



Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

April 2022

Public Power Conference

Attendee Registration for the 2022 MESO Public Conference closes April 7

Anyone planning to attend the 2022 MESO Public Power Conference scheduled for April 24-26 in Norman, Oklahoma is reminded the registration deadline is fast approaching.

Registration is open at meso.org, and the deadline is April 7.

New for the 2022 Public Power Conference is a Tabletop Exercise where all attendees will navigate a Spring Storm Outbreak scenario. Recognizing every employee has a role during a severe weather incident, this group activity will provide the opportunity for participants to learn from both the session facilitators and fellow attendees.

The conference includes three general sessions, they are:

- **I Am Their Leader . . . Which Way Did They Go?** presented by Dr. Chuck Jackson. In this session, Jackson will discuss how our leadership style is often shaped by our experiences in childhood. Join us for a humorous walk down memory lane as we consider the impact of our family of origin on the way we lead today.
- **Small Public Power: The Backbone of APPA**, this session will be presented by Colin Hansen, Chairman, American Public Power Association

(see ATTENDEE REGISTRATION, page 5)

Professional Development

MESO to offer regional supervisor training

Beginning in September, MESO will begin offering its Supervisor Short Course regionally, beginning in the northwest.

“Our Supervisor Short Course is a popular training program,” Tom Rider, General Manager, said. “By offering it on a regional basis, we’re hopeful that more members will have the opportunity to participate.”

The Supervisor Short Course covers twelve topics over six training days. Topics include Character & Ethics, The Roles of Supervisors, Dealing with Conflict, Project Management, and Performance Management.

“Each class is limited to 30 people,” Rider added. “Small group interactions and learning from each other are two of the hallmarks of this training series.”

As a value-added component of membership, each MESO member will have the opportunity to send one person to the program in their area at no charge.

More information will be forthcoming in early Summer. If you have questions or would like more information about this training, contact Tom Rider, tom@meso.org.

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Job Training & Safety

Register today for MESO Climbing School

Cushing Utility Services will host the MESO Level 1 Climbing School on May 10-11, 2022, and registration is open at meso.org.

MESO's Tom Dougherty, Director of Job Training and Safety, and veteran lineworkers from Cushing Utility Services and GRDA will lead the two-day training.

Participants must bring a hard hat, climbing hooks, belt, leather gloves, safety glasses, and hand tools.

The training begins at 8:30 a.m. on both days. Participants are encouraged to arrive early. Lunch will be provided on-site. Integrity Tools is a lunch sponsor for the event.

The cost for the two-day session is \$199 per person. Detailed training information is available on the website, and the link to register is [2022 MESO Level 1 Climbing School Registration](#).

GRDA and OMPA are sponsors of the 2022 MESO Level 1 Climbing School.

For information or questions about the training session, contact Dougherty at tomd@meso.org. Registration questions may be directed to Deborah Gonzales, MESO Director of Administration and Finance at deborah@meso.org.

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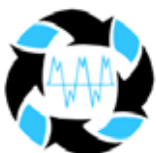
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Ponca City Energy places 2nd at APPA Rodeo in Hurtman Rescue

“Climb fast, work together, and be safe!!” was the challenge for the four-man Ponca City Energy Crew as they headed to Austin, TX for the annual American Public Power Association Rodeo.

They accepted the challenge and earned 2nd Place in the Journeyman Hurtman Rescue competing against some of the best Public Power crews from across the country. Working together as a three-man team, the winning team included: Chris Crain, Tomas Alvarez, and Cory Waite. The crew delivered a time of 56 seconds with no penalties, only two seconds out of 1st Place.

Austin Fry competed as an apprentice in several events, and Aaron Michaud, Electric Superintendent, served as an event judge at the national competition.

“I couldn’t be happier for this team of guys,” Michaud said. “They have been close before, and I’m proud they made the podium competing against some of the largest public power utilities in the United States.”

In addition to the crew from Ponca City, a three-man crew from the City of Kingfisher traveled to the rodeo and competed. The crew included Travis Phillips, Justin Mosley, and Gye Roedel.

The 2022 MESO Public Power Rodeo and Safety Training will be September 21-22 in Edmond, OK.



Christopher Cain, Tomas Alvarez, Jr., and Cory Waite along with APPA Representatives



Left to right: Cory Waite, Austin Fry, Tomas Alvarez, Jr., Travis Phillips, Justin Mosley, Gye Roedel, and Christopher Cain. The Ponca Crew is in the lighter blue shirts.



Public Power Conference

Sponsor Registration for the 2022 MESO Public Power Conference extended to April 7

The deadline for sponsors to register for the 2022 MESO Public Power Conference has been extended to April 7.

The annual conference will be April 24-26, 2022, in Norman, OK, and online registration is available at [2022 MESO Public Power Conference Sponsor Registration](#).

All sponsors will be recognized in the conference program and MESO newsletter and on the MESO Facebook page. Detailed sponsorship information is available in the [2022 Public Power Conference Sponsor Packet](#) The packet outlines all sponsorship levels and additional opportunities to interact with customers or potential customers.

The annual Public Power Conference brings together leaders of municipal electric systems across the State of Oklahoma and neighboring states.

By participating in the 2022 conference, associate members can connect with city managers, supervisors, lineworkers, and customer service professionals. This is a great marketing opportunity for any company that wants to partner with and serve municipalities.

Registration questions may be directed to MESO Director of Administration and Finance, Deborah Gonzales, at deborah@meso.org.

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Attendee Registration

(continued from page 1)

and CEO/General Manager, Kansas Power Pool. Recognizing small public power systems make up the majority of APPA's membership. He will discuss some of the innovations small systems are currently incorporating.

- **Cybersecure and Aware – How you hold the key to cybersecurity in the palm of your hand** will be presented by Kevin Sesock, Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group. He will remind the audience that cell phones have built-in cybersecurity features. Bring your smartphone and learn about these features. This session provides important information to protect yourself, your utility, and your co-workers. Leave prepared, aware, and cyber secure!

In addition to the informative general sessions, the 2022 Public Power Conference has breakout sessions that will provide something for people in all areas of municipal operations including Customer Service, Human Resources, and Electric Utility Operations. Breakout sessions include:


- Developing/Changing Workplace Culture

- The Ins & Outs of Severe Weather Management
- Basic Lockout/Tagout & Switching
- Rooftop Solar – Is It Right for You?
- Communications: Awareness Beyond Your Own Department
- Ransomware: It Could Happen to You
- Lessons Learned from an Emergency
- Distribution Primary Metering Basics
- New Technologies & Funding
- Customer Service for Lineworkers
- CISA is here for you
- Safety: Not Your Usual PPE
- Reducing Stress & Burnout
- Infrared Camera: The Importance of Checking Critical Infrastructure
- How to be a Public Power Ambassador

For all 2022 MESO Public Conference details, click here [2022 MESO Public Power Conference Attendee Packet](#). To register, click here [2022 MESO Public Power Attendee Registration](#).

Registration questions may be directed to MESO Director of Administration and Finance, Deborah Gonzales, at deborah@meso.org.

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Professional Development

2022-23 MESO Electric Supervisor Development Program begins



A group of 15 journeyman lineworkers recently began the 2022-23 MESO Electric Supervisor Development (ESD) Program.

The course is a two-year program providing journeyman lineworkers – both current and future supervisors – the leadership skills necessary to lead high-performing teams while enhancing critical on-the-job skills.

ESD includes a combination of Professional Development Skills (PD) Training and Electric Utility Operational Skills (EU) Training.

PD sessions focus on Leadership, Teambuilding, Customer Service, and Communications. The EU part of the program includes both classroom sessions and participation in MESO’s Job Training and Safety hands-on training programs.

Program Participants:

Steven Armstrong, Sallisaw
Rick Carney, Altus
Sheldon Caughman, Sallisaw
Gary Goodno, Ponca City

Luke Guthrie, Kingfisher
Anthony Hale, OMPA
Derek Hays, GRDA
Bryce Kerns, Pryor
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Ryan Ray, OMPA
Hayden Powell, Pryor
Morgan Rogers, Altus
Chris Russell, Monett
Blake Sullivan, Monett

Save the Date

2022 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo and Safety Training

September 21-22, 2022

Edmond, Oklahoma

Hosted by Edmond Electric

**Join us in congratulating Cushing's
Brendan Campbell and Collinsville's Cody Daniels
who earned Journeyman Lineman Certificates.**



Brendan Campbell, Cushing



Cody Daniels, Collinsville

SAVE THE DATE
Basic Lineman School
June 14 – 16, 2022
Fairview, OK
Hosted by OMPA

From the American Public Power Association

Public Power Officials Review Proposed Changes To APPA Safety Manual

By Paul Ciampoli

Members of the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Safety Manual Working Group recently met to review proposed changes to the latest edition of the manual. The meeting was hosted by CDE Lightband in Clarksville, Tenn.

The group reviewed proposed changes to help develop the 17th edition of the APPA Safety Manual.

Since 1955, APPA's Safety Manual has been a key tool for public power utility workplace safety programs.

In order to ensure relevance and accuracy, the Safety Manual is updated every four to five years to reflect important changes in the industry, as well as National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

The working group "reviewed change proposals that were sent in via the change proposal process. These proposals included adding content to sections of the safety manual for clarity, alignment with National Electric Safety Code and OSHA standards and industry best practices," said Ashley Bryan, Director for Transmission and Distribution at Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority.

Bryan is a member of the working group.

"Experts that make-up the panel weighed in on each proposal, cross referenced governing safety documents and added content to the Safety Manual," she noted in a Feb. 23 email.

"Subcommittees also reviewed topics such as 'Grounding' and 'Switching' where it was deemed by the panel that additional reviews and content needed to be added to strengthen the guidelines contained within the manual," she said.

Additional subcommittees were also formed to cover topics such as "Confined Space", "RF" and "Heat Stress," Bryan said, noting that changes proposed by each subcommittee will be reviewed at a meeting in April.

"The team covered a lot of content and had great discussions on the proposed changes to the manual this past week. Being part of the task force and working with the members of the team has been a

great experience overall and I look forward to the upcoming meetings," she said.

Another working group member, Gregory Labbe, Electric Operations Manager at Louisiana public power utility Lafayette Utilities System, said that during the meeting, the group discussed key areas, such as grounding, switching procedures, communication workers and other key areas of the Safety Manual.

The group had "good discussions and we made a lot of progress towards completing the updates. We also got to tour CDE Lightband's very nice and modern facilities and they were a very gracious host," he said.

Brent McKinney, who recently retired from City Utilities of Springfield, Mo., as the Electric Director, has represented APPA on the NESC subcommittee 8 for the past 20 years. That subcommittee takes care of the worker safety rules for the NESC.

After his retirement, APPA asked him to do some consulting work for it.

"My first project was to create a cross index between the NESC Part 4 and the safety manual. The cross index was completed and showed several areas where increased rules were needed in the safety manual to fully comply with NESC 2017," he noted.

After this task, APPA asked him to expand the cross index to include the new rules from the NESC 2023. That task has also been completed.

"My role is now to assist the committee to include new rules in the safety manual which will bring it into compliance for NESC 2023."

The NESC is revised every 5 years. The current NESC was a six-year period due to the pandemic.

"The safety manual should be revised after each NESC update. This makes sure the safety manual is in compliance with the latest safety standards," he said.

In a recent episode of APPA's [Public Power Now](#) podcast, public power officials detailed the value of the Safety Manual.



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