

LIVELines

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Customer Owned Since 1915 - MEUW Members Celebrate 100 Years of Service

MEUW members, Waunakee Utilities and Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting Commission, recently celebrated their 100-year anniversaries providing their customers with 100 years of service, growth and dependability. These centennial year celebrations validate the importance of public power in our communities. Public power communities benefit from reliable service and reasonable rates including prompt, hometown service. The revenue generated by municipally owned utilities stay within the community's control, contributing to job creation and supporting the local economy. Dollars are reinvested in needed local electric infrastructure and service to their customers. To commemorate this major milestone, each utility celebrated with an open house and festivities surrounding the event.

Waunakee Utilities celebrated their anniversary Aug. 12 with a cookout and family activities for an estimated 400 people who attended. Activities included face painting and a bounce house for kids. Energy efficiency and water conservation kits were also distributed along with one free LED light bulb per household. The grand prize giveaway was a new Dyson bladeless fan. Overall, the event was a huge success.



Employees from Waunakee Utilities celebrate the centennial with an open house.

Established by an order of the Village Board in 1915, the utility expanded in 1927 to include water and sewer services. Today, the utility serves 5,500 customers. Ongoing support from Waunakee residents and business owners over the past 100 years has helped the community maintain a locally owned, not-for-profit electric, water and sewer utility through the decades.

...continued on page 5



MEUW Management Training Program - SESSION C

Utility Planning and Risk Management

Registration materials are now available, reserve your spot today!

The 2015-2016 MEUW Management Training Program continues with Session C Oct. 7, 2015 at the Glacier Canyon Lodge in Wisconsin Dells. Advances in technology and customer needs are forcing the utility industry to change at a rapid pace. Now more than ever, utilities need to understand where they are now, where the industry is headed, and how the utility will adapt. This session will:

1. Provide insight into effective strategic and project planning processes
2. Cover compliance with Wisconsin's bidding laws for construction projects
3. Provide best practices for developing effective Requests for Proposal (RFPs)
4. Provide best practices for assessing utility risk areas and insurance coverage needs

Dave Krause, Krause Power Engineering, and Linda Pophal, Strategic Communications will be the presenters for this session. Dave and Linda have presented this session for several years where attendees praised them for their preparation and presentation style.

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



MEUW JT&S Substation Workshop

October 13-14

Register to attend this year's MEUW JT&S Substation Workshop. Industry experts including Dave Krause of Krause Power Engineering, Chris Romuald of High Voltage Equipment Diagnostics and Paul Schlies of Energis High Voltage Resources (recently retired), will provide instruction for this skill sharpening and informative workshop.

The curriculum will focus on the techniques and procedures essential to helping utilities recognize problems with substation equipment - before they fail and cause outages. Attendees will leave the workshop with a clear understanding of how to conduct effective preventative inspection and maintenance procedures. They will review substation switching procedures in accordance with transmission system provider specifications and work through some troubleshooting examples.

Industry technologies will be reviewed to help utilities assess equipment conditions and respond to substation failures in a way that minimizes equipment damage and quickly restores customer power.

[Click here](#) to download registration materials available on the MEUW website; due Oct. 5.



MEUW Safety Corner

By Chris Schlehta, MEUW Director of Safety Services

Over the past several years there has been a growing discussion on ways to streamline the Job Training and Safety (JT&S) budget process for both MEUW staff and members. At present the process included a registration process that was ripe for improvement in efficiencies for both members and MEUW staff. The diversity of our membership ranging from member utilities that owned their systems but contracted work to another entity, to our largest members, made the development of a one size fits all strategy challenging. The solutions in the early years of this discussion focused on incorporating the JT&S fees into the membership dues, primarily to streamline the budget approval process for commissions. While this approach worked for some members, it wasn't the right option for others. Through discussions with members, the Safety and Education Committee (S&E Committee) and several refinements to the formula we will be using; we've developed a solution that achieves our goals with consistency and efficiency.

After receiving approval by the S&E Committee and the Executive Committee, the fee schedule is up for final approval at the Sept. 11 MEUW board of directors meeting. The new process does away with the registration process in favor of an all-inclusive approach. In past years we had multiple rate policies that were dependent on whether the attendee was a member, non-member, superintendent/supervisor that worked in the field or the office, lineman, and/or non-lineman. Moving forward you will be able to send any lineman or non-lineman employee to any JT&S session training for one annual flat rate. The formula we've used to determine that rate is based on the JT&S budget, with individual member rate based on the number of lineman employed and a tiered modifier based on the total number of lineman employed by each member. This approach using the modifier instead of a fixed rate per lineman aligns the pricing model in spirit similarly to that of the formula used to determine membership dues.

Under this new process it will provide both members and MEUW with a more consistent budget and eliminate a significant amount of administrative work for MEUW staff. It also provides members with an increased value in the service by allowing other employees that may benefit from some of the JT&S session topics, to attend without additional cost. As part of our plans for the future we are also looking at the locations and number of JT&S training sites to make this training more accessible, as well as developing a Learning Management System (LMS) to make sessions available via the internet to those employees that can't make it to a session training site for any number of reasons.

As we move forward, you will no longer need to register in advance for those that wish to attend a JT&S session. We will continue to collect signatures for a class roster to ensure you have the proper documentation of attendance for participating in these trainings.

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Coming Events

September 7	Labor Day - MEUW Office Closed	October 7	MEUW Management Training Program Session C , Wisconsin Dells
September 9	MEUW Safety and Education Committee Meeting, Sun Prairie	October 13-14	MEUW JT&S Substation Workshop , Kaukauna
September 11	MEUW Board of Directors Meeting, Stevens Point	November 10-11	Save the Date! MEUW JT&S Lineman's Seminar, Wisconsin Dells
September 23	MEUW Accounting & Customer Service Seminar , Wisconsin Dells		
October 4-10	Save the Date! Public Power Week		

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

Customer Owned Since 1915 *continued...*

Also in August, Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting Commission commemorated their 100-year anniversary by sponsoring two community events. Partnering with the City Band, WW&LC gave out complimentary award winning, bottled water and over 200 free LED nightlights at the Aug. 4 City Band concert. The cooperative effort between the two brought together two of the oldest organizations in the area to provide a night of family entertainment for the community. WW&LC also partnered with the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters baseball team to provide free admission, pregame food and entertainment for utility customers with the donation of a canned food item to the local food pantry. The response was phenomenal, with over 2,000 food items being donated and all available seating being reserved within days. Thanks to the effort, the shelves of the South Wood County Food Pantry were re-stocked to benefit those residents of the community in need.

In addition to the successful sponsored events, WW&LC released a book, "One Of The Rocks In The Rapids," the Centennial History of the Water Works and Lighting Commission. Authored by Utility Office Manager Joel Mathews, the book is the culmination of over six months of research and writing. The book documents, in print and picture, the very beginnings of how and where electric and water service was first established in Wisconsin Rapids, who the key players were, and the journey that took a vital infrastructure from private ownership to the city taking over at the request of a citywide special election held on April 1, 1913. It goes on to describe the utility's development through the remainder of the 20th Century right up through 2015, the centennial anniversary of city ownership. In the near future, a version of it will be available as an eBook and also on the WW&LC website.



Good times had by all at the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters baseball game as part of WW&LC centennial celebration!

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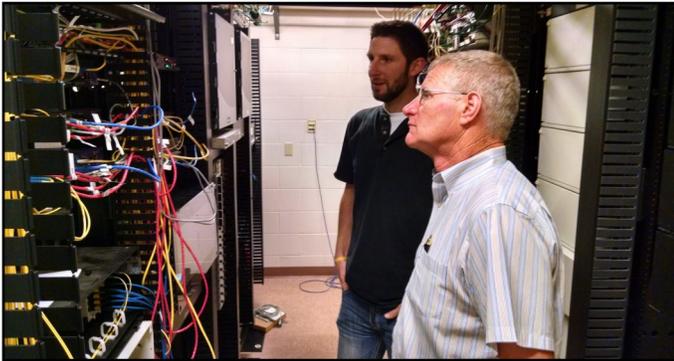
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Member News & Tidbits

Senator Marklein Visits Reedsburg Utility



While in Reedsburg on Sept. 1, Sen. Howard Marklein (D-17) stopped by the Reedsburg Utility Commission (RUC) to discuss issues related to municipal electric, water and telecom services. Pictured above is RUC's communication system supervisor Ken Las giving Sen. Marklein a tour of RUC's communications central office. RUC appreciates Sen. Marklein for taking time to visit with us.

MEUW Job Training & Safety Schedule Update

The September through December 2015 training schedule is now available on the MEUW website. For the schedule, overview of upcoming sessions and session agendas [click here](#).

Correction

In the *Safety Corner* of the August issue of *Live Lines*, Waterloo Utilities was overlooked as a member utility that assisted with the mutual aid efforts in Columbus after the July storm. Waterloo Utilities spent over 120 hours during the clean up effort. MEUW apologizes for the oversight and appreciates the tremendous service from all who lent supplies, equipment, crews and support.

Connect with MEUW on LinkedIn!

Check out the latest news, insights and opportunities from MEUW. [Follow us](#) today!



Resource for Utility Report

Utility reports and deadlines can be confusing for new or even veteran utility staff. One annual report required of utilities is the summary of work place injuries and illness report due March 1. Jefferson Utilities found out some very useful information after having a meeting with David Vriezen an engineering program management consultant with the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). According to Vriezen, many utilities are over-reporting. If you could use some feedback on your report, contact David at david.vriezen@wisconsin.gov or call 414-416-3196.

To download a list of utility reports and deadlines from the MEUW website, [click here](#).

Other Education Offerings

Baker Tilly - Tilly University

Oct. 20, 2015 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Kalahari Resorts, Wisconsin Dells

Cost: Individual = \$75; Two or more attendees = \$60

Join Baker Tilly for an educational workshop designed to share knowledge that will enhance the day-to-day financial operations of your utility.

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Classifieds

MEUW is seeking a highly motivated, ambitious and outgoing individual to serve as a regional safety coordinator in one geographic region with locations in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Applications will be accepted until September 9. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

The city of River Falls has an opening for a full-time lead journeyman lineperson. Position closing date for application submittal is September 13. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

Oconto Falls Water & Light is seeking a highly motivated individual to serve as water operator. Application deadline is October 1. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

Cedarburg Light and Water Utility is searching for an administrative manager to join our management team. Position will remain open until filled. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

The city of Elroy is accepting applications from qualified individuals for the position of electric superintendent. This position will remain open until filled. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

The city of Fennimore seeks to fill a full-time electric lineworker position. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

The city of Stoughton is seeking a qualified candidate to perform collections and customer service tasks for Stoughton Utilities. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. [Click here](#) for a complete job description and application details.

Send your employment opportunities to info@meuw.org.

APPA Academy Webinar Series

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.

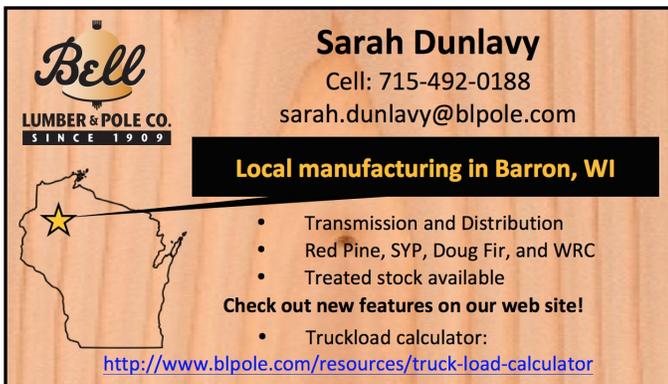
- Accounting and Finance Webinar Series: Understanding Payments in Lieu of Taxes and Other Contributions Made by Public Power **Sept. 8**
- Public Utility Governance Webinar Series: Performance Monitoring and Accountability for Boards **Sept. 10**
- Cybersecurity Webinar Series: Cyber Risk Preparedness Assessment **Sept. 17**
- Key Accounts Webinar Series: Part 2: The Art of Relationship and Creating Value for Key Accounts **Sept. 24**
- Employee Handbooks: 2015 and Beyond **Sept. 30**




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