



Upcoming Events

January 21 — 23, 2009

Electric Utility System Operation Short Course

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "January 2009")

Jan. 26 — 30, 2009

Gas "Boot Camp" OQ Training

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "January 2009")

Jan. 28 — 30, 2009

Superintendent & Foreman's Meeting

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "January 2009")

February 2 — 6, 2009

Watt-Hour Meter Workshops (Basic & Advanced)

Register/more information:

<http://www.iamu.org/calendar/>
(click "February 2009")

February 10 — 11, 2009

IAMU Winter Meeting

Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny



There will be no IAMU Informer published the week of December 28. It will return the week of January 4, 2009.

Happy holidays from IAMU!

AWWA urges drinking water action by U.S. Congress



◆ Drinking water utilities have some urgent communications work to do before the 111th Congress convenes in January, according to Tom Curtis, AWWA deputy executive director for government affairs.

Congressional leaders are at work now preparing legislation to carry the massive economic stimulus program that President-elect Barack Obama would like to sign as early as the afternoon of Inauguration Day, January 20.

"While other forms of infrastructure have featured prominently in public statements by congressional and transition team leaders, drinking water has not," Curtis said. E-mails, faxes, or phone calls are needed quickly, as the bill is already being drafted, said Curtis. He asked AWWA members to do two things: Communicate to Congress the need for at least \$10 billion for drinking water infrastructure, and; communicate to state revolving fund or infrastructure funding officials — even if members' utilities don't usually seek SRF funding — about any projects the utility has that can be "shovel ready" within 120 days of receiving funding or sooner.

AWWA's Government Affairs Office has posted a customizable letter that utilities can adapt for their own use in communicating to elected officials. It can be accessed on the AWWA website, www.awwa.org (click on the "Government Affairs" link under the "Government and Public Affairs" tab). More information can also be found on the same website page.

Wilton plugs in to efficiency with LED holiday lights



◆ IAMU members Wilton Municipal Light/Power and the City of Wilton have combined holiday cheer and energy efficiency with a new twist to a local tradition.

Since 1997, trees planted along State Highway 38 in a "gateway area" to the city have been decorated with Christmas lights, in an annual project sponsored by Wilton Trees Forever, the Wilton Community Development Commission and the Wilton Boy Scouts, and coordinated by Collin Proctor, the Wilton Electric Plant Manager. This year, for the first time, energy efficient LED lights were installed on the trees, in place of the usual C7 incandescent bulbs, with a wiring system from Wilton Municipal Light & Power and the City of Wilton. "We outgrew the old system" explained Proctor. "So we decided to go with the LED bulbs to change the load pattern and to be able to keep expanding." The energy savings with the LED bulbs are expected to be dramatic. "With the old system, the electric usage was around 9,000 Kilowatts per year. We expect it to be about 900 Kilowatts this year," said Proctor.



Members of Wilton's Boy Scout Troop 151 adorn the trees with the new LED lights for the first time.

Wilton Boy Scout Troop 151, which Proctor is a leader of, is instrumental in putting up the lights each year in what has become a well known area holiday attraction. This year the trees were decorated in different single-color bulbs — there's a red tree, a green tree, a blue tree and an amber one. "We lovingly call it the '50 mile per hour head turner,'" Proctor quipped. In addition to the trees, LED bulbs are now being used in the community Christmas tree at the Wilton City Hall and in wreaths that hang from city street lights. Wilton Municipal Light/Power maintains a municipal Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) customer program, and Proctor said next year they may include information on LED lights with the usual CFL literature that is distributed.

IAMU applauds this type of innovative promotion of municipal energy efficiency. IAMU can offer its members many ideas and tools for promoting energy efficiency to your customers. Contact Erin Buchanan (ebuchanan@iamu.org) or Anne Kimber (akimber@iamu.org) at IAMU, 800-810-4268.

IAMU's new wind turbine up, running and generating



◆ **With contributions from many sources**, including IAMU staff, Ames Municipal Electric System, Durant Municipal Electric Plant and Indianola Municipal Utilities (equipment and personnel), IAMU's new vertical axis wind turbine is now installed and running. Work in the past week included assembling the turbine indoors, moving it to the association Safety & Training Field, erecting the tower, and placing the unit on top.

Output from the prototype 1.5 KW turbine is now being monitored by representatives of AeroNet, the manufacturer of the turbine.

IAMU extends its sincere thanks to all who were involved in the construction of the turbine on-site, with much of the work done in very harsh conditions. More updates regarding the turbine will be upcoming.



IAMU's logo is proudly displayed on the turbine's rudder, which helps steer the unit into the wind at the proper angle.



The AeroNet crew is pictured above, including (left to right) DaeYeon Kim, YoungDong Kim, Tom Sabourin and Jinkook Lee.

Indoor work has included the installation and testing of the turbine's electronic controls, which will be housed on-site at IAMU.

Workshops aplenty at IAMU in January, February '09

◆ **Start your new year with world class training at IAMU.** Noted presenter Skip Collier will return to IAMU for the always popular Electric Utility System Operation Short Course January 21 – 23. It's designed for any city or utility employee whose job performance will benefit from a basic understanding of the technical aspects of electric utility operation. Collier has an extensive background in electric utility design, construction and operation, and is a highly respected speaker on these topics.

Gas operators will roll up their sleeves with the 2009 "Boot Camp" Operator Qualification Workshops January 26 – 30. New operators, on-call personnel, dispatchers and operations would like to qualify or requalify on the covered tasks (see workshop brochure) are encouraged to participate. Registration for the entire week or for single-day participation is available.

IAMU will offer an electric Superintendent & Foreman's Meeting January 28 – 30, with topics of importance to individuals in supervisor roles, such as transformer sizing, PCB and oil spills, substation safety and accident investigation. Participants will gain 11 OJT hours.

February 2 –6 will see the popular Watt-Hour Meter Workshops (basic and advanced), hosted by Larry Chapman of IAMU associate member Chapman Metering Services. Mr. Chapman is a respected authority on installation, operation and repair of watt-hour meters, known as the "cash register" of your utility.

Brochures and registration for each have been distributed; or, get more information and register on the IAMU website, www.iamu.org ("Calendar/Registrations" and then to January or February 2009), or click on the links under "Upcoming Events" on Page 1 of this issue.

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