

Kansas Rural Water Association

Strength Is Measured in Benefits Provided



The fifty-third annual conference and exhibition is now just two months away. As the conference approaches, the end of my third term as your board president will come to a close. When I attended my first KRWA conference 20 years ago little did I know that I would become a board member let alone president of this amazing Association. My first board meeting after being elected to the board was in Emporia and to say the least, I was more than overwhelmed with the 3-ring binder handed to me that



outlined the agenda for the meeting and all the data reporting in each program that the Association was providing.

With the great teaching from then president Dennis Schwartz, and board members Pat Shaffer and Sharon Dwyer I soon learned the meaning of the reports. Much like the annual conference most Association members don't see the behind the scenes work that it takes to keep the Association running strong or how the annual conference comes off so smoothly.

Thanks to the work of previous board members as well as your present board members Kansas Rural Water Association is in one of the strongest financial positions compared to any of the other state rural water associations.

Due to the long-term increase in the value of various mutual funds KRWA has invested in, your Association today is among the financially strongest rural water associations in the country. You may ask just how does KRWA have such a strong financial standing? Your Association arrived at this great standing through the responsible management of programs funded by the various agencies such as Kansas Department of Health and Environment, U.S. EPA through National Rural Water Association, the Kansas Water office as well as USDA Rural Development. It is through good stewardship on these contracts and proper management of each contract that KRWA is able to have reserve funds. KRWA staff have also embarked on numerous other programs and ventures, not necessarily to "make



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money” but to help do what local communities and water systems needed. Initiatives such as the involvement with KAN STEP, GPS Mapping, preparation of CCRs, not to mention the Water Board Bible handbooks which have sold more than 45,000 copies all required dedicated staff to see them to fruition.

One thing your Association can be proud of is the fact that when KRWA receives a contract for a certain program and a staff member is hired to work under that contract there is no guarantee that at the end of the contract that it will be renewed. Never in the history of the KRWA has a staff member been terminated if the funding for that contract ended. The reserve funds of the Association have allowed continued services to members (and non-members) by

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internally funding the program. Few other similar organizations can exhibit that level of confidence.

Thanks to the financial capacity of the Association, KRWA is able to provide most of the training throughout the year at little or no cost to attendees. In 2019, KRWA invested \$151,487 of internal funds on training sessions. This figure is after the agencies KRWA has contracts with have reimbursed for sessions they requested. It has always been the goal of the KRWA to offer as much training as possible at the lowest possible cost as well as taking the training to water and wastewater systems around the state rather than having a central location for training.

See you at the conference!

I encourage each attendee at the annual conference to participate in the annual membership meeting on Thursday morning, March 26 at 8:00 a.m. in room 209A. Voting delegates can participate in the election of three board members this year. Also you will be updated on activities of the Association and receive a full copy of the report of the annual audit of the Association. I look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Paul Froelich is City Superintendent at Enterprise, Kansas. Since 1983, he has worked extensively in law enforcement, emergency management and municipal operations. He holds numerous accreditations in Emergency Management and Fire and is a certified water and wastewater operator.



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