

2008 Conference: training, technology, fellowship, teamwork

Once again, KRWA – with the participation of state and federal water-related agencies – will host the nation's largest state rural water conference. With an attendance of 2,200 plus expected, it's the nation's largest rural water conference with nearly 900 operators, hundreds of city council and rural water board members, administrative and clerical staff, industry representatives and governmental officials converging on Wichita and the Century II Convention Center this March 25 – 27.

According to population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, as of July 1, 2007, Kansas had a population of 2.775 million, 33rd nationally behind

states like Texas (23.9 million, 2nd place), Georgia 9.5 million (9th place), Missouri 5.87 million, (18th place) and Oklahoma 3.6 million (28th place). So how does the Kansas Rural Water Association's Annual Conference & Exhibition draw

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General Manager*

so many participants? Because it offers top quality learning. There are eight preconference sessions, 48 regular conference sessions and 278 exhibits available.

But folks need more than information. They want a chance to see friends, make new ones and have a good time. The 2008 theme, "There is no "I" in Teamwork" will weave together all three conference elements –

learning, fun and fellowship. Low fees and many free activities will again make the KRWA conference a "best buy." Why so many out-of-state speakers, exhibitors and

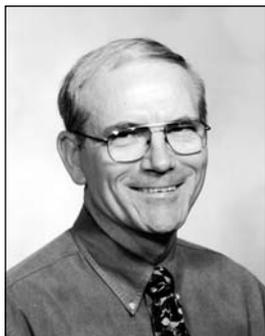
some from surrounding states, industry vendors, agencies and other professionals to explore and exchange information and technology and obtain answers to

"There is no "I" in Teamwork" will weave together all three conference elements – learning, fun and fellowship. Low fees and many free activities will again make the KRWA conference another "best buy."

registrants? Because of the conference's outstanding reputation. Special guest speakers – Rep. Todd Tiahrt and Mike Hayden, Secretary of Wildlife & Parks, two spouse programs and top notch entertainment all help to make the conference a whirlwind of activity.

questions concerning the special challenges many are encountering.

Why am I writing about the conference when most readers have received a program in early January and which is reprinted in this issue of the *Lifeline*? Because I believe that the KRWA conference has and continues to offer one of



Kevin Jones, Midwest Fire Training Associates, trains on confined space and safety at the 2007 KRWA conference. More than 900 operators of water and wastewater systems typically attend the conference.

There is no "I" in teamwork!

"There is no 'I' in Teamwork" is the theme of 2008 Annual. The Conference will bring together more than 500 cities and rural water districts in Kansas and

the best opportunities for people to attend training sessions that are relevant to their needs, an exhibition that is second to none and an opportunity to share ideas, greet old friends and make new

acquaintance. This is not “KRWA’s conference” it’s YOUR conference.

A jam-packed schedule

The first day of this year’s conference, Tuesday, March 25, leads off with eight preconference sessions. The topics are: Maintaining Chlorine Residuals; Rate Setting for the Future; Building Blocks for Creating or Improving a Web Site; NIMS – Emergency Response Tabletop Exercise; KanCap – Improving Management of Kansas Water Systems; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Development of GIS for Improved Digital Management Services; Wastewater Collection System Evaluation and Rehabilitation.

EXPO Hall opens at 4 p.m. on Tuesday. This year, 278 booth spaces will again be filled with products and services. Exhibits are a big part of KRWA conferences; don’t miss this opportunity to see the largest show for the water and wastewater industry in Mid-America! Exhibitors help offset the real costs of the KRWA conference. Stop by the booths to see the latest in technology and services – and thank them for their support.

It’s Carnival 2008!

Doors to Carnival 2008 open at 6:30 p.m. This opening night ‘meet & greet’ is something of a bash and it promises to be another fun-filled evening with good food, plenty of socializing and games -- all leading up to the drawings for many very nice prizes. If you’ve never attended, get ready to see a complete midway inside Century II. There’s something for everyone – from laser sport to water bingo, bull riding to the cliff hanger – it’s the one night of the year when all adults can pretend they are just 20 years old at the state fair.

Be in Concert Hall by 8:30 a.m. Wednesday morning for the Opening General Session. It’ll be

Special guests

Special guest speakers at the noon luncheons for the 2008 Conference will be U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt and Kansas Secretary of Wildlife and Parks Mike Hayden.



Rep. Tiahrt has been serving the Kansas 4th district since 1997 and is Ranking Member of the Interior Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Tiahrt is invited to address the luncheon on Wednesday, March 26.

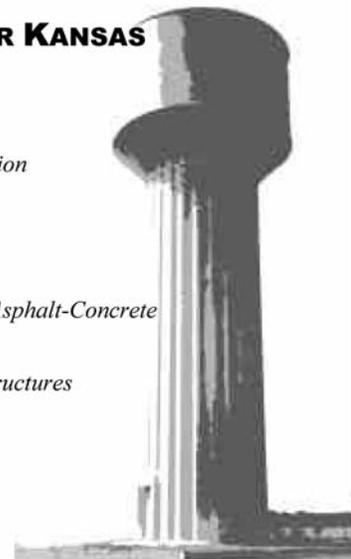


Secretary Hayden is an ardent conservationist, outdoorsman, the 41st Governor of Kansas and today heads Kansas Wildlife and Parks. Secretary Hayden will address the luncheon on Thursday, March 27.

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different – with live music and singing, followed by Keynote Speaker Shirley Garrett who is excited to be attending this conference. In fact, Shirley is planning to be in attendance for



Pieced quilts as grand door prizes have been a hallmark of the KRWA conference since 1984. Charles Suchy, City of Great Bend, won the "Trip Around The World" quilt design, in 2007.

most of the conference so you'll have a chance to meet her in person. Her presentations include many personal anecdotes, some which will just give you goose bumps!

At 11:30, the Wednesday spouse program departs Century II for Botanica Gardens, Wichita's unique center for horticulture. A noon luncheon and presentation on efficient use of water precedes a tour of the gardens; there should be 43,000 tulips and more than 60,000 daffodils in bloom. Following Botanica, buses will take the group to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. It's a spectacular building, filled with more than 70,000 artifacts relating to Wichita and Sedgwick County.

Concurrent sessions on Wednesday cover 32 individual topics, presented by experts from the waterworks industry, legal counsel, and your peers in cities and rural water districts across Kansas. Rep. Todd Tiaht is invited to address the noon luncheon; Mr. Tiaht is ranking

Annual conference is loaded with events

The 2008 Annual Conference, March 25 - 27 at Century II Convention Center brings learning and technology, great fellowship, food, fun & more . . .

- Eight Preconference Sessions; 48 Concurrent Sessions
 - 278 Exhibit Spaces - Technology & Services
- Special guests: Rep. Todd Tiaht; Secretary Mike Hayden
 - Attorneys' Forum
 - Opening Night Carnival - Barbeque & Games
 - Nationally Acclaimed Presenter Shirley Garrett
 - Awards Banquet, Entertainment, "Ring of Fire"
 - Spouse Programs - Wednesday & Thursday
- Operator Certification Exams for Water & Wastewater
 - Water Taste Test, Poster Board Displays
 - Annual Spring Golf Tourney
 - Wateringhole Cyber Cafe'
- Unending Supply of Great Food & Socializing

For all the upcoming conference details check out pages 60 to 82 of this issue of *The Lifeline*. Registration forms, hotel listings, contact information all can be found there.

Also, register online at www.krwa.net, under 'training' and 'conference.'



More than \$5,000 in prizes will be given away at the conclusion of Carnival 2008. Brian Leis from Cheney took home a Stihl weed eater at the 2007 conference.

minority member of the House Appropriations Committee and so holds an important position to help make sure that water and wastewater funding issues are addressed. Kansas Rural Water Association and its members

appreciate all his efforts on behalf of programs that mean so much to Kansans.

At 6:30 p.m., "The Best of the Best" will be announced following the awards banquet. This is a highlight of every conference; personally it's an exhilarating experience to see those who place public service before themselves

will be given at least a token recognition for their years of hard work. After the awards, the audience moves into the Teall Theatre for the Broadway musical, "Ring of Fire." This show features an excellent band



Above: The annual KRWA conference provides water and wastewater utilities the opportunity to visit with vendors for the latest in products and services. Exhibitors are a big part of the KRWA conference. Their participation is appreciated. Their support helps offset costs for those who attend.

Right: The 93,000 sq. feet of space in EXPO Hall at Century II Convention Center in Wichita will be fully carpeted and ready for the 278 exhibit spaces for the 2008 conference. See the floor plan for EXPO Hall on page 74 of this issue and also online at www.krwa.net and then under 'training' and 'conference.'



Below: A total of 56 training sessions are offered at the conference. Typically, approximately 900 water and wastewater operators are among the 2,200 people who attend. Operator certification exams will be given on Thursday March 27 at 1:30. See page 80 for details.

and an especially gifted ensemble, singing those Johnny Cash legends. Thanks to Crown Uptown for this year's production. This show will be a real hit for all the country-western fans. Your ticket comes with the Awards Banquet.

Breakfast is going to be good!

The Thursday morning breakfast is going to be a winner this year. There'll

luncheon. Special Guest Speaker is Mike Hayden, Secretary of Kansas Wildlife and Parks. Former Governor Hayden speaks passionately about water resources in Kansas; his address will review many of the larger concerns for the future of water in the state. The exam for water and wastewater operators will be held Thursday afternoon.

It is KRWA's goal to host the best conference ever. Your suggestions and ideas are encouraged. Enter those on the evaluation form and drop those at the registration table before you head back to your home. There are many new people entering the water

Why should you attend?

Here is how Sharon Dwyer, President of the Association board of directors summed it up: "Participation in the KRWA conference provides one of the most effective ways for water districts and cities to learn from the 56 different training sessions and to see new technology that is available to help water and wastewater utilities provide efficient, quality service. The KRWA conference is recognized as 'the event' to help systems with operation, maintenance, budgeting and planning to sustain and improve the communities they serve."

be pancakes grilled to order, sausage and eggs, fruit and beverages. There's a charge – but you'll still only pay half what it really costs.

The annual business meeting is set for 8 a.m. in Room 209A. It's a time to hear a recap of programs and operations of the Association and it provides a time for any questions or suggestions.

The Thursday morning spouse program will be held in the Hyatt Trail Rooms. Judy Young will present "The Magic of Laughter." This presentation is one like you've never attended before. Don't miss it.

Two more sets of concurrent sessions are held at 9:30 and 10:45, followed by the noon



and wastewater fields; share with them your success stories. In this electronic age, there's still no substitute for some face-to-face meetings and exchanges. The 2008 Conference will provide a golden opportunity for that. I hope you and others from your community will attend.