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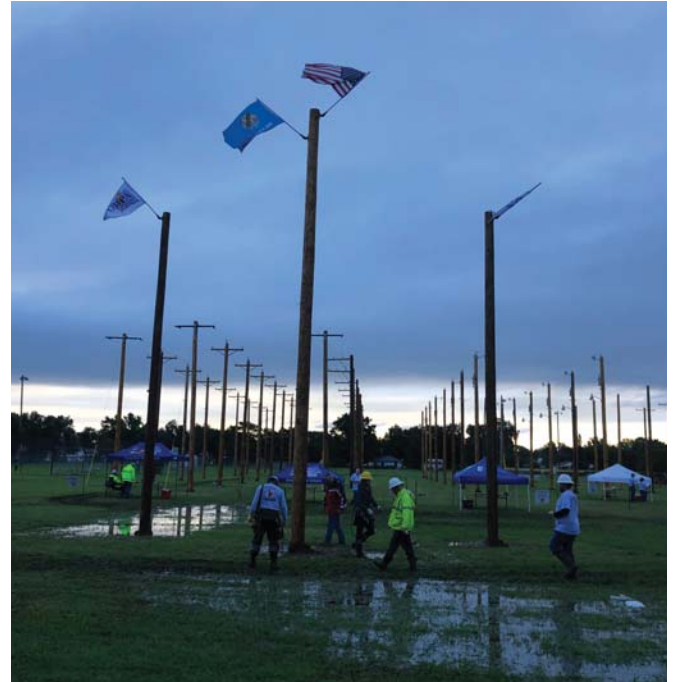
A publication of the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance

October 2019

## Weather Doesn't Dampen Spirits at 2019 Lineworkers Rodeo

After a rainy start and on a muddy field, more than 50 public power professionals competed in the 2019 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo September 26 in Ponca City.

"We congratulate everyone who competed and thank all of our volunteers who make this event happen," said Tom Dougherty, Director of Job Training and Safety. "We also appreciate the work by the team at Ponca City Energy who hosted our event this year."



(for a list of winners and more photos, see pages 8 – 10)

## OMA Members Inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials

Four of the five officials inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials September 19 served OMA municipalities.

The new Hall of Fame members are:

- Dan Galloway, Retired City Manager, **Stillwater** & El Reno
- Pam Polk, City Manager, **City of Collinsville**
- Gary Pruett, Retired General Manager, **Municipal Utility Board, Pryor**

- Jeff Shockley, former Mayor, Poteau
  - Michael Vanderburg, City Attorney, **Ponca City**
- They became the 65th – 69th inductees into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame since 2001.

Formed in 1999, the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials Foundation recognizes individuals for outstanding achievements or contributions to city and town government. To be  
(see HALL OF FAME, page 4)

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## UPCOMING OMA & AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER EVENTS

**American Public Power Association  
Customer Connections Conference**  
October 27 – 30, 2019  
New Orleans, Louisiana

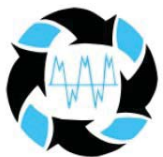
**Disaster Management for Electric  
Power Systems**  
October 22 – 23, 2019  
Edmond, Oklahoma

**APT Cash Handling Training/  
Certification**  
November 6, 2019  
Miami, Oklahoma

**ON-GOING PROGRAMS:**  
**Electric Supervisor Development  
(ESD) Sessions**  
• Tuesday, December 3, 2019

**Supervisor Short Course**  
Day 4 – October 8, 2019  
Day 5 – October 24, 2019  
Day 6 – November 12, 2019

**Confined Space Basics**  
October 9 & 10 – Weatherford  
November 5 – McAlester  
November 6 – Norman  
November 7 – Collinsville  
November 13 – Perkins  
December 4 – Blanchard  
December 5 – Woodward



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## OMA Board Member, Dave Slezicky, Honored for Service as Kingfisher City Manager

Dave Slezickey, City Manager of Kingfisher and OMA Board Member, was awarded the 2019 Gerald Wilkins Award by the City Management Association of Oklahoma (CMAO) during the recent Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) Banquet at the OML Annual Conference in Tulsa.

Slezickey also serves on the OMPA Board of Directors. He is the 31st recipient of the annual award that honors the late Gerald Wilkins, former OML President, longtime city manager and municipal advisor to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The citation, named in his memory, recognizes the most outstanding city manager in Oklahoma.

Recipients of the Gerald Wilkins Award are credited with strengthening the city management form of government through their stable length of service to cities, dedication to civic activities, and participation in and contribution to CMAO and the International City Management Association.

Recipients must have fully accepted the principles of ethics as outlined in the ICMA Code of Ethics and applied these ethical principles to his or her conduct in the field of city management.





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## Understanding the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Mystery “Job Applications and Job Descriptions”

*(Part three of a three-part series)*

By Suzanne Paulson, General Counsel, Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group

In previous articles, there was discussion about hiring in general, hiring CDL drivers and hiring safety-sensitive positions, in this article we will discuss necessary steps that will help allow action in the event it is warranted.

Before an employer takes any adverse action against an employee based on the safety-sensitive exception, it's best to ensure that the particular tasks or duties that make the job safety-sensitive are written in a job description and that applicants and employees are aware of the job duties that result in the position qualifying as safety-sensitive.

It is suggested that employers add language to the job applications and job descriptions that place an applicant or employee on notice at the outset that the position is safety-sensitive. Sample language might look something like:

**SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTION NOTICE:** This classification is a “safety sensitive” position as defined by the United States Department of Transportation drug and alcohol testing regulations, the Oklahoma Standards for Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Act and/or Oklahoma Medical Marijuana laws. As a “safety sensitive” classification, you will be subject to drug and alcohol testing, including random testing. Marijuana is one of the substances included in the drug panel screening. Possession of a medical marijuana license will not excuse you from the testing process, or the consequences of testing positive for marijuana.

**SAMPLE JOB APPLICATION NOTICE:** Certain jobs are classified as “safety sensitive” as defined by the United States Department of Transportation drug, alcohol testing regulations, The Oklahoma Standards for Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Act and/or Oklahoma Medical Marijuana laws. As a “safety sensitive” classification, you will be subject to drug and alcohol testing, including random testing. Marijuana is one of the substances included in the drug panel screening. Possession of a medical marijuana license will not excuse you from the testing process, or the consequences of testing positive for marijuana. If you have questions about whether the position you are applying for is classified as “safety sensitive” please consult with the HR Department.

Let us be very clear here, the recommendation is to review all your job descriptions now.

In conclusion, medical marijuana is new to the State of Oklahoma. A state question became law and the legislature along with the Governor took good faith steps to make it better. Is the conversation about how all this will work for employees and employers over? Unlikely, however the one thing we know is that OMAG will continue to monitor this situation closely and work towards keeping our clients updated.

**DISCLAIMER:** OMAG members seeking advice on the medical marijuana statutes should be aware that there may not be clear-cut answers on some of the issues for some time. OMAG offers this guidance to help your municipality make informed decisions about policies and procedures, directly or indirectly related to medical marijuana, until some of the issues can be decided by the Legislature or the Courts.

## Hall of Fame *(continued from page 1)*

selected, an honoree must make significant contributions to Oklahoma local government, through their positive spirit of public service, with unquestioned ethics.

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame Foundation is supported by the Oklahoma Municipal League, The Mayors Council of Oklahoma, the City Management Association of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance, the Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group, the Oklahoma Municipal Retirement Fund, the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority and the Oklahoma Municipal Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officials Association.



## OMA Continues Confined Space Basics Training Sessions

Following successful sessions in Prague and Checotah, OMA has several more Confined Space Basics Training sessions scheduled. These sessions are geared towards municipal water professionals.

The "Confined Space Basics" course covers the proper usage of equipment required for entry into a qualified confined space. Participants will review proper entry techniques, observe the proper setup of equipment, and can practice a limited entry.

Sessions currently scheduled include:

- October 9 & 10 – Weatherford
- November 5 – McAlester
- November 6 – Norman
- November 7 – Collinsville
- November 13 – Perkins
- December 4 – Blanchard
- December 5 – Woodward

Completion of the training qualifies for four hours of Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality re-certification training for individuals holding an ODEQ water or wastewater license.

Seating is limited to 30 for each session. To register for any location, go to the OMA website – [www.okmainc.com](http://www.okmainc.com).

Questions about the training sessions are to be directed to Tom Rider – who will present the training – at [tom@okmainc.com](mailto:tom@okmainc.com). Registration questions can be directed to Deborah Gonzales at [deborah@okmainc.com](mailto:deborah@okmainc.com).

Municipalities wishing to host the training should contact Kelly Danner at [kelly@okmainc.com](mailto:kelly@okmainc.com) or call, (405) 528-7564, ext. 7.

## If You Have Public Infrastructure, You Need to Attend

OMA will present Disaster Management for Electric Power Systems training October 22 and 23 in Edmond.

"While the course title refers to electric power systems, anyone with any public infrastructure will benefit from attending this training session," said OMA General Manager Tom Rider.

### Who should participate:

- Emergency Management
- Public Works Management
- Utility Management
- Power Providers
- Water Authorities
- Utility personnel
- Municipal personnel
- Police, Fire and EMS personnel
- Electrical Power Transmission and Distribution Suppliers (T&D) personnel

### Topics to be covered:

- Threats to electric power systems
- Mitigating risks
- Responding to disasters
- Recovering from disasters
- Handling public information requests
- Preparing for disasters

To learn more about the training session, click here: [Disaster Management for Electric Flyer](#).

Seating is limited and registration will close once all the seats are taken. Questions about the session may be directed to Rider at [tom@okmainc.com](mailto:tom@okmainc.com).

## OMA Affiliate/ Associate Members

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## Edmond Councilmember, Nick Massey, Joins OMPA Board

Nick Massey of Edmond was approved to join the OMPA Board of Directors at its monthly meeting in September.

Massey takes over a seat that was held by former Edmond Mayor Charles Lamb for 25 years, and was temporarily held by Warren Porter.

Massey has been on the Edmond Council since March of 2012. He also has served on the city's Finance/Audit Committee since 2013, is the Vice Chairman of the Edmond Economic Development Authority, is the Co-Chairman of the Edmond Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Council and the Chairman of the Edmond Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

An Edmond resident for the past 17 years, Massey also is the president and owner of Massey Financial Services, as well as a syndicated columnist on economics and investments and the CEO and Chief Economist for Householder Group Financial Advisors.

A wholesale power supplier with 42 municipal members throughout Oklahoma, OMPA is governed by its 11-member Board of Directors, who are elected by representatives of the members. The board is comprised of elected officials, city managers and others who are involved in the operating or governing of their electric systems. Board members serve staggered three-year terms, with one-third of them coming up for election each year.

Massey's term will last until the 2021 Annual Meeting, at which point he can be re-elected.

Edmond was one of the original 26 members of OMPA, and began receiving power from the Authority in 1985.



## Telling GRDA's Hydro Story

The Grand River Dam Authority's long tradition of giving free tours of its historic Pensacola Dam continued through the summer of 2019.

In fact, during the most recent tour season (which wrapped up just after Labor Day), GRDA's summer tour guides led nearly 3,300 people on tours of the 79-year old facility. This season, visitors came from 31 different states and at least six different countries.

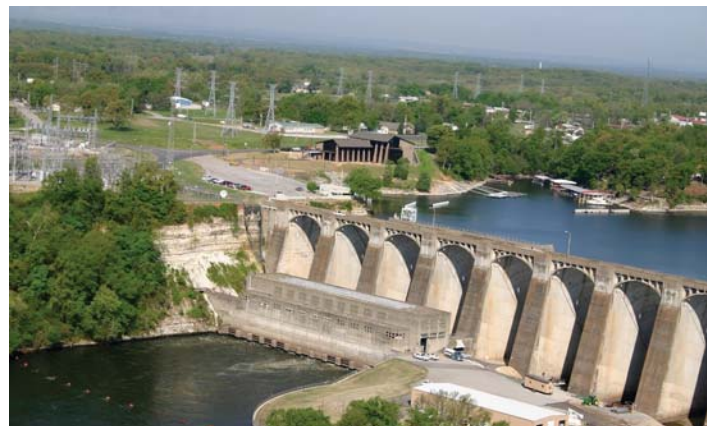
For GRDA, the tours are about more than just showing off a facility, they are also about telling the important story of the organization's beginnings and the history of hydroelectricity in Oklahoma. Pensacola Dam was the first hydroelectric facility in the state in 1940 and remains an important part of GRDA's generation portfolio today.

"It's iconic, not only because of what it means to GRDA but also because of what it means to the entire state," said GRDA Vice President of Corporate Communications Justin Alberty. "It is a renewable power source and plays an important role in both flood control and recreation. All of this helped to change the economic landscape across the region."

When people tour the facility, Alberty added that they can get an up-close look at the process of turning the power of falling water into electricity. That also opens the door for GRDA to share the many benefits of hydroelectricity.

"The powerhouse and the turbine-generators today look very much like they did back in 1940," said Alberty, "and that's because the process has not changed much. Hydro power is still a clean energy source and we appreciate the opportunity to share that message with visitors."

Pensacola Dam was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003, because it was the first hydroelectric facility in the state and because of its iconic multiple arch design. GRDA's ongoing tour program is open to the public during the summer months. At other times of the year, GRDA conducts tours of the facility for various groups, including classes ranging from elementary age to college engineering students.





## **APT Cash Handling Training/Certification Scheduled in Miami, OK**

OMA will host two APT (Association of Public Treasurers of the United States) Cash Handling Training/Certification sessions Wednesday, November 6, 2019 in Miami, OK.

The morning session begins with registration at 7:30 a.m. and will be completed by 12 noon, and the afternoon session's registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and will end by 5 p.m.

The cost for the program is \$75 per participant and includes Cash Handling Manual and Certificate (upon completion of the training session).

APT provides this 4-hour training throughout the United States. This program is intended to provide resource materials and guidelines for governments and organizations attempting to strengthen their internal cash handling procedures and practices.

The Cash Handling Manual is an excellent resource as it includes: a comprehensive training guide; sample legislation ensuring that the treasurer has the power to oversee and enforce proper cash handling practices; a sample training syllabus; application information for treasury officials interested in having their government's cash handling program reviewed and certified.

To register online click here: [APT Cash Handling Training Course](#). The deadline to register is October 30.

The training sessions will be held at the Miami Civic Center (129 5th Avenue NW).

Questions about this training session may be directed to Kelly Danner, OMA Director of Business Development, at [kelly@okmainc.com](mailto:kelly@okmainc.com).

## **Association Offers EV Resources to Members**

The American Public Power Association offers a wide range of EV-related resources to its members.

Those resources include a public power utilities EV tracker and "Creating an Electric Vehicle Blueprint for Your Community: Public Power Strategies," a guide that walks public power utility leaders and staff through the steps in creating a strategy, planning, and executing an electric vehicle program in their community.

These and other resources are available on the Association's website topic page for electric vehicles (<https://www.publicpower.org/topic/electric-vehicles>).

Another EV tool available for Association members is the Demonstration of Energy & Efficiency Development program, which funds research, pilot projects, and education on topics such as electric vehicles.

One example of how DEED funding is being used in the EV space is a project involving American Municipal Power and the Smart Electric Power Alliance.

AMP and SEPA have teamed up to develop an electric vehicle toolkit that contains a spreadsheet and user instructions and provides a preliminary read on the time and resources that utilities may need to dedicate to planning and rolling out a strategy for EV adoption.

The project was funded in part by a grant from the DEED program.

The toolkit is available for free download to DEED members and for sale to non-DEED members in the Association's Product Store.

**Save the Date**

**2020 Public Power Conference**

**April 26 – 28, 2020**

**Tulsa, Oklahoma**

## 2019 MESO Annual Lineworkers Rodeo Winners

### Apprentice Speed Climb

- 1st – Cory Waite, Ponca City Energy
- 2nd – Clayton Stone, GRDA
- 3rd – Dane Myers – Edmond Electric

### Apprentice Hurtman Rescue

- 1st – Cory Waite, Ponca City Energy
- 2nd – Shawn Buttry, City of Bentonville
- 3rd – Tim Linn, City of Bentonville

### Apprentice Obstacle Course

- 1st – Shawn Buttry, City of Bentonville
- 2nd – Wyatt Williams, City of Stillwater
- 3rd – John Colf, City of Bentonville

### Journeyman Speed Climb

- 1st – Tomas Alvarez, Ponca City Energy
- 2nd – Chris Crain, Ponca City Energy
- 3rd – Travis Matthews, Edmond Electric

### Journeyman Hurtman Rescue

- 1st – Tomas Alvarez, Ponca City Energy
- 2nd – Chris Crain, Ponca City Energy
- 3rd – John Ragsdale, City of Bentonville

### Veteran Hurtman Rescue

- 1st – David Hefner, GRDA
- 2nd – Brent Scott, GRDA

### Team Event – 4kv Alley Arm Insulator Change Out

- 1st – City of Bentonville (Chuck Childers, Keith King, John Ragsdale)
- 2nd – City of Stillwater (Casey Lumpkin, Austin Mills, Dekota Plum)
- 3rd – Ponca City Energy (Tomas Alvarez, Chris Crain, Keenan Pappan)

### Team Event – Transformer Change Out

- 1st – Ponca City Energy (Tomas Alvarez, Chris Crain, Keenan Pappan)
- 2nd – Edmond Electric (Travis Matthews, Jason Smith, Chad Vandever)
- 3rd – Ponca City Energy (Cory Waite, Jared Evans, Tanner Lee)

### Mutual Aid Event

- 1st – Dane Myers (Edmond Electric), Ryan Ray (OMPA), Tomas Alvarez (Ponca City Energy)
- 2nd – Brant Davis (City of Skiatook), Stephen Babb (City of Bentonville), Tanner Lee (Ponca City Energy)
- 3rd – Jacob Gonzales (Edmond Electric), Chris Crain (Ponca City Energy), Dekota Plum (City of Stillwater)

## Exhibitors included:

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## 2019 MESO Annual Lineworkers Rodeo Photos





## 2019 MESO Annual Lineworkers Rodeo Photos



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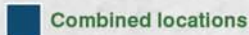
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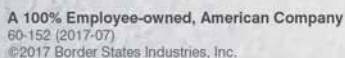


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