

Breaking 2000 Again!

Packed workshops and sessions

- Enthusiastic audiences at awards and entertainment
- 268 exhibits (sold out)
- Hundreds impatiently waiting their turn to be called to tempting buffet lines

Once again, the Kansas Rural Water Association's Annual Conference & Exhibition proved that it is indeed the Midwest's largest. 2,009 people attended. Folks from many states joined Kansans for the learning, fellowship and fun.

Why spend time and money? To keep up-to-date, helping fulfill the 37th conference theme, "Quality that Kansans count on." 24/7/365, these water and wastewater professionals do whatever it takes to serve their customers and community.

Reserve your room! If you thought 2004 was outstanding, just wait until the 2005 conference. Run, don't walk, to get your hotel reservations. Why? Conference planners expect even more participants.

The dates: March 29-31, 2005.
The place: Century II, Wichita.
The program: What's new and what's coming down the road. As of 6/10/04, the Hyatt already had 175 rooms reserved for 2005.

Preconferences draw crowds

Since 1995, KRWA has offered preconference workshops. Why? To provide in-depth training on complex topics. That first year, about 400 people attended four preconference sessions.

Fast forward 10 years. In 2004, more than 940 participants attended seven preconferences, some of which provided credit towards operator certification or renewal. Sunny, breezy weather complete with flowering trees didn't distract these folks.

✓ "Water meters and metering technologies" covered residential meters, flow rate, remote read devices, flow characteristics, overall meter sizing, how AMR works and licensed vs. unlicensed systems. Speakers were John Daugherty, Utility Solutions Associates; Bill Saunders, Sensus Technology; Thomas G. Butler, AMCO Water Metering Systems; and Janet Penz, Itron.

✓ Many Kansas municipalities use waste stabilization ponds. Randy N. Johnson, Bluffs Edge Environmental Services, was the trainer for "Waste stabilization ponds: Nature's way, accelerated." The session discussed factors for a lagoon to perform properly, such as frequent inspections of its color,

height and oxygen requirements. Other topics were dissolved oxygen, loading, series and parallel operation and how weather conditions affect the lagoon. Randy does a great job and will be providing additional sessions for KRWA later this year.

✓ KDHE's Kelly Kelsey briefed participants on "Regulatory compliance update: New rules that will impact water systems." He focused on compliance with Stage 1 Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR). It includes surface water systems serving less than 10,000 people and all ground water systems. The new Arsenic Rule and Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) were also reviewed.

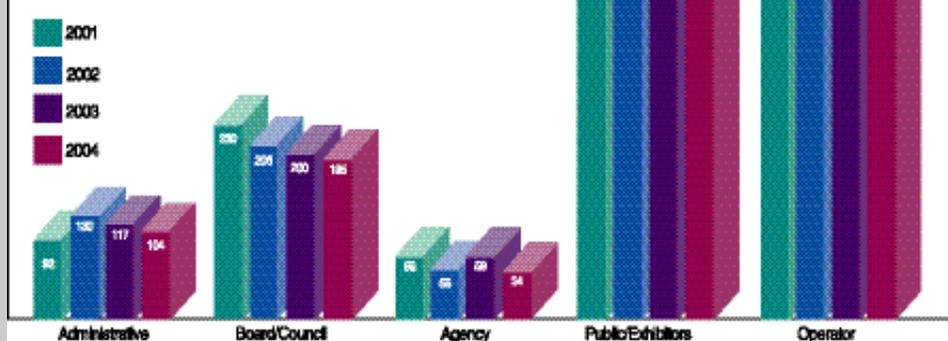
✓ Does your board/council need help understanding its responsibilities? "KanCap: Improved management for better drinking water" explained KDHE's new training program just for board/council members. KanCap helps governing bodies understand their managerial, technical and financial roles in demonstrating capacity in line with the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act. Speakers were David Waldo and Cathy Tucker-Vogel, KDHE; Elmer Ronnebaum, KRWA; Jen Sharp, Jen Sharp.com; and Ellen Miller, Ellen Miller Group.

✓ It doesn't take tons of money to recognize and reward employees. The day-long workshop "Developing star performers and rewarding them – on a shoestring budget" was taught by Cynthia Stotler and



2001-2004 Conference Attendance

2004: 278 cities; 180 RWDs: **2009 Total**
 2003: 281 cities; 204 RWDs: **2052 Total**
 2002: 289 cities; 181 RWDs: **2135 Total**
 2001: 282 cities; 193 RWDs: **2015 Total**



Kristin Scott, Creative Business Solutions. Topics included orienting new employees, developing a skills matrix to determine who needs what training, a six-step process for coaching employees and diversity issues.

✓ Between old-fashioned hackers and new-fangled info-terrorists, every water and wastewater utility had better pay attention to Internet security. "Internet security in the modern world: Network security, viruses, hackers and worms! Oh my!" discussed how to help take responsibility for information technology security, how attackers operate and how to minimize damage (such as not applying software fixes or ignoring virus protection). The speaker was Eric A. Yehle of Technical Velocity, LLC.

✓ Emergency preparedness is must-do these days. But who in Kansas is in charge of what? "Responding to terroristic threats in Kansas: Response by your water or wastewater utility" featured five entities that discuss topics such as requirements of Bioterrorism Act of 2002 on systems serving 3,300 people or more. Other topics were the role of the Department of Homeland Security and who calls when a utility suspects terrorism. Speakers were John Harmon, Kansas Highway Patrol; Dr. Frank Moussa and Gene Cross, Kansas Emergency Management; Karl Mueldener, KDHE; and Kirk Thompson, Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Shouldn't you or your board/council have been at one or more of these workshops? Make amends. Don't miss out in 2005. KRWA's pre-conferences are your best buy for one-stop, in-depth information. And the speakers always encourage questions!

Carnival Nite 2004 hits a homerun

What do you like to do first? Play or eat?

At Carnival Nite 2004 you could have it either way. 1,500 fun-loving folks stoked up on baked potatoes with a choice of toppings, pretzels, jalapena pizza, chili, ice cream and/or popcorn while enjoying soft and less-soft drinks. The 10 food stations meant lines usually were pretty short (especially if you started with dessert!). What's up for 2005? Barbecue, and a full meal deal!

Once fortified, the next problem was choosing a game or entertainment! The traditional events and eight professional Midway games included:

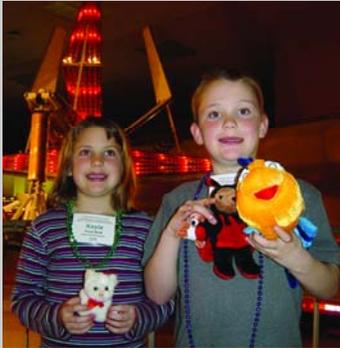
- "Bug Blaster" -- 14 focussed folks fired orange ping pong balls.



Fun galore at Carnival Nite.

Sizzler + cotton candy = bliss

"It was awesome," said eight-year old Kory Stone about riding the Sizzler. "I forgot I needed to go to the bathroom!" It was the first time he and six-year sister, Kayla, attended the KRWA conference. Usually they are off on spring break.



Kayla and Kory Stone display their loot.

Afterwards while eating some cotton candy, Kayla said "It was the best ride because it was the first ride."

Of course, siblings will disagree. Kory recalled that "Kayla was crushing me and my leg." He'll likely remember that lesson in centrifugal force for a long time!

Kayla and Kory are the children of Lori and Randy Stone. Randy is State Engineer at USDA Rural Development in Topeka.

- "Frog Bog" – contestants used catapults to try to hit frogs floating on moving lily pads

- "Skee Ball" – this traditional favorite had signs proclaiming that "280 wins large" and "180 wins small"

- "Kentucky Derby" -- a 14-player horse race that really got



A carnival and party inside Century II.

folks cranked up

Other offerings included "Sharp Shooter" where corks tried to hit cups or balloons; caricaturists who always had a line; fortune tellers; and old basketball favorite "Hoop Shot." Folks were lined up six deep for "Hi-Striker," whose recorded message boomed "Cowabunga, dude" when the plug hit the top.

Down-home casual rules! Clowns wandered around making balloon hats. The band, "The Benders" played classic rock with tunes such as "Saturday night I went downtown." This bunch was good, loud and colorful. Pompadors that Elvis would have envied competed for attention with the sax player's flaming pink suit and turquoise shirt.

2005 party: Just around the corner

Sponsored by KRWA, Carnival Nite is a free event with pre-registration. Otherwise, it's \$ 20 at the door. Don't miss the fun and food next year; make sure you pre-register. There'll be new ideas for 2005.

Opening program brings laughs, challenge

Listening to speakers takes energy and plenty of sugar. That's why dozens of bagels, muffins and donuts vanished before the Opening Session even started on Wednesday, March 24th. As folks took their seats and saved more for friends, bright stars projected on the

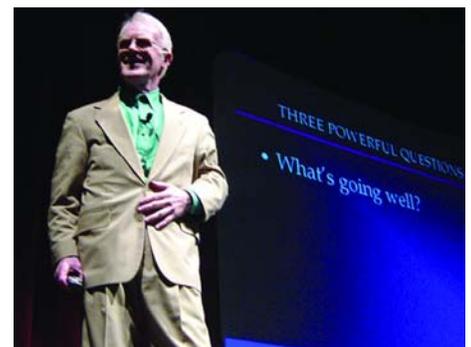
screen and stage curtain.

On stage, a 1930's twin bed that first seemed empty actually wasn't! Snores were the first clue. Then a rooster crowed. The 1,300+ audience murmured as a nightshirt-clad man emerged, put on glasses, then wandered off stage. So who was he?

Video shows diverse KRWA activities. Then the 2004 KRWA video started. Mud, muck, publications, meetings, phone calls, emails, KanStep, Washington and Topeka – the Association's diverse activities flashed on the big screen. The audience got a sense of the multi-tasking required day in and day out. Why all the work? "To keep the faucets flowing," said the voice-over Ned Harms.

Hats off to producer/directors Elmer Ronnebaum and Linda Windler for the 19th tailor-made video in a row. Is Hollywood their next stop?

Following board member Mike Mayberry's invocation, president Pat Shaffer welcomed all to the 37th conference. "KRWA provides the kind of help Kansas needs," she said.



Keynoter John Madden.

Conference work starts months in advance

Shaffer introduced the big snorer who turned out to be author, humorist and training consultant John Madden. His keynote addressed "Leap, Don't Sleep!"

Madden's mindset. Born in Ireland, John Madden now lives in Wichita. "If you want to change the future, you have to change what you are doing now," he said, quoting Mark Twain. The former hotel manager noted that J.W. Marriott said, "When you quit getting better, you will soon stop being good."

Madden asked the audience to ask three questions about their own lives.

#1. *What's going well?*

#2. *What could go better?*

#3. *What do I need to do to make things go even better?*

He urged attendees to get a different perspective, to re-frame questions. "Get out of your own way. Quit making excuses!" he advised. We often blame others, as in "Now look what you made me do." Instead, we need to recognize that we're in charge of ourselves.

"Get out of your own way. Quit making excuses!"

2004 keynoter John Madden.

Madden likes humor noting that Victor Borge said, "The shortest distance between two people is humor." The big-screen cartoons and quotes elicited many laughs. In conclusion he urged the appreciative audience to "take action to change the status quo."

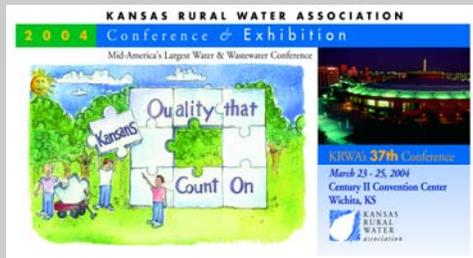
If seat-of-the-pants is your style, better stand back when KRWA gets in gear for an upcoming annual conference and exhibition. What follows is just the tip of the iceberg. Here's how KRWA plans for 2005!

July. The conference hotel is sold out for the following March. The 268 exhibitor spaces are nearly gone.

October. Decide on the conference theme. Brainstorming creates up to 30 ideas. Finally one is chosen that gets attention and will work visually as a program cover, posters and mailers. For the past 7 years, the whimsical artwork has been created by Rich Becker, Prairie Village. Create a double-page conference ad for the November issue of *The Kansas Lifeline*.

November. Continue getting workshop topics, speakers and moderators lined up. This takes hundreds of emails and phone calls to finalize. Virtually all KRWA staff are involved. They wonder: Will March ever come?

December. Using conference artwork and the final speaker list, prepare the conference registration booklet that is mailed to nearly 6000 people. Registrations start pouring in. Final exhibit space goes.



January. Time for intensive contacts with Century II conference center, Wichita, on exhibit space layout/utilities, local set-up crews, food, meeting space and more. Decide decorations; order posters. Place food orders.

February. For the March issue of *The Kansas Lifeline*, prepare final

centerfold ad and print details of entire-three day conference. Coordinate with exhibitors.

March, the final month! Intensive work on all fronts – registrations, exhibitors, speakers, meeting rooms, food, conference hotels, conference issue of *The Kansas Lifeline*, session signs, speaker nametags ... you name it, it must be done. And it IS! On Opening Day, welcome everyone with a smile and a tote bag of goodies.

April, the month after. Tally up the costs. In 2004, major costs totaled \$189,133 including:

Hospitality food, snacks, drinks and labor	\$31,526
Four lunches, one breakfast and one banquet for 5090	54,704
Exhibits/booth display	24,250
Facility rent/Century II (including electricity).	24,264
Audio/Visual equipment/stagehands	2,719
Ottaway Amusement/Carnival Nite professional games	20,144

Best of all, April is the month that KRWA staff can heave a well-earned sigh of relief that the conference is over. Now they can get back to their usual business of putting out fires, helping local cities and RWDs, training folks and doing 1,001 more things 24/7/365.

But there's one miscalculation in all this – the annual conference is just one more thing KRWA does .. the regular work with systems never stops. Work is fun .. and the enthusiasm shows. That's why people keep coming back. It's not "KRWA's" conference – it's "the people's" conference.



A basic food group: Donuts.

Fashion trends update

Since 1998, an ongoing, strictly unscientific study has been made of conference-goers' headgear and apparel. That year, about one-third of the males wore baseball caps. In 1999, only 15 percent did and there were almost no cowboy hats.

Fast-forward five years. Of the 500+ waiting for the Carnival Nite 2004 doors to open:

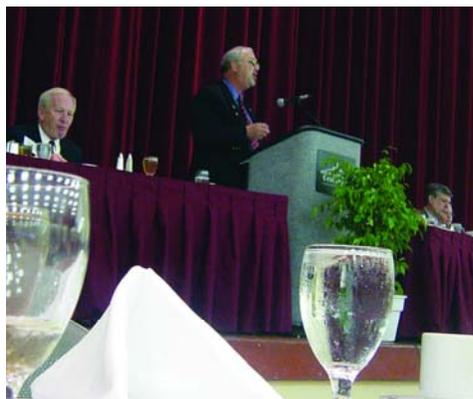
- *Of the 90 percent males in line, most had bare heads. Some were shaven.*
- *About 60 guys, or 12 percent, wore baseball caps. Only a handful were backwards.*
- *Nobody wore jackets.*
- *Casual dress was the norm – jeans, denim shirts, T-shirts.*
- *Few cowboy boots were to be seen.*

What's the verdict? Bare heads, including bald ones, are now a fashion statement. Rejoice, oh ye of little hair!

Later in the conference, John Madden spoke on "You're the problem! Improve your interpersonal relations" and signed his latest book, *Leap, don't sleep!*

Rodney Tart gives NRWA update

It only takes few words from Rodney Tart to know he doesn't come from Kansas! His North Carolina twang emphasized his comments about national trends and needs. As National Rural Water Association's Executive



NRWA's Rodney Tart.

Vice President, Tart has spent over 28 years in the public water supply business.

At Wednesday's luncheon, he noted that NRWA represents 23,500 utilities, more than any other U.S. water association. It has a \$45 million budget. Its activities include legislative action in executive agencies (think USDA Rural Development and EPA) as well as with Congress. Tart urged PAC (political action committee) funds "to support the folks in DC who support us."

"We're all environmental stewards," Tart noted. NRWA is seeking 10¢/connection in federal funding.

He congratulated KRWA on its risk management training program, noting that NRWA might undertake the same thing. He also praised its 12th annual long range plan, challenging individual systems to have a vision and mission. "The poorest of men is a person without a dream," he said. Tart complimented the 1000+ attendees at the Wednesday noon luncheon for their service, saying that the water industry is made up of "many hands, many minds, one goal."

Prizes, round one. Next were the drawings for three Kansas baskets. Winners were:
 Pete Koenig, KRWA
 Virgil Scheid, Osage RWD 3
 Larry Bond, Butler RWD 8
 For those panting to win one of Kate Ronnebaum's famous

hand-designed and pieced quilts, they had to cool their heels.

Exhibits + sessions = learning

Food, games, speeches and fellowship are nice, but that's not what brought 2009 people to the 2004 conference and exhibition. It's the learning, whether in conference sessions or in the exhibits.

Exhibits draw crowds. Thousands of square feet housed 268 exhibits. Some such as Key Equipment and Mid West Fire Training Associates used several spaces for large machinery and



Fireplug mysteries revealed.

equipment. As usual, the exhibits were sold out months in advance.

The only problem? Knowing where to start! Random sights:

- Hands-on check of a new pump
- Getting a personal SCADA demonstration

Lucky quilt winners

- Peering at pipe-cleaning tools and pigs
- Folks making sure they got freebies such as baseball hats, candy and hoola hoops

Everyone knows that cruising exhibits is exhausting. Not to worry! It was easy to reach for a couple of the 2,040 cookies or 1,512 donuts provided. For an extra caffeine jolt, don't forget a soda or two (from the 28 tanks plus 44 cases bought) or coffee (18 pounds perked). For added pleasure, mix in old friends and acquaintances who sit down, too. It's time to rest those feet!

Many thanks to the exhibitors who help make KRWA the Midwest's largest water and wastewater conference. As of June, 2004, 182 exhibitors had already signed up for the blockbuster 2005 conference. They are one-half of any successful conference. The other half? On-target training sessions.

Late arrivals, beware!

If you couldn't find an interesting session at the 2004 conference, you weren't trying! Even the big Hyatt ballrooms on the first day were full.

The 48 sessions included:

- ✓ "KAN STEP keeps working in Kansas"
- ✓ "The do's and don'ts of rechlorination"
- ✓ "Improving your fire protection and fire insurance rating"
- ✓ "Community Development Block Grant funding 101"
- ✓ "Extraterritorial land use regulations: Authority in unincorporated areas"



Nyle Larson, Riley RWD 1



Ronnie Harms, City of Peabody



Linda Springer, Shawnee RWD 3

Arguably there are three hold-your-breath moments at the KRWA conferences. One comes when the awards are given out Wednesday evenings.

The other two heart-stoppers? The drawings for Kate Ronnebaum's beautiful hand-designed and pieced queen-sized quilts. Since 1988, she has created three a year. One result: A growing fan club with just one goal: "Get one for MY house!"

In past years, some out-of-staters won quilts. We're broadminded, but it does make a person sigh to see those lovely creations move to, say, Missouri or Indiana. However, in 2004 all three stayed right here in the Sunflower State.

At the Wednesday night banquet, Ronnie Harms, City of Peabody, selected "Trip around the world."

At Thursday's luncheon, Linda Springer, Shawnee RWD 3, won "Boston Commons," Nyle Larson, Riley RWD 1, won the final quilt, "Patriotic Star." Don't give up hope; 2005 could be your lucky year!

- ✓ "Tips for rural water district bookkeepers and management"
- ✓ "Kansas One Call system updates: Dig Safe"
- ✓ "Design-build: An alternative tool to procure capital projects"

Who attended? Superintendents, operators, city clerks, board members, managers, meter readers, city council members, mayors office managers, field staff and more. They found speakers, panels and topics that kept them in the know.

Many thanks to the speakers and moderators who make KRWA's sessions the other half of a successful conference.

Spouses have fun

Think you are too busy to make special meals? Fearful that you might be physically harmed? Over 80 were challenged to think outside the box at two specially-selected spouse programs.



Experts share their knowledge.



On Wednesday, Cara Warren, owner and chef of 14 Carrot Cooking, a catering and personal chef business, provided the luncheon followed by a demonstration. If you don't have ideas about cooking something new, this was the right program. Cara showed how to save time with "make ahead" meals while trying out new recipes.

On Thursday, Cindy Coughenour presented "Fearless and female," addressing personal safety. Cindy is a certified rape prevention instructor and graduate of Model Mugging. A student of various forms of self-defense, the program discussed the importance of prevention and using your intuition. This session was very popular with the audience.

Attorneys' forum targets tough topics

Under the able emceeing of Gary Hanson, Stumbo, Hanson and Hendricks, 25 water system attorneys attended the fourth attorneys-only forum. Attendees represented cities or rural water districts that belong to KRWA.

Topics included:

- Legal issues in source water issues by Parthenia Evans, Stinson Morrison Hecker, LLP
- In-house counsel's perspective on dealing with water system insurers by Bob Myers, city attorney, Newton

- Strategies for water system regionalization by Cathy Tucker-Vogel, KDHE

Afternoon roundtables included water supply take-or-pay contracts, use of water supply contracts as land use controls, and defective and/or incomplete easements.

Tension builds

The social in EXPO hall started things off right on Wednesday evening, March 24. Hundreds of participants visited informally with exhibitors and each other. Then the lines started forming for the conference banquet. About 560 people enjoyed pulled pork roast, roast top round, whole roasted herb and garlic potatoes, Italian vegetable medley, fruit salad, rolls and butter and of course topped off by cherry cheese cake.

Immediately after finishing dinner, four drawings were made. Kansas baskets went to Twila Russell, Johnson RWD 7; Clint Clarke, Clarke Well & Equipment; and Dona Brown, Shawnee RWD 3. The first of three Kate Ronnebaum quilts went to Ronnie Harms, Peabody. The rest of us congratulated them on their good fortune, while hoping hard that our luck would change in 2005.

As people flocked into Little Theatre, they saw the conference logo and theme, "Quality that Kansans count on!" on the big screen. Many saved seats for

friends, frantically waving to get their attention.

By starting time, fewer than 100 seats out of 630 were empty. The lights dimmed. Veteran KRWA emcee and board member David Mueller described each award. He noted that "these winners exemplify top quality service." As he announced the winners, their photos and organization names flashed on the large screen. The appreciative crowd applauded these "best of the best" high achievers.

The award categories were:

#1. Consumer Confidence Reports.

For RWDs and privately owned systems:

- 3rd place goes to Barber County RWD 3
- 2nd place goes to Shawnee County RWD 8
- 1st place goes to Cowley County RWD 1



Never get between hungry folks and their food!

WATERPAC Winners

The 2004 WaterPac Raffle raised \$2004. WaterPac donations go to the benefit of the National Rural Water "WaterPac." Winners of raffle tickets at KRWA's 2004 conference were:

Air Compressor	Myron Schmidt, Marion RWD 4
Craftsman Shop Vac	Terry McGuire-Davis, Geary Co. PW / RWD 2
Kenmore Gas Grill	Harold Turner, Leavenworth RWD 7
Craftsman Mitre Saw	Tim Duis, City of Hanover
Craftsman Combo Tool Chest	Elmer Ronnebaum, KRWA
Pampered Chef Cookware	Linda Ohl, Sumner RWD 5
George Foreman Roaster & Lean	
Mean Fat Grilling Machine	Pete Koenig, KRWA
Blender	Dennis Schwartz, Shawnee RWD 8

A total of 163 individuals made donations to the WaterPac Raffle. Of these, 27 were board/council members, 39 were from water and wastewater industry, 19 were managers or administrators, 77 were operators and 1 was from a regulatory agency.

For municipalities under 3000:

- 3rd place goes to City of Bentley
- 2nd place winner is City of Nortonville
- 1st place winner is the City of Oxford

For municipalities 3000 - 25000:

- 3rd place goes to City of Fort Scott
- 2nd place goes to City of Holton
- 1st place winner is the City of Winfield

For municipalities serving more than 25,000:

- 3rd place goes to the City of Garden City
- 2nd place goes to the City of Manhattan
- 1st place winner, is the City of El Dorado

The contest was judged by Darrel Plummer, KDHE, and KRWA staff.

#2. Ground water systems. "The purpose of this award is to

recognize some water and wellhead protection stars," David Mueller said. The winners were:

- Barber RWD 3
- Arlington
- Stockton
- Plainville
- Phillipsburg
- Jennings
- Ottawa RWD 2

#3. Great American Water Taste Test. For the fourth year, KRWA conducted a statewide water taste test. Panelists were Darrel Plummer, KDHE; Bob Vincent, Ground Water Associates; Lane LeTourneau, Division of Water Resources; Marilyn Graham, Department of Commerce; and Mel Driscoll, Leavenworth Water District. They tasted 13 samples. To clear their palates between sips, they sampled white zin.

The three finalists were Dickinson RWD 1, Emporia and PWWSD No. 4 (last year's national winner). Emporia represented Kansas in the finals, held April 18 in Washington, DC.

At the national level, Emporia did not make the final five. Just the same, folks in Kansas know that Emporia, PWWSD 4, Dickinson RWD 1 and all the rest produce and provide quality water.

#4. Best-of-category award winners. Emcee David Mueller provided tantalizing facts about each winner. No doubt everyone in the audience was trying to match those clues with the winner's identity. Then came the big moment.

"And the winner is ..." The audience honored every winner with hearty applause even cheers when it was someone from their system or a good friend.

In 2004 the categories and winners were:

- Rural water manager – Roy "Rocky" Fund, Jackson RWD 1
- Municipal utility director – Ron Rhodes, Emporia
- Municipal business manager – Carolyn Koehn, Burns
- Wastewater utility supervisor – Louis Scott Townsend, Manhattan
- Rural operator – Theresa McGuire-Davis, Geary County Public Works
- Rural water office manager – Kerry Sewey, Marion RWD 4
- Most improved system – Colby
- Silver Faucet award by USDA Rural Development – Atchison RWD 5

For details on these outstanding award winners, see the accompanying article, "Best of the best."

Congratulations to all these Kansas water professionals! They indeed provide the quality than Kansans can count on.

"Diamonds" are forever

Coping with award-night tension made the audience ready to relax with "The Diamonds." On stage, a 1959 black Thunderbird convertible brought out audible, covetous sighs from many men in the audience. With



Diamonds do it all

the first row of Little Theatre only three feet from the edge of the stage, the quartet easily crooned to front-row females.

The group started out on a very high note with their 1956 "Why do fools fall in love?" Over 45 years later, they've sold 40 million records including covers of:

- "Little darlin'"
- "Church bells may ring"
- "Ka-ding dong"
- "Two kinds of women"

The current Diamonds are Gary Owens (28 years), who does much of the vocal arranging; tenor Bobby Poynton,

former member of "The Lettermen;" bass Jerry Siggins (13 years); and Joe Finetti (one year), who had previously been with two Grammy-nominated groups.

At the KRWA performance, they were backed up by local Wichita musicians Tate Addis (piano) and Steve Hatfield (drums). You'd have thought the entire ensemble had played together for years.

Enthusiastic crowd. Their musicality was never in doubt, especially during the long saxophone high note that was part of "The stroll." Other tunes popular with the KRWA crowd were "Blue moon," "Three coins in the fountain" and "1-2-3-4 four o'clock rock."

An equipment malfunction occurred during "Splish splash," when Joe flipped Jerry really hard with a towel. Afterwards, Jerry rubbed his hip several times. In this litigious era, was there a lawsuit in the making?

Through the performance, people could be heard humming and even singing those familiar 1950s and 1960s words. It's no wonder the Diamonds are frequently booked on cruise ships and at hotels. They know what crowds want. Their latest CD is "We're still rockin'."

Following a standing ovation complete with whistles and cheers, the group finished up with the Righteous Brothers' 1965 tunes "You never close your eyes when I kiss your lips" and "You've lost that loving feeling."

Hats off to KRWA for another crowd-pleasing night of entertainment. The Diamonds appeared in cooperation with Crown Uptown Dinner Theater, Wichita.

Once again, KRWA offered on-line connectivity for busy conference-goers. The five computers and high-speed connections were kept busy throughout the conference. Intern David Ronnebaum helped folks with questions ranging from "How do I work a mouse?" to "How does this program work bypassing Windows?"

Plans call for 6 computers in 2005 – and depending on KRWA's skill level, to make the entire place 'wireless.' That's a tall challenge but it's being considered. Regardless, the Cybercafe is your place to check emails, get on the Net and otherwise stay in touch during the annual conference.

Taking care of business

The KRWA annual business meeting was held on Thursday, March 25. 92 delegates attended. Business included:

- ✓ Carl Carrol and Pat Shaffer were re-elected to three year terms
- ✓ Independent auditor Art White presented the 2003 KRWA annual report which showed:

- Total revenue and transfers \$2,109,035
- Total expenses \$1,833,961



KRWA's board.

Are you breaking up?

KRWA conference-goers stay up with the times. They use cell phones ... a lot! People-watching in the exhibits, at breaks and while queued up waiting for meal or event doors to open showed:

- "I'm only getting static" one person said on the second floor balcony overlooking the foyer
- Many went outside, especially the east patio area with statues
- A few used phones when in the exhibits
- Some rang during sessions – which is not appropriate

- Net property (land, building, furniture, etc.) \$447,586

✓ Dennis Schwartz, NRWA director, reported that Kansas gets about \$500,000 from NRWA's \$45 million annual budget. How is it used? Helping to provide training and TA across the state.



*Kansas Water Office
Joseph F. "Joe" Harkins.*

✓ General manager Elmer Ronnebaum discussed KRWA programs including the record training attendance and new programs such as KAN STEP that many communities are interested in. GPS/GIS mapping technology will also be regional training starting the summer of 2004.

Harkins looks ahead. At Thursday's luncheon, Kansas Water Office director Joseph F. "Joe" Harkins discussed the need for local water systems to not fall prey to large corporations. Harkins cited what he sees as an over-commercialization of the medical industry and high education. He also commented on how Kansans need to think in terms of regional water solutions. Following his comments, the final two quilts were awarded along with the last Kansas basket.

KRWA's annual conference and exhibition offers a whirlwind of information, fun, fellowship and food. It is truly the single best place in the

Midwest to find out what's hot, what's not and what's coming in the water and wastewater industries.

Don't miss out in 2005! Make those hotel reservations now.



More carnival nite 2004 fun.