



Alaska Rural Water Association

Prioritizing Water/Sanitation Capacity Needs Workshop
January 24, 2020

Who is ARWA?

- A membership-based nonprofit established in 2001 operating under federal grants
 - USDA:
 - Two Water Circuit Riders
 - One Wastewater Circuit Rider
 - One Source Water Protection Specialist
 - EPA:
 - Formal classroom training
- Affiliate of the National Rural Water Association
 - 31,000+ nationwide utility members





Communities Served

- All communities under 15,000 in population are eligible for ARWA membership = All of Alaska except municipalities/cities of:
 - Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau
- Will provide technical assistance to non-members as well
 - But must be eligible for USDA loan funding to qualify





Organization

ARWA is governed by a member-elected Board of Directors:

- President: Jana Littlewood, Bluff View Acres HOA
- Vice-President: John Becker, City of Wasilla
- Secretary: John Atchak, City of Chevak
- Treasurer: David Kranich, Nikishka Bay Utilities
- Director: Darryl Thompson, City of Togiak
- Director: Dennis Moeglein, Ashton Park
- Director: Vacant due to recent retirement





Staff

- Robyn Dombroski, Executive Director
- Kelly Comerford, Office Manager/Training Coordinator
- Laren Kowallis, Circuit Rider
- Sarah Ramey, Circuit Rider
- Mark Wuitschick, Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Specialist
- Kevin Schoneman, Source Water Protection Specialist





Services Provided

- Onsite training and technical assistance
- Formal classroom training
- Sanitary surveys
- Backflow assembly testing
- Consumer Confidence Reports
- Leak detection
- Level 1 and 2 Assessments
- Source water protection plans
- Sludge level evaluations
- DMR reporting
- Annual Training Conference
- And much more!



Past Formal Training

- Level 1 & 2 Operator Exam Training
- OSHA - HAZWOPER, Confined Space Entry, Construction Safety, First Aid/CPR
- Electrical Control Panel Troubleshooting
- Consumer Confidence Report Training
- Leak Detection, Mainline Flushing
- Wastewater Lagoon Troubleshooting
- Line Locating
- Water Sampling
- Water Chemistry
- Alternative Disinfection UV/Ozone
- Pumps and Motor Maintenance and Repair
- Valve Exercising
- Operator Math
- And more!





Member Benefits

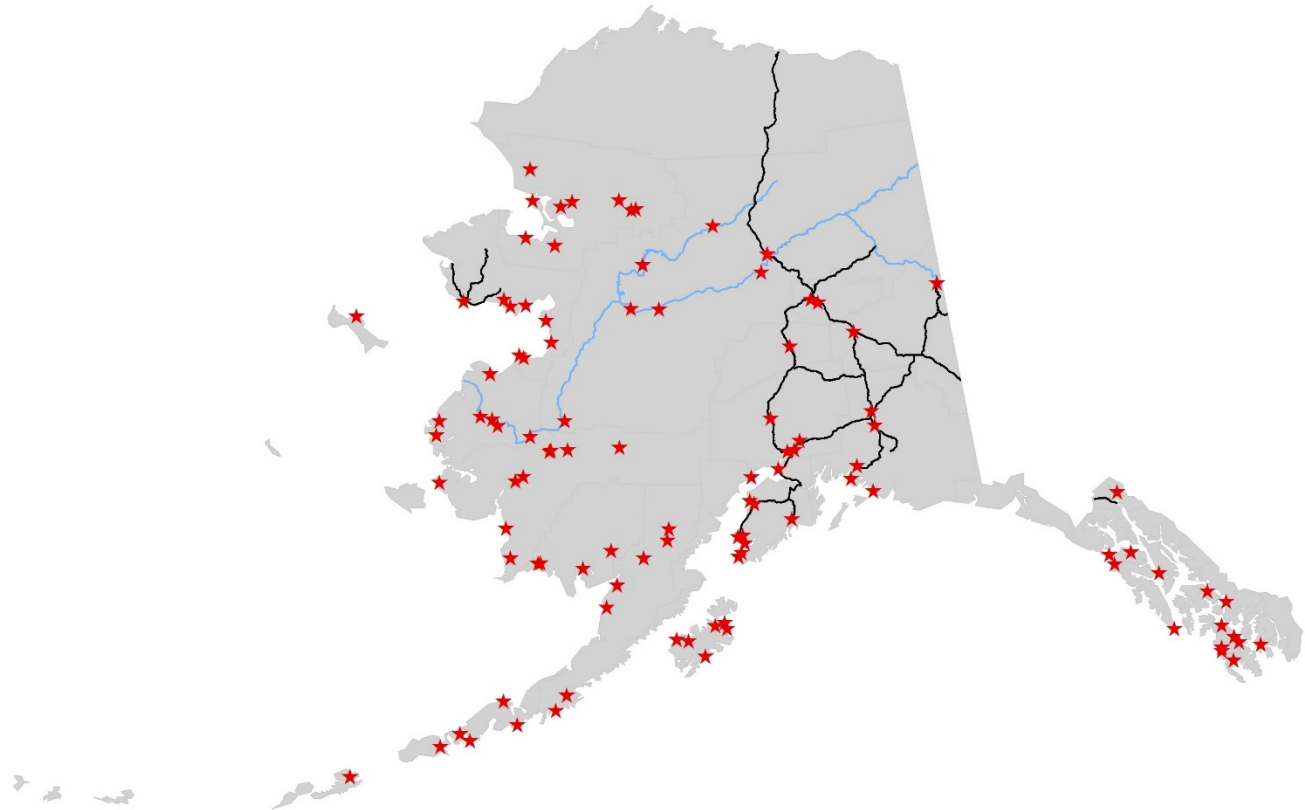
One of the most important but least visible benefits:

- Membership dues support ARWA's ability to represent the legislative interests of small water and wastewater utilities in Washington D.C., along with all the other state rural water associations (representing 31,000+ systems)
 - **Example:** Legislative efforts resulted in legislation (H.R. 1340 & S. 1578) that repealed the mailing requirement of the CCR if the system publishes the report on the Internet and provides a mailed report on request. In January 2013 the EPA released rule guidance that allows for electronic distribution of CCRs as a direct result of our collective nationwide effort.



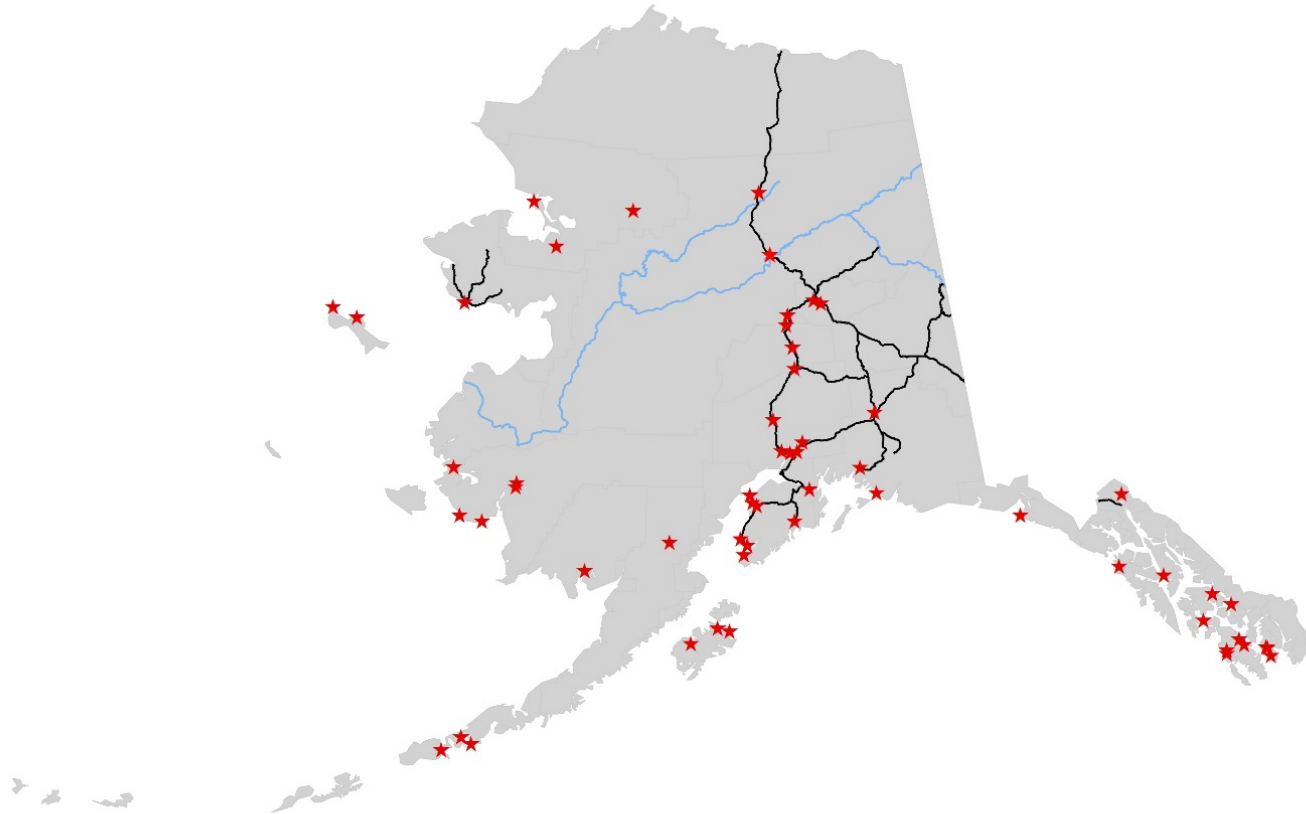


2019 Member Locations





2019 Onsite Assistance



Water University



- ARWA actively encourages utility operators to complete the Utility Management Certification (UMC) exam through the National Rural Water Association to join the growing national registry.
- The purpose is to provide recognition and certification for experience and educational achievements in the field of water and wastewater management.



wateruniversity.org





Water Taste Test Contest

- Held at ARWA's Annual Training Conference
- Past Winners:
 - 2019: City of Whittier
 - 2018: City of Whittier
 - 2017: Toksook Bay
 - 2016: City of Homer
 - 2015: City of Whittier
 - 3rd place nationally
 - 2014: City of Whittier
 - 2013: McKinley View Estates
 - 2012: City of Wasilla



- 2011: City of Wasilla
- 2010: Nikolaevsk
- 2009: Pioneer Wells
- 2008: Nome Joint Utility
- 2007: City of Whittier
- 2006: City of Whittier
- 2005: City of Valdez
- 2004: Lower Kuskokwim School District, Kipnuk
 - 1st place nationally





Water Poster Contest

- Program started at the 2011 Annual Training Conference to support Source Water Protection outreach directed to tomorrow's leaders
 - Has been very well received
 - 300+ submissions each year from all around the state
- Announcements sent to all school districts throughout the state annually
- Three divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8
- Winners receive \$100 and school supplies for their class
 - ARWA is always looking for additional support for the prizes!





Newest National Initiative

Apprenticeship Program!

- Nationally, the water sector is expected to lose between 30-50% of the workforce to retirement over the next decade
- In a proactive approach, NRWA has developed the apprenticeship program
- Certified through USDOL in July 2017
- Beginning to be implemented in other states
- AK has some unique challenges we are trying to work through to get it (hopefully) started
- Stay tuned!





Partners

Some of the organizations we interact and partner with on a regular basis:



ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
leaders in life care



Committed to the future of rural communities.





Questions?

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