

## **Association News and Updates – Spring 2010**

*by Salli Kemerling, Office Manager*

The NeRWA Annual Conference was held March 22, 23, and 24 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 sponsored the Monday evening social hour for the seventh year in a row and many thanks to them. Numerous exhibitors made donations to offset conference expenses – Bartlett and West, Engineering America, Municipal Supply, Sargent Drilling, Utility Service Co., Maguire Iron, Miller and Associates, Technical Maintenance, and Ford Meter. The generosity of these exhibitors helps NeRWA keep the conference more affordable for small systems.

There were 44 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 Gary Eckmann, Cedar Knox Rural Water; Joe Zeleny, Village of Morse Bluff; Terry Ueding, City of Lyons. Congratulations to them for this accomplishment! The winner of the Water Contest was announced as the City of Papillion and a plaque was presented to Rich Heydenreich. Their water is eligible for the National Best Water Taste Test in Washington DC during the Water Rally.

The raffle prizes were won by: Browning shotgun – Bill Hoesche, Nestle Purina in Wilber; Black powder rifle – Jason Bohac, Brainard ; LCD TV – Anthony Whited, Ord; Craftsman tool set – Lonnie Petrzilka, Denton; hunting knife – Dave Houghtelling, Cambridge; Craftsman 2-pc toolbox set – Rollin Davis, Ord; Wii game console – Kevin Holcomb, Loup City. And the lucky winner of the Artic Cat 4-wheeler was Tom Henry, Scribner.

Next year's conference will again be held in Columbus on March 21, 22, and 23. We hope that you will join us!

With the Spring Conference wrapped up, we now look ahead to the Fall Conference in Gering from August 31 through September 2 and the Utility Expo in Fremont on October 5 at Christensen Field. Watch in our next magazine for more complete details and agendas on these events.

Remember that there is a lot of information on our website. 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.