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SUMMER 2024

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Providing resources and a network for Kansas to responsibly manage water

AWWA Vice President Christine Spitzley to Visit Annual Joint Conference in Wichita

A Spartan with a B.S. in urban and regional planning, Christine Spitzley has spent her career building her expertise in water, infrastructure, transportation, economic development, housing, and environmental projects. She is the director of the Michigan Section AWWA and an AWWA vice president.

A principal at OHM Advisors, she serves as a liaison between the water, environment, engineering, and planning groups. She connects these teams, identifying unique project synergies and opportunities.

Spitzley's superpowers are networking and collaboration. Her professional passion is to create and implement strategies for

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American Water Works Association
Kansas Section

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News from the Chair

by Jim Jackson, KsAWWA Chair

We are just a little over a month away from the 15th Annual Joint Conference, and I can say without a doubt the conference committee has been making sure this year's conference will be a success. The planning for the conference started shortly after the completion of the 2023 conference and has been picking up speed as we get closer to Aug. 27, 2024. I want to thank John Gilroy and Steve Nirschl on all their time and effort they have put into reviewing the call for abstracts, selecting the papers that will be presented, getting moderators signed up for the presentations, and so many more items that make the conference the best water sector conference in the state. John and Steve will tell you that without the guidance from Hank Boyer and Tina Leitzel, the road to a great conference would have been a lot harder and bumpier.

One of the best parts of the joint conference is the people. What makes water people so special? Kansas water people are always ready to lend a hand, offer advice, show support, listen, enjoy their water roles, and they are the many volunteers who will make the water sector even stronger for years to come. There are numerous committees always looking for volunteers to offer the experience and knowledge to assist water utilities and their staff in providing "Water for a resilient Kansas" (KsAWWA's vision). Volunteers are critical to the continued success of the Kansas Section. As you begin to make plans to attend this year's conference, look around your utility and see if there is someone who would be a great addition to the Kansas AWWA family and invite them to attend with you.

As my term as the Kansas chair is coming to an end, I want to thank the many people who have lent me a hand, offered me advice, showed and offered me support, listened to me, enjoyed our water family with me, and continue to volunteer as we continue to make the Kansas Section strong and successful as we near 80 years as a standalone section.

Thank you!

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

Section Manager's Report

by Hank Corcoran Boyer, KsAWWA Section Manager

It is true! The older you get the faster time does fly! I know every day has 24 hours, each week 7 days, and each year has 365 days with leap year having 366 (which means I have one more day to do things). But do you remember waiting for your birthday or Christmas when you were a kid? It is like it never would come but as you got older you hardly get done with Christmas and it is time to start preparing for next year. It is the same way with the joint conference. Tina and I breathe a sigh of relief on Thursday afternoon of the conference only to start on the next year's conference almost before we have completely closed out the current year.

The 15th Annual Joint Conference is fast approaching, and we are in high gear to get things completed before we arrive at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 25, 2024. Every year, the conference seems to grow opportunities for our exhibitors, attendees, and sponsors. This year we added an additional sponsorship level—Amenities Sponsor. This sponsorship is our expo hall video board sponsor with their logo and name always prominently displayed as well as our beverage sponsor with appropriate signage at the refreshment table in the expo hall. We want to give a shout-out to Crossland Heavy Contractors for being this year's Amenities Sponsor. This year PEC and Garver are the Diamond Sponsors and will be hosting your evening activities in the Riverview Ballroom on Tuesday and Wednesday evening after the conference functions are complete. All of our sponsors will have appropriate signage around the conference, so when you see one of them please thank them for their sponsorship and the benefit it provides to make the conference special.

Let's not forget the friendly competitions which are held each year. If you are a meter reader/operator and would like to test your skills against other readers/operators in the state of Kansas, sign up for the Meter Madness competition; then there is the Hydrant Hysteria competition where you compete against other utility operators by seeing how fast you can put a fire hydrant together. And then there is always the Backhoe Rodeo competition, Environmental Excellence competition, and the Operator Challenge. For those lab people who believe they have the best tasting water in the state, you can enter the Best Tasting Water contest and have your water judged by professionals against other water in the state. See information in this issue (page 16) on the Best Tasting Water competition.

To echo what Chair Jim Jackson said, "...look around at those water professionals you work with and

invite them to attend the conference with you." The networking opportunities at the conference are one of the best things to happen at the conference. Networking is second only to the many educational/training sessions presented by professionals in the water industry. It is two and a half days of listening, talking, and interacting with people who do the same thing you do throughout the state of Kansas.

In closing, I want to extend a thank you to everyone who has volunteered to present a paper, moderate a session or two, and help plan and organize this year's joint conference both on the KsAWWA side and the KWEA side. Without us working together we wouldn't have this class of conference. It takes a village to put on a conference.

See you in Wichita, Kansas, Aug. 27–29, 2024!

continued from page 1

communities and utilities that are sustainable and economical. She believes success comes from building strong relationships and viewing projects through the lens of the long-term impact.

One of Spitzley's favorite professional experiences is the years she spent collaborating with the Groundwater Foundation in Lincoln, Nebraska. She once wrote an article titled "What Nebraska gave Michigan" in recognition of Nebraska's leadership in groundwater protection.

Director's Report

by Martha Tasker, KsAWWA Director

I attended the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Board of Directors meeting in Anaheim, California, prior to attending ACE 2024.

Attendance was 11,166 (8.4% over last year).

Membership Update

Membership in AWWA provides value to its members in many ways: 1) publications, 2) online resources, 3) discounts, 4) networking, and 5) education. Each members' dedication, contributions, and their work for advancing public health by ensuring communities have access to safe and clean water is the strength of the AWWA.

The Kansas Section is included in the small category and includes 251–700 members. There are 11 sections in the small category. The goal is to have a 1% annual growth. The Kansas Section membership is at a negative 1.0% growth, refer to history below:

- December 2022 – 456 members
- December 2023 – 470 members
- April 2024 – 460 members

The AWWA Association membership goal is 50,000 and is currently at 50,213.

Water 2050

Water 2050 is a collaborative initiative to envision the future of water and chart a course for future success and sustainability. A total of 47 recommended actions were developed for the water community with the following themes:

- Create a one-water ecosystem.
- Climate resilience.
- Financial sustainability.
- Equity, affordability, and access.
- Optimize efficiency to create a circular economy.
- Advance innovations.
- Community engagement and empowerment
- Collaboration and partnerships.

The themes and recommendations are a starting point from which more detailed action items will be developed through future events and discussions, scientific research, published works, policy and development, and partnerships.

The path forward includes strategic actions to implement Water 2050 over the next year, transitioning ideas into actions. AWWA will take a three-pronged

approach: Validate, Engage, and Mobilize. To summarize, we must 1) start with the end in mind, 2) chart a course, and 3) set sail and run this course.

> "For Water 2050 to reach its potential, it needs your VOICE."
> – AWWA CEO David LaFrance.

If you, someone you know, or an organization you recommend want to be a part of this journey, contact the Water 2050 Team at: Water2050@awwa.org.

Refer to the website below for additional information: https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Water-2050.

AWWA/AMWA "File petition for review" of New PFAS Rule

On June 7, 2024, AWWA and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) filed a petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Final PFAS Drinking Water Rule.

AWWA and AMWA share EPA's goal of protecting public health. The associations are concerned however, that the EPA did not reply on the best available science and the most recent occurrence data and used novel approaches as the basis for portions of the rule. The petitioners believe the rule underestimates nationwide costs and adds to the affordability challenges without achieving the public health outcomes we all seek. Refer to the website below for additional information:

https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/PFAS.

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AWWA 2030 Strategic Plan

AWWA's 2030 Strategic Plan was approved at the Board of Director's meeting prior to ACE 2024. Once published, the Kansas Section will need to review our current strategic plan for conformance with AWWA's plan. This plan is intended to be a long-term plan to help guide the board of directors, board officers, and AWWA staff and continues AWWA's vision of "A Better World Through Better Water," stressing the importance of strong collaboration between the Association and its Sections. It continues to focus on the members' value experience, using transformational technology to expand the sharing of AWWA information, best practices, and innovative solutions. It recognizes the importance of bringing international experiences to AWWA members through AWWA's global role of sharing professional content with the world. Recognizing that AWWA members serve an exceptionally diverse customer base, the Plan builds upon AWWA's culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging to provide members with knowledge to use in serving their unique communities. Additionally, having successfully come through an economically challenging time, the Plan stresses maintaining AWWA's financial health and investing in the organization. Building blocks from the Water 2050 are incorporated into the 2030 Plan.

Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions

EPA's final Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule Revisions include important revisions reflecting AWWA's recommendations. The rule will provide more time for systems to come into compliance, allow most systems to present the same CCR twice per year, rather than two novel CCRs, and not constrain water systems' ability to say their water is safe. Refer to the website below for additional information:

https://www.epa.gov/ccr/consumer-confidence-report-rule-revisions.

Celebrating 50 Years of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)

Dec. 16, 1974, the SDWA was signed into law to protect public health by authorizing national enforceable standards for drinking water quality. For 50 years, this federal legislation has been a key driver in safeguarding the quality of potable water that is essential to daily life. During this last 50 years, the SDWA has kept up with the changing times and evolving science and has been updated several times to address emerging threats. Refer to the website below for additional information.

https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Celebrating-50-years-of-the-safe-drinking-water-act.

Martha Tasker
martha.tasker@salina.org

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Johnson Presented With George Warren Fuller Award at ACE24

by Hank Corcoran Boyer, KsAWWA Section Manager

Durward Johnson (DJ), KCK BPU, was presented with the George Warren Fuller Award at ACE24 in Anaheim, California, in June 2024.

The George Warren Fuller Award is awarded to the section's individual who most exemplifies what Fuller stood for and what he did for AWWA.

> *"Little can be said about George Warren Fuller without recalling a thousand and one connections which he has had with sanitary engineering practice in this country and abroad. Amazingly active mentally, he always catalyzed those individuals who were fortunate enough to work with him. An enthusiasm, tempered by seasoned judgment and reinforced by a remarkable technical knowledge, accounting for the fact that his name is identified with almost every important sanitary advance in this country in the last four decades . . . Many, however, are born at the right time who are either ill equipped or are lacking in sufficient vision to make the most of that good fortune. In Mr. Fuller's case, heredity, and environmental influence, coupled with remarkable energy, all contributed to the development of a practitioner of outstanding stature. He will be remembered long in the future, as much for his distinctive personal characteristics as for his long list of contributions to sanitary science and practice."*

So wrote Abel Wolman editorially in *Municipal Sanitation* after Fuller's death June 15, 1934.

Durward Johnson is pictured with AWWA Past President Patrick Kerr (left) and AWWA Chief Executive Officer David LaFrance (right).

Ballot for KsAWWA 2024 Election

by Michelle Wirth, Nominating Committee Chair

According to the KsAWWA Administrative Guidelines, the KsAWWA Nominating Committee is to report its recommendations on candidates to the entire membership of the Section at least thirty days prior to the Section's annual business meeting. This year's Nominating Committee consisted of Michelle Wirth, Katie Miller, Andrew Hansen, Martha Tasker, Jim Jackson, and John Gilroy.

The ballot for the upcoming election is below. Names in bold are individuals the committee is recommending to fill the positions indicated next to their name.

2024 BALLOT

Director	Martha Tasker, City of Salina
Chair	John Gilroy, Black & Veatch
Chair-Elect	Steve Nirschl, KCK BPU
Vice Chair	**Fred Jones, City of Garden City**
Past Chair	Jim Jackson, USG Water Solutions
Secretary/Treasurer	**Brandon Sisk, KCK BPU**
Trustee 2nd Year	Tonya Bronleewe, WSU EFC
Trustee 2nd Year	Derek Patrick, HDR
Trustee 2nd Year	**Jacob Schultze, Black & Veatch** (filling Fred Jones' unexpired term)
Trustee 1st Year	**Steven Craig, City of Lawrence**
Trustee 1st Year	**Darci Meese, WaterOne**
Trustee 1st Year	**Cathy Tucker-Vogel, KDHE**

2024 15th ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE

August 27–29 • Wichita, KS

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Joint Conference Overview

Friday, Aug. 23, 2024

11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	**Sporting Clays Shoot** *(Proceeds to Water For People)* Powder Creek Shooting Park (Lenexa, KS) 11:30 a.m. – Registration and lunch 1:00 p.m. – Shoot begins

Monday, Aug. 26, 2024

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	**Golf Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser** *(Proceeds to KWEA Scholarship Fund)* Auburn Hills Golf Course 11:00 a.m. – Check-in and lunch 12:00 p.m. – Shotgun start, four-person scramble
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	**Exhibitor Setup**

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Registration Open
8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Session
10:30 a.m. – Noon	Exhibitor Hour & Refreshment Break
10:45 a.m.	KWEA Annual Business Meeting
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	KsAWWA Awards & Annual Business Meeting Luncheon KWEA Awards Luncheon
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	Student Poster Competition
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Best Tasting Tap Water Contest
1:30 – 5:00 p.m.	New Wichita Northwest Water Treatment Plant Tour
1:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Sessions
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Environmental Excellence Competition
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	All-Conference Exhibitor Meet & Greet *Drink tickets provided + cash bar; door prizes*
7:00 – 11:00 p.m.	All-Conference Social Event Hosted by PEC

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	KsAWWA OTC Breakfast Meeting KWEA Board & Committee Chair Breakfast KWEA Golden Manhole Society Breakfast
7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Registration Open
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Operators Challenge
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Sessions
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Refreshment Break
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Joint Luncheon
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Meter Madness
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Hydrant Hysteria
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.	White Crow Cidery Tour
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Backhoe Rodeo
3:15 p.m.	Water For People Silent Auction Closes
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Joint Awards Banquet Reception
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Joint Awards Banquet
8:00 – 11:00 p.m.	All-Conference Social Event Hosted by Garver

Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.	KsAWWA Breakfast KWEA SSSSS Breakfast
7:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Registration Open
8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Concurrent Technical Sessions
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Refreshment Break
12:15 p.m.	Conference Adjournment & Prize Drawing
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	KWEA ABC Testing KDHE Certification Testing

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ANNUAL KsAWWA BEST TASTING TAP WATER CONTEST

Hyatt Regency & Century II Convention Center
August 27, 2024

Submit entries to Ms. Hank Corcoran Boyer, KsAWWA Section Manager, at the exhibitor registration desk by 10 a.m. on August 27.

Official Judging: August 27 at 1:30 p.m.

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Water For People helps people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities, and health and hygiene education programs.

Our vision is a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, a world where no one suffers or dies from a water or sanitation-related disease.

water for people
EVERYONE • FOREVER

1. **We believe in people.**
   We believe in the dignity of all people and that access to safe drinking water and effective sanitation are basic human rights.

2. **We keep it local.**
   We believe that drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene problems are most effectively solved using local resources.

3. **We keep good company.**
   We believe in the power of partnerships. We search out trusted partners who share our vision and work together to build Long-term relationships based on trust.

4. **We keep our promises.**
   We believe we owe it to the communities we serve, our volunteers, staff, and donors to keep our promises and manage our resources effectively and efficiently.

SHARE THE GIFT OF WATER... THE GIFT OF LIFE

More than 60 committees throughout North America support Water For People's mission through community outreach, advocacy, and fundraising. These volunteer groups are subgroups of their parent organizations, including American Water Works Association sections and Water Environment Federation member associations.

CONTACT: Andrew Hansen, Kansas Water For People Chair, (913) 458-3417, hansenaj@bv.com

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

2024 KWEA / KsAWWA Joint Conference • August 27–29 • Wichita, KS

The annual will be here before we know it, and we need your help to raise funds. The need for Water For People's mission and work continues to increase in developing countries around the world.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Make a financial donation – 100% of the your donation will be passed directly to Water For People to help bring clean water and sanitation solutions to communities in need for generations to come.

Make an item donation to the conference silent auction – 100% of the proceeds will be sent to Water For Peopel to provide much needed support as work toward their mission.

Participate in the Water For People Sporting Clays Shoot – 100% of the net proceeds from this fundraiser will be passed on to Water For People. Invite your coworkers or vendors to join you!

Volunteer to serve on the Water For People Committee – The WFP Committee provides public education seminars, disperse educational literature, host fundraisers, and organize the sporting clays shoot.

All donors will be recognized at the conference and in publication. Donation receipts will be provided via email for tax purposes. Additionally, donations greater than $250 will receive a special Water For People certificate suitable for framing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us and/or let us know how you would like to help. Please send your donation to Hank Boyer at the address below or send an email and let us know that you will bring your donation to the conference.

Kansas Section AWWA – Water for People
P.O. Box 3046
Salina, KS 67402-3046
hboyer@cox.net

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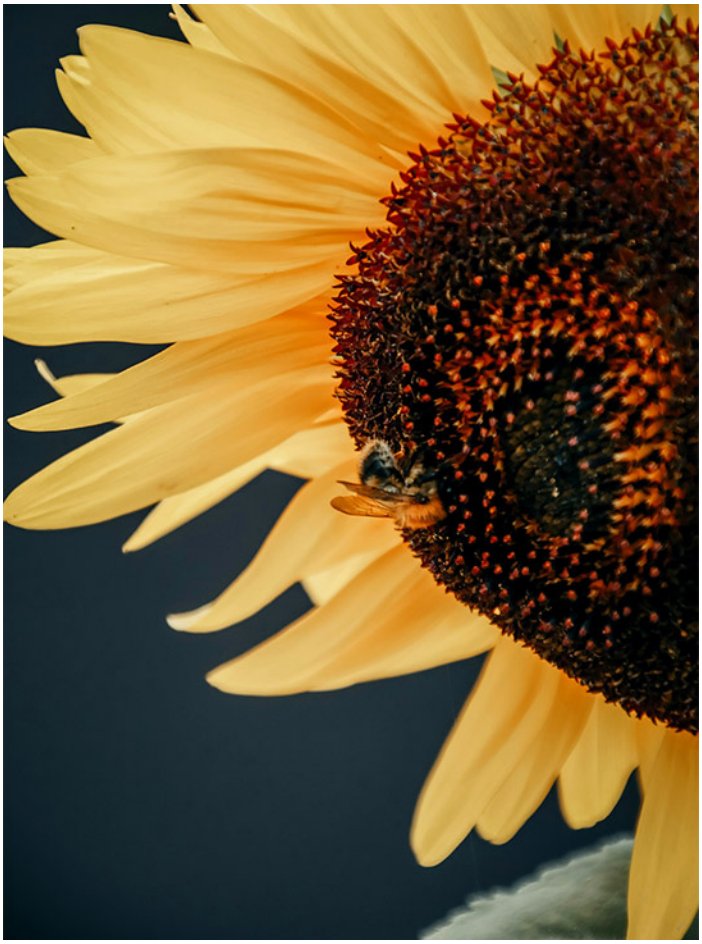

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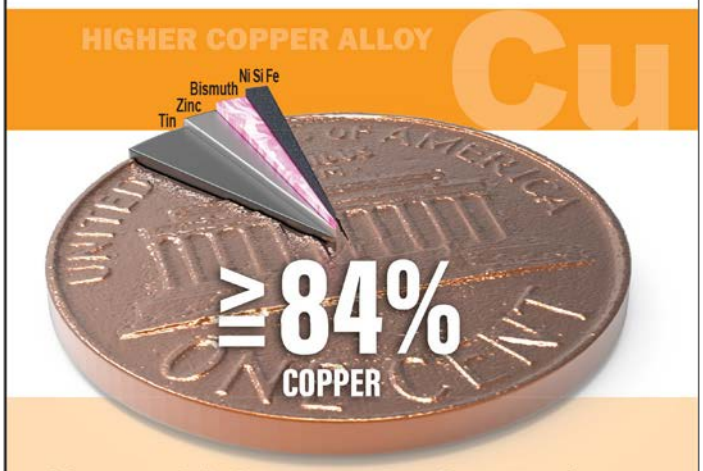

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NOW HIRING

Are You Hiring?

Bring a position description for the job board at the joint conference, and be sure to pick up a "We're Hiring" ribbon for your badge.

2024 CLAYS SHOOT

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
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Lead and Copper

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- LCRR Inventory
- LCRI Verification Process
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WHY CHOOSE US?

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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 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	Philadelphia, PA

KsAWWA Meetings

August 9, 2024	Board & Committee Meeting
August 27, 2024	Annual Meeting

American Water Works Association
KansasSection