

KRWA Provides Training That is Pertinent – and Relevant

Whether or not most people realize it, the work that goes into providing and protecting public drinking water is an immensely important job. Achieving that requires people – and it takes people knowing more than just what regulations have to be complied with. It requires that people who operate public water systems have an understanding of the equipment and processes that are involved in their systems. Operators are needed to provide the daily work to ensure that residents of the city and users on a rural water system, the trailer park, or other types of water systems have quality water and wastewater services. And that is the purpose for a continuing education program for not only operators but also for members of local governing bodies and other utility staff. There are constant changes in technologies and resources; training sessions provide exposure to that information.

The Kansas Rural Water Association provided 111 training sessions in 2018 in addition to the numbers sessions at the Annual Conference. Let's put this in perspective. With 260 working days in a year, divided by 111 sessions, means KRWA sponsored or conducted a training class every other working day – including holidays!

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Persons who are certified as water or wastewater operators by KDHE are required to attend ten hours of training every two years. There is no question that sometimes an operator will attend a training session in order to meet the certification renewal requirements. That in my opinion is a poor reason to attend a training session. What I've found is that attendees at KRWA sessions quickly become engaged in the topic and before long are asking questions and providing some input or experience on the subject. There are many lively debates about policies, procedures, regulations, etc. at KRWA-sponsored training

KRWA encourages you to visit www.krwa.net for training opportunities in your area!

KANSAS RURAL WATER association

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TRAINING - Schedule & Register

Today March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24	25	26	27	28	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	1	2	3	4	5	6

NOTE -- This schedule shows the training sessions presently scheduled for the year. If anyone has special interest in any session or topic, please contact the appropriate contact person listed on the schedule.

Search for training by entering a word in topic or city name

Search:

Clear Search

Date	Topic	Location	Cost	Registration
April 24, 2019	Distribution System Operations; Drinking Water Regulations (Chanute)	Chanute	\$0.00	www.krwa.net
April 24, 2019	Distribution System Operations; Drinking Water Regulations (Chanute)	Chanute	\$0.00	www.krwa.net
April 24, 2019	Math Refresher Course; Chemistry; Operations, Regulatory Updates (Pratt)	Chanute	CH	www.krwa.net
May 7, 2019	Wastewater Utility Workshop; Lagoon Maintenance (Eureka)	Eureka		www.krwa.net
May 8, 2019	Distribution System Operations, LCR and RCR (Dodge City)	Dodge City	\$0.00	www.krwa.net
May 8, 2019	Competent Person for Trenching and Excavation (Kingman)	Kingman	\$90.00	www.krwa.net
May 9, 2019	Confined Space Training (Kingman)	Kingman	\$90.00	www.krwa.net

Don't be bashful in asking. Any request for a training session is held in confidence. KRWA will attempt to accommodate your request.

Training Session at El Dorado

"Neither snow, nor ice, nor bitter cold, stays these water system operators from the attendance at the El Dorado, Kansas training session!"

Even with a preceding night of inclement weather that delivered a coating of ice making travel difficult with brisk wind and very cold temperature, 31 operators representing 24 water systems still were in attendance at the January 23 training session at El Dorado, Kansas. Ten operators who had pre-registered were not able to attend the event which was sponsored and conducted by KRWA.

The session included presentations on operator math, water chemistry, treatment plant processes, and the Total Coliform Rule. Presenters were KRWA staff members Monica Wurtz and Pat McCool. A highlight of the afternoon was a guided tour of the El Dorado water treatment plant. El Dorado Superintendent of Water Brett Perry and Chief Operator Robert Simmons discussed treatment processes, laboratory testing, SCADA information and control, safety, and plant security. KRWA appreciates the welcome extended by the city.

In 2018, KRWA offered 111 days of training sessions, counting two days of the annual conference. There were 2,264 operators who attended the regional sessions and 1,958 who attended the annual conference. Total attendance in 2018 was 6,914. KRWA has tracked attendance at training sessions since 1976. From April 3, 1976 to December 31, 2018, KRWA sponsored 2,759 training sessions which were attended by 177,908 people.

Check out the 5-hour training sessions (preconference) on Tuesday, March 26 and the presentations on Wednesday and Thursday, March 27 and 28 at the KRWA Annual Conference in Wichita. The program was mailed on January 10. It is also

posted on the KRWA website at www.krwa.net and is reprinted in this issue of *The Kansas Lifeline*. Anyone having any questions concerning the conference or having special needs is encouraged to call KRWA at 785.336.3760.



The January 23 training session at El Dorado included a tour of the El Dorado Water Treatment Plant. Brett Perry, Superintendent of Water, explains operation of the plant processes. Chief Operator Robert Simmons (shown in bright blue jacket), reviewed testing, SCADA information, plant security, etc.



KRWA staff member Monica Wurtz discusses the Total Coliform Rule at the January 23 training session sponsored by KRWA and held at El Dorado, Kansas.



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sessions. Hey, no one can shoot the messenger. KRWA works to make the classes more about content and less about a meeting credit hours or there being some infomercial of a product.

In 2018, KRWA conducted or sponsored 48 days of training that qualified for wastewater operator credit. There were also 24 wastewater sessions during the 2018 conference. There were 96 days of training that qualified for water operator credit and 23 breakout sessions at the annual conference. That is a lot of opportunities for anyone to learn, and also obtain the hours necessary for recertification. And another thing about KRWA training, KRWA provides the training on a regional basis. This reduces costs which is an especially important factor for smaller cities and RWDs.

The mission of the Kansas Rural Water Association is: *Provide education and leadership necessary to enhance the effectiveness of Kansas' water and wastewater utilities.* As a member of the KRWA team, I take that statement very seriously. KRWA tries very hard to find and present water and wastewater-related topics that operators can put to use in their communities.

I have personally attended 71 days of training in 2018. While I am not the best at remembering all the names, the faces are becoming more and more familiar. It has been a lot of work and a few long days, but I have enjoyed the time.

A few of my favorite classes are the backflow classes. Everyone is always nervous about the test. There are very few who attend and take the exam who do not pass. Regardless of passing, everyone leaves with a better understanding of backflow and backsiphonage issues. The confined space and competent person classes are very entertaining also. Expert training is also provided by Hach. These are pricey training events and KRWA has made those available without charge to systems as the Association has subsidized the full cost of the presenters. I learned a lot about lab instruments and all that can be gained

when a utility employs proper testing methods. Another session that was product specific was held in Manhattan on all the ways to connect HDPE pipe. This training will be provided in other parts of the state in 2019. Attendees had the opportunity to make the connections themselves. There were lots of hands on opportunities in all of these classes. Bob Blume, who has been working with KRWA since 1986, has provided basic and advanced electrical training to more than 5,000 people through KRWA.

As I have stated many times at the classes that I have moderated or presented at, KRWA strives to organize topics that are relevant and of interest to water and wastewater utilities. So if any reader has interest in a specific topic or has a new topic to suggest, please do so. KRWA is your Association and KRWA takes pride in providing what local operators want and need to make sure the training is relevant and pertinent.

Annual conference, March 26 - 28

Speaking of training, I know of no better training opportunity than the KRWA conference. Not only are there 58 training sessions, the EXPO Hall is filled with products and services. Check them out. And meet the agencies who have programs to help local communities, whether it concerns funding a project or dealing with a regulatory matter. And last, while the conference is chuck-full of training, it provides a great opportunity to network with peers. It's one big-time, down-home event. Hope to see you there.

Bret Beye joined the KRWA staff in March 2017. He previously worked for 30 years at the city of Herington where he was Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Foreman. A Class III water operator and



certified as a backflow device technician, Bret also served on the USD 487 Board of Education from 2003 to April 2017 where he was board president and vice-president.

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