

Looking Back, Looking Ahead – “Together We Thrive”

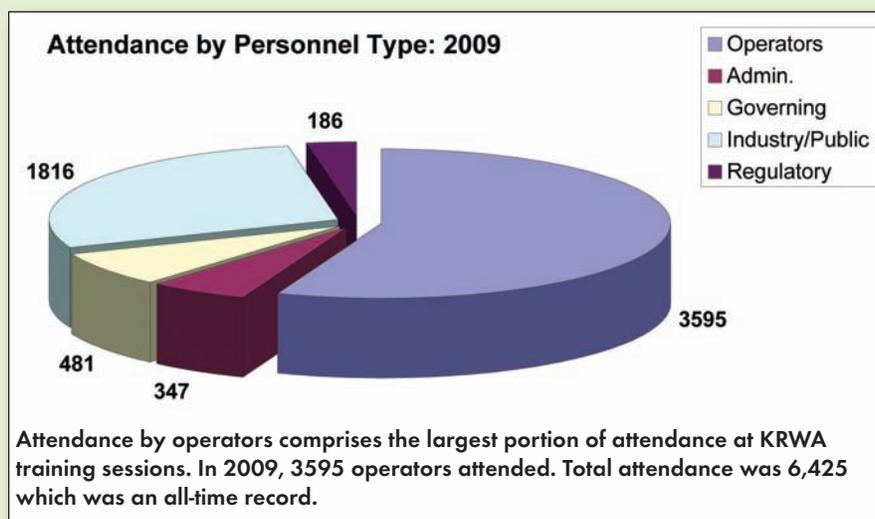
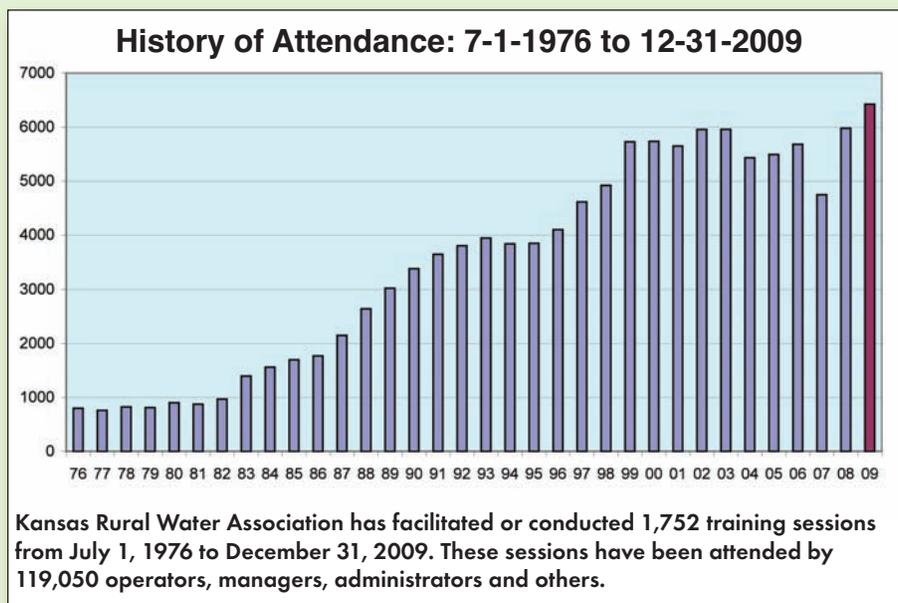
It used to seem that work (life) at the Kansas Rural Water Association was measured with the holding of the annual conference. Well, things have changed; it’s now all blurred together with no apparent let up – and the conference is just one more project. But, as plans are coming together for 2010’s event, you can rest assured there’ll be some surprises. Still, the turning of the calendar to January 2010 gives reason to review the efforts that your Association made in 2009. I value the opportunity and appreciate the trust placed in me as General Manager; KRWA has many programs in operation and we have never had and do not anticipate any lack of performance in any one of them. That’s a compliment to other staff members, oversight by the Association board of directors and the partnerships with agencies. KRWA’s mission is to provide education, technical assistance and leadership to public water and wastewater utilities to enhance the public health and sustain Kansas’ communities. The mission is clear, and KRWA will continue to live it.

Training – KRWA’s long-time focus

Attendance at KRWA-sponsored training sessions reached an all time high in 2009. A total of 6,425 people attended the 103 sessions held. KRWA began tracking training attending in 1976. The accompanying chart shows the history. A total of 119,050 people have attended 1,752 sessions from July 1, 1976 to December 31, 2009.

Additional emphasis was placed on training for boards and councils. That’s a tough audience because there’s no requirement for them to attend. In some cases, they are more

needy of information than some operators. Boards and councils make the decisions and write the checks. It would be easy to ad lib on this topic but it’s likely best summed up by stating that the goal of training is to empower systems to make better decisions in their everyday work – and that applies to operators and other staff and certainly, board / council members.



No substitute for tech assistance

Who in any water system could ask for more? A system has a problem. Call KRWA. Help arrives – and there’s no charge! And the reason there’s no charge is because of the partnerships that KRWA has with agencies – or we can turn that around and say, “that agencies have with KRWA.” Regardless, the field assistance and other tech support that KRWA provides is unique by any standard. With service available at no cost, day or night, 365 days per year, field tech assistance provides invaluable benefits to cities and RWDs statewide. In 2009, KRWA staff spent a total of 40,996 hours (not including time for vacation or sick leave), providing assistance to virtually every public water system in the state, aside from a few of the very largest. Delivering tech assistance required driving a total of 388,107 miles. Whether it’s an emergency water loss situation, malfunctioning chlorinator or help with water conservation plans, meter testing, measuring sludge or calculating flow rates through filters, KRWA delivers. A major focus of KRWA’s tech assistance is to help reduce unaccounted for water loss in systems that have been identified by the Kansas Water Office having unaccounted for loss greater than 30%. In 2009, KRWA worked with nearly 40 of these “Special Focus” projects. Funding from the Kansas Water Plan and Clean Drinking Water Fee make this help possible. KRWA worked with local operators to conduct 96 water loss surveys in 2009, locating and correcting a total of 1240.5 gpm in loss, which had an annual production, or purchase cost of \$1,565,294.

The KAN STEP program is remarkable and is unique nationally in that Kansas is the only state that is constructing community buildings and fire stations and water systems. KRWA provides inspection services and technical assistance for the Kansas Department of Commerce as the

KRWA worked with local operators to conduct 96 water loss surveys in 2009, locating and correcting a total of 1240.5 gpm in loss, which had an annual production, or purchase cost of \$1,565,294.

agency uses federal dollars to help communities in Kansas. As of December 31, 2009, KAN STEP has completed 57 projects and has 14 in various stages of progress. Numerous photos of projects are available on KRWA’s Web site at www.krwa.net. KAN STEP is self-help – and it does more. It empowers local people to gain a new sense of pride and confidence. The program is helping bring many facilities to places that otherwise could not afford them.

GPS mapping

KRWA remains appreciative of the Kansas Corporation Commission because in late 2001, the KCC awarded a \$200,800 contract to KRWA to obtain resources to establish a GPS mapping program. While we began this project with great enthusiasm, it had to be streamlined. Technology changes; KRWA changed with it. In 2008, the Kansas Water Office decided to help public water systems that have less than 1,000 meters gain new maps by establishing a 50 percent grant to cover costs associated with developing GPS maps. The grants have a maximum of \$4,000 per system. As of January 31, 2010, there have been 101 awards totaling \$324,572. KRWA has completed 118 waterline, wastewater or gas system mapping projects; there are presently 61 projects in various stages of completion. Staff will have several projects on display at the KRWA conference; stop by to take a look and ask questions.

Peer recognition

KRWA was pleased in 2009 to receive the award for Magazine Excellence from the National Rural Water Association. It requires a significant effort to produce a quality publication. KRWA appreciates the work of Vicky McCallum, Manhattan, who is providing services with formatting. Prior awards have recognized the KRWA Web site also. KRWA has been a repeat winner in both the magazine and Web site categories. KRWA continues to benefit from the services of Jen Sharp www.jensharp.com; Jen is the technical force that keeps www.krwa.net running smoothly. KRWA’s site is robust and contains information that is unique for similar organizations. In 2009, an online directory of all cities and RWDs was added; KRWA continues to update the rural water district map.

	1992 - 2008	2009	Total 92 - 2009
Surveys	783	100	883
GPM detected	6,660	1,019	7,679
GPY detected	3,500,496,000	535,323,600	4,034,505,600
\$ Cost Savings	\$6,888,099	\$1,350,121	\$8,238,220

Looking for leaks and other water loss problems is ongoing work. Since 1992, KRWA has databased every water loss survey, leak location and estimate of the loss and cost. This chart shows the number of surveys, loss in gpm and cost of water for the period 1992 to 2009 and in 2009 only.

In 2009, KRWA added these staff members:

- Katie Miller, Source Water Specialist
- Greg Metz, Technical Assistant
- Rita Clary, Loan Specialist Circuit Rider
- Tony Kimmi, Technical Assistant

With the above additions to staff and the 21 additional staff members, KRWA works each day to provide quality service, worthy of the KRWA tradition and your continued support. As of December 31, 2009, membership included 428 cities, 240 RWDs; 6 PWWSDs; 3 privately owned systems and 265 Associate Members. KRWA's database of local officials, agencies, etc., now totals more than 9,000 names and their contact information.

Legislative efforts

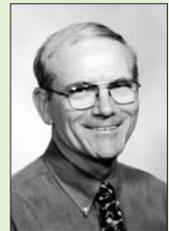
Legislatively, KRWA worked earnestly on several bills in 2009, notably SB 64 which helped retain some reasonableness as far as cities and RWDs being able to file for water rights without actually owning the test sites. Other areas of focus were on One Call and annexation of rural water district territory by cities. Also, KRWA met with members of the Kansas Senators Brownback and Roberts

and Representatives Jenkins, Moore, Moran and Tiahrt to ask for their support for funding for the State Revolving Loan Programs and USDA Rural Development and programs operated by the National Rural Water Association that allow circuit riders and source water techs to be available to help systems. The support of each of the members is appreciated and that support has been provided repeatedly.

KRWA's board and staff take the work of KRWA very seriously. KRWA staff all strive to put their best efforts forth for the benefit of members and others – but mostly for the citizens of the state.

I hope that you and others from your city or RWD, agency or company, will attend the 2010 annual conference and exhibition at Century II in Wichita, March 30 – April 1. The program is reprinted in this issue. "Together We Thrive."

Elmer Ronnebaum is KRWA General Manager; he has been employed by KRWA since 1983. He served seven years on the KRWA board of directors prior to that. Elmer also helped develop a large RWD and served for 14 years on a water district board of directors.



Haynes Equipment Co., Inc.
15725 Pflumm Rd.
Olathe, KS 66062
www.haynesequip.com
Ph: 913-782-4962
Fx: 913-782-5894



Contact Haynes Equipment Co., Inc.!

- 24/7 Hour Emergency Service
- Authorized Warranty Service Center
- Free Design Review
- Servicing **Kansas** and **Western Missouri**

Supplying Environment-One Low Pressure Sewer Systems for the needs of:

- Septic System Replacement
- New Development
- Municipal Rehab Projects



eone
www.eone.com