

September Conferences on a Lighter Note

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

September was a busy month of conferences. We had another successful fall conference in Gering. This conference has become a favorite for many members. We always appreciate the sponsors and exhibitors that help make it all possible. It takes the efforts of many to make it a success.

I returned home from Gering only to load up my vehicle and drive to Denver. From Denver we flew to Nashville for the NRWA Water Pro Annual Conference. My wife, Marcy, was able to accompany me on the trip. She enjoyed tours while I received more training. It seems that a husband's work is never done. This is one of two national conferences that we are required to attend annually. Some of you may have attended these annual conferences yourselves. There are an unbelievable number of exhibitors along with 3 full days of training. Rural water staff from all fifty states were in attendance. This year the Groundwater Federation also participated in the conference. I was able to bring home several ideas for next year's training classes.

Marcy and I are not frequent flyers so we arrived early for our flight home on Thursday. As we boarded the plane for our flight we were all directed to return to the terminal as there were mechanical problems with our plane but they expected to make the repairs soon. After an hour of waiting they brought up another plane for us to board. Marcy was relieved that we weren't boarding the repaired plane. Her relief was only temporary however as the attendant told us that it would take awhile to cool down the interior temperature because the replacement plane was really old. Soon after we were up and flying toward Denver on our way home we experienced significant turbulence. The attendant actually hurriedly assumed a sitting position on the floor in the aisle. More gasps and stress for Marcy. I think my spouse was getting really close to the Lord by then and probably confessing to things that she had only thought about doing. The turbulence continued intermittently most of the way home. I was thinking that I might need to locate the little brown paper bag. Finally the attendant announced that we may experience some more "bumps" as we crossed the Rocky Mountains. It occurred to me that as we were flying west to begin the flight and if we were then going to cross the Rocky Mountains to get to Denver that we were indeed lost. We did land at the correct airport however. As we left the plane Marcy said that if it wouldn't cause a scene that she would fall down and kiss mother earth.

The plan is to drive to the next NRWA Conference.