

## ORVA Convention 2025 Enjoyed by All in Attendance

The 2025 annual convention in Hot Springs this past August 14-15, 2025 is reported to be a huge success.

As we discussed in our Spring 2025 issue, we planned a few things based on what we learned from previous conventions. We held our breaks to acceptable levels allowing time for restroom visits, refreshments, and interaction. We dropped the lunch following the final presentation



on Friday, and we created a more casual environment for the Thursday evening dinner. We kept our panel discussions, searching for meaningful topics, and we purposely worked to integrate added discussion with the audience. We believe our efforts were successful but we would like to hear from you. Visit our website at <https://orva.org>, click Contact and let us know your thoughts.

Pictured at left, **Mr. Matt Dunn** from Crist Engineers provided an informative presentation on the Lake Ouachita Water Supply Project; a true engineering marvel.

**Colonel Jeremiah Gipson** (pictured at right), Vicksburg District Commander and District Engineer, provided one of two keynote addresses. His presentation on the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project was hugely informative. Colonel Gipson and the many professionals with the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are critical to the success of the Navigation Project.

Pictured below are the participants of Panel 3 (seated). This panel, "Intersecting Fields of Fire: Coordinating Activities on the Ouachita River" was composed of (LtoR) **Mr. David Welch**, Development and Operations Hydrologist, Lower



Mississippi River Forecast Center, **Ms. Stephanie Bell**, Chief of Water Management, Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and **Mr. Tom Malmay**, Resiliency, Equity, and Flood Mitigation Consultant.

Standing at left is the panel moderator, **Mr. Brandon**

**Waggoner**. Brandon serves as ORVA's Vice President.

ORVA wishes to thank the many sponsors that helped make this 58th annual convention a success! Many thanks also to Mr. Bill Burrough and his staff at the Hot Springs City Managers Office for their help and support in the planning and execution of the convention. This wouldn't happen without their support.