

# CONFERENCE MEMORIES



Conference Theme – Water is Life!!





# Exhibitors, Exhibitors and More Exhibitors

BY: CHRIS LOVELACE, PROGRAM MANAGER



With much awaited anticipation, the Alabama Rural Water Associations 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Training Conference Exhibit Hall opened on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 to a capacity crowd. The Exhibit Hall was decked out in Blue and White to coincide with the Theme, “WATER IS LIFE.”

The Exhibit Hall began to fill with exhibitors around noon on Sunday with the movement of numerous pieces of Heavy Equipment spread though the hall. The Associate Members were ready for the opening of the Exhibit Hall at 8:30 a.m. on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 with a continental breakfast allowing attendees to visit with the exhibitors and see the many products and services offered. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Training Conference Exhibit Hall was



once again one of the largest in the southeast.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the companies who exhibited with us this year. You truly make our Exhibit Hall shine with your attendance and showing off your services and products, allowing our attendees to network and see the great product lines you represent.

Many activities took place in the Exhibit Hall starting with the Continental Breakfast and an afternoon break. The awards for the John A. Garrett Golf Tournament were presented followed by everyone’s favorite activity, the PAC Raffle, where many gifts were awarded. The evening’s activities continued in the Exhibit Hall with our Seafood Buffet and the night concluded with some very talented attendee singers rewarding us with 2 hours of Karaoke.



Tuesday morning started with a Continental Breakfast for the early morning arrivals followed by door prize drawings prior to the technical training sessions beginning. Door prizes were awarded throughout the morning at the exhibitor booths. The water taste test began at 10:00 a.m. in the exhibit hall followed by the Rural Water Country Luncheon. The water taste test concluded with the awarding of the Best Tasting Water in Alabama to West Etowah County Water Authority and several more door prizes being awarded.

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# Best Tasting Water in Alabama

WHO HAS THE BEST TASTING WATER IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA?

By George Marodis, Source Water Specialist

Does your utility produce the Best Tasting Water in Alabama? Well, if you did not enter the Alabama Rural Water Association's Water Taste Test Competition held on Tuesday March 18, 2015 then we will never know how it would compare against the competition. However, for those utilities that entered the competition one sample of water was chosen

as "The Best Tasting Water in Alabama".

A utility is only eligible to enter the Taste Test competition if they meet ADEM approval having no violations of bacteriological, chemical or monitoring violations. A panel of judges scrutinized the water samples based on Taste, Clarity and Odor.



The judges carefully inspect some water samples from L to R Steve Wear, National Rural Water Association, Lori Williams, US Representative Martha Roby's Office, and Joe Anderson, United States Department of Agriculture

Over the years, several utilities in Alabama score consistently high in the Taste Test Competition. That is remarkable considering that every year a new panel of judges is selected for the competition. After the preliminary judging, the water system competitors were reduced to the following six finalists:

**Calhoun County Water & Fire Protection Authority**  
**City of Fairhope Public Utilities**  
**Riverside Water Department**  
**Thomasville Water Works & Sewer Board**  
**Town of Lowndesboro Water Works**  
**West Etowah County Water Authority**

The winner of the Alabama Rural Water Association's 2015 Water Taste Test is the **West Etowah County Water Authority**.

Along with "Bragging Rights" the winner will receive one round trip ticket to Washington, D.C. to

compete in the National Water Drinking Water Taste Test in February 2016. The West Etowah County Water Authority currently serves 2,300 households. West Etowah produces water from one well and one spring which produces from the Tuscumbia Lime. In addition West Etowah's well appears to be producing from the Tuscumbia Limestone aquifer. The utility has seven water storage tanks with a combined storage capacity of 910,000 gallons of water. The Authority has 175 miles of main line pipe. Having the best tasting drinking water in Alabama is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the **West Etowah County Water Authority** Management and Staff.

The **West Etowah County Water Authority** is governed by the following Board Members:

**Roger Kimbril- Chairman, Steve Jennings- Vice Chairman, Roger Smith- Board Member**



From L to R Kathy Horne, Executive Director, ARWA, Jim Mayo, Operator, West Etowah, Roger Kimbril, Chairman, West Etowah, Richard Smith, Board Member, West Etowah, Barry (Bo) Davenport, Field Maintenance, West Etowah, Sally Hathcock, Office Manager, West Etowah

The West Etowah Water Authority office is staffed by the following:

- **Kenny Smith- Superintendent**
- **Jim Mayo- Operator**
- **Sally Hathcock- Office Manager**
- **Barbie Cleveland- Office Staff**
- **Donna Purkey- Office Staff**
- **Stacy Thompson- Office Staff**
- **Barry (BO) Davenport- Field Maintenance**
- **Ethan Ashley- Field Maintenance**
- **Bobby Huff- Field Maintenance**

Congratulations to the *West Etowah County Water Authority!*

The runner up in the “Taste Test” competition was the *Fairhope Water Department* located in Baldwin County. Fairhope’s Water Department is the largest supplier of water in Baldwin County, with nearly 16,324 hookups, serving an estimated 40,000 people. The City operates five water towers with 6.6 million gallons of storage and pumps an average of 4.6 mil-



Kathy Horne, Executive Director, ARWA Dan McCrory, Superintendent, City of Fairhope, Curtis Cooper, Chief Water Operator, Joe Webber, Assistant Water Operator, City of Fairhope

lion gallons of water a day from ten wells, all drawing from a vast underground aquifer. The Department also maintains 65 lift stations and one waste water treatment facility.



# CONFERENCE MEMORIES

