



WaterPAC – and the Power of Your Association

Every day, the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) helps rural and municipal utilities provide the best water and waste water services possible. KRWA staff work daily to provide valuable training and technical assistance to communities across the State. The services help improve the quality of life in communities and help maintain and support job creation. In addition to working hand-in-hand with utility operators, managers and members of boards and councils, engineers and agencies, KRWA also helps Congress understand how federal laws, regulations, and programs impact communities. As part of efforts to serve and advocate for rural communities, KRWA also supports the National Rural Water Association political action fund, WaterPAC.

After the long election cycle we just experienced, many people likely do not care to hear the word political action committee or “PAC”. But WaterPAC is a crucial component to the work KRWA does to help Congress

understand how vital clean, safe, affordable drinking water and wastewater services are to our rural communities. Those who have attended the attended or exhibited at the KRWA Annual Conference in Wichita likely recall the opportunity to contribute to WaterPAC.

WaterPAC accepts voluntary contributions from people in the Rural Water family, and then uses those funds to support members of Congress who have a proven record of support for us. With the active participation of the thousands of people around the country who benefit from Rural Water, we can join together and help elect those who help us. All of the funding goes to help Senators and Congressmen who understand the importance of Rural Water.

A few more recent outcomes of our efforts in Washington DC affecting your system directly have included:

- ❖ Continued appropriations for the water and wastewater infrastructure programs under the USDA Rural Development and USEPA State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs,
- ❖ Continued appropriations to provide the Circuit Rider, Wastewater Technician, and Source Water Protection assistance to your system,
- ❖ The ability to distribute your Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) electronically instead of hardcopy,
- ❖ The removal of fire hydrants from the no-lead brass requirements.

The Kansas Rural Water Association raised \$7,650 at the 2014 conference; KRWA conference-goers have contributed \$53,458 over the last nine years. That is commendable and that level of contribution demonstrates the efforts that KRWA has made to help local water system officials also learn about the work of the NRWA concerning regulations and funding issues. Thanks again to everyone associated with Kansas Rural Water Association for your past support of WaterPAC.