

# Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

November 2017

## 2018 League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities/ Public Works Annual Conference

*By Lash Chaffin,  
Utilities Section Director*

Mark Your Calendars! The 2018 League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities/Public Works Annual Conference is scheduled for Jan. 18-19 at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln. An optional Preconference Seminar has been scheduled for Jan. 17. In addition to the wonderful opportunities to share time and information with colleagues, there are some important educational opportunities. **The last several years, this conference was approved for an average of up to 17.5 wastewater operator hours and 15 water operator hours!** We expect similar approval this year.

The conference kicks off with an optional Preconference Seminar on January 17. This is a “stand alone” session. Registered attendees do not have to register for the entire conference. **This seminar will count for 5 hours water and 5 hours wastewater credit.**

**Preconference Seminar: Capital Improvement and Asset Management For Rural Municipalities.** Facilitated by Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center, this workshop will cover an overview of capital improvement planning. Participants will walk through interactive exercises on capital planning

to replace existing medium-life assets, project development to meet new regulatory requirements and capital planning for new community features. The session also will cover funding options and prioritization strategies.

On January 18-19, share time with your colleagues and learn how to better manage your utility and public works departments:

- RFP Traps: Tips to Avoid Making Costly Mistakes
- How to Manage Personnel When the Task Just Seems Impossible: Nebraska success stories!
- What to Do When Someone Wants to Use Your Right Of Way or Attach to Your Poles
- EPA Region VII Regulatory Update from a Municipal Perspective
- Vitrified Clay and PVC: How to Choose Correctly For Your System
- Construction Management: Using a City Crew vs. Using Contractors
- So the Power Plant Is Now Only For Emergency Use: How to Keep It in Operating Shape
- Benefits of LED Street Lights
- 2017 Study of the Nebraska

Solid  
Waste  
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- Update on the Nebraska

Electric Vehicle Fueling Station Project

- How to Handle a MAJOR Infrastructure Expansion
- Water Tower Maintenance Tips
- Alternative Energy Sources for Municipal Utilities Operations
- How to Analyze Water Well Contamination
- NDEQ Update
- Safe Drinking Water Update
- Municipal Utility and Public Works Legislative and Regulatory Update. Whether you have a water, wastewater, electric, natural gas, street, recreation or other department, the Nebraska Legislature has a tremendous effect on how you do business. Do not miss the latest information on legislative and regulatory activities.
- And much, much more!

There will be water, wastewater and engineering credits available for many of these sessions. Do not miss this great opportunity! Registration materials will be available shortly.



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UTILITIES SECTION

Lash Chaffin  
Utilities Section Director  
Rob Pierce  
Utilities Field Representative

## Did your municipality host a Veterans Day celebration or event?

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./  
Training Coordinator*

I would like to thank all veterans for their service to our country. Many of our municipal employees and elected officials are veterans.

Again, thank you for your service!

*Veterans Memorial. This impressive memorial, which honors past war veterans, is in Auburn's Legion Memorial Park. (File photo)*



## 2017-2018 Executive Board

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## Classifieds

**Electric Journey Line Worker.** The City of Alliance (8,500) is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journey Line Worker with a pay range of \$24.76-\$31.95 per hour DOQ. This individual will perform skilled line work in the

operation, construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric urban and rural distribution and transmission systems. The City is offering a hiring bonus of \$3,000 after the successful completion of probation and relocation

reimbursement up to \$2,000. The position includes an excellent benefit package including health, dental and vision insurance, retirement, vacation, sick leave and paid holidays.

The City of Alliance Electric System includes 115 miles city

and 200 miles of rural overhead and underground lines with a service area of over 150 square miles, which includes 10 miles of trans and sub-trans lines. The system operates with a transmission substation (115 KV) and three distribution substations (7.2/12.5 KV). The Department services approximately 5,000 customers, over 1,700 street lights, 220 irrigation wells and operates out of the Public Works Facility, which was constructed in 2002. The Department maintains 10 vehicles including a 60-foot and two 50-foot bucket trucks.

Applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. A complete job description and application is available at [www.cityofalliance.net](http://www.cityofalliance.net).

### Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** How many municipalities in Nebraska start with the letter “W”?
- Q-2.** How many municipalities in Nebraska start with the letter “V”?
- Q-3.** How many Nebraska villages/cities have the word “rock” in their name?
- Q-4.** Where in Nebraska is this Civil War Memorial Statue located?

**Answers found on page 11.**



### Hello Progress

The greatest accomplishments start with the smallest details. **This is where great begins.**



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## Nebraska utilities history

*The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or [robp@lonm.org](mailto:robp@lonm.org).*

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./  
Training Coordinator*

**D**aykin, located in Jefferson County, had settlers in the area by 1872 and the railroad soon operated a stop, which included a 15-foot windmill and a large wooden water tank to service the locomotives. In 1887, William E. Ide platted the original 61 acres and on April 17, Daykin became an incorporated village. A post office, a German Lutheran Church and a Methodist Church were established. The Jefferson County Bank was built, and on April 25, 1888, land was donated for the Carpenter Addition. In 1889, the Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery, located just east of Dakin, was established and the village consisted of several residential homes.

By 1900, the population was 189 and a windmill with a hand pump and watering tank was installed for public use. The windmill/pump supplied water for residents and also was used for a horse trough. Many residents were supplied water with their own individual windmills. Once

called "The Town of Windmills," which it earned when featured on **Ripley's Believe It or Not** – *Daykin with 37 windmills had more windmills per capita than any town in Nebraska.*

By 1900, wooden boardwalks were installed along the dirt streets and the population increased to 220 in 1910. In 1918, a building to house the four Delco battery units used in the Daykin street lighting system was built. These were used until 1924 when the electricity was hooked up to current from the Nebraska Gas and Electricity Company.

In 1923, a two-story brick building was constructed in the main business district, which later housed the Legion Club. By 1926, a high school to 12th grade was open and in 1927, the *Daykin Herald* newspaper was first published. The population decreased from 204 in 1920 to 187 by 1930. Before the 1930s, individual water wells and windmills provided water. A well in the center of Main Street provided water for those who didn't have individual wells. In 1935, a two-story brick



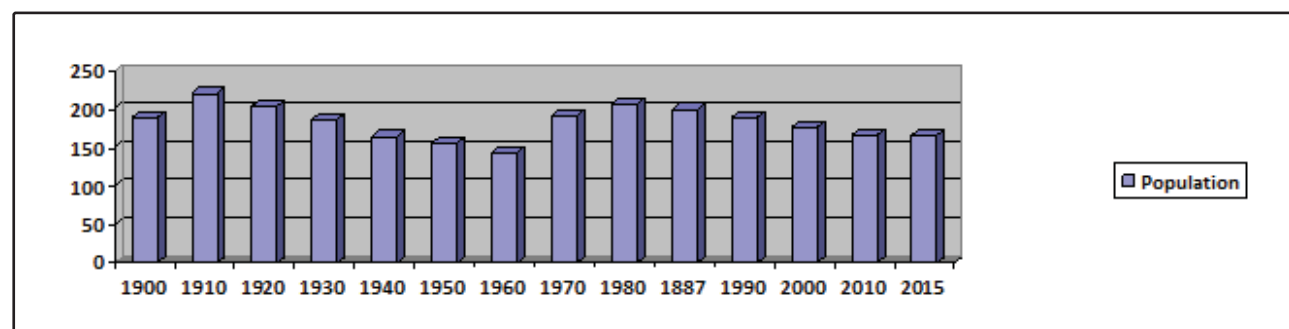
*Daykin water tower. 2001 photo.*

school with a gymnasium was built.

By 1940, the population decreased to 165 and in 1940, the *Daykin Herald* newspaper ceased publication.

In 1941, the village contracted electricity with the Consumers Public Power District. The Nebraska Gas and Electricity Company previously furnished electric current for the past 17 years (1924-41). In 1946, citizens enjoyed a library with Elinor Apk-

*Continued on page 5*





## Nebraska utilities history

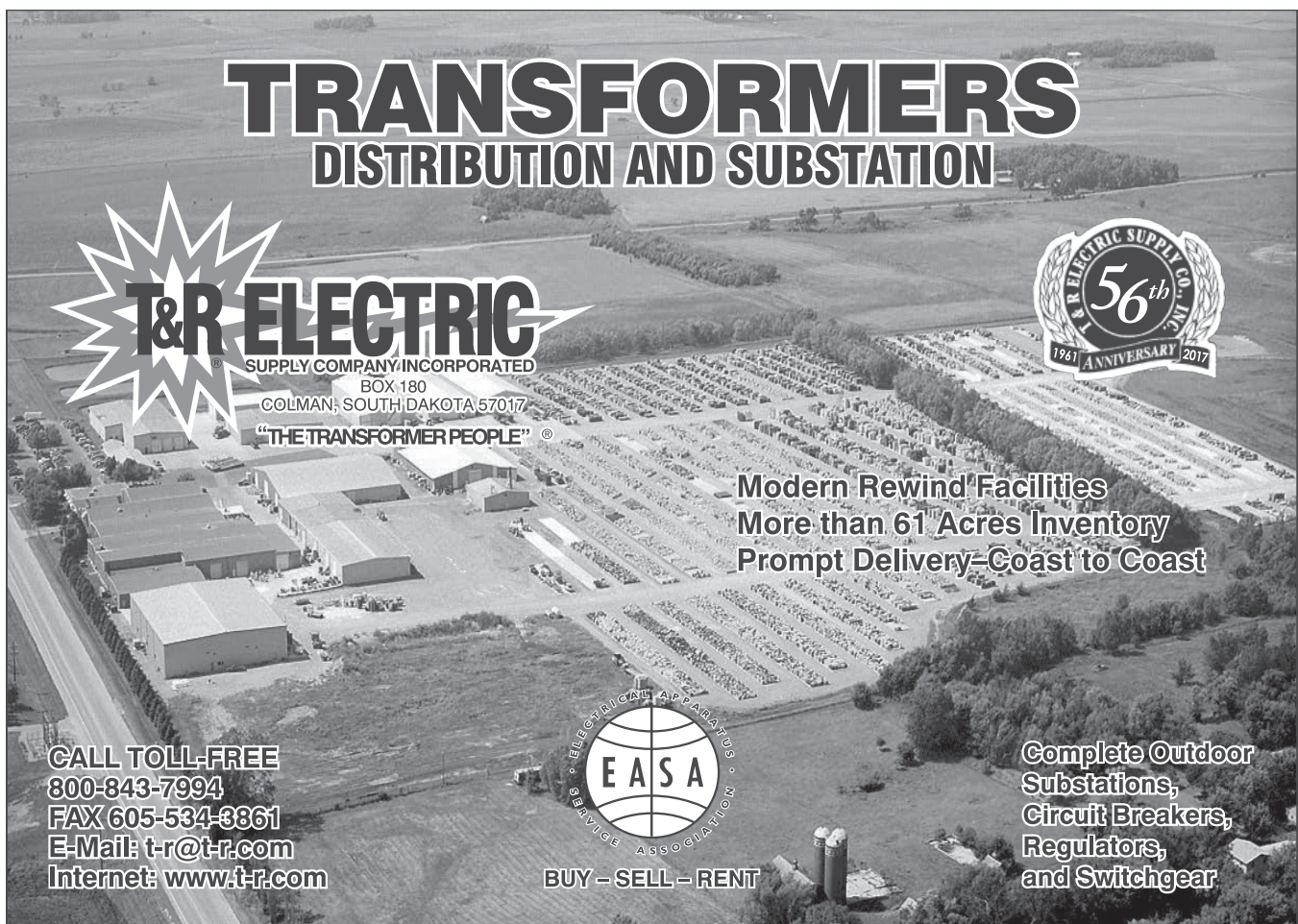
*Continued from page 4*  
ing as librarian. In March 1948, a vote was approved for \$44,000 in water bonds for a waterworks system to be constructed. In July, work began on the waterworks system by Layne Western Co. of Omaha. The contract for main installation was by Dobson Mfg. Co. of Lincoln and the contract for the overhead tank was with Omaha Steel Co. of Omaha. A water storage tower was built with the original pump located next to the water tower. The water tank was painted with bright

aluminum paint and located north of the lumberyard. In April 1949, the water was turned on with the new waterworks system, which replaced all but one windmill in town. In 1949, land donated for the Kleine Addition was platted.

In 1950, the population decreased slightly to 157 and the village hired Martin Brueggemann in 1951 to fill the first maintenance position. In 1952, the Consumers Public Power District completed installation of new street lights on Main Street. The new incandescent lights were


mounted on 35-foot poles with a modern type of lamp mounted on a bracket extending from the top of the pole. In 1956, electric current was purchased from Consumers Public Power District. The cost of street lighting was \$33.75 and the cost of pumping water was a minimum of \$9. In 1956, a cement platform was installed for roller skating and dances. In 1958, the cost of street lighting was \$33.73 and the cost of pumping water was \$0.025 per kilowatt hour (kWh) or a mini-

*Continued on page 6*




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## Nebraska utilities history

*Continued from page 5*  
mum of \$9. The fire department had 25 volunteers from 1958-1960. From 1958-1962, water rates were \$4.50 per quarter for 5,000 gallons, from 5,000-10,000 gallons at \$0.75 per 1,000 gallons, from 10,000-15,000 gallons at \$0.60 per 1,000 and above 15,000 gallons at \$0.50.

*At one time, Daykin was called the "Mint Capital of Nebraska" due to the enterprising farmers in the area growing mint as a cash crop.*

By 1960, the population dropped to 144 and the fire department had 15 volunteer members. The cost of street lighting was \$35.13 and the cost of pumping water was \$0.025 per kWh with a \$9 minimum. In 1962, a sewer system project was underway and completed in 1964. From 1965-1969, maintenance superintendents included Harold Hinman, William Endorf, Ted Schwisow, Amos Hamm, Ed Krajci and William H. Endorf.

In 1967, the school merged with Alexandria and Tobias to form Meridian High School, District #303. The past 28 years, the electric system was operated by

Consumers Public Power District and served by the Nebraska Public Power District, starting in 1970. The population in 1970 was 192 and in 1974, a new well was put down on the north edge town in the north park. By 1980, the population increased to 207 and the night watchman position was eliminated 91 years after F. Tippin served as Marshal. In 1986, work was completed on the wastewater treatment lagoon system and the village maintained a Daykin Community Center building. The population in 1990 dipped to 199 and the electric system was operated/wholesale supplied by Norris Public Power District.

The wastewater treatment facility consisted of facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.029 million gallons per day (mgd) by 1998.

By 2004, newer sidewalks were installed on the main business block with curbless blacktop, some gravel streets and wooden street signs. The former public school was a community hall and library. The windmill and pump was donated by Amy Schmitt in 1987. The fire hall is a metal five-door building.

Today, Daykin has a population of 166 and has been an incorporated village for 130 years. Daykin has been a League of Nebraska Municipalities member and a Utilities Section member more than 40 years. The village maintains a park, community center, library, blacktopped streets and a water and wastewater system. The electric current is provided by Norris Public Power District. Solid waste collection is provided by a private collector and the gas system consists of individual propane tanks.




*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1965-1984, 1986-87, 1990-98, 2000-2017; Nebraska Water Resources, December 1936; A Century of Progress: Daykin Nebraska 1887-1987, 1987; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast, 1992; Maps Tell a Story, 1991; Beatrice Daily Sun Newspaper, 2007; Boone County History 1871-1985; NEDED Website, 2005; NPPD Website, 2011; and the Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1946.*



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## Projects around Nebraska

*If you have a project planned or one under construction, please let us know!*



*Nebraska City overpass project on Highway 2.*



*Future Emerson Fire Hall getting walls.*



*Scribner's current Fire Hall.*



*Grading work at future site of Scribner Fire Hall.*

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## *Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share*

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations and a “Thank You” go out to the electric crews and the management from **Grand Island, Lincoln Electric System, Loup Public Power District, Omaha Public Power District** and the **Nebraska Public Power District** for traveling to Florida to help with the Hurricane Irma recovery. The Grand Island electric crew members included **Jake Bosak, Dave Kunze, Scott Bauer and Kevin Willey**. Again, thank you! **Congratulations “Nicest Place in America” Finalist**

Congratulations to **Franklin, Nebraska** for being a finalist in the Readers Digest “Nicest Place in America” contest. Franklin was one of 10 finalists out of more than 250 applications. The *Kearney Hub* reported that Franklin was nominated by Michelle Bruce. The winner was Gallatin, Texas, which will be featured on the *Readers Digest* cover of the November 2017 issue.

Do you think you live in the nicest place in America and want

it to be featured on the Readers Digest cover? The *Kearney Hub* noted that *Readers Digest* was accepting nominations for 2018 at [www.rd.com](http://www.rd.com).

Again, congratulations to Franklin for being chosen as a top 10 finalist.

### **NS-AWWA Awards**

Congratulations to the following water systems that received safety awards at the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association (NS-AWWA) banquet held at the Younes Center in Kearney Nov. 7, 2017. The “Certificate of Achievement” awards were presented to **Auburn, Beatrice, Grand Island and Norfolk**.

The “Certificate of Recognition” awards were presented to **Nebraska City, Lincoln and Crete**.

**Jack Satur** was presented the “Water Industry Service Award” (WISA). The WISA award is designed to recognize members of the Nebraska Section of AWWA who, over the years, have untiringly served the waterworks



industry.

**Darrell Eggli** of Aurora received the “Outstanding Supervisory Operator.”

The **City of Norfolk** was recognized for its “Cross Connection Control Program” and **Doug Doerr** of NuCor Norfolk received the “Cross Connection Control Specialist” award.

**The Fuller Awardee was Rob Pierce of the League of Nebraska Municipalities – Utilities Section.**

The **City of Cozad Water Department** was recognized as being an AWWA Utility member for 50 years.

The Department of Health & Human Services presented **Ron Nitz** of Norfolk with an “Outstanding Water Operator Award.”

Winners of the Ultimate Challenge competition were **Steve**

*Continued on page 9*


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***More information on upcoming seminars and workshops can be found on the League website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org).***



## *Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share*

*Continued from page 8*

**Kelley and Tommy Rudder** of Beatrice and **Pat Heath** of Gering.

Winners of the TopOps Challenge were **Ken Swanson** (Nebraska City), **Steve Kelley** (Beatrice) and **Eric Lee** (Lincoln).

The recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship (for license upgrade expenses) went to **Wayne Rickers** of Beatrice. Congratulations!

The Overall Best Tasting Water Competition winner was

**North Platte**. The **Auburn** water sample was second with the top-treated water sample. A record number of systems submitted water samples this year, (may have been the enticement of a free drink ticket at the social hour) if a sample was submitted.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person? Have a project worthy of acknowledgement in the *Utilities Section Newsletter*?

If so, please send your information to any of the League/Utilities staff so we can share your excitement or pride of an award, noted article or project with other members. Too often we read about negative news in our local newspaper, but the positive should be celebrated, embraced and shared. Optimism can be contagious and others may find positive ways to use your success to enhance a project or event in their municipality, department or facility.



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## SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

### *Is fatigue a factor in your workplace?*

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./  
Training Coordinator*

The *Webster Dictionary* definition of fatigue is weariness from physical or mental exertion. So, what causes fatigue?

#### **Causes of Fatigue**

Working long hours (double shift) or just being awake a long period of time. Excessive overtime or double shifts due to storm damage or outages, along with the time of day or night often relates to the amount of sleep you got the night before. Physical or muscle fatigue can be from the type or size of personal protective equipment (PPE) being used and how long the PPE is worn. Minimize long shifts without rest, make sleep a priority, exercise regularly, eat smart, minimize caffeine, maintain a positive attitude, work wisely and be sure to address driver drowsiness.

#### **Signs of Fatigue**

The National Safety Council noted in a fact sheet that some signs of fatigue can include back tension, shallow breathing, inattentiveness, burning eyes, and erratic driving, which includes drifting, abnormal speed, tailgating or failure to obey traffic signs. As a municipal construction worker whose worksite is often the street, it may not be a comforting thought to know that a percentage of drivers are asleep at the wheel. This percentage does not factor in those who are awake, but distracted by multitasking or phone activities while driving.

#### **Driving While Resting Your Eyes**

The Denverchannel.com noted a survey asking the question; Have

you ever fallen asleep while driving? 650 responded yes (55 percent) and 497 responded no (45 percent). Another article noted a survey in North Carolina where half of the 1,403 drivers who crashed had less than six hours sleep. An Ottawa, Ontario July poll by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation showed nearly 60 percent of Ontario drivers admitted to driving while fatigued or drowsy at some time. The National Safety Council in a 2004 survey noted 37 percent of drivers have nodded off at least a moment or fallen asleep while driving at least once in their driving career

#### **Wellness Programs**

Wellness can be a factor as often we don't exercise enough, eat right or minimize our caffeine intake. The prescription medication many of take many cause drowsiness and sluggish reaction times. Some tips to fighting fatigue include getting 7 to 9 hours of sleep, maintaining a consistent sleep/wake pattern, ensuring sound sleep, and avoiding heavy meals in the evening. Lack of sleep can hinder an individual's ability to work safely. Sleep deprivation can hinder decision-making, reaction time and motor control skills. Lack of sleep can

cause low motivation, errors, inattention, compromise memory and/or recall issues and uncharacteristic behavioral or emotional signs. Often, serious accidents are caused by inadequate sleep. Basically, your lack sleep can be affecting you emotionally and physically along with affecting your work performance and your safety and your co-workers' safety.

#### **Fatigue Prevention**

Prevent fatigue by scheduling or minimizing long normal work hours, minimize random overtime shifts or work time disruptions (double shifts), and ensure adequate break time. Establish a formal work rotation with the adequate number of employees and emphasize cross training especially when scheduling vacations and time away from work. Promote wellness programs with adequate rest periods, sleep and proper eating habits. Fatigue issues can be prevented, but it often takes a team that includes the employer, the employees and good scheduling by the employer. employee and the public being served.

"Fighting Fatigue Week" is usually in May, but eliminating or minimizing fatigue is a year-round battle.

### ***Solid Waste Screening Workshop scheduled***

A Solid Waste Screening Workshop is scheduled for Jan. 30, 2018, at the Hastings Airport Terminal. The workshop will include three hours on "Hazardous

Waste Screening" and two hours on operations and safety.

The workshop is sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section.

## Training calendar

### January

Jan. 4 .....	Water Operator Training Workshop .....	Library, Blair
Jan. 11 .....	Water Operator Training Workshop .....	Library, Pawnee City
Jan. 17-19 .....	Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference .....	Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
Jan. 24 .....	Water Operator Training Workshop .....	Holiday Inn, Kearney
Jan. 24-25 .....	Snowball Conference .....	Holiday Inn, Kearney
Jan. 30 .....	Solid Waste Screening Workshop .....	Airport Terminal Building, Hastings

### *“Just For Fun” Answers*

- A-1.** 31 (19 are listed as Utilities Section members: Waco, Wahoo, Wakefield, Wallace, Walthill, Waukena, Wausa, Waverly, Wayne, West Point, Weston, Wilber, Wilcox, Winside, Wisner, Wolbach, Wood River, Wymore and Wynot). *Reference: 2017 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials.*
- A-2.** Eight (**Valentine, Valley**, Valparaiso, Venango, Verdel, Verdigre, **Verdon** and Virginia), Utilities Section members are in bold. *Reference: 2017 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials.*
- A-3.** Three (Table Rock, Guide Rock and Rockville) or four if you count Roca, which is Spanish for rock.
- A-4.** On the courthouse square in Tecumseh. The statue was erected in 1903 by the Heckathorn Post No. 47, Nebraska GAR in Memory of all soldiers and sailors of Johnson County.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Whoops!** Our readers are not keeping me (Rob) from listing (not quite correct) fake trivia.

In 2015, the question “How many incorporated cities or villages in Nebraska start with the letter Y?” That question was asked in the January 2015 and April 2015 newsletters. Amazingly enough, the answers were the same (York, Yutan).

Also, two villages had two separate history articles published: Phillips (January 2014 and March 2015) and Bertrand (October 2008 and September 2016).

Apparently not fake news, but duplicate news! If you catch any “not quite correct” information on the “Breaktime Just for Fun” or the system history articles, let us know so it can be corrected.

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