



Electric Operations Conference & Expo

January 11 – 13, 2023 ■ Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

11:00 a.m.	Registration Check-in Opens	
Attendees are encouraged to meet colleagues to grab something to eat before the conference begins (lunch is not provided with registration)		
1:00 p.m.	Welcome / Kick-Off	
1:15 p.m.	MEUW GENERAL SESSION A: Updates from Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Kristy Nieto, Division Administrator, Division of Energy Regulation and Analysis	
2:15 p.m.	NETWORKING BREAK	
2:45 p.m.	MEUW GENERAL SESSION B: Discussion of Current, Relevant Employment Issues Steve Zach, Attorney, Boardman Clark	
3:30 p.m.	MEUW GENERAL SESSION C: “Preparing for Disaster: Lessons in Mutual Aid” Amy Zubaly, Executive Director, Florida Municipal Electric Association	
4:30—7:00 p.m.	WELCOME RECEPTION — Sponsored by Wisconsin Utility Suppliers Association (WUSA) (Dinner on your own)	

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

6:30—9:00 a.m.	Registration Check-in Available		
6:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet		
8:00 a.m.	Welcome / Opening Remarks		
8:10 a.m.	GENERAL SESSION A: Consumer Protections Involving Solar Installations Michael Domke, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection		
8:45 a.m.	GENERAL SESSION B: Updates on Certified Driver Training Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles		
9:30 a.m.	NETWORKING BREAK / Vendor Expo Opens		
10:00 a.m.	BREAKOUT SESSION A	9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m. SUPPLIER EXPO featuring dozens of electric utility supply partners showcasing the latest technologies, products, and services	
11:00 a.m.	BREAKOUT SESSION B		
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet		
1:00 p.m.	GENERAL SESSION C: “Listen Up – Lessons to Live By” Jay Wilson, Hall of Fame Wisconsin Sports Broadcaster		
2:00 p.m.	BREAKOUT SESSION C		

Program continues until 4:30 p.m.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12 (continued)

2:45 p.m. NETWORKING BREAK / Vendor Expo Closes at 3 p.m.

3:15 p.m. **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:** "The Bad Side of Town" by Jack Jackson

Have you ever noticed how being on the "bad side" of town heightens your awareness level? Whether you've had a bad experience, or by reputation alone, there's an overwhelming urge for self-preservation. Can this awareness level be applied to recognizing your state of mind when a workplace injury occurs? Explore the signs that you are on the bad side of town at work when it comes to injuries and use the tools provided in this session to manage those states.

4:30 p.m. PROGRAM CONCLUDES



APPRENTICE GRADUATION

Ticketed event; separate registration required

6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Banquet and Program

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet

8:00 a.m. REC Superintendents' Conference

8:30 a.m. MEUW – Board of Directors' Meeting

Schedule is current as of November 15, 2022, and is subject to change.

	Registration Options										Registration Fees					
	General Sessions	Networking Breaks	Welcome Reception	Breakfast and Lunch	Networking Breaks	General Sessions	Breakout Sessions	TRADE SHOW	Thursday Reception	GRADUATION BANQUET	Friday Breakfast	MEUW Members	WUSA Members	Public Power Retirees	General Public	
Kilowatt Pass	✓	✓	✓								+\$55	\$150	\$150	\$45	\$195	
Megawatt Pass				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			+\$55	\$195	\$195	\$65	\$245	
Gigawatt Pass	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	+\$55	✓	\$295	\$295	\$85	\$350

"Member" registrations received on or before Dec. 15 receive \$20 "early bird" discount

Fees shown are per person

Register online at www.meuw.org/eoce

Electric Operations Conference & Expo

FEATURED GENERAL SESSIONS

MEUW GENERAL SESSION C: Wednesday, January 11 at 3:30 p.m.

Preparing for Disaster: Lessons in Mutual Aid

Storm restoration is an activity every utility knows something about. In parts of the United States that are prone to weather conditions harsher than those experienced in Wisconsin, recovering from devastating storms requires another level of preparation. Thanks to the efforts of a solid mutual aid network, Florida utilities are well prepared to respond when hurricanes take aim at the Sunshine State. The Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) is at the center of the mutual aid response when storms like Hurricane Ian make landfall. FMEA Executive Director Amy Zubaly will talk about various aspects of disaster response and recovery — emergency planning, mitigation and preparedness, damage assessment, crew staging and deployment, and customer/stakeholder communications – and how Florida public power utilities learn from storms that impact their operations.



Amy Zubaly is Executive Director of the Florida Municipal Electric Association. Named to the role in 2017, she manages the day-to-day operations of the association, handles member and board relations, oversees the association's government affairs, communications and education functions, emergency response and mutual aid, and provides strategic planning. She is the first female to lead FMEA in its 80-year history. She previously served as FMEA's Deputy Executive Director of Public Affairs and Strategic Communications, having joined the association in 1999. She earned her Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Science in political science from Florida State University.

GENERAL SESSION C: Thursday, January 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Listen Up: Lessons to Live By

As a sports broadcaster, Wisconsin native Jay Wilson has been listening his whole life. Whether he was covering the Badgers or the Packers or local high school sports, Jay interviewed thousands of athletes, coaches, and fans over a legendary 40-year career. His ability to listen helped him tell some of Wisconsin's biggest sports stories. So when the healthy and active 63-year-old felt an unfamiliar tightness in his chest early last summer, he knew he needed to listen to what his body was telling him.

It's an all-too-familiar story: After a long and celebrated career, tragedy strikes and a well-deserved retirement is cut short by a heart attack. When Jay realized something wasn't right, he took action that saved him from the "widowmaker." On the 40th anniversary of the day a heart attack took his father's life and two years into retirement, he was diagnosed with his own serious health condition. Jay will share stories from a career covering the highs and lows of Wisconsin sports and provide details about the warning his recent health scare offers all of us.



Jay Wilson was born and raised in central Wisconsin, where his early achievements included being Pittsville Punt, Pass & Kick champion in 1969. He began his broadcasting career in 1977 at WFHR radio in his hometown of Wisconsin Rapids. Jay graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in broadcast journalism in 1980 and became the weekend sportscaster at WKOW-TV (Channel 27) in Madison. After three years at WISN-TV (Channel 12) in Milwaukee, he returned to WKOW as sports director from 1987 to 2006. He was sports director at WISC-TV (Channel 3) in Madison from 2008 until his retirement in 2019. Jay was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1994 and the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2008 for his longtime work covering high school sports.

Electric Operations Conference & Expo



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Thursday, Jan. 12 – 3:15 p.m.

“The Bad Side of Town” by Jack Jackson

Have you ever noticed how being on the “bad side” of town heightens your awareness level? Whether you’ve had a bad experience, or by reputation alone, there’s an overwhelming urge for self-preservation.

Can this awareness level be applied to recognizing your state of mind when a workplace injury occurs? Explore the signs that you are on the bad side of town at work when it comes to injuries and use the tools provided in this session to manage those states.

Jack Jackson



With his resounding voice and stature as a former letterman on his university football team, William “Jack” Jackson has a commanding presence at the front of a room. He is a gifted and motivational presenter, often the top-rated speaker in group sessions.

Jack’s career has included working in production, operations, and safety at Johnson Controls for 19 years, followed by seeing Avanzar Interior Technologies, on the Toyota of Texas campus, through the safety phase of new construction. In addition to developing a safety program, he also developed a conditioning program to prepare team members to become industrial athletes. Coach Jack worked with two semi-professional football teams for six years and was named NFL defensive coordinator of the year. Jack used his experience to develop a safety concept that teaches participants of his courses that “safety is always first.”

Electric Operations Conference & Expo

BREAKOUT PRESENTATIONS

Thursday, Jan. 12

This document is a preliminary listing of presentations planned during the three breakout sessions at the 2023 Electric Operations Conference. Additional presentations and specifics about each session's options will be communicated later.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESENTERS

Removing Guesswork from Financing Electric Capital Improvement Projects

Municipal electric utilities require capital improvement projects to continue successful business operations and serve their customers and communities efficiently and effectively. There are many ways to fund these capital improvement projects including federal and state funding sources as well as through electric rate cases. This session will provide a roadmap for municipal electric utilities on different funding options that are available to finance their next capital improvement project, including dollar sources for renewable projects. It will be especially of interest to municipal electric and/ combined water/electric leadership and consultants.

Bridgot Gysbers is an Economic Consultant with Ruckert & Mielke, Inc. and joined the Waukesha-based civil engineering firm in February 2020. She previously spent 16-plus years at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin as a Public Utility Auditor. Bridgot has experience in utility regulation with project experience in water, wastewater, stormwater, and energy regulation based on client needs. She is a graduate of Marian University and holds a degree in accounting.

Examining the Benefits of Detailed Padmount Inspection

Our underground electrical distribution system is aging. Corroded and weathered padmount transformer cabinets and related equipment can contribute to outages, public safety hazards, environmental concerns, and homeowner complaints. Increasing equipment availability brings with it cost efficiencies. This session will detail the importance of padmount inspection and maintenance to extend the life of assets, how it reduces liability, and helps supply continuous service to customers. It will be especially of interest to line superintendents and line technicians.

Dave Karcz has been the Owner of Karcz Utility Services LLC for the past ten years and has been with the business for nearly twenty-two years. The company is a family-owned and operated business located in Pulaski. It started in utility wood pole inspection and maintenance and has since grown to accommodate more maintenance and inspection needs of distribution power grids. Dave is a graduate of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Using Ruggedcom Cybersecurity in Operational Technology Environments

Cybersecurity for operational technology (OT) networks is one of the most important topics for energy companies today. Data breaches are happening daily with businesses. Cybersecurity is a heightened concern when it comes to the grid. With more remote connectivity, the need for local control and the growing number of intelligent devices, it is becoming the focus across all levels of utility operations. This session will focus on the need for cybersecurity for OT networks and how to begin planning on how customers will integrate into the network. It will be especially of interest to directors of IT and OT, as well as operations and SCADA managers.

Jeff Foley is the Business Development Manager with Siemens and has been with various Siemens-owned companies since 1998. He has been in his current position working with Siemens Ruggedcom in the Siemens Digital Industries area for nearly eight years. One of his key focus areas is collaborating with customers to design, document and implement cybersecurity solutions using IT technology in an OT environment. Jeff holds an MBA degree as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in computer information systems.



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESENTERS (continued)

Realizing AMI's Full Value through Completing the Digital Transformation

Most of the benefits of AMI stand unrealized due to underutilization of the generated data. However, municipal utilities can now unlock the true value within their AMI data streams. This means cutting waste in O&M, reducing power costs, and improving outage management, service restoration and voltage monitoring. This session will share information, use-case examples, and guidance on how to overcome the significant barriers that prevent utilities from realizing the full potential value of their AMI investments. It will be especially of interest to utility engineering, metering, IT, and management personnel.

Morgan Korn is Chief Technical Officer and Vice President of Sales with Trynzc, a business that harnesses AMI data and helps energy companies use it to change their service delivery and grid management into a more intelligent, automated, and predictive system. He has been with the company and in his position for nearly five years where his focus is on leading marketing and sales efforts. Morgan is a graduate of the University of Arizona and has a master's and bachelor's degree in management information systems.

Jim Murray is the Regional Sales Director with Trynzc. He joined the company about seven months ago after spending time at a software company that works in the renewable energy space as well as more than fourteen years as Technical Sales Manager at Irby Utilities. Jim has 23 years of electric utility engineering experience and 15 years spent in outside technical AMI solution utility sales.

Protecting Critical Infrastructure: Structure Considerations and Responses

The power system is at risk from natural, human-caused, and technology threats that can cause everything from power interruption to chronic undersupply of energy. What steps should municipal utilities be taking to protect critical infrastructure? What expenses can be reduced when considering 24/7 or on-demand video verification, network cameras, and integrated SCADA monitoring? This session will answer those questions and examine best practices and potential efficiencies to look at when reviewing infrastructure protection plans. It will be especially of interest to operations personnel and utility managers.

Dave Krause is a professional engineer and the Design Manager with Electric Power Systems (EPS), an independent electrical testing and engineering organization that specializes in commissioning, start up, and maintenance testing for utility, industrial, transit, data centers and commercial facilities. He has been with EPS since September 2021 and was previously the owner of Krause Power Engineering for nearly 16 years. Dave is a graduate of UW-Madison and holds a bachelor's degree in electrical and electronic engineering.

Using Preventative Maintenance to Offset Product Lead Times

With some equipment product lead times exceeding ten times what they were just three years ago, equipment failures can be detrimental to utilities. Not having a key part for an extended timeframe because of a delay or unexpected event can make it challenging for utility operations. This session will focus on how preventative maintenance, testing, equipment refurbishment and known life expectancies can help offset outages, equipment failure, and the stress of today's increasingly high product lead times. It will be especially of interest to electric utility superintendents, line leads and substation field staff.

Chris Warden is an Operations Manager at Electric Power Systems (EPS), an independent electrical testing and engineering organization that specializes in commissioning, start up, and maintenance testing for utility, industrial, transit, data centers and commercial facilities. He has spent nearly 15 years at the company. Chris attended Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and studied electric power distribution.

Ben Swanson is the Field Service Manager at EPS where he provides leadership to field staff and is responsible for coordinating schedules, materials and equipment needed to complete projects. Ben has been with EPS for nearly 15 years. He is currently pursuing a degree in business management at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, where he previously studied electric power distribution.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESENTERS (continued)

Using New Generation Assets and Technologies Effectively

With fewer baseload generating stations and more renewable power sources being relied upon, new generation technologies can improve reliability and resiliency of electric power supply and bring grid stability. This session will discuss generation options for municipal utilities including gas/diesel generators and microgrids, as well as how innovative technologies can quickly bring dispatchable generation assets into the Midwest grid. It will be especially of interest to operations teams and a general utility audience.

Clay Hardenburger is the Business Development Manager with Interstate Power Systems, a leading source of power generation products. His role focuses on developing the gas energy business and providing custom renewable energy solutions with energy products and engineered equipment. Clay has been with the company for about three and a half years. He previously spent four years at Kohler Co. where he provided support for their large gas generator set product line. Clay holds a degree in agricultural engineering from Kansas State University.

Coordinating and Locating Faulted Circuit Indicators for Maximum Reliability

While many Wisconsin utilities use standard indicators to improve electric crew response time, the proper placement and coordination of faulted circuit indicators (FCI's) can decrease the time it takes to find faults and quickly restore overhead and underground circuits. New FCI features such as time-current curves, di/dt sensing, and auto-adjusting have boosted their flexibility and response. This session will discuss how to coordinate FCIs with upstream protective devices and where to place them for the best results to ensure they provide the most value. It will be especially of interest to engineers and line crew members.

Scott Ware is the Regional Sales Manager at Power Delivery Products where he is responsible for managing sales in the Midwest, East Coast, and Central regions of the U.S. He joined the company, which provides fault-detecting products that restore electricity after a fault, in July 2018 after spending more than ten years with G&W Electric Company. Scott holds an electrical engineering degree from Purdue University and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Rejuvenating and Extending Cable Life with Silicone Injection

Mainline cables are a critical piece in maintaining the underground reliability of utility systems. Feeder cables can affect a substantial number of underground residential distribution circuits. Replacing cables is expensive. Reusing them instead will extend their life and bring benefits to utilities and customers. This session will focus on lower-cost ways to make cables last longer to help maintain the grid. It will be especially of interest to standards engineers, utility engineers and asset managers.

Wayne Chatterton is the Vice President of Strategy at Novinium, a company that offers wire and cable solutions for electric utilities. He has been with Novinium and in his role for four years. Wayne has a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Toronto.

James Steele is the Vice President of Engineering at Novinium. He has served in engineering roles with the company for nearly eight years. Prior to his time at Novinium, James spent more than 13 years at UtilX Corporation. He holds a degree in mechanical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis.

Analyzing your Distribution: How's Your System?

Having the distribution infrastructure in place to distribute power reliably, effectively, and efficiently is one of the most essential functions of a utility. This is what makes how you conduct distribution analysis, and what you do with the information you gather from it, the key to your operations. This session will present the process, steps, and methods of performing distribution system analysis, what the deliverables are, and how to use the data generated for future distribution operations and planning. It will be especially of interest to electric planners, project managers, engineering staff, operations supervisors, and managers as well as field supervisors.

Duane Phillips is the Vice President of Special Products at Utility Supply and Construction, a family-owned, diversified organization dedicated to safely servicing the utility and construction industries. He has been in a project management role at the company for nearly five years. Duane previously spent ten and a half years at utility consultant and contractor Stanley Consultants. He studied electrical and nuclear engineering in the U.S. Navy.