Tell the Public Power Story

Public Power week is upon us. October 1st - 7th 2017, marks the week this year that we set aside to make sure we inform both our customers and stakeholders about the advantages of Public Power.

As employees of Municipal Electric Utilities, we are well-aware of the distinct advantages Public Power offers to the communities that we serve. Each of us, however, must make a point to help others in our community and state to better understand the benefits provided by Public Power. Make sure you share the following.

Local control allows us to operate in a manner that fits with the character of the communities that we serve. What customers value is changing. By having local control, we are closer to our customers, and can operate our utility in tune with the values of our local residents. Some communities may focus on lower costs, while others value environmental sensitivity. Because we are locally controlled we can respond to local values quickly and more directly than a large Investor Owned Utility.

We also create Community Value. Not only do MEUW members provide well-paying jobs to members of our local communities, we also make payments in lieu of taxes that help reduce the property tax burden for our residents and businesses. Our members also work to create services and system improvements that will support economic development in our area.

Reliability, is a hallmark of our Municipal Electric Utilities. Local utilities serviced by local employees who know the area and the utility. We have well maintained facilities, and when there is an outage, our employees don’t have to travel far to get the problem fixed. If the problem is large, like Hurricane Irma, Public Power from around the country comes to assist through our Mutual Aid system. When mother nature lashes out, Public Power is the first to respond.

Municipal Electric Utilities also lead when it comes to Affordability of electricity. We regularly have some of the lowest rates for electricity for our customers when compared to others in our industry. Lower electricity costs mean more dollars flowing to area businesses, and keeping our local economy strong.

Because MEUW members are not owned by investors, we can focus on delivering Superior Service through investment back into utility infrastructure. We can remain focused on building an efficient utility that delivers high quality service for our customers and is efficient in its operations. Our utilities plan for the long term, rather than for the next quarterly stock dividend, allowing us to make decisions that are good for today, and for tomorrow.

This week make sure to tell others about all the benefits of Public Power…

Local Control… Community Value… Reliability… Affordability… Superior Service.

It is a story that is good to tell, and good for our communities.
STATE of WISCONSIN

OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the citizens of 82 communities across Wisconsin place a high value on local control over community services and therefore have chosen to operate a community-owned, not-for-profit electric utility and, as customers and owners of their electric utility, have a direct say in utility operations and policies; and

WHEREAS, these Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) member utilities provide our homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective electricity employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates; and

WHEREAS, since 1929, MEUW have proven to be valuable community assets which contribute to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness in the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, MEUW are dependable and trustworthy institutions whose local operations provide many consumer protections and continue to make our communities better places to live and work, and contribute to protecting the global environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scott Walker, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 1 – 7, 2017 as

PUBLIC POWER WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 29th day of September 2017.

SCOTT WALKER
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State
MEUW Executive Director Report
From Jeff Stone

Plan for our upcoming MEUW Events!

Fall District Dinners: I hope that all of you are visiting our Website and selecting a convenient District Dinner that fits your location and schedule. These events have been popular in the past, and many of you expressed the desire that I make sure they happen each year.

I want you to know that we are listening to your requests, and that we have scheduled seven locations around that state during October and November where you can join with MEUW and your industry colleagues from around the state. We anticipate each will be an enjoyable and interesting evening with time for discussion and networking as well. These are great events for updating your staff, commissioners and local officials about the value of municipal utilities, and the important issues facing our industry today. Bring them along too!

Please check the Event Calendar section of our Website and select the meeting location that fits your schedule. We hope that it will be convenient for you to join us at one of our locations for an update on MEUW activities, as well as State and Federal issues impacting Public Power Utilities.

Management Training Program: Also make note that Session C of the Management Training Program is now open for registration. This Session presented by Dave Krause and Linda Pophal focuses on utility planning and risk management.

Areas of focus for this full day session will include:

- Strategic Planning
- Overcoming resistance to change
- Planning and maintenance versus reacting and repair
- Wisconsin law regarding the bidding process for construction projects
- And many more...

Joint Superintendents Conference: Finally, make sure you mark your calendar for the Joint Superintendents Conference, January 17th - 19th at Glacier Canyon Lodge in the Wisconsin Dells!

Jeff Stone
September Safety Notes
From Mike Czuprynko, MEUW Regional Safety Manager

As Summer is coming to an end and we are moving into the Fall, the Regional Safety Team will be starting to shift into Fall mode as well. We are transitioning from project development that is wrapping up now, and focusing more on delivering trainings. The Regional Safety Team has done a great job completing a number of different projects, including, Fall Protection Inspection Kits, an assortment of audit templates, SPCC train-the-trainer, and Work Zone Safety boards.

The one big project that will take us to the end of the year is MSDSonline. The interest has gone up to 14 communities, putting the current cost at $1320.14 per community. Again, for each community that comes on, there is a price break. All those that are interested should contact me or your Regional Safety Coordinator. I would like to start getting a final count by the end of October, with a roll-out date starting in the beginning of 2018. Dan Considine with MSDSonline will be setting up a pre-recorded webinar for those that have not been able to attend the live webinars that were scheduled in September. You may also contact Dan yourself via email to set up a 1-on-1 demonstration at Dconsidine@ehs.com or by phone at (312) 881-2331. As always, if there are any other questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

As I look back on a year ago, when I started with MEUW, I think of where the program was, to where we are today. I couldn’t be prouder of the Regional Safety Team, and all that has been accomplished. Those that are in the Regional Safety Program, I also want to thank you for the candid conversations that we’ve had in regards to the services you are receiving. We are constantly looking at improving our services, and as we are finishing up the year, we will have another list of items to help us improve. I look forward to continuing my visits in your communities, and having the great dialog together.

Mike Czuprynko
“It's not the age, it's the mileage.” While typically meant to amuse, for those of us that are starting to see more of their work life behind than ahead, that phrase takes on a bit more gravitas. Yes, folks, the meter is running. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 1994 the median age of U.S. employees was 37.7 years old. By 2014, that metric climbed to 41.9 and it is predicted to reach 42.4 by 2024. If you have a physically demanding job, this points to the need to maintain the most important tool – your body – so that it lasts throughout your career, with motion to spare so you can work on essentials like your golf swing, fly cast or first serve.

So often, when safety specialists talk about protecting the body in the workplace, the conversation involves preventing bodily invasions such as lacerations, crushes, punctures and fractures. Make no mistake, these are very important concerns – so important that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has written copious regulations organizations must follow to prevent such injuries. Today, however, I’d like to talk about the stresses our jobs place on the muscles and joints and, more specifically, the hands and the wrists.

Bureau of Labor Statistics data suggest that musculoskeletal disorders involving the hand and wrist are associated with the longest absences from work and, therefore, result in greater lost productivity and wages than those of other parts of the body. Good hand and wrist function is vital to maintaining independence and quality of life. Think about all the things you would not be able to do if your hands and/or wrists were limited by loss of movement or severe pain. Your work and home life could be deeply affected.

With hand-intensive work, it is common to make the same motion repeatedly, causing a lot of wear and tear on the joints and tendons being used. Without relief, the damage can be cumulative over time, often resulting in chronic conditions that never fully heal. Performing hand-intensive tasks with a bent wrist – either up and down or side to side – creates considerable stress on the tendons as they are bent across the harder bones and ligaments that make up the outer structure of the wrist.

As with most work-related musculoskeletal disorders, the key risk factors associated with repetitive hand and wrist movements are the duration, frequency and intensity of the motions. Here are a few general tips to reduce your risk of injury:

- Plan the work to avoid unnecessary motions
- Use tools designed to minimize hand and wrist movements
- Allow power tools and machinery to do the work
- Spread repetitive work throughout the day
- Rotate respective tasks among coworkers
- Take pauses to stretch and relax the wrists and hands

It is also a good practice to use full hand gripping motions whenever possible, as opposed to pinching. A full hand grip is five times stronger than a pinch grip. Keep in mind that your grip strength decreases when you bend your wrist, attempt to pick up or hold slippery items, wear poorly-fitted gloves or have cold hands. And finally, remember that your risk of injury increases when you combine risk factors (i.e., repeated gripping with bent wrists).

When it comes to safe work practices, on the job or at home, our hands and wrists are often hidden in plain sight. They are so much a part of everything we do, it's easy to take them for granted. So, let's take this opportunity to think about how we can apply some simple techniques and use our heads to protect our hands.

Steve Isaacson
MEUW Members Send Mutual Aid to Hurricane Irma Victims

A special thanks goes out to all utilities who responded to MEUW’s Emergency Mutual Aid call for help. Mutual aid agreements are a critical step toward planning for the unexpected. If you would like to participate in emergency mutual aid, please [click here](#) to learn more information.

"Hurricane Irma ripped through Florida earlier this week causing catastrophic damage and widespread power outages. At peak, nearly 7 million customers were without power, with more than 800,000 of those from Florida’s public power communities. In partnership with APPA, FMEA put out a nationwide call for mutual aid assistance and the response from public power communities across the country was extraordinary. More than 1,000 crews from public power in Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, North Carolina, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia and across New England came to our aid. Restoration efforts have been actively underway and will not stop until every customer is restored. As of the last outage report (at 3:00 today), the state is down to 3.5 million outages, with a little over 300,000 from public power. This has truly been an unprecedented event on many levels.

FMEA and Florida’s public power communities extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone that has reached out to help us, especially to all the lineworkers that are suffering through significant fuel shortages and severe traffic problem to come to our aid – words cannot describe how grateful we are to each and every one of you. Thank you!" - Amy Zubaly, Executive Director, Florida Municipal Electric Association
We are very thankful for the effort made by MEUW crews to assist with recovery of electrical service on our campus. - Mike Chambers, Chancellor & Vice Provost for Academics, Johnson University

Many thanks to the team from Wisconsin who came to help us out following Hurricane Irma. Homestead Public Service - Energy and the community of Homestead will be forever grateful to you for your hard work, knowledge, sweat and diligent efforts to assist us in restoring power safely and quickly to all of our residents. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! - Barbara Quiñones, Director - HPS Energy
Wisconsin is filled with extraordinary communities, people and things to see. The Badger State is loaded with amazing destinations! Executive Director, Jeff Stone, will be out and about visiting Wisconsin. Look here for snapshots to figure out…where in Wisconsin is Jeff Stone?

Submit your guess to info@meuw.org and you could win a MEUW prize package.

WINNERS

JUNE (Hartford): Greg Kuhn - Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities
JULY (River Falls): Lori Nyhus - Cumberland Municipal Utilities
AUGUST (Hazel Green) Jim Goffinet - Village of Benton
SEPT. (Two Rivers): Okho Bohn-Hagedorn - Energis, Green Bay

Upcoming Events

Oct. 1-7 Public Power Week
Oct. 5 MEUW/WPPI Territorial Seminar - WPPI Energy, Sun Prairie
Oct. 23 Districts 7, 9 & 10 Dinner Meeting - Hi-Way Harry's, Johnson Creek
Oct. 25 MEUW MTP: Session C - Grand Canyon Lodge Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells
Oct. 26 District 4 Dinner Meeting - Machut's Supper Club, Two Rivers
Nov. 2 District 3 Dinner Meeting - Woodland Supper Club, Gresham
Nov. 14 Districts 5 & 6 Dinner Meeting - Reedsburg Country Club, Reedsburg
Nov. 15 District 8 Dinner Meeting - Red's Supper Club, Cuba City
Jan. 17-19 MEUW/WI REC Joint Superintendent's Conference - Glacier Canyon Lodge, Wisconsin Dells

Mark your calendars! Visit the MEUW website for a full list.
Manitowoc Public Utilities has openings for a water system operator and journeymen line technician. The water system operator’s responsibilities include the control, operation, and maintenance of the state-of-the-art Microfiltration Water Treatment Plant and related production facilities, and maintenance and repair of the water distribution system and related facilities. The journeymen line technician will be responsible for constructing and maintaining electric power facilities up to 69 kilovolts. Click here for complete job descriptions and application details.

Marshfield Utilities seeks to hire a general manager. This position will be the visionary leader of this public power utility that provides water services for the 19,000 citizens of Marshfield and electric service for approximately 13,000 meters. Click here for a complete job description and application details.

Waunakee Utilities is accepting applications for a meter technician position. The main tasks of the position include being responsible for the testing and maintenance of the utility electrical meters and substations. Click here for a complete job description and application details.

The Village of Cadott is looking to hire a Lead Journeyman Lineman. The candidate must be capable of performing all aspects of electric distribution overhead and underground construction. Click here for a complete job description and application details.

Send your employment opportunities to info@meuw.org.

Don't let environmental challenges sidetrack you. SCS Engineers helps electric utilities leaders like you with civil engineering solutions, including site development, storm water, geotechnical engineering and permitting. Environmental solutions include SPCC plans and compliance, oil containment, site investigation and remediation as well as spill response.

You'll improve environmental compliance, reduce risk, and free yourself to pay attention to what matters most – serving your customers. We'll help you implement smart, simple solutions that work when you’re upgrading your facilities, maintaining your environmental compliance, or dealing with an emergency spill.

Contact Jared Omernik today at jomernik@scsengineers.com or 608.216.7348.
Register now for Webinars

An internet connection and a computer are all you need to educate your entire staff for just $99. Register today at www.PublicPower.org/Academy and click on webinars. Non-members enter coupon code MEUW to receive the member rate.

- Public Power Forward Webinar Series: Smart Meters for Smart Solutions Oct. 26