



# Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

March 2023

## 2023 Public Power Conference

### Don't miss the April 5 deadline to register to attend the 2023 Public Power Conference

Anyone planning to attend the 2023 MESO Public Power Conference scheduled for April 23-25, 2023 in Tulsa, Oklahoma is reminded the registration deadline is fast approaching. Registration is open at [www.meso.org](http://www.meso.org), and the deadline is April 5.

“We are looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at the 2023 Public Power Conference in Tulsa,” said Cheryl Adams, MESO Assistant General Manager. “Our planning committee has helped us build an agenda with an amazing amount of information that we know will benefit our members.”

The annual MESO Public Power Conference offers great networking and educational opportunities for everyone involved with locally owned and controlled,

municipal electric systems. It is the premier gathering of public power professionals from across the State of Oklahoma and neighboring states.

So, regardless of your role, there will be something for you.

Featured sessions include:

- **Electrifying Your Memory** with Paul Mellor. An expert in memory coaching, Mellor’s session will give attendees the ability to be more (see PUBLIC POWER CONFERENCE, page 2)



## New sponsorship opportunity for MESO Associate Members

This is the first issue of the MESO Quarterly Newsletter. It, along with the MESO Weekly email newsletter, has replaced the traditional MESO Monthly Newsletter. And this current issue has NO Associate Member ads.

We are pleased to announce the availability of the MESO Associate Member Sponsorship Opportunity where a single investment includes recognition in two separate communications vehicles, the MESO Weekly and the MESO Quarterly Newsletter. Detailed information will be sent soon.

The MESO Weekly is an email newsletter sent every Tuesday to municipal and associate members.

The Quarterly MESO Newsletter replaces the traditional Monthly MESO Newsletter.

The sponsorship opportunity is limited to current members and will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis. The investment for 2023 is \$860. Benefits begin once payment is received and end December 31, 2023.

Questions may be directed to Deborah Miner-Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, at [deborah@meso.org](mailto:deborah@meso.org) or Jeff Kaufmann, Director of Communications and Professional Development, at [jeffk@meso.org](mailto:jeffk@meso.org).

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## Public Power Conference

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productive and efficient with better memory.

- **Grid Security** with Bridgette Bourge, Senior Director, Cybersecurity, American Public Power Association. She brings more than 20 years of experience working successfully on cyber and physical security issues to this critical issue facing all electric utilities.
- **That's a Wrap, Now What?** With Annette White-Klososky, FPOV. A recognized expert in change management, she will attend many of the conference sessions and take pieces from each and give next steps to put information to use.
- **Mutual Aid Process – All Hands on Deck!** with Tom Dougherty, MESO; David Hefner, GRDA; and, Jennifer Smith, OMPA. Learn what to expect and need to do during a crisis requiring mutual aid to be called in to help restore power.

In addition to the informative general sessions, the 2023 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:

- Managing Conflict
- Contracts & Negotiations
- Understanding the PCA
- Writing Grants, the Basics
- Using Social Media
- Generations at Work
- Understanding the Supply Chain
- Metering Class
- Android Cybersecurity
- Emotional Intelligence
- Recruiting & Retaining
- CDL/ELDT Update
- Capacitor Class
- iPhone Cybersecurity

Attendees can register online or visit the MESO website ([2023 Public Power Conference Attendee Registration](#)). All registrations will be completed online, for more information, click here: [2023 Public Power Conference Attendee Information Packet](#). Direct all questions to Deborah Miner-Gonzales at (405) 528-7564 ext. 1 or [deborah@meso.org](mailto:deborah@meso.org).



### Save the Date

The 2023 MESO Lineworkers Rodeo and Safety Training will be September 13 – 14 in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Mark your calendars now. We look forward to seeing you there.

### MESO BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

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#### MESO OFFICE

308 N.E. 27th Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717

(405)528-7564 or

(800)636-6376

(405) 524-5095 FAX

[meso.org](http://meso.org)

## MESO Job Training & Safety

# Register for the MESO CDL/ELDT Training Program by March 24

To save members time and money while meeting federal requirements, MESO has a two-part solution to help obtain a Commercial Driver License (CDL).

“Our program lays out a path for your employees to get their Commercial Driver License,” said Cheryl Adams, MESO Assistant General Manager. “We provide a class to allow current CDL holders to train their co-workers on the ‘Behind the Wheel’ requirements in your community, and the other covers the ‘theory’ requirements your employees need to prepare them for the state-required written test.”

Offered to current members only, this training program will consist of two separate classes. Both classes are required to participate in the program. The first class is only for current CDL holders to become MESO Credentialed Instructors. The Credentialed Instructors will train your employees seeking a CDL in your community. The second class is only for employees seeking a (CDL).

## Let’s prepare for Tornado Season

According to the National Weather Service, the State of Oklahoma [averages more than 50 tornadoes per year](#) with the majority occurring in “Tornado Season” – April, May, and June.

At MESO, we say “We are all in this together – your safety is our #1 priority,” so here are a few safety messages to help you prepare and to share with your employees and customers.

### Tornado Safety Information

We know tornadoes can destroy well-made structures, uproot trees, and hurl objects through the air. They can happen at any time day or night (and any time of year). The U.S. Department of Homeland Security provides great resources to remind us all how to stay safe. Knowing what to do before, during, and after a tornado minimizes the risk of injury and increase the chances of survival. **Click here to learn more:** [Tornado Safety Information](#).

### Develop a workplace tornado emergency plan

Tornadoes can occur with little or no warning. Taking precautions before the storms, such as developing an emergency plan for your workplace, learning the warning signs, and monitoring tornado watches and warnings can help you stay safe if a tornado occurs in your area. We recommend you develop an emergency response plan for your

The Commercial Driver License (CDL) Behind the Wheel Instructor Credential Course will be March 27th. The cost for this class is \$250 per person. The class will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the MESO Office in Oklahoma City. **Click here to register for this class:** [Commercial Driver License \(CDL\) Behind the Wheel Instructor Credential Course](#).

Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) Training – 1-day theory class with a test – will be March 28th at the MESO Office in Oklahoma City beginning at 8:30 a.m. The cost for this class is \$800 per person. **Click here to register for this class:** [Entry-Level Driver Training \(ELDT\) \(March 28\)](#).

The MESO CDL/ELDT Training Program is registered with the Federal Motor Carriers Administration. For more information, please contact Michelle Monaghan at [michelle@meso.org](mailto:michelle@meso.org).

employees. **Click here to learn more:** [Develop a workplace tornado emergency plan](#).

### Make a family disaster plan

Distracted workers may be more prone to mistakes and injuries. We recommend making a family emergency plan for increased peace of mind. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important for all family members to understand how to respond, how you’ll communicate with one another, and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that’s familiar and easy to find. **Click here to learn more:** [Make a family disaster plan](#).

### Understand Tornado Alerts

What is the difference between a Tornado Watch and Tornado Warning issued by the National Weather Service? Tornado watch – Be Prepared. Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Tornado Warning – Take Action. A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Both indicate the possibility of severe and dangerous weather in your area. Neither means going outside and looking for a tornado. **Click here to learn more:** [Understand Tornado Alerts](#)

Any questions regarding safety or MESO Job Training and Safety may be directed to Tom Dougherty at [tomd@meso.org](mailto:tomd@meso.org).

## Register today for the MESO Basic Lineman School

Registration is open for the MESO Basic Lineman School in Fairview from June 13-15, 2023.

The three-day course includes classroom training sessions covering the basics of electricity, lively discussions, and a supporting workbook loaded with reference materials and classroom activities. Hands-on instruction is performed outdoors, where a variety of conventional and not-so-conventional equipment is placed in the hands of workshop participants.

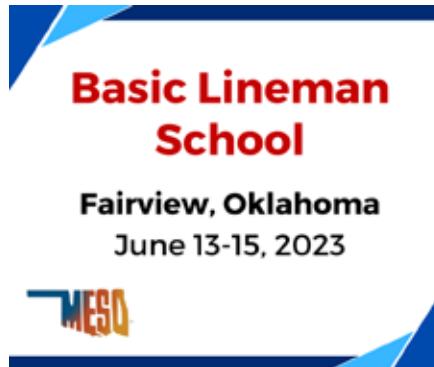
This training will assist workers whose job assignments may require pole climbing, assisting journeymen, and operating mechanical equipment. While this course covers BASIC materials and is designed for Apprentice Linemen, professionals at any skill level or knowledge will benefit by participating.

The instructors for the course are Tom Dougherty, MESO Director of Job Training and Safety; Rusty Brown, Retired Line Foreman (Duncan) and MESO Safety Trainer; and, Anthony Hale, Line Crew Superintendent, OMPA.

Participants are expected to gain proficiency in the following areas:

- Basic Knots
- Bucket Rescue
- Digger Derrick and Bucket Truck Operation
- Meter Base Inspection
- Line Design & Construction
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Truck Grounding
- Pole Climbing
- Pole Hardware Knowledge
- Pole Top Rescue
- Attendees are required to bring the following equipment:
- Hard hat
- Work gloves
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Climbing tools with fall restraints
- Lineman Hand Tools
- 100% fall protection device
- Eye protection (safety glasses)
- Rubber gloves with glove protectors
- Climbing boots (recommended)
- Utility Uniform
- Rain suit (recommended)

(see MESO BASIC LINEMAN SCHOOL, page 5)



### MESO Affiliate / Associate

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Universal Field Services, Inc.  
Utilismart Corporation  
Utility Sales Agents of North Texas  
Utility Sales Agents of Oklahoma  
Utility Solutions, Inc.  
Utility Technology Services  
Wesco Distribution

See "Associates" @ [meso.org](http://meso.org)

## MESO Job Training & Safety

### MESO holds Capacitor Class

It was a full house in Cushing Electric recently at the MESO Capacitor Class. Nearly 50 Public Professionals from nine public power utilities were in attendance.

OMPA's Alex Dobson presented the session, Mike Starks and the Cushing Utilities Service hosted the event, and T&E Flow Lineman Tools and Electric Equipment provided lunch (learn more about T&E at <https://te-us.net/>).

This class explained the operations and benefits of using capacitors and combined both classroom activity and hands-on work.

Capacitors help adjust the power factor and voltage on the distribution circuit and allow electricity to be distributed more efficiently. They can be remotely controlled and switched into and out of the distribution system as needed.



### MESO Basic Lineman School

*(continued from page 4)*

The cost for the three-day course is \$199 per person (includes lunches and book) Training will begin at 8:30 a.m. each day. Participants are encouraged to arrive early. Lunch will be provided on-site. Training is expected to be completed by no later than 4 p.m. each day.

To learn more about the Fairview Course, click here: [Fairview Basic Lineman School Flyer](#), to register click here: [2023 MESO Basic Lineman School Registration \(Fairview\)](#).

MESO will offer this course again in Cushing from October 3-5, 2023.

For more information contact MESO at 405-528-7564 or by email to Tom Dougherty, MESO Director of Job Training & Safety at [tomd@meso.org](mailto:tomd@meso.org). Registration questions may be directed Deborah Miner-Gonzales, MESO Director of Administration and Finance at [deborah@meso.org](mailto:deborah@meso.org).

## 2023 MESO Public Power Conference

April 23 – 25, 2023  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Register today at [www.meso.org](http://www.meso.org)



## 2023 Public Power Conference

# Sponsorships/Exhibitor Space for the 2023 Public Power Conference is going fast

All Associate Members are reminded the deadline to register as a Sponsor/Exhibitor is fast approaching and space is limited. Registration is open at [www.meso.org](http://www.meso.org), and the deadline is April 5.

“We are thrilled that our top sponsorships have been sold, and we still have space for Associate Members who want the opportunity to see customers and make new friends while supporting Public Power,” said Cheryl Adams, Assistant General Manager.

The annual Public Power Conference brings together leaders of municipal electric systems across the State of Oklahoma and neighboring states. By participating in the 2023 conference you will have the opportunity to connect with key decision makers. This is a great marketing

opportunity for any company that wants to partner with and serve municipalities.

More than 200 participants attend the Public Power Conference representing municipally owned electric systems in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas. This annual event draws city managers, supervisors, lineworkers, and customer service professionals, so regardless of who you are looking to partner with, they may be at this conference.

NEW for the 2023 Public Power Conference, MESO is developing an app to support the event. It will include a listing of all sponsors/exhibitors, and users will be able to connect to a company’s website, call and send an email to the company contact directly from the app.

Only current MESO Associate Members may sponsor and exhibit. If you are not a member, the

conference registration must include the annual membership dues of \$350 which includes promotion in the MESO Directory and on the MESO website in addition to other exposure opportunities.

### Conference Highlights:

- **Pre-Conference Golf Event** – 12 p.m., Sunday, April 23 – Page Belcher Golf Course (6666 South Union Avenue, Tulsa OK)
- **Sponsor/Exhibitor Registration and Set-up** – 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday, April 23 and 7 to 8 a.m. Monday, April 24.
- **Hamburgers & Hot Dogs grilled by the MESO Board of Directors** – 6 p.m., Sunday, April 23
- **Corn Hole Tournament** – 7 p.m., Sunday, April 23.
- **Traditional MESO Steak Dinner Night** - 6 p.m., Monday, April 24
- **Game Night/Music** – 7 p.m., Monday, April 24
- **Education/Breakout Sessions** – Monday & Tuesday, April 24 & 25
- **Sponsor/Exhibitor tear down** – 1 p.m., Tuesday, April 25
- **MESO Annual Awards Luncheon** – 12 p.m., Tuesday, April 25

If interested in participating in the Pre-Conference Golf Event (a two-player scramble) or the Cornhole Tournament benefitting the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, register for these events while registering to be a sponsor/exhibitor.

Click here to register [2023 Public Power Conference Sponsor/Exhibitor Registration](#) or click here for more information [2023 Public Power Conference Sponsor/Exhibitor Information Packet](#).

To ensure your exhibit space, sponsors/exhibitors must submit registration and payment by 5 p.m. April 5, 2023. Any sponsorship or exhibitor questions may be to Deborah Miner-Gonzales at (405) 528-7564 ext. 1 or [deborah@meso.org](mailto:deborah@meso.org).

(see all registered SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS, page 8)



## MESO Professional Development

### Rider completes three Supervisor Short Courses

In a span of 18 training days covering two sessions per day covering 12 separate topics with more than 50 participants, Tom Rider, General Manager presented the MESO Supervisor Short Courses in Coffeyville, Stillwater, and Tahlequah. And he is currently presenting the course in Altus.

The course provided leadership and supervisor skills to address workplace challenges, and the program's 12 discussion courses focused on – Management, Workforce Development, Communication, and Performance Success and included:

1. Character & Ethics
2. The Roles of a Supervisor
3. The Power of Respect for Others
4. Developing Responsible Workers
5. Establishing a Change Mentality
6. Dealing with Conflict
7. Communicating Effectively
8. Project Management
9. Understanding Emotional Intelligence
10. Being Assertive without Being a Bully
11. Performance Management
12. Delegating



**Tahlequah Class:** Bill Clifton, Bryce Miller, C J Eppler, Casey Rogers, Chris Hall, Jeff Bemo, Jodie Johnson, Joe McDuffie, Kevin Hershberger, Kim Dorr, Lacy Creech, Larry Hale, Latosha Steely, Lisa Gabbert, Matt Morris, Max Taylor, Sheldon Caughman, and Thomas Applegate.



**Coffeyville Class:** Allison Pryor, Amy Taylor, Bobby Joe Paasch, Charla Brown, Chris Felix, Darin Daily, Jarrod Powers, Jim Bradshaw, Kenny Ward, Kwin Bromley, Matt Conger, Melissa Carter, Melissa Cotton, Shane George, Stephanie Richardson, Steve Smith, and Thomas Osborn



**Stillwater Class:** Andrew Pool, Bill Millis, Brendan Campbell, David Barth, Dustin Kincaid, Jared Evans, Jared Thulin, Jesse Hicks, Kurt Feasley, Kyle Gensel, Michelle Wilhelm, Robert Rightmire, Sarah Klinger, Stephen Pippin, Walt Sumner, Wyatt Williams, and Zeke Boyer

## Join us in congratulating . . .

Join us in congratulating Dave Slezicky, a long-time MESO Board Member, for accepting the role of City Manager for the City of The Village.

"For over ten years, Dave has been a vocal advocate for Kingfisher and Oklahoma's public power community," said Tom Rider, MESO General Manager. "We wish him all the best in his new opportunities with The Village." Slezicky, a long-time advocate for Public Power, served as the City Manager for the City of Kingfisher for the past 10 years. His resignation from the MESO Board was accepted in January.

In addition to serving on the MESO Board, he was a member of the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority Board of Directors since 2015 and was recently named to the International City/County Management Association Executive Board.



*Dave Slezicky  
City Manager, The Village*

## 2023 Public Power Conference SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

*(as of March 21, 2023)*

### Platinum Sponsor

**Olsson**

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