

UPDATE

Meetings & Events

*ORWA 37th
Annual Meeting and
Technical Conference
April 23-25, 2007
Marriott Southern Hills
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

*Rural Water Rally
April 29-May 2, 2007
Hyatt Regency
Capitol Hill
Washington, DC*

*Capital Water Day
May 8, 2007
State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, OK*

*ORWA Fall Management
Conference
August 13-15, 2007
Western Hills Lodge
Wagoner, OK*

*NRWA Annual
Conference
September 23-26, 2007
JW Marriott
Philadelphia, PA*

ORWA WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ORWA is pleased to announce the appointment of Arvil Morgan and Darrell Wootton to the ORWA Board of Directors. Morgan replaces Don Thomas in Region 2 and Wootton will fill the position formerly held by Ed Carter in Region 3. Morgan and Wootton will serve until the next ORWA annual meeting, at which time they will be up for election for the remainder of their respective terms.

Arvil Morgan is manager of Wagoner County RWD No. 5 at Coweta, Oklahoma. The district operates a surface water treatment plant and serves approximately 2800 connections. He is a member of the ORWA Public Relations Committee, which set priorities for rural water public relations efforts. Last year, Morgan presented testimony to the Environment and Public Works Committee, Chaired by Senator James Inhofe, on the impact of federal drinking water regulations on small water systems.

Darrell Wootton serves on the board of Beckham County RWD No. 1 at Carter, Okla-

homa, where he currently holds the position of Secretary. Beckham No. 1 is a ground water system that serves approximately 840 connections. Wootton has been active in promoting rural water issues through his participation in Rural Water Rally and as a director of the ORWA Assurance Group. He has served on the ORWAAG Board for seven years and is a member of the ORWAAG Policy Committee.

We would like to thank Don Thomas and Ed Carter for their service on the ORWA Board. Thomas served a total of 20 years on the board and was a member of the ORWA Executive Board for the past six years. He has served 18 years on the ORWA Assurance Group Board and will continue to serve as an ORWAAG Trustee. Thomas also serves on the Oklahoma Rural Water Enrichment Foundation Board of Directors. Ed Carter served eight years on the ORWA Board. We appreciate their dedicated service and many contributions to the success of the Association.

GARY MCGUIRE ELECTED TO ORWA EXECUTIVE BOARD

ORWA board member, Gary McGuire was elected by his fellow directors on October 30th to serve on the nine-member ORWA Executive Board. The Executive Board consists of the ORWA President and two directors from each of the four regions of the state. The Executive Board meets during the intervals between full board meetings to set policy and oversee Association operations. McGuire was appointed to fill the vacant position created with the resignation of Don Thomas.

McGuire is manager of Creek County Rural Water District No. 1 at Kellyville, Oklahoma. The district operates a surface water treatment facility that serves approximately 2300 connections. He has served on the ORWA Board since 2002 and is a member of the ORWA Audit and Budget Committee, Public Relations Committee, Membership Committee and Awards Committee. We congratulate Gary on his appointment.

GARFIELD NO. 5 AND ORWA RECOGNIZED BY CALLOKIE

Garfield County Rural Water District No. 5 and ORWA recently received special recognition from Call Okie for their outstanding efforts on behalf of damage prevention. The awards were presented by Call Okie Director of Operations, Jerry West, at the Second Annual Public Education and Damage Prevention Awards Banquet held November 10th in Oklahoma City.

The Award for the Outstanding Rural Water District or Municipality in the state was presented to Garfield County RWD No. 5 in recognition of their outstanding efforts in damage prevention. Accepting the award for Garfield No.

5 were Chairman, Marvin Kusik, Vice-Chairman, Troy Cowley, Secretary, Stanley Johnson and Director, Marvin Petru. District Manager is Jack Herrian and Office Manager is Thelma Weber.

West expressed appreciation to ORWA for its efforts in educating and informing rural and small community water systems about the importance of the Oklahoma One-Call System. Call Okie participates in ORWA meetings and conferences by presenting classes on damage prevention and providing an exhibit booth where attendees can obtain information and get answers to questions about damage prevention.





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



ORWA ANNUAL MEETING AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

The Oklahoma Rural Water Association's 37th Annual Meeting and Technical Conference will be held April 23-25, 2007 at the Marriott Southern Hills, 1702 East 71st Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Plan now to attend for training and fellowship. Don't forget to enter your water in the 3rd Annual Water Taste Contest. More information and conference registration forms are attached with this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at the 37th ORWA Annual Conference.

RURAL WATER RALLY

Rural Water Rally will be held April 29-May 2, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. A briefing on issues will be held Monday morning at the Hyatt Regency. Monday afternoon and Tuesday are reserved for visits with Congressmen and Senators. Attend the Rally and help secure the future of rural water for everyone. Make room reservations directly with the Hyatt Regency at (202) 737-1234, fax (202) 942-1576. To register for the Rally, contact the National Rural Water Association by fax at (580) 255-4476. For credit card registration call 800-332-8715 or by mail, Rural Water Rally, P.O. Box 1847, Duncan, OK 73534.

LEGISLATION

The First Session of the 51st Legislature convenes February 5, 2007. There are 26 freshmen House members and nine freshmen Senators this year, many of these are the result of term limits. Republicans hold the majority in the House. Representative Lance Cargill, Harrah, will serve as Speaker of the House. Representative Danny Morgan, Prague, will serve as Minority Leader. The Senate is evenly split with 24 Republicans and 24 Democrats. Leadership responsibilities in the Senate will be equally shared by the parties. Senator Mike Morgan, Stillwater, will serve as Senate president pro tempore and Senator Glenn Coffee, Oklahoma City, will serve as Senate co-president pro tempore. Morgan and Coffee will jointly share authority in the Senate. Republicans and Democrats will alternate presiding over Senate floor proceedings. Each Senate committee will be jointly chaired by a Democrat and a Republican, who will take turns presiding over the committee. An equal number of Democrats and Republicans will serve on each Senate committee. Senate leaders from both parties have expressed a commitment to working together in good faith to get the Senate's work done.

The deadline for requesting bills has passed. Drafting must be finished and bills filed in the House and Senate by January 18. This means that there will be hundreds of bills to review prior to the legislative session. Many of these bills will potentially affect the operations and financing of small water systems. As these bills are identified, a brief description of selected bills that are of interest to water and wastewater systems will be posted on the ORWA web site. To read bills go to the ORWA web site www.okruralwater.org for a link to the state legislature home page, or go to www.lsb.state.ok.us.



Watch your mail for
your ORWA
Assurance Group
renewal packet.

