

## **Dennis Schwartz**

Dennis grew up on a farm near Hanover, Kan., graduating from Hanover High School in 1965. Following high school he served in the United States Navy deploying to the Western Pacific and Vietnam. After his time in the service, Dennis was hired to serve as General Manager of Shawnee County Rural Water District #8 and remained in that position from April 1976 to retirement in April 2013.

Throughout the years Dennis has served on multiple boards. He is currently a member of the Kansas Water Authority where he served from 1986 to 1999 and then was reappointed in 2004. In 1999 Dennis was nominated for the EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council and served a six year term. For 37 years he served as a board member of the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) serving as president of the association board numerous times and 25 years as the director from Kansas on the National Rural Water Association (NRWA). Dennis served as NRWA President in 2001 and 2002 and has earned multiple awards including KRWA Manager of the Year, the KRWA Carl Conger Award and NRWA Man of the Year in 1998 and 2001. He was presented the NRWA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

“Water is and will continue to be critically important to the state of Kansas. During my tenure on the Water Authority, I have seen many Kansas water resource issues develop and be addressed,” said Schwartz. “We have seen much success in many of our resource issues, but struggle to achieve long term solutions in such areas as reservoir sustainability and preservation of our aquifer. It is encouraging however to see the current increase in interest to those issues. It is a privilege to be a part of those efforts, and I remain optimistic that long term solutions may be within reach.”

He and his wife Sharon like retirement life. They have two sons and four grandchildren. Dennis enjoys traveling around the state and country to take trophy photographs, some of which can be seen around KWO. Dennis currently volunteers for Habitat for Humanity ReStore several days a week.