

Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce

A publication of the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance

February 2020

New American Public Power Association CEO and President to Speak at Public Power Conference

Registration is now open for the 2020 Public Power Conference at www.okmainc.com. The annual conference will be in Tulsa August 26 – 28, 2020 at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center.

"We are pleased to have Joy Ditto, the President and CEO of the American Public Power Association, join us at our conference," said OMA General Manager, Tom Rider. "I look forward to our members hearing first-hand what Joy sees as both opportunities and challenges to public power's future."

Ditto assumed her new role January 13 and succeeded Sue Kelly who retired after a five-year term in the role.

Ditto most recently served as president and CEO of the Utilities Technology
Council (UTC), a Washington, D.C.-based global trade association that creates
a favorable business, regulatory and technological environment for electric, gas,
telecommunications and water utilities of all ownership types, including a number
of American Public Power Association members. She increased awareness of how
critical utility communications networks are to grid reliability, resilience, safety, and national security.



Joy Ditto

(see CONFERENCE, page 8)

OMA Announces New Benefits, Dues Changes

2019 will be remembered as the year MESO became the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance (OMA) by unanimous approval of voting members.

"I truly believe Oklahoma's municipal professionals are some of the finest anywhere," said OMA General Manager Tom Rider. "OMA's focus is on the betterment of our member municipalities, and we know for any city or town to thrive, it must have committed professionals who are continually striving to be their very best."

After four decades of focused work on municipal electric utilities, members asked to bring safety-focused operational training to other municipal utilities and departments. To kick off OMA expanding training, in Fall, 2019, OMA provided Confined Space

Basics Training in communities across the state. Next up, OMA hosted the FEMA-sponsored Disaster Management for Water & Wastewater training.

The commitment of participating professionals who continuously work to improve their technical skills and safety-first practices has led to reduced accidents, improved performance within their departments and higher customer satisfaction among citizens.

"Knowing time away from work can strain a budget, we work hard to bring training to you or close to you," Rider added. "We will continuously look to bring training close to your communities, so your employees can travel to, attend, and return home all within a regular workday."

(see NEW BENEFITS, page 7)

In This Issue

OMPA Board Seats Up for Re-election at Meeting – Page 3 OMA Supervisor Short Course Scheduled for Henryetta – Page 4 GRDA: A Look Back at 2019 and Forward to 2020 – Page 6 Meet OMPA's New Legal Counsel – Page 8

UPCOMING OMA & APPA EVENTS

American Public Power Association Legislative Rally February 24, 2020

Washington, DC

Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities Training

April 13 – 14, 2020 El Reno, OK (tentative)

American Public Power Association Lineworkers Rodeo

April 17-18, 2020 Bonner Springs, KS

2020 Public Power Conference

April 25-28, 2020 Tulsa, OK

American Public Power Association National Conference

June 5-10,2020 Long Beach, CA

2020 Lineworkers Rodeo

September 23 – 24, 2020 Claremore, OK

Supervisor Short Course

Tahlequah

Day 4 - February 18, 2020

Day 5 - March 3, 2020

Day 6 - March 17, 2020

Henryetta

Day 1 - April 2, 2020

Day 2 - April 21, 2020

Day 3 - May 5, 2020

Day 4 - May 19, 2020

Day 5 - June 2, 2020

Day 6 – June 16, 2020



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OMPA Board Seats Up for Re-election at Meeting

The 2020 Annual Meeting for the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority has been set for March 12 at the Edmond Conference Center. All Electors from member cities and towns are encouraged to attend.

This will be the second time the meeting has been held in the spring. Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment Ken Wagner is tentatively scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

Four Board seats will be up for election. They are currently occupied by Robert Johnston of Frederick, Jim Greff of Prague, Jason McPherson of Marlow and Chuck Ralls of Comanche. Board members are eligible to serve three-year terms, upon being elected.

Johnston has been the Board Chairman since January of 2019. He joined the board in 2004, and has served as City Manager at Frederick since 1993. He is a past president of the Oklahoma Municipal League and also served on the International City/County Management Association Executive Board. He received the Ray Duffy Personal Service Award from Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma in 2010, and was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials in 2013.

Greff joined the board in 2014, and is the current

Treasurer. He has worked for the City of Prague for 39 years, serving as Water and Wastewater Superintendent, then Public Works Director and finally in his current position as City Manager. He was a 2011 recipient of the Marvin Hicks-Al Middleton Meritorious Service Award and, in 2016, received the American Public Power Association's Larry Hobart 7 Hats Awards.

McPherson has been on the board since March of 2016. He has been the City Administrator with Marlow for more than seven years, and is active with OMPA, serving on the Board's Legislative Committee and as the Chair of the Board's Risk Committee. He also is the chair for the CUP Oversight committee.

Ralls, the Comanche City Manager, has been on the board since March of 2016. He also serves on the Board's Risk Committee. Ralls was selected as the Comanche Chamber Member of the Year in his first year as the City Manager, and also received the 2016 Keep Oklahoma Beautiful "Best Government Clean-Up" award.

The meeting will also have a series of speakers presenting on relevant industry topics. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.



OMA Supervisor Short Course Scheduled for Henryretta

The OMA Supervisor Short Course comes to Henryetta beginning in April 2020.

Tom Rider, OMA General Manager, presents the OMA Supervisor Short Course. He brings decades of highly regarded experience to this program.

Recognizing employees often move "up the ladder" with limited specific leadership skills training, it is important to note supervisors become effective when they:

- Establish the work group's values and standards based on their character.
- Develop their workers into self-starters who are committed to the organization's success.
- Constantly push for performance excellence through a positive approach and support.
- Communicate effectively with the multigenerational talent within every work group.

The program's 12 discussion courses focus on specific aspects of supervisory responsibility in the areas of — Management, Workforce Development, Communication and Performance Success Designed with flexibility in mind for today's busy worker, participants can complete the course at their own pace.

For example, a participant may complete some sessions during the 2020 Henryetta course and the remaining sessions at a later time when the program returns. For recognition of course completion, a participant must complete all 12 sessions. Participants who complete all 12 sessions will be recognized with a certificate acknowledging their effort and commitment.

Henryetta sessions and dates:

Day 1 - April 2, 2020

Session 1 – Understanding the Importance of Character & Ethics

Session 2 - The Roles of a Supervisor

Day 2 - April 21, 2020

Session 3 – The Power of Respect for Others Session 4 – Developing Responsible Workers

Day 3 - May 5, 2020

Session 5 – Establishing a Change Mentality

Session 6 – Dealing with Conflict

(see SUPERVISOR SHORT COURSE, page 6)

The Electric Supervisor Development Course Begins in April

The Electric Supervisor Development (ESD) Course provides Journeyman Lineworkers the skills necessary to lead high performing teams while enhancing critical on-the-job skills. The two-year program kicks off April 14, 2020 with its first classroom training session in Oklahoma City.

"Efficient and effective organizations and teams develop their people," said Jeff Kaufmann, OMA Director of Professional Development and Communications. "Preparing skilled professionals to become effective leaders who train and develop others requires enhanced people skills and a continuing development of their technical skills."

The program includes 16 Professional Development (PD) topics (1/2 day per topic for a total of eight days) focusing on Leadership, Teambuilding, Customer Service, and Communications. It also includes and three Electric Utility (EU) Classroom sessions over two classroom days.

To successfully complete the program, participants will be required to complete additional EU work including: serving as a judge at the Lineworkers Rodeo; participating as a coach at two operational field training sessions; and, participating in one operational field training session as an attendee.

Classroom Dates & Topics:

April 14, 2020 – Understanding Character & Ethics and Visioning & Strategic Planning

June 24, 2020 – Customer Service Success and Creative Problem Solving

August 26, 2020 – Creating a Safety Culture (EU) and Crisis Communications / Media Relations / Social Media

October 7, 2020 – Severe Weather Preparations (EU)

December 2, 2020 – Time Management and Team Building & Coaching/Mentoring

February 17, 2021 – Leadership v. Supervision and Substance Abuse in the Workplace

April 28, 2021 – Motivation & Morale / The Power of the Positive and Project Organization, Scheduling & Management

June 23, 2021 – Hazard Awareness / Mutual Aid (EU) and Leading Difficult, Angry People

August 25, 2021 – Workplace Diversity & Generations in the workplace and Critical Thinking

(see ELECTRIC SUPERVISOR, page 6)

Why We Conduct the Decennial Census

From the United States Census Bureau

Editor's Note: OMA believes it is important for all municipalities to support the 2020 Census and to encourage both their employees and citizens to fully participate.

The framers of the Constitution of the United States chose population to be the basis for sharing political power, not wealth or land.

"Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers..."

- The Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 2.

A census aims to count the entire population of a country, and at the location where each person usually lives.

The census asks questions of people in homes and group living situations, including how many people live or stay in each home, and the sex, age and race of each person. The goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

How the Census Benefits Your Community

Federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race and other factors. Your community benefits the most when the census counts everyone. When you respond to the census, you help your community gets its fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, and this creates jobs. Developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, qualityof-life and consumer advocacy.

Importance of Apportionment

Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution mandates that an apportionment of representatives among the states must be carried out every 10 years. Therefore, apportionment is the original legal purpose of the decennial census, as intended by our Nation's Founders.

Apportionment is the process of dividing the 435 memberships, or seats, in the U.S. House of Representatives among the 50 states, based on the state population counts that result from each decennial census.

The apportionment results will be the first data published from the 2020 Census, and those results will determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives for the next 10 years.

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GRDA: A Look Back at 2019 and Forward to 2020

In reviewing the Grand River Dam Authority's 2019, several major accomplishments are at the forefront, including recognition from the American Public Power Association as an RP3 — reliable public power provider — utility. Also during the year, GRDA learned that both Moody's Investor Service and Fitch Ratings were reaffirming GRDA's A1 and A+ respective ratings. In fact, GRDA currently holds the highest ratings in its history from all three major agencies.

However, in a presentation to the GRDA Board of Directors at its January meeting, GRDA Chief Executive Officer Dan Sullivan took the opportunity to not only recall these accomplishments but, more importantly, share the Authority's primary goals for 2020. Of course, those goals all center around creating greater efficiencies so that GRDA can continue to serve its customers in the best way possible.



Evaluation of staffing levels and continued development of a multi-disciplinary team approach to operations and maintenance at its plants are some of goals for the year ahead. In other areas, such asset management, GRDA intends to expand the implementation of a computerized asset management program across all areas of the utility. This will be bolstered by the recent creation of a new Inventory and Asset Management Department, which made great strides in 2019 and anticipates more of the same in the year ahead.

There are other goals and a list of major projects the Authority expects to complete in the 2020 calendar as well. And as it goes into the year, its 5E mission (electricity, environmental stewardship, economic development, efficiency and employees) will guide its efforts towards achieving those goals.

As Sullivan told employees at the end of 2019: "The 5E's remain the lens through which we see the future. Our shared commitment to each of those pillars will continue to demonstrate our progress as an Oklahoma Agency of Excellence."

Supervisor Short Course

(continued from page 4)

Day 4 - May 19, 2020

Session 7 – Communicating Effectively Session 8 – Project Management

Day 5- June 2, 2020

Session 9 – Speaking before Groups Session 10 – Effective Business Writing

Day 6- June 16, 2020

Session 11 – Performance Management Session 12 – Delegating

Click here to register.

Tom Rider, General Manager, will present the course. Questions may be directed to him at tom@okmainc.com. Registration questions are to be directed to Deborah Gonzales at deborah@okmainc.com.

Electric Supervisor

(continued from page 4)

October 27, 2021 – The Changing Workplace of Today and Course Review

The cost of the program is \$899 per attendee per year and \$799 for each additional attendee per year. Please inquire about special pricing for payment in full before the second training session June 24, 2020. GRDA & OMPA have slots as part of their respective OMA membership agreements. Before registering, you may contact them for more information.

Questions about the Electric Supervisor Development Training Program can be directed to Jeff Kaufmann at jeffk@okmainc.com. Please direct billing or registration questions to Deborah Gonzales at 405-528-7564 x 1 or deborah@okmainc.com.

Apply Today for the Mike Nunneley Scholarship to Attend the Public Power Conference

The Mike Nunneley Scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving governing body official, appointed official, or staff member from an Oklahoma Public Power community who has not attended a past Public Power Conference. The scholarship covers conference registration, meals, and hotel room (2 nights). Recipient is responsible for transportation to and from the conference.

An applicant may apply directly, or an individual may submit an application on behalf of another person, with the understanding that the person being submitted meets all other criteria as described herein. The applicant should provide a short one-page letter stating,

- · Who they are.
- How long they've served their public power community and/or public power communities in Oklahoma.
- What they hope to gain by attending the MESO Public Power Conference.

To apply for the scholarship, provide an application letter to the OMA Board of Directors, attention General Manager. Applications must be received by March 1, 2020 in one of the following methods:

- Email: To tom@okmainc.com
- Fax: 1-405-524-5095 Attn: General Manager
- Mail: MESO General Manager 308 NE 27th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105

The Mike Nunneley Scholarship was established in August 2018. Mary Chris Barth from Laverne was awarded the first scholarship to attend the 2019 Conference.

Nunneley served the public power communities of Granite and Mannford, promoting not only public power but also the value of professional management for Oklahoma's cities and towns. Mike was committed to the continuing professional education of municipal officials at all levels of government.

Questions should be submitted in writing to tom@okmainc.com. Nominations received after March 1 may not be considered.

Benefits

(continued from page 1)

With the changes, the Board of Directors also approved new membership benefits. These include –

- Participating in the OMA Mutual Aid Program Electric and Public Works.
- Annual renewal training for all employees who hold an ODEQ water or wastewater licenses.
- Opportunity to participate in all the training programs offered by OMA at the member rate.
- Peer-to-Peer Exchange is a resource allowing municipal professionals to connect and interact with peers to discuss opportunities, concerns and problems.
- Quarterly Connections is a series of lunch meetings designed to discuss areas of mutual concerns, for example legislative or regulatory changes.

"Our new dues structure addresses both municipal electric utility membership and municipalities without an electric utility we expect to join," Rider said. "Current members have been informed of the changes to the dues structure. Staff is making a concerted effort to inform and encourage membership with cities and towns which are not yet members."

Dues Notices for current members showing the full dues amount beginning July 1, 2020 will be sent mid-March.

If you have any questions regarding OMA or the benefits of membership, or how we can assist you in "enhancing your value to your customers," please contact Kelly Danner, Director of Business Development at (405) 528-7564, ext. 7; 1-800-626-6276, ext. 7 or kelly@okmainc.com.

Meet OMPA's New Legal Counsel

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Ellen Edwards, and upon Randy Elliott's retirement, I will be the new General Counsel at OMPA.

A little bit about me: I'm a native of Kansas City, MO, and have made my home in Oklahoma most recently since 1992. I hold a B.A. in Political Science from Colorado College and a law degree from the University of Oklahoma. I began practicing law in 1985 and have experience in a variety of areas including utility law, environmental law, state government, insurance, and employment law. I have worked in private practice, for both state and federal government, and most recently was with the Grand River Dam Authority, first as General Counsel, and then as Compliance Officer. My husband and I have four grown children, and one very precious grandson!

I am a believer in the value of public power and the benefits that locally owned and controlled electric utility systems bring to their cities. Throughout my years practicing law, I have seen the support and enhancement municipally owned

electric utilities bring to city services such as police and fire, along with recreational activities such as parks and civic centers.

I look forward to working with and supporting OMPA, and helping OMPA provide the affordable energy, excellent service, and concern about the overall well-being and growth of OMPA's member communities.



Conference

(continued from page 1)

Before joining UTC, Ditto worked in advocacy for the American Public Power Association for 15 years and was the senior vice president for legislative and political affairs from 2014 to 2016. She led the Association's advocacy efforts on a range of issues such as cybersecurity, environmental legislation, and distributed energy resources. She played a critical role in advocating for public power in the leadup to the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In 2015, she was a key contributor to the Association's three-year strategic plan.

In addition to Ditto's remarks, the conference's general sessions cover an interesting group of topics that include:

- · Medical Marijuana: What You Need to Know
- What Shoe Are You?
- Beyond LED Lumens

The Conference has unique breakout sessions covering many topics for anyone working in a municipal electric utility. Currently scheduled breakout sessions are:

Smart Cities: How Technology is Changing Our Cities & Towns

- Outage Response Management: Key Components to a Good Communication Plan
- Outage Response Management: Guidelines to Open
- Communications Between Office & Field Personnel
- The Value of Public Power: Programs to Get the Word Out
- Succession Planning
- Working in Unusual Conditions: Heat, Cold, Lightening, You Name It.
- Determining the Value of an Electric System to the Municipality
- Rate Making: How Electric Rates should be Determined
- New Technologies in AMI & MDM
- The Arguments AMI: How to Respond
- Understanding the Potential Impact of Electric Vehicles on a System's Peak Demand
- · It's a Dangerous Business: First-Hand Stories

Any questions about the conference can be directed to Deborah Gonzales at deborah@okmainc.com.

OMA Hosts Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities in Jenks, El Reno Session Rescheduled

OMA, in conjunction with TEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extensions Service), hosted Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities Training Sessions in Jenks, OK. The session scheduled in El Reno for February 12-13, 2020 has been tentatively postponed until April 15-16, 2020.

The training session covers the following topics:

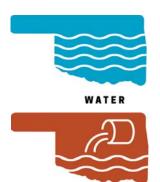
- Threats to Water and Wastewater Facilities and Systems
- · Disaster Planning and Management
- Disaster Mitigation
- Disaster Response and Recovery

The cost for the two-day program is \$149 for OMA Members and \$299 Non-Members (includes lunch). Non-Member rates take effect July 1, 2020, so until then everyone pays member rates.

When considering who should participate in this training, it is recommended the following people be included:

- · Emergency Management
- · Public Works Management
- Utility Management

- · Power Providers
- Health Care and Hospital Management
- · Water Authorities
- Water and Wastewater Utility Personnel
- Directors
- · Department Heads
- Supervisors/ Superintendents
- State/Local Regulatory Personnel



WASTE WATED

Participants successfully completing this course will receive a course certificate of completion. Individuals who complete this course in combination with MGT317, MGT341 and MGT345 are eligible for the TEEX Infrastructure Disaster Management Program Certificate. Seating is limited and registration will close once all the seats are filled.

Questions about the Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities Training Sessions may be directed to Kelly Danner at kelly@okmainc.com.





Attention Associate Members!

Sponsorship Registration is now open for the

2020 Public Power Conference

April 26 – 28, 2020

Tulsa Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center Tulsa, Oklahoma

Click here for more information

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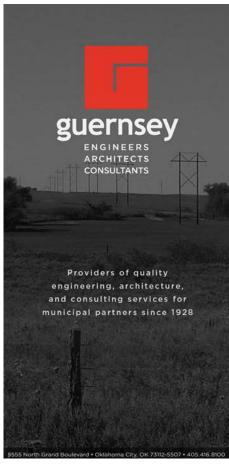
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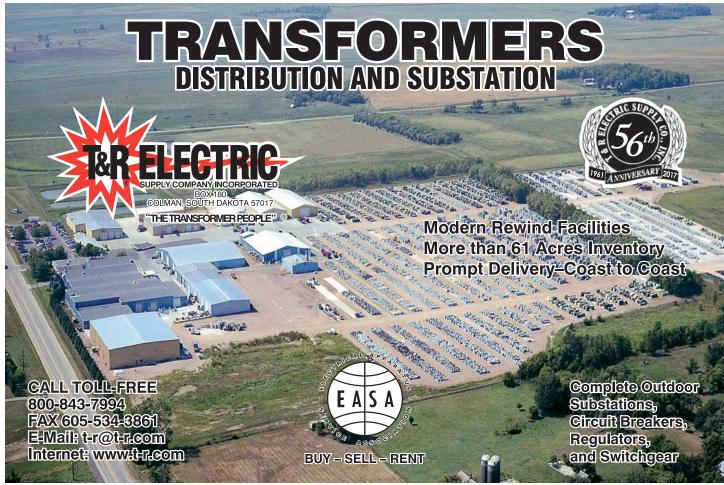


Public Power Conference April 26 – 28, 2020

> Tulsa Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center Tulsa, Oklahoma

<u>Click here</u> for attendee registration.









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