

LET THE CONFERENCE PLANNING BEGIN!

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

Brrr, it's cold outside! It's been a while since it's been this cold, this early! Yes we've had snow around this time but the cold hasn't stuck around like this for a few years. One thing that always happens this time of year whether it is cold or not is the planning of the Nebraska Rural Water Association's Annual Conference; so let the fun begin!

This year the Annual Conference will be held March 17, 18, and 19, at the same place it was held last year: The Heartland Events Center in Grand Island, Nebraska. This will be the third consecutive year at this venue. Operators will see familiar faces, but will find some new and interesting topics at this year's conference.

Monday March 17th the general session will start out with the traditional "Regulatory Update" by NDHHS Drinking Water Administrator Jack Daniel. Other general session topics will include "The State's Role in Emergency Response" by Earl Imler with NEMA, a USDA/Rural Development update and a session entitled "How Stress in the Workplace Affects Everyone" by Bill Podraza with Miller and Associates. Operators are encouraged to invite and bring along their respective board members or clerks to attend the general session, for the information they will receive is aimed more at the regulatory, administrative side.

After the meal on Monday night, join us back at the Midtown Holiday Inn for fun and games. This year's "fun night" will be a little different than past conferences. JEO and HOA Solutions have teamed with the Nebraska Rural Water Association to host a "Vegas Night." Drinks, snacks, and prizes will be waiting for those who wish to try their luck.

A full day of sessions is scheduled for Tuesday beginning at 9AM and concluding at 5:45. Dealing With Non-paying Customers, Iron and Manganese Treatment, Metering Systems and Marketing Your Utility to Your Community are just a few of the sessions you may attend. "Hands-On" sessions will also be offered, so after a

day of learning it will be time to relax at the social hour sponsored by HD Supply. This will be held at the Heartland Events Center prior to the banquet, awards ceremony, and entertainment.

Wednesday will kick off with the annual breakfast at the Heartland Events Center. Classes will begin at 8:30AM and conclude at 2:00PM. Financial Capabilities and Affordability, GPS Mapping and Question and Answer sessions with NDHHS Rule Managers and Field Reps are just a few you can choose from.

So start planning now to attend the 36th Annual Nebraska Rural Water Conference. Be sure to ask your clerks, administrators, and even board members if they would like to be a part of Nebraska's largest educational opportunity for water operators. See you in March!!