

LIVELines

Volume 64, Issue 1 | February 2016

2 Executive Director Corner

3 Safety Corner

5 Coming Events

6 Member News & Tidbits

7 Classifieds

MEUW / WI REC Joint Superintendent's Conference

2016 marked the 32nd anniversary of the MEUW/WI REC Joint Superintendent's Conference. This year's conference was highly attended, garnering just under 200 attendees. Lee Shelby, former lineman and national motivational speaker was the highlight of the conference and an inspiration to attendees. He has dedicated himself to helping others through leadership and education, teaching the necessary tools to lead employees to the next level of safety culture - an accident free workplace.

Lee was also the keynote speaker at the Apprentice Graduation Banquet held Wednesday night where a total of 26 graduates were recognized. The graduates are comprised of participants in the Chippewa Valley Technical College and Mid-State Technical College apprenticeship programs. These programs continue to produce quality lineworkers and meter technicians for Wisconsin's public power utilities and rural electric cooperatives.



Keynote speaker, Lee Shelby, engages attendees during the conference.

Municipals and cooperatives gathered jointly on Thursday to listen to other conference topics including mutual aid best practices, competitive bidding, micro grids, energy storage, smart grid, arc flash and PPE. On Thursday afternoon, attendees were able to network with MEUW's associate members, WUSA, at the annual WUSA trade show. We had our largest number of vendors yet showcase at this year's trade show which provided attendees with an abundance of awareness regarding utility supplier products and services.

We'd like to thank all who attended and also thank our sponsors who helped make this event possible. The conference provides a great opportunity to not only learn and advance your skills, but also an opportunity to build relationships and network with your peers. To view photos from the conference, [click here](#).



— Congratulations Class of 2015! —

Left: MSTC 2015 meter technician apprenticeship class; Right: CVTC 2015 lineworker apprenticeship class



MEUW Executive Director's Corner

By Matt Bromley, MEUW Executive Director

I learned a lot from my first Joint Superintendent's Conference that MEUW jointly sponsors with the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association. Some of what I learned came directly from the content provided by the informative presentations and discussions, but some of it was more subtle and reflected the spirit of our organization and its members.

The thrust of the conference was focused on improving work practice to ensure worker safety, so it isn't too surprising that what I learned first and foremost is that safety is paramount among MEUW members – as it should be. The event's outstanding keynote speaker, Lee Shelby, provided a visual reminder about the tragic consequences that utility workers face if they lose focus, drop their guard, and don't follow proper techniques and practices. Working as a lineman for a utility company in Tennessee, Mr. Shelby suffered significant burns to his arms while coming into contact with an energized overhead power line. Both of his arms had to be amputated below the elbows. His moving and personal story delivered a powerful message that workplace safety starts and ends with personal responsibility.

Several presentations emphasized the importance of personal protective equipment and the proper care to ensure that the safety of the equipment isn't compromised. I now have a better understanding why equipment suppliers and workers must take meticulous care of their PPE. Dave Krause of Krause Power Engineering, and Hans Christiansen of Energis High Voltage Resources, shared their expertise with testing and commissioning of power systems and the risks to both the system and workers from faulty equipment and installation.

All the presentations were immensely interesting, but I was most impacted when pride was displayed – pride for the men and women who work in public power and the electric power industry as a whole. During his discussion about mutual aid and how members can better plan and prepare for the risks of storm damage, Steve Hedden, MEUW's job training and safety instructor, described the efforts by crews of our members that went east to help restore power after Hurricane Sandy. He said the Wisconsin crews impressed the local crews with their hard work and devotion to getting the job done and noted that the Wisconsin crews were the last ones to leave. Steve said he never felt more proud of "our guys" than he did during that time.

Then there was the graduation awards banquet for the men and women who completed the lineworker apprenticeship program at Chippewa Valley Technical College and the meter technician apprenticeship program at Mid-State Technical College. We all shared in the pride that the instructors, utility sponsors, and families had for the graduates. The conference made me feel real good about not only the current state of public power in Wisconsin, but also its future. I look forward to next year's conference!

APPA Strategic Plan and Board Meeting Recap

APPA held its fall board of directors meeting on Oct. 2, 2015. During the meeting, APPA staff, along with those board members on the Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, provided a summary of the six external strategic work plan initiatives that APPA will be focusing on in 2016. Highlights of these initiatives are detailed below.

Communicate the value of public power: By helping public power utilities tell their story to their communities, APPA can help members "build the brand" around these key factors: service-oriented, customer-owned, not-for-profit, ownership in the community. Member education, website and branding redesigns, and RP3 promotion packages are among other initiatives.

Address technological change and increasing customer expectations; "Public Power Forward": Public Power Forward will encompass advocacy, education and tools to help members use new technologies to provide enhanced products/services. One of these ideas is educating utilities on the value of revising rate structures and services to offer customers more options and control over their energy bills. Other plans include communication toolkits, software programs and a Public Power Forward Summit.

...continued on page 4

60 years of
UTILITY KNOW-HOW

We've got the electrical, safety and MRO products you need to get the job done.

BSE **BORDER STATES**
Supply Chain Solutions™

262.347.2199 | borderstates.com
N29W23606 Woodgate Court E | Pewaukee WI



MEUW Safety Corner

By Chris Schlehta, MEUW Director of Safety Services

The 2015 MEUW Safety Award application information is now available to members. Last year was the first of a newly revised award process that saw a greater focus placed on recognizing those member utilities that concentrated on developing a safety culture by design. One of the hallmarks of an effective safety culture is a proactive and methodical approach to identifying and mitigating risks to employees in the workplace. Having the proper processes and policies in place to facilitate this approach and awareness by all employees is absolutely critical to providing a safe work environment.

Going through an entire year without an injury is something to be celebrated, however the real success is when that lack of recordable injuries is attributed to successfully designed programs and not simply a matter of luck.

As a part of the revamped safety awards process which begun last year, we now recognize three levels of achievement. The main change was the past scoring methodology in which a utility would be recognized for having earned the safety award. We've also included credits for year over year improvements on a variety of benchmarks now tracked by the award program. The goal is to raise the bar and help members reach for a higher level of success, and to recognize that increased effort.

As we move forward into the second year of this new award process I am again suspending the rule that a member must have submitted their application for the preceding three years in order to receive recognition. Historically we have seen slightly less than half of the total membership apply for the safety award. I would like to see as many members as possible to submit their application so that we can recognize the efforts and commitment shown by the utility and their commissions/councils in ensuring a safe work place.

You can find the application form along with the instructions on how to fill out the form online via the [MEUW website](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me for assistance.

On another note, we've had a number of personnel changes this month. Angelina Symicek joined the MEUW team to cover our newly formed Region 10, making her our tenth regional safety coordinator. Amanda Gardynik will be leaving us after serving as the Region 7 coordinator for the past two and a half years and we wish her well in her future endeavors. Lonnie Mesar will also be leaving us later this month after accepting a position as an instructor with the Northwest Lineman College in Denton, TX. We thank him for his service to MEUW's members for the past five years, and wish him well on his new opportunity.

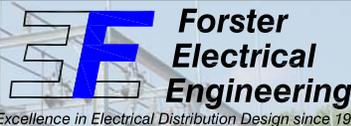
If you or someone you know is interested in either the Region 7 regional safety coordinator position or the job training and safety instructor position, please visit the www.meuw.org/employment page for more information. We will be accepting applications for the regional safety coordinator position until February 8, and the JT&S instructor until March 4.



- Directional Drilling
- Trenching & Plowing
- Fiber Splicing

BUILDING TOMORROW'S UTILITIES TODAY.

1.866.370.2243 • email: info@jrundergroundllc.com
 916 Blake Street • P.O. Box 82 • Blanchardville, WI 53516
www.jrundergroundllc.com



forstereng@forstereng.com (608) 835-9009 550 North Burr Oak Ave. Oregon, WI 53575
www.forstereng.com

- Electrical Engineering Consulting and Planning
- Electrical System Computer Modeling
- Electrical System Coordination and Sectionalizing
- Distributed Generation
- Field Inspections and Inventories
- Electrical System Documentation - Mapping
- Electrical Substation Design
- Insulated Power Cable Analysis
- Power Line Design and Staking
- Stray Voltage and Other Field Testing

APPA Strategic Plan and Board Meeting Recap *continued...*

Address adverse impacts of federal regulation: Topics include: environmental regulation, including EPA's CO2 regulations; FERC rules and tariffs; continued access to tax exempt financing; protection of PMAs and TVA; avoiding "federalization" of distributed generation; and complying with revised OSHA regulations.

Improve physical preparedness/reliability, cyber and physical security: This includes: a push to help all members develop an "all-hazards" approach to physical/cyber security, disaster preparation and response; showing federal policymakers public power's commitment to security and mutual aid; strengthening government/industry partnerships and minimizing new federal regulation.

Focus on research and development: This includes a plan to create new tools and techniques to better serve customers through the R&D program. Specifically elevating the DEED brand, expanding on educational opportunities and enhancing online resources, and leveraging APPA's R&D strength to collaborate with federal agencies and other R&D organizations.

Help meet utility workforce challenges: A plan to research and share best practices to help members address key issues including: advocating for competitive salaries and benefits; addressing retiring baby boomer workforce; attracting and retaining talent; building a workforce to reflect diversity in the communities; and promoting sound HR policies.

The board approved the proposed work plan initiatives moving forward and APPA's next steps include incorporating these activities into APPA's 2016 budget, establishing internal work teams, and developing metrics for each strategic initiative to track and report progress.

Save the Date! MEUW JT&S Watt-Hour Meter Workshop

Watch for registration materials available soon.

The annual MEUW Watt-hour Meter Workshop will be held March 29-31 in Green Bay, WI at NWTC and the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center.

The workshop will run Monday through Thursday; Monday being a pre-workshop, basic metering course for those that are new to metering or would like a refresher on the basics before the workshop begins. Many of the training objectives from past workshops are included on the agenda along with some new topics. There will be many opportunities for hands-on practical training including wiring various meter settings along with trouble shooting and verifying energized meter settings. There will also be breakout sessions for meter software. A trade show will also be part of the event and provides a great opportunity for networking and learning about new products.

This is a must-attend for meter technicians who will learn new technologies, approved work practices, how to verify and identify metering inaccuracies, and review choosing and applying the correct metering equipment.



"Utility Sales and Service, reaching farther than the Competition"

**UTILITY
SALES
&
SERVICE**

412 Randolph Dr, Appleton WI 54913
(920)788-2699 Office
1-888-999-8090 Toll Free
www.utilityssi.com

VERSALIFT

BRANDEX

FULL-SERVICE CONSULTANTS

- Communications, IT, and Smart Grid Automation
- Economics, Rates, and Business Planning
- Electrical Engineering
- Planning and Design
- Procurement, Contracts, and Deployment

PSE Power System
Engineering, Inc.

www.powersystem.org 866-825-8895

Coming Events

- Feb. 10 MEUW Management Training
Program: Session D, Wisconsin Dells
- Feb. 17 Municipal Utilities Legislative Day,
Madison
- Mar. 7-9 APPA Legislative Rally, Washington D.C.
- Mar. 28-31 MEUW JT&S Watt-Hour Meter
Workshop, Green Bay
Registration materials coming soon!
- April 12-13 MEUW JT&S Underground Facility
Locating Workshop, Oconomowoc
- 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.

2016 Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo

Registration open!

This year, the APPA Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo will be held right in our own backyard. The event will take place April 1-2 in Minneapolis, MN.

Join lineworkers from public power utilities throughout the nation and represent your utility with pride as you compete at the journeyman or apprentice level. Participants will learn from some of the nation's top experts and develop lasting friendships with lineworkers who share a similar dedication and passion for the craft.

Established in 2001 by the American Public Power Association (APPA), the Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo is where public power lineworkers come together from all over the United States and some U.S. territories to demonstrate their skill and knowledge in the craft of linework. At the Rodeo, journeyman and apprentice lineworkers can compete for professional recognition, attend training courses and practice essential skills in a safe environment. Furthermore, attendees will have a unique opportunity to connect with and learn from the nationwide community of lineworker professionals. As an MEUW member, thinking about competing in this exciting national event! The final deadline for competitor and volunteer registration is March 9. Learn more and register online at the APPA [website](#).

The Energy Center of Wisconsin Continuing Education:

Interior/Exterior LED Lighting Solutions

Interior: Feb. 17 at noon ; Exterior: Feb. 24 at noon

Cost: Free half-hour webinar series

There is an LED solution for virtually every lighting application today. The critical questions are: Can I afford it? Does it deliver light where I need it? Does it deliver correct light levels? Does it provide the proper quality of light? Review interior and exterior LED lighting applications and discuss whether they are the best solution or not. [Register today for these free webinars.](#)

Advanced RTU Control Strategies

Feb. 18 | 8:00 a.m. - Noon | Madison, WI

Cost: \$129

Packaged rooftop units are used to easily and effectively heat and cool more than 50 percent of all commercial buildings in the U.S...how can we make these units more efficient?

A recent U.S. Department of Energy study explored this question and the solution is summarized in four words: advanced rooftop unit control. Join us to review the DOE's recent findings, as well as the options available to save a significant amount of energy currently wasted by RTUs. [Learn more and register today.](#)

boardman & clark llp
LAW FIRM

MUNICIPAL UTILITY COUNSEL

Energy • Telecommunications • Water & Wastewater
 Land Use • Environmental • Employee Benefits
 Labor & Employment • Green Strategies

Madison WI • (608) 257-9521 • www.boardmanclark.com

RELAX.

YOU CALLED ENERGIS.

920.632.7929 | info@energisinc.com
energisinc.com

2014 Wisconsin Corporate Safety Award
Wisconsin Safety Council

Member News & Tidbits

2015 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. Upcoming deadlines are as follows:

- [Summary of Work Related Injuries and Illnesses](#); deadline March 1
- Municipal Light, Heat and Power Company's Annual Report for License Fee Purposes; deadline March 1
- [Meter-related Refunds and Charges](#); deadline April 1
- [PSC Annual Report Filing](#); deadline April 1
- [Renewable Portfolio Standard Compliance](#); deadline April 15
- [Annual Electric Power Industry Report](#); deadline April 30
- [Commitment to Community](#); deadline May 1
- Preventative Maintenance Plan Report; deadline May 1

Two Rivers Electric Utility Director Appointed

Ken Kozak, of Green Bay, has been appointed to head the city of Two Rivers' Electric Utility. He began work Jan. 5 and will work with current electric utility director Tom Bushman until Bushman's retirement at mid-year.

Kozak has worked for the past 14 years at Wisconsin Public Service in Green Bay as a senior support staff engineer, working with account executives to provide engineering assistance to large electric and gas customers. He has prior experience with engineering firms in Wisconsin and Washington, as well as in private industry in the energy and aviation sectors. Kozak earned his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering at Michigan Tech.

We are happy to welcome Kozak to the MEUW membership and we look forward to establishing a long-term business relationship.

MEUW Safety Achievement Award

The MEUW Safety Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize and reward MEUW members who create, improve or maintain a safe workplace through safety compliance and awareness measures. When employers recognize safety compliance responsibility and expect accountability from their employees, it positively reinforces safe behavior and creates a proactive safety culture in the workplace. This award recognizes and encourages employers who make a difference in their efforts to continuously improve the safety behavior of employees and their work environment.

We invite all MEUW members to submit your application for the 2015 Safety Achievement Award! Award information and application can be found on the [MEUW website](#). Recipients of the award will be recognized at the MEUW Annual Conference in June. If you have questions regarding the completion of the application, please contact Chris Schlechta at 608-837-2263 or cschlechta@meuw.org.

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



ZIELIES

*See us for all your
vegetation management needs*

zielies.com 1-877-550-7689

Sustainable supplier of utility poles since 1909



Bell
LUMBER & POLE CO.

Sarah Dunlavy
Cell: 715-492-0188
sarah.dunlavy@blpole.com



Classifieds

MEUW is hiring a regional safety coordinator for Region 7 - serving the municipality and/or municipal-owned utilities of Menasha, Kaukauna, New Holstein, Two Rivers and Sturgeon Bay. This position will be serving the occupational safety and health program needs for members of MEUW's Regional Safety Management Program comprised of municipal utilities, cities, villages and/or counties. The deadline to apply is Feb. 8, 2016. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

Rice Lake Utilities has a full-time position opening for an electric journey lineperson. Interested applicants must send a completed resume, salary history, and three references by close of business on February 26, 2016. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

The village of Prairie du Sac has a full-time position opening located in the Public Works/Utilities department, general labor I. Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Feb. 22, 2016. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

MEUW is hiring a job training and safety instructor. This position will provide professional development, continuing education, and safety training services to apprentice and journeyman lineman at 15-20 locations statewide. The deadline to apply is March 4, 2016. [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.

Waukegan Utilities is accepting applications for a journey-level electric lineworker. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

The city of Whitehall is accepting applications from interested persons to fill a full-time opening for a deputy clerk/treasurer. 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.

Connect with MEUW on LinkedIn!

Stay up-to-date on the latest news, insights and opportunities from MEUW. [Follow us](#) today!

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency Reveals New Name, Logo and Website

WUSA member, Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (CMMPA) is changing its consulting division's name from Utilities Plus to Central Municipal Power Agency/Services (CMPAS – pronounced "compass"). CMPAS provides individualized consultative planning and procurement services for power supply, transmission, and MISO market services as both a power agency and utility services organization.

Although the name changes, CMMPA/CMPAS will continue to service as a municipal, consumer-owned, non-profit joint power agency conducting electric portfolio management and consulting business for public power utilities in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Along with the renaming, CMPAS unveiled a new logo and website. The website includes in-depth project information, details about agency membership and affiliate member services, as well as information about rebates and other resources for electric consumers. For example, the website has information about its new SmartMaps service for distribution planning.

By subscription, electric utilities can contract for CMPAS consultations and access a comprehensive planning, mapping, and modeling technology platform that supports local geographic information systems. In a consultative role, CMPAS offers individualized strategic, technical services that support municipal utility partnerships. Whether through transmission ownership or electric power contracts, these partnerships help municipalities offset operational costs and stabilize rates for their consumers. The new tagline "Municipal Compass to Power" further describes the services and partnerships CMPAS offers to guide electric utilities in navigating the complexities of the power industry.

For more information on how CMPAS helps municipal utilities navigate electric industry complexities, visit www.CMPASgroup.org.



A. C. Engineering Company
N16 W22040 Jericho Drive Waukesha, WI 53186-1169 (262) 547-2006 Fax (262) 547-1523

"Field Service by Electrical Engineers"

Field Testing, Repairs, and Maintenance on all Types and
Manufacturers of Substation Electrical Equipment

*Immovative, practical maintenance solutions that will keep your
substation equipment running longer*

N16 W22040 Jericho Drive
Waukesha, WI 53186-1169
www.acengineer.com
o 262 547-2006
m 414 550-0736
email: ray@acengineer.com



Experience that matters



Jodi Dobson
jodi.dobson@bakertilly.com

Tom Unke
thomas.unke@bakertilly.com

Connect with us: bakertilly.com
800 362 7301

Accountants and Advisors

Baker Tilly refers to Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, an independently owned and managed member of Baker Tilly International. © 2015 Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP



"THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE"®

T&R ELECTRIC
SUPPLY COMPANY INCORPORATED

DENNIS VAN DAM

**WE BUY,
SELL, RENT
AND DELIVER**

PO BOX 180, COLMAN, SD 57017
(605) 534-3555 • FAX (605) 534-3861
DIAL DIRECT FREE 800-843-7994
dennis@trelectric.com • http://www.t-r.com



Powerful solutions for your energy needs.

Solutions for your substation and T&D projects that are:

- Innovative
- Technically sound
- Cost effective
- Operable

For experience you can trust, contact:
Dave Krause, P.E. - dkrause@krausepowerengineering.com
Phone: 715-577-1369 Fax: 715-861-3916
www.krausepowerengineering.com



RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING

"Clearing The Way To Reliable Energy"

(715) 428-2121 makovsky@centurytel.net



YOUR WISCONSIN TRAILER SOURCE

- Pole trailers
- Cable reel trailers
- Multi reel trailers
- Cargo trailers
- Combo trailers
- Custom trailers
- CR Reels
- Light bars



Contact Tim Kenfield @ 920-915-4725, kenfield@schuttindustries.com
185 Industrial Ave. Clintonville, WI 54929, www.schuttindustries.com
BEHIND YOU ALL THE WAY!

Register now for Webinars



An internet connection and a computer are all you need to educate your entire staff for just \$89. Register today at APPAAcademy.org. Non-APPA members enter coupon code **MEUW** to receive the member rate.

- Governance Series: Public Power's Unique Business Model and Governance Structure **Feb. 11**
- Electric Utility 101 Series: Generation **Feb. 16**
- Governance Series: Legal Obligations, Duties and Responsibilities of Public Power Governing Boards **March 10**
- Electric Utility 101 Series: Substations **March 15**
- Rating Agency Outlook for Public Power **March 16**




Where Power and Knowledge Meet.®

Your ad could be here!

Email info@meuw.org for details.