



Building strong communities through a well-trained workforce

A publication of the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance

September 2020

Registration Is Open for the OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series

The Oklahoma Municipal Alliance proudly presents a series of one-hour webinars addressing issues critical to the success of any municipal utility beginning September 22, 2020.

"We have put together a series of webinars covering many topics of importance to effective operations of municipal utilities," said OMA General Manager, Tom Rider. "We are offering these free of charge, and you can participate without traveling."

All sessions are in one of the four categories:

1. Municipal Financial Stability and Growth (see page 7)
2. Water and Wastewater Issues (see page 5)
3. Electric Growth and Sustainability (see page 8)
4. Emergency Planning for Utilities (see page 3)

OMPA's Dave Osburn and GRDA's Dan Sullivan will begin the series discussing Distributed Generation Concerns and Power Provider Plans for Utility Solar.

Anyone who wants to attend, must register for each session of interest individually. A valid email address must be provided to complete registration. After registration is complete, confirmation emails will be sent for every session registered for. Register for any session at www.okmainc.com.

OMA Adds Safety Videos, Weekly Safety Messages

The OMA continues to produce new safety content to help members better ensure a safe workplace. There are currently 12 distance learning safety videos on the OMA website. The videos include (and can be accessed by clicking on the title):

1. [Arc Flash Safety](#)
2. [Office Safety Awareness](#)
3. [Tornado Safety](#)
4. [Lightning Safety](#)
5. [Sling and Lifting Device Safety](#)
6. [Cranes & Derrick Safety](#)
7. [Lockout/Tagout Safety](#)
8. [Trenching & Excavation Safety](#)
9. [First Aid Awareness Safety](#)
10. [Bloodborne Pathogen Safety](#)
11. [Back Safety Training](#)
12. [Ladder Safety Training](#)

In addition to the safety videos, OMA continues Weekly Safety Messages every Wednesday. These short messages include links to more detailed information from sources such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the National Safety Council.

Recent messages covered a wide variety of topics including: Personal Protective Equipment, Eye and Face Protection, Backing Safety Solutions, and Back to School Safety.

These messages are sent by email, posted to the OMA Facebook page and website.

Any questions regarding safety or Job Training and Safety may be directed to Tom Dougherty at tomd@okmainc.com.

In This Issue ... Information about the Learning Series (Fall 2020)

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Emergency Planning for Utilities	Water and Wastewater Issues	Municipal Financial Stability and Growth Category	Electric Growth and Sustainability

The OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series Is a Unique Opportunity for Sponsors

The series will be free of charge to attendees and cover a wide variety of information critical for a municipal utility's success. By sponsoring the series, your organization will benefit from exposure to municipalities across Oklahoma and surrounding states.

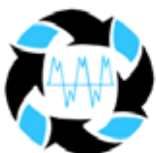
The sponsorship is \$150, and benefits are:

- Recognition on OMA website
- Recognition on the OMA Facebook
- Recognition in OMA newsletter
- List of all registered attendees to all sessions
- Recognition through gift certificate drawings during sessions (based on number of sponsors)

[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A SPONSOR](#)

Sponsors are also encouraged to register free of charge for any session at www.okmainc.com.

Questions the webinar series may be directed to Tom Rider, OMA General Manager, at tom@okmainc.com. Registration questions may be directed to Deborah Gonzales, Director of Administration and Finance, at deborah@okmainc.com.



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Trey Harper Selected as Recipient for the 2020 Ray Duffy Personal Service Award

The Oklahoma Municipal Alliance (OMA) recently presented Skiatook's Trey Harper, Skiatook Electric with the 2020 OMA Ray Duffy Personal Service Award.

The Ray Duffy Award honors an individual who, throughout their career, has consistently demonstrated a commitment to public power and the improvement of services and reliability. The award is named for Ray Duffy who served as President of the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma and an original board member. He was on the board from 1971 to 1982, just before his death. Throughout his career, Duffy was a tireless worker for the creation of municipal power plant ownership and a proponent of public power and its benefits to citizen owners.

Harper, throughout his nearly 20 years of Public Power service, has demonstrated a strong belief in public power and the value it brings to its citizen customers. His efforts have strengthened the professionalism of the municipal professionals who work in the electric department and this has carried over to other departments.

His commitment to safety and reliability continue to drive the electric department to being the very best that they can be. His leadership has enabled the customers of Skiatook Electric to enjoy a more reliable system with less downtime. His commitment towards Skiatook's future has led to the implementation of smart meter technology and policies to protect the system's infrastructure.



As a husband, father and a local pastor, Harper continues to be a vital part of his community. His work includes the positive promotion of energy efficiency through LED lighting systems that save money. Harper has developed and implemented education programs for the Skiatook Public Schools that promote safety and efficiency.

For his efforts to promote public power, safe and reliable power, as well as safety for all, Trey Harper, Skiatook Electric, is the 2020 recipient of the Ray Duffy Personal Service Award.

OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series (Fall 2020) – register by clicking on the session title

The Emergency Planning for Utilities Category

October 1 - [Emergency Response Planning: Lessons Learned from COVID-19](#)

Speakers: Jeremy Rice and Wick Warden PE, Freese & Nichols

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Being able to quickly adapt to emergencies, sustain operations, and return to normal begins with preparedness. Learn about eye opening situations that occurred during COVID-19 that revealed vulnerabilities and learning opportunities.

October 8 - [American Infrastructure Act: Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency Response Plan Prep and Updates](#)

Speakers: Kevin Owens and Karin Tueffler, Guernsey

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Safe drinking water is critical for protecting public health and human activity. Properly treated wastewater prevents disease and protects the environment. Thus, ensuring the supply of drinking water and wastewater treatment and service is essential to modern life and the economy. This session covers Section 2013 of The America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 and all affects it may have on your utility.

2021 Public Power Conference Planning Underway

“We will see you in April!”

Ever the optimists, members of the Public Power Conference Planning Committee are actively working on sessions and speakers for the 2021 conference. The conference is set for April 25 – 27 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Norman.

Committee members are also reaching out to all members, seeking session ideas and possible speakers.

“What makes the Public Power Conference excellent is the variety of topics offered.” Tom Rider, OMA general manager stated. “Our goal is to always offer timely learning opportunities from which attendees can take usable information back to their communities.”

If you have a topic or speaker to recommend, please email tom@okmainc.com with the information.

What Do You Know About Alcohol and Drug Testing?

Did you know OMA members can participate in the Local Government Testing Consortium (LGTC), an affiliate drug and alcohol testing service.

To better help members understand what a successful drug and alcohol testing program includes, the staff responsible for LGTC have developed a series of videos. They include:

- [What is a drug testing program and why you should have one?](#)
- [DER? What this term means and their job functions](#)
- [Different Types of Testing](#)
- [Proper Classification of Employees](#)
- [Preparing for a Testing Site](#)
- [Audits, What You Need to Know to Prepare](#)

LGTC members receive the following benefits:

1. Random test generation and administration
2. Sample policies for implementation
3. Materials and/or digital media for required supervisor training
4. On-Site collection of specimens for drug testing
5. On-Site testing for alcohol
6. Online result reports available as well as report of any violations
7. Medical Review Officer review of any sample that is positive for drug use
8. After hours emergency response, if necessary
9. Invitations to regional periodic crucial trainings for strategies in successfully dealing with on-the job drug & alcohol abuse

To learn more about drug and alcohol testing, please review the video sources. LGTC membership inquiries may be directed to Deborah Gonzales at deborah@okmainc.com.

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DEQ Announces Online Training for Water and Wastewater Operations

DEQ recently announced the release of the Online Operator Training Platform.

This new platform provides additional training opportunities to Oklahoma's water and wastewater operators, and it is a no-cost web-based solution for acquiring Professional Development Hours (PDHs) required for certification renewal.

Due to COVID-19, there has been a significant reduction in training opportunities for operators. Recognizing the challenge this presented, DEQ extended the deadline for meeting annual PDH requirements from July 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020, and initiated efforts to develop online training.

DEQ is committed to developing solutions for

training. While the immediate objective of providing an online training option as quickly as possible has been achieved, DEQ continues to work on developing new, online solutions with enhanced capabilities.

The training platform can be accessed by going to the Operator Certification page on the DEQ website and clicking on the Online Training button or by using the following link: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/operator-certification/online-training-catalog/>.

For questions or additional program information, please contact David Pruitt at (405) 702-8184 or david.pruitt@deq.ok.gov.

APGA Hosting Virtual Meetings

The American Public Gas Association is hosting virtual member meetings now through October 1st. The meetings are designed as small group conversations to update members on APGA activities and to learn, firsthand, the challenges members are facing. Each meeting will be 90 minutes in length.

The events are free and open to all municipal natural gas professionals, municipal utility board or council members, and vendors and/or partners of natural gas utilities interested in current industry changes and challenges. Attendance at each meeting

will be limited so that APGA staff can get to know each and every attendee.

Members and interested parties are encouraged to attend the stop closest to their region but are welcome to attend any stop that best fits with their schedule or if their first choice is full. Registration and more information can be found at www.apga.org/membertour.

The Oklahoma & Arkansas stop is scheduled for October 1, beginning at 9:00AM CT.

OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series (Fall 2020) – register by clicking on the session title

The Water and Wastewater Issues Category

October 28 - [What's the SHAPE of your water and wastewater systems and what funding Opportunities does OWRB provide to help a variety of project types](#)

Speaker: Joe Freeman, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Learn about the loan and grant programs available through the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to help fund your system's project needs.

November 3 - [Water Treatment: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. Lessons learned along the way](#)

Speakers: Brian Marshall PE and Season Crabtree PE, Guernsey

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Two water utilities working together with a "clear purpose" on a short timeline. This session addresses the everything from surrounding community complaints to unprecedented rains on a residual drying project to how to keep decision-makers and the public informed (or the good, bad, ugly and lessons learned).

November 10 [Pump Station Operations: Common Issues and Low/No Cost Operation Adjustments](#)

Speakers: Wick Warden PE and Clay Hearndon PE, Freese & Nichols

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Reducing costs of water and wastewater pump stations can be achieved by applying best practices in both design and operation. This session will present some low-cost modifications and operational changes at pump station installation to increase reliability and maintainability.

Afton's Lewandowski Is New GRDA Chair

Mike Lewandowski (Afton), a 30-plus year owner-operator of McDonald's restaurants in Northeast Oklahoma, will serve as chairman of the Grand River Dam Authority Board of Directors during the next 12 months.

Originally appointed to the GRDA Board in August 2018 by then-Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, Lewandowski began his tenure as chairman during the board's September 9 meeting in Tulsa. He succeeds outgoing chairman Jim Richie (Tulsa).

Dwayne Elam, Wagoner City Administrator, will serve as chair-elect for the next year.

Lewandowski earned a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management from Southwest Missouri State University. He started working for the McDonald's Corp. in 1980 as a supervisor for a licensee. In 1986, he and his wife, Julie, became owner-operators of a McDonald's. They owned and operated a McDonald's restaurant for 31 years, selling the family business in July 2017.

"Mike Lewandowski's extensive business experience and knowledge of GRDA has served our organization well since he joined the board in 2018," said GRDA Chief Executive Officer Dan Sullivan. "I am excited about the expertise and background that he brings to our board during his year as our chairman."

Elam joined the GRDA Board in January 2018 and represents the Authority's municipal customers, as the designee for the Oklahoma Municipal Alliance. An Oklahoma native, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, and holds four Class A licenses from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.



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Nicholson Named OMPA Board of Directors Chairman

Homer Nicholson became the seventh chairman of the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's Board of Directors at its monthly meeting on Sept. 10 in Edmond.

The mayor of Ponca City, Nicholson had previously served as Vice Chair under Chairman Robert Johnston of Frederick, who stepped down to assume a new employment opportunity with a non-OMPA member.

Nicholson has served on the OMPA Board since December of 2008 and has been active at both the state and federal level in engaging legislators and educating them on the value of public power. In addition to previously serving as the Vice Chair of the Board, he also is part of the Authority's Legislative Committee and, in 2016, was named to the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Policy Maker's Council.

Nicholson is an honoree of the Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award, which is handed out by the APPA to elected officials who go above and beyond to contribute to the goals of the association. He also was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town officials in 2016.

In his private life, Nicholson was employed for 38 years with ConocoPhillips in Ponca City, including 27 years in the geophysics department and 11 more in facilities management. He is also the founder of Nicholson Auction and Real Estate.

In addition to Nicholson becoming the Board Chairman, Jim Greff of Prague was approved as Vice Chair, Dale Bunn of Purcell was named Treasurer and Dave Slezcickey of Kingfisher was selected as Secretary.

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.



OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series (Fall 2020) – register by clicking on the session title below

The Municipal Financial Stability and Growth Category

September 30 - [Smart City Technology for Small and Rural Municipalities](#)

Speaker: Sean West, OMPA

SESSION DESCRIPTION: A smart city is the application of technology for the benefit of city management, commercial & retail businesses, residents, and visitors. The application of such technology covers such a wide array, there is no specific definition. This segment will look at some of the current technology and ways small and rural municipalities can take advantage of it.

October 7 - [Successfully Implementing Smart Meters and Other Technologies](#)

Speaker: Jason McPherson, City of Marlow

SESSION DESCRIPTION: I want to go to automated metering, but where do I start? I've been working on AMI/AMR for a while, but what is the next step? What are the things the salesman won't tell me? Get comfortable with moving forward in metering technology from a city just like yours.

October 14 - [Making Deposits for the Future: The Value of a Strong Customer Communications Program](#)

Speaker: Casey Moore, City of Edmond

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Customers want to know what's going on. When a municipality is constantly feeding info through different means, citizens come to trust the city. We will discuss different mediums that work well, even when you have no budget; understanding the different audiences that exist within your community; and, how to share bad news in a calm way.

October 21 - [Financial Stability 101: Assessing Your Financial Health](#)

Speaker: Dawn Lund, Utility Financial Solutions

SESSION DESCRIPTION: A utility's overall financial health can ensure its ability to provide reliable service to customers now and into the future. Assess your utility's financial health against industry guidelines and key financial targets and learn how to put a plan in place to reach recommended targets.

Utility-scale Battery Storage Capacity Continued Upward Trend, EIA Reports

From the American Public Power Association

By Paul Ciampoli

Utility-scale battery storage systems are increasingly being installed in the United States, the Energy Information Administration reported on Aug. 10.

In 2010 the U.S. had seven operational battery storage systems, accounting for 59 megawatts of power capacity and 21 megawatt-hours of energy capacity. By the end of 2018, the U.S. had 125 operational battery storage systems, providing a total of 869 MW of installed power capacity and 1,236 MWh of energy capacity, EIA noted.

Battery storage systems store electricity produced by generators or pulled directly from the electrical grid, and redistribute the power later as needed. These systems have a variety of applications, including integrating renewables into the grid, peak shaving, frequency regulation, and providing backup power.

Most utility-scale battery storage capacity is installed in regions covered by independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs).

Historically, battery systems have been in the PJM Interconnection and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO).

CAISO and PJM combined accounted for 55% of the total battery storage power capacity built between 2010 and 2018. However, in 2018, more than 58% (130 MW) of new storage power capacity additions, representing 69% (337 MWh) of energy capacity additions, were installed in states outside of those areas.

In 2018, several regions outside of CAISO and PJM began increasing the amount of battery storage capacity to their power grids, including Alaska and Hawaii, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). Many of the additions were the result of procurement requirements, financial incentives, and long-term planning mechanisms that promote the use of energy storage in the respective states. Alaska and Hawaii, which have isolated power grids, are expanding battery storage capacity to increase grid reliability and reduce dependence on expensive fossil fuel imports.

Average costs per unit of energy capacity decreased 61% between 2015 and 2017, dropping from \$2,153 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to \$834 per kWh. The large decrease in cost makes battery storage more economical, helping accelerate capacity growth. Affordable battery storage also plays an important role in the continued integration of storage with intermittent renewable electricity sources such as wind and solar.

Register Now

OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series

One-hour webinars addressing issues critical to the success of any municipal utility beginning September 22, 2020.

- Municipal Financial Stability and Growth
- Water and Wastewater Issues
- Electric Growth and Sustainability
- Emergency Planning for Utilities

You must register for each session of interest individually.

Register for any session at www.okmainc.com.



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The City of Skiatook recently honored their former Electric Superintendent, Philip Pedigo, by dedicating the Electric Department Training yard to him. Pedigo served the community for 46 year as an employee of the city.

OMA 9 o'clock Learning Series (Fall 2020) – register by clicking on the session title below

The Electric Growth and Sustainability Category (sponsored by GRDA & OMPA)

September 22 - [Solar in Oklahoma: DG Concerns and Power Provider Plans for Utility Solar](#)

Speakers: Dave Osburn, OMPA, and Dan Sullivan, GRDA

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Distributed generation, community solar, utility solar. The session will discuss some of the issues that solar brings to public power and power providers.

September 29 - [SPP 101: The Changing Face of Power Generation](#)

Speaker: Lanny Nichol, Southwest Power Pool

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session begins with a brief overview of the Southwest Power Pool, what it does and how it works. From there, the discussion focuses on the future face of power generation to include some of the challenges, pitfalls, and concerns that might impact the power grid.

October 13 - [Transformative Growth: The Economics of Electrification](#)

Speaker: Gary Smith, Sagewell Inc

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Electrification of home heating and transportation is an opportunity for utilities to increase sales and to reduce electric rates. This session covers the keys to launching electrification programs, and some of the factors that can make--or break-- those efforts. Utilities of all sizes can leverage residential electrification to their benefit if they promote the right technologies to the right customers.

October 20 - [Rate Design Considerations for Your Community's Future](#)

Speaker: Mark Beauchamp, Utility Financial Solutions

SESSION DESCRIPTION: With ever-increasing customer demands for rooftop solar, electric vehicles and charging stations, public power systems must act now. This session provides insight and strategies that benefit customers and the utility with proven methods to address obstacles to rate structure changes.



COVID-19 COMPARISON

CORONAVIRUS vs. COLD vs. FLU vs. ALLERGIES

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19*	COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
Fever	Common (100F or higher)	Rare	High (100-102F, can last 3-4 days)	No
Headache	Sometimes	Rare	Intense	Sometimes
General aches, pains	Sometimes	Slight	Common (often severe)	No
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Slight	Common (often severe)	Sometimes
Extreme exhaustion	Sometimes (progresses slowly)	Never	Common (starts early)	No
Stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Rare	Common	Common	No
Cough	Common	Mild to moderate	Common (can become severe)	Sometimes
Shortness of breath	In more serious infections	Rare	Rare	Common
Runny nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Diarrhea	Sometimes	No	Sometimes**	No

* Information is still evolving ** Sometimes for children



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What We Can Do Today to Limit the Spread of the COVID-19 Virus:

- Clean and disinfect regularly
- Be diligent of surroundings and to increase hand washing and personal hygiene techniques
- Adopt a "no hand-shake" policy
- Practice "social distancing" by keeping a 6-foot space between individuals when interacting
- Use telephone calls, video conferencing and/or email will replace "face-to-face" meetings
- Restrict workplaces to essential staff and service providers only
- Self-isolate anyone who has been in proximity to anyone suspected or confirmed having the virus for 14 days.
- [American Public Power Association COVID-19 Update Page](#)
- [Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management Gov. Stitt's Website](#)
- [American Gas Association COVID-19 Update Page](#)
- [American Water Works Association COVID-19 Resources Page](#)
- [Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Home Page](#)
- [US Department of Labor - OSHA COVID-19 Update Page](#)
- [FEMA Coronavirus Rumor Control](#)
- [National Governors Association COVID-19 Update Page](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration COVID-19 Update Page](#)

COVID-19 Resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [Oklahoma State Department of Health](#)



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