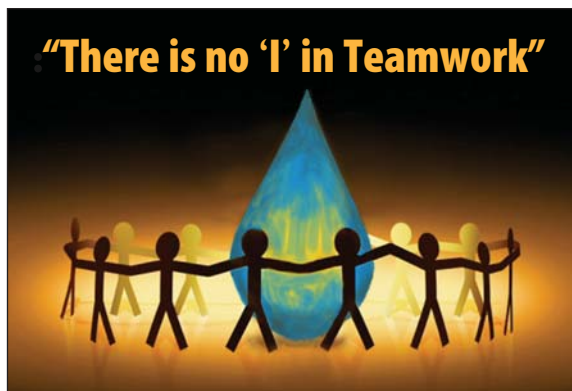


“There is no ‘I’ in Teamwork” – the conference theme came to life!

Cool, dry, spring weather was the welcome awaiting conference attendees in Wichita the last week of March for the 41st annual KRWA Conference and Exhibition. The KRWA Conference is mid-America’s largest and is held at Wichita’s Century II Convention Center.

The dates of March 25-27 saw an influx of nearly 2,200 water professionals jolt the Wichita economy by topping off the 14 official conference hotels there. Attendees included water and wastewater operators; city, county and rural water district administrators; council, commission and board members; representatives



included a total of 25 states and the country of Germany.

The exhibition portion of the conference is second to none in the country. The vendors that completely fill EXPO Hall at Century II subsidize the food and fun events during the conference making KRWA’s yearly

representatives often exclaim, “We appreciate the ample time to visit with and the broad range of operators and decision makers that attend. This is the first conference we mark on the calendar every year!”

All of the displays’ heavy equipment, tools, computers, brochures, premium items, treats, games, brochures and marketing items were unloaded and wheeled into each display space by KRWA staff starting early Monday before the conference. This welcomed assistance takes the edge from a vendor’s hectic travel schedule and allows an Associate Member’s marketing team the much



The 2008 Conference saw an attendance of 2,189. Attendees came from 25 different states and the country of Germany. They represented 295 cities and 183 rural water districts and privately-owned systems.

from the public, related industry; and local, state and federal government agencies. The geographic profile of attendees

extravaganza more affordable for small city and RWD people to attend. Attendees eat better, have more fun and learn more about critical current issues in their industry because of the loyal 199 Associate Members and agencies that displayed their wares of products and services. Company

appreciated extra time to take a breath, stretch their legs and polish their smiles before the 4 p.m. Tuesday opening deadline on the EXPO floor.

Pre-conference roundup

Tuesday’s eight day-long sessions and the Attorney’s Forum

guarantee a day packed with the details that can bring a system up to the next level! These sessions are the chance for some to learn more about critical management and governance issues and for others to

Below: KRWA's Shane Holthaus provides Monday morning move-in service with a smile!

Right: The Chlorine Residuals pre-conference session is standing room only for attendees.

Bottom: An attendee visits the Palm Reader at the Tuesday Carnival Night and BBQ.



training exercise, management improvement with the KanCap program and skill development in reaching alternative dispute resolutions.

The eighth annual KRWA Attorney's Forum saw the round table fill with 35 system attorneys and presenters from around the state.

Although the day-long sessions exact a toll, after the last session, the start of "Carnival 2008"

were discussed as a method to reduce tank chlorine loss.

Sam Atherton, PWWSD 4, Cherryvale; James Brookshire, Cunningham Sandblasting and Painting, Joplin; Terry Brown, Butler RWD 5, Benton, and Jayson McMaster PWWSD 13, Mound City, all made presentations on related subjects. The successes and associated problems with actual situations were also discussed.



gather needed continuing education hours. The in-depth training sessions ran the gamut from maintaining chlorine residuals, wastewater system evaluations and rehab, GIS/GPS capabilities and benefits to systems, Web site creation and improvement, rate setting for the future, a NIMS

recharges everyone's batteries with a delicious plate of BBQ and all the fixings.

The evening's entertainment saw door prizes awarded and attendees enjoying rides, games of skill, games of chance, music, dancing and beverages for kids and adults alike.

Pre-conference sessions benefit attendees

Maintaining Chlorine Residuals in Distribution Systems

Public water supplies are required to maintain chlorine residuals throughout the entire distribution system. Storage facility monitoring of residuals, high and low water levels, flushing tanks, and dumping tanks were highlighted as a means to reduce or eliminate the chlorine loss problems. Also, modifications to water flow into and out of tanks

Wastewater Collection System Evaluation and Rehabilitation

Communities depend on the efficient operation of sanitary sewer systems. Discharges other than at the plant or lagoon are prohibited. Efficient plant management is a must! The presentation team of Gail Abney, Mayer Specialty Services, Goddard; Mike Younger, JCI Industries, Wichita; Billy Strong, The Strong Company, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Brian Smith, Insituform Technologies, Belton, Missouri, and Mike Kelsey, Professional Engineering Consultants, Wichita, defined for attendees just what a 'sanitary sewer' is, what a 'lift station' is, and reviewed maintenance requirements for both. During the afternoon session the team focused on evaluation of collection. They discussed a variety of options to use in determining good system functionality that

included: manhole rehab, I & I control, regaining structural stability, corrosion protection, and cured-in-place-pipelining. They also presented an overview of safety issues.

Development of GIS for Improved Digital Management Services

Presenters Ivan Weichert, Kansas Geographic Information Systems, Topeka; Ken Nelson and Eileen Battles, Data Access and

new online service was demonstrated during the session.

Building Blocks for Creating or Improving a Web Site

With 71% of homes in America having access to the Internet, it is clear that an online presence has become increasingly important for all businesses and organizations, including cities and water districts.

Award winning Web designer and presenter Jen Sharp of JenSharp.com, Ottawa, took

on the Web site purpose and focus, how to organize and select content, graphic and layout do's and don'ts, what software to use for development, creating a site that grows with the organization, getting help and maintaining a Web site easily but inexpensively.

Rate Setting for the Future

An advocate for utility rates that fulfill just what the title says – the future, Carl Brown, Jefferson City, Missouri, saw good attendance for



Support Center, Lawrence, made presentations on the benefits of collecting GPS data and developing a basic geographic information system or GIS. They updated the class on data available and downloadable from state and federal databases. They also detailed what the State of Kansas is doing to assist in the acquisition and sharing of data sets such as property records, roads and addresses, aerial photography, topography and political boundaries.

GIS Director Chris Schmeissner and Cartographer Kristen Jordan, Jefferson County GIS Department, Oskaloosa, gave an overview of their project that will host the county mapping service on their secure server and explained how utility staff can access it from anywhere there is Web access. The



attendees through the paces of thinking and checking out examples in Web site development and maintenance. The presentations were geared for both beginners and intermediate levels of expertise and covered topics including: deciding

this critical session. He explained how great service, a well trained staff, strong maintenance, and timely capital improvements are all very important but won't happen over the long haul if cities and RWDs don't fund them adequately.

Above left: Carl Brown makes a point during the rate setting session.

Above right: Jackson County GIS Director Chris Schmeissner makes his project presentation during the Improved Digital Management Services session. Others shown are KRWG GIS Tech Pete Koenig, Ivan Weichert, Kansas Geographic Information Systems, Ken Nelson and Eileen Battles, Data Access and Support Center.

Left: Jen Sharp helps Benton Police Chief Charles Hefton with a problem on a Web site after the session stopped for the mid-morning break.

Board and council members, utility managers, finance directors, city clerks, planning commission members, engineers and others professionals attended the funding session. Attendees learned that as

the components of the Incident Command System. This was taught by presenters Fireman Kevin Jones, Chanute, and Steve Paige, KDHE, Topeka. They explained how NIMS is a unified

taught board and council members about water utility finance and management issues. Participants also received the unique KanCap interactive CD and 300-page hard copy companion guide.



Above left: Linda Hepburn, Butler RWD 5 and a participant of the Alternative Dispute Resolution session, makes a point during one of the session's skills exercises.

Above right: Robert Conley, City of De Soto, has his lucky number come up and the winner makes the point at Carnival 2008.

Left: The Tuesday noon lunch featured a Mexican buffet. Here, Greg Griswell of Salina gives an approving smile with a full plate of good food.

costs go up, rates must follow and most importantly, how to demonstrate why an increase is needed to boards, councils and ratepayers.

NIMS, Emergency Tabletop Exercise

Every public water or wastewater system's emergency response plan should incorporate the standard terminology and structure that is outlined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) – which contains

approach to incident management that emphasizes preparedness, mutual aid and resource management.

The afternoon tabletop exercise dealt with an emergency situation in a town that could have been anyone's hometown. The different scenarios included ice storms, tornadoes and floods – all very familiar to system people in Kansas.

KanCap: Improving Management of Kansas Water Systems

Presenters Gary Armentrout, KRWA and John Haas, Ranson Financial Consultants, presented two of the three KanCap course sections: management and financial. The third component, technical, will be taken at a later date at a site closer to each attendee's hometown. The session

Alternative Dispute Resolution

The principals of mediation and facilitation have high value in negotiating agreements. These skills sets were demonstrated with exercises taught by presenters Kirsten Zerger, Director of Education & Training for the Great Plains Consensus Council and its affiliate, the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR), North Newton, and Ken Grotewiel, Former Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office, Lawrence. System managers, RWD board and city council members learned processes including: improving the dynamics of board/council member relations; contract negotiations for water that satisfy both the supplier and the customer; right-of-way and easement work; and developing regional public water supply strategies.

Eighth Annual Attorneys' Forum

The round table setting in the Hyatt Trail Rooms seated 35 system attorneys and presenters. The forum was again hosted by Gary Hanson, JD of Stumbo Hanson, Topeka. The session earned seven hours of continuing education for participants and kicked off with Constance C. Owen, Overland Park, making a presentation, "A Water Rights

spoke on "Open Meetings and Open Records – A View From the Outside In."

After lunch, Part I of a roundtable discussion included several current hot water industry topics. Then recently retired from KDHE, Don Snethen, PE, followed with a presentation titled "Watershed Management and Source Water Protection Science for Water Attorneys." Steven

The Forum concluded with a second roundtable discussion, Part II "Update on Territorial Disputes Around the State."

KRWA appreciates the high level of interest in the Attorneys' Forum. Attorneys who attend benefit – and hopefully their client members of KRWA do also.



Above: Attorneys' Forum host Gary Hanson answers a question before the session begins.

Above right: Carnival Night lights are evident as these three take a spin on the Ottaway Carnival crew's Cliff Hanger ride.

Right: Jeffrey Gartrell, Veolia Water, has a smile that shows what being in the bubble will do!

Far right: An attendee takes aim at a balloon with a dart as the girls show encouragement.

Far right below: An attendee shows final four form at the Carnival Night Basketball Toss.



Update: Are We Really a 'Use It or Lose It' State?" A presentation, "Communications: Antenna Leases of Water Towers" was made by Katharine J. Jackson, Morrison, Frost, Olsen & Irvine, LLP, Manhattan.

After the mid-morning break, Michael W. Merriam, JD, Topeka,

Harris of Doyle Harris Davis and Huaghey, Tulsa, Oklahoma, is an authority on territorial disputes and made an hour-long presentation titled "Update on Territorial Disputes Involving 1926(b)."

Shirley Garrett keynote charges Kansas professionals to serve from the heart

Shirley Garrett, the “Tap Water Girl in a Bottled Water World,” and conference keynoter, launched the Wednesday morning General Session with stories from her book of the same name.

She drew timely comparisons from her hardscrabble early years as an orphan wanting to belong, to the realities of providing clean water to so many people in Kansas – with teamwork!

As Shirley explained about singing with her new adopted family she said, “I encourage you to serve like we sang, from the the top of your lungs to the bottom of your heart!”

“How exciting, years ago when you ran the first water line and could be there when the family first turned the tap for that first drink of water! I’m sure there are many of you here that were able to experience that.”

“But truly, your job is not about what you’ve done in the past – but what may happen in the future. And that requires teamwork, bringing good water to difficult places!”

Besides rocking the crowd on Wednesday morning, Shirley seemed to be everywhere. General Manager Elmer Ronnebaum was surprised to find Shirley, out for her morning walk, at 5:30 in the morning passing through the lobby of the hotel. Elmer was on his way to check on the set-up of the Century II West Hall because there had been a change of location due to another



function happening in the Concert Hall, where the opening session is usually located. Shirley followed him to the hall to discover table cloths needed to be spread at the floor seating for the morning session – it’s rare to find the keynoter willing to set up tables.

Shirley also helped by being a water taste tester for the 2008 KRWA “Best Tasting Water in Kansas” competition.

KRWA staff and board appreciated Shirley Garrett and her reinforcement of teamwork in the water profession, shown by her quality involvement with the 2008 Conference.

As an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association (NRWA), KRWA members benefit from the legislative representation by the national organization in Washington D.C. NRWA works in support of reasonableness for regulations dealing with water and wastewater utilities. NRWA, in concert with other organizations, has made many

positive impacts in support of developing legislation or reauthorization. KRWA annually provides an opportunity for conference attendees to support the NRWA political action committee, WaterPAC, through a raffle at the conference in Wichita. In 2008, the attendees contributions totaled \$4,692, which was sent to WaterPAC.

WaterPAC raffle prize winners

Prize	Winner	Represents
Grill	Kay Bailey	Ellsworth RWD 1 (Post Rock)
Stihl Chain Saw	Bert Zerr	Kansas Rural Water Association
Olevia HD TV	Paul Strathman	Nemaha RWD 3
Generator	Jim Grimes	Metrotech Corporation
Countertop Oven	Kathleen Ronnebaum	Kansas Rural Water Association
Quilt	Darrell Dunn	Sedgwick RWD 2
Cordless Tool Set	Larry Remmenga	City of Concordia

Gail Abney
 Gary Armentrout
 Sam Atherton
 Eileen Battles
 Tony Belden
 Bill Biron
 Eric Broce
 Volker Brohm
 James Brookshire
 Carl Brown
 Terry Brown
 Bill Callaway
 Marsha Carpenter
 William Carr
 Carol Cast
 Kevin Cowan
 Sherry Davis
 Elizabeth Dietzmann
 Salih Doughramaji
 Sharon Dwyer
 Margaret Fast
 Lisa French
 Paul Froelich
 Shirley Garrett
 Rod Geisler
 Tom Giefer
 Jaime Goering
 Tony Grant
 Jim Grimes
 Ken Grotewiel
 John Haas
 Brett Hanes
 Gary Hanson
 Steven Harris
 Michael Harris
 Bernie Hayden
 Leo Haynos
 Garry Hill
 Jacob House
 Donald Huggins
 Katharine Jackson
 Kevin Jones
 Kristen Jordan
 Kelly Kelsey
 Dan Knupp
 Pete Koenig
 Jeff Lamfers
 Daniel Mason
 Pat McCool
 Jayson McMaster
 Brad Mears
 Kevin Menning
 Michael Merriam
 Ken Nelson
 Don Osenbaugh
 Connie Owen
 Steve Paige
 Clare Paul
 Susan Pilgram
 Tina Rajala
 Rusty Redding
 Kevin Rood
 Chris Schmeissner
 Jen Sharp
 Gary Smith
 Mike Smith
 Brian Smith
 Don Snethen
 Allan Soetaert
 Brian Spano
 Billy Strong, Jr.
 Dan Traveny
 Robert Vincent
 Ivan Weichert
 Vickie Wessel
 Craig Wheeler
 Merle Windler
 Kim Winn
 Joe Wise
 Chris Withers
 Monica Wurtz
 Mike Younger
 Kirsten Zerger
 Steve Zink

Mayer Specialty Services, LLC
 Kansas Rural Water Association
 Public Wholesale 4
 Data Access & Support Center
 EAI Central, Inc.
 Pump & Power Equipment, Inc.
 Professional Engineering Consultants
 Metrotech Corporation
 Cunningham Sandblasting & Painting
 Carl Brown Consulting, LLC
 Butler RWD 5
 Clay Center Public Utilities
 Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
 Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
 Kansas Department of Labor
 Gilmore & Bell
 Healthy Ecosystems - Healthy Communities
 Aqualaw PLC
 Kansas Department of Commerce
 Douglas RWD 5
 Kansas Water Office
 Cheney Lake Watershed, Inc.
 City of Enterprise
 Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
 Neosho RWD 4
 Professional Engineering Consultants
 EAI Central, Inc.
 Metrotech Corporation
 Ranson Financial Consultants, L.L.C.
 Hydra-Stop
 Stumbo Hanson, LLP
 Doyle & Harris
 National Rural Water Association
 City of Manhattan
 Kansas Corporation Commission
 Brenntag Southwest, Inc.
 Century II Convention Center
 Kansas Biological Survey
 Morrison, Frost, Olsen & Irvine, LLP
 Mid West Fire Training Associates
 Jefferson County GIS
 Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
 Kansas Rural Water Association
 Kansas Rural Water Association
 Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
 Stumphauzer, O'Toole
 Kansas Rural Water Association
 Public Wholesale 13
 Kansas Municipal Utilities
 Hach Company
 Roof Garden Suites
 Data Access & Support Center
 League of Kansas Municipalities
 Constance C. Owen, Attorney At Law
 Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
 Professional Engineering Consultants
 Underground Solutions
 Kansas Water Office
 Layne-Western Company
 Professional Engineering Consultants
 Jefferson County GIS
 JenSharp.com
 USDA Rural Development
 Office of the Attorney General
 Insituform Technologies USA, Inc.
 Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
 Johnson RWD 7
 Wilson & Company, Inc.
 The Strong Company, Inc.
 Chlorinators Incorporated
 Ground Water Associates
 Kansas Geographic Information Systems
 Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
 Commerce Bank
 Thoroughbred Systems, Inc.
 League of Kansas Municipalities
 United Rentals Trench Safety
 Coffey RWD 3
 EPA, Groundwater/Drinking Water Branch
 JCI Industries
 Great Plains Consensus Council
 Kansas Department of Labor

2008 Conference Presenters

A special thanks is directed to the 84 presenters who made the 2008 conference the learning experience it was intended to be.



Michael Harris



Michael Merriam



Kirsten Zerger



Jeff Lamfers



Don Osenbaugh



Monica Wurtz



James Brookshire



Gary Armentrout



Jen Sharp



Donald Huggins

Former Governor discusses aging Kansas Reservoirs

Wildlife and Parks Director and past Kansas Governor Mike Hayden was the special guest speaker at the Thursday luncheon at the KRWA 41st Annual Conference. Governor Hayden spoke about the looming problems facing our state public water supply as the 24 federal reservoirs in the state continue to age. The following are some of his comments:

“I am most proud of the funding of the State Water Plan, which was very controversial, in 1989. It put about \$20 million a year into Kansas’ water planning and development. The Kansas Water Office’s job is to look at the long range need in Kansas of the looming issues surrounding water that we’re facing today, but more importantly we’re going to face in the future generations and to get ourselves prepared both mentally and financially.

“Public water supply systems receive a lot of water from the 24 federal reservoirs in Kansas. They have numerous uses but they are aging. The truth is we aren’t building any new ones and just like the infrastructure in an RWD, the infrastructure of our 24 reservoirs is aging and will have long-term impacts on public water supplies, in particular on rural water districts.

“Another important issue and one that is very controversial is one which causes a tremendous amount of water to be transported out of the state is for navigation. The Kansas River reservoirs have a purpose of being used by the Corps of Engineers to float barges down stream from Kansas City. So we are essentially using water from the upstream states,

Kansas is one, to enable the downstream states to have river navigation. Governor Graves even sued the Corps in order to get a temporary injunction to stop this. Our Kansas delegation of the Water Authority met with officials in Washington to lay the groundwork to get this changed. We need to get this changed because we are expending water resources needed here from which we are getting neither credit or money in return to float a limited number of barges and benefiting little.

“If you are in the Neosho Basin, principally at John Redmond Reservoir, you should be doing something about its future because sedimentation has taken a significant amount of its water storage. You want to know where the future sedimentation problems will occur? Look to John Redmond, Toronto, Kanapolis, Tuttle Creek and to a lesser degree, Fall River. Why should we be concerned?

After all sediment is a natural part of stream action. Two-thirds of the Kansas population rely on drinking water from reservoirs. New industry and jobs rely on water being available. There is also a growing demand for water recreation.

“Over the next 40 years we will lose 40% of our reservoir water if we don’t do something about it.

“The greatest public water supply pressure is in the Kansas River Basin that has tremendous growth projections and is coupled with a limited and declining water supply. The many water skirmishes that we’re seeing now are just the beginning of what major confrontations will be over the water supply in the years to come.”



Grand prize winners



Winners of the three grand prize pieced quilts are from the left, Terry McDaniel who picked the “Falling Leaves” quilt and works for the City of McFarland. David Wilson, center, picked the “Prairie Paths” quilt and represents the City of Lyndon. At right, Sara Ralston won the “Spring Sunshine” quilt and represents Butler RWD 8. The quilts were pieced by Kate Ronnebaum.

Award winners for 2007 – teamwork builds the best!

The awards evening is still a surprise after all these years. KRWA staff trickery and a bit of stalking during the early part of the conference lead the surprised winners to the stage to be applauded for their dedication to service and old fashioned hard work.

One photo of a winner couldn't be taken until the day of the awards dinner so staff took his picture on the floor of the EXPO Hall.

The presentation announced the winners one by one, by giving a short bio-sketch of the winner noting achievements and then finally a system name and winner's name. Then KRWA President Sharon Dwyer handed each a plaque on stage signifying the winner's achievements.

Members, family members and associate members and all, enjoyed the show, enjoyed the good food and continued to build working relationships.

With a little anticipation the audience then retired to the Little Theatre to listen to some musical revue performance of Johnny Cash's classic works by the Crown Uptown Theatre's 'Ring of Fire.'

Those receiving awards during the evening are pictured on the next four pages, with a narrative of their winning stories following their portraits.



Friend of Rural Water



Todd Tiahrt
US Representative

United States Representative Todd Tiahrt was named "Friend of Rural Water" by the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) during the Association's 41st Annual Conference &

Exhibition held at Century II Convention Center, Wichita. Rep. Tiahrt addressed the conference on Wednesday, March 26. (A transcript of Representative Tiahrt's entire conference address can be read, starting on page 14.)

The Friend of Rural Water Award is a special award presented to people who many may not see as being directly involved in helping water systems. It's presented to those who have helped the water and wastewater industries through professional support. Rep. Tiahrt has supported funding for water and wastewater utilities and for the National Rural Water Association's training and technical assistance programs that benefit water and wastewater utilities across Kansas. Rep. Tiahrt is presently Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related

Agencies and a Member of the House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Tiahrt is in a unique position to fight for the interests of all Kansans and for fiscal responsibility in the federal budget process. All discretionary spending bills pass through the House Appropriations Committee.

"Rep. Tiahrt has been a very strong advocate for funding programs that help small towns and rural communities," said Sharon Dwyer, President of the Association. "The administration and board of directors of Kansas Rural Water Association recognize that it requires people like Rep. Tiahrt who are willing to work with people and provide the leadership needed to capitalize on opportunities for growth that will sustain rural Kansas communities," Dwyer said.

City Administrator



Brett Frakes
City of Valley Falls

The Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) awarded its 2007 City Administrator of the Year Award to Bret Frakes, city of Valley Falls.

Frakes administers the \$1.5 million annual city budget, prepares monthly financial reports, invests idle funds and prepares and administers federal and state grants. He is the city zoning administrator responsible for recommendations on land use changes, building permits and enforcement of building regulations.

During his tenure as city administrator, the city has embarked on a three phase, \$2.1 million water treatment plant and infrastructure improvement project. He is conscientious and cares about the employees that he supervises and works with them to obtain the best results for the city without compromising his beliefs or those of the employees.

Frakes also serves on the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission and has since 1997. For the last three years he has been the chairman of that board. For the city of Valley Falls, he has been involved over the years with the plotting and rezoning of annexations for the city.

Through his efforts, Valley Falls has been a Tree City USA for 10 or more years. Frakes has worked with

the Kansas Forest Service in developing a planting scheme for the tree park and the city park. He has coordinated with various organizations to develop an overall plan for the city park that included new play equipment, basketball court and shelter house mural.

Most Improved



Clarence Brunk for the
City of De Soto

The Kansas Rural Water Association awarded its 2007 Most Improved Water System Award to the city of De Soto. The presentation was made to De Soto Water Department Superintendent Clarence Brunk at the awards ceremony.

Founded in 1857, De Soto celebrated a sesquicentennial in 2007. Its first settlers established the town around a steam saw mill on the nearby Kansas River. The town became a third class city and established a mail route in 1902.

In the early 1900s, the city went from having individual wells at resident's homes to a city owned, large well field north of town. De Soto, like most communities in Kansas, had only modest increases in population up until the 1940s. Then sudden population growth put a great strain on housing and other resources in the city. In 1997, the city took control of a project that ended up being the cause of rather horrific water losses. The city had experienced water loss of 25% or less annually. But in recent years,

the unaccounted for loss reached as much as 70%. In 2007, the city began an intense search for the cause of its high water loss. By repairing mains, De Soto reduced loss by an average of 350 gallons per minute, or down to just over 11% in February 2008. In recognition of this small town's persistence to get ahead of water loss, KRWA is pleased to name De Soto the Most Improved Water System in Kansas in 2007.

City Clerk



Donna Wixon
City of Baxter Springs

The Kansas Rural Water Association awarded its 2007 City Clerk of the Year Award to Donna Wixon, City of Baxter Springs.

Hardworking and dedicated; "she always puts the interests of the citizens first" – that's how people describe Baxter Springs City Clerk. During Wixon's tenure as city clerk for the past nine years, she has moved from a manual record keeping system using the old ledgers to a state-of-the-art computer billing program using handheld recorders for the entry of meter reads. In addition to improving the efficiency at city hall she has been actively involved in numerous projects the city has undertaken in recent years, being responsible for all of the paperwork and finalizing of all projects using state and federal funding sources. Residents in the town that she calls home feel fortunate to have such a person

working on their behalf. She has attained certification as a city clerk through the Certified Municipal Clerk Program.

Something else about Donna is that she sets a standard of community service for her family that is evident based on the fact that both of her sons are actively involved in the community through volunteer service with the local fire department.

Water Plant Supt.



Jim Masters
City of Council Grove

The Kansas Rural Water Association awarded its 2007 Water Treatment Plant Superintendent of the Year Award to James Masters, city of Council Grove.

Masters is a lifetime resident of Kansas having grown up on a farm in the Burlingame area. After finishing high school, he held several jobs including working for a time for the Santa Fe Railroad. In May of 1975, he began employment with the city of Council Grove as a water plant operator. Soon after, he found himself in the water superintendent position; he has held that position since. Masters has witnessed a great deal of change over the years and his extensive experience proved very beneficial during the recent upgrades at the water plant. The most significant addition to the process was the use of ozone as the primary disinfectant.

Work has not been his entire life though as he thoroughly enjoys

hunting and fishing, especially his hunting trips to Colorado to hunt deer and elk. He also has the reputation as putting on the best fish fry in the area and he's a contender for making the best chili in the county. There must be something to this as the annual party that he and his family hold each year during Council Grove's Wah-Shunga-Gah Days Festival has grown from about 30 to 80 participants over the years.

RWD Office Manager



Joyce Humbolt
Sedgwick RWD 3

The Kansas Rural Water Association awarded its 2007 Rural Water Office Manager of the Year Award to Joyce Humbolt, Sedgwick County RWD 3.

Humbolt has adapted Sedgwick RWD 3, a rapidly growing water system, to the computer age. She has worked tirelessly, including after hours and on weekends to see that a large expansion project could be prepared. She's obtained easements, filed petitions and taken applications; she has learned to understand engineering, and legal issues, construction policies and all that goes with successfully managing and operating a growing water system. She has helped train new employees. She calls every customer who is late on their bill payment, trying to keep them off the disconnect list. She alerts customers about water line repairs and advises them how long to expect any

outage. It is not uncommon for her to remain at the office after hours so someone can stop in and settle a payment or file a new application for service. She is very much appreciated for her professionalism and the work effort that she has provided to the water district for nearly 20 years.

Wastewater Operator



Gilbert Berryman
City of Wellington

The Kansas Rural Water Association awarded its 2007 Wastewater Operator of the Year Award to Gilbert Berryman, city of Wellington.

Berryman's outstanding leadership skills were recognized soon after he was hired by the City of Wellington, as he was soon appointed to the job of wastewater plant supervisor after completing his certification for a Class III Operator for Wastewater Treatment facilities by the State of Kansas.

With a strong commitment to excellence, Berryman has demonstrated his leadership abilities as he has worked to improve the condition of the plant as well as the growth and expertise of his staff. He has maintained a strong capacity to meet the many challenges in operating an aging treatment plant and wastewater system. He has kept up with current issues by continuing to participate in various educational opportunities and seminars designed

to help the city continue to be a healthy, safe place to live and work.

According to Wellington City Manager Gus Collins, Berryman has been and remains a valuable asset to Wellington. Collins said, "I have been very impressed by Gilbert's diligence and work ethic, as well as, the respect he has gained from his co-workers and peers."

Rural Water Operator



Rick McDaniel
Bourbon Cons. RWD 2

The Kansas Rural Water Association awarded its 2007 Rural Water Operator of the Year Award to Rick McDaniel, Bourbon County Consolidated Rural Water District 2.

Operator of the Year McDaniel is able to help maintain an average water loss percentage less than 20% consistently. This is a daunting task considering there are more than 900 miles of pipeline in the district serving nearly 3000 connections.

During McDaniel's employment with the district he has worked with the installation of three new water towers and a pipeline extension of 50 miles. The district sells water wholesale to four communities. Also the district has implemented a meter change-out program and created new maps for the entire district replacing outdated originals.

McDaniel also raises cattle on his farm, is a member of the local volunteer fire department, monitors the river level for the National Weather Bureau and in his rare spare time like to hunt, fish and ride ATVs.

Operator



Jon Houser
Cherokee RWD 3

The Kansas Rural Water Association awarded its 2007 Operator of the Year Award to Jon Houser, Cherokee Rural Water District (RWD) No. 3.

In 1971, Houser, a graduating salutatorian, declined a scholarship from Missouri Southern State College to work the family farm. Finding a need to supplement his income, he took part-time work with the rural water district. After a 30-day training, he found a plant which was operating, but in serious need of maintenance. This 22-year-old immediately began completing both minor and major repairs as allowed by the district's board members only to find contracted labor was depleting the district's funds. Even at his young age this employee realized the need for organizational restructuring and took on additional duties of repairing water mains along with plant operations. Through these efforts the district was able to save enough funds to not only purchase a backhoe and trencher but also increase the customer base from 350 to 800. That growth resulted in the plant being inadequate to keep up with customer usage. Fortunately because of this operator's diligence, skill and hard work a plant that was intended to last 15 to 20 years has remained in operation for 40 years.

In 2007, the district completed an improvement project. It included a

new filter building, filters and controls, larger detention tank and new aeration tower, two new lagoons and a revamping of the district's existing plant. The cost was \$1.4 million financed through the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund and contributions by the district.

Houser is never one to boast or even one to speak up and take credit when rightly deserved. He is humble about his abilities, making him even more worthy of recognition. He is known to go the extra mile for his customers. Never one to complain about heat or cold, he is quick to respond and stay with each problem that arises until resolved. He has been known to walk as far as 20 miles in one day to find and repair a leak.

Houser is highly regarded in the community he serves making his family proud to call him husband, father and grandpa. Jon's wife Betsy has also been very helpful in ensuring that Cherokee RWD 3 provides quality water and service to district patrons.

Special Recognition



Rick Koenig
City of Hiawatha

The Kansas Rural Water Association awarded its 2007 Special Recognition Award to Rick Koenig, city of Hiawatha.

KRWA's Special Recognition Award goes to someone who has worked hard to improve many utilities in the community. Koenig has worked to educate the public as to various utility costs; he developed

the city's first backflow ordinance and he worked to make sure there were licensed testers available to do what was necessary for the city to enforce that ordinance. He worked to educate the public about backflow and the potential

outcomes. Having top certifications in both water and wastewater, he's given up evenings, weekends, holidays, school and church functions to come out and repair leaks and perform other maintenance. He donates many

hours of work for his church and his community. Koenig donates so much time to others that his wife said, "He's married to the city – and just lives with me!"

Wilson County RWD 11 is awarded the 34th USDA Rural Development Silver Faucet Award



Steve Tharman presents the Silver Faucet Award plaque to Clay Brahman of Wilson RWD 11.

For the 34th consecutive year, the Kansas USDA Rural Development Office awarded an annual Silver Faucet Award to an exemplary and deserving Kansas rural water system. Wilson County RWD 11 is the 2008 Award Winner. Board Chair Clay Brahman accepted the award from USDA's Business and Community Programs Specialist Steve Tharman at the 41st Annual KRWA Conference Awards Ceremony Wednesday evening March 26 at Century II Convention Center in Wichita.

USDA Rural Development presents the annual Silver Faucet Award to a rural water supply system in Kansas that exemplifies the qualities of cooperation, dedication and leadership in providing both high quality and quantity water service to rural water users.

"Thirty one years ago, this water district was founded when key community members stepped up to take action to make their drinking water safe, clean and affordable. Starting in the early 70s, area water supplies were in a decline and the decision was made that hauling water was not acceptable. Board members worked with USDA Rural Development receiving loan and grant funding to develop a new water system, to locate a water source and to build storage and distribution systems. The RWD also completed expansions in 1989 and 2006 for a total of \$2.5 million in loans and grants from USDA Rural Development," Tharman explained. "This year's winner knows the meaning of responsibility, dedication and customer service."

Wilson RWD 11 provides water to rural residents located primarily north and west of Fredonia. The district has increased benefit users by nearly 30% in the last five years and sells bulk water to the City of Fall River. Users of the system include the Honor Camp in Toronto, and the western portion of the Kansas State Park at Toronto.

City of Parsons wins the 2008 Best Tasting Water in Kansas



The team of professionals holds the winning entry in the 2008 Taste Test. The KRWA team of judges included, (back row, left to right): Darrel Plummer, Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment; Lane Letourneau, Division of Water Resources; Carl Carroll, former KRWA director; Douglas Brune, US EPA Region 7. Seated are Shirley Garrett, Keynote speaker for the 2008 conference and Tina Rajala, Kansas Water Office.

The best tasting water in Kansas is produced by the City of Parsons, Kan. So says the team of professionals who judged water from Parsons as the Best Tasting Water in Kansas during the judging of samples during the 41st KRWA Annual Conference.

The city of Parsons Water Department produces water from Labette Creek which flows from Lake Parsons. In 2001, the city constructed a new membrane filtration plant with a capacity of 3 million gallons per day.

Upon receiving the award, City of Parsons Utilities Director Derek Clevenger said, "Our success is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of our plant operators; Joe Steverson, Delmar Webb, Steve Smith, Christopher Holding, and Richie Housley. They constantly strive to provide the best quality water they can. This is definitely an honor. Residents should be commended for allowing the city to invest in the plant making it what it is today."

The city of Parsons is committed to providing an adequate supply of safe drinking water for all citizens, protecting the environment through effective wastewater treatment, water conservation and infrastructure maintenance and providing quality customer service and maintaining full compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements.

“Ring of Fire” – sure fire hit with KRWA audience

The 2008 Conference entertainment, *Ring of Fire*, gave a capacity-filled Little Theatre KRWA audience another show-stopping production. The eager, eight-member cast under the direction of Ted Morris of Crown Uptown

revue about love and faith, struggle and success, rowdiness and redemption, home and family. Cast members were Kimberly Dugger, Kelcy (Fowler) Mohr, David Goins, Mike Long, Thomas Murphy, Marija Reiff, Tara Tucker and Victoria Whitlow. Band members were Donna Woolery, Rylan Fowler, Collin Featherston, Robert White, Phil Snow and Keith Woolery. Fowler, only 16 years old, sawed an *Orange Blossom Special* that brought everyone to their feet.

“Ring of Fire” proved to be another classic production for KRWA conference-goers. The KRWA conference features some of the best theater that many people have an opportunity to see all year – and it is complimentary with the awards banquet. It's absolutely unique. Thanks to Crown Uptown for producing “Ring of Fire” for the 2008 conference.



Theatre lived up to every expectation and more – and KRWA showed appreciation with two roaring, standing ovations.

Even though no one played the legendary Man in Black, that was okay with everyone. *Ring of Fire* recounted Johnny Cash's life through 30 songs he made famous, from his days as an unknown from Arkansas to teaming with his future wife, June, to the top hits of his career. These included *Country Boy*; *Five Feet High And Rising*; *Daddy Sang Bass*; *If I Were A Carpenter*; *Ring of Fire*; *Jackson*; *Cry, Cry, Cry*; *I Walk The Line*; *I've Been Everywhere* and others. *Ring of Fire* was a



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For a current directory, with contact, e-mail addresses and Web site information for Associate Members, check out www.krwa.net, then under “membership.”

Carnival Night BBQ prize winners

Prize	Name	Represents
GPX Portable DVD Player	Tim Dietrich	City of Colony
95 Piece Socket Set	Pieter Berendsen	Douglas RWD 6
Sony Mini Hi Fi System	Patty Schlesener	Dickinson RWD 2
Wireless Keyboard	Shannon Young	City of Lyons
26" Sanyo LCD TV	Donald Colson	City of St. Mary's
Longaberger Basket	David Goodale	City of Elwood
Kodak Camera Printer Dock	Richard Robinson	City of Wichita
GPX Portable DVD Player	Jim Knight	City of Seneca
Shop Vac	Robert Wilson	Franklin RWD 6
Longaberger Basket	Janice Kern	Franklin RWD 6
Leather Office Chair	Rita Clary	City of Troy
11 x 13 Mesh Screenhouse	David Osborn	Payment Solutions
Portable Lawn Chairs With Shade	Mike Ashbacher	Crawford RWD 7
Patio Fire Pit	Kathy Hoch	Butler RWD 7
Cosco Folding Table With 6 Chairs	Robbin Bell	Union Pacific Railroad
6 Piece Patio Set	Jan'et Dawson	Shawnee Cons. RWD 1
Portable Hammock	Rance Kindred	City of Mulvane
26" Sansui HD TV DVD Player	Kenneth Swart	City of Haysville
6 Drawer Wicker Desk	Scott Flater	Fort Scott Community College
Black & Decker Toaster Oven	Linda Ohl	Sumner RWD 5
Sunbeam Mixer	Kay Mettlen	City of Lucas
Mantis Garden Tiller	Kenneth Swart	City of Haysville
Sony Cybershot Camera	Julie Winter	Riley County Public Works
18V Cordless Impact Wrench	Ken McNickle	Public Wholesale 4
Nintendo Wii	John Larson	City of St. Francis
26" Sansui HD TV DVD Player	Reginal Ford	City of Scott City
4 GB Zune Player	Melodi Bowen	City of Waverly
Sunbeam Bread Maker	Edith Elder	City of Bison
Black & Decker Food Processor	Loren Smith	Micro-Comm
Stihl Weed Trimmer	Eric Keagle	City of Iola

Associate Member door prize winners

Prize	Donated By	Winner	Represents
Tool Set	Lowell Corporation	Roger McClintock	City of Holton
\$25 Walmart Gift Card	Olathe Winwater	James Haskins	Republic RWD 1
\$25 Walmart Gift Card	Olathe Winwater	Mike Orton	City of Alma
\$50 Home Depot Gift Card	Ponzer-Youngquist	Karl Abegg	City of McLouth
\$50 Walmart Gift Card	Advance Chemical Solutions	Michael Slobodnik	City of Alma
FM Weather Alert Radio	Utility Service Company	Rick Koenig	City of Hiawatha
Royals Jersey and 4 Tickets	EAI Central	Paul Strathman	Nemaha RWD 3
4 Royals Tickets	EAI Central	Kurt Ziegler	City of Girard
4 Royals Tickets	EAI Central	Bruce Smith	Douglas RWD 3
Cobra Driver and Dozen Golf Balls	EAI Central	Jason Boyd	Layne Christensen
Craftsman Angle Grinder	Anderson Peck Agency	John Epler	Cherokee RWD 3
Craftsman Air Compressor	Anderson Peck Agency	David Korte	Nemaha RWD 3
Free Day of Training	Mid West Fire Training Associates	John Sweet	City of Lyons
Picnic Set	Commerce Bank	Pat Cox	Neosho RWD 6
Sky Dive	JenSharp.com	Christian Lehr	Commerce Bank

What attendees thought about the conference – the good the bad and the rest

What did you like best?

- Wide variety of classes
- Exhibits
- Keynote was exceptional
- Variety of topics
- Getting water district involved in presentation sessions. Sam Atherton presentation was excellent; need more like it
- Exhibits
- Knowledge of speakers giving presentations
- Exhibits
- Ring of Fire
- Everything about the chlorine problems and some solutions in solving them
- Proper installation of tracer wire
- Information presented was very useful
- The approach and presentation of Perspectives on Water Service Territories was refreshing and excellent
- Table top exercise for NIMS
- Monica Wurtz session on Stage II Rules
- Operator forum
- Variety of topics, excellent speakers; impressive exhibits, outstanding entertainment and activities
- KRWA put on the best show that I have ever attended! This conference is one of a kind! Thanks for the opportunity to be here!

What did you like the least?

- Some classes seemed too short to cover material
- Not enough on wastewater
- The two guys behind me who would not stop talking
- Cost prohibitive for spouses to attend carnival

- Shortage of seating in some classes
- Not enough sessions for bookkeepers
- Classes run too long, need more time for exhibits
- Registration cost for spouses. They don't attend sessions for the most part, so why not allow access to trade show or spouse program for a discounted rate?
- Class on maintaining chlorine residuals
- Tuesday evening was too loud
- No coffee or tea at Wednesday's meal
- Chlorine residual class went too long
- Chlorine safety "Which form is safest?"
- Could not hear speaker at lunch
- Territorial agreements with the exception of Soetaert was long on story and short on remedy and actual solutions
- Financial impact of water loss...needs to speak better English. Workplace Safety session had nothing to do with safety..it was for employers and who to turn the insurance paper work to.
- Choices of wastewater sessions
- Workshops not meeting descriptions
- Dealing with disaster did not touch on enough of what didn't work
- Need handouts at sessions, not able to take notes fast enough
- Some presenters did not give good practical information, just a lot of computer jargon.
- Centrifugal pump session was too crowded
- Allow more time for math in operator forum
- Workplace safety. Speaker refused to use mic and was hard to understand

- Not enough sessions for bookkeepers
- Financial impact on water loss session went through presentation fast and could not understand

What should we do different next year?

- Reduce prices for spouses to attend carnival for less than \$100
- Put presentations on KRWA Web site
- Like a class on determining, detecting and dealing with water loss
- More sessions for wastewater
- Centering of screen for projection shows
- Put numbers on tables during lunch so we can find out seats again
- Acoustics at Wednesday lunch need to be better. Could not hear speaker very well
- Possibly a bit more in depth look at water loss and leak detection. This appears to be a major issue everywhere
- More classes for beginners, basics
- Problems with small systems financially
- Start earlier on Tuesday, open exhibits at noon, cancel Thursday. Get power points from presenters and keep them on KRWA Web site for a couple of weeks after the conference.
- Backflow prevention
- Need to have recycling for bottles
- More wastewater sessions
- Better classes for water test
- Presentations need more handouts
- Define areas of what deals with municipalities versus RWDs
- Start sessions on time