



Wading through water

By District Manager Valerie Rice

Rural water, what are you paying for exactly? There are many factors to this subject. Working in the water district since 2016 has opened a wide range of knowledge for me than I ever had beforehand. There are more than 900 rural water districts and water systems serving municipalities of less than 10,000 people in Oklahoma. I first had to take a step back and understand how everything evolved. The way you receive water to your

to grow. Most lines during this time were only 1 to 1.5” in size. There are still water lines and taps set in not so organized fashion due to a member taking the shortest distance or setting their tap in the most desired position close to their home. No one at the time planned for the needs of 2022 nor did they have the funds. As the development went on the bigger picture came into view. Rural Development loans were obtained and from its humble beginnings has

home today did not happen overnight. In fact, it all started in 1964 when three families got together to form a rural water district and was finally incorporated on August 3, 1965. Those three families to thank were Elvis and Pearl Bowman, Floyd and Sylvia Turner and Floyd and Essie Nesbit who spearheaded the project



grown to four water towers and six pump stations and includes 1041 water taps. That was 58 years ago, today we must plan for the future, thinking of those to come in 2090. Isn't that mind boggling? Right now, we are planning for every line to be replaced with a six-inch line that would take us far in the future, but

and were also joined by Dan Stout, R. Block Ross and Frank Talley as representatives to create the incorporation for Okmulgee Rural Water District 2. At that time, they created a boundary of almost 24 sq. miles and later annexed more land sections to increase to approximately 116 mile sections. The source of the water came through a vote of the City of Okmulgee as a purchase supplier and the water comes from the Okmulgee Lake still today. Later a contract was formed with the City of Beggs and this water comes from the Beggs lake to date. About 20% of our water is purchased from Beggs.

no one knows what the future holds. Someone will have possibly saved a copy of this newsletter long after I am pushing up the daisies and may have a good laugh as there is no telling what technologies might evolve to. At least they will know somewhat how it all began.

Now back to the original question, what are you paying for when you become a member? You join the same partnership that began in 1965 and have a benefit unit which allows you to have safe potable drinking water running to your home. As we work on our almost 8 million dollars needs list in capital improvements and maintain the daily operations and maintenance, that's a bill you won't have to pay individually. Each member pays for their own benefit unit and together through grants and financing we all share the partnership of our rural water District.

Open your faucet and enjoy the benefit.

District 2 will hold their Annual Meeting May 19th at 6 p.m. Stay tuned for details

One Board Member seat open for Election

If you are interested in volunteering your time to serve on the Okmulgee County Rural Water District #2 water board, the filing period is now open and will close March 31, 2022. Candidates can file a notice at the Rural Water #2 office, located at 10035 Polk Ave, Preston, Oklahoma. Qualifications and/or requirements are 6 hours' of board member training, attend regular monthly and special meetings and be a current tap holder in good standing.

Recognizing an Icon



Linda Lynde has served as a Water Board member for 24 years. She is the daughter of the late Elvis and Pearl Bowman who were founders of District 2. Linda has brought her knowledge, skills and history to the District. She makes herself available to assist wherever needed, not only for the water district but in her church community as well to her long list of family and friends. She claims she serves on the water board to contribute something to her community. Serving on the Board is not a paid position and most of the time it is a thankless job, board members spend their time and offer their talents to make our district better. If you see Linda Lynde on the street, please recognize her for her service.

Using a granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration system is the most effective way to remove chloramines and have great tasting water.