



OKLAHOMA PUBLIC POWER

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

September 2014

MESO, OEM and FEMA Partner for Emergency Management Preparedness Conference

MESO, OEM (Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management), and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) are partnering for a one-day conference Tuesday, October 28 in Midwest City titled "Emergency Management Success: Prepare, Respond, Report" to help cities understand best practices following a public assistance incident.

"For those of us who live in Oklahoma, we are very aware of threats such as ice storms and tornadoes, and now earthquakes," said Tom Rider, MESO's General Manager. "We have heard from many of our

members that there may be some confusion about the roles played by OEM and FEMA following an incident, so we planned this conference to provide a clear understanding of what to expect from these agencies following a disaster and best practices for preparing to work with them."

Anyone interested in attending should ask themselves a series of simple questions:

1. Is your city prepared to handle a major disaster?
2. Do you know the right steps to take while working with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the result of a crisis?



(see EMERGENCY, page 8)

Register Today for the 2014 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo *Event also has opportunity for sponsors and exhibitors*

Registration is now open for participants, judges and volunteers for the 2014 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo to be held in Stillwater.

In addition to registering as a participant, judge or volunteer, sponsorships and exhibitors are welcome to participate in the 2014 rodeo. Friends of public power in Oklahoma — vendors, for example — can seize a great opportunity to be with decision-makers and the front line teams.

Registration packets have been distributed and information is available at the MESO website, www.meso.org. To request information, please email Deborah Miner at deborah@meso.org.

Day one events — Wednesday, October 1 — will begin early afternoon with a MESO sponsored educational seminar on the the "New" OSHA updates to 1926



(see RODEO, page 7)

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Grant Burget Knows the Importance of Hard Work

Editor's Note: As part of MESO's monthly newsletter, we introduce you to our board members in a Q&A format. In this issue, we meet Grant Burget. In addition to serving on the MESO Board as an ex-officio member, he is GRDA's Director of Business Development and Marketing.



Q. How did you get your start in the electric utility industry?

A. In 2008, I was in the investment business, and I worked on GRDA's \$568 million bond issue. I got acquainted with the authority's CFO, Carolyn Dougherty, and many other senior

staff members. I later took the opportunity to join the team at GRDA.

Q. Will you tell us a little about your family, kids, pets?

A. I have four wonderful children. My oldest daughter, Warner, works for an oil company in Oklahoma City. My daughter, Madeline, works in the restaurant business also in Oklahoma City. My daughter, Grace, is in the ninth grade — a straight "A" student and a good athlete. My son, GW, is 10 and, and he is in the fourth grade and playing his first year of football.

Q. What keeps you awake at night?

Taking care of my 14-year-old daughter and my 10-year-old son. I'm a single dad and that's tough with many challenges. I just try to do the right thing.

(see BURGET, page 10)

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MESO Electric Executives Conference 2014 Scheduled for November 6

Recognizing all utilities potentially face big issues, the MESO Electric Executives Conference 2014 will focus on three primary topics: Cyber Security, Physical Security, and Distributed Generation.

“The question all leaders in public power need to be asking themselves is ‘does our utility have a plan?’ for major issues such as Cyber Security, Physical Security, and Distributed Generation,” said Tom Rider, MESO’s General Manager. “These issues can potentially have a devastating impact to your system and operations.”

During the one-day session, industry leaders will cover the important factors to be considered as plans and policies are implemented at your utility which will ultimately impact your customers and community.

Speaking on cyber security will be OMPA’s Jim McAvoy. He serves as the agency’s Chief Engineer and is responsible for coordinating OMPA’s cyber security efforts for its system and its impact on member utilities.

GRDA’s Brian Edwards, Chief of Law Enforcement,

and Chris Carlson, Superintendent of Homeland Security, will lead the discussion about physical security. With responsibility for the overall security of all GRDA’s assets, they are in a unique position to discuss ultimate protection options and reality.

As the president of the Large Public Power Council which represents 26 of the nation’s largest public power systems, John DiStasio is known nationally for his understanding of distributed generation issues and solutions for utilities of all sizes.

Known nationally for his understanding of distributed generation issues, John DiStasio will outline solutions for utilities of all sizes. He is president of the Large Public Power Council, which represents 26 of the nation’s largest public power systems.

The MESO Electric Executives Conference will begin at 8 a.m. November 6, 2014 at the Reed Center in Midwest City. Registration information will be posted to the MESO website — www.meso.org — soon.



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Charles D. Lamb Energy Center Construction Is on Schedule and Under Budget

Construction of Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's (OMPA) 103-megawatt Charles D. Lamb Energy Center near Ponca City remains on schedule and under budget.

Through July, there have been more than 57,800 man-hours worked with no lost-time injuries and only one recordable injury.

Most of the work to set foundations and major equipment has taken place, and notable items completed include the installation of the auxiliary and generator step-up transformers.

The OMPA 345kv switchyard is nearly complete, as the control building, 345kv breaker, structural steel, and disconnect switches are installed. Remaining work includes completing control cabling and installing jumpers between the switchyard and the generator step-up transformer.

The site of the plant is located in northern Kay County, seven

miles north of Ponca City and six miles east of Blackwell on State Highway 11. This is the first time that OMPA has purchased land for the development and operation of a power plant, which will be entirely owned and operated by OMPA.

The Industrial Company (TIC), general contractor for the plant, continues to work on underground facilities, which are nearing completion.

Pittsburg Tank has made progress on the raw water and demineralized water tanks. Both tanks have been erected and domes placed. The Siemens turbine and generator arrived at the site and have been installed. TIC is beginning preparations for the service building.

For additional updates regarding the construction of the Charles D. Lamb Energy Center, visit the OMPA website — www.ompacom.com.



MESO Honored by Hometown Connections

At their recent annual meeting Hometown Connections, Inc. (HCI) honored MESO with a "15 years of Affiliate Service" Award.

In his notification, Tim Blodgett, HCI's President and CEO, wrote, "Thank you for the 15 years of affiliation with HCI and we look forward to another 15 years of our partnership. Congratulations!"

Hometown Connections Affiliates are public power organizations and industry professionals affiliated with HCI who help promote our products and services to APPA members within their state or region.

Hometown Connections is

the utility services subsidiary of the American Public Power Association (APPA). They offer public power utilities guidance and access to quality products/services from a trusted entity with public power's best interests in mind. Hometown Connections personnel provide consulting support in the areas of organization assessment, strategic planning, governance development, and staffing. In addition, Hometown Connections is a resource to APPA members large and small, providing discounted pricing on technology, services, and other solutions from



industry-leading companies.

The products and services offered through Hometown Connections include the full range of advanced grid solutions, as well as financial and organizational management tools and consulting.

Greff Selected for OMPA Board

Jim Greff of Prague has been recommended to fill a vacant spot on the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's (OMPA) Board of Directors.

"We're pleased that Jim will continue his service to public power by serving on the OMPA Board," said Tom Rider, MESO's General Manager. "Jim's knowledge and understanding will serve all of OMPA's member cities well."

The recommendation was made by the Nominations Committee and confirmed by the Board of Directors at its August 14 meeting. It will be voted on at the 2014 Annual Electors Meeting September 11 at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Greff has worked for the City of Prague for 33 years, spending the last seven as city manager. Previously, he served as Water and Wastewater Superintendent, Public Works Director and Assistant City Manager with the city.

"My wife, Betty, and I moved to Prague in 1981 to raise our family in a small-town atmosphere. I started working for the City of Prague later that year," said Greff, who also has served 25 years with Prague's volunteer fire department. "I feel that my working knowledge of all phases of city operations has helped

me in my transition to city manager, and I feel that my insights can be an asset to the OMPA Board, as well. I appreciate the opportunity to serve our member cities."

Greff currently serves on several regional boards, including the Lincoln County E-911 Trust Authority, Central Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Route 66 Community Partners and the Central Oklahoma Economic Development District Board of Directors.

He is a Certified Municipal Official through the Oklahoma Municipal League, and received the Marvin Hicks-Al Middleton Meritorious Service Award from Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma in 2011.



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GRDA Board Takes Steps for Upcoming Bond Issue

The Grand River Dam Authority took another major step towards the realization of its long-term generation plan last week when its board of directors approved much of the preliminary steps needed for a \$450 million bond issue, which will likely take place later this fall.

GRDA will use the majority of the proceeds from this bond issue to construct a new, combined-cycle gas-fired generation plant at the Grand River Energy Center (formerly Coal Fired Complex). Other proceeds will be used to complete emissions control upgrades on Unit 2, one of the existing coal-fired generators at the facility.

A combined cycle unit produces electricity in two ways: natural gas is first used to fuel a combustion

turbine-generator and then heat from that process will be recaptured and used to produce steam to turn another steam turbine-generator.

The new unit, designed by Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Americas, will be powered by Oklahoma natural gas and will be the first of its kind in the western hemisphere. Once complete, it



will have the potential to be the most efficient combined cycle unit in the United States.

“This is an exciting time for GRDA, as it prepares for this new bond issue and the construction of this new unit,” said GRDA

Chief Executive Officer/Director of Investments Dan Sullivan. “I want to commend our board for making these decisions and allowing GRDA to move forward with this very important step towards our future goals.”

At its August meeting, the board approved the necessary resolutions related to the bond issue, which included the preliminary official statement and bond purchase agreement. GRDA expects the issue to take place in October.

Historically, the Authority’s bonds are very popular in Oklahoma. Prior to August 2012, when GRDA paid off \$200 million in bonds, Oklahoma residents in 76 of 77 counties held a combined \$272 million worth

(see GRDA, page 10)

On the Road in Nashville: Customer Service in Public Power

Posted on August 13, 2014 by Sue Kelly

I have been on the road much of the last few months, going out to meet public power member groups and speaking at their annual meetings. I really enjoy getting out of DC and hearing about what our members are dealing with on the ground.

Recently, I was in Nashville for the annual meeting of the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association. TMEPA’s Director, Mike Vinson, put on a great meeting. We had good speakers on varied topics—everything from what is happening with TVA, to the use of drones, to cybersecurity, to recent happenings in the Tennessee legislature. In the evenings, we heard some great music from a Nashville band, Savannah Jack, as well as a lecture about the history and production of Jack Daniels whiskey. Only in Tennessee!

Steve Sax of Murfreesboro got to check item No. 1 off of his lifetime bucket list when Steve Sax, the former LA Dodger and star athlete, came to give an inspirational talk at the meeting and public power’s Steve Sax got to introduce him. But our Steve also told us about a situation that Murfreesboro had been dealing with that really got my goat when I heard it.

Some customers of the Murfreesboro electric utility had been called by sophisticated scammers, most likely from Eastern Europe. These scammers had managed to program their phones so that the Murfreesboro utility name came up on the customers’ caller IDs, giving them some instant credibility. The customers were told that they were past due on their electric bills, and that their

service would be cut off in 1 hour unless they immediately went to Walmart, purchased a “green dot” cash card, and called back with the information on the card. Steve expressed great consternation that some of these customers had driven right by utility headquarters on their way to Walmart to purchase the cards, without thinking

(see ON THE ROAD, page 11)



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APPA Moves Headquarters to Northern Virginia

The American Public Power Association (APPA) has moved to a new office across the Potomac River from their current location in Washington, D.C. Starting on Aug. 22, their new mailing address is



American Public Power Association
2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, VA 22202

Please send all correspondence, including applications for the Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) program, to the new address (but continue to mail checks and payments only to their lockbox at P.O. Box 418617, Boston, MA 02241-8617).

The new location is still in the Washington, D.C. metro area, minutes from Reagan National Airport and a short cab or Metro ride to Capitol Hill. APPA welcomes members to visit when they are in the area.

APPA's other contact information remains the same. For more information, visit their website, www.PublicPower.org, or call (202) 467-2000.

The APPA is the service organization for the nation's more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities. Collectively, these utilities serve more than 47 million Americans or about 14 percent of the nation's electricity consumers.

Rodeo

(continued from page 1)

Subpart V (construction) and 1910.269 (general Industry) Standards. Following the training session, judges and competitors will meet prior to the planned evening events. Partners in public power will be on hand to exhibit various products at a meet and greet dinner and EXPO.

The competition will begin early the morning of day two — Thursday, October 2. The MESO rodeo consists of seven different events, and the planning committee is certain that lineworkers at any skill level can compete.

Unique to MESO Lineworkers Rodeo are mutual aid related events. The benefit is local crews getting to work with and compete with professionals from other cities. These could be the same lineworkers they may be working side-by-side with after a natural disaster when mutual aid restoration efforts are underway.

Registration fee to compete and attend training is \$149. The fee for training or competing only will be \$79.

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Partner

(continued from page 1)

3. Have you ever found yourself uncertain about the role that OEM and FEMA play in recovery efforts following a crisis in your community?
4. Are you certain what a PA (public assistance) incident is and when your community needs to call on OEM, FEMA or other utilities for help?
5. Do you have a prepared plan which includes crisis communications in the event of a major incident in your city?

Anyone who is a government leader and answered “no” to any of these questions, should consider attending the conference.

This one-day training conference will provide participants an opportunity to learn about operational issues, communications, how to respond, what to expect and more, if there is a significant PA (public assistance) incident in your community.

Attendees will hear from industry leading experts including: Art Jones, Recovery Manager, OEM; Greg Eaton, Recovery Division Director, FEMA Region VI; Keli Cain, Public Information Officer, OEM and Drake Rice, Director of Member Services, OMPA.

The conference is broken into three main areas of focus, as noted below:

Prepare

- The supporting role of OEM & FEMA — before and after a disaster
- Putting Crisis Communications to work NOW — What is it? What should be in your plan?

- Mutual aid program; asset inventory and working status; emergency fund reserve

Respond

- Enacting your emergency response plan
- Damage assessment — why it’s important, how to conduct
- Documentation required to support your disaster related expenses and damages

Report

- When does an event become a Major Disaster
- What are the eligibility requirements for assistance?
- What to do after a Major Disaster is declared
- Recent changes to FEMA Rules, Policies and Guidelines

Any questions about the Emergency Management Success — Prepare, Respond, Report Conference can be directed to Jeff Kaufmann at 405-528-7564 or jeffk@meso.org. Register online at www.meso.org.

Please visit the
Oklahoma Gas Association Booth
at the
OML Conference,
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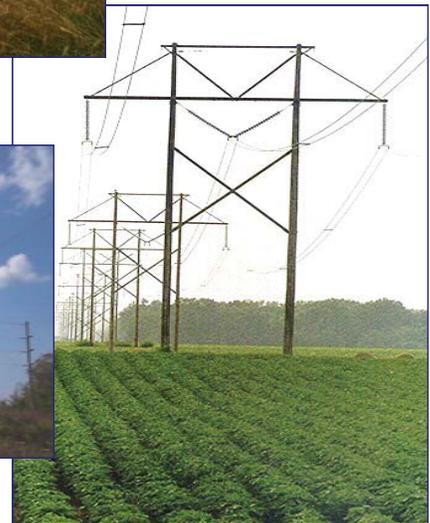
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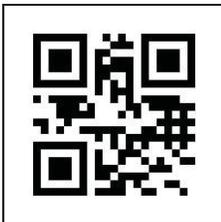
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MESO/Claremore host Climbing School

Public Power lineworkers from across the state recently participated in a two-day training opportunity focusing on pole climbing.

Attendees represented the following cities: Duncan, Marlow, Ponca City, Pawhuska, Collinsville and Claremore.

MESO Director of Training & Safety, Tom Dougherty, led the training and was assisted by Jason Wells and Jeremy Pendergraft with the City of Claremore Power & Light.

"These young people were eager to learn," Dougherty said. "And I have a special thanks for Larry Hughes and his guys for building and hosting the school."



Burgett

(continued from page 2)

Q. Is there one thing that you tell every member of your team?

A. Work hard, work together and do your very best.

Q. What do you see as the biggest issues facing public power today?

A. As you look at the electric industry across the nation and region, we will all see rising costs. I do believe with GRDA's generation diversity, we are in a good position to have less expensive rates than most other utilities.

Q. Customers may not always understand the municipal electric utility business, if you could teach them one thing, what would that be?

A. GRDA is an important partner with cities because we deliver low cost, reliable electricity. Our generation plants operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to make certain that electricity is available as needed.

Q. What do you see as the biggest issue or challenge your utility is facing today?

A. For GRDA, we continue to watch the EPA and how they approach coal generation, so the biggest issue for us is what the EPA will decide with our Unit 1 Coal Fired Facility.

Q. What do you think the benefits are of public power?

A. In Oklahoma, GRDA plays a unique role in public power as

an agency that produces and sells electricity to municipalities. From my perspective, the most important benefit GRDA offers its partners is the long-term commitments to own their own generation and to keep associated costs low.

Q. Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments and what did you learn from it?

A. I played football at OU. I was a running back and played with some of the all-time greats on the 1974 National Championship team. And Coach Barry Switzer is a very good friend to this day. I learned the importance of my role as a blocking back, and I believe that my hard work was rewarded with the opportunity to carry the ball when our team was down near the goal line.

GRDA

(continued from page 6)

of GRDA bonds. A \$550 million GRDA bond issue in 2008 was, at the time, the state's largest, in terms of retail sales to in-state investors.

"These bonds are very well received by Oklahomans," said Sullivan, "and we view that as a vote of confidence in GRDA and the important mission it

fulfills everyday for the state. We anticipate the same kind of reception for this next issue."

In March 2013, Moody's Investor Services affirmed its "A2" rating for GRDA and moved its outlook from "stable" to "positive" status. In April 2014, Standard and Poor's Rating Service took similar action; reaffirming GRDA's "A" rating and moving the outlook from stable to positive. According

to Sullivan, these revisions can mean lower interest rates when bonds are issued; something that will benefit GRDA's ratepayers. Higher ratings can also enable GRDA to save money on natural gas hedging in the future.

All three rating agencies: Moody's, S&P and Fitch will update their GRDA ratings prior to the bond issue later this year.

On the Road

(continued from page 6)

to stop in and ask why they were being treated this way! Of course, once the customers provided the information, the scammers collected on the cards and disappeared, leaving the customers the poorer for the experience.

Once the utility found out what was going on from these customers, it mounted a very aggressive public relations campaign using multiple media to let the community know and prevent any further thefts. So the scammers have moved on from Murfreesboro to greener (literally!) pastures. Similar activity is now being seen in some neighboring states such as Alabama.

Steve presented on this issue to his fellow Tennessee public power utilities so everyone would be alerted to this problem, and could take speedy action if they saw similar issues developing in their communities.

That is one of the things I like best about public power — if one utility sees a problem that creates a customer service issue, it shares that information with others. All public power systems — and their customers — benefit from such a willingness to share.

So thanks to Steve Sax and to TMEPA for inviting me to a great meeting!

See more at: <http://blog.publicpower.org/?p=196#sthash.FFnYtFno.dpuf>.

Upcoming Events

September 23-25, 2014
OML Annual Conference
Oklahoma City

September 26, 2014
Public Power Planning Committee Meeting
OMPA

October 1 & 2, 2014
MESO Lineworkers Rodeo
Stillwater

October 22 – 24, 2014
Municipal Clerks, Treasurers & Finance Officers Association Conference
Oklahoma City

October 28, 2014
Emergency Management Success: Prepare, Respond, Report
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November 6, 2014
MESO Electric Executives Conference 2014
Reed Center, Midwest City

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