

# LIVELines

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## Join Us!

MEUW/WI REC Association  
2016 Joint Superintendent's Conference  
Jan. 27-29 | Wisconsin Dells

The 2016 MEUW/Wisconsin Rural Electric Cooperatives Joint Superintendents Conference will be held Jan. 27-29 at the Glacier Canyon Lodge in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Sessions will include mutual aid best practices, competitive bidding, micro grids, energy storage, smart grid, arc flash, PPE and more. Municipals and cooperatives will gather jointly on Thursday of the event. The conference also includes the annual WUSA trade show. The trade show brings together the industry's most important manufacturers and suppliers and showcases the latest products, materials and technologies in the utility industry. See more than 15,000 square feet of exhibits and 60+ manufacturers and suppliers of the latest and most in-demand products and services.



We are pleased to have Lee Shelby as our keynote speaker for both the conference and graduation banquet. Lee's story about a work-related accident has the ability to deeply impact an audience and is ideal for inspirational, motivational and safety awareness speaking engagements. Lee has helped thousands of people understand the importance of staying focused, eliminating distractions and not taking shortcuts through his live presentations. Both he and his story are unforgettable. His words are simple, and he tells us things we think we already know, but he tells it in a way that will dramatically change our attitudes toward safety forever.

[Download](#) the complete agenda and conference overview. Registration is now open on the [MEUW website](#). We look forward to seeing everyone for an exciting few days including the Apprentice Graduation Banquet, WUSA Trade Show and a welcoming cocktail hour hosted by WUSA on Wednesday evening!



## MEUW Executive Director's Corner

By Matt Bromley, MEUW Executive Director

The first snow storm of the season is raging outside my office window and it is symbolic of the flurry of activity happening inside the state Capitol. With only a couple months left in the 2015-16 legislative session, state lawmakers are rushing to get bills introduced and through the legislative process.

Among the bills recently introduced and speeding through the Capitol's hallways is Assembly Bill 554 and Senate Bill 432 that would make it easier for private out-of-state companies to purchase municipal water and sewer utilities. MEUW is opposed to the legislation because it would greatly diminish the local community's voice over the control of their utility.

Currently, before a municipal utility can be sold, a municipality must adopt an ordinance or resolution authorizing the proposed sale. The proposal is then submitted to the Public Service Commission (PSC) which must set the price and terms of the sale and impose conditions necessary to protect the public interest. After the PSC's review, the proposed sale must then be approved by a majority of the municipality's voters in a referendum. These steps are carefully designed and sequenced to ensure that the customers have an informed voice in the sale of their community-owned utility.

AB 554 / SB 432 proposes to eliminate the local referendum requirement unless a petition signed by at least 25 percent of the municipality's voters is filed within 30 days after adoption of a resolution or ordinance. Gathering that many signatures in such a short amount of time would be very difficult and would likely mean that a municipal water or sewer system would be sold to a private company without any direct say from the customers that own, and are served by, the utility.

AB 554 / SB 432 is authored by Rep. Tyler August (R- Lake Geneva) and Sen. Frank Lasee (R- De Pere), and supported by Aqua America, a large private water utility company with operations in eight states, including Illinois. While the changes proposed by the legislation apply to the sale of municipal water and sewer utilities and not electric utilities, MEUW views it as a significant threat to the very existence of municipal utilities. We encourage you to contact your state representative and state senator right away to express your concerns with this legislation.

As you contact your legislator, you should also mark your calendar and plan on attending the Municipal Utilities Legislative Day on February 17 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. MEUW, Wisconsin Rural Water Association, Wisconsin Water Association, and the Municipal Environmental Group Water and Wastewater Divisions sponsor the event to give municipal utility officials, mayors, utility commissioners, city and village officials an opportunity to discuss and learn more about state legislation and regulations affecting municipal utilities. Registration information will be available soon.

## 2016 Wisconsin Energy Providers Conference

**Feb. 2-3, Madison**

Save the date for the 2016 Wisconsin Energy Providers Conference held Feb. 2-3 at the Monona Terrace in Madison, WI. This event attracts attendees from municipal electric utilities, investor-owned utilities, cooperatives, consulting groups, state agencies and legislators. It is an excellent opportunity to discuss issues of concern to the utility industry while networking with fellow industry colleagues, state legislators and regulators. The conference is a collaborative effort between MEUW, Wisconsin Utilities Association, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, WPPI Energy and Dairyland Power Cooperative.

All utility industry professionals are invited to attend! This year's agenda will cover the Clean Power Plan, state issues and utility security.

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# Save the Date! Management Training Program - Session D

## Watch for registration materials available soon.

The 2015-2016 MEUW Management Training Program continues with Session D: Utility Accounting and Finance on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016 at the Glacier Canyon Lodge in Wisconsin Dells. Baker Tilly joins us to instruct this session.

Understanding the various financial aspects associated with utility operations is essential for anyone in a management position. This one-day course is designed to provide attendees with the fundamentals of public utility accounting, a clear understanding of business operations, how to review and ensure budgets, and knowledge of regulations.

Topics covered will include:

- How to read financial statements
- How to develop and track your department budget
- How proper invoice coding/inventory tracking affects the bottom line
- Why decisions are made from a financial perspective
- Your responsibility to ratepayers and community leaders
- Internal control methods
- Audits and regulatory reports (PSC uniform system of accounting)
- Financial tools for assessing utility health
- Electric and water rates (wholesale and retail)
- Public Service Commission of Wisconsin regulations and other industry regulations
- Understanding utility tariffs

## About the Program:

The MEUW Management Training Program consists of six sessions and has been a successful effort in providing education to create "home grown" management personnel. This program is designed for both existing managers, midlevel managers and future management prospects offering relevant and engaging sessions. Participants may start at any point in the six-session (A-F) program, which is scheduled over a two-year period. MEUW will recognize those who complete the program.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the program and the sessions offered for the 2015-2016 cycle.

# Save the Date! Municipal Utilities Legislative Day

## Watch for registration materials available soon.

Register to attend this year's Municipal Utilities Legislative Day held Feb. 17 in Madison to learn how you can make a difference! Join us for this collaborative effort, powered by MEUW, Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA), Wisconsin Water Association (WWA), and Municipal Environmental Group Water and Wastewater Divisions to learn more about hot topics and pending legislation affecting municipal utilities.

The day will consist of a legislative briefing and panel of speakers located at The Monona Terrace at no cost to attendees. You'll also have a chance after lunch to connect with legislators and help them understand how their decisions directly impact your community!



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## Coming Events

- Jan. 27-29 MEUW WI/REC Joint Superintendent's Conference, Wisconsin Dells  
[Register to attend!](#)
- Feb. 2-3 Wisconsin Energy Providers Conference, Madison
- 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

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

## Sponsor the 2016 Watt-Hour Meter Workshop!

### Attn: WUSA Members

The 2016 MEUW JT&S Watt-Hour Meter Workshop will be held March 28-31 in Green Bay, WI. This annual workshop is MEUW's largest job training and safety specific event and attracts a variety of utility professionals including superintendents, utility directors, linemen, foreman, meter technicians, engineers and electricians.

MEUW is pleased to offer WUSA members a sponsorship opportunity for this conference. [Click here](#) for more information. The event also includes a trade show for WUSA members to exhibit their products and services. Keep an eye out for registration materials; available in the beginning of February.



## APPA Legislative Rally

### March 7-9, Washington D.C. - We invite you to attend!

APPA will hold its annual Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C., from March 7-9, 2016. The Rally provides an opportunity for municipal electric utility officials to talk to Congress about the direct impact of federal action at the local level. As an attendee, you will be the voice that influences policymaker's decisions affecting the public power community; representing more than 47 million Americans that benefit from being served by public power.

MEUW, WPPI and GLU have once again teamed up to assist Wisconsin public power utility commissioners, mayors, general managers and superintendents to become involved in the federal legislative process during the annual event. Face-to-face interactions with members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation play an essential role in effectively expressing the impacts of federal legislative initiatives on our local electric utilities. These constituents' visits help to keep a local focus, front and center, for our congressional representatives.

**If you are planning on flying out for this event, please email [rstephenson@meuw.org](mailto:rstephenson@meuw.org) by Friday, January 15.** APPA registration for the event is now open, book your room at the Grand Hyatt early! For more information on the Rally, and a complete list of APPA events, please visit the [APPA website](#).

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# Classifieds

**Brodhead Water & Light (BWL) is accepting applications for a journey-level electric lineworker.** Consideration will also be given to apprentice lineworkers and those who have completed the **Electrical Power Distribution Program**. 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.

**Waunakee 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.

Send your employment opportunities to Rachel Stephenson at [rstephenson@meuw.org](mailto:rstephenson@meuw.org).

## Connect with MEUW on LinkedIn!

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

## The Energy Center of Wisconsin Continuing Education:

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- Public Power's Unique Business Model and Governance Structure **Feb. 11**
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