



49TH IRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE BEST TASTING WATER CONTEST

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

- 1** A one-quart sample in a glass container (glass canning jar) should be entered in Des Moines **at the conference** registration desk by 9:30 am on Monday, February 19th, 2024.
- 2** A panel of distinguished tastetesters will judge all samples on Monday Morning, February 19th at the conference. The winner will be announced at the conference Awards Reception on Tuesday, February 20th starting at 3:30 AM.
- 3** Judging Criteria: Taste, Bouquet and Clarity
- 4** The winner will be eligible to compete against other states at the National Rural Water Association's Rural Water Rally in Washington, D.C. in February 2025. IRWA will award the Best Tasting Water winner a trip to the Water Rally with two nights of accommodation and airfare for one individual from that utility. All other expenses are the responsibility of the Water Rally attendee(s).
- 5** Contest is open to Iowa communities and regional systems.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM "BEST TASTING WATER" CONTEST

Water System: _____

Samples Submitted by: _____



Please email, mail or fax entry form to IRWA:
4221 S 22nd Ave East • Newton, IA 50208
claw@iowaruralwater.org • Fax: 641-787-0331

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 762



4221 S. 22nd Avenue East | Newton, IA 50208

TRUE GRIT OPERATORS



49TH IRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



FEBRUARY 19-21, 2024

Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center
Veterans Memorial Center
730 Third Street | Des Moines, Iowa 50309



Iowa Rural Water is a Member of:



THE IRWA MISSION

To provide the highest quality leadership in the support of Iowa's water and wastewater industries through the provision of technical assistance, training and education, legislative, regulatory and public affairs, and assistance in economic development and financing activities.



2024 IOWA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Paid Early Bird Registration Deadline is January 25, 2024

Please return to: IRWA 4221 S 22nd Ave East, Newton, IA 50208. Payment must accompany your registration.

Name (for badge): _____ Phone: _____

System/City/Company: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please note my special needs and/or dietary restrictions _____

A **Full Conference Registration** includes all training sessions (Mon-Wed), admission to the Exhibit Hall, the Monday Welcome Reception and Tuesday Awards and Raffle Drawing Reception, three breakfasts, lunches and breaks. One-Day Only registration includes training, admission to the Exhibit Hall (Tuesday only), breakfast, lunch and breaks. ATTENTION City Clerks/ Mayors/Council Members! We offer a Tuesday Exhibit Hall only pass for those just wanting the opportunity to visit with our vendors (Training Sessions NOT included).

Registration Fees

- Super Saver Full Registration (Members Only)** Before Thursday, January 25th **\$355.00**
- Full Registration (Members Only)** After Thursday, January 25th **\$380.00**
- Non-Member Full Registration** **\$380.00**

- Yes No - I would like to attend the City of Grimes Plant Tour (good for 2 CEUs in Water Treatment)
*Limited to the First 40 People

One-Day Registration

- Monday \$180.00
- Tuesday \$180.00
- Tuesday Exhibit Hall Only \$60.00
- Tuesday Women in Water Luncheon \$20.00
- Wednesday \$180.00

Additional Tickets: Name (Guest/Spouse) _____

- Monday Opening Session Breakfast/Speaker.. \$20.00
- Monday Awards Luncheon \$25.00
- Tuesday Lunch..... \$25.00
- Tuesday Women in Water Luncheon..... \$20.00
- Wednesday Lunch..... \$25.00

Total Due: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION/CANCELLATION POLICY

All conference participants must register. Full registration includes all training sessions (Mon-Wed), admission to all three lunches, the Exhibit Hall, the Monday Welcome Reception and Tuesday Awards and Raffle Drawing Reception. Register early (before January 25th) using the Super Saver Full Registration option to receive a full registration discounted fee.

If written/faxed notice of **cancellation is received by January 25, 2024**, you will receive a full refund minus a \$75.00 administrative fee. No refunds will be issued after Thursday, January 25, 2024. On-site registrations not available.

If you have special physical or dietary needs, please indicate so on the registration form.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Des Moines Downtown in Des Moines, Iowa. Your reservations can be made by calling (515) 241-1456. Please DO NOT reserve more rooms than you will need as you will be charged a cancellation fee. **Simply mention that you are with the IRWA Annual Conference to receive the special conference rate of \$141.00.** Deadline for Hilton Des Moines reservations is Thursday, January 25, 2024.

PARKING

Self-parking is available for overnight guests of the Hilton Des Moines Downtown hotel at a rate of \$25.00/day. Hilton guests can also park at the 5th and Keo Parking garage connected via skywalk at a rate of 10.00 per night. Parking is also available at the Iowa Events Center for an entrance fee of \$12.00.

CEU INFORMATION

Up to 1.5 CEU credits (15 hours) can be received for water treatment, water distribution or wastewater if you attend the **entire annual conference**. These may be split depending on which sessions you attend. Monday equals 0.5 CEUs, Tuesday equals 0.5 CEUs and Wednesday equals 0.5 CEUs. The online CEU form must be completed before the end of the week on Friday, February 23rd. Before you leave the conference, see an IRWA Staff person to obtain a link to the online form.

REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

The IRWA registration is open continuously during the conference. Starting first thing Monday morning, you are welcome to come and get checked in at any time during the day. We will also hand out packets during the evening Welcome Reception. So come and join us whenever you arrive.

OPENING SESSION/BREAKFAST – GUEST SPEAKER

Start your Monday morning off right with a full breakfast, a chance to win the first of three \$500.00 cash giveaways and a great motivational speaker.

BEST TASTING WATER CONTEST

Our distinguished panel of taste testers will conduct the water taste test contest starting at 9:30 AM on Monday morning. Bring your city/system water sample to the IRWA registration desk prior to 9:30 AM on Monday to be entered in this National contest.

SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

The opportunity to purchase raffle tickets will be on Monday Evening and Tuesday Morning/Afternoon of the conference. Proceeds benefit the IRWA Equipment Loan Program. Tuesday from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM join us at the Awards and Raffle Drawing Reception in Ballroom B for beverages and snacks and the announcement of all award and raffle winners. Thank you in advance for your support of IRWA's efforts for Iowa utilities. Please note... again this year EVERY attendee gets one free raffle ticket to place in one of the Sportsman Raffle boxes. Take this opportunity to be a part of the fun and try your luck!

SEEK AND FIND GAME

The IRWA Exhibit Hall "Seek and Find" game is coming back for a 6th year. You can find your "Seek and Find" game card with your registration packet. This year's seek and find is a "Most Wanted" poster, a collection of IRWA most wanted villains of the True Grit nation. Find all twelve people in the exhibit hall, put your name on the game card and turn in your form at the IRWA Registration Desk in exchange for a small prize. In addition, your completed card will be placed in a drawing for a chance to win \$200.00 cash.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Be sure to join us for the Monday Night Welcome Reception from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall at the conference center. Don't miss this chance to relax and visit with our vendors. In addition, games and prize drawings will be held, including our 2nd drawing for \$500.00 CASH.

TUESDAY EXHIBIT HALL

The Exhibit Hall will be open ALL DAY on Tuesday. Our vendors are always excited to have an opportunity to say Hello. Take this opportunity to thank them for being here. Their contributions are what make this the largest Industry Event in Iowa. Our 3rd and final \$500.00 Cash Giveaway will be drawn between 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall. And remember, we will continue to hand out conference t-shirts, draw names for the Cash Wheel and offer time to hunt for the "Seek and Find" game images. The winner of the "Seek and Find" game will be announced at the Tuesday Afternoon break in the Exhibit Hall. The Exhibit Hall is not available on Wednesday of the conference.

TUESDAY CITY OF GRIMES WATER PLANT TOUR

Bus to Grimes leaves Tuesday morning from the CCCUCC Veterans Memorial at 7:00 AM. You must register in advance for this tour. Registrations will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Tour size is limited to the first 40 people. This tour is good for 2 CEUs in Water Treatment.

WOMEN IN WATER LUNCHEON

Women working in the water industry is rare but becoming more and more prevalent within our industry. IRWA, NRWA and CoBank would like to honor women in water with a special luncheon to be held on Tuesday at 12:00 PM at the Hilton Des Moines. This lunch will be an opportunity to network and support women in the Iowa water sector. We will host a guest speaker to speak on their experience of working with Iowa's water and wastewater systems. You must register in advance for this luncheon, cost per person is \$20.00. Luncheon sponsored by CoBank.

AWARDS AND RAFFLE DRAWING RECEPTION

The IRWA Awards Winners will be announced and honor at the Tuesday afternoon reception in Ballroom B starting at 3:30 PM. This reception is included with a Full Registration and will offer hors d'oeuvres and beverages. This is an opportunity to honor key system and community leaders for their commitment to the industry. Awards will be announced and then immediately following will be the Sportsman Raffle Drawings. This reception is also a chance to have time to socialize with your peers in a casual setting.

HOSPITALITY NIGHT @RICOCHET DSM

Some of the IRWA Vendors are sponsoring a hospitality night on Tuesday starting at 7:00 PM til 10:00 PM. Join us for a night of games, beverages, and snacks. This event is currently being sponsored by Ferguson and Malloy Electric.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Cathy Law at Iowa Rural Water Association
(641) 787-0330 or email at claw@iowaruralwater.org

NEED FURTHER UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION?

Visit our website for further details and online registration:
http://iowaruralwater.org/events_annual_conference.html

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

The Conference Schedule has changed from past years so please read carefully

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

- 7:30 AM..... Registration Opens/Breakfast Service Begins
- 8:30 AM..... Opening Session/Motivational Speaker
\$500 Cash Giveaway
- 9:30 AM..... Best Tasting Water Judging
- 9:30 – 11:30 AM..... Concurrent Sessions
- 11:30 – 12:15 PM..... Monday Lunch
- 12:15 – 3:30 PM Concurrent Sessions
- 2:15 – 2:30 PM..... Break
- 3:30 – 5:30 PM..... Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall
\$500 Cash Giveaway

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

- 7:00 – 8:30 AM..... Registration Desk Opens/Continental Breakfast
in Exhibit Hall
- 7:00 – 10:00 AM..... City of Grimes Plant Tour
- 8:00 – 8:30 AM..... Daily Announcement Session
- 8:30 – 9:30 AM..... Concurrent Sessions
- 9:30 – 10:00 AM..... Break in Exhibit Hall
- 10:00 – 12:00 PM..... Concurrent Sessions
- 10:00 – 12:00 PM..... IRWA Membership Meeting
- 12:00 – 1:30 pm Women in Water Luncheon
(located at Hilton Des Moines)
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM..... Tuesday Lunch
- 1:00 – 1:30 PM..... Exhibit Hall and Dessert *\$500 Cash Giveaway*
- 1:30 – 3:30 PM..... Concurrent Sessions
- 3:30 – 5:30 PM..... Awards and Raffle Drawings Reception
- 7:00 – 10:00 PM..... Hospitality Night at Ricochet

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

- 7:15 – 8:30 AM..... Registration/Full Breakfast
- 8:00 – 10:00 AM..... Concurrent Sessions
- 10:00 – 10:15 AM..... Break
- 10:15 – 11:15 AM..... Concurrent Sessions
- 11:15 – 12:00 PM..... Lunch
- 12:00 – 2:00 PM..... Concurrent Sessions
- 2:00 PM..... CEUs

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

**For Session Descriptions—Visit our website at www.iowaruralwater.org*

7:30 AM Registration Opens/Breakfast Service Begins

8:30 – 9:30 AM Opening Session/Motivational Speaker

9:30 – 10:30 AM Best Tasting Water Judging

9:30 – 10:30 AM Ammonia

Julie Sievers, ISG

AMI Beyond the Meter Reading

Paul Hurley, Sensus

UV Disinfection in Wastewater Treatment

Laurie Twitchell, FOX Strand

Planning for the Future; Operator Succession

TBD

Multi-Generational Workforce

TBD

10:30 – 11:30 AM Ammonia

Julie Sievers, ISG

Why We Lubricate

John Powell, Hydrotex

Utilizing GIS to Maintain Collection Systems

Matt Ferrier, Bolton & Menk

Iowa One Call

Ben Booth, Iowa One Call

**Interactions with Difficult Customers:
Do's and Don'ts**

TBD

11:30 – 12:15 PM Monday Lunch

12:15 – 1:15 PM Ammonia

Julie Sievers, ISG

Taking the Mystery Out of Control Valves

Robb White, ESI

Microbial Wastewater Solutions

Trevor Blankenship, AMS

Safety

Kyle Broesder, Marsh McLennan

**Latest Trends in Insurance:
What Employers Need to Know**

Jim Ericson, Group Benefits

1:15 – 2:15 PM **Ammonia**
Julie Sievers, ISG

Financial Planning
Heidi Kuhl, Northland Securities

Wastewater Flowmeters
Isaiah Collins, GPM

Round Table Discussion
TBD

The Magic of Work/Life Balance
TBD

2:15 – 2:30 PM**Break**

2:30 – 3:30 PM**Ammonia**
Julie Sievers, ISG

One Call – The Iowa Utilities Board Role
Ryan Marten, Iowa Utilities Board

Collection Systems
Shane Jacobson, CIT

Roundtable Discussion
TBD

**Marketing Your System;
Keeping Good Public Relations**
TBD

3:30 – 5:30 PM**Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

**For Session Descriptions—Visit our website at www.iowaruralwater.org*

7:00 – 8:30 AM**Registration/Continental Breakfast
and Exhibit Hall Open**

7:00 – 10:00 AM**City of Grimes Plant Tour**

8:00 – 8:30 AM**Daily Announcement Session**

8:30 – 9:30 AM**Surface Water for Ground Water Guys**
Julie Sievers, ISG

Distribution System Pressure Management
Jenny Rudd, Strand Associates

Foundation of Safety
Kyle Broesder, Marsh McLennan

Finance
USDA, SRF, CoBank

RSAS Round Table Discussion
Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association

9:30 – 10:00 AMBreak/Exhibit Hall Open

10:00 – 11:00 AMSource Water Protection

Matt Dvorak, IDNR

Line Tapping and Insertion Valves

Ryan Fugler, Hydra-Stop

Foundation of Safety (cont'd)

Kyle Broesder, Marsh McLennan

RSAS Round Table Discussion

Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association

11:00 – 12:00 PMAsk the Mentor

Panel Discussion

Valve Exercising 101:

A Key Practice for Water Utilities

Deryck Freudeman, Xylem - Wachs

Monoform Plus Manhole Rehabilitation

Jake Nanti, HK Solutions

RSAS Roundtable Discussion

Carma Craig, Poweshiek Water Association

12:00 – 1:30 PMWomen in Water Luncheon

(Sponsored by CoBank) –

Guest Speaker – Must be Pre-Registered

Hilton Des Moines

12:00 - 1:00 PM.....Tuesday Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 PMExhibit Hall Open/Dessert

**1:30 – 2:30 PMIncreasing Your Water Systems Resilience
to Cyber Threats**

Karen Edwards-Lindsey, EPA

Setting and Maintaining User Rates

Nate Summers, UMB Bank

Typical Lift Stations vs Seld Cleaning

Trench Wet Well Lift Stations

Jonathan Contag, WHKS & Co

Public Relations and Customer Engagement

TBD

2:30 – 3:30 PMActive Shooter/Self Defense

Steve Russell

Pipe Lining

Gary Soroohan, Triton Lining Systems

Modern Monitoring Solutions Help

Utilities Optimize Assets

Kevin Stock, Steametric

Focus on the Future

TBD

3:30 – 5:30 PMAwards and Raffle Drawings Reception

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

**For Session Descriptions—Visit our website at www.iowaruralwater.org*

7:15 – 8:30 AMRegistration/Full Hot Breakfast Served

8:00 – 9:00 AMLead and Copper

Russ Stammer, Veenstra and Kimm

What's in Your Water

Adam Ardolino, LINOH2O

9:00 – 10:00 AMNon-Revenue Water

Ryan Carroll, Kodru-Mooney

Industrial Pretreatment Agreements

Tom Atkinson, ISG

10:00 – 10:15 AMBreak

10:15 – 11:15 AMMeters

Josh Larrison, Utility Equipment

Microorganisms in Wastewater

Ben Shakman, Triplepoint

Vendor Meeting

Cathy Law, Iowa Rural Water Association

11:15 – 12:00 PMVendor Appreciation Luncheon

12:00 – 1:00 PMMunicipal Uses for Ozone

Jim Baker, Primozone Inc

1:00 – 2:00 PMIDNR Water and Wastewater Updates

IDNR

2:00 PMCEUs/Adjourn

** Topics subject to change.*