

Challenges of Providing Water and Wastewater Operator Training in 2020 and Beyond

Providing training sessions in the last year certainly was challenging. They were a challenge to schedule and difficult in many cases to conduct. KRWA's training staff has so far been healthy. Several of us had to quarantine due to COVID-19 but none of the contacts were attributed to attending any training sessions. I was in Pratt the night before a session when I received word that my wife would have to quarantine. The KRWA office thought that it was prudent to pull me off the road and another staff member would need to take over the responsibilities of facilitating the session. Thankfully, my wife and I never had symptoms and tested negative.

KRWA has gone to great lengths to ensure that the sessions that were held were conducted as safely as possible. KRWA provides masks and hand sanitizer and requires that masks be worn when social distancing cannot be accomplished. The sessions have also limited the number of people allowed to attend because of setting up the classrooms for social distancing. Hundreds of phone calls have been necessary to divide classes or to make other arrangements to accommodate many of the sessions.

Anyone who has accessed KRWA training sessions at www.krwa.net/training has likely noticed that many classes are full. I encourage those who want to attend

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training to be sure to keep checking the website. Many classes fill before the training notifications are even mailed. To that point, if anyone registers for in-person training and then learn they cannot attend, please notify the KRWA office so that KRWA can allow someone else to attend. KRWA staff keeps a list of persons wanting to attend and a vacated chair can likely be filled by someone else. KRWA has had to split several classes and make an extra date to accommodate additional attendees.

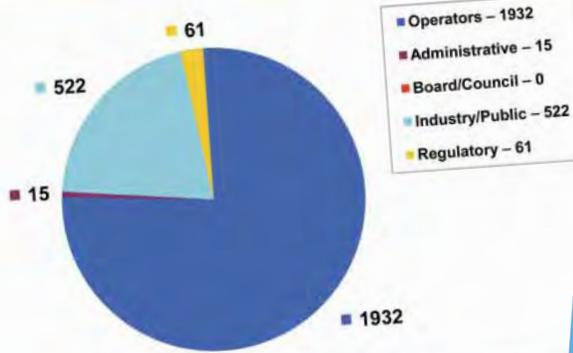
Online training gets rave reviews

Something new to last year, KDHE approved online classes for the first time. As of January 1, KRWA has held six 5-hour, online classes. Several were held in two sessions of 2.5 hours each. A total of 372 people attended those six online events. There are many additional online sessions either on the schedule or in planning. The online sessions are an excellent opportunity, especially for anyone who is immunocompromised or cannot travel for some other reason. I still believe that in-



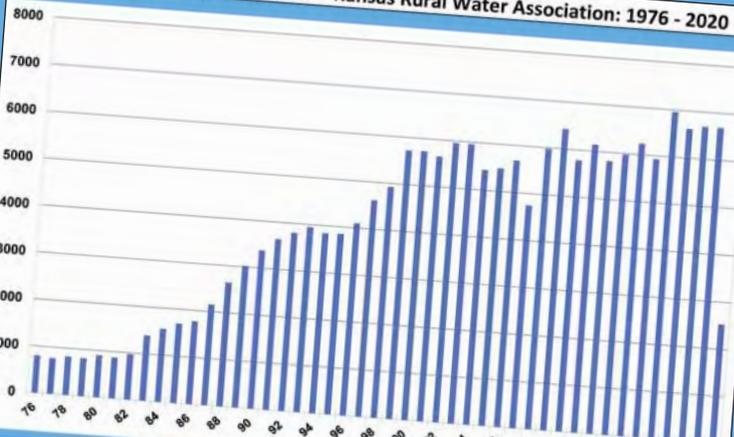
David Brain of Smith Loveless discusses operations of lift station David Mohr and Tyrone Wren of Fort Riley Utility Services on January 17, 2021. KRWA sponsored that training session at El Dorado.

Training by Kansas Rural Water – Attendance by Category in 2020



Attendance in 2020 at 85 Training Events: 2,530

History of Training Attendance - Kansas Rural Water Association: 1976 - 2020



Number of Training Sessions held from 1976 to December 2020: 2,950
Total Attendance: 1976 – December 2020: 187,157

KRWA has tracked every training session the Association has sponsored since July 1976. The complete history of training is also listed on the KRWA website at www.krwa.net/training-history.



ABOUT ONLINE RESOURCES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRAINING CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

TRAINING >>> SCHEDULE & REGISTER

Today March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- Administrative / Management
- Board / Council
- Cross Connect / Backflow Prevention
- Drinking Water Regulations
- Electrical
- Safety
- Water System Operations
- Wastewater Utility Operations

KRWA's Mission No. 1 is TRAINING for water and wastewater systems! If you have an interest in a training topic, send an email to krwa@krwa.net or call KRWA at 785-336-3760.

NOTE -- This schedule shows the training sessions presently planned by KRWA. Additional sessions will be posted as they are developed. Please note that for VIRTUAL (Online) TRAINING, click on the link in the brochure. DO NOT "ADD TO CART". ONLINE TRAINING IS HANDLED THROUGH GO TO WEBINAR PORTAL. AS OF NOVEMBER 10, KRWA IS REQUIRING MASKS BE WORN BY ALL THOSE ATTENDING IN-PERSON TRAINING. BRING YOUR OWN, OR KRWA WILL ALSO PROVIDE AT EACH SESSION.

Search for training by entering a word in topic or city (location) name.

Search: Search

Clear Search

March 2, 2021	Water and Wastewater Utility Preventative Maintenance (Garden City)	Garden City (Finnup Center)	No Charge	view details	w & ww	Add to Cart
March 4, 2021	Water and Wastewater Utility Preventative Maintenance (Hutchinson)	Hutchinson (Kansas State Fairgrounds-Morton Bldg)	No Charge	view details	w & ww	Add to Cart
March 10, 2021	Chemical Feed and Disinfection (ONLINE Session - Register through link on brochure)	ONLINE	No Charge	view details	w & ww	
March 16, 2021	Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Training (Great Bend)	Great Bend (Convention Center)	No Charge	view details	w & ww	Add to Cart
March 17, 2021	Math Made Easy (ONLINE)	ONLINE TRAINING	No Charge	view details	w & ww	
March 24, 2021	Distribution Tools and Practices (ONLINE)	ONLINE TRAINING	No Charge	view details	w	

21 item(s) found.



KRWA is providing both in-person and VIRTUAL TRAINING.
www.krwa.net

Upcoming Training Sponsored by KRWA

Date	Location	Session Title	w/ww
February 17, 2021	Online Webinar	Distribution Tools and Practices	w
February 23, 2021	Online Webinar	Basic Safety Awareness	ww
February 23 - 26, 2021	Topeka	Cross Connect Control - Backflow Prevention	w
February 24, 2021	Online Webinar	Activated Sludge	ww
March 2, 2021	Garden City	Water and Wastewater Utility Maintenance	w/ww
March 4, 2021	Hutchinson	Water and Wastewater Utility Maintenance	w/ww
March 10, 2021	Online Webinar	Chemical Feed and Disinfection	w
March 16, 2021	Great Bend	Water and Wastewater Exam Review	w/ww
March 17, 2021	Great Bend	KDHE Certification Exam	
March 17, 2021	Online Webinar	Math Made Easy	w/ww
March 24, 2021	Online Webinar	Distribution Tools and Practices	w
March 30, 2021	El Dorado	Water and Wastewater Exam Review	w/ww
March 31, 2021	El Dorado	KDHE Certification Exam	
April 7, 2021	Online Webinar	Activated Sludge	ww
April 13-16, 2021	Topeka	Cross Connection Control - Backflow Prevention	w
April 13, 2021	McPherson	Water and Wastewater Exam Review	w/ww
April 14, 2021	McPherson	KDHE Certification Exam	
April 14, 2021	Online Webinar	Chlorine - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly	w/ww
April 21, 2021	Online Webinar	Utility Finance Management	w/ww
April 21, 2021	Salina	Lift Station Operation & Maintenance	ww
April 27-30, 2021	Liberal	Cross Connection Control - Backflow Prevention	w
May 4, 2021	Online Webinar	Distribution Tools and Practices	w
May 5, 2021	Online Webinar	Distribution Tools and Practices	w
May 12, 2021	Haysville	Competent Person in Trenching & Excavation	w/ww
May 13, 2021	Haysville	Confined Space Entry	w/ww
May 19-20, 2021	Independence	Basic Electrical Maintenance and Troubleshooting	w/ww
May 27, 2021	Online Webinar	Activated Sludge	ww
June 1, 2021	Online Webinar	Math Made Easy	w/ww
June 2-3, 2021	Great Bend	Basic Electrical Maintenance and Troubleshooting	w/ww
June 3, 2021	Online Webinar	Math Made Easy	w/ww
June 8, 2021	Garden City	Water and Wastewater Exam Review	w/ww
June 9, 2021	Garden City	KDHE Certification Exam	
June 9, 2021	Scott City	Competent Person in Trenching & Excavation	w/ww
June 10, 2021	Scott City	Confined Space Entry	w/ww
June 16, 2021	Online Webinar	Chlorine - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly	w/ww
June 16-17, 2021	Marysville	Basic Electrical Maintenance and Troubleshooting	w/ww
June 23, 2021	Online Webinar	Utility Finance Management	w/ww
June 23-24, 2021	Newton	Advanced Electrical Schematic Reading and Troubleshooting	w/ww
June 29-30, 2021	Lawrence	Advanced Electrical Schematic Reading and Troubleshooting	w/ww
July 14, 2021	Online Webinar	Chemical Feed and Disinfection	w/ww
July 14-15, 2021	Hays	Programmable Logic Controller	w/ww
July 21, 2021	Beloit	Competent Person in Trenching & Excavation	w/ww
July 21, 2021	Online Webinar	Activated Sludge	ww
July 22, 2021	Beloit	Confined Space Entry	w/ww
July 28-29, 2021	Wamego	Programmable Logic Controller	w/ww
August 6, 2021	Lawrence	KDHE Certification Exam	
August 11-12, 2021	Garden City	Advanced Electrical Schematic Reading and Troubleshooting	w/ww
August 25, 2021	Holton	Competent Person in Trenching	w/ww
August 26, 2021	Holton	Confined Space Entry	w/ww
September 2, 2021	Topeka	KDHE Certification Exam	

Numerous sessions will be added in the coming months. Always check the KRWA website for the latest training session offerings

person training has many benefits that cannot be gained through online training. The chance to have hands-on sessions and peer networking is invaluable.

In 2020, KRWA had to cancel 29 training sessions due to COVID-19. Some were rescheduled. The KRWA conference in Wichita was canceled in 2020 and also in 2021. This really puts many operators at a disadvantage to attend training because: 1) not being able to attend this unique event; and, 2) limits those operators who need to gain credit towards operator certification. I have been attending the conference for more than 30 years. I was disappointed in not being able to attend as were many others.

Here are some numbers for 2020 training attendance. Eighty-five sessions were held, both online and in person. A total of 2,530 persons attended. KRWA staff drove 16,715 miles to conduct training sessions. Staff logged 3,360 hours providing training sessions. Costs at hotel rooms for overnight stay for staff to conduct training totaled \$2,477.

When I was employed at the city of Herington, I was never aware of how much time, effort and costs were



Jason DeHaven and Thomas Bevin from the city of Kechi test backflow devices at a cross connection / backflow prevention training in Salina in August 2020.

associated with providing training for water and wastewater operators. Most of the KRWA-sponsored training is free of charge. KRWA receives some funding assistance from KDHE for 28 of the training sessions annually. I

appreciate all those who participate in the sessions and everyone who takes time to attend.

In closing, I encourage anyone to contact the KRWA office or staff with a particular training session topic of interest. The Association will do its best to accommodate whatever request is received. A big advantage to KRWA training is that it is provided on a regional basis, making it as efficient as possible for those who want to attend.

And as always, keep checking the KRWA training calendar at www.krwa.net/training for additional sessions as they are scheduled.

Bret Beye joined the KRWA staff in March 2017. He previously worked for 30 years at the city of Herington where he was Water Distribution and Sewer Collection



Foreman. A Class III water operator and certified as a backflow device technician, Bret also served on the USD 487 Board of Education from 2003 to April 2017 where he was board president and vice-president.

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