

# UPDATE

### Meetings & Events

*National Rural  
Water Association  
Annual Conference  
October 10-13, 2004  
Biloxi-Gulfport,  
Mississippi*

*Governors Water  
Conference  
October 19-20, 2004  
Cox Convention Center  
Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma*

*ORWA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Meeting and  
Technical Conference  
April 10-13, 2005  
Marriott Southern Hills  
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

### RURAL WATER PUBLIC RELATIONS

In response to suggestions received from our members at a meeting held in Claremore last April, ORWA President Bill Secrest has appointed a committee to investigate the feasibility of implementing a public relations campaign for rural water systems. The committee is working with the public relations firm of Larry Smith and Associates to develop a strategy for educating water system customers, legislators and the public on the good work done by rural water districts and small community water systems and the benefits that they provide locally and statewide. Members of the ORWA Public Relations Committee are; Charles Lewis, McCurtain County RWD No.1; Chairman, Cliff Tatum, Hughes County RWD No.6; Richard Alig, Okarche RWD; Dennis Meyers, Comanche County RWD No. 4; Gary McGuire, Creek County RWD No. 1; Jimmy Seago, Osage County RWD No. 15; Jerry Gammill, Washington County RWD No. 3; Arvil Morgan, Wagoner County RWD No. 5; Bill Giles, Wagoner County RWD No 4; and ORWA President Bill Secrest.

The committee has held two meetings. They are currently in the process of developing a survey to gauge the knowledge and attitude of customers concerning their local water system.

As funding allows, the surveys will be followed by a multi media campaign to enhance and improve the perception and image of rural water in Oklahoma.

We believe, as many of our members do, that a public relations campaign is essential for the continued success and prosperity of rural water. Since this will be a statewide effort to promote the benefits your system offers and to showcase all of your hard work and effort, it will be vitally important for all systems to participate. However, the campaign will be costly. ORWA has limited resources that can be devoted to this important endeavor. To ensure a unified and effective statewide campaign we will be asking for your financial support. We are encouraging your support to help get this campaign kicked off. If you have any suggestions to help in this manner, please contact Gene or James at the ORWA offices, 405/672-8925.

Plan on Attending an ORWA Regional Meeting to learn more about the rural water public relations campaign and how you can support efforts to enhance the image of rural water in Oklahoma. The dates and locations of ORWA Regional Meetings are listed below.

### ORWA REGIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER

Four ORWA Regional Meetings, have been scheduled for the month of November. The purpose of these meetings is to inform and update our members on the rural water public relations campaign, legislative issues, the NRWA Fleet Vehicle Purchase Program and other matters that members want to discuss. Your participation and input at the Regional Meetings is important in providing direction to ORWA on issues that are important to our membership. Plan to have a representative(s) attend the meeting in your region. The dates and locations of ORWA Regional Meetings are:  
*For more information on location go to:  
[www.okcareetech.org](http://www.okcareetech.org)*

- November 4: Chisholm Trail VoTech  
Rt. 1 Box 60  
Omega, OK 73764  
405/729-8324
- November 9: Great Plains Tech Center  
4500 W. Lee Blvd.  
Lawton, OK 73505  
580/355-6371
- November 16: Tulsa Tech Center  
3420 S. Memorial Drive  
Tulsa, OK 74145-1390  
918/828-1000
- November 30: Kiamichi Tech Center  
301 Kiamichi Drive  
McAlester OK, 74501  
918/426-0940





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



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### NEW ORWA MEMBER BENEFIT

ORWA is pleased to announce a new program that offers our member systems and associate members the opportunity to purchase vehicles at substantially discounted rates. The Fleet Vehicle Purchase Program, developed by the National Rural Water Association in conjunction with the Daimler Chrysler Corporation, provides flexibility in the type of vehicles that you can order, gives you the ability to order year round and provides deep discounts that are only available through the rural water fleet program. Each of the major auto manufacturers was provided an opportunity to participate. Daimler Chrysler was chosen over other manufacturers because of their aggressive discounts and the full range of available Dodge and Chrysler products.

The rural water fleet vehicle purchase program allows you to choose from a full line of vehicles with the options your system or business needs. It also allows your system or business to order through fleet dealers, or your local dealer, anytime throughout the year. Prices are comparable with or below state contract pricing when comparing like vehicles and like options. Available vehicles include; Dodge Ram Pickups, Dakota Pickups, Durangos, Minivans, Jeeps and various cars.

The discount off of the Base Dealer Invoice is different for each type of vehicle. Discounts range from \$2,000.00 on a Jeep

Wrangler to \$5,500.00 for a quad cab Dodge pickup. Fleet discounts are intended to be deducted from or near the Base Dealer Invoice Price. This is what the dealer is paying for the vehicle.

**To order you will need to obtain the rural water fleet number from ORWA.** We encourage you to research before you order. Determine the type of vehicle you wish to purchase and know the numbers before you go to a dealer. Consumer Reports, Auto Trader, Blue Book and other sites can provide you with the retail price as well as the dealer invoice price. Remember the rural water discounts are intended to be deducted from the Base Dealer Invoice price. Knowing the price before you go in, provides you with the best deal. Be sure to tell your salesperson that there is a "Volume Incentive Discount" associated with your fleet number. **Vehicles must be titled to an entity.** No individual purchases are allowed.

Local dealers may not be knowledgeable about fleet sales. Therefore, we recommend that you purchase through a fleet dealer. This should make your purchase easier. Fleet dealers can be located at the [fleet.chrysler.com](http://fleet.chrysler.com) web page, or contact ORWA for the names and locations of fleet dealers in your area. Please contact Gene or James at (405) 672-8925 if you have questions or need assistance.

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### GOVERNORS WATER CONFERENCE

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Water Conference will be held October 19-20, 2004 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. A Symposium on Tribal Claims and Water will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday at the convention center. Following the

symposium, the Water Resources Board will host a reception in the Renaissance Hotel. The Governor's Water Conference is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday. A conference agenda and registration form are enclosed.



# 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.

October 5-6, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Canadian Valley Tech Center, 6505 E Hwy 66	El Reno
October 25-26, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Red River Tech Center, 3300 W Bois D'Arc	Duncan
November 3-4, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	SW Tech Center, 711 W Tamarack Rd	Altus
November 15-16, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Autry Tech Center, 1201 W Willow Rd	Enid
December 7-8, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Sequoyah Co Water Office, 3320 W Cherokee	Sallisaw
December 13-14, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Pioneer Tech Center, 2101 N Ash Street	Ponca City
January 18-19, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Bryan Co. RWD #5, 9077 US Hwy 70 W	Mead
January 25-26, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Kiamichi Tech Center < 301 Kiamichi Dr.	McAlester

### OPERATOR RENEWAL CLASSES

October 4, 2004	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Maintenance Building, 8200 NE 36th Street	Spencer
October 5, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Public Works Building 303 W. Main	Marietta
October 5, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	City Hall, 102 N Main	Perkins
October 6, 2004	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Community Center, Broadway & "B" Street	Oilton
October 18, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Washita Co. RWD #2 office, 712 Main Street	Bessie
October 19, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Pioneer Tech Center, 2101 N Ash	Ponca City
October 20, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Northwest Tech Center, 1801 S 11th Street	Alva
October 26, 2004	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Ketchum PWA office, 120 Broadway Ave	Ketchum
October 26, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Green Country Tech Center, 1100 Loop 56	Okmulgee

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

### CLASS "C" WATER LAB CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Test Place Date & Time

October 4-7, 2004	Stillwell Utilities, 4 E Walnut Street	Stillwell	Indian Tech Center, 10-7-04, 3:00 PM
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### CLASS "D" WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Test Place Date & Time

October 25-26, 2004	Mid America Tech Center, 1/2 mile W of I-35 @ Wayne Exit	Wayne	Tech Center, 10-26-04, 5:00 PM
November 8-9, 2004	Pioneer Tech Center, 2101 N Ash Street	Ponca City	Tech Center, 11-9-04, 5:00 PM
December 6-7, 2004	Western Tech Center, 621 Sooner Dr.	Burns Flat	Tech Center, 12-7-04, 5:00 PM
January 3-4, 2005	Eastern OK Tech Center, 4601 N. Choctaw Rd.	Choctaw	Tech Center 1-5-05, 8AM-12PM
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

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

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Test Place Date & Time

November 2-3, 2004	Community Center, 28 E Main Street	Edmond	Community Center, 11-3-04, 4:00 PM
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### CLASS "D & C" WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Test Place Date & Time

November 4-5, 2004	Community Center, 28 E Main Street	Edmond	Community Center, 11-5-04, 4:00 PM
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### Security/Emergency Response CLASS

October 6, 2004	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Fire Station, SE 2nd & Main	Tuttle
November 12, 2004	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	McCurtain Co. RWD #8 office, .25 miles N of Hwy 259 & 70 on 259	Broken Bow
November 19, 2004	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Central Tech Center, 3 Court Circle	Drumright
December 14, 2004	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Dixie Diner, 11201 NE 23rd Street	Nicoma Park
December 17, 2004	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Bryan Co. RWD #5 office, 22404 State Rd 78	Durant
January 6, 2005	8:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Community Center, NW Corner of HWY 44 & 33	Butler

## NRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The National Rural Water Association Annual Leadership Forum will be held October 10-13, 2004 at the Convention Center in Biloxi, Mississippi. Hotels for the convention are the Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino (800) 567-6667 and the Grand Hotel and Casino (800) 354-2450.

Come to Biloxi and enjoy some southern hospitality along with sessions on management, regulations, personal development, computer technology, technical sessions, annual banquet and more. To register contact the National Rural Water

Association (580) 252-0629.

ORWA member systems that serve 400 or fewer connections qualify for a complimentary registration to the NRWA conference (includes sessions and technology exhibit for registrant and spouse). Complimentary registration does not include tours, banquet, rural water social or any other special events. Tickets for special events are available for purchase from NRWA.

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### WHATLEY RECEIVES NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PEER LEADERSHIP AWARD



Gene Whatley, Executive Director for the Oklahoma Rural Water Association, received highest honors from his peers when he was named as one of the 2004 Executive Directors of the Year. Peer Leadership Awards were presented at NRWA's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual In-Service Training Seminar held in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The NRWA Peer Leadership Awards program was established to recognize the outstanding efforts of Rural Water Association representatives. Whatley

was honored for his dedication and service to *Team Rural Water* on local, state and national levels.

The National Rural Water Association is a federation of 48 State Rural Water Associations serving over 23,501 water and wastewater utility members in 49 states with additional programs in Honduras and Puerto Rico.

NRWA members form a solid foundation for Team Rural Water. Upholding the motto of "Quality On Tap!," Rural Water Associations provide small communities in every state with management and technical resources to supply safe and affordable water.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!



ORWA 35<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Meeting and  
Technical Conference  
April 10-13, 2005  
Marriott Southern Hills  
Tulsa, Oklahoma