



# OKLAHOMA PUBLIC POWER

A publication of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma

April 2014 / Special Issue



## Edmond Welcomes Public Power's Best

With a slight breeze in the air and the sun rising in the eastern Oklahoma sky, hundreds of lineworkers from across the country recently gathered for the 2014 APPA Lineworkers Rodeo in Edmond.

Hours of planning and preparation culminated in a day-long flurry of events and activities. Before the contestants loaded their equipment to travel to Oklahoma, crews from public power cities placed approximately 150 poles in an Edmond city park.

"The APPA was a massive undertaking that was only successful because many, many people helped," said Tom Rider, MESO's General Manager. Edmond, Stillwater, Ponca City, Duncan and GRDA

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## Rodeo Results

### Apprentice – Overall

First Place – Garrett McGhehey, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California  
Second Place – Spencer Fredrick, Grand Island Utilities Department, Nebraska  
Third Place – Joshua Gregg, JEA, Jacksonville, Florida  
Fourth Place – Cole Sokol, Lincoln Electric System, Nebraska  
Fifth Place – Richard Hall, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California

### Apprentice – Alley Arm Insulator Change Out

First Place – Louis Jimenez, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California  
Second Place – Eric Savoy, Lafayette Utilities System, Louisiana  
Third Place – Cody Leitner, Westerville Electric Division, Ohio

### Apprentice – Hurtman Rescue

First Place – Louis Jimenez, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California  
Second Place – Gary Griffin, JEA, Jacksonville, Florida  
Third Place – Michael Roark, Westerville Electric Division, Ohio

### Apprentice – Obstacle Course

First Place – Richard Hall, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California  
Second Place – Garrett McGhehey, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California  
Third Place – Gary Griffin, JEA, Jacksonville, Florida

### Apprentice – Transformer Arrester Change Out

First Place – Louis Jimenez, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California  
Second Place – Connor Hutchison, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California  
Third Place – Nick Wigle, Lincoln Electric System, Nebraska

### Apprentice – Written Test

First Place – Garrett McGhehey, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California  
Second Place – Justin Dickerson, Garland Power & Light, Texas  
Third Place – Santee Cooper, S.C.: Blake Ward, Jay Ayers, Kevin Rhode, and Mark Marsh  
Fourth Place – Modesto Irrigation District, California: Matt McCurdy, Jimmy Boere, Sean Coulson, and Victor Madrigal  
Fifth Place – Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California: Lucas Raley, Ben Bassett, and John Moe

### Journeyman – 12-kV Post-Insulator Change Out

First Place – Modesto Irrigation District, California: Matt McCurdy, Jimmy Boere, Sean Coulson, and Victor Madrigal  
Second Place – JEA, Jacksonville, Florida: Robert Hess, Brian Gregg, Robert Granger, and Warren Anderson  
Third Place – Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California: Cayleb Bowman, Matthew Wilson, and Todd Prangley

### Journeyman – 4-kV Cross Arm Change Out

First Place – Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California: Cayleb Bowman, Matthew Wilson, and Todd Prangley  
Second Place – Santee Cooper, S.C.: Blake Ward, Jay Ayers, Kevin Rhode, and Mark Marsh  
Third Place – JEA, Jacksonville, Florida: Robert Hess, Brian Gregg, Robert Granger, and Warren Anderson

### Journeyman – Hurtman Rescue

First Place – JEA, Jacksonville, Florida: Robert Hess, Brian Gregg, Robert Granger, and Warren Anderson  
Second Place – Greenville Utilities Commission, North Carolina: Connie McGowan, Joey Dash, Brian Baker, and Brandon Butler  
Third Place – Modesto Irrigation District, California: Matt McCurdy, Jimmy Boere, Sean Coulson, and Victor Madrigal

### Journeyman – 4-kV Four Bell Change Out

First Place – Modesto Irrigation District, California: Matt McCurdy, Jimmy Boere, Sean Coulson, and Victor Madrigal  
Second Place – Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California: Cayleb Bowman, Matthew Wilson, and Todd Prangley  
Third Place – Nashville Electric Service, Tennessee: Tommy Barksdale, Brad Sanford, Jay Truett

### Journeyman – 600 Amp Switch Replacement

First Place – Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California: Rorry Malia, Justin Hirschi, Gregory Baird  
Second Place – Sacramento Municipal Utility District, California: Lucas Raley, Ben Bassett, and John Moe  
Third Place – Modesto Irrigation District, California: Matt McCurdy, Jimmy Boere, Sean Coulson, and Victor Madrigal





## Good Deed Sparks Social Media Search for ‘Hometown Hero’

By Fallon Forbush  
Communications Assistant  
April 11, 2014

A selfless act by a lineworker during the APPA Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo, hosted by Edmond Electric in Oklahoma, prompted a manhunt on social media this week.

“Lineworkers are our industry’s first responders,” APPA President and CEO Sue Kelly said. “When the weather goes bad, they brave ice storms, windstorms and scorching heat to keep the power on. They are our hometown heroes.”

Last weekend, one lineworker’s simple gesture sparked admiration nearly 200 miles away from his home.

“I’m looking for someone that I think was with the CPS team,” said Oklahoma City resident Jenifer McElroy in a post to the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo Facebook page on Sunday, April 6.

While in the area for APPA’s annual event, the unknown man jumped into the Bricktown Canal to retrieve a girl’s skateboard that had fallen in, McElroy said.

“I wanted to thank him for doing that, but I don’t have his name,” McElroy said.

The man entered the “freezing water without even skipping a beat,” Amanda Rae Davis, a Bricktown Water Taxi employee, posted to the page.

“He didn’t know the girl and didn’t care, he just didn’t want her to cry,” Davis said.

McElroy and Davis were only certain about one thing: the man was from Texas.

On Monday, April 7, APPA put out a search for the Good Samaritan. And, in only 28 minutes, a name surfaced: Ryan Clearman, a journeyman lineman for Denton Municipal Electric in Texas.

The water was only about three-feet deep, Clearman said. “I jumped in to grab the skateboard when I saw that no one else was going to jump in to grab it.”

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## Rodeo

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teams competed against the nation’s best lineworkers. The same local faces seen competing were the same people who worked tirelessly to build the event site.

“I am proud of every Oklahoma public power lineman who competed or who goes to work every day to make certain customers have power,” Rider added.

Two California utilities went home with all but one of the first place trophies. The biggest winner was Sacramento Municipal Utility District from California, which won 17 trophies including first overall in the apprentice events and first overall for journeyman events.

The Modesto California Irrigation District Team, which included last year’s first overall apprentice winner, won five trophies. JEA, from Jacksonville, Florida, took home four trophies.

“APPA says the public power lineworkers rodeo is the ultimate venue for professionals in our industry to demonstrate skills and knowledge while emphasizing safety in each event,” said Dean Sherrick, Edmond Electric and MESO Board of Directors, President. “I will say that Edmond, along with several of our partners in Oklahoma, raised the bar for future rodeo hosts. We received several compliments and with the help from many Oklahoma municipal electric utilities, the event was a huge success.”

Edmond Electric hosted for the annual event. MESO, OMPA and GRDA were 2014 Rodeo Partners. The 2015 rodeo will be held in May in Sacramento, California. For more information, go to [www.publicpower.org/rodeo](http://www.publicpower.org/rodeo).

