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NEPPA Annual Conference 2004

Burlington, Vermont provided a scenic backdrop for NEPPA's 2004 Annual Conference which featured a wide range of topics including communications, regional transmission organizations and governance. Outside of the sessions, public power officials networked during social activities including a visit to the Leahy ECHO Center and a golf tournament that raised \$425 for the NEPPA Benevolent Fund.

Keynote speaker Kathy Loveless did magic tricks as she discussed ethical decision-making, and Deborah Sliz of Morgan Meguire, LLC updated what is happening on the legislative scene. The annual business meeting and election of officers and directors was preceded by an ice cream social, and children were entertained throughout the conference by Kids Time to Go, a professional children's entertainment company.

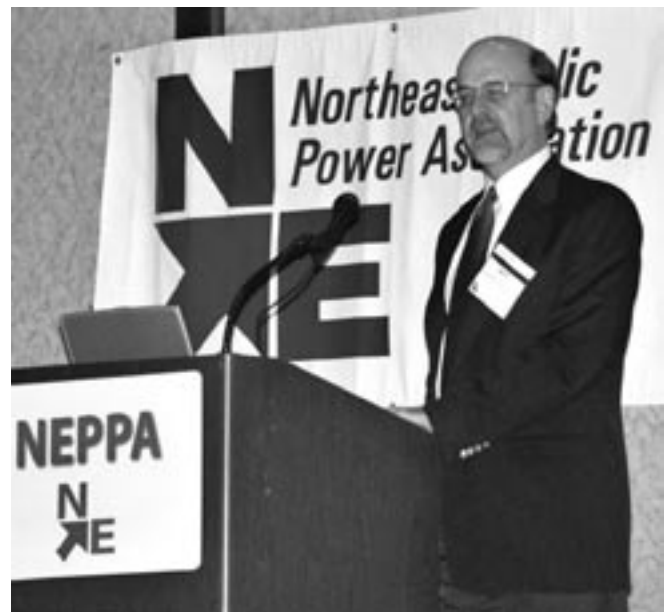
More on conference on page 11.

Merrimac General Manager Linda Soucy accepts a Century award on behalf of her utility at the NEPPA Awards banquet.

Jeff Tarbert of American Public Power Association gives a presentation on governing in a changing marketplace. (see executive director's column, page 2)

Next year's conference will be held August 14-17 at the Marriott Hotel in Newport, R.I.

Mark your calendars!



Executive Director's Report

Tarbert's Top Ten ..

by Patrick Hyland



The theme of the 2004 NEPPA Annual Conference in Burlington, Vermont was "Leading and Managing in the Public Arena." As any public power official knows, the public arena can be a hard place to do business. Citizen/customer complaints, media scrutiny, public meetings and local politics can all make the management of public enterprises a very demanding job. For members of municipal light boards, the rapidly changing electric utility industry adds another big challenge to their list of responsibilities. Trying to understand wholesale power markets, regional transmission organizations, and their implications for municipal utilities is more than many light board members can deal with in a part-time, voluntary position.

At the NEPPA conference, board members got some valuable advice from an expert on how to juggle all these demands, while trying to think "long term" about their utility and its future. Jeff Tarbert, Senior Vice President of the American Public Power Association, addressed our members and guests on the topic of

"Governing in a Changing Marketplace," and left us all with some useful guideposts to follow in the path to enlightened leadership. Jeff brings some strong credentials to this task. In addition to his role at APPA, he is the former mayor of Falls Church, Virginia, and two-term chairman of the Falls Church School Board. As anyone in local government knows, positions like these demand strong leadership skills, and the ability to ask good questions, build consensus, and motivate staff.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Jeff read a list of "ten questions that every board member should ask." It represents an excellent summary of the key issues that any governing board should be concerned about, and can serve as a permanent checklist for boards to monitor their organization's – and their own – effectiveness. In reaching honest and complete answers to these questions, an organization's leaders can create a blueprint for future change and excellence. They are worth repeating and including in every board meeting agenda package.

See page 4 for list.

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The Northeast Public Power Association is an organization representing and serving consumer-owned electric utilities in New England.

Washington legislative aids tour Vermont

Congressional staff members had an opportunity to hear first-hand how energy and environmental issues affect public power communities in New England. The three-day tour, hosted by the NEPPA Legislative Committee, began in Burlington, Vt. with a briefing from the Burlington Electric Department followed by a tour of the ECHO Center and alternative energy sites. In Stowe, Vt., they were briefed by the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority on power initiatives and given a tour of the Morrisville Hydro Plant and the Mt. Mansfield Ski Resort.

"This was such a diverse group representing legislators outside of New England as well as in," said Sharon Staz of the NEPPA Legislative Committee. "It's a great educational experience for them and provides public power with much good will from people committed to working in the political arena."



(Clockwise) Bernard Machia of Stowe Electric Department briefs participants on snowmaking on Mt. Mansfield. Participants tour a solar house in Burlington, and an aide listens to a briefing at the McNeil Plant. The group tours the Morrisville Hydro Plant.



NEPPA seeks information on cutout failures

NEPPA is seeking information from its utility members about their experiences with failures of porcelain cutouts on AB Chance or other brands of 15KV 100 amp cutouts. Many members have reported that the cutouts have failed due to temperature fluctuations in the New England region, causing sealant on the cutout to separate from the porcelain insulators.

If your system has experienced these problems and you have not responded to previous information requests, please notify Pat Hyland at NEPPA (phyland@neppa.org), who is compiling information for discussions with the manufacturers on possible solutions to the problem.

O'Donoghue earns certificate from Northeastern



Lori O'Donoghue, administrative assistant to the NEPPA Training Department, has received a certificate from Northeastern University for completing a Meeting and Event Planning Program.

In addition to her training department duties, O'Donoghue is also responsible for coordinating NEPPA meetings including the Operations Conference and Expo and the Annual Conference.

She received instruction at the NU

Dedham campus on all phases of meeting coordination including site selection, contract negotiation, budgeting, and program design.

Completing this course makes her eligible to take the test to become a certified meeting professional through various trade organizations.

"We rely on Lori for much of the meeting planning at NEPPA," said Pat Hyland, NEPPA executive director, "and this kind of training makes a valuable employee even more valuable."

Tarbert's top ten

Continued from page 2

Ten questions every board member should ask

1. How is the organization doing?
2. Who are our customers (and how are they doing)?
3. What could really hurt us in the next few years?
4. How are we doing relative to our competitors?
5. Are we as efficient as possible?
6. Where do we want to be in five years?
7. Are we providing the CEO with appropriate resources?
8. If the CEO were hit by a bus tomorrow, who'd take over?
9. Is the board as effective as it can be?
10. Does the community know our value?

As Jeff said, answering these questions leads to truly effective "governance: the process by which the governing body determines the direction and goals of the organization, assures progress towards those goals, and protects and enhances the value of the asset." It's a very big job, and those who take it on deserve all the help and advice they can get.

NEPPA members can advance training and education ONLINE

For more information on EPCE, including registration deadlines and course descriptions, visit: www.epceonline.org or call toll-free: 1-877-853-8200.

Under the umbrella of the American Public Power Association, employees of NEPPA member utilities can now advance their training and education in energy technologies online.

APPA is part of a unique consortium of municipally owned, investor-owned and cooperative utilities. The Energy Providers Coalition for Education (EPCE) is tackling the projected workforce retirement issue head on by jointly developing online training and education courses that are aimed at preparing students for technical positions which are standardized for the entire industry.

Working in partnership with Bismarck State College of Bismarck, N.D., the EPCE membership launched the first online Electric Power Technology program in fall 2001 and its new online Nuclear Power Technology program in fall 2003. These programs are the first industry-driven, instructor-led online education programs of their kind, and to date, 410 students from 88 utilities across the country have participated.

Students can take individual courses or accrue their credits towards a certificate or an A.A.S. degree in the following areas:

Electric Power Technology. This program teaches the fundamentals of electricity, electrical systems, industrial safety, print reading, industrial communications plus basic computer skills and applied math. Degree candidates can specialize in generation, line construction, metering, substation, system design and system operations in their second year.

Nuclear Power Technology. This covers nuclear plant fundamentals, and includes an overview of nuclear energy, nuclear physics, engineering drawings, radiological protection, reactor safety design, and more. The program prepares students for positions as non-licensed operators, chemistry technicians, radiation protection/health physics technicians and maintenance technicians.

Because Bismarck's EPCE courses are offered completely over the Internet, students can study at home or at work, 24/7, provided they have a computer with Internet access. There is never a need to commute to the BSC campus. Students access their courses once a week and handle their assignments on their own schedule. Communications with the instructor and fellow students are conducted via email or discussion groups. By design, the program helps employees earn a valuable education while balancing their busy work schedules and family lives.

Bismarck State College, the education provider, is a fully accredited two-year college whose instructors have hands-on utility experience. Because the curriculum was co-developed by APPA and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, along with the other coalition partners, students are assured that what they learn is directly applicable on the job.

EPCE is under the leadership and management of CAEL, the non-profit Council for Adult & Experiential Learning (www.cael.org). Initial funding for this effort was provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Lavelle joins MMWEC Board of Directors



Holyoke Gas & Electric Department Manager James M. Lavelle was recently elected to the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) Board of Directors at a meeting of the membership. Lavelle fills a vacancy created by the resignation from the board of Westfield Gas & Electric Department Manager Daniel Golubek. Lavelle will complete Golubek's unexpired term, which runs through May 2005.

Meanwhile, Michael L. Flynn, the Town of Wilbraham's representative on the MMWEC board since 1998,

was named by Gov. Mitt Romney to fill one of two positions on the board filled through gubernatorial appointment. Flynn, vice president of sales for Hampden Engineering Corporation of East Longmeadow, was sworn in as a gubernatorial appointee on Aug. 16.

Lavelle said public power entities must continue to work together through MMWEC in order to affect resolutions that are in the best interest of consumers. He said he is excited about his election to the board and anxious to start work on the business of the MMWEC organization.

Wind Power for Paxton

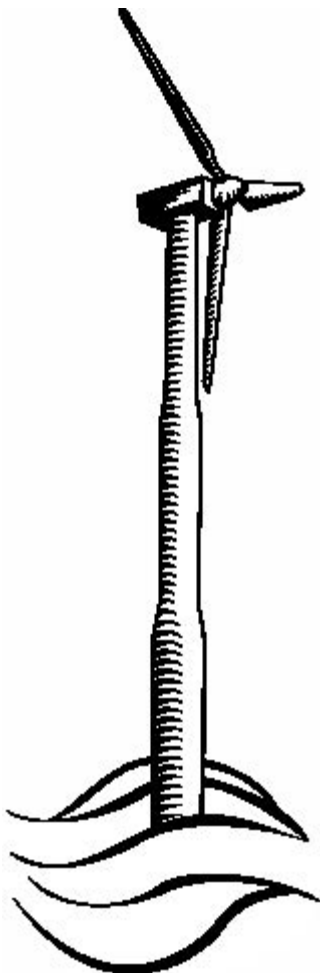
A one-year study monitoring a potential wind power site in Paxton is coming to an end. The Renewable Energy Research Laboratory at UMASS Amherst has been providing the equipment to monitor wind speed and direction with funding from a Department of Energy grant. Quarterly reports indicate that Paxton has a wind resource worth further investigation.

The economic feasibility of the project will be based on assumptions that there will be savings or revenue generated by the development of wind power. This project would be similar in scope to the project nearing completion in Princeton, Mass.

In addition to the economic questions, other issues to be investigated include

environmental impact, road access, land use, visual impact, noise, birds and bats, public health and safety, noise levels, FAA requirements, and improvements required to the utility's distribution system that may be required to accept the generated power.

The Light Department is currently investigating options to fund the initial feasibility study. These options include government grants, working with 'partners', and using electric rate stabilization funds. Grants and partnerships may offer reduced benefits but may come with reduced risks. The Light Commission will carefully consider the risks and benefits of these options.



2004 Administrative Conference ***Finding your comfort zone***

October 29
Lake Pearl Luciano's
Wrentham, Mass



Around New England

Spotlight on excellence awards

The PR/Marketing Department of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (Plymouth, N.H.) took two honors in the 2004 "Spotlight on Excellence" awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators.

The Co-op received an Award of Merit (second place) in the Best Special Publication category for the Business Version of the 2003 Annual Report; and an Award of Merit in the Best Marketing Program category for the FreezeAlarm. The Co-op competed in the category of co-ops with 50,000 plus meters, i.e., against the largest co-ops in the nation. All winning entries were chosen from among 750 entries, the most ever in the

16 years of the program. Winners were displayed at the 2004 NRECA Marketing and Communication Conference in Columbus, Ohio in July, convened by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Spotlight awards competition recognizes top-rated performance in communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Faculty members of the prestigious University of Missouri School of Journalism and Southwest Missouri State University judged entries. The Council is a volunteer association working on behalf of approximately 1,300 electric cooperative communicators across the United States.

North Attleborough Electric presents scholarship



Presenting the check to Alnisa Brown are (from the left) Tom Whalen, Dale Langille and Greg Horton, members of the ELO Committee.

Alnisa Brown of North Attleborough was the happy recipient of a check for \$1,000 from money raised by the 2004 Electric Light Open Scholarship Golf Tournament. This annual event took place on June 26 at the Chemawa Country Golf Club and included 18 holes of golf, use of a cart, specialty items for participants, the opportunity to win a new Nissan for a "hole in one" and a pig roast after the tournament. Alnisa, the deserving North High graduate is attending St. Leo's University in Florida this fall.

Employment

Employment advertising is \$30 with a maximum of 50 words or is free to NEPPA members. Deadline for the next issue is Sept. 17, 2004.

Princeton Municipal Light Department

2nd Class Electrical Lineworker

Princeton Municipal Light Dept., Princeton, Mass. is accepting applications for a 2nd class electric lineworker to perform tasks associated with constructing, maintaining, replacing and operating underground and overhead medium voltage, electric distribution lines. Candidates must have the following: High school diploma or G.E.D, knowledge of safety rules and regulations, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, valid commercial driver's license, hoisting license, safe driving record, knowledge and understanding of electrical theory, and willingness to perform job requirements in any weather at any time. Pre-employment drug/alcohol screen required. Candidates will be required to climb utility poles and lattice towers up 100' and work "on-call" periodically. Excellent benefit and compensation package. Please apply to: PMLD, P.O. Box 247, Princeton, MA 01541

Westfield Gas & Electric

Dispatcher

The Department is looking for an energetic, highly self-motivated individual who enjoys working in a dynamic environment. The ideal candidate will possess a demonstrated knowledge and ability in receiving, analyzing and dispatching of natural gas, electric, and telecommunications inquiries. The candidate shall have knowledge and experience in utilization of computer programs such as AutoCAD 2000 or above, ArcGIS 8 or above, and Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, and Access (or other advanced database). Experience with a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system is required.

The ideal candidate must be extremely personable, cooperate with others, and react calmly in emergency situations to promote a feeling of confidence with the public and fellow employees. Superior communication skills, both written and verbal are necessary to fulfill job requirements.

Under present collective bargaining agreement, a wage of \$20.10/hour is available. This position requires rotating shift work, including weekends and overtime. The position also requires CONVEX qualifications and, in accordance with regulatory guidelines, Operator Qualifications, within six months of appointment. EEO M/F/D/V

Interested candidates should send their resumes with cover letter by September 17, 2004, to: Westfield Gas & Electric, P.O. Box 990, Westfield, MA 01086

ATTN: Operations Division

Town of Wallingford Electric Division

Meter Technician A

Installs, maintains, repairs, and calibrates all electrical metering equipment for a municipal electric utility. Requires graduation from a high/trade/ or technical school with course of study in the electrical field and 4 years experience as a Meter Technician in an electric utility. Experience and training may be substituted on a year for year basis up to 2 years. Must have a valid State of CT driver's license. \$22.00 to

Employment

Employment advertising is \$30 with a maximum of 50 words or is free to NEPPA members. Deadline for the next issue is Sept. 17, 2004.

\$23.74 per hour (Wages Currently Being Negotiated) plus an excellent fringe benefit package. Apply to: Personnel Department, Town of Wallingford, 45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492. Fax #: (203) 294-2084. Closing date will be Sept. 10, 2004 or the date the 50th application is received, whichever occurs first. EOE

Town of Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant

Manager

The Town of Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant is seeking an individual to lead its 2500 customer electric distribution system. The ideal candidate will have knowledge comparable to a Bachelors Degree with assertive management skills and proven leadership qualities. Send resume with cover letter, references, salary history and expectations no later than **October 27, 2004**.

The Town of Rowley is an EEO/AA/M/F employer

Please mark envelope: "Manager Resume"

Municipal Lighting Plant, 47 Summer Street, Rowley, MA 01969

Middleborough Gas and Electric Department

First Class Lineman 2nd Step Agreement Appendix "A" (2 positions available)

First Class Lineman-Forty (40) hours per week, and requires overtime

Qualifications:

- Experience in climbing utility poles.
- Minimum five (5) years experience in electric utility construction and maintenance with a utility company or power line contractor including work utilizing rubber gloves from vehicle buckets with energized conductors of 13,800 volts primary and 120, 240, 208, 277 and 480 volts secondary.
- Ability to obtain a valid Massachusetts Commercial Drivers' License.
- Ability to handle bucket and digger vehicles.
- High school diploma or equivalent.
- Must possess physical strength, flexibility and maneuverability and mental characteristics sufficient to perform the duties of the position. To perform strenuous work under emergency and all weather conditions.

Responsibilities: Under the direction of the Crew Leader, the First Class Lineman is responsible for all aspects of high voltage distribution utility line work, both overhead and underground. Specific duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric facilities, including working on energized conductors from poles and vehicle buckets using rubber gloves.
- Maintenance of the Department's equipment.
- Participation in all safety training programs and exercises.
- Any other duties assigned.
- Pre-employment drug/alcohol screening required.

Please send resume to Middleborough Gas and Electric Department, ATTN: Bill Taylor, 37 Wareham Street, Middleborough, MA 02348.

Carl Benson of the Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant

Carl Benson, general manager of the Rowley (Mass.) Municipal Lighting Plant (RMLD), died on August 11 after a long illness.

Mr. Benson joined the Rowley utility in 1999 after 27 years with the Reading Municipal Light Department where he was a leader lineman and managed the utility's fiber optics program.

He was the 2002 recipient of the prestigious American Public Power Association's Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award which recognizes managers who perform a variety of duties in smaller elec-

tric utilities.

A native of Cambridge, he earned an associate's and a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University and has completed work on a master's degree in business administration at New Hampshire College in Manchester, N.H.

"He will be remembered as one of the most respected and hard working employees we've ever had," said an RMLD employee who worked with Mr. Benson.

He leaves his wife Michelle, an employee of RMLD, and a son.

Member notes

Cicame Energie

Cicame Energie, a manufacturer and designer of connectors for transmission and distribution lines has joined NEPPA as an associate member. The firm is located at 2640 Boulevard Jacques Cartier, Longueuil, QC J4N1P8, Canada. Franck Willier is their main contact and he can be reached at (450) 679-7778. The firm has more than 40 years experience in transmission line connectors and hardware.

Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. of 800 South Main Street, Mansfield, Mass. has joined NEPPA as an associate member. They are consulting engineers specializing in electrical power generation, substations, and switchgear. The contact person is Scott Secrest and he can be reached at (508) 330-9350 or faxed at (508) 339-9160.

New England plans for Public Power Week October 3 - 9

Utility personnel involved in activities surrounding APPA's Public Power Week gathered for a meeting hosted by the NEPPA Communications Committee to share ideas on the upcoming celebration. They are from left to right, Judy Meserve, Laurie Anderson, Judy Previty, Roberta Maillett, Bob Dane, Priscilla Gottwald, Ruth Slater, John O'Dell, Dianne Ingraham, and Pam Irwin.



Annual Conference 2004

Congratulations to all the NEPPA award recipients listed at left and a big thank you to our very generous sponsors who contributed greatly to the success of this event.

COMMISSIONER SERVICE AWARDS

Robert Lutz, Shrewsbury
Brian Savage, Swanton
William Hughes (posthumous) , Reading
James Engel, Ipswich
Patrick McNally, Ipswich
Robert Wadds, Sr., Stowe
Dana F. Blais , Templeton

NEPPA SERVICE AWARDS

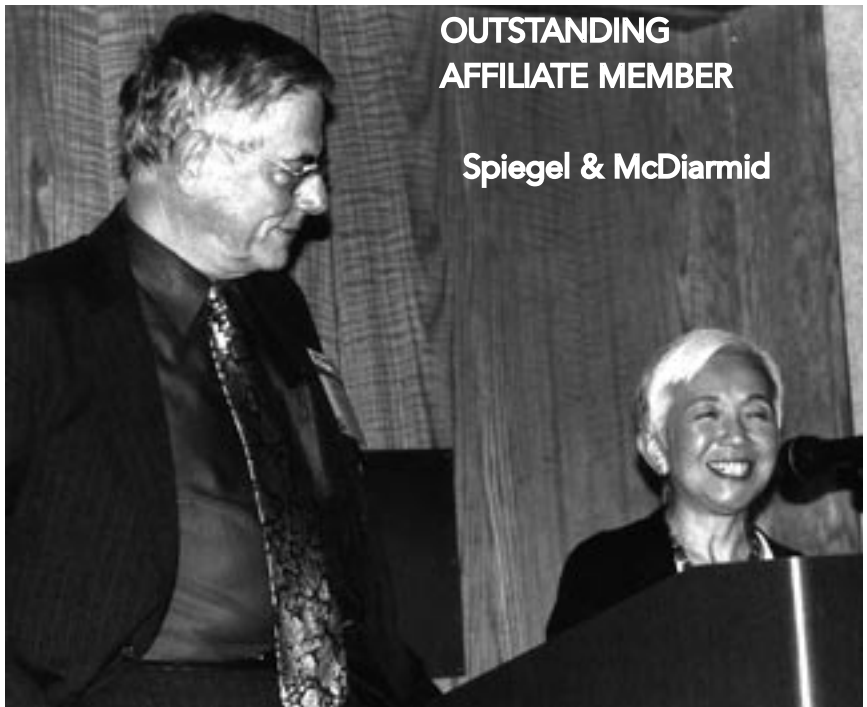
Coleen O'Brien-Pitts, Danvers
Laurie Cavagnaro, Reading

CENTURY AWARDS

Ipswich Light Department
Merrimac Municipal Light Dept.
Norwich Public Utilities

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Select Energy
Calpine Corporation
Rubin & Rudman
Public Utility Risk Management Assoc.



(Clockwise) Robert Wadds, Sr of Stowe, Vermont receives a Commissioner Service award. Kathy Lovelace gets help with a magic trick from Sharon Staz of Kennebunk (Maine) Light and Power District during her keynote address. Robert McDiarmid and Frances Francis of Spiegel & McDiarmid accept NEPPA's Outstanding Affiliate Member Award.