

## Association Update

By Clancy Dempsey, Executive Director

The NeRWA Fall Conference was held on September 15, 16, and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center in Gering, NE. The board and staff always look forward to this event, which has an atmosphere all it's own. Attendance was great, speakers were very interesting and the Civic Center provided excellent meals and service as usual. I hope that everyone enjoyed the time they spent there. Quite a few conference goers participated in the golf outing on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>. I want to recognize Jack Baker of Baker and Associates for coordinating the golf outing and providing prizes to the winning golf teams. While the golf outing was taking place, about 25 operators attended our first pre-conference session about using GPS and GIS to map water and wastewater infrastructure. Rural Water recently made an investment in mapping grade GPS technology so that we can offer mapping services to our members. If you are interested in this program, please give us a call. The turn out for the pre-conference was sufficient enough that we plan to hold a pre-conference again next year, albeit a new topic will be covered that day. Conference goers enjoyed a friendly and relaxing social hour on Tuesday evening courtesy of Dave Dunning with HD Supply. Next year's Fall Conference is scheduled for September 1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope to see everyone in Gering again next year.

Another annual Rural Water event held recently was the Utility Expo at Christensen Field in Fremont on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. In only it's fourth year, attendance exceeded 150 water and wastewater operators from around the state. The Expo featured hands-on opportunities and live equipment demonstrations for many topics including: valve exercising, pipe cutter technology, fall protection safety, leak detection, locator technology, line tapping, inserting valves, large meter testing, and GPS mapping. The hands-on aspect of the Expo is really catching on with water and wastewater operators. If you have never attended this event before I hope you will consider coming out to next year's Expo which will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> (again in Fremont). I want to offer thanks to Sargent Drilling for sponsoring a great cookout lunch. I also want to thank Larry Andreason, Dan Roberts and John Tlamka with the City of Fremont for all of their efforts and help with the Expo this year and in years past.

Looking ahead, we will soon begin preparations for the Annual Conference held over March 16 – 18 in Columbus. As you can imagine, it takes a while to assemble an agenda that typically involves around 50 speakers. So if you have any ideas or suggestions for topics you would like to hear at the Annual Conference, please call into the office or send me an email ([Clancy@nerwa.org](mailto:Clancy@nerwa.org)). I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks for your time.