

inside:

SPRING MINI-CONFERENCE

KWEA & KsAWWA joint training event returns

8

FUTURE WATER LEADERS

New internship program launched to host interns

11

YP SUMMIT OVERVIEW

Reflections on this year's event in Portland

16

Providing resources and a network for Kansas to responsibly manage water

KsAWWA Relaunches Leadership Development Program

by Brad Ebinger, WaterOne

Are you interested in becoming more involved within the Kansas Section? Want to network and build relationships with other industry professionals? Want to know more about what the Kansas Section can do for you?

Then look no further! The KsAWWA's Leadership Development Program has been developed to bring individuals into the Section and be matched with current or past KsAWWA Board of Trustees members, directors, and committee chairs. The purpose of this program is to facilitate member development for leadership roles within the Kansas Section AWWA. This program is for all water industry professionals who

continued on page 9



CONTENTS

1	KsAWWA Relaunches Leadership Development Program
3	News from the Chair
4	Section Manager's Report
6	Director's Report
8	KWEA / KsAWWA Spring Mini-Conference
10	WaterOne, Evergy Celebrate New Sustainable Energy Source
11	Kansas Future Water Leaders Program

12	Stretch Before Working to Prevent Injury
13	Strengthening Communities: Kansas Mutual Aid Program (KSMAP)
15	Membrane Modules Replaced at WaterOne's Wolcott Treatment Plant
16	Salvo Reflects on Young Professional Summit at Utility Management Conference
19	KsAWWA Community Relations Committee Seeking Members
20	Sporting Clays Shoot Fundraiser

Advertiser Index

Black & Veatch18	Mellen & Associates13
EPEC	Olsson17
Ford Meter Box7	R.E. Pedrotti Co, Inc18
HDR5	Wilson & Company13



The year started off with some extremely cold temperatures for us in Kansas, and I heard numerous news reports on working conditions for many types of workers dealing with the extremes. To my disappointment, I did

not hear any news reports on the water professionals who worked during those weather conditions to make sure water was at your tap each and every day. Those of us in the water industry know that many water systems were battling the conditions to fix leaks and working to keep operations running as smoothly as possible. The water systems did a great job keeping water flowing to their customers or it would have been in the news, so THANK YOU to all the water professionals in Kansas for a job well done.

As spring has arrived many of us are looking forward to summer projects, vacations, or maybe just glad it is not January cold anymore. The Kansas Section has been busy since those cold dark days of January. The Joint Conference Committee has been busy preparing for the annual conference to be held Aug. 27–29, 2024, in Wichita. There have been numerous committees assisting by helping provide quality topics for certain tracks during the conference. The Operator Training Committee (OTC) has again put together some great topics for the Spring Mini-

Conference to be held May 8–9, 2024, in Topeka. The Water Utility Council has been very busy getting Kansas Congressional visits set for Washington, D.C. April 9–10 AWWA Water Matters! Fly-In. We have a newly formed joint KSAWWA / KWEA internship program—look for additional information in this issue. The Section has also been working to update our MOUs with water partners in Kansas. Many of our committees have been very busy since the start of the new year and we will discuss some of their work in the summer issue of Solution H₂O.

As spring turns into the dog days of summer, I know the Kansas water professionals will continue to strive for excellence as they did during the bitter cold of winter. Thank you for what you do each day.

Jim Jackson, KsAWWA Chair jim.jackson@usgwater.com

Section Manager's Report

by Hank Corcoran Boyer, KsAWWA Section Manager

Mother Nature seems to be having an identity crisis this spring. Our friends in Garden City, Kansas, have experienced everything from tornadoes to a blizzard in less than 24 hours. Hopefully, things will get straightened out and everyone can enjoy those warm spring days with the daffodils and tulips blooming and blowing in a slight breeze. OK, so I am hoping!

As I write this, we have 31 vendors with a total of 46 booths signed up for the joint conference in Wichita Aug. 27–29, 2024. Registration closes for exhibitor sign-up on Aug. 12 at 5 p.m. If you know of an exhibitor or you yourself are an exhibitor and you haven't signed up, please do so before the deadline as there is a penalty if you sign up after the deadline.

The conference program will be defined soon, and those papers selected for the program will be notified by May 15 of their selection. A reminder that all speakers need to register for the conference. If a speaker is just coming in to make a presentation and leave, they can contact me at hboyer@cox.net and we can visit about their required registration price.

The Spring Mini-Conference in Topeka May 8–9, 2024, has been set and registration is open for this two-day operator focused conference. If you or you know of someone who would like to attend go to https://www.ksawwa.org/conference/workshops-training/spring-mini-conference.html to register.

ACE24 will be held in Anaheim, California, June 10–13, 2024. The opening session is Tuesday, June 11, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m. KsAWWA will be holding a lunch for those Kansas people attending ACE24. If you are registered, you



will receive an invitation to this lunch. Please watch your email for this invite.

Brad Ebinger, WaterOne, is enrolled in the AWWA Transformational Water Leadership Academy (TWLA), and for his project, he is working on putting new life into the KsAWWA Leadership Development Program. For more information on this please check this out on our website at https://www.ksawwa.org/leadership-development-program.html. New developments and ways to enroll in the program will be posted as they become available.

Chair-Elect John Gilroy and First-Year Trustee Tonya Bronleewe are looking for utilities who would like to participate in an internship program for high school students. This is to encourage our students to consider a career in the water industry upon graduation. More information on this will be coming shortly. Watch your emails and social media sites for ways to become involved and other details. For more information you may contact John at gilroyj@bv.com or Tonya at tonya.bronleewe@wichita.edu.

Finally, put the 15th Annual KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference in Wichita at the Hyatt Regency & Century II Aug. 27–29, 2024, on your calendar. There will be something of interest for everyone from upper management to the operators. The ever-popular competitions, a silent auction that raises money

for Water For People, much networking, and the announcement of the safety, Operator Meritorious, and George Warren Fuller awards.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Wichita Aug. 27–29, 2024 ... Register today!

FDS

Ideas transform communities

At HDR, we're helping our clients push open the doors to what's possible, every day.

hdrinc.com





The January AWWA
Board Meeting was
held in Sedona,
Arizona, in January
2024. The items
discussed were the
2030 Strategic Plan,
the election of four
AWWA officers,
updates on Proposed
Lead and Copper Rule

Improvements, cybersecurity in water, and PFAS.

Membership Update

AWWA 2023 year-end membership was 50,094, which is down 100 from 2022. The target membership is 50,500. The Kansas Section has 450+ members which is an increase of approximately one percent. AWWA is currently working under the 2025 Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Strategic Plan is being completed and will be approved at ACE2024. The Safe Drinking Water Act is 50 years old in 2024, and AWWA is celebrating this at ACE2024. The AWWA website will have more information in the weeks to come.

Proposed Lead & Copper Rule Improvements

The Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements have resulted in over 140,000 comments being

sent to EPA. AWWA provided a 138-page document with formal comments on the proposed rule.

Utilities must recognize that come Oct. 16, 2024, the following will occur:

- » Initial Service Line Inventories will be due.
- Tier 1 (24-hour public notification) applies to any lead action level exceedance (90th percentile > 15ppb).
- » Within 30 days of completion of the inventory, notifications must be distributed to structures with lead, galvanized lines requiring replacement, and lead status unknown service lines. AWWA does not anticipate EPA will provide any more clarity on the substance of the rule requirements until after the rule promulgation.

Cybersecurity and Drinking Water Systems

Cybersecurity has been in the news recently, and KDHE and EPA have provided webinars and training to help with facilities' evaluations and completing drinking water assessments.

AWWA has testified at Capitol Hill on the cybersecurity of America's Drinking Water Systems, requesting Congress authorize a collaborative model to ensure utilities are directly engaged in developing appropriate cybersecurity requirements with oversight. The following areas of collaboration are considered most important.

OVERCOMING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

As more utilities move to automation there is a growing footprint of digital dependency that presents a critical cybersecurity risk.

THREAT INFORMATION SHARING

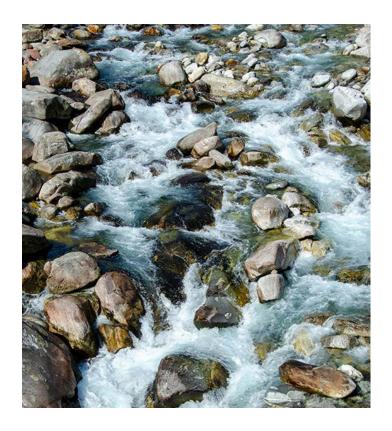
The review and development of threat alerts and advisories will help to ensure that the information transmitted to utilities is concise, actionable, and properly contextualized.

VULNERABILITY MITIGATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

AWWA has developed multiple resources to facilitate the assessment of cybersecurity vulnerabilities to aid in the implementation of best practices. The KDHE/Kansas Information Security Office (KISO) / Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) have collaborated to provide cybersecurity training around the state of Kansas.

I will be attending the AWWA Board Meeting at ACE 2024 in Anaheim, California, and will have more information on the 2030 Strategic Plan to share in a future issue of Solution H₂O.

Martha Tasker
martha.tasker@salina.org





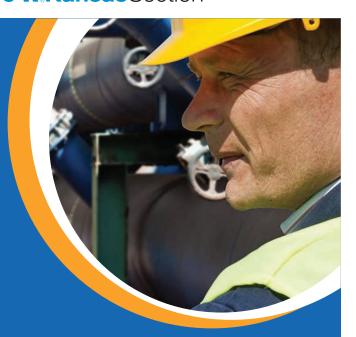




SPRING MINI-CONFERENCE

May 8–9, 2024 Topeka, KS

- >> Operator-focused training
- >> Certification exams



Water & Wastewater Operator Training

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE • COLLECTION SYSTEMS • DISTRIBUTION • TECHNOLOGY

Co-hosted by KWEA and KsAWWA, the spring mini-conference will provide sessions across seven tracks — Wastewater Operations, Water Operations, Collection Systems, Technology, Maintenance, Distribution, and Operator Math — all presented by top professionals in the water and wastewater industry.

Attendees will earn 10 CEUs for this two-day event. A buffet lunch will be included Wednesday.

ABC and KDHE certification exams will be offered Thursday following the last session (separate application fees).



Full schedule and registration available online

kwea.net/spring-mini-conference.html

EVENT SPONSORS









OPERATOR TRAINING

WED – 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. THU – 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. 10 CEUs

LOCATION

Hotel Topeka at City Center 1717 SW Topeka Blvd Topeka, Kansas

CERTIFICATION EXAMS

ABC & KDHE Thursday, May 9 1:15 p.m.

continued from page 1

are seeking roles within the Section for career growth and development.

Having participated in the Leadership Development Program previously, I can attest to its invaluable role in shaping my professional journey. The program not only provided me with a trusted advisor who shared insights and expertise but also facilitated a platform for meaningful connections within the organization. The guidance received was instrumental in navigating challenges, setting clear goals, and honing crucial skills. I am excited about the program's reboot and believe it will continue to play a pivotal role in enhancing the success of participants by fostering mentorship connections that are both enriching and impactful.

But don't just take my word for it—Brandon Sisk, project engineer at Kansas City Board of Public Utilities and current secretary/treasurer for the KsAWWA Board of Trustees, spoke about his experience participating in the program in the past:

Can you share specific examples of how your mentorship experience influenced your professional or personal development?

I was interested in learning new skills that I felt I needed to be more successful in my role as a project engineer. I learned how our Section plans and sets a budget. I brought those budgeting skills back to my organization for projects I was overseeing.

What aspects of the Leadership Development Program did you find most valuable and impactful?

I have met so many water professionals since being in this program and participating in the KsAWWA that I don't know if I would have met otherwise. It has expanded my network in which I can learn from others and share experiences on the challenges we face as an industry.

How did the program contribute to your networking within the organization, and did it open any new opportunities for you?

I knew and had met individuals working on various projects here at BPU but did not know them on a personal level. Meeting them within KsAWWA opened a new level of communication with them than I had previously.

Would you recommend the Leadership Development Program to your colleagues?

Absolutely! The Kansas Section has a lot to offer to its members and is a huge resource in connecting with others within the industry. This program gave me the confidence to establish myself within the Section and industry.

Be on the lookout in the coming months for more details about this opportunity. If you have any questions or just want to connect, please reach out!

Brad Ebinger
bebinger@waterone.org

WaterOne, Evergy Celebrate New Sustainable Energy Source

_______by Jerry Koukol, WaterOne

Solar panels are improving environmental sustainability and reducing energy expenses at a WaterOne pump station. The solar array project is owned by the electricity utility Evergy, and its completion was celebrated by WaterOne as well as representatives from Evergy.

The 100 kW Evergy solar array is installed at WaterOne's Lamar Pump Station, located near 91st and Lamar Avenue in Overland Park, Kansas. The WaterOne pump station and underground reservoir facilities supply water storage for neighborhoods throughout northeast Johnson County, Kansas, and the site also provides critical infrastructure support for local firefighting and emergency response capabilities. WaterOne partnered with Evergy by granting space at Lamar Pump Station to construct and operate the solar array to help offset the energy required to power the pump station facility. The cooperative solar partnership is believed to be the first of its kind in Johnson County, and according to Evergy, the array is also one of the largest in the county for this type of installation. Solar power represents an effective energy solution for pump stations. Pump stations require more power during warm seasonal weather as customer water usage increases, which is also the time of year when the solar array is at its highest energy production.

The Lamar Pump Station solar array project follows other recent efforts by WaterOne to diversify its

energy portfolio. WaterOne was an early supporter of community renewable energy programs from its energy providers, Evergy and BPU, allowing WaterOne to purchase cost-effective renewable energy from solar and wind farms in our region. WaterOne is also looking ahead to other innovative energy projects, including an anticipated hydropower facility located near WaterOne's water intake on the Kansas River. WaterOne was recognized as Climate Registered™ Gold Status by the Climate Registry for establishing an inventory of carbon emission volumes and sources produced through its operations, and WaterOne was also awarded the Sustainable Water Utility Management Award by the Association for Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) for demonstrating leadership in environmental sustainability.

"This solar project reflects WaterOne's commitment to being good stewards of our environment," said WaterOne General Manager Shaun Pietig. "We're proud to collaborate with our regional utility partners in the energy sector towards our shared goal of a more sustainable future."



Host an intern. Make an impact.

KsAWWA and KWEA have partnered to launch an innovative initiative that provides utilities with funding to host interns.

The **Kansas Future Water Leaders Program** aims to enhance the state of Kansas' ability to grow and retain water and wastewater professionals. The program focuses on connecting utilities with talented summer interns, creating a win-win for Kansas utilities, the water workforce, and high school students eager to explore potential career paths.

The Kansas Future Water Leaders Program:

- Funds summer internships for Kansas public water utilities.
- Provides water career exploration and boosts resumes for high school students.
- Connects counselors with non-college career resources.
- Promotes growth of the Kansas public water sector.

Complete our no obligation interest form to learn more.









Stretch Before Working to Prevent Injury

_by Dan Riney, KsAWWA Safety Committee

Utility work can be a physically demanding job. It frequently requires some workers to spend considerable time in awkward postures. Athletes need to warm up before the start of a workout or competition, and so do utility workers. This includes office staff as well as field workers! Through stretching you can prepare your muscles to handle the load and possibly prevent the more frequent forms of work injury—sprains and strains.

Tips to Prepare for Your Shift

Before the start of your shift, or before heading out to the field, take a few moments to stretch. A few simple movements help increase circulation and reduce fatigue-plus you might even become more relaxed. A stretch break any time during the day will also help you feel better and work better! Following are a few tips to help you get the most out of stretching and exercise.

- » Start out easy. If you haven't been regularly exercising, don't try to do too much in the beginning.
- » Stretch regularly. Make it a routine at the beginning of each work shift.
- » The warm-up should not be painful, but you should definitely feel the stretching and the working of all the muscles and joints.
- » Hold each stretch for 10 seconds. Do not bounce. Breath normally during the stretch.

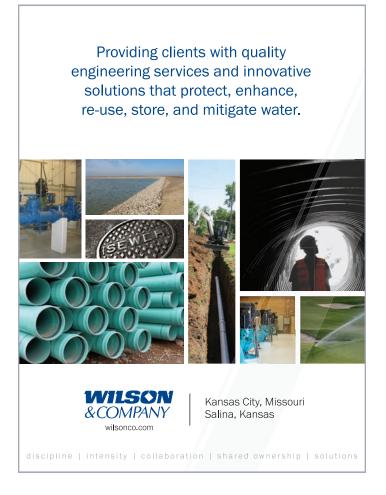
Pain and discomfort probably mean you did too much. Back off a little, and if pain persists, check with your doctor.

Strengthening Communities: Kansas Mutual Aid Program (KSMAP)

by Greg DuMars, Kansas Municipal Utilities

The Kansas Mutual Aid Program (KSMAP) is a collaborative initiative aimed at bolstering community resilience and support for water, wastewater, electric, and natural gas utilities across Kansas. KSMAP brings together state utility associations and state government agencies to lend a hand during times of need. Whether it is responding to natural disasters or providing needed materials, the program is based on a "neighbor"

helping neighbor" philosophy. Through the program members can offer materials and/or resources, while accessing reciprocal support when faced with challenges themselves. Together, we are building stronger, more resilient communities that thrive on the principles of mutual aid and solidarity. To learn more about KSMAP, be sure to visit the KMU website page at https://www.kmunet.org/page/MutualAid.







Environmental Process Equipment Company

Providing Cost–Effective Solutions with Quality Equipment and Service

WATER TREATMENT PROCESS EQUIPMENT

Carbon Dioxide Feed & Storage • Chemical Feed & Storage Clarification • Degassifier • Disinfection • Filtration Headworks/Primary Treatment • Mixing • Slurry Pumping Sludge/Solids Handling • Storage • Toxic/Gas Scrubbers Zero Liquid Discharge

INDUSTRIAL & MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS

Aeration • Biogas • Biological Treatment • Clarification Chemical Feed & Storage • Digestion • Disinfection Filtration (Tertiary) • Headworks/Primary Treatment Mixing • Nutrient Recovery • Odor & Corrosion Control Slurry Pumping • Sludge/Solids Handling • Storage Toxic/Gas Scrubbers



Sales & Service in Kansas and Western Missouri

Kansas City (913) 238-2038

Wichita, KS (316) 866-2888

View our partners **epecwater.com**









Membrane Modules Replaced at WaterOne's Wolcott Treatment Plant

_______by Jerry Koukol, WaterOne

WaterOne's Wolcott Treatment Plant in northern Wyandotte County, Kansas, near the Missouri River, is one of the largest Pall membrane filtration plants in North America. For the first time since the plant was constructed in 2009, WaterOne comprehensively replaced all 1,080 membrane modules.

"The modules have a life expectancy of 10 to 15 years, so at this point we've gotten the full life out of this equipment," said project engineer Nate Hartig, who coordinated the replacement work along with teams led by mechanical maintenance foreman Brett Leive and operations team leader Steve Maghe.

Membrane filtration is an innovative technology for treating drinking water. Pre-treated water is forced through tubes filled with over six thousand strands of porous membrane material, which remove microscopic particles from the water as small as 0.1 micron (for scale, bacteria typically range from 3 to 10 microns in size). The membranes in each eight-foot tube provide 538 square feet surface area of porosity for filtering. The tubes are installed on 115 racks in the filter room at Wolcott, and the modular design of the technology means that an individual rack can be isolated and disconnected for maintenance without shutting down the whole system.

As the filters age, their maintenance needs increase. When the system indicates that a module isn't performing as it should, a technician will take it offline

and test the membranes by removing the top and running pressurized air through it. If tiny bubbles are seen or heard coming out of a membrane strand, then that particular strand isn't filtering properly and it must be disabled by plugging it with a small pin.

"Each tube has over six thousand membrane strands, so it's literally a needle-in-the-haystack troubleshooting," said Hartig. "WaterOne's technicians are really amazing at tracking equipment performance and completing maintenance, but as the filters aged, it was getting to be a daily maintenance task."

Each filter is pretty bulky, so finding places to store the several thousand new and used modules during the replacement project was a challenge.

Interestingly, many of WaterOne's old modules will be getting a second life.

"About 400 of our old filters have been earmarked for re-use," said Hartig. "Since this is relatively new technology, the manufacturer has asked for some of them back to take apart and study how they held up through long-term industrial use. And because the facility maintenance team keeps meticulous performance records, the manufacturer was also able to cherry-pick modules that were working well and still have a lot of life left in them. The best ones will be repurposed to go into mobile filtration equipment, and some modules may even be provided to water treatment facilities in developing countries."

Salvo Reflects on Young Professional Summit at Utility Management Conference

Jennifer Salvo (Garver) is the Kansas Section AWWA's current chair of the Young Professionals Committee. Salvo traveled to Portland, Oregon, in late February for the AWWA/WEF YP Summit as part of the Utility Management Conference. There, she participated in the Early Career/Young Professional Leader Training Workshop and the core of the YP Summit: a packed program centered on "Taking Care of Business" with discussion leaders from AWWA/WEF and leaders in communities/water utilities across the United States.

Salvo's Reflection on the YP Summit

"The recent YP Summit proved to be an extremely useful gathering for emerging professionals within the water industry. The summit facilitated enriching discussions, focusing particularly on the vital role of section YP committees, enhancing operator engagement in AWWA, and the importance of fortifying chapter membership.

"During the Leadership Training Workshop, we explored meaningful networking ideas, facilitated focused discussion on operators, lab staff, and other invaluable public servant inclusion, and reviewed the basics of strategic planning.

"Throughout the YP summit, attendees were immersed in a collaborative atmosphere, packed with fresh ideas, strategic planning, and hands-on experiences. From interactive table talks, participating



Jennifer Salvo, KsAWWA Young Professionals Committee Chair tests her skills in a mini operators challenge at the AWWA/WEF YP Summit.

in a mini operators challenge, to education on innovative uses of technology and generative AI in the water world, the YP summit shared something useful for each person in attendance. Participants were not only provided the opportunity to learn from AWWA leaders; participants were given the opportunity to learn from each other and to exchange discourse with influential 'recent' YPs.

"I am incredibly grateful for the Kansas AWWA chapter for supporting Kansas water professionals in their growth. The YP Summit was a wonderful opportunity, with ample learning and growth opportunities. I have a notebook full of ideas on how to boost YP membership and increase connectivity between seasoned and YP membership."

If you are interested in learning more about the KsAWWA Young Professional Committee and upcoming events and networking opportunities, please contact Jennifer at jlsalvo@garverusa.com or ksawwayp@gmail.com.







Safe, Reliable, Sustainable

Water and wastewater solutions planned, designed, built and operated to your needs.

Visit by.com to learn more.







913-677-3366



The KsAWWA Community Relations & Customer Service Committee seeks to build relationships with Kansas communities to enhance their communications and outreach abilities. The committee hopes to provide resources and opportunities to learn how to engage with their community members and build effective communication techniques. Join the committee to help build resources and connect with our Kansas communities! For more information, please email committee chair, Michelle DeHaven at michelle.dehaven@wichita.edu.



Friday, August 23 1:00 p.m. Shoot **Powder Creek Shooting Park** 8601 Monticello Rd • Lenexa, KS Annual Fundraiser
WATER FOR PEOPLE

DETAILS

This year's Water For People Sporting Clay Shoot will be held at Powder Creek Shooting park, Lenexa, KS. Last year was a record year for participation so we will be using the same format which features sign-up options for team registrations by corporate sponsors. Individual shooters are still welcome and will be paired with other individuals or teams. Bring your best team to knock off defending champion Crossland Heavy Contractors!

WHAT TO BRING

Bring your own gun, ear protection, safety glasses, and ammunition (7 ½, 8, or 9 shot). If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Hansen.

SCHEDULE

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch and registration

1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Sporting clays shoot (100 rds)

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Awards and happy hour

TEAMS & SPONSORSHIPS

Team of 4 and Station Sponsorship	\$500
Team of 4 Shooters	\$400
Individual Shooter	\$100

Prize sponsorship opportunities are available.

A special prize drawing will be held for station sponsors!

SHOOTER REGISTRATION

TEAM NAME (Mark N/A if individual)				
SHOOTER #1	SHOOTER #2			
SHOOTER #3	SHOOTER #4			
ORGANIZATION / COMPANY				
EMAIL ADDRESS				
PHONE	TOTAL ENCLOSED			

REGISTRATION

Register online at https://www.kswaterwastewater.com.

If you must pay by check, please complete this form, make checks payable in full, and mail to:

KsAWWA – Water For People PO Box 3046 Salina, KS 67402

QUESTIONS?

Andrew Hansen (913) 458-3417 hansenaj@bv.com







LUNCH SPONSOR

HAPPY HOUR SPONSORS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

Annual KWEA / KsAWWA Joint Annual Conference

2024

Hyatt Regency

& Century II Convention Center

Wichita, Kansas

August 27-29

2025

Hotel Topeka

Stormont Vail Event Center

Topeka, Kansas

August 26-28

AWWA Annual Conference

June 10–13, 2024 Anaheim, CA

June 8–11, 2025 Denver, CO

June 21–24, 2026 Washington, D.C.

June 13–16, 2027 San Diego, CA

June 4–7, 2028 Atlanta, GA

June 10–13, 2029 Toronto, CA

KsAWWA Meetings

August 27, 2024 Annual Meeting

