

KRWA Training: Helping today – for a better tomorrow!

The Kansas Rural Water Association has been providing training for water systems across Kansas since 1976. In that first year, attendance at KRWA-sponsored sessions totaled 601. In 2008, attendance reached 5,979 with 98 sessions conducted. That's an all-time record. KRWA has maintained a log of every training session conducted over the last 32 years. I am pleased to see the steady interest by cities and RWDs to attend training, as is demonstrated in the chart that is printed with this article. KRWA's effort to provide quality training requires substantial planning and investment. While some of the costs are covered through a contract by National Rural Water Association and funded through US EPA, KRWA internally also invests heavily to provide training generally at no charge. There is much work that goes into planning and carrying out training sessions each year. First and foremost, the topics need to be those that benefit water and wastewater systems. Presenters at sessions represent state and federal agencies, associates and others, as well as KRWA staff members. The 'frills' in 2008

included assembly of nearly 6,000 folders, copying of many thousands of pages of handout materials, pens, notepads, 865 dozen rolls and donuts, 370 gallons of coffee, 988

dozen cookies and 494 cases of pop as well as many cases of KRWA's bottled water. This listing does not include what is served at the annual conference.

We also hope to provide smaller, regional sessions for office staff. If there is a topic of interest to you or if you would like to suggest a location, please let that be known.

Keeping it interesting; many new faces

While KRWA attempts to provide a mix of topics throughout the year, there remains high interest in the electrical safety and troubleshooting sessions provided by Bob Blume, trenching and confined space and

backflow and cross connection control sessions. For the past several years, KRWA has appreciated the participation of KDHE and US EPA on sessions that addressed new rules and compliance issues. The variety of water and wastewater topics including metering, leak detection, water quality (maintaining chlorine residuals), wastewater collection, lagoon operation and emergency planning have been well received. Board/council training (KanCap) is an area that

KRWA is going to stress in 2009. We also hope to provide smaller, regional sessions for office staff. If there is a topic of interest to you or if you would like to suggest a location, please let that be known. KRWA conducted two special training sessions this past year that were at the specific requests of systems on a topic of interest for a specific area. If there's a topic that you would like to have covered, please contact KRWA at 785.336.3760 or email me directly at jim@krwa.net.

Location

When planning training sessions, we also look for locations that will have a good learning environment. We want the facilities to be able to accommodate the class, the size of which sometimes has been difficult to estimate. We want to have ample space for those attending. Early registration is very much appreciated so that there



Dr. Jerry deNoyelles, Phycologist and Aquatic Ecologist with the Kansas Biological Survey, teaches KRWA-session participants to identify taste and odor organisms that are present in Kansas. This capacity-filled session was held July 31 at the University of Kansas with the cooperation of KU, the Kansas Biological Survey and Central Plains Center for BioAssessment.

Providing training – the backbone of KRWA’s mission

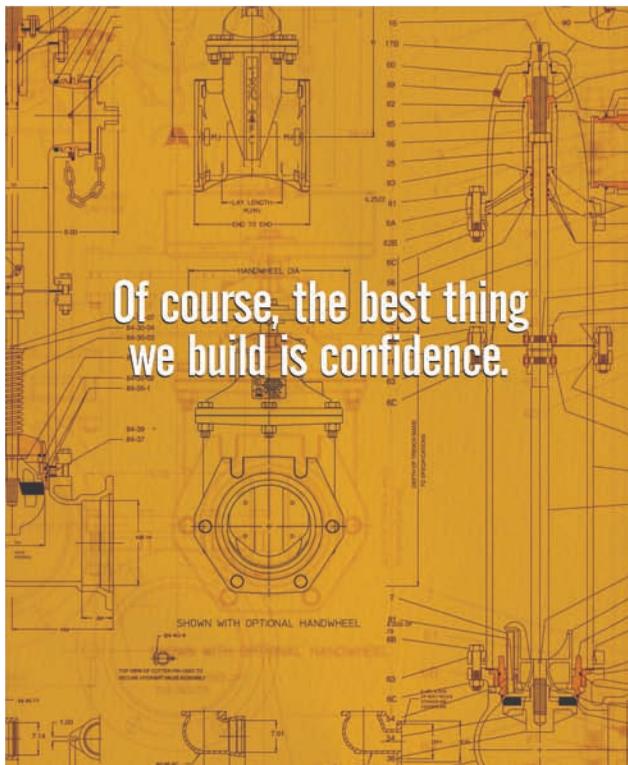
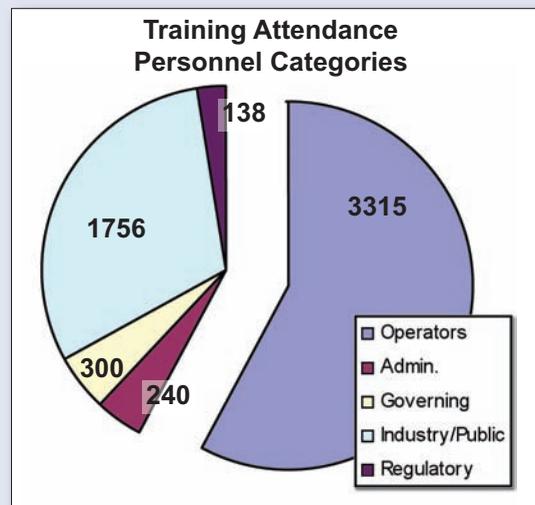
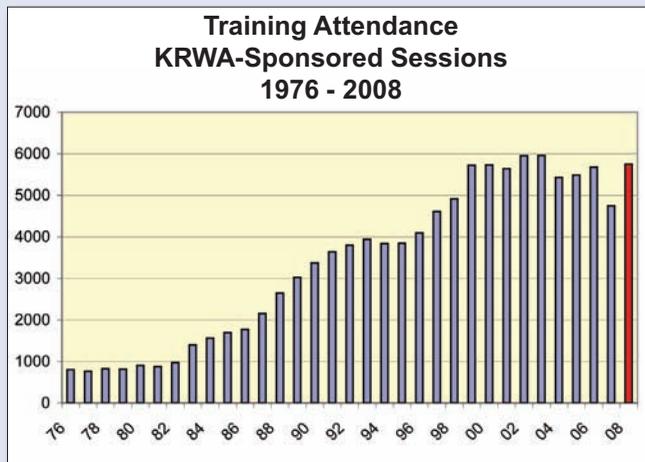
The mission of the Kansas Rural Water Association is to “provide education, technical assistance and leadership to public water and wastewater utilities to enhance the public health and to sustain Kansas’ communities.

Education, technical assistance – and leadership! That’s what distinguishes KRWA.

From January 1 to December 31, 2008, KRWA conducted 98 training sessions attended by 5,979 people. Those attending represented nearly every public water and wastewater system in Kansas. The chart below shows training attendance at KRWA sponsored sessions from 1976 to December 31, 2008 covering 1,736 training sessions with total attendance of 112,966 operators, managers, administrators, government and industry representatives.

Helping today – for a better tomorrow! That’s KRWA.

For more information, see KRWA at www.krwa.net.



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KRWA training



Brian McDowell and Joe Decker of Water Products, Inc., McPherson, KS made a presentation on valve insertion at Horton on July 8. The demonstration was made on a pressurized main. Water Products presented this topic at four KRWA-sponsored sessions in 2008.

is a comfortable environment and also adequate materials. On those sessions that can only handle a limited audience, we have doubled up with a follow-up session many times because of the high number of registrants.

Presenters

KRWA is fortunate to have many Associate Members who are anxious and willing to present session topics. KRWA staff members are also very qualified to present on a variety of topics. KRWA also relies on many different agency personnel to present on topics such as rules and regulations

and compliance issues. Their participation is appreciated. If you review the 2009 Annual Conference program, you will see names of both agency and associate members presenting.

Looking ahead to 2009

As we look ahead at training in 2009, you will see a wide variety of topics at the 2009 Conference. Additional sessions are being planned. Always check the KRWA Web site at www.krwa.net for the latest training session offerings. Many of the sessions selected are the result of input from operators, bookkeepers, city clerks, governing body members and agency personnel.

Please review your 2009 Annual Conference program. Select the training sessions that fit your needs. I look forward to seeing you at the conference. And remember, those board/council members who register early (by March 9) and then who attend the full day (10 to 4) training on Tuesday, 3/24 for “KanCap: Improving Management Of Kansas Water Systems or “Resolving Disputes In A Neighborly Way” will qualify for a refund of their conference registration fee. It doesn’t get any better than that! It’s another way that KRWA is Helping Today – For a Better Tomorrow!

Jim Jackson has been employed by KRWA since January 2004; he is currently KRWA Training Director. Jim began working in the utility industry in 1985 and has both municipal and rural water experience. Jim holds Class II Water Operator Certification.



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