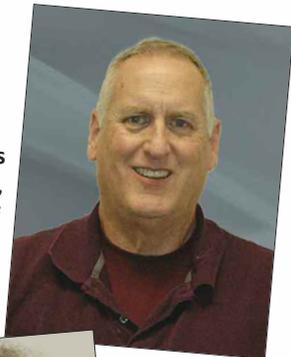


# Plan Now to Attend the Greatest Conference in the Midwest – It's KRWA's 53rd Annual



Governor Laura Kelly



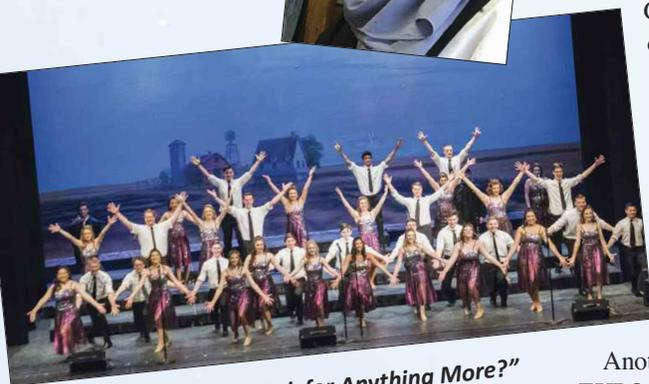
Tom Stiles  
Director,  
Bureau of  
Water, KDHE



Patty Clark  
Deputy  
Secretary,  
Kansas  
Department  
of Commerce



Keynoter  
Mark Skaggs,  
aka Festus



*"Who Could Ask for Anything More?"*  
Butler Headliners

As the 53rd Annual Conference & Exhibition draws near, there will likely be city councils and RWD boards that will determine who is allowed or not allowed to go. The city councils and RWD board ought to attend – the conference is not just for the operators, managers and other staff.

Even though a program was mailed to nearly 8,000 people, and that the full program is reprinted in this issue, I'm going to use this article to remind those who have never attended of the benefits of attending. First, the KRWA conference is the largest in the Midwest. Tuesday, March 24, has nine, five-hour sessions for water and wastewater operators, governing bodies, clerks and bookkeepers. These sessions begin at 9:30 with the exception of the RWD Office Manager forum beginning at 9 a.m. The Attorneys' Forum is ever-popular; this year marks the 20th Anniversary for that feature.

The Engineers' Forum presented by USDA Rural Development provides information that will help engineers, environmental consultants and other professionals provide service to applicants preparing Engineering and NEPA documents for USDA funding applicants.

The always popular "Water Operator Forum – Preparing for Certification Exams" will again be a full-day on Tuesday. One question that we have heard is whether attendance at this session will allow the person to pass the certification exam. Simply put, the answer is No! A person cannot expect to attend a session like this only and then be able to take and pass the exam. This session is to help with certain areas. Teaching what is required to pass in one day is impossible. Attendance at other training sessions throughout the year should be a priority to gain as much knowledge as possible.

The city clerks also have the opportunity to attend the full day training on Tuesday with topics covering Census 2020, Protecting Personally Identifiable Data, Tracking Expenses in a Disaster, Securing an Auditor, How the Kansas Municipal Audit Guide Works for a City and How a Budget Works. City clerks who attend each day of the conference and the sessions designated with the Clerk IIMC credit will receive one (1) CMC Experience or one (1) MMC Professional Contribution point per educational day of attendance.

Other full day presentations on Tuesday are: Chlorine – The Good, Bad and Ugly, Man Over Machine; Wastewater Nutrient Removal; Wastewater Lagoon Systems; Hold In Trust: Building Highly Effective Board Leadership; and, Rate Setting Done Right. Session descriptions and information are explained in this issue on pages 38-42. Additionally, on Wednesday and Thursday there are 48 one (1) hour concurrent sessions providing information for everyone.

Another reason to attend the conference is the information that can be obtained in EXPO Hall. There are 365 booth spaces filled with almost everything imaginable for water and wastewater utilities. A total of 196 Associate Members and state and

federal agencies will be participating in the conference. This is a great time to visit and gather more information on products, services and assistance they can provide to help your city, rural water district, wastewater system or other utility.

Does this seem like training, training, and more training? Well it is, however, there is ample time to relax and renew acquaintances and meet new and knowledgeable people. The Opening Nite Meet & Greet is one huge, fun event. Participation in the games and events allow attendees to earn tickets for prize drawings at 9:45 p.m. More than \$10,000 in prizes will be given. Plus there is the chance for one lucky person to win \$10,000 in the putt-putt golf. There'll be plenty of food and social – and the sounds from the oldest and best rock n' roll band in Kansas – King Midas & The Mufflers.

On Wednesday the Opening Session begins at 8:30 in Concert Hall. The Butler Headliners will again present their excellent singing abilities to attendees. The Keynote Speaker is Mark Skaggs! Mark does an excellent portrayal of Festus Hagen from the "Gunsmoke" series. If Mark sings half as good as the original Festus (Ken Curtis), then we are in for an extra special treat.

The conference will also have available meal functions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with special guests speaking at the Wednesday noon luncheon and the Thursday noon luncheon. And those guests are Governor Laura Kelly,

**Plus there is the chance for one lucky person to win \$10,000 in the putt-putt golf.**

Patricia Clark, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce, and Tom Stiles, Director of the Bureau of Water at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. And let's not forget the spouses' program where spouses will learn to decorate cookies from one of the top chefs in Wichita.

The Awards Banquet is Wednesday evening followed by a great production "Dolly Parton: Here You Come Again".

This is an excellent show worth much more than the \$25 fee for a good meal and great entertainment.

There is also the WaterPac Raffle with very nice items ... and grand door prizes will again be three quilts that were pieced by the late Kathleen Ronnebaum. So, if you have someone ask you why attend the conference, just show them this article. The focus is training, but it's a non-stop event that has something for everyone all the time.

If you haven't already registered, doing so by March 15 will save you \$25 on the registration fee.

See you in Wichita!!

*Greg Duryea started work for KRWA in 1993 as Technical Assistant. He holds a Class I water certification and is the certified operator for Sycamore Springs Resort in Brown County. Greg is assistant general manager at KRWA.*



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