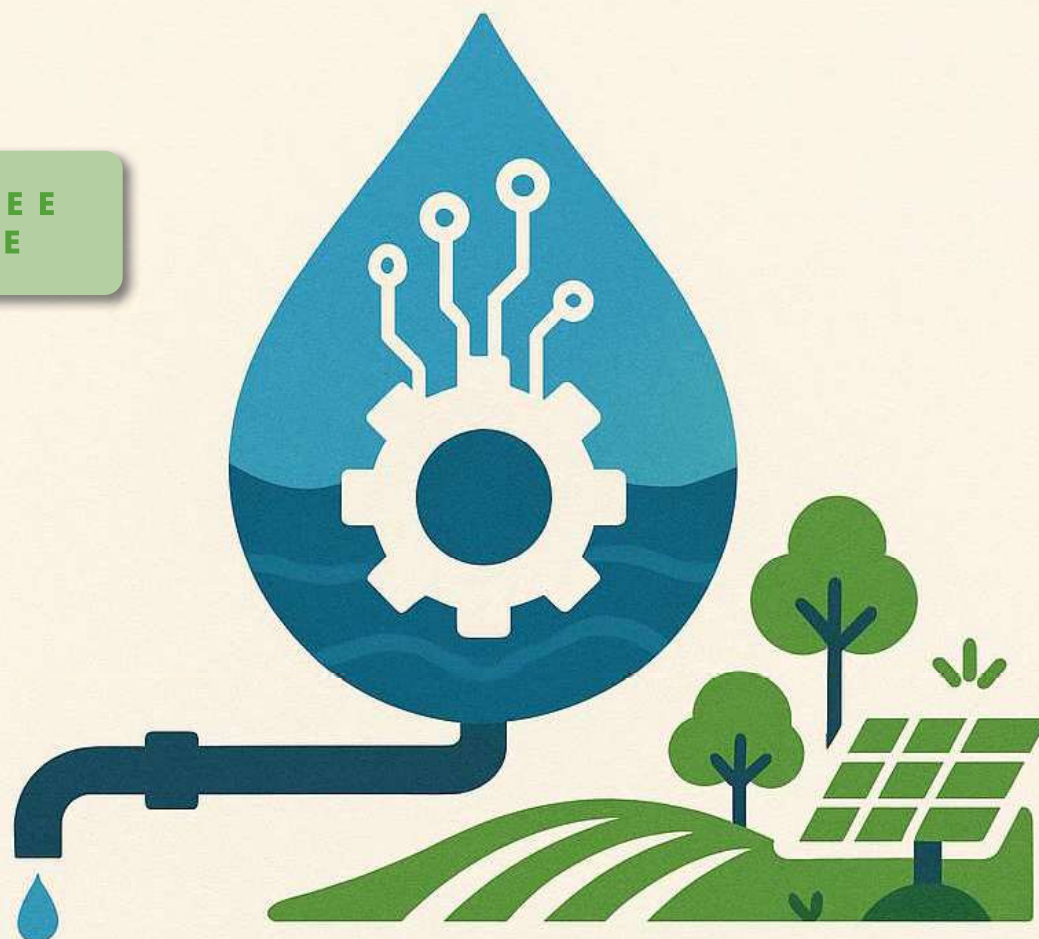


ATTENDEE
NOTICE



TAPPING INTO TOMORROW

SKILLS, SYSTEMS, AND
SUSTAINABILITY

ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S
48th ANNUAL TECHNICAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

MARCH 15-18, 2026
MONTGOMERY, AL



Alabama Rural Water Association

2576 Bell Road
 Montgomery, Alabama 36117
 (334) 396-5511
 Fax (334) 396-7090
 email: arwa@alruralwater.com
 Visit our website at: www.alruralwater.com



STAFF

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Steve Berry – Wastewater Specialist sberry@alruralwater.com	Ryan Lavender – Circuit Rider (Central) rlavender@alruralwater.com	Derek Pierce – Program Manager dpierce@alruralwater.com
Darrell Brewer – Circuit Rider (North) dbrewer@alruralwater.com	Jon Lowe – Training Director jlowe@alruralwater.com	Emily Ward – Intern: Publications and Policy eward@alruralwater.com
Brian Faucett – Apprenticeship Coordinator bfaucett@alruralwater.com	Troy Mance – Human Resource Administrator tmance@alruralwater.com	Jerena Webb – Chief of Staff jerenaw@alruralwater.com
Justin Gardner – Circuit Rider (South) jgardner@alruralwater.com	George Marodis – Operations Consultant gmarodis@alruralwater.com	Rob White IV – Executive Director rwhite@alruralwater.com
Tyler Grant – Water Quality Assurance Specialist tgrant@alruralwater.com	Bill Messick – Operations Consultant bmessick@alruralwater.com	Serena Woodson – Office Administrative Assistant swoodson@alruralwater.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Bohlin, President – District 9
 Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & FPD
 Term Expires 2028

Eric Hill, Vice President – District 1
 Russellville Water & Sewer Board
 Term Expires 2027

Jeaniece Slater – District 2
 West Morgan-East Lawrence
 Water & Sewer Authority
 Term Expires 2025

Josh Miller – District 3
 Columbiana Water Works Board
 Term Expires 2028

Vincent Atkins – District 4
 Greene County Water & Sewer Authority
 Term Expires 2025

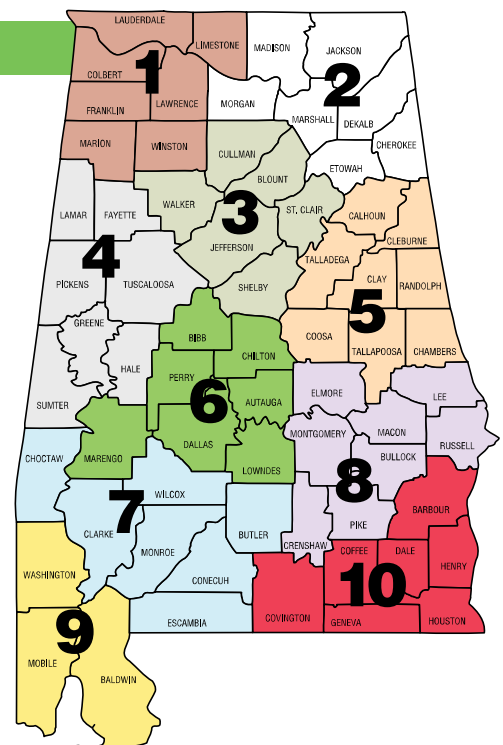
Glenn Hyatt – District 5
 Water Works & Sewer Board of Heflin
 Term Expires 2026

Jonathan Lawley – District 6
 West Blocton Water Works
 Term Expires 2027

Michael Sawyer – District 7
 Monroeville Water Works
 & Sewer Board
 Term Expires 2027

Derrick Gregory – District 8
 Loachapoka Water Authority
 Term Expires 2026

Kevin Heartsill – District 10
 Eufaula Water Works & Sewer Board
 Term Expires 2028



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!



TAPPING INTO TOMORROW

48TH ANNUAL TECHNICAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

MARCH 15-18, 2026

VISIT THE ARWA
WEBSITE FOR
ALL YOUR HOTEL
CONFERENCE LINKS AT
ALRURALWATER.EVENTS

HOST HOTEL

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

201 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Toll-free: 800.468.3571
Phone: 334.481.5000

Group Code: ALW
Rate: Single/Double \$186
Cutoff Date: February 14, 2026

All reservations must be accompanied by a one night Non-refundable room deposit at the time of booking. The hotel will not hold any reservations unless secured in this manner.

The cost of parking at the Renaissance is not included in the Discounted Room Rate.



OVERFLOW HOTELS:

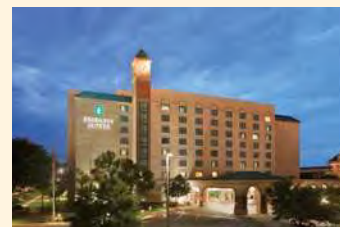
Embassy Suites

across street from
Convention Center
300 Tallapoosa Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334.269.5055
Toll-free: 800.362.2779

Group Code: 901
Rates: Single/Double \$194
Cutoff Date: February 13, 2026

All reservations must be accompanied by a none night Non-refundable room deposit.

The cost of parking at the Embassy Suites is \$15 plus tax per day for self-parking.



Staybridge Suites–Downtown

275 Lee Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334.532.0700

Group Code: Alabama Rural
Water Association
Rate: King Studio Suite \$179
Cutoff Date: February 13, 2026

All reservations must be accompanied by a one night Non-refundable room deposit.

The cost of parking at the Staybridge is \$20 plus tax per day for self-parking.



ATTENDEE GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center
201 Tallapoosa Street, Montgomery, AL 36104

Exhibit Hall

The Exhibit Hall will officially open to attendees at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026. Over 100 companies will display their products and provide the latest in technology and equipment for your water or wastewater system's operation.

PAC Raffle (Benefits the ARWA Political Action Committee Activities)

Your participation in selecting an item valued at \$25 or more would be appreciated. Prizes may be donated by local merchants in your area or purchased by non-public funds and contributed to ARWA. Utility Public Funds checks may not be accepted. Please submit a brief description of the item and its value by February 27, 2026. You may purchase your raffle tickets in advance or on-site at the Exhibit Hall Products and Services booth for your convenience. The PAC Raffle Giveaway will be held Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. in the Foyer.

Door Prizes

Door prizes will be awarded at regular intervals throughout the Conference schedule. Register to win at participating Exhibitor Booths and by ARWA Door Prize drawing boxes.

Golf Tournament

ARWA will host the 29th Annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Robert Trent Jones Capitol Hill Course in Prattville. Compete for cash and prizes. Games begin at 10:30 a.m. You may participate by completing the Conference Registration Form included. Proceeds will benefit the John A. Garrett Scholarship Fund.

Lodging Accommodations

Room blocks are reserved at each location printed on the Conference Lodging page. Special rates will be honored if you mention you are with the ARWA group.

Awards Program

ARWA will recognize deserving individuals at the 35th Annual Awards Luncheon on March 18, 2026. Winners of the Water Operator of the Year, Office Worker of the Year, Wastewater Operator of the Year, Board Member/Director of the Year and the John A. Garrett Outstanding Service Award will be named. Water Utility and Wastewater Utility Vision Awards will be presented. Also, special recognition awards will be made on Wednesday.

Water Taste Test

A Water Taste Test will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. during the Rural Water Country Luncheon. See the details inside this package and register to participate.

Women in Water Luncheon

Get ready for an inspiring and empowering event! On Tuesday, March 17, 2026, we are thrilled to host the Women in Water Luncheon—a celebration of the incredible women who keep the water industry flowing, whether working in the office, out in the field, or supporting someone in the industry. We are excited to welcome a dynamic speaker who will share an inspiring story about the "Miracle on the Hudson." This is your opportunity to connect with professionals from all areas of the industry, share experiences, and celebrate the unique impact women make every day. Whether you're new to the field or a seasoned expert, this luncheon promises meaningful conversations, powerful networking, and plenty of inspiration. Don't miss your chance to be part of something truly special—join us as we come together to support, uplift, and make waves in our industry!

Toss for a Cause: JAG Scholarship Cornhole Tournament

Join us for the first-ever Toss for a Cause: JAG Scholarship Cornhole Tournament! For just \$30 per player, you can compete in a fun-filled, friendly cornhole showdown—all while raising money for the JAG Scholarship Program. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just tossing for fun, this event is all about great competition, good food, cold drinks, and plenty of laughs with friends. Don't miss out on the chance to support a great cause, show off your skills, and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. Grab a partner, bring your A-game, and let's toss some bags for a great cause!

Training

Continuing Education Hour Training will be provided Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the Conference for State of Alabama Certified Water and Wastewater Operators, Board Members, Clerks, General Managers and others interested in Water and Wastewater. Meet your Continuing Education Hour needs upon ADEM approval.

Specialized Training

Management Employees, Board Members and Office Employees will find the Management and Office Personnel Training Track of interest. Valuable information will be provided to assist in the successful day to day operation of water and wastewater utilities. Continuing Education Hours available upon ADEM approval.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All attendee pre registrations must be received by the ARWA on or before Friday, February 27, 2026. Refund requests for cancellations must be in writing and will not be honored after this date. All cancellations will be assessed a \$100 processing fee per company or utility.

"Best Tasting Water In Alabama"

Compete to Win! March 17, 2026

To Enter:

- Pre-register for the Water Taste Test on the Conference Registration Form and mail or FAX to the Alabama Rural Water Association.
- Upon arriving in Montgomery, register your one gallon sample with the Registration Desk. The Water Samples will be refrigerated by the ARWA until the Taste Test, Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. during the Rural Water Country Luncheon which will be held in the Exhibit Hall.
- Please have the one gallon glass container of water labeled with your Utility Name on the BOTTOM
- Please have your water sample chilled in a small labeled cooler. Please no large coolers as space will not allow.
All coolers must be picked up by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday from the Water Taste Test Stage area in the Exhibit Hall.
- System must meet ADEM approval having no violations of bacteriological or chemical monitoring prior to the Taste Test.

Judging Criteria:

A panel of judges will be selected to choose the winners. Judges will consider:

- Taste
- Clarity
- Odor

Preliminary Judging will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17th. Six finalist will be selected for final judging during the Rural Water Country Luncheon Tuesday, March 17th at 11:30 a.m. A 1st place and 2nd place winner will be selected. If the 1st place winner fails to notify the ARWA by December 1, 2026 of their representative who plans to participate in the National Drinking Water Taste Test, the 2nd place winner will be given the opportunity to participate.

1st Place Prizes:

- One round trip airline ticket to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Drinking Water Taste Test February 2027. All other expenses are the responsibility of the Utility. The Utility must provide to the ARWA by December 1, 2026 the name of the utility representative planning to travel to D.C. to participate in the National Taste Test.
- News release article in the ARWA quarterly magazine, "The Waterline".
- Taste Test Winner Sign

Runner Up Prizes:

- Taste Test 2nd Place Sign
- If the 1st Place winner forfeits the National Taste Test opportunity, the 2nd Place Winner may participate. If the 1st place winner fails to notify the ARWA by December 1, 2025 of their representative who plans to participate in the National Drinking Water Taste Test, the 2nd place winner will be given the opportunity to participate.



**Alabama's 2025
State Drinking Water Taste Test Winner
Congratulations to
Anniston Water Works
& Sewer Board
who will compete in the
National Drinking Water Taste Test
February 4, 2026 in Washington D.C.**

{ ARWA 35th ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM }

For over thirty years, the Alabama Rural Water Association has offered an opportunity for outstanding employees and individual achievers to be recognized through their Annual Awards Program. The March, 2026, Awards Program is no exception.

There are many employees, board members, office employees and others who have dedicated their careers to the water and wastewater industry. They have demonstrated exemplary performance in their positions. In many cases, their hard work and dedication has contributed significantly to the success of the water or wastewater utility.

Why not take a moment to say thank you! There's no better way to reward a deserving individual than to nominate he/she for outstanding performance.

During the Association's 35th Annual Awards Luncheon at least five individuals could be recognized. It could be you, your

co-workers, a board member, or other individuals you know. The ceremony will be held in the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

Stop for a moment and take the time to complete the Nomination Application. Submit the Application and questionnaire providing supportive information stating why this individual should be nominated. The deadline is February 20, 2026. Letters of recommendation in support of your nominee may also be submitted but are not required. Judges will meet in February to select the winners. The winners will be announced in March during the Awards Ceremony.

Two Awards will be given to worthy utilities who demonstrate "Vision" for growth, improvement and expansion of their system operation by applying and being approved for a USDA, SRF or CDBG project. The Water Utility Vision Award will be presented to a



water utility with this demonstrated "Vision" during 2025 and also a Wastewater Utility Vision Award to a Wastewater System demonstrating the same efforts. No Nomination Applications are necessary for these awards, however, if you applied, and were approved for project Loan/Grant funding during the past year and want to insure your utility is considered, please feel free to call, email or fax your project type and funding source to the ARWA at arwa@alruralwater.com or 334.396.7090 Fax.

If you have questions, call the ARWA or visit the ARWA website at www.alruralwater.com.

WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY PERSONNEL

GENERAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Recognizes an individual who demonstrates outstanding leadership and exemplary performance in the overall management of the utility's operation.

WATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a State of Alabama Certified Water Treatment Operator with outstanding leadership abilities and accomplishments in water utility operations

WASTEWATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a State of Alabama Certified Wastewater Treatment Operator with outstanding leadership abilities and accomplishments in wastewater utility operations

OFFICE WORKER OF THE YEAR

Recognizes an administrative employee for outstanding performance in office management and procedures

BOARD MEMBER/DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Recognizes an individual who serves as a board member; responsible for governing decisions resulting in significant contributions toward the success, growth and customer satisfaction of the utility

JOHN A. GARRETT OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions throughout the State in support of water and wastewater needs during his/her career. This Award offers an opportunity to nominate a professional individual such as an Alabama Department of Environmental Management staff member, USDA Rural Development staff member, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs staff member, Alabama Congressional Member, State of Alabama Legislator, Engineer, etc., who has been instrumental to the success of utility growth and progress in Alabama.

NOMINATION APPLICATION

The Nomination Process is simple! Nominations can be submitted by water and wastewater utility employees, management personnel, mayors, council members, board members or other interested individuals. If you know a dedicated individual working hard to improve and successfully maintain the public water or wastewater operation, don't hesitate to nominate this person. If you know of a candidate who has made STATEWIDE contributions to the water industry, nominate this person for the John A Garrett Outstanding Service Award. Their efforts are worthy of recognition. Complete the application below for one or all categories and return to the ARWA. The deadline is February 20, 2026. Return with the completed application and questionnaire which will provide pertinent information about the nominee. The questionnaire may also be completed through the ARWA website. We also encourage letters of recommendation in support of the nominee stating why this individual is worthy of recognition but are not required.

Nominee _____ Position _____

Employed By _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Name of Individual Submitting Nomination

Telephone

PLEASE CHECK CATEGORY(S) FOR WHICH YOUR NOMINATION IS BEING MADE:

☐ General Manager of the Year ☐ Water Operator of the Year ☐ Wastewater Operator of the Year ☐ Office Worker of the Year
☐ Board Member/Director of the Year ☐ John A. Garrett Outstanding Service Award

NOMINATION PACKAGE SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- A completed questionnaire to provide information about the nominee. Can be completed online through the ARWA website.
- Letters of recommendation in support of the nominee stating why this individual is worthy of recognition are encouraged but not required. Recommendation Letters may be submitted by the Utility Engineer, Mayor, Councilmember, County Commissioner, CPA, Attorney or any other person familiar with the work ethic of the nominee but, again, are not required.



TELL US ABOUT YOUR NOMINEE!

NOMINEE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer with full explanations the following questions about the nominee. This information will be used by the selection committee in determining a winner for each category. Please add additional pages for your comments if needed.

1. Tell us about the Nominee:

Job Title _____

Number Years Employed _____

Service as Board Member _____

If Certified, Water Operator Grade Level: I II III IV

If Certified, Wastewater Operator Grade Level: IC I II III IV

Previous Years Employment: _____

Utility or Company _____

Job Title _____

Other Work History Experience _____

2. Tell us how the Nominee became involved in the water and/or wastewater industry. _____

3. Does the Nominee possess any other educational certifications or license? yes or no. If yes, please list: _____

4. During the past year, has the Nominee attended training classes to enhance his/her professional development? yes or no. If yes, list examples of training classes attended. _____

5. If the Nominee is being nominated for Board Member/Director of the Year Award, has he/she attended and participated in ARWA Board Member Training or other educational opportunities for decisionmakers? _____

6. What responsibilities does this Nominee accept in his/her current position with the utility/company? _____

7. Does the Nominee display good public relations and provide good customer service? yes or no. Please provide an example of notable customer service: _____

8. Please state why you feel this individual is worthy of recognition: _____

9. To your knowledge has the nominee been recognized in the past for outstanding achievement or accomplishments? yes or no. If yes, by whom and for what? _____

10. Please provide community, civic or volunteer activities if any: _____

11. Has this Nominee taken the initiative to seek and successfully secure operational and management improvements for the utility? _____

12. If applying for the John A. Garrett Outstanding Service Awards, what contributions have been made statewide by the applicant to benefit and support water initiatives? _____

13. Please add any additional comments for consideration: _____

PLEASE FORWARD YOUR INFORMATION TO:

Alabama Rural Water Association Awards Program | 2576 Bell Road • Montgomery, AL 36117 | (334) 396-5511 | (334) 396-7090 Fax

ARWA GOLF TOURNAMENT

RTJ – “The Legislator” – Prattville

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

Capitol Hill
Prattville, AL

We are excited to announce the 2026 ARWA Golf Tournament will be held at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Prattville.

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Capitol Hill

2600 Constitution Avenue
Prattville, AL 36066

Sunday, March 15, 2026

10:00 a.m. Tournament Registration
10:30 a.m. Putting Competition
11:30 a.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Sponsorship Opportunities

Hole Sponsor
Tournament Sponsor
Team Choice Sponsor
Lunch Sponsor

**Hole -N- One Giveaway
Prizes, Prizes and More Prizes**



More information will follow, but **MARK THE DATE NOW!!!** ♣ 9

Alabama Rural Water Association

29th Annual Golf Tournament

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Capitol Hill • 2600 Constitution Avenue • Prattville, AL
 10:00 a.m. Golf Tournament Registration • 10:30 a.m. Putting Competition
 11:30 a.m. Lunch • 1:00 p.m., Shotgun Start

Lunch Provided On Site

Teams will be determined by golf course staff, except for those Golf Tournament "Team Choice" Sponsors who may build their own team. *NO SPECIAL REQUEST WILL BE GRANTED BY THE ARWA STAFF.*

Format: Post-Flighted Golf Tournament

Prizes: 1st Place Prize awards will be given to the top team of each flight. Additional winners will be recognized for the longest drive and closest to the pin. Many great prizes to be awarded!

Each Player Registration includes:

- 1 Mulligan - a "do over" or an extra stroke allowed after a poor shot, not counted on the scorecard
- 1 Toss - the ability for a player to pick up and 'toss' his or her golf ball after a shot. The toss will extend the shot and not be counted on the scorecard.
- 1 Entry to the Putting Competition
- 18 holes with cart, box lunch, and prizes

Price: \$125 per Utility Player
\$150 per Exhibitor / Company Player
\$150 per Outside Guest

Putting Competition

Two Round Event – First putt will be qualifying putt for the championship putt. Second putt will be the championship putt. Players making both putts will enter a 'putt-off' until a single champion remains. The Qualifying Round will only allow one putt. No practice putts allowed. Entry included in registration fee.

String Game

Individual players will be able to purchase one String and a Power Drive for \$10.00. The string will be blindly drawn from a box containing strings that vary in length. Each player can use his or her string once for their team to pick up a putt within the length of that string without counting a stroke. There can be no cutting or re-use of the string.

POWER DRIVE – Can't be used on the long drive hole. Men are allowed to play from the Women's tee box on one hole. Women will hit from Women's tee, then add 30 yards to the result of that shot.

Hole in One Prize on all Par 3s including \$15,000 Grand Prize

Your support of the ARWA 29th Annual Golf Tournament benefits the John A. Garrett Scholarship Fund and is tax-deductible. It enables the ARWA to offer scholarship award opportunities for educational enhancement to the water and wastewater utility personnel in Alabama.



SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Heavy Equipment Move In Only Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center
8:00 AM – 06:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Set-up and Registration Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center
10:00 AM	Golf Tournament Registration
10:30 AM	Putting Competition
11:30 AM – 01:00 PM	LUNCH (PROVIDED)
01:00 PM	29th Annual John A. Garrett Fundraiser Golf Tournament Shotgun Start Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Prattville, AL
03:00 PM – 06:00 PM	Prizes and Announcement of Golf Winners after Golf Tournament Utility Registration Desk Open – Early Registration Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Exhibit Hall Setup
7:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Registration Desk Open
8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Exhibit Hall Open – Ribbon Cutting
10:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Water Technical Training Session
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Society of Water Professionals Annual Membership Luncheon
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Leadership and Decisionmaker Technical Training Session
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Wastewater Technical Training Session
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Open
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Registration Desk Open
4:30 PM	Welcome Reception – Exhibit Hall
5:00 PM	Cornhole Toss – Exhibit Hall

WATER TECHNICAL TRAINING SESSION

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Welcome, Opening Comments, Program Overview <i>Rob White IV - ARWA Executive Director</i>
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	ADEM Updates and Agency Insights <i>Edward Poolos, Director - ADEM</i>
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Water Division Updates and News <i>Daphne Lutz, Chief, Water Division - ADEM</i>
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Funding Updates: ADEM SRF & USDA Rural Development <i>ADEM SRF, USDA-RD</i>
11:30 AM – 01:00 PM	SOCIETY OF WATER PROFESSIONALS (SWP) LUNCHEON
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	From the Ground Up: A Comprehensive Approach to Water Tank Maintenance <i>Anson Walck, Southern Corrosion</i>
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	Countdown to Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) Compliance <i>Liz Johns, 120Water</i>
02:30 PM – 03:00 PM	Networking Session/Break (Exhibit Hall)
03:00 PM – 03:45 PM	PFAS Treatability Pilot Study Success Story <i>Lindsay Boone, PACE Analytical / Scotti Wells, Insite Engineering</i>
03:45 PM – 04:30 PM	Mueller Super Centurion Fire Hydrant Training <i>Davis Roy, Mueller Water Products</i>
04:30 PM – 06:30 PM	SOCIAL – CORNHOLE TOSS – HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES AND FINGER FOODS (EXHIBIT HALL)



AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026 (CONTINUED)

LEADERSHIP AND DECISIONMAKER TECHNICAL TRAINING

01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	Building Tomorrow's Water Workforce Through Apprenticeship <i>Meridith Smith, Director, Alabama Office of Apprenticeship</i> <i>Brian Faucett, ARWA Apprenticeship Coordinator</i>
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	WaterISAC: Cyber Resilience for Rural Water and Wastewater Systems – ...not as scary or expensive as it seems <i>Jennifer Lyn Walker, WaterISAC</i>
02:30 PM – 03:00 PM	Networking Session/Break (Exhibit Hall)
03:00 PM – 03:30 PM	Alabama 811 Updates, Issues and Proposed Legislative Changes <i>McKay Lyvers, Alabama 811</i>
03:30 PM – 04:00 PM	PFAS Settlements: Real Money for Real Systems <i>Hank Naughton, Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC</i>
04:00 PM – 04:30 PM	Crisis Communications Best Practices for Leadership <i>Mike McGill, WaterPIO</i>
04:30 PM – 06:30 PM	SOCIAL – CORNHOLE TOSS – HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES AND FINGER FOODS (EXHIBIT HALL)

WASTEWATER TECHNICAL TRAINING SESSION

01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	Simpler, Smarter, Cleaner: Introducing Non-Backwashing Wastewater Filtration <i>Ali Giti, AquaPyr, LLC</i>
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	Threats to Lift Station Performance <i>Randy Dyer, Bertelkamp Automation (Mitsubishi Southeast Distributor)</i>
02:30 PM – 03:00 PM	Networking Session/Break (Exhibit Hall)
03:00 PM – 03:45 PM	Wastewater Surveillance and Epidemiology <i>Erin Consuegra, Environmental Resource Analysts, Inc.</i>
03:45 PM – 04:30 PM	An Aerator That Brings Wastewater Treatment Lagoons Back Into Compliance <i>Lillie Nunez, Reliant Water Technologies</i>
04:30 PM – 06:30 PM	SOCIAL - CORNHOLE TOSS - HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES AND FINGER FOODS (EXHIBIT HALL)

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

7:30 AM – 3:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Open <i>Continental Breakfast Provided in Exhibit Hall-Door Prizes</i>
8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Registration Desk Open
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Water Technical Training Session
8:00 AM – 2:30 PM	Leadership and Decisionmaker Technical Training
8:00 AM – 2:30 PM	Wastewater Technical Training Session
8:00 AM – 2:30 PM	Utility Clerk Training & Development
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Women in Water Luncheon – Ballroom AB
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Rural Water Country Luncheon – Exhibit Hall
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Water Taste Test – Exhibit Hall
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Registration Desk Open
2:00 PM	PAC Raffle Giveaway
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	General Session
3:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Exhibit Hall Breakdown
4:30 PM	Caucus: ARWA Districts 2 & 4
6:00 PM	Social
7:00 PM	Annual Industry Celebration Banquet

WATER TECHNICAL TRAINING SESSION

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Managing Water Quality In The Distribution System <i>Dustin Dowdy, Southeastern Tank, Inc</i>
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Water Technical Session 2 - Topics TBD <i>Carey Solomon, Donald Smith Company</i>
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Safeguarding Water Infrastructure —Inspection, Maintenance, and Compliance for Long-Term Tank Integrity <i>Tarin Minkel, Dixon Engineering, Inc.</i>
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Networking Session/Break/Grand Prize Roundup (EXHIBIT HALL)
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	ADEM Drinking Water Update including eMOR Information <i>Jack Mobley, P.E., Chief, Water Supply Engineering Section, Drinking Water Branch, ADEM</i>

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026 (CONTINUED)

11:30 AM – 01:00 PM	WOMEN IN WATER LUNCHEON or COUNTRY LUNCHEON AND GREAT AMERICAN WATER TASTE TEST – ALABAMA STATE FINALS
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	Turbidity Regulations and Measurements for Drinking Water <i>Suzanne Lindblom, HACH</i>
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	Networking Session/Break/PAC Raffle Giveaways (FOYER)
LEADERSHIP AND DECISIONMAKER TECHNICAL TRAINING	
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Meeting Management & Ethics for Utility Leaders
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Accounting Best Practices
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	No Spin, All Signal: Is Ultrasonic the Right Choice for Your Utility? <i>Drew Wilderman, Neptune Technology / Ken Gaspar, Neptune Technology</i>
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Networking Session/Break/Grand Prize Roundup (EXHIBIT HALL)
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Funding Options: CoBank, Rural Water Loan Fund & More
11:30 AM – 01:00 PM	WOMEN IN WATER LUNCHEON or COUNTRY LUNCHEON AND GREAT AMERICAN WATER TASTE TEST – ALABAMA STATE FINALS
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	Modern Utility Management Solutions – Including AI Tools
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	BREAK – PAC RAFFLE GIVEAWAY (FOYER)
WASTEWATER TECHNICAL TRAINING SESSION	
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Municipal / Industrial Regulatory Updates <i>Dustin Stokes, ADEM Municipal, Scott Jackson, ADEM Industrial</i>
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Smarter Sewer Management: Preventing Overflows and Saving Millions <i>John Aulick, Sewer Sentry</i>
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Networking Session/Break/Grand Prize Roundup (EXHIBIT HALL)
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Shrieber Plants <i>James Dean, North Baldwin Utilities/Bill Foreman, Parkson Shrieber</i>
11:30 AM – 01:00 PM	WOMEN IN WATER LUNCHEON or COUNTRY LUNCHEON AND GREAT AMERICAN WATER TASTE TEST - ALABAMA STATE FINALS
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	Session Topic
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	BREAK – PAC RAFFLE GIVEAWAY (FOYER)
UTILITY CLERK TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT	
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Billing & Collections Panel
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Customer Service & Difficult Conversations
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Networking Session/Break/Grand Prize Roundup (EXHIBIT HALL)
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Record Keeping Essentials
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Excel Quick Wins & AI Tools
11:30 AM – 01:00 PM	WOMEN IN WATER LUNCHEON or COUNTRY LUNCHEON AND GREAT AMERICAN WATER TASTE TEST – ALABAMA STATE FINALS
01:00 PM – 02:00 PM	Insurance & HR Essentials
02:00 PM – 02:30 PM	BREAK – PAC RAFFLE GIVEAWAY (FOYER)
GENERAL SESSIONS	
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	NRWA Updates
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Certification Updates
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Cybersecurity Updates

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

GENERAL SESSION	
7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	COFFEE AND SNACKS – ARWA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MEMBERSHIP DELEGATE REGISTRATION
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	ARWA Annual Business Meeting and Door Prizes <i>Rob White, IV - ARWA</i>
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	GSA Updates <i>Ann Arnold, Geological Survey of Alabama</i>
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Office of Water Resources (OWR) News and Updates <i>Michael Harper, OWR</i>
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	EMA Updates <i>Michael Morgan, Alabama Emergency Management Agency</i>
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Networking Session/Break (FOYER)
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Securing your Future with RSA Benefits <i>Kit Gallup, Retirement Systems of Alabama</i>
11:30 AM – 01:00 PM	35th ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON AND GRAND PRIZE GIVEAWAY

WOULD YOU LIKE A NEW ATV?

Every Full Conference Pre-Registered Utility Attendee (Employee, Board Member, Mayor or Council Person) from a voting member system will be eligible for one chance at winning a beautiful ATV. Each Full Conference Pre-Registration must be paid in full to the ARWA and received by the ARWA on or before February 27, 2026.

You qualify immediately upon ARWA receiving your Utility Attendee Pre-Registered Full Registration Paid in Full by February 27, 2026. Nothing else to do! No other ticket to purchase!



**ATV pictured may be different from actual prize.*

JUST ATTEND AND WIN!!

This ATV will be given away at the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, March 18, 2026. You must be present to win.

Chance to Win!!!

Ruger American with Burris Scope .308



Picture may be different from actual prize.

Drawing will be held during the ARWA 48th Annual Conference. You do not have to be present to win.

\$10 PER TICKET. One Name will be drawn for each as a lucky winner!

Tickets may be purchased in advance or during the Conference. Call or email the ARWA for advance ticket sales.

UTILITY ATTENDEE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION

(Utility registration includes access to all Technical Sessions, Exhibit Hall, Social, Rural Water Country Luncheon, Women in Water, Reception & Banquet, Awards Luncheon, and Special Events.)

	Early Bird	On-site		
	Deadline February 27, 2026			
Utility Full Registration (Member)	\$550 X	\$600 X	=	\$
Utility Full Registration (Non-Member)	\$600 X	\$625 X	=	\$
Spouse Full Registration	\$225 X	\$250 X	=	\$
* One Day Registration (Member)	\$200 X	\$250 X	=	\$
* One Day Registration (Non-Member)	\$250 X	\$300 X	=	\$
Cornhole Toss		\$30 X	=	\$
Golf Tournament (see Conference Registration Form)				
Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament (per utility player)	\$125 X		=	\$
Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament (per exhibitor/company player)	\$150 X		=	\$
Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament (per outside guest player)	\$150 X		=	\$
String Game/Power Drive (\$10 per player)	\$ 10 X		=	\$

MEAL TICKETS INCLUDED WITH FULL REGISTRATION

* **Note:** One day registration includes Technical Sessions and Exhibit Hall on any one day of your choice. Meals not included. Purchase separately for one day attendees only.

Non-Member-Society of Water Professionals 1 Year Membership Dues	\$ 75 X	=	\$
Must be a Member of the Society of Water Professionals to attend Luncheon (Monday, March 16, 2026)			
Rural Water Country Luncheon (Tuesday, March 17, 2026)	\$ 45 X	=	\$
Women in Water Luncheon (Tuesday, March 17, 2026)	\$ 45 X	=	\$
Banquet (Tuesday, March 17, 2026)	\$ 60 X	=	\$
Awards Luncheon (Wednesday, March 18, 2026)	\$ 45 X	=	\$

PAC RAFFLE GIVEAWAY

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 2:00 p.m.

(Held in Foyer) Please make your selection(s):

- ☐ Yes, I will make a prize donation for the PAC Raffle. Prizes may be donated by local merchants in your area or purchased by non-public funds and contributed to ARWA.

Your contribution supports the Rural Water Political Action Committee

Description of prize

- ☐ Yes, we will purchase PAC Raffle Tickets in advance
- | | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|
| \$20 for 30 tickets | = | \$ |
| \$30 for 60 tickets | = | \$ |

List the name of the person who will pick up PAC Raffle Tickets:

Sub Total

\$

Total Conference Cost

\$

SOCIETY OF WATER PROFESSIONALS LUNCHEON

Monday, March 16, 2026 11:30 a.m.

Society Members are invited free of charge. All members should indicate below if they plan to attend in order to receive a luncheon ticket. Non-Members may attend for the cost of 1 year membership below. Note: Society Members must register in advance to receive their free luncheon ticket. Luncheon Tickets may not be issued on-site beyond the pre-registered Guaranteed Luncheon number.

Attendee(s)

Society Member Number(s)

Non-Member 1 Year Membership \$75

Name(s)

WOMEN IN WATER

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Get ready for an inspiring and empowering event! On Tuesday, March 17, 2026, we're thrilled to host the "Women in Water" Luncheon—a celebration of the incredible women who keep the water industry flowing, whether working in the office or out in the field.

Attendee(s)

CANCELLATION POLICY

All attendee pre registrations must be received by the ARWA on or before Friday, February 27, 2026. Refund requests for cancellations must be in writing and will not be honored after this date. All cancellations will be assessed a \$100 processing fee per company or utility.

MAIL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION TO:

ARWA, 2576 BELL ROAD, MONTGOMERY, AL 36117 OR FAX (334) 396-7090 • www.alruralwater.events Credit Cards accepted

UTILITY ATTENDEE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

System/Company Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____
 Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____ E-mail _____

Name of each person attending: (Spouse/Full Registration)

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____



Name of each person attending: (One Day Registration)

1. _____	6. _____
2. _____	7. _____
3. _____	8. _____
4. _____	9. _____
5. _____	10. _____

Name of Voting Delegate for purposes of ARWA District Director Election Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 4:30 p.m. System must be a current member of the ARWA. Caucus for Districts 2 & 4. Delegate must attend the caucus to vote. No proxy votes will be accepted.

Voting Delegate Name _____

WATER TASTE TEST

☐ Yes. Register this utility for the Water Taste Test on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.

GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION *(Please photocopy for each player)*

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Prattville, Capitol Hill • Sunday, March 15, 2026

10:00 a.m. Golf Registration • 10:30 a.m. Putting Competition • 11:30 a.m. Lunch • 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start • Format: Post Flighted Golf Tournament

Name _____ Cell Number _____
 Representing _____ Telephone Number _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Handicap _____ or Average Score 80 90 100 Other _____

PRIZES:

Awarded to top team of each flight, longest drive, closest to pin and

\$15,000 HOLE-IN-ONE GIVEAWAY

Additional Prizes awarded for all Par 3 Hole N One

PRICE:

\$125 per Utility Player

\$150 per Exhibitor/Company Player

\$150 per Outside Guest (See Conference Registration Fees page for full details)

STRING GAME – POWER DRIVE:

Individual players will be able to purchase one String and a Power Drive for \$10.00 on-site or by the registration form. The string will be blindly drawn from a box containing strings that vary in length. Each player can use his or her string once for their team to pick up a putt within the length of that string without counting a stroke. There can be no cutting or re-use of the string. **POWER DRIVE** – Can't be used on the long drive hole. Men are allowed to play from the Women's tee box on one hole. Women will hit from Women's tee, then add 30 yards to the result of that shot.

MAIL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION TO:

ARWA, 2576 BELL ROAD, MONTGOMERY, AL 36117 OR FAX (334) 396-7090
www.alruralwater.events Credit Cards accepted

ATTENTION:

Certified Water and Wastewater Operators

Continuing Education Hours are provided
hour per hour subject to ADEM Approval

PLAN TO JOIN US IN MAY FOR THE 2026 Alabama Gulf Coast Technical Training Conference

MAY 18–20, 2026

PERDIDO BEACH RESORT

27200 Perdido Beach Blvd
Orange Beach, AL 36561
251.981.9811
More information
coming soon.

The Alabama Gulf Coast Technical Training Conference has been scheduled for May 18–20, 2026
in Orange Beach, AL. More information coming soon.

ARWA PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE 2025 Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to all who applied and especially to those selected as the 2025 winners

Pursuing higher education is one of the most important investments a person can make in their future. But for many high school students, affordability presents a major barrier. That is why for over 20 years, the Alabama Rural Water Association (ARWA) has been proud to award scholarships to deserving students across the state through the John A. Garrett Scholarship Fund.

Made possible by funds raised at the annual ARWA Golf Tournament, these scholarships help alleviate the financial burden students face when pursuing college or trade school. Each year we are impressed by the caliber of applicants – students who have excelled academically while also making time to give back through community service, work jobs to support their

families, or pursue their passions through sports, arts, and other activities.

In 2025, we are excited to announce another round of exceptional scholarship recipients who represent the best of Alabama's youth. These students demonstrate academic excellence, strong character, and commitment to their communities. We are honored to invest in their futures through the ARWA scholarship fund.

Applicants are evaluated on their academic achievements, extracurricular activities, community involvement, and future goals. Numerous impressive application packages were received this year.

★ THE 2025 WINNERS ARE ★

NORTHERN REGION



SOPHIA ELIZABETH HOLZER

Sophia is the daughter of Meredith Holzer, an Engineer with the Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board in Calhoun and Talladega counties. Sophia is a 2025 graduate of Oak Mountain High School with a 3.94 GPA. Sophia is planning to attend Auburn University where she will pursue a degree in nursing.



RALEIGH BREANN THOMPSON

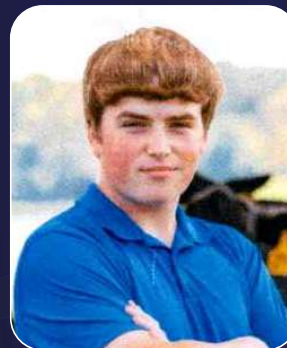
Raleigh is the daughter of Gregory Thompson, Manager at Greenhill Water Department & FPA in Lauderdale County. Raleigh is a 2025 graduate of Rogers High School with a 4.3679 GPA. Raleigh is planning to attend the University of North Alabama, where she will pursue a degree in Secondary Education Physics with a concentration in general science.

CENTRAL REGION



BRITTON SAMUEL PIERCE

Britton is the son of Derek Pierce, Program Manager with the Alabama Rural Water Association. Britton is a 2025 graduate of Thompson High School in Alabaster with a 4.327 GPA. Britton is planning to attend Troy University, where he will pursue a degree in physical education/special education.



JONATHAN ALLEN HODGE

Jonathan is the son of Alaine Hodge, Accounting Manager at East Alabama Water, Sewer, and Fire District in Chambers County. Jonathan is a 2025 graduate of Valley High School with a 4.3 GPA. Jonathan is planning to attend Auburn University, where he will pursue a degree in Civil Engineering.

SOUTHERN REGION



ETHEN RYAN GARDNER

Ethen is the son of Randy Gardner, Water Distribution Foreman at Montgomery Water Works in Montgomery County. Ethen is a 2025 graduate of Alabama Christian Academy with a 4.27 GPA. Ethen is planning to attend the University of Montevallo, where he will pursue a degree in marketing.



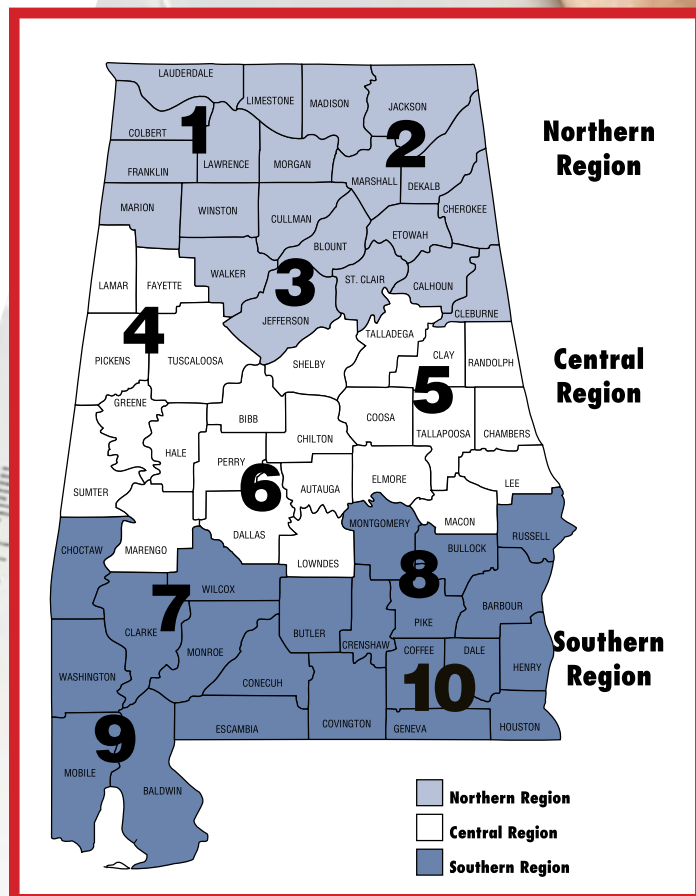
KAYLEE MICHELLE FRAZIER

Kaylee is the daughter of Maranda Kervin, Office Manager at Quint-Mar Water Authority in Crenshaw County. Kaylee is a 2025 graduate of Luverne High School with a 3.90 GPA. Kaylee is planning to attend Lurleen B. Wallace Community College to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Watch Your Mail for the 2026 John A. Garrett Scholarship Fund!

The Alabama Rural Water Association offers educational scholarships annually to deserving individuals through the John A. Garrett Scholarship Fund. Six scholarships will be offered to individuals who meet the criteria. Two recipients will be selected from each of three regions North, Central and South, as shown on the Alabama Map below in the amount of \$750 per recipient.

We ask that you provide each of your employees who may be interested or have children who are interested a copy of the information package that will be mailed in February, 2026. Where more than one child in a family or more than one employee in a utility is interested, each is eligible to apply. The application must be completed in its entirety and the utility must be a current member of the Alabama Rural Water Association.



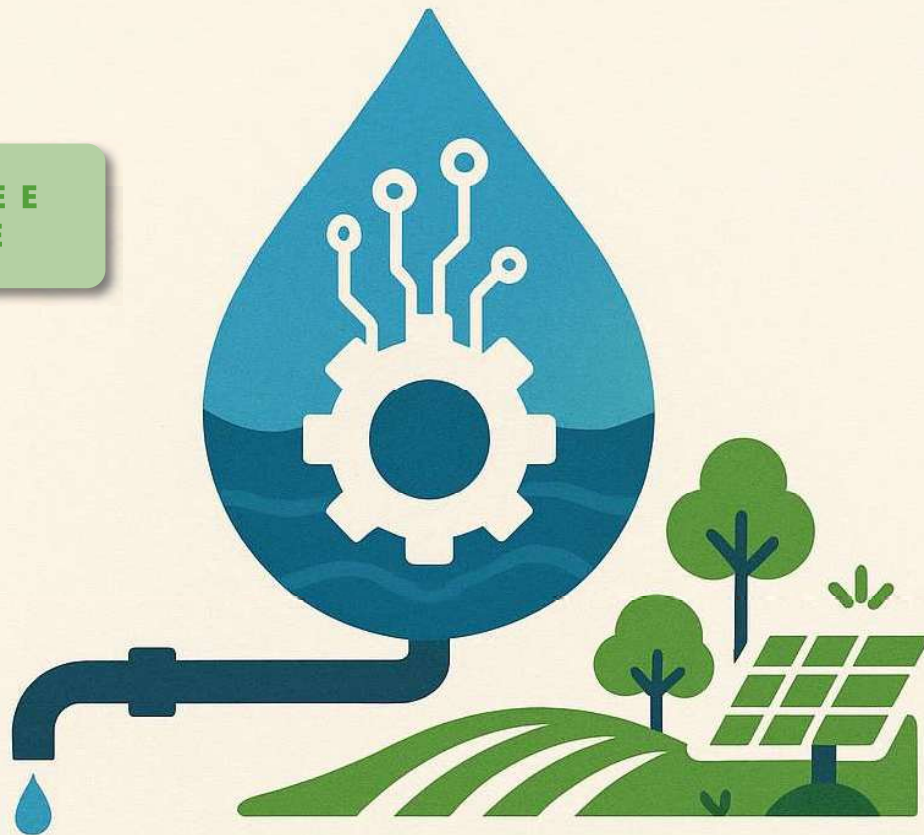
**Watch Your Mail for the
2026 Scholarship Information.
You should receive your
Scholarship package by mail
during February, 2026. Please
note the application package is
due back to ARWA by March 31,
2026. Any package received after
this date will not be considered.**

**If you have any questions, please
call the ARWA office at
(334) 396-5511.**

Alabama Rural Water Association
2576 Bell Road
Montgomery, AL 36117

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MONTGOMERY, AL

ATTENDEE
NOTICE



TAPPING INTO TOMORROW

SKILLS, SYSTEMS, AND SUSTAINABILITY

ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S
48TH ANNUAL TECHNICAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

MARCH 15-18, 2026 • MONTGOMERY, AL