

## **Association News and Updates – Spring 2009** by Salli Kemerling, Office Manager

The NeRWA Annual Conference was held March 16, 17, and 18 in Columbus. We received a lot of feedback from attendees during and after the conference. Quite a few people mentioned that they enjoyed the food and meals. Overall, most of the comments about the conference were positive. We will continue to work hard to make the conference even better next year. As always, feel free to share your ideas and opinions with us.

HD Supply and Olsson Associates sponsored the Monday evening social hour and many thanks to them. Numerous exhibitors made donations to offset conference expenses – Bartlett and West, Engineering America, HTM, Sargent Drilling, Utility Service Co., Maguire Iron, Miller and Associates, Technical Maintenance, Ford Meter and JEO Consulting. The generosity of these exhibitors helps NeRWA keep the conference more affordable for small systems.

There were 42 conference sessions to choose from with topics good for water, wastewater and backflow CEU's. Hopefully you found some new subjects to enjoy and had the chance to refresh your memory about familiar topics too. Many thanks to all of the speakers who shared their knowledge with us.

On Tuesday evening, Operator of the Year Awards were presented to Lyle Petz, Village of Beemer, and Dick McCabe, Village of Emerson. Congratulations to Lyle and Dick for this accomplishment! The winner of the Water Contest was announced as the City of Aurora and a plaque was presented to Eric Melcher. Aurora provided a water sample for the National Best Tasting Water Contest that was held on April 21 in Washington, DC.

The raffle prizes were won by: Browning shotgun – Jim Helgoth, Clarks; Black powder rifle – Tom Houser, Bruning; LCD TV – Bill Goodpasture, SID 1, Norfolk; tool set – Jeff Carlson, Central City; hunting knife – Kevin Finnegan, Sutton; Dremel – Darwin Buss, Adams; Craftsman saw – Ron Helmlinger; GPS – Lyle Juracek, Neligh; fishing equipment – Butch Long, Fairmont; digital picture frame – Don Pospichal, Clarkson; manhole lifter – Butch Long, Fairmont; stuffed dogs – Ken Halvorsen, Otoe RWD 3.

Last year the NeRWA Board of Directors accepted a proposal to keep the conference in Columbus for three more years. Next year's conference will be held March 22, 23 & 24. We hope that you will join us!

With the Spring Conference wrapped up, we now look ahead to the Fall Conference in Gering on September 1 & 2 and the Utility Expo in Fremont on September 30 at Christensen Field. Watch in our next magazine for more complete details and agendas on these events.

National Rural Water Association is holding its first Expo in partnership with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers. The Expo will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, on October 6-8, 2009.

Remember that there is a lot of information on our website. Below is a copy of our home page. It's very user-friendly. Here are some of the ways to utilize it:

- Training for upcoming year
- Information on conferences and Expo
- Online registration
- Membership information

- Links to state and national websites
- Download forms such as backflow brochures, cross connection survey, backflow test forms
- Job postings across the state
- Special events

If you have any questions or need any assistance with our website, just call our office and we will be glad to help you.

# Nebraska Good Water News

Nebraska Rural Water Association - 3390 Ponderosa Drive - Wahoo, NE 68066  
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