



Some of us may say that the reason for the success of the conference is because people have the ability to see the latest industry technology and attend training. That's true and it does kill two birds with one stone.

Others might say that the reason the conference is a success is because they can visit with other people about similar problems and projects. Or, they might be trying to find funding; the conference provides an opportunity to visit with all the agencies. Many other people may attend because they know that they can gain knowledge to improve themselves – from providing better customer service to learning about the legal ramifications of dealing with new era technology such as social media in the workplace.

But I think the greatest reason that any conference is a success is not because of the organizers or the topics or

the keynoter or the entertainment or the food or the socializing – it's because a good conference provides a couple of days when operators, managers, and other staff and members of governing bodies can all be together. Most of the people working in the water and wastewater industry, including members of governing bodies, often find their services seemingly unappreciated by the public. Too often the contributions they've made to their communities and their knowledge is taken for granted. The real reason then that any conference is a "success" is because of the people

During my time as manager of Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 4 near Cherryvale, I always looked forward to the annual KRWA conference and exhibition. The conference came with the arrival of Spring – the start of a new season and renewing of ambition. There has been nothing in comparison that provides the opportunity to take part in such an array of training sessions, see so many exhibits and learn so much from the presenters, manufacturers, agencies and others. And the conference has always been a great time to create new friendships.

The KRWA staff members are working to create an exciting conference for 2013. The KRWA staff has always done a great job of preparing for and promoting the annual conference and exhibition. And because of that, KRWA's annual conference is recognized across the U.S. as one of the best. I know that KRWA is again striving to make the 2013 conference the best ever. And I'm confident it will be.

I like the theme that was chosen: "Let's Pull Together!" My gracious, if only we could, and would, all pull together – a lot more could be accomplished.

**The 46th Annual Conference theme is:
"Let's Pull Together!"
My gracious, if only we could, and would, all pull together – a lot more could be accomplished.**

who attend. The commitment to become better at what people do is what drives themselves and their organizations to keep improving.

Show up!

Innumerable books and papers have been written on the topic of organizational effectiveness, management practices and leadership theories. There is one concept that is often unspoken. It is that “effectiveness requires presence”. In other words, unless you show up, there is little that you can accomplish or succeed at doing, personally or professionally.

While the need to show up has been written about by many others before, I write it here to encourage all those in our “rural water family” to do their part. In other words, “Show Up!” Show up in your own community; show up in your own church; show up in your school or whatever endeavor you spend time in. But there’s more to it than just “showing up”. Show up prepared!

“Showing up prepared” helps your Association, KRWA, fulfill its mission. KRWA’s mission is “To provide leadership, education, and technical assistance to public water and wastewater utilities to enhance the public health and to sustain Kansas’ communities.”

KRWA stands ready to provide solid technical assistance, training and advice to help, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

KRWA has and will continue to provide leadership, education and technical assistance to the water and wastewater industries in Kansas with a well-trained, knowledgeable, experienced staff and up-to-date equipment. No organization or group of people can do everything for everyone or please everyone all the time. Ironically, KRWA staff often end up as arbitrators in situations that are local disputes. KRWA preaches reasonableness. KRWA stands ready

to provide solid technical assistance, training and advice to help, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

Now back to my comment to encourage everyone to “Show Up!” I want to encourage all readers to attend the 2013 Annual Conference & Exhibition, March 26 – 28 at Century II Convention Center in Wichita. Show up and “Let’s Pull Together!”

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