

UPDA

Meetings & Events

*ORWA Legislative
Conference
March 15, 2005
Room 512A
State Capitol Building*

*ORWA 35th 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*

HELP WANTED

Pottawatomie Co. RWD #3 is accepting applications for contract operation of the system. For complete list of duties & requirements please visit the ORWA website at okruralwater.org or call the water office at 405/383-2571.

IN MEMORY OF JAY GALT

ORWA attorney, Jay Galt passed away on January 28, 2005 following a long battle with cancer. Jay served as ORWA's attorney for 25 years. He advised ORWA on legal matters, drafted proposed legislation and represented rural water in negotiations on territorial and water contract issues. Jay was respected for his honesty, integrity and willingness to help others. He was a great attorney and good friend. Jay was a Vietnam veteran and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Viet-

nam Cross of Gallantry and Bronze Star Medal. He was active in the Oklahoma Bar Association and various other organizations. Our condolences to Jay's wife Margie and family.

Memorial gifts may be made to: Harding Charter Prep School, 3333 N. Shartel, Oklahoma City, OK 73118, Cancer Care Associates, 11100 Hefner Pointe Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73120, or the University of Oklahoma Foundation for the benefit of the Army ROTC.

ORWA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The 11th Annual ORWA Legislative Conference will be held Tuesday, March 15, 2005 in Room 512 A at the state capitol building. A continental breakfast for legislators, staff members and guests is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Following the breakfast, there will be a briefing on legislative issues. Guest speaker

for the conference will be Representative Don Armes, Chairman of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee. The conference will conclude at 10:30 a.m. to allow attendees time to visit with their elected representatives.

ORWA ANNUAL MEETING

Join us April 11-13, 2005 at the Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa for the ORWA 35th Annual Meeting and Technical Conference. This year's conference promises to be our biggest and best ever. The conference features training for board members, managers, operators, office managers and bookkeepers and exhibits of the latest in products and services for the water industry. Plan on participating in the golf tournament or fishing tournament on Monday. A Meet and Greet is scheduled for Monday evening. Plan to attend the PAC Breakfast Tuesday morning and the Annual Banquet that evening. Banquet speaker will be NRWA President Bobby Scott from Tennessee and entertainment

will be Cowboy Humorist Sheriff J. B. Smith. Don't forget to enter your water in the First Annual ORWA Water Taste Contest. The winner of the competition will be selected at the conclusion of the General Session Tuesday morning. Plan to attend the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday and join us in recognizing and honoring deserving individuals and systems for their outstanding accomplishments.

Don't miss out on the training, fun and fellowship. Come see and network with your friends and colleagues from around the state at the ORWA 35th Annual Meeting in Tulsa.

RURAL WATER RALLY

The annual Rural Water Rally will be held April 17-19, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. A Rally informational session will be held Monday morning at the Hyatt Regency. A luncheon and the Water Taste Test National Finals will be held on the Hill on Tuesday. The winner of the Oklahoma Water Taste Contest will be entered in the national competition. For room reservations call the Hyatt Regency (202) 737-1234. For more information or to register for the Rally call NRWA (580) 252-0629 or go on-line to www.nrwa.org





For emergency calls after office hours, nights, weekends an

LEGISLATION

Over 2000 bills have been introduced in the House and Senate this legislative session. Of those bills, over 25 relate to water issues. The following is a brief discussion of five bills that relate directly to rural water districts.

House Bill 1458, by Representative Ellis requires a landowner consent to remove or relocate a meter from his property. It gives the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality authority to investigate a complaint and order the district to restore the meter to the original location. The legislation was introduced to address a single, isolated incident in Representative Ellis' district, but it potentially adversely impacts rural water districts all over the state. It takes control away from districts and gets the DEQ involved in determining where meters will be set. ORWA opposes this legislation. We are working with Representative Ellis to work out an alternative solution to resolve the dispute between a district and one of his constituents.

Senator Lerblance introduced two rural water bills this session. SB 54 encourages rural water districts and municipalities to utilize contracts and joint cooperative agreements to provide water and sewer service. SB 574 relates to municipal wholesale water contracts. Senator Lerblance's bills will be used as vehicles for continuing negotiations between ORWA and the Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) to resolve differences

over water contracts and territorial issues. The title has been stricken on both of these bill and they have passed out of committee.

Senate Bill 724, by Senator Pruitt of Broken Arrow, is a shell bill. Neither Senator Pruitt nor the OML has been willing to discuss the purpose of the bill. Since 1926 (b) is one of the Municipal League's highest legislative priorities, we believe that SB 724 was a vehicle for legislation that would deny rural water districts access to Rural Development loans and grants. SB 724 was not heard and died in the Senate Rules Committee.

Representative Rousselot introduced House Bill 1494, which requires mediation to resolve disputes between municipalities and rural water districts over territory and water contracts. Due to opposition from the Municipal League, HB 1494 was not heard in committee and is dead for this session.

ORWA is monitoring approximately 60 bills that potentially affect rural water systems. These bills deal with a wide range of issues, including, funding for water development, water rights, REAP, comprehensive water planning, Open Meetings Act, Open Records Act, Competitive Bidding Act, water supply, water quality and more. A review of selected legislative bills is enclosed. To view the language in bills go to www.lsb.state.ok.us.

FLEET PURCHASE PROGRAM

Interest in the NRWA Fleet Vehicle Purchase Program appears to be growing. To date 33 certificates have been printed in Oklahoma from the Fleet Purchase Web Site. ORWA plans to purchase two vehicles in March. If your system has bought a vehicle through the NRWA program, please let us know about your experience. We would appreciate knowing about any problem you may have encountered, how much money you were able to save on your vehicle purchase and how our

prices compare to costs for similar Ford and General Motors products.

We encourage all of our members to check out the NRWA Fleet Vehicle Purchase Program. It was developed to make a wide selection of quality vehicles available to association members at a lower cost. For information on the program and to print a certificate go to www.okruralwater.org. There is a link to the Fleet Program on our home page.

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.

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
March 23-24, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Beckham Co. RWD #1 office, Main & Broadway	Carter
April 12, 2005	8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Marriott Hotel, 1902 E 71st Street	Tulsa
3 hours credit in the Morning and 3 hours credit in the Afternoon			
April 13, 2005	8:00 AM-1:00 PM	Marriott Hotel, 1902 E 71st Street	Tulsa
4 hours credit			
April 18-19, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Logan Co. RWD #1 office, 5113 S Sooner Rd	Guthrie
April 19-20, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	City Hall, Corner of Bell & Burnett	Clayton
April 20-21, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Okmulgee Co. RWD #6 office, 11003 Hectorville Rd	Mounds
April 26-27, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Wes Watkins Tech Center, 7892 Hwy 9	Wetumka
May 4-5, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Payne Co. RWC #3 office, 202 S Range Rd	Stillwater
May 10-11, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	NW Tech Center, 1801 S 11th Street	Alva
May 17-18, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Great Plains Tech Center, 4500 SW Lee Blvd	Lawton
June 7-8, 2005	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Marshall Co Water Corp office, 400 E Main	Madill

OPERATOR RENEWAL CLASSES

March 14, 2005	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Logan Co. RWD #1 office, 5113 S Sooner Rd	Guthrie
March 15, 2005	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Town Hall, 200 N Main	Ringwood
March 24, 2005	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Library, 626 W Gentry	Checotah
March 29, 2005	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Community Center, NW corner of Hwy 33 & 44	Butler
April 6, 2005	12:30 PM-4:30 PM	Fire Station, SE 2nd & Hwy 37	Tuttle
April 12, 2005	8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Marriott Hotel, 1902 E 71st Street	Tulsa
3 hours credit in the Morning and 3 hours credit in the Afternoon			
April 13, 2005	8:00 AM-1:00 PM	Marriott Hotel, 1902 E 71st Street	Tulsa
4 hours credit			
April 19, 2005	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	City Hall, 8th & Main Street	Gore
April 26, 2005	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	City Hall, 112 W Main	Cyril
April 28, 2005	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	City Hall, 1 W Commercial	Inola
May 3, 2005	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	City Hall, 724 Main Street	Paden
May 10, 2005	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Water Office, Hwy 81 & Airport Rd	Kingfisher
June 7, 2005	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Utility Building, 112 Williams Street	Westville

Security/Emergency Response CLASS

April 8, 2005	1:00 PM - 5:00 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

CLASS "D" WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

	All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Test Place Date & Time
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
March 28-29, 2005	Wastewater Plant, 1301 Pike Peak Rd	Chickasha	Canadian Valley Tech Center, 3-29-05, 3:00 PM
April 4-5, 2005	Library, 201 N Division	Guthrie	Library, 4-5-05, 3:00 PM
April 5-6, 2005	Wastewater Plant, 1002 "H" Street SE	Miami	NE Okla A&M College, 4-6-05, 3:00 PM

CLASS "D & C" WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

	All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Test Place Date & Time
March 30-31, 2005	Wastewater Plant, 1301 Pike Peak Rd	Chickasha	Canadian Valley Tech Center, 3-31-05, 3:00 PM
April 6-7, 2005	Library, 201 N Division	Guthrie	Library, 4-7-05, 3:00 PM
April 7-8, 2005	Wastewater Plant, 1002 "H" Street SE	Miami	NE Okla A&M College, 4-8-05, 3:00 PM

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

CLASS "C" WASTEWATER LAB CERTIFICATION CLASS

	All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM		Test Place Date & Time
March 21-24, 2005	Wastewater Treatment Plant, 8700 W 100	Sapulpa	Central Tech Center, 3-21-05, 3:00 PM

