

# Spring Annual Conference

By Charles Bausch

With the Western Conference behind us it now time to start planning the annual spring conference. This year spring conference will be held in Grand Island at the Heartland Event Center located on new state fair grounds. This conference will combine our spring conference and our utility expo in one big event. This will bring the best of both worlds the classroom education along with hands on experience operators are looking for to enhance their learning experience.

The Heartland Event Center brings a bigger venue for our exhibitors to expand and bring in bigger equipment. The classroom will also hold have more seating which will help the overcrowding issue we had in Columbus. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn located at 2503 South Locust St. The room block is open now and filling up fast so make sure to get your room booked early. The Holiday Inn will also be where our Monday Night Fun Night will take place.

Earlier this month we sent out request for presentations to all our associate members and we are getting back some great topics for classes, but as always I would like to hear ideas from our utility members as well. If you done a project this past year using new technology or have updated your water or wastewater plant and would like to tell us how your project went please contact me. These classes are always big hit and some of best learning opportunities are from your peers and their stories from past projects either good or bad. Pitch me your ideas and help me make this conference the best it can be.

The conference format will stay the same for the most part, with general session on the first day and classroom session on day two and three. The biggest change will be hands on training these sessions will allow attendance chance for some hands on learning. Like I said earlier the planning process has started and if there are any topics you would like to see let me know and I will see you in Grand Island at the Heartland Event Center **March 19-21, 2012.**