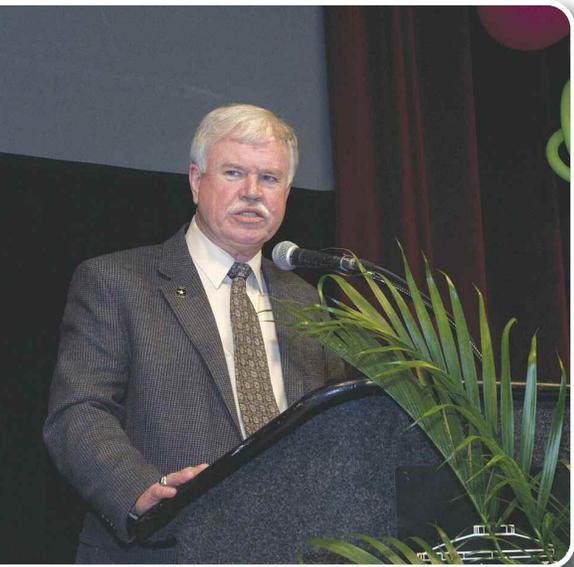




2013



Thursday Luncheon



Doug Anderton, President, National Rural Water Association, speaks at the Thursday Luncheon.

Rural Water Makes Living in Rural America Possible

It is great to be in here in Wichita with the Kansas Rural Water Association. As you all know this is the Association's 46th annual convention and exhibition. What a wonderful accomplishment. Congratulations! I also have to say that this is one of the most widely attended state conferences in the country. The turnout is impressive and inspiring.

I am proud to serve as the President of the National Rural Water Association. Before I begin formal remarks, I wanted to say how pleased we are to work with Elmer Ronnebaum, your General Manager, and Dennis Schwartz who represents Kansas on the National Rural Water Association board of directors. These are outstanding gentlemen and they bring a valuable perspective to our organization. And with the challenges in the Nation's Capital these days, it is great to have people like Elmer and Dennis on our team.

Every day in Washington, DC, the National Rural Water Association is advocating for you, your water systems, and your communities. We are working to make sure that Kansas's rural communities have safe and affordable drinking water. We are working to make sure that the rules and regulations that your water systems must comply with are affordable and based on science and common sense. And we are working to make sure that rural communities will always have access to the technical assistance and training they need through Circuit Riders, Waste Water Technicians, and Source Water Protection Specialists.

Additionally, through WaterPAC, the National Rural Water Association's political action committee, we are helping support members of Congress who support Rural Water.

Over the past two years WaterPAC has raised nearly \$200,000 for the sole purpose of helping members of Congress who support the issues we care about. I am a proud supporter of WaterPAC.

Kansas has a long tradition of support of WaterPAC, and has contributed close to \$14,000 over the last two years, the second highest total in the country. WaterPAC has received additional emphasis from the NRWA Board over the last two years and contributions have increased thanks to the generosity of those who care about Rural Water. For those who have contributed, I thank you.

I would like to spend a little time talking about the current situation in Washington, DC. For the last couple of months I have been visiting other state rural water associations and talking about the current situation in Washington, and for most of those talks the story has been the same because little progress has been made.





Fortunately, Washington has gotten some work done in the last few weeks and things are moving forward. After lengthy and bruising battles on fiscal issues earlier this year, last week Congress passed the appropriations bills for fiscal year 2013, which should be signed by the president shortly.

NRWA actively worked with Members of Congress and their staffs on this spending measure, helping them better understand what is at stake for rural communities throughout the country. Kansas has a powerful Congressional delegation, and we particularly appreciate the efforts of Senators Roberts and Moran and Representative Yoder on our behalf.

NRWA has been having ongoing conversations with Rural Development and EPA, to better understand how the agencies will implement the programs our communities use everyday. While the federal agencies are still waiting for their (and our) questions to be answered, I know we have worked hard and our partners at Rural Development and the EPA know the value of the work we do throughout rural America.

“Rural Water” has been through good years and lean years in our 37-year history. But each year, regardless of the circumstances in Washington, we always have come out

stronger. This is because of you. Your daily work, your participation in events like this, and your willingness and desire to tell your story to your Congressional delegation is what will help us grow and continue to lead.

Now is not the time to sit down; now is the time to stand up. As I mentioned earlier Kansas has powerful members of Congress and they need to hear how important the Kansas Rural Water Association is to you. Everyone in this room depends on Rural Water, because we all live in Rural America. We all have made a choice to live where we do, and we love our way of life and our communities. It is hard to imagine our country without Rural America. Where would our food come from – our beef and our wheat? Where would our energy come from? Our minerals and forest products? Where would our manufactured goods come from? Where would our airmen, soldiers, sailors, and Marines come from?

Rural Water makes living in Rural America possible. I ask you to tell your story and to make sure your Congressional delegation understands how fundamental rural water is to life in your community.

I thank each and every one of you for being here and for all you do to make Rural Water a priority in your lives.

Flippin’ Cakes on Thursday morning

There’s no surprise like having one, two, three pancakes come flying your way! Short Stack Cathy can plant a cake on your plate from 20 feet!

“Hey, here it comes! You want two? Here comes #3!”

That’s the greeting that Donna and Allen Markley of Douglas RWD 2 (lower left) and Tom Orazem of Riley RWD 1 (right) were met

with by Chris Cakes, Wichita. You drop one? Short Stack Cathy hollers, “I’ll get it; I’m taking all those home for my mother-in-law!” There’s no shortage of one line zingers that get served up with the cakes, sausage (a/k/a “roadkill”), orange juice and fruit cups at the Thursday morning



breakfast in EXPO Hall at the KRWA conference.

It’s a one-of-a-kind event that has people laughing and enjoying delicious pancakes and more.