

Western Conference Time

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

Once again the Nebraska Rural Water Association will be packing their bags for the “west coast” of Nebraska. The Annual Western Conference will be held at the Gering Civic Center with the Pre-Conference set for Tuesday, September 27, and the actual conference Wednesday, September 28 and Thursday, September 29. Festivities will include a golf tournament on Tuesday afternoon, a trap shoot and poker run on Wednesday morning and a banquet with water operator awards following the four hours of training on Wednesday afternoon.

This year’s pre-conference will include a 5 hour session focusing on the safety of water operators. Two years ago we had a pre-conference similar to this but this year the aspects of safety will focus on some of the things that may get overlooked as some may not feel they are as important. Every year at our one day training sessions operators ask to have more sessions about safety. This will be not only a great refresher but also provide information that can save on injuries and possibly deaths.

Some of the topics for this year’s Western Conference will include Hydrant and Valve Maintenance, Theory of Locating, Metering, Emergency Planning, Dealing with Customers and your typical 5 hours of backflow training. There will also be sessions pertaining to Trench Safety, Wastewater Operator Certification and preparing for Electronic DMR Submittal.

The Western Conference is a great place to reach out to other operators for advice and solutions to problems you may have incurred this past year. The golf outing, trap shoot, and poker run are fantastic opportunities to share stories of your system. The golf will take place at the Riverview Golf and Country Club and the trap shoot will be held at the Mitchell Valley Trap Club. Randy Hellbusch will be in charge of the golfers and Mike Stanzel will be in charge of the trap shooters. The Poker Run will leave from the front of the Gering Civic Center any time between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM on Wednesday morning. Jack Satur with the City of Scottsbluff and Doug Woodbeck with NDHHS will be in charge of the ride.

We look forward to this trip every year and look forward to seeing familiar faces and new faces that attend this conference. Enjoy the rest of your busy summer and we hope to see you at Gering this fall!