

WHAT IS THE ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION AND HOW CAN THEY ASSIST ME?

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ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

THE ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION (IRWA) IS

- A non-profit organization of rural water and wastewater systems
 - Governed by a Board of Directors consisting of nine people associated with water/wastewater systems within the state
 - Not a regulatory agency
- Membership includes all organizations and individuals associated with the water and wastewater industry
 - Not just community water systems less than 10,000 population!

A LITTLE HISTORY ON IRWA

- Formed in 1979 to coordinate water and wastewater system training and technical assistance programs on across Illinois
 - Subsequently grown to a staff of 15 individuals with diverse industry backgrounds
- Along with forty-nine other State Associations, form the National Rural Water Association.

GOAL OF THE IRWA

- Professional, efficient operation of water and wastewater systems through education and on-site assistance
 - Focus on one-to-one assistance and addressing problems from the system level
 - Dedicated to the improvement and development of public and privately owned water and wastewater systems.
 - Advocating for the industry by:
 - Lobbying efforts within Illinois and
 - Briefing members on Federal and state policy changes/issues
 - Pooling resources together, we are better able to answer the needs of water and wastewater systems of Illinois
 - If we don't know, we know someone that does (likely a member)

A LITTLE MORE ON POOLING RESOURCES

- Assisting/coordinating with local operator groups
- Assisting with other technical conferences (e.g., Illinois Potable Water Supply Operator's Association)
- Seeking peer review of technical assistance documents and FAQs to assist water system better operate and comply with statutes and regulations
- Interacting with Illinois Regulatory Agencies to benefit water/wastewater systems
- Interacting with and supporting educational institutions

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

- Attaining our goal by:
 - Providing training sessions
 - Phone and e-mail communications with the systems
 - Referral/consultation to and with industry members
 - Personal visits to the systems by IRWA staff
 - IRWA hallmark is direct personal interaction with operators, managers, board members, and local government officials to provide the necessary materials and problem-solving direction.
 - Circuit Riders provide a wealth of knowledge gained through hands-on experience and research
 - All staff are properly accredited to deliver the specific types of needed assistance

WHAT IS THE MAKEUP OF THESE CREDENTIALLED TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS?

- 8 Circuit Riders
 - 5 primarily providing technical assistance to Drinking Water Systems
 - 2 primarily providing technical assistance to Wastewater Facilities
 - 1 Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider supporting both water and wastewater treatment facilities
- 1 Apprenticeship Coordinator
 - Supporting both water and wastewater treatment facilities
- 1 Training Specialist
 - Primarily supporting training and technical assistance to drinking water systems
- 1 Source Water Technician
 - Supporting Drinking Water Systems
- Supported by:
 - 2 management staff (also credentialed) and
 - 2 administrative/membership assistants

MEMBERSHIP

- Industry Contact Book
- Mailing of the "T.A.B." (Technical Assistance Bulletin) every other month
- Mailing of "IRWA Water Ways" quarterly magazine
- Discounts on training and conferences
- Eligible for National Rural Water Association affiliate programs
- Information sent directly to you on IRWA Training Sessions in your area
- Technical assistance provided by Circuit Riders at no charge to you
- Will list your job openings in a mail out to our S.O.U.P. Members at no charge to you
- Receive discounts from affiliate programs through National Rural Water on fleet vehicles

SERVICES YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

- No cost services:
 - Equipment for Loan
 - Leak Location Assistance
 - Energy Efficiency Assessment Program
 - Rate Study
 - Technical assistance document and templates available for download
- Cost of service programs:
 - Asset Mapping Services (GPS/GIS)
 - Sewer Video Inspection Service
 - E-CCR Hosting

HOW DO I LEARN MORE OR GET ASSISTANCE?

- Website: www.ilrwa.org/index.htm
- Email: ilrwa@ilrwa.org
- Phone: 217-287-2115
- Fax: 217-824-8638
- Mailing Address: Illinois Rural Water Association, 3305 Kennedy Road, PO Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568