

# UPDATE

### Meetings & Events

*Oklahoma Legislature  
Convenes  
February 7, 2005*

*ORWA Legislative  
Conference  
March 2005  
State Capitol Building*

*ORWA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Meeting and  
Technical Conference  
April 11-13, 2005  
Marriott Southern Hills  
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

*Rural Water Rally  
April 17-19, 2005  
Hyatt Regency  
Capitol Hill  
Washington, DC*

*NRWA Annual  
Management &  
Technical Conference  
October 9-12, 2005  
Sacramento, CA*

### LEGISLATION

Rural water districts and small communities should be prepared this year for another Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) assault on the USDA Rural Development (RD) Rural Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program. Indications are that the OML will pursue legislation, similar to Senate Bill 898 and Senate Bill 1258, that would eliminate vital RD funding for water and wastewater projects in Oklahoma. The OML contends that the Rural Development Loan and Grant Program violates the state constitution because it grants an exclusive franchise for the term of the federal loan. Federal Circuit Courts have ruled that the federal law does not give Rural Development borrowers an exclusive right to serve, but that has not deterred OML's efforts to kill the program. At risk are \$20 million to \$30 million a year in federal funding for water and wastewater projects. With an estimated \$3 billion in water and wastewater infrastructure needs, it is critically important that we work diligently to preserve this vital program, which has provided over one-half billion dollars in loans and grants to Oklahoma water and wastewater systems since 1963.

Water purchase contracts and water rates

are another area of concern for the many rural water districts and small communities in Oklahoma that purchase water from another water system. ORWA tried to work with the OML on these issues during the legislative interim. Unfortunately, OML was not responsive in trying to work out a fair and reasonable resolution to water contract problems. We are not aware of any legislation that may be introduced relating to water contracts, but we will be monitoring bills for any provisions that may adversely affect water purchase contract and how water rates are set.

The First Session of the 50<sup>th</sup> Legislature will convene Monday, February 7, 2005. There are over 40 new members in the House and Senate who will have limited knowledge on water and wastewater issues. We encourage you to get to know your elected representatives and begin the process of developing a good working relationship.

ORWA is reviewing pre-filed bills as they become available. We will keep our members updated on bills pertinent to the operation and funding for your water or wastewater system.

### FLEET VEHICLE PURCHASE PROGRAM

When ORWA member systems and associate members need a new vehicle be sure to check out the Rural Water Fleet Vehicle Purchase Program. Members who have participated in the program are saving thousands of dollars on the vehicles of their choice. The purchasing process is simple, and as dealers and our members become more familiar with the program ordering will be even easier.

We would like to hear from you. Please call or e-mail us at [gwhatley@okruralwater.org](mailto:gwhatley@okruralwater.org) and let us know about your experience with the Fleet Vehicle Purchase Program. Please also contact us if you are having problems or need assistance in ordering a vehicle.

### ORWA REGIONAL MEETINGS

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who attended the ORWA Regional Meetings held last November in Kingfisher, Lawton, Broken Arrow and McAlester. These meetings are very beneficial to ORWA in providing an open forum for discussing programs, services and initiatives and receiving input from our members. We hope those in attendance also found them informative and useful. Your assistance in planning future ORWA Regional Meetings would be appreciated. Please let us know if you would like a regional meeting in your area and what issues are of primary interest to you.





For emergency calls after office hours, nights, weekends and holidays, contact Gene Whatley at 405/794-0841



## RURAL WATER PUBLIC RELATIONS

Work on the Rural Water Public Relations Campaign has begun. Smith and Associates has completed a survey of ORWA member systems to determine your perceptions and expectations for your systems. A survey of system customers will be going out soon. Information gathered through these surveys will be evaluated by the ORWA Public Relations Committee and used to develop our marketing and education strategy. We appreciate your cooperation in completing the surveys.

Member support for the public relations campaign has been great. As of December 22<sup>nd</sup>, over \$39,000.00 in voluntary contributions have been received for the public relations campaign. Another \$21,000.00 has been generated by the portion of the regular ORWA membership fee that is dedicated to public relations. Thank you for your generous support.



## ORWEF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOTICE

The Oklahoma Rural Water Enrichment Foundation is honored to announce the offering of scholarship opportunities, for the 2005/2006 scholastic year, to ORWA member system employees, directors, and their dependent children or grandchildren. The scholarship program was organized for the purposes of promoting the higher education of students from rural areas, by granting scholarships for continuing educational opportunities to eligible participants.

The 2005/2006 ORWEF scholarship application form will only be mailed to ORWA member system offices. Please reproduce and distribute copies of the application form to all interested directors, council members and employees. ORWA Board Members or their family members are not eligible to participate. Please refer to the official rules on the application form for details. The amount of each scholarship will be determined by available funding.

Applications will be due at the ORWEF offices by March 1, 2005. Scholarship recipients will be notified by mail in late spring 2005. Thank you for your continued support and patronage.

*Please go on line at [www.okruralwater.org](http://www.okruralwater.org) for an application  
or call 405/672-8925*

# MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS T R A I N I N G

## BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

Rural water district board members can fulfill their six hour statutory training requirement by attending one of the training sessions listed below. Board member training is also approved by DEQ to fulfill renewal training for operators. All sessions are evening sessions, unless otherwise indicated, lasting from 6:30PM till 9:30PM for two consecutive nights unless otherwise stated.

|  |                 |   |           |
|--|-----------------|---|-----------|
| January 18-19, 2005  | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Bryan Co. RWD #5, 9077 US Hwy 70 W                  | Mead      |
| January 18-19, 2005  | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Atoka Co. RWD #4, 211 E Hwy 3                       | Atoka     |
| January 25-26, 2005  | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Kiamichi Tech Center, 301 Kiamichi Dr.              | McAlester |
| February 1-2, 2005   | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Okfuskee County Barn, Hwy 25 in Okemah              | Okemah    |
| February 7-8, 2005   | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Verdigris Fire Protection Dist., 25707 S Hwy 66     | Claremore |
| March 9, 2005  | 8:30 AM-4:00 AM | Red Star Brethren in Christ Church, Hwy 34 & 47 Jct | Leedey    |
| March 15-16, 2005  | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Onapa RWD #2, 5000 S Old Hwy 69                     | Checotah  |
| March 21-22, 2005  | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | City Hall, 120 Broadway Ave.                        | Ketchum   |
| April 12, 2005   | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM | Marriott Hotel, 1902 E 71st Street                  | Tulsa     |
| <b>3 hours credit in the Morning and 3 hours credit in the Afternoon</b> |                 |   |           |
| April 13, 2005   | 8:00 AM-1:00 PM | Marriott Hotel, 1902 E 71st Street                  | Tulsa     |
| <b>4 hours credit</b>  |                 |   |           |

## OPERATOR RENEWAL CLASSES

|  |                  |                                    |           |
|--|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| January 18, 2005   | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | City Hall, 310 Franklin St         | Healdton  |
| January 19, 2005   | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM | Fire Station, 300 N Main           | Cashion   |
| January 19, 2005   | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Atoka Co. RWD #4, 211 E Hwy 3      | Atoka     |
| January 25, 2005   | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM | City Hall, 900 Morgan Square       | Kaw City  |
| February 9, 2005   | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | City Hall, 230 S Hyden             | Stratford |
| February 24, 2005  | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | City Hall, 200 S Broadway          | Tipton    |
| March 7, 2005  | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | City Hall, 202 W Main              | Hominy    |
| March 15, 2005   | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM | Town Hall, 200 N Main              | Ringwood  |
| April 12, 2005   | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM  | Marriott Hotel, 1902 E 71st Street | Tulsa     |
| <b>3 hours credit in the Morning and 3 hours credit in the Afternoon</b> |                  |                                    |           |
| April 13, 2005   | 8:00 AM-1:00 PM  | Marriott Hotel, 1902 E 71st Street | Tulsa     |
| <b>4 hours credit</b>  |                  |                                    |           |

All Lab Classes REQUIRE pre-registration, please call the ORWA office at 405/672-8925 to register.

## CLASS "A" & "B" WATER LAB CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Test Place Date & Time

|                     |  |         |                                    |
|---------------------|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| January 24-27, 2005 | Water Treatment Plant, 1627 City Lake Rd | Ardmore | S OK Tech Center, 1-27-05, 3:00 PM |
|---------------------|--|---------|------------------------------------|

## CLASS "D" WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Test Place Date & Time

|                             |   |              |                                      |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 17-18, 2004         | Red River Tech Center, 3300 W. Bois D'Arc   | Duncan       | Tech Center 1-18-05 4:00PM           |
| January 31-February 1, 2005 | Autry Tech Center, 1201 W Willow Rd         | Enid         | Tech Center, 2-1-05, 4:00 PM         |
| February 14-15, 2005        | Broken Bow Water Plant, HWY 259 & Dam Rd.   | Broken Bow   | Broken Bow Library, 2-15-05, 4:00 PM |
| February 28-March 1, 2005   | Tri-County Tech Center, 6101 Nowata Rd      | Bartlesville | Tech Center, 3-1-05, 4:00 PM         |
| March 14-15, 2005           | Mid-America Tech Center, Hwy I-35 & I-59    | Wayne        | Tech Center, 3-15-05, 4:00 PM        |
| March 28-29, 2005           | Indian Capitol Tech Center, 401 Houser Blvd | Sallisaw     | Tech Center, 3-29-05, 4:00 PM        |
| May 9-10, 2005              | Cameron University, 2800 W Gore             | Lawton       | University, 5-10-05, 4:00 PM         |

## CLASS "D" & "C" WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Test Place Date & Time

|                     |                                      |         |                                    |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| January 10-11, 2005 | Tech Center, 3420 S Memorial         | Tulsa   | Tech Center, 1-11-05, 4:00 PM      |
| January 25-26, 2005 | Public Works Bldg, 317 Veterans Blvd | Ardmore | S OK Tech Center, 1-26-05, 3:00 PM |

## CLASS "D & C" WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Test Place Date & Time

|                     |                                      |         |                                    |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| January 12-13, 2005 | Tech Center, 3420 S Memorial         | Tulsa   | Tech Center, 1-13-05, 4:00 PM      |
| January 27-28, 2005 | Public Works Bldg, 317 Veterans Blvd | Ardmore | S OK Tech Center, 1-28-05, 4:00 PM |

## Security/Emergency Response CLASS

|                   |                    |  |           |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|-----------|
| January 14, 2005  | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Kiamichi Tech Center, 1509 S McKenna             | Poteau    |
| February 11, 2005 | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Services Center, 1300 W Poplar                   | Enid      |
| March 4, 2005     | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Kiamichi Tech Center, 301 Kiamichi Dr            | McAlester |
| April 8, 2005     | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Quartz Mtn Water Auth, Hwy 9, 4 m W of Lone Wolf | Lone Wolf |
| May 11, 2005      | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM | City Warehouse, 408 NE 6th Street                | Guymon    |
| May 12, 2005      | 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM | High Plains Tech Center, 3921 34th Street        | Woodward  |

## OATH OF OFFICE

A new law, effective November 1, 2004, requires state and local elected officials and employees of public entities to take a loyalty oath. The oath must be administered by some person authorized to administer oaths. Notaries Public are authorized to administer oaths. Please check with your attorney concerning others who may be authorized to administer oaths in the State of Oklahoma. The following is a brief summary of the law.

Persons Required To Take Oath: Every officer and employee of the State of Oklahoma, or of a county, school district, municipality, public agency, public authority, or public district who is appointed or elected to office, or employed for a continuous period of 30 days or more is required to take and subscribe to the loyalty oath and file the oath as required by statute.

Initially, all elected and appointed officials need to take and file the oath. Thereafter, elected and appointed officials should take the oath when elected or reelected, or when appointed or reappointed. Employees, who have taken and filed the oath as required, do not need to take the oath again so long as their employment is continuous or consecutive.

Form of Oath: All public officers and public employees, before entering upon the duties of their offices, shall take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation:

I \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and the Constitution and the laws of the State of Oklahoma, and that I will faithfully discharge, according to the best of my ability, the duties of my office or employment during such time as I am \_\_\_\_\_ (Here put name of office, or, if an employee, insert "An employee of \_\_\_\_\_" followed by the complete designation of the employing officer, agency, authority, commission, department or institution.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public or other officer authorized to administer oaths  
or affirmations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Number

Where To File: Board members of rural water districts file the oath with the office of the county clerk of the county of the official residence of the officer. Employees of rural water districts file the oath in the office of the county clerk of the county where the rural water district office is located. Municipal officials and municipal employees file the oath in the office of the municipal clerk of the municipality which the official or employee serves.

Fees and Forms: No fees can be charged for the filing or for the administration of the oaths or affirmations. Blank oath forms are furnished, without charge, by the Secretary of State.

Payment of Compensation or Expense: No compensation or reimbursement for expenses shall be paid to any public officer or employee unless and until he has taken and filed the oath of office or affirmation required by law.

Violations and Penalties: Any person refusing to take the oath, or affirmation, shall forfeit his office. Any person who has been convicted of having sworn or affirmed falsely, or having violated said oath, or affirmation, shall be guilty of perjury, and shall be disqualified from holding any office of trust or profit within the state. Every public officer or employee who states as true any material matter which he knows to be false, shall be guilty of the felony of perjury, and upon conviction be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for not less than one (1) year nor more than fourteen (14) years, and in addition shall forfeit any public office or employment held by the person.