



Building strong communities  
through a well-trained workforce

A publication of the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance

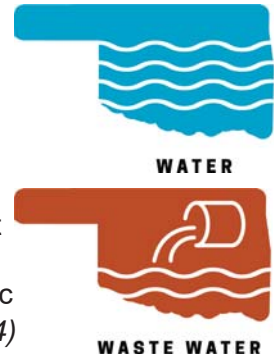
January 2020

## OMA to Host Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities Training Sessions

OMA, in conjunction with TEEX (Texas A&M Engineering Extensions Service), will present Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities Training Sessions February 4-5, 2020 in Jenks, OK and February 12-13, 2020 in El Reno, OK.

“Anyone involved in the operations of a water and wastewater system or a community’s response to an emergency will benefit from this training session,” said OMA General Manager Tom Rider.

The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) — developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security — identified water and wastewater (WWW) systems as critical infrastructures (CI). These systems are vital to the communities’ public health and economic (see DISASTER MANAGEMENT, page 4)



## 2020 MESO Public Power Conference Registration Opening Mid-January

Sponsor registration for the 2020 MESO Public Power Conference is open, and attendee registration opens mid-January 2020.

The annual conference will be in Tulsa August 26 – 28, 2020 at the Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center.

The Conference’s general sessions cover an interesting group of topics. They include:

- Medical Marijuana: What You Need to Know – Suzie Paulson, OMAG
- Understanding the Impact of Light on Our Eyes Patricia Adams, Border States Electric
- Smart Cities: How Technology is Changing Our Cities and Towns – Sean West, OMPA and Glenn Fisher, Edmond Electric
- What Shoe Are You? – Lori Randall, Author and Motivational Speaker

The Conference has unique breakout sessions covering many topics, so anyone working in a municipal electric utility will find something beneficial. Currently scheduled breakout sessions are:

- 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](mailto:deborah@okmainc.com).

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## UPCOMING OMA & APPA EVENTS

### Apprentice Basics Training

January 29, 2020  
Edmond, OK

### Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities Training

February 4-5, 2020  
Jenks, OK  
February 12-13, 2020  
El Reno, OK

### American Public Power Association Legislative Rally

February 24, 2020  
Washington, DC

### American Public Power Association Lineworkers Rodeo

April 17-18, 2020  
Bonner Springs, KS

### 2020 Public Power Conference

April 25-28, 2020  
Tulsa, OK

### 2020 Lineworkers Rodeo

September 23 – 24, 2020  
Claremore, OK

### American Public Power Association National Conference

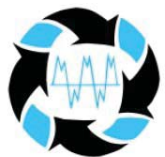
June 5-10, 2020  
Long Beach, CA

### Supervisor Short Course

Tahlequah  
Day 2 – January 21, 2020  
Day 3 – February 4, 2020  
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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## GRDA Board Approves 2020 Budget with No Rate Increases

For the fourth consecutive year, the Grand River Dam Authority has approved a budget that will not include any base rate increases for its customers. The GRDA Board of Directors gave final approval to the 2020 budget during its December 17 meeting in Locust Grove.

GRDA expects to maintain the existing base rate in 2020, due in large part to its continued pursuit of operational efficiencies. It will also continue to leverage cash reserves to fund capital projects and major maintenance activities at its facility.

“Due to the decisions we’ve made in recent years, and the continued efficient and productive effort of our workforce, we’re able to go into 2020 with no plans for a rate increase,” said GRDA President/Chief Executive Officer Dan Sullivan. “Efficiency in all phases continues to be the primary driver of all GRDA does.”

GRDA’s decision to sell its administrative building in Vinita was also driven by its goal to seek greater

efficiency. A new building, to be constructed near the Grand River Energy Center (GREC, Chouteau), will allow GRDA to take advantage of existing infrastructure while also centralizing much of the workforce in one location. That consolidation will lead to more efficient operations at a cost-savings to customers. The Vinita property will be purchased by Home of Hope Inc.

The 2020 budget will reflect GRDA’s continued focus on retention of key employee talent. At the same time, it will support growth across the existing GRDA customer base with the expansion of some customer programs.

“Our customers and stakeholders expect GRDA to remain strong, and relevant in the marketplace,” said Sullivan. “We will continue to adapt our business structure to accomplish that goal, while remaining as efficient as possible.”





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## OMPA Adds 40 Mw of Wind Energy



The Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority officially added 40 more megawatts of wind energy to its resource portfolio on January 1.

It is the product of a power purchase agreement to acquire energy from the Grant Plains Wind Farm in northern Oklahoma. The farm was constructed in 2016 by Apex Clean Energy and includes 64 Siemens turbines in Grant County with an overall capacity of 147 megawatts.

The addition of more wind to OMPA's resource mix comes as it finishes 2019 with a record-high percentage of its power supply portfolio coming from renewable energy. Through November, the Authority had received 26 percent of its overall power from renewable sources. That is nearly twice as high a percentage as it was just three years ago.

OMPA had already been receiving power from two of the state's wind farms – the Oklahoma Wind Energy Center near Woodward, and the Canadian Hills wind farm near El Reno. It also owns and operates the Kaw Hydroelectric Plant at Kaw Lake outside Ponca City, and has a power purchase agreement with a landfill-to-gas project in Sand Springs.

OMPA expects its renewable portfolio to continue

to grow beyond 2020, as it also recently issued a request-for-proposal with plans to enter into an agreement to purchase solar power. This would be the organization's first solar project.

The Authority's leading source of energy in 2019 was clean-burning natural gas, at 46 percent of the overall mix.

According to the American Wind Energy Association, in September of 2019, Oklahoma ranked third in the United States for wind energy production at 8,072 megawatts of installed capacity, just trailing Iowa. Texas ranks No. 1.



## Disaster Management

*(continued from page 1)*

The training session will cover the following topics:

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

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



Seating is limited and registration will close once all the seats are filled. Attendees must preregister. For more information go to [www.okmainc.com](http://www.okmainc.com) and click on the "Disaster Management" link under Announcements.

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

## Seven Public Power Lineworkers Complete Electric Supervisor Development

In December, seven Public Power Lineworkers completed the four-year Electric Supervisor Development (ESD) Program, and an improved program is in the works.

"We covered a variety topics designed to improve individual skills necessary as public power professionals take on supervisor roles," said Jeff Kaufmann, Director of Communications and Professional Development, who led the classroom training. "We are pleased with the outcome of the program, and, in the spirit of continuous improvement, we will explore options for improvement."

ESD delivered participants — all current or future supervisors - the leadership skills necessary to lead high performing teams. And to offer them critical on-the-job skills.

In addition to the Soft Skills training, participants were provided access to the Electric Utility Operations Training (Hard Skills) one, two, or three-day sessions.

In continuously looking for ways to better serve members and individuals who take the training in the future, the final piece of work for participants was a review of the program and presentation of recommendations for possible areas of improvement.

Questions about the ESD program may be directed to Kaufmann at [jeffk@okmainc.com](mailto:jeffk@okmainc.com).



Front row left to right: Daryl Fenski (Monett); Jerry Cundiff (Stillwater); Travis Willis (Pryor); and Greg Carlin (Monett). Back row left to right: Jeff Kaufmann (OMA); Bart Towne (Stillwater); Stephen Pippin (Pawhuska); and Dusty Baker (Stillwater)

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## Winter Weather Preparedness Part 3

*From the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)*

Editor's Note: This is part three of a three-part series from information made available by OSHA. To read the entire piece today, go to the OSHA website at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

Learn more about PPE requirements and how to design an effective PPE program: [Personal Protective Equipment](#) (OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page).

### Dressing Properly for the Cold

Dressing properly is extremely important to preventing cold stress. When cold environments or temperatures cannot be avoided, the following would help protect workers from cold stress:

- Wear at least three layers of loose-fitting clothing. Layering provides better insulation.
  - An inner layer of wool, silk or synthetic (polypropylene) to keep moisture away from the body. Thermal wear, wool, silk or polypropylene, inner layers of clothing that will hold more body heat than cotton.
  - A middle layer of wool or synthetic to provide insulation even when wet.
  - An outer wind and rain protection layer that allows some ventilation to prevent overheating.

- Tight clothing reduces blood circulation. Warm blood needs to be circulated to the extremities. Insulated coat/jacket (water resistant if necessary)
- Knit mask to cover face and mouth (if needed)
- Hat that will cover your ears as well. A hat will help keep your whole body warmer. Hats reduce the amount of body heat that escapes from your head.
- Insulated gloves (water resistant if necessary), to protect the hands
- Insulated and waterproof boots to protect the feet

### Safety Tips for Workers

- Your employer should ensure that you know the symptoms of cold stress
- Monitor your physical condition and that of your coworkers
- Dress appropriately for the cold
- Stay dry in the cold because moisture or dampness, e.g. from sweating, can increase the rate of heat loss from the body
- Keep extra clothing (including underwear) handy in case you get wet and need to change
- Drink warm sweetened fluids (no alcohol)
- Use proper engineering controls, safe work practices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by your employer

## Association Earns Patent for Data Collection, Modeling Analysis

*From the American Public Power Association*  
By Paul Ciampoli

The American Public Power Association has been awarded a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that protects the Association's interests in data collection and analysis for predictive modeling of utility assets, safety reporting, and grid maintenance.

The [patent](#) allows the Association to design "Methods, systems, and apparatus for predictive models for electric power grid maintenance." The Association was notified of the patent award in mid-October.

Among other things, the patent covers the Association's new eSafety Tracker, which was developed to help utilities document and analyze safety-related events. Members can learn more and

even help beta test the new eSafety Tracker [here](#).

This is the second patent awarded to the Association and inventors Alex Hofmann and Mike Hyland, the Association's Senior Director of Energy and Environmental Services and Senior Vice President, Engineering Services, respectively.

"This patent helps protect Association members rights to access a wide range of tools in data collection and predictive modeling, including the new eSafety Tracker, which will benefit them in a number of ways," said Hofmann.

The first patent, "tracking and analyzing service outages," was awarded in March 2016 and involves methods, systems, and apparatus, for tracking and analyzing service outages.

Additional details about that patent are available [here](#).



## OMA Supervisor Short Course Scheduled for Henryetta

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

"We have great people working among our membership," said Tom Rider, General Manager. "This program is designed to provide supervisors much needed skills to be successful."

Rider presents the OMA Supervisor Short Course, and 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 program and the remaining sessions at a later time when the program is offered elsewhere. For recognition of course completion, a participant must complete all 12 sessions. Those who complete all 12 sessions

receive a certificate acknowledging the work completed. The Supervisor Short Course sessions in Henryetta 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

### 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

Registration for the for the Supervisor Short Course will open soon.

Questions about the Supervisor Short Course should be directed to Tom Rider at [tom@okmainc.com](mailto:tom@okmainc.com). Registration questions are to be directed to Deborah Gonzales at [deborah@okmainc.com](mailto:deborah@okmainc.com).

**Attention Associate Members!**  
**Sponsorship Registration is now open for the**  
**2020  Public Power Conference**  
**April 26 – 28, 2020**  
**Tulsa Renaissance Hotel and Conference Center**  
**Tulsa, Oklahoma**

[Click here](#) for more information



## OMPA Board Approves Changes to CUP

The Board of Directors officially approved changes to the Competitive Utility Program (CUP) at its monthly meeting in December. The changes are set to be implemented at the start of 2020.

The changes recommended to the Board were at the behest of the CUP Oversight Committee.

CUP was formed in 1995 as a best-practices program that provides incentives to OMPA members. It has been popular for its annual distribution of \$20,000 checks to those who certify, in addition to a chance to shave power bills during winter months. However, at the board retreat in the spring, the Board of Directors decided that it might be time to make significant changes to the program as a way to encourage cities and towns that have never been certified to do so.

Perhaps the most drastic change to CUP involves making the criteria tiered, certifying members on three different levels, depending on what qualifications they meet. The concept is similar to the American Public Power Association's RP3 Program, which has three levels of certification. The lower-level tiers will have

easier qualifications, but less financial reward. As more materials are required, the reward level would rise.

Staff was also tasked at the board retreat with finding ways to make CUP less complex and to lessen some of the criteria required. One of the items related to that, which will be implemented in 2020, includes having OMPA take over the task of residential customer surveys for all of the members.

Changes will also be found in training requirements, including the requirement that cybersecurity training be part of it. Also approved is the change to make all of the advertising eligible for advanced marketing to be related to the Our Local Power campaign, replacing the requirement to advertise load factor improvement programs.

In addition, changes will be made to some of the advanced metrics CUP-certified cities and towns can meet. For more information on all of the changes to CUP, please contact Palma Lough at [plough@ompa.com](mailto:plough@ompa.com).



## Register Today for Apprentice Basics Training

Registration is open for the Apprentice Basics Training. The training will be Wednesday, January 29, 2020 in Edmond, OK.

The training covers basic math and technology used in the industry, tool knowledge, and what to expect as a new apprentice.

Dean Sherrick, Edmond Electric, and Tom Dougherty, OMA, will present the training.

The training session begins at 8:30 a.m. and is

expected to end by 3 p.m. The address is 2004 Old Timbers Dr., Edmond (the Edmond Electric Facility).

Registration is \$149 per person and includes lunch and workbook.

Register online at [www.okmainc.com](http://www.okmainc.com) or clicking here: [Link to Apprentice Basics Registration](#).

For more information contact Tom Dougherty by email at [tomd@okmainc.com](mailto:tomd@okmainc.com). Registration questions may be directed to Deborah Gonzales by email at [deborah@okmainc.com](mailto:deborah@okmainc.com).

Register for  
Apprentice Basics  
Wednesday, January 29, 2020  
Edmond, OK

The training covers basic math and technology used in the industry, tool knowledge, and what to expect as a new apprentice.

[Click here](#) to register.



## 2020 Census: How Kay County is Spreading the Word

*From the Oklahoma Department of Commerce*

EDITOR'S NOTE: As noted in this article the Census results are used to determine how Federal Funds are allocated. The OMA recommends all municipalities take steps to support the Census. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce is a great resource for ways to promote participation in the Census, for more information contact Kristin Goodale at [Kristin.Goodale@OKcommerce.gov](mailto:Kristin.Goodale@OKcommerce.gov).

Many federal programs use census data to help direct funding to state and local areas. Census results help determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is allocated to states and communities each year for roads, schools, hospitals (health clinics), emergency services, and more. Which makes it important for local communities to get everyone counted.

Kay County is already at work to get the word out about the importance of getting a complete count for the 2020 Census.

"In terms of economic development for Ponca City specifically, our community needs to be able to show growth over the past 10 years," said Kat Long. "We have set a goal of counting 26,000 residents which would help us attract retail and restaurants interested in growing communities near major highways."

But the importance of the census extends beyond economic development opportunities. The Kay County effort is working with the area's more than 100 nonprofits who benefit from accurate census data when it comes to grants and developing new partnerships.

"I come from a marketing background where I



learned that people need to see a message 9-13 times before it sticks with them," said Long. "I am out in the community talking to groups about the census often. From the vehicle I drive that's wrapped in census messaging to the pens, pencils and stickers we're handing out, we're doing our best to make sure people in the region know the census is just around the corner."

Long has reached out to numerous groups in her community, including businesses who employ those in hard-to-reach populations, churches and schools.

"Our educators are with students for 30 hours every week. They have relationships with parents," said Long. "These numbers impact us, especially the children in our community, for the next 10 years so it's important that we make sure parents know to make sure their kids are counted."

An additional group that Long has made sure to reach out to are real estate agents.

"These individuals are often the first point of contact for people new to our community," said Long. "By engaging them we can help spread the message ever further."

### Register today for Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities

**Presented by Texas A&M Engineering Extensions Service**

February 4 - 5 2020 – Jenks, OK • February 12 - 13, 2020 – El Reno, OK

Topics to be covered:

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


Read more at: [Disaster Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities](#)

[Click here](#) to register





Join us in congratulating three new journeyman certified Public Power Lineworkers from Stilwell, OK. Left to right: Jeromy Johnson, Jeff Eagleton, Dusty Dandridge and OMA's Tom Dougherty.



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