



THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

NDRWSA Welcomes Executive Board of Directors

By Lisa Schatz

The North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) is a non-profit, independent corporation formed on July 9, 1974. The Association is governed by eight elected officials. Every two years an election is held for the positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, director at large, and a managers' representative. At the end of a two-year term, the current president moves into the past president position. The national director's position is a three-year term. This year's election was held during the NDRWSA's annual meeting, where representatives from 23 rural water systems had an opportunity to cast their votes for the 2014-2016 executive board members. The executive board is as follows:

Michele Schommer of Munich was elected to the position of president. Schommer and her husband, Don, have three boys and farm in the Munich area where they raise wheat, canola, sunflowers, soybeans, and pinto beans. She is the executive director of the Cavalier County Farm Service Agency and the president of the Langdon Rural Water District, as well.



Jon Nelson was elected to the position of vice president. He and his wife, Sid, farm in the Wolford area and live in Rugby. They have three grown children. Nelson has served in a number of local organizations and as a representative in the North Dakota Legislature since 1996. He has been on the All Seasons Rural Water District board since 2005.



LaVonne Althoff of rural Hankinson remains on the board as its secretary. Althoff is a current director of the Southeast Water Users District and Lake Agassiz Water Authority. She also does bookkeeping for two local businesses.



Joe LaFave remains on the Association's board as its treasurer. LaFave is a director of South Central Regional Water District, serving on its board since 1991. He is a financial consultant living in rural Burleigh County with his wife, Donna.



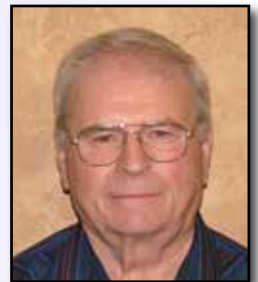
John Bearman of rural Minot serves as North Dakota's national director. He has been a director of North Prairie Rural Water District since 1989. In 2012, he was elected to the National Rural Water Association's executive board. Bearman and his wife, Tricia, have one son and one daughter. He operates an insurance agency in Minot and runs a stock farm south of Minot. He is also an auctioneer in Minot and the surrounding area.



Keith Nilson assumed the position of past-president having served as the Association's president for the past two years. He and his wife, Brenda, have four children and raise certified seed potatoes, wheat, soybeans, navy beans, pinto beans, and certified grass seed on their farm near Hoople. He also serves on the Walsh Rural Water District board of directors as its president.



John (Jack) Hancock was elected as director at large. He has been a director of the Agassiz Water Users District since 1976. He and his wife, Brigitte, have two grown children and live just west of Gilby. Hancock is retired, but continues to help his son, who farms in the Gilby area.



Geneva Kaiser was re-elected as the managers' representative. She has been the manager of Stutsman Rural Water District (SRWD) since 2007 and prior to that was employed by SRWD as its office manager for 17 years. Kaiser lives in Jamestown and has one daughter.



Best The Best in the Water Industry

By Lisa Schatz

Each year, the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) hosts its Best Tasting Water Competition during the annual Rural Water Expo and Technical Conference. A panel of judges determines the best tasting water based on clarity, odor, and taste. All rural water and city systems are invited to participate. The winner represents North Dakota during the National Rural Water Association's Great American Taste Test as part of the Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C.

Over the years, water systems from across North Dakota have represented the state in this national competition. Past winners are:

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| 1993 – City of Sherwood | 2005 – Cass Rural Water Users District |
| 1994 – North Valley Water District | 2006 – Cass Rural Water Users District |
| 1995 – North Valley Water District | 2007 – Valley City Public Works |
| 1996 – Southeast Water Users District | 2008 – City of Noonan |
| 1997 – Ramsey County Rural Utilities | 2009 – South Central Regional Water District |
| 1998 – Ramsey County Rural Utilities | 2009 – Valley City Public Works (Best of the Best, December 2009) |
| 1999 – Tri-County Water District | 2010 – South Central Regional Water District |
| 2000 – North Valley Water District | 2011 – City of Garrison |
| 2001 – City of Cooperstown | 2012 – South Central Regional Water District |
| 2002 – Grand Forks-Traill Water District | 2013 – State Line Water Cooperative |
| 2003 – Grand Forks-Traill Water District | 2014 – City of Wahpeton |
| 2004 – Southeast Water Users District | |



Save the Date» » » » » » » » July 15-16
**2014 NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER
 SUMMER BOARD MEETING &
 LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

**Rough Riders Hotel Conference Center
 Medora**

Room Block Information
 Bunkhouse - \$89/night
 Badlands - \$135/night
 Americinn - \$160/night
 Rough Riders - \$189/night

July 15 (All times in MDT)
 Summer Board Meeting - 9 a.m.
 Retreat Luncheon - noon
 Leadership Retreat - 1 - 4 p.m.
 Pitchfork Fondue & Musical - 6 p.m.

July 16
 Breakfast - 8 a.m.
 Leadership Retreat - 8:30 a.m. - noon

Call 1-800-MEDORA1
 and ask for the N.D. Rural
 Water room block
 prior to June 14.

Open to all city and rural water system employees, managers, and board members.

Phone: 701-258-9249 or 1-800-349-6951
 Website: www.ndrw.org
 E-mail: info@ndrw.org

