

KRWA will work to do more, not less

The annual business meeting of KRWA membership in March provides an opportunity for the Association to explain programs and services offered by KRWA and review the accomplishment of the previous year. This past March at KRWA's 37th annual meeting of membership, delegates from approximately 100 water systems heard about training and technical assistance efforts that are invaluable to member and non-member systems. The delegates to the business meeting are members of boards/councils, administrators, managers and operators.

Elmer Ronnebaum
General Manager



Thanks for memberships

Membership in any organization is important but membership is not the reason KRWA exists. KRWA's services rarely distinguish between members and non-members. Many organizations differentiate cost of training or registration fees, etc. That may be unconventional but the nickel and diming of individuals, members, non-members, etc. seems more punitive than anything to me. KRWA just doesn't have time for that kind of thing. The administrative tracking is expensive. The welcome mat is open for everyone, equally at KRWA.

Systems that rely on KRWA appreciate the benefits the Association provides and

willingly help support those efforts with membership. At the end of 2003, there were 262 RWDs and PWWSDs and 437 city members as well as 268 Associates. Gas, tires, vehicle depreciation, personnel costs, new computers and other equipment costs money and the prudent management of KRWA resources has allowed KRWA to provide many services to systems without cost. KRWA will continue to remind non-members of the benefits they receive.

Here are some highlights of your Association's activities in 2003:

- Sponsored a total of 84 training sessions which were attended by 5,989 people - a

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record attendance; 3,133 were operators; 462 were board/council members

- Completed 33 water loss surveys, locating 159,572,000 gallons on an annual basis that had a production or purchase cost of \$322,612

- Continued the legislative efforts in Topeka. As just one example, at the request of Shawnee RWD 7 and City of Topeka, KRWA supported HB 2003 that allows for the transfer of assets of a RWD which so votes to the city. It passed and is law. In Washington, KRWA

sought support for both EPA and USDA Rural Development programs for funding water and wastewater systems. Systems have legislators to thank for their efforts. We should note that Shawnee RWD 7 recently however consolidated with Shawnee RWD 6.

- Provided continued support and assistance to an ever-expanding KAN STEP program. In 2003, 8 additional projects were completed. The year ended with 3 projects under construction. Architects and engineers had been assigned by KDOC to many more.

- Continued to provide service to systems in assisting and producing their Consumer Confidence Reports. In 2003,

completed 276 CCRs at systems' requests and printed 21,855 copies for systems.

- Continued to sponsor one of the more outstanding annual conferences and exhibitions nationally. In 2003, a total of 2052 people attended the Annual Conference & Technical Exhibition.

- KRWA staff logged 319,950 miles to respond to technical assistance calls

- Last and never least, provided technical assistance and services to small communities and others 24 hours

a day, 365 days a year. In 2003, KRWA provided assistance in some way to nearly every city and RWD in the state. In addition, staff spent necessary time meeting with state and federal water-related agencies.

Building on a solid foundation

I am often humbled by the confidence and support that agencies place in KRWA. KRWA does what it can to be good partners with agencies and systems.

KRWA does its best to help systems accomplish what they otherwise may not be able to do for themselves. Systems are encouraged to express what their needs are if they are not being addressed. KRWA will try to satisfy those requests, within reason.

For example, KRWA is not in the business of providing complimentary legal services for local problems, but we can and do continue to share the experiences of communities and water systems with other

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systems to help them avoid the same pitfalls - and hopefully, help avoid costs for legal services by settling disputes. As I write this on 6/18/04, an attorney from an eastern Kansas city called to ask for our help in negotiating easements between his client city and a RWD.

Your board of directors sets policy for KRWA. KRWA's policy is to do more, not less! Doing more adds responsibilities at KRWA. I remember too well the days when KRWA hardly had funds to meet payroll and sometimes was required to borrow money to make ends meet. KRWA survived those days; I never want KRWA to return to such days. Your board and staff have the responsibility of providing the needed services. "Doing less" is a dead end.

I want to compliment KRWA staff who put in the hours necessary to get the job done. The past year had its ups and downs for our staff, and as General Manager I appreciate how current employees work together to get jobs done. KRWA seeks to make a difference - day or night, workday or proclaimed holiday - it doesn't matter. We are here and will get help to your system if needed. KRWA does not operate programs; KRWA helps people and systems.

If your system has not used the services of KRWA, I encourage you to call. You'll be met by friendly people who have but one goal. That goal is to help you help yourself.



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-- "IF WE SUPPLY IT, WE MAKE IT WORK!" --