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Davis’ experience as a national champion football player with the University of Nebraska has equipped him with first hand knowledge of how to achieve incredible results.

continued on page 8
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News from the Chair

by Lester Estelle, KsAWWA Chair

The 2017 AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition was held June 11-14 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Although I was unable to attend the event, I heard great things about the conference. At the National AWWA, you can always expect great technical presentations as well as opportunities to network and visit exhibition areas loaded with new ideas, technology, products, services, and equipment. Special thanks to all of you who attended the conference and especially the KsAWWA luncheon.

Please join us for the ninth joint conference of two long-standing environmental organizations. The 2017 KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference will be held in Wichita, Kansas, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Aug. 29-31, 2017. You still have time to register online for the conference at http://kswaterwastewater.com.

KsAWWA Chair Elect Martha Tasker and KWEA Vice President Susan Pekarek are finalizing the conference program. You will enjoy a diversity of technical sessions presenting the latest topics in water and wastewater as well an expanded exhibition of the newest equipment in the industry.

The pre-conference activities will start on Monday, Aug. 28, to include the annual golf tournament and sporting clays shoot.

The opening session will kick off Tuesday morning with keynote speaker Aaron Davis. Davis’ powerful and high-energy presentations are interactive, fresh, and yet simple so that anyone can use his tips and techniques to attain greater success professionally and personally.

We are excited to have AWWA Vice President Stephen Blankenship attending the conference this year. You will be hearing from him in the opening session and at a Tuesday afternoon breakout session. The conference will continue with the “Best Tasting Tap Water” contest, technical workshops, and of course, some fun at the receptions and evening events.

Speaking of fun events, Tuesday night’s Meet & Greet will be at the ballpark this year with the Wichita Wingnuts. Come relax and enjoy some great barbecue at this baseball event. All conference attendees are invited to join in at no cost to you, although pre-registration is required.

The conference will be full of educational presentations; networking opportunities and evening entertainment; contests such as Meter Madness, Environmental Excellence Competition, and Backhoe Rodeo; and focused insights into the future of the water industry.
We will celebrate our accomplishments and successes. The time will fly by, so plan ahead and map out a strategy to make the most of your time at the conference.

We still need moderators to assist us during the training sessions. If you are interested in being a moderator for the conference, please visit the joint conference website at http://kwaterwastewater.com.

KSAWWA now has an official Facebook page! Visit https://facebook.com/ksawwa to “like” and “follow” the group for updates on information, news, and events. Invite your friends to help build an informed community for water in Kansas.

If you’d like an article or post to be published on the Facebook page, please message the Facebook page or email your request Michaela Rempkowski at mmrempkowski@burnsmcd.com for consideration.

It is not too early to start making plans for 2018 when we return to Topeka at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.

We look forward to seeing you soon! 🐝
Section Manager’s Report

by Hank Corcoran Boyer, KsAWWA Section Manager

Wow, how time does fly! It seems like yesterday I was writing my comments for the 2016 summer newsletter and preparing for the annual joint conference, and here I am sitting at my desk the day before the Fourth of July pondering my writings for the 2017 summer newsletter.

After many delays, changing airports, and lack of sleep, I did make it to ACE17 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where I made some new contacts, put faces to some I have been communicating with for several years, and visited with some old friends. I got some new ideas and reaffirmed that things the Kansas Section is doing are on track for another year. I want to thank the KsAWWA board for approving my attendance to ACE17.

Yes, we are busy preparing for the 2017 joint conference in Wichita at the Hyatt Regency/Century II. The new format that we chose to obtain “papers” this year has worked really well. We have been able to keep track of the papers that have come in, have received most of the bios with the papers, and have presenters’ contact information along with the papers. I want to thank Tina Leitzel for her assistance with this project as without her we would just have ideas. She is the one who puts those ideas into action. Thanks a bunch, Tina!

I am looking forward to our Tuesday evening social event at the Wingnuts’ game. Should be a fun time, and the attendees should remember the evening for some time. We have some fun things happening on Tuesday and a new competition on Wednesday, so be sure to encourage your operators to sign up to attend the conference. You will receive more about this as it moves along. Watch your emails for updates.

Wichita is the place our exhibitors enjoy the most, and this year a couple of our exhibitors are sponsoring charging stations in the exhibit hall, along with some other options they were given as sponsorship opportunities so remember to visit the exhibit hall often! Also, in Wichita we have the opening session in the exhibit hall.

Enjoy your summer, and plan to join us in Wichita Aug. 29-31, 2017, for the 9th Annual KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference.

p.s. I have heard Eddy will be joining us at the conference this year! Don’t know who Eddy is? Then you need to register for the conference today! ➡️
Great to see many of you in Philadelphia for ACE17 (Annual Conference & Exposition) where over 11,000 water professionals gathered to learn and share knowledge about our water industry. Hard to believe the conference has already passed us by and we are well into our Kansas joint conference planning for Wichita on Aug. 29-31. KsAWWA had a great turnout at our section luncheon with over 35 attendees at ACE17.

Over the weekend preceding our luncheon, the AWWA board met on Saturday and Sunday for our special session and annual meetings. During these meetings, we learned and shared that AWWA is very strong and growing with total membership up over 51,000 strong! Total water solutions (TWS), which is the focus of all water resources including drinking water, wastewater, reuse, and stormwater will be required to meet our growing needs have to be considered holistically as we plan to meet future demands. AWWA has embarked upon leading the effort of TWS planning and has established many best practices and standards. The Water Equation, which is AWWA’s philanthropic initiative, continues to build momentum with the support of the One AWWA Operator Scholarship Fund, which our very own Kansas section is participating in, is moving out of the piloting phase into full-scale implementation.

AWWA continues to be the leader in educating the consumer base about lead and all the ongoing research around the topic of lead in drinking water. If you haven’t been to AWWA’s information page, you should check it out, as there is a terrific knowledge base there: https://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/water-knowledge/lead.aspx.

And finally, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) continues to move forward with AWWA’s support to provide another funding option for our infrastructure needs.

I’m looking forward to spending time with our section members in late August in Wichita to learn and share more about our local water issues. Have a great summer and be safe.
As a speaker, author, and seminar leader, Davis has had the privilege of delivering hundreds of presentations at various conferences, meetings, and seminars across the nation with outstanding success.

Davis is a member of the National Speakers Association, the co-author of two books, and the author of the inspiring book “10 Minute Truths.”

As a seminar leader for the University of Nebraska’s Corporate Manager Certification program, Davis’ presentations have received some of the highest ratings by attendees in the program’s 24-year history. He has served clients in various sectors and levels of industry including government, agriculture, medical, mortgage, sales, insurance, banking, and education.

Davis graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in psychology. While in college, he was a member of the Nebraska football team, winning the national championship in 1994. Davis’ best friend is his beautiful wife Brooke, and his greatest treasures are his two sons, Aden (age 5) and Keenon (age 3), and his recently born daughter, Niya.

KWEA / KsAWWA
9th Annual Joint Conference
August 29-31, 2017
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Wichita, Kansas
WaterOne’s Construction Maintenance Valving Services (CMVS) department has a new program in place to track employee job skill training and encourage career growth. The Distribution Technician Program is a self-guided set of certifications, competency modules, and experience benchmarks that employees can achieve at their own pace to be eligible for career advancement.

“The Distribution Technician Program was implemented as an employee growth tool,” said Director of Distribution Dan Smith. “It gives our people a clear and objective path to grow their career within WaterOne’s environment and encourages them to take initiative to develop their technical skills and abilities.”

WaterOne has 385 employees, of which 165 are in the distribution division. As the economy recovered from 2008’s Great Recession, the regional unemployment rate dropped quickly. WaterOne began experiencing increased turnover in front-line construction positions, which challenged the organization’s training resources and eroded its knowledge base. Concerns regarding succession, development, and sustainability were raised.

To address this problem, WaterOne developed a plan to transition from the traditional, merit-based pay system to a “skill-based” pay structure, which would provide a more defined career path and competitive pay scale for these positions. The new Distribution Technician Program includes skill-based pay increases tied directly to an employee’s ability to demonstrate mastery of specific competencies, complete online distribution operator training courses, and obtain distribution operator certificates relevant to their level of responsibility. WaterOne designed this program to put employees in control of their own career progression and to encourage them to improve their job knowledge more quickly.

“The legacy system meant employees had to wait for a position to open up above them before they could be considered for advancement,” said Manager of CMVS Greg Johnson. “The new program helps our employees chart their own career path in a much more fair and objective way.”

The program was implemented in October 2016. As of the first review period in March, 19 employees
were promoted, and 21 people received a change in compensation as a result of passing distribution certification exams. Feedback from employees about the program has been positive.

“It’s a good system for us,” said distribution tech 2-2 Joshawa Baptista. “There’s now a clear path for advancement and better pay, which wasn’t there before. And the organization gets a better trained, higher quality employee out of it. Employees who are personally invested and working towards something are more likely to stay on longer, and it helps weed out the folks who just want to make a quick buck.”
Exploding Flashlights?

There have been several recent news reports about flashlights that have exploded while in use by various people either at work or at home.

In researching this, it was discovered that flashlights, like many battery powered devices, can indeed explode during use. There have also been recent cases of e-cigarettes and hover boards in the news, although they typically utilize a different type of battery.

In the types of batteries most commonly used in flashlights—zinc/carbon batteries and alkaline batteries—hydrogen gas (H$_2$) is produced naturally as a product of the corrosion of the zinc electrode in the aqueous electrolyte. Differences in batteries, including cell design and charge rate, affect the rate and volume of H$_2$ generation.

Excess hydrogen gas is more likely to be released if batteries are used incorrectly; that is, if different types or brands of batteries are mixed, damaged batteries are used, old batteries are mixed with new batteries, or batteries are inserted incorrectly so that polarity is reversed. Excess hydrogen gas may also be produced by rechargeable batteries during recharging.

If H$_2$ accumulates within batteries or battery compartments without sufficient release, the build-up of pressure can cause the battery or compartment casing to rupture. Also H$_2$ and oxygen (O$_2$) mixtures are highly explosive and, if ignited by a spark or excessive heat, can produce powerful explosions.

In order to protect themselves, workers should follow these precautions:

» Read and follow manufacturers’ recommendations for product use.

» DO NOT MIX batteries of different brands.

» DO NOT MIX old and new batteries.

» DO NOT MIX alkaline with non-alkaline batteries.

» DO NOT USE damaged batteries.

» Ensure that proper polarity is observed when installing batteries.

» PRIOR TO THEIR USE IN FLAMMABLE ATMOSPHERES, inspect approved battery-powered flashlights to ensure that the batteries are in good condition, and that the proper batteries are installed correctly. Opening the battery compartment should allow any accumulated H$_2$ to dissipate.

» DO NOT inspect the flashlight in a hazardous area or near an open flame.
A massive fire in Overland Park, Kansas, was a reminder of the role that municipal water utilities play in supporting fire protection. On March 20, 2017, the construction site for Overland Park’s new CityPlace development caught fire, and the property was quickly engulfed in flames. To make matters worse, dry and windy conditions spread embers onto the roofs of nearby homes, leading to dozens of additional property fires across a widespread area. The incident quickly became an eight-alarm fire as fire departments from across the entire metro arrived to fight the growing blaze.

As emergency responders put themselves on the line to protect life and property, WaterOne staff were on hand to provide support. WaterOne distribution staffers were dispatched to Overland Park’s Emergency Operations Center to answer questions and offer assurance. A main repair crew was also placed on standby so they could respond immediately if a water main break occurred, although ultimately none did. Staff at WaterOne’s water treatment plant control room also closely monitored the situation, but the system performed exactly as it was designed throughout the emergency.

An estimated three million gallons of water were used to fight the fires, and emergency fire protection reserves maintained ample levels during the incident. Water was used at a flow rate of 10 million gallons
per day (MGD). That volume is equal to the capacity of one of WaterOne’s smaller F2 High Service Pumps, and the system readily handled the extra draw. Area residents were reassured that at no point during the emergency was there any need for restricting their personal water usage.

The roles of fire departments and public water systems have historically been closely linked. Alongside the convenience of having clean, fresh water available in-home, an essential purpose of a water utility has always been to ensure that there is water at the ready for fire protection.

WaterOne is required to keep water in reserve for fire emergencies, sustain sufficient water pressure in our system for the use of emergency crews, and maintain a network of 19,000 fire hydrants across our entire service area. When a fire department is rated by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) for quality and effectiveness, 40 percent of the rating is based on the capabilities of the water supply system that the fire department uses.

“I just wanted to personally reach out and say thanks to the WaterOne team,” said Overland Park City Manager Bill Ebel. “The work that our fire department did along with many others could not have been possible without reliable water infrastructure.”

How to pay for the cost of water while still delivering 24/7 safe and reliable service? There’s no single right answer. Except one: turn to Black & Veatch. Our leadership, innovation and collaborative approach can take you beyond business as usual, to achieve what you need to achieve, from your asset management to process needs, with the resources available to you.

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Ladder Safety Rung by Rung

by Bob Brower, KsAWWA Safety Committee Chair

A ladder is an essential workplace tool for anyone working above ground level. However, each year more than half a million people are injured while using ladders.

Anyone who uses the wrong ladder for a job or uses it inappropriately is courting trouble. Do not become a statistic. Remember these ladder safety tips:

» **Select the correct ladder.** Why waver on the top rung of a stepladder when you can use an extension ladder? Never use a metal ladder if there is any chance of contacting electricity.

» **Never assume a ladder is safe.** Check it for unsafe footing, broken steps, bent legs, bent supports, cracks, worn or slippery step treads, and worn or missing rubber feet. Do not use it if there is a problem.

» **Set the ladder on flooring that is dry, even and clear of obstacles.** Never lean the ladder against anything unstable (such as a stack of boxes) or place it in front of an unguarded or unlocked door.

» **Follow the belt buckle rule when using a stepladder,** making sure your belt buckle goes no higher than the top step of the ladder. Climb the ladder only after ensuring the frame is locked securely in place.

» **Follow the four-to-one rule** when setting up an extension ladder. Place the ladder with its base one foot away from the wall for every four feet in height. Secure the ladder to a stable object at the top, and then lock the extension securely in place. Never stand on the top two steps of an extension ladder.

» **Ask a spotter to hold the base of the ladder** while you climb, and be especially careful when climbing a ladder on a windy day. Remember to fasten the top of the ladder securely to prevent it from tipping.

» **Ascend and descend the ladder facing the rungs** with both hands on the edges. Hoist tools and materials only after you have reached the top of the ladder.

» **Take precautions to prevent a fall.** Use both hands when climbing and lock a leg around a rung when you need to have one hand free. Never climb onto a ladder that is already supporting one person.
DRAFTING AND MATH UNLOCKED THE DOORS TO MARTHA TASKER'S future. While studying drafting in college, she worked as a part-time intern at Wilson & Company engineer and architect firm, turning engineers' rough sketches into finished drawings.

The job at the company in Salina, Kansas, became full time after she graduated. By 1980, Tasker was a member of the Environmental Department, where she did concept and design work for many municipalities' water and sewer projects.

Intrigued by what she saw at water and wastewater treatment plants, Tasker borrowed books on their designs, took classes, talked to operators, and taught herself to see underground piping in order to draft it clearly.

Her career took off, assisted by mentors Robert Crawford at Wilson, and Don Hoff, director of the Salina Utilities Department. Her aptitude earned her a reputation as one of the best unlicensed engineering managers in the state from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

When Hoff retired, he championed Tasker as his replacement. City officials agreed and, after 28 years at Wilson, Tasker joined the municipality in November 2003. She manages 57 Utilities Department employees responsible for the water and wastewater treatment plants and the distribution and collections systems. She oversees an operating budget of more than $12 million, along with multimillion-dollar capital projects.

In 2016, Tasker was one of five area professionals to receive the Women of Achievement Award from the Young Women Legacy Fund. “I never thought about being a pioneer for women in the utilities engineering field,” she says. “I’m just passionate about my job and doing it to the best of my ability.”

WATER FOR SALINA

Salina uses surface and groundwater as source water. Seventeen wells in and around the downtown area (two on standby) deliver 15 mgd. The water is piped to the 20 mgd (design) Salina Water Treatment Plant. In emergencies, three more wells south of the city can provide 2 mgd. Water from these wells, part of the former Schilling Air Force Base water system, is chlorinated on site and pumped to the distribution system.

Three 75 hp Peabody Floway pumps (Weir Specialty Pumps (WEMCO) in a pump station along the Smoky Hill River cutoff channel deliver up to 10 mgd of surface water to the river settling basin. The basin has lightning rapid mix, walking beam flocculators from Ralph B. Carter Company (JDV Equipment Corporation), and Eimco sludge removal (Ovivo USA). Primary treatment at the plant includes two groundwater air stripping towers (Layne Christensen), two solids contact softening basins, two Eimco secondary clarifiers (Ovivo), and 16 gravity sand and anthracite filter cells with surface wash.

Finished water flows to 1-million-gallon and 2-million-gallon underground reservoirs. Two 200 hp pumps and five 250 hp pumps (all Pentair - Fairbanks Nijhuis) deliver water to five booster pump stations and eight elevated storage tanks holding a total of 4,075,000 gallons. Water is distributed to more than 20,000 accounts through 330 miles of 2- to 30-inch cast iron, ductile, PVC and HDPE pipe.

EASY TRANSITION

For Tasker, stepping into Hoff’s shoes wasn’t difficult, since she had worked with many city employees while at Wilson. Nevertheless, there were adjustments.
Martha Tasker, Salina (Kansas) Water Treatment Plant

POSITION: Director of Utilities
EXPERIENCE: 13 years
EDUCATION: Drafting degree, Salina Area Technical College
MEMBERSHIPS: American Public Works Association, AWWA, WEF
GOALS: Preserve and enhance water quality, ensure future water availability, improve community conditions
WEBSITE: www.salina-ks.gov
GPS COORDINATES: Latitude: 38° 49' 59.426" N; Longitude: 97° 36' 6.484" W

“I never thought about being a pioneer for women in the utilities engineering field. I’m just passionate about my job and doing it to the best of my ability.”

MARTHA TASKER

Ray Starnes and Tasker check the filter console. Tasker thrives on the endless variety of challenges in running a treatment plant.
“One big change was leaving the private sector for the public sector and having 47,000 bosses,” says Tasker. “Another change was the unpredictability of each day. At Wilson, I planned every day, then carried through. Not here. If I arrive intending to accomplish something that won’t take long, three or four things happen straight out of the chute that need immediate attention. I’m constantly moving from one question or request to the next.”

In the monochrome world of engineering management, Tasker gave instructions to contractors and was responsible for the final word on everything. Now she had to adapt to solving human problems. Many employees stay with the city 20 to 30 years, and Tasker finds saying no to them difficult. “My goal is to make sound decisions for customers and staff,” she says. “By explaining a situation’s pros and cons and the reasoning behind my decision, they usually understand.”

Another management method Tasker finds helpful is to task employees to explain why their requests or suggestions make sense to everyone, not just within their department, and why they should be adopted. “Once they do the legwork, they discover that coordinating between the different work groups isn’t as easy as it appears,” she says.

MOVING AHEAD

Tasker enjoys helping citizens and wants to be the first person staffers talk to when things go wrong, but she is also her team members’ advocate. Her progression plan has accelerated their advancement.

LEMONADE FROM LEMONS

An invitation to take part in the first Science on Screen film and discussion series at the Salina Art Center intrigued Martha Tasker. As utilities director, she constantly sought to involve women in science, the objective of the series.

Her partner, Verna Fitzsimmons, was CEO and dean of the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus. The two had worked together on groundwater contamination projects. “The film was about dysfunctional people and had little to do with science,” says Tasker. “As we left the screening, we wondered what we were going to say.”

The event, aimed at young women, failed to attract them. “We looked for bright, young, smiling faces in the room and couldn’t find any,” says Tasker. “There were two or three science teachers and 20 to 30 people who probably wanted to hear what we had to say.”

A different audience demanded a different approach. Instead of their planned discussion about their careers and the opportunities science affords women, Tasker and Fitzsimmons asked how the community could retain its bright students and bring back those who had left. “We heard many interesting comments and had lively discussions,” says Tasker. “It made for a great event, and everybody took away something positive.”

The Salina water and wastewater team includes, from left, Ray Starnes, operations foreman; Mark Peterson, electrical engineer II; Larry Charles, operator II; Wayne Juenemann, maintenance mechanic; Tye Baker, water quality coordinator; Lori Sullivan, laboratory technician; Glenn Quested, operator II; Martha Tasker, director of utilities; and Kristina Sidebottom, administrative assistant I.

Until 2016, operators couldn’t progress until someone above them left or was promoted. Tasker’s plan, approved by city officials, allows new hires to advance from operator I to operator II by fulfilling certain requirements. One prerequisite is certification through the state Department of Health and Environment. Another is developing improvement plans for any phase of the Utilities Department.

“The next step up is senior utility operator, a new position created to groom people for supervisor positions,” says Tasker. “People determine how far they wish to advance, and some are aggressive. It’s exciting to see their interest, because they represent future operator replacements.” About 25 percent of employees are engaged in the plan.

Such quick results are the exception. Tasker’s projects usually take five or 10 years to reach fruition, and many focus on ensuring the future availability of water for the community. The wake-up call came in 2006 when the Smoky Hill River ran dry during a drought. Tasker pushed to develop a 50-year raw water supply study, and Phase One launched in 2008.

“Originally, our water rate was the more you used, the less it cost,” says Tasker. “We pumped 5 mgd in winter and 13 to 14 mgd in summer.” The city’s new rate is based on water conservation practices used by semi-arid communities west of Salina. It doubles the cost of water when usage exceeds 120 percent of normal winter volume. The study also revealed that 15 percent of customers caused peak demand by irrigating their yards. The new rates dropped usage to 10 mgd in summer.

GREENING THE FIELDS

Simultaneously, Tasker addressed the plight of farmers downstream from the Kanopolis Reservoir. Because the state purchases water storage in the lake, legislation limits its availability to municipal and industrial users. The drought brought to light the importance of stored water to downstream users. “Agriculture is our predominant economic activity, and irrigation accounts for 84 percent of raw water usage,” she says. “The survival of those farmers was at stake.”

Tasker spent five years working with the Kansas Water Office and partnering with farmers in the river basin to remedy the situation. In 2011, leg-
islation created the Lower Smoky Hill Water Supply Access District. It enables more efficient management of water resources for downstream users, while helping the city meet water demands during droughts. “We do a lot of good things pertaining to water, and we’re feeling pretty good about it,” says Tasker.

Improving water quality was another project that made people happy. “When I first arrived, we had numerous complaints about bad-tasting, smelly water,” says Tasker. “Out of 330 miles of distribution pipes, 275 miles were old cast iron lines.” A study convinced city officials to begin a water main replacement program that included up sizing pipes to improve fire protection.

Another water-quality effort involves removing trichloroethylene, an industrial solvent, contaminating groundwater on the former air base. Tasker is overseeing a five-year, $10 million study of the potable wells. “The project is a little out of my bailiwick, but incredibly interesting,” she says. “I think we’ll finish sometime in 2017, know the corrective action, and begin remediation.”

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
Tasker moved into Phase Two of the 50-year-plan in 2010. One project addressed how to provide water for the community if a natural disaster disabled the only treatment plant. An engineering study and countless meetings finally produced results.

In April 2017, the city selected a design-build team to improve the South Well Field and build either a 3.5 mgd membrane filtration plant or a lime-softening plant. “Industries would love the membrane treatment, and building the plant could attract new companies to town,” says Tasker. “We’ll also be able to support significant growth.”

By the time the build is completed in 2020, Tasker will be designing an upgrade for the wastewater treatment plant to meet new nutrient removal standards. She designed a major plant upgrade in the late 1980s and a belt filter press upgrade in the early ’90s. Whether designing for water or wastewater treatment, Tasker is in constant touch with end users. “I learned firsthand while at Wilson that bringing operators into the design process produces a superior product,” she says. “They know every good and bad thing about their plant.”

PLEASANT SURPRISE
With numerous projects on her plate, Tasker said nothing to family and friends when notified of her 2016 Women of Achievement Award. It wasn’t until a newspaper article broke the story and strangers extended congratulations that the tumblers clicked into place. “We do just as much as the police or firemen to protect our community and the environment, except our work isn’t recognized by the media,” she says. “The award shined a spotlight on our industry and maybe helped students see how much science, math and engineering are involved.”

Tasker actively encourages young women to explore careers like hers. She speaks to high school classes and is a regular presenter at the annual Teen Women in Science and Technology workshop developed by the community and the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus.

Meanwhile, Tasker intends to finish all the projects she has worked years to put in place before retiring. “When I leave, I want to hand over a utility that meets current standards, meets future demands, and needs maintenance instead of repair,” she says. “That will be my legacy.”

Wichita State University’s Work in Water Program Boasts Five Summer Interns

by Tonya Bronleewe, Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center

This summer there are five Work in Water interns working at water and wastewater treatment plants in four communities across Kansas. The students are local high school students who are serving their communities in Garden City, Ottawa (two interns), Pittsburg, and Wichita.

In the first few weeks of their internship experience, these students have observed and assisted local water operators to flush out clarifier draw tubes, replace a return active sludge pump, start-up a new well, sample industrial wastewater for compliance, and run labs. The nine-week internship program began in June and will run through the end of August.

Before they were selected to be interns, these high school students each participated in the Work in Water Experience hosted by WSU Environmental Finance Center and their local utility. The Work in Water Experience teaches students where drinking water comes from, how it is treated to meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements, what happens to wastewater after the flush, and how effluent is recycled back into our environment for use again downstream.

The Work in Water Experience classroom session rounds-out with a field trip to the local drinking water utility and/or water reclamation facility. It is here that students learn first-hand what it is like to work in the water industry, the importance of water service to public health, and the sense of satisfaction and fulfillment utility staff have for the work that they do in their community.

Since April 2016, more than 150 high school students and 17 counselors and teachers have participated in the Work in Water Experience. School counselors

Amanda Currie, Garden City Utilities’ Work in Water intern, participated in the new Fulton & Spencer Well start-up.
say that the program was valuable because students were able to learn about their local water utilities via real-life experience. Counselors also noted their appreciation of the local utility staff who took the time to tell students about their unique roles in public service and how their career path lead them to a career in water.

Work in Water is a program funded by an EPA Environmental Education Grant. The program is hosted by Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center (WSU EFC) in partnership with Kansas Section American Water Works Association (KsAWWA), Kansas Water Environment Association (KWEA), Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU), and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).
Young Scientist Wins Local & State Competitions with Water Quality Research

by Jerry Koukol, WaterOne

A local high school student’s innovative water science project has won local and state competitions and is going on to the national level, following a visit to WaterOne’s lab for her research. Ellie Green, a senior at Shawnee Mission East High School, completed the science project for her International Baccalaureate Chemistry class.

Her project, titled “Detection of Lead In Drinking Water Using Internally Referenced Competitive Assays Allowing Low Cost Source Sample Testing at 1 ug/L Reading Positive/Negative at Action Level,” exhibited and won awards at both the Greater Kansas City Science Fair and SMSD Research & Development Forum. The project went on to win the Stockholm Junior Water Prize at the Kansas level and is now competing at the national level.

To research her project, Ellie and her dad toured WaterOne’s Water Quality Lab where they interviewed staff and learned about the instrumentation and methods that are used to test for the presence of lead in water.

“We were excited to support Ellie and her research,” said Greg Totzke, water quality laboratory manager. “The field of water quality is so important, both here and all over the world. It’s inspiring to see bright young minds apply their talents to the subject, and we hope her project does well at the national competition.”
Members Enjoy Annual KsAWWA Luncheon at ACE17 in Philadelphia

by Terryl Pajor, KsAWWA Secretary/Treasurer

The KsAWWA luncheon, which is held each year during the AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE), was by all reports another successful event. The Continental Restaurant and Martini Bar in Old City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was the 2017 venue. The luncheon was held on Monday, June 12 at 11:30 a.m., immediately following the opening session of ACE17.

This is a great time for Kansas members, guests, and friends to gather before taking off in separate directions to attend the activity packed conference. Forty-seven diners experienced a unique menu served family style, and it appeared no one left hungry. Diners were served everything on the restaurant’s menu, which included hummus and pita, continental salad, grilled cheese sandwiches, tuna melt sandwiches, chicken satay skewers, turkey club sandwiches, and shoestring fries. For dessert, a tasting selection from the pastry chef was served.

The Kansas Section wishes to extend appreciation to Marc Pedrotti, R.E. Pedrotti, and Charlie Wheeler, Clear Water Equipment, LLC, for sponsoring the cocktails prior to lunch and Kelly Clark, Black & Veatch, for working with Section Manager Hank Corcoran Boyer to arrange another outstanding luncheon experience.
KsAWWA is now accepting credit card payments for workshops registrations.

When registering for a training class, you will need to include your credit card information with your application. The online registration process will soon be changed to reflect the additional information needed to complete your registration, complete with secure online processing.

You may call and give your information over the telephone, or you may still print the application and mail it with a check or your credit card information.

Be sure to let your utility (organization) know when you are registering for a class, and if they have questions, they may contact Ms. Hank Corcoran Boyer, section manager, at hboyer@cox.net or (785) 452-5706.
The KsAWWA research committee is having a bit of a reboot in 2017. In May, John Gilroy from the City of Olathe was appointed as the new committee chair. Following John’s appointment, Emily Tummons from Black & Veatch, Rachel Drain from Burns & McDonnell, Aurora Shields from Lawrence, Kansas Utilities, Mary Von Arb from Topeka, Kansas Utilities, Greg Totzke, WaterOne, and Frank Liu from Kansas City Board of Public Utilities all volunteered to join the committee. The committee plans to meet quarterly to exchange ideas on water quality issues that they believe are important to Kansas drinking water utilities and to discuss ongoing research regionally and nationally. As of this writing, the new members of this committee have not had an opportunity to meet but will look forward to convening in the third quarter of the year for the first formal meeting. The committee welcomes others to join that share this group’s interest in drinking water quality.

At the national level, Kansas utilities continue to receive accolades for their pro-active studies of algal toxins on the Kansas River. The Water Research Foundation recently published a paper written by Jeff Neemann from Black & Veatch titled, “Treatment of Cyanotoxins in Rivers and River Influenced Groundwater Under Ambient and Softened pH Conditions.” Many Kansas agencies sponsored and participated in this publication including City of Olathe, City of Topeka, Kansas Water Office, Water District #1, City of Lawrence, Kansas, and the Kansas Water Office. At the national AWWA research committee meeting held at the ACE17 conference in Philadelphia, this work was brought up again as a great topic for national AWWA to do a webinar.

The effort studying algal toxins in the Kansas River is just one example of how Kansas utilities continue to be leaders on the national drinking water scene. The KsAWWA research committee knows there are other significant efforts going on throughout the state to ensure that utility customers receive a reliable supply of high quality drinking water. Please feel free to reach out to this committee so that we can share our ideas and expertise across utilities. If there are topics of interest to the KsAWWA community, we plan to voice those interests to the national AWWA research committee and the Water Research Foundation.

If you are interested in joining the committee please contact the chair by email at jpgilroy@olatheks.org or by phone at (913) 971-8381.
KsAWWA Membership Opportunities Include Rewards for Referrals, Special Offers

You know AWWA provides the best technical resources and networking opportunities in the water sector. Refer a colleague and/or friend by the end of the year and get rewarded for each person that joins.

To be eligible for rewards, make sure your name and email address are included on the membership application of each person you refer. More members mean more connections and resources for you!

Share the benefits of membership and earn rewards!

Here are the rewards you can earn by referring a member to AWWA through the end of the year:

» Refer one member, receive an annual commemorative lapel pin.

» Refer two members, receive an AWWA ear bud set.

» Refer three to five members in a quarter, receive a $25 gift card.

» Refer six or more members in a quarter, receive a $50 gift card.

For every member you refer, you will also be entered into the grand prize drawing for a chance to win $1,000 or complimentary registration and accommodations for ACE18 in Las Vegas!

Track your referrals!

You can keep track of all the members you refer to AWWA in “My Account” under Membership at http://www.awwa.org.

Membership Special Offers

Share membership special offers with colleagues and friends. Visit http://www.awwa.org/KnowWater to view the current offers.
2017

9th Annual Joint Conference
WATER / WASTEWATER

August 29-31
Hyatt Regency • Wichita, KS
## Joint Conference Overview

### Monday, Aug. 28, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Golf Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser (Joint Event)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Auburn Hills Golf Course&lt;br&gt;11:00 a.m. – Check-in and lunch&lt;br&gt;12:00 p.m. – Shotgun start, four-person scramble&lt;br&gt;Proceeds to KWEA Scholarship Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Sporting Clays Shoot (Joint Event)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lynbrooke Sporting Clays&lt;br&gt;11:30 a.m. – Check-in, lunch, and practice rounds&lt;br&gt;1:00 p.m. – Shoot begins&lt;br&gt;Proceeds to Water for People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Exhibitor Setup</strong></td>
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### Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Exhibitor Setup</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Joint YP Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration Open&lt;br&gt;Opening Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Exhibits Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m. – Noon</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>KWEA Luncheon – Industrial and Service Awards, Scholarships, SSSSS Induction&lt;br&gt;KsAWWA Luncheon – Annual Business Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Technical Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>KsAWWA Best Tasting Tap Water Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Environmental Excellence Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Technical Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Joint Meet &amp; Greet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 – 10:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Social Event at Wichita Wingnuts Baseball Game (Pre-Registration Required)</td>
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### Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>KsAWWA OTC Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>KWEA Board &amp; Committee Chair Breakfast &amp; Annual Business Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>KWEA Golden Manhole Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Exhibits Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Technical Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m. – Noon</td>
<td>Concurrent Technical Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>KWEA Luncheon – Plant, Collections, Crystal Crucible, Safety, Biosolids Awards; Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Technical Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Hydrant Hysteria Demonstration</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Backhoe Rodeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Water for People Silent Auction Closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Technical Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 – 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Joint Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Joint Annual Awards Banquet</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 – 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>KWEA SSSSS Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 – 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>KsAWWA Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Technical Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Technical Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Conference Adjournment and Prize Drawing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>KWEA ABC Testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Collections, Distribution, Plant Maintenance, Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>KDHE Water &amp; Wastewater Operations Testing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AWWA Vice President Stephen Blankenship to Attend Joint Conference in Wichita

Stephen Blankenship will join us at the 9th Annual KWEA/KsAWWA Joint Conference in Wichita on Aug. 29-31, 2017. Blankenship is the executive director/chief engineer for Hamilton Township MUA in Mays Landing, New Jersey, where he has been employed since 2000. He has also been an active member of the New Jersey Section AWWA since joining in 2000.

Blankenship holds a B.S. in civil engineering, professional engineering licenses in three states, a professional planner license in New Jersey, a certified municipal engineer certification, and all four NJDEP operator licenses.

DOES YOUR WATER TASTE GOOD ENOUGH TO ELIMINATE THE LEMON?

IF SO, YOU SHOULD ENTER THE KsAWWA WATER TASTING CONTEST.

ANNUAL KsAWWA BEST TASTING TAP WATER CONTEST

WICHITA HYATT/CENTURY II
AUGUST 29, 2017

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES WITH MS. HANK CORCORAN BOYER, SECTION MANAGER, AT THE EXHIBIT REGISTRATION DESK BY 10 A.M. ON AUGUST 29, 2017.
NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

WICHITA WINGNUTS BASEBALL
MEET & GREET

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017
Lawrence-Dumont Stadium

Open Event for All Joint Conference Participants:

- Hard Ball Café private seating area
- All-you-can-eat catered barbecue buffet plus drink tickets
- Game ticket
- Promotional T-shirt
- Between innings event participation with the Diamond Dolls

Pre-registration is REQUIRED. Visit kswaterwastewater.com for details.
2017 Water for People Membership Drive and Fundraising Opportunities

by Tony O’Malley, KsAWWA Water for People Chair

The Kansas Section AWWA (KsAWWA), along with the Kansas Water Environment Association (KWEA), need your help to continue to grow and strengthen our outreach programs in support of Water for People (WFP). Across the state, many of you have mobilized to raise money for Water for People with events such as WaterOne and the City of Olathe’s hosting of the second annual Tower 2 Tower 5K run/walk on Saturday, May 6, to celebrate National Drinking Water Week. Register at http://www.tower2tower5k.org.

There are several ways you can participate as we prepare for the annual conference:

» Make a financial donation: 100% of the donation from you and/or your company will be passed on to Water for People to provide much needed support as they complete the mission.

» Make an item donation for auction KsAWWA / KWEA joint annual conference: 100% of the proceeds from you and/or your company will be passed on to Water for People to provide much needed support as they complete the mission.

» Participate in the Water for People sporting clays shoot on Aug. 28: 100% of the net proceeds from you and/or your company contribution will be directed to Water for People. Register by mail or online through the conference website: http://www.kswaterwastewater.com.

» Volunteer to serve on the Water for People committee: Contact the committee chair (see page 32). The WFP committee is available to provide public education seminars, disperse educational literature, host fundraising auctions, and organize the sporting clays shoot.

All donors will be recognized at the conference and in publication. Donation receipts will be provided for tax purposes. Additionally, donations greater than $500 will receive a special Water for People certificate suitable for framing. All donors will receive a tax deductible receipt for via email.

“Water for People” is a nonprofit organization with a focus of providing clean, safe drinking water for the people in third-world countries. With your support we can make a difference for this noble humanitarian outreach that saves lives each and every day. http://www.waterforpeople.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us and/or let us know what you can do to help.

Please either send your donation to Hank Boyer at the address below, or send an email to let us know that you will bring a donation to the conference.
Donations may be mailed to:

**KsAWWA - Water for People**  
P.O. Box 3046  
Salina, KS 67402-3046

The 2017 KsAWWA and KWEA joint conference will be in Wichita, Kansas, Aug. 29–31. Join us a day early on Monday, Aug. 28 for the sporting clays shoot and barbecue lunch at Lynbrooke Sporting Clays near Augusta (see registration form on page 33). This will be a great opportunity for companies and individuals committed to the water and wastewater industry to gather, see what is new, visit with colleagues, and to learn more about Water for People.

Thank you in advance for any contribution you can make. Pick up of donations is also available.

**Tony O’Malley**  
Volunteer Chairman, KsAWWA Water For People  
c/o Larkin Lamp Rynearson  
9001 State Line Rd., Ste. 200  
Kansas City, MO 64114

(816) 823-7282 office  
(816) 830-1683 cell  
Tony.OMalley@LRA-Inc.com
Sporting Clays Shoot – Water for People Fundraiser

Monday, Aug. 28, 2017

Regardless of your shooting skills, all are welcome to join in on the fun for the 2017 annual KsAWWA and KWEA “Water for People” sporting clays shoot. Shooters, spectators, and hecklers alike will be able to share in the fun, camaraderie, and best of all - knowing we are raising money for a great cause! Shooting is on an individual basis, and prizes are awarded at random. Skill is not a prerequisite. We require only that all have a good sense of humor and that we all have a safe time.

Place
Lynbrooke Sporting Clays
1419 SW 120th Street
Augusta, KS 67010
316-775-1715
www.lynbrooke.com

Time
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Lunch, Registration, and Practice Rounds

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Sporting Clays Shooting

Registration
Pre-registration is required!
Please indicate 1 or 2 practice rounds.
Practice rounds are optional.

Cost
50 bird sporting clays – $45 per round*
Trap (25 bird) – $12 per round* (0/1/2)

* $30 per sporting clay round and $2 per practice round will be donated to Water for People

Shooter’s Name       Date
----------------------
Organization
----------------------
Email       Phone Number       Fax Number
----------------------
Indicate: Novice or Experienced
Practice Rounds ( 0 / 1 / 2 )
Amount Enclosed

Please register early and enclose check payment to:
KsAWWA – Water for People
P.O. Box 3046
Salina, KS 67402

Please bring your own gun, ear protection, and ammunition. If you don’t own a gun or you have questions, please contact:

Tony O’Malley
816-830-1683
tony.omalley@lra-inc.com

Lunch and beverages will be provided by UCI Industrial Construction Services—David Odell.
Gimmicks & Gadgets Competition

The 2017 Gimmicks & Gadgets competition is approaching! Competition is open to ALL areas of the environmental field: collection systems, safety, laboratory, pretreatment, plant operations and maintenance, and biosolids. KWEA is promoting this competition within the environmental field which provides an opportunity for you and/or your co-worker(s) to present your innovative ideas, devices, or procedures to your fellow operators and workers that save time and money, is safe, and helps improve your tasks (see entry requirements).

**The Prizes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Prize</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>$100</td>
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In addition, all entries that place receive a one-year membership to KWEA.

**The Purpose**

We want to provide a forum for you to share your ideas and win a prize in the process. So grab your idea, device, or procedure and submit your entry online by Aug. 4, 2017 at [http://kswaterwastewater.com/events.html](http://kswaterwastewater.com/events.html)

We look forward to seeing your entry!

**Submit To**

**Josh Tedder**

Black & Veatch  
8400 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
913-458-3685  
tedderjl@bv.com

"Probe Guide" – City of El Dorado
MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual KWEA / KsAWWA Joint Annual Conference</th>
<th>AWWA Annual Conference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichita Hyatt Regency / Century II</td>
<td>June 11-15, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28 – August 31</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 9 – 12, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel</td>
<td>June 14-17, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 27 – August 30</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>June 13-16, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topeka Capitol Plaza Hotel</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
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<td>August 26 – August 29</td>
<td>June 12-15, 2022</td>
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<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 11-14, 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toronto, Canada</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KsAWWA Board of Trustees Meetings</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 11, 2017</td>
<td>Teleconference</td>
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