

## A Big Milestone

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, MARCH 12 – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018  
YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER

Some organizations may look at 40 years of service as a milestone. This year the Nebraska Rural Water Association will host its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Speaking on behalf of the NeRWA, I don't only look at it as a milestone but as a springboard toward the next 40 years of providing training and technical assistance to the small systems across the great state of Nebraska.

Forty years of dedicated service is quite an accomplishment. These 40 years would not have been possible without the continued support of our associate members, operators and communities in Nebraska. With that being said, the NeRWA is going to try and create an atmosphere at this year's conference that operators will be telling their predecessors about for the next 40 years and beyond.

As conference agendas go, this year's format will look a lot like previous years but some new faces and new topics will be seen and heard. Licensed vs. Unlicensed SCADA systems, Back-Up Power Applications, Aquifer Resource Management and Health Benefits for operators are just a few of the different topics attendees will see at this year's conference. Along with the new faces will also be some of the pillars that have spoken at several conferences. According to one of the "pillars," this will be his last time presenting for Nebraska Rural Water since he is thinking about retirement, but that doesn't mean I won't ask him to present for us at future training sessions.

Once again, we have scheduled a fun night on Monday night after the general session. The fun night will be held at the newly renovated Big Apple Bowling Center, right down the road from the conference center. JEO will once again headline a host of sponsors for this super fun event.

Tuesday will involve a full slate of training classes and several breaks. Operators can use these breaks to mingle with other operators and vendors and get some refreshments.

The Annual meeting will be held during the operator breakfast on Wednesday. Come help us get the day started with a nice plate of food and hot cup of joe before getting the day started. Training sessions will begin at 7:30 AM and conclude at 2:00 PM so everyone can get a good start home Wednesday afternoon.

Finally, this will be the sixth annual conference that I have had the privilege to plan for the Nebraska Rural Water Association. I use the term "I" lightly because it takes a lot of time and effort to put this conference together. These conferences would not be possible without the team I work with at the office and in the field, our operating board, associate members and the operators of Nebraska. So, if you're looking for an opportunity to learn some new things and have a little fun before the spring rush is upon us, please join us in Kearney on March 12-14 for our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference! Hope to see you there!