association conference-goers in 2016 supported the WaterPAC Raffle with donations of \$7,969. WaterPAC is the political action committee of the National Rural Water Association (NRWA).

The WaterPAC Raffle is one way that the Kansas Rural Water Association conference-goers support the legislative efforts of the NRWA. Sam Wade, Chief Executive Officer of the National Rural Water Association, commented during the annual meeting of membership of the KRWA how important the support by Kansas Rural Water Association has been to WaterPAC. Wade discussed the various legislative initiatives that the NRWA is pursuing in Washington. He mentioned the additional funding that also had been appropriated for Source Water Protection and he noted Kansas Senator Jerry Moran's efforts in that regard.

NRWA's WaterPAC allows the NRWA to support those members of Congress who have helped support legislation that has been in the best interests of water and wastewater systems.

During the conference, KRWA directors explain programs and receive donations for the Raffle. The process also allows directors to visit with many attendees.

The NRWA works on behalf of all water and wastewater systems in support of reasonableness in regulations dealing with water and wastewater utilities. In 2013, it was the NRWA and



its state affiliates who led the effort to ask Congress to end the mailing requirement of the Consumer Confidence Reports. Whether it seeking support for compositing samples for groundwater monitoring or asking Congress to support USDA Rural Development and EPA funding for the revolving loan funds, it is the NRWA and state affiliates such as KRWA that carry that message effectively for water and wastewater systems. "The power of an Association" is apparent each year during the National Rural Water Rally in Washington where KRWA and other NRWA state affiliates meet with members of Congress and ask them for their support of various loan and grant funding programs and training and technical assistance programs that directly benefit water and wastewater utilities. And the members from Kansas do support the requests.

As a point of information, KRWA contributes the prizes for the WaterPAC Raffle so 100 percent of the donations go to WaterPAC. KRWA and NRWA appreciate the support for WaterPAC during the KRWA conference. Donations in prior years have been as follows: 2005 - \$3,001; 2006 - \$3,000;

2007 - \$4,324; 2008 - \$4,692; 2009 - \$6,110; 2010 - \$5,073; 2011 - \$5,065; 2012 - \$7,193; 2013 - \$7,350; 2014 - \$7,650.; 2015 - \$6,500; 2016 - \$7,969. Donations over the last eleven years total \$67,905.



Tim Heinen, city of Seneca, won this Green Mountain smoker in the WaterPAC Raffle. Tim has great luck as in 2015 he won a paddle boat.



Dean Hermes, city of Olpe, participates heavily in the WaterPAC Raffle. As a result, he ended up taking home this very nice 5 qt. KitchenAid Mixer.



Sandy Benoit, Rooks RWD 3, won this Stihl Tiller in the WaterPAC Raffle.



## WaterPAC Raffle Winners

Prize	Winner	System
Apple iPad Air 2 Wifi	John Gorentz	City of Arma
Dyson Animal Vacuum	Vicky McCallum	KRWA
Green Mountain Pellet Smoker	Tim Heinen	City of Seneca
Hitachi Compound Mitre Saw	Tony O'Malley	Larkin, Lamp Rynearson
HP Black 15.6" Laptop	Tori Koester	City of Derby
KitchenAid Artisan 5 Qt Mixer	Dean Hermes	City of Olpe
Milwaukee 1/2-inch Driver	Bill Metcalfe	City of Emporia
Pelican 65 Qt. Cooler	Tony O'Malley	Larkin, Lamp Rynearson
Quilt	Allen Markley	Douglas RWD 2
Stihl Chain Saw	Ron McCoy	A-1 Pump & Jet Services, Inc.
Stihl Leaf Blower/Vac	Allen Soetaert	Johnson RWD 7
Stihl Tiller with attachment	Sandy Benoit	Rooks RWD 3
Stihl Weedeater	Keith Leddy	Sumner RWD 5
Vizio TV E40-C2	Dean Hermes	City of Olpe



The design, *Swirling Fall Leaves*, was won by Allan Markley, Douglas RWD 2 in the WaterPAC Raffle.



Steve Phyllis, city of Protection, accepted this Avanti wine cooler from The Mayberry Deputy at the 50th Anniversary Party.



Leonard Mostrom, city of Burdett, was one of ten winners of \$250 VISA gift certificates. The Mayberry Deputy had a great time helping take prizes to the winners.



The Mayberry Deputy says, "Michael Young from the city of Lyons, take this patio storage bench. It's heavy!"



Justin King, city of Burlington, was the lucky winner of the 2-nite state as Great Wolf Lodge, at Tuesday night's 50th Birthday Party.