

## Fall Conference

### By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the National Rural Water In-service behind us, it is time to look forward to the Nebraska Rural Water Association's 2013 Fall Conference. The conference will be held September 17, 18, and 19 at the Gering Civic Center in Gering, Nebraska. This will be my first western conference either as an operator or the planner so I am looking forward to being there. Here's a little rundown of what's in store for you.

Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> will be the pre-conference. This year's pre-conference will focus on the 5 critical core components of Asset Management. Katie Miller, Program Manager of the Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University will be our presenter. The pre-conference will run from 8 AM until 1:45 PM. Following the pre-conference there will be a golf tournament at the Riverview Golf and Country Club for the golfers in attendance. If you have any questions about the golf outing you will want to contact our golf "pro," Randy Hellbusch.

Wednesday morning will offer two activities to start the day. You can choose to go to the trap shoot at the Mitchell Valley Trap Club (3.25 miles south of Mitchell) or ride your motorcycle on a quick poker run. Both of these events will begin at 8:30 AM and conclude around noon. Look for NeRWA Circuit Rider Russ Topp if you want to "shoot" and look for DHHS field rep. Doug Allen if you want to "ride." Conference registration will run from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM. A quick welcome to all of the operators at 12:30 PM will begin our general session followed up by a DHHS Regulatory Update from DHHS Office of Drinking Water Administrator Jack Daniel. Other topics included in the general session are Security Grants, Source Water Protection, and what it really takes to be an "Outstanding Operator". A social hour at 5 PM will give way to the banquet and awards at 6 PM.

Our final but busiest day of the conference will begin with breakfast at 6:30 AM Thursday morning. Concurrent sessions will begin at 7:30 AM and end at 4:45 PM. Session topics will include an update from Digger's Hotline, Q and A with DHHS Field Reps, backflow and cross-connection issues and several more topics that affect everyday water operators.

So mark your calendars for a fall getaway to our fall conference September 17-19<sup>th</sup>. It should be a fantastic three days of learning and fun! Have a great rest of the summer and I hope to see you this fall!