

LIVELines

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Join Us! —2016 MEUW Annual Conference

MEUW welcomes you to join us and your colleagues for the 87th MEUW Annual Conference!

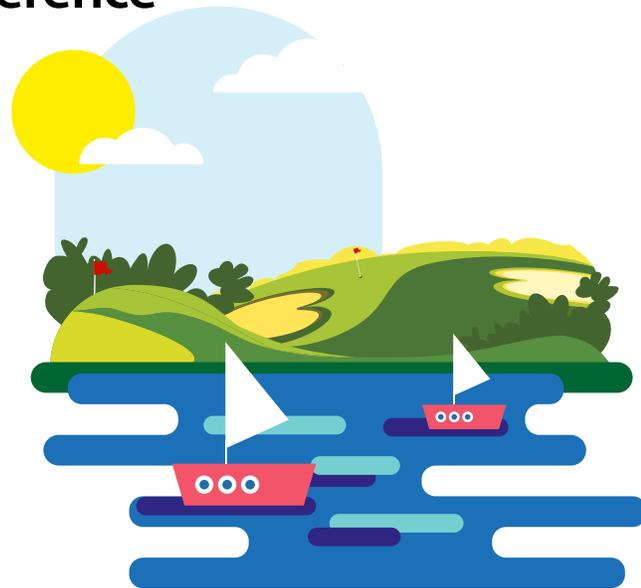
This year's conference will be held in beautiful Elkhart Lake, WI. We are happy to announce that the Annual Conference Planning Committee has worked hard to put together a solid speaker lineup which includes the following sessions:

- Working Together to Serve Ratepayers: The Regulator's Perspective: PSC Representatives
- Trends in Municipal Utility Employment Practice: Steve Zach, Boardman & Clark, LLP
- Tech Talk - Social Media for Utilities: Lindsay Harrison-Eirich, Engaged Social Networking
- Taking a Look at America's Natural Gas Resources: Martin Durbin, America's Natural Gas Alliance

We also welcome 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. Dr. Bose's presentation takes his experience from the military and emergency room to teach leadership lessons that can be applied to everyday life. Attendees will get a glimpse into the life experience of what our American heroes went through in a war zone. Powerful leadership lessons and stories will teach the value of innovation, teamwork, prioritization, and tenacity especially in high pressure situations.

We are very appreciative of the Wisconsin Utility Suppliers Association (WUSA) for sponsoring a golf outing and welcome reception on Wednesday for MEUW members. Thursday night we invite members to attend the awards banquet where the presentation of the MEUW Awards and the MEUW Safety Achievement Awards will take place. The conference concludes with Friday morning's roundtable discussion and the annual MEUW general membership meeting.

We encourage all members to attend the conference and we hope to see you all there for an exciting few days. [Click here](#) for conference information, registration and room block information. **Hurry, the deadline to register is May 24!** If you plan to attend, please fill out the pre-conference [questionnaire](#) to submit any topic suggestions you would like addressed during the conference.



MEUW Association Update

From the MEUW Board of Directors

On Wednesday, May 4, 2016, the Board of Directors met in Wisconsin Rapids for its regularly scheduled spring meeting. Seventeen of the nineteen board members were present along with two alternate directors.

The following is a summary of the key items discussed and action taken at the meeting:

- Bob Trussoni, MEUW 1st Vice-President, met with representatives of Wegner CPAs to discuss the annual audit report for fiscal year 2015. Bob discussed the key areas of the report with the Board of Directors. MEUW is in good financial condition and the audit was clean. Jeff Feldt motioned to accept the annual audit report. Second by David Tracey. The motion carried.
- The legal report from Boardman & Clark was reviewed. Discussion took place regarding the recent electric rate cases processed by the PSC for MEUW members.
- The legislative, regulatory and external affairs report from the Kammer Group was reviewed. Discussion took place with regards to the sale of public water utilities. Although legislation was not passed on this issue, members should expect this legislation to be brought up in some form in the next legislative session. Elections will dominate the news this summer and fall.
- Randy Jaeckels, MEUW President, provided an executive report. He informed the board that the registration materials for the annual conference have been emailed to all members. The conference will be held at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake from June 1-3. On the agenda is a panel discussion with PSC staff, a presentation from Steve Zach on employee practices, a session on social media and roundtable discussions. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Sudip Bose, a former U.S. Army physician, who will speak on leadership. Members should carefully read the registration materials as we are looking for topics of interest from the membership for the roundtables and some facilitators as well. These should be directed to Randy. He also informed the board that Mark Zielsdorf was hired as the new JTS instructor and Josh Ring was hired as a new regional safety coordinator. The Accounting and Customer Services roundtables have been postponed and will be rescheduled. The Strategic Planning Session has also been postponed and will be rescheduled once a new executive director has been selected.
- Under association business, Oconomowoc has presented invoices for legal fees for the pole attachment case. The Board of Directors had previously approved a contribution up to \$50,000 to assist with the legal fees for this case. A motion was made by Jeff Feldt to pay \$50,000 to Oconomowoc for legal fees. Second by Bob Trussoni. The motion carried.
- Following a discussion of a proposed transition plan, the Board of Directors decided to create an executive director search committee. Members of the committee will include Paul Hermanson (Lake Mills), Jeff Feldt (Kaukauna), Bob Trussoni (Marshfield), Tim Herlitzka (Waunakee) and Jem Brown (Wisconsin Rapids). We would like to add one more member to the committee; interested members should contact Randy Jaeckels. The committee will meet soon to select a chairperson. The committee was also authorized to spend up to \$50,000 to utilize the selection of a search firm, if they choose to utilize a search firm.
- Following discussion, the Board of Directors authorized the following organizational changes for the office: hire a marketing and member services manager (to replace Rachel Stephenson), hire a business manager (to replace Shari Baumann), and to hire one administrative assistant. At this time, the director of safety services position would not be filled until the safety organization can be reviewed.

As we continue to move through the organizational changes, I thank the membership for your patience. If you have any questions please contact me at the New Holstein Utilities office at 920-898-5776.

Randy Jaeckels

MEUW Board of Directors President



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Public Service Commission Issues Draft Strategic Energy Assessment

State law requires that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) issue a Strategic Energy Assessment (SEA) every two years that evaluates the adequacy and reliability of Wisconsin's current and future electric capacity and supply. In March, the PSC released a draft SEA that covers the years 2016 through 2022. The information contained in the report provides an excellent overview of the state's electric industry. New to the SEA, the draft report also contains data on customer owned distributed energy resources (DER) that readers may find of value.

The main takeaway from the draft report is one that hasn't changed from previous SEAs, that is Wisconsin continues to have an adequate and reliable electric supply to meet customer demand. As the draft report notes, Wisconsin's supply surplus is the result of, "... a strong generation construction program beginning in the late 1990s, effective energy efficiency and conservation programs, and moderate demand growth." Wisconsin is expected to have a capacity reserve margin of 14.2 percent or higher through 2022 exceeding the 7.1 reserve margin required by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO).

Most of the other findings in the draft report are also consistent with prior SEAs. We see again that Wisconsin's electricity rates are higher than other Midwestern states due in part because of our substantial investment in generation and transmission over the last decade or so. Interestingly, as the report notes, while Wisconsin's electricity rates are high, the average residential monthly electricity bill has been consistently at or below the Midwest average. Wisconsin residents seem to be doing a better job than most of their Midwestern counterparts at turning the lights off and conserving energy.

The growing interest in customer owned distributed energy, such as rooftop solar, prompted the PSC to get better information with this SEA on just how much of the resource is connected to the grid. The treatment of DER has been an issue in recent rate cases and is expected to continue as the cost of DER technologies come down and customer participation increases. For this SEA, the PSC requested an inventory of DER resources from all municipal and investor-owned utilities from the period January 2008 through September 2015. The data show that 66 percent of municipal electric utilities have at least one DER installation in their service territory with a combined installed capacity of over 2.5 MW. Nearly all of the DER installations in the municipal system since 2008 are under 20 kW, with most being solar installations and wind to a lesser degree.

The Commission is asking the public to comment on the draft report, which is accessible at: www.psc.wi.gov. Based upon the comments received on the draft, the Commission will issue a final report. Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Public Hearing May 11, 2016 from 1 - 3 p.m.
Public Service Commission Amnicon Falls Hearing Room / 610 N. Whitney Way Madison, WI 53707
- By letter addressed to:
Docket 5-ES-108
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707
- Electronically at the PSC website: www.psc.wi.gov



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MEUW to Recognize Safety Achievements for 2015

Congratulations to the 2015 MEUW Safety Award winners for their safety achievements earned from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2015.

In its 15th year, the MEUW Safety Achievement Award is a voluntary reporting system that MEUW developed to recognize safety achievement, and to encourage proactive safety activities. We encourage all MEUW members to participate each year, even if injuries have occurred. It helps us track injury trends, which then allows us to target particular training areas in the future. It takes hard work and commitment from the employees on the job site watching out for one another, following safety rules and safe work practices. It also takes commitment from the utility management and governing board to provide the employees with the equipment they need to do the job safely, the training to maintain or improve their skills, and the knowledge, time, and effort to promote proactive safety practices through regular participation in the MEUW Safety Program, seminars and workshops. When employees are safely doing their jobs each day, there are real benefits to the utilities. These benefits include employee morale, reduction or elimination of work related injuries, and monetary savings for the utilities. The MEUW Safety Achievement Award winners will be recognized during the awards banquet, Thursday night of the MEUW Annual Conference.

This year's recipients include:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arcadia – Silver | Muscoda – Bronze |
| Bangor – Silver | Oconomowoc – Gold |
| Black River Falls – Silver | Pioneer Power – Gold |
| Boscobel – Bronze | Prairie Du Sac – Silver |
| Cedarburg - Silver | Reedsburg – Gold |
| Columbus – Silver | Rice Lake – Gold |
| Eagle River – Gold | Richland Center – Gold |
| Elkhorn - Gold | River Falls – Bronze |
| Evansville – Silver | Sauk City – Bronze |
| Fennimore – Gold | Sturgeon Bay - Gold |
| Hustisford – Bronze | Stoughton – Gold |
| Juneau – Bronze | Trempealeu – Bronze |
| Kaukauna - Gold | Two Rivers - Gold |
| Lodi – Gold | Vanguard – Gold |
| Manitowoc – Gold | Waupun – Silver |
| Marshfield – Gold | Whitehall – Gold |
| Medford – Gold | Wisconsin Rapids - Silver |
| Menasha - Gold | |

Coming Events

- June 1-3 MEUW Annual Conference, Elkhart Lake
[Register to attend!](#)
- Aug. 25 MEUW Management Training Program -
Session E, Wisconsin Dells
- Sept. 13 MEUW Accounting and Customer
Service Seminar, Wisconsin Dells

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



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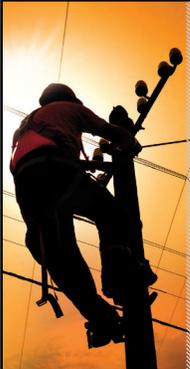
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Member News & Tidbits



Pictured from left to right: Jeffery Feldt, General Manager, Kaukauna Utilities; Mike Noreen, Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator, River Falls Municipal Utilities; Michelle Suddleson, DEED Program Manager, American Public Power Association.

River Falls Falls Municipal Utilities Receives National Award for Excellence

River Falls, Wisconsin, Municipal Utilities (RFMU) earned the 2016 Award of Continued Excellence (ACE) from the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Developments (DEED) program.

The award recognizes continued commitment to the DEED program and its ideals, including support of research, development and demonstration, improving efficiency, renewable resources, and support of public power. The award was presented during APPA's annual Engineering & Operations Technical Conference, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"For 17 years, River Falls has been active in APPA's DEED program," said APPA President & CEO Sue Kelly. "It has worked diligently to develop programs to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, and it has been quick to share results with other public power utilities."

As part of the DEED program, RFMU has provided two scholarships to students attending the University of Wisconsin – River Falls. In 2012, the utility worked with a student who studied the implications of land use change on soil organic carbon and sequestration opportunities in western Wisconsin. The research developed strategies to curb carbon emissions by way of improved agricultural practices. Currently, RFMU is working with a student to investigate the effectiveness of sustainable housing models by performing cost analysis of net-zero homes in the city's Habitat for Humanity Eco Village when compared to conventionally constructed homes. "We are proud and honored to be able to continue to reflect our community values through our local Municipal Utility with the use of programs such as DEED," said Utility Director Kevin Westhuis.

MEUW Hires a New Job Training and Safety Instructor

Welcome Mark Zielsdorf!

Mark graduated from NWTC with two associate degrees, one in electrical power distribution and the other in civil engineering technician. He recently worked for an Upper Peninsula power company for seven years; five of those years as a lineman and three as a line supervisor. Prior to that, Mark worked for Wisconsin Public Service as a lineman for 17 years. He also worked five years for an engineering company doing surveying and soil testing.



Mark is married to his wife Laura, who currently runs their home-based business doing CNN laser, router and plasma cutting. In his spare time, Mark's interests include bird hunting and tournament fishing. Mark and his wife have two German Short-haired Pointers named Lacey and Cutie. They currently live in Houghton, MI and are looking to relocate to the Green Bay area.

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Classifieds

The city of Evansville is accepting applications for the position of an electric lineworker within the Water & Light Utility. This is a full-time position which is responsible for day-to-day operations, maintenance and repair of electrical systems. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

Bangor Municipal Utility (BMU) is looking for a full-time journeyman lineman. The individual hired will work as part of a four-person team responsible for day-to-day operation, maintenance and repair of BMU's municipal electric system. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

FREE! Shawano Municipal Utilities recently removed a service to an old customer and have some parts they current do not need anymore at no cost. The parts are: (12) – S&C SMU-40 Fuses 100E, 14.4 kV and (6) end fittings for the S&C SMU-40 fuses. If interested, please contact Rob Koepp at 715-701-8983 or rkoep@shawanonet.net.

FOR SALE: Lake Mills Light & Water has an overstock of overhead – pole-top style, S&C SMD-20 power fuses. Available for sale are: 24 – 200A, 25KV (nom), 150 KV, (bil) cutouts with SMU fuses; S&C catalog # 92123R3-D. Asking \$250 each or all 24 for \$5,750. If interested, please contact Paul Hermanson at 920-648-4026 or p_hermanson@ci.lake-mills.wi.us.

FOR SALE: A pair of Haix, chain saw cut resistant boots - only worn once. Size 10.5 wide. The model is Protector Prime Black. Asking \$150; they retail for \$319. You can view more information on the type of boots here: <https://www.haixusa.com/haix-protector-prime-black> . If interested please contact Benji Potier at 920-495-5507 or bpotier@wppienergy.org.

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

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

Continuing Education Opportunities:

Industrial Heat Recovery: Reduce, Recycle and Reuse

May 11 - Brookfield, WI

May 12 - Appleton, WI

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[Learn more and register today.](#)



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