Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

October 2018

The Town of Kelleyville

By Steve Kelley, Beatrice Water Superintendent

The Beatrice Water Department was asked to talk to the Beatrice Public Schools for an after-school program called "Working Wednesday's." The person who contacted me wanted us to talk about how water gets from the well to the towers and anything in between. We agreed to do this talk to K-5th Grades and thought, how we are going to show kids this age how the water system works?



From left: Steve Kelley and Wayne Rickers of the Beatrice Water Department.

After much thought, we decided to invent Kelleyville as a way to show how the Beatrice water system gets water to the water towers, fire hydrants and homes. I told the kids at this time, we decided on Kelleyville because that is how most towns were named, after some person that was involved with the founding of the commu-



From left: Wayne Rickers and Steve Kelley educate future water customers.

nity and my last name was Kelley so thus, we named it Kelleyville.

We made a well that pumped water to the underground reservoirs and then we pumped from the reservoirs to the water distribution system where we showed homes and fire hydrants and then how the excess water pumped then goes to the water tower. Then, we simulated that when the water tower is full, it sends a signal for the pumps to shut-off and the water system is using gravity pressure from the water tower. We also showed that when the underground reservoirs are full or needing water, the well turns on or off as needed.

This all went very well and the teachers actually learned how water gets from the well to the homes. Of course, we had all kinds of questions from the kids



UTILITIES SECTION

and most had the same answer. They wanted to know how water got to the kitchen faucet, bath tub, lawn sprinklers, swimming pool and the list went on and

To top off the hour talk, we had a backhoe available

for them to sit in and, of course, someone found the horn and it was honked by almost every one of the kids who attended.

It was a fun time to do this and we will keep Kelleyville around for future requests. I also think the

kids and teachers learned more about the water they drink. This program was done by Water Technician Wavne Rickers and Water Superintendent Steve Kelley.



Steve Kelley recruiting a future water operator.

Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 476-2829 Fax (402) 476-7052

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

Congratulations and a "Thank You" go out to the electric crews and management from **Grand** Island and the Lincoln Electric **System** for traveling to Florida



to aid with the Hurricane Michael recovery.

A belated congratulations to the Fremont Department of Utilities for receiving national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability for the year 2017. Fremont was recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA). Fremont's System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) of 10 minutes was well below the national average of 129 minutes. This was the first time Fremont has earned this type of recognition. Again, congratula-

Congratulations to 2018 Award Winner! Congratulations go to the City of Lincoln for receiving the "Waste Diversion Project of the Year" award at the Nebraska Recycling Council awards luncheon held Oct. 2, 2018. More information on the awards luncheon and workshop can be found at www.nrcne.

Do you, your department or facility have some-

thing 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.



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UTILITIES SECTION

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SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

October was National Fire Prevention Month

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./ Training Coordinator

Be sure to review and practice safe evacuation procedures (fire drills) and inspect all municipal buildings (facilities) for fire safety concerns and make any needed precautions to eliminate fire haz-

National Safety Council Training Program Scheduled

The National Safety Council is hosting a "Safety Management Techniques" training seminar on Nov. 12-15 in Omaha. Additional information on this event can be found at www.nsc.org.

Once on the site, click on "Safety Training" at the top then click on "NSC University" or call NSC customer service at 800-621-7619.

ards. Make sure electrical connections are not overloaded or loose and are properly grounded.

In the early years, many of our village and cities across the state lost businesses, courthouses, city halls and schools due to fire. Be sure to inspect the working order of all smoke alarms (batteries), and check electrical wiring, break room kitchens, flammable storage areas and all fire extinguish-

The AWWA Safety Committee met Oct. 11, 2018 at the League office in Lincoln.

In attendance were Roger Coffey, Rick Melcher of Aurora and Doug Pollack of Seward and Rob Pierce of LNM. The committee discussed safety award applications and potential safety workshops for 2019. Awards were determined and will be presented at the AWWA Annual Conference in Kearney.

ers. Fire extinguishers should be checked monthly and serviced annually.

There are five general classes of fire extinguishers which include: Class A – for ordinary combustibles (paper, wood, cloth); Class B – for flammable liquids (gasoline, grease, oil); Class C – for electrical equipment (appliances, tools); Class D – for combustible metals (most often found in factories); and Class K – for cooking combustibles (vegetable and animal oils and fats; most often found in commercial kitchens).

Employees should be trained to use the P.A.S.S. method to extinguish a fire.

P.A.S.S. Method

Pull the pin

Aim the nozzle

Squeeze the lever

Sweep the nozzle

A fire extinguisher should be provided within 100 feet of employees for each 3,000 square feet of building. Fire Prevention Week was Oct. 7-13, 2018. Please practice fire prevention all year long.



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Fall Water Workshops held

Water Operator Training Workshops were held in Broken Bow Oct. 2 and in Lexington Oct. 3, 2018. These workshops were sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities – Utilities Section and the Nebraska Section – American Water Works Association.

Topics for these two workshops included: fire hydrants, valves, meters, metering software applications, basic installation "Do & Don't" practices and troubleshooting tips. Core & Main arranged for presentations and sponsored lunch and rolls. Paul Hurley of Sensus and Charles Bausch of Core & Main covered water meters and the related software.



Charles Bausch and Paul Hurley of Core & Main.

Cort Place of American Flow Control covered hydrant/valve operation and maintenance.



Cort Place of American Flow Control.

In the afternoon, John Mone of Ford Meter Box Company covered trouble shooting practices and how to recognize improper installations. The day ended after Tony Martinez of the Department of Health and Human Services provided a regulatory update and discussed changes within his department and who to contact.

Operators attending these workshops received five hours toward



John Mone of Ford Meter Box Company.

their grades 1-4 water licenses and four hours toward wastewater renewal. Certificates were provided.

Special thanks to Core & Main (Ford Meter Box Company, Xylem-Sensus meters and American Flow Control) for providing presentations, lunch and rolls at these workshop sites.

Construction zones: A collection of orange cones!

The Pender water tower was getting the old lead paint removed and refurbished with new paint.

(August 20, 2018 photo)



Nebraska Breaktime Trivia "Just For Fun"

- **Q-1.** Do you know where this former bank, now village hall is located?
- **Q-2.** How many incorporated village/cities start with the letters Sh?
- **Q-3.** The village of Dodge is located in what Nebraska County?

Answers on page 9.



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.

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Turray, located in Cass County, was a part of a land grant to the widow of William King, a veteran of the war of 1812. By 1872, settlers were in the area. On Sept. 22, 1884, a post office was established. Initially to be named Fairview, but due to confusion with another Nebraska town, the name Murray was settled on over Walker, which was preferred by some. The community was named Murray after the Rev. George Reed Murray. A church from nearby Rock Bluff was moved to the new community. In 1891, a town site was surveyed and a plat was filed. Soon, a blacksmith shop and a few residences were built with a

population of about 35 in the area by 1891. That vear, the Missouri Pacific Railroad connected Union, Plattsmouth and the Murray area with rails. By September 1891, the railroad project was completed and a depot was erected south of Main Street. A grain elevator was built and the *Murray* Banner newspaper was published. By 1892, the Murray State Bank was established and incorporated Dec. 8. A building was constructed on Main Street for school session use and by 1894, a lumberyard business was operating. The Murray Academy was established in 1895 with classes held in the United Presbyterian Church. The bank changed ownership in 1896 and a Presbyterian Church was completed in 1897. On

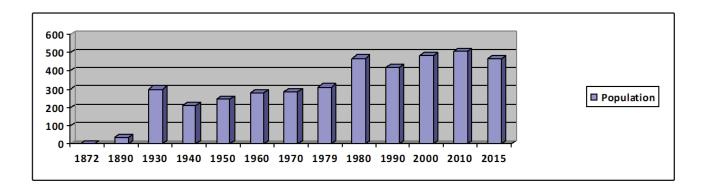
Nov. 1, 1897, the bank closed, but was reorganized and reopened Oct. 1, 1900. On Sept. 26, 1900, a creamery was organized, but was dissolved in 1908. A large high school building was erected at the north side of the community and was dedicated Nov. 13, 1914. By 1917, the Continental Gas & Electric provided electricity in the area, which included Murray. On March 20, 1918, the Nebraska Lighting Company submitted an application (No. 3477) for construction of a transmission line to carry alternating current (AC) from Plattsmouth to Murray. Electricity was brought to Murray in 1918 by Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Company. On Feb. 3, 1921, the Murray Library was incorporated. By 1922, the Nebraska



Murray Water Tower. (2012 Photo)

Gas & Electric Company supplied electrical current. From 1923-1943, the Frank Mrasek family operated a swimming pool on the east edge of town. On June 9, 1927, a big fire destroyed half the businesses (Murray State Bank, two frame buildings, a two-story brick building, hardware store, general store, meat market, post office, soft

Continued on page 6



Continued from page 5 drink parlor and community hall.

By 1930, the unincorporated community population was 300. On Dec. 24, 1932, the school was destroyed by fire. A new brick school building was built in 1933. On March 7, 1935, Murray was incorporated as a village and a volunteer fire department was established. In 1938, a well was dug as the water system was constructed. The water system was completed in 1939 and the population was 209 by 1940. In Spring 1941, Consumers Public Power purchased Nebraska properties of the Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Co., a sub of Continental Gas & Electric, which served Murray. The population increased from 244 in 1950 to 279 in 1960. In 1956, the municipal water plant had 80 meters in service owned by consumers. Water rates were \$1 for a minimum 1,000 gallons then \$0.40 per 1,000 over the minimum per month. The fire department had 15 volunteer firefighters and in 1956, a new bond was issued for the sewer system. The publicly owned disposal plant and sewer system were maintained by a tax levy and by 1960, that levy was \$4,000.

By 1960, the population was 279, the water system consisted of 90 meters and the rural fire department was formed in 1962. In 1964-1965, an addition was made to the school building and by 1968, a new post office building was constructed. The population was 286 in 1970 and after being served electricity by Consumers Public Power District for 28 years, Murray was served by Nebraska Public Power District.

Schools were reorganized in 1972 and the Conestoga Junior/Senior High School was built two miles west of Murray (dedicated in 1980). Elementary school, grades K-3rd, attended school at Murray and grades 4th-6th attended school at Nehawka. The natural gas system in 1974 was operated by Peoples Natural Gas Company. Improvements were made on the wastewater treatment system in 1976 and the population was 465 by 1980. In 1981, the rural and village fire departments merged and by 1990, the population was 418. By 1992, the village had a new municipal building and the wastewater treatment plant operation was contracted to PeopleService in February 1993. In 1998, the wastewater treatment facility consisted of a rotating bio-contactor system designed for 0.052 million gallons per day (mgd.) using chlorine gas disinfection with a single-stage anaerobic digester sludge treatment. The electrical system was owned by the village and leased to Nebraska Public Power District.

By 2003, the population was 481 and sewer rates were \$40 per month and some area residents still had septic systems. A new treatment facility was estimated at about \$1.4 million and the village qualified for a \$250,000 grant to improve the sewer system. By 2005, a decision was made to not build a treatment plant, but rather contract out the service. By 2009, the village contracted with Beaver Lake Association to provide wastewater treatment services. The Beaver Lake Association had a newer wastewater treatment system design to serve 2,000 homes.

Murray would build a pipeline to the Beaver Lake station. By 2007, the natural gas system was provided service by Aquila and by 2009, by Black Hills Energy. The population increased to 505 by 2010 and Murray was a retail electric customer of the Nebraska Public Power District.

Murray has been an incorporated village for 83 years with a population of 463. Murray has been a Utilities Section member since 1992 (26 years). The village maintains two parks (Dr. Tyson Park and Young Memorial Park), a ballfield and several blocks of streets. The villageowned water system is contractually operated by PeopleSevice. The wastewater system disposal is contracted to Beaver Lake Association. The electric system owned by the village is operated and supplied wholesale by the Nebraska Public Power District. (NPPD). Natural gas service is provided by Black Hills Energy.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2018; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; History of Cass County Nebraska, 1989; Lincoln Journal Star, 2003, 2005; Nebraska Our Towns...East Southeast, 1992; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Maps Tell Nebraska's History 1991; Murray Website, 2009; Cass County Website, 2013; Public Utilities Reports, Vol. 3, 1918; Nebraska Historic Building Survey, Cass County, August 2004; Cass County Historical Magazine Vol. 1 No. 1, 1944; and the NPPD Website, 2011.

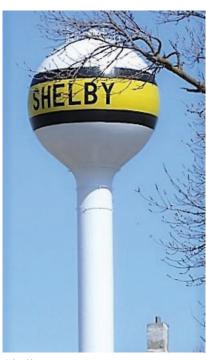
The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829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

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./ Training Coordinator

Shelby, located in Polk County, had settlers in the area in the early 1870s and School District #32 was holding elementary school by 1873. On March 16, 1874, a post office in the area was established as Cyclone. The post office name was chosen due to a cyclone or tornado that hit as the post office was being formed. By 1879, more settlers arrived as a town site was laid out by the Union Pacific Railroad, originally as Arcade before the town had a post office. The postal service rejected the name Arcade, because there was another postal service with a similar name already established. On Aug. 4, 1880, the post office officially moved to the newly laid out town site and changed the name from Cyclone to Shelby. That year, the new community became Shelby and no longer was called Arcade. The population was 93 and the business district had a drug store, hardware store, hotel, livery stable and a boot/shoe shop. Original streets included: Oak, Walnut, Pine, Cherry, Elm and Chestnut.

By 1890, the population increased to 333 and two arc lights lit up Main Street. About 1898, half of the east side of main street was destroyed in a fire including the Opera House. Between 1890-1900, only two arc gas lamps were on Main Street. The population increased to 425 by 1900 and a new brick school was built in 1909. By 1910, the population was 503, the school added a 12th grade (1912) and a C. Miller Electric Light & Power Company served Osceola and Shelby by 1915. In 1917, the Continental Gas and Electric Corp. (Public Service Company), acquired the Osceola & Shelby Electric Light, Heat & Power, located in Osceola.

By 1920, the population was 559. The electric system was provided current by the Public Service Company with electric rates in 1925 at \$0.045-\$0.12 per kilowatt (kW). A municipal water system operated with rates at a minimum of \$1.50 for 5,000



Shelby Water Tower.

gallons. By 1930, the population increased to 630 and by 1932, Shelby used natural gas and a WPA project installed a sewer system. From 1940-1950, the population went from 627 to 624.

Continued on page 8

800 400 200 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

Continued from page 7

The natural gas system in 1956 was supplied by Central Electric and Gas Company and the electric system was supplied by Consumers Public Power District. The water plant was owned by the village and the 200 meters in service were owned by the consumers. Water rates were \$3.25 minimum for 10,000 gallons and \$0.20 for 1,000 gallons excess. In 1956, the municipal sewer system and disposal plant was maintained by a tax levy. By 1958, the water system had 232 meters and the cost of street lighting amounted to \$100.43 per month. The population by 1960 was 610 and in 1962, the electric system was supplied by Consumers Public Power District with a street lighting cost of \$105.08 per month. A sewer project was underway for construction of a waste stabilization lagoon system to be completed in 1962. The sewer system and disposal plant, owned by the village, was maintained by a tax levy of \$1,200 per month. The municipal water plant in 1962 had water rates of \$3.25 minimum for 10,000 gallons and the cost of pumping water was \$78.67 per month.

The municipal sewer system and disposal plant were maintained by a tax levy of \$1,200 per month.

The population by 1970 was 647 and a low-income housing project was completed (Parish Apartments). The electric system was owned by the village and operated by Nebraska Public Power District. An addition was made to the school in 1973 and by 1980, the population increased to 720. By 1987, the natural gas system was served by Minnegasco. In 1988, a public library was established and another addition was made to the school in 1989. The population decreased slightly to 690 by 1990 and by 1994, the natural gas system was served by Peoples Natural Gas Company. In 1995, the Senior Center and the Shelby Village Apartments (for lowincome families) were built.

In 1995, an addition was made to the school and in 1996, a new post office was built. In 1997, the park received new playground equipment and the effluent from the wastewater treatment system designed for 0.046 million gallons per day (mgd) was gravity irrigated to cropland. By 1999, the village had decorative street light-

ing in the business area.

The population by 2000 was 690, a new century villa was built and by 2002, the municipal electrical system was operated by Polk County Rural Public Power District. By 2003, the natural gas was operated by Aquila Inc., and the water system was looking into a new well and water meters. By 2007, the water system had two wells with an 88,000-gallon water storage tank. Solid waste collection was by a private collector with the following rates: singles at \$10.25 per month; couples at Continued on page 9

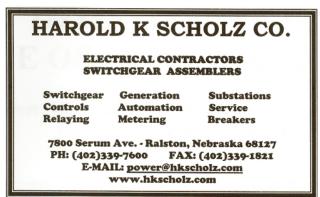
"Just For Fun" Answers

A-1. Douglas (League and Utilities Section Member).

A-2. Five – Shelby, Shelton, Shickley, Sholes and Shubert (all but Sholes are Utilities Section Members). Reference: 2018 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials

A-3. Dodge County.





Continued from page 8 \$11.75 per month; and family (3 or more) at \$13.25 per month. A \$0.50 surcharge was imposed on each level. Commercial rates were \$21 per yard for once-aweek pickup and \$32 per yard for twice-a-week pickup. By 2010, the population was 606 and water meters were installed (project cost \$231,918). The village received a USDA grant of \$354,000, a \$442,00 loan and a SRF loan of \$754,000. A grant of \$100,000 was used to build a water treatment/distribution and storage system. By 2009, the natural gas system was operated by Black Hills Energy Inc. In 2017, the water system served a population of

625 with 12 commercial and 134 residential services (all unmetered) using two active wells.

Today, Shelby has a population of 714, has been incorporated for 133 years and a League and Utilities Section Member for more than 25 years. The village maintains a five-acre park with three ball fields, a shelter, swimming pool, volleyball/tennis courts and playground equipment. The Village also maintains a cemetery, paved/ curb streets, a public library, and a water and a wastewater collection/disposal system. Natural gas is provided by Black Hills Energy Inc., and the electric system, owned by the village, is operated/ supplied by Polk County Public

Power District.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2018; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 1946, 2010; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Shelby Internet Website, 2003; Nebraska Our Towns...Central Southeast, 1991: Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Nebraska Blue Book, 1920, 1928, 1946, 1978; The Crete Democrat Newspaper, 1891; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2008; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; and Moody's *Manual of Railroads and Corp.* Securities, Part 2, 1921.

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Classifieds

Utilities Assistant. The Village of Elwood is accepting applications for a full-time Utilities Assistant. Duties include assisting with maintenance of streets, operation of sewer and water systems, park and swimming pool. Drug testing and a valid Nebraska driver's license are required. Salary is negotiable. A benefit package is offered with the position. Applications may be picked up at 304 Calvert Avenue, Elwood, NE 68937 or call 308-785-2480 for more information. E-mail requests for applications to villelwood@atcjet.net. Please include a resume with your application. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Village of Elwood is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Journey Line Worker. The City of Alliance is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journey Line Worker with a starting 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, flex time, 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 the Public Works Facility, which was constructed in 2002. The Department maintains 10 vehicles, including a 60-foot and two 50-foot bucket trucks. A complete job description and application is available on the City of Alliance's Website at www. cityofalliance.net. Applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

Water/Wastewater Utility II. The City of Schuyler, Department of Utilities is accepting applications for the position of Water/ Wastewater Utility II. Nebraska State certification Grade IV Water and/or Sanitary Sewer Grade I is required. Pay rate \$18.18-\$22.83 per hour depending on experience and qualifications, with benefits. Drug test required. Applicants must be 18 years of age and hold a valid Nebraska driver's license. Candidates must mail a cover letter, resume and three references to the Schuyler Department of Utilities. Application and job description may be requested at the Schuyler Department of Utilities office, 204 East 10th Street, Schuyler, Nebraska, 68661 or via email supt@eaglecom.net. Applications accepted until position is filled. The City of Schuyler, Department of Utilities is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Electric Lineman First Class (Full-Time). The City of Seward



is accepting applications until filled for Electric Lineman First Class. Application review begins Nov. 8, 2018. Pay range: \$23.73-\$30.05 per hour, with benefits. Applicant must be high school graduate or equivalent and have the equivalent of technical training received in an associate degree program in electric utility maintenance; will perform and participate in construction, installation, maintenance and repair of electric distribution and transmission lines and other related work. Applicant must possess: Class B CDL license (or ability to obtain within 6 mos.); knowledge of approved methods, materials and tools used in electric line work; knowledge of principles of electric theory which apply to electric distribution and transmission systems. Application and job description available at Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; PO Box 38; Seward, NE 68434 (402-643-2928) or can be downloaded at the City's website: www. CityofSewardNE.gov. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance in completing application and should be made at time of application. All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. The City of Seward is an Equal

Continued on page 11

Classifieds

Continued from page 10 Opportunity Employer.

Public Works Director. The City of Plattsmouth, NE seeks qualified applicants for Director of Public Works. Department head with responsibility for fiscal management, administration and operational direction of the City's public works and utilities activities and functions; provides expert professional assistance to City management in areas of expertise, including engineer-

ing, municipal water, wastewater collection, and street and land-scape maintenance; and performs related duties as required. Job description and application available at www.plattsmouth.org. Open until filled. EOE with veteran's preference.

Maintenance Worker. The Village of Wausa is accepting applications for full time Village Maintenance. Performs a variety of duties in the operation and maintenance of the streets, water,

wastewater, parks and more. High school diploma or equivalent and valid NE driver license. Applicant must be able to obtain a CDL. The individual must have a Certification in wastewater and water or be willing to take classes and pass the certification test. Wages will depend on level of experience. Applications can be obtained at the Wausa Clerk's Office, 406 E. Broadway, or call 402-586-2311. Open until filled. EOE.



Training calendar

Visit our website at www.lonm.org for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

January

Jan. 16-18 Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference	eEmbassy Suites, Lincoln
Jan. 22 Water Operator Training Workshop	Holiday Inn, Kearney
Jan. 23-24 Snowball Conference	Holiday Inn, Kearney

February

Feb. 12-13 Meter Conference	Holiday Inn, Kearney
Feb 25-26 Midwinter Conference	Cornhusker Marriott Hotel Lincoln

