

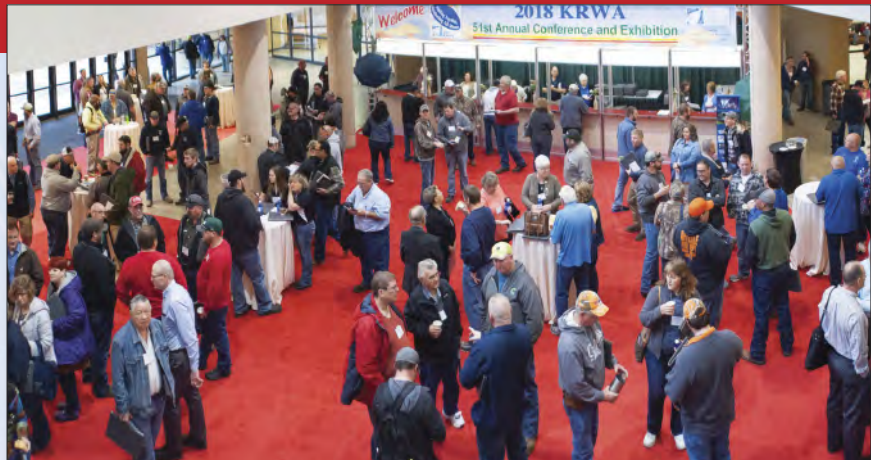
2018 KRWA Annual Conference Review



The Kansas Rural Water Association's Annual Conference and Exhibition is the Midwest's largest; it's a highly respected event as witnessed by the attendance and record number of exhibitors. It was held March 27 - 29 at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. The total registration was 2,280 people.

The KRWA conference provides something for everyone, non-stop. And that keeps attendees interested. That's one of the main reasons that the KRWA conference has the reputation as being one of the best water and wastewater conferences in America. In 2018, attendees came from 309 cities and 189 rural water districts. There were registrants from 28 additional states aside from Kansas.

The 2018 conference was the 51st annual. On Tuesday, March 27, there were eight full-day pre-conference sessions for water and wastewater utilities, as well as the Attorneys' Forum and USDA Engineering Forum. The conference featured a total of 58 training sessions which involved 81 different presenters. Read more about the various events on the following pages.



Operator certification exams

An additional bonus for the conference is that it provides an opportunity for operators to take the certification exams. KRWA appreciates the operator certification department at KDHE for making the exams available. There were 207 water and wastewater operators who took the operator certification exam on Thursday, March 29. Tuesday, March 27, was a full day of training for water operators from Small System through Class IV as exam refresher preparation. KRWA appreciates the staff at KDHE for their extra efforts in helping provide special training for wastewater operators on Thursday morning, March 29 as preparation courses to the exam.

Who attended?

In 2018, registrants came from 309 cities and 189 rural water districts or other public water or wastewater systems.

The attendance breakdown is as follows:

- ◆ Operators: 1,076
- ◆ Administrative Staff: 130
- ◆ Board/Council Members: 134
- ◆ Industry: 886
- ◆ Agency: 54

There 2018 conference involved 190 different exhibitors, filling all 365 available booth spaces in EXPO Hall. While this issue summarizes the 2018 conference, initial plans are already underway for 2019. As of June 1, nearly 180 booth spaces have already been reserved. And all sleeping rooms at the Hyatt sold out on April 15 in just a little more than 30 minutes after the block opened at 8 a.m. A review of the conference continues on the next pages.

Mark your calendars for the 2019 KRWA Conference at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. The dates are March 26-28.



Attorneys Forum Attended by 37 Water System Attorneys



The 2018 conference Attorneys' Forum was the 17th consecutive year that the forum has been hosted during the conference. Gary Hanson, KRWA General Counsel, has facilitated the program each year.

There were 37 attorneys attending in 2018. KRWA has sponsored the program, which is at no cost to attendees, with the goal of helping to improve the legal representation of KRWA's 750 municipal and rural water district members. Those attending were invited to provide an evaluation. One attorney wrote, "Gary, I rarely attend CLE sessions that keep my attention. I recently joined the KRWA. I don't know why I didn't do it a long time ago. This has been one of the best CLEs I have ever attended. Not only did it keep my attention, I actually enjoyed it. Very well done!"



Another wrote: "This was a very well done CLE with a great group of speakers. I appreciated the update on recent cases and legislation as well as the quality networking opportunities."

And another wrote: This is a great program and it

encourages knowledgeable and collaborative practice within the area of water practice.

Presenters were:

- John W. Nitcher, Riling, Burkhead & Nitcher, Chartered, Topeka, Kansas
- Kate Gleason, Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kansas
- Stanton A. Hazlett, Disciplinary Administrator, Topeka, Kansas
- Doug Helmke, P.G., KRWA Water Rights and Source Water Specialist, Tecumseh, Kansas

There were two periods of round-table discussions covering these topics: Public Purpose Doctrine; Vacation of Easements by Platting; Recent Legislation, Cases and AG Opinions; Rejecting Project Bids; Use of Easements for Other Purposes; Notice of Delinquent Utility Bills, Implementing HB 2080; Collecting Debts from Municipalities.



Gary Hanson, KRWA General Counsel

The 2018 "Almost 5K-KRWA Conference Run/Walk"

It was Schultz, Blanton and Brooke placing first, second, and third in the 2018 "Almost 5K-KRWA Conference Run/Walk".

There was no shotgun start ... the runners sprinted forward on command to start the 6th Annual "Almost 5K-KRWA Conference Run/Walk". Tuesday, March 27 was a great morning for running or walking. Nearly 25 people participated, even with some getting a later start.

KRWA's Mark Thomas headed up this year's run. Construction along the river walk is finally near completion, so participants finally got to stay on the river walk and not brave Wichita traffic. The event had mild weather once again, but the always-present goose droppings are a consistent obstacle every year.

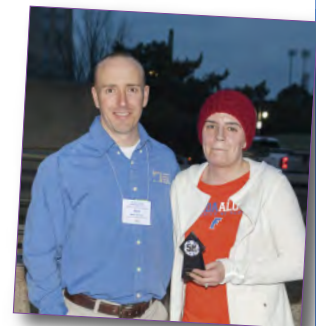
Jason Shultz of KDHE took home 1st place with a time of 21:34 on the 2.8 mile course. Ron Blanton from the city of Hutchinson earned 2nd place with a time of 23:19. Brooke Bailey from the city of Wichita followed Ron with a 3rd place finish with a time of 24:42.



Ron Blanton, city of Hutchinson, came in second.



Jason Schultz, KDHE, placed first.



Brooke Bailey, city of Wichita, placed third.

Hot chocolate with rolls and fresh fruit was enjoyed by the runners as they returned to Century II. KRWA.



Pre-conference Sessions

Nine Preconference Sessions Attended by 985 People

ENGINEERS' FORUM FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

Attendance: 33

The Engineers' Forum held at the KRWA conference has proven to be a popular and worthwhile feature. In 2018, the training provided an overview of the newly released guidance for the use of Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC) documents on water and wastewater projects with Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Financial Assistance. Presentations also focused on the Implementation of American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements. USDA Rural Development agency personnel also presented the newly released E-PER capabilities for engineers to deliver preliminary engineering reports to the agency. This training was designed to help engineers, environmental consultants, and other professionals who assist applicants in preparing engineering and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.

Presenters:

Richard Boyles, USDA Rural Development, Newton, Kansas
Randy Stone, USDA Rural Development, Topeka, Kansas
Shane Hastings, USDA Rural Development, Topeka, Kansas



WATER OPERATOR FORUM – PREPARING FOR CERTIFICATION EXAMS

Attendance: 238

The role of the certified operator is important to public water and wastewater systems. Helping individuals prepare for and accomplish passing the exams is a priority for KRWA. This five-hour training offered water operators an excellent opportunity to refresh and to review prior to taking the operator certification exam on the last day of the conference. Operators already certified also found the session informative. With experienced KRWA staff presenting, it can be no other way. The training review topics including the following chlorination concepts (free vs. combined, etc.), chlorine residual monitoring, sample collection procedures (bacteriological, THM/HAA5, lead and

copper, etc.), well operation and maintenance; knowledge of water quality issues; regulatory update/Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), and distribution system operation, including leak detection, waterline disinfection procedures, water loss, storage tanks, and more. Basic math calculations including surface area, volume, chemical dosages, water pressure, etc., were covered.

Presenters:

Pat McCool, Kansas Rural Water Association, Wichita, Kansas
Delbert Zerr, Kansas Rural Water Association, Manhattan, Kansas

WASTE STABILIZATION PONDS – AN EXCELLENT TREATMENT SOLUTION

Attendance: 239

Wastewater treatment by a majority of public wastewater systems is accomplished by lagoons. And while many may think lagoons are simple to operate and maintain, the on-going processes are far more complex. This training session was attended by both new and experienced operators. The training reviewed the biological processes that occur in lagoons. Those attending were instructed how to help keep discharging lagoons in compliance with effluent limits. Attendees also learned how KDHE's revised ammonia criteria could impact lagoons. The training included discussions on what to check for visually to determine if the lagoon is operating satisfactorily. Other topics included maintenance problems and solutions; troubleshooting problems that may develop with lagoons; review of permit requirements for both discharging and non-discharging lagoons; how to interpret laboratory test results and properly complete monitoring reports and how to produce a good quality effluent and meet permit limits on a consistent basis.



Presenters:

Jason Solomon, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Chanute, Kansas
Jeff Lamfers, Kansas Rural Water Association, Mission, Kansas



MICROBIOLOGICAL MONITORING OF ACTIVATED SLUDGE PROCESSES

Attendance: 131

This training session provided information to operators and consultants, lab personnel and others how to optimize wastewater treatment plant processes using the microscope and knowledge of wastewater microbiology. Attendees learned how to identify the microorganisms that are favorable to the activated sludge treatment process and how to maintain the proper environment for their growth. The discussions included methods for controlling, identifying and monitoring microorganisms in biological phosphorus and nitrogen removal systems. Presentations also explained how to diagnose treatment system problems based on the microbiology of the system and the identification of and how to control filamentous bacteria. Step-by-step laboratory procedures for tracking, identifying and diagnosing conditions in activated sludge processes were included. This was an outstanding session presented by a nationally recognized expert in the field of wastewater treatment.



Presenter:

Tony Glymph-Martin, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

CITY CLERKS' FORUM – WEATHERING ALL STORMS

Attendance: 34

There were two separate training sessions during this forum. From 9:45 a.m. to noon, the clerks learned about basic water system operations. This presentation included an overview of regulations including monitoring, reporting, and plant operations. Many city clerks have expressed concern that they do not understand all the regulations that are required of public water systems. Clerks were encouraged to develop and maintain good communications with operators. The



afternoon session dealt with workplace issues including transparency, workplace drama, leadership, etc. City clerks deal with a host of issues, and citizens generally expect to receive information from clerks on any number of topics.

Presenters:

Delbert Zerr, Kansas Rural Water Association, Manhattan, Kansas
Marche Fleming-Randle, Ph.D, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas

GEOLOGY, AQUIFERS AND WATER WELLS – ENSURING A GOOD WATER SUPPLY

Attendance: 181

The majority of public water systems in Kansas use groundwater as a source. That is especially true in the western half of the state. This training discussed the types and characteristics of subsurface geological formations and aquifers. Aspects of well operations such as yield, specific capacity, zone of influence, static water levels, drawdown water levels and record keeping were reviewed. Proper construction of water wells was explained, including sites election, test drilling, water quality, drilling of the bore hole, well casing, grouting of the annular space, gravel packing, screen placement and well development. The training also reviewed KDHE design standards. Attendees also learned about how contaminants such as nitrates, arsenic, iron and manganese can increase in the well water causing problems with well operation. Microbial and mineral blockages in wells were discussed as was well efficiency. The training used real life situations to describe how to clean wells, restore/ or improve water quality, and disinfect wells.



Presenters:

Brad Vincent, P.G., Ground Water Associates, Wichita, Kansas
Ned Marks, P.G., Terrane Resources Company, Stafford, Kansas
Mike Schnieders, Water Systems Engineering, Ottawa, Kansas



BOARD/COUNCIL LEADERSHIP – WEATHERING ALL STORMS!

Attendance: 44

So, you've been elected to the board or council. Now what? Those who attended this session learned about the critical roles they have in the governance of their local water or wastewater utilities, among other responsibilities. As representatives of the public, it's the board or council members who bear the burden for good decision-making on behalf of the public they represent. Financial difficulties, personnel issues, construction or renovation complications, or dispute resolutions can all become challenges that may necessitate a different approach to leadership and decision-making. Here are some of the situations that were presented to the attendees: 1) How do you manage situations when the discussion becomes polarized, whether in a board meeting or in a public hearing? 2) How do you better handle conflicts between customers and board/council members or between board/council members and staff? 3) How do boards and council energize public support for system enhancements and renovations? Last, how does a board or council member help establish a culture of accountability the board or council?

Presenters:

Patricia Clark, Kansas Leadership Center, Wichita, Kansas
Ronald Alexander, Kansas Leadership Center, Wichita, Kansas

RWD OFFICE FORUM

Attendance: 48

The tasks that rural water district office staff experience are quite varied. Duties include billing and financial report, entering data, maintain confidentiality, and often deal as an arbitrator of disputes. Presentations covered in this round-table, somewhat open discussion provided answers to questions on topics including record retention, easements, the new rule (HB 2020 or KSA 82a-621) forfeiture for non-payment, preparing meeting agendas, etc. This session was intended for those who work in RWD offices or those who serve on boards to help them better understand the responsibilities of the office staff. A second morning presentation discussed insurance coverages and the specialized coverages as well as risk management techniques. An overview on coverages



from property to workers compensation was of keen interest to the attendees. The afternoon presentation addressed ways to help create better interactions with customers. The focus was on professionalism to help improve customer service.

Presenters:

Crystal Decker, TrustPoint Insurance, Burlington, Kansas
Leslee Rivarola, KU Public Management Center,
Lawrence, Kansas

WORKING TOGETHER TO GET GREAT RATES

Attendance: 27

Is rate setting an art, science or just politics? How about some of all? This presentation discussed water rates and the rate setting process and how to fairly structure rates. Those attending learned that setting rates fairly is something close to being a team sport. First, KRWA can provide no cost assistance and provide a basic review. When the review requires much more focus due to complexity of the utility operations, then the Kansas Rates Program comes to the rescue. GettingGreatRates does a thorough rate analysis. The presentations covered the rate setting field. Many of those attending were adopting new rates. They left with a better understanding of how all the facets of designing, funding, planning, etc.

Presenter:

Carl Brown, GettingGreatRates.com, Jefferson City, Missouri

Mark your calendars!

March 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	✓ 27	✓ 28	29	30
31						

**KRWA's 52nd Annual
Conference & Exhibition**



Butler Headliners Perform “Past, Present, Future” at Opening Session

The Butler Headliners provided another rousing start to the opening session on Wednesday, March 28. It's an early trip from El Dorado for the Headliners to arrive at Century II in Wichita by 7:30 a.m. But it's a trip they have made for nearly 15 years to help the KRWA Conference have an invigorating start. Their show was entitled Past, Present & Future!

The Butler Headliners are a high energy level show choir; they have national acclaim. Their performance at the 2018 conference was described as “simply awesome” by many of those who attended. The Headliners sang and danced to a 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. Two other students serve as stage manager and sound manager. To be a participating member of the Headliners requires that the students maintain a minimum grade point average. The group's members go on after they graduate from Butler Community College to become performers for the Walt Disney theme parks, Worlds of Fun, and other venues – and to own their own dance studios, and to direct church and community choirs. They become doctors, lawyers and teachers.

KRWA provided a \$3,000 stipend to the Butler Headliners in 2018. Always bringing a complete new show, there's hardly a way to put more energy and talent on the opening session stage at the KRWA conference than this group delivers.



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2018 Opening Session



KRWA Board President Paul Froelich: "This is YOUR Conference!"

Getting the annual conference started off on the right foot is important. The opening message is important. And the one message that Association President Paul Froelich emphasized to the 1,500 who were in attendance is that the



Paul Froelich, President, KRWA

annual conference is "the people's conference". Froelich said, "This is your conference; KRWA is only the facilitator."

Froelich challenged everyone to attend as many sessions as possible, and to also tour the largest number of exhibits ever assembled at a water or wastewater conference in Kansas. "Ask questions, talk to others, share your experiences," he said. "By doing so, you'll make new friends; that's what an Association is all about – sharing information and providing information and help. Make this conference the best it can be for you."

The Kansas Rural Water Association has held the annual conference & exhibition at Century II Convention Center since 1991. Rental agreements



Lindsay Gulley, Convention Sales Manager, and Moji Rosson, Vice-President of Sales at Visit Wichita, provide a "Welcome to Wichita" at the opening session. They reviewed many of the improvements in the city and plans for the future.

are in place to hold the 2019, 2020 and 2021 conferences in Wichita.

Winners of \$250 VISA gift cards were Charles Hefton, city of Benton and Justin Rodgers, city of Columbus.

Redefining heroes . . .

Keynote Speaker Charles Marshall – Author, Humorist, Drummer – Shares Insights Into Success

Some of the most heroic and successful people are those who are never recognized by the media.

Rural water and municipal workers can – and, often, do – fit into that definition of heroism, said Charles Marshall, a motivational speaker, rock-and-roll drummer and author who delivered the keynote address at the opening session of the 2018 Kansas Rural Water Association annual conference.

"Obviously, heroes aren't just the guys and girls flying in the air, wearing spandex," Marshall said. "And neither are they just who we celebrate in our culture, like rock stars and movie stars."

"When you look back and think of who influenced you, heroes look different," he said. "They were people who used their time and talents to make the world a better place. And when I think of the Kansas Rural Water Association, that fits you perfectly. You are providing a service to your community. And when we don't have that service, people recognize it.

"You are working behind the scenes to make sure people have better lives."

We may need a different definition of "success" than what is popularly used, Marshall said. The actor Charlie Sheen, for instance, may be well-known and considered successful because he is on television. But, Marshall said, he wouldn't want to be just like him.

"I think the best definition of success is fulfilling your potential and using your gifts," he said.



Charles Marshall, M Power Resources, encouraged people to invest in others.



An enthusiastic crowd attended the opening session on Wednesday, March 28.

There are four ways in which people use their gifts and their actions that make them heroes, Marshall said.

The first is to own your choices, he said. A person who has experienced tough situations – losing a job, serious illness, difficult family struggles – might be tempted to blame those situations for being stuck or not having much of a future.

A hero owns their path forward, Marshall said. They may have experienced the same tough situations, but opts instead to choose an outlook where they control their actions instead of letting the situations control them.

Water system personnel are no strangers to challenging situations, he noted, including changing regulations, workforce struggles and difficult personalities. “What are you going to do about those choices in how you approach these things?” he asked. “Real heroes make those choices and turn the challenges into opportunities for growth.”

The second characteristic of a hero is to actively take in useful and helpful content – in other words, choosing to consume productive information and energy as opposed to negative words and thoughts.

It can be a constant struggle to actively consume useful information, he said, especially when bombarded with so

many messages from media, advertisers, friends and family, and even our favorite music.

“You are what you eat,” Marshall said. “Do you take care of your own programming, or do you leave it up to someone else? If you are going to be a hero, or a leader, you need to make sure you are encouraged. It’s hard for people to keep on giving when no one is giving to them. Where are you going to get your energy and your motivation?”

Heroes also take the opportunity to leap into action when needed. In other words, Marshall said, they take initiative to use what they have and do what they can to make progress.

“Instead of waiting on the perfect circumstances, work on what you can do right now,” he said. “You don’t have to wait for a politician to make a decision. Figure out how to make something happen now. Once you take one step, the next step becomes illuminated, and then the next step, and so on.”

Finally, he said, heroes invest in others.

Marshall told a story about his journey to become a drummer. Although he had a passion for the drums, his initial junior high band audition resulted in his placement as a baritone saxophone player – an instrument for which he held no passion.

When he tried to quit the band, his teacher asked him if there was another instrument he would prefer. When it was clear that he did not know how to play the drums – but wanted to learn – the teacher worked with him until he became proficient and even successful.

“He believed in me,” Marshall said. “For a geeky, poor kid in junior high, that meant a lot to me. I was still a geeky, poor kid, but now I was playing the drums.”

The teacher’s investment in him came even though the teacher himself struggled openly with a serious speech impediment. Marshall said that was the most impressive – and, heroic – trait: the teacher invested time in at-risk children even when it meant that he would need to face his own struggles.

“Who here could be a Mr. Mullins for someone in their community?” Marshall asked, and awarded a pair of drumsticks to an audience member who raised their hand.

Marshall attended much of the rest of the conference, signing autographs at a booth in the exhibition hall where he sold copies of his books, including “The Seven Powers of Success” and “Shattering the Glass Slipper.” Marshall’s company is M Power Resources, based in Dacula, Georgia.



Three guys? Who’s this? Three guys on Concert Hall stage setting up a restrained fitting and valve assembly? Yes, It was none other than KRWA’s Lonnie Boller and Doug Guenther and their supervisor, Linda Windler, Thoroughbred Systems, to create questions in the minds of audience members who waltzed off to “Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head”.

By Sarah Green



EXPO Hall

Vendors report success . . .

KRWA Conference Consistently One of the Top Trade Shows

The staff from BG Consultants expected to distribute 1,500 tote bags to attendees in the first two days of the conference.

"We've given out about 700 or 800 so far today, and we'll give out about the same number tomorrow," said Brian Kingsley, the company's president. "We've been giving these out for about five years or so. It has become an annual tradition."

The conference is an important time for the company to network with current and future clients, as well as other companies doing related work, Kingsley said.

"Everyone in the industry who deals with water utilities is here," he said. "There's no other networking opportunity like this in the state of Kansas."

Kingsley said his company appreciated the technical support provided by the Kansas Rural Water Association for providing unbiased second opinions for projects.

"We've used KRWA for things like smoke testing, and Rita Clary has been great to work with her knowledge about loans and the administration side of things," he said. "We appreciate the relationship with KRWA."

At least two vendors used the power of popcorn to attract visitors to their booths.

"We used to bring a smaller machine until it got so popular that we had to get a bigger one," said Doug Napier, a technical application specialist with Hawkins, Inc. "We'll go through more than 500 boxes just during this show. The smell brings everyone to the booth. It works!"



The chemical and equipment company has been attending the convention for at least 20 years, Napier estimated. In addition to being able to answer questions about their own services, several of the vendors with whom the company works are also on-hand to help customers.

The 2018 show brought as much or more traffic than previous years, he said.

"I go to a half-dozen shows every year and this is the best by far," he said.

Steve Secrest, president of SCI Automation, a Utah-based company specializing in automation technology for water, wastewater and oil and gas systems, said he observed a shift in how customers approached the exhibition hall in 2018.

"This year, people seem more driven to find help and solutions for problems with their systems," he said. "We've had lots of conversations with people who are truly interested. Some people have come with an agenda and showed me their list. They haven't told me that in the past."

The sheer variety of services offered in EXPO Hall allows those operators, even from small systems, the ability to take care of all of their needs in one place, he said.

"You've got everything here from mowing grass to patching water lines to unplugging a sewer system to running an entire water system from a computer or a phone," Secrest said.







Many Winners at Tuesday Nite “Meet & Greet”

Forty-three conference attendees were winners at the Tuesday evening Meet & Greet. Prizes totaled more than \$10,000 and ranged from practical utensils such as a KitchenAid professional 5-quarter mixer, a Vizio 50-inch LED smart TV, a drone, to an 8-foot tall metal windmill. See the listing of winners on page 43.

This “shindig” is one of a kind for a conference opener. There's food, social and friendship – and games to play to earn tickets to enter in prize drawings. And it was the sixth year for Kansas oldest Rock n' Roll band, King Midas & The Mufflers, to perform background music. Here's are some of the events:

- Seating for 1,200 to enjoy a great barbecue meal and desert bar
- Eight Midway game trailers – from "Kentucky Derby" to "The Exterminator"
- A Midway amusement ride; mechanical bull ride; football and basketball throws
- Casino games
- Beverage trailer and beverage stations
- Two caricaturists
- An oxygen bar
- Numerous table top games including “Water Bingo”
- Video car racing
- Laser skeet shooting
- Instant photo shoot

There was something for everyone, all night long. And at 9:45, it was time to turn in the tickets won at the various venues for drawings of the prizes that filled a stage. It was a fun time – with something for everyone, non-stop.



There's always plenty of food at KRWA conferences.



Tina Rajala, recently retired from Kansas Water Office, was pleased to be the winner of Waterscapes sofa quilt.



Okay, there's no need to debate – just throw the ball!!



There is always a full house at Water Bingo.



“Ready, aim, fire” – one of eight Midway trailer games provided state fair Midway atmosphere.



It takes food and beverages of all sorts to have a conference. The beer trailer served 26, 15.5-gallon kegs.



Tuesday Night Meet & Greet Prize Winners

Prize	Winner	Represents
Zero Gravity Chairs Case Of (2) Blue	Josh Ranker	Ellsworth RWD 1 (Post Rock)
TACKOBX SMARTROD Black Series Combo	Barry Brown	City of El Dorado
TACKOBX SMARTROD Black Series Combo	Allen Markley	Douglas RWD 2
8-foot Green Metal Windmill	Jan'et Dawson	Shawnee Cons. RWD 1
Small Quilt-Waterscapes	Tina Rajala	Kansas Water Office (Retired)
Habor Immersible Hand Blender	Josh Werner	Ottawa RWD 2
Instant Pot Multi Cooker 6QT	Josh Werner	Ottawa RWD 2
Pioneer Woman 30-PC Cookware Set	Josh Taylor	City of Larned
Sea Eagle 330 2-Person Inflatable Kayak & Paddles	Brian Treaster	City of Alden
Hamilton Beach Digital Steamer	Robert McClay	Franklin RWD 1
Best Choice Electric Fryer	Roberta Keys	Doniphan RWD 5
Dyson Dc59 Slim Cordfree	Sharon Dwyer	Douglas RWD 5
ION Audio Tailgater Wirelss Radio	Robert Miller	Montgomery RWD 2
KitchenAid® Professional 5-Quart Mixer	Lori Stone	USDA Rural Development
STANLEY FATMAX J7CS Jump Starter & Air Compressor	Shane' Hastings	USDA Rural Development
Big Boss Ice Cream Maker	Chad Burns	City of Jetmore
ECHO Dot (2)	David Baragary	Lan-Del Water
GoPro HERO5 Strap Bundle	Ron Rech	DPC Industries
Google Home	Austin St. John	City of Marysville
Instant Pot	Marissa Reyes	City of Moscow
Cooler w/Picnic Camping Table/2 Chairs	Robert Miller	Montgomery RWD 2
Vizio LED 50-inch Smart HDTV	Cody Zenger	City of Belleville
Stanley 4 Gal Wet/Dry Vac	Chris Gaddis	City of Goessel
Dewalt 20V MAX Lithium-Ion 1/2-inch Drill Driver Kit	John Simons	City of Haysville
Rockwell Sonicrafter F30 Oscillating Multi-Tool	Sharon Dwyer	Douglas RWD 5
SentrySafe X-Large Fire Safe	Lori Stone	USDA Rural Development
Stanley 2150 psi Electric Pressure Washer	Paul Strathman	Nemaha RWD 3
Promark GPS Shadow Drone	Jake Dillman	Sedgwick RWD 2
Great Northern Black Antique Popcorn Machine	Alice Swearingen	City of Waterville
Elite Pro Toaster Oven Rotisserie/Grill/Griddle Top	Norma Najera	City of Moscow
BCP Stone Design Fire Pit Home Patio Gas Firepit	Brent Miller	Data Access & Support Center
Coleman SaluSpa Hot Tub	Dustin Hoffman	City of Dighton
Bayshore Sling Rockers	Michael Riese	City of Hoisington
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Larry Fagen	City of Jetmore
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Robert Miller	Montgomery RWD 2
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Judy Elam	Sedgwick RWD 2
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Chuck Frakes	City of Winchester
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Cale Topinka	City of Haysville
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Shad Howbert	Douglas RWD 3
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Leonard Mostrom	City of Burdett
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Doug Byarlay	Riley RWD 1
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Nadine Herold	Jefferson RWD 11
\$250 Visa Gift Card	Samuel Dillman	3D Plumbing

Valuing Water in Kansas: Supply, Quality, Demand Complicate the Math when it Comes to Assigning a Value to Water in the State

The question sounds simple enough, but the answer is a challenge.

What is the value of water in Kansas? “The reality is that if I asked all of you this question, you would say it’s priceless,” said Tracy Streeter, director of the Kansas Water Office. “It’s intrinsic value is priceless. But until you are looking at water scarcity, it’s worth nothing.”

Streeter delivered a presentation during the 2018 Kansas Rural Water Association Annual Conference about the State of Kansas’ attempts to better understand how much worth is assigned to our water.

“Even experts disagree on what factors to take into account,” Streeter said. It’s even more difficult in a state like Kansas, where water quality and quantity vary dramatically depending on the location.

The Kansas River, for instance, flows from Junction City to Kansas City, and typically experiences good flows. WaterOne, the water utility that serves much of Johnson County, has intakes on both the Kansas and Missouri Rivers – “a seemingly endless supply,” Streeter said.

On the western side of the state, in Groundwater Management District 1, people who have lived on farms are finding that their water wells are running dry. They’re relocating to towns or making other accommodations

to find a steady water supply, Streeter said.

“I bet those folks who are moving their houses and piping water place a higher value on water than someone living in Overland Park today,” he said.

“Another question figures in to the discussion,” Streeter said. “What’s more important, water quantity or water quality?”

“I say it’s quantity,” he said. “If you don’t have it, it doesn’t matter what the quality is. When you’re up against it, you take whatever you can get, treat it and use it.”

There are examples where dollar amounts are applied to water – but those are “what we pay for it, not what it’s worth,” he said. Streeter provided some examples, including:

- ❖ The average Kansan spends \$6.51 per 1,000 gallons of tap water. Of that cost, \$0.03 goes to the State Water Plan Fund; the remainder toward treatment and distribution.

- ❖ In 2002, the city of Colby purchased irrigation rights for 320 acre-feet of water from one farm for \$2,256 per acre-foot. In 2009, Dodge City purchased water rights totaling 1,465 acre-feet from three farms for an average price of \$2,265 per acre-foot. These prices illustrate the market price of water, Streeter said.

- ❖ There is a water bank in Kansas, in Groundwater Management District 5 in central Kansas. Streeter described it as a “kind of brokerage firm” for water transactions. Each transaction also carries with it a requirement for water conservation. A buyer can sign a lease for a certain amount of water for one year at a time, Streeter said. The average value of water traded in the water bank is \$78.04 per acre foot. “This is really our only true value we have for knowing how water is trading on a daily basis,” he said.



- ❖ The Kansas Water Office also is involved in pricing the water it sells wholesale to municipal and industrial customers from reservoirs in which the office owns water

storage. Some contracts from the 1970s capped the rates at \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons. New contracts in 2018 offer variable rates to customers at \$0.39 per 1,000 gallons. The water office is only charging what it needs to cover their own costs, Streeter said, but those older fixed rates are presenting a challenge to do just that.

- ❖ The recently completed project to dredge John Redmond Reservoir in Coffey County to remove silt and provide more storage space for water cost about \$20 million. Other reservoirs are facing similar needs to find storage space – and price tags in the tens of millions of dollars to remedy those issues, he said.

- ❖ Streeter quoted a KRWA rate survey that showed Kansas residential water rates ranging from \$1.40 to \$17 per thousand gallons, an average of \$6.51 per thousand gallons. Rural water district rates range from \$1 to \$22.90 per thousand gallons, an average of \$9.10 per thousand gallons.

“It will be increasingly important to think about the value of water going forward,” Streeter said, citing the example of Cape Town, South Africa, which imposed strict restrictions on its water users when supplies nearly ran out earlier this year – not to mention having good data to inform conversations about funding water projects.

“If we understand what the true value is before we have to, aren’t we better off? Can’t we be prepared for it?” he asked.



Tracy Streeter, Director, Kansas Water Office.

#MeToo in the Workplace – A Summary of One Conference Training Session

Safety is a priority for cities and water districts to prevent their workers from being physically injured.

That commitment should also be extended to ensuring that workers are also protected from mental and emotional harm by not tolerating harassment, said Wichita attorney Kelly Rundell.

“This is a way you can help your employees become better people, not just better employees,” Rundell said. “It’s a way you can show you care about your employees, and take responsibility for the safety of your employees.”

“You probably do that all the time with regards to making sure your people have their jackets on, their (safety) cones out, and all the right equipment that they need. This is just an extension of that, making sure people are safe in the workplace.”

Rundell, with Hite, Fanning & Honeyman, L.L.P., is a former deputy city attorney for the city of Wichita. She conducted a session on workplace harassment at the 2018 Kansas Rural Water Association conference.

The recent “#metoo” movement has brought new attention to the responsibilities of employers to prevent harassment, she said.

While the national media stories have covered well-known people in the motion picture and television industries, famous chefs, and high-ranking officials, she said, workplace harassment can happen anywhere.

But, she said, it can also be prevented with common sense policies, and creating a culture where it’s not acceptable.

Rundell quoted the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which has defined workplace sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when the conduct explicitly or implicitly affects

an individual’s employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

This can include jokes, images, and stories about one’s sexual encounters, she said – content that could make another person uncomfortable or even afraid.

“You could be discussing your sexual fantasies and personal encounters with a co-worker who wants to hear it,” Rundell said, “but you need to realize the person you’re telling it to may not be the only person who hears it.”

Harassers can be male or female, she said, but a main characteristic is that the person lacks empathy. They also have a tendency to be authoritative and dominant, and use their power over others – making sure their victim can’t fight back.

While it’s typically believed that harassment at a workplace is caused by a co-worker, people can also experience harassment from outsiders who come into an office, such as vendors and even customers.

When that happens – “You may have to step in to protect your employees,” she said.

Workers affected by harassment experience higher rates of stress, depression, reduced productivity, and poor attendance, Rundell said, “none of which you really want in your workplace.”

“All these things lead to employee turnover,” she said. “Then you have to go out and find someone new to train and get up to speed. Hopefully, the harasser doesn’t run them off too.”

It’s also expensive for an employer to deal with a lawsuit brought by someone who has experienced harassment, she said. If a court decides in favor of that person, their workplace may have to rehire them and pay their back wages, or even pay future wages. The employer may also be responsible for



compensation for emotional pain and suffering and for attorney fees for the person who filed the suit.

These fees and fines can easily slide into millions of dollars, Rundell said.

“Maybe you don’t care about the situation that’s going on,” she said, “but if you think of the monetary costs, that should be enough to take action and put an end to that.”

An employer should develop a code of conduct that specifically prohibits harassing behavior. But they should also develop policies that include:

- ◆ Having multiple places to complain. The chef Mario Batali’s restaurant group had a policy of reporting all unwanted activity to the head chef – but it was the head chef who was doing the harassing.

- ◆ Keeping investigations as confidential as possible. Even if other co-workers must be interviewed, all should agree to keep the details confidential, particularly when the situation is sensitive.

- ◆ Investigating all complaints immediately. “The longer it goes on, the worse it’s going to get,” Rundell said.

- ◆ Ensuring that a person filing a complaint will not be subject to retaliation.

“Employers can also require mandatory training for employees – and it can be as simple as ordering a training DVD and requiring everyone to watch it,” Rundell said.

“The Kansas Human Rights Commission also offers online training,” she said, at <http://www.khrc.net>. The commission provides a certificate to those who complete the training – which an employer could require from all employees.



Wednesday Luncheon

Insight into the regulatory process . . .

Understanding the Process – and the Regulators – Important to Rural Water Mission, KDHE Leader Says

Rural water districts and cities are closely acquainted with state and federal rules and regulations that govern their operations.

And districts and cities don't always love them, noted Tom Stiles, the assistant director of the Bureau of Water at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

"I'd say no function of government generates more angst, more anger, than regulations," Stiles said.

Stiles, who delivered the keynote address during the Wednesday luncheon of the Kansas Rural Water Association's 2018 annual conference, said it might be useful for a review of why and how regulations came to be.

Stiles profiled the different kinds of people who "find themselves on the wrong side of regulation."

"One personality is the 'hardliner,' who does not understand why government is in the business of regulating and has no intent to comply with any regulations," he said.

The second kind of person lives in "a world of gray," Stiles said.

"They may understand the need and the intent for a regulation, but say 'our way is a better way to get there,'" he said.

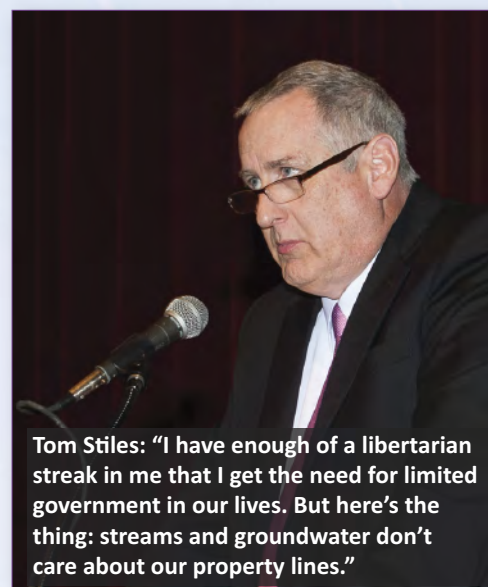
The third person Stiles described is the "careless abider," who may try to follow regulations, but trip up when it comes to technicalities, such as failing to leave a signed copy of a stormwater plan on a site when it's required.

"About 99 percent of all land in Kansas is privately held," he said. "That generates natural friction between government and those private property owners who often believe they should be able to govern themselves as they see fit."

KDHE is the local agency that enforces the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act. It's an example of "cooperative federalism," where the two levels of government are working together on the same rules. But there's often a difference in the culture of the two agencies, he said, that can be complicated to navigate.

There are also two general kinds of regulators: the strict constructionalist, who believes the letter of the law is indeed the law; and the liberal constructionalist who believes that the spirit of the law should guide them.

One need to look no further than the Kansas Turnpike for an example of liberal constructionists," he said. "I've yet to see someone actually drive 75 (miles per hour)."



Tom Stiles: "I have enough of a libertarian streak in me that I get the need for limited government in our lives. But here's the thing: streams and groundwater don't care about our property lines."

"KDHE relies on technical assistance from KRWA to help the small towns in Kansas get it right when it comes to abiding by the regulations, both for the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act as well," he said.

Another piece of the process is the federal agency's enforcement component, when the agency uses fines or other methods to ensure that a town or a system complies with the regulations.

The current secretary of the EPA, Scott Pruitt, was an attorney general in Oklahoma – which will likely shape his approach to interpreting rules and regulations.

"An attorney general's first oath is to uphold the rule of law," he said. "The EPA administration is not going to turn a blind eye on existing law. A law is a law. That's something you're going to see go away from the results of the last election."

"Something that has changed in the new federal administration is the way the EPA provides guidance to state agencies



Tom Stiles, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Water at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, provided the noon luncheon address on March 28.



The Wednesday noon luncheon was attended by more than 1,200 people. The Hyatt food service allowed for everyone to be through buffet lines in 24 minutes.

about how it intends to proceed with regulating water,” Stiles said.

The EPA has signaled that it will work cooperatively with state agencies, particularly when it comes to enforcement actions.

“There will be no surprises,” Stiles said. “They’re not going to spring a surprise attack on you without state agencies knowing they’re coming. We’re going to share our list (of systems in need of inspection) with them and they will share their list with us. That way you’re not blessed with us coming out to do an inspection, and then six months later the EPA comes out for the same thing. That only leads to consternation on your part.”

The state will still call on the EPA to help with some enforcement issues, he said – in emergency situations, when a state program is considered deficient, or when a system is significantly non-compliant and the state hasn’t been able to correct it.

The EPA has set a goal to reduce the national percentage of non-compliant wastewater systems from 24 to 21 percent in 2018 and 2019, Stiles said, eventually reducing the percentage to 12 percent by 2022.

“Kansas has a seven percent non-compliance rate for wastewater systems, and a compliance rate of 94 percent for drinking water systems,” Stiles said.

“Our track record is solid,” he said. “When it comes to compliance and enforcement, we’re way above the national average in terms of where issues are.”

“The purpose of water regulations is the same as the missions of KDHE and KRWA,” Stiles said, “to provide high-quality water that is safe”.

They also serve to protect the environment, particularly from upstream contaminants that have negative impacts downstream.

“I have enough of a libertarian streak in me that I get the need for limited government in our lives,” he said. “But here’s the thing: streams and groundwater don’t care about our property lines.”

Regulations can provide a level playing field by providing certainty to businesses, Stiles said. Those regulations work best, however, when they are well-crafted – neither too narrow nor too broad.

Science can help with the scope of regulations, but sometimes can only go so far, he said.

The goal of science is to find a precise value that can be linked to a precise consequence. But is a fish in water with a dissolved oxygen level of 5.1 mg/L better off than a fish in water with a dissolved oxygen level of 4.9 mg/L?

“In our world, in water, every story doesn’t have two sides – it might have a half-dozen,” he said. “It’s a big ask of science to come up with convenient numbers.”

Regulations work best when all parties are communicating clearly with each other and understanding all points of view, Stiles said.

They know that “stuff happens,” he said. Problems arise when patterns and habits develop of failing to comply.

It’s also important to provide input when regulations are written, he said.

“If you want to know what a regulation will do, ask the people who have to implement it,” he said. Once regulators hear concerns, they can use the feedback to help decide if a regulation is truly worrisome, or something that people will be able to live with.

“Separation of power between the executive, legislative and judicial branches is critical to the rule-making process,” Stiles said. “The legislative branch is to create the law, the executive

“KDHE relies on technical assistance from KRWA to help the small towns in Kansas get it right when it comes to abiding by the regulations, both for the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act as well”, Stiles said.

branch is to administer the law, and the judicial branch is to interpret the law.”

If left unchecked, the executive branch can interpret a regulation more and more broadly, leading to complaints of too much government power. Then, if an issue is taken to court, “it’s a crap shoot” to know how the judicial branch might interpret a law.

“The lines between the three branches have gotten really blurry,” he said. “All that results in uncertainty, in the marketplace and in our everyday lives.”

Stiles’ advice to water systems is to keep open lines of communication when it comes to understanding and adhering to regulations.

“Don’t lie to us, don’t blow us off, don’t flip us off,” he said. “Have a conversation with us, so we get the context of your situation, and we’ll find a path to get you back on roadway to certainty so you can carry on with life’s mission.”

Federal investments made in rural water, but future of funding unclear . . .

U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall Promotes Rural Investments, Federal Government Cuts

The national debt is the greatest threat to the national security of the United States, said U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall – and rural water systems as well.

Marshall, a Great Bend Republican elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2016, delivered a short speech during the Wednesday luncheon of 2018 Kansas Rural Water Association's annual conference.

When Marshall's first grandson was born three years ago, he said, the child inherited \$35,000 in national debt. By the time his second grandson was born two years later, that child had inherited \$65,000 in national debt.

The climbing debt is a threat to rural America, he said, because it could jeopardize projects for water and wastewater systems now being supported by federal funds.

"If we keep adding to our debt, and if we don't build a strong economy, there will be no money to do some of the things you want to do," he said.

Marshall described the ways in which history might remember his tenure in office thus far. Some of these historical items of note are what he described as a new approach from Congress and the federal government.

One approach is to increase military funding, Marshall said, which he described as one of only two areas that saw increased funding in the current federal budget. He also touted new infrastructure to protect the country's southern border – "you can call it a wall, or a fence, I don't care – we're building it," he said.

Other approaches have included the administration's approach to strengthening the economy, including rolling back federal regulations, passing a federal tax cut, and its approach to negotiations for the reauthorization of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Marshall said.

History will also judge this time in the country's history by how it approaches rural issues, Marshall said.

"I've sat down with the President, and he certainly understands we are his base, we are the people who elected him president," he said. "Other people may think we are flyover country, but we're not to the President or to this Congressman."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development programs were the second area of the federal budget that experienced an increase in funding, Marshall said.

Some figures he provided:

- A total of \$23 billion investment in agriculture programs
- An increase from \$2 billion to \$3 billion in rural water and wastewater funding
- An increase from \$30 million to \$700 million in rural broadband support

After his luncheon address, Marshall spoke briefly with *The Kansas Lifeline* in further detail about his experiences with rural water systems during his time in office.

In places like Jetmore, he said, the elderly water tower obviously needs some work, but their water is brown as well, he said.

"They're going to have to do way more than just replace their water tower," he said.

He has also observed that many systems were built at the same time, and are "aging out" at the same time.

"We haven't planned for this day," he said. "I'm very concerned about water infrastructure in all of our systems in rural communities, and I do know how expensive it is."

Marshall described the greatest challenge in the next three decades as creating a skilled labor force to fill the 50,000 available jobs in manufacturing and other sectors. The second challenge is water, he said, in terms of water quality and quantity.

"We're trying to balance the needs of municipalities and rural agriculture, and we gotta keep working together," he said, noting that the Cheney Lake Watershed Project was an example of agriculture producers reducing runoff from their fields



Congressman Roger Marshall made a guest appearance at the Wednesday noon luncheon.

that would have otherwise ended up in Cheney Reservoir, where it could affect the City of Wichita's water supply.

"When it comes to water, we have to constantly be looking upriver and downriver, around us and below us," he said. "We can't live in little silos when it comes to water."

The future of federal funding for all projects is unclear, Marshall said, as long as the federal government continues to spend more than it takes in.

Marshall pointed to what he described as the "horrible economy we've had in the last nine to ten years" as a contributor to the national debt, which affected the tax base. The economy has been stimulated, he said, and now the attention has turned to shrinking the federal government. The Environmental Protection Agency alone has cut almost 1,000 positions, he said.

"There's less regulators out there now," he said. "We're trying to do more of that."

Congress "thinks rural America has been underfunded" during the last two decades, he said, and now it's a priority.

Yet, "we can't do this every year," he said about increased funding for rural programs. "We have to figure out how to shrink the federal government. I think we'll be looking for more and more states and local governments to take care of as much as they can. The last mile of every project is always the toughest, and I understand that."



Spouses “Paint the Towne!”

It was indeed a “party with a purpose”. It was a totally unique spouse program at the 2018 KRWA conference.

The fun-filled event began at 1:45 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28 in a make-shift room draped in tall curtains inside Convention Hall at the Century II Convention Center. Nearly 70 spouses attended – and paint the towne – they did indeed.

When KRWA first proposed “Paint the Towne” for the program, one person commented, “Well, let’s have some wine and chocolate covered strawberries too!” And so it was. There were also other soft drinks, ice tea and cookies. To say a good time was had by all is an under-statement.

“Paint the Towne” was an unforgettable afternoon of fun, friends, and fine art. Where else might anyone enjoy the food and drink with KRWA providing the canvas?

In about two hours time, the 70 conference registrants who attended created their own work of art by just following the instructions of the teacher. Everyone worked on a sunflower as the general painting. Many of the spouses had never painted before while some had painting experience.



Numerous requests have been made to repeat this program in 2019. KRWA loves to please an audience. Watch for this on the 2019 program that should be in the mail about January 5.



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"Pump Boys and Dinettes" – a Big Hit with KRWA Audience

Toes were tapping, heads were bobbing and there were laughs aloud as the 2018 KRWA conference hosted "Pump Boys and Dinettes" by The Forum Theatre. It was another energetic musical staged under the direction of Kathy Page Hauptman.

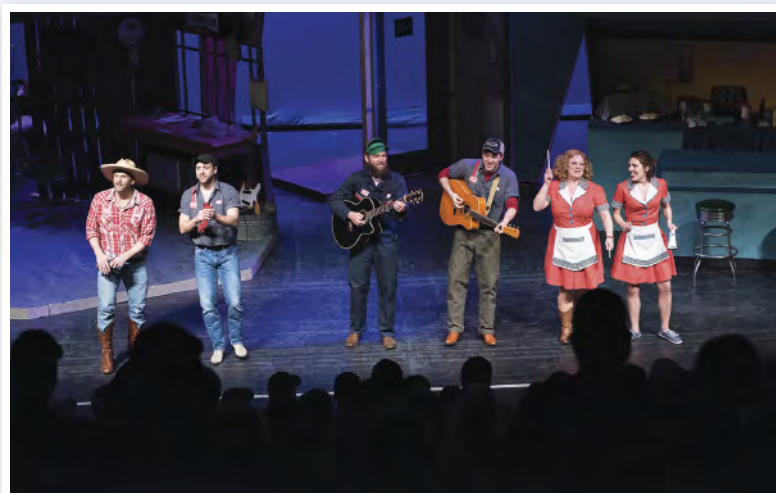
Cast members included J. Clayton Winters, Stephen Hitchcock, Leslie Alan Coates, Ted Dvorak, Jen Bechter and Chelsey Moore Ehresman.

J. Clayton Winters, Stephen Hitchcock, Leslie Alan Coates and Ted Dvorak play the "Pump Boys" and bring down the house as they explain their way through a series of successes and failures in life and love, all while producing impressive musical harmony. Winters, who appeared courtesy of the Actor's Equity Association, started the show with some banter of the audience, particularly the ladies in the front row. Ted Dvorak's ballad "The Night Dolly Parton Was Almost Mine" gained great audience appreciation with applause and whistles.

Jen Bechter and Chelsey Moore Ehresman played the Cupp sisters – Rhetta and Prudie, at the Double Cupp Diner, located somewhere between Frog Level and Smyrna.

The show provided a relaxed and fun-filled evening. Other songs included "Highway 57", "Taking It Slow", "Serve Yourself", "Best Man", "Fisherman's Prayer", "Catfish", "Be Good or Be Gone", "Drinking Shoes", "Tips", "No Holds Barred", and "Farmer Tan".

It was a rip-roarin' good time that filled everyone's entertainment tank. An extended standing ovation made the day for the highly talented cast and production staff. KRWA again thanks The Forum for another tremendous musical production for the 2018 KRWA conference.





2018 Presenters

The Kansas Rural Water Association appreciates the time and effort by all the presenters at the 2018 conference. Thank you for helping all those who attended “Working Together, Weathering All Storms”.

Mel Abbott	KPERS
Ron Alexander	Kansas Leadership Center
Debbie Beck	Kansas Department of Commerce
Richard Boyles	USDA Rural Development
Brent Briley	Subsurface Solutions
Carl Brown	GettingGreatRates.com
Dave Bryan	Smith & Loveless, Inc.
David Butler	One Call Concepts
Harold Casey	Substance Abuse Center of Kansas
Patty Clark	Kansas Leadership Center
Brian Cooper	Maguire Iron, Inc.
Jeanie Cunningham	NRWA Healthy Benefits
Scott Cushing	Kansas Dept. of Transportation
Crystal Decker	Trust Point Insurance
Roger Dickey	Kansas Department of Labor
Sharon Dwyer	Douglas RWD 5
Nushat Dyson	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Elizabeth Fitch	Kansas Dept of Agriculture
Marsha Fleming	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle	Wichita State University
Trevor Flynn	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Jim Gallmann	NEO Chemicals & Oxides
Kate Gleeson	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Toni Glymph-Martin	Chicago's Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Tara Hammer	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Gary Hanson	Stumbo Hanson, LLP
Andrew Hare	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Shane Hastings	USDA Rural Development
Stanton Hazlett	Office of Disciplinary Administrator
Douglas Helmke	Kansas Rural Water Association
Chad Hollins	Collection Bureau of Kansas
Jim Jackson	SUEZ Advanced Solutions
Kevin Jones	Mid West Fire Training Associates
Lauren Jones	State Historic Preservation Office
Dale Kimmer	Kansas Dept. of Transportation
Len Lehmann	KPERS 457
Jessica Lewis	One Call Concepts
Adam Luke	Foresters Financial
Ned Marks	Terrane Resources Co.
Charles Marshall	M Power Resources

Daryn Martin	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Pat McCool	Kansas Rural Water Association
Ed McGrath	R.E. Pedrotti Company
Mark McIntire	MMG
Heidi Mehl	Nature Conservancy In Kansas
Traci Miles	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Roger Miller	Water Systems Engineering, Inc.
John Nitcher	Douglas RWD 4
Rick Penner	Maguire Iron, Inc.
Toby Prine	Kansas Division of Emergency Mgmt.
Don Rankin	Utility Data Intel
Kitty Rhynerson	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Doug Riseden	Krausz USA
Leslee Rivarola	KU Public Management
Kelly Rundell	Hite, Fanning & Honeyman
Jerald Runnebaum	Kansas Dept. of Transportation
Mike Schnieders	Water Systems Engineering, Inc.
John Schwartz	USABlueBook
Pat Shaffer	Butler RWD 5 / KRWA
Jen Sharp	JenSharp.com
Scott Shreve	Utility Data Intel
Darin Skutt	Carus Corporation
John Snodgrass	Maguire Iron, Inc.
Jason Solomon	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Bruce Spare	Saline RWDs 3, 7 & 8
Tom Stiles	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Randy Stone	USDA Rural Development
Tracy Streeter	Kansas Water Office
Andy Terhune	Kansas Dept of Agriculture
Ron Thomann	TREKK Design Group
Mark Thomas	Kansas Rural Water Association
Keith Thompson	Chlorinators Incorporated
Brent Turney	Kansas Dept of Agriculture
Brad Vincent	Ground Water Associates
Tim Weston	State Historic Preservation Office
Scott Wienands	Nutri-Ject Systems, Inc.
Brownie Wilson	Kansas Geological Survey
Doug Wilson	Hose Solutions
Monica Wurtz	Kansas Rural Water Association
Bert Zerr	Kansas Rural Water Association



By Sarah Green

Thursday Luncheon

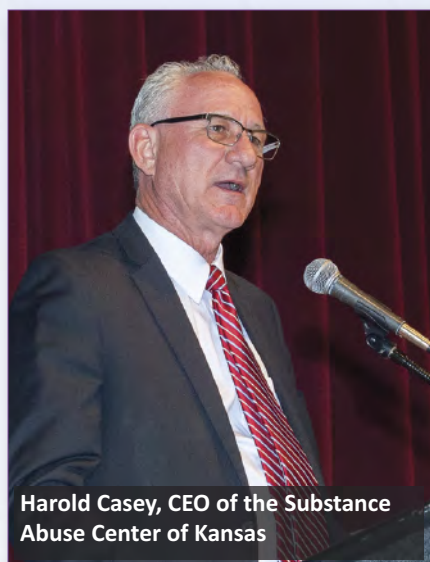
Concern growing in Kansas about opiate use . . .

Substance Abuse Expert Shares Insights on Struggles, Solutions

Substance abuse and opiate use is not a new phenomenon.

The poet Edgar Allan Poe frequented opium dens in the 1800s. Heroin was a favorite drug in the 1950s. The 1960s brought widespread use of LSD and marijuana. Cocaine was a widely used drug in the 1980s. And the 1990s saw widespread methamphetamine use.

Today, opiates are being prescribed for pain relief at a rate that far exceeds the population in many communities, said Harold Casey, the chief executive officer of the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas.



Harold Casey, CEO of the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas

"I was at a meeting earlier this week, and learned that enough opiates are being prescribed in Wichita that everybody in this room could have all they wanted, plus," Casey said.

Casey spoke about the trend in opiate prescribing and use during the 2018 Kansas Rural Water Association annual conference's Thursday luncheon.

KRWA President Paul Froelich introduced Casey during the luncheon. He said his own sister's death had been caused indirectly by opioid addiction. Froelich has undergone several orthopedic surgeries and experienced significant problems with his back.

"I can see now how very easy it is to get opioids," he said.

Casey became involved in substance abuse counseling in 1982, when he went to work at a drug and alcohol detox center, he said. In thinking about how to begin his address to the KRWA membership, he said he remembered what his mother told him at that time.

"You are going to find two groups of people to be the most difficult to work with: the very, very rich, and the very, very poor," Casey quoted his mother as saying. "They have nothing to lose."

In the years since, he said, he has met countless people and their families who have worked through substance abuse disorders. In the previous week alone, he said, his best friend's brother had died of a heroin overdose. He had met several times with a family whose son had been admitted into a treatment program for heroin use.

"They are worried about him living or dying," he said.

And the consequences of that addiction, he said, are severe: unemployment, divorce, hospitalizations, domestic violence, time in jail, overdosing, and accidental or violent death.

An anonymous photo illustration he displayed during his talk showed a man perched precariously on a ledge of a tall building, obviously in distress.

"When I see this photo, I see high-risk behavior," he said. "That photo

isn't of me, but it is of somebody's son."

Eight of every ten drug poisonings in Kansas are caused by pharmaceutical or illicit drugs, Casey said. Pharmaceutical opioids are a growing cause of those deaths.

The synthetic morphine drug Fentanyl, which can be prescribed for severe pain that accompanies cancer treatment, is now the cause of the highest risk death from opiates, he said – and is increasing every year.

Casey focused on youth drug use during his speech. About half of all young people using drugs are getting them from friends and family members, he said.

A popular party game gaining notoriety is for young people to raid their parents' medicine cabinets for pills such as Xanax and codeine, then combine their findings in a bowl to dip into, potluck style. These parties are known as "skittles parties" because of the colorful pills' resemblance to the popular candy.

"That's been going on for years," Casey said, but Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeff Easter reports that "it's happening a lot now."

An irony with drug use among young people, he said, is that parents often find their teenagers more agreeable when they are high.

"When they're not using, they're irritable and combative," Casey said. "You get an interesting positive feedback from the negativity of drug use."

He also shared his own story of his struggles with substance abuse and addiction. His mother helped him enter a treatment program that worked for him in 1981. He hasn't had a drink since.



A popular party game gaining notoriety is for young people to raid their parents' medicine cabinets for pills such as Xanax and codeine, then combine their findings in a bowl to dip into, potluck style.

Taxpayer-supported treatment changed his life, he said.

"Y'all paid for my treatment," he said. "Today, I have 87 employees, and about 30 to 40 percent of them are recovering from addiction. They pay taxes, they help people in their community. They go to Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings, they live in Oxford Houses and recovery houses, and they are a strong part of your community."

A smoker might try to quit tobacco use four or five times, he said. A diabetic who cheats on their diet might be in and out of the hospital. But someone with an opiate addiction who relapses is seen as the "scum of the earth," he said.

"The idea is to help these people," he said. "If nothing else, I want you to think of it as a cost-saving project."

A \$500,000 detox center in Sedgwick County, with support from

local and state governments, is saving almost \$9 million a year in stress on law enforcement budgets and other governmental line items.

"I can't pick, any more than a physician can with a diabetic, who's going to live, who's going to die, who's going to get cured and who's going to stay ill," he said, "but state-funded treatment has paid you back 20-fold in the sense of what these people do in our community. I encourage you to support them."

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.



Watch It – Catch It! It's a Flying Pancake!

The KRWA Thursday morning breakfast is a bit out of the norm, thanks to the serving by Chris Cakes of Wichita.

Chris Cakes is the original pancake catering company that flips flapjacks... by the millions! Chris Cakes uses a custom designed grill and dispensing unit that allows the organization to feed large and small groups extremely fast and efficiently. Add a dose of humor and some fancy pancake flipping and you have a one-of-a-kind event that people just love to watch while they enjoy delicious pancakes! Chris Cakes was the outcome of a breakfast fundraiser by the Kiwanis Club in Pocahontas, Iowa in the mid-1960's. They were preparing for their annual pancake supper. Since the preparation and presentation of the meal was labor intensive, requiring a large group of men, the idea of building a portable grill capable of serving large groups of people in a short span of time was contrived by Mr. Lorin Christiansen. His idea was to build the grill and reduce the workload at the pancake event and, occasionally, lease the grill to other groups. However, since Lorin was the primary cook and always the entertainment it was natural that he and

his grill become a team. Thus, Chris Cakes Pancake Catering was founded. Today, Chris Cakes has franchises in numerous states.

Kathy Xenos (Short Stack) of Chris Cakes of Wichita, arrives at Century II at about 5 a.m. to set up. Short Stack always brings an ample amount pancake mix and a whole heap of redneck humor. Short Stack flips pancakes left and right, backhanded even, and can plant a cake on top of someone's head 20 feet distant. "You want another; here it comes! It's a lot of fun that was enjoyed by more than 400 starting at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 29.



186 Conference-goers Contribute \$7,616 to WaterPAC

It's become an expected, annual affair and it's been going on since 2005. It's the annual effort by the Kansas Rural Water Association conference-goers to support WaterPAC. WaterPAC is the PAC for the National Rural Water Association that 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.

In 2018, raffle tickets to WaterPAC prizes were purchased 186 individual donors, raising \$7,616.

Paul Froelich, President of the KRWA's board of directors, commented during the annual meeting of membership of the KRWA how important the support by Kansas Rural Water Association has been to WaterPAC. Legislative proposals concerning reduction of regulations and funding (loans and grants) for USDA Rural Development and the revolving loan funds for water and wastewater utilities are among NRWA's top priorities in Washington. And that was especially true in 2018 when the President's budget proposed the total elimination of the USDA Rural Development water and wastewater loan and grant program.

KRWA directors took other opportunities to explain the programs and how WaterPAC benefits water systems. KRWA directors have assumed the responsibility of attending to receiving the donations.



The "Power of NRWA affiliates" is apparent each year with the NRWA Rally. KRWA typically is represented by two or three people who meet with Members of the Kansas Delegation to discuss funding issues and other regulatory concerns. Sometimes, specific system issues are also included. 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. In 2018, NRWA led the effort to see the USDA Rural Development programs not be eliminated. Numerous regulatory issues would be even more complex were it not for NRWA as a stakeholder to weigh in and argue for reasonableness with the regulations, particularly as those impact smaller water and wastewater systems.



WaterPAC Raffle Winners

Prize	Winner	System
Quilt - Stars in the Meadow	Sam Atherton	Labette RWD 3 / KRWA
Cuisinart Cup Brewer/Single Serve Maker	John Douglas	Trego RWD 2
Green Mountain Pellet Grill w/WiFi	Allan Soetaert	Johnson RWD 7 / KRWA
VIZIO LED 50" Smart HDTV	Chris Harrington	City of Hutchinson
HP 10.1" Laptop, Touchscreen, 2 in 1	Clarence Banzet	City of Greensburg
KitchenAid Professional 5-Quart Mixer	Paul Strathman	Nemaha RWD 3
ECHO Show	Brad Barbour	Sedgwick RWD 2
RTIC 45 White Cooler	Terry Stark	City of Anthony
Compound Miter Saw w/Laser Marker	Ron Rettele	Brown RWD 1
Apple Ipad Air 2 32 GB WIFI	Shane' Hastings	USDA Rural Development
iRobot Roomba Vacuum	Galen Penner	Marion RWD 4
Stihl Chain Saw	Dennis Schwartz	KRWA
Stihl Weedeater	Steve McCallum	KRWA
Stihl Tiller w/brush chopper attachment	Lonnie Rignell	City of Riley
Stihl Leaf Blower/Vac	Kyle Headrick	City of Hesston
Milwaukee M12 Drill Driver	Galen Penner	Marion RWD

Prizes for the Raffle are paid for by KRWA 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; 2017 - \$8,795. 2018 - \$7,616. Donations over the last thirteen years total \$84,361.



Mark your calendars!



KRWA's 52nd Annual Conference & Exhibition

Don't Miss It!

96 Quilts and Counting – Lucky Winners Take Grand Prizes Home

Four more quilts .. now totaling 96 grand prize drawings since 1984 including 2018, have gone home to lucky conference-goers.

This year's patterns were designed by Connie Huerter of Seneca, Kansas. The patterns were "Square in a Square", "Pieces of the Night", "Lilac Applique", and "Stars in the Meadow" that was a prize in the WaterPAC Raffle.

Four quilts are planned for the 2019 conference and are well-underway as of June 1.



Sam Atherton, former KRWA director and representative of Labette RWD 3, won the pattern "Stars in the Meadow" which was a prize in the WaterPAC Raffle.



Gary Holle, Washington RWD 1, chose the design, "Square in a Square" at the Wednesday evening awards banquet.



The pattern, "Lilac Applique", was selected by Harold Kuhn, city of Buffalo.



Wayne Rowh, city of Morganville, chose the design "Pieces of the Night".

Networking, education, and the “Easter Bunny”



There's Something for Everyone at the KRWA Conference & Exhibition

A group of eight public works employees from the city of Hutchinson held down a table in the Expo Hall on Tuesday afternoon as they waited for the opening nite Meet & Greet to begin.

What's the best part of the conference?

“The free stuff!” they said in unison, noting that some of this year's top giveaways included a small flashlight on a telescoping pole, ball caps, and some quick-absorbing lotion that is a favorite of their families.

It is also, said Lonnie Dale, who works in the city's sewer department, “the knowledge that you are able to get here.”

“I learned a whole lot today, and it's just the first day,” he said.

John and Dawnas Gorentz came to the conference from Arma, where John is the director of public works for the city.

“I come to get my certification hours, and to see what's new, if anything, in the 30 years I've been doing this,” John said.

“It's my spring break,” Dawnas said, who has accompanied John for the last several years.

They enjoy the programming and the relationships, they said, as well as the opportunity to load up on giveaways in the Expo Hall.

“When I go home, I'll be the Easter Bunny,” John said, lifting his heavy tote bag and smiling.

Carolyn Lamborn, customer service manager for Crawford RWD 5 in Pittsburg, snagged the first spot in line for the Tuesday night opening reception – a line of more than 1,200 people that stretched all the way through the building to the back of EXPO Hall.

Lamborn, recovering from recent knee replacement surgery, occupied a folding chair while she waited for the reception to open.

This was her third year to attend the conference, which she found useful for new information.

“I'll be attending sessions on bookkeeping, to learn the new things that are coming, and about the new laws that have been passed,” she said. “And I also come for all the fun.”

By Thursday morning, Bill and Nancy Huss had found a comfortable spot to sit in EXPO Hall as they waited for the closing noon luncheon.

Bill Huss, chairman of the board of Doniphan RWD 5, said he appreciated the effort that went into designing and carrying out the conference each year.

“I don't think people realize the amount of planning and work that goes into this by the KRWA board of directors and the staff,” he said.

In addition to the scheduled educational sessions, he said, there was power in networking.

“You can learn a lot just sitting and talking to people from other districts,” he said.

Nancy has accompanied Bill for several years. This year she took part in the Spouse Program, where women joined together for an afternoon of painting a colorful canvas while enjoying treats like chocolate covered strawberries and wine.

“My ‘Picasso’ is in the car, ready to go home,” she said. “Everybody's painting was different, and even though we had the same directions, everyone went a different way.”



WaterOne Judged “Best Tasting Water In Kansas”; City of Russell Places Second



Drink up! It's "Quality on Tap!" The best tasting water in Kansas is produced by WaterOne. So says the team of professionals who judged water from WaterOne as the Best Tasting Water in Kansas during the 51st Annual Conference & Exhibition. Michael Tripp, Purchasing and Materials Manager at WaterOne, accepted the award.

WaterOne is an independent water utility, serving approximately 425,000 customers in the Johnson County area. As the largest water utility in Kansas, WaterOne is dedicated to setting the standard for utility excellence.

WaterOne dates back to 1957 when citizens in the Mission, Kansas area were unsatisfied with the value and service from their water provider, organized to buy out the Kansas City Suburban Water Company. They reincorporated as public water provider Water District No. 1 of Johnson County. Today, the system is known as WaterOne and has grown to service many communities in Johnson County.

The system has two water sources; they are the Missouri River and Kansas River. System capacity is 200 million gallons per day to meet customers' needs.

Michell Worth, WaterOne's Director of Production, commented in the

utility's spring newsletter Current that the award is a reflection of the hard work that goes into making great tasting tap water for WaterOne's customers every day of the year. "There really is an art to water treatment, from our source waters in the Kansas and Missouri Rivers all the way to our customers' homes," said Michelle. "This award confirms that our extensive, multi-tiered treatment process produces water that is clean, safe, and tastes delicious!"

A fresh sample of water from WaterOne will go up against the winner in each state rural water association in the "Great American Water Taste Test" to be held in Washington, D.C. next February.

Russell places second

The city of Russell serves 2,400 customers. The water system has a production capacity of 1.5 million gallons per day to meet customers' needs. City Manager Jon Quinday comments that the city of Russell is proud to have placed second in the contest as nearly 30 samples were



Michael Tripp, Purchasing and Materials Manager at WaterOne, accepted the trophy for Best Tasting Water in Kansas.

submitted by cities and rural water districts. This is the first year the city of Russell has participated in the contest.

Russell's water supply is from two sources; surface water from Big Creek and groundwater from its Pfeifer Wellfield. Treatment involves a combination of water softening and an EDR (electrodialysis reversal) plant to blend surface and groundwater together. The plant has five operators and one plant supervisor.

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Award Winners



**Edgar Peck,
Elliott Insurance Group**

THE CONGER AWARD

KRWA's highest honor, The Conger Award, was presented to Edgard Peck, of the Elliott Insurance Group.

Ed began his insurance career in 1963 as a building inspector and fire rater with the Kansas Inspection Bureau. After 22 years of involvement with another insurance agency, he joined forces and created a new agency. It was his position on the local water district where he served in all offices, that he saw the need for a stable property, casualty and directors and officers' insurance program. He proceeded to develop a safety dividend insurance plan for water districts which was underwritten by Employers Mutual Companies. With the endorsement of the Kansas Rural Water Association, nearly 250 water districts participate and have benefited from the safety dividend program that has returned five percent to 27.2 percent since 1994. As of March 30, 2018, the program will have returned \$6.1 million to water districts in Kansas.

Anyone who knows Ed knows he is a person who is of consistent integrity, never putting himself in front of anyone else.

In addition to his work on behalf of rural water districts, Ed has served as Treasurer of the Tecumseh Township and board member of the Topeka-Tecumseh Fire District as well as being involved in church and many community affairs. All that is in addition to his own farming operation. His firm, Anderson Peck and now Elliott Insurance Group, has been an active supporter of KRWA and has helped sponsor events and donated many prizes at annual conferences.

The Conger Award was established in 1980 to recognize persons who have made extraordinary contributions to the Association's members and others. The Award is in honor of the first President of the Association's board of directors, Carl Conger of Iola, Kansas.

**Lane Letourneau,
Kansas Dept. of Agriculture,
Division of Water Resources**

FRIEND OF RURAL WATER AWARD

The Kansas Rural Water Association presented a "Friend of Rural Water Award" to Lane Letourneau, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources.

Lane can readily be described as a "Fine Kansan" because he has devoted more than 30 years to public service with the State of Kansas. He graduated from Fort Hays State University in 1983 with a degree in Geology, where he was Geology Club President. He then worked in the oil patch as a Logging Engineer for three and a half years with Great Guns Petroleum. In June of 1987, he accepted a position at



the Kansas State Board of Agriculture's Division of Water Resources where he implemented their water use reporting program. He became the Water Appropriation Program Manager at the Division in 2006

For the past several years, Lane has been a key player at the agency to help develop and implement the Governor's Water Vision, a 50-year water plan primarily aimed at finding ways to conserve the Ogallala Aquifer. He has a reputation for being an even-handed regulator, treating water users fairly and equally.

Lane has attended each of the past 30 KRWA conferences, representing the agency. Inside and outside of work Lane enjoys telling jokes. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and fishing, helping his in-laws on their farm and spending time with his family – his wife Penny and daughter Lakin.



Willard Perrin, City of Oberlin SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Willard Perrin, a 28-year employee of the city of Oberlin was presented a "Special Recognition Award" by KRWA at the 2018 conference.

Willard was recognized for his leadership, knowledge, and work ethic which all are something that Oberlin has come to depend on.

Oberlin has special challenges when it comes to water. Willard was instrumental in innovative ideas to ensure Oberlin has safe drinking water now and well into the future. In 2014 Oberlin faced the challenge of a complete overhaul of the water supply system. The city had to go eight miles outside of town to locate acceptable water. The city constructed eight new wells with state-of-the-art pump systems, transporting water to town.

Willard has stayed busy over the last 28 years, because he has had to innovate on many occasions because of the city's aging water mains that date back to the 1880's. Willard is the reason the city of Oberlin purchased new operational software supported by GIS mapping showing all of Oberlin's infrastructure, particularly the water

mains. City Administrator Halley Roberson commented that Willard didn't need that technology because he had it all memorized in his head but with new employees, Willard will be missed.

Oberlin is a very rural community and the responsibility of the town's water source, transport, quality, and safety have rested on Willard's shoulders without hesitation or question for 28 years. And on behalf of the citizens of Oberlin, KRWA was pleased to help recognize Willard Perrin's untiring dedication to public service.



Brian Isch, Wastewater Operator, City of Gridley

WASTEWATER OPERATOR

Brian Isch, city of Gridley, was presented the Wastewater Operator of the Year by KRWA at the 2018 annual conference.

After graduating from high school in 1993, Brian spent several years working odd jobs before taking a water and wastewater operator position with the city of Gridley. Even though he is responsible for operating and maintaining all city facilities in this

relatively small city in east-central Kansas, it is the wastewater treatment facilities that are getting the lion's share of attention.

The city's collection system is all gravity flow to a discharging two-cell lagoon system. Because the city experienced some permit failures and some sewer backup incidents into customer's homes, Brian took the initiative to have a camera inspection of the collection system, checking for infiltration and inflow locations and to have a sludge profile done at the lagoon. With the results of the sewer line inspection identifying some problem areas, the city did spot lining at eight locations and completely lined four city blocks. In addition to lining sewer lines, the city is considering adding another cell to increase capacity. Because the city has been notified that the next permit from KDHE will have a "Schedule of Compliance", Brian has been working with funding agencies to secure funding for what will be major improvements. His efforts show how someone in a small town can make a difference.

In his off time, Brian enjoys hunting and fishing, and as a single father, he enjoys spending a lot of time with his children.

KRWA appreciates these winners for their hard work and dedication to their communities!



Carolyn Lamborn,
Crawford County RWD 5
RURAL WATER BOOKKEEPER

Carolyn Lamborn, Bookkeeper for Crawford County Rural Water District No. 5 near Pittsburg, was recognized as Rural Water Bookkeeper of the Year.

Carolyn grew up in southeast Kansas and attended Pittsburg State University. After working for KG & E (now Westar) in Wichita, she accepted the bookkeeper's position with the rural water district in 1991. During her years with the district, she has seen major improvements including the construction of new wells and water lines. These improvements were financed through the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund which requires quarterly reporting of financial and operating data, known as FIAC reports. Since completion of the project in 2002, she has consistently complied with the reporting requirements, always submitting the reports completed and on time.

Customer billing was done manually when she began employment. She converted all accounts to digital format and moved the district from a manual billing system to a computerized

billing system. She is currently working to set-up customers to pay bills online.

Carolyn is very active in her sorority, having held all offices multiple times for her local chapter as well as national offices including national president. She is a founding member of the local "Community Thanksgiving" through her church. For 32 years, this organization has provided meals and fellowship for local people who do not have family or can't afford a traditional meal. She also helps serving meals to the homeless and poor in the community. For enjoyment, she enjoys landscaping and gardening as well as traveling, having been to Alaska and Hawaii



Martha Tasker, City of Salina
UTILITIES DIRECTOR

Martha Tasker, Utilities Director at the city of Salina, was named "Utilities Director of the Year" by KRWA at the 2018 conference.

Martha has been a long-time resident of north-central Kansas; she has worked on water and wastewater projects across the state. While attending college, she worked as a part-

time intern with an engineering firm.

After graduation, the job with the engineering firm became full-time. As a member of the firm's environmental department, she did concept and design work on water and wastewater projects for many municipalities. Her attention to detail and her ability to manage projects while with the engineering firm earned her a reputation as one of the best unlicensed engineering managers in the state from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

In 2003, after 28 years with the engineering firm, she made a career move and joined the city of Salina to manage the Utilities Department. As Utilities Director, she manages 57 employees responsible for the water and wastewater treatment plants, and the distribution and collection systems. She oversees an operating budget of more than \$12 million, along with multi-million-dollar capital projects. The city uses both surface water and groundwater and delivers 15 MGD to more than 20,000 customers. Infrastructure includes five booster pump stations, eight elevated storage tanks, about 330 miles of pipeline ranging from 2-inch to 30-inch consisting of cast iron, ductile iron, PVC, and HDPE pipe materials.

Planning for the future is an area where she has been very involved, including working to add a second water source to provide water service to customers if a natural disaster would disable the current treatment plant. A new well field and treatment plant will be built to serve as an emergency supply and to support growth in the community. Also, as a result of a drought several years ago, she pushed to develop a 50-year raw water supply study which resulted in a change in how water rates are charged. The results of this change where higher



water users pay more for water resulted in a major drop in water usage. In addition, she worked with the Kansas Water Office and farmers in the river basin to reach an ultimate goal of achieving more efficient management of water resources for downstream users, while helping the city meet water demands during droughts.

Martha was one of five area professionals to receive the Women of Achievement Award from the Young Women Legacy Fund. She says "I never thought about being a pioneer for women in the utilities engineering field. I'm just passionate about my job and doing it to the best of my ability."



Richard Simon,
City of Goodland
MUNICIPAL OPERATOR

Richard Simon, Public Works Superintendent at the city of Goodland, was recognized as the Municipal Operator of the Year.

Richard began with the city in 1989 as a laborer. The time spent as a laborer allowed for valuable experience from ground level. The result was his very fast rise through the ranks as his abilities and knowledge were demonstrated time and time again. He

was promoted twice, first to the position of Water Superintendent and then to his current position of Public Works Superintendent.

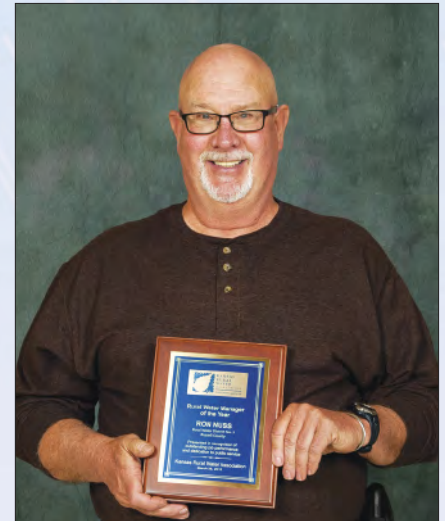
Richard oversees all water, wastewater, street and parks operations. During his tenure and under his leadership, the city constructed a new water treatment plant, erected a new elevated storage tank, and completed water line projects. As is generally the case in a smaller community, a person in this position is often asked to handle a little bit of everything in addition to regular duties. There is no exception here as Richard was instrumental in the oversight of a historic brick street project, a desperately needed waterline replacement project, a storm sewer project, and heavily involved in the promotion of a \$2.3 million General Obligation Bond for an upcoming street rehabilitation project.

City Manager Andrew Finzen commented that regardless of the size of project assigned, Richard always makes it happen. He adds, "True to his word, he has always come through. His servant-like approach extends far beyond the workplace as he is an active member of the community who is always present at service organization meetings, charity events, and community projects."

Ron Nuss, Russell RWD No. 3 **RURAL WATER MANAGER**

Ron Nuss, Manager of Russell RWD 3, was named "Rural Water Manager of the Year" at the 2018 conference.

Ron has worked with the rural water district for the past 17 years starting out as the operator before moving into the manager position. He was instrumental in having the water district mapping upgraded by GPS. In



2003, he implemented the telemetry system and just recently, was responsible for upgrading that system. In 2007 when the local telephone company installed fiber optic cable, he spent many hours keeping water flowing to customers even though the phone company plowed through many waterlines. His commitment to customers during that time was apparent as he was taking chemotherapy treatments and many days should have been home resting rather than working.

District board members have been alerted by this manager that "business as usual" is not sustainable into the future due to high water loss. As a result, this 45-year-old District that serves nearly 500 users along more than 500 miles of pipeline, is seeking funds for a project to deal with waterline leaks. The original pipeline is solvent weld PVC pipe. The project will also provide maintenance and upgrades at the standpipes and booster stations.

Ron is very knowledgeable about the district and has a story about nearly every customer and every water leak. In his spare time, he enjoys gardening, metal detecting and woodworking.



**Harold Hunzeker,
Nemaha RWD 1**

RURAL WATER OPERATOR

Harold Hunzeker, Operator for Nemaha RWD 1 at Bern, Kansas, received the award "Rural Water Operator"

Harold knows storms because soon after he began work as a new operator, the water district was heavily impacted by an ice storm in 2007. The district was without power for 14 days. In order to maintain water pressure the district operator used two tractors with two PTO driven generators to operate wells and pumps

The district has low-producing wells. In 2013 with hot and dry conditions, Harold monitored the operation of the wells 24 hours per day and two other wells 19 hours daily to ensure adequate water was produced for the customers. Realizing something had to be done to alleviate this type of situation, a search for more water was initiated. Twenty-eight test holes were drilled before finally locating water with suitable quantity and quality. The district has 152 customers with several that are large users due to livestock

operations and also is interconnected to the city of Bern.

During the tenure of this operator, the district has upgraded operation of the wells with a telemetry system. Auto-dialer alarms were also installed. The district updated all mapping with GPS mapping. The district included locations where leaks have occurred on the maps. All new installations have both locator wire and are also GPS'd. Harold says that it helps tremendously to have a good relationship with the board of directors who care about the district's customers, state agencies and he appreciates the help received from Kansas Rural Water Association. If there's any free time, Harold and his wife Sharon enjoy camping.

Julie Stutzman, City of Lyndon CITY CLERK

Julie Stutzman, City Clerk at Lyndon, was named "City Clerk of the Year" at the 2018 conference.

Julie is a native Kansan who has been employed in several career fields including working in the legal area on bankruptcies, in the medical field doing medical transcriptions, and for a prescription supplier before becoming employed with the city of Lyndon in



2006. There, she began as a part-time utility clerk and pool manager. Subsequently, she moved into a full-time position as city treasurer, and then into the city clerk position, which she has held since 2012

During the last six years, while learning and performing the duties of city clerk, including attending and graduating from the city clerk institute from Wichita State University, the city lost its city manager. As a result, and in addition to performing as city clerk, she found herself taking on the duties of city manager. She is currently heavily involved in a major sewer upgrade project to meet nutrient removal requirements. Another project being planned for next year (including having set aside the necessary funds) is complete maintenance of the elevated storage tank. This person has been described as the "GO TO" person for all city business.

Outside of work Julie is very civic minded and really enjoys her two daughters Renee and Rachael. She also enjoys the outdoors, especially camping at Melvern Reservoir.

Rural Water District No. 2, Linn County

MOST IMPROVED WATER SYSTEM

Rural Water District No. 2, Linn County, was recognized as the most improved water system in 2017. Linn RWD 2 was nearly bankrupt a few years ago but today is operating in the black and has made numerous improvements

Several years ago, the district had only one employee and hired outside contractors to perform repair work. Today, the district has four full-time employees – an office manager and three operators. Equipment acquired in these few years include a mini-



excavator, two trenchers, a skid-steer loader, two service trucks, and equipment to fuse high density poly pipe. All three operators have completed heat fusion training and are certified to perform butt fusion of HDPE pipe. Also, a recent addition to the district office building will allow equipment and inventory to be stored indoors. All work is now being done in house with district funds

Linn RWD 2 began operation in the 1970's; the district has about 800 miles of pipeline and 850 customers. Some of the original pipe was small diameter 1-1/2-inch pipe. About 4,000 feet of this pipe will be replaced with 3-inch pipe to increase capacity to customers. Other improvement plans include adding 7,000 feet of six-inch pipe to a local subdivision.

Because of the difficulty in gaining access to homes, operators have installed ten sample stations and are

planning to install ten more in the near future to ensure adequate sites for compliance monitoring. Also, five automatic timer-controlled flush stations have been installed to maintain fresh chlorinated water throughout the distribution system; five more will be installed in the near future.

Prior to a few years ago, bookkeeping was contracted. All recordkeeping is now maintained by the district. The district has a radio-read meter reading system in place for customer meters. Also, daily water production can be monitored in the rural water district office as a satellite read system is in place to read master meters.

The current board of directors deserves credit for the major turnaround. As a result of renegotiating the purchase contract with the supplier along with improved management, this



The office for Rural Water District No. 2, Linn County – winner, most Improved Water System in Kansas.

system was able to move from near bankruptcy to operating in the black in a relatively short time. The system has weathered many storms – but Linn RWD 2 has overcome them by working together.

TORRIE THIEL, RECIPIENT OF DENNIS SCHWARTZ SCHOLARSHIP

The Kansas Rural Water Association was pleased to present a \$1,000 scholarship to Torrie Thiel as recipient of the Dennis Schwartz Scholarship for 2018-19.

Torrie is the daughter of Vickie Thiel who is bookkeeper for Cowley RWD No. 4 and her husband Brian who live on a farm near Winfield. Torrie attends Central Jr-Sr High School in Burden. She ranks No. 4 in a class of 78. She has been on the Superintendent's Honors Roll every semester of high school. She is a National Honor Society inductee and Kansas Honors Scholar.



Torrie has been involved in many community activities. She has been a dedicated leader in 4-H, holding many offices and she has earned many honors and awards for her work in 4-H. She was junior swine livestock superintendent and junior swine project leader. Her daily chores at home include caring for and feeding livestock, doing laundry and cooking for her family. She has also volunteered at the hospital, serving meals for the needy at her church and being supportive of Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Through 4-H she has volunteered time for the Humane Society, Winfield Isle of Lights, Respite House and local food pantry. And in addition she has supported her school through sports earning varsity letters in basketball and softball.

Torrie's goal is to attend Norther Oklahoma University with a gateway program to continue to OSU in agricultural communications and business.

The scholarship is presented to the dependent of an employee of a KRWA member water or wastewater utility. The scholarship was established in the name of Dennis Schwartz, long-service member of the KRWA board and leader in national water utility organizations.