

Membership Re-Elects Chalfant, Shroyer and Soetaert as Directors

Delegates of KRWA member systems re-elected Carl Chalfant, Bill Shroyer and Allan Soetaert to serve a three-year term on the KRWA board of directors. The 51st Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Kansas Rural Water Association was held on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita, KS.

Carl Chalfant is City Administrator at Washington, Kan. Bill Shroyer is Assistant City Manager at Sabetha. Allan Soetaert is Manager of Rural Water District No. 7, Johnson County, with offices located in Gardner.

In other business, Treasurer Sam Atherton provided the Treasurer's report. A copy of the 2016 audit report was provided to everyone in attendance. The Association received an unmodified opinion by the firm of Arthur White & Associates, Tarkio, Mo. President Paul Froelich reported that the Board of Directors had reviewed and accepted the audit report and that no motion was necessary by the membership. President Froelich asked if there were any questions by the membership concerning the audit report. There were no questions.

In explaining the audit, Atherton drew attention to the audit report. Atherton commented that the audit for KRWA is more complicated than a local water system's audit might be in that the auditor conducts numerous tests on program activities to ensure compliance with the contracts that the Association operates through National Rural Water Association or state agencies. The Association's financial reports showed an increase in net assets of \$365,190. That included a gain on investments of \$26,565.

General Manager Elmer Ronnebaum summarized activities of the Association in 2016 noting membership, training and technical



Members of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Rural Water Association are: front row, from left: Bill Shroyer, Patricia Shaffer, Allan Soetaert. Back row: Scott Robertson, Sam Atherton, Carl Chalfant and Paul Froelich.

assistance work by KRWA staff. Mention was made for the concern of proposed elimination of USDA Rural Development Water and Wastewater Loan and Grant Programs and the Community Development Block Grant program in the President's budget.

KRWA General Counsel Gary Hanson provided the membership with a legislative update. Bills that were reviewed included HB 2080 – meter forfeiture for non-payment. This bill was passed by both chambers but due to an amendment in the Senate, was in conference committee at the time. HB 2066 provides that public wholesale water supply districts be reimbursed for waterline relocations in public right-of-way on state and federal highway projects if the utility has 90 percent or more of its pipeline on private easements. This bill has also been referred to a conference committee due to legislative desire to have a vehicle for possible other legislation. HB 2079 provides water districts to be allowed to use the same registration procedure as municipalities

presently due. The license tags would be for five years. This bill was awaiting signature by the Governor. All bills were eventually passed and signed.

John Provorse, Butler RWD No. 4 expressed appreciation to the Association for the recognition he received during the awards ceremony on Wednesday evening, March 29.

Following the meeting of membership, the KRWA board met for its annual reorganizational meeting. All officer positions remain the same. They are: President: Paul Froelich; Vice-President: Bill Shroyer; Secretary: Patricia Shaffer; and, Treasurer: Sam Atherton.

The Association's board meets quarterly. Minutes of meetings are posted on KRWA's web site at <http://krwa.net/ONLINE-RESOURCES/In-the-News?urlism=KRWA%20Meeting%20Minutes>. A summary of the Association's activities for 2016 is posted online at [http://krwa.net/Portals/krwa/documents/downloads/Report for 2017 Annual Meeting of Membership.pdf](http://krwa.net/Portals/krwa/documents/downloads/Report%20for%202017%20Annual%20Meeting%20of%20Membership.pdf)