

LIVELines

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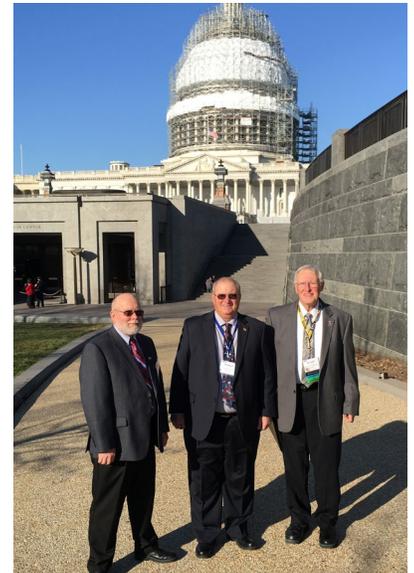
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APPA Legislative Rally – March 7-9

Wisconsin was once again well represented at the APPA Legislative Rally March 7-9 in Washington D.C. as 57 municipal utility leaders from 24 public power communities throughout the state participated in the event. The event provided an excellent opportunity to inform members of Congress and their staff about the value of public power and the impact of federal action on local, community-owned utilities. Participants visited the Capitol Hill offices of the state's Congressional delegation and discussed the importance of maintaining the tax exemption for municipal bonds. Many provided examples of how their community uses municipal bonds to cost effectively finance critical infrastructure improvements. Participants also discussed issues related to distributed generation and the EPA's Clean Power Plan. Senator Tammy Baldwin and Senator Ron Johnson each met with the group for a productive and informative discussion on the priority issues for public power. Maryam Brown, the Senior Energy Counsel to House Speaker Paul Ryan, also spoke to the group and shared her insights on energy policy in the House of Representatives.



From left to right: Bob Friberg, Florence; John Moore, Kaukauna; Jim Coutts, Cedarburg.



The Wisconsin contingency sits down to address energy issues with Senator Johnson.

Thank you to those who attended the Rally this year and helped make it a success. Your efforts make a difference! If you are interested in the legislative process, please consider attending the 2017 APPA Legislative Rally which is scheduled for Feb. 27 - March 1.



MEUW Executive Director's Corner

By Matt Bromley, MEUW Executive Director

MEUW has had a good start to the year with several successful events, expansion of our Regional Safety Management Program, and positive results from our legislative efforts.

In January we put on our biggest event of the year – the Joint Superintendents Conference – together with the rural electric cooperatives. The well-attended conference featured an outstanding line up of presenters and an inspirational keynote speaker whose personal story and the lessons learned will not soon be forgotten by attendees. In February, our popular Management Training Program (MTP) held one of its six sessions. MTP Session D covered the basic concepts of utility accounting and the importance of accurate and timely financial reporting. And, we just wrapped up our three-day Watt-Hour Meter Workshop that provided meter technicians with critical skills and a review of new technologies.

MEUW's Regional Safety Management Program (RSMP) continued to grow as several local government participants recognized the exceptional value of the program and sought the service for more of their employees. A new safety coordinator, Angelina Symicek, was hired in January to meet the increased demand. We also filled an open safety coordinator position this past month when Josh Ring joined MEUW to provide services to participants in Region 7. We expect to see more interest in our RSMP as the word spreads about the quality of our safety services for public sector employees.

MEUW has also been very active on the legislative front this year. In February, we joined our municipal water and wastewater colleagues to host Municipal Utilities Legislative Day. The timely event provided an opportunity for our members to meet with legislators at the State Capitol and discuss issues important to municipal electric, water and wastewater utilities. Together, we successfully prevented the passage of legislation to make it easier to sell off municipal water utilities to private out-of-state companies. In March, an impressive contingent of MEUW members and municipal leaders participated in APPA's Legislative Rally in Washington D.C. and met with members of Congress and their staff.

While a lot has been accomplished the first three months of this year, there are more events and opportunities to benefit MEUW members on the horizon. Our JT&S Underground Facility Locating workshop is scheduled for April and don't forget to attend MEUW's Annual Conference which will be held at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake June 1-3. Hope to see you at one of our events soon!

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Congressman Grothman Visits Lodi Utilities

Lodi Utilities welcomed U.S. Congressman Glenn Grothman (R-Campbellsport) to their community on March 10. The Congressman met with Lodi Mayor Paul Fisk and utility staff before taking a tour of the utility's facilities. The Congressman learned about the utility's energy-saving programs and the value they provide to the community's residents and businesses. Mayor Fisk described the infrastructure projects the city and utility has undertaken recently to maintain and improve service to customers. He pointed out that the city utilizes tax exempt municipal bonds to finance infrastructure investments affordably, which in turn provides significant cost-savings to taxpayers and ratepayers.



Congressman Grothman's visit to Lodi is a great example of how municipal utilities can proactively promote meaningful connections with elected officials. Consider inviting your federal or state representatives to visit your utility so they can better understand the positive impact of public power in the communities they represent. **Please contact us if you would like assistance with scheduling a visit by your member of Congress or state legislators.**

It's a Wrap - State Legislature Concludes 2015-16 Session

The Wisconsin State Legislature took its final votes of its two-year legislative session when the State Senate concluded its work on March 15. The State Assembly finished its work a month earlier. MEUW's advocacy efforts the last days of the legislative session were very successful. MEUW members made dozens of contacts to their state legislators that helped stop legislation that would have made it easier to sell a municipal water utility to an out-of-state private company. MEUW also weighed in with support for legislation that gives municipal utilities flexibility to enroll employees in the Wisconsin Retirement System and legislation to eliminate the "double" contributions to the Focus on Energy program by utilities. Both bills were signed into law.



Sun Prairie Utilities Manager Rick Wicklund (far left) and SPU Commissioner Hariah Hutkowski (4th from left) join Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt and Sen. Jerry Petrowski as Governor Walker signs Act 174 into law.

Here's a summary of the final status of legislation of interest to MEUW considered during the past month:

- SB 432 / AB 554 related to the sale of municipal water/sewer utilities to private companies. **DID NOT PASS**
- SB 134 / AB 156 , providing flexibility to municipal utilities to participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System. **PASSED - SIGNED INTO LAW 2/29/16 - ACT 174**
- SB 654 / AB 804 related to various changes to the PSC, including eliminating the "double assessment" by specifying that IOU contributions into Focus on Energy are based solely on retail sales and not wholesale sales. **PASSED - SIGNED INTO LAW 3/31/16 - ACT 299**



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Save the Date!

MEUW Annual Conference

The 2016 MEUW Annual Conference will be held in Elkhart Lake, Wis. June 1-3 at the Osthoff Resort. Some of the topics covered at the conference will include PSC updates, HR best practices and new technology for utilities. We are also excited to announce a dynamic keynote speaker for this year's event, Dr. Sudip Bose. Dr. Bose is an Iraq war veteran and bronze star recipient, emergency room physician, T.V. personality and motivational speaker.

Attendees are also invited to participate in a golf outing and welcome reception sponsored by WUSA on Wednesday of the conference. Look for registration materials in the end of April.

Coming Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 12-13 | MEUW JT&S Underground Facility Locating Workshop, Oconomowoc
Register to Attend! Deadline: April 4 |
| April 18 | National Lineworker Appreciation Day
Download a press release. |
| May 4 | MEUW Board of Directors Meeting |
| June 1-3 | MEUW Annual Conference, Elkhart Lake |
| June 8 | MEUW Management Training Program - Session E, Wisconsin Dells |

Mark your calendar! Visit the MEUW [website](#) for a full list of events scheduled through 2016.

Meet MEUW's New Regional Safety Coordinators



Angelina Symicek, Regional Safety Coordinator - Region 10

At the end of January, MEUW hired Angelina Symicek as regional safety coordinator for newly created, Region 10. Angelina serves the communities of River Falls, Menomonie, and Saint Croix County. "I am so grateful to Dustin who has taken the time and effort to get me up to speed in these communities. I have some big shoes to fill. And thank you to everyone else who I had the pleasure to learn from during my orientation process."

Angelina graduated from the Milwaukee School of Engineering and was planning on becoming an environmental lawyer. But her last year in college, she took an internship with Braun Intertec and fell in love doing environmental, health and safety consulting. She then transitioned to MWH doing EHS consulting for them and was able to travel all over the U.S., Japan, and Korea doing consulting projects for the US Army Corps of Engineers and Air Force. Angelina was fortunate to see some amazing things, including getting to clean up TNT and UXO sites. Following that she started her own firm continuing on with projects she was working on with MWH. She then moved to western Wisconsin, and worked for UW Stout and UW River Falls as their EHS Specialist prior to accepting the position at MEUW.

Angelina has two daughters, Ashley (8) and Emily (5) and lives in River Falls. She enjoys kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, dirt bike riding and used to have horses and cattle - hoping to get back into that.

"I've enjoyed working with all of you and look forward to getting to know everyone better."



Josh Ring, Regional Safety Coordinator - Region 7

Earlier this month, MEUW hired Josh Ring as regional safety coordinator for Region 7 serving the communities of Kaukauna, Menasha, Sturgeon Bay and Two Rivers. Josh is from Appleton, Wisconsin and graduated from UW-La Crosse in 2007, majoring in Psychology and Sociology. For the past five and a half years, Josh has been a technical trainer/safety administrator with a company in the Green Bay area training on corrugated equipment in the manufacturing industry. Prior to that he was a safety and training manager with a local utility construction company also in the Green Bay area.

Josh has a wife, Karissa, and a newborn son Parker who was born on March 5, 2016. Josh and his wife are also very fond of their "fur baby" Willow, who is a Brittany dog. His wife, Karissa is a kindergarten teacher at Johnson Elementary in Appleton. During his free time, Josh enjoys anything outdoors. He spends many hours throughout the year bowfishing and hunting whitetail deer. He is also starting to pick up golf again, and enjoys meeting up with friends for a quick 9-hole game whenever time allows.

"Thank you all for the warm welcome to MEUW! I look forward to meeting everyone over the next few months and can't wait to get on my feet at MEUW to assist you all in any way possible."

Member News & Tidbits

Richland Center's Youth Apprenticeship Program

On March 21, the City Utilities of Richland Center hosted Department of Work Force Development Deputy Secretary Georgia Maxwell and other guests for a question and answer session on the utility's participation in the DWD's Youth Apprenticeship program. The program started approximately one year ago when the the utility was asked to partner with a local group called SW Partners who were looking to create a Career Educational Cooperative.

The concept was to place incoming high school seniors from local school districts into construction and manufacturing settings. The goal of this was to provide alternative pathways to careers in manufacturing and industrial/construction settings. The hope is that these students would then become full-time employees and settle in the area where they could make a sustainable income and become active citizens in the community. Students earn a paycheck, learn life skills that build their resume, and employers get workers who are coached by the school at being better employees. It's a win-win for both sides and hopefully the outcome is a high-school graduate who's ready to enter the workforce within the community.



Pictured from left to right: Gayle Mathews, Water Superintendent; Dale Bender, Electric Superintendent; Tom Martin, CESA 3; Aaron Sanders, Youth Apprentice; Darla Burton, DWD Program Coordinator; Todd Fischer, Wastewater Superintendent.



Pictured from left to right: Darla Burton, DWD Program Coordinator; Aaron Sanders, Youth Apprentice; Georgia Maxwell, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Work Force Development; Dale Bender, Electric Superintendent.

Ten students were placed into eight manufacturing/construction settings from five public schools and one private who had chosen to become partners. These students participated in vocational instruction where they completed an 8-Hour OSHA Safety Course and a CNC blueprint reading course which in turn provided them with seven vocational credits. In their second semester they have completed a Professional Business course and a Technical Math course that provided them with an additional two UW credits. Students need to complete a minimum of 450 hours in one year from the business and in return for that they receive a wage set by the business, employee soft skills experience, work experience, a Department of Work Force Development Youth Apprenticeship

certificate, an Employability Skills certificate, plus the fore mentioned secondary education credits. In addition to this, each student is required to donate 10 hours of volunteerism in the community.

In the case of the City Utilities of Richland Center's apprentice, Aaron Sanders, he has worked 150 hours with the electric and is currently working the water and wastewater to gain a broad base of experience in the utility field. Upon completion of the mandatory hours, he will be given the option of finishing out the year with the department of his choice.

The Career Education Cooperative is starting its second year and has added the health care industry as well as continuing its partnership with the manufacturing and construction industry. Through 2016-2017, the Career Education Cooperative will be growing to 31 DWD Youth Apprenticeship students while at least doubling the number of businesses involved.

Richland Center is proud to be a partner with its industries and schools to help retain our youth while helping to create employees and a community of choice.

If you would like to learn more about Southwest Partners or the Career Education Cooperative, visit www.southwestpartners.org.

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Member News & Tidbits continued...

Evansville Water & Light Utility Receives Recognition for Exceptional System Reliability

Evansville Water & Light Utility has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2015 from the American Public Power Association (APPA).

“This honor recognizes utilities that are statistically thriving when it comes to reliability,” stated APPA Senior Vice President, Engineering Services Michael Hyland. APPA took Evansville Water & Light Utility’s reliability data compiled through its eReliability Tracker Service and compared it to the top quartile of system outage duration from national reliability data collected by the Energy Information Administration, an independent agency that collects, analyzes and disseminates national energy data.

APPA designated Evansville Water & Light as a Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) in 2013 for providing consumers the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. Evansville Water & Light recently began using the eReliability Tracker Service as a best practice identified in the RP3 program. “Our utility is dedicated to service excellence for our customers,” said Mark Sendelbach, Evansville Municipal Services Superintendent.

The eReliability Tracker compiles local utility data to generate a number of reliability metrics. The System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) is a measure of the sum of all customer interruption durations within a specified time frame divided by the average number of customers served during that period. In 2015, Evansville Water & Light’s SAIDI was 19.4999. The average SAIDI for utilities using the eReliability Tracker in the Midwest region, including Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio, was 54.2125. For utilities in our customer size class in the Midwest region, the average SAIDI was 73.2949. Other 2015

reliability statistics for Evansville Water & Light also showed strong system performance.

“We work hard to keep the lights on day in and day out,” said Todd Sperry, Evansville Water & Light Utility Foreman. “It’s nice to see our work pay off with this kind of recognition.”

MEUW Job Training & Safety Schedule Update

The JT&S training schedule through the end of June is available on the MEUW website. For the schedule, overview of upcoming sessions and session agendas [click here](#).

Municipal Electric Utility Reporting Requirements

As we enter 2016, please be reminded of the upcoming reporting deadlines. [Click here](#) for a list outlining the various reports required with the applicable due dates and contacts.

Send your member news and tidbits to Rachel Stephenson at rstephenson@meuw.org.



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Sun Prairie Utilities (SPU) is seeking a journey electric lineworker to join its team. This is a skilled position dedicated to the construction and maintenance of the municipal electric distribution system. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

The City of Plymouth, Wisconsin is seeking qualified candidates for the position of human resources specialist. First review deadline is Friday, April 29, 2016. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

The Columbus Water & Light Department (CWL) is seeking qualified candidates for the position of business manager. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

Manitowoc Public Utilities (MPU), is seeking applications for the position of journeyman line technician. This is a full-time position and requires constructing and maintaining electric power facilities up to 69 kilovolts. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

Send your employment opportunities to Rachel Stephenson at rstephenson@meuw.org.

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MEUW Customer Service Roundtables will Return in Spring 2017



In spring of the past two years, MEUW has hosted Customer Service Roundtables at various locations throughout the state to bring together front office and customer service personnel of member utilities to discuss and exchange information and ideas. The primary driver for the Roundtables was to provide information regarding implementation of 2013 Wisconsin Act 274 that affected the tax roll process for collecting delinquent tenant utility bills. Since member utilities have adopted to the changes very well, and there has not been any recent significant legislative or regulatory changes, the MEUW's Accounting and Customer Service Committee has decided to postpone the Roundtables for 2016.

Please mark your calendar for a full-day Accounting and Customer Service Seminar on September 13 in Wisconsin Dells. The seminar will feature updates from the Public Service Commission and other presentations relevant to customer service. Look for more information on the seminar in late July.

Continuing Education Opportunities: Advancing Compressed Air Systems

April 19 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Brookfield, WI

April 20 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Appleton, WI

Through case studies, discussion and classroom participation; learn how to identify, quantify and transfer energy that is typically wasted to other productive end uses at industrial facilities. Waste heat characteristics will be explored including where it is commonly found and how to determine its magnitude. Reduction methods in commonly used energy systems such as boilers, furnaces, ovens, dryers, reciprocating engines, steam systems and compressed air systems will be reviewed. Technologies and equipment used in waste heat recycling, using waste heat within the same system, will also be examined; as well as the use of heat to meet other needs within a facility such as HVAC, hot water heating and steam generation. [Learn more and register today.](#)



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