

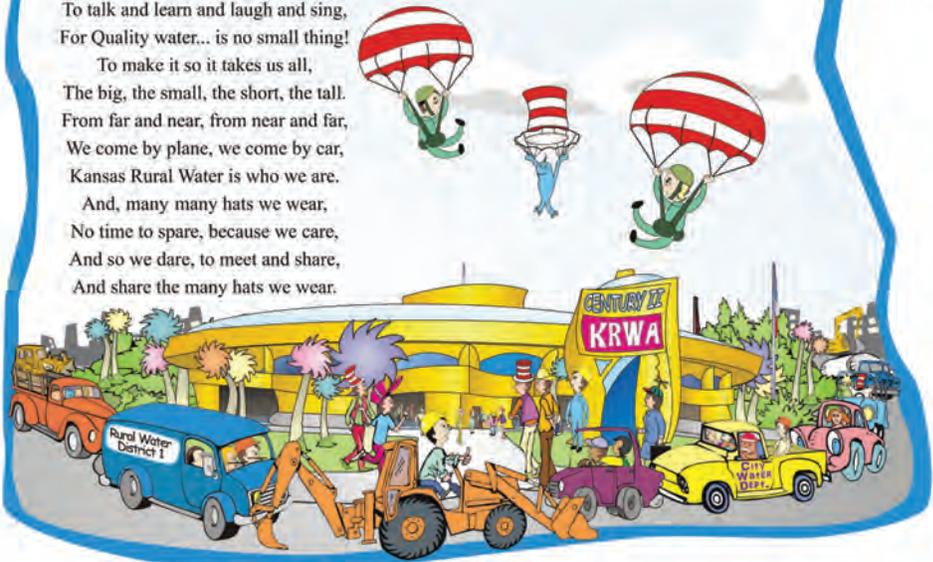
The Many Hats We Wear

I don't know if you recall reading the article in the July issue of *The Kansas Lifeline* by Elmer Ronnebaum. The article was entitled, "Thank You, Senator Dole!" It was a well-written piece and it was heart-warming to read. It brought to mind the many trips that the KRWA board and staff have made to Washington, to meet with Senators and Representatives. While most readers probably are not aware of KRWA's efforts for the past 30-plus years in legislative matters, the fact is numerous ideas that began with one or two people in Kansas were carried forward in federal legislative initiatives. I particularly know that Senator Dole became very supportive of allowing local water systems to purchase their debt from the Farmers Home Administration (now USDA Rural Development) in 1988 and 1989. KRWA was a very strong advocate of that initiative and with the support of Senator Dole, helped make it happen. It was and remains one of the greatest financial benefits to rural water districts and small towns in the state and across the country. More recently, the effort to allow electronic transfer of the water quality reports vs. being mailed was championed by "Rural Water" – and KRWA was in the front row on that issue.

As President of the KRWA board of directors I know that KRWA's efforts are continuing with federal legislative and regulatory initiatives. Last February, as KRWA representatives Dennis Schwartz,

Quality water is no small thing,
And that is why we meet each spring,
To talk and learn and laugh and sing,
For Quality water... is no small thing!

To make it so it takes us all,
The big, the small, the short, the tall.
From far and near, from near and far,
We come by plane, we come by car,
Kansas Rural Water is who we are.
And, many many hats we wear,
No time to spare, because we care,
And so we dare, to meet and share,
And share the many hats we wear.



Allan Soetaert and Elmer Ronnebaum arrived in Washington. D.C. for the National Rural Water Association Rural Water Rally, they were joined by approximately 400 other participants from across the U. S. All were there to meet with their Congressional

delegations and to deliver a unified message of support concerning the challenges facing public water utilities.

Participation by KRWA is important during the Rally for the continued support of water utilities in Kansas from the Kansas Congressional Delegation. Congressional Members from Kansas have been and remain genuinely interested in the water and wastewater issues within their districts and throughout the state. Water has not become a politically partisan issue, at least yet! The importance and value of water has a major impact on human health, economic development, agriculture and the livelihood of our State and Nation. It also remains critical that our members of Congress hear from member utility personnel and decision-makers. With the support of its membership, KRWA provides legislative representation for its

The importance and value of water has a major impact on human health, economic development, agriculture and the livelihood of our State and Nation. It also remains critical that our members of Congress hear from member utility personnel and decision-makers.

members and asks for Congressional support each year with appropriations to provide continued funding of water and wastewater systems – through both the USDA Rural Development and US EPA revolving loan programs – and training and technical assistance programs for all the water and wastewater systems across Kansas.

Whether it is in Washington or in Topeka, KRWA has stood up for water systems – and KRWA will continue to take positions concerning regulatory, financial and legislative matters. It's like eating oatmeal – it's the right thing to do!

The NRWA Conference

I appreciated being able to attend the recent National Rural Water conference in Seattle, WA. Four of KRWA's directors attended events including the NRWA's annual business meeting, various leadership training sessions for state board members, forums conducted by USDA/Rural Utilities and US EPA and numerous other training sessions. KRWA staff member Rita Clary presented on the topic of

preparing environmental reviews and other work that KRWA Technical Assistants provide.

The 2015 KRWA Annual Conference

KRWA staff are in the midst of planning what will be another outstanding Annual Conference & Exhibition. The theme is "The Many Hats We Wear!" And we all do wear many hats. Sometimes, that's not by choice but by necessity. I hope that you will put the 2015 Conference on your calendar. The dates are March 24 - 26 at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. I am completely confident that you will not be disappointed. The KRWA conference is a continuous, non-stop event including training sessions, more exhibits than ever (331 in 2015), great entertainment – and good food and hospitality that does not quit. I think that the KRWA Conference & Exhibition is one of the best investments cities and RWDs can make. There's something for everyone, all the time. And bring your own ideas and share them with old friends and

those who are waiting to meet you. Everyone will be better off for the participation.

Last, I just want to say how pleased I am to represent KRWA. This Association has a long and proud history and I appreciate being able to contribute what I can to help the Association help others. Nothing good happens without work and resolve – and the KRWA and staff are no strangers to either. KRWA staff have more than 400 years of experience working with water and wastewater systems. That qualification speaks volumes.

Oh, the many hats we wear!

Sharon Dwyer is the current President of the KRWA Board of Directors; she was first elected to the board in 1998. Sharon was office manager for Rural Water District No. 5, Douglas County from 1981 until 2013 when she retired from a full-time position. She is active in numerous community programs, especially church and 4-H activities.











IT'S ALL ABOUT CLEAN WATER!

Five decades of experience in clean water for:

- Pumping Systems
- Storage Tanks
- Chemical Feed Systems
- Treatment Equipment

Unforgettable Service:

We're here to help with parts and retrofit service and repair for existing water process equipment.

Contact Ray Lindsey Company today to solve your water challenges.

Phone: (816) 388-7440
Email: sales@raylindsey.com

