

# Carl Chalfant Elected to KRWA Board of Directors

**C**arl Chalfant, city administrator at Washington, Kansas, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Kansas Rural Water Association at the 47th annual meeting of membership, March 27, 2014. Chalfant has been city administrator at Washington since July 2013; from 2007 to 2013 he was city administrator at McLouth, KS in Jefferson County. He was city superintendent at McLouth from 1990 to 2007; he first worked in municipal utilities beginning in Waterville in 1988.

Chalfant's experience has provided him with valuable knowledge in the areas of water, sewer, gas, city budget, fire department and emergency medical support. He holds Class II operator certification in both water and wastewater from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). He is also a member of KDHE's operator training committee. Carl has completed numerous training courses including certification in NRWA's Utility Management certification program, has been a Qualified Municipal Gas

Operator and Superintendent since 1990, a KU Fire Service Instructor I (2004 to present), holds Firefighter I certification, and has attended KSFM Arson Investigation Training. Carl is also an EMT-I.

"I have spent a lifetime as a community volunteer. I started as a volunteer firefighter in Waterville in 1976. I take deep pride in every community I have worked in. I have volunteered for almost every community event over the years in both Waterville and McLouth," he says.

Carl says that one of the highlights of his career as a city employee was receiving the Operator of the Year Award in 1995. "KRWA recognized me for getting the city of McLouth's natural gas system back in compliance and addressing the city's water and sewer problems. KRWA also recognized the city street rehabilitation and maintenance project that McLouth initiated in 1992. That multi-year project evolved into a comprehensive street maintenance plan that is still ongoing today," he says.



**Carl Chalfant, City Administrator at Washington, KS and KRWA Director**

In 1997, KRWA featured the City of McLouth water improvement project as the pilot project for the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund.

Another initiative that he is proud to have played a part in was helping create a first responder group for the city of McLouth and the surrounding fire district. Chalfant helped recruit volunteers and organized first responder, EMT and EMT-I training courses.

Carl and his wife Vickie have been happily married for more 39 years; they have two children, Megan Burgess and Melinda Woodring, and five grandchildren.

## City of Junction City To Receive State, National Recognition

**T**he city of Junction City Public Works Department has been awarded both the state and national American Public Works Association's (APWA) Management Innovation Awards. The APWA issued a state award for the city's re-assumption of the core operations of the Public Works Department. These included quality improvement of city streets, water distribution through Veolia's wastewater treatment, sanitary collection, stormwater and sanitation. The city completed this re-assumption in 2012.

According to a report in *The Daily Union*, Municipal Services Director Greg McCaffery said he was hired in 2011 "with the intention of bringing core operations back into the Public Works Department, while reducing operational costs and increasing services provided".

The process took more than eleven months to complete. The program went above and beyond the levels of the city's initial cost savings. "In six months, we had already done more work and completed more activities than Veolia Water had completed in an entire year," McCaffery commented. "We saved more than \$900,000 in six months."

The city maintained existing staff and stayed 'within their set operational budgets. The city also developed fund balances with water, sewer, stormwater and sanitation accounts.

According to the report, during the operation, the city had used more than 240 tons of pothole patch material for repairs, swept up 400 tons of material from streets and storm systems, and operated all six of its snowplows during snowfalls in January, November and December 2013.

The city also repaired 18 water main breaks within 12 hours, and kept all four sanitation trucks operational for on-time pickup services during normal and holiday schedules. McCaffery also said the biggest components factoring into the core operations success was the city's minimal track of complaints, concerns, and follow-ups, as well as the overall savings. Past recipients of the award have been much larger cities than Junction City, such as Austin, Texas and Phoenix, Arizona.

The Public Works Department is scheduled to receive the national award in August.