



Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

December 2022

Is your MESO Mutual Aid Agreement Current?

Preparing for possible winter weather, the MESO team reviewed executed Mutual Aid Agreements (MAA) and discovered several member municipalities haven't updated to the most recent version (the 2022 MESO Mutual Aid Agreement).

Having a current Mutual Aid Agreement in place is essential in the event your utility suffers damage from a federally declared disaster. Without a current Agreement in place, your utility would not be eligible to receive FEMA or state reimbursement.

All members are encouraged to adopt the 2022 MAA as quickly as possible. Executed agreements must be sent to Deborah Miner-Gonzales, Director of

Finance and Administration, at deborah@meso.org. Upon receipt, MESO will countersign the agreement and return a fully executed copy to allow both MESO and the municipality to have a copy on file.

Relevant documents may be requested from MESO or downloaded from the links below:

- [Mutual Aid Agreement*](#)
- [Mutual Aid Planning Guide](#)
- [Model Adoption Resolution](#)
- [Mutual Aid Information Sheet*](#)

*To be returned to MESO

If you have questions, please contact Gonzales at (405) 528-7564, ext. 1, or deborah@meso.org.



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Win a scholarship to the 2023 Public Power Conference

MESO is calling for applications for the Mike Nunneley Scholarship which is awarded to a member of the Oklahoma Public Power community who has not attended a MESO Public Power Conference.

The MESO Board of Directors established the scholarship in 2018 to recognize and honor Mike Nunneley. He 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.

The scholarship covers all conference-related costs excluding transportation and is available to a deserving governing body official, appointed official or staff member from an Oklahoma Public Power community who has not attended a previous Public Power Conference. Anyone may apply or apply on behalf of another person.

All applications should be a one-page letter that includes:

- Who will benefit from the scholarship.
- 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.

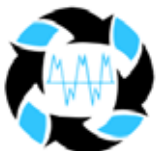
To apply for the scholarship, submit one-page letters to Cheryl Adams, MESO Assistant General Manager, in one of the following methods:

Email: cheryl@meso.org

Mail: MESO, Attn: Cheryl Adams, Assistant GM, 308 NE 27th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717.

Questions should be submitted in writing to cheryl@meso.org.

Applications received after February 1, 2023 may not be considered.



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Capacitor Class scheduled for February 8 in Cushing

MESO, in conjunction with OMPA, will present Capacitor Class February 8, 2023, to help provide member lineworkers a better understanding of how capacitors operate and their benefit.

The class will be presented by Alex Dobson, PE, Manager of Engineering Services, for the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority

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.

This class is designed to explain the operations and benefits of using capacitors. The class will combine both classroom activities and hands-on work. The outline for the class is:

Capacitors:

- Power Factor explanation
- Theory of operation
- Operational uses and applications
- Safety and proper methods to work with capacitors
- Monetary savings and calculating savings or justifying a purchase and installation

Voltage Regulators:

- Theory of voltage drop and how to correct it
- Operation of a voltage regulator
- Safety methods and how to safely operate and troubleshoot a voltage regulator
- Benefits of oil sampling and other testing methods

The training session will be hosted by Cushing Utilities Services. There is no cost for the class, however, the class size is limited to 25 attendees. Registration is available at www.meso.org or by clicking here: [Capacitor Class](#).

Lunch for the class is sponsored by T&E Electric Lineman Tools and Equipment. Learn more about T&E by clicking here: [T&E's website](#).

Questions about the training session are to be directed to Tom Dougherty, Director Job Training & Safety at tomd@meso.org. Registration questions are to be directed to Deborah Miner-Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, at deborah@meso.org.

And the winner is . . .

Each year during the Public Power Conference, the MESO recognizes individuals and organizations who have contributed to Public Power, their community, or to their electric system. And now is the time for our members to nominate their co-workers or utility.

All Recognition Award nominations are due no later than March 1, 2023. To learn more about the awards, click here: [MESO Recognition Awards – Descriptions and Criteria](#).

Nominations should detail the individual or utility's contribution to their community and public power and include sufficient information to allow the Awards Selection Committee to understand the contributions made. If submitting a nomination, please include your contact information.

The nominations are reviewed by the Awards Selection Committee which is a group of members of the MESO Board of Directors. The committee makes recommendations to the full board which makes the final selections.

Awards will be presented at the 2023 Public Power Conference at the Awards Luncheon, Tuesday, April 25, at the Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Nominations may be submitted to Cheryl Adams, MESO Assistant General Manager, in one of the following methods:

Email:
cheryl@meso.org

Mail:
MESO
Attn: Cheryl Adams, Assistant GM
308 NE 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717

Questions should be directed to cheryl@meso.org. Nominations received after March 1, 2023 may not be considered.

Altus added as a location for Supervisor Course for 2023

The City of Altus has been added as a location for MESO Supervisor Short Course joining Stillwater and Tahlequah.

The Altus Course begins March 7, 2023 while those scheduled for Stillwater and Tahlequah begin in January 2023. Members who have paid their 2022-2023 Dues will receive one complimentary registration.

The course is for anyone hoping to develop leadership and supervisor skills to address workplace challenges. The program's 12 discussion courses focus on – Management, Workforce Development, Communication, and Performance Success.

The 12 sessions are:

- Character & Ethics
- The Roles of a Supervisor
- The Power of Respect for Others
- Developing Responsible Workers
- Establishing a Change Mentality
- Dealing with Conflict
- Communicating Effectively
- Project Management
- Understanding Emotional Intelligence
- Being Assertive without Being a Bully
- Performance Management
- Delegating

Participants who complete all 12 sessions will be recognized with a certificate acknowledging their effort and commitment.

The course in Tahlequah will be held at the Indian Capital Technology Center beginning January 10, 2023. Click here [MESO Supervisor Short Course 2023 – Tahlequah](#) to learn more.

The Stillwater course kicks off on January 12, 2023, and will be held at the Stillwater Community Center, click here [MESO Supervisor Short Course 2023 – Stillwater](#) to learn more.

The Altus sessions begin March 7, 2023, and will be held at the Altus Community Center, click here [MESO Supervisor Short Course 2023 – Altus](#) to learn more.

Tom Rider, MESO General Manager, will present the course, any questions about the course or sessions may be directed to him at tom@meso.org.

For questions regarding billing or registration, contact Deborah Miner-Gonzales, at 405-528-7564, ext. 1, or deborah@meso.org.

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See "Associates" @ meso.org

2023 Public Power Conference

Sponsorship Registration is open for the Public Power Conference

All MESO Associate Members are invited to sponsor and exhibit at the 2023 MESO Public Power Conference being held April 23-25, 2023, in Tulsa, OK.

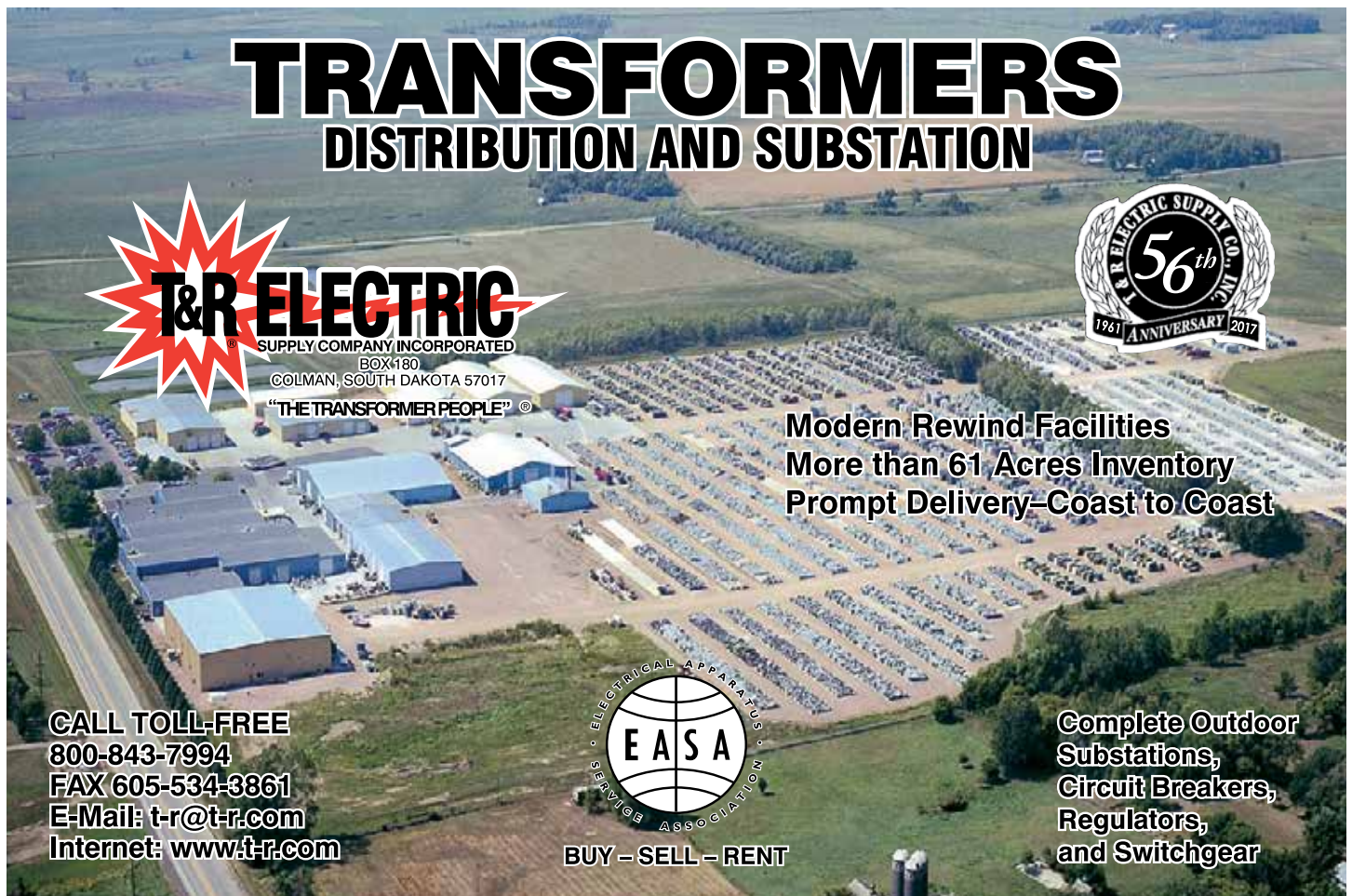
Detailed sponsorship information is available in the [2023 Public Power Conference Sponsor Packet](#). The packet outlines sponsorship levels and additional opportunities to interact with customers or potential customers.

The deadline to register as a sponsor or exhibitor is Friday, April 5, 2023. 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.


The annual Pre-Conference Two-person Golf Scramble is a great opportunity to network with current and prospective customers. The event will be held Sunday, April 23 at Page Belcher Golf Course (6666 South Union Avenue, Tulsa OK). The cost is \$65 per person for green fees and ½ cart. Hole sponsorships also are available.

Sponsors can register online at [2023 Public Power Conference Sponsor Packet](#) or visit www.meso.org. Registration questions may be directed to Deborah Miner-Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, at deborah@meso.org.




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From the American Public Power Association

APPA, Other Groups Urge Lawmakers to Appropriate \$1 Billion for Distribution Transformers

By Paul Ciampoli

Lawmakers should appropriate \$1 billion this year for implementation of the Defense Production Act (DPA) to specifically address the supply chain crisis for electric distribution transformers, the American Public Power Association (APPA), the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Edison Electric Institute (EEI), National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Leading Builders of America (LBA), and Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), said in a Nov. 18 letter.

The letter was sent to Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., Chairwoman of the House Committee on Appropriations, and Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations.

In June 2022, President Biden announced that he was invoking the DPA to accelerate the domestic production of certain clean energy technologies, which included grid components and distribution transformers. Under DPA authorities, DOE could rapidly support domestic manufacturing capacity through purchases of equipment or materials, financial assistance in capital to expand production lines, or making subsidy payments for the supply of high-cost materials. For DOE to utilize DPA authorities, it must receive a direct appropriation from Congress.

“Throughout 2022, the electric sector and representatives from residential and commercial building sectors have been calling attention to the unprecedented supply chain challenges both industries have been facing in procuring equipment used to maintain and grow the electric grid,” wrote

(see GROUPS URGE LAWMAKERS, page 8)



2023 MESO PUBLIC POWER CONFERENCE

April 23-25, 2023
Tulsa, Oklahoma

From the Oklahoma City of Commerce

Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center Breaks Ground on Solar Array

By Chamber Staff

Oklahoma City's second largest employer and a vital player in helping keep our nation's air transportation system running smoothly and safely recently hosted a groundbreaking event for a federal project that, once completed, will begin saving taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars but also help make a positive impact on the environment.

The Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC), located on property next to Will Rogers World Airport, broke ground on a Federal Aviation Administration solar array project that will turn 6.65 acres just south of the MMAC building into the FAA's largest solar panel farm to date, consisting of more than 3,800 panels that are expected to last between 25 to 30 years.

"Many people may not be aware that we have had a long, rich history of driving innovation and sustainability across the state and across the FAA," MMAC Director Michelle Coppedge told a gathering made up FAA, state and city official such as OKC Mayor David Holt and staffers of the state's congressional delegation, as well as local business and community leaders, including Greater Oklahoma City Chamber representatives.

"Our overall sustainability efforts include water conservation, recycling, harmonic filter projects, utilization of energy rebates for electric energy reductions, high-efficiency windows and lighting. And now, we are proud to add the establishment of a solar array system," Coppedge said, noting that for the past seven consecutive years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded the MMAC with its Sustainability Achievement Award.

DOT's Chief Sustainability Officer, Phil McNamara, sent a recorded message for the occasion that Coppedge played for the crowd in which he commended the center for the significant work it has accomplished to date to make the MMAC campus more energy and water efficient. Those efforts fall in line with the presidential goal of reducing the federal government's greenhouse gas emissions by 65% and using 100% clean renewable energy in their buildings by 2030.

"I challenge you to go to the other FAA sites and show them how this can be done. Work with them to make their buildings more efficient and teach them how to use more clean energy," he said.

Register for upcoming MESO Events

Supervisor Short Course – Tahlequah

Sessions begin January 10, 2023

[Click here to learn more](#)

Supervisor Short Course – Stillwater

Sessions begin January 12, 2023

[Click here to learn more](#)

Supervisor Short Course – Altus

Sessions begin March 7, 2023

[Click here to learn more](#)

Groups Urge Lawmakers

(continued from page 6)

APPA President and CEO Joy Ditto and leaders of the other groups.

“Specifically, electric utilities continue to have significant problems in procuring basic equipment – particularly distribution transformers – needed to operate the grid, provide reliable electric service, and restore power following severe storms and natural disasters. In housing construction, this is further exacerbating their ability to address the housing affordability crisis facing our nation.”

Due to the threats to reliability, the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) established an industry “Tiger Team” to examine the supply chain crisis, the letter noted.

“Through this process, the electric industry has been able to report and confirm what individual utilities and the housing industry have been saying since late last year: that construction and electrification projects are now being deferred or canceled and that they are concerned about their ability to adequately respond to major storms due to depleted stockpiles,” the groups said.

The Tiger Team ultimately found that current transformer production is not meeting demand and that demand is expected to continue to increase in the coming years. Between 2020 and 2022, average lead times to procure distribution transformers across all segments of the electric industry and voltage classes rose 443 percent. The same orders that previously took two to four months to fill are now taking on average over a year. “This is a serious threat to reliability,” the groups said.

Among initial considerations for the federal government to address are labor shortages and material availability, which were identified as the most immediate short-term barrier to more manufacturing output. Additional long-term recommendations include building manufacturing capacity to support long-term demand and investing in domestic production of grain-oriented electrical steel (GOES), a key transformer component, the letter noted.

Usage of DPA authorities to address labor and material shortages, focused specifically on the production of distribution transformers, “is the most immediate way we can address this growing crisis. The upcoming work period is a critical opportunity to appropriate funds needed to help address these problems before the end of this year,” the letter said.

APPA is asking its members to reach out to their congressional delegation to support this appropriation request.

APPA Survey of Members Shows Distribution Transformer Production Not Meeting Demand and Shortages Pose an Urgent Threat

An APPA survey of its members [shows that production](#) of distribution transformers is not meeting current demand, “as evident in the significantly growing lead times, lack of stock in yards and the high number of project deferrals,” APPA said. Utilities are reporting low or near zero emergency stock, often used to recover post-disaster or do infrastructure maintenance. Electric reliability is under severe threat with demand increasing, lead times growing, and stockyards emptying.

Click [here](#) to register for the
Capacitor Class
Presented by MESO in conjunction with OMPA
Hosted by
Cushing Utilities Services
February 8, 2023
Cushing, Oklahoma

Congratulations, Mike Shook

The Kansas Municipal Energy Agency awarded Mike Shook Director of Electric Utilities/Assistant City Manager with the city of Coffeyville the Gilbert E. Hanson Outstanding service award. The award recognizes significant contributions to municipal joint action and contributions to his or her community, the electric utility industry, or public power. Coffeyville is one of the several MESO members from a surrounding state. Congratulations Mike for this well-deserved award.



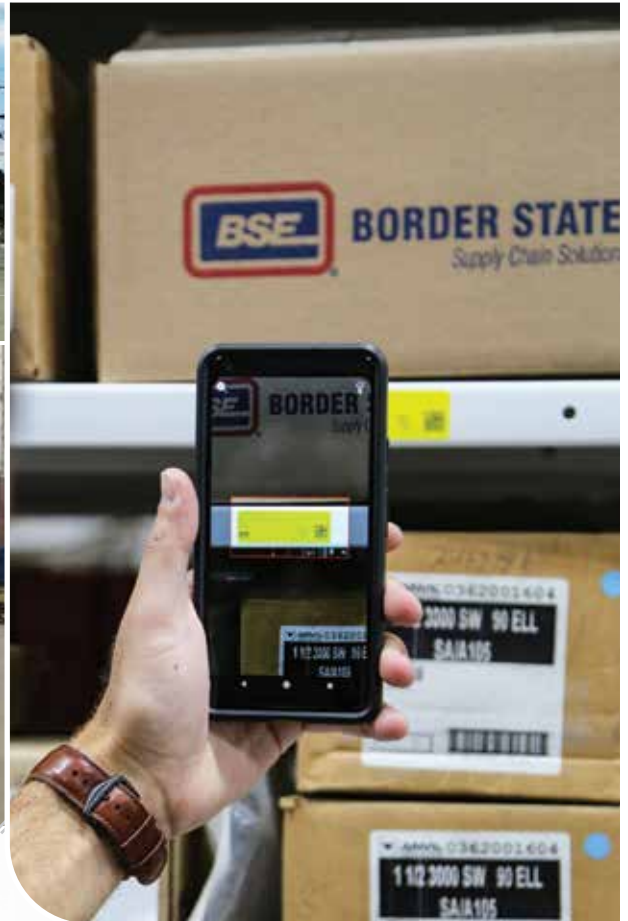
Welcome MeKayla Ralls

We recently asked for help to find a part-time Office Assistant, and we are pleased MeKayla Ralls has joined the MESO Team. The name may sound familiar because she is the niece of Comanche City Manager and Public Power Advocate, Chuck Ralls. While she may be new to our team, she isn't new to locally-owned municipal power.

Congratulations!

With a combined experience of more than 85 years, Skiatook's Kennen Inbody and David Widowski are hanging up their hardhats and retiring this month. They will leave a lasting legacy, and the Skiatook Crew will miss their extensive knowledge and experience. Kennen has been with the city for 25 years and David served for an amazing 43 years. Congratulations and best wishes, men!





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