

We Can Do This
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It may look different, it may feel different, but we are moving full steam ahead with the planning of the Nebraska Rural Water Association's Annual Conference. When we left the Younes Conference Center last year a lot of us thought that this Coronavirus would pass. Well it hasn't and it has definitely changed the way we move through everyday life. Of course, in the drinking water field, our days can't change very much! Water and waste water operators are needed every day of the year. Needed to provide safe drinking water to all Nebraskans, and clean wastewater to keep Nebraska streams and rivers safe. It is our job, (Nebraska Rural Water) to keep the operators of Nebraska up to date with their training, new methods of how things are done, and if necessary, information about the ever-changing world of regulations. With all of that being said, I would like to invite all water and waste water operators to our annual conference scheduled for March 15-17, 2021 at the beautiful Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

With NEXT YEAR being a recertification year for water operators the conference will give you an opportunity to receive at least 10 hours of water and 5 if not more of backflow hours. We will shoot for at least 10 hours of wastewater hours also. We realize how difficult it has been to get anywhere for training and we hope to fulfill your needs with the conference and our several one-day trainings in the following year.

The conference will give you several opportunities to learn about the blood and guts of water and wastewater systems but we hope to expand on various types of pumps, meters and general tools of the Industry. Some names will look familiar on the agenda but that does not mean they do not have something new to share. Also, you will see some new names that will provide new insight on the "tricks of the trade"!

As we move forward these next 5 months the uncertainty of what we need to do will remain the same. If social distancing becomes a permanent part of conferences this size, we have made the arrangements to possibly use to of the larger ballrooms at the venue right next to the Younes Center. If this is what we have to do, we will do it. The vendor and exhibit hall may also have to take on a new look. It may be "one-way" traffic and masks required....we just won't know until we get a little closer to date.

In the upcoming months, the Younes Conference Center is having some conferences comparable to the size of ours. I plan on attending those and actually seeing if what they do would actually work for our unique group. It may also help me try to streamline or make our conference even better!!

At this point of the planning, I think the best motto will be "Whatever It Takes" to pull this off. Most of you know that this could be the actual slogan of the Nebraska Rural Water Association.

If that means helping you find a leak, putting together a source water protection plan, valves exercised, lines located, cameras ran down the sewer lines, your board trained and even a copy of your certificate regenerated for your attendance records, we will do whatever it takes! WE CAN DO THIS!